

The Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks – 12

Daniel 9:27 predicts of the coming of Messiah, *“and he shall confirm”* [= Strong 1396, Hebrew *gabar* = strengthen] *“the covenant with many for one week...”* During the first half of the final week of seven years, Jesus, before his death, strengthened the covenant of God with his people. In performing this, he was empowered by God so that through him, *“the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them”* - **Luke 7:22**.

- At the same time, Jesus shared that power, first with the twelve, and then with the seventy disciples, sending them out into the cities and towns to perform that same, divinely empowered, work among *“the lost sheep of the house of Israel”* - **Luke 10:1; Jeremiah 50:6**. And then after his resurrection, **Psalm 21:4** was fulfilled, *“He asked life from You, and You gave it to him - length of days forever and ever”*.

And so, in the second half of the last *“week”*, the glorified Jesus, *“being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured it out”* - **Acts 2:33**, and further empowered the disciples on the day of Pentecost, so that they *“spoke the word of God with boldness...And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus”* - **Luke 24:49; Acts 2:1-4; 4:31-33**.

- At the end of the *“week”* in AD 34 was a notable change in the work of the spirit-empowered disciples, when Peter was sent to the house of Cornelius. Having heard Peter, this Roman military officer accepted that Jesus was the Messiah, immediately afterwards received the holy spirit, and was baptised into the name of Jesus Christ. - **Acts 10**.

About that time, Saul of Tarsus, who had been *“exceedingly enraged”* against the disciples of Jesus and conducted a campaign of persecution against them, was also baptized after he accepted the messiahship of Jesus - **Acts 26:11; 9:22**. After that, Jesus appeared to Saul in a vision, and he *“said to him, ‘Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles’.*” - **Acts 22:21**.

- Having *“opened the door of faith to the Gentiles”* - **Acts 14:27** - believing *“that Jesus Christ is the Son of God”* - **Acts 8:37**, Saul, later called Paul, devoted the remainder of his life seeing to it that the gospel came to be heard throughout the Roman world - **Colossians 1:23**, opening the door to everlasting life, when *“the meek shall inherit the earth”* - **Psalm 37:11; Matthew 5:5**.

Daniel 9:26, after showing that *“Messiah shall be cut off”*, revealed that *“the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. the end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.”* He continues in **v.27**, *“on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”*

- Forty years after the ascension of Jesus the Jewish state was **made desolate** and was to continue in that state *“even until the consummation”*, when it would become the desolator’s turn for God’s punishment - **1 Peter 4:17-18**. The rebirth of the Jewish State in 1948, and the subsequent repopulating of the land provides a clear sign that the consummation is at hand - **Luke 21:29-31**.

That consummation will arrive when Jesus returns to restore the kingdom of God over Israel, having bestowed everlasting life on the faithful, who will rule with him. More next time, God willing.