

Daniel's Third Look Ahead, pt 2

"Visions and Dreams" part 5, from Daniel 9

Pastor Bob Johnson, March 7th, 2021

4. A **P** _____ for Israel (9:24)

(Leviticus 25:8)

(John 19:30, 1 John 2:2, Jeremiah 23:5-6)

(1 Peter 3:18, Luke 24:44-47, Ezekiel 43:1-5)

5. A few **P** _____ of history (9:25-26)

(Nehemiah 2:7-8; 2:1)

(Revelation 11:2-3)

(Luke 19:41-42)

Insights in Light of Daniel's 3rd Look Ahead:

- **God delights in **P** ayers...**
that are humble & contrite
- **God desires for **P** ...**
to understand where His story is headed.
- **God offers **P** ...**
for today, tomorrow and forever!

(John 14:27-29, John 16:33)

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to week 8 of our first small group season for 2021!!

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships in the coming weeks. This small group season will be for 10 weeks and wrap up the week of March 21st. We are currently studying and discussing the last half of the Book of Daniel. God gave Daniel some visions and dreams that were helpful back then and are still helpful for us today as we strive to understand more of God's larger story He is inviting us to be part of.

Getting Started:

When Daniel wrote Daniel 9, he was in his mid-80's and has been in Babylon for 67 years. As God sends an angel to help provide some more 'insight and understanding' (Daniel 9:22), Daniel had to do a little math to discern what he was hearing.

Speaking of math, how far did you go in learning math in your schooling?
Was Math fun for you or not so much? What was your favorite subject?
What courses are you glad you will never have to take again?
What course or class would you be interested in taking possibly in the future?

Last Sunday, we were reminded that Jesus said, "It is finished" just before he died as described in John 19:30. When Jesus said this, He wasn't finished (He rose and kept on living), and sin wasn't finished (people kept sinning and the stains of sin kept surfacing even after Jesus' resurrection), but the payment for sin and his sacrificial substitution for us was finished.

Speaking of things becoming finished ...
Looking back on your life, what are you glad is finished?
What is not finished yet that you are looking forward to wrapping up?
What is not finished that you will be sad when it does conclude?

Quick Review:

Let's re-read Daniel 9:24-27a.

From this passage and Sunday's message, and looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

Digging Deeper:

In Daniel 9:24, we read that after 70 weeks (or 70 7's) which equates to 490 years, sin will finally be fully dealt with. The two major events regarding solving mankind's sin problem is the first and second coming of Christ. Both of these comings of Christ are mentioned as part of the 490 year 'prophetic clock'.

Let's reflect on the verses that were shared last Sunday that give us more insight regarding the six descriptions that all point to Jesus in Daniel 9:24.

Regarding 'to finish the transgression' and 'to put an end to sin'
let's read and reflect on John 19:28-30.

Regarding 'to atone for iniquity',
let's read and reflect on 1 John 2:1-2, Hebrews 2:14-18, Romans 3:21-26

Regarding 'to bring in everlasting righteousness',
let's read and reflect on 1 Peter 3:18, and Titus 3:3-7

Regarding 'to seal (or fulfill) both vision and prophet',
let's read and reflect on Luke 24:44-47.

Regarding 'to anoint a most holy place', let's read and reflect on Ezekiel 43:1-5 which is another OT prophesy that describes Jesus' second coming. Scripture records that Jesus ascended from the Mount of Olives (just east of Jerusalem) and will come back in the same place and enter Jerusalem again. From studying Daniel 9:24-26, and practicing a little math, we saw that after 483 years of the 'prophetic clock' the 'anointed one shall be cut off'.

This is a reference to Jesus being 'cut off' or 'rejected' soon after he rode into Jerusalem claiming to be the promised Messiah, on Sunday, April 6th, 32 AD.

After Jesus rode into Jerusalem that Sunday, he was crucified the following Friday. Even as he was riding into Jerusalem and being praised by the crowd, Jesus knew their praises would not last. He knew the shouts would soon turn from "Praise Him" to "Crucify Him". Let's read Luke 19:37-42. note: when it says 'they are hidden from your eyes', that doesn't mean truth was kept from them but rather they did not recognize Jesus for who He really was. See also Luke 23:32-34 for another example of the people not recognizing who Jesus really was.

Jesus came to die, and he died so that we can have peace with God (see Romans 5:1-2) and experience the peace of God (see Philippians 4:4-7).

As Bob shared last Sunday, because of what God offers us, we can have peace even in a world full of problems and pressures. (Let's read and reflect John 14:25-29, John 16:32-33). God's peace is available when we need it the most. Part of God's provision is a church family (and small group :) to offer encouragement and support.

As a small group, how can we practically help each other experience more of God's peace. As we wrap up, how else can we pray for each other?