

## What Do You Believe?

**Prayer changes things. My faith in the Bible and Gospel affects my prayer life.**

**We find Daniel praying in chapter 9.**

He also said this. "The devil cannot keep God from answering. So, what will he do? He will endeavor to keep you from asking."

Daniel models authentic faith in difficult circumstances. Perhaps his example shines most in his prayerful dependence on the Lord and His Word. Daniel interpreted his circumstances through the lens of Scripture. This allowed him to pray with confidence, joining his prayers with God's revealed will.

**Character of a Great Leader in the Faith.** Daniel started as a little child and finished like a little child. Education, Money, Power, Strength, and Social Status all mean nothing in the kingdom of God.

### **1. Praying in the Will of God. 70 Weeks of Daniel, We see six purposes of this time period. Daniel had a vision.**

**[Dan 8:27 NLT] 27 Then I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for several days. Afterward I got up and performed my duties for the king, but I was greatly troubled by the vision and could not understand it.**

**[Dan 9:2-4, 16-19 NLT] 2 During the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, learned from reading the word of the LORD, as revealed to Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years. 3 So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and fasting. I also wore rough burlap and sprinkled myself with ashes. 4 I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: "O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands. ... 16 In view of all your faithful mercies, Lord, please turn your furious anger away from your city Jerusalem, your holy mountain. All the neighboring nations mock Jerusalem and your people because of our sins and the sins of our ancestors. 17 "O our God, hear your servant's prayer! Listen as I plead. For your own sake, Lord, smile again on your desolate sanctuary. 18 "O my God, lean down and listen to me. Open your eyes and see our despair. See how your city--the city that bears your name--lies in ruins. We make this plea, not because we deserve help, but because of your mercy. 19 "O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! For your own sake, do not delay, O my God, for your people and your city bear your name."**

**[Dan 9:20-27 NLT] 20 I went on praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people, pleading with the LORD my God for Jerusalem, his holy mountain. 21 As**

**I was praying, Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision, came swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice. 22 He explained to me, "Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding.**

## **2. When you pray, you need to listen.**

**23 The moment you began praying, a command was given. And now I am here to tell you what it was, for you are very precious to God.**

**Listen carefully so that you can understand the meaning of your**

**vision.** 24 "A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

[Luk 19:36-37 NLT] 36 As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. 37 When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

[Luk 21:7-19 NLT] 7 "Teacher," they asked, "when will all this happen? What sign will show us that these things are about to take place?" 8 He replied, "Don't let anyone mislead you, for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and saying, 'The time has come!' But don't believe them. 9 And when you hear of wars and insurrections, don't panic. Yes, these things must take place first, but the end won't follow immediately." 10 Then he added, "Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11 There will be great earthquakes, and there will be famines and plagues in many lands, and there will be terrifying things and great miraculous signs from heaven. 12 "But before all this occurs, there will be a time of great persecution. You will be dragged into synagogues and prisons, and you will stand trial before kings and governors because you are my followers. 13 But this will be your opportunity to tell them about me. 14 So don't worry in advance about how to answer the charges against you, 15 for I will give you the right words and such wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to reply or refute you! 16 Even those closest to you--your parents, brothers, relatives, and friends--will betray you. They will even kill some of you. 17 And everyone will hate you because you are my followers. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish! 19 By standing firm, you will win your souls.

**The prophecy of the seventy weeks is the most detailed chronological prophecy in the Old Testament. It indicates the exact amount of time that would pass until the coming of the Messiah. "Weeks" refer to "sevens" (Hebrew, shavuah), or seven-year periods of time, making a total of 490 years..**

## **3. 69 weeks, first seven, then 62 weeks. God told Daniel about the death and resurrection of Jesus.**

[Isa 44:28 NLT] 28 When I say of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd,' he will certainly do as I say. He will command, 'Rebuild Jerusalem'; he will say, 'Restore the Temple.'

[Zec 9:9 NLT] 9 Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey--riding on a donkey's colt.

[Ezr 1:2-3 NLT] 2 "This is what King Cyrus of Persia says: "The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. He has appointed me to build him a Temple at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 Any of you who are his people may go to Jerusalem in Judah to rebuild this Temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, who lives in Jerusalem. And may your God be with you!

25 Now listen and understand! **Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler--the Anointed One--comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times. 26 "After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end.**

**At the end of the 69<sup>th</sup> week in AD 70 the Temple was totally destroyed. Not one stone was left on another.**

27 The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."

The seven weeks may refer to the period of the complete restoration of Jerusalem (partially narrated in Ezra and Nehemiah) and the threescore and two weeks (vv. 25-26) to the period between that restoration and the Messiah's coming to Israel. The final "week," the Seventieth Week, is not mentioned specifically until verse 27, following the prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem by the people of the prince that shall come (the Romans, who destroyed the second temple in AD 70; v. 26).

#### **4. So When is the last week going to start? Be ready**

[1Co 15:52 KJV] 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

[1Th 4:16 KJV] 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

[2Th 2:3-4 NLT] 3 Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed--the one who brings destruction. 4 He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.

5. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob prayed and Jesus prayed. So, we must pray daily.