

UNIT 3 PART 2

BF232 OUR FUTURE HOPE

Israel's future hope, as we talked about in the last session, is based on the plan of God to restore His kingdom on earth, ruled by the Son of Man. We also saw that the Kingdom of Satan will crumble when the Son of Man comes (Daniel 2 & 7). In Daniel 2, Daniel interpreted the dream of Nebuchadnezzar and the statue of gold, silver, bronze, iron and clay. It's all going to crumble when the stone hits it. That represents the Messiah. In Daniel chapter 7, we had the lion, the bear, the leopard and this great beast that's going to crumble when the Son of Man comes. Also at the end, Israel will be restored to the promised land to live forever. It's important to note that this restoration will come in the last days.

Now, I'm actually going to move ahead. We've looked at Daniel 2 and Daniel 7. We're also going to look at Daniel 9, but I'm going skip ahead to Daniel chapter 12 for just a moment. This is because I want you to see

WHEN ISRAEL'S RESTORATION IS GOING TO COME. IT'S GOING COME IN THE LAST DAYS.

So, in Daniel chapter 12, God reveals,

Daniel 12:1 "At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation,

He's talking about "his nation" meaning Daniel's people, Israel.

Daniel 12:1 will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence.

I want to just comment on this a second. A time of difficulty greater than any time since nations came into existence. It's going to be more difficult than any time period in human history. So, this is

A GREAT TRIBULATION.

That's what we're looking at. He goes on to say

Daniel 12:1-4 But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued. Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever. But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end,

So, He's letting him know that in the last days, at the end of time, that's when God is going to resurrect His people, the Jewish believers, to inherit the kingdom. It's going to be after a time of great tribulation.

So now, let's go back and review the expectation that Israel had from the book of Daniel. Daniel knew that

GOD WAS GOING TO RESTORE HIS PEOPLE AFTER 70 YEARS OF CAPTIVITY.

Do you remember that from Jeremiah? We saw that in one of our earlier sessions. I told you what God said in Jeremiah. If Israel did not listen to God's warnings, God would send them into captivity. In Jeremiah chapter 29, Jeremiah told them that they would be captives in Babylon for 70 years. We also looked at the fact that if Israel didn't learn from God's punishment, He would punish them seven times more.

So, let's look at this. God had told Jeremiah that Israel would return from captivity after 70 years. Daniel believed God's promises that he gave through Jeremiah. So, Daniel is praying at the end of the 70 years, and he's thinking that it's time to leave Babylon and go back to Jerusalem. This is going to be cool. We'll see it in a minute in the text. Daniel was reading the book of Jeremiah, and he read what Jeremiah said about 70 years. So, he thinks it's time to go home. But God revealed to Daniel that because Israel had not learned from her captivity, Israel would be punished seven times over. You remember that language from Leviticus 26? Several times, God warned if you still don't learn, I will punish you seven times over, seven times over, seven times over.

Well,

DANIEL CHAPTER 9 REVEALS GOD'S PLAN FOR ISRAEL.

So, I'm going to look at these different things that I've shared in the text now. In Daniel chapter 9, Daniel is praying a prayer of repentance. It did this because he knew from Deuteronomy 30, that when Israel was scattered into the nations, if they would return to the Lord God would return them to the land. So, he prayed,

Daniel 9:4-7 "O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands. But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations. We have refused to listen to your servants the prophets, who spoke on your authority to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land.

"Lord, you are in the right; but as you see, our faces are covered with shame.

Notice what he's doing. He is confessing the sins of Israel. He says, "God, when you sent us into captivity, You did the right thing. God, I agree with you." This is Daniel repenting for the nation of Israel. He goes on to say,

Daniel 9:7-8 This is true of all of us, including the people of Judah and Jerusalem and all Israel, scattered near and far, wherever you have driven us because of our disloyalty to you. O Lord, we and our kings, princes, and ancestors are covered with shame because we have sinned against you.

But now, notice he has hope that God would restore Israel. He says,

Daniel 9:9 But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him.

So, his hope is that at the end of 70 years of captivity, Israel will repent, God will be merciful and bring them back home. That was the plan that he understood from Jeremiah. Daniel said,

Daniel 9:20-23 I went on praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people, pleading with the Lord my God for Jerusalem, his holy mountain. As I was praying, Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision, came swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice. He explained to me, "Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding. The moment you began praying, a command was given. And now I am here to tell you what it was, for you are very precious to God. Listen carefully so that you can understand the meaning of your vision.

So, Daniel thinks they're going home. It's been 70 years. It's time to go back to Jerusalem. God sends Gabriel to tell Daniel that things are not going to happen the way he thought they were in Daniel 9:24. Here's the message that Daniel received.

A PERIOD OF 70 SETS OF 7 HAS BEEN DECREED FOR YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR HOLY CITY.

I want to pause there for a second. The 7's are a unit of 7. It could be 7 days. It could be 7 minutes. It could be 7 months. It's just a unit of 7. But in this passage, the unit of 7 is 7 years. So, this means 70 sets of 7 years. **It's a total of 490 years that has been decreed for your people and your Holy City to finish their rebellion and put an end to their sin.**

I want to pause there. What this tells us is that Israel had not returned to the Lord. In their hearts, they were still rebelling against God. Remember what God had said before, "If you don't learn, I will punish you seven times over." Well, God put them in captivity for 70 years. They did not learn. So, what is 70 times 7? It's 490 years. Because they did not learn from the captivity, God would put them in captivity or leave them there 70 times 7. The nations would rule over them. That would finish their rebellion. It would put an end to

their sin. Also, the purpose of this time is to atone for their guilt and to bring in everlasting righteousness. So, God has a plan now. If Israel would have returned to the Lord, then it would have been time to restore them. But God knew they would not, so 70 times 7 have been decreed. The 70 sets of 7 spoke of 70 units of 7 years. So again, the total amount of time That Israel could expect before her restoration would be 490 years.

So now, Daniel knows they're not going home. Some people went back home, but even though they went home, there was no Davidic king. The gentiles still ruled over them; and they would for a long time. There would be Babylon. Then, there would be Medo Persia. Then, there would be Greece. Then, there would be Rome. Finally, the God of heaven would send the Messiah to set up His kingdom.

Well, let's continue Daniel chapter 9. Daniel was told, he says, now listen and understand. seven sets of seven Plus 62 sets of seven will pass from the time of the command to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler the anointed one comes.

Okay, I know that this is confusing because these numbers are hard to understand. So, I'm going to try to walk through this very slowly. I need to go through it slowly for me, not just for you. When he says 7 sets of 7, he's talking about 7 sets of 7 years, or 49 years. Then, he says 62 sets of 7. These numbers combined will be 483 years. That goes from the time of the command to rebuild Jerusalem, until the ruler, the Anointed One. Now, I'll give you the time frame in just a second; but I want you to see this Anointed One in Hebrew was *mashiach*. We translate that as Messiah. So, the Anointed One speaks about the coming Messiah, the king of David, the Savior who would restore God's kingdom. He says there will be 483 years until He comes.

I showed you a slide. The decree to rebuild Jerusalem came in 444 BC through Artaxerxes, the King of Persia. So, from this command to rebuild Jerusalem, until the Anointed One, it is going to be 7 sets of 7 plus 62 sets of 7. From this decree, the coming of Messiah would be 7 sets of 7 (49 years) plus 62 sets of 7 years (434 years). When you add those two numbers, **the total numbers of years from the decree of Artaxerxes, until the Messiah comes, would be 483 years.**

Okay, so that means that God's people, Israel, have to settle in and wait. It's going to be a long time until Messiah comes. God said exactly how long it would be. It would be 483 years. I'm going to go on now to Daniel 9:26-27.

Daniel 9:26 "After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing,

From a human perspective, it would look like the Messiah died for no reason, that He didn't accomplish anything; but that's only the way it appeared.

Daniel 9:26 and a ruler 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.

Okay, so this is speaking about when Messiah was killed. We know that came in the time of Rome. Then, this Roman army would destroy the city and the temple. There would be war all the way to the very end.

ISRAEL WILL NOT HAVE HER KINGDOM UNTIL MESSIAH COMES A SECOND TIME.

Daniel 9:27 The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven,

Now, putting these numbers together, you have 490 years total. We had 483 years until Messiah comes. That only leaves 7 years left, 7 years of this great time of trouble when this wicked ruler makes a treaty with the nations. After half this time, he will put an end to sacrifices and offerings. As a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration. He brings false worship into the temple of God. Then, he says this is until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him. So, Messiah will come. He'll be killed. A wicked ruler will come. He'll set up a treaty for 7 years; and halfway through those 7 years, he defiles the temple of God. In the end, that wicked ruler will die.

So, I want to back up and try to give a summary of this because I know this is a lot to follow. First of all, 70 units of 7 were decreed for Israel to put an end to sin and bring in everlasting righteousness. The captivity was only 70 years, but God punished them 7 times over 490 years. The Messiah would come; and when He came, He would be killed. We know that happened when Jesus came. An evil ruler will establish a treaty for one unit of 7, or for 7 years. He will defile God's temple in the middle of that time period. God's people will suffer great persecution under this ruler. These are the things that Israel can expect to happen; but God will bring judgment on this evil ruler and establish His kingdom when the Son of Man comes, Israel's salvation. I don't mean personal salvation, like their sins forgiven. I mean, the kingdom will come for Israel, and Israel will live in her land at the end of the 70th unit of 7 years. So now, we go back to Daniel 12.

Daniel 12:11-12 "From the time the daily sacrifice is stopped and the sacrilegious object that causes desecration is set up to be worshiped, there will be 1,290 days. And blessed are those who wait and remain until the end of the 1,335 days!"

Then, God says to Daniel,

Daniel 12:13 "As for you, go your way until the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days, you will rise again to receive the inheritance set aside for you."

So, I'm going to explain something now by using this timeline. I think this kind of helps us to see it all at the same time. Daniel has given several different pieces of information.

God's plan for Israel was very easy to follow until we got to Daniel. The reason it gets complicated is because Israel did not return to the Lord after the 70 years in Babylon. So, God punished them 7 times over. The different visions that Daniel gives us are the vision of Nebuchadnezzar and the vision of Daniel. There would be 4 gentile kingdoms, Babylon, Medo Persia, Greece and Rome. At the end of those fourth kingdoms, during the days of Rome, the God of Heaven would set up a kingdom that would never be destroyed. We saw that in Daniel 2 with the rock cut without hands. We saw it in Daniel 7 when the Son of Man receives a kingdom from the Ancient of Days, and He reigns forever. So, if we only had Daniel 2 and Daniel 7, it would look like it would be Babylon, Medo Persia, Greece, Rome and then Jesus when we get the kingdom.

Daniel chapter 9 lets us know that there's more to the story. Daniel 9 shows us that there will be 483 years from the decree of Artaxerxes in Nehemiah 444 B.C., until Messiah is killed. And you know what? It was 483 years from the decree of Artaxerxes, until Jesus was crucified.

JESUS DIED EXACTLY AT THE TIME DANIEL PREDICTED HE WOULD DIE BECAUSE DANIEL'S VISION DID NOT COME FROM HIS OWN MIND. GOD REVEALED TO DANIEL HIS PLAN TO RESTORE GOD'S KINGDOM.

So, we have 483 years. Then, there's the final seven years. In that final 7 years, there's a treaty for 7 years. This wicked ruler sets up this treaty with the nations for 7 years. The reason there's a question mark is that Daniel didn't say if this wicked ruler would set up this treaty right after Messiah was killed. He doesn't say when it would come. But it's an event that happens after Messiah is killed.

So, we had the 7 years. In the last half of those seven years, the last half of the Great Tribulation (we read about that in Daniel 12:11), there's going to be this abomination of desolation where the antichrist defiles the Temple of God. For the second half of that 7 years, he brings great tribulation. He brings persecution against God's people, and he wants to be worshipped alone as God. Daniel 12 also showed us that at the time of the end, Daniel's people would be resurrected to inherit the kingdom.

Alright, here's where it's confusing from Daniel. When you read Daniel, Messiah comes at the end of the Roman empire. We also find that the kingdom comes when Messiah comes, and the kingdom comes at the end. So, does the kingdom come when Messiah dies? Does Messiah come back in a second time? He doesn't say that they do. But that's what we find happens as we move through the scripture.

So, let me give you a summary. There will be a series of four gentile powers that rule over Israel. In the days of the 4th Kingdom, Messiah will come to establish the Kingdom of God. The Son of Man will be given everlasting dominion, and the saints will rule with Him. You know what that sounds like? God's plan from the beginning to have a kingdom on earth ruled by man, Jesus, who is the Son of Man, and all the Saints ruling with Him. Messiah would come in 483 years, but be killed by the people that will come, by Rome.

AN EVIL RULER WILL ESTABLISH A 7-YEAR TREATY. HALFWAY INTO THIS PERIOD, HE WILL TURN ON GOD'S PEOPLE. AT THE TIME OF THE END, GOD'S PEOPLE WILL BE DELIVERED.

Daniel gives us all these things. It's kind of like we have a list of things that are true, and Daniel pours them out on the table. We don't know what order they come in until God gives us the rest of the scripture. That's why when we study Matthew, Thessalonians and Revelation, it will help us understand this better. So, if you still have questions, don't worry. We'll try to answer them later. In God's plan, God will have a kingdom on the earth. Believers will be a part of God's kingdom on the earth. The earth will be filled with people who worship God. The kingdom will come when the Son of Man comes to destroy the kingdoms of this world. The kingdom is made possible through the death of the Son of Man. Now, I want you to think about this with me. If I read Daniel, I come away convinced of two things. The Son of Man is the one who brings the kingdom; and yet, the Son of Man is killed. How can the Son of Man bring the kingdom? If the Son of Man dies in Daniel chapter 9, Daniel believed that the Messiah would die and also come to establish God's kingdom. The Messiah would have to be resurrected. That's what we're going to see in future sessions as we move into the New Testament.