



LIFE IN THE LION'S DEN

Pembroke Bible Chapel
D Axford – August 1, 2010
Message No. DAN-10

The Seventy Weeks Daniel 9

I. DANIEL'S READING (Verse 2)

- Daniel searched the Scriptures: reading from the scroll of Jeremiah he learned that the time of the desolations of Jerusalem and their servitude to Babylon was almost ended (*Lev.25:1-5; 2 Chron.36:21; 24:5,8; 25:11;29:10; 27:8; 32:23; 34:8,14; 52:3; 2 Kings 24:20*).

II. DANIEL'S REQUEST (Verses 3-19)

- As a result of this search, Daniel addressed the Lord in prayer and supplication, acknowledging their sin and rebellion against the Lord (*1 Ki.8:33,34; Deut.30:1-10*).
- He appealed to the Lord, on the basis of His mercy and compassion, to turn away His anger and restore the fortunes of the people and of Jerusalem.

III. GOD'S RESPONSE (Verses 20-27)

- God immediately sent the angel Gabriel to give Daniel understanding about what was to happen in the future.
- 70 weeks of years (490 years) will start when King Artaxerxes issues a decree for the restoration of Jerusalem. This will culminate with the coming of the Messiah (*Gen.7:11; 8:3,4; Rev.12:6; Neh.2:1; Lk.3:1*).
- Israel had been freed from physical bondage many centuries earlier, but in many ways they had failed to return spiritually to the Lord. The culmination of the 70 weeks will mark their ultimate spiritual return.

Application

1. The Lord was able to reveal to Daniel wondrous truths about His future plans. This followed Daniel's earnest search of the Scriptures which in turn prompted Daniel to make his request of the Lord. This resulted in the Lord immediately granting Daniel's request (notice that the granting of a request is not always immediate as we find in chapter 10 when the angelic messenger was delayed for a period of time by Satanic opposition).

While this is not a legal formula to follow for blessing, there is here a basic principle that the Lord is able to use His word to prompt us to prayer and enable us to gain additional insight into His work and ways.

2. There is also a warning that comes from this passage. Israel had been sent back under bondage to Gentile powers because of their spiritual lapse. The message of chapter 9 is that their ultimate spiritual release will be found in the promised Messiah – the Lord Jesus Christ.

As a born again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ we too can lapse into a state of spiritual lethargy. Our first love can wane. We can go through the outward motions of the Christian life but it is possible for our hearts to be far from the Lord. In a sense we can allow ourselves to come under bondage to the world.

The message of Daniel is that spiritual freedom is only found in the Messiah of God. The cross work of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only source of spiritual victory.