

# Thriving in Babylon

## The Book of Daniel

January 21 & 22, 2017  
Valley Church

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Week 15 – The Seventy Sevens

### Introduction:

Daniel 9:20-23 (text on screen, reference only on insert)

*“consider (meditate upon, contemplate) and understand...”*

Daniel 9:24 (text on screen, reference only on insert)

*Hebrew: Seventy “heptads” = Seventy “units of seven” (context determines the meaning)*

*70 “seven-year chunks” = 490 years*

Daniel 9:25 (text on screen, reference only on insert)

*From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild (Nehemiah 445 B.C.)*

*...Until Messiah the Prince (Mashiach Nagid)*

*...there will be 7 “sevens” + 62 “sevens” (total of 69 “sevens”) or 483 years*

Daniel 9:26 (text on screen, reference only on insert)

*After the 62 “sevens,” Messiah will be “put to death”*

*After, this “the people of the ruler to come” will destroy the City / Temple*

Daniel 9:27 (text on screen, reference only on insert)

*Question: When does the final “seven-year period” take place, when this ruler commits the “abomination of desolation”?*

*Jesus referenced it as coming at some point in the future (Matthew 24:15)*

### Basic Timeline:

445 B.C. – Nehemiah permitted to restore/rebuild Jerusalem (Neh. 1-2)

A.D. 30-33 – Messiah predicts destruction of City and Temple (Matt. 24:1-2)

A.D. 30-33 – Messiah deals with sin at the cross (Matt. 19:30; John 1:29)

A.D. 70 – Titus leads “the people of the ruler to come” to destroy City/Temple

A.D. 85-90 – John writes 1 John affirming that the “spirit of antichrist” is alive on planet earth, but the actual person has not yet been revealed (1 John 4:3)

### Three Important Take-Aways from Daniel 9...

1. We can understand the FULFILLMENT of prophecy (vs. 2a)
2. We can accept His Word at FACE VALUE (vs. 2b)
3. We can trust that He has a definitive plan for the FUTURE (vs. 24-27)

## SMALL GROUP Q'S

### Personal Life:

1. In our journey through Daniel so far, we have discovered many applications for "Thriving in Modern-Day Babylon." Based on the journey so far, what are some of the big things the Holy Spirit has taught you through His Word?

### Ponderings:

2. Whether you're excited, disappointed or indifferent concerning America's recent political transition to a new President, how does a story like Daniel's shape your world view and give you peace and focus? Try to be specific...
3. Read Daniel 9:24-27 again as a group, and discuss the following thoughts and questions...
  - In the weekend message, one explanation was given related to a possible timeline concerning the predictions. Depending on your own background and understanding, did you...
    - a) Basically agree?
    - b) Basically disagree?
    - c) Have no clue what to think, but want to study more?
  - If Biblical prophecy was intended to be "understood" by God's people, why do you think there is so much difference of opinion today related to the topic?
  - In what specific way(s) can Biblical prophecy *unite* God's Church rather than *divide* us, as has often been the case throughout history?
4. How does the reassurance of God's authority in future events directly relate to your day-to-day trust in His goodness? Try to give specific examples if possible...

### Promptings:

5. If all Bible-believing Christians agree that Jesus is coming, and perhaps soon, then why is the subject of Christ's return so often avoided or ignored, considering there are hundreds of verses and passages that relate directly to its reality? If you really lived every day with the conscious awareness of Christ's possible return, how might that awareness impact the daily choices, focus, decisions and priorities of your life?

**The Seventy Weeks of Daniel**  
**As Understood by Sir Robert Anderson in *The Coming Prince***

Daniel 9:24-25 says that from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the coming of the Messiah there will be 483 years.

$$7 + 62 \text{ "weeks"} = 69 \text{ groups of seven years. } 7 \times 69 = 483 \text{ years}$$

Anderson sees a prophetic year as 360 days. This is based both on ancient history and on Revelation 11:2, 13:5, 11:3, and 12:6 which indicate that 42 months 3 ½ years are equal to 1,260 days.

$$\text{Therefore, } 483 \text{ years} \times 360 \text{ days} = 173,880 \text{ days}$$

Artaxerxes started his reign in 465 B.C. The decree to rebuild Jerusalem was given on the first day of Nisan, in the 20th year of Artaxerxes. In our calendar system (the Julian calendar) that date is March 14, 445 B.C. (Nehemiah 2:1)

Jesus started His ministry in the 15th year of Tiberius (see Luke 3:1). Tiberius started his reign in 14 A.D., so Jesus' ministry started in 29 A.D. Anderson believes that Jesus celebrated four Passovers during His ministry, one each in 29, 30, 31 and His final Passover in 32. With the help of lunar charts, we can calculate the exact date of ancient Passovers, so it is possible to calculate the exact day of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as April 6, 32 A.D.

From 445 B.C. to 32 A.D. there are 476 years on the Julian calendar  
(not 477 years, because there is no year zero)

$$476 \text{ years} \times 365 \text{ days} = 173,740 \text{ days}$$

Adjusting for the difference between March 14 and April 6 adds 24 days  
Adjusting for leap years over a period of 476 years adds 116 days

The total number of days from March 14, 445 B.C. to April 6, 32 A.D.  
 $173,740 + 24 + 116 = 173,880 \text{ days}$

According to his calendar, Daniel told us there would be 173,880 days between the  
decree and the arrival of Messiah the Prince.

Jesus said to the Jews of this day: *If you had known, even you, especially IN THIS YOUR DAY, the things that make for your peace!* (Luke 19:42) David said of this day in Psalm 118:24: *THIS IS THE DAY which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*