70th 7 Prophecy Daniel Chapter 9

Last week, Gene covered the first 69 weeks of the 70 Weeks Prophecy that was given to Daniel as recorded in Daniel Chapter 9.

There are still 7 “weeks” or 7 “years” left to discuss regarding this prophecy.

Let’s go back and get a big picture perspective on all of this so far.

The Nation of Israel had been in the Promised Land for 490 years.

In Leviticus 25:2-4, God told the Israelites that once they arrived in the Promised Land they could plant the land for 6 years and on the 7th year they were to not plant the land but give the land a Sabbath rest.

For 490 years, the Nation of Israel disobeyed this command of God. For 490 years, they never gave the land its Sabbath rest on the 7th year.

The Nation of Israel now owed God 70 years of rest for the land.

The only way that God could make sure that the land got its required rest was to take the Nation of Israel out of the land completely.

God used the Gentile king, Nebuchadnezzar, to physically take the Israelites out of the land and into captivity into Babylon.

68 years after Nebuchadnezzar took the Israelites captive in Babylon, we pick up the story in Daniel chapter 9. Daniel is reading his bible. (Someone in the bible is reading their bible). Daniel is reading Jeremiah.

Jer 29:1

Now these are the words of the letter which Jeremiah the prophet sent **from Jerusalem** to the rest of the elders of the exile, the priests, the prophets and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

NASU

(Writing from Jerusalem)

Jer 29:10

10 "For thus says the Lord, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.

NASU

Daniel realizes that he is living in the 68th year of a 70-year captivity. He now realizes, in two years, he and the Israelites are going to return home to Jerusalem.

What does Daniel do after he reads this passage in Jeremiah?

Dan 9:1-6

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans —

2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

3 So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.

4 I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed and said, "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments,

5 we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances.

6 "Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers and all the people of the land.

After Daniel reads in Jeremiah that the captivity will last for a total of 70 years Daniel immediately begins to pray on behalf of the Nation of Israel.

Don’t miss what is happening here. Daniel is **demonstrating** faith.

Faith is the assurance of those things that we have complete confidence in that God is going to do in the future.

Daniel has **developed** the **assurance** of those things that God is going to do in the **future** by having **evidence** of what God has done in the **past.**

Now, as Daniel is reading through Jeremiah, Daniel now knows what God is going to do in the **future** through His word.

Daniel **demonstrates** his faith as he immediately goes into prayer once he learns that the captivity will last for 70 years.

Daniel **developed** faith and he **demonstrated** faith.

We are going to go back and look at this in detail later in our discussion tonight.

But know this, you and I are going to have the same opportunity to demonstrate faith tonight as we look at the 70th 7 of Daniel.

We have **developed** faith as a result of seeing God fulfill prophecies regarding the Gentile Nations as we studied Daniel 2 & 7. We have **developed** faith as we have seen God fulfill prophecies with the first 69 weeks of Daniel when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the 10th of Nisan in 32 AD.

That has established our assurance of those things that God is going to do in the future.

Tonight, as we study the 70th 7 of Daniel, we are going to see what God plans to do in the future.

As a result of this, how will we then demonstrate our faith. We will investigate this in the 2nd half of our study.

Back to our story…… Once Daniel discovers that the captivity will only last for 2 more years he begins to pray.

As Daniel is praying, the angel Gabriel shows up and gives Daniel a mathematical prophecy that will allow the Nation of Israel to calculate the exact time that they should expect to be introduced to their Messiah.

Gabriel tells Daniel that 70 weeks are determined for Daniel’s people and the holy city of Jerusalem. This prophecy is about the Nation of Israel and Jerusalem. It is not about the church.

Gabriel then breaks the 70 weeks into a 69-week period and a final 1-week period.

For the first 69 weeks, Daniel is told that there will be a command to rebuild and restore Jerusalem. Once that command is given, you can count 69 7-year periods and then the Messiah will be introduced to the Nation of Israel.

Nehemiah chapter 2 tells us that the command to rebuild and restore Jerusalem was given in the month of Nisan in 445BC.

As we count forward from the month of Nisan in 445 BC 69 7-year periods or 483 years or 173,880 days we have a one-month range of April 2nd to May 2nd, 32AD.

The Messiah of Israel must arrive some time between April 2nd and May 2nd in 32 AD.

Jesus, rode into Jerusalem on April 8th in 32 AD to perfectly fulfill that mathematical prophecy that was given to Daniel.

As a result of Jesus fulfilling this prophecy, we now know 3 things.

1. Jesus, and Jesus alone, is the Messiah of Israel. There are no other choices.
2. God is who He claims to be. Only God could predict something to occur with such accuracy 500 years in advance.
3. The bible truly is the word of God. There is no other book in the universe that can do what the bible can do with respect to prophecy.

Gabriel now concludes the 69th 7 and begins to discuss the 70th 7 with Daniel.

Gabriel tells Daniel that after the 69th 7 the Messiah will be cut off. The Hebrew word is Karat which means to be killed.

We know that to be true because 4 days after the Triumphal Entry, Jesus is on the cross.

The Nation of Israel did not pay attention to this prophecy and the Nation of Israel did not accept Jesus as their Messiah. They said “We will not have this man to rule over us”, and they killed Him.

Gabriel then discusses with Daniel the destruction of the Temple that will occur in 70 AD.

Dan 9:26b

26b and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

This is where things get interesting. Gabriel tells Daniel that Jerusalem and the Temple are going to be destroyed again.

We know that this occurred in 70AD. Gabriel says that the people who will destroy the temple and city are going to be related to the prince who is to come.

The prince who is to come is a reference to the Anti-Christ. We know that it was the Romans that destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD, so this provides evidence that the Anti-Christ will come from a revived Roman Empire.

So far, what Gabriel has told Daniel has already come to pass for us here in 2021. Verse 27 describes something that is still in the future for us in 2021.

Gabriel continues to tell Daniel more about the Anti-Christ.

27 "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

From verse 27 we learn several important things

1. The Anti-Christ will make a firm covenant with the many for that 7 year period of time. “The many” is an idiom for the Nation of Israel. The firm covenant is a peace agreement between Israel and the rest of the world.
2. When the Anti-Christ enforces that 7 year peace agreement the 70th 7 will begin. The enforcement of the peace treaty marks the 173,881st day of the 70 week prophecy.
3. God will once again turn His attention to the Nation of Israel. The 70th 7 will return to a time of Judaism.
4. The Temple will be rebuilt during the 70th 7.
5. The Nation of Israel will once again perform animal sacrifices in an attempt to receive forgiveness for their sins
6. In the middle of the 70th 7, or after 3 ½ years the Anti-Christ will go into the newly rebuilt temple and put a stop to the animal sacrifices and he will claim that he is God and will demand to be worshiped as God.
7. Once this occurs, the nation of Israel will realize that the Anti-Christ is not their Messiah
8. Gabriel tells Daniel that the Anti-Christ, who made Israel desolate, will himself be destroyed.

So, the 707’s prophecy in Daniel chapter 9 is possibly one of the most important prophecies in the bible.

The understanding of this prophecy is essential to understanding all of end times prophecy.

Timeline

Let’s review the timeline

The first 69 weeks of the prophecy began when the command to rebuild and restore Jerusalem occurred during the month of Nisan in 445 BC with the decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus

Adding 69-7 year periods or 173,880 days to this takes us to a 30 day window of time of April 2nd to May 2nd in 32 AD.

According to the prophecy, the Messiah of Israel has to arrive during that time. Jesus rode into Jerusalem to be received as the king of Israel on April 8th in 32 AD, an event called the Triumphal Entry, fulfilling the prophecy perfectly, making Jesus and Jesus alone the Messiah of Israel.

The nation of Israel, because they did not pay attention to this prophecy, missed their Messiah. They did not receive Jesus as their Messiah and 4 days later He was on the cross.

3 days after being killed on the cross, Jesus came out of the grave having paid the penalty for the sins of the world and providing salvation to anyone that would simply believe that Jesus died for their sin, was buried and was raised on the third day.

As you look at the timeline you see a question mark and a gap. That gap represents the time period of the church. The reason for the question mark is because we don’t know how long the church will be present on the earth.

The church began at Pentecost and it will conclude at the rapture.

According to Rom.11:25, once the church is filled, or the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, the rapture will occur and God will once again return His attention back to the Nation of Israel.

2 Thess 2 tells us that the departure of the church must occur before the Anti-Christ can be revealed. Once the church is taken away, the restraining force of the Holy Spirit will no longer be present on the earth and the Anti-Christ can be revealed.

According to Daniel 9:27 the Anti-Christ will enforce a peace agreement between Israel and the rest of the world and that will begin the 70th 7 of Daniel and that takes us to the far right side of the timeline.

In Daniel chapters 2 and 7 we have discussed many verses regarding the Anti-Christ. The reason for that is because the Anti-Christ will represent the summation of all Gentile Kingdoms on the earth since the time of Babylon.

But I want to point out an important perspective.

Remember what Gabriel told Daniel. This entire prophecy, all of the 70 7’s are regarding the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem.

With that in mind, what is the big picture of this prophecy?

The first 69 weeks of this prophecy was provided by God to allow the Nation of Israel to plan and prepare for the very moment that they would be introduced to their Messiah.

Because they didn’t take this prophecy seriously, the entire Nation of Israel rejected Jesus as their Messiah and even today they are still looking for their Messiah.

Because they rejected Jesus as their king, the Nation of Israel is blind to the fact that Jesus is their true Messiah until God removes their blindness. Peace has been taken away from the Nation of Israel and, of course, their temple and all of Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD.

So, we are now living in that “Gap” period of time where God is gathering to Himself the church. The church is a group of individuals that have willingly recognized Jesus as the Messiah and have believed in the gospel in order to be saved.

Once the church is filled with the final Gentile believer, God will remove the church from the earth, in an event called the rapture, in order to protect the church from the 70th 7.

With the church and Holy Spirit off the earth and in heaven, there will no longer be a restraining force on the Anti-Christ and he will be revealed.

The Anti-Christ will come from a union of 10 kings of the earth and he will have a connection to the Roman Empire that Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel saw in their visions.

He will rise up and he will become the most powerful leader this planet has ever seen.

He will do for Israel what no one has ever done before. He will enforce a peace treaty for Israel. He will demand that every country stand-down with respect to Israel.

He will demand that the world respect Israel as a nation. He will demand and enforce that no one will bear arms against Israel.

The moment he enforces this peace agreement, the 70th 7 of Daniel begins. The Tribulation Period will begin.

The Nation of Israel will be so impressed with this man that they will view him as the Messiah that they have been seeking. The Nation of Israel will receive the Anti-Christ as their Messiah.

The Anti-Christ will be instrumental in allowing the temple to be rebuilt. Animal sacrifices will begin again and the Nation of Israel will attempt to receive forgiveness for their sins by shedding the blood of animals.

Of course, no one will be saved by doing animal sacrifices because Jesus already paid the penalty for the sins of the world. The animal sacrifices are useless and will never again provide the forgiveness of sins.

But God has, once again, turned His attention back to saving His chosen people.

Rev.11:1-14 tells us that God will send two men that will prophecy about Jesus 24 hours a day for 3 ½ years in front of the newly rebuilt temple. They are there to help the Nation to realize that the Anti-Christ is not their Messiah.

These two men can’t be killed. The people and the earth will despise these two men and will try to kill them but they cannot be killed.

It is only after 3 ½ years of prophesying about Jesus, that God allows these two men to be killed. It is the Anti-Christ that kills them. Their dead bodies lie on the ground for 3 ½ days and then God puts breath back into them and they are resurrected and they ascend to heaven while the entire world watches them go. But the people on the earth are happy to see them go and actually have parties and give gifts to each other to celebrate the destruction and removal of the Two Witnesses.

But God is doing all He can to open the eyes of the Nation of Israel to the fact that Jesus is their true Messiah.

The Anti-Christ, in the meantime, has problems of his own. He had to kill three of the original kings that he was united with. Possibly because they did not agree with his enforcement of the peace agreement with Israel.

It is possible that the remaining 7 kings also don’t like the peace agreement and will band together to kill the Anti-Christ and indeed he is assassinated. The bible tells us that he will be resurrected from the abyss.

When he returns from the dead, the entire world will be amazed and they will willingly receive a mark on their right hand or on their forehead that will unite them with the Anti-Christ.

The Anti-Christ will destroy those previous 7 kings and he will establish 10 new kings that will give all of their power to him. Satan will give all of his power to the Anti-Christ and the Anti-Christ will rise up as the most powerful man ever to walk the earth.

He will enter into the temple, that he allowed the Nation of Israel to build, and he will desecrate it. Jesus called this event the Abomination of Desolation.

The Anti-Christ will then claim to be God and he will demand to be worshipped as God.

The Nation of Israel will suddenly realize that the Anti-Christ is not their Messiah.

Jesus warned the Nation of Israel back in 32 AD when HE said, “When you see the Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, flee into the wilderness”.

God will prepare a place of protection for His chosen people, and in this place, God will protect His chosen people from Satan and the Anti-Christ.

God provides an angel that flies throughout heaven proclaiming the gospel. This angel appears to take the place of the two witnesses. This angel can’t be killed and for the following 3 ½ years of the Tribulation period, this angel proclaims the gospel.

At the beginning of the 70th 7 God saved 144,000 Jews. There were 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes saved and it appears that they are among the Nation of Israel that are there in the wilderness. They very well may help the rest of the Nation of Israel to understand that Jesus was their true Messiah all along.

It appears that Satan and the Anti-Christ will send people into the wilderness in an attempt to continue to deceive the Nation of Israel and keep them from recognizing that Jesus is their Messiah.

Rev.14 tells us about angels that God is going to send into the wilderness to remove those people and Jesus told us about that when He told the parable of the wheat and the tares in Matthew 13:36-43. Jesus called these people that Satan and the Anti-Christ sent in among the Nation of Israel there in the wilderness, Stumbling Blocks.

God will send in angels to remove the stumbling blocks from the Nation of Israel. And there in the wilderness with an angel flying in heaven preaching the gospel, and the removal of the stumbling blocks and in the presence of the 144,000, the Nation of Israel finally begins understand that Jesus was their true Messiah after all.

Their eyes are finally completely open.

During this time, the Anti-Christ has been gaining incredible power. He has the power of every earthly king that has ever existed since Babylon. The 10 new kings that he has installed have given the Anti-Christ all of their power. He has all of Satan’s power.

Rev. 13 tells us that he even has a religious leader, called the False Prophet, that will give breath to an image of the Anti-Christ. This image can identify anyone that does not worship the Anti-Christ and kill them if they don’t pledge their allegiance to this man.

Men can no longer buy sell or trade without being linked to the Anti-Christ.

The Anti-Christ and the False Prophet gather the ten kings together with all of their armies to go out and defeat the Nation of Israel. The armies of the Anti-Christ are most likely made up all of those people that have taken the Mark of the Beast and any military personnel they may have.

Together, this massive group marches across the dried-up Euphrates River into the Valley of Megiddo with only one common goal in mind. Kill every last Jew on the planet. Annihilate the Nation of Israel once and for all.

Back in 32 AD, before Jesus returned to heaven, He made a promise to the Nation of Israel.

Matt 23:32

39 "For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"

NASU

Jesus promised that once the Nation of Israel finally said “Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord”, He would return to them and they would see Him again.

And that is just what they will do. Away from all deception with their eyes finally open, they recognize that Jesus is truly their Messiah and they call out to Him and receive Him.

Jesus returns to the earth at His 2nd Coming and He, alone, stands in the way of this huge army that wants to destroy Israel. Without ever getting off His horse, he destroys this huge army and casts the Anti-Christ and the False prophet into the Lake of Fire.

And that event successfully concludes the 70th 7 of Daniel.

Here’s the question. With the assurance that you have developed from the prophecies that God has fulfilled in the past, what confidence do you have that the promises that God has made regarding the 70th 7 of Daniel will indeed come to pass?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Daniel, when he discovered from reading in Jeremiah that the captivity would last for 70 years immediately began to pray.

Daniel **demonstrated** faith. He acted on the faith that he developed. Daniel knew that God was able to cause the Children of Israel to return to Jerusalem and he knew that God was faithful to make it happen.

I want to take this second half of our time together to investigate what seems to be the result or reaction of your faith. I want to look at what it means to **demonstrate** faith.

Faith continues to be one of those things that is misunderstood in the church. I personally think there is serious spiritual warfare occurring to keep the church from truly grasping the understanding of faith. Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:16 that if we take up the shield of faith, we can extinguish ALL of the flaming arrows of Satan.

I truly believe that this verse explains why faith is so misunderstood in the church today.

Satan knows that if the church develops true faith his power will be overwhelmingly challenged.

So, let’s unpack some critical aspects of faith that we have come to understand so far as we have been talking about these End Times Prophecies.

I would like to suggest to you that faith is both **developed** and **demonstrated**.

1. **How do You Develop Faith?**

As we know from the definition of faith found in Hebrews 11:1, faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction or proof of things not seen.

Since hope in the bible comes from the Greek word elpus, which means confident expectation, faith is the assurance of those things that we have complete confidence in that God is going to do in the future.

We have conviction or proof of those things not yet seen, or those promises of God that are still in the future, based on the promises that God has fulfilled in the past.

Since we have seen God fulfilling His previous prophecies with 100 percent accuracy in the past, we have the assurance that he fulfll His yet future prophecies with 100 percent accuracy.

The more you see God fulfilling His previous promises the more confidence you have that He will indeed fulfill His promises that are still in the future.

One example of this would be the prophecies regarding the Gentile nations. In both Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the great image and Daniel’s dream of the 4 beasts we can see that God perfectly predicted the rise and fall of the Gentile kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome.

This gives us assurance that what God has prophesied about the future will indeed come about.

Another example would be how Jesus fulfilled the 69 7s prophecy, when He rode into Jerusalem on the 10th of Nisan in 32 AD.

Seeing that Jesus fulfilled this prophecy gives us assurance that what God has prophesied about the 70 7’s will indeed come about.

So, to develop faith, you need to study the prophecies of the past.

But you also need to know what the prophecies are of the future.

Faith is the assurance of those things that we have complete confidence in that God is going to do in the future.

So, a huge aspect of faith is to know what those promises of the future are.

These promises come straight out of God’s word and include…

Rapture of the church

70 7s or the Tribulation Period

The rise and fall of all of the Gentile Nations embodied in the Anti-Christ

Destruction of the Anti-Christ the False Prophet and Satan

God’s plans for Israel during the Tribulation Period.

Marriage Supper of the Lamb

2nd Coming and Battle of Armageddon

Millennium

Great White Throne Judgment

NH, NE, NJ

All of God’s plans and promises are found in His word.

That’s how you **develop** faith

1. You know what God has done in the past
2. You know what He plans to do in the future.

All of this comes from studying God’s word.

That’s why Paul said in Romans 10:17

Rom 10:17

17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

NASU

But that’s only the first part of faith. That’s only how you develop faith.

That’s only verse 1 of Hebrews chapter 11.

The rest of Hebrews chapter 11 discusses how people **demonstrated** their faith.

1. **How do You Demonstrate Faith?**

The writer of Hebrews tells us that….

By faith, Noah built an Ark

By Faith, Abraham left home

By faith, Sarah gave birth well after menopause

By faith Abraham offered up Isaac

By faith Moses refused to be called the Son of Pharaoh’s daughter and was treated poorly because of it.

By faith, the Israelites passed through the Red Sea as though they were passing through on dry land and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned

By faith, the walls of Jericho fell down after the Israelites encircled it for seven days.

Each of these illustrations are extraordinary.

Each of these illustrations demonstrate complete obedience.

Each of these illustrations would have been completely impossible without faith.

Each of these people, or groups of people, obeyed God. But their obedience was a result of faith.

That is going to be the key to success in living a Spirit filled Christian life while living on this planet.

Let’s take a look at how to demonstrate your faith. What is necessary for you to act on your faith?

1. **First you have to have faith. You have to have the assurance of those things that God has done in the past and you have to know what His plans are for the future.**

Noah was warned by God.

Heb 11:7

7 By faith Noah, **being warned by God about things not yet seen**, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

NASU

Noah was warned by God. He knew what God’s plans were for the future.

The Israelites were told by God that He had already given the King of Jericho over into their hands.

Josh 6:1-2

Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in. 2 The Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors.

NASU

Then God goes on to instruct the Israelites to walk around the city once per day for 6 days and then on the 7th day walk around the city 7 times and indeed the walls of Jericho fell down and the Israelites went in and conquered all of the city and took the spoils.

But God told Joshua in advance that the king and his warriors were already defeated.

To demonstrate faith, you first have to have faith.

You have to know what promises God has fulfilled in the past and you have to know what the future promises God has made.

Next, in order to demonstrate faith, you have to know for sure that is both able and faithful to do those things that He has promised.

So, here’s the question.

1. **Is God Able – Is God Faithful?**

Sarah considered that God was indeed faithful to complete His promises to her regarding the birth of a son even though she was well past the age of child bearing.

Heb 11:11

11 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, **since she considered Him faithful who had promised**.

NASU

Sarah had no problem with the question of is God able and is God faithful?

Abraham acted in obedience to God when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac because he knew that God was powerful enough and able to raise his dead son back to life.

Heb 11:17-19

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; 18 it was he to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED." **19 He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead**, from which he also received him back as a type.

NASU

Abraham had no problem with the question of Is God able and is God faithful?

I used to be so impressed at the obedience of Abraham and often worried that I would never be able to demonstrate that kind of obedience.

What I didn’t realize at the time was that it was the faith of Abraham that allowed him to be so obedient.

Abraham had seen the promises that God had fulfilled in the past and he knew the future promises of God that in Isaac, the entire nation of Israel would have their genetic lineage.

Abraham knew that God would follow through on His promise and if God wanted Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, God could raise Isaac from the dead.

Abraham had developed faith because he knew the previous and future promises of God and he demonstrated faith because he knew that God could and would fulfill His promises.

Abraham had no problem with the question of is God able and is God faithful?

How about you?

Do you truly trust that God is able do the things that He has promised to do?

Do you truly trust that God is faithful to do the things that He has promised to do?

The issue isn’t whether or not God is powerful enough or faithful enough.

The issue is do **YOU** know that God is powerful enough and faithful enough?

So just how powerful is God? This will help us to answer the “Is God able” question.

* God created the heavens and the earth

Rom 1:20

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

NASU

* God destroyed Egypt and defeated Pharaoh with 10 plagues.
* God killed the 1st born Egyptians that were not covered by the blood of the Passover lamb
* God destroyed the Egyptian army in the Red Sea only after His chosen people were safely on the other side.
* God tore down the walls of Jericho
* God protected Daniel from death in the Lion’s Den.
* God protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego from the flames of the furnace so completely that the smell of smoke was not even on their clothes.
* God allowed His own Son to completely pay the penalty of every person’s sin
* God raised Jesus from the dead.
* God saves every person that believes the gospel from an eternity in hell.

When we think of power we tend to think of things like tornadoes, hurricanes and bombs. Those are all examples of things that are powerful. But all of those things result in chaos and destruction.

God’s power is so much stronger. God creates things like the universe. God restores life to the dead. God saves people from hell.

There is no greater power than the power of God. The power of God results in the increase in order.

Is God faithful?

God warned Noah of the flood in advance and He protected Noah and his family from that flood that destroyed every other person on the planet.

God promised to release the Children of Israel from the hand of the Pharaoh and they walked on dry land through the Red Sea.

God warned Lot that He planned to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah and He protected Lot and his two daughters.

God predicted the Gentile Nations of the world with perfect accuracy in Daniel 2 and 7.

God was faithful at telling the Nation of Israel when to expect their Messiah to be introduced to them in Daniel chapter 9.

Is God able and faithful? Of course, He is. There is overwhelming evidence that He is. The question is do you know it?

So, to demonstrate faith, you…….

1. Have to have faith
2. Have to know that God is Able and that God is faithful to do the things that He has promised.
3. **We need to understand that God will not necessarily do those things that He has not promised to do.**

I often hear people say that if they just have enough faith God will give them that new job, or heal their relationship or heal their friend or loved one from some disease.

Can God heal a person of cancer? Sure. But will He? Not if it isn’t a direct promise in His word.

Can God help you to get that great new job, or restore a relationship? Sure. But will He? Not if it isn’t a direct promise in His word.

God can heal. But He doesn’t promise to heal.

God can restore relationships but He doesn’t promise to heal relationships.

Healing and jobs and restoring broken relationships are not faith issues.

If God didn’t heal Aunt Betty of her cancer it isn’t because you didn’t have enough faith, or because you didn’t pray hard enough.

God is only accountable to do those things that He has promised to do in His Word.

No where in God’s Word does He promise that you will be healed or find love or that perfect job.

Should you continue to pray for a miraculous healing or that job interview or that God would restore that broken relationship? Absolutely.

But don’t wag your finger at God if He chooses to not grant those requests. He never promised that He would.

Those issues are not faith issues.

In order to demonstrate faith, we need to………

1. Have faith – we know what God has done in the past and we know what God promises to do in the future
2. We need to know that God is able and that He is faithful
3. We need to understand that God is not accountable to do anything that He has not promised to do.

With all of that then……..

1. **Obedience is Easy When You Have Faith.**

By faith, Noah obeyed God and built the Ark.

By faith, Abraham obeyed God and offered up Isaac

**Obedience is difficult, if not impossible. without faith.**

In each one of the examples listed in Hebrews chapter 11 God is asking each person to do something truly extraordinary.

God is asking each person or groups of people to do something that would be impossible if they did not first have faith.

Do you think Abraham would have been willing to offer up his only son if he didn’t have complete faith that God would raise Isaac from the dead?

Abraham knew the previously fulfilled promises of God and he knew the future promises of God.

He knew God was able and that God was faithful.

As a result of his faith, his obedience to God made sense.

Abraham had faith and that faith allowed him to be obedient to God.

Faith is the key to obedience.

So, what will God request of you? How will you respond with the faith that you are developing as a result of what you have already and are learning in this bible study?

But you might say to yourself, “God doesn’t speak to me the way that God spoke to Noah or Abraham. How will I know what God wants me to do so that I can respond with faith”?

Again, Hebrews comes to the rescue.

Heb 1:1-2

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 **in these last days has spoken to us in His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

NASU

God speaks to us in the Church Era through His Son.

What did Jesus ask us to do before He ascended into heaven?

Matt 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

NASU

Jesus told us to go and make disciples. Who do you make disciples of? The saved.

Once they are saved you make them into disciples by baptizing them and teaching them all that Jesus commanded the church to do.

That is what God is asking you to do.

Get people saved and make them disciples.

If you do that. If you preach the gospel to them and they become saved what will happen to them.

* God will save their souls from hell.
* God will fill them with the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit will guide them into the truth and teach them what is to come.
* They will avoid the 70th 7 of Daniel and be spared from going into the Tribulation period.
* If they die before the rapture, they will go to heaven instead of hell
* If they live until the rapture, they will not experience death.
* They will get a glorified body and go to heaven to be with Jesus and be married to Him as part of the bride of Christ.
* They will return to the earth with Jesus and watch Him destroy the Anti-Christ and help Jesus during the Millennium to fulfill every promise God has made to Israel.
* They will avoid the GWTJ
* They will live in the New Jerusalem with God and Jesus for the rest of eternity.

Here’s the question. Is God able and faithful to do all of that for them?

Of course, He is.

The bigger question is, by faith, will you obey Jesus and witness to them so God can save their souls?

Who has God put on your heart that needs to hear the gospel?

The gospel is simple. Jesus died for their sins, He was buried and He was raised on the 3rd day.

Preach that to them.

By faith, preach the gospel and then let’s make them disciples by getting them baptized and let’s teach them what Jesus instructed them to do.

What else will you discover God asking you to do by faith as you read through His word?