



Brookwood Outing



Ladies Join us for a special day at the
Brookwood Community

Journey with us to Brookshire, Texas to enjoy lunch at The Café at Brookwood. We will also take time to shop in the Gift and Garden Center, filled with horticulture and handcrafted gifts designed and made by the Brookwood residents. (See more information on pg. 7)

Missions for the Month

The Children's Ministry at Samuel Student Center Pictures June 2016

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Cordial greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ from us and all the children at the Samuel Student Center in Patzicía, Guatemala.

On 17 June we had the privilege of celebrating the parent's day here in Guatemala. The children's orchestra played their violins to honor their parents and the Music Ensemble "Renewal" also participated in the program. We had 16 parents, together with their families. Several of the parents, who still do not know the Lord, heard the message of salvation and eternal life, which was a purposes for this celebration.



Thanks to the donation from Sugar Land Bible Church our new water pump is running now providing us with plenty of water as you can see on this photo. Thank you Sugar Land Bible Church for providing this

As we finish our first semester we thank God for His faithfulness in providing for all the needs in our ministry to the children of Patzicía.

May the Lord richly bless you,
Enrique Ajquejay.

At the end of June we had visitors from a church in Michigan, and our kids enjoyed the love of God through the love of our young visitors. All children were excited about the VBS that started on Monday, June 27 running through Friday July 1, ending with a closing ceremony and farewell. The children, learned the songs taught by the visitors, heard the lessons and enjoyed the games as well as the arts and crafts projects. They had good snacks thanks to their mothers doing an excellent job in the kitchen. So the week was fantastic with the attendance of 80 boys and girls.





Andy Woods—Pastor

DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS, PART 1

This series will explore a very important Bible prophecy called Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. This prophecy is found in the Book of Daniel, chapter 9, verses 24-27.

The Prophecy

²⁴ Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*. ²⁵ So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. ²⁶ Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. ²⁷ And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.

The Reward

These four verses at the end of Daniel 9 are probably among the more difficult in the Bible to understand. Yet, I believe that the Holy Spirit rewards the diligent Bible student who actively seeks to comprehend what God has revealed in this portion of His Word. Of course, we would expect no less from God who declares, "...*that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him" (Heb. 11:6b). Apparently, there are some aspects divine truth that God allows to remain sealed to the casual Bible reader and yet are only accessible to the diligent student. Proverbs 25:2 says, "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter." The Seventy Weeks prophecy epitomizes such a passage.

There are at least two rewards that we receive from God by persevering in seeking to correctly understand this prophecy. *First*, we gain greater confidence that the Bible is truly an inspired book since it reveals things before they transpire. As we shall see, such prophecies as found here relate not only to the Second Coming of Christ but also to events related to Christ's First Coming. The Bible is unique in that it predicts events before they happen. This phenomenon clearly becomes discernible when we begin to unfold the details of Daniel's prophecy of the Seventy Weeks.

The *second* great reward that we receive from God by diligently persevering, and trying to understand this prophecy, is that we will gain from our study a blueprint of God's end time program. Many Christians today are interested in the end times and future happenings. Consequently, they study scattered pieces of data throughout the Bible, all of which are all critical. However, the prophecy of the Seventy Weeks is even more critical than all of the other pieces of prophetic data because it gives the interpreter the grid, timeline, blueprint, or framework for fitting into place all of the other pieces of data. So, without understanding of this critical piece of the jigsaw puzzle we really cannot understand God's program for the end times. Although we may have different pieces of puzzle, we still have no basis for understanding how the pieces of the puzzle fit together to form a coherent whole without the Seventy Weeks prophecy. Confidence that the Bible is God's Word and possessing a framework for interpreting all end time events are thus the two great rewards that we receive by diligently persevering in a study of prophecy like this.

The Chapter

As we look at Daniel 9, we can divide the chapter as follows. Verses 1 and 2 provide the setting. Verses 3-19 then presents Daniel's prayer. You might recall that Daniel was one of the two exilic prophets of Judah, the other being Ezekiel. He prophesied for the nation of Israel as God gave him prophecies during the days of the Babylonian Captivity. Daniel 9:3-19 records this lengthy prayer whereby Daniel seeks the future for the nation of Israel. Along with Ezra 9 and

Nehemiah 9, Daniel 9 represents one of the three great prayers of the exilic and post-exilic eras. However, in verses 20-23, something happens that Daniel never counted on. The angel Gabriel appears and reveals to Daniel the prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. Finally, in verses 24-27, the prophecy of the Seventy Weeks is recorded.

The Setting (Dan. 9:1-2)

THE CHRONOLOGICAL SETTING (DAN. 9:1)

Daniel 9:1 gives us the setting of the prophecy, "In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans—" This verse represents an important piece of chronological data since it gives us the time period in which Daniel received the prophecy from Gabriel. Most scholars agree that the first year of Darius' reign was about 538 B.C. Thus, Daniel received this prophecy with just a few years remaining of Judah's seventy-year captivity in Babylon (605–536 B.C.). As mentioned earlier, Daniel prophesied during the Babylonian Captivity.

THE PROPHETIC SETTING (DAN. 9:2)

According to Daniel 9:2, Daniel had been studying the prophet Jeremiah. This verse says, "In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was *revealed as* the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, *namely, seventy years.*" Apparently, Daniel had been studying the prophecies of an earlier prophet named Jeremiah. Although their ministries overlapped to some extent, Jeremiah prophesied a little earlier in biblical history (627–580 B.C.) than Daniel (605–536 B.C.). Daniel probably had been studying Jeremiah 25:11 and Jeremiah 29:10 because both of those verses reveal that the captivity would last seventy years. Jeremiah 25:11 says, "This whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon *seventy years.*" Jeremiah 29:10 similarly says: "For thus says the LORD, 'When *seventy years* have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place'" (italics added to both verses).

We might ask, why the nation of Israel went into captivity for exactly seventy years? Why not 65 or 75 years? The answer has to do with the Sabbath. Most people understand that Israel was under the Sabbath principle. The Israelites were to work six days and rest on the seventh day (Exod. 20:8-11; 31:15-17). This sequence applies, not only for the workweek, but also the land. The Sabbath land principle is revealed in Leviticus 25:1-7, which indicates that the Hebrews were to work the ground for six years, and then were to allow the ground to have a rest on the seventh year. Leviticus 25:1-7 says:

The Lord then spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai, saying, 2 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you come into the land which I shall give you, then the land shall have a sabbath to the Lord. 3 Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its crop, 4 but during the seventh year the land shall have a sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord; you shall not sow your field nor prune your vineyard. 5 Your harvest's aftergrowth you shall not reap, and your grapes of untrimmed vines you shall not gather; the land shall have a sabbatical year. 6 All of you shall have the sabbath products of the land for food; yourself, and your male and female slaves, and your hired man and your foreign resident, those who live as aliens with you. 7 Even your cattle and the animals that are in your land shall have all its crops to eat.

Later on in the Old Testament we learn that the nation of Israel rejected God's Sabbath principle for the land for seventy-years thereby costing Israel seventy years of divine discipline—one punitive year for each broken Sabbatical year. God then sent Israel 350 miles to the east into captivity in Babylon. There, Israel would remain for a seventy-year duration. The Hebrews' eviction and absence from the land thereby allowed the land to experience its allotted rest. Once those seventy years had expired, the nation was then released from Babylon and allowed to return to its own land.

2 Chronicles 36:20-21 explains:

Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until seventy years were complete.

So, this seventy year reference is not a strange or arbitrary number. Rather, this numerical designation is directly related to God's Sabbath principle as given in Leviticus 25:1-7.



Have you ever wondered why the Pharisees during the time of Christ were so seemingly obsessed with policing Sabbath violations? In fact, the Pharisees were so concerned about any potential Sabbath violation that they criticized Christ for healing on the Sabbath (Matt. 12:9-14). They also criticized Christ's disciples for receiving necessary nourishment on the Sabbath (Matt. 12:1-2). What was the reason for the perpetual Pharisaical Sabbath violation overreaction during the time of Christ? The Pharisees understood that it was a rejection of the Sabbath principle that sent the nation into captivity (Lev. 25:1-7; 2 Chron. 36:20-21). These religious leaders were not about to allow that sad chapter in Israel's history to be repeated. Yet, in the process of policing these apparent Sabbath violations, they lost sight of the true meaning of the Sabbath, which was originally intended to be a blessing to man (Matt. 12:3-8). Thus, during the time of Christ, they overreacted to any violation of the Sabbath to the point where they lost sight of the fact that the Sabbath was originally given by God as a blessing to man.

The Symmetry of the Prophecy

If the nation of Israel had ignored God's Sabbath principle for seventy Sabbath years, and the Sabbath comes up every seventh year, we can simply multiply 70 times 7 in order to derive the total number of years of Israel's disobedience. Because $70 \times 7 = 490$, the nation of Israel had been in disobedience for a total of 490 years.

However, Daniel was mistaken. At the time he begins to pray to God he thought that the kingdom of God would manifest upon the earth at the conclusion of the 490 years of disobedience. Reasoning that the 70 year captivity would conclude these 490 years of disobedience, Daniel likely thought that the kingdom would come at the end of this 70 year cycle. The 490 year cycle was winding down. As mentioned earlier, the year was 538 B.C. There were just a few years left before the seventy-year captivity was over as revealed by Jeremiah. Then, according to Daniel's misconception, God would usher in the kingdom at the end of this seventy-year period, or at the end of this 490 year cycle of disobedience.

Daniel knew all about the kingdom of God. After all, he was the interpreter of Nebuchadnezzar's vision in Daniel 2 where a giant stone, cut without human hands, appears out of heaven, smashes the feet of the statue, and then grows until it filled the entire earth (Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45). This stone represents the kingdom of God coming to the earth after shattering the empires of man. Daniel probably reasoned to himself that the seventy year captivity was winding down and therefore the 490 years of total disobedience were also coming to a conclusion. Thus, the prophesied kingdom of God must be on the very near horizon. This realization helps explain why Daniel then began to pray in order to seek God's future for the nation of Israel (Dan. 9:3-19).

However, after Daniel prayed in verses 13-19, Gabriel showed up and gave Daniel the prophecy of the Seventy Weeks (Dan. 9:24-27). Gabriel revealed to Daniel, in this prophecy of the Seventy Weeks that the kingdom of God was not going to come at the end of the first 490 years of disobedience the nation had just emerged from. Rather, there was a 490 years of disobedience yet future to Daniel's time frame, which Daniel knew nothing about. It would be at the end of this future 490 years to be revealed by Gabriel that the kingdom of God would ultimately come.

Notice that the prophecy of the Seventy Weeks is symmetrical to what was revealed earlier in the chapter. For 490 years of disobedience had already passed and now there was a future 490 years of disobedience to come from Daniel's timeframe. It would be at the end of that time frame that the kingdom of God would ultimately arrive.

Ten Facts

With this important background information in mind, we will now give our attention to Daniel 9:24-27. For purposes of organization, as we study this prophecy, we will break the prophecy down into ten manageable facts or concepts. If the reader can track with me through these ten facts, concepts, or ideas he will develop a very clear understanding of the prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. Consequently, he will in turn be rewarded by the Holy Spirit in terms of having not only greater confidence that the Bible is indeed God's Word but he will also obtain a blueprint or timeline for understanding all end time events that the Bible predicts. Every fact that I introduce will build on the prior facts. Fact number 1 is probably one of the most important because fact 2 will build on fact 1, as will the rest of this presentation. Of course, fact 3 will build on fact 1 and 2, and so forth right through the list of ten.

(...To Be Continued)

Ladies Bible Study



Betty Cooke
 will be teaching
 the **Book of Galatians**
 January 10, 2017

for both morning 9am—11am
 and evening classes. 7pm—8 pm

*Child Care will be provided for the Morning Class only!



Scripture for the Month: Psalm 19:7-10



The law of the Lord *is* perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord *is* sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord *are* right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the Lord *is* clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord *are* true *and* righteous altogether. More to be desired *are they* than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb

Brookwood Community

When: Saturday, November 19, 2016

Time: Meet at SLBC at 10:00 a.m.

Lunch seating promptly at 11:30

Shopping will follow lunch.

Please sign up in the foyer and make your lunch selection.

Space is limited so don't miss out.

Sign up today!

If you have any questions please contact Jodie Reichardt at 713-557-6636



Coming up:

December 3, 2016 Secret Sister Event 2:00 to 4:00 pm

December 11, 2016 Ladies Christmas Event—5:00 pm



Men's Bible Study

Tuesday evening—8:00 pm

Meeting in the Conference room

Studies in Hebrews taught by

David Sandlin

The Cornerstone Newsletter deadline for News articles is the 19th of each month. You can e-mail Patricia Chandler at:

earlbudc@att.net or send information to Carol Henry at Carol@SLBC.org