



The Book of Daniel: No Compromise

Daniel 9:20-26(a)

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As we study this section of Daniel 9, it reveals something extraordinary: God gave us a precise timetable for the arrival of the Messiah, calculated down to the very day.

The prophecy speaks of seventy weeks of years, a period of 490 years determined for Israel and Jerusalem. What makes this remarkable is that 483 of those years would lead directly to the moment Jesus rode into Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday.

This wasn't just a coincidental timing. The prophecy stated that from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince would be exactly seven weeks plus sixty-two weeks of years. When we understand that this day coincided with Lamb Selection Day, when Jewish families would choose their Passover lambs, the symbolism becomes breathtaking.

Jesus, born in Bethlehem among the Passover flocks, announced to shepherds who tended those very lambs, entered Jerusalem on the exact day the lambs were brought to the temple. He went directly to the temple, just as the lambs did. Over the following days, He was examined by the religious leaders who could find no fault in Him, just as the Passover lambs were inspected for blemishes. The tragedy is that the spiritual leaders of Jerusalem missed it entirely, even though the prophecy was crystal clear.

But the beauty is that a small group did select Him as their Lamb. They took Him into their home in Bethany that week, building an intimate relationship before His sacrifice. Today, we still face Lamb Selection Day. The question remains: will we choose Jesus as our Passover Lamb, taking Him into the home of our hearts?

Key Takeaways:

1. God's Precise Timing

- The prophecy in Daniel 9 gave a specific 483-year countdown to Messiah's arrival
- Jesus entered Jerusalem on the exact day foretold—Lamb Selection Day
- God's plan was established before the foundation of the world

2. The Passover Connection

- Families selected their Passover lamb on the 10th day of the first month
- They kept it in their homes for a week, becoming attached to it
- Jesus entered Jerusalem on this same day and lodged with His disciples and friends

3. Jesus as the Perfect Lamb

- Born in Bethlehem among the Passover flocks
- Examined by religious leaders and found without spot or blemish
- Cut off "but not for Himself"—sacrificed for our sins

4. We Are Greatly Beloved

- Daniel was told he was "greatly beloved"—highly esteemed, precious to God
- Jesus endured the cross "for the joy set before Him"—we are that joy
- Every day is still Lamb Selection Day for us

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: Greatly Beloved

Reading: Daniel 9:20-23

Devotional: When Gabriel appeared to Daniel, he spoke four powerful words: "**You are greatly beloved.**" These weren't empty compliments but a declaration of Daniel's standing before God—*highly esteemed, precious, desirable*. Despite decades of captivity and uncertainty, Daniel's faithfulness had captured God's heart. Today, this same God looks at you with identical affection. You are not merely tolerated or accepted; **you** are greatly beloved. Your circumstances don't diminish your value. Your past doesn't disqualify you from God's pleasure. Like Daniel, remain faithful regardless of your situation. God sees you, knows you, and treasures you beyond measure.

Reflection: In what areas of life do you struggle to believe you are "greatly beloved" by God? How might your daily choices change if you truly embraced this truth?

Day 2: The Prophetic Timeline

Reading: Daniel 9:24-27

Devotional: God doesn't operate haphazardly. The precise prophecy given to Daniel—490 years calculated to the day—reveals a God who orchestrates history with intentional love. He announced the Messiah's arrival centuries in advance, leaving no room for accident or coincidence. This same God has a plan for your life, worked out before the foundation of the world. Nothing catches Him by surprise. The challenges you face today were seen and prepared for in eternity past. Just as Jesus arrived exactly when prophesied, God's promises to you will be fulfilled in His perfect timing. Trust the One who numbers your days and orders your steps.

Reflection: What promise from God are you waiting to see fulfilled? How does understanding God's precise timing in history encourage your faith today?

Day 3: Lamb Selection Day

Reading: Exodus 12:1-13; John 1:29-36

Devotional: On the tenth day of the first month, Jewish families selected their Passover lamb—unblemished, perfect, brought into their homes to be examined and cherished before sacrifice. On that same calendar day centuries later, Jesus entered Jerusalem as the ultimate Passover Lamb. Every day remains Lamb Selection Day for us. Will you choose Jesus as your personal sacrifice? Will you bring Him into the home of your heart, examine His character, and grow attached to Him? The intimacy those disciples experienced during Passion Week—lodging with Jesus, walking with Him, knowing Him deeply—remains available to you. Choose the Lamb. Make Him yours through daily relationship, not distant religion.

Reflection: Have you truly "selected" Jesus as your personal Lamb, or is He merely a religious concept? What would it look like to bring Him more fully into your daily life?

Day 4: Cut Off, But Not for Himself

Reading: Isaiah 53:1-12

Devotional: "He was cut off, but not for Himself." These words from Daniel's prophecy echo through Isaiah's vivid description of the suffering servant. Jesus didn't die for His own sins—He had none. He was wounded for **your** transgressions, bruised for **your** iniquities. The chastisement that brought you peace fell upon Him. Every stripe He bore purchased your healing. This wasn't divine child abuse but divine love—the Father and Son in perfect agreement that **you** were worth the cost. Before creation began, they looked at the price of redemption and said, "They're worth it." You are worth the blood of God. Let that truth transform how you see yourself and live your life.

Reflection: How does knowing Jesus was "cut off, but not for Himself" change your understanding of your worth? What sacrifice is God calling you to make for others?

Day 5: Choose This Day

Reading: Joshua 24:14-15; Hebrews 12:1-2

Devotional: Joshua's challenge to Israel echoes across the centuries: "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve." Every morning presents a fresh Lamb Selection Day. Will you choose Jesus again today? Will you fix your eyes on Him, the author and finisher of your faith, who for the joy set before Him—**you**—endured the cross? He didn't just die and stay dead; He rose and lives forevermore, offering you eternal life. The choice remains yours. Not a one-time decision made years ago, but a daily recommitment to serve the Lord. ***As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*** Make that declaration your own today and every day forward.

Reflection: What competing loyalties tempt you away from wholehearted devotion to Jesus? How will you actively choose Him today in practical ways?

Closing Reflection: *Lord Jesus, thank You for being the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. Help me grasp how greatly beloved I am, to trust Your perfect timing, to choose You daily as my personal Savior, to live in the freedom Your sacrifice purchased, and to serve You wholeheartedly. May this reflection on the Holy Week deepen my intimacy with You like never before. In Your precious name, Amen.*

Practical Applications:

Choose at least one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Daily Reflection

- Read one Gospel account of Holy Week each day (Matthew 21-28, Mark 11-16, Luke 19-24, or John 12-21)
- Journal about what stands out to you
- Share insights with one close to you

Option 2: Intimate Time with Jesus

- Set aside 15-30 minutes each day to simply be with Jesus in prayer
- Thank Him for being **your** Passover Lamb
- Ask Him to reveal areas where you need His redemption

Option 3: Memorization

- Memorize Isaiah 53:5-6 or 1 Peter 1:18-19
- Meditate on what these verses mean personally for you

Option 4: Service

- Jesus came as a servant-king
- Identify one way to serve someone this week in Jesus' name
- Reflect on how serving others connects to Christ's sacrifice

Key Verses to Remember

- **Daniel 9:24-26** - The prophecy of Messiah's timing and mission
 - **Isaiah 53:5** - "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."
 - **1 Peter 1:18-19** - "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."
 - **Hebrews 12:2** - "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross."
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Small Group Guide: Lamb Selection Day

Discussion Questions:

- How does understanding the precise fulfillment of Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy strengthen your faith in God's sovereignty over history and your personal life?
- In what ways might the spiritual leaders of Jerusalem have missed Messiah's arrival despite having the prophecies, and how can we avoid similar spiritual blindness today?
- What does it mean that Daniel was called 'greatly beloved' by God, and how does knowing God sees *you* the same way impact your daily walk with Him?
- How does the connection between Jesus and the Passover lambs deepen your understanding of why He had to die on that specific day?
- What significance do you find in the fact that the shepherds watching over the Passover lambs were the same ones who received the announcement of Jesus' birth?
- Peter wrote that we were redeemed not with silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ. How does this truth change how you value your salvation?
- In his sermon, Pastor Brad mentioned that God knew the cost of creation before saying 'Let there be light.' How does this perspective on God's foreknowledge affect your view of His love for you?
- What does it mean practically to 'choose Jesus as your Lamb' every day, and what would that look like in your current circumstances?
- Isaiah 53 prophesied that Messiah would be 'cut off, but not for Himself.' How does reflecting on Christ's substitutionary sacrifice impact your response to His love?

- How can commemorating Holy Week help you remember the true cost of your redemption and prevent you from taking Christ's sacrifice for granted?

Further Discussion Questions:

- What strikes you most about the precision of the Daniel 9 prophecy? How does this level of detail affect your confidence in Scripture?
- The religious leaders of Jesus' day had access to these prophecies but still missed His arrival. What caused them to miss it? What can we learn from their mistake?
- Read Isaiah 53:3-6 together. How does this passage complement what we learned from Daniel 9? What specific details about Messiah's mission are revealed?
- In his sermon, Pastor Brad described Jesus as seeing us as *"greatly beloved—highly esteemed, desirable, precious."* How does it feel to hear that God sees you this way? Does this change how you view yourself or your relationship with God?
- Imagine being Mary, Martha, Lazarus, or one of the disciples during that week Jesus lodged with them. What would it have been like to have that intimate time with Jesus, knowing (in hindsight) what was coming?
- The Passover families became attached to their lamb before sacrificing it, making the sacrifice more meaningful and painful. How does understanding this deepen your appreciation for Christ's sacrifice?

- Pastor Brad stated, "Every day is Lamb Selection Day." What does it practically mean to "choose Jesus as your Lamb" daily? How can we make this more than just a nice phrase?
- Peter wrote that we should "gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace" (1 Peter 1:13). What distractions or concerns keep you from resting fully in God's grace?
- Pastor Brad encouraged us to be contemplative throughout Holy Week. What specific practices could you adopt this week to treasure Christ more intimately? (Examples: daily Scripture reading focused on the Passion week, journaling, extended prayer time, fasting from distractions)

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