

The Big Issue

Daniel 9v1-3

Timeline – captivity by Nebuchadnezzar 586BC

Jeremiah's prophecy Jer 29v10,11 , 2 Chron 36 v20,21.

Daniel prays approx 25 years later.

Daniel 9v4-7

Honesty & Humility

God's character – He keeps his Covenant word in loving kindness

- He's Righteous

Our choices:

- a. We've '**sinned**' = the principle of moral failure – 'missing the mark'
- b. We've committed '**Iniquity**' = living outside the law
- c. We've '**Transgressed**' = avoiding God's commands

Daniel 9v19

Faith

Daniel appeals to God's character, to 'hear and forgive'.

Daniel 9v20-23

God's messenger comes

Daniel 9v24

God's Answer

I- He will:

- a. FINISH TRANSGRESSION! – see Hebrews 9v15 – 'a death has taken place for the redemption of the Transgressions against God's covenant.'
- b. MAKE AN END OF SIN! – see Hebrews 9v24-26 – 'once at the climax of the age He has been revealed to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.'
- c. MAKE ATONEMENT FOR INIQUITY (pay the price) – see Hebrews 2v17 – He had to become like us in everythingto pay the price for our iniquity/ lawlessness.

How?

1. By 'bringing in everlasting Righteousness'!
2. By fulfilling all the prophecies of the bible.
3. By the 'anointing (setting apart) of a 'Holy One'.

In a cryptic timetable of '70 weeks'... Now what does that mean?! See part 2.

And what happened 70 years after the 586BC Captivity?

Soon after Daniel's prayer –

Cyrus, 1st Persian king of Babylon authorised the first return to Judah
559BC *Ezra 1v1*

The Temple rebuild was finally finished in 515BC - AFTER 70 YEARS
CAPTIVITY! God's word through Jeremiah came literally to pass. So what
of this new word through Daniel about a coming Messiah, the taking away
of sin, iniquity and transgression, and the bringing in of everlasting
Righteousness?

The Big Issue – 2

Daniel Chapter 9 – I suggest an accurate translation like NASV

Recap on last week – Daniel's real concern was with the issue of the lost-
ness of his people – in his words the problem was (v5):

'Sin' – moral failure

'Iniquity' – living outside the law

'Transgression' – avoiding God's way

And God said (v24) by His messenger that a coming 'anointed one' would

'Finish transgression

Make an end of sin

Atone (pay the price) for iniquity

And bring in Everlasting Righteousness!'

When would this amazing thing happen?

1. v24 In a '**70 sevens' time frame.**

So 70 'sevens' could represent a 490 year period. Starting when/

2. v25 '**from the issuing of a decree** to restore and rebuild
Jerusalem'.

The Bible records 3 'possible' decrees – one by King Cyrus, and two
by Artaxerxes

3. From this decree to 'Messiah ('anointed one' in Hebrew – the Greek
word is Christos) the prince,' would be **69 weeks = 483
days/years.**

Afterwards (v26) Messiah would be cut off.

4. v27 In that final 'week' (7 yrs) **he would establish a covenant**
with the many, and in the middle of that week (after 3 and 1/2
years) he would make an end of sacrifice and grain offering.

- Artaxerxes' decree to Ezra was in **457BC** (in his 7th year) – *Ezra*
4v8, 11-14.

- In **AD 27** (483 yrs later – there's a year missing from the calendar at AD 0!) Jesus began his public ministry with his baptism. (Probably born 4/5BC?)
- For 3½ years he lived and taught the 'new Covenant' and then he made it real **by his own blood**. (*Matthew 26 v27,28 - Heb 9v11-22*) 'Cut off' (*Isaiah 53v8*) For the 'many' (*Isaiah 53 v 11*) It meant an end of all other sacrifices, as his was complete. (*Hebrews 10 v3-10*.) 'Everlasting Righteousness' was given to the many! (*Matthew 5v6, Romans 5 v12-17*)

And for the 'second half' of that '70th week' Daniel's Jewish people were favoured by the preaching of the New Covenant by the church, till they rose up against it at the stoning of Stephen 3 and a half years after the cross. The ensuing Jewish persecution of the church drove the Good News out to the Gentile world. (*John 10 v16*)

And was Jerusalem rebuilt (v25)? Yes, with 'streets and ditches, even in times of distress'! through the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah. And did 'the people of a coming ruler eventually destroy it again'? (v26) Yes – 40 years (the probation period found elsewhere in the Bible) after the cross, Emperor Vespasian's Roman troops destroyed Jerusalem 'AND THE SANCTUARY' – they pulled every stone down, as Jesus had said they would (*Matthew 24v1,2*), after polluting it with an 'abomination' (v27) – they sacrificed a pig on the altar to Jupiter!