

Daniel Chapter 9 Handouts

Daniel's Seventy Sabbaths

Daniel 9:24-27

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasu-e'rus, by birth a Mede, who became king over the realm of the Chalde'ans -- in the first year of his reign,

I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years which, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

Dan 9:1- 9:3 RSV

The Purpose of the Prophecy

The LORD said to Moses on Mount Sinai, "Say to the people of Israel, When you come into the land which I give you, the land shall keep a sabbath to the LORD.

Lev 25:1 RSV

Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in its fruits; but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the LORD; you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard.

What grows of itself in your harvest you shall not reap, and the grapes of your undressed vine you shall not gather; it shall be a year of solemn rest for the land.

Lev 25:3-5 RSV

But the people did not keep the Sabbatical Year as the Lord had commanded them.

Therefore Jeremiah the Prophet warns:

For the land is full of adulterers; because of the curse the land mourns, and the pastures of the wilderness are dried up. Their course is evil, and their might is not right. "Both prophet and priest are ungodly; even in my house I have found their wickedness, says the LORD.

Jer 23:10-11 RSV

You have neither listened nor inclined your ears to hear, although the LORD persistently sent to you all his servants the prophets, saying, 'Turn now, every one of you, from his evil way and wrong doings, and dwell upon the land which the LORD has given to you and your fathers from of old and for ever;

Jer 25:4 -5

But the people did not heed the warnings God gave them.

Therefore Jeremiah the Prophet foretells:

Yet you have not listened to me, says the LORD, that you might provoke me to anger with the work of your hands to your own harm. "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: Because you have not obeyed my words, behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, says the LORD, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these nations round about; I will utterly destroy them, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting reproach.

Jer 25:7 RSV

Jer 29:10 "For thus says the LORD:

When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart,

Jer 29:10-13 RSV

Seventy years the land would be at rest while the people were in exile.

So Judah had not observed a total of 70 Sabbatical Years.

They received one year in exile for every Sabbatical Year missed for a total of 70 years.

It was in regard to this prophecy that Daniel began to study and pray for understanding...

I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years which, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

Dan 9:1- 9:3 RSV

Then the angel Gabriel told him:

"Seventy weeks of years are decreed concerning your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy.

Daniel 9:24 RSV

Seventy weeks...

The Hebrew word we translate as “weeks” is

שְׁבָתָה sheba' which means “sevens.”

So it means “seventy sevens.”

The Hebrew word for sabbath is שְׁבָתָה sha'batt.

It also means “seven.”

So we are translating it as “seventy sabbaths”

See Chart A

Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.

Daniel 9:25 RSV

See Chart B

And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off, and shall have nothing; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war; desolations are decreed.

Daniel 9:26 RSV

See Chart C

And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week; and for half of the week he shall cause sacrifice and offering to cease; and upon the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”

Daniel 9:27 RSV

See Chart D

See Chart E

See Chart F