

7022T12a 70 weeks

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table. I just have to say it. I don't really like eschatology or end times theology. I always figured it was going to happen so why worry about it. I would say things like, it does not help me follow Jesus, it does not help me reach others for Jesus, then why. What's the point? And this is true.

And I still kind of feel this way but over recent years, this topic keeps coming up over and over and over again. I think Jesus is trying to tell me something. So, I'm trying to be obedient and study the word of God as Jesus wants me to, not as I would like to do it.

Anyway, here we are talking eschatology again. This time Daniel Chapter 9. This is commonly called the 70 weeks prophecy. The interpretation of this prophecy is very hotly contested. The two most common interpretation are widely different and hinge on the phrase about the desolation of desecration in the temple. But recently as I was studying the Gospels, I asked a simple question. Are there other things that have happened in history that could have fulfilled this prophecy? Wow, that was a much bigger question than I thought.

**Let us pray.**

**Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Lord use me to share your message. If I say something in error, please let them remember what you wanted them to hear, not my errand words. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Guide our discussion. We pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.**

So, like I said, there are two prevailing opinion or perspectives on Daniel 9.

The first perspective believes this prophecy was fulfilled in approximately 167BC when the Greek Seleucid Empire King Antiochus IV Epiphanes desegrated the temple in Jerusalem by sacrificing a pig of the alter to Zeus. This could be true but there are aspects of this theory that don't appear to fit, including the fact Jesus spoke this in Mark 13 when answered the question of the disciples about when the temple would be destroyed. Which would lead you to believe it had not happened yet when Jesus said those words. For a very long time I believed this, until I studied Mark 13, Matthew 24 and Luke 21 and saw that Jesus appeared to be speaking about a future event or at least an event that had not happened when he spoke about it.

The second perspective believes this prophecy will be fulfilled by the antichrist, similar to the story in Revelation. This could be true, but in order for this to be an end times prophecy the believers in this invented the "gap" theory. Were in the first 69 weeks have been completed from the time of Daniel until Christ but then the clock stopped counting. So, this 70<sup>th</sup> week is on hold until the tribulation begins or the rapture takes place or both. There are many variation that people believe but the all seem to agree Jesus fits the story up to 69<sup>th</sup> week, then there is a gap to a still future 70<sup>th</sup> week.

Either of these theories could be true but both need tremendous leaps of faith to believe them. For the purposes of our discussion today, I want to define fulfilled prophecy. Fulfil is a verb meaning to bring to completion or reality. To achieve or realize. The archaic or old definition is simply complete. Fulfill means completed, period. Now what is prophecy. Prophecy is a noun meaning to predict or prediction. It can also mean to proclaim. But for today, let's say prophecy means a prediction.

So, let's take a moment to define what it means to fulfill a prophecy. If you asked scholars or ordinary people like me, I bet you would get the same answer. To fulfill a prophecy, you have to have a completion of the prediction or to say it another way, you need the prediction to become a reality. If it happens it's fulfilled. Okay. That seems simple enough. Well when it comes down to Christian Theology, of course not, modern theologians have introduced the concept of partially fulfilled and parallel fulfillment or even multiple fulfillments. I'm sorry, this is just made up, I'm sorry. If you did not tell them which prophecy I suspect almost everyone would say fulfillment of prophecy required prediction to come true.

It is true events can happen that partially fulfill a prophecy, but we should call this false fulfillment because it does not fulfill or complete the prediction. You can also have events that fully fulfill a prophecy more than once in history. But be certain, only one of these is the true completion of the prediction. There is only one fulfillment of a given prophecy. Foreshadows maybe. But once a prophecy is fulfilled there is no reason to search for future fulfillment. There are many prophecies about the first coming of Jesus which were fulfilled already. There is no reason to look for future fulfillment or other fulfillments of these prophecies because they have been fully and completely fulfilled by Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. So, why do we do this for end times prophecies? Good question. I have to admit, I cannot find any reason for this other than the attempt to put a square peg in our round hole. What I mean by that is we are trying to force our interpretation of end times on to a given prophecy instead of simply looking at history for its fulfillment or looking to the future.

So, I'm sorry that was a very long conversation, to get to my starting point. Are there other options. Other events in history that could have fulfilled this prophecy. I came up with two that I had never heard discussed. First if this prophecy requires a desecration object in the temple as the Gap theory believers think, what has desecrated the temple. We already know about Epiphanes, Babylon but those happened before Jesus, so that can't be it. What happened after Jesus. Well, the destruction of the temple is 70AD by the Romans but I don't see the object of desecration. Then I thought what is there now... Oh, there is a muslim mosque, the Dome of the Rock, at the temple site in Jerusalem. It is possible this is the object of desecration but it just did not seem to meet the requirements for fulfilled prophecy and it still required a "gap".

Then I thought, wait, what ended the daily sacrifices. Well, Jesus did. Wait a second I said to myself. That cannot be it, the temple was not destroyed until 70AD. So, Joy, Judy and I decided to simply read Daniel 9 with that idea, to see if Jesus was the fulfillment of not only the 69<sup>th</sup> week but the full prophecy include the 70<sup>th</sup> week.

Let's Read all of Daniel 9 but the first 20 verses are not really part of our discussion but are amazing for context and to see the fulfillment of other prophecies. I'm going to stop along the way. Today I'm reading from the New American Standard, the reason I'm using NASB is the BibleHub uses the lexicon from the NASB, so I hope it will be less confusing this way.

Daniel 9 (NASB), *<sup>1</sup>In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans— <sup>2</sup>in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. <sup>3</sup>So I gave my attention to the Lord God, to seek Him by prayer and pleading, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. <sup>4</sup>I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed, and said, "Oh, Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and*

*faithfulness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, <sup>5</sup>we have sinned, we have done wrong, and acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances.*

*<sup>6</sup>Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our leaders, our fathers, and all the people of the land.*

So let me stop for a moment. This is the context for this chapter. Daniel is reading the prophecy of Jeremiah, that the Jews would return to Jerusalem after 70 years. He is distressed because it has been 70 years. He is troubled by this and wants to know if God is going to fulfill this prophecy. To make it simple, after 70 years as an exile Daniel wants to go home. Let's continue

*<sup>7</sup>“Righteousness belongs to You, Lord, but to us open shame, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and all Israel, those who are nearby and those who are far away in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against You. <sup>8</sup>Open shame belongs to us, LORD, to our kings, our leaders, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. <sup>9</sup>To the Lord our God belong compassion and forgiveness, because we have rebelled against Him; <sup>10</sup>and we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets. <sup>11</sup>Indeed, all Israel has violated Your Law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice; so the curse has gushed forth on us, along with the oath which is written in the Law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against Him. <sup>12</sup>So He has confirmed His words which He had spoken against us and against our rulers who ruled us, to bring on us great disaster; for under the entire heaven there has not been done anything like what was done in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>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 wrongdoing and giving attention to Your truth. <sup>14</sup>So the LORD has kept the disaster in store and brought it on us; for the LORD our God is righteous with respect to all His deeds which He has done, but we have not obeyed His voice.*

*<sup>15</sup>“And now, Lord, our God, You who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and made a name for Yourself, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have been wicked. <sup>16</sup>Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the wrongdoings of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become an object of taunting to all those around us. <sup>17</sup>So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his pleas, and for Your sake, Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary. <sup>18</sup>My God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our pleas before You based on any merits of our own, but based on Your great compassion. <sup>19</sup>Lord, hear! Lord, forgive! Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”*

*<sup>20</sup>While I was still speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the LORD my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God, <sup>21</sup>while I was still speaking in prayer, 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. <sup>22</sup>And he instructed me and talked with me and said, “Daniel, I have come now to give you insight with understanding. <sup>23</sup>At the beginning of your pleas the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, because you are highly esteemed; so pay attention to the message and gain understanding of the vision.*

Let me stop again. When an angel from God says pay attention, I'm thinking we should pay attention. God is about to tell Daniel and us something very important. Let's continue

*24“Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the wrongdoing, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. 25So you are to know and understand 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 streets and moat, even in times of distress. 26Then 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. 27And he will confirm a 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 the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate.”*

Daniel is asking about the return from exile but God is talking about the coming of the Messiah. Seven weeks and sixty-two weeks is 69 weeks. After the sixty-two weeks or the 69<sup>th</sup> week the messiah will come. 69 weeks of years is 483 years. It was approximately 483 years from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem by Cyrus to Jesus. We can quibble about exact dates, starts and stops, but 483 years is pretty close by anyone's estimates. So, we know Jesus was Christ, the Messiah, the Prince. And as such Jesus fulfilled this prophecy up to the 69<sup>th</sup> week. Most everyone agrees to this point. Let's read verse 26 again slowly. . *26Then 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.*

Look at it closely, “*Then after the sixty-two weeks*”, this does not mean immediately after but at least sometime after we will try to look at it as immediately after or quickly after. “*the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing*, it is not a reach to see this as the crucifixion. *and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary*. The is prince who is to come is the anointed one, the Messiah, Remember Daniel is hearing this about 483 years before Jesus. So, it is consistent with the text to assume the prince in verse 25 is the same prince in verse 26, there is no introduction of another character. So, if the prince who is to come is Jesus, then who are the people of the prince who will destroy the city and sanctuary. The English translations of this verse are diverse. NIV, ESV, KJV, NJKV, NASB, AMP and others say destroy the city and the sanctuary. The NLT says city and Temple. Okay sanctuary could be Temple. Let's look a little deeper at the lexicon. Yash-chit is translated destroy but more closely means to “perhaps to go to ruin”. Sanctuary or Temple is translated from ve-hak-ko-desh which means apartness or sacredness. Other places in the Old Testament this is translated Holy or Holy place. Not all of the uses of this term are about the Temple however. So, how can Jesus and his followers or his people fulfill this. There are two ways. One might be the “the people of the prince” is referring to the Jewish people. If this is true, then there are a couple potential fulfillments. The Jewish people rebelled against Ceaser after this which resulted in the literal destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70AD. Could be but not very immediate. A Second option is the again “the people of the prince” or the Jewish people reject Jesus and have him killed which “perhaps brings to ruin the city and Temple. Or even more literally, perhaps the ruin is the rejection of the Messiah which brings the culture and worship in the city to an end. Spiritual destruction at the cross and literal destruction by the Romans in 70AD. May be but let keep going. “. *And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.*” Actually any of our assertions could fulfill this scripture as well.

Let's move on to verse 27. *27And he will confirm a 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 the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate.*"

Okay continuing our train of thought. "*And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week,*" He Jesus will confirm a new covenant with many during the next week, the 70<sup>th</sup> 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 the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate.*" Okay let's take it in pieces. The middle of the week of years would be about 3.5 years, this is length of Jesus earthly ministry most believe. So, Jesus spends 3.5 years preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, a new covenant but at the midpoint of the week He is cut off or killed (from Verse 26) and at His death the curtain of the Holy of Holies is torn removing the symbolic barrier between God and us, then on the third day Jesus' resurrection ended forever the sacrifice and offering in the Temple. They are no longer needed. Jesus is the completion of those things, once and for all. The KJV and others use the word to cease. Jesus did not literally stop the sacrifices and offering only rendered it unnecessary or it ceased to be of any value. "*and on the wing of abominations will come the one who makes desolate,*" This a little odd how this was translated into English. Every translation has added words to try and make the sentence read better. No were in the Hebrew text does it say something will be set up in the temple to desecrate it. Its just not in Daniel 9. It is more like the detested thing to be desolated will desolated until complete destruction which was decided to be poured out desolation. This is only my rendition using the Hebrew word meanings. Or said a simpler way. Jesus was rejected and detested by His people the Jews and killed but Jesus through His death and resurrection has completed the destruction of the old covenant.

Well, it's possible. This does not seem to violate any of the scriptures and uses a consistent interpretation of the entire Chapter 9 of Daniel.

One last thing, what about the second half of the 70<sup>th</sup> week. Well I don't think we need anything else to consider the prophecy fulfilled by Jesus. But, is there something else in the text that might reinforce this opinion. Let's read verse 24 again, *24"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the wrongdoing, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy Place.* Okay Gabriel said 70 weeks to complete these things. So what could it be, the book of Acts is a likely source and there are several points were the church officially expanded to the Gentiles. But one event jumped out at me. Acts 10, Peter and Cornelius. Historian put this event anywhere from 3 year to 10 years after Pentecost. But what if it was 3.5 years. The completion of the 70<sup>th</sup> week. I have no evidence only, the thought that it would be one of those ah-hah moments.

**Let us pray.**

**Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Help us to listen to you as we study and research your word. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Help me Lord to let your word lead the way so we can see your message. Thank you Jesus for what you did for me or all of us. We pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.**

Okay, I don't know if this is the correct way to interpret Daniel 9. But it does not need to event a new way to interpret fulfillment of prophecy to be true. I did some research and to my surprise, there are quite of few theologians to have this same interpretation. So, maybe it's not crazy. I'm sure not claiming any special revelation only that I felt urged by the Holy Spirit to consider this. I'll leave it up to you to decide what you want to believe. And in the end, if I'm wrong or you're wrong or if all of us are wrong, it really does not matter. My belief about this does not impact the way I follow Jesus, or how I try to share my belief in Jesus with others. Our opinion on this does not change our final outcome. But what this interpretation did for me was to allow me to see the fulfillment of scripture right before my eyes. Daniel wrote this some 483 years before Jesus and it came true fully in Jesus. That encourages me.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please click like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me. I want your feedback so let me know what you think.

See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.

Here are a few links with similar interpretations. I am not endorsing these only sharing them as part of my research on this topic

[What Are the Seventy Weeks of Daniel? \(Daniel 9\) | Crossway Articles](#)  
[Why Daniel 9 is Fulfilled in Christ – Reformed Online](#)  
[Enduring Word Bible Commentary Daniel Chapter 9](#)  
[Daniel 9:24 was clearly not fulfilled by Jesus. \(difa3iat.com\)](#)