

## **Seventy Times Seven**

Daniel 9

by Don Falkos

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Shortly after the Medo-Persian take-over of Babylon, Daniel read in the book of Jeremiah that Jerusalem was to lie desolate for seventy years. It had been almost fifty years since Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed Jerusalem. Daniel turned to the Lord in prayer.

"O Lord, great and awesome God, you have always kept your covenant promises, while your people have repeatedly rebelled and turned away from you. We have been scattered, and we now live in shame. We suffer the consequences of our actions just as you warned us through the prophets. O Lord, please smile again on your people, your sanctuary, and your city, Jerusalem. We don't deserve your help, but please exercise your mercy."

Suddenly the angel Gabriel appeared saying, "Listen and understand! Not seventy years, but seventy times seven years has been allotted to your people for putting an end to their sin and rebellion, for forgiving others, for exercising justice, and for honoring the Holy of Holies. Once your people are allowed to return, seven times seven years will elapse before a new high priest comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt and survive for sixty-two times seven years, but these will be troubled times. Then the high priest will be killed when a leader arises who will destroy the city and desecrate the Temple. He will make a strong seven-year covenant with the people. For half that time he will stop all sacrifices to the Lord. And he will set up the desolating abomination in the Temple. Then his fate will be poured out on him."