

Daniel 9:20-27 – Christ will Deliver; Christ will Destroy!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The last time that we looked at the **confession Daniel made** for the sins of the nation and the **bases of his confession** 任信 Daniel **confessed the sins of those in high and low** positions in Judah. Daniel realized that for God's unstoppable kingdom to come, sin, a common hindrance, had to be removed, and sin was only removed by sincere confessions through the sacrifice of the coming Savior. Today you will how God answered that confession.

Our headings are: **God sent his Messenger**, **God would Send Messiah–When**, and **God would send Messiah–To do What?**

Our goals are: That **you will increase your trust in the Lord when you see his faithfulness in keeping his promises, particularly in his keeping his promise of sending Jesus Christ to die for his people sins and expanding his kingdom.**

God's Sent his Messenger

20 Now **while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication** before the LORD my God for the **holy mountain** of my God, 21 yes, **while I was speaking in prayer**, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being **caused to fly swiftly** 快速地, **reached** me about the **time of the evening offering**.

1. Daniel's confession was long. He was fully cognizant 意识到 **of his and his people's many sins so it took time.** Before he was finished prayer, the angel **Gabriel came** to bring God's answer

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But what is the significance of this quick answer and the angel flying swiftly to him? God, out of love, wanted to give him a quick answer so that he would not personally suffer long.

Isaiah 65:24 "It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

2. One of Daniel's greatest concerns about the consequence of Judah's sins was that the temple was barren 荒芜 **of worship.**

He referred to Jerusalem, where the temple was, as the 'holy mountain.' Surely he was concerned about the city itself...and for the people, **but he was most concerned about the worship of God.** He could not bear the thought that the Greeks would later destroy worship in the temple-even though it would be because of Judah's sins. He could not bear that the **Greeks would stop the morning and evening sacrifices.** The evening sacrifice, in particular, was a picture of the Jesus Christ who would be sacrificed in the evening. It was usually offered about 3:00, just about the time when Jesus was crucified. So Daniel prayed with intensity 强烈! **Furthermore, you can see Daniel's concern for the worship of God by the last phrase of Verse 21, in a unique way. Daniel measured time by the time of sacrifices at the temple.** Instead of saying that Gabriel came "at the time of dinner," or he came "when the mosquitoes came out," he measured time by what he valued most – the worship of God. He showed his intense passion for the worship of Jehovah God. He shared the sentiments 情操 of the Psalmist.

Psalms 141:2 Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth **to give you skill to understand.** 23 "At the beginning of your supplications 恳求 **the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:**

3. Gabriel is the only named angel in the Bible (Michael is Jesus Christ himself.) His name means "mighty one." This task was so important that it was not given to any ordinary angel. Remember the next times Gabriel appeared? He confirmed to Zechariah what he spoke to Daniel.

Luke 1:19 And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.

4. And notice how Gabriel touched Daniel (translated "reach") when he came to deliver the message to him. There was time to pray, but there was also a time to listen. The angel wanted him to stop praying and listen.

5. What did Gabriel tell Daniel? Gabriel told Daniel that God had sent him at the beginning of Daniel's prayer to help him understand when Messiah – Jesus Christ – would come.

6. God always hears the prayer of his people because they pray through Jesus Christ.

God would send Messiah – When?

24 "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city...

1. Daniel expected the Jews to return to Jerusalem, rebuild the city, and start worshipping God again. That was going to happen; but that was not all what was going to happen. He had heard already of Antiochus Epiphanes and the damage he would cause. Now **God revealed to Daniel, that greater events were coming, all within 70 weeks.** Seventy weeks do not refer to literal 字面上70 weeks – that would have been illogical. God referred to week day years. So 70 weeks had 490 days, and therefore the events would be fulfilled in 490 years.

25 "Know therefore and understand, **That from the going forth of the command** To restore and build Jerusalem **Until Messiah the Prince,** There shall be **seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;** The **street shall be built** again, **and the wall,** Even in **troublesome times.**

2. **Messiah would come after 69 weeks X7 (7weeks + 62 weeks), making it 483 years.** But what was the starting point?

3. **The 1st period is 7 weeks or 49 years. (7X7).** Why didn't God ordain this to be 63 years, or 27 years? The significance of that is that no one could be kept in slavery or no one could have their property sold for more than 49 years... The 50th year is the year of freedom. (Leviticus 25) And Jerusalem was finally free after its temple was built, the walls restored, and streets built up... just as Daniel said in V25. **So when were the walls and streets built?** Rebuilding started in earnest in 457BC... when Ezra returned from captivity with many captives. And it took about 49 years. There were starts and stops before, but 457BC is a marked division.

Ezra 9:9 "For we were slaves. Yet our God did not forsake us in our bondage; but He extended mercy to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to revive us, to repair the house of our God, to rebuild its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem.

Nehemiah joined in and faced many troublesome times from their neighbors and Saballat, Tobiah, and Geshem. So they built even in **troublesome times.**

3. **The 2nd period of 62 weeks or 634 years. (62X7):** Now accounting for 1 year missing because of the change from BC to AD when there was no "0", and considering the time when Jesus was born 3-4BC, that would take us to AD27, the very year that Jesus started his ministry and was baptized by John the Baptist... at the age of 30... the common Jewish age for a Rabbi to be ordained.

26 "And after the sixty-two weeks **Messiah shall be cut off,** but **not for Himself.** And the people of the prince who is to come **Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.** The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations 荒凉的事 are determined. 27 Then he shall **confirm a covenant with many for one week;** But in the **middle of the week** He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of **abominations 可憎的像 shall be one who makes desolate.** Even until the consummation 指定的, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate." Verse 26 –negative, and 27-positive, but they are parallel.

4. The 3rd period of 1 week –was 7 years. This final week would be split in half – 3 ½ days each. In the middle of the week, after 3 ½ years, Messiah would be "cut off." This is a phrase usually referring to capital punishment or what happens at circumcision. And he did not die for himself; he died for the sins of the world. Jesus Christ would come and live among the people and he will enter into covenant with many. They followed him everywhere and listened, but then they turned against him – 3 ½ years into his ministry, and unwittingly' 不知不觉 sacrificing him, bringing an end to the sacrifices in the temple. Jesus Christ was crucified according to history on the 14th of Abib, 30AD. That would mean that his ministry was 3 ½ years, or half a week of day years. **But it is the other half-week of the split week – that other 3 ½ years.** What happened to the other half of the 70th week? It is true that 3 ½ years after Christ's death, at Stephen's death, the Gentiles heard the Gospel. But look back to Revelation.

Revelation 11:2 "But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will **trample 践踏 the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.**

It seems that this is another 3 ½ years...for this was the time that Jerusalem was persecuted by the Romans. The Jews had rejected Jesus and he cursed them...and told them that the Abomination which causes desolations (which is the same language as Daniel in Verse 27, would come).

Matthew 24:15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Did the Romans really do this? The Romans set up their eagles (their ensigns 旗帜) in the temple, together with the images, first of Caligula, and then of Titus, their emperors. They destroyed all the wicked in Jerusalem, making some of them eat dead human flesh. The 4th Empire was indeed the worst of all the empires. They did God's bidding.

God would send Messiah – To do what?

24 "...To **finish the transgression**, To make **an end of sins**, To make **reconciliation for iniquity**, To bring in **everlasting righteousness**, **To seal up vision and prophecy**, And to **anoint 膏抹 the Most Holy**.

Three Spiritual Actions

1. When Messiah would come he would stop God's judgment on man by paying the full penalty 全面的刑罰 for **man's transgressions**. Deliverance! Later, in the 2nd 3 ½ years, God would stop the Jewish transgression—or better, **restrain 抑制 them**. ("Transgression" – doing that which is forbidden 被禁止) Rome would destroy Judah and so stop them from offering polluted sacrifices to God. God would pour out his wrath 愤怒 upon the Scarlet Harlot. She would be stripped naked and exposed, as wicked women were. Titus brought this judgment that is confirmed by John in Revelation. Destruction.
2. When Messiah would come, the **guilt of sins** would end. God would never be able to hold against his people any of their sins. Deliverance. **Later**, in the 2nd 3 ½ years, because the Jews failed to do what they should have done, God would destroy them. They rejected his pardon for sins and stop them from sinning so he ended their opportunity to sin. ("Sin" – not doing you must do.) Destruction!
3. When Messiah would come he would atone **for iniquity 罪孽** making reconciliation 和好 between God and man. Deliverance! Hebrews 2:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, **to make propitiation 赎罪 for the sins of the people**. **Later**, in the 2nd 3 ½ years, because they rejected the reconciliation in Jesus Christ, they would have to make reconciliation by their own blood. Destruction!

Three Practical Actions

4. **When Messiah would come, righteousness would come**. Christ, by his perfect obedience, would gain righteousness for his people. He would also pour out his Holy Spirit on his people to be witnesses for him. Deliverance. **Later**, in the 2nd 3 ½ years, because Jerusalem rejected his righteousness and he destroyed them, he sent the Gospel everywhere. So righteousness was spread through Pentecost and through the Holocaust of AD70. (Chilton) Destruction!
5. When Messiah would come, **he would seal (confirm to be true) what was written for their deliverance**. **Later**, in the 2nd 3 ½ years, in the 3 ½ years of siege 围城 of Jerusalem ...all vision and prophecy would be sealed up, meaning that no new revelation would come...and no one would preach from the temple again. Destruction!
6. **When Messiah would come he would begin to reign in earnest**. He was anointed, claimed all authority, and anointed his people with his Holy Spirit for special service. Deliverance. **Later**, in the second 3 ½ years, John argued in Revelation that Christ's kingdom to the world began at the **destruction** of the rebellious Jerusalem so that the nations of the world were legally brought into the church.

Conclusion:

God sent Gabriel to Daniel after Daniel passionately confessed his nation's sins. Gabriel pointed: 1. **God had heard and had forgiven them**. 2. God would bring a **final end to sin's tyranny** when Jesus Christ would come to live and die for his people. 3. Jesus Christ would meet God's standards of justice so **he could save his people**. 4. God would bring **justice on the wicked Jews who would compromise 妥协 with the "Prince of the foreign people."** 5. The result of the forgiveness of God's people and of the destruction of the wicked was in reality the **inauguration 开始了 of his unstoppable kingdom** and **the sacrifice of Jesus Christ was the means he would use to establish it**.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: 1. **Learn that you need to daily confess your sins**—privately and collectively – knowing that sin is a hindrance to the glory of God and the spread of his kingdom. 2. **Know that you can only confess your sins if you are a child of God through Jesus Christ**, as there is no prayer or forgiveness without sacrifice. 3. **Rejoice in your forgiveness**. Ps 32:1 *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.* 4. **Spread the news of Christ's unstoppable kingdom to believers**, so they would be encouraged to keep fighting, **and spread the news to non-believers**, so that they would praise the Lord for his goodness. If they reject your teaching, God is glorified anyway. Don't stop spreading God's truth.

Finally: Maybe you have been fooled into thinking that Christianity 基督信仰 is nothing because at times it is so small, or it seems beaten up. But friend, if you aren't in this kingdom, you are in other kingdom where the leader and all his followers will spend eternity in hell. My God will send you there. But if you ask God to make you his child, and if you ask in sincerity and being aware of your need, he will save you.