

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 05 Dec 2021 Ezekiel 01-07 Commissioned
- 2) 12 Dec Ezekiel 08-14 Saves
- 3) 19 Dec Ezekiel 15-24 Judges
- 4) 26 Dec Matthew 2 Christmas Message: Sought
- 5) 02 Jan 2022 Ezekiel 25-32 Warns
- 6) 09 Jan Ezekiel 33-48 Offers
- 7) 16 Jan Ezekiel 16; 23; Ps 139 Values
- 8) 23 Jan Daniel 01 Integrity Established
- 9) 30 Jan Daniel 02-03 Demonstrate Allegiance
- 10) 06 Feb Daniel 04-05 Humility Required
- 11) 13 Feb Daniel 06 Trust Exhibited
- 12) 20 Feb Daniel 07-08 Future Seen
- 13) 27 Feb Daniel 09-12 Confession Made

INTRODUCTION

- Daniel shares some “troubling” visions for our day and age
- This is a 6-month study with Revelation to do it justice

Passage	Comments
Daniel 9:1-27	<p>Praying About Desolation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. Daniel took his relationship with God seriously with “prayer, supplications, fasting, sackcloth and ashes” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Prayer → Praise God for His greatness & blessings ♦ Supplications → We request help from God ♦ Fasting → We convey we need nothing but God ♦ Sackcloth & Ashes → Humility and repentance • v21. Gabriel appears 4x in Scripture, 2x in Daniel (8:15-27; 9:20-27), once to Zechariah (Luke 1:8-20), and once to Mary (Luke 1:26-38) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The time of the evening offering was 3:00-4:00pm. ♦ Recall that Jesus gave up his Spirit at 3:00pm – the moment when the sacrificial lamb would have been slaughtered in the Temple • vv24-27. This is one of the most difficult passages in the entire Bible. Four major theological positions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Literal years (490) extending from Jeremiah’s prophecy through the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes 2. The 70 weeks were symbolic periods of time ending in the 1st century A.D. 3. The 70 weeks are symbolic periods of time that would end at Christ’s second coming 4. The 70 weeks are literal years that end at Christ’s 2nd coming. This is part of the Pre-Post-Mid-Tribulation, and Pre-Millennial views most evangelicals believe • v25. The “decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem” is unclear. Likely possibilities include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cyrus’ decree authorizing the exiles to return to Jerusalem Ezra 1:1-4 2. Artaxerxes’ later decree for Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem Nehemiah 2:4-8
10:1-21	<p>Wars in the Heavenly Realm We Don’t Even Perceive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. Daniel spent 3 weeks in somber prayer & fasting to receive understanding about a troubling vision • v9. Daniel passed out again as soon as he heard the words • vv13-21. Angelic warfare and Angelic hierarchy portrayed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Angels are ministering spirits for us Heb 1:14 ♦ v19. Daniel is seen as a man of high esteem and is told to “BE COURAGEOUS” – We have the same injunction – “DO NOT BE AFRAID” – repeated almost 20x from Matthew through Revelation. In other words, we need to be bold & courageous in everything we do for Christ
11:1-45	<p>Regional Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This chapter seems to convey near term history <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Kings and daughters of kings, their gods, and their sons seem to be intertwined in a dark soap opera ♦ The reign of Alexander the Great (v3 – the mighty king) is portrayed; along with Antiochus giving his daughter, Cleopatra I in marriage to Ptolemy V (v17)

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v31. “...the abomination of desolation” alludes to Antiochus Epiphanes (“a despicable person, v21); but then it can also be a more ominous portrayal of the Antichrist ♦ v32. “...the people who know their God will display strength and take action.” Possible depiction of the Maccabees who fought against the temple desecration ♦ vv33-35. “Those who have insight give insight to the many, but they fall by the sword and flame for many days” – Again, possible allusion to the Maccabean revolt (Over the centuries martyrs have risen up to fight evil and died horribly. Example, Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945) was a German Lutheran pastor, theologian & martyr who preached against Nazism & warned many of its dangers) ♦ vv36-45. The king will do what he pleases...and he will prosper until the indignation is finished – Alludes to the Antichrist more so than to Antiochus Epiphanes

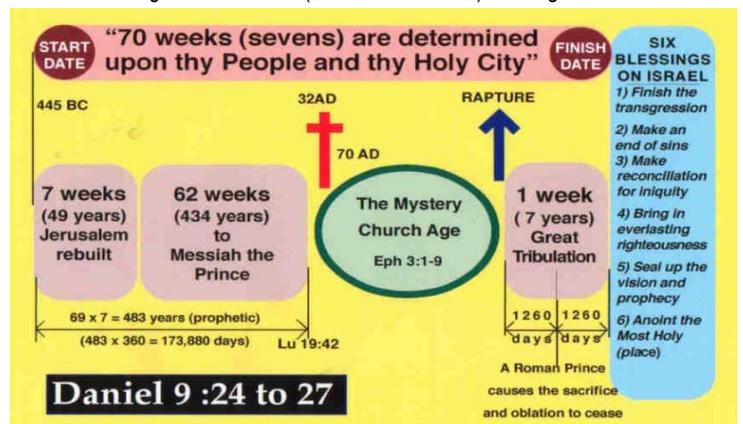
Passage	Comments
12:1-13	<p>Back to the Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. “Michael, the great prince” <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stands guard over Israel 2. He “will arise,” presumably to protect Israel ♦ “Time of distress like never before” Rev 16:18 • vv1b-2. Those in the book will be rescued Rev 20:12-15 • “Those who have insight” and “those who lead the many to righteousness” – Possibly alludes to the 144,000 Rev 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v2. This is the first and only clear OT reference to a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked • vv4-9. “Conceal these words” and “Seal up the book until the end time” – These statements convey that the clear meaning of Daniel’s vision won’t be realized until we are smack in the middle of the turmoil mentioned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v7. The milestone of “Time, times, and half a time” equates to 3.5 years

Eschatological Milestones				Probable Time Period
Years	Months	Days	Reference	
Time, Times, ½ Time			Dan 7:25; 12:7; Rev 11:2; 12:6; 13:5	Last 3.5 years of Great Tribulation
3.5	42.0	1,260		
3.6	43.0	1,290	Dan 12:11	Probable historical markers for Daniel’s generation
3.7	44.5	1,335	Dan 12:12	
6.4	76.6	2,300	Dan 8:14	

CONCLUSION & APPLICATIONS

- Can we be dogmatic with Eschatological views? Simple answer is NO.
- Since Daniel is told not to reveal certain details of his vision (12:4), we do not have all the specifics needed to be dogmatic
- Only when the generation that will endure the last week of Daniel will the pieces of the puzzle finally make sense – and it will make more sense to someone living in Israel where the action is than to us living in America

NEXT WEEK: 1Thessalonians 1. Paul encouraged this church to migrate from being imitators of him (who imitated Christ) to being imitated.



Pre-Tribulation Rapture & Pre-Millennial Return of Christ View of Daniel 9