

CHAPTER FOUR

Growing in "skill and understanding"

As we begin our study of this chapter, it should be noted that God showed Daniel, through the angel Gabriel, that the greatest portion of this prophecy would be fulfilled in the 70th week, i.e. the last 7 years of the time frame given to him by Gabriel. That this prophecy would focus on "Messiah the prince (ruler), the Lord of glory; His rejection and crucifixion ("cutting off" in the middle of the 70th week Dan.9:26; Acts 2:23; Acts 3:13-15; Acts 4:10; acts 7:51-52) by His own people (John 1:11); and the "wrath" that would be rained down on them and leave them, the temple and the city desolate (Dan.9:26-27; Zeph. 3; Matt.7:23; Matt.24:34-38; 1 Thess.5:1-3; 2 Thess.2:10-12; Heb.10:26-31; 2 Peter 3:10-12).

Daniel 9:24

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and TO BRING IN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.(emphasis added)

We are now ready to examine in much detail the fourth phrase from Daniel 9:2:

TO BRING IN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS

Once again, as in the case of the 2nd and 3rd phrases, this phrase has to do with the **GOODNESS OF GOD**. This goodness is seen in the work of Christ in bringing everlasting righteousness to the people.

The English word righteousness in Daniel 9:24 comes from the word: 𐤒𐤁𐤓 tsedeq {tseh'-dek} (Strong's 6664) which is from the verb tsadaq {tsaw-dak'} Strong's 6663); which means: 1b) (Niph) to be put/made right, be justified 1c) (Piel) to justify, make to appear righteous, make someone righteous. Therefore, the noun tsedeq can be understood to mean: Righteousness in name of Messianic King. Thus, righteousness (as vindicated), justification (in controversy), deliverance, victory, prosperity 1f1) of God as covenant-keeping in redemption

No prophecy of God should cause His people to rejoice any more than to know that the Messiah, the anointed of God, would bring in everlasting righteousness to a people who are nothing but sinners, a stiff necked and rebellious people. But this is just what our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ did by His virgin birth, His perfect, holy life, His vicarious death,

His bodily resurrection from the grave, His ascension to the Holiest of Holies, the Ancient of Days" (Daniel 7:13-14), and His sending of the Holy Spirit.

Jeremiah prophesied of this great event in this manner:

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David **a righteous Branch**, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this, his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**. [Jer 23:5]

In those days, and at that time, will I cause the **Branch of righteousness** to grow up unto David; and **He shall execute judgment and righteousness** in the land. [Jer 33:15]

In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this [is the name] wherewith she shall be called, **YHWH our righteousness**. [Jer 33:16]

YHWH has brought forth our **righteousness**: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of YHWH our God. [Jer 51:10, emphasis added]

Also, as noted below, other prophets spoke of this great event as well:

They shall come, and shall declare **his righteousness** unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done [this]. [Ps 22:31]

He shall receive the blessing from YHWH, and **righteousness** from the God of his salvation. [Ps 24:5]

Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set *us* in the way of his steps. [Ps 35:13]

For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant of them shall return: the destruction decreed shall overflow with righteousness. [Isaiah 10:22]

YHWH is exalted; for he dwells on high: he hath filled Zion with judgment and **righteousness**. [Isa 33:5]

I YHWH have called thee in, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Nations; [Isa 42:6]

My **righteousness** *is* near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust. 6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like

smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my **righteousness** shall not be abolished. Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart *is* my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings. For the moth shall eat them up like a garment and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my **righteousness** shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation. [Isa 51:5, emphasis added]

It would seem that a most prominent feature of the kingdom of God is **His righteousness** which would be brought in by **the King of Righteousness**, our Lord Jesus Christ. Note how this is set forth in the New Testament:

And Jesus answering said unto him, suffer *it to be* so now: for thus it becomes us **TO FULFIL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS** Then he suffered him. [Mt 3:15]

Blessed *are* they which do HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER **RIGHTEOUSNESS**: for they shall be filled. [Mt 5:6]

But SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND **HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS**; and all these things shall be added unto you. [Mt 6:33, emphasis added]

Surely it is a very vital part of God's kingdom for the apostle Paul states:

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. [Ro.14:17, emphasis added]

We are to seek the kingdom and its **righteousness** because without this **perfect righteousness** we cannot be justified before a holy God. God demands a **perfect righteousness** before He will allow a sinner into His presence, and **this perfect righteousness** comes from and can only be found **IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**. This is set forth in careful detail in Romans 3:21-26, (emphasis added):

But now the **RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**, without the law manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the **RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD** *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus 25 Whom God has set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in His blood to declare **HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS** for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare at this time **HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS** that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

In the above passage, we are told that God has declared **His righteousness**, that He has set it forth by the redemption in Christ Jesus; and that He, a God offended because of

sins, can yet be just when He justifies a believing sinner who has trusted his life into the hands of the Divine Substitute, the Lord Jesus Christ.

From Daniel's prophecy it is obvious that a work **of righteousness** was to be done, and **NOW HAS BEEN DONE**. Let the New Testament speak:

For therein is the **righteousness** of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. [Ro 1:17]

But to him that works not, but believes on him that justifies the ungodly, **his faith is counted for righteousness**. [Ro 4:5]

Even as David also describes the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputes **righteousness** without works, [Ro 4:6]

And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the **righteousness of the faith** which *he had yet* being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that **righteousness** might be imputed unto them also: [Ro 4:11]

For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the **righteousness of faith**. [Ro 4:13]

And therefore it was imputed to him for **righteousness**. [Ro 4:22]

For if by one man's (Adam's) offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of **righteousness** shall reign in *resurrection* life by one, Jesus Christ. [Ro 5:17]

Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the **righteousness of one**, *the gift came* upon all men unto justification of life. [Ro 5:18]

That as sin has reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through **righteousness unto eternal life** by Jesus Christ our Lord. [Ro 5:21]

For he will finish the work, and cut *it* short in **righteousness** because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. [Ro 9:28]

What shall we say then? That the Nations/Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to **righteousness**, even the **righteousness which is of faith**. [Ro 9:30]

For Christ ends the law through **righteousness** to every one that believes. [Ro 10:4]

For with the heart man believes unto **righteousness**; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. [Ro 10:10]

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and **righteousness**, and sanctification, and redemption: [1Co 1:30]

Awake to **righteousness**, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak *this* to your shame. [1Co 15:34]

For he has made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the **righteousness** of God in him. [2Co 5:21]

As it is written, He has dispersed abroad; he has given to the poor: his **righteousness** remains for ever. [2Co 9:9]

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created *by resurrection* in **righteousness** and true holiness. [Eph 4:24]

(For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and **righteousness** and truth) [Eph 5:9]

Being filled with the fruits of **righteousness**, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God. [Php 1:11]

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the **righteousness** which is of God by faith: [Php 3:9]

All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for **instruction in righteousness**: [2Ti 3:16]

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of **righteousness**, which the Lord, *the righteous judge*, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. [2Ti 4:8]

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto **righteousness** by whose stripes ye were healed. [1Pe 2:24]

Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the **righteousness** of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: [2Pe 1:1]

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for **new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwells righteousness**. [2Pe 3:13]

And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the **righteousness** of saints. [Re 19:8]

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *is* called Faithful and True, and in **righteousness** he does judge and make war. [Re 19:11]

AND TO SEAL UP THE VISION AND PROPHECY

We are now ready for our examination of the phrase "and to seal up the vision and prophecy". We want to pay particular attention to the meaning of this phrase. It appears that this phrase, if rightly understood, sheds much **light** upon many prophecies concerning the house of Judah (the Jews).

Again, we should keep in mind that this prophecy deals with both the **GOODNESS** and **SEVERITY** of God. This phrase deals with the severity of God upon the house of Judah, i.e. the Jewish nation. In comparing this phrase with the prophecy in Isaiah 6:9-16 where Isaiah speaks "the word...concerning the house of Judah and Jerusalem" [Is.2:1], we can see because of the rebellion that God would "seal up the vision and prophecy" to the house of Judah, i.e. the Jewish nation as part of the judgmental punishment they would bring upon themselves:

"And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed." (Isa 6:9-10)

The prophet also brings this out in another prophecy:

"For the LORD has poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered. "**And the vision** of all is become unto you as the words of a book that **is sealed**, which *men* deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for **it is sealed**:" (Isa 29:10-11, emphasis added)

These words of Isaiah along with the words spoken by Gabriel to Daniel gives us a remarkably accurate description of the spiritual blindness [Ro. 11:26] of certain of the house of Judah, i.e. the rulers and the people of the Jews, in Christ's time of ministry and following. Though they read the prophets, at least every Sabbath day; they missed the time of their visitation [Lu 19:44].

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." (Joh 5:39-40)

"For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath day, they have fulfilled *them* in condemning *him*." (Ac 13:27)

Please note, that the vision and prophecy would be sealed up, that is that the vision (eye) and prophet (word-ear) would be closed up, so that seeing they would not see and hearing they would not hear.

“And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but **understand not**; and see ye indeed, but **perceive not**. Make the heart of this people fat, and **make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed**. Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, And the LORD have removed men far away, and [there be] a great forsaking in the midst of the land.” (Isa 6:9-12 AV)

Twice in the New Testament Jesus Christ applied the above prophecy to the multitudes to which He was speaking. First in Matthew 13:10ff:

“And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and [their] ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with [their] eyes, and hear with [their] ears, and should understand with [their] heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed [are] your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous [men] have desired to see [those things] which ye see, and have not seen [them]; and to hear [those things] which ye hear, and have not heard [them].” (Mt 13:10-17 AV)

It is proven conclusively in the above passage that, for those people and their leaders, the vision (eye) and prophecy word (ear) was sealed up so that they would have **no more light from god in order that their transgression (rebellion) against God should be filled up**. Thus the prophecies in Isaiah and Daniel were fulfilled, the scribes, Pharisees, and the multitudes were given **no more light** in order that they would fill up their transgression (rebellion) by crucifying the Lord of Glory, thus **bringing down the wrath of God on that first century generation as is stated in Mt 23:32-38**:

“Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye **serpents**, a generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of Gehenna? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and ye shall kill and crucify *some* of them and *some* of them shall ye scourge **in your synagogues**, and persecute *them* from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of

Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, all these things shall come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killed the prophets, and stoned them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, and ye would not *be gathered!* Behold, your house (of Judah) is left unto you desolate.”

In the fourth Gospel, the author mentions the fulfillment of these prophecies also:

“But though he had done so many miracles before them, **yet they believed not on him**: That the saying of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? Therefore they could not believe, because that Isaiah said again, He has blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with *their* eyes, nor understand with *their* heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. These things said Isaiah, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.” [Fourth Gospel 12:37-41, compare Isa 53:1]

“Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?” [Isa 53:1]

We find a third witness to all of this as it is confirmed by Paul in Acts 28:24-27:

“And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not. And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Isaiah the prophet unto our fathers, Saying, Go unto this people, and say, **Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand**; and **seeing ye shall see, and not perceive**: For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.” [Ac 28:24-27]

Now let us turn our thought once again to Isaiah 6:11a, where we find the prophet asking YHWH a question:

Then I said, “how long Lord.”

Here Isaiah is asking YHWH how long would this darkness of heart, dullness of hearing, and blindness of eyes be upon the people. And YHWH answered:

“...Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, And YHWH has removed men far away, and *there be* a great forsaking in the midst of the land.” (Isa 6:11b-12)

All of this came to pass in AD 70 – when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed and approximately 1.1 million Jews of the house of Judah were destroyed, many others were taken captive by the Romans, and the land of Judah was made desolate just as our Lord Jesus Christ predicted:

“And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down.” [Mt 24:2]

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso reads, let him understand)” [Mt 24:15]

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world (of the house of Judah) to this time, no, nor ever shall be¹.” [Mt 24:21]

As a direct result of all of this coming upon the house of Judah, i.e. the Jews in the first century; the house of Judah was broken out of the olive tree of Israel,² **cut off from before God as a nation,**³ **and another nation would bring forth the fruit of the kingdom of Jesus Christ**⁴ **the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords**⁵.

However, for the Jews, all is not lost, for:

“...they also; **if they do not continue to abide in unbelief**, shall be grafted *back into the olive tree of Israel*: for God is able to graft them in again.” [Ro 11:23]

Behold the **SEVERITY** and the **GOODNESS** of YHWH:

“Behold therefore **the goodness** and **severity** of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in h/s goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.” [Ro 11:22]

“For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also spare not thee.” [Ro 11:21]

¹ Jesus statement “nor ever shall be” is most certainly true because the house Judah was completely destroyed in the first century AD. Thus, nothing greater could ever occur in the future.

² See Romans 11:17a & 20

³ See Matthew 21:34

⁴ See Matthew 21:43; that “other nation” is none other than the Israel of God (Gal 6:16); Christian Israel.

⁵ See 1Timothy 6:15

