

The Amazing Prophecy of the Messiah

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quoted is from the
King James Version (KJV), 1611, 1769.

Prophecy has been given that we might understand the future. Prophecy may include prediction of future events, warnings and directives from God concerning His purposes. Consider prophecies as “history in advance.” God’s prophetic Word gives us insight and hope. When prophecies are fulfilled, to unbelievers, it is a witness; to believers, faith and hope are strengthened as God demonstrates through fulfilled prophecies that He keeps His promises.

Amos 3:7

Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

Hebrews 1:1

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Here, Paul makes it clear God has spoken to us through the prophets.

This study takes us to the Old Testament, looking at one specific prophecy given to Daniel; one of the most profound prophecies in the Bible concerning the coming of Jesus Christ.

Background:

This prophecy is found in the book of Daniel, chapter 9. Daniel, during the 70 years of exile was living in the land of Babylon. He knew the prophesied 70 years of captivity were nearly over so he commits to prayer. Daniel 9 gives us the incredible prayer of repentance that Daniel prayed for Israel. However, in the midst of this prayer, Gabriel comes to bring Daniel the interpretation of the vision Daniel had received. This study looks at the interpretation Gabriel gave to Daniel regarding the timing of the vision.

The focus of the study in Daniel 9:24-27.

In verse 24 Gabriel explains:

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.

The duration given is 70 weeks. (These are weeks of years; each year representing 7 years. Thus, $70 \times 7 = 490$ years)

Gabriel states the 70 weeks would accomplish 6 things:

- (1) To finish the transgression
- (2) To make an end of sins,

- (3) To make reconciliation for iniquity,
- (4) To bring in everlasting righteousness,
- (5) To seal up the prophetic vision and prophecy,
- (6) And to anoint the most holy place.

The focus of this prophecy is on the Jews, rather than the church or the Gentile world (The church, of course, didn't exist at the time).

The fact that not all of this prophecy has been fulfilled, illustrates the 70 weeks are not contiguous. More on this later.

Another point to keep in mind is the Jewish calendar is unlike our calendar, the Gregorian calendar. The biblical calendar is, one month is 30 days, one year is 360 days.

Daniel 9:25 of this prophecy identifies the starting marker.

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.

The city of Jerusalem at that time was in ruins. The timeline clock starts ticking when the decree to rebuild Jerusalem begins. The period of time here is 7 + 62 weeks is 69 weeks.

69 weeks is 173,880 days.

Verse 25 provides the timing of the events of the prophecy. 173,880 days from the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah.

The decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus given on March 14, 445 B.C. was the starting point of the 173,880 days. While there may have been other decrees concerning the rebuilding of the Temple, there was only one decree given concerning the rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

When we fast forward 173,880 days, we arrive at the Luke 19 timeframe where Jesus fulfilled the prophecy given by Zechariah 500 years earlier as He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey:

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

This was the only day (thus far) Jesus was proclaimed as a King. The disciples were declaring Jesus as the Messiah by singing Psalm 118.

The Pharisees had grave alarm over the crowd's enthusiasm proclaiming Jesus as the "Messiah," and attempted to shut down what they felt was blasphemy. But Jesus knew the truth was being announced.

Luke 19:40

Jesus then declared: *"I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."*

This event occurred on the 10th of Nisan,⁵⁸ or April 6, 32 A.D.

When you convert the Hebrew text into the terms of our calendar, we discover that there were exactly 173,880 days between the decree of Artaxerxes and the presentation of the "Messiah the King" to Israel!

Gabriel's prophecy, given to Daniel five centuries before—and translated into Greek three centuries before the fact—was fulfilled to the exact Day!

What is also interesting is that Jesus held them accountable to recognize this day. It was this national rejection that led Christ to declare a national blindness that we observe continuing even to this day.

Luke 19:42-44, Jesus said,

42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things [which belong] unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,

*44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; **because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.***

Thirty-eight years after Jesus declared this, the 5th, 10th, 12th and 15th Roman Legions, led by Titus Vespasian, laid a siege upon Jerusalem, which resulted in over one million men, women, and children being slaughtered.

During the battle, a torch thrown through a window started a fire inside the Temple. The extensive gold furnishings and fixtures melted and Titus had to order every stone taken down to recover the gold.

Thus, the specific words of Jesus were fulfilled in the Fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

Gabriel's interpretation goes further

Daniel 9:26

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.

One of the events is that the Messiah shall be “cut off” (kara, execution; death penalty). It comes as a surprise to many to discover that the Old Testament predicts that the Messiah of Israel was to be executed.

Other events that intervene between the 69th and 70th week include the destruction of both the city and the sanctuary. Indeed, just as Jesus had predicted, after the end of the 69th week under Titus Vespasian, the Roman legions destroyed the city and the sanctuary in 70 A.D.

It is important to recognize that there are specific events specified between the 69th and 70th week, and, thus, not all the weeks are contiguous. During this time, the church would continue to grow, the Jews would be scattered throughout the world and then finally regathered back to a nation (1948).

There is one remaining verse which details the final “Seventieth Week” of this prophecy.

Daniel 9:27

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.

This final seven year period, the 70th week, would begin with a covenant for one week. In the middle of the week (i.e. after 3 ½ years), the anti-Christ will put a stop to the daily sacrifices and commit the abomination of desolation. This is a specific sign that Jesus gave us concerning the signs of His coming.

Matthew 24:15

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place,...”

Here is some food for thought regarding the abomination of desolation. This event may have occurred in the past twice and will again in the future, each seemingly tied to one of the Temples.

- 1st Temple: Antiochus IV Epiphanes in 167 BC
- 2nd Temple: Romans in AD 70
- 3rd Temple: Anti-christ (future)

Another interesting point is that many also believe the book of Revelation could be the sealed up vision given to Daniel depicting the coming tribulation on earth.

The prophecy of Daniel 9 continues to the return of Christ. This prophecy, still in progress, will be completed in the coming years when we will see the last portion of verse 24 fulfilled.

- To bring in everlasting righteousness,
- To seal up the prophetic vision and prophecy,
- To anoint the most holy place.

Stay tuned... Maranatha!