

The Seventy Week Prophecy



From the Going Forth

70 weeks are determined upon the people or 490 days (“each day for a year” Numbers 14:34; “I have appointed you a day for a year” Ezekiel 4:6) or 490 years. Daniel 9:25. “From the going forth of the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem unto Messiah the Prince shall be 69 weeks” Daniel 9:26. Cyrus and then Darius issued decrees for the Jewish captives to return to Jerusalem. But it was the decree of Artaxerxes in 457 BC as recorded in Ezra 7 in the Persian king’s seventh year that provided autonomy and self-rule to the Jews under the laws of Moses, and rebuilding the wall and temple from the royal treasury. 69 weeks of years later, one week short of 70 was 483 years after 457 BC.

70 weeks or 490 years is exactly 10 jubilees. Every seven years the land would rest, and after seven “land sabbaths” a second land rest on the 50th year marked the jubilee, when all land was returned to the original owners. The only known jubilee in the Bible was exactly 5 jubilees prior to 457 in 702 BC when Jerusalem was besieged by Assyria and king Hezekiah was given a sign: two years when no crops would be planted, two land sabbaths in a row.

“The street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.” Daniel 9:25 The wall was initially built in 49 years (7 weeks) which is how the time was specified: “seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks”. It was during this time that the Samaritans opposed the building and burnt the gates. Nehemiah received word of this and obtained permission to return to Jerusalem in 444 BC and rebuild the wall in 52 days. Nehemiah 6:15.

Unto Messiah the Prince

As the 69th week approached, many began to look for the coming of the prophesied Messiah. Wisemen came from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews for we have seen his star in the east” Matthew 2:1. Simeon waited for the “consolation of Israel and it was revealed to him that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ” Luke 2:25,26.

In 27 AD Jesus was baptized in the Jordan being “about 30 years of age” in the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar. Luke 3:1,23. Then Jesus “came into Galilee...saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand” Mark 1:14,15. It was the beginning of the 70th week, a sabbatical year, when captives were to be set free, and the land was to rest. Thus Jesus “as His custom was, went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and read...The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord” Luke 4:16-19.

The year of the Messiah, the anointed One, the Lamb of God had finally arrived right in the midst of the 70th week.

For One Week

“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease” Daniel 9:27. In the midst of the last seven years, the Messiah would cause sacrifice and oblation to cease. Then “shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself” verse 26. The death of the Lamb of God brought to an end the shedding of animal blood. Hebrews 10:8,9.

For 3½ years Jesus taught, and preached, and healed, and then confirmed the covenant with his own blood. And He said, “This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for many” Matthew 26:28. Then for an additional 3½ years the disciples confirmed his death and resurrection to all in Jerusalem. His “great salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard” Hebrews 2:3.

Exactly in the middle of the 70th week, Jesus was crucified at the very time of the morning sacrifice (the third hour. Mark 15:25), and precisely at the time of the evening sacrifice he died (the ninth hour. Matthew 27:46,50).

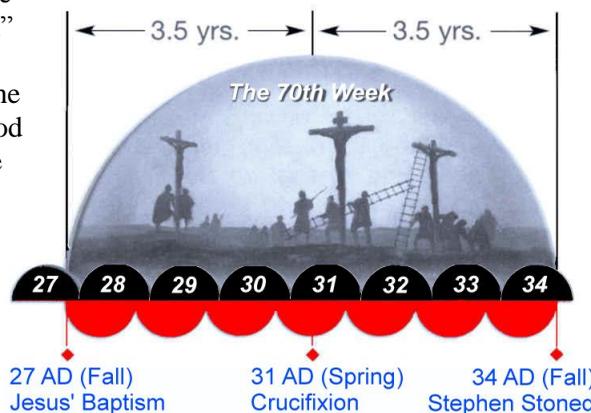
Darkness was about the cross, the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom, and there was a great earthquake. And those who witnessed it said, “Surely, this was the Son of God.”

Determined Upon Thy People

In 34 AD, at the end of the 490 years, the 70 weeks, the final rejection was made. The time determined upon the Jewish people had come to an end. They rejected Jesus as the Son of God and crucified him. Now they rejected the testimony of Stephen who saw “Jesus standing on the right hand of God” Acts 7:55. It was a time of judgment. “The Lord stands up to plead, and stands to judge the people” Isaiah 3:13. When Jesus stands it’s time to judge.

It was time for the gospel to go to the Gentiles. Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus in pursuit of Christians and was converted on the spot. “Straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues that He is the Son of God” Acts 9:20. When the Jews spoke against him, “contradicting and blaspheming” He said, “It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing you put it from you, and judge your-selves unworthy of everlasting life, we turn to the Gentiles.” Acts 13:45,46.

Jesus now ministers as our High Priest in heaven before His Father (Hebrews 4:15; 8:1; Rev 5:6). Someday soon He will stand up again (Daniel 12:1) and he will say, “the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still...He that is righteous, let him be righteous still” Revelation 22:10,11. Watch! Jesus said, For you know not what hour your Lord shall come. But now that the 2300 years are fulfilled, we know that His coming is near, “even at the doors.” Matthew 24.



When the fullness of the time
was come, God sent forth his Son,
made of a woman” Galatians 4:4

The “one God the Father, of whom are all things” (1Cor 8:6) “so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16). “In this was manifested the love of God toward us because that He sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him” 1John 4:9. And the Father had an exact time that His Son should come. “The times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power” Acts 1:7 are determined and known only by Him,

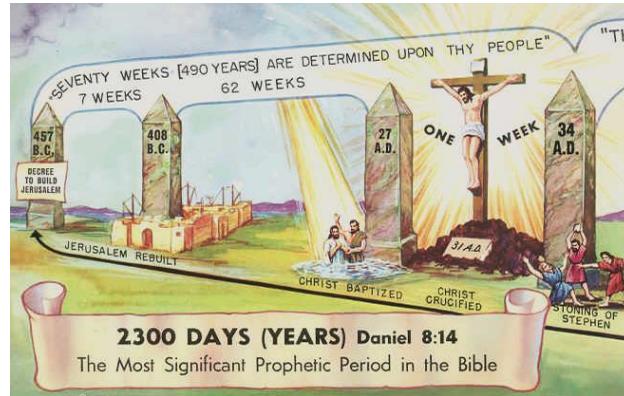
“Declaring the end from the beginning,
and from ancient times the things that
are not yet done” Isaiah 46:10.

God has determined the course of history in advance, and The Jesus Prophecy is the most exact demonstration of the Father’s control of time. He definitely knows the end from the beginning.

The book of Daniel in the Bible has many prophecies. Some foretold the rise and fall of empires, the appearance of a great religious power, the change of times and laws. But the greatest event of world history yet today divides all dates before (BC) and after (AD) the advent of Jesus Christ on this earth. We can look at any calendar and know just how many years ago that was.

Daniel and his people had been held captive in Babylon for 70 years, just the number of years that had been foretold by Jeremiah long before. Babylon fell to the Medes and the Persians in 536 BC just as Isaiah had even named Cyrus over 150 years before his birth! Now the time was up. Darius the Mede now reigned over Babylon. And in his first year Daniel the prophet began to study the prophecies. He went back to Jeremiah to verify God’s word.

Daniel, was now nearly 80 years old. In chapter 8 he had seen a vision that included a mysterious number: 2300 evening and mornings—a period of time that was yet to transpire before the sanctuary would be “cleansed.” Daniel immediately thought of the temple in Jerusalem which still lay in ruins ever since its destruction by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC. If it was to be restored in only 2300 days, Daniel would have rejoiced! After 70 years in Babylon, another 6 ½ years would be good news!



But Daniel was told that “the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days. And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; ...and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it. Daniel 8:26,27. 2300 years was indeed “many days.” Yes, a very long time.

So in Daniel 9, he confirms once again the prophecy of Jeremiah that “the desolations of Jerusalem” would be only 70 years (verse 2). With this assurance, he began to pray for the Lord’s “sanctuary that is desolate” (17). “O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.” (19). “Defer not!”

While he was still praying, the angel Gabriel came to help him “understand the matter and consider the vision.” (23). Gabriel begins with the number 70. But rather than 70 years, it is 70 weeks!

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.

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the **Messiah the Prince** shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall **Messiah** be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. Daniel 9:24-27

The first 70 weeks (490 days of the entire 2300) would bring in “Messiah the Prince.” The promised One, the Seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15), the Lamb of God (Genesis 22:8; Isaiah 53:7), would finally come!

But 70 weeks is not even two years. Surely prophetic time is a different kind of time. It is. Now, let’s examine The Jesus Prophecy of the 70 Weeks of Daniel 9.

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The Jesus Prophecy

In the fullness of time
God sent forth His Son