

Daniel 9: The Seventy Sevens and the Seven-Year Period

Daniel 9:24–27, with Revelation 11:2–3 | Sunday, April 19 | Revelation Series

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OVERVIEW

Hal stops the chronology to settle a question he says he had not established to his own satisfaction: how do we know that chapter 6 through 19 covers a seven-year period? The answer is Daniel 9:24–27, which he calls the greatest single prophecy in the Bible and works through from his own translating of the Hebrew. Seventy sevens — 490 years — are decreed for Daniel's people and his holy city, because Israel never kept a sabbatical year and God sent them to Babylon so that the land could enjoy its sabbaths. He underlines three words: from, until, after. From the decree of Persia to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, 483 biblical years of 360 days — 173,880 days — run out on the day Jesus rides into the city on a donkey. Then the clock stops. The Messiah is cut off, and only afterwards, in 70 A.D., the city and the sanctuary are destroyed. One seven is left over, and Revelation 11:2–3 supplies its two halves: 42 months, and twelve hundred and sixty days.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Daniel 9:24–27 — Seventy sevens decreed for your people and your holy city; the covenant confirmed for one seven

Revelation 11:2–3 — Forty-two months of the Gentiles, and twelve hundred and sixty days of the two witnesses

Daniel 12:11–12 — 1,290 days from the abolished sacrifice, and blessed is he who attains to the 1,335 days

Matthew 16 — Where Jesus mentions the Church for the first time, before his disciples

Psalms 51 — David prays, take not thy Holy Spirit from me

Ephesians — Grieve not the Holy Spirit, in whom you have been sealed until the day of redemption

Matthew 25 — The Gentiles gathered together when the Lord returns

Ezekiel 20 — The Israelites gathered together when the Lord returns

KEY TERMS

Sabbatical year — every seventh year, when Israel was to plant nothing and do no work, and trust the Lord to take care of them for a whole year

Seventy sevens — the 490 years decreed for Israel and Jerusalem — seventy sabbatical years, not seventy weeks of days

From, until, after — the three words Hal underlines in Daniel 9; they mark when the clock starts, when the Messiah comes, and what happens once the clock has stopped

Cut off — a Hebrew idiom for being put to death, being executed

Biblical year — 360 days — so that 483 of them come to 173,880 days

The prince who shall come — the last person named in the context before the pronoun in verse 27, and therefore the one who confirms the covenant for one seven

The age of grace — the Church age, about which nothing was written in the Old Testament, beginning with the Holy Spirit sent to indwell every believer

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. What began the age of grace, and what makes the indwelling of the Holy Spirit different now from what it was before?

2. Why does Hal say that praying David's prayer in Psalms 51 today would be an insult to God?

3. The decree of Daniel 9:24 concerns two things. What are they?

4. Why seventy sabbatical years, in Hal's account?

5. Which decree starts the clock, and how long does it run to the Messiah?

6. What happens on the last of those days?

7. What two events does Daniel 9:26 place after the sixty-two sevens?

8. How does Hal argue from 70 A.D. that the clock stopped?

9. Who is the "he" of Daniel 9:27, and what does he do?

10. What two things does Hal say those seven years accomplish for Israel?

11. How do the two numbers in Revelation 11:2–3 divide the seven years?

12. What does Hal make of the 1,290 and the 1,335 days of Daniel 12:11–12, and how does he label it?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. A sabbatical year meant planting nothing for twelve months and trusting God to provide. What would the equivalent look like for you, and what makes it hard?

2. Hal says the Holy Spirit is not withdrawn from a believer who is out of fellowship, but that he can be grieved. What difference is there between fearing loss and grieving someone?

3. Jesus arrives on the exact day Daniel named, and weeps because the city did not know its day. What does that say about God's timing, and about missing it?

4. Israel's unfinished purpose, in Hal's reading, is to be a witness to the nations. What is the purpose you would say you were made for, and how far along is it?

5. Hal says, more than once, that we ain't going to be here. When is that a comfort and when could it become an excuse?

6. This message is almost entirely a chain of reasoning from one passage. What do you gain by watching someone show their work rather than just give their conclusion?

MEMORY VERSE

"He will confirm a covenant with the many for one seven."

— Daniel 9:27, as Hal reads it in this message