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Valley Church

Week 2 – The Voice of Daniel

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### **What Can We Learn from the Voice of Daniel? (Daniel 9)**

1. God wants us to understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of prophecy (vs. 1)
2. Wherever possible, prophecy should be taken at \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 2)
3. God has a definitive plan for the \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 24-27)

#### **The seventy “sevens” explained:**

The angel begins by declaring that 70 “sevens” are determined upon the people of Israel.

The Hebrew word refers to a period of time in multiples of seven (for example, a 7-day period or 7-year period).

The angel predicts that from the command to rebuild Jerusalem to the coming of Messiah will be 7 “sevens” plus 62 “sevens” (totaling 69 “sevens” equaling the number 483).

The question is...are these “sevens” referring to 7-year periods of time? History strongly suggests the answer is “Yes!” Here’s why...

The command to rebuild Jerusalem would later be given to Nehemiah by King Artaxerxes in March, 445 B.C. This is a well-established fact of history. Using that starting date, 483 years into the future would be April, 32 A.D. This is calculated using the 360-day Babylonian calendar (adjusting for leap years) from the time of Daniel.

But there's one more question: We've only accounted for 483 of the 490-year prediction, so where is that final 7-year period focused on the Jewish people? Many scholars believe this is the 7-year Tribulation to come.

4. God wants us to \_\_\_\_\_ the race well.

#### **The Big Idea:**

We don't know exactly when Jesus will return, but we know from Daniel 9 that God is a God of precision planning, and He knows the very moment! Next week, we will explore Jesus' own words on the matter of His return!

## **QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS OR PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

### **Personal Life:**

1. When you see a precision prediction like the “seventy sevens” of Daniel 9, what does this say about sovereignty? What insights does it give you about God’s power? How does it make you feel to know that even when things seem “out of your control,” they are still under His? Discuss...

### **Ponderings:**

2. In the weekend message, the point was made that God wants prophecy to be understood. If this is true, why do you think many Christians disagree over various interpretations of prophecy?

3. If prophecy should be taken at face value wherever possible, what should be the determining factor(s) for interpreting a passage as being figurative or metaphorical in contrast to literal? Discuss...

4. To Daniel, God revealed His definitive plan for the future of Israel. Why do you think there are so few Jewish people who embrace Jesus as Messiah, in spite of the powerful prophecies about Him found in the Hebrew Scriptures?

5. Of the four major points in the weekend message, which is the most difficult to wrap your mind around. Which is the most natural for you? Why do you say this?

### **Promptings:**

6. How does God’s sovereignty over the affairs of this world bring peace of mind and courage of heart to your daily life? When things go “wrong” in your life, to what extent are you trusting in His sovereignty? How does the testimony of your life demonstrate to others your trust in God’s sovereignty? Explain...

7. If you could turn one major area of anxiety or stress fully over to the sovereignty of God in your life right now, what would it be and why?