

20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 39 (September 24-30, 2017)

I will conclude my series on prophecy by looking at, in my opinion, the most amazing prophecy ever uttered. I pray that God will help me to do justice to this amazing text.

Sunday, September 24 (read Daniel 9:20-23)

“As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed . . .” (Daniel 9:23a)

God responds to Daniel's humble prayer of praise, confession, repentance and requests by sending the angel Gabriel to tell His faithful servant what the future holds for the people of God (v. 20-21). Don't miss the fact that the answer is given when Daniel **begins to pray** (v. 23). Likewise, the Lord wants you to understand the events that are taking place right now in America, as well as in the world, but you never will unless you have a consistent prayer life. The future is written clearly in the Bible, but only those who trust His Word will discern its meaning. I pray that you will become a person whom God can trust with His “hidden manna” (see Revelation 2:17).

Monday, September 25 (read Daniel 9:24)

“Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city . . .” (Daniel 9:24a)

Each “seven” (weeks) represents seven years; therefore, God tells Daniel that He will deal with the Jews for a total of 490 years (70 X 7). During that time, He will atone for their sin and wickedness (Calvary), bring in everlasting righteousness (resurrection followed by Holy Spirit), solidify all prophecies made about the Messiah, and anoint His Son Lord of all. As we will see in tomorrow's text, Jerusalem, the holy city, will be the center of the fulfillment of all of His prophecies. “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ” (2 Corinthians 1:20a). Be ready to be amazed!

Tuesday, September 26 (read Daniel 9:25-27)

“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.” (Daniel 9:25a)

Gabriel now separates the years between the first phase of the ministry of Christ from coming events. Someone much more intelligent than I am has calculated the time decreed in the printed verse above. The decree to rebuild and restore Jerusalem was issued by King Cyrus in 445 B.C. I couldn't find the exact day in my files, but from that day until Palm Sunday (using the Jewish 360 day calendar) is exactly 483 years (seven ‘sevens’ and sixty-two ‘sevens’). What are the odds of that? Our Sovereign Lord has the future in His hands as well as the past and present! What do you have to fear in this troubled world?

Wednesday, September 27 (reread Daniel 9:25-27)

“After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing.” (Daniel 9:26a)

Following the 483 years in which Jerusalem and the temple were rebuilt “in times of trouble,” Jesus is crucified on Calvary between two thieves. From the world's viewpoint, He was cut off and had nothing, but from God's viewpoint, this was the plan since the beginning of time (see Genesis 3:15, the first prophecy in the Bible). He knew that someone who was perfect would have to die for the rest of us who are sinners by nature and by action. God put it this way in perhaps the most important single verse in Scripture: “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Can you see that every passage in the Word of God points directly or indirectly to Jesus?

Thursday, September 28 (reread Daniel 9:25-27)

"The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary." (Daniel 9:26b)

Jesus predicted the destruction of Jerusalem in Matthew 24:1-2. The Romans ("the people of the ruler who will come") conquered Jerusalem in 70 A.D., slaughtering the Jews and burning the city and the temple. The fire was so hot that the gold from the temple melted and ran into the mortar joining the stones together. As a result, the Romans separated every stone to remove the gold, thus fulfilling Jesus' words that are recorded in Matthew 24:2, "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." An outside enemy never defeated the Romans; thus, their system remains ready to be restored. This system will elect the antichrist and lead to the events we will look at in tomorrow's devotion.

Friday, September 29 (reread Daniel 9:25-27)

"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." (Daniel 9:27)

The final seven years decreed for God to deal directly with the Jewish people will occur during the tribulation. The person known Biblically as the antichrist (1 John 2:18), the beast (Revelation 13:1), the little horn (Daniel 7:7-8), the man of lawlessness (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4), the rider on a white horse (Revelation 6:1-2), the stern-faced king (Daniel 8:23-25), the ruler who will come (Daniel 9:26-27), and the king (Daniel 11:36-38) will come to world-wide power shortly after the rapture of the true Church. He will sign a peace treaty of seven years with Israel and allow them to rebuild their temple and resume their old sacrificial system of worship. For the first 3½ years, they will think that he is their Messiah. In the middle of the tribulation, however, he shows his true colors and sits down in the new temple and proclaims himself to be god. That ushers in the final 3½ years known as The Great Tribulation. Are there any current signs that these events are about to take place? Great question! We will explore that in tomorrow's devotion.

Saturday, September 30 (read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. (2 Thessalonians 2:7)

Recent events in Charlottesville remind us that, "the secret power of lawlessness is already at work" (v. 7). Forces financed primarily by billionaire George Soros are being paid to move from city to city to challenge all authority. Most of these protesters do not even know why they are there, except that they are paid to create chaos. I know that many innocent, but misinformed, people are involved in these protests, but the goal is to destroy all authority and to create lawlessness. George Soros wants to create a global government, led by the antichrist. That, of course, is the truth we know from God's Word. He has an entirely different worldview; therefore, he thinks he is ushering in world peace. (For further study on this passage, see week 4, 2016.) Are you amazed at the accuracy of God's Word?