

Daniel 9:20-27
February 23, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

MAIN POINT

In response to Daniel's faithfulness in prayer, God sent the angel Gabriel to give Daniel understanding. Gabriel gave Daniel a detailed account of what would happen in the future. This future culminates in hope that we more fully understand today: through Jesus we have eternal salvation.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

When was a time you recognized a clear answer to prayer?

What examples in Scripture do you remember of God answering prayers?

Last week, we learned something about how Daniel conducted his relationship with the Lord: He read and understood Scripture, then acted on it, faithfully turning to the Lord in prayer. In this week's reading, the angel Gabriel came in response to Daniel's prayer to explain somethings to come.



UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 9:20-23.

What was Daniel doing in this passage? How are each of these means of seeking God?

Why did Gabriel say he had come? What does this teach us about how we are to seek wisdom and understanding in trying times?

We know from other places in the book of Daniel that Daniel was faithful and consistent in his prayer life, and that is echoed in this text. Daniel was speaking, praying, confessing—both his sin and the sins of the Israelite people—and petitioning God concerning Jerusalem. He took prayer seriously.

The angel Gabriel came to Daniel while he was praying. “About the time of the evening offering” (v. 21) was the ninth hour, or between 3:00–4:00 p.m. This is also the time the Passover lamb was sacrificed and when Jesus died on the cross for our sins (Matthew 27:46). Daniel prayed with the consistency of a devout Israelite offering the proper sacrifices outlined in the law. Do we approach prayer similarly or do we pray only when it is convenient and advantageous for us?

Daniel noted that Gabriel reached him in his “extreme weariness” (v.21). He had prayed so long and consistently that he was weary, either in this distinct instance or in general. Consistently praying for something that seems to never come is exhausting, but Scripture clearly tells us not to give up (Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). And in response to Daniel’s prayer, God sent Gabriel to offer an explanation.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 9:24-26.

Considering what Daniel had been praying for, what do you think Gabriel meant when he referred to bringing rebellion and sin to an end and atoning for iniquity (v.24)?

Who do you think the “Anointed One” is (v.25)? What evidence points to this?

Scholars interpret the seventy weeks mentioned in verse 24 as being seventy periods of seven years, or 490 years. Gabriel mentions six things that would happen.

Remember something that weighed heavily on Daniel’s mind: the sin of his people. This was the reason they were in exile in the first place, and it was a major focus of Daniel’s prayer. The first three things Gabriel addressed were related to this; he said that rebellion and sin would come to an end and atonement would be achieved. The ultimate



way that God would achieve this end is by sending the “Anointed One” (v.25), Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins as the final and eternal atonement.

The next three things Gabriel mentioned are still to come. They deal with Jesus’s return and the eternal kingdom He will establish. His kingdom will be one of “everlasting righteousness” (v. 24); He will fulfill all yet unfulfilled prophecy; and the future temple that is described in Ezekiel 40-48 will be established.

The reference to the Anointed One being cut off in verse 26 refers to Jesus’s rejection by the Jewish people and His death. The destruction of the city and sanctuary happened in AD 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed by Rome. Daniel both precisely predicted when the Messiah would come and that He would be put to death before the destruction of Jerusalem.

How does it challenge or encourage you to recognize clear prophecies like this in Scripture?

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 9:27.

What time period do you think this verse referred to? What points us toward this?

Who is “he” in verse 27?

What have we learned so far in the book of Daniel about end times events?

This verse marks the third time period that Gabriel explained to Daniel and refers to the end times. The “he” mentioned here refers to the Antichrist, who will enter a covenant with the Jewish people that he will break halfway through, beginning a period of persecution of the people and desolation of the temple, where the Antichrist will install his own image and demand worship of himself. (Jesus also spoke about this in Matthew 24 and Mark 13.) The little horn in the prophecy in Daniel 7 also speaks to this.

Despite this daunting warning, our passage ends with hope: “until the decreed destruction is poured out on the desolator” (Daniel 9:27). God already has a plan that includes destruction of the enemy and the ushering in of the eternal kingdom described in verse 24. This is good news! We live in war with the enemy but have hope: Jesus has already won.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How does this prophecy give us hope for the future?



How can we encourage one another to endure in prayer, seeking wisdom and understanding from God in all seasons?

Think about the idea of prayer as a sacrifice to God. How does that change your view of your prayer life? What simple changes can you make to be more intentional about prayer?

PRAYER

Close your time together by sharing prayer requests, praying for each other, and the group.

Thank God for the hope we have through Jesus, and for His help in interpreting and understanding these difficult Old Testament passages. Ask Him to help your group live like Daniel—faithful in enemy territory.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead to next week's scripture passage as we continue our study of Daniel.

March 2, 2025 --- Daniel 10:1-11:1

COMMENTARY

Daniel 9:20-27

While Daniel prayed, Gabriel appeared to him and announced that “seventy sevens” (490 years according to many) were decreed for Israel and Jerusalem, after which time atonement would be made for their sins. He then explained the chronology of these “seventy sevens.” Sixty-nine sevens would separate the time of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem and the coming of the Messiah (“Anointed One”). Sometime after this the Messiah would be “cut off” and the city destroyed by the “people of the ruler who will come.” During the seventieth seven this ruler would make a covenant with God’s people, which he would then violate halfway through the period.

Understandably this somewhat cryptic vision poses several difficulties and has been interpreted in a variety of ways. Some view the numbers as symbolic, while others take them quite literally and produce elaborate mathematical explanations of their fulfillment. Among the latter, some even contend that this prophecy pinpoints the date of Christ’s crucifixion.

