

## **Daniel 9 -- Consider the word and understand the vision**

We need to have a grounded understanding of the end of the age because the amount of irrational and wrong teachings are going to multiply. The world is about to go crazy like a computer crashing. One minute everyone will be denying the Bible and using the term "apocalyptic" like it is a joke, the next minute they will be panicking and running around like chickens with their heads cut off. I saw this happen on 9/11. I was in the Lobby of a stock brokerage firm that I worked at in Manhattan when the first plane hit the Twin towers. We had a big screen TV with the news on so a number of people gathered around looking at what was going on. Someone said it was a terrible accident. I said "that is not an accident, that was intentional". They immediately attacked me "you don't know that". I said 'look out the window, it is blue sky, clear day, no one is supposed to fly over Manhattan, and that plane didn't even try to veer out of the way'. This stirred up a lot of people to shout me down when the 2nd plane hit the twin towers. Instantly they all started to go crazy, "how do we get out of here". I said 'what are you doing? We are on the ground floor. This is much safer than the street'. They went from total denial to total panic in the snap of your fingers. I expect that will happen when the UN ratifies the peace treaty with Israel. So, while we can still have a rational conversation on what is going to happen we need to go over why Christians teach there will be a tribulation, why it is "7 years long", and why there is a "great tribulation" during the last 3 ½ years. In addition, we need to know when it starts. **9** In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom— **2** in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. Jeremiah 25:11 This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 12 "But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt," declares the Lord, "and will make it desolate forever., and Jeremiah 29:10 This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. Daniel read the prophecies and understood them and so can we. **3** So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. **4** I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: "Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of

love with those who love him and keep his commandments, **5** we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. **6** We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land. This is what the tribulation and the end of the age is all about. God is great and awesome, He is not mocked, whatever a man sows this he shall reap. God keeps His covenant. We have a contract with God and God will honor that contract, it is called the New Testament and also the Old Testament. Both contracts are still in effect and will be kept by God. Keeping the laws of God are the requirements in the contract for us to keep. The most important law is to love God with your whole heart. Think of this covenant as a marriage covenant. When we sin and do wrong we are obligated to confess those sins, repent of those sins and make atonement. For example, if you stole \$5,000 that would be a sin. You have to confess it, repent of it and also make atonement for it. Simply telling someone "sorry I stole \$5,000 from you" is not sufficient, you need to return the money. But just returning the money would also not be sufficient, they could have been earning interest on the money. There are other issues that may have taken place from your theft. According to the Bible if you confess and repent without the police catching you then you need to repay double. You stole \$5,000 you must pay back \$10,000 to be at one, to make atonement for the theft. However, if you get caught by the police you now need to pay back five times, or \$25,000. This is fair, you need to pay back the police and the courts as well as the victim. The gospel was offering people a chance to repent of their sins and pay for their sins by receiving Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Stealing \$5,000 is a relatively easy thing to atone for, but what if someone died, how do you pay for a death? You still need to confess, repent, and to the best of your ability make it right. But there will be sins that you can't make right, if it were not for the Lord's blood you could never be forgiven. But the end of the age is when the Lord deals with all those who refused to accept His sacrifice to atone for their sins. Daniel is also mentioning that many people refused to listen to the prophets, those that brought the gospel to them. Jeremiah 6:17 "I appointed watchmen over you and said 'listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But you said, 'We will not listen'". **7** "Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame—the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. **8** We and our kings, our princes and our ancestors are covered with shame,

Lord, because we have sinned against you. **9** The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; **10** we have not obeyed the Lord our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. **11** All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you. This is the reason for the tribulation: unfaithfulness, sins, and rebellion against God. The world as a whole has turned away from God refusing to obey Him. So the solution is quite simple, obey the Lord. Repent of the sins, repent of the rebellion, repent of the unfaithfulness and obey the Lord. "Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. **12** You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing on us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem. **13** Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us, yet we have not sought the favor of the Lord our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. **14** The Lord did not hesitate to bring the disaster on us, for the Lord our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him. This is good news or bad news depending on you. The fact that God has fulfilled all the words of the covenant in the curses can be seen as encouraging because He will also fulfill all the blessings of the covenant. This word is a testimony that God is faithful. What He says He will do He will do. So it is true that the disaster that is coming will be unprecedented, but it is also true that if we confess, repent and seek God's favor He will be merciful and just. The Lord's blood is still fully effective at making peace between us and God. There will come a day shortly where the gospel of grace will end, but at this moment anyone who confesses and repents will be saved. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord Jesus and believes that God has raised Him from the dead shall be saved. **15** "Now, Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. **16** Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us. This is important. This chapter and the prophecy that he is going to give us is about Jerusalem. In 1948 the Jews returned to Israel, but not to Jerusalem. A year ago the United States recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel for the first time, but the UN still has not because we need a peace treaty between Israel and the Palestinians. **17** "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your

servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. This peace treaty is not just about Jerusalem but also about the temple. **18** Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. Righteous judgement can be cold and cruel. If God was simply a righteous God we would all see that judgement as cold and cruel. But God is also a merciful God. **19** Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.” This vision is an answer to this prayer. The Lord did forgive, He did act. God sent His only begotten Son because He loved the world and so that the world might be saved. **20** While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for his holy hill— **21** while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. **22** He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. Too many people think they can come to this topic skipping the confession, repentance and faith in a God who keeps His covenant, who is righteous and who is merciful. They skip over His love, and forgiveness and salvation. Therefore they don’t get insight and understanding they get crazy. All they can see is a cold, cruel God. **23** As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. God loves us. He says those that honor Me I will honor. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision: Again, I will repeat, “therefore”. Everything that Daniel has prayed is a prerequisite to considering this word and understanding it. **24** “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 Place. Verse 24 is a very big verse. There is no need to read further until you understand this verse. The number seven is composed of 3 + 4. The number three signifies the triune God, the number four signifies the creation or specifically the four living creatures. The number 7 is God added to His creation. Seventy is 10 x 7. The number 5 signifies the responsibility of our hands and feet. It is 4 (creature) plus 1 (God). The things we do with our hands, our works, and the places we go with our feet need to be accountable to God. The number 2 is a testimony. The works of our hands and the paths of our feet need to be a testimony of God + Man. This can explain why they would be in Babylon for seventy years, it was a complete judgement on the sins of Israel

both for the works of their hands and the paths of their feet. But what does 'seventy sevens' mean? This is a witness of both heaven and earth. The New Jerusalem is the ultimate consummation of the divine revelation. It will be a witness to both heaven and earth. This period of time, the seventy sevens is a time for the transgressions to be finished, to put an end to sin, and to atone for wickedness (to pay for what we have done). Meanwhile this period of time will be used to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up the vision and the prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy place. That is the purpose of human history during this time. We have needed this time to learn about the consequences of sin, to learn that the wages of sin is death. Like a little seed sins grow and ultimately you reap death. A major focus of this prophecy is paying for these sins. Jesus' death "redeemed" us, He paid the price for our sins. The good news is that you can receive that by faith. The bad news is that if you don't receive it then at the end of the age the bill will come due and if you haven't received Jesus redemption then you will be required to pay the price. At the same time as sin has been getting worse and worse the Lord has been doing a secret, mysterious work with the church, His kingdom. The end of this age will not only result in the judgement of sin, it will also see the unveiling of the church, His kingdom established in righteousness. In addition to all this during this time we had the entire New Testament written. Finally, the most holy place signifies man's spirit, when Jesus was crucified the way to the most holy place was opened and our spirit has been anointed with "The Spirit". All of these things are being accomplished during this time, so don't get distracted by the judgement on sin, that is only one small portion of what is being done.

**25 "Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem** The seventy weeks begins with the word to go and rebuild Jerusalem. Daniel had been carried off to Babylon, Jeremiah told him they would be there for 70 years, at the end of this time there will be a decree to the Jews to return and rebuild Jerusalem. That word starts the clock on this '70 7's'. **until the Anointed One,** The anointed one refers to "the Christ" or the Messiah. **the ruler,** The ruler refers to the Lord. **comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.'** This accurately predicts the time that Jesus will come if you understand each week to equal 7 years. **It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.** The books of Ezra and Nehemiah cover this period in Israel's history where they returned and rebuilt Jerusalem and the temple. They describe having to work on the wall of the city with their sword by their side. It was a perilous time. **26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be put**

to death and will have nothing. "The anointed one will be put to death" refers to the crucifixion of Jesus. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. This refers to the Roman army that destroyed Jerusalem and the temple after Jesus' crucifixion. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. This refers to the age of grace. There are other prophecies that go into this in greater detail, once Jerusalem and the Temple are destroyed there is a gap in the seventy sevens. It comes after 69 sevens and before the seventieth seven. **27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.'** Again, there are other prophecies that indicate that this "he" here refers to the antichrist. This does not refer to the covenant that God had with His people, that covenant has already been confirmed and would not be referred to as "a" covenant but as "the" covenant. Antichrist confirms "a" covenant with Israel and "with many" which we understand to refer to the UN for one seven, the last seven years of this age, which we call the tribulation. **In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering.** This verse indicates that the sacrifices and offerings have been renewed, as a result we understand this to mean that the Temple has been rebuilt. He "puts an end to the sacrifice and offering" again refers to the Antichrist breaking this covenant in the middle of the tribulation. The term "midst" sort of indicates the middle, and the middle of seven years would be around three and half years. This is why we think the tribulation is divided into two parts, the first half and the second half. **And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."** This is very clear that the "he" cannot refer to the Lord or to God. It also makes it very clear that the temple has been rebuilt. There are other prophecies that confirm that it is the antichrist who breaks this covenant and sets himself up in the temple, which is an abomination.

This is a super simple summary. There are those who spend years on these prophecies. At first I was quite interested in them but as I spent more and more time in these teachings I began to realize they are like majoring in the minors. For example, every year we have a state exam in June for the students, a final exam for the year. Knowing when that exam is held is important. But knowing when the exam is is trivial when it comes to doing well on the exam. You will be judged on transgressions, sins, and how well you have made peace with God. Remember, as believers we don't just get judged for sins we commit, we get judged if we see someone sinning and don't tell them. These are the major points on this exam. We will also be

judged on the works of our hands and the paths of our feet. We will be judged for the work we have done to build up the kingdom as fellow workers of God. We will be judged on our ministry of the word and the Spirit. These are the majors. Even if you never studied the prophecies of the Lord's coming but take care of the majors you will do just fine at the judgement seat of Christ, on the other hand I suspect there will be a number of experts on the Lord's second coming who will not do nearly as well.

So let's talk about the implications for current events. We currently have a peace treaty between Israel and the Palestinians that the UN will need to vote on when they come back into session this September. The Palestinians have been given the option to have a nation, recognized by the UN or to have their land annexed by Israel. When Trump first proposed this treaty it seemed ridiculous, no way the Palestinians would accept. The Palestinians have very powerful allies in the Arabs and the OPEC nations. They control the world's oil supply. However, who could have guessed that a worldwide Pandemic would strike, causing worldwide demand for oil and gas to drop 30%. This has been devastating to countries whose economy depends on oil exports. As a result Kuwait recently went on record telling the Palestinians to accept the deal, saying every time they reject a peace treaty with Israel the next one is worse. But the Palestinians closest ally is Iran, a country with a fundamentalist government that sees it as their calling to protect Jerusalem from Israel. But, coincidentally Iran has been one of the hardest hit countries from this pandemic. Not only do they have an extraordinarily high number of people who have gotten sick (some studies say that the numbers are at least three times the official numbers) but they have had their economy hit harder than any other country. The demand for oil and gas is down 30% worldwide, but the pain is not spread out evenly, some countries are seeing a much greater drop in their exports and Iran is the poster boy for who is being shut out. In the past embargos were not very effective because people have a strong incentive to break them. But with oil prices down, a glut in the market and overall trade is down 30% it is much easier to enforce an embargo on Iran. It is amazing that this pandemic happened to strike right at the time they are deciding this peace treaty. It is kind of like Caesar Nero (a type of the Antichrist, or even the spirit of the antichrist). Nero wanted to buy up property in Rome, the people didn't want to sell so he set fire to their property and made sure the fire department didn't put the fire out. If this pandemic were started by the antichrist then it

would be exactly like that. Especially if the antichrist were frustrating efforts to put this fire out.

Anyway, this makes it very difficult for Iran to come to the aid of the Palestinians, they have enough problems of their own to keep them busy. That leaves Hezbollah located in Jordan and Syria. However, in another amazing coincidence we have a huge explosion in Beirut that has "killed two birds with one stone". It is very possible that the fertilizer that was kept at the port could have been stolen and used for bombs by Hezbollah. Blowing it up at this moment may have destroyed a stockpile of bomb making material that Hezbollah was planning to use. Secondly, this explosion has obliterated the port at Beirut, making sure nothing else comes into Lebanon (and therefore to Syria as well) over the next month or two. Who knew that bags of fertilizer could just catch fire and explode in such a huge explosion like that on their own. Trump within a few hours said it was a terrorist attack. That probably would justify the NSA and other military assets to focus their attention on Hezbollah for the next month. So, sadly, it looks like any aid that the Palestinians would hope to get from Hezbollah and Syria will not be coming anytime soon.

Still there are two other countries that could cause great problems to this treaty; Russia and China. Russia also depends heavily on oil exports, so a deal to buy oil from Russia at this time would probably be enough to prevent them from sinking the deal. That leaves China. China is currently going through terrible floods which may get even worse over the next two weeks. These floods are causing significant damage to the crops. Some are claiming that the storehouses of grain that China thought they had have already been robbed either by corrupt officials, or poor management that has allowed it to rot. A deal to supply China with grain should be sufficient to keep them from sinking this vote in the UN.

As a result, what looked like a peace plan being proposed by a fool a year ago now looks like it has a very real chance of being ratified by the UN. I have already shared why I see this period of time as being the "festival of trumpets" at the end of the age (see Luke 12 -- How to interpret this time). That festival ends with a great trumpet blast, and the UN ratifying a peace treaty with Israel concerning Jerusalem would be a great trumpet blast waking up many, many Christians. Also, the UN is opening the new session during Rosh Hashanah (the festival of trumpets), and some see the comet



that is going to be brushing by the earth at the same time as a sign that Heaven and Earth are testifying against this evil age.

The asteroid, known as 2011, measures 49 meters (160 foot) and has been deemed "potentially hazardous" by NASA. The space rock will pass at close proximity on September 1 at a distance of 71,805km – just one-fifth of the distance between us and the Moon (384,399km) - according to NASA's Center for Near Earth Object Studies (CNEOS). The asteroid will zoom by Earth at a staggering speed of 29,375kph - although it will pass our planet safely.

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/science/1309348/asteroid-close-approach-NASA-earth-near-earth-object-2020-astronomy-moon>

### **Strange summer 'snow' falls in Beijing, China**

**An unusual weather phenomenon occurred in the Dongcheng District of Beijing, China, on July 28, 2020. According to residents, it appeared like white snowflakes that fell in the area during a hot summer day, but meteorologists said it might be "chal" or graupel.**

At around 07:20 UTC (15:20 LT), residents in Dongcheng were taken aback by a bizarre phenomenon as pellets that looked like snowflakes suddenly fell amid the summer season. The event lasted for five to six minutes.

<https://watchers.news/2020/08/04/strange-summer-snow-falls-in-beijing-china/>

This raises a thorny question. What are we to make of these "signs in the heavens"? Signs in the heavens are referred to in the Bible. However, there is nothing in the Bible that would teach you how to read these signs. Therefore, I don't think these signs are intended for believers. When the wise men came to Jerusalem looking for Jesus they needed to ask those who knew the prophecies who went to the Bible to see where He would be born. So I think these are signs that are given to those that don't have the Bible. At Jesus' birth the star that appeared helped some unbelievers to find Him. Thomas needed to see the imprint of the nails in Jesus' hands and Jesus' allowed that, likewise the wise men were helped by seeing the star appear in the sky. But these signs are not as helpful as the sure word, they were able

to see that the King of the Jews had been born, but only had a general view of where to find Him. I don't want to be insulting, but they are poor and beggarly elements and the kind of thing that anyone who does find the Lord and the word of God would discard. For example the Chinese have a teaching that snow in the summer is a sign that innocents have been slaughtered. This year they have been having snow in June and July, which they see as a sign from the heavens that "testify against thee". So, in my opinion if unbelievers are using these signs to repent and turn to God that is a good thing, on the other hand if believers are still holding to these things it is an insult to the Lord. You are children of the king and yet are acting like beggars. You have been given the word of God, you don't need to continue feeling around like a man in the dark. If you have a question about what is going on, ask your father, you don't need to act like a beggar.