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End Of Days - Confirming the Covenant

We want to go over the 70 weeks of Daniel. The verses are Daniel 9:24-27. They read as follows:

Daniel 9:24-27

“Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. “Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

The traditional position held by most believers is that the 70 weeks are actual weeks of years. Four hundred ninety years. They began at the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. This went forth in Nehemiah Chapter 2. With this date as the beginning, the first 69 weeks (483 years) reaches the anointed one. We are now waiting for the 70th week to be completed.

In this is the traditional view, there are actually several variations to it. The most dominant position is basically that the antichrist will come and sign a seven-year peace treaty with Israel. This will include the rebuilding of the Temple and sacrifices reinstated. In the middle of the seven the antichrist will break the treaty and do away with the sacrifices. It will be at this time when he makes war against the saints and conquers them until the return of Christ.

Though we respect this view, we respectfully disagree with it. We believe there is another view that holds more credibility. When Daniel 9:27 says "he will confirm a covenant with many for one seven," it does not mean that the covenant will only last for one seven, but rather it will take one seven to confirm the covenant.

Many are coming to understand this view, so allow us to explain. First, we know Christ came to establish the New Covenant. Yet, according to Jeremiah 31 we know we are not living in the complete fulfillment of the New Covenant just yet. Consider:

Jeremiah 31:31-34 says

“The time is coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

There is no doubt that we are in the New Covenant. But it is also obvious that we are still telling our family and neighbors to know the Lord. Thus, the New Covenant has not been fully actualized. Christ began confirming this covenant with His ministry on earth and it will be completed at the end of the tribulation, just before the Millennium.

The fact that we are in the New Covenant is validated in the examination of the Hebrew word often translated as "confirm" in Daniel 9:27. Specifically, the word used is "*higber*" and the root word is "*gabar*." According to Strong's it simply means: "To be strong," "to strengthen" or "prevail."

Thus, there is a difference between making a seven year covenant and strengthening an already existing covenant.

The only covenant mentioned in Daniel chapter 9 is “the covenant” in verse 4:

Daniel 9:4 says

"And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love Him, and to them that keep His commandments."

...Which, of course, Daniel is referencing God's covenant with us. Our part of the covenant is loving God back by obeying through a desire to keep His commandments. This is why 1 John 5:2-3 states that we love God by keeping His commandments.

God wants to strengthen the covenant with us by calling us back to His ways, which is really about teaching us how to love God and love others. As already quoted from Jeremiah, keeping God's law is the whole point of the New Covenant. The central purpose of the New Covenant is to write His law on our heart, meaning that we want to learn His laws and do them. His Spirit is given to us to assist with that purpose.

According to Daniel 9:27, this “strengthening of the covenant” is to occur for seven years and be solidified in full at His return. We will increase in knowledge and wisdom (which is God's Law) leading up to His return by the leading of the Holy Spirit. This is how the covenant is strengthened. Eventually we will not have to teach others His ways and the New Covenant will be in

full effect through Him. When Yeshua returns, He teaches the law Himself according to Isaiah 2 and Micah 4.

So while some teach that Daniel 9:27 speaks of a seven year covenant that the Antichrist “makes,” we see that Daniel 9:27 speaks of an existing covenant that is confirmed and strengthened.

The word for **making** or **creating** is not even used in the text. Since the word used is "*gaber*", how would the antichrist strengthen any covenant with many for seven years since he breaks the supposed covenant at some point? That means he is doing the exact opposite of strengthening it.

Either he is strengthening it for seven years as the verse says, or there is a different understanding that needs to come to light.

It was Yeshua himself who did away with the need of sacrifices at the cross. Sacrifices did continue after the cross, but they were for remembrance of what Christ had done. Hebrews 8 elaborates on this for us....

Hebrews 8:4-5

⁴ If He were on earth, He would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. ⁵ They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”

Notice how Yeshua could not be a priest on Earth in verse 4. It's because the law, which has not been done away with, already calls for the Levites to serve in that position. The Law prohibits Him to be Priest on Earth. Thus, He is our priest in Heaven.

So sacrifices continued, but only as a shadow of remembrance.

The verse in Daniel says...

"He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. ..."

The Hebrew word used for "middle" here in this verse is "*chatzi*". The root word has the implication of dividing; to make separate. It can mean, pending on the text, "in the exact middle" or "in the midst."

For example, when it is used in measurements of cubits, it is generally accepted that it means "in the exact middle." However, when it is used in counting the number of people, such as the tribes of Israel, it was used in a general form.

Meaning: when the half-tribe of Manasseh is referred to, it does not mean that the number of people were divided exactly in half but rather that the tribe was simply divided in two.

The number of people, on either side, bore no weight to the issue. It was simply declaring the tribe was divided and the author was referencing one of those divisions.

So, as we see this word used concerning the seven years, we should not force the interpretation of the word to mean in the exact middle when the other interpretation bears just as much weight.

So, in the midst of the seven, as also taught in Hebrews, Christ transferred the duties of the human priests over to Himself for the heavenly temple. Though the role of the priest and the sacrifices in the temple on earth were to indeed continue and serve as reminders for us after the cross, in the eyes of God, the need for man's sacrifices were brought to an end as Christ now continues to offer daily intercession.

Many refer to verse 26 regarding the timing of the crucifixion. And this is true. However there is far more to the picture. Let's read in verse 26.

Daniel 9:26

After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

This verse literally takes us from the end of the 62 sevens up to the very end of the last seven that is still to be completed. It must be noted that the end of the 62 sevens is the end of ALL the first 69. It shows the beginning and the end of the last seven from when Yeshua began strengthening the covenant to when He completes it. It's cramming 2000 years into one verse.

Let's read the verse again.

Daniel 9:26

After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

It's a general overview of what's given in verse 27.

So what happens after the 62 sevens referred to in verse 26? Christ begins the last seven with the start of His ministry at His baptism. Verse 27 picks back up after the overview in verse 26 and starts with the anointed one beginning the seven-year process of establishing the New Covenant. Then, in the midst of the last seven He is cut off, bringing an end to the daily sacrifices.

It is the next part of verse 27 that brings confusion for many. Let's read it from the NIV. ...

Daniel 9:27

And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

Undoubtedly, this part of the verse makes it appear that the first half of the verse must be referring to the antichrist. However, even the interpreters of the NIV give another interpretation in their footnotes that better matches the Hebrew text. It reads:

Daniel 9:27

And one who causes desolation will come upon the pinnacle of the abominable [temple], until the end that is decreed is poured out on the desolated [city].

This gives a much clearer picture as to what should be seen in this verse. The first half of the verse is referring to the anointed one, where the last half of the verse is referring to the one who later comes and

causes desolation. Other versions give clear definition and distinction between the anointed one and the one who sets up the abomination as well.

The New American Standard Bible reads:

Daniel 9:27

And on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.

The New King James Version reads:

Daniel 9:27

And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.

And the American Standard Version reads:

Daniel 9:27

And upon the wing of abominations shall come one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out upon the desolate.

It is clear that v. 27 has two different individuals mentioned within it. We need to be careful and not confuse the verse to force an interpretation to fit a certain paradigm.

Interestingly enough, it is the latter part of this verse that Christ himself refers to in Matthew 24:15-20. It reads:

Matthew 24:15-20

“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand — then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. ”

Here, He tells the people to flee when seeing the fulfillment of this verse. In referring to this verse, why wouldn't He tell them to look for the seven year covenant and to make sure they were out before the abomination was revealed in the middle of it? There would be no need, then, for the people to flee in a hurry if they were looking for the peace treaty 3 1/2 years earlier. However, we see that the only reference Yeshua makes to this prophecy in Daniel is the abomination that causes desolation. He then gives specific directions to flee without looking back. This tells us that there is no peace treaty 3 1/2 years earlier. The only event in this prophecy that was, and is, yet to be fulfilled, is the coming abomination of desolation. We'll cover what makes the desolation in more detail in a moment.

So we see 70 weeks of years. Four hundred ninety years total. The first 69 weeks are completed, along with the first half of the seventh week as completed by Yeshua's ministry on earth. We are now waiting for the last half of this week to still be completed, thus completing the last 7 years.

There is yet another possible meaning of Daniel's 70 weeks. It actually applies to the ministry of

Yeshua. This shows where His ministry, from baptism to Pentecost, lasts exactly 70 weeks. Just Four hundred ninety days. This obviously goes against the traditional belief of Christ's ministry lasting 3 1/2 years.

Though either the 70 weeks or the 3 1/2 years could be correct for the length of Yeshua's ministry, we wanted to, at least, make this 70 week view known as the understanding of it is beginning to grow. The more we study this view, the more we lean to this understanding as being correct.

This topic will be addressed in detail in a future teaching in this series.

That brings us to our next topic.

Matthew 24:15-20

“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand — then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. ”

Again, the verse starts out by saying:

"So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand — then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."

The message here is to flee to the mountains with urgency the second they see the abomination. There obviously is no 3 1/2 year warning sign given. It will be just like when the angels told Lot to leave with his family in Genesis 19.

Genesis 19:17

As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, “Flee for your lives! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!”

When the eyes of the people are opened and they see the abomination that causes desolation, we'll see them fleeing as Yeshua informed.

It's at this time we need to pause and take some time to explain exactly what the abomination that causes desolation is. We believe the abomination that causes desolation is actually rebellion against the Lord. Sounds strange at first, I know, but consider Daniel 8:13.

Daniel 8:13

Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, “How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled — the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the **rebellion** that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host that will be trampled underfoot?

We see here that the cause of the desolation IS rebellion.

What is rebellion? It's a willful turning away from God's ways. Compare 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

2 Thessalonians 2:3

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for [that day will not come] until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

First we see a rebellion occurs and then the man of lawlessness. Just as Daniel reveals it. The word used for rebellion here in 2 Thessalonians is the word "*apostasia*." This word is only used one other time in all of Scripture. It's found in Acts 21:21. It reads:

Acts 21:21

They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn away from (*apostasia*) Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or live according to our customs.

We'll touch on this verse in more detail in a later teaching of this series. But it's clear in 2 Thessalonians that Paul is talking about a rebelling against the ways of the LORD (His law) in the end times.

Let's dig deeper into Daniel and see how he expounds on this issue. Since we covered 8:13, let's back up and look at verse 12.

Daniel 8:12

Because of rebellion, the host [of the saints] and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.

This verse is simply expounding on verse 11 but stating the cause. The cause was that of the rebellion.

Knowing that the host of believers and the daily sacrifice are given over as the text says, we have to ask how it came to be. So let's read verses 10 and 11.

Daniel 8:10-11

It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them.

Notice that it says it reached the host of the heavens. The host of the heavens are the believers. It is clear that this is when the antichrist will be operating within the days of authority given to him to conquer the saints. I've heard it mentioned before that this verse is referencing the fall of Satan and the fallen angels. But the context clearly shows it is the antichrist that is being discussed as he reaches the believers. Much confusion has been given concerning the later part of this verse concerning the starry host being thrown down and trampled. It must be made clear that this is when the antichrist will attack the leadership of the believers first. Doesn't make sense? Consider in Revelation when John first sees Christ.

Revelation 1:12-13 says:

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lamp stands, and in the midst of the seven lamp stands One like the Son of Man.

Verse 16 then says ... "He had in His right hand seven stars."

Revelation 1:20 then explains:

Revelation 1:20

The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lamp stands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lamp stands which you saw are the seven churches.

Christ was standing in the midst of the lamp stands and holding seven stars in one hand. We are later told that the lamp stands are the churches and the stars are the angels (leaders) of the churches. It would appear that when the antichrist attacks, he attacks the leadership first. Strike the shepherd, scatter the sheep.

Verse 11 says:

Daniel 8:11

It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host; it took away the daily sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low.

Here we see the antichrist making himself as Christ and taking the daily sacrifice from Him. It then states that the place of the sanctuary was brought low. From the time after Pentecost, according to Paul, BELIEVERS are considered to be the place of the sanctuary. Consider:

1 Corinthians 3:16

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

1 Corinthians 6:19

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.

2 Corinthians 6:16

What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

The question, then, must be asked, "What is the daily sacrifice that is taken away?" Consider:

Hebrews 13:15

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a **sacrifice of praise** — the fruit of lips that confess His name.

AND:

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as **living sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.

When the time comes, the antichrist will allow no one to worship the one true God.

This section of verses here in chapter 8 of Daniel parallels with chapter 11:30-35. Consider the following:

Daniel 11:30

Ships of the western coastlands will oppose him, and he will lose heart. Then he will turn back and vent his fury against the holy covenant. He will return and show favor to those who forsake the holy covenant. (This the rebellion.)

Here we see the antichrist will attack those who follow God's covenant but give favor to those who reject it. This parallels with Revelation 12:17 and 14:12

Rev. 12:17

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring — those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Rev. 14:12

This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.

The next 2 verses of Daniel 11 explains how he does this.

Daniel 11:31

His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.

This could be read as follows:

Daniel 11:31

His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress (the believers) and will abolish the daily sacrifice (praise and worship to Yahweh). Then they will set up the abomination (begin the persecution that creates rebellion/denial) that causes desolation (those fleeing the city).

He accomplishes the persecution of the church through his armed forces. The latter part of the verse, "Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation" only has three words in the Hebrew. They are "*natenu*", "*shiqqutz*" and "*meshomem*". Simply meaning "setting abomination to desolate." Meaning that it's the persecution from the army that is creating abomination (rebellion) thus making the land desolate. So when the persecution of the church by the army of the antichrist begins, so does the desolation. Thus the setting up of the abomination IS the persecution of believers.

This is why the Lord tells His followers to flee and not look back in Matthew 24. When they see the army that brings forth the desolation by way of persecution that causes rebellion, there will be no doubt. Those in Judea will be the first affected.

This parallels much of what is expected in the Muslim world regarding the coming the Mahdi, their messiah. The prophet Jesus, who they call Isus, comes and gathers the army for the Mahdi to conquer the infidels.

It is the army of the antichrist that is in place first and that which Yeshua said to flee to the mountains when that time comes.

Daniel 11:32

With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know

their God will firmly resist him.

Here we see the favor of the antichrist to those who forsake and rebel against the holy covenant in contrast to those who choose to follow it.

Daniel 11:33-35

³³ Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered. ³⁴ When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them. ³⁵ Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.

We must note that those mentioned here who do not violate the covenant are a completely separate group of individuals from those who are striving to keep the covenant today.

We believe that there will be a group of people who are protected during the reign of the antichrist. Why do we believe this? Revelation 12.

Revelation 12:6

The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

Revelation 12:14

The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.

And to the church of Philadelphia:

Revelation 3:10

Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

It is our prayer that when these times start, you will be among those who are protected and kept out of reach of the rule of the antichrist.

We hope you have enjoyed this teaching, remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom!

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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