

“The Skill to Understand” 3

Daniel 9:20-27

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I’m your friend and Bible teacher. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry.

Each week the Bible teaching broadcasts of *Heralds of Hope* circle the globe in English and 16 other major languages. Thousands tune in to hear biblical teaching and practical instruction on what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Our broadcasts air in the Turkish language several times each week. Here’s a response from listener from Turkey.

“I’m a construction worker and listen to radio a lot. I’m a religious person and try to do the duties of my religion. I found your program by accident, and it changed my point of view. I have learned a lot from your program about Christianity. It’s totally different then I thought. I have become a Christian and I listen regularly to your programs... Please keep me in your prayers...my work and life is hard.”

We praise God that He’s using us as a channel to reach people with the Gospel in so many different parts of the world.

For the past few weeks on *Hope for Today* we’ve been studying from Daniel chapter nine. Our study is titled “The Skill to Understand.” Probably, the most critical information in this section has to do with the meaning and timing of the *seventy weeks* or literally, *the seventy sevens*. We’ll continue exploring this in a few moments.

Right now, I will read the text, **Daniel 9:20 to 27**.

Scripture

So, let’s do a bit of review. We discovered that the *seventy weeks* are weeks of years. We’ve learned that a biblical year has 12 months of 30 days or 360 days. We just discovered that these *seventy* (weeks of) *years* began on March 14, 445 B.C. These discoveries enable us to calculate the chronology of this prophecy.

For the computation of this we’re indebted to Sir Robert Anderson. In his book, *The Coming Prince*, he sets forth the following. In order to find the end of the sixty-nine weeks (the seven weeks plus the sixty-two weeks), we must reduce them to days. Since we have sixty-nine weeks of seven years each, and each year has 360 days, the equation would be this.

$$69 \times 7 \times 360 = 173,880 \text{ days.}$$

Anderson lays out the calculations in his book (on pages 95 to 105) and makes the adjustments from the biblical calendar to our current calendar. Beginning with March 14, 445 B.C. this number of days brings us to April 6, 32 A.D. Here's his conclusion: April 6, 32 A.D. was the tenth of Nisan, the momentous day when our Lord, in fulfillment of Messianic prophecy, rode into Jerusalem on a donkey colt and presented Himself as the *Prince* and *King* of Israel. Some critics have sneered at Anderson's work, but they have never refuted his calculations.

Now, let's turn to Luke 19 and read the verses that record what we call "the Triumphal Entry." This is a rather lengthy portion, but I believe it's critical to our understanding of this as the fulfillment of Gabriel's prophecy. I'll begin reading at verse 29.

And it came to pass, when He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples, saying, "Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it here. And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing it?' thus you shall say to him, 'Because the Lord has need of it.'"

So those who were sent went their way and found it just as He had said to them. But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, "Why are you loosing the colt?" And they said, "The Lord has need of him."

Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road. Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: " 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!' Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the

ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

Jesus knew that this was the day he was to fulfil the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, so he sent the disciples to get the colt on which (according to Zechariah) He must appear as *King*. That the multitudes understood the significance of Jesus’ act is clear. They immediately begin to shout a quotation from Psalm 118:26; *“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.”*

Please recall that quite early in Jesus’ ministry, after the feeding of the five thousand, the crowd wanted to take Him by force and make Him King. Jesus did not accept that. But now, in response to the Pharisee’s complaint about the acclamation of the crowd, what does He say? *“If these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”* In other words, He is accepting their acclamation. He’s admitting that now is the time for this proclamation. And His tears and lament over the city are poignant proof.

Notice, Jesus specifically said *“If you had known, even you, especially in this your day...”* This specific day was on God’s calendar for His ancient, chosen, earthly people. And they missed it! How tragic are the words *“...you did not know the time of your visitation.”*

There’s more here we could look at, but we must move on. After telling Daniel about the *seventy sevens* to come, Gabriel outlines what will happen during this time period. So, let’s look at what he said in two parts.

First, the seventy weeks will be a time *to finish the transgression, make an end of sins, and make reconciliation for iniquity.*” Here we see the linking of three different words for sin with the clear indication that a conclusion of sorts is being reached. Evidently, during this time period of the *seventy sevens*, God will end Israel’s course of apostasy, sin, and the resulting judgment of their wandering the earth. **This is, indeed, what Daniel was praying about!** But the ultimate fulfilment of his prayers wouldn’t be realized until the final, seventieth week.

Notice that the text doesn’t say to *finish transgression*, but to *finish THE transgression!* This is a specific reference to Israel’s transgression. I remind you that this prophecy is about Israel and about Jerusalem. The root of the word, transgression, is *rebel*. Gabriel is talking about Israel’s rebellion against God. It was the root of all their other sins. Our text, and other Scriptures predict this rebellion will only end at the Second Coming of Christ!

And then, the seventy weeks will be a time to *make an end of sins*, plural. That is, the actions motivated by their rebellious hearts would not cease until their hearts are cleansed through their acceptance of Messiah's sacrifice on their behalf.

CLOSING

My friend, I hate to interrupt, but we're almost out of time for today's broadcast. Lord willing, we'll be back in one week to continue this study. If you'd like an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, just request it by its title, "The Skill to Understand."

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. That e-mail address is mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, "The Skill to Understand." I'd be happy to send one to you.

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as we continue our study, "The Skill to Understand" from closing verses of Daniel chapter nine. And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.