

THE CURSED PROPHECY



As one studies the chapters of Daniel, you can't but help noticing scenes of judgment. One of the most remarkable Bible prophecies is the one found in Daniel chapters 8 and 9.

Briefly, the vision Daniel received was of kingdoms fighting, finishing with the Roman empire, which became a religious power as well. In Daniel 8:11, 12, we are informed that the little horn power waxed exceedingly great and "cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered." Daniel next heard the question asked, "How long will these things last?" And the answer came in Daniel 8:13, 14, "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Daniel 8:17-27 tells us that the angel Gabriel came to reveal to Daniel the meaning of this dream. He told him of the significance of the beasts and the horns, but before he could discover the meaning of the 2300 days, Daniel fainted and was sick for some days because of what he had seen. Later in Chapter 9:24 Gabriel tells Daniel the details of the vision.

Over five hundred years before Jesus was born, a parallel prophecy, concurrent to the 2300 days, revealed the year of His baptism and also the year of His crucifixion. The time aspect of this prophecy will impress you, as it already has impressed thousands of other Bible students. Even skeptics and infidels have been led to believe in Christ and the Bible when confronted with this marvelous prediction. Let us take a look at these two time periods.



WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THE JUDGEMENT

“As I hear I judge; and my judgment is righteous.” John 5:30.

As you study, be thinking about the Life Quest questions.

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

HIS WORD SAYS

1. What part of the prophecy or vision did Daniel find hard to understand?

Daniel 8:14, 26-27.

The 2300 days and the evenings and mornings represent the same time period. Before the angel Gabriel could finish explaining the vision to Daniel he fainted and was unwell for a short time. It was therefore necessary that Gabriel return at a later time to finish his explanation of the 2300 days.

2. Who did God send to help Daniel understand this? Daniel 9:21-23.

Here we see Gabriel return to complete his mission of explaining the vision to Daniel.

3. How much of the 2300 days was to be "determined," or "cut off," for Daniel's people, the Jews? Daniel 9:24, 26.

Ezekiel 4: 6 and Numbers 14: 34 indicate that in symbolic Bible prophecy a "day" is used to denote a "year." Thus these 2300 days actually are 2300 years of time. The Hebrew word for "determined" or "decreed" is châthak which properly translates to "cut off". The first 70 weeks were "cut off" from the major part of the prophecy for the Jews, which thus represents 490 years of time.



4. When does this great time prophecy of 2300 years begin? Daniel 9:25.

The 70 weeks were cut off from the 2300 days, so they share the same starting point. The decree to restore and build Jerusalem was given by the Persian King Artaxerxes in the Autumn (northern hemisphere) of 457 B.C. See Ezra 6:14, 7:7, 11-13.

5. Did Daniel foretell in this great prophecy the year of Christ as our Messiah?
Daniel 9:25.

The Messiah (meaning 'anointed one') was to appear "7 weeks and 62 weeks" after the commencement date of the prophecy. That is 69 weeks, or 483 days (which represents 483 years) after 457 B.C. This brings us to the date 27 A.D.

6. Did Jesus become this Messiah? Matthew 3:16-17; John 1:41; Acts 10:38;

"Messiah" and "Christ" mean the "Anointed One." Jesus was anointed by the Holy Ghost at His baptism in A.D. 27. And remarkably, Daniel foretold the exact date over 500 years in advance.

7. Was Jesus' death, foretold by the prophet Daniel? Daniel 9:26.

The cutting off of the Messiah signifies His death. The reason He was not cut off for Himself was because He died for the sins of the world.



8. When was this to occur? Daniel 9:27.

69 weeks brought us to the "Messiah." One week was left from the 70 weeks, already "cut off" for the Jews. One week is 7 days, or 7 actual years of time. Jesus was to be "cut off" in the "midst" or "middle" of this week. This would be 3 1/2 years after His anointing.

A.D. 27 + 3 1/2 years = A.D. 31.

Thus remarkably Daniel also foretold the exact date of Jesus' death.

9. When was the time set aside for the Jews to finish their transgressions?
Daniel 9:24.

69 weeks, or 483 years, brought us to Jesus' baptism in the Autumn (northern hemisphere) of A.D. 27. Half a week, or 3 1/2 years, brought us to Jesus' death in the Spring of A.D. 31. Half a week, or 3 1/2 years, brings us now to the end of the 70 week time for the Jews, which was A.D. 34.

10. Did the Jews as a nation accept Christ at that time? Acts 7:58 to 8:1.

Sadly the Jews maintained their rejection of Christ throughout His life and ministry and called for His crucifixion. Due to their rejection of Him, Jesus announced that their temple was left to them desolate (Matthew 23:38). After Christ's ascension the Jews continued their rejection of Jesus in their persecution of the disciples. A.D. 34 marked the time of the stoning of the disciple Stephen and the calling of Paul to take the gospel to the Gentiles. God no longer maintained His special covenant with them.

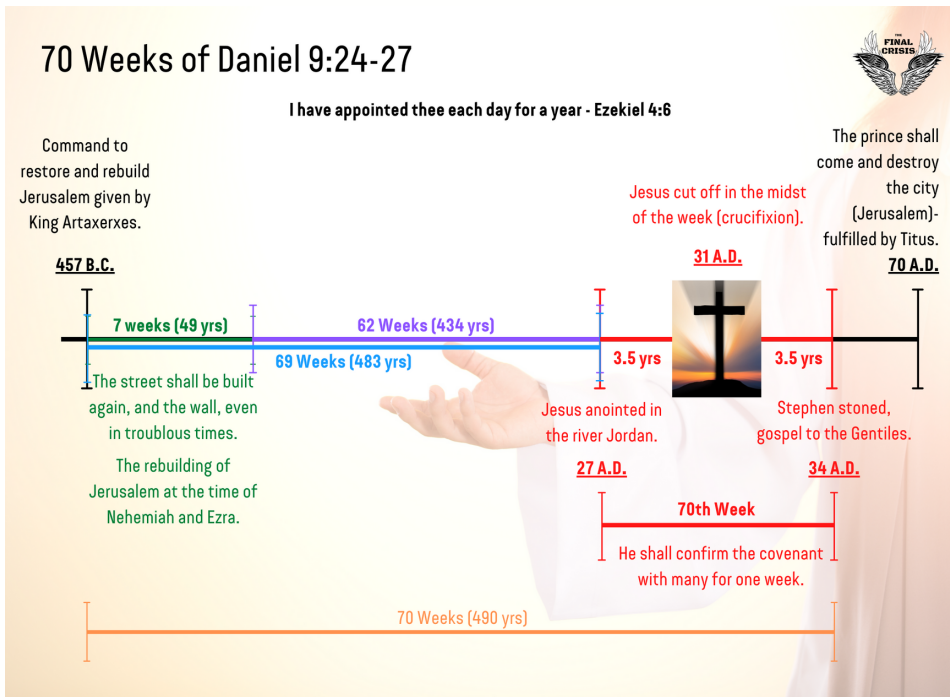
11. After the "cutting off" of the Jewish nation at the end of the 490 years, how much time was left to the closing of the 2300 years? (2300 - 490)

12. What was to take place at the end of the 2300 years? Daniel 8:14.

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary was synonymous with the Day of Atonement in the Old Testament. It is the day that the sins of all people are removed from the Holiest place by the high priest (Jesus) and laid upon the scapegoat (Satan).

This is the cursed Prophecy due to the Jews banning the reading of this prophecy with a threat of death to those who study it. Why? It proves Jesus was the Messiah who is still waited for today by many Jews, that He is the Son of God, that they killed Him and refuse to believe that He is mankind's High Priest in Heaven.

In the next study we will look at more detail on the Judgment.



Revelation 14:7

Saying with a loud voice, Fear God,
and give glory to him; for the hour of
his judgment is come: and worship
him that made heaven, and earth,
and the sea, and the fountains of
waters.



LIFE QUEST:

Have you thoughtfully reviewed these Questions?

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

YOUR TURN

Check the statements that most closely reflect your response to this study.

___ I feel comfortable with my understanding of this subject.

___ I would like to study this topic further.

___ I want to express my thanks to Jesus for His love to me by predicting what He was to do for me.

___ I can see that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah of Old Testament prophesy.

___ Other _____