

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Daniel 9:24-27  
Stand Strong Series  
May 26/27, 2018

Main Idea:

*"The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." (Rom. 13:12)*

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## Discovery Questions

1. Talk about a season in your life where you faced the "end" of something. It may be the end of attending a certain school, the end of a job, or the end of something else. What feelings / emotions did you go through in that time? How did you spend the last few days before that season officially ended?

As we approach chapter 9 of our series on Daniel, we're going to take it in two parts. This week, we'll deal with the second half of Daniel 9, specifically 9:24-27. Next week, we'll look at the first half of Daniel 9.

Daniel 9:24-27 is a rather complicated and technical passage, but contains some important and interesting prophecies about Jesus and information concerning the end of time as we know it before Jesus returns. Be sure to consult the Leader's Notes for an overview of this passage.

2. Read Daniel 9:24-27. In this passage we learn some things about the end of the world—what it will be like, and what needs to happen before that time comes. What do you observe about the end of time in this passage?

3. How have you seen a church's or individual Christian's "obsession" with the end of the world lead to weird / strange outcomes?

4. a. If you knew for certain that Jesus was going to return tomorrow, how would that affect the decisions that you make today?
- b. In Romans 13:12 Paul writes, "The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." Are there any "deeds of darkness" (sins) that God would want you to take care of today in order to live in light of his coming? Are there any actions in keeping with the "armor of light" (positive actions) that God would want you to do today if you knew that Jesus was coming tomorrow? (Who would God want you to forgive / reach out to / talk to about Jesus to / say, "I'm sorry" to / etc.?)
- c. What would keep you from taking that action today? What could you do to overcome that?

5. This passage contains some remarkable prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus Christ (see Leader's Guide for question #2). How does that affect the way you view the Bible—as the words of man or the Word of God? What confidence might that give you in the Bible's predictions about events that have yet to happen?

*Leader Guide Starts on Next Page*

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

## Leader Guide

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**1. Talk about a season in your life where you faced the “end” of something. It may be the end of attending a certain school, the end of a job, or the end of something else. What feelings / emotions did you go through in that time? How did you spend the last few days before that season officially ended?**

*This is a “lighter” question designed to get the conversation going. Spend about 5-7 minutes on this question.*

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**2. Read Daniel 9:24-27. In this passage, we learn some things about the end of the world—what it will be like, and what needs to happen before that time comes. What do you observe about the end of time in this passage?**

*The context for Daniel 9:24-27 leads us back to the beginning of Daniel 9. Here we learn that all of Daniel 9 takes place in the year that the Babylonian Empire fell. The Babylonian Empire was the empire that had conquered the Jewish people and destroyed Jerusalem. But none of this caught God off guard; He had predicted through the prophet Jeremiah that this would happen. God also said, however, that the destruction of Israel would not last forever, and in Jeremiah 25:11-12, God predicted that after 70 years Babylon would be destroyed and Israel, by implication, would be restored.*

*We’re told in the beginning of Daniel 9 that Daniel is reading this prophecy in Jeremiah and realizes that it is about time for it to come true. So he begins asking God to restore Israel. In response to his prayer, God sends the angel Gabriel to give Daniel some good news and some bad news about Israel’s restoration. This “good news” and “bad news” is told in 9:24. The good news is that Israel will be restored—in fact, God will do more than Daniel could have ever imagined. All of this is found in the second half of Daniel 9:24; here Daniel is told that God will do six things: (1) He will put an end to transgression; (2) He will put an end to sin; (3) He will find a way to forgive sin (“atone for wickedness”); (4) He will establish everlasting righteousness; (5) He will fulfill all prophecy; and (6) He will anoint a future temple’s holy place.*

*The bad news, however, is that it will take a while. While Daniel thought Israel would be restored in 70 years, God says all of this will take at least 490 years—this is the meaning of “seventy ‘sevens’” at the beginning of v. 24; “seventy ‘sevens’” refers to 70 groups of 7 years, or 490 years total. Not only that, but there are a few things that have to happen before Israel (and the world) is restored—and all of this is told to Daniel in 9:25-27. In all, there are six things that have to*

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*happen. From our perspective in 2018, three of these things have already happened, and three things are awaiting fulfillment in the final seven years of this earth.*

*The three things that have already happened are:*

- *v. 25: a decree has to go out to rebuild Jerusalem and the anointed one has to appear (the "decree" refers to Ezra 7:11ff, and the decree of Artaxerxes for the Jewish people to rebuild Jerusalem in 458 B.C.; and the "anointed one" is obviously a reference to Jesus, the messiah, who "burst" onto the scene 483 years later with His baptism in AD 26).*
- *v. 26a: The anointed one has to die (this is a reference to Jesus' death in AD 30).*
- *v. 26b: Jerusalem has to be destroyed (this happened in AD 70 by the Roman army).*

*The three things that have yet to occur are:*

- *v. 27a: the Anti-Christ has to come and make some sort of covenant (or agreement) with a group of people. This will kick off the final 7 years here on this earth.*
- *v. 27b: the Anti-Christ will do something horrible in the middle of these 7 years, starting what the Bible elsewhere calls the "Great Tribulation."*
- *v. 27c: the Anti-Christ will be killed, which will happen at Jesus' second coming. At this time, everything that God said will happen in v. 24 will be accomplished.*

*It should be noted that this passage is the most debated passage in the book of Daniel, and there are some disagreements as to exact interpretation. But there are two things that we can be certain of: Jesus is returning, and when He does, He will usher in a world marked by the end of sin and the establishment of righteousness!*

*Spend 10-12 minutes on this question.*

### **3. How have you seen a church's or individual Christian's "obsession" with the end of the world lead to weird / strange outcomes?**

*There are some who look to the Bible's teaching on the end of the world and try to discern precise dates, timelines, etc. to figure out when exactly the end will come. There are other people who feel as though since Jesus is coming, we don't have to worry about finances and the like because since Jesus could come at any moment, none of that matters. Other people become especially obsessed about trying to line up what is going on in the news with what the Bible talks about, trying to see if events are being fulfilled in the world around us.*

*Spend 7-10 minutes on this question in its entirety.*

- 4. a. If you knew for certain that Jesus was going to return tomorrow, how would that affect the decisions that you make today?**
- b. In Romans 13:12 Paul writes, "The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." Are there any "deeds of darkness" (sins) that God would want you to take care of today in order to live in light of his coming? Are there any actions in keeping with the "armor of light" (positive actions) that God would want you to do today if you knew that Jesus was coming tomorrow? (Who would God want you to forgive / reach out to / talk to about Jesus to / say, "I'm sorry" to / etc.?)**

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**c. What would keep you from taking that action today? What could you do to overcome that?**

*Biblically, we are instructed to think about Jesus' return in the same way we might think about a boss returning from vacation. Knowing that our boss could return at any moment doesn't mean we slack off at work, it means that we work even harder. The Bible teaches that we should have the same approach to Jesus' return: knowing that Jesus could return at any moment should cause us to be more diligent about wanting to do the things that Jesus would want to do. The "boss" is returning, and we don't want to have our feet up on the desk! If we knew that Jesus would return at any moment, what actions would God have us take today to honor Him?*

*Spend about 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.*

**5. This passage contains some remarkable prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus Christ (see Leader's Guide for question #2). How does that affect the way you view the Bible—as the words of man or the Word of God? What confidence might that give you in the Bible's predictions about events that have yet to happen?**

*One of the reasons we can believe that the Bible is true is because of the many prophecies the Bible records that have been fulfilled. Through Daniel 9, we see some incredible prophecies about Jesus that were fulfilled to the exact year that they happened! This should give us confidence that the Bible is no ordinary book, but comes from God Himself!*

*Spend 7-10 minutes on this question.*