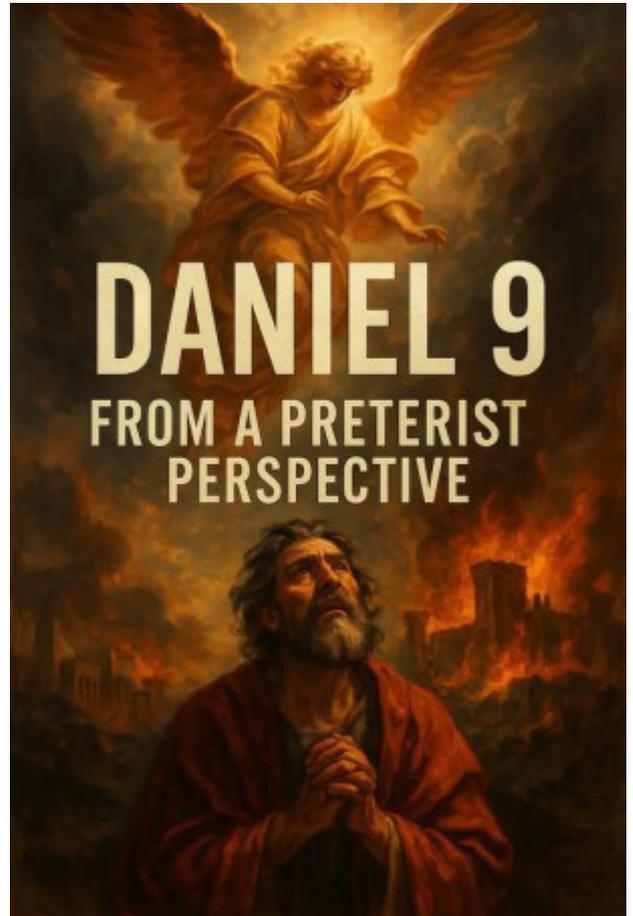


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Daniel 9 – From a Preterist Perspective



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

Daniel 9 is one of the most significant prophetic chapters in all of scripture. It bridges Israel's past, the promise of restoration, and the coming of the Messiah. Yet, it is also one of the most abused texts by futurists who ignore its time statements and its audience relevance. Today, we are going to walk through this chapter and show that everything Daniel prophesied has already been fulfilled in the first century, culminating in the

coming of Christ and the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

Daniel's Prayer (Daniel 9:1–19)

Daniel begins this chapter in deep prayer and confession. He is not looking for signs of a distant future. He is pleading for the end of the exile and restoration for his people in the immediate future.

Daniel 9:2 – "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."

Daniel understood that the seventy-year captivity spoken by Jeremiah was coming to an end. This sets the historical and contextual stage. This chapter is not about the far future, but about Daniel's present.

Daniel 9:17 – "So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his pleas, and for Your sake, Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary."

This plea is for the sanctuary in Jerusalem, not a future rebuilt temple.

Gabriel's Answer – The Seventy Weeks (Daniel 9:20–27)

The angel Gabriel is sent to give Daniel understanding about what would happen to his people and his holy city. That is the stated scope.

Daniel 9:24 – "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the wrongdoing, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the

Most Holy Place."

This verse alone should settle the matter. These things were accomplished by Christ:

The finishing of transgression

The end of sin

Atonement for guilt

Everlasting righteousness

Sealing up vision and prophecy

Anointing the Most Holy

This is the mission of the Messiah, not some distant Antichrist.

The Coming of the Messiah (Daniel 9:25–26)

Daniel 9:25 – "So you are to know and understand, 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 streets and moat, even in times of distress."

From the decree of Artaxerxes in 457 BC, the timeline to Christ's baptism lines up precisely. Messiah the Prince refers to Jesus.

Daniel 9:26 – "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."

Jesus was "cut off" – crucified – just as prophesied. After that, the people of the prince – that is, the Roman armies under Titus – destroyed the city and the sanctuary in AD 70. This was not a future tribulation but the historical judgment on Jerusalem.

The Covenant Confirmed and the Temple Desolated (Daniel 9:27)

Daniel 9:27 – "And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations will come the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate."

The "he" here is not Antichrist. It refers back to the Messiah. Jesus confirmed the covenant with many during His ministry, exactly three and a half years.

In the middle of the week, He was crucified – ending the need for sacrifice and offering.

The "wing of abominations" refers to the Roman armies (Luke 21:20) who surrounded the city and made it desolate, fulfilling both Daniel and Jesus' warnings.

Conclusion

This prophecy was entirely fulfilled in the first century. It was about:

Daniel's people – the Jews

Daniel's city – Jerusalem

The coming of Christ – the true Messiah

The end of the old covenant – not a future temple

Jesus Himself said in Luke 21:22 – "For these are days of vengeance, so that all things which have been written will be fulfilled."

The seventy weeks are not stretched out into 2000 years of delay. They were fulfilled in Christ, just as Gabriel promised.

Final Word

Futurism rips this chapter from its historical roots. But Daniel 9 is one of the clearest time-specific prophecies in the Bible. It confirms the identity of Jesus as the Messiah, it validates the destruction of Jerusalem as God's judgment, and it shows us that all has been fulfilled – not postponed.

Let us not look for what has already come. Let us rest in the assurance that God kept His promises.

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