DISCOVERING DANIEL

9b
LESSON

WORKBOOK STUDY COMPANION · LESSON 9B

The Messianic *Countdown*

DANIEL 9:20-24

Scripture written out in the NASB95, every question answered in one sentence, cross references, verse-by-verse commentary from three trusted teachers — and for each question, a point of critical thinking and a key question to carry into the week.

Amir Tsarfati
DISCOVERING DANIEL

John MacArthur
GRACE TO YOU

David Guzik
ENDURING WORD

PREPARED FOR ED & PAUL SMITH · BIBLE STUDY

01 CAPTURE THE SCENE

What do I see?

Using my Bible, working through Daniel 9:20-24 verse by verse.

1 What happened while Daniel was praying (see Daniel 9:20-21)?

DAN. 9:20-21

Daniel 9:20 NASB95

Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God,

Daniel 9:21 NASB95

while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering.

IN MY WORDS

While Daniel was still praying—still confessing his own sin and the sin of his people—the angel Gabriel came to him about the time of the evening offering.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 8:16** Gabriel had already been sent to Daniel once before to explain the vision of the ram and the goat; the same messenger returns for the same kind of errand.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati marks the timing: about the time of the evening offering. There had been no temple and no evening sacrifice for decades, yet Daniel was still keeping heaven's clock in a country that did not own one.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik observes that Daniel was not asking about seventy weeks at all. He was confessing sin and pleading for Jerusalem, and the answer God sent went far past the request.

CRITICAL THINKING

Daniel confesses "my sin and the sin of my people Israel"—and he is arguably the least guilty man in Babylon. The prophet who had every right to pray as a bystander prayed as a participant instead, and that is the prayer heaven interrupted.

KEY QUESTION

When I pray about what is wrong with my church, my family, or my nation, do I pray as a defendant or as a spectator?

2 What was the purpose of Daniel's visitor (see verse 22)?

DAN. 9:22

Daniel 9:22 NASB95

He gave me instruction and talked with me and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding.

IN MY WORDS

Gabriel came to give Daniel insight and understanding—not to rebuke him and not to add a demand, but to teach him.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 12:4** "But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase." Understanding is God's gift, released on His timetable.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur emphasizes that revelation is always God's initiative. Daniel did not reason his way to the seventy weeks; a messenger was dispatched to hand him what no amount of study could have produced.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati notes that Gabriel's assignment across Scripture is announcement—he comes to Daniel, to Zacharias, and to Mary, and the errand is always God's program for Israel and the coming of Messiah's kingdom.

CRITICAL THINKING

Gabriel says he came "to give you insight with understanding"—two words, not one. Daniel already had the information; Jeremiah's scroll was open in front of him. What he lacked was the ability to see what the information meant, and that is a separate gift entirely.

KEY QUESTION

Am I asking God for more information when what I actually need is understanding of what He has already told me?

3 What special sentiment does this visitor communicate to Daniel (see verse 23)?

DAN. 9:23

Daniel 9:23 NASB95

"At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision.

IN MY WORDS

That Daniel is highly esteemed—treasured by God—and that the command to answer him went out at the very beginning of his supplications.

CROSS REFERENCE **Jeremiah 29:11** "'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'" The God who planned Judah's return answered Daniel mid-sentence.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik notes the answer left heaven at the beginning of the supplications. Before Daniel had finished his first request the messenger was already on the way.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati draws the contrast with chapter 10, where an answer sent immediately was held up twenty-one days by opposition in the heavenlies. Immediate departure and immediate arrival are not the same thing.

CRITICAL THINKING

"Highly esteemed" is not a wage Daniel earned with this prayer; Gabriel states it as a settled fact about who Daniel already is. God's affection is the reason the answer was sent, not the result of the asking.

KEY QUESTION

Do I believe God delights in me before I pray, or am I still trying to pray my way into His favor?

4 Read Daniel 9:24.

Daniel 9:24 NASB95

"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

a. What time span does this prophecy cover?

IN MY WORDS

Seventy weeks—seventy sevens—which the rest of the chapter shows to be seventy periods of seven years, a total of 490 years.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 9:25** "…there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress." The seventy are divided, which only works if a "week" is a fixed unit.

b. Whose people and which city is this prophecy for?

IN MY WORDS

It is decreed for Daniel's people, Israel, and for Daniel's holy city, Jerusalem—not for the church and not for the nations at large.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 9:20** Daniel had just prayed "in behalf of the holy mountain of my God." God answers about the very people and place Daniel was praying for.

c. What does this prophecy say will be accomplished?

IN MY WORDS

Six things: to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy place.

CROSS REFERENCE **Hebrews 9:26** "…but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati stresses the address on the envelope—"your people and your holy city." Read it as anything other than Israel and Jerusalem and the arithmetic of the whole chapter collapses.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur notes that all six purposes are stated as decreed, not proposed. The seventy weeks are not a forecast of what might happen but a schedule of what will.

CRITICAL THINKING

Daniel asked about seventy years and was handed seventy sevens. God did not merely answer the question about the exile; He folded the exile into a far longer program that runs past Daniel, past the return, and past the cross. The small question was answered by enlarging it.

KEY QUESTION

Where have I asked God for a small thing and quietly refused the larger answer He was actually offering?

02 ANALYZE THE MESSAGE

What does it say and mean?

Using both my Bible and my copy of the book Discovering Daniel.

1 **Do we ever need to wonder whether God is hearing our prayers, and why (see page 187 in Discovering Daniel)?** P. 187

Daniel 9:23 NASB95

"At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision.

1 John 5:14 NASB95

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

IN MY WORDS

No—Gabriel was dispatched at the very beginning of Daniel's supplications, and Scripture assures the believer that God hears whatever we ask according to His will.

CROSS REFERENCE **1 John 5:15** "And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati points to Daniel 9:23 as the settled answer to the question every praying believer eventually asks. The command went out at the beginning of the supplications, not at the end.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur cautions that being heard is not the same as being granted. God hears every prayer and answers according to His will, which is a mercy rather than a loophole.

CRITICAL THINKING

The doubt is rarely about God's hearing—it is about His timing. Daniel got his answer inside a single prayer; the same Daniel later waited three weeks for a message that had also left immediately. Silence is not evidence of absence.

KEY QUESTION

What prayer have I quietly stopped praying because the silence started to feel like a no?

2 **What four words in 1 John 5:14 define how we are to pray (see page 188 in Discovering Daniel)?** P. 188

1 John 5:14 NASB95

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

IN MY WORDS

"According to His will"—that is the condition attached to the confidence we have in prayer.

CROSS REFERENCE **Isaiah 55:8** "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,' declares the LORD." Praying according to His will starts with admitting His will is not automatically mine.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur observes that praying according to God's will is not a formula for getting what we want. It is the process by which what we want is slowly conformed to what He wants.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik notes the promise is deliberately bounded. An unbounded promise would make God a servant of our appetites, and John will not write that sentence.

CRITICAL THINKING

Notice what the four words are not. Not "according to my faith," not "according to my sincerity." The measure sits outside of me, which is exactly why an unanswered prayer is not proof that I prayed it badly.

KEY QUESTION

Do I actually want God's will, or do I want His signature on mine?

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3 What is the best way for us to understand the Hebrew word translated "weeks" in Daniel 9:24 (see pages 189-190 in Discovering Daniel)?

PP. 189-190

Daniel 9:24 NASB95

"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

IN MY WORDS

The Hebrew word simply means a unit of seven—a "seven"—so it should be read as seventy sevens rather than as seventy calendar weeks.

CROSS REFERENCE **Leviticus 25:8** Israel already counted time in sevens of years—seven sabbaths of years, seven times seven, making forty-nine—so a "seven" of years was a familiar unit, not an invention.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati explains that the word is simply a "seven." Context decides whether the sevens are days or years, and here the surrounding context of the seventy years of exile makes years the only reading that works.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik notes that Israel's sabbath-year cycle had been ignored across roughly 490 years, which is why the exile ran seventy years—one year of rest for each missed sabbath. The number was already on the ledger before Gabriel spoke it.

CRITICAL THINKING

The 490 years of ignored sabbaths that produced a seventy-year exile and the 490 years of the seventy weeks are the same figure running in opposite directions—judgment measured out, then redemption measured out. God settles accounts in the same currency He was owed.

KEY QUESTION

What have I let quietly accumulate, assuming God was not keeping the books?

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4 With that in mind, what period of time was Gabriel referring to (see page 190 in Discovering Daniel)?

P. 190

Daniel 9:25 NASB95

"So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

IN MY WORDS

A total of 490 years—seventy sevens of years—decreed for Israel and Jerusalem.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 9:25** "…from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks…"

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur notes that these are prophetic years of 360 days—the calendar behind Daniel's "time, times, and half a time" and Revelation's 1,260 days and forty-two months, which are all the same three-and-a-half-year span.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati insists the count begins with a specific decree, which is why the starting gun matters as much as the total. A prophecy with a date attached can be tested.

CRITICAL THINKING

Gabriel gives a number, not a mood. Prophecy here is arithmetic, and arithmetic can be checked—which is precisely why this passage has been attacked harder than almost any other in the Old Testament.

KEY QUESTION

Am I willing to let Scripture be checkable, or do I prefer it vague enough to stay comfortable?

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5 What four divisions do we see within the 70 weeks (see pages 190-191 in Discovering Daniel)?

PP. 190-191

Daniel 9:25 NASB95

"So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

Daniel 9:26 NASB95

"Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

Daniel 9:27 NASB95

"And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; 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."

IN MY WORDS

Seven weeks (49 years) to rebuild Jerusalem, then sixty-two weeks (434 years) until Messiah the Prince, then a gap after Messiah is cut off, and finally the seventieth week of seven years still ahead.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 9:26** "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing…" The cutting off falls after the sixty-ninth week and before the seventieth begins.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati treats the gap as the key to the whole passage. Verse 26 places Messiah's death and Jerusalem's destruction after the sixty-ninth week, yet the seventieth has plainly not run. The clock stopped.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik notes the text itself divides the seventy—seven, sixty-two, and one. If the seventy were meant to run straight through without interruption there would be no reason to break them up at all.

CRITICAL THINKING

The gap is not a device invented to rescue the math; the text creates it. Between the end of the sixty-ninth week and the start of the seventieth, Scripture places two events—Messiah cut off, and the city and sanctuary destroyed—and history separated those two by roughly forty years.

KEY QUESTION

Do I live as though the clock on the seventieth week could start again in my lifetime?

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6 **List the six purposes or goals that were to be accomplished through this 70-weeks prophecy (Daniel 9:24; see page 191 in Discovering Daniel—note that each one of these purposes or goals begins with the word to)?** P. 191

Daniel 9:24 NASB95

"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

IN MY WORDS

To finish the transgression; to make an end of sin; to make atonement for iniquity; to bring in everlasting righteousness; to seal up vision and prophecy; and to anoint the most holy place.

CROSS REFERENCE **Romans 11:26-27** "…and so all Israel will be saved… 'THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.'"

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur groups the six as three that deal with sin and three that establish righteousness—the whole program of redemption compressed into a single verse.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati reads the six as spanning both comings: the first three settled at the cross, the last three completed when Messiah returns and reigns.

CRITICAL THINKING

Every one of the six is an infinitive—"to finish," "to make," "to bring in." Not one of them is something Israel does. The seventy weeks are decreed for Daniel's people, but the six accomplishments are God's work on them, not their work for Him.

KEY QUESTION

Which of these six am I still trying to accomplish in myself?

7 What do the first three purposes have in common (see pages 192-195 in Discovering Daniel)?

PP. 192-195

Daniel 9:24 NASB95

"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

1 Peter 2:24 NASB95

and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

IN MY WORDS

All three deal with sin—finishing the transgression, making an end of sin, and making atonement for iniquity—and all three were secured at the cross.

CROSS REFERENCE **1 Peter 2:24** "and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness…"

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik notes the three escalate rather than repeat: rebellion finished, sin brought to an end, guilt covered by atonement—three different problems, each answered in turn.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur insists atonement is the hinge. Without a substitute the first two purposes are impossible, which is why Messiah must be cut off before the seventy weeks can close.

CRITICAL THINKING

Three different Hebrew words for wrongdoing sit side by side here—transgression as willful revolt, sin as missing the mark, iniquity as crookedness. God did not deal with sin in general terms; He named every category of it and closed each one separately.

KEY QUESTION

Which category of my sin do I still treat as unfinished business?

8 In Daniel 9:24, the first purpose of Jesus' second coming is "to bring in everlasting righteousness." When will this happen, and what Scripture passage supports this (see pages 196-197 in Discovering Daniel)?

PP. 196-197

Jeremiah 23:5-6 NASB95

"Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, 'The LORD our righteousness.'"

Isaiah 11:9 NASB95

They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

IN MY WORDS

When Messiah returns to reign—the millennial kingdom, when righteousness is established on the earth and the knowledge of the LORD covers it as the waters cover the sea.

CROSS REFERENCE **Jeremiah 23:6** "…and this is His name by which He will be called, 'The LORD our righteousness.'"

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati places "everlasting righteousness" squarely in the kingdom. Righteousness was imputed at the cross, but righteousness is enforced on the earth only when the King is physically present.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik points out the word is everlasting. Whatever righteousness the kingdom brings does not expire when the thousand years do; it carries on into the new heavens and the new earth.

CRITICAL THINKING

Righteousness is available now and unavoidable then. The difference between this age and that one is not whether God's righteousness exists but whether anything on earth is still permitted to contradict it.

KEY QUESTION

If Christ enforced His righteousness in my house today, what would have to go?

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9 **The next purpose of Jesus' second coming is "to seal up vision and prophecy." Does this mean there are no more prophecies that will need fulfillment? Explain (see page 197 in Discovering Daniel).** P. 197

Daniel 9:24 NASB95

"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

IN MY WORDS

No—it means the opposite: to seal up vision and prophecy is to bring every remaining prophecy to complete fulfillment, closing the book because nothing is left outstanding.

CROSS REFERENCE **Luke 24:44** "…all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur reads "seal up" as authenticate and complete. A sealed document is a finished one. Prophecy is not silenced here; it is fulfilled and therefore closed.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati notes that as long as a single prophecy remains unfulfilled the seal cannot be applied—which is itself proof that the seventy weeks have not yet run out.

CRITICAL THINKING

A seal in the ancient world did two jobs: it closed a document and it certified who wrote it. Both meanings apply here. When the last prophecy lands, the fulfilled record becomes the signature of its Author.

KEY QUESTION

Do I treat unfulfilled prophecy as speculation, or as God's signature not yet dry?

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10 **In Daniel 9:24, the phrase "Most Holy" likely refers to the fourth temple. Why does it make sense to conclude it's about the fourth temple and not the third (see page 199 in Discovering Daniel)?** P. 199

Daniel 9:27 NASB95

"And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; 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."

Ezekiel 43:4-5 NASB95

And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate facing toward the east. And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house.

IN MY WORDS

The third temple is the one the coming prince defiles in the middle of the seventieth week, so it cannot be the holy place God anoints; the anointing belongs to the millennial temple Ezekiel describes, which the glory of the LORD Himself fills.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 9:27** "…but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate…"

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati counts the temples—Solomon's, the second temple built under Zerubbabel and later expanded by Herod, the tribulation temple that gets defiled, and the millennial temple of Ezekiel 40–48. Only the last one is anointed rather than desecrated.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik notes the phrase can be rendered "the most holy place" (NASB95) or "the Most Holy" (NKJV, which the workbook quotes), and some take it of Messiah Himself—but either reading points past the tribulation temple to what comes after it.

CRITICAL THINKING

The temple that receives the abomination and the temple that receives the anointing cannot be the same building, because the seventy weeks close with an anointing, not with a defilement. The order of events does the arguing here, not the architecture.

KEY QUESTION

Am I more interested in the buildings God will one day fill than in the one He already lives in?

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03 COMPARE THIS PASSAGE WITH THE REST OF SCRIPTURE

How is it supported elsewhere in the Bible?

When we look at the purposes of Christ's first and second comings, ultimately, they can be broken down into three parts: the problem, the solution, and the reign.

1 **The Problem: What do the following passages say is the dilemma of every human on Earth?** THE PROBLEM

Romans 3:10-12 NASB95

as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

Romans 3:23 NASB95

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Ephesians 2:1-3 NASB95

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

a. **Romans 3:10-11**

IN MY WORDS

There is no one righteous—not even one—and no one who understands or seeks after God on his own.

CROSS REFERENCE **Romans 3:12** "ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

b. **Romans 3:23**

IN MY WORDS

Every person has sinned and falls short of the glory of God, so the problem is universal with no exceptions.

CROSS REFERENCE **Ephesians 2:3** "…and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest." The shortfall is not merely what we have done but what we are.

c. **Ephesians 2:1-3**

IN MY WORDS

Apart from Christ we were spiritually dead in trespasses and sins, walking under the influence of the world and of the prince of the power of the air, and by nature children of wrath.

CROSS REFERENCE **Romans 3:23** "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"—dead, not merely weakened; short, not merely slow.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur presses the diagnosis: the problem is not that we are weak and need help but that we are dead and need life. A dead man does not need improvement.

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati ties this back to Daniel 9:24. Finish transgression, end sin, atone for iniquity—those three purposes exist because of a condition no one could fix from inside it.

CRITICAL THINKING

Paul stacks three indictments—none righteous, none understanding, none seeking. The third is the sharpest. The natural man is not searching for God and falling short; he is not searching. Grace is not God rewarding a search; it is God starting one.

KEY QUESTION

Do I still secretly believe I found God, rather than that He found me?

2 The Solution: According to the verses below, what is the one and only answer to every person's greatest need?

THE SOLUTION

John 3:16 NASB95

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

2 Corinthians 5:21 NASB95

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 Peter 2:24 NASB95

and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

a. John 3:16

IN MY WORDS

God's love gave His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

CROSS REFERENCE **Hebrews 9:26** "…once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."

b. 2 Corinthians 5:21

IN MY WORDS

Christ, who knew no sin, was made sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

CROSS REFERENCE **Jeremiah 23:6** "…this is His name by which He will be called, 'The LORD our righteousness.'"

c. 1 Peter 2:24

IN MY WORDS

He bore our sins in His own body on the cross so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 9:26** "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing…" Daniel saw the cross more than five and a half centuries before it happened.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik calls 2 Corinthians 5:21 the great exchange—my sin credited to Him, His righteousness credited to me, and nothing of mine involved in the transaction except the need.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur notes the solution is a person, not a program. Daniel's seventy weeks turn on one man being cut off; every other religion turns on what the worshiper manages to do.

CRITICAL THINKING

Watch the direction of all three verses—God gave, God made Him to be sin, He bore. Every active verb belongs to God. The only thing the sinner contributes is the sin that made the substitution necessary.

KEY QUESTION

What am I still trying to add to a transaction that was finished without me?

3 The Reign: What promised renewal can we look forward to?

THE REIGN

Isaiah 2:2-4 NASB95

Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 NASB95

"Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, 'The LORD our righteousness.'"

Daniel 7:13-14 NASB95

"I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

a. Isaiah 2:2-4

IN MY WORDS

In the last days the nations will stream to the mountain of the LORD to be taught His ways, and He will judge between them until war itself is unlearned.

CROSS REFERENCE **Isaiah 11:9** "They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea."

b. **Jeremiah 23:5-6**

> **IN MY WORDS**
>
> God will raise up for David a righteous Branch who reigns as king, acts wisely, and does justice and righteousness in the land—called "The LORD our righteousness."

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 9:24** "…to bring in everlasting righteousness…" The Branch and the everlasting righteousness are one promise seen through two prophets.

c. **Daniel 7:13-14**

> **IN MY WORDS**
>
> The Son of Man comes with the clouds of heaven and receives an everlasting dominion that will not pass away and a kingdom that will not be destroyed.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 20:6** "…they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years."

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati ties the three into one scene: the King arrives in Daniel 7, He reigns in righteousness in Jeremiah 23, and the nations come to Jerusalem to learn His ways in Isaiah 2. That is the last purpose of Daniel 9:24 in motion.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik notes Isaiah does not say the weapons are destroyed; he says they are converted. Swords become plowshares—the same iron, finally put to the use it should have had all along.

CRITICAL THINKING

Isaiah says the nations will never again "learn war," which quietly admits that war is learned. Peace on earth is not humanity finally maturing; it is a curriculum change imposed by a King who is physically present to enforce it.

KEY QUESTION

Do I actually long for Christ to reign, or only for my circumstances to improve?

04 EXECUTE

How does this affect my life?

Daniel got an immediate answer. Sometimes the answer is no, and sometimes it is wait.

1 **Daniel received an immediate answer to his prayer. That can happen to us as well. But there are also times when the Lord says no or wait. Consider the following:** 2 COR. 12 · JOHN 11

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 NASB95

Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

John 11:4 NASB95

But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

a-1. **When the Lord Says No — Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. When the apostle Paul asked God to remove "a thorn in the flesh," what did God say?**

IN MY WORDS

God said no, and gave His reason: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness."

CROSS REFERENCE **2 Corinthians 12:8** "Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me." The no came after persistent asking, not after a single half-hearted request.

a-2. **What was Paul's attitude when God said no, and why?**

IN MY WORDS

He boasted gladly in his weaknesses, because the thorn was the very thing that caused the power of Christ to rest on him.

CROSS REFERENCE **2 Corinthians 12:10** "…for when I am weak, then I am strong."

a-3. **Can you think of two or three reasons God might say no to a prayer request?**

IN MY WORDS

To guard me from pride, to give me something better than what I asked for, and because what I asked for was outside His will and would have cost me more than I could see.

CROSS REFERENCE **Isaiah 55:9** "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts."

b·1. When the Lord Says Wait — When Lazarus was seriously ill, his sisters Mary and Martha sent for Jesus. But Jesus did not visit them right away. In the meantime, Lazarus died. What does the last part of John 11:4 give as the reason for Jesus' delay?

> **IN MY WORDS**
>
> "For the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it"—the delay existed so that God would be glorified in it.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 9:23** "At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued…" Daniel's answer left at once; Jesus deliberately waited two days more, and reached Bethany only after Lazarus had been four days in the tomb. Both answers arrived on time.

b·2. What are two or three other reasons God might delay an answer to prayer?

> **IN MY WORDS**
>
> To grow faith and patience in me, to line the answer up with people and events not yet in place, and because the waiting itself is doing something the answer never could.

CROSS REFERENCE **Psalm 27:14** "Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD."

b·3. Can you think of a time in your own life when a delayed answer turned out to be the best answer?

> **IN MY WORDS**
>
> Yes—the doors I most wanted opened are the ones I now thank God He held shut until I was ready to walk through them.

CROSS REFERENCE **Jeremiah 29:11** "'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'"

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur observes that Paul's thorn was given, not merely permitted. God authored the affliction to protect Paul from the pride that revelation breeds; a no can be more protective than a yes.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Guzik notes that Jesus loved Lazarus and stayed where He was two days longer. Love was the reason He came, and love was also the reason He waited.

CRITICAL THINKING

Daniel, Paul, and Martha all prayed rightly and got three different responses—an immediate yes, a settled no, and a deliberate delay. The variable was never the quality of the praying. Any teaching that promises one uniform outcome has to ignore two of these three.

KEY QUESTION

Which of the three am I living in right now—and am I willing to call God good in it?

2 **As we continue into the next lesson, we'll learn more about the 70-weeks prophecy. But already, we're getting a clear picture of how precisely God had planned out the rest of history from Daniel's day all the way to the millennial kingdom—a span of thousands of years that involves an amazing number of moving parts that have to be perfectly orchestrated in order for God's plans to be fulfilled.** DAN. 9:24-27

Daniel 7:13-14 NASB95

"I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

a. What does this tell you about God?

IN MY WORDS

That He is sovereign over history down to the year, and that no empire, no delay, and no failure of mine can knock His schedule off.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 7:14** "His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed."

b. How should this influence the way you live?

IN MY WORDS

It should make me faithful in the small, unseen obedience of today, because the God who counts out 490 years is also counting this one.

CROSS REFERENCE **2 Peter 1:19** "So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place…"

c. How should this affect any fears or concerns you have about the future?

IN MY WORDS

It should quiet them—if God kept the first sixty-nine weeks to the letter, my future is not uncertain to Him, only unrevealed to me.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 21:3** "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them…"

Amir Tsarfati DISCOVERING DANIEL

Tsarfati's argument through Discovering Daniel is that fulfilled prophecy is the believer's evidence. What God did on schedule behind us is the guarantee of what He will do on schedule ahead of us.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

MacArthur adds that a God who can be trusted with 490 years can be trusted with tomorrow morning. The same sovereignty governs both.

CRITICAL THINKING

The moving parts are the point. A Persian decree, a rebuilt wall, a Roman census, a cross—none of the people involved knew they were keeping an appointment. God's precision does not require anyone's cooperation, which is exactly why it does not depend on mine either.

KEY QUESTION

What am I carrying about the future that I would set down today if I truly believed the calendar is already written?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Daniel opened Jeremiah's scroll looking for a date. He found one—seventy years, and nearly up—and it drove him to his knees in confession rather than to a calendar. The answer God sent back was not a correction of his arithmetic but an enlargement of his horizon: seventy sevens, running from a decree not yet issued to a kingdom not yet come.

Much of that countdown is now behind us. A decree was issued. A city was rebuilt in troubled times. A Messiah was cut off and had nothing. A city and a sanctuary were destroyed. Every one of those landed where Gabriel said it would, centuries before anyone involved was born.

That is what makes the remainder trustworthy. Fulfilled prophecy is not a curiosity; it is a credential. No one predicts history at this resolution by accident, and no one arranges it but God. The seventieth week has not run—but the first sixty-nine did, on time, and that is the fact the honest skeptic still has to answer.

And notice where the six purposes of verse 24 land. Three of them were settled by one man on a cross outside Jerusalem. Three of them wait on that same man returning to that same city. The problem, the solution, and the reign—Daniel was handed all three inside a single verse, while he was still on his knees apologizing.

> *So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.*
>
> **2 PETER 1:19 NASB95**

Daniel prayed about seventy years and God answered about seventy sevens. Ask small if you must—but do not be surprised when the God who keeps a 490-year appointment answers with far more than you had the nerve to request.

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