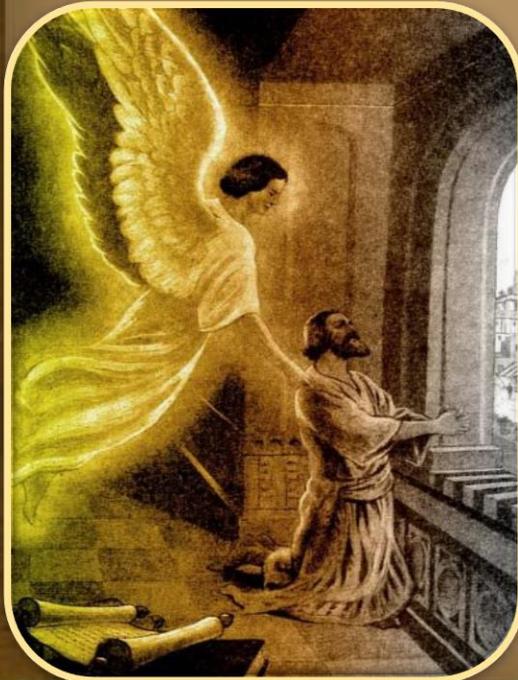
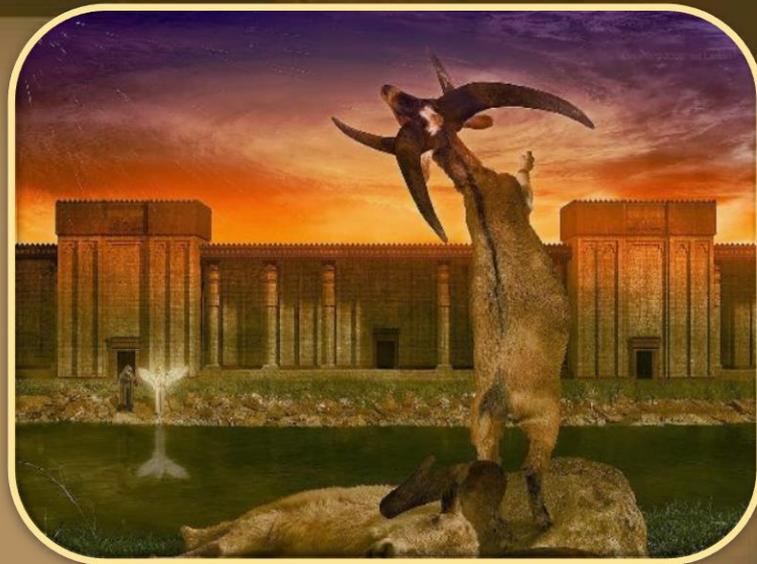


FROM CONFESSION TO CONSOLATION



In the third year of the reign of Belshazzar, Daniel was shown a vision (*hâzôn*) that included the vision of the 2,300 days (*mar'ah*) which is related to the desolate sanctuary.

Daniel studied and prayed about the desolation of the sanctuary for some years. Then, God sent Gabriel again to explain him the vision (*mar'ah*).



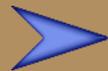
Daniel's prayer:



Studying the Scriptures. Daniel 9:1-2



Acknowledging their sin. Daniel 9:3-14



Asking for grace. Daniel 9:15-19



God's answer:



Explaining the vision. Daniel 9:20-24

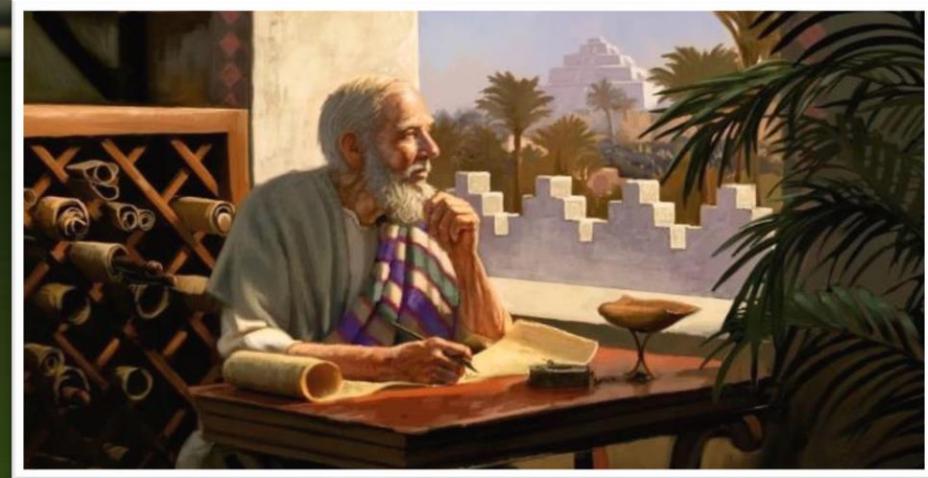


The prophetic calendar. Daniel 9:25-27

STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES

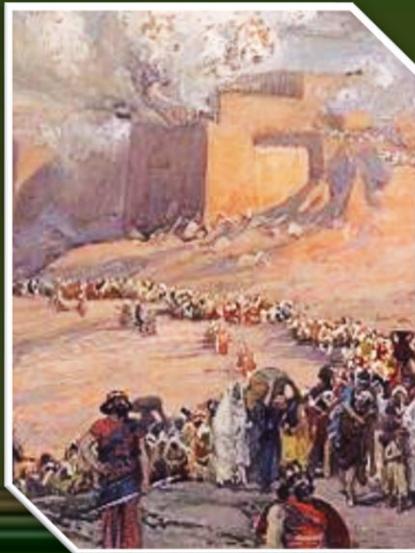
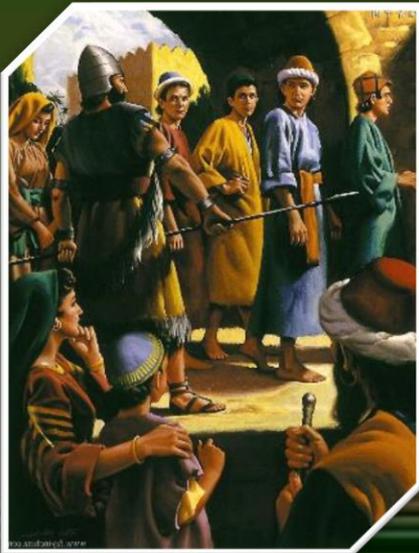
"in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem." (Daniel 9:2)

Daniel was studying the Scriptures, and he found out that Jerusalem would remain devastated for 70 years while they lived in Babylon (Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10). This was a consequence of the sins of God's people (Leviticus 26:31-35; see 2 Chronicles 36:17-21).



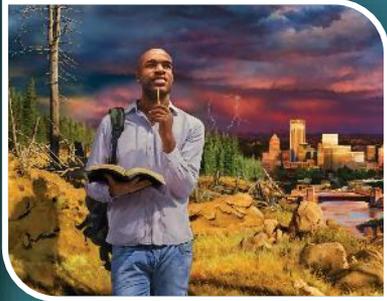
In that moment (538 BC), Daniel had been serving Babylon for almost 70 years (605 BC), and the total desolation of Jerusalem and the Temple had taken place almost 50 years before (586 BC).

He understood the time he was living in, and he turned to God to claim His promises.



STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES

"in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem." (Daniel 9:2)



Like Daniel, we are living in prophetic times today.

We must study the Scriptures as he did. We will find:



An explanation of the world we're living in



The story of the controversy between good and evil



The end of evil and the beginning of the Kingdom of God



Our current situation in God's prophetic calendar



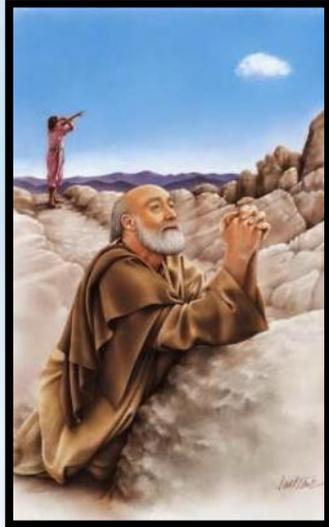
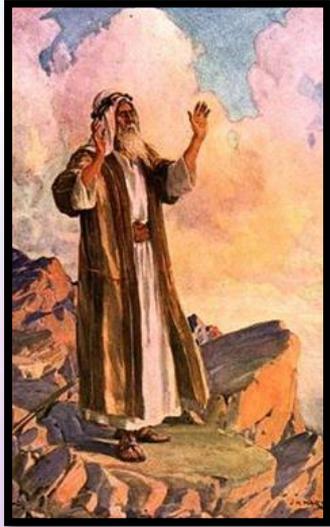
Our place in God's plan, and how to behave accordingly



Hope in the midst of a world that cannot give it

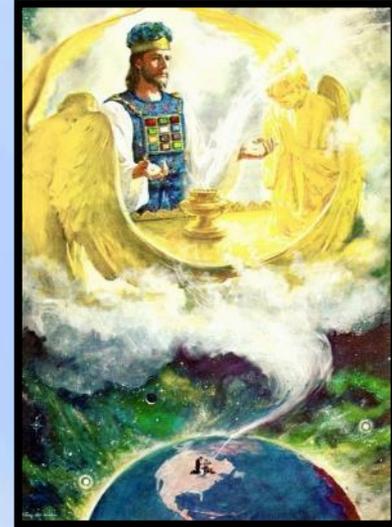
ACKNOWLEDGING THEIR SIN

"we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments." (Daniel 9:5)



Daniel's prayer was an intercessory one, like Moses' (Exo. 32:11-13) and Elijah's (1K. 18:41-46).

Daniel made the people's sins his own, coming to God with all their sin and unworthiness.



He didn't try to excuse sin or play it down. They had broken the Law. They had not responded to God's warnings. They deserved their punishment. However, Daniel interceded for the people and asked for God's mercy.

When we pray for others or for God's people, God hears our prayers and can act in their favor.



ASKING FOR GRACE

"Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary." (Daniel 9:17 NIV)

Daniel prayed for God's undeserved grace and forgiveness. This is how our prayers to God should be.

Which arguments did Daniel use in his request for God's forgiveness?



God's justice (v. 16)



God's love (v. 17)



God's mercy (v. 18)



For God's sake (v. 19a)



For God's name's sake (v. 19b)



In short, Daniel asked God to answer his request so His name would be honored.

“What earnestness and fervor characterize his supplications! The hand of faith is reached upward to grasp the never-failing promises of the Most High. His soul is wrestling in agony. And he has the evidence that his prayer is heard. He knows that victory is his. If we as a people would pray as Daniel prayed, and wrestle as he wrestled, humbling our souls before God, we should realize as marked answers to our petitions as were granted to Daniel.”

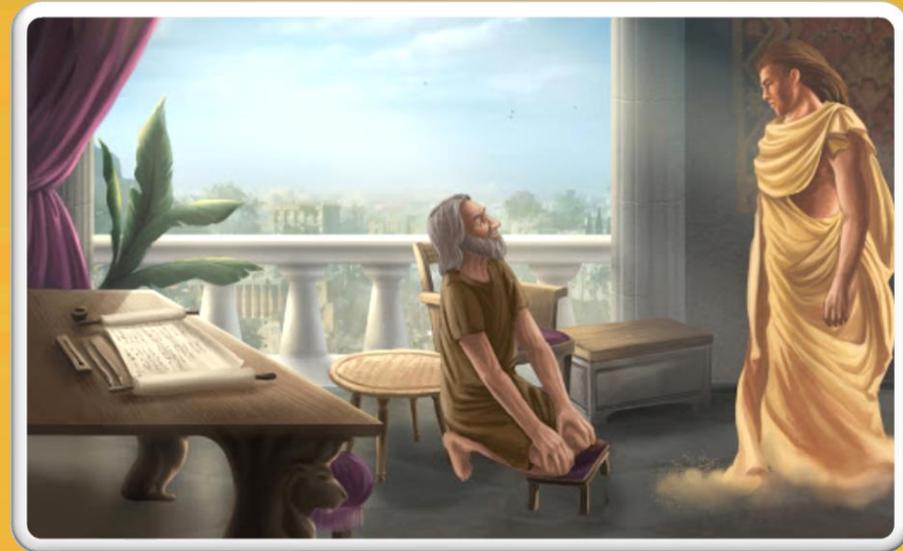
E.G.W. (The Sanctified Life, cp. 6, p. 47)

EXPLAINING THE VISION

“At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision [*mar’ah*]” (Daniel 9:23)

As Daniel was praying, God ordered Gabriel to explain him the part of the vision (*hâzôn*) that had not been explained before: the vision (*mar’ah*) in Daniel 8:13-14.

Daniel was worried about that vision, because he had understood that the sin of his people could make the desolation of Jerusalem last even longer (v. 16).



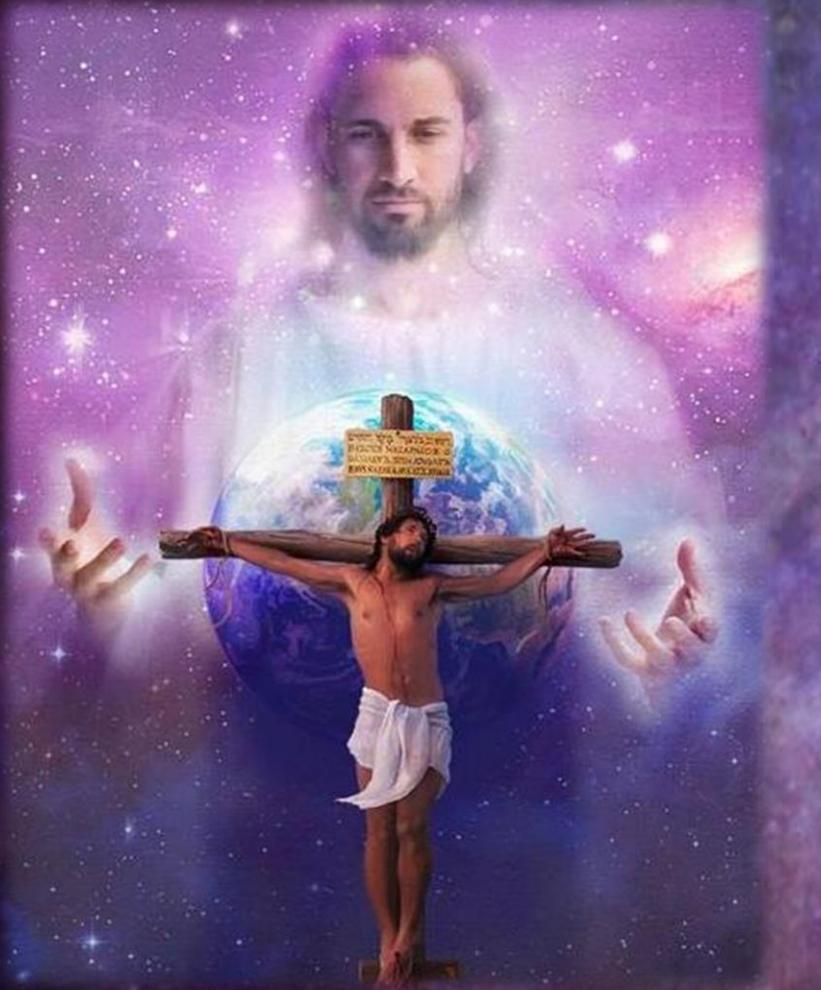
Gabriel began his explanation by telling Daniel that 70 weeks had been cut (determined) “for your people and for your holy city.” (v. 24)

During that time period, God's people would have to prepare for the work the Messiah was going to do for them (and for us).

EXPLAINING THE VISION

“At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision [mar’ah]” (Daniel 9:23)

What's the work Jesus would do after those 70 weeks? Daniel 9:24.



To finish the transgression

† To end the rebellion against God

To bring sin to an end

† To forgive sin

To expiate the iniquity

† To pay the price the Law demands

To bring in everlasting righteousness

† To make us righteous forever

To seal the vision and the prophecy

† To fulfill the Messianic prophecies

To anoint the Most Holy

† To open the Heavenly Sanctuary,
beginning the interceding work

THE PROPHETIC CALENDAR

"Seventy weeks are apportioned out [cut off] upon thy people and upon thy holy city,"
(Daniel 9:24 DARBY)

Daniel was worried about the desolate sanctuary (v. 17) because he was still thinking about the vision that he was given 12 years before (Daniel 8:1).

The 70 weeks are cut off from the longer 2,300-day period, and have the same beginning.

"For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."



"A day for each year" (Ezekiel 4:6)

“God desires us to come to Him in prayer, that He may enlighten our minds. He alone can give clear conceptions of truth. He alone can soften and subdue the heart. He can quicken the understanding to discern truth from error. He can establish the wavering mind, and give it a knowledge and a faith that will endure the test. Pray then; pray without ceasing. The Lord who heard Daniel’s prayer, will hear yours if you will approach Him as Daniel did.”