

Welcome to midnight Bible Prophecy Study. Daniel's 70 Sevens! This is Part 1

The Bible is the very Word of God, wholly and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit of God, and it is man's instruction for faith and practice. It is historically accurate and its content has been confirmed by countless archeological discoveries.

One aspect that is not found in any other religious literature is Predictive Prophecy.

Isaiah 46:10 KJV

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

There are hundreds of prophecies that had been fulfilled by Christ's first Coming to earth and during His earthly ministry. Then, there are hundreds more in both the Old Testament and New Testament that deal with His Second Coming. We can say with certainty that since all the prophecies regarding Jesus' first Coming had been fulfilled to the minutest detail, so shall the prophecies be fulfilled regarding His Second Coming.

One prophecy that dealt with Christ's first coming is in Daniel 9:24 - 26. If analyzed and evaluated, it leaves the true believer with a heightened sense of astonishment and causes more intensive worship of the Lord, and it should leave an unbeliever with a profound curiosity about the Bible, which should cause an serious desire to further examine the truth claims of Holy Scripture.

First, it starts by telling the reader that a period of "seventy weeks" are determined upon "thy people."

Seventy weeks are literally seventy sevens of years. Weeks comes from the Hebrew word "heptads," meaning sevens. Thus, the Angel Gabriel is telling Daniel that a total of 490 years is divinely apportioned upon the Jewish People (Thy People).

Verse 25 tells us that the beginning of this period of 490 years starts when a command is given to restore and build Jerusalem. One must remember that Daniel is an exilic prophet, who prophesied during the time of Judah's Babylonian 70 year captivity.

The Persian King Artaxerxes gave the command to the Jews on March 5th, 444 B.C. to start rebuilding Jerusalem, which had been destroyed by the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. When Nehemiah received the command from Artaxerxes, he went back to Jerusalem and started to rebuild the wall.

Now, back to Daniel's prophecy.

Careful reading will reveal that the prophesy divides the 490 years in three segments. Verse 25 mentioned 7 weeks of years (49 years) , and 62 weeks of years (434 years) and verse 27 speaks about 1 week of years, or 7 years. Adding 49 and 434 and 7 totals 490 years, which is the time

period the Angel Gabriel told Daniel will have significant prophetic implication upon the Jewish People.

Are you still with me? Stick around for the rest of the story! Please! You will be glad you did.

This most amazing part of the Bible is often neglected in churches because a false assumption is made that it's detail is beyond the capability of the average church goer to comprehend. I will suggest that since we are all created in the image of God, and, specifically, since each believer has the gift of the Holy Spirit of God, who is dwelling in them, there is nothing in the Bible that we are not able to grasp and comprehend. The Holy Spirit will give the diligent Bible student "illumination of truth." The climax of this prophecy will be revealed shortly.

The first segment of 49 years is for the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem, establishing the streets, the marketplace, and the general infrastructure to allow the city to function properly.

But, then, the combination of the two segments of 49 years and 434 years together, which yields 483 years, is the time from the commandment to rebuild until Messiah the Prince. This is stated in verse 25 (7 weeks of years, and 62 weeks of years = 69 weeks of years = 483 years)

So, the question that must be answered is what is the significance of the term "until Messiah the Prince?"

Dr. Harold Hoehner (1935 - 2009) from Dallas Theological Seminary authored a book, "Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ," Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1977. In this book, he examined this prophecy, the historical aspect of King Artaxerxes, and came to the conclusion that the phrase "Until Messiah the Prince" refers to the day that Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, fulfilling Zechariah 9:9. This was Palm Sunday when the people cried "Hosanna, Hosanna."

The manner in which Dr. Hoehner came to the date on which Jesus triumphal entry occurred is as follows. He considered the 483 years, as given to us by the Daniel prophecy in chapter 9:25 and multiplied 483×360 days per year (according to the old Jewish Calendar of 30 days per month, and 360 days per year). This calculation yielded 173, 880 days between the command by Artaxerxes and Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Next, he converted the Jewish calendar aspect of this prophecy into the Gregorian calendar system of 365 days per year and accounted for all leap years during this time period, and the fact that every 100 years do not have leap years. Also, from 1 B.C. to A.D. 1 is one year, not two years, as might falsely be assumed.

Based on all his calculations Dr. Hoehner concluded that the date when Jesus entered Jerusalem was March 30th, A.D. 33.

An amazing prophecy and even more astonishing fulfillment of this prophecy approximately 500

years after Daniel wrote his book. Glory to God in the Highest for directing the affairs of man toward his Redemptive goal.

In conclusion, Hoehner's states that the beginning of the 483 years was on March 5th, 444 B.C and this period ended on March 30, A.D. 33.

We can stand in awe and amazement in God's wisdom and His power to bring to completion the things he told His prophets. He is worthy to be worshipped, trusted and believed in all doctrines written in His Word, the Bible.

So far, I have not said anything about the last "week" of years, namely the final 7 years, which will complete the total 490 years in Daniel's prophecy concerning the Jewish People. That will be the subject of another article in the near future. Just in short, however, it comprises the Great Tribulation Period which shall come upon the entire world and will last 7 years. During this seven year period God will draw His people Israel to Himself, and pour out His wrath upon an ungodly and rebellious humanity. This seven year period is described in Revelation chapter 6 to 19. At the end of the Tribulation Period Christ will set up His 1000 year Reign (The Millenium) upon earth.