

UNDERSTANDING FROM GOD

DANIEL 9

The prophet Daniel teaches serious followers of Jesus how to gain understanding of prophecy given through the prophets and the Holy Spirit. In Daniel 9, Daniel realizes that the prophecies of Jeremiah concerning Israel and the exile to Babylon are about to unfold.

The context of this discovery by Daniel is that the Medes have done the impossible. They have conquered Babylon. Now a new king reigns in the city and empire that stretches across the Middle East all the way into Egypt. In the sudden change of empires from Babylon to the Medo-Persian Empire, Daniel realizes God is at work to fulfill the prophecy of Daniel to end the exile of the Jews and return them to Jerusalem.

In comparison, we have world events happening for the last 70 years that tell us God is working to return the Jews from their exile in the nations of the earth to Jerusalem and Israel, which is called aliyah. From the rebirth of Israel as a nation in 1948 to the reestablishment of Jerusalem as their capital in 1967 to the recognition by the nations of the world that Jerusalem is Israel's capital, as Trump and America moved our embassy to Jerusalem and other nations are following suit.

Jesus said that His return would be tied to the time when the Gentiles no longer trample Jerusalem. That has happened! How will that word affect your life and how you live today and for the rest of your life?

When Daniel discovered the prophecies of Jeremiah concerning the Jews and Jerusalem, he went into a time of prayer and fasting. His amazing prayer is recorded in Daniel 9. You cannot help but be impressed with the seriousness of Daniel in seeking God and the revelation knowledge he sought from God concerning the Jews and Jerusalem.

He fasts. He prays. He makes confession of his sins and his peoples' sins. This confession is specific and detailed recounting the history of the Jews and their disobedience. All Israel has transgressed God's law and departed from obeying God's voice.

Then he petitions God to end His fury against Jerusalem and for His Namesake to end the desolation of the temple, the city, and the people. He closes by crying out to God for forgiveness and mercy. His prayers are not based on righteous deeds but because of God's great mercy. Hear, forgive, listen, and act. "Do not delay for Your own sake..."

God answers by sending the archangel Gabriel to give Daniel skill to understand the time in which he lives concerning the people of Israel and Jerusalem. God through Gabriel gives Daniel the vision of the 70 weeks of prophecy that determines their future "for your people and your holy city."

This prophecy is so wonderful, so important, so accurate, that it needs to be studied and then influence how we live concerning the return of Jesus.

Yet, do not enter into this study lukewarm, but be serious in prayer and fasting, seeking God as Daniel did concerning God's people, Jerusalem and the return of Jesus in the season in which we live.

I wonder how many people listened to Daniel when he wrote this vision from God concerning his people and his holy city? How many are listening today to God's prophets and voice concerning the return of Jesus as we parallel all that has happened and is happening with the Jews, Jerusalem and Israel.

Awaken us O God to know and to act on the season in which You are preparing the world for Jesus' return to Jerusalem. Just as You prepared the way for Jesus to come the first time, You are doing this now for His Second Coming. Raise up Daniels to seek You and to hear from You, to have the skill to understand as Daniel received from You, to then tell us Your vision and understanding to the prophecies already given to us in Your Word. May the whole world be awakened beginning with Your people the Jews and the followers of Jesus!

2037 1967-2037 is 70 years , only 17 years think of what will happen as in our day Romans 11 complete rule over Jerusalem they do now but parts of J are still in a way under the Gentile Muslims
Enemies but also beloved

Need for Daniel lifestyle pray for this
17 years to get into a Daniel lifestyle prepare for these age ending events
Peace treaties in MEast?
Almost 500 years later after the 70 years ended

A VISION FROM GOD DANIEL 9

In Daniel 9 we get the impression Daniel has received a vision from God of the 70 weeks. It has so shook him that he goes into a time of prayer and fasting and confession, crying out to God for His forgiveness and mercy to restore the Jewish people and to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple.

Remember, God has gifted Daniel in understanding visions. Yet, initially he does not know what this 70 weeks vision means. He realizes its importance so his only response is to seek the face of God and receive from Him understanding.

God responds rather quickly by sending the mighty angel Gabriel to give him the skill and understanding to write out the vision, which implies to me Daniel comes to know its meaning, but he really does not explain it to us. Instead he leaves us with the mystery that has had an almost infinite amount of explanations for the past 2500 years.

The beginning seems straight forward, in that “70 weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city.” Gabriel is speaking these words to Daniel as he writes them down. Most agree that the 70 weeks are a sequence of 7 year periods divided into 3 eras. This prophecy is specific in its concern and application to the history of the Jews and Jerusalem. We will see that applies also to the Messiah.

The mystery is the division of the 70 weeks. When do they begin? How do they divide? What happens during their specific periods of time? How does this affect us in our lifestyles and how God wants to use us in the season in which we live?

Most of the weeks have passed, at least 69 of them, but the last week is either unfolding now or will come soon in our future. To understand it all we need to start from the beginning of Gabriel’s words. Remember, this is a message from God to Daniel, to the Jews, and to us. That tells us this is serious business and we need to value its importance.

Also, keep in mind you need to be led by the Spirit in all of this interpretation and question all I write, because I am not infallible in this process.

Gabriel tells Daniel these 70 weeks are to:

To finish the transgression. What transgression? I would say what Daniel has prayed about in chapter 9. The Jews have disobeyed God and broken their covenant vows in such terrible sin, over a long period of time, and have never truly repented for their wickedness. Thus, God sent them into exile and allowed their sacred city to be trampled by the Gentiles and their nation lost to foreign oppression.

Thus, God brought the judgment He promised to bring as written into the covenant of Moses, that He would scatter them to the nations of the earth where they would be persecuted and suffer terribly at the hands of the Gentiles. Once God’s judgment upon them was completed, they would be brought back to Israel and Jerusalem, regain their nation and holy city, and enjoy His love and protection, never to lose Jerusalem or their nation ever again.

No one dreamed it would be 2500 years before the judgment for their transgressions would begin to end.

One of the important clues in all of this is desolation. In Daniel’s prayer, he says the people, the city, and Israel have been left desolate. Gabriel refers three times to desolation in chapter 9 , “and till the end of the war desolations are determined; and on

the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate; even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on desolations.”

Definition of desolate from the King James Dictionary of the Bible:

The **act of desolating destruction or expulsion of inhabitants; destruction; ruin; waste**. Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation. Matt. 12. 2. A **place deprived of inhabitants, or otherwise wasted, ravaged and ruined**.

If you have ever driven from Jerusalem down to the Dead Sea, to me this is a perfect picture of desolation. The hills and mountains are barren and with little life. Few inhabitants live there. It is a scene where the land is almost lifeless and ravaged.

This is the Jews, Jerusalem, and Israel in Daniel's eyes and in God's eyes. They have been laid waste and have no hope of life, both physical and spiritual. God will restore them and remove them from this desolation and raise them to life.

It appears this process would occur in three separate periods of weeks/years and last for at least 2500 years from Daniels' time to our day and perhaps beyond.

DISSECTING THE 70 WEEKS

DANIEL 9:24-27

When you study the 70 weeks and look at the history of the Jews from Daniel's time until now, these periods become pretty clear, except for the last week, the 70th week.

The starting point for this process of restoring the Jews and Jerusalem and Israel seems to be around 445BC when the command to restore and build Jerusalem was given by King Artaxerxes to Nehemiah, which is close to 100 years after Daniel has received this vision.

Thus, the first seven weeks is 49 years and the next period will be 62 weeks. Remember the Jewish year was only 360 days compared to our 365 days, so an adjustment must be made. Thus we go from 445 to 396 in the first period of years which encompasses the decree of the king to Nehemiah to go rebuild Jerusalem to the covenant renewal celebration in Jerusalem in 396BC.

Nehemiah and Ezra record these times in their books contained in the Bible. Jerusalem is rebuilt and people begin to "return from the nations" to Israel. It is not a full restoration, nor a complete return. This happens to prepare the way for the Messiah, the Prince.

During these 62 weeks the street shall be built again and the wall. This happens both in Nehemiah's day and leading up to Jesus' birth

Thus the second weeks period begins which is 62 weeks of 7 or 434 years when the adjustment is made, which brings us to 32AD. This is the time of Jesus as He is the Messiah who is promised by Gabriel to Daniel to come.

Gabriel says that these will be troublesome times. I believe referring to both Nehemiah and Jesus, as recorded in the Bible. Nehemiah faced overwhelming opposition as did the Jews of Jesus' day under the rule of the Romans.

After the 62 weeks, the Messiah is cut off. Thus, in 33AD Jesus is put to death. This sacrifice is part of finishing the transgressions we have been talking about, to end the desolation of the Jews and Jerusalem, which will continue in stages. None of this happens all at once.

Gabriel says the Messiah is killed not for Himself, which means He died for us and the forgiveness of our sins, which is the second determination back in verse 24, "to make an end of sins." This too is a process we will discuss.

After the 69 weeks have now been completed, Gabriel says the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. This we know happened in 70AD as prophesied by Jesus in Matthew 24 and recorded in history by Josephus.

There is much discussion of who the prince is. I take it to mean the Roman Caesar, who represents the antichrist of that day. "The end of it will be with a flood." I take this to mean the flood of blood that ran through the streets of Jerusalem as recorded by historians back then that it was ankle deep. This is a slaughter of unheard of proportions!

"And till the end of the war desolations are determined." Jerusalem is laid waste once more. The Jews will be continued to be persecuted and scattered throughout the world now, not just the Middle East, Africa and the Roman Europe.

Now, we come to the final week 70, which for us is still cloaked in mystery, although there are numerous theories on the meaning of this last week. Remember this concerns directly the Jews and Jerusalem and indirectly all of us who follow Jesus and the rest of the Gentile world as we see on the daily news.

We are at the time of the reestablishment of Israel as a nation, 1948, and Jerusalem as their capital, 1967. Aliyah is in full swing as hundreds of thousands of Jews have come and are coming from the nations of the world to live in Israel. God is fulfilling His promises to His people and it is shaking the world. For us they are the signs of Jesus' return as given by Gabriel and by Jesus in Matthew 24 and 25.

At the end of the 70th week, the transgression of the sins of the Jews will be complete. At some point Jesus will return and begin to make all things new. First His 1000 year reign and then the final rebellion and after that all will be made new.

MAKING AN END OF SINS

DANIEL 9:24

There are six major action steps that are determined or ordained by God that He will do concerning the Jewish people and Jerusalem in this vision. They all center on the coming of the Messiah and what God will do through His anointed King, the most holy One.

The first determination is that the Messiah will finish the transgression of the Jews who broke God's covenant with them. They will suffer the judgment given in the Law of Moses for their sins. Through the Messiah God will forgive them and bring them back home to Israel. The desolation they have suffered will end in the giving of life through Jesus.

“To make an end of sins.” This is the second determination given to Daniel by Gabriel concerning the people of God and their holy city.

At the time of this prophecy there was no end of sin, but daily sacrifices in accordance with the Law of Moses. These sacrifices were to make atonement for their sins and that the Jews could receive forgiveness for their sins, but it was a temporary fix. The sacrifices had to take place over and over and over again. The shedding blood happened daily to cover and wash away their sins.

Moses wrote that there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood. So, this was necessary for the Jews to know God's forgiveness, but only until the Messiah came, the Suffering Servant and anointed King as foretold by Isaiah, Daniel, and Jeremiah.

One interesting side note, Danile 9 and the prophecy of the 70 weeks make it quite clear that the Messiah has already come at the end of the 69th week. Jesus is not coming for the first time, but coming again after week 70 is finished or perhaps concludes week 70?

In the sacrificial system, the temple was the central focus of these rituals. However, it had been made desolate by the Babylonians, burned down and destroyed. The Romans would do the same to the second temple in 70AD as Jesus prophesied and Daniel 9:26 also tells.

God resided in the temple in the Holy of Holies. Ezekiel, the prophet, tells us His presence left the temple and Jerusalem. The Jews had to recreate another way to sacrifice for their sins. They desperately wanted the temple to be rebuilt.

God gave them their cry as He miraculously had King Artaxerxes order Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls and the temple, which he did. The ritual sacrifices were restored after over a 100 years of not taking place.

Then nearly 500 years later, Jesus, one greater than the temple, arrives on the scene and tells the Jews He will destroy the temple and see it rise in three days. He is the literal temple of God. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

He will shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. "He will make an end to sin" by His death on the cross. He will put an end to the need for daily sacrifice. He replaced the covenant of Moses with the new covenant as promised in Jeremiah 31. This covenant will deal with the end of sin and the establishment of righteousness forever as told by Gabriel to Daniel.

Remember, desolation is the absence of life. It is spiritual death and separation from God. Jesus said He came to bring life, abundant life. He declared Himself to be the way, the truth, and the life. In Him we receive life from death.

Daniel records that after the second period of weeks, which is 62 weeks, "Messiah will be cut off, but not for Himself." Thus, Jesus gives His life to put an end to sin for us. He dies in our place, so we can be raised from the dead both spiritually and then physically with a new resurrected body as Jesus has.

This is all promised in the new covenant which Jesus gave to His disciples and to all who would believe in Him, as prophesied in Jeremiah 31.

How striking and accurate these prophecies are and confirm for us that Jesus is the one, true Messiah. Know that when you are in Christ He has taken care of all of your sins. No more guilt or condemnation before God. Rejoice that precious free gift given to you by God through Jesus!

RECONCILED TO GOD

DANIEL 9:2

The third determination God gave to us is: "to make reconciliation for iniquity." Because of sin, we are separated from God so as to not know His life and His intimacy. Jesus, the Messiah, came to reconcile us to His Father so we could know the depth of His love, the oneness of inner peace and unity with the Father and Jesus, and to have God's glory that lived in Jesus. That is life as God has life.

In Jesus our iniquities are no more. We have access to the throne of God. We can come before God daily, moment by moment, without fear or rejection. We are one with the Father and Jesus. It is glorious to live in this Presence. Jesus says, the Father and Him come and make Their home in us.

We are loved and accepted into God's eternal family as we live in covenant with God. 4This is the beauty of the new covenant which Jeremiah said would replace the law of Moses.

With our iniquities taken care of we can know the limitless expression of God's love as Jesus and the Father know. This is Jesus' prayer for us in John 17:20-26. It is Paul's prayer for us in Ephesians 3:14-21. We can love Jesus and the Father because Jesus first loved us, Romans 5:5-11.

We commit iniquities from a lack of love in our hearts. It is a darkness in our soul that moves us to sin, to do what we know is wrong and not do what we know is right. When God places His love in us we come alive to love as Jesus loved.

Beverly, my wife, reminded me yesterday of what our son asked when he was around 2 or 3 years old. I came home from visiting a person in the hospital and told everyone he had heart surgery.

As only a child can state in complete innocence, he asked, "Did they find Jesus in his heart?"

Yes, Jesus and His love are in our hearts, at the core of our being. Because of that gift of love we desire to do what is pleasing to our Father and hate it when we disobey His will.

Rejoice today, that the black stain of iniquity on your soul is cleansed by the blood of Jesus. God has determined that through His Son, our Messiah. Rejoice that God loves you and you love Jesus and the Father. That truth will carry you through many rough days!

JESUS ESTABLISHED GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IN US DANIEL 9:24

As we look at the fourth determination given to Daniel by God, we need to pause and ask, are you being awakened to the truth that Jesus is coming again? How are you changing how you live in connection with the teachings of Jesus in this season before He returns?

Determined in this prophecy, "to bring in everlasting righteousness." Who is the Son of Righteousness in Jeremiah? He is the Messiah, who is Jesus.

To be righteous in the Bible is one who does what is right morally. He or she follows the right path of life, which is God's way. She does not wander off this path of what is

morally right. He lives in covenant with God and knows what that means in terms of love and obedience.

Righteousness describes who God is. Jesus came to establish God's righteousness. Righteousness expresses the justice of God and what is just. In Christ we are made righteous by His blood which brings us into covenant with God. We are no longer declared guilty in our sin for Jesus paid the price for our sin on the cross.

In my covenant relationship with God in Christ, I am righteous. I am no longer condemned as guilty, but stand right before God, holy and just. I am justified by the blood of Jesus. It is the only way to be reconciled to God and have the free gift of eternal life. By faith Abraham was declared righteous by God.

We live in a world full of unrighteousness. We sin. We do not always do what is right. Therefore, we are unrighteous. Jeremiah says all are unrighteous as though we are filthy rags.

Jesus came to put an end to unrighteousness and to bring in everlasting righteousness. He did this by being the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He could do this, because He is the only person who ever lived a complete life of righteousness. He never sinned. Thus, He was the blameless sacrifice for our sin.

The righteousness of Jesus shines forth the light and glory of God. It establishes His truth, justice and peace in our lives and will establish it in the nations forever. It is the standard of our salvation. One must be declared righteous by God legally and relationally by God. This is only possible by the blood of Jesus Christ and entering into covenant with God through His blood. That is why Jesus is the Son of Righteousness as declared by the prophet Jeremiah.

Rejoice today in this precious gift of righteousness given to you in Jesus Christ. Pray to live a righteous life by the power of the Holy Spirit in you and by the Father and the Son who have made their home in your life. Think of yourself as righteous in Christ and then act that way in the power of the Holy Spirit and God's word!

GOD'S PROPHECIES OF THE END TIMES ARE BEING REVEALED

DANIEL 9:24

The fifth determination of God concerning the Jews and Jerusalem is that the vision and prophecy will be sealed. I take this to mean that until the last days before Jesus returns these prophecies will not be fully revealed to God's prophets or to His people.

Now that season of revelation is upon us! We could never have understood the prophecies of Jesus' coming until Israel was established as a nation and Jerusalem became its

capital once more after 2500 years of foreign rule. With these historic events we began to receive God's revelation of the vision and prophecies and how they relate to our day.

In Daniel 12:4 he writes, "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." Thus, Daniel does not ever truly explain the vision he received. God commanded him not to do it.

Fascinating that the time of the end is linked to the increase of knowledge. We have seen in our day since (1945 an explosion of knowledge, atomic), an increase in knowledge that is beyond belief. With the internet and global communication, education and the access to knowledge has increased almost beyond measure.

The first and foremost prophetic knowledge concerns Israel and Jerusalem. Until Israel was reborn and Jerusalem reestablished as her capital, how could one understand Israel's role in the end times. Thus we invented a replacement theology that left Israel out of the prophetic time table.

Now it is clear, Jesus, a Jew, will come to reign in the nation of Israel over the nations of the earth in Jerusalem as His capital. We can see that the time of the Gentiles is ending as Jerusalem is no longer trampled by the Gentiles.

We can also connect to this the Gospel being preached to all the nations, which is one of the main signs that Jesus is about to return. This can be connected to the prophecies Jesus gave of global vision.

Jesus talked in terms of global awareness. This came upon us after World War II ended. Now we think in terms of world events. Global economy, global disease, United Nations, global environment and pollution, global terrorism, global signs and wonders...you get the idea.

Jesus came to take away the sins of the world as the Lamb of God. He told the apostles to go and make disciples of all nations. There is only one God over the world. He is the God of Abraham who sent His only begotten Son for the whole world.

Our eyes have been opened to revelation prophecy and knowledge in dimensions we could never understand before. Study and pray on the prophecies in the Bible. You will see the truth of Jesus' return in ways our great grandfathers never could see.

The question must be asked, are you being awakened to the truth that we are in the season of His return? How is that changing the way you live? No more sleep. Truth requires action and to act you need to be awake and alert, growing in love with Jesus with a desire and urgency to obey His commands. Lord wake us up!

WHO IS THIS ANOINTED AND MOST HOLY ONE OF GOD?

DANIEL 9:24

The sixth determination and the last one in Daniel 9:24 is, "to anoint the Most Holy." This is a reference to the Messiah, God's anointed King over Israel and the nations of the earth. God has determined to set Him apart for His glory to fulfill His promise of salvation to His people.

We see this fulfilled in Luke 3 and 4 when Jesus is baptized by John, then the Holy Spirit comes upon Him like a dove. Luke 4 says Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit, led by the Spirit, empowered by the Spirit, and anointed by the Spirit.

This anointing is described in Luke 4, but taken from Isaiah 61. It is the job description of the Messiah of what He has come to do: to preach the Gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

Jesus fulfilled all these promises in the anointing of the Holy Spirit. We as His Body are to be about doing all of these today and "even greater works" than He did.

Gabriel will speak of the Messiah several times in the 70 weeks vision.

Thus, the 70 weeks of the Jews and Jerusalem become centered on the Messiah upon His first coming in the 62 week period and then again in the last week which connects to His second coming.

Jesus is the only One who fulfills these determinations, especially when you look at Isaiah and Jeremiah. He alone can establish everlasting righteousness, deal with our sins and reconcile us to God.

He is the Life Giver. He will bring desolation on those who reject Him and give life to those who receive Him. He is the Blessing of promise given to God's people throughout the ages. He is our Savior, Deliverer, and Lord. He is the most holy King, the Lord of Hosts, the Suffering Servant, and the Prince of Peace.

He is the Son of God. He is God, the Word, who became flesh to live amongst us. He is the Son of Man and the Son of Righteousness. He is the Lamb of God and the Lion of Judah, the Alpha and Omega...and so much more!

I know Him as the lover of my soul. The One who carries me through the trials of life and sustains me through the storms. He is my Savior and Deliverer, the Faithful one who has never deserted me or failed me. He is the giver of countless blessings and the restorer of my life. Through the Holy Spirit, He directs my life in how to prepare the way of His coming.

My calling is not to give you an answer to the day or hour of His return, because no one knows that except the Father. The message entrusted to me is to point you to Jesus, to call you to wake up Jesus is coming back. We are in the season of His return. Be about your Father's business.

Are you living in obedience as He taught in Matthew 24 and 25, as Paul taught in Romans 13:11-14 and in much of his epistles? If you are, rejoice in the work He has given you to prepare the way. If not, get into the word and study to show yourself approved. Get on your face before God and repent of your self serving life and surrender completely to Him to use your life for His glory. Ask God to show you what you need to do to fulfill His vision for Jesus' return and for your life. God has a marvelous plan for you!

THE SEVENTH DETERMINATION FOR THE JEWS AND JERUSALEM DANIEL 9:26,25

The seventh determination in Daniel's vision concerns desolation. God has determined desolation for the Jews and Jerusalem in judgment for their idolatry and breaking of the covenant. Yet, out of this desolation will come life, abundant life and blessings.

First they will be scattered among the nations of the earth. Within these nations they will also suffer desolation in persecution and even death as we have witnessed through the history of the Jews.

Jerusalem will experience desolation and destruction in judgment as well. Centuries of oppression and foreign rule as the "Gentiles trample God's sacred city."

But in the times of the end, the Jews and Jerusalem will be restored with life and blessings. The Jews will return to their nation and their holy city. They will reign and rule as God prepares for the nation and the world for the coming of the Messiah.

The last determination is the desolation of all those who rejected God and his salvation through the Jews. Their leader will bring desolation against the Jews, but this will then consume this leader and his followers. In the end all that they stand for in rebellion against God and in trying to exalt themselves as god will become desolate.

There is no hope apart from God. There is only death and eternal separation from His life. Those who love and serve the living God in Jesus will know life everlasting and know the blessings of God in being fruitful and multiplying in His glory.

Daniel makes it clear that the Jews will reign with the Messiah in His kingdom and the Gentiles who follow the Messiah, Jesus, will be one with them. Read and study Revelation 7 concerning

the future of the Jews and Gentiles! May we awaken to God's plan and put aside our indoctrinations, so we can fully love and serve our Savior.

This completes the seven determinations God has ordained for the Jews and Jerusalem. We can see this as it unfolded through their history and what is happening today in Israel and throughout the world. These are exciting days to be fully engaged in God's vision and plan for His people!

THE 70TH WEEK DANIEL 9:27

Time to examine the last week of the 70 weeks of Daniel's vision for his people and his holy city. There are three separate periods of weeks, 7, 62, and 1=70. We have discussed the first 7 and 62 weeks which led to Jesus' coming and death. Now we climb the sacred mountain of the 70th week which I am convinced no one has gained the final revelation knowledge and skill needed to interpret it.

Many scholars and believers have dissected this 70th week and come up with tremendous insight. The sheer volume of theories on when this week happens, gives me caution to say one is right.

My calling from God is not to give a timeline, but to announce the season of Jesus' return has come upon us and to encourage us to live as Jesus taught us to live in this season of preparation for our King to come.

With that said let us take a look at verse 27, which is a long verse of Scripture and has some very difficult and complex words that scholars have written books on in order to decipher the full meaning of this aspect of the vision.

I am not going to do that. Instead, I will highlight some thoughts as applicable to how we should live in this season of the 70th week, which we are either on the verge of entering or have already started.

"Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;" Who is he? Jesus the Messiah or the antiChrist or someone else? What is this covenant? Who are the many?

When does this week begin and when does it end, so we can know the middle of the week? "...but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering..." Again, who is he, when is the middle of this week, what is the sacrifice and offering?

I have read some fascinating books that sought to answer these questions. I read one book where the scholar says the meaning of seven is an integer of seven, so this week could be 7 years or 14 or 21 or 28...any whole number that divides by 7.

This means that the last week could have started at the beginning of the aliyah in the late 19th century. Then the middle of the week when sacrifice and offering are ended refers to the Holocaust and 1945. It made a lot of sense to me, but so do the other theories I have studied.

I know this, Jesus is coming back soon. It is imminent and we need to be following His orders as given in Matthew 24 and 25 to prepare the way!

The last part of this verse brings us back to the word, desolation, which we have already discussed. Desolate meaning ruin, laid waste, uninhabitable, which I take as representing death as opposed to life which the Messiah brings.

In this last week comes one who commits abominations, who makes desolate. Abomination is the evil of idolatry against God. This will last until "the consummation", which is determined by God.

This wickedness of idolatry is rampant today in many forms: in secular humanism, the worship of false gods and counterfeit religions.

The consummation is the Messiah's return to bring all that God determined in verse 24, all six of them as we have discussed, to closure. The Jews will be home in Israel. Jerusalem is their capital. Sin will be no more and the anointed King of God, Jesus will reign. All the covenant promises are now fulfilled.

Those who are dead in their sin and unbelief are desolate. We who believe are alive in the fullest extent of all the covenant promises. That is something to shout about with fervor and fire in our lungs as we bow in worship of Jesus.

Are you ready?

CALLED TO A DANIEL LIFESTYLE

DANIEL CHAPTER ONE

The prophet Daniel becomes one of our primary role models in this season of Jesus' return. We gain a mature picture of one who is devoted and in love with God, living by faith, never compromising with his culture, and being used by God to join Him in shaping world history.

That draws me to study his life and to pray, God, create in me a heart and life like Daniel's. Use me for Your glory and do in me what I cannot do in myself. Grant me the discipline that will produce such fruit that I will walk with You in holy victory in a world of sin and darkness. Let my

light shine for You and lead men and women into a life of love with you to be used for Your glory.

We learn in chapter one that Daniel suffered terrible upheaval in his life as his nation was conquered and his city, Jerusalem destroyed. He was taken from his family and sent far away to a foreign land to be reeducated in the way of Babylon. He basically lost all he loved and held dear in this world.

We know he was a gifted young man, “good-looking, full of wisdom, possessor of knowledge, a fast learner with a servant heart. He was given a new name, a new diet, and called to a whole new way of life. Yet, he resisted the indoctrination and refused to compromise.

In his devotion to God he found God’s favor with those who ruled over him. In his resistance to the temptations of his captors God gave him three close friends. All four of them received from God “knowledge and skill in all literature, wisdom and understanding in all visions and dreams.”

This in turn gave Daniel favor with the king because he far exceeded all the scholars and wise leaders in the realm. Thus, he is like a Joseph to be used by God to bless his people and to bless the nations of the earth as promised to Abraham and his descendants.

So, instead of falling into despair and depression due to the horrors he suffered, Daniel put his trust in God and rose above the circumstances of his life to become one of the great heroes and men of God in all human history.

God is looking for such men and women today to be His world changers to impact nations to prepare the way for Jesus to come. God will give you all you need to be His light in the darkness, to withstand the pressures of your culture and to study and understand with skill the prophecies of God concerning Jesus and His return.

Pray for a Daniel lifestyle, pray for a Daniel heart to love and serve God, pray for Daniel’s courage that resists the world, the flesh and the Devil, and pray to be God’s ambassador of truth and righteousness and prophecy.

As you study his life and writing you will see you will not have it easy, but you will be persecuted and challenged on every front. Daily you will take up your cross, deny self, and follow Jesus. But, you will know the love and glory of God that transcends this world. Your joy will be complete.

Conclusions from Daniel and the 70 weeks

Daniel 9

What can we conclude from our study of the 70 weeks? First, God has a plan for the Jews and for Jerusalem, which would include the nation of Israel. God will be faithful to bring about the 7 determinations He has ordained for their history in connection with the Messiah. All God has planned for them flows in and through the Messiah.

When I tie in Revelation with Daniel 7, I have to believe the Jews will lead the Messiah into the new kingdom rule of Jesus. This leadership will come forth when, as Paul writes in Romans 11, they will see their Deliverer come out of Zion and all will be saved.

We can also conclude that the first 69 weeks of the vision have already been fulfilled. We still have the 70th week to happen which will end in the consummation of God's divine plan for the Jews and Jerusalem in connection with the reign of Jesus Christ.

Now, I know everyone has their own theories on the 70 weeks and they for the most part are very good, but in my spiritual gut I believe they miss a key revelation in their determination of this week.

I believe we are at the end of the 70th week and it is not a seven year period, but an integer of 7. I see the middle of the 70th week as the Holocaust ending in 1945 and the beginning of the 70th week is somewhere at the end of the 19th century when the aliyah began as a trickle.

I estimate the end of the 70 weeks is 70 years from 1967 when Jerusalem stopped being trampled by the Gentiles and came under the rule of Israel as their capital. That would be around 2037.

I choose 70 years because that is the prophetic number from Daniel that he read from the prophecy of Jeremiah that the exile of the Jews in Babylon would last 70 years. Jesus also prophesied in Matthew 24 that one generation would last until all of this was fulfilled.

One generation in the bible can be 40, 70 or a 100 years as best I can determine.

My point is not about the date or numbers, except I believe the last week is an integer of 7, which changes everything that most scholars have defined the last week of Daniel. I may be totally wrong in the dates, but I hold fast to the prophecy that we are in the season of Jesus' return as prophesied in Matthew 24 and 25 by Jesus.

The final conclusion is that if we are to understand God's prophetic word, we are called to a Daniel lifestyle of full surrender and devotion to God in Jesus Christ. We must resist the world's call to compromise with our culture and seek and love God with all of our heart to be used by God in this season of Jesus' return.

We must not let our society define our identity and destiny, but find both our identity and destiny in Jesus Christ as Daniel found his in the God of Abraham. That means we are called to action. How does your lifestyle define you in your identity and destiny in Jesus Christ?