

Bonus Content Episode 25 - Daniel 9:24-27 (part 2)

You are listening to **Reflections From Revelation episode 25** as we look at the second half of **Daniel 9:24-27** and really focus on the **details of the return of Christ**.

When speaking at a press conference in 1943 Sir Winston Churchill said, "I always avoid prophesying beforehand, because it is a much better policy to prophecy after the event has already taken place."

- Although it is a much better policy to prophecy after the event it is quite uneventful.
- God prophecies many details before they happen so that we would know that He is God, and He knows exactly what He is doing!

The text of scripture we are looking at today is found in Daniel 9 and this text prophecies about the Messiah's first coming and His later return. (A first and second advent)

- We already looked at the details of the first advent and how this text specifically talks about Jesus' first coming. Studying this is so important because it shows us that **this text is truly amazing and accurate**.
- We saw that accuracy in the prophetic word as we learned how Jesus presented Himself on Palm Sunday, 483 years after the decree was given (**Neh 2**) AND so also it will be **accurate in the details of His second return at the end of the age**.

Review of the context of this passage: (Dan 9)

- Daniel the prophet is praying, which is always a good thing to do in hard times. (**Dan 9:3-4**)
- Daniel's prayer was one of confession of sin for his nation, Israel. (**Dan 9:5-19**)
- God sent Gabriel to bring Daniel a message of insight, understanding and hope. **V 20-23**
- God then gives Daniel a specific prophecy about Daniel's people and their land:
24 *"Seventy weeks are decreed about 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 place. (an awesome description of heaven)*

God wanted Daniel to know that He would finally rule and reign! He would take care of sin!

- It was the first year of Darius (**v1**) and God wanted Daniel to know He (God) was the true King.
- THIS IS A GREAT REMINDER FOR US...no matter who will be our next president, God is the ultimate authority. We may put our hope in political powers BUT only God can save!
- This message to Daniel is about God's kingdom and the prophecy and timeframe associated with it.

Daniel then receives this revelation about the person and work of Jesus and His second coming.

- This is the revelation known as the **70 weeks** (70 sets of 7 = 490 years) **concerning Israel and Daniel's people**.
- God says that in the end of these 70 sevens, **He wins and He will establish His Kingdom**.
Rev 22:3-5 *No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.*

The Bible teaches that heaven is a real place and God wants us to know about it!

- God gives us these important prophecies to know Him and His future plans that we may have hope!
- He is the only one who knows the future and He is the true and living God.
- He wants our hearts to follow Him and not trust in idols or be deceived by the enemy.
- Remember this life of brokenness and evil isn't the end. We put our faith in God and what He says. **Col 3:2** *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*
- These verses given to Daniel would not only provide **HOPE** for Daniel but for all of us!
God will rule and reign for all eternity.

There is a specific time frame of 490 years that this prophecy deals with.

- The **70 sevens** (weeks) are divided into **three separate units**: seven sevens, 62 sevens and one seven.
- The first 69 sevens is described in **verse 25**. (we looked at this last episode)
9:25 *Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks (49 years). Then for sixty-two weeks (434 years) it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.*
- This verse tells us that from when the decree goes forth to rebuild the city of Jerusalem the Messiah (the prince) will come. (7 weeks + 62 weeks = 69)
- The **69 weeks are broken into 2 parts** because the “7 sevens” would be in a ‘troubled time’.
- After the 69 sevens (483 years) the Messiah (the anointed one, a prince) would come!

This event actually took place in history! The Messiah came exactly according to this prophecy!

- Artaxerxes made a decree giving Nehemiah permission, safe passage and supplies to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the walls on March 5th 444 B.C. (**Neh 2:1-8**)
- Nehemiah did this great work of rebuilding the temple in 52 days with tons of opposition. (**Neh 6:15**)
- The city and temple were not yet fully restored until another 49 years! (7 Sevens)
- This verse (**Neh 2:1**) is where we START the countdown, (**Dan 9:24-26**) because once the decree was made there would be 69 sevens until the **prince** would come and be **cut off**. (483 years)

Doing the math on this would take you directly to when Jesus came and pronounced that He was King! (the Triumphal Entry)

John 12:14-16 *14 And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, 15 "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" 16 His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.*

- Remember that this time frame was according to the Jewish calendar (360 days) and not ours. (365 days)
 - This can make a huge difference when calculating things for that many years.
- Robert Anderson's work in *The Coming Prince* follows this argument in great detail: 'Using a 360-day year (which Israel used in Daniel's day), **calculates 173,880 days from the decree to the triumphal entry (Palm Sunday), fulfilling the prophecy to the day.**' (483 years x 360 days = 173,880 days)

Jesus not only allowed for people to finally worship Him as King on this specific day BUT He orchestrated it. (Luke 19:28-44)

- Though He often said many times that His day 'has not come' yet on Palm Sunday He rides into the city on a donkey to fulfill the prophetic word of the 'King who comes'.
v38-40 *"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" 39 And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." 40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." (see Psalm 118)*

Jesus fulfills not only the law (being perfect) BUT all the prophets! (Luke 24:44)

- God wanted us to know WHO the Messiah was, and we can see in this and many other prophecies the accuracy of their fulfillment in Jesus!
- We can see this prophecy (**Dan 9:25**) being filled accurately as after 69 sevens Jesus is pronounced as the King.

This part was all review, but I wanted to repeat it because it's so amazing and it can take time to wrap our minds around the text and process it. We want to do our best to STUDY GOD'S WORD (**2 Tim 2:15**)

Part 2 of our study picks up here...

After 70 weeks the Messiah would rule and reign for eternity. (v24 talks about heaven)

- This hasn't happened yet as this is not heaven.
- Jesus is at the right hand of the Father now, but He is returning and He will rule and reign in justice and righteousness.

One thing to realize in this text is that there is an interval, a pause, a break in activity between week 69 and 70.

- The **pause** in this prophecy (**v26**) tells us what will take place in-between these sets.
- **Verse 25** describes the 69 weeks (units of seven) . **Verse 26** describes what will take place between the 69th week and 70th week, and then **v27** describes when the last seven takes place.

“The 70th week will then begin when the coming prince shall confirm a covenant with the Jewish people. These "gaps" or "pauses" in prophecy may seem strange to us, but they are common. Comparing **Isaiah 9:6** and **Luke 1:31-33** shows another significant "pause" or "gap" in prophecy regarding the coming of the Messiah”.

David Guzik

Isa 9:6 *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Jesus came as man (as a child), but we are waiting His return to rule as King. (there is a “gap”)

Verse 24 gives us the full spectrum of the final end of this prophecy BUT all of it hasn't yet been fulfilled.

- There is a certain gap or pause in prophecy because it is specifically talking about Israel and the Holy Land.
- **Verse 24** *Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city. This is a prophecy for Israel!*
- When the anointed one came (Jesus), He established the church. (His Bride) I believe that **the Church and the nation of Israel are not the same thing** (replacement theology)
 - ‘Replacement Theology’ is the belief that the church replaces Israel and nullifies all the covenants and promises God made to Israel. (See Bonus Content Episode 13)

God is now working in the age of the church which includes both Jew and Gentile, (Gal. 3:27-28) BUT this prophecy is not focusing on the church now but the focus in on the Jewish nation and people.

- In History, God is working through His Church right now and has blinded the eyes of the Jewish people. **Rom 9-11** talks about this in great detail, and **God says He is not done with the Jewish nation.**
- God is working through the Church right now BUT **He will in the last days work again through Israel.**
- When God is finished with this church age, He will rapture the church, but **God will continue to fulfill this prophecy through Israel in the last 7 years (Great Tribulation).**
Roman 11:35 *Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.*
 - We see this as we have studied about the 144,000 (servants of God) of the tribes of Israel in **Rev 7 & 14.**

Let's do a little review of the timeframe context as covered in Revelation:

Rapture is when Christ comes back for His church. We get the word from Raptius. (caught up)

- The **rapture** is when Jesus is coming **FOR His Church**. This is **different from ‘the second coming’** when Jesus comes **WITH His Church** at the end of the age.
- The Bible talks about how Jesus is coming back for His Church: **1 Cor 15:51-53; Matt 24:36-44; 1 Thes 4:16-18**

1 This 4:16-18 *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

- The doctrine of the rapture should encourage us, and we shouldn't shy away from this teaching.
- This is not a new doctrine and we can even notice in our Revelation study that the “church” is not mentioned after **Rev 4** until the time of His return with the church.

When Church has been raptured, it will be the time when God finishes His work with Israel.

Rom 11:25 *Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.*

- God will lift His restraint and the antichrist and the false prophet will be revealed, but God will work with Israel to continue His work of saving mankind.

- This is where this word of **dispensationalism** comes from as this means that God works in different ways in different times. EXAMPLE: The old and new covenant, Israel and the church age, etc. God doesn't change but the way He works may change.
- Daniel wasn't given a specific word about the Church, But Paul tell us about this mystery (once unknown but now revealed) of the church being birthed after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **Eph 3:4-10.**

I believe that the Rapture of the Church and Christ's Second Coming are 2 distinct different events:

- The **Second coming of Christ** is when He is going to judge the entire world when He comes back to Earth!
 - **Rev 19:11-21** Christ and His church will come back to defeat the antichrist and satan.
 - **Rev 20** talks about the 1,000 year reign of Christ and the final great judgement.
 - **Rev 21-22** talks about the New Heavens and the New Earth.

It is good to understand some of these terms and what they mean so we can better understand the timeframes of end time prophecy.

One commentary states this:

We can think of it (this gap or pause) in this way: God has appointed 490 years of special focus on Israel in His redemptive plan. The years were "paused" by Israel's rejection of Jesus. **Now** there is no special focus on Israel in God's redemptive plan because this **is the time of the church. God's focus will return to Israel when the church is taken away (at the rapture) and the last seven years of man's rule on this earth begin.** David Guzik

This is why the bible says that the great tribulation (the last 7 years) is known as Jacob's Time of Trouble.

Jer 30:7 *Alas! That day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob (Israel); yet he shall be saved out of it.*

- There will still be salvation for Israel. Even though the church will be lifted up (raptured), the gospel will still go forth! The 144,000 and the angels will be calling out for people to repent and receive the good news of the 'eternal gospel.'" (**Rev 14:6**)
- This 7 year tribulation is a specific time frame that has had no similar occurrence in history. Jesus said in **Mark 13:19.**

Mar 13:19 19 For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be.

Daniel 12:1 also talks about this 7 year period called the great tribulation.

At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

- There will be a great revival for those that repent as they recognize the deception of the antichrist and turn to the true Messiah.
- God will still be saving people (Jew and Gentile) during the great tribulation until the very end!
- In the last Seven (70th week), God will continue to work through Israel.

Verse 26 tells us what will take place during this "Gap or pause" before the 70th week.

26 *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.*

1. The Messiah would be killed, *an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing.* (cut off but not for Himself)

- This happened on the cross of Jesus! Cut off is used for a trial and execution. (**Gen 9:11 & Ex 31:14**)
- Jesus was put on trial and killed; Paul and Peter both would say that Israel rejected Jesus.
- Speaking of the Messiah in **Isa 53:5-6** *But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we*

are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned-every one-to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. **Jesus died for us!**

2. The Temple would be destroyed and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood...

- This happened in 70AD by Titus when the Jews kept rebelling against Rome.
 - The Jews rejected Jesus as Messiah because they wanted a leader that would come and overthrow Rome.
- Titus didn't want to destroy the temple built by Herod BUT the soldiers burned it to the ground. Part of their lot was the melted gold!
- The soldiers literally took every stone from the temple and destroyed it!

3. There will be troublesome times in Israel “and to the end there shall be war.” TURMOIL

- This prophecy for the nation of Israel didn't make sense until this ancient, promised land was declared a nation in 1948.
- God said that He would bring Israel back to their land. **Isa 66:8; Ez 20:34; Zech 8:7-8; Amos 9:14**
 - Replacement theology reasoning would see future Israeli prophecy as symbolic since the nation no longer existed. (until 1948)
- Ever since this declaration, the land of Israel has been in a state of turmoil, conflict, and war!
- Do you ever wonder why there is so much attention about the middle east? (it is smaller than Texas) It is because this prophecy is true! They won't have true peace until after the 70th week.

In this verse (9:26) all things have taken place. This is why this text is so exciting as it shows us that Jesus can return for His bride at any time as the fulfillment of the 70th week can happen at any moment.

I believe Jesus knew all of this and even interpreted Daniel's prophecy this way.

Luke 19:41-44 *And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side 44 and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”*

- Jesus, the Messiah visited the Jews, but they rejected Him as they did not want a suffering Messiah!
- Jesus tells us that God would blind their eyes for a time and the temple would be destroyed.

John 5:43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him.

Jesus knew the Jews would reject Him and turn to the antichrist in the last days.

- It broke His heart as He wanted them to know Him as their Messiah that they would receive salvation by faith in Him and not rely on their Jewish heritage.
- **V27** talks about how the antichrist will come and the Jews will accept him and sign a covenant with him.
- This will be in the last 7 years of the end times, what we know as the Great Tribulation or Daniel's 70th week.

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

- This verse (v27) clearly shows when these last 7 years will begin: (not right after the rapture but after a covenant) “when **he** shall make a strong covenant with many for one week”.
- In order to “put an end to sacrifices and offerings” they will have been reinstated in the nation of Israel at this time.
- The Jewish nation will make a covenant with a person that they accept as the Messiah.

Who is he?

- ‘**He**’ is referring to **v26** “the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city”.
- This is Rome and remember that in the last days the antichrist will come from a resurrected Rome.

- **Daniel 2 and 7** tell us that the little horn shall arise out of a resurrected Rome. (European empire)
- He will be this great world leader that will bring peace BUT will be possessed by Satan himself. (**Rev 13**)
- The bible says a lot about him through his many names: The Profane and Wicked Prince, The Adversary, The Wicked One, The Little Horn, The Prince that Shall come, The Man of Sin, The Son of Perdition, The Lawless One, The Beast, The Antichrist. This guy is bad and possessed by Satan Himself!

The Jews will sign a covenant with him because they will be blinded to who he is, and they are seeing him as their awaited Messiah!

- One sign that they are looking for is that he will allow the temple to be rebuilt and temple worship to resume.
- Whatever the reason may be for making this covenant with him, they will be deceived!

The first of the seals opened by Jesus, (Rev 6:1) talks about the antichrist coming and making peace without war (a covenant). Rev 6:2

- When this happens the final 7 years (The Great Tribulation) will then take place.

HANDOUT is included with these notes to help you with your study on this podcast.

People always disagree about timelines BUT most agree about the antichrist coming at the end of the age and Jesus' will have the final victory!

All these details we are covering are to encourage us in seeing the accuracy in the prophecies of Daniel 9 and the 70 weeks prophecy.

- It shows us how big and good our God is and even if we get the details wrong, He knows and is in control of the details and all that is going on.
- If we can't wrap our minds around this time frame and see how all these things fit together remember **it all points to who God is and the Majesty of Jesus.**

One great characteristic of this desolator (antichrist) is that he will demand worship.

- in **Daniel 8**, we see prophecy fulfilled in Antiochus Epiphanes. (a Greek king of the Seleucid Empire) He prefigures the Antichrist and gives of a picture of the characteristics of the antichrist of the end times.
- The antichrist will exalt himself. He will go into the temple and after 3.5 years will demand worship. (**2 Thes 2:4**)
- **Jesus talked about this time, 'the abomination of desolation' in Matt 24:15-28.** 15 "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),
- **Rev 13:5** references 42 months, and **Rev 12:6** says 1260 days. This is the halfway point in the last week (7 years) where the Antichrist will defile the temple and demand worship!
 - The temple will have been restored in these times in order for this to take place.
- When you see this take place like Daniel says, run because great wrath will come! **Matt 24:21** 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

This is another reason why I don't believe the Church will be in this last 70th week of tribulation as this prophetic word in Dan 9 is specific to Daniel and His people, and not for the present-day church.

- **1 Thes 1:10** Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
- **1 Thes 5:9** For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The church will be raptured before this 7-year time of tribulation.

The wrath will begin as God releases the antichrist; chaos will result. Revelation details the continual progression of wrath to come during this time of tribulation.

The antichrist will persecute the Jews.

- Though at first he brings peace, those believers that don't worship him nor take the mark of the beast will be persecuted. (**Rev 13**)
- God will seal and protect the 144,000. (**Rev 7:4**)
- It will be a time of suffering like no other point in history and God's wrath will be poured out on man!
- **Rev 16** talks about the 7 bowls of wrath! It is insane to think that this time of tribulation has already happened.
- The bowls will be at the very end of this age and God's final judgement!

Rev 19:11-21 Jesus will return with us (the Church) and will come and defeat the antichrist and Satan.
Dan 9 v27 ...on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.

Jesus will have the final victory and He will then establish His throne on earth.

Rev 21:5-8 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Daniel receives this revelation about how Jesus is Coming and will establish His Kingdom!

v24 "Seventy weeks are decreed about 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 place.

Summary:

- Though this prophecy is for Israel, we are God's church here and now in this prophetic gap between the 69th and 70th week. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. **1 Cor 6:19**
- God can come back at any moment for His people! When we are raptured out of here, the 70th week and the Great Tribulation will begin.
- God will fulfill His word exactly as He said in all the details of His return and in the things revealed regarding the antichrist to come.
- Amidst the tribulation there will still be a time of great hope for those who put their faith in Jesus.

At the end of the 70th week, there will be a glorious new heaven and new earth where God will rule for all eternity.

As we concluded this section of scripture, we should keep in mind that other believers have different interpretations:

- Many people have disagreements about the time frame or details of when the rapture will take place.
- We all agree do about this: **JESUS IS COMING BACK and we are saved by His grace.**
 - God knows the details as He is the author, the Alpha and Omega, and He is writing the script. His purposes will not be thwarted!
 - Jesus is coming back for His Church and this can be at any moment.
 - I believe that there is no more prophecy that needs to be fulfilled for this 70th week to take place.

I think it would be good to close this section with the words of Jesus: Matt 24:36-44

36 "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. 37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. **42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.** 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night

the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44
Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

God is coming back like a thief in the night and we need to be prepared!

- The only thing can prepare us for meeting Jesus face to face is His grace...His righteousness.
- No one can stand before God without His mercy and grace!!! We all need His grace!!!
- We all need Him to be our sacrificial atonement, His work that makes us righteous before God. **Have you received this grace yet?**

Jesus said “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

- Repent and believe! What an incredible thing that we can have salvation by faith through His grace.
- If you haven't put your faith in Jesus yet, you can decide to do so today!

When we have experienced God's grace and forgiveness, we will want to be about the Father's business!

- Let's make it a priority to make disciples like Jesus commanded us in **Matt 28:19-20**.
- We need to be using our time wisely in these last days.

Eph 5:15-18 *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,*

It would be wise for us to rely on God's grace and to pass this grace on to others through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- As we continue to look at the details of Revelation, let's keep looking for application.
- **Let's not get so trapped up in the details or timeframe that we miss the great God.**

As Daniel was given encouraged to help him through the pain and the things he was going through, we too can have hope, live by faith and give the love of God to others.

CAN YOU BELIVE HE IS THE AUTHOR OF THIS ALL? He truly is amazing and worthy of worship!

"Daniel's Seventy Weeks (or Seventy Sevens)"

Daniel 9:20-23: 20 Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, 21 yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. 22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. 23 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:

