**Ezra 1:1-3** *In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of* ***Cyrus king of Persia*** *to make a* ***proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:*** *2 “This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: “ ‘****The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth*** *and he has* ***appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah****.**3* ***Any of his people*** *among you* ***may go up to Jerusalem in Judah*** *and* ***build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel****, the* ***God who is in Jerusalem****,* ***and may their God be with them****.*

**7 weeks and 62 weeks = 69 weeks (1 week represent a 7 year period)**

* **7 x 7= 49 years. (to rebuild the temple and restore God’s holy city.)**
* **62 x 7 = 434 years (waiting for Messiah)**
	+ **49 years + 434 years = 483 years. (Decree – Messiah cut off)**
* **1 week = 7 yrs. Tribulation Period**
* **69 wks + 1 wk = 70 weeks (490 years)**
	+ **483 yrs + 7 yrs = 490 yrs.**

**Daniel 9:24-26** *“****Seventy ‘sevens’*** *are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.25 Know and understand this:* ***From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’*** *It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.26* ***After*** *the sixty-two ‘sevens,’* ***the Anointed One will be put to death*** *and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.*

**Ezra 4:4** *Then the peoples around them set out* ***to discourage the people of Judah*** *and* ***make them afraid to go on building****. 5* ***They bribed officials to work against them*** *and* ***frustrate their plans*** *…*

**Proverbs 25:11** *A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.*

**Proverbs 16:24** *Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*

**John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

**Ephesians 2:4-5** *But God, being rich in mercy,* ***because of the great love with which he loved us,*** *5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved—*

**Galatians 6:9** *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up*.

**Proverbs 24:10 ESV** **“***If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small*.”

**Ephesians 6:10-14** *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11* ***Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.*** *12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14* ***Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist****,…”*

**John 8:44 (ESV)** *You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character,* ***for he is a liar and the father of lies****.*

**John 8:32** *“You will know the truth, and* ***the truth will set you free****.”*

**This should motivate us to faithfulness.**

**We know-** God loves us. God cares and sees our trials. God hears and answers our prayers.God is sovereign, his will and his plans cannot be thwarted.