

A Study of the Book of Daniel
The Most Amazing Bible Prophecy-part 2
Chapter 9

REVIEW: At the end of chapter 8, Daniel is “**astonished**” at the vision. The Hebrew word here is “**shamem**” which means to stun or to grow numb.

Daniel 8:26-27

*“And 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; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and **I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.**”*

Daniel wasn't wondering who the ram, he-goat, or little horn was. Gabriel had given him those answers. It was because he didn't understand the cleansing of the sanctuary. After all, the Jews were in captivity, and the temple lay in ruins, so how would the sanctuary be cleansed. He recognized that as the same as the Day of Atonement. He did not understand the significance and time of the 2300-year prophecy. His failure to understand everything in the vision conflicted with the “*charge*” that was given to the angel Gabriel to “*make this man understand the vision*” (Daniel 8:16). Gabriel had begun to reveal the vision to Daniel, but Daniel could not comprehend its impact. He fainted and was greatly troubled concerning its meaning (Dan. 8:27). In Chapter 9, **Gabriel returns to Daniel** and completes the explanation of the 2300-year prophecy.

Daniel chapter 9 falls into four clear divisions, as follows:

Daniel 9:1-2	Daniel's reference to his study Jeremiah's 70-year prophecy
Daniel 9:3-19	Daniel's heartfelt prayer.
Daniel 9:20-23	The Return of Gabriel
Daniel 9:24-27	The “Explanation” of the 2300 Days and what events would occur

Daniel 9:1-2

*“**In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.**”*

Historical Setting: Daniel 9:1-2

“**First year of Darius**” – 539 AD, twelve years after the vision in Daniel 8.

“**Jeremiah the prophet**” – Daniel understood Jeremiah's 70-year prophecy clearly. After much time praying and studying, especially the book of Jeremiah, he realized that the desolation of Jerusalem and Israel's Babylonian captivity would soon come to an end (Jer. 29:10-15).

Daniel 9:3-19 – Daniel's Prayer of Repentance for Israel

*“**And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our**”*

fathers, and to all the people of the land. O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee. O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. **To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him; Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.** Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him. And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem. As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth. Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: **for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth:** for we obeyed not his voice. And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly. O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us. Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake. O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies. **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.**”

Key Points:

- God keeps covenant and mercy to them that keep His Commandments (v. 4).
 - Israel had not obeyed God, nor kept His laws (v. 10).
 - Daniel acknowledges the people's sins (vs. 11, 15).
 - He acknowledges the righteousness of God in His works (v. 14).
 - Daniel pleads for the restoration of sanctuary and Jerusalem (v. 17-18).
 - He also pleads for forgiveness (v. 19).
- (Notice the references to the sanctuary and the Exodus in Daniel's prayer.)

The Elements of Daniel's Prayer:

1. He prayed earnestly.
2. He depended upon God's righteousness, not his own.
3. He used Scriptures that he had.
4. He confessed his own sin and the sins of his people.
5. He sought the glory of God and of His sanctuary.
6. He claimed God's promises.

Daniel 9:20-24

“And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of

my God; Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even **the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning**, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, **I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding**. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore **understand the matter, and consider the vision. 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.**”

Key Point:

Gabriel returns to Daniel, having flown all the way from heaven quickly! He is now come to give Daniel skill and understanding of the vision. What vision? So far, everything in Daniel chapter 9 has been a prayer. Obviously, it would have to be the last vision, from Daniel chapter 8, where Gabriel had come to help him understand the little horn power and the cleansing of the sanctuary, but Daniel was overwhelmed. Chapter 9 is not a new vision, simply a further explanation of the vision from chapter 8.

Daniel 9:25

“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.**”

Key Point:

Gabriel names the event that will start the 70 weeks and the bigger picture of the 2300-day/year prophecy!

When was the decree to “restore and rebuild” Jerusalem? Three Persian decrees were issued:

1. **Ezra 1:1-4** – 1st decree by Cyrus in 538-537 BC
2. **Ezra 6:7-12** – 2nd decree by Darius around 519 BC
3. **Ezra 7:11-12** – 3rd and final decree by Artaxerxes in 457 BC

Only the third and final decree saw Jerusalem rebuilt and **restored** to full governmental authority. The first two decrees had dealt only with rebuilding of the temple and city. With the decree of Artaxerxes in 457 BC, the full restoration of Jerusalem was granted, which enabled them to have their own government, the way they did before the captivity.

Ezra 6:14

“And the elders of the Jews **builded**, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And **they builded, and finished it**, according to the **commandment of the God of Israel**, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.”

Ezra recognized the combination of the three decrees of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes was required to fulfill all the promises of God to His people. Cyrus’s decree came right on time, when the 70 years of Babylonian captivity were over (Jer. 29:10-15). Darius’s decree restarted the construction of the temple of God. This was instrumental in fulfilling the promise that the glory of this temple would be greater than that of Solomon (Haggai 2:9), **but it was the last decree by Artaxerxes that completed not only the rebuilding of Jerusalem, but the**

restoration of Jerusalem and the Jewish people. Therefore, the decree of Artaxerxes provided the starting point for the countdown to the Messiah!

Key Point:

Starting Date for the 2,300 Years is the Autumn of 457 B.C.

Ezra 7:25-26

“And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not. And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.”

The knowledge of God and His law was to be restored to God’s people. Those who would not obey God, or the king would be speedily cut off.

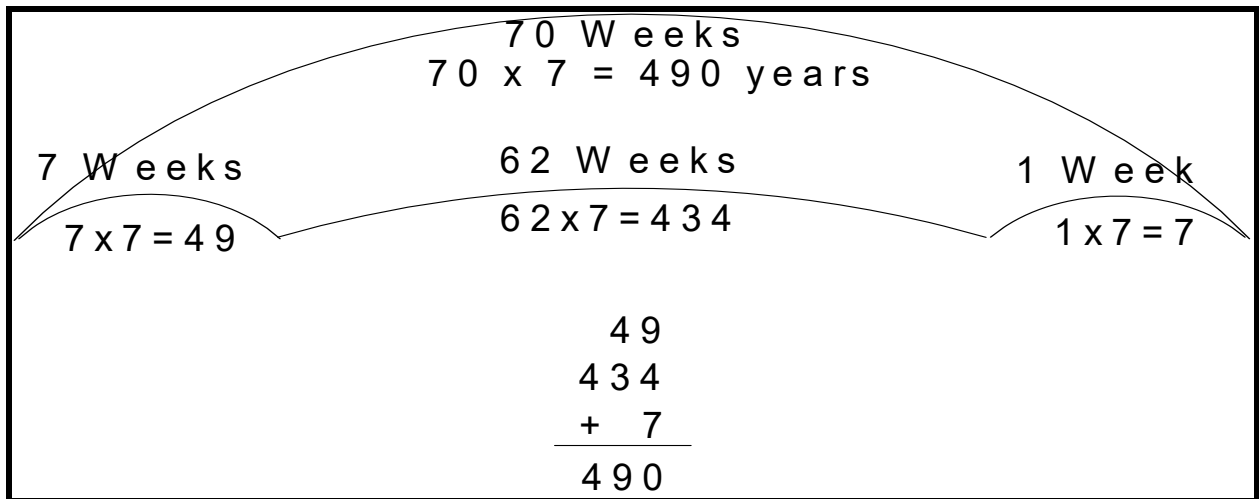
How do we know that the third decree, given by King Artaxerxes was in fall of 457 BC?

1. **Olympiad Dates** – Classical historians accurately preserved the Olympiad dates for Artaxerxes. These were transmitted from Xenophon and Thucydides through Plutarch to the Christian chronographer Julius Africanus.
2. **Ptolemy’s Canon** – This document records the reigns of kings back to the 7th century B.C.
3. **Cuneiform Text** – The archeological findings of Babylonian cuneiform texts, compiled by Parker and Duberstein, provided a relatively complete catalog of dates for kings who ruled in Babylon from 626 BC to AD 75.
4. **Elephantine Papyri** – These records were written by Jews who lived on the island of Elephantine in southern Egypt during the Persian period. The dates were recorded with both the Persian-Babylonian lunar calendar and the Egyptian solar calendar dates, thus fixing the years of Artaxerxes’ reign to our dating system.

“Until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks.”

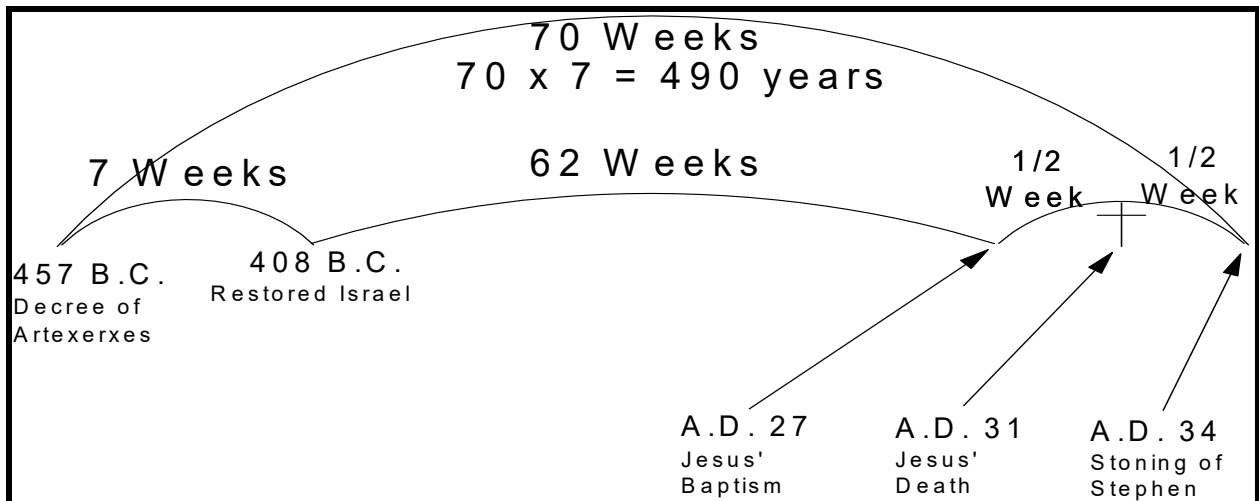
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|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. 7 weeks x 7 prophetic days = 49 years | 457 BC to 408 BC |
| B. 62 weeks x 7 prophetic days = 434 years | 408 BC to AD 27 |

FIGURE NO. 1



What happened in 408 BC? *“The street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.”* (Dan. 9:25) The complete restoration of Jerusalem took 49 years. As you read in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah about the conflicts they had with the enemies of God’s people, and even the troubles they had with the Jews themselves, you can see that this prophecy was literally fulfilled.

FIGURE NO. 2



What happened in 27 A.D.? Messiah the Prince Would Be Anointed for His Work: *“The Time Is Fulfilled!”* God anointed Jesus by the Holy Spirit at His Baptism. (Acts 10:38, Luke 3:21-22) The very first sermon Jesus preached was *“The Time Is Fulfilled!”* (Mark 1:14-15) He referred directly to Daniel 9:25. Obviously Jesus understood that He was fulfilling Daniel’s time prophecy! He told the Samaritan woman, *“I that speak unto thee am He [the Messiah].”*

Luke records the exact year of Jesus’ baptism. (Luke 3:1-3)

“In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar”

Others knew that Jesus was the Messiah.

“We have found the Messiah!” John 1:41

“Christo,” which we translate Christ, is the Greek word for “Messiah.”

The angels called Him *“Christ.”* (Luke 2:11)

“This is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world!” (John 4:42)

- Review:** **457 B.C.** - The countdown to the Messiah begins with Artaxerxes' decree.
 408 B.C. - At the end of the first 7 prophetic weeks (49 literal years), the capital city of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel was restored.
 27 A.D. - At the end of the next 62 "weeks," the Messiah was to be anointed for His mission, at His baptism.

Overview of the Seventieth Week: That Last Prophetic "Week"

- 27 A.D.** - Jesus announces that He is the Messiah: *"The time is fulfilled!"*
31 A.D. - Jesus was "cut off" (He died) in the middle of that last prophetic "week."
34 A.D. - The Jews as a nation were "cut off" as the gospel goes to the Gentiles.

"And after sixty-two weeks, shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself." (Dan. 9:26)
"In the midst of the week He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease." (Dan. 9:27)

The New American Standard Bible renders this phrase closer to the Hebrew with "**but not for himself**" being rendered as "**and have nothing**." After the end of the 62 weeks, after 27 A.D., in the middle of that last "week" of seven years, Christ was indeed "cut off" for His people. *"For the transgression of my people was He stricken."* (Isa. 53:8) "**Karath**" is the Hebrew word which means "cut off" or "kill." He literally had nothing; even his disciples forsook him at that time.

Matthew 26:56

*"But all this was done, that the **scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled**. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled."*

"The people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary." (Dan. 9:26) The word "Prince" refers to the "Messiah Prince." Because of their rejection of God's Prince, the Jewish nation destroyed themselves. Having rejected God's Messiah, the city was destroyed by the Roman legions under Titus in 70 AD.

Key Point:

The destruction of Jerusalem is not directly part of the 490 years, but this event was included in the span of the 2300-years prophecy. The fall of Jerusalem came "**like a flood**" and "**unto the end of the war desolations are determined**." The total desolation of Jerusalem occurred as predicted, and Jesus warned His disciples of its destruction. **Jesus understood the prophecies of Daniel, and we should too.**

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week." (Dan. 9:27)

Jesus confirmed the covenant with many of the Jewish people during His 3 ½ years of ministry. Jesus' disciples and followers confirmed the covenant, after Christ's crucifixion and resurrection for the next 3 ½ years.

Romans 15:8

"Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:"

Hebrews 2:3

*"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was **confirmed unto us** by them that heard him."*

"And in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease." (Dan.

9:27) Christ paid the ultimate sacrifice, so there was no longer a need for earthly priests, animal sacrifices, and sin offerings. At His death, the temple veil was rent from top to bottom (Matt. 27:51), symbolizing that man now could have direct access to God through the atoning blood of Jesus' sacrifice. No more was God shielded from man by the temple veil. As Christ had paid the ultimate sacrifice for our sins, He fulfilled the shadow of the Mosaic sacrificial law.

Hebrews 10:8-10

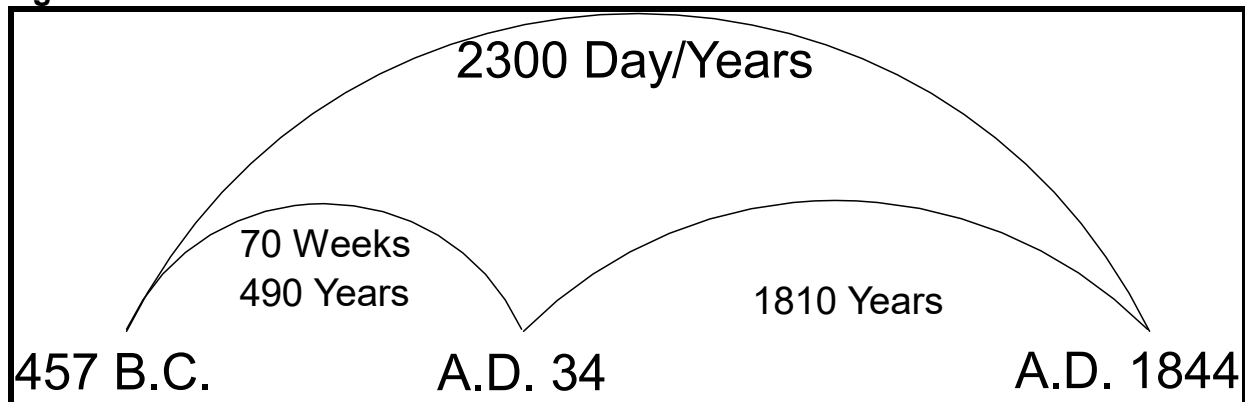
*“Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law: Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. **He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.** By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*

By His death, Christ “*did away with*” or “*fulfilled*” the sacrificial law; therefore, He established His eternal covenant of grace. He had paid the penalty for all our sins, satisfying God’s justice which required His Son’s blood sacrifice for sin.

“And for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate.” (Dan. 9:27)

God allowed the desolation of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. because of the unfaithfulness of Israel (**Dan. 9:11,18**). This also prophetically applies as a type or foretaste of the coming desolation of the church at the hands of papal Rome.

Figure 3



When did the probationary period for Israel end? At the end of 490 years, the end of the 70th week.

What occurred? The stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr, in 34 AD.

The Jews, out of their hatred for Christ, used the Roman government to kill Him. But, in the death of Stephen, the Sanhedrin directly carried out the stoning! History tells us that the stoning of Stephen occurred in 34 A.D., approximately 3 1/2 years after Christ’s crucifixion.

Saul attended Stephen’s stoning and heard him pray for his persecutors.

Acts 7:51-60

“Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye

*have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, **Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.** Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, **And cast him out of the city, and stoned him:** and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. **And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.**”*

Acts 13:46-47

*“Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: **but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.** For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.”*

At the death of Stephen, the nation of Israel had rejected Jesus Christ and His gospel. Then “a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem” led the followers of Jesus to take the gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 8:1). Paul speaks of the natural branches being “cut off” and the Gentile branches being grafted into the vine of spiritual Israel (see Romans 11). God had intended that the Jewish nation would bear the light of Christ, but they rejected the truth and light given them. Now this privilege was given to the Gentiles; with the help of the apostles, they would bring the gospel light to others and spread the good news to all the earth.

Six Major Points Made by Gabriel in Daniel 9:24

“70 weeks” (490 years) are determined upon Israel and Jerusalem to:

1. “Finish the transgression”

Daniel’s prophecy gave the Jewish nation 490 years to cease from breaking God’s Ten Commandments, and to follow God as He intended.

2. “To make an end of sins” – Jesus died on the cross to empower us to have victory over sin.

3. “To make reconciliation for iniquity” – Jesus did this at the cross.

4. “To bring in everlasting righteousness” – Jesus did this in His life and at the cross.

5. “To seal up the vision and prophecy” – Jesus “sealed” or confirmed the accuracy of the 70-week prophecy by proclaiming, “*The time is fulfilled!*” and by living a holy life and then dying as our Passover Lamb “*in the midst of the week.*” After Christ ascended, His disciples continued to confirm the covenant with Israel until they rejected it. Thus He “sealed” or authenticated the vision and the prophecy of Daniel chapters 8 and 9 for us. Since the 70-week portion of the 2300 years was confirmed on earth with such startling accuracy, we should have equal confidence in the fulfillment promised at the end of the 2300 years.

6. **“To anoint the most Holy”** – The Hebrew can read *“Most Holy One”* or *“Most Holy.”* Jesus, the Holy One of God, was anointed in 27 A.D. Just as the prophecy indicated, Christ’s anointing occurred at the beginning of the “seventieth week” at His baptism.

Key Points:

1. The six bullet points all point us to Jesus being the Messiah.
2. Daniel was told that this 70 Week prophecy had to do with Jerusalem and the Jews.
3. The word *“Determined”* in the Hebrew, means to be *“Cut off.”*
4. Therefore, the conclusion is that, the Jews were given 490 years to accept Jesus as the Messiah or be *“Cut off”* as God’s holy people. Verse 24 is all about Jesus and the Jews.

THE END OF THE 2300-YEAR PROPHECY

DANIEL 8:13-14

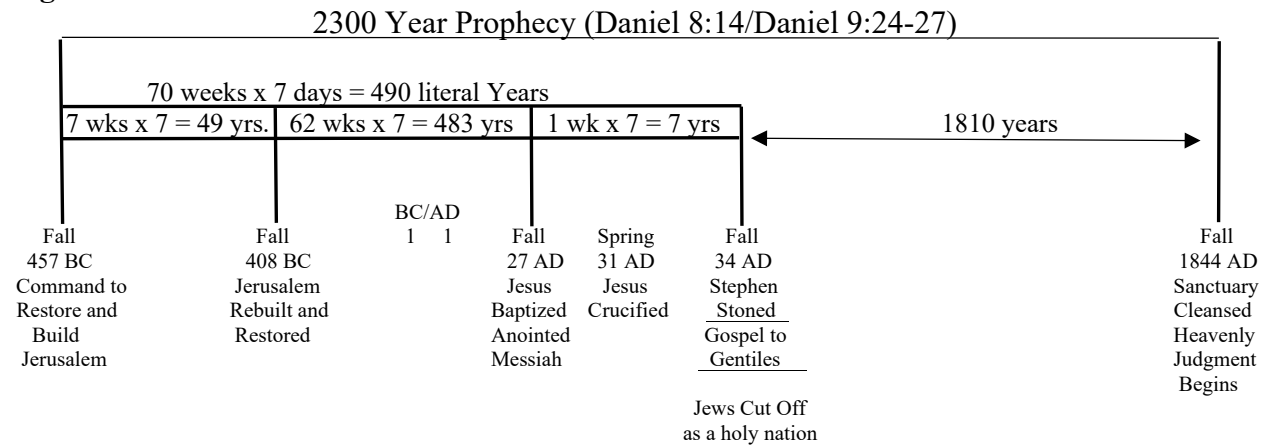
“Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily [sacrifice], and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.”

In Daniel 9:23, Gabriel was told to help Daniel *“understand the matter, and consider the vision.”* This refers to the portion of vision of Daniel 8 which related to the 2300 years, the part that Daniel couldn’t understand. In Daniel 8:13-14 the angels asked God how long it will be before the knowledge of Christ’s continual ministry in heaven and the sanctuary truths would be restored. In Daniel chapter 9, Gabriel came back to give Daniel a complete understanding of the longest time prophecy in the Bible.

In chapter 9, Gabriel started his explanation by giving a starting point for the 2300 years. Since the 490 years were *“cut off”* from the 2300 as probationary time for Israel, both the 2300 years and the 490 years had the same starting point. The 490-year prophecy would provide markers along the way, to give us confidence that the event at the end of the 2300-year period would be fulfilled as well.

As we do the math, by subtracting the 490 years, that we just covered, from the bigger picture of the 2300 years ($2300 - 490 = 1810$), it leaves us with 1810 years left to the end of the 2300 year prophecy. The date that ended the 490 years was 34 A.D. with the stoning of Stephen. Therefore, we continue from 34 A.D. and add 1810 years ($34 \text{ AD} + 1810 = 1844 \text{ A.D.}$), this would bring us to the end of the 2300-year prophecy, the *“Cleansing of the sanctuary,”* in 1844 A.D. At the end of the 2300 years, the prophecy promised the restoration and cleansing of the sanctuary (in the heavenly temple) in 1844. As a result of the heavenly judgment that began in 1844, Jesus would receive His dominion, glory, and kingdom (Dan. 7:14) as He reasserts His High Priestly role. As the true Day of Atonement began in 1844, He restored His *“tamid”* (continual) ministry to its rightful place in the minds and hearts of His people.

Figure 4



He is “a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.” Hebrews 8:2

Two Key Points:

1. At the End of the 70 Weeks Jesus Established the Apostolic Church.
2. At the End of the 2300 Years Jesus Restores His Church. (Daniel 8:14)

The New Testament believers understood and taught Daniel’s prophecies.

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| Heb. 2:3 | “confirmed unto us by them that heard Him” |
| Mark 1:14-15 | “the time is fulfilled” |
| Gal. 4:4 | “fullness of the time was come” |
| 1 Peter 1:10-12, 20 | “angels desire to look into” (compared to Dan. 9:13-“How long?”) |
| 2 Thess. 2:1-12 | “who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God” |

SUMMARY:

Nearly 500 years in advance, prophecy predicted the exact dates of the rebuilding and restoration of Jerusalem and its temple, also, the “*anointing*” of Jesus, His crucifixion, and the end of the Jewish probationary period. Through prophecy we have unequivocal proof of Jesus’ claim to be the Messiah. And by Jesus’ fulfillment of the prophecy, we see that He sealed and validated the vision, proving its reliability. Seeing the accuracy of the 70-week prophecy, we can depend upon God to have fulfilled the second part with equal accuracy in the year 1844. Thus, in 1844, we see Jesus, as described in Daniel 8:13-14, entering the final stage of His ministry in the heavenly Most Holy Place. As our High Priest, He entered the Holy of Holies “*in the presence God for us*” to begin the judgment and restore the apostolic church.

The middle of the seventieth “week” pointed to Jesus as our Sacrifice for sin and the beginning of His ministry in the Holy Place at His ascension. The end of the 2300 years, points to Jesus again, ministering for you at His Father’s throne, the Ark of the Covenant, praying for His law to be written in your heart. As in the Day of Atonement, it’s time to let Him search our hearts and cleanse us from all sin. Today we must focus on Christ as our High Priest in the Holy of Holies during the final judgment hour of earth’s history. As our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary, He is calling for us to live our lives in complete surrender to the will of God. Will that be your desire?