

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON 12 – DANIEL

This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

Daniel 2:36

NOT OF THIS WORLD

The Book of Daniel is one of the most fascinating of all books of prophecy found in Scripture. When studied in context, it is a tremendous conviction that the WORD of GOD comes from a Source other than man. Next to the Book of Revelation, it is also perhaps the most abused book in all Scripture.

For this study I would like to lay down some basic foundations.

Just as Ezekiel's "wheels' within wheels" is not about flying saucers, Daniel's visions are about something defined in the context of the vision itself.

DANIEL 101

Let's begin by establishing some basic foundations that are critical to understanding and interpreting this important book.

1. As we have seen from the beginning, we should expect the Book of Daniel to be about the coming of the "He" of Genesis 3:15, the Messiah. (Everything focuses on where history is going as it relates to GOD and the coming of the "He" of Genesis 3:15 who is seen throughout the Daniel narrative)
2. Daniel often tells us exactly who or what the symbol represents. (This is critical because many modern-day interpreters ascribe completely different interpretations to the specific symbol. If Daniel is telling us who or what the symbol represents, let's accept the interpretation of the Prophet who wrote the prophecy!)

PROPHECIES ABOUT THE "HE" OF GENESIS 3:15

Daniel's most famous visions that specifically relate to the coming of Christ are found in Chapters 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12. In this short study we will examine Chapters 2, 7 & 9 because these are of most interest in these latter days.

Daniel 2 - Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

In this famous vision, Daniel explains who the first three kingdoms are. The controversy is over the fourth kingdom and the associated prophecies about Christ. Is it Russia? We shall see.

Daniel 7 – Daniel's Dream of the Four Beasts

The first three beasts are explained. Even Daniel wants ***"to know the true meaning of the fourth beast."*** (Daniel 7:19) Again, we will see if Daniel tells us who this fourth beast is.

Daniel 9 – Daniel's Seventy Weeks

One of the most amazing texts in all Scripture. Daniel 9 tells us exactly when the "He" of Genesis 3:15 will appear. But does it also tell us something about ***"latter days"*** following His death and resurrection?

THE STATUE AND THE BEAST

In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means.

Daniel 2: 1-3

You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.

Daniel 2: 31-36

THE KEY QUESTION CONCERNING CONTEXT

First, the prophecy is likely to have something to do with the coming of the "He" of Genesis 3:15 so we should look for that.

Second, we are told exactly what the symbol means.

It is explained to us that this first vision of a giant statue is a prophecy of future events at the time of Daniel, and as an historical reference point, we are given the identity of the first kingdom.

THE FIRST KINGDOM

Daniel tells Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar that he is the head of gold.

The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold. (vs 38)

KINGDOM'S 2 - 4

Daniel then reveals something about the rest of the statue explaining that each component (bronze, iron clay), represent future kingdoms.

Because we have the privilege of reading this in the future, it is rather easy to determine the identity of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th kingdoms based on the prophetic details.

Further keep in mind the point of prophecies is connected to the "He" of Genesis 3:15. Therefore we should expect these kingdoms to be somehow explaining when the coming of Messiah will occur. And, that is exactly what we find.

In other words, the prophecies are not given to King Nebuchadnezzar simply to tell him about his future, but rather, to tell the Jews and future generations how King Nebuchadnezzar fits into the

time-line for when the King of Kings will arrive. Nebuchadnezzar is a time-marker for the coming of the “He” of Genesis 3:15.

DANIEL CHAPTERS 2 AND 7

Before we discuss the certain parallels of these symbols to actual kingdoms, let’s turn for a moment to Daniel Chapter 7. Daniel 7 is a parallel of Daniel Chapter 2. In it however, we find a beast rather than a statue with similar symbolic characteristics that parallel the statue.

Here is a summary of both the statue of Daniel 2 with the beast of Daniel 7 and their most likely kingly symbolic references.

COMPARISON BETWEEN DANIEL 2 (STATUE) AND DANIEL 7 (BEAST)

Daniel 2 (Statue)	Daniel 7 (Beast)	Kingdom
Gold head	Lion w/ eagle’s wing	Babylonian
Silver chest & arms	Bear w/ 3 ribs	Medo-Persian
Bronze belly & thighs	Leopard w/ 4 heads	Greek
Iron legs	Beast w/ iron teeth	Rome
Iron & clay feet	10 horns on the beast	
	One of 10 horns little	
Stone breaks statue	Reign of God’s people	Kingdom established

THE FOURTH KINGDOM (SPECIAL ATTENTION)

Next week we are going to pick up with a look at the 4th Kingdom (Iron legs). The interesting question is, why is GOD calling our attention to this fourth Kingdom by explaining more about the 10 horns and specifically a little horn (horn #11)?

PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

We can see clearly that the “He” of Genesis 3:15 arrives on the scene during the reign of the 4th Kingdom (Rome).

What about the 10 horns/toes? Are they connected to the 4th Kingdom Rome. Are they telling us something about the future Second Coming?

THE MEANING OF THE STATUE AND THE BEASTS

In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

Daniel 2: 44

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TWO INTERPRETATIONS

In broad terms there are two interpretations for the Statue (Daniel 2) and, Beasts (Daniel 7) **as they relate to latter-days** (when you and I are reading this). In this study, I am going to present both interpretations and let you decide which you think has the most weight of evidence.

THE FOUR KINGDOMS

Everyone I know on both sides agree the four kingdoms in the vision are Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. **NOTE: It is the 10 horns plus the little horn (see above in the chart), that leads to two different interpretations.**

WHERE EVERYONE AGREES

DANIEL 2 (THE STATUE)

- **THE HEAD OF GOLD (BABYLON)**

You, O king, are the king of kings...You are that head of gold. (vss 36 & 38)

You will recall Babylon, under King Nebuchadnezzar, captured Israel and took the best and the brightest back to Babylon for conditioning. Daniel and his friends were part of that upper class. GOD allowed this to happen to punish Israel but His Promise of reuniting Israel would not be broken. The gold represents a single mighty empire that would not be broken up when defeated.

- **THE CHEST AND TWO ARMS OF SILVER (MEDO-PERSIA)**

"After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours." (vs 39)

The Medo-Persian Empire was two empires (two arms). The Persian Empire under Cyrus eventually took control over the Medes. Therefore, the chest is Persia under Cyrus. It is also interesting that the chest is where the heart is located and Cyrus actually had a heart for Israel and allowed the rebuilding of Israel.

- **THE BELLY AND THIGHS OF BRONZE (GREECE)**

"Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth." (vs 39)

The Greeks first defeated the Persians under Alexander the Great. (One belly) Alexander's was succeeded by the king of the north and the king of the south. (These final two divisions represent the two thighs). Note how Alexander is connected with ruling over what was referred to as the "whole earth" of that time. Literally as far as you could imagine in all directions.

- **THE LEGS OF IRON (ROME)**

“Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.” (vs 40)

Iron is the strongest of metals and Rome becomes the strongest and most enduring of empires. Notice the emphasis on the strength of Rome. Rome was always divided. Northern and Southern, eventually Eastern and Western. Even religiously it had two phases, Pagan and Christian.

DANIEL 7 (THE BEASTS)

- **THE LION WITH WINGS OF AN EAGLE (BABYLON)**

“The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it.” (vs 4)

Some scholars say a winged lion was the official symbol for Babylon although I find it more likely the winged lion with human head of Assyria which led to the lion of Babylon, are the symbolism here. The lion is the “king of beasts” and the eagle is by far the “lord of the air”, so these symbols certainly can represent the first kingdom coming out of the sea of trouble. Notice how the winged lion is morphed into a man-like creature with the emphasis on the heart. This again points to Cyrus and his heart for the Israelites.

- **THE BEAR WITH THREE RIBS IN ITS MOUTH (MEDO-PERSIA)**

(the second) “...looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!' (vs 5)

The bear represents the next kingdom in line which is Medo-Persia under Cyrus. This is interesting. Cyrus defeated three kingdoms (the 3 ribs) to gain power, Babylon, Egypt and Lydia. The bear is raised up on one side which means the Persian empire would super-cede the Medes.

- **THE LEOPARD WITH 4 HEADS AND 4 WINGS (GREEK)**

“After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule”. (vs 6)

The Greeks were stealthy (like a leopard) and flew from nation to nation in their conquest. (the wings) The 4 heads are the four kingdoms after the death of Alexander. (He had no successor and no heirs) which eventually were conquered by the next kingdom, Rome.

- **THE DREADFUL AND TERRIFYING FOURTH BEAST (ROME)**

“...there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.” (vs 7)

Greece was the bronze kingdom, Rome was iron. The terrible beast has teeth of iron but a connection to the bronze. Rome took on the culture of Greece. In Daniel 2 the belly is bronze and the legs iron.

DANIEL 7:23-24

'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom.'

And so we have set the stage for interpreting Daniel 2, 7 and finally, the Revelation.

THE MEANING OF "LATTER DAYS" IN DANIEL

Now I have come to make you understand what is to befall your people in the latter days, for the vision is for [many] days yet to come.

Daniel 10: 14

Most Christians in the U.S. are so inundated with modern-day concepts of the millennium, the tribulation, thousand year reign of Christ, Left Behind series, etc, the moment they read this verse from Daniel 10, they immediately connect it with modern-day prophecies.

And that, in fact, is exactly how most, if not all, of the pastors and books on the subject of the Second Coming (Perusia), treat this verse to prove their point.

OLD TESTAMENT "LATTER DAYS"

QUESTION: So, what are the "**latter days**" as defined in the book of Daniel? The "latter days" of Daniel refer to days after Daniels' time ("latter") but, **before** the coming of Christ (The "He" of Genesis 3:15).

That's right. The verse at the opening of this TTB is **clearly** defined by the Prophet himself in his vision given by GOD, as referring to events BEFORE the coming of Christ THE FIRST TIME. No kidding!

So, maybe that means we should re-think some of those proof texts being used for 20th and 21st Century interpretations?

Contrary to many who immediately see the term "latter days" and place the accompanying prophecy in the 20th (and now 21st) centuries, the term "latter days" is **clearly defined in Daniel as being the period of Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome** and not 2007.

EXAMPLES FROM DANIEL

Daniel 2:28 says, "...there is a God in heaven Who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what it is that shall be in the **latter days**."

The vision then proceeds for the remaining chapters to repeat the pre-Christ kingdoms of Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome.

These are "latter days" to Daniel and the Jews of his time. **Even modern-day futurists** agree that Rome is the 4th Kingdom and 4th Beast. Daniel's "latter days" are clearly and logically defined as being **pre-Christ** and yet these same futurists throw out this term and immediately connect it to the 21st century.

Daniel 10:14 says, "Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the **latter days**, for the vision pertains to the days yet future."

Same thing. Modern-day futurists pull this scripture out to prove it is going to be in the "latter days" which of course, means 2010.

However, it is to **"your people"** which means, Daniel's people as opposed to 21st century gentiles. Then, Daniel 11 (as in, immediately following Daniel 10) proceeds to elaborate on Medo-Persia, Greece and, Rome. (As Forrest Gump says, "Again!")

OLD TESTAMENT VERSUS NEW TESTAMENT "LATTER DAYS"

Generally speaking there are **Old Testament "latter days"** (future for the specific prophet speaking) which are **clearly defined as specific periods leading up to the coming of the "He" of Genesis 3:15. After all, that is the relevant topic for the prophet not to mention, the entire Old Testament.**

The Prophets from Adam on want to know when the single most important event in history will take place? That is what GOD is telling them.

Then, there are New Testament references to "latter days" which refer to the Second Coming and perhaps, 20th and 21st Century prophecies. However, the term is not singularly defined to mean modern-day history.

This would not be such a big deal, however, the core premises of these "latter day" 21st century interpretations, are these very same Old Testament "latter day" clearly defined and elaborated on, meanings.

A THEOLOGY OF VICTORY

It makes a huge difference how you interpret future events.

I believe the Bible in its entirety is a document of **Victory before the Second Coming!** And, if you interpret these passages out of context, it presents the opposite. Christ winds up coming to earth to "bail us out." (so to speak). I believe if you interpret these passages **in context, WE WIN before He arrives.**

IN FACT, THAT IS WHY HE COMES BACK!

THE 11TH HORN

After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn (an 11th horn), before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Daniel 7: 7-8

THE FOURTH BEAST

Recall the 4th Beast mentioned above, is Rome.

You will also recall Daniel Chapter 2 begins with the vision of the statue interpreting it to mean the “latter day” empires of Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome (he begins with Babylon). **Then in Daniel Chapter 7** he presents four beasts again interpreting them to mean empires: 1) Babylon; 2) Medo-Persia; 3) Greece; and, 4) Rome.

WHY? Daniel is telling the reader when **the “He” of Genesis 3:15** will arrive. The Jews have been promised deliverance by GOD. They are in captivity. Is GOD a liar? NO! GOD will deliver His people just as Jeremiah prophesied and the Messiah will come to redeem mankind just as GOD has promised.

WHEN? Daniel Chapters 2 – 9 tell us clearly the Messiah will come during the reign of the Roman Empire (a latter day empire at the time of the writing).

THE ROMAN EMPERORS (THE TEN HORNS)

The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time. Daniel 7:24-25

Now that we have established that the 4th Beast is Rome and the 4th Beast has ten horns which are Kings of Rome plus an eleventh horn that is of particular interest, let’s look closely at who these horns might be.

Here is a list of the Roman Caesars up to the end of the first century from Julius Caesar to Domitian. This list is similar to that given by the Roman historian Suetonius who lived around 100 AD. (Note: The Triumverate was technically not a Caesar but it held a place in the chronology of leadership)

1	Julius Caesar	49-44 BC
2	The Triumverate Marc Anthony/Octavian (Augustus)/Lepidus	44-31 BC
3	Augustus	31 BC-14 AD
4	Tiberius	14-37
5	Caligula	37-41
6	Claudius	41-54
7	Nero	54-68
8	<i>Galba</i>	68-69
9	<i>Otho</i>	69
10	<i>Vitellius</i>	69
11	Vespasian	69-79
12	Titus	79-81
13	Domitian	81-96

VESPASIAN, THE 11TH (LITTLE HORN)

After them (the 10 kings) another king will arise (the 11th king), different from the earlier ones ...He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints... (i.e, he will oppress the saints in a way unlike those before him)

Vespasian, and his son Titus, were responsible for the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. He was in fact, quite different from the others.

(He will) try to change the set times and the laws.

Vespasian was Emperor, and military leader under whose leadership his son Titus brought the Temple worship in Jerusalem to an end. Vespasian literally stamped out the time-table (Jewish Calendar and Temple ceremonies), which GOD had given to identify the times for the Coming of Christ. Christ however, had already come and there was no longer any need for sacrifice at the Temple.

He will subdue three kings.

The three kings just before Vespasian.

Galba, Otho, and Vitellius were all military men who died in one year, 69 AD. The first and third were murdered by their troops; Otho was driven to commit suicide. Vespasian brought to an end the reign of three kings (horns) all of which reigned in the same year and yet were three separate kings.

In the Revelation of John we will see this reference once again and even a mention of the time-line for their reign (69 AD). Daniel merely makes mention of this king subduing three kings, quite an unusual reference when you consider all the kings are from the same kingdom.

TIMES, TIMES (2X) AND HALF A TIME

The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

All Jewish scholars recognize this to mean time = 1-year and a Hebrew time (year) = 360 days

Therefore, time (360-days) + times (720-days) + half a time (180 days) = 1,260 days (3½ years)

Because Daniel has defined and is most concerned with the "latter days" of his generation and, has clearly explained that these events are connected to the kings of the Roman empire, I accept this to mean 3½ years (1,260 days) of events at the time of Vespasian and not, 1,260 years into the future. (Notice I said, "years" into the future. This latter interpretation being most common among futurist today.)

The question is therefore, when was this three and a half year period?

70 AD

This time-line fits into the events of 70 AD.

1. The Jewish war under Vespasian lasted 7 years, to the month, from 66-73 AD.
2. Jerusalem was destroyed to the month in the middle of this period, in 70 AD. (Exactly 3½ years)

The 3½ years therefore corresponds perfectly with the period under Vespasian (the 11th king), from 66-70 AD.

THE END OF IT ALL

If you accept that the events described by Daniel relate to the 11th Caesar Vespasian and the destruction of the Temple under his reign (and not some future event involving Russia 1,260 years into the future), you will find no problem with the question asked in **Daniel 12:5-7**.

Then I, Daniel, looked, and two others appeared, one standing on this bank of the stream and one on the other. One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was upstream, "How long shall it be until the end of these wonders?" The man clothed in linen, who was upstream, raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven. And I heard him swear by the one who lives forever that it

would be for a time, two times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end, all these things would be accomplished.

The shattering of the power of the holy people (the Jews) came to an end with the destruction of Jerusalem and end to Temple sacrifices. The “He” of Genesis 3:15 had come and the Temple was destroyed. (symbolic of the power of the Law)

And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. Daniel 7:27

Victory is ours!

DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS (SEVENTY SEVENS) OF YEARS

While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill- while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision:

Daniel 9: 20-23

DANIEL 9

One of the most important and famous passages in Scripture deserves special attention. Jesus is almost certainly referring to this prophecy from GOD when he chastises the Jews for not knowing He “should” be present in Jerusalem at the exact time of his arrival.

Daniel has been given a vision of **when** the Messiah will arrive.

Daniel Chapter 9 is that vision and time-table.

NOT A PASSAGE TO TREAT LIGHTLY

Daniel 9 can be mysterious so we will take it a step at a time. For those who are looking for quick answers, this is not the place to look.

To understand Daniel 9 we must understand GOD's calendar including the **Jubilee Year**. We must also go through each **“week of years”** and see what the prophecy actually says will occur.

Last, we must use common sense.

GOD intended for us to understand the meaning of this interesting prophecy (just as He intended us to understand the Book of Revelation), however, He intended it to be in the context of the groundwork laid before we get to the specific text.

In a sense, we have been working up to this great passage with GOD explaining His Plan from Genesis 3:15 on. Now is the time to put that understanding to the test.

TWO INTERPRETATIONS

From about 50,000 feet, there are two basic interpretations for Daniel's weeks of years.

In our study we will understand more clearly the differences as we proceed. For now however, simply know that Daniel 9 speaks of 70 sevens (7 days in a week). Biblical scholars (both Christian and Jewish), understand this to mean seventy weeks of years for a reason we will understand in our study.

Just about everyone on both sides of the argument, agrees on the meaning of the weeks of years up to the 69th week. It is the 70th week of which there is strong disagreement.

In the final analysis it matters little who is right or wrong however, which interpretation you accept of necessity drives your theology regarding end-times.

WHAT YOU BELIEVE AS TO *WHEN* CHRIST WILL RETURN

OPTION 1

If you believe the evidence means the 70th week **has already occurred** (i.e., at the time Christ first appeared), you most likely believe Christ will **not** return immediately but rather **the Church will go through a period of great victory (including a victory over Islam) and spread throughout the whole world at which time Christ will return.**

OPTION 2

If you believe the evidence means the 70th week **has not yet occurred** (is a future event at the time of this writing), you believe in general, Christ will return at a point in history when the Church is under great siege and **Christ will return to take us out of the world to allow the growth of the Church after a period of tribulation.**

DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS OF YEARS - WHY WEEKS OF YEARS

In the first year of Darius son of Ahasuerus (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom - in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

Daniel 9: 1-3

DANIEL 9

Daniel reads that GOD has promised to limit the captivity and return the Jews to Jerusalem at the end of 70 years. It is the 69th year. (This is important to understand. Daniel is in the 69th year of captivity. We are going to see something about 69 weeks of years)

WEEKS OF "YEARS"

If you have studied Daniel 9 the term "years" does not occur anywhere in the prophecy.

So, how do we know Daniel is referring to years when he says?

"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. (Daniel 1:24)

A MYSTERY TO US, A FAMILIAR REFERENCE TO DANIEL

The Jewish calendar focuses on numbers and observances based on 7's. (Remember the captivity would last 70 years?)

For example: 7-days in a week. Sunday is the 1st day of the week, not Monday. (Saturday=7th/Sabbath)

The Jewish calendar uses this 6-days of Creation plus, a 7th day of rest (Sabbath), 7 days in a week and extends it to include:

- a "week of weeks" (7 x 7 = 49)
- a "week of months" (7 months)
- a "week of years" (7 years).

In other words, all multiples of 7's so that we never forget the Creation and back to the Garden (the reason the "He" of Genesis 3:15 becomes our sacrifice).

THE JUBILEE YEAR

When Gabriel tells Daniel, "**seventy-sevens**" are decreed...", Daniel understands this reference means "weeks of **years**" because of a previous special calendar event commanded by GOD called **THE JUBILEE YEAR**.

Leviticus 25:8-10

"Count off seven sabbaths of years-seven times seven years-so that the seven sabbaths of years amount to a period of forty-nine years. Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you;

Following **7 weeks (Sabbaths) of years** comes the Jubilee Year (the time of restitution of all things), when all land is reverted back to its original owner, all slaves are set free, all debts are forgiven.

(Sounds like GOD's restoring both earth and mankind to the Garden? It is!)

THE DAY OF JUBILEE HAS ARRIVED!

"That's right, Hones (honeys). Ain't no dream. We runaway slaves but we come back fightin' men. Go tell your folks how kingdom come in the year of jubilee!" (Morgan Freeman, Glory)

Gabriel is telling Daniel and us, when the "He" of Genesis 3:15 will come. **We are to look for him to come in the Year of Jubilee** and to figure out when that will be by looking back at GOD's calendar.

DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS OF YEARS – 490 YEARS, NO MORE NO LESS UNTIL THE COMING OF THE “HE” OF GENESIS 3:15

"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

"Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

Daniel 9: 24-27

Daniel Chapter 9 verses 24 – 27 are truly amazing. Think of it! **Only three verses (contrast this to 3 chapters to cover the Noachic Flood).** Yet, these three verses are right up there with Mathew 24 in importance.

Daniel is given a time-table of seventy “weeks of years”. Seventy-sevens = 490 years.

Daniel is being told when the “He” of Genesis 3:15 will appear. No other person in history other than Jesus of Nazareth, who actually claimed to be the “He” of Genesis 3:15 (more previews of coming attractions), precisely fulfills the timing of this passage.

490 YEARS TO REPENT BEFORE MESSIAH APPEARS

The Children of Israel, GOD's own priests to the nations of the world (Remember Sinai?), had sunk into deep apostasy. They had been punished for 70 years. Gabriel is now telling Daniel the nation of Israel through whom Messiah will appear has been given 490 years (70 x 7) to:

1. **Repent of their sins**
2. **Reconcile themselves to GOD**
3. **Be the conduit to bring in everlasting righteousness to the world, and;**
4. **Set the stage to anoint the Most Holy.**

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE

The Jews are also warned what will happen if they are not faithful to GOD's Word. Ultimately the vision of Daniel is proven to be absolutely correct.

Because of their sinful state, the Jews did not recognize Jesus as Messiah, and therefore rejected Him.

THE PROPHECY VERSE BY VERSE

Verses 24

A. **"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to...** Gabriel begins by providing a summary of:
1) The time-limit GOD has "decreed" (set in stone). The People of Israel *and*, the City of Jerusalem have **exactly** 490 years, no more no less, just as GOD has limited the time of captivity to exactly 70 years, this is how long they have.

2) What must occur during those 490-years. They are personally involved in what will occur during this period before Messiah appears. They are not simply to sit on the sidelines and wait for it to happen.

NOTE: It is interesting that Gabriel did not simply apply the 490-years to the people alone, but also, to the holy city. This undoubtedly had significance to Daniel ("how will the holy city be involved?") and, as we sit in history looking back, we should wonder that once Messiah appeared, the city and temple were both destroyed (70 AD).

B. **finish transgression...** They are to stop rejecting GOD and the Covenant. They are to finish their transgressions against GOD.

C. **put an end to sin...** They are to stop their sinning and blaspheming.

D. **atone for wickedness...** They must atone. What this means is they must repent and make amends for their wickedness. This means change their lives and agree with GOD.

E. **bring in everlasting righteousness...** This verse is often placed in some future context by "futurists". However, if you look at the context this event is included in the "seventy-sevens", or 490-year period. (Read the opening sentence). Further, in context, it is saying, when you (Israel) stop rejecting Me, stop your constant sinning and blaspheming, repent and make amends by being obedient and within the time-frame of this 490 years (no more no less), **"everlasting righteousness"** (Messiah), will be brought in through You, My People Israel. Could it be plainer? This is not some event occurring in 2010 AD.

F. **seal up vision and prophecy...** Again, this is often placed into some future context however, for reasons above, and in the context or flow of information in the prophecy Gabriel is explaining that when He arrives and when it is exactly on GOD's time-line as now being explained, and YOU RECOGNIZE HIM as the "HE" of GENESIS 3:15 (Messiah), there will be no need for further visions and prophecies about His coming!

NOTE: if the Jews had recognized and accepted Messiah and placed Him on the Throne of David, there would be no need for further visions and prophecies. As it was, they did not do this and visions and prophecies eventually ceased just as foretold by Gabriel.

G. **anoint the most holy...** Accept Him as King.

This is fascinating to ponder. What if, the Jews had accepted Messiah and placed Him on the throne of David?

DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS OF YEARS - WHEN IS THE 70TH WEEK?

Gabriel instructs the Jews, they have:

Verses 24

- I. **"Seventy 'sevens' decreed for your people and your holy city to**
 - A. *finish transgression* – Stop rejecting YHWH
 - B. *put an end to sin* – Stop sinning and blaspheming
 - C. *atone for wickedness* - Repent
 - D. *bring in everlasting righteousness* – Recognize the HE when he arrives on time.
 - E. *seal up vision and prophecy* – finish up the visions and prophecies of the which point to the coming of Messiah (the “He” of Genesis 3:15).
 - F. *anoint the most holy* – Accept Him as King.

Gabriel instructs the Jews, this will occur when:

Verse 25

- II. **"Know and understand this:**
 - A. From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.
 - B. It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

THE STARTING POINT

If you look closely at the information in verse 25, Gabriel provides a starting point to calculate when Christ will appear. That starting point is **the commandment to rebuild the city of Jerusalem and the temple.**

Both had been destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar as the Babylonian empire had taken the nation of Israel into captivity.

THE CONTROVERSY – 3 DECREES – ONE HEHEDED

The problem is, the Bible records three commandments to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. Each has certain variations on the extent to which the city, walls and Temple, were to be rebuilt.

It is clear however, that the first two of these commandments went almost completely unheeded.

THE THIRD DECREE was given by King Artaxerxes in 457 BC and is recorded in Ezra 7:1-13.

DANIEL 9, THE 70 WEEKS OF YEARS AND THE JUBILEE CALENDAR

When, the 70th week of years occurs is split 50:50 between those who believe it has not occurred yet (there is a 2000+ year gap between weeks 69 and 70) and, those who believe it occurred immediately after the 69th week of years (continuous) without a gap of time.

If you live in the United States, you may be surprised to know that the vast majority of Christian scholars in the world (faithful Believers and not what you might call “liberals”), believe the 70th week occurred immediately following the 69th week. (no gap in time)

Only in America is there a majority of Bible scholars who believe it has not yet occurred.

THE RAPTURE

Most believe a rapture will occur at the beginning of the 70th week (a pre-trib rapture). Others believe a rapture will take place near the middle of the 70th week (3.5 years * after the Great Tribulation begins — a mid-trib rapture), and still others believe the gathering of the saints will occur at the end of the Great Tribulation (a post-trib gathering).

THE JUBILEE CALENDAR

Now, here is a clue as to why I am biased towards the majority of scholarship on the issue. The Jubilee calendar is very specific and it is one calendar with sequential weeks.

You will recall that the “weeks of years” comes directly from GOD’s Jubilee calendar. It is as if there is this calendar with 70 weeks. When you get to the 69th week the next week is the 70th week and then it starts over again. **There is never a separation in time from the 69th week to the 70th week. If there was a separation in time it would not be the 70th week. It would be the 2000th week or whatever.**

THE 70TH WEEK FITS THE HISTORICAL FACTS

The FULL 70 WEEKS OF YEARS if extended from 457 B.C. to A.D. 34 (a full 490 year prophecy) is fulfilled exactly on time and as described. There is no need for the 70th week on the calendar to wait 2000+ years to occur.

TWO DIVISIONS WITH A STARTING POINT

If you examine the prophecy, Daniel is given two divisions (7x7) & (62 x 7). Then, Gabriel explains what will occur on those dates.

Division #1 = Seven weeks x seven years per week, = 49 years.

THE CALENDAR

Beginning in **457 BC** (Artaxerxes Decree, above) – 49 years = **408 BC**.

What happened in 408 BC associated with the building of Jerusalem? The outer wall and streets in Jerusalem were completed in 408 BC.

This fits the prophecy perfectly.

Division #2 = 62 weeks x 7 years = 434 years.

457 BC – (49 + 434 = 483) = **27 AD** (There is no “0” from BC to AD)

What happened in 27 AD associated with the coming Messiah?

We do not know with certainty but whatever it was, it was the beginning of the ministry of Christ.

Some have speculated Jesus was baptized in 27 AD.

NOTE: Remember, the last prophecy is that the HE will be annointed. We know Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit and began his ministry sometime around 27 AD. If correct in our interpretation of the starting point, this was in 27 AD.

In fact, no other individual fits this prophecy as perfectly for a Jew, as does Jesus of Nazareth.

Verse 26

- III. **After the sixty-two 'sevens,'**
- A. **the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing**
 - B. **The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary**
 - C. **The end will come like a flood**
 - D. **War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed**

After Jesus appears and is "cut off" (crucified), Jerusalem and the Temple would again be destroyed by the Romans (**Daniel 9:26**).

And, at that point, the long-standing covenant between Israel and GOD would come to an end.

THE PROPHECY AND THE TIME OF THE CRUCIFIXION (CHRIST BEING CUT OFF)

If we are correct thus far, does the prophecy tell us when the Christ will be cut off (crucified)? In fact, it does.

Verse 27

- IV. **He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven..' In the middle of the 'seven'**
- A. **he will put an end to sacrifice and offering**
 - B. **on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation until the end that is decreed is poured out on him**

Amazingly, after exactly three and one half years (middle of the 7), of ministry, in the very middle of the seven years (31 AD), He was crucified and the veil of the Temple was torn from top to bottom (Mark 15:38), signifying an end to the temple services.

In the middle of that week, He was cut off" (killed) and thereby caused the sacrificial system to cease (Daniel 9:27). Why?

The need for the sacrifice ceased when Jesus, as the Lamb of GOD, was sacrificed on the Cross. THE REAL LAMB HAD COME!

What did Jesus do during the week, or seven years, from His baptism to the close of Jewish probation (the 490 years from Daniel's Prophecy)? ***"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week"***.

The Old Testament Scriptures had foretold of the covenant that He would make with His people. **In Jesus' life, death, burial, and resurrection, we find the confirmation of that covenant. In other words, the covenant was just a promise, until Jesus came and confirmed that promise.**

THE FINAL 3 ½ YEARS

For 3 ½ years Christ's ministry was continued **to the Jews** through the growth of the Church made up of Jews, until they sealed their rejection of Him by stoning Stephan in A.D. 34. If this interpretation is correct then according to **Romans 9-11; Ephesians 2 and Galatians 3**, GOD abandoned the nation of Israel as the *exclusive* trustee of the Gospel **at the end of the 70 weeks.**

So the FULL 70 WEEKS of years extends from 457 B.C. to A.D. 34 and this 490 year prophecy is fulfilled exactly on time and consistent with the Jubilee calendar in all other cases where the Jubilee calendar is used. Amazing!