

## THE INTERLUDE OF DANIEL 9:26

### Daniel 9:26 (NKJV)

**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.

Note that the 7 weeks were immediately followed up by the 62 weeks, with no break. So, the 69-week period happened consecutively. There was no GAP. However, now after the 69 weeks culminating in the Triumphal Entry, there is a GAP.

**AFTER** the 69 weeks, some things would happen. They would happen after the 69 weeks, but before the 70<sup>th</sup> week. So, there is a GAP of an unspecified amount of time between the completion of the 69<sup>th</sup> week and the start of the 70<sup>th</sup> week.

69<sup>th</sup> weeks -----Gap----- 70<sup>th</sup> week  
(Israel) (Church Age) (Israel)

Daniel 9:26 lists 3 things that would happen outside the 69th week, but prior to the 70th week. In other words, these things will happen during the parenthetical period between the 69th and the 70th week of Daniel:

1. After the 69<sup>th</sup> week, Messiah will be cut off.
  2. The city of Jerusalem and the temple will be destroyed.
  3. To the end, there will be war desolations.
1. **Messiah shall be cut off** means He would be killed, referring to the crucifixion. Within just a few days of the completion of the 69<sup>th</sup> week at His triumphal entry, He was crucified. It is amazing how accurate this prophecy was, as the crucifixion happened just 4 days AFTER the completion of the 69<sup>th</sup> week.
  2. **Destroy the city and the sanctuary** refers to the second thing that would transpire in this GAP period. It refers to the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, which happened in **70 AD**. This was about **37 years after the Triumphal Entry** or the completion of the 69<sup>th</sup> week. This shows that there definitely is a GAP between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> week. The only question is how long is this gap?

Note that another “**prince who is to come**” is introduced in this verse. This is not Jesus Christ, but the Antichrist, as the content and context clearly show.

Note it clearly says that his people would be those who would destroy the city and the sanctuary. It was **the Romans** who destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD. This shows very clearly that the **Antichrist will be from the Roman Empire**, and I take it from chapter 7, that he will come out from the hub of nations that are closely connected with the Mediterranean basin, or what we generally refer to as Europe today (cf. Dan. 7:2).

**The end of it shall be with a flood** means that when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD, they overwhelmed it and completely destroyed it. The Jewish historian, Josephus, said that **one million, one hundred thousand** Jews were killed. To get all the gold they could salvage from the **temple, the Romans tore it apart block-by-block** and melted off all the gold.

3. **Till the end the war desolations are determined** more literally is translated, “*till the end shall be war; desolations are determined*”. The entire GAP period will be characterized by war and its desolations. Daniel pinpointed 2 specific events and then gave the general character of war that will characterize the remainder of the GAP period.

The period between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks is characterized by perpetual war and desolations, ***specifically in relation to Israel***. This reality sets the stage for the final, or 70<sup>th</sup>, week.

Daniel 9:26 indicates that what will characterize the “parenthesis time” in which we live will be war desolations for ISRAEL until the end of the INTERLUDE. In fact, it specifically says that these things are “determined” (cf. Lk. 21:24).

This GAP period will be a time when there is constant, ongoing war and destruction in relation to Jerusalem. This is certainly consistent with what is constantly broadcast in the news.

**Footnote:** During this GAP PERIOD, between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> week, **is the CHURCH AGE**. This is not mentioned in Daniel, because the Church was not revealed until the NT. It was **a mystery**, not revealed in the OT; but as you compare Scripture with Scripture, we see a major reason for the GAP between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> week is that God is building His Church during this time. The **GAP PERIOD closely aligns with the Church Age**,

in which God is taking a remnant out of the world from both Jews and Gentiles and building a forever-family of believers called the Church.

At this point, His program of focus is the CHURCH. When the Church is complete, God will again come back to the Jews and finish out His program with them by completing the 70<sup>th</sup> week. This seven-year period remains to be fulfilled to complete God's 70-week program for Israel.

Often in the prophetic Scriptures, we see a GAP (cf. Isa. 61:1-2; Lk. 4:16-21; 1 Pet. 1:11).

### **Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)**

6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; **[Gap]** And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The Jews did not see a gap between the suffering Messiah (cf. Isa. 53) and the reigning Messiah (cf. Zech. 14), and that is one reason they couldn't make sense of Jesus. They were only looking for a ruling and reigning Messiah. They didn't see a GAP!

Often in the prophetic Scriptures, the **next important thematic event** is addressed without consideration for what or how much time intervenes. In other words, often in the prophetic Scriptures, there are gaps.

There is certainly a large GAP between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel, and it essentially corresponds to what we know through the lens of the NT as the CHURCH AGE.

In the Last Days, Israel has come back to the land in spiritual blindness (cf. Rom. 11:25). The very day they became a nation on May 14 in 1948, they were attacked by 6 surrounding enemy nations (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Arabia). A state of perpetually declared war against Israel by her enemies has gone on ever since that time.

More and more, Israel will be desperate for peace and long for a break from the ongoing cycle of war. When the time is right – **“the man with the plan”** will step forward. This will be the Antichrist, and he will come forward with a 7-year plan. He deceptively comes as a man of peace (cf. Rev. 6:1-4). He will enter into a 7-year covenant with Israel, as seen in Daniel 9:27. Little will Israel realize that this is what the Bible calls a **“covenant with death”** (cf. Isa. 28:15-18, Zech. 11:15-17).

Thus the final week (the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel) will be inaugurated which will set the stage for the finale which will usher in the Second Coming of Christ and His kingdom!