

Daniel #14

June 9, 2024

Series Title: Daniel's Visions Of the Ages

Today's Message: A Kingdom Chronology; Daniel 9:24-27

The sermon last week was an introduction to Gabriel's revelation to Daniel of the "sevens". In some translations the word "weeks" is used in place of "sevens". We are going to spend another week considering the timeline for several reasons: 1) Because it is nearly impossible to make sense out of the details the first time you hear them explained; 2) Because gaining some understanding of a biblical timeline makes the Bible more related; and 3) Because we need to know that God rules in history, over kingdoms and rulers.

This is an important point. God rules over rulers, kingdoms, and empires. He raises up rulers, kingdoms and empires and He brings them down!

Remember Daniel 2:21, which said, "He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding."

Or Daniel 4:17: "The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom He will and sets over it the lowliest of men."

Here are a couple more:

Psalms 22:28: "For kingship belongs to the Lord, and He rules over the nations." And,

Psalms 2:8-9: "Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

The events of Scripture—the patriarchs, the history of Israel, the mention of kings and kingdoms surrounding Israel, the prophets, etc. —are written for us to help and encourage us and to make us stand firm. As Romans 15:4 says, "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

Included in the Scriptures is the history of the rise and fall of the kingdoms that had dealings with Israel. These kingdoms left behind records of their own histories as well! This is confirmed through archaeological exploration and excavation! Whereas the Bible does include pertinent details of kings and kingdoms, archaeology research provides dates and times and other details, which then helps us establish "a kingdom chronology." This is not only interesting but useful to our study of the Scriptures, as we will see today.

So, hold on to your seat. I hope you find this sermon teaching interesting and fascinating as well as helpful.

Let's take some time to 1) look at the history of the kings of Israel from Saul to the exile. Then, 2) the foreign kings and empires affecting Judah before and after the exile. And finally, 3) the history and timeline of the events mentioned in Daniel 9:24-27

I) The History of the kings and kingdoms of Israel from Saul to the Exile.

- A) The Books of the Bible and the Historical Setting for the Book
 - 1) The books of the Bible pertaining to the kingdom period of Israel before the exile. (1050- 586 B.C.)
 - (a) 1 and 2 Samuel; 1 and 2 Kings; 1 and 2 Chronicles; Amos; Hosea; Isaiah; Micah; Joel; Nahum; Jonah.
 - 2) Second, the books of the Bible pertaining to the period of the exile of Judah. (605- 536 B.C.)
 - (a) Jeremiah*; Zephaniah; Obadiah; Habakkuk; Ezekiel; Daniel*
 - (i) Jeremiah bridges the period of kings before exile and after the exile began.

- (ii) Daniel records the 70+ years of history from the beginning of exile (605 B.C.) through at least the first wave of the exiles returning to Jerusalem (539-536 B.C.).
- 3) Third, the books of the Bible of the post-exilic years. (536-430 B.C.)
 - (a) Ezra; Haggai; Zechariah; Nehemiah; Esther; Malachi
- B) Israel as a United Monarchy (1050- 931 B.C.)
 - 1) The Kings of Israel during the United Monarchy:
 - (a) House of Saul of the tribe of Benjamin.
 - (i) **1.** Saul 1050- 1010 B.C. **2.** Ish-bosheth, Saul's son. Tumultuous time 1010-1008 B.C.
 - (b) House of David of the tribe of Judah
 - (i) **1.** David, appointed king over Judah, 1010-1003 B.C.; Becomes king over Israel, 1003-970; **2.** Solomon, 970-931; **3.** Rehoboam, 931-930, then the kingdom divided.
- C) Israel becomes a divided Kingdom (930-722 B.C.)
 - 1) 10 Tribes became the Northern Kingdom, and 2 Tribes comprised the Southern Kingdom.
 - (a) Reuben, Simeon, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Manasseh, Ephraim, and many from the tribe of Levi. Levi had no territory of its own. But some joined Jeroboam.
 - (b) The two families that comprised the Southern Kingdom were Judah and Benjamin
 - (i) However, there were some families of the Tribe of Levi that remained in the Southern.
 - 2) The Kings of Divided Israel
 - (a) Northern: In total the northern kingdom had 20 kings who sat on the throne from 930-722. Each ruler came from a different ruling family. The first king of the northern kingdom was Jeroboam. Jeroboam's sin of idolatry became the cultural norm for the successive kings except for King Jehu. His "half-reforms," as they are called, were not enough to bring about national repentance. Hoshea was the last king of the northern kingdom. The northern kingdom was dispersed in 722 throughout the Assyrian empire and never recovered. Many people returned over the years, but most had to co-exist with the Samaritans who had been brought into Israel by the Assyrians to resettle the land. The Samaritans were despised.
 - (b) Southern: Remarkably, the southern kingdom was a continuation of the Davidic Dynasty as all the kings were of the house of David! From Rehoboam (931 B.C.) through Zedekiah (586) the kings were from the line of David. There were 19 kings in all.
- D) Judah remained in the land until the exile to Babylon.
 - 1) Timeline of period of exile
 - (a) The final countdown began after Josiah. Judah refused to repent. In 608, Egypt took Jehoahaz in chains back to Egypt. Then in 605, Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah during the reign of Jehoiakim, and the first wave of exiles were sent to Babylon, including Daniel and *the three*. In 597 Jehoiakim rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar and was sent to Babylon in the second wave of exiles. Then, finally in 586, when Zedekiah, son of Josiah, turned against Babylonian rule, Nebuchadnezzar pounced on Jerusalem turning the city, the walls, and the temple to dust! Following this, the final wave of exiles was sent to Babylon.

II) The Foreign Kings and Empires affecting Judah during and after the exile.

- A) Foreign pressures and influence upon Judah just prior to the Nebuchadnezzar's invasion of Judah.
 - 1) In 608 Pharaoh Neco of Egypt deposed Jehoahaz and took him to Egypt.
 - (a) Pharaoh Neco replaced Jehoahaz with Jehoiakim (Eliakim).
 - 2) At the same time Nebuchadnezzar was a general in Nabopolassar's military. Pressure.
 - (a) 605 Nebuchadnezzar invades and conquers Judah. First deportation to Babylon.
- B) Kings of Babylon from 605 up to the fall of Babylon to the Medo-Persian Empire
 - 1) Nebuchadnezzar 605-562
 - 4) Labashi-Marduk 556

- 2) Evil-Marduk 562-560 5a) Nabonidus 556-539 (king, but not a seated king)*
- 3) Neriglissor 560-556 5b) *Belshazzar 556-539 (seated for Nabonidus)
- C) Empires affecting Judah's post-exilic activity from the Fall of Babylon to Coming of Christ
 - 1) Medo-Persians (539- 334 B.C.)
 - (a) Cyrus decrees that the temple is to be rebuilt. Zerubbabel leads the way (Ezra 3:1-2).
 - (i) Cyrus is predicted in Isaiah 44:28; 45:13 at least 150 years before he was born.
 - (ii) Foundation for the temple was completed in 536 B.C.
 - (b) Darius I (522- ?) was the king of Persia when the temple rebuilding was resumed and completed in Darius I's 6th year (516 B.C.).
 - (i) The work on the temple stopped until 520 B.C. Under the prophet Haggai the work resumed (see Ezra 6:1-12)
 - (ii) the temple was completed in 516 B.C. (see Ezra 6:13-15)
 - (c) Artaxerxes ordered Nehemiah to return to rebuild Jerusalem's wall and city in 445/444.
 - (i) Wall completed in 52 days (Nehemiah 6:15)
 - 2) Grecian Empire (334 – 27 B.C.) Predicted in Daniel 8:5-8, 21-22
 - (a) Alexander the Great defeated the Persian empire in 334 B.C.
 - (b) Antiochus IV defiled the second temple, Zerubbabel's temple in 168 B.C.
 - (c) The Grecian Empire was succeeded by the Roman Empire in 27 B.C.
 - 3) Roman Empire (27 B.C. - 476 A.D.) Predicted in Daniel 2

III) The History and Timeline for Daniel 9:24-27

- A) Big Picture:
 - 1) 9:24 speaks about 70 sevens. This is understood to be 490 prophetic years.
 - (a) A prophetic year amounts to 360 days.
 - 2) 9:25 speaks of 7 sevens and 62 sevens. Adding these looks like this: $49 + 434 = 483$
 - (a) Summary of 9:25: From the decree to rebuild Jerusalem in 445/444 B.C. to the coming of the Anointed One will be 483 prophetic years, or 173,880 days. ($483 \times 360 = 173,880$)
 - (i) After the completion of the 483 prophetic years the Anointed One will be cut off.
- B) Details
 - 1) 9:24 and 9:27 refer to events of the 70th week. Or the 490th prophetic year
 - (a) In the 70th week, according to 9:27, the evil "ruler" mentioned in 9:26 will make a covenant of peace to last 7 years. But, in the middle of the week he will desecrate the temple "until the end that is decreed for him will be poured out on him."
 - (i) This, we think is at the moment the Lord Jesus returns as described in Revelation 19:1-21.
 - (b) At the end of the 70th week then Daniel 9:24 will be fulfilled! This is predicted in Zechariah. Our Lord will save Israel!
 - (i) Zech. 12:10-14 (Repentance); 13:1-2 (Cleansing); 14:20-21 (Holy unto the Lord!)
 - (a) Nothing unclean will enter Jerusalem as predicted in Isaiah 60:1-5 and Revelation 21:27.
 - 2) 9:25 provides key prophetic markers.
 - (a) Key start date: The decree to rebuild Jerusalem was given on March 12, 445
 - (i) Nehemiah 2 tells us it happened in the month of Nisan, presumably the 1st day.
 - (b) The coming of the Anointed One would occur 483 prophetic years (173,880 days) later.
 - (i) This date takes us to 6 days before Passover in 32 A.D., or April 6th, 32 A.D.
 - (ii) In just a few days after, our Lord would be "cut off" as He would die on the cross.
 - 3) 9:26 then describes an intervening period of time between the 69th week and the 70th.
 - (a) This time includes the "times of the Gentiles," (which includes the church age and our salvation! Ephesians 3:4-10) and,
 - (b) The "time of Jacob's trouble" (see Luke 21:24)