

sent for iniquity. That is the first clear statement in the book of desolation. There is one other reference in Jer. 29:10: "This saith the Lord, after 70 yrs. are accomplished at Babylon, I will visit you and perform my good word toward you in causing you to return to this place." So when this ch. begins in Dan. 9, it was in the first yr. Daniel end of the after the/Babylonian power. In the first year of Darius, the son of Ahasuares of the seed of the Medes who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans by Cyrus the conqueror. At that time, Daniel realized that nearly 70 yrs. had passed since he himself had been taken prisoner and carried away to Babylon. But just when would the desolation of Jerusalem have started? Just when would these nations have started to serve the King of Babylon? The King of Babylon had already been defeated by the Persians. How soon would the people of Israel go back?

He did not assume, God has promised it, God has said he's going to fulfill it; let's just rest in God's promises and be content. That's not his prayer. His prayer is O Lord you've sent these terrible things upon us because we deserve them. We have sinned against you. We have done what is wrong. You have given a promise, and we pray, O Lord you will enable us to be such that you can give us these things you have spoken of; that you will forgive our iniquity, that you will carry out these things.

So he prayed this great prayer to the Lord and the Lord sent Gabriel to him with the answer. The answer must have been very discouraging to him. Instead of saying the 70 yrs. are over, the captivity is over, you are free! He said, Seventy & weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to bring in everlasting righteousness, etc. It must have been a disappointment to him.

There are two clear facts about the purposes that are given in v. 24. The first -- the third of these purposes is to make atone- weeks of years! This latter statement, I think, we can flatly contradict.