

Prophecy devo 11 – Times of the Gentiles

“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, 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 the Most Holy” (Daniel 9:24).

Jesus referred to the “seventy weeks” of Daniel in the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). Daniel’s “seventy weeks” is a reference to seventy sevens of years (490 years). God gave to Daniel a timeline for the remainder of Gentile rule over Israel from his time to the very end. God projected an advanced history of events relating to Israel, and it would take 490 years to accomplish. Six things will be accomplished in those 490 years (Daniel 9:24-27): (1) To finish transgressions refers to Israel’s final rejection of their Messiah; (2) To make an end of sins means Israel’s nations sins will come to an end with the coming of the Messiah; (3) To make reconciliation (atonement) for iniquity is Messiah’s death at Calvary; (4) To bring in everlasting righteousness will happen when Messiah establishes the kingdom; (5) To seal up vision and prophecy means to fulfill all prophecies of these events; (6) To anoint the Most Holy means to anoint the holy of holies in the Millennial temple.

The starting point of the 490 years was a decree by Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 2:1-8). The command to rebuild Jerusalem was issued in 445 BC. The first seven weeks (forty-nine years) end in 397 BC, which is the time of Malachi, the end of the Old Testament. The next sixty-two weeks (434 years) bring us to the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, offering Himself as Israel’s Messiah. After sixty-nine weeks (483 years), there is a time break. Between the sixty-ninth and the seventieth week, two events take place: the Messiah will be cut off (crucified), and The Destruction of Jerusalem (AD 70). The seventieth week (seven years) does not immediately follow the other sixty-nine weeks. It is known as the Tribulation, so the final week is yet to be fulfilled. Antichrist will make a covenant with Israel after the rapture of the church. In the middle of the seven years (Daniel 9:27), he breaks the covenant, demands worship, and desolates the temple he allows the Jews to rebuild. Where is the church during Daniel’s seventieth week? We will look at that tomorrow.