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DANIEL THE PROPHET – LESSON 6

THE SEVENTY WEEKS

In chapter nine of Daniel, God sends Archangel Michael to tell Daniel of God's planned timeline for mankind. It is a 70-week plan. Each week is interpreted to mean one year; Bible scholars are in universal agreement on that. The only other part they agree on is what the 70<sup>th</sup> week represents. There is not universal agreement on everything prior to that 70<sup>th</sup> week.

The 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel 9:27 represents the seven years of the Great Tribulation with the Antichrist taking worldwide rulership with a peace agreement for all nations. The temple in Jerusalem has been rebuilt and the daily sacrifices resumed at the start of the Tribulation. Halfway into the seven years, the "man of peace," a/k/a/, "the man of sin" or "Antichrist" breaks the peace, desecrates the temple, and violently persecutes the Jews and all followers of Jesus Christ. That is the seventieth week when coupled with the Book of Revelation.

In Daniel's time the 70 weeks represented the 70 years of Babylonian captivity. As he read the writings of Jeremiah, which had reached him in Babylon from his homeland Judah, he understood that it meant captivity would end at 70 years and they could return back to Jerusalem. That is exactly what happened as indicated in verse 24.

Starting from verses 25-26, it speaks prophetically into the future about 7 weeks, then 62 weeks, a total of 69 weeks of years (483 years). This part can be very confusing and difficult to properly interpret. Many scholars have interpretations about that timeline, including how to cover a huge gap in time. I will make no effort to try to explain it as their interpretations do not necessarily ring true to me. The Holy Spirit has given me no more clarity on it than those scholars put forth.

Verse 27 speaks of the tribulation that ***"shall make desolate, even unto the consummation"*** of the tribulation. That it will "consummate" means that time of trouble will end. The return of Jesus is the reason it ends as it consummates in Armageddon.

It was never God's intention to give every detail in prophesy. Man craves detail and that is the reason for so many various interpretations. God gives us just enough detail so that when it unfolds before our eyes, we can have that moment of "Aha! So that is what it meant!" We see the details in retrospect, not in advance. However, we are given enough that by faith we will have "hope" in the future.

"God has a plan, and I know it's good for me!" His plan and purpose will be fulfilled.