



Introduction

Daniel, reading Jeremiah's prophecy, knows it is time for his people to return to their own land.



Questions

1. How many years did Jeremiah prophecy that Jerusalem would remain desolate?
2. What is Daniel's final plea in his prayer to God?
3. What happened while Daniel was still speaking in prayer?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 15** Daniel confesses that the nation of Israel has sinned and rebelled against God. As a result they have been scattered and punished for their sins
- **v 16 to 19** Daniel pleads with God for his mercy. He prays that God will turn away his anger from his city Jerusalem which has become desolate
- **v 20 to 23** The angel Gabriel is sent to comfort Daniel in response to his prayers and confession of sins. He is given a vision
- **v 24 to 27** Daniel is given the 70 weeks prophecy (see information) about God's purpose with his people and city. Jerusalem will be restored and rebuilt, but eventually the city and sanctuary will be destroyed

Timeline 570 BC (see below)



Information

Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy

This prophecy is in Daniel 9 v 24 to 27.

The first verse tells us what the prophecy is all about:

Daniel 9 verse 24

God tells Daniel that during a seventy weeks period God's plan to enable sins to be forgiven will be complete. 70 weeks are literally "units of seven" indicating 490 years.

The next verse gives us more detail:

Daniel 9 verse 25

Daniel is told that from a decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the Anointed One (or Christ) will be 7 + 62 weeks, that is $69 \times 7 = 483$ years.

There were four decrees involved in the rebuilding of Jerusalem:

The first is recorded in Ezra 1 (approximately BC 540). Cyrus king of Persia authorized the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the house of the LORD God of Israel:

Ezra 1 verses 1 to 3



The second is recorded in Ezra 6 (approximately BC 522). Darius king of Persia enforced the earlier decree of Cyrus:

Ezra 6 verses 7 and 8

The third is recorded in Ezra 7 (approximately BC 469). Artaxerxes king of Persia issued a decree encouraging Jews to return to Jerusalem:

Ezra 7 verses 12 and 13

The fourth is recorded in Nehemiah 2 (approximately BC 456). Artaxerxes authorized materials for building the gates and walls of Jerusalem:

Nehemiah 2 verses 7 and 8

Daniel was being told that Christ could be expected 483 years from somewhere between BC 540 to 456 ie. BC 57 to AD 27.

The next verse in the prophecy gives us more detail:

Daniel 9 verse 26

The Anointed One (Christ) will be cut off after the 69 weeks. Christ was to be crucified by approximately AD 27.

The rest of the prophecy appears to relate to AD 70 and the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem

Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 2, Q 2: v 17 to 19, Q 3: v 21 and 22



Bible timeline

