***Daniel 9:15-27 15And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly! 16“O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us. 17Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord’s sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. 18O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. 19O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.” 20Now 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, 21yes, 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. 22And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. 23At 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: 24“Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins,
To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anointthe Most Holy. 25“Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. 26“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And 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. 27Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week
He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”***

Tonight, we’ll finish Daniel 9. Last week, we left him as he prayed. We’ll pick up his prayer in verse 15.

 Verses 15-19 *And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly! 16“O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us. 17Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord’s sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. 18O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. 19O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”* Daniel starts in verses 15 & 16 by remembering God’s mighty deliverance of His people and then immediately acknowledging the sin and wickedness of his people. His prayer is filled with shame, anguish, humility. He is earnestly beseeching God. He is seeking God’s righteousness and mercy, begging God to let God’s anger and fury turn away from Israel, not because of who Daniel is, but because of Who God is. Daniel pleads for mercy, making it clear that Israel brought the judgement upon itself and is viewed as a reproach by other nations.

Then, we sense a change starting in verse 17 & 18. Daniel prays for restoration and deliverance from this desolation, not for Israel’s sake, but to bring glory to the name of the Lord. We can sense the desperation in this prayer. He is saying - We are not praying because of anything to do with us, but in humble submission to everything about You. This is a great example of the desperate way we need to be praying for salvation, our children, for country. We bring nothing. God brings everything. Only He can change the course of our nation.

Verse 19 Daniel again cries for God to hear his prayer, to forgive the sins of the nation, and not only hear, but also to act. Please do not delay! For Your sake God, for Your city and people called by Your name. Daniel is praying that God’s name will once again be exalted among the nations by way of His people. How desperate do we pray for God’s name to be exalted in the nation again? Too often self is the focus of our prayers.

Verses 20-23 *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, 21yes, 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. 22And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. 23At 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.*  While Daniel is praying, confessing, crying out, presenting supplication, while he is speaking, Gabriel, the angel from Daniel 8, came swiftly. Gabriel reached Daniel about the time of the evening offering or about 3pm.

In verse 23, it says, “At the beginning of your supplication”. God answered before the prayer was finished. How wonderful is that? James 5:16 says The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Notice also that Gabriel was there in such a short time!

Gabriel tells Daniel he is greatly beloved! That would be so encouraging to hear from the mouth of the angel that stands continually before God. We seek that same familiarity with God!

Consider the matter and understand the vision. Gabriel is there to give understanding. When we lack wisdom, God gives graciously. The vision follows in verse 24. Gabriel will give understanding of the 70 weeks and how that translates into God restoring His people.

Verse 24 *“Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anointthe Most Holy.* It’s generally agreed that we should understand 70 weeks to be one day representing a year as in Ezekiel and that this represents 490 years(7 times 70) are determined meaning decreed by God for the holy people, the Jews and Jerusalem. This makes sense when we realize that Artaxerxes, sent Nehemiah with his credit card to rebuild Jerusalem between 460 BC and 440 BC. Fast forward 490 years and we are around 30 AD – Jesus Ministry - *To finish the transgression* or complete their sin. This they did when they rejected Jesus. *Make an end of sins* – or make an end to sin offering, which Jesus put an end to by His work on the Cross, but sin will only end in the final judgement – this strongly suggests that we are dealing with end times now. Colossians 2:14 says *having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross*. *Make reconciliation for iniquity* - 2 Corinthians 5:19 confirms this of Christ *that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.* ***Bring in everlasting righteousness*** 1 Corinthians 1:30 says of Christ *But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.* ***Seal up the vision and prophecy*** - Christ begins His ministry in Mark 1:15 - *and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.* Prophecy requires that it be accurately fulfilled or it is not of God. Jesus fulfilled it the time. *Anoint the most holy* - This jumps ahead and refers to the time as we approach the Millennial Kingdom and the reestablishing of a Holy Place of worship and recommencing sacrifices.

Daniel 9:25-26 *“Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. 26“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And 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.” Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem* - Cyrus gave the Jews permission to return and rebuild the temple, Darius renewed permission when the Jews were hindered by their enemies, and provided funding for finishing the temple. But it wasn’t until Artaxerxes that Jerusalem was fully restored. He decreed the restoration of its walls and the restoration of worship. This decree is dated at between 460 and 454 B.C. *Unto the Messiah the Prince* - Messiah is the Hebrew word for ‘anointed one’ or in Greek ‘the Christ’. This prophecy pinpoints when to look for the Messiah. 27 and 30 AD. Jesus is Baptized and the Holy Spirit descends during this time. *There shall be seven weeks* - This equals 49 years. It took the Jews 49 years to complete the rebuilding Jerusalem. According to “*On this point, Prideaux (Connexion, Vol. 1, p. 322) says: ‘In the fifteenth of Darius Nothus ended the first seven weeks of Daniel’s prophecy. For then the restoration of the church and state of the Jews in Jerusalem and Judea was fully finished, in that last act of reformation which is recorded in the thirteenth chapter of Nehemiah, from the twenty-third verse to the end of the chapter, just forty-nine years after it had been commenced by Ezra in the seventh year of Artaxerxes Longimanus.*” Remember that, according to Haggai and Zechariah, the Jews were slothful in the work and prioritized their own houses above the work for God. *and sixty-two weeks* or 434 more years. This is 69 weeks. Jesus is crucified. *Not for Himself* – Not for His sins, but ours. P*eople of the prince, destroy city and sanctuary* – This refers to Titus, who destroyed the city and temple in 70 A.D. So this was fulfilled in 70 A.D. by Titus. *With a flood* – meaning that Titus would completely overrun and overwhelm the city. *Desolations are determined* - The Jews will remain scattered and in desolations until the end times. We know about 69 weeks, but what of that last week?

Daniel 9:27 *27Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.* Though there is wide debate among theologians on this verse, and I mean wide debate – great learned names – we appear to have moved forward in time here to the end times. *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week*. So one week is 7 years. This is the Tribulation. He refers to the Antichrist, the little horn speaking blasphemous words. He will lead many, including Israel, astray. They will make a pact with him.  *But in the middle of the week –* after 3 ½ years, he will break his covenant with Israel and he *shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering –* meaning that Israel had resumed the old ways and were sacrificing again. *And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate –* the Antichrist will bring abominations to the temple, ruining all that they hold sacred. God will no longer be honored in the holy temple. *Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.* God permits, has decreed, the Tribulation and this abomination and desecration, pouring out suffering on the desolate, until second coming of Christ, which we see even today.

It is an incredible thing and truly a blessing to learn so much about the precision of these prophecies. Jesus’ arrival, perfect in time. His anointing, perfect in time. His crucifixion, perfect in time. God made promises to Daniel through prophecy and He kept them perfectly. He has made promises to us through His Word, He is keeping them perfectly. One day, we will all kneel and worship Him. We can believe that perfectly. Daniel has been fearless, focused, and faithful. May we continue to be so even during these dark and perilous, peculiar times.