All Things New: Hope Starts Here

DAY 4— GOD'S AMAZING ANSWER

"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" (Dan. 9:25).

Gabriel Comes with the Answer

In answer to Daniel's heartfelt prayer, the angel Gabriel came to finish his explanation of Daniel 8, especially the last part that the prophet found so distressing. As he listened to the angel, Daniel realized his people would return to Jerusalem as Jeremiah's prophecy had stated, but there was more, much more to this new prophecy than he realized.

The Hebrew word *mar'eh* (vision) in Daniel 9:23 refers specifically to the vision of 2,300 days (as it does in Dan. 8:15, 16, 26, 27). In other words, this new seventy-week time prophecy given in Daniel 9:24, 25 represents the first part of the longer time period of Daniel 8:14. That is, both time prophecies were to begin "from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem" (Dan. 9:25), a decree recorded in Ezra 7. Without going into too many details at this point, what is crystal clear is that Jesus, here called "Messiah the Prince," would come at the end of sixty-nine prophetic weeks or 483 years, the first seven weeks of which (or forty-nine years) were allotted "to restore and build Jerusalem." As Ezra indicates, there were actually three decrees—of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes (Ezra 6:14)—but only the third and final decree of Artaxerxes, issued in 457 BC, fulfilled all the stipulations of the prophecy. Counting 483 years from this date and remembering that from 1 BC to AD 1 is a single year (there is no year 0), brings us to AD 27, "the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar" (Luke 3:1).

Right on Time

Amazingly, it was in precisely this year, AD 27, that God anointed Jesus as the Messiah at His baptism "with the Holy Spirit and with power" (Acts 10:38). We know from the Dead Sea Scrolls that Jews were aware of this prophecy and believed it would soon be fulfilled. The New Testament confirms that it was fulfilled—right on time! Daniel need not have worried about what must have seemed to him a long time. God had everything in His hands, under His control. The city of Jerusalem and the temple would be rebuilt. The Messiah would come. And this year, 2027, marks the 2,000-year anniversary of the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

That's something to think about. Everything happened just as God had said and exactly on time. We can trust that God will answer our prayers too, not necessarily according to our timetable but according to His, because His timing is always perfect, whether the need is great or small. Let's pray together.

Prayer Time (30–45 Minutes)

Every prayer group has its own way of praying together. We invite you to spend the next 30–45 minutes in united prayer, following the leading of the Holy Spirit. We encourage short conversational prayers (1–3 sentences), allowing more people to participate and pray multiple times. Below are a few examples of praying through Scripture based on today's theme. You may also pray through other Bible passages and include additional prayer topics during your time together. For more prayer ideas, please refer to the Leader's Guide and the World Church Prayer Requests.

Praying God's Word — Daniel 9:25

"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."

"Know therefore and understand"

Lord, give us hearts that long to know and understand Your Word. As You opened the prophecy to Daniel, open the Scriptures to us by Your Spirit, that we may see how every detail of Your plan points to Jesus.

". . . until Messiah the Prince"

Father, we praise You because every prophecy points to Jesus, the Messiah, and every promise is fulfilled in Him. Thank You for sending Christ at exactly the right time to reveal Your love and bring salvation to the world. As we prepare for OneVoice27, unite us with one heart and one mission—to lift up Jesus so that every nation, tribe, language, and people may hear His voice. Strengthen our faith in Your Word and use us as faithful messengers to proclaim Christ to this generation.

"The street shall be built again . . . even in troublesome times"

Lord, You rebuild and restore even in troublesome times. Build again what lies in ruins, and through OneVoice27 this year, make us builders of Your kingdom who carry the gospel and lift up one voice—even when the times are hard—until Jesus comes.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.
Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.
Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.
Our Church: Pray for regional and world church needs (see separate sheet with requests).
OneVoice27: Pray for the OneVoice27 evangelistic emphasis culminating this September—that today's prayers become bold proclamation and that many will hear of Jesus before He comes.
Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.
Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Great Is Thy Faithfulness (#100); How Firm a Foundation (#509); My Faith Looks Up to Thee (#517)
Other Songs: Ancient Words; Faithful One; Cornerstone; Living Hope