



The seventy weeks



The seventy weeks are the framework of the prophecy relating to Israel. Each week stands for seven years (Leviticus 25:8):

- 7 weeks of 7 years from the command to build Jerusalem to the rebuilding under Nehemiah (v25).
- 62 weeks of 7 years until the coming of the Lord Jesus as Messiah (v25).
- After the 69th week of 7 years the Messiah will be killed and later Jerusalem will be destroyed by the Romans (v26). God then interrupted the prophetic history of Israel and founded the church, which is not a subject of prophecy. We as Christians now are so to speak in a "prophetic gap".
- The 70th week of 7 years will start after the rapture and comprises the time of tribulation (v27).



37. What does Daniel mean when he says that God should act "for His own sake" (v19)?
38. Why is Daniel called "greatly beloved" (v23)?



The time of tribulation starts after the rapture of the Christians, lasts seven years and is in two parts. It begins with a covenant of the greater part of the Jewish people and the new Roman Empire (some Jews will repent and make up the believing remnant). After 3 ½ years the king of the Roman Empire will forbid the Jewish sacrifices and will, in connection with the Antichrist, introduce abominable idolatry. God will then send a destroyer (the „Assyrian“) as judgment to Israel. – All this and even more is contained in verse 27!



God especially loves those who seek HIS honour.



37. He continues: "Your city and your people are called by your name." (Isaiah 43:6-7). He wants to again have a people for His glory, not one that dishonours Him through their sins. – Have you ever thought about it that every public sin of a Christian dishonours God, and that this dishonour remains until he openly repents? 38. We know from earlier chapters that Daniel is generally faithful and god-fearing. In the context of this chapter God rejoices that Daniel displays a similar feeling to that of God with regard to the weight of the guilt of the people, identifies himself with the sins of the people and repents, so that God's rights are re-established.