



Truth For These Times



35. THE 2,300 DAY PROPHECY

Fulfilled prophecy is God's unanswerable challenge to unbelief. In this lesson we will study a unique time-prophecy, written over 500 years before Jesus' birth, which foretold the time of His baptism, the time of His crucifixion and the time when the Gospel would begin to go out to the Gentile world. It has been called: "The Keystone of Old Testament Prophecy", because it locks all the other securely into place. The Bible contains many marvels, but none is greater than this!

Matthew 24:15 **Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' SPOKEN OF BY DANIEL THE PROPHET, standing in the holy place** (whoever reads, let him understand).

Christ had confidence in Daniel the prophet. Here in this text, Jesus refers to one of Daniel's prophecies. Because the Lord Himself endorsed Daniel and his prophecies, we today can also study them with confidence, knowing full well that they come from God.

Daniel 8:12-14 **Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and HE CAST TRUTH DOWN TO THE GROUND. He did all this and prospered. Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, "How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled under foot?" And he said to me, "FOR TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED DAYS; THEN THE SANCTUARY SHALL BE CLEANSED."**

In Daniel Chapter 8 is an interesting prophecy outlining the rise and fall of earthly powers. These are described in more detail in Chapters 2 and 7. In this chapter emphasis is given to the 'little horn' power, which "waxed exceeding great", and brought persecution to God's people. This is explained more fully in another study.



Jesus said in Matt 24:15 that understanding Daniel would be important for the future.

The question is asked, "how long" will the oppression last? How long will the sanctuary and the host be trodden underfoot? and the answer is clear – 2,300 days – then the sanctuary would be cleansed. The word "cleansed" in the margin is "justified", indicating judgment.

Daniel 8:16,17 **And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "GABRIEL, MAKE THIS MAN UNDERSTAND THE VISION."** So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Understand, son of man, **THAT THE VISION REFERS TO THE TIME OF THE END.**"

The angel Gabriel is sent to make Daniel understand this vision of 2,300 days. Emphasis is made that the vision reaches right down to the end of time – even our day.

Daniel 8:26,27

And the vision of the evenings and mornings which was told is true; therefore seal up the vision, for *it refers* to many days *in the future*. AND I, DANIEL, FAINTED AND WAS SICK for days; afterward I arose and went about the king's business. I WAS ASTONISHED BY THE VISION, BUT NO ONE UNDERSTOOD IT.

Gabriel was unable to continue explanations concerning the vision, because Daniel took sick. All the previous prophecies in the book of Daniel had been explained. The only one left unexplained was the 2,300-day prophecy.



Daniel struggles to fully comprehend the vision but is unable. Before Gabriel finishes the explanation – Daniel faints and the explanation must be continued later in Daniel 9.

Daniel 9:21-23

Yes, while I *was* speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. And he informed *me*, and talked with me, and said, “O Daniel, I HAVE NOW COME FORTH TO GIVE YOU SKILL TO UNDERSTAND. At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell *you*, for you *are* greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and UNDERSTAND THE VISION.”

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Daniel had been praying earnestly, and in response Gabriel was sent to him to give him the understanding of the prophecy. Gabriel said, “Consider the vision”. Which vision? The only one left unexplained is the 2,300-day vision. Now Gabriel proceeds with the explanation.

Daniel 9:24

SEVENTY WEEKS ARE DETERMINED FOR YOUR PEOPLE and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.



Daniel writes the prophecy.

Seventy weeks of the 2,300 days are for Daniel's people – the Jews. God was giving them seventy weeks to repent and demonstrate their faithfulness.

Ezekiel 4:6 And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I HAVE LAID ON YOU A DAY FOR EACH YEAR.

In this prophecy concerning Israel, God used one day to represent one year. Numbers 14:34 uses the same principle. The day-for-a-year principle is also applied to this prophecy of Daniel. There is no doubt, when we see the accuracy of its fulfilment. Therefore, the 2,300 days = 2,300 years, and the 70 weeks = 490 years – the 490 years being the first part of the 2,300 years.

WHEN DOES THE GREAT TIME PROPHECY BEGIN?

Daniel 9:25 Know therefore and understand, *THAT FROM THE GOING FORTH OF THE COMMAND TO RESTORE AND BUILD JERUSALEM* until MESSIAH the Prince, *there shall be SEVEN WEEKS* and SIXTY-TWO WEEKS; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

The prophecy begins when the decree to rebuild Jerusalem is passed. This was given by Artaxerxes, King of Persia in 457 B.C. It is recorded in Ezra 7 and Ezra 6:14. The year 457 B.C. is also an established historical date.

The 7 weeks and 62 weeks equal 483 prophetic days or 483 years. This means, counting ahead 483 years from 457 B.C. we are brought to the time of the Messiah, i.e. Jesus Christ. The date comes to 27 A.D.



The Baptism of Jesus begins the 70th week.

DID CHRIST BECOME THE MESSIAH IN THAT YEAR?

Matthew 3:15,16 But Jesus answered and said to him, “*Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.*” Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw THE SPIRIT OF GOD DESCENDING LIKE A DOVE AND ALIGHTING UPON HIM.

At the baptism of Jesus, He was anointed by the Holy Spirit. He was indeed the anointed one – the Messiah. This took place at the beginning of His ministry, A.D. 27 – right on time according to the prophecy. This prediction was made almost 500 years before it was fulfilled with amazing accuracy.

Daniel 9:26,27 AND AFTER THE SIXTY-TWO WEEKS MESSIAH SHALL BE CUT OFF, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it *shall be* with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then HE SHALL CONFIRM A COVENANT WITH MANY FOR ONE WEEK; but IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WEEK HE SHALL BRING AN END TO SACRIFICE AND OFFERING. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.



Jesus cut off in the midst of the 70th week.

After A.D. 27 Jesus would be “cut off” or killed. The prophecy of the 490 years has accounted for 483 years so far, up to 27 A.D. Now verse 27 mentions the last week (i.e. 7 years). In these last 7 years, the Jews are given opportunity to repent and consecrate themselves to God. However, we notice that the Messiah is cut off in the middle of the 7 years, that is 3½ years after A.D. 27. This brings us to A.D. 31 – the exact year Jesus was crucified. The prophecy is accurately fulfilled once more. Daniel also said in

this verse that Jesus would cause the sacrifices to cease. He did this when He died as the One great Sacrifice for sins.

Matthew 27:50,51 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, **THE VEIL OF THE TEMPLE WAS TORN IN TWO FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split.

No longer were animal sacrifices needed. The One great Sacrifice, Jesus, was the One all other sacrifices pointed to. He caused the sacrificial system to cease.



Veil torn when Jesus died.

Acts 7:58-60;8:1 And they cast *him* out of the city and stoned *him*. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. **AND THEY STONED STEPHEN** as he was calling on *God* and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep. Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

The martyrdom of Stephen. A far deeper significance is attached to the stoning of Stephen than may appear to the casual reader. It clinches the former rejection of the Gospel by responsible Jewish leaders at Jerusalem (Acts 7:51-54). It precipitates a new era in Gospel expansion. Exclusive labour for Jews abruptly ceases. Christian witnesses, scattered by the sudden outburst of savage persecution, are impelled to evangelise the Gentiles. Samaritans and the Ethiopian eunuch are the first-fruits from among non-Jews (Acts 8:1,4,5,27,29).



The Destruction of Jerusalem.

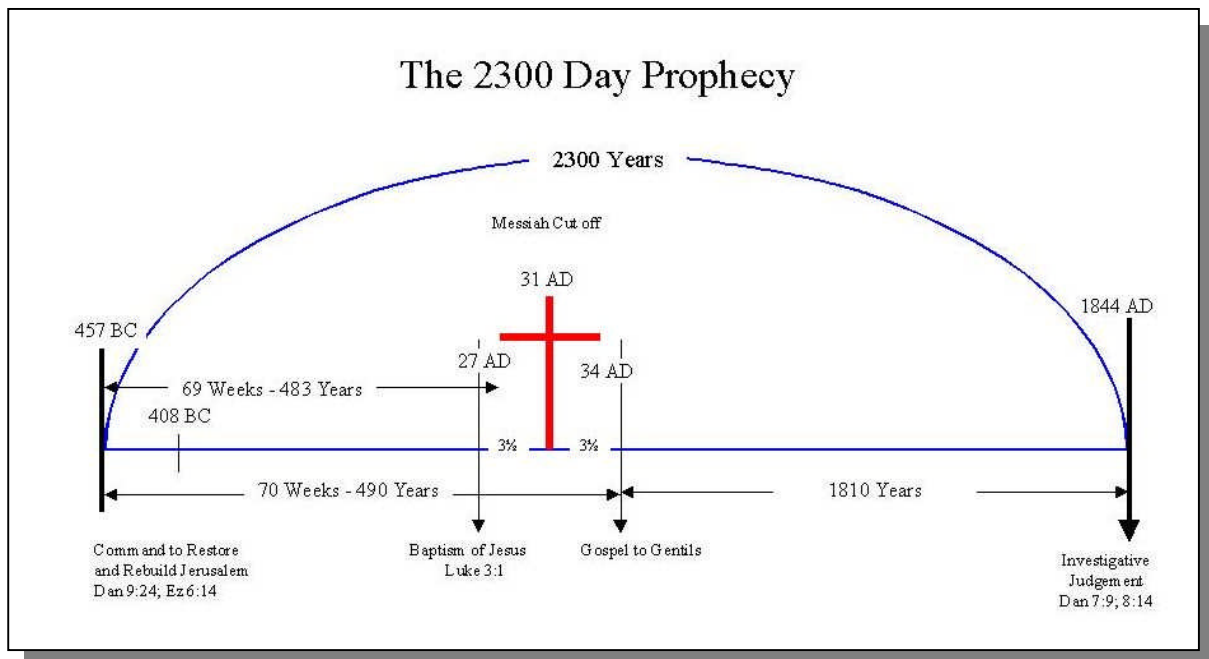
The following words from Sir Robert Anderson sum up the climactic significance of Stephen’s death: “But though the public event which marked their fall (the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70) was thus deferred, the death of Stephen was the secret crisis of Israel’s destiny. Never again was a public miracle witnessed in Jerusalem. The special Pentecostal proclamation was withdrawn. The Pentecostal church was scattered. The apostle of the Gentiles forthwith received his commission, and the current of events set steadily, and with continual increasing force, toward the open rejection of the long-favoured people”. (*The Silence of God*, page 82,83).

In the margin of Daniel 9:26 it reads, “and the Jews, they shall be no more his people”. After Jesus’ crucifixion, God mercifully gave them 3½ more years to repent, but they did not. When Stephen was stoned in A.D. 34, the Jews were cut off from God as a nation. However, individual Jews were, and still are, welcome into the family of God if they wish to respond to God’s pleadings.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.**

This is the most vital part of the prophecy. Christ became our sin-bearer. The guilt of our sins was placed upon Him and He died for us. It was all planned. He chose to die for all humankind. His death was necessary that we might have eternal life. His great disappointment was that “his own received Him not”.

So far we have dealt with 490 years of the 2,300 years. That means there are 1810 years to account for. Adding on these 1810 years, we arrive at A.D. 1844. From this time we would expect, on the basis of this prophecy, to see a world-wide movement announcing the time of God’s judgment. In 1844 God started two great programs, one in heaven, the other in earth. Truth was restored after 1844 in the earth – in heaven, “the cleansing of the sanctuary”. The next study will explain in more detail the significance of what happened in heaven in 1844. The last stage of Christ’s mediatorial work will soon be completed. Soon the judgement will be finished, and God will bring an end to sin forever.



Review Sheet – The 2,300 Day Prophecy

Assignment: Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. Did Christ quote Daniel as a reliable prophet? Matthew 24:15
the ‘abomination of desolation,’ _____.
2. How long was the vision concerning the cleansing of the sanctuary? Daniel 8:14
He said to me, “ _____ ; _____
_____.”
3. Was this vision meant to be understood, and when would it find its fulfilment? Daniel 8:16,17
“Gabriel, _____.” ... _____
_____.”
4. Daniel fell sick and did not hear the meaning of the vision at first, but did he ultimately receive an explanation? Daniel 9:21-23
O Daniel, I have _____.
5. How long was the first part of the 2,300 days? Daniel 9:24
Seventy _____.
6. How long is one day when used prophetically? Ezekiel 4:6
I have _____.
7. When did the great time prophecy begin Daniel 9:25?
Understand, *that* _____
_____.
8. In what year was the decree passed to rebuild Jerusalem? _____ B.C
9. Did the Messiah begin His work when the prophecy indicated? Matthew 3:16,17
(i.e. 483 years from 457 B.C.) The Spirit of God _____
_____ (This was A.D. 27)
10. When was it predicted that the sacrificial system would cease? Daniel 9:26,27
And after _____, ... but in the
middle _____
(This was A.D. 31 – the year Christ died).
11. When were the Jews cut off as a nation of God’s chosen people? Acts 7:58-60
And they _____ (Also see margin Daniel 9:26; after himself)
This ended the seventy weeks in A.D. 34.
12. 1810 years are left in this prophecy, which when completed point to the investigative judgment in heaven.
What is the date? _____ A.D.

Can you see how this prophecy is God’s unanswerable challenge to unbelief? _____.