

# You Can Have A New Beginning (Daniel's 70 Weeks)



*"The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."* Daniel 9:27 NLT

Many Bible scholars think that Daniel 9:24-27 is one of the most important passages in the Bible. Author, Dr. Alva McClain, wrote that there was no single prophetic utterance more crucial to Biblical Interpretation, Apologetics, and Eschatology than Daniel 9:24-27. John Walvoord, an expert in End Times teaching, agrees that Daniel 9:24-27 is a crucial key to understanding all end times prophecy.

**Setting:** Israel had rebelled from God for hundreds of years. God repeatedly sent prophets to call them to repentance, yet, they became more wicked. Finally, God allowed Israel and Judah to be taken captive and enslaved by the Assyrians and Babylonians. God decreed that their captivity would last for 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10). Daniel knew it was time to return to Jerusalem and pleaded with God to fulfill the promised return (9:2-19). God sent the angel Gabriel as an answer to Daniel's prayer and to reveal Israel's future (9:20-27). God was about to give Israel a new beginning. God also gives us new beginnings when we seek Him.

## Central lesson

**Regardless of our past failures, God loves us & offers us a new beginning.**

### 1. Weeks or YEARS?

*"A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city..."* (9:24) NLT

Some translations use the word "weeks" in verses 24-27, such as the *King James Version* (KJV), *New American Standard Bible* (NASB), *English Standard Version* (ESV). However, the Hebrew שבעים שבועים is literally "seventy sevens" as translated by the *New Living Translation* (NLT) and *The New International Version* (NIV). Scholars agree that the "seventy sevens" refers to **70 periods of seven** or **490 years**.

### 2. Three Major Prophecies. Daniel 9:24-27 foretells three major events.

#### (1) The coming of the MESSIAH and his death (9:25-26a)

*"<sup>25</sup> Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the Anointed One—comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times. <sup>26</sup> After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing..."*

Daniel's prophecy pinpoints the time of the Messiah's coming and the fact that he will die. Other prophecies tell of his resurrection, such as Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 53:10-11. Calculating the Messiah's coming is pinpointed in two ways:

- The Messiah appears in 69 periods of 7 years (**483 years** on the Jewish calendar) **from the decree to rebuild the Temple** (March 5, 444 BC) as recorded in Nehemiah 2:1-8 and ends on March 30, AD 33 **when Jesus rode into Jerusalem** (Luke 19:28-44 esp. 19:42; Also Zechariah 9:9).
- The Messiah appears BEFORE the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Roman general Titus in AD 70. (See Daniel 9:26b)

#### (2) The destruction of the TEMPLE & Jerusalem (9:26b)

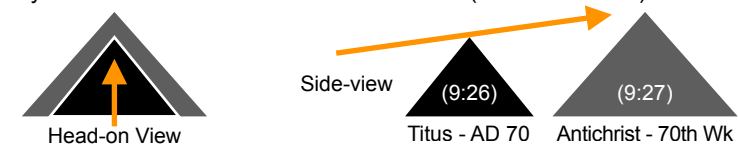
*"<sup>26</sup> ...and a ruler [the Roman general Titus in AD 70] will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end."*

#### (3) The ANTICHRIST will make a seven-year treaty (or covenant) with Israel (9:27).

*"<sup>27</sup> The ruler [Antichrist] will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."*

**Who is this "ruler"?** The context of verse 27 indicates that this is a different ruler from the one in verse 26 that led to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. Context and the comparison of other Bible passages point to this ruler as the Antichrist (see Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10).

**AD 70 or 70th Week?** Context and other passages indicate that verse 27 has leaped forward in time to the 7-year tribulation or the 70th "seven" of Daniel's vision of the 70 weeks (or periods of seven). Bible prophecy often makes sudden changes that appear to be describing one event but is actually more than one event. This is often illustrated by what is called the mountain tops of prophecy. That is, when we look at two or more mountain tops straight on, they look like one mountain. However, move to the side and valleys can be seen between the mountains. (See illustration)



**The Temple Desecrated?** Jesus spoke about the desecration of the Temple by the Antichrist in Matthew 24:15. The "sacrilegious object" is believed to be a statue or image of the Antichrist. He will demand everyone worship it (2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13:14-15). This will be an abomination in God's sight!

**Sacrifices and Offerings?** These passages make it clear that Israel will rebuild their temple and restart worshipping God by offering sacrifices and offerings as they did in the Old Testament. Reports indicate that Israel is already prepared to rebuild the temple. However, Islam's Dome of the Rock is believed to be sitting on the site of the ancient Jewish Temple, which has prevented the Jews from beginning construction. However, the Temple will eventually be rebuilt!

## Conclusion:

**Regardless of our past failures, God loves us & offers us a new beginning.**

**Action Steps:** ► Receive Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's Bible study. ► Attend a small group. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus. ► Read Revelation 5. *What do you learn about Jesus?*