

The Messiah & The Great Jubilee

Daniel 9:20-27



Daniel 9:20-21 (ESV)

20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the LORD my God for the holy hill of my God, 21 while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice.

Daniel 9:22-23 (ESV)

22 He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, “O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. 23 At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.”

Puzzle Boxes



“Because it is unsafe to pass judgment on the opinions of the great teachers of the church and to set one above the other, I shall simply repeat the view of each and leave it to the reader’s judgment as to whose explanation ought to be followed.”

(Jerome, *Commentary on Daniel*, 400 AD)

Daniel 9:24 (ESV)

24 “Seventy weeks [*literally, seventy sevens*] are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.”

The numbers are important, alerting us to the overall message of passage. This means that their actual numerical value is *secondary* to their symbolic meaning.

Learning our Numbers

- In Scripture, 7 and 70 represent fullness and completeness. Seventy times seven speaks of the ultimate in completeness.

“‘Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you seven times, but seventy seven of times.’”

(Matthew 18:21-22)

Learning our Numbers

- A “week” or a “seven” refers to an Old Testament Sabbath cycle. For six years, Israelite farmers tilled the soil, but in the seventh year they let the land lie fallow and lived off its natural produce, granting the land a sabbath or rest.

Learning our Numbers

- After seven Sabbath cycles (= 49 years), a grand restoration known as a Jubilee was declared for the fiftieth year. Heralded by a trumpet blast that resounded across the land, a Jubilee meant that all lands reverted to their ancestral owners, debts were cancelled, and slaves were freed.

Daniel 9:25 (ESV)

25 “Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven sevens. Then for sixty-two sevens it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.”

“For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

(Jeremiah 29:10-11)

The “Seventy Sevens”

- **Seven “sevens”**
 - HOPE RETURNS; the Babylonian exile ends and God’s people get their first taste of Jubilee.
- **Sixty-two “sevens”**
 - LIFE GOES ON, WITH DISTRESS; God’s people experience an ambiguous interim in the land.
- **The final “seven”**
 - THE GRAND CULMINATION; the Messiah is cut off, the Temple is destroyed, and worship is transformed.

Daniel 9:26 (ESV)

26 “And after the sixty-two sevens, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed.”

“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?’ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”

(Luke 24:25-27)

*“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of
God is at hand; repent and believe in the
gospel.”*

(Mark 1:15)

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor... Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

(Luke 4:18-19, 21)

"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." (John 2:19)

"I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands." (Mark 14:58)

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ... God's temple is holy, and you are that temple." (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

Daniel 9:27 (ESV)

27 And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one seven, and for half of the seven he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”