

REST: The Promised End of the “Old” Covenant
Daniel Chapter Nine

Many evangelical Christians in America interpret **Daniel 9** as the coming of a future anti-Christ, the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple (future), a seven-year agreement the anti-Christ makes with the nation of Israel (tribulation), the breaking of the covenant of peace with Israel 3 ½ years into the tribulation, then the battle of Armageddon and the return of Jesus Christ. This view, prominent in the “Left Behind” series of books by Tim LaHaye, is called Dispensationalism. According to Dispensationalists, Daniel in Daniel 9:24-27, Jesus in Matthew 24, and John in the book of Revelation all refer to the same thing – **The 70th week of Daniel** (“7-year tribulation”) which is after the rapture and before the *2nd coming of Jesus Christ*.

No, no, no, no! Daniel 9:24-27 is about **“the END of the “Old” Covenant” (God’s agreement with the nation of Israel)**, and the **FIRST** coming of Jesus to establish the *everlasting Kingdom!* Israel failed to *trust* God and never entered *rest*. Jesus is the true Israel. He fulfills where Israel failed. Our rest is in Him.

The 70-year captivity in Babylon was a direct result of Israel’s violation of God’s Sabbath year of rest.

“The land (of Israel) enjoyed its Sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah” (2 Chron. 36:21). Jeremiah prophesied the captivity would endure 70 years (Jer. 25:8-14), each year corresponding to a land Shabbat. Daniel 9 was written in **538 B.C.** Daniel knew that the 70 years of Israel’s captivity was coming to an end.

Daniel 9:1-6 - Daniel confesses the sins of Israel; *“we have acted wickedly and rebelled”* (v. 5).

Daniel 9:7-14 - Daniel acknowledges that Israel is under *“the curse of the Law of Moses”* (v. 11).

The Law of Moses had promised blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience.

The Old Covenant laid out strict penalties (curses) for disobedience (see Lev. 26:31-35).

Daniel 9:15-19 - Daniel pleads with God to ‘restore Israel’ for it is *“Your people”* and *“your city”* (v. 19).

Daniel’s petition for mercy is on the basis of God’s faithfulness to His covenant. The Old Covenant, however, was conditional. God divorces Israel for her infidelity (Jer. 3:8).

Daniel 9:20-23 - The angel Gabriel comes to Daniel to give him *“a message”* from God (v. 23). The message is Daniel 9:24-27. The message is about the END of Israel and the coming of Christ!

(a). Gabriel is sent from God. (b). Gabriel says that the hearer is *“highly favored.”* (v.23).

(c). Gabriel announces the END of Israel’s covenant and the coming of the Anointed!

Daniel 9:24-27 - “The 70 Weeks of Daniel” and it is the most stunning of all the prophecies in the Bible.

(a). It gives the exact time of final judgment on national Israel (“your people” God says).

(b). It gives the exact time of the coming of the Anointed One (the Messiah from God).

Daniel 9:24-27 is a *chiasm* - a literary device which places emphasis on the message in the center of it!

Daniel 9:24 says that another (**490 years**) are decreed for “your people” to ***finish their transgressions***.

Jerusalem Construction: *From the issuing of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem* (v. 25).

Anointed One: *Unto the anointed one, the prince, shall be 49 years and 434 years* (69 weeks) (v. 25).

Jerusalem Construction: *It shall be built again...even in times of distress* (i.e. the 7 weeks) (v. 25).

The ANOINTEED ONE: *And after 483 years* (7 weeks plus 62 weeks) ***Messiah will be cut off*** (v 26).

Jerusalem Destruction: *And the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy...* (v. 26).

Anointed One: *And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week; and... he* (v. 27).

Jerusalem Destruction: *Even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out* (v. 27).

Daniel 9:24-27 gives the precise time of the Messiah’s coming to earth and the end of the Old Covenant.