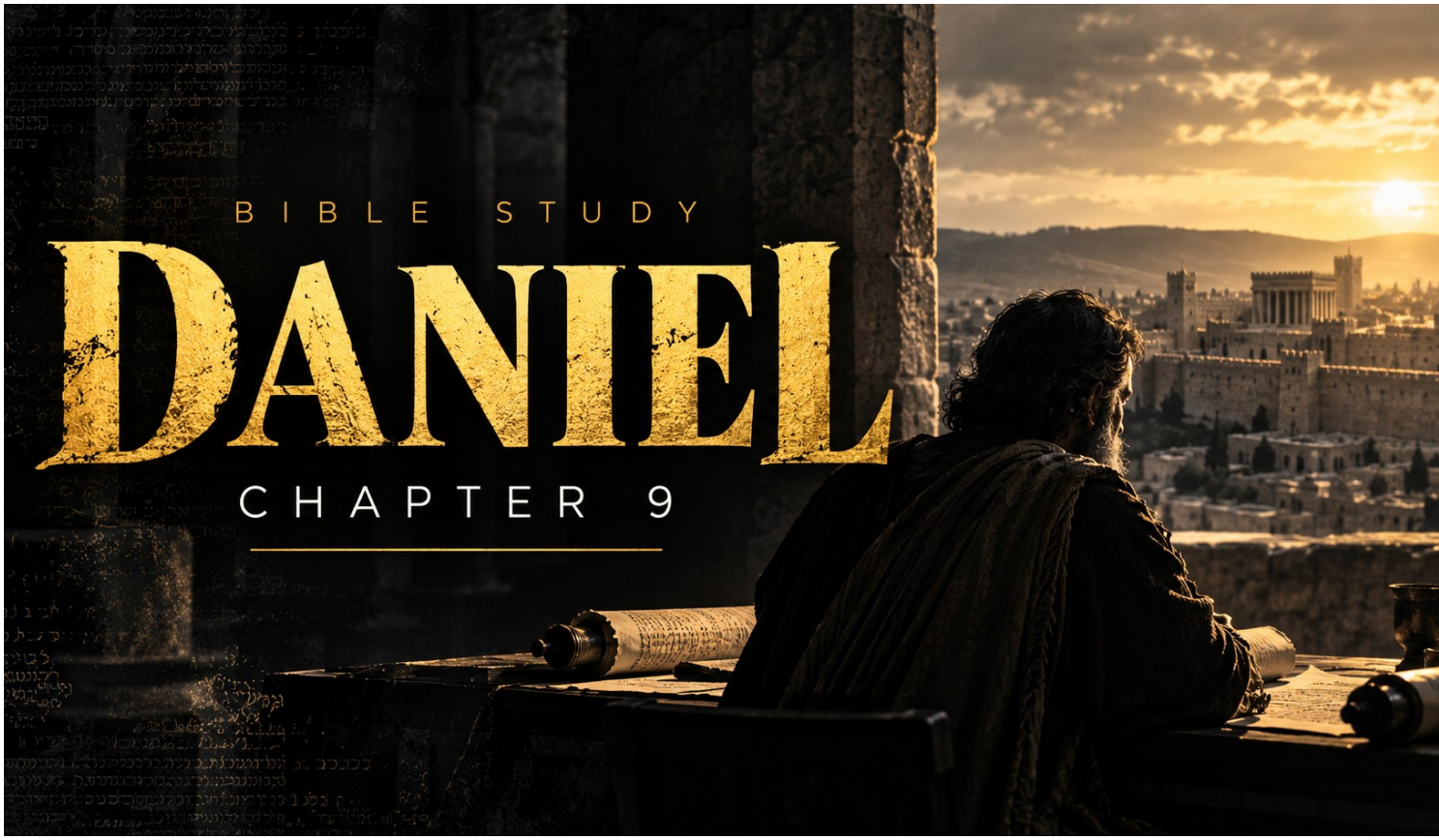
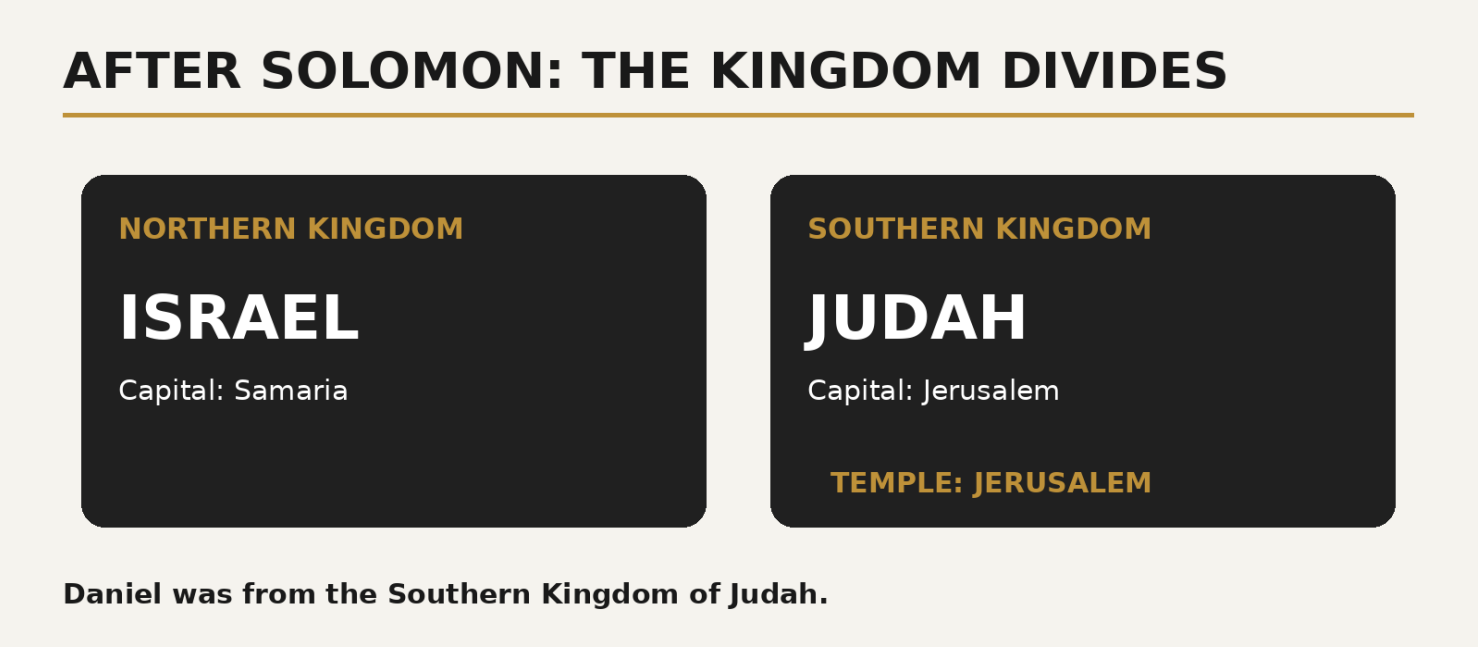


STUDENT GUIDE | DANIEL 9:24-27

Designed so you can follow the study even if you were unable to attend in person.

1. Start With the Historical Setting

Daniel 9 makes much more sense when we remember where Daniel came from and what had happened to Jerusalem.



What was the Northern Kingdom called? Israel.

What was its capital? Samaria.

What was the Southern Kingdom called? Judah.

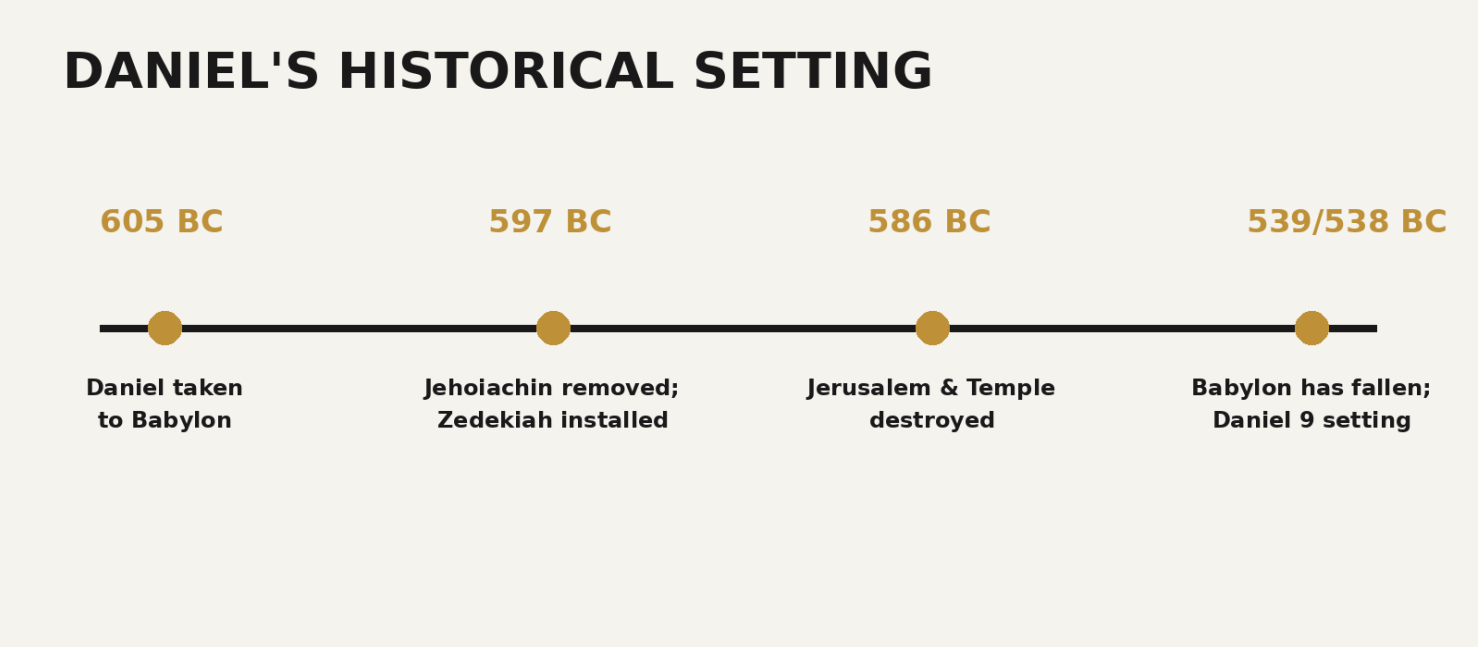
What was its capital? Jerusalem.

Which kingdom had the Temple? The Southern Kingdom. The Temple was in Jerusalem.

REMEMBER

Daniel was part of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Jerusalem, the Temple, and the fate of Daniel's people are central to Daniel 9.

A Short Timeline



- 605 BC - Babylon invades Jerusalem. Daniel and other young nobles are taken to Babylon.
- 597 BC - Nebuchadnezzar returns, removes Jehoiachin, and installs Zedekiah.
- 586 BC - After Zedekiah rebels, Babylon destroys Jerusalem and the Temple. The kingdom of Judah comes to an end.
- 539/538 BC - Babylon has fallen to the Medo-Persian Empire. This is the setting of Daniel 9.

2. Daniel Is Reading Jeremiah

> **Daniel 9:1-2** *Daniel understands from Jeremiah that the desolations of Jerusalem were to last seventy years.*

Daniel realizes that the seventy years are nearing their end. That is what leads into his prayer in Daniel 9. Gabriel's answer will take Daniel from the seventy years he has been thinking about to a new period described as seventy sevens.

BIG CONNECTION
Daniel is thinking about 70 years of exile. Gabriel answers with 70 sevens.

3. Read Daniel 9:24-27

Before choosing an interpretation, read the whole paragraph straight through. Then slow down and observe what the text actually says.

Daniel 9:24 - What Will God Accomplish?

> **Daniel 9:24** *"Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place."*

Who are Daniel's people? The Jewish people.

What is his holy city? Jerusalem.

During these seventy sevens, verse 24 says God will:

- Finish transgression
- Put an end to sin
- Atone for iniquity
- Bring in everlasting righteousness
- Seal both vision and prophet - bring the vision to completion
- Anoint a most holy place

ASK THE QUESTION
Who can accomplish what verse 24 describes? Keep that question in mind as you continue reading.

4. What Are the Seventy Weeks?

The Hebrew expression translated "seventy weeks" literally means "seventy sevens." That gives us 70 groups of 7, or 490.

70 sevens	70 x 7
Total	490
Common understanding	Sevens of years = 490 years

Because Daniel has been talking about Jeremiah's seventy years, and because Israel was familiar with seven-year Sabbath cycles, these sevens are generally understood as sevens of years.

There are two common ways of thinking about the 490:

- Calendar approach - the prophecy represents 490 actual years that can be counted.
- Schematic approach - the 70 sevens give God's plan a biblical pattern built around 7 and 70 without requiring every part to function as an exact calendar calculation.

MAIN IDEA
Seven is often associated with completeness or a completed cycle in Scripture. The seventy sevens emphasize the fullness of the time God has determined. Before trying to solve every date, remember: God has determined the time for His people, Jerusalem, sin, restoration, and what He is going to

accomplish.

5. Daniel 9:25 - Seven Weeks + Sixty-Two Weeks

> **Daniel 9:25** *"Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. And for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time."*

The movement of the verse is straightforward:

- The word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.
- Jerusalem is rebuilt during troubled times.
- There are 7 weeks plus 62 weeks leading to the coming of an anointed one.

7 WEEKS + 62 WEEKS = 69 WEEKS



6. Daniel 9:26 - The Anointed One Is Cut Off

> **Daniel 9:26a** *"And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing."*

After the seven weeks and the sixty-two weeks have been accounted for - 69 weeks total - Daniel says an anointed one will be cut off.

IMPORTANT INTERPRETIVE QUESTION

If the anointed one is cut off after the 69 weeks, where does that event belong in relation to the 70th week? That is something we have to decide, because the answer changes how we understand the rest of the prophecy.

The City and the Sanctuary

> **Daniel 9:26b** *"And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed."*

What city? Jerusalem.

What sanctuary? The Temple.

7. Daniel 9:27 - Who Is the "He"?

> **Daniel 9:27** *"And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."*

THE KEY QUESTION

Who is the "he" in verse 27? The way you identify this person has a major effect on how you understand the 70th week.

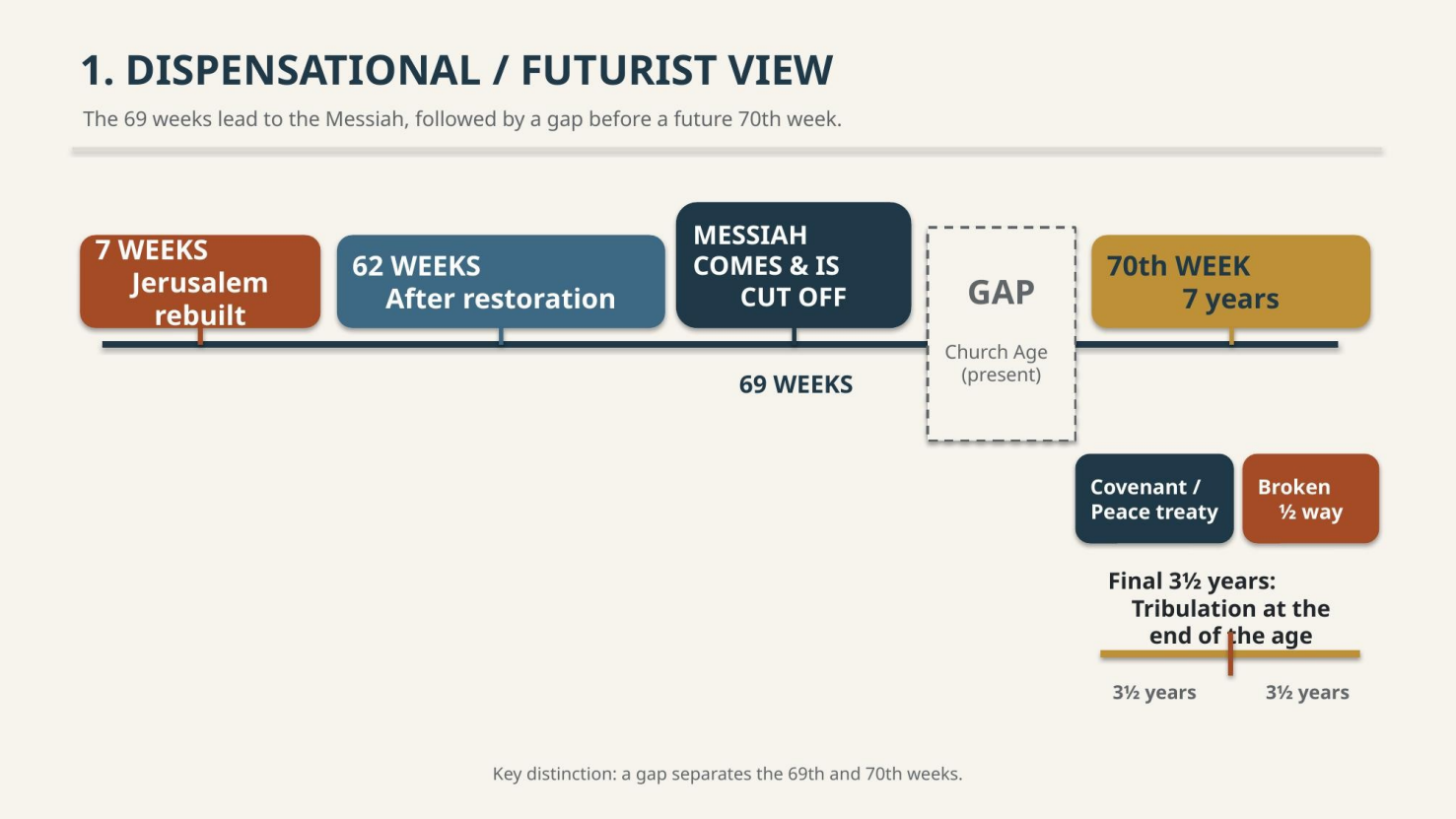
8. Two Major Ways to Read the Passage

These are not the only interpretations that have been proposed, but they are the two views considered in this study. Read both as attempts to account for the details of Daniel 9:24-27.

View 1: Dispensational / Futurist

This view separates the 69th and 70th weeks and places the final week in the future.

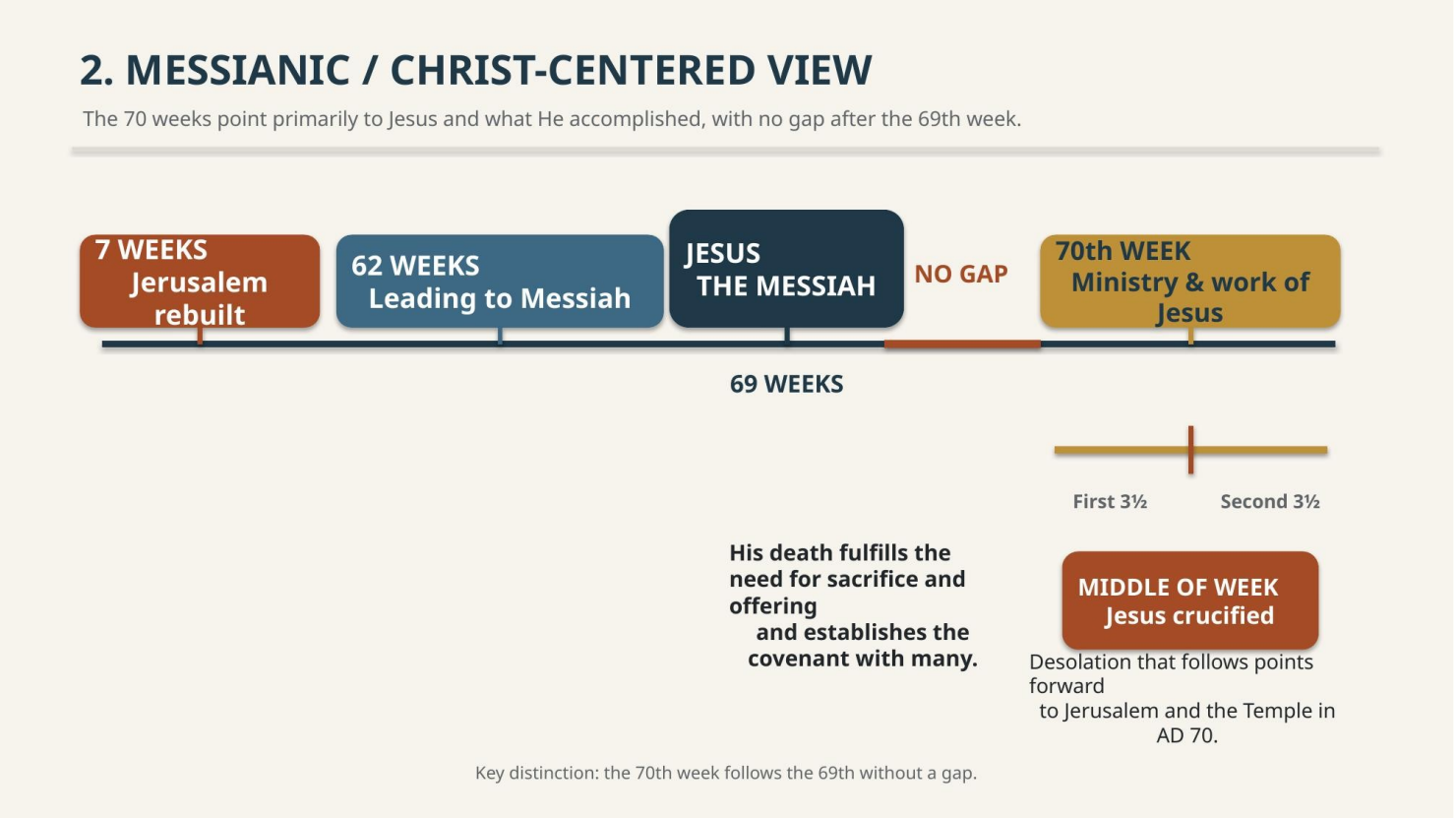
- The first seven weeks are the rebuilding of Jerusalem.
- Then there are 62 weeks after the restoration.
- After the 62 weeks, the Messiah comes and is cut off.
- There is a gap between the 69th and 70th weeks that continues through the present Church Age.
- The 70th week begins with the Antichrist making a seven-year peace treaty with Israel.
- Halfway through, he breaks the treaty, leading to the final 3 1/2 years of tribulation at the end of the age.



View 2: Messianic / Christ-Centered

This view reads the 70 weeks as pointing primarily to Jesus and what He accomplished, with no gap between the 69th and 70th weeks.

- The first seven weeks are the rebuilding of Jerusalem.
- Then there are 62 weeks leading up to the coming of the Messiah.
- The 69 weeks lead to the coming of Jesus as the Messiah.
- There is no gap between the 69th and 70th weeks.
- The 70th week is about the ministry and work of Jesus, not a future Antichrist.
- In the middle of the 70th week, Jesus is crucified.
- His death puts an end to the need for sacrifice and offering because He becomes the final sacrifice for sin.
- Jesus establishes the covenant with many through His death.
- The destruction and desolation that follow point forward to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in AD 70.



9. Compare the Two Views

Question	Dispensational / Futurist	Messianic / Christ-Centered
Gap after 69 weeks?	Yes	No
Who is central in the 70th week?	Future Antichrist	Jesus the Messiah
Who is the "he" of v.27?	Antichrist	Jesus
How is the final week understood?	Future seven-year period	Connected to Jesus' ministry and work

10. So What Do We Do With This?

The goal is to figure out what Daniel 9 is actually saying without imposing something on the text that is not there. That is not always easy.

It is okay to walk away undecided. Read the passage. Then read it again. Pay attention to what the text actually says. Consider what the story of Daniel and the story of the Bible as a whole are communicating and what they are pointing to.

KEEP ASKING

Questions for Further Study

1. What parts of Daniel 9:24-27 are clear before we begin interpreting?
2. Who is the "anointed one" in verses 25-26?
3. Does the text itself require a gap between the 69th and 70th weeks?
4. Who is the most natural antecedent of "he" in verse 27?
5. How do the six accomplishments in verse 24 shape your reading of the prophecy?
6. How does the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple fit into the flow of verses 26-27?

DANIEL 9 | PART B

Read slowly. Observe carefully. Let the text lead the interpretation.