

DANIEL

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Daniel chapter 9 as we continue our study through the Word of God and we finish up this fascinating chapter of Daniel! As you remember from our last study we saw Daniel in fervent prayer for the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem. He recognized that the years of captivity in Babylon were almost completed.

And Daniel was a student of the Word of God, he read the words of the prophet Jeremiah when he said in Jeremiah 29:10-14, **“For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.”**

As Daniel called upon God in prayer, confessing his sins and the sins of the nation of Israel, we can see the burden that was upon this man’s heart. As he concludes his prayer he reaches a climax as he pours his heart out before God and we can see that with the verbs he uses, they get more intense. He said, **“O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”** Daniel 9:19.

Daniel was interceding for his people, the Jews and for the city of Jerusalem. And as we will see this evening, this prophecy of the Seventy Weeks of Daniel is so important and yet so misunderstood by so many.

I am amazed, and I should not be, at the foolish interpretations regarding this section of Daniel. I think that it is very clear who this section is for, it is for the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem. You don't have to be a scholar to understand that, you could be just like me!

Secondly, the timeframe is very clear. We are going to be getting the starting date for this prophecy and what will happen during this time. Let me show you what one writer had to say regarding the starting point of this prophecy and you will see, as we get to that section this evening, that if you look at the Bible instead of secular sources, it is easy to see the starting point. We are told,

The Bible says that the "seventy weeks" are to start after a decree to restore Jerusalem to an anointed one, who is also a prince. Traditional interpretations have interpreted the reference to a "decree" as referring to a decree by a Persian king, and that the "seventy weeks" is a way of saying 490 years (a week being seven years). Both assumptions are incorrect, and using either leads to an incorrect interpretation of Daniel 9.

The correct decree, and the only one that meets all of the biblical specifications, is one issued by Julius Caesar just before his assassination on the Ides of March in the year 44 BCE, ratified by the Roman Senate soon after his death, and recorded in Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews* 14.10.5 (Whiston translation), as follows:

Gaius Caesar, consul the fifth time [*in 44 BCE*], hath decreed, That the Jews shall possess Jerusalem, and may encompass that city with walls; and that Hyrcanus, the son of Alexander, the high priest and ethnarch of the Jews [*the anointed one/prince in verse 25 of the prophecy*], retain it in the manner he himself pleases; and that the Jews be allowed to deduct out of their tribute, every second year the land is let [*for the Sabbatic year*], a corus of that tribute; and that the tribute they pay be not let to farm, nor that they pay always the same tribute.

- <http://www.prophecysociety.org/wordpress/?p=483>

Foolishness and like I said, it is very easy to see the starting date and for us to understand what Daniel is told by the angel Gabriel unless you move away from the Scriptures and have your own biased ideas to put forth.

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Daniel chapter 9 and we will pick up in verse 20, but once again just listen to the passion of Daniel as he is praying in verse 19 of Daniel chapter 9 and we will then read on into verse 20. Daniel prayed, "**O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.**" Daniel 9:19.

DANIEL 9

VERSES 20-23

1. As we have seen Daniel is still interceding for the people of God and for the city of Jerusalem. And as he is praying he is interrupted by a messenger from God whose name is Gabriel. While Daniel's prayer was still on his lips God was there with an answer for him.

It is as God said in Isaiah 65:24, "**It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.**" Now some of you may be thinking, "I wish God would answer my prayers that quickly!"

First of all don't ever think that God is not ready to answer our prayer. I think many times God is just waiting for us to come to Him with our request so He can bless us. And God will give to us just what we need in our life and many times God will answer immediately as He did here with Daniel and other times we must wait upon Him to speak to our hearts in what we should do.

I do believe that God does answer all of our prayers. Again, some of you may be thinking, "I know that is not true!" But it is! Sometimes God says, "**Yes!**" Sometimes God says, "**No!**" And sometimes God says, "**Not yet!**" So He does answer our prayers in His timing and according to His will!

2. We are told that this messenger angel, Gabriel, reached Daniel at the time of the evening sacrifice. This sacrifice occurred at the altar of the Temple in Jerusalem at 3:00 PM in the afternoon.

This offering was one of the two daily sacrifices that were required by God. The first occurred in the morning and the second in the evening hours. We are told of this requirement in Numbers 28:3-4, which says "**And you shall say to them, 'This is the offering made by fire which you shall offer to the LORD: two male lambs in their first year without blemish, day by day, as a regular burnt offering. The one lamb you shall offer in the morning, the other lamb you shall offer in the evening.'**"

And so it was during the time of the evening sacrifice when Gabriel appears with the answer to Daniel's prayer. And we will see shortly how that prayer is answered far beyond anything Daniel could ask or think!

Another point here regarding this evening sacrifice, and let's see how your memory is. What was the most important sacrifice that occurred during the time of the evening sacrifice? It was the time when Jesus gave up His Spirit as He paid in full the penalty for our sins on the cross of Calvary.

Why is that important here? Because, as we will see, this prophecy is not only going to be related to the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem, but specifically it is about the First and Second Coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The Lamb of God who has come to take away the sins of the world and thus, the Jews should have known the time of His visitation and they missed it! We will talk more about that as we read on.

3. Now think about this for a minute. Why in the world would Daniel even mention the evening sacrifice, he has been in Babylon for many, many years and the city has been laid desolate for almost 70 years now? There were no more sacrifices in the Temple, there was no more Temple, there was no more Jerusalem since 586 B. C. when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon destroyed it!

As you read Daniel's prayer you will notice that his thoughts did not focus on the captivity but the release of the Jewish people back to their homeland. Daniel's mind and heart were back in Jerusalem and he knew that during this time of the day, in the Temple, sacrifices were being lifted up to God; a lamb was being sacrificed at one time.

Here is a man who was focused on God and he focused himself back to the land for which he longed for, in accordance to what the Word of God said. And so not only was Daniel's heart stirred by thinking back on Jerusalem and that God promised to bring them home again, but those Jews who read these words would also be stirred!

4. And so as Daniel is praying the angel Gabriel comes alongside to help him to understand the fate of the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem. He knew what God promised but he was unsure of how all this would come to pass and now the angel Gabriel will let him and all of us know.

VERSE 24a

1. Here is the key to understanding Daniel chapter 9. The focus of Daniel's prayer has been the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem, not the Church! Thus, the answer to Daniel's prayer is going to be focused on the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem, not the church!

It seems so simple and yet many people mess this up and in doing so they not only will be confused in regards to Daniel chapter 9 but also in understanding end time prophecy!

There are many churches, many denominations, many Christians who feel that God is done with the Jews, He is done with Israel because they rejected Jesus and thus, the Church has replaced Israel and they will receive all the promises made to the Jewish people. Foolishness! But as you can see here in this verse of Daniel 9:24a the focus is the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem.

Then how can they say that God is done with the Jewish people? Because they have to alter these verses here in Daniel chapter 9 to fit a date that supports what they believe, but they are wrong as you will see.

They call this Replacement Theology and people like John Piper and others, as you will see support this. Listen to this article and you will see how people have no idea what prophecy is all about. We are told,

Today there are approximately 100 million American church members who have very little to no understanding of Bible prophecy. These church members are from replacement theology churches that don't teach Bible prophecy and who look at prophetic scriptures as allegorical and not literal. Consequently, they do not understand the importance of Israel to the God of Israel or God's redemptive plan for Israel and the nations.

These church members also have no understanding of the biblical significance of what is transpiring today in Israel, Russia, China, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Turkey, and in other Middle East nations. They are also not aware of the significance of the formation of the European Union, new ID technologies and much more. . . .

Replacement theology teaches that the church is the replacement for Israel and that the many promises made to Israel in the Bible are fulfilled in the Christian church, not in Israel. So, the prophecies in Scripture concerning the blessing and restoration of Israel to the Promised Land are "spiritualized" or "allegorized" into promises of God's blessing for the church. Major problems exist with this view, such as the continuing existence of the Jewish people throughout the centuries and especially with the revival of the modern state of Israel. If Israel has been condemned by God, and there is no future for the Jewish nation, how do we explain the supernatural survival of the Jewish people over the past 2000 years despite the many attempts to destroy them? How do we explain why and how Israel reappeared as a nation in the 20th century after not existing for 1900 years? . . .

[List of the top 25 churches that support Replacement Theology and that list is growing.]

1. The Roman Catholic Church – 66,407,105
2. Southern Baptist Convention – 16, 427, 736
3. The United Methodist Church – 8,251,042

4. The Church of God in Christ – 5,499,875
5. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – 5,410,544
6. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – 5,038,006
7. National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. – 5,000,000
8. National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. – 3,500,000
9. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) – 3,407,329
10. Assemblies of God – 2,687,366
11. The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod – 2,512,714
12. African Methodist Episcopal Church – 2,500,000
13. National Missionary Baptist Convention of America – 2,500,000
14. Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc. – 2,500,000
15. The Episcopal Church – 2,333,628
16. Churches of Christ, Corsicana, Texas – 1,500,000
17. Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America – 1,500,000
18. Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. – 1,500,000
19. American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. – 1,484,291
20. African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church – 1,430,795
21. United Church of Christ – 1,330,985
22. Baptist Bible Fellowship International – 1,200,000
23. Christian Churches and Churches of Christ, Joplin, Mo. – 1,071,616
24. Jehovah's Witnesses – 1,022,397
25. Church of God, Cleveland, Tenn., – 944,857

If the everlasting covenant that God made with Israel is not everlasting, then we are in trouble because God made an everlasting covenant with us, our salvation and maybe in a million years God will change His mind, or maybe He already did? Not at all, that is the idea of an everlasting covenant, it is everlasting!

2. Now let's break this part of verse 24 down. Daniel is told that the time period of this prophecy is "**seventy weeks.**" The Hebrew word for "**weeks**" is *SHABUA* and it speaks of sevens.

Thus, seventy sevens are determined upon the Jews and upon the city of Jerusalem. And the implication from the text, as Daniel was just reading of the 70 years of captivity, is that these are speaking of seventy seven year periods or 490 years which will make up the time frame of this prophecy. And remember, the focus is, "**Your people**" the Jews, and "**Your holy city**" Jerusalem.

Also, the Hebrew word for "**week**" is *HEPTAD* and it is like a decade that means ten or a dozen that means twelve. This word means seven! Now does it mean seven days, seven weeks, seven years? If it spoke of days that would make no sense and even weeks does not fit. But that is not the reason I believe that this is speaking of years. In Genesis 29:20 we see this word used for "**week**" and it has to do with Jacob serving Laban for seven years for Laban's daughter, Rachel's, hand in marriage. It was not days, it was years and thus, the Law of First Mention tells us that the first time a word is used in the Scriptures the meaning of that word is stated.

Now what will the end of these 490 years bring to the nation of Israel? As we read on here in verse 24 of Daniel chapter 9 we will see six events that will be accomplished which are directly related to Israel and God's program for them. And keep in mind that these events have not been completely fulfilled as yet, and you will see this as we go through these things.

VERSE 24b

1. Keep in mind that as we look at these six things that will transpire at the end of these 490 years, they are related to Israel, the Jewish people. If you miss that you will be way off regarding prophecy and what God is doing. So let's look at the six things a little closer and see how they relate to the Jewish people.

A. TO FINISH THE TRANSGRESSION

The Hebrew word for "**transgression**" is PESHA, (peh'shah) and it has the root meaning, "to rebel." And notice how this is phrased, "**the transgression**" or something specific. Thus, this is speaking of the Jews rebellion against the rule of God in their lives. And the idea here is that they will not stop rebelling until the end of the 490 years or that all Israel will not be saved until the Second Coming!

You see, God will bring to an end Israel's rebellion against Him, for we read in Ezekiel 39:23-29, "**The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity; because they were unfaithful to Me, therefore I hid My face from them. I gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden My face from them.**' Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: '**Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name – after they have borne their shame, and all their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, when they dwelt safely in their own land and no one made them afraid. When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, then they shall know that I**

am the LORD their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their own land, and left none of them captive any longer. And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,' says the Lord GOD."

That means God is not done with Israel and they will turn back to God and repent of their sins and will recognize Jesus as their Messiah for Jesus told the nation of Israel, "**for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'**" Matthew 23:29. Yes the Jews will recognize Jesus as their Messiah and weep for what they have done to Him as we shall see shortly.

The big question is, "Has this taken place?" Well, yes for those Jews who have turned to Jesus but for the nation as a whole, I think we can safely say no. But by the end of the Tribulation Period we will see this come to pass and they will enter into the Millennial Reign of Christ. Remember the 490 years will bring this to a completion.

B. TO MAKE AN END OF SINS

The second point in regards to the culmination of these 490 years is that their sins will be taken away! Keep in mind that the word, "**sin**" comes from a word that means, "to miss the mark." God's standard is perfection and we fall far short of that mark.

For the nation of Israel it too speaks of missing the mark with their immorality and idolatry and yet we are told that God will put an end to their sins or seal them up. Yes, their main issue was their rebellion against God but out of that we see the daily sin in their lives.

But God will “**make an end of sins**” as we read in Romans 11:26-27, “**And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’**”

Has this happened yet? Well, in a way yes. Jesus’ death on the cross not only paid the penalty for our sins but for the whole world, including the Jews. But, like much of the world, the Jews have rejected their Messiah and are still dead in their trespasses and sins.

But for all who repent and come to Christ, including the Jews, their sins are forgiven. When will we see this completed in regards to the nation of Israel? This too will take place at the end of the Tribulation Period and they will enter into the Millennial Reign of Christ. Remember the 490 years will bring this to a completion.

C. **TO MAKE RECONCILIATION FOR INIQUITY**

This third point, “**to make reconciliation for iniquity**” was of course accomplished at the cross of Calvary by Jesus Christ but will not be fully recognized by the Jewish people until He returns.

We read in II Corinthians 5:18-19, “**Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.**”

The nation of Israel will not fully recognize this until they call upon the one they pierced, Jesus Christ, which will be during the Tribulation Period culminating at the end of this seven-year Tribulation Period and they will then enter into the Millennial Kingdom with their Messiah, Jesus!

Listen to what Zechariah 12:10-14 says about this event, **“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they have pierced; they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves; all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.”**

As God pours out His Spirit on the nation of Israel and they recognize what they have done, that they have crucified their Messiah, maybe not by their own hands but by their rejection of Him, it causes the nation to mourn over what they have done.

And not only the nation as a whole, but individually they saw what they have done and are mourning over it. In fact this time of mourning is linked to the day when godly King Josiah, the last hope of the fading Southern Kingdom of Judah, was slain by Pharaoh Necho II in the plain of Megiddo. We see the repentance of Kings, (David), and of the prophets, (Nathan), and of the priests, (Levi). We also see the individuality and thus instead of just an outward conformity to events we see a sincere mourning over their condition and what they have done.

In Hosea 5:15- 6:1 we may have the prayer of the nation of Israel as they call upon God once again. We read **“I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.’ Come, and let us return to the LORD; for He has torn, but He will heal us; he has stricken, but He will bind us up.”**

This is saying that God at one time left His place. When did He do that? When He became flesh and dwelt among us. And then we see that He will **“return again to My place”** which tells me that God left His place, heaven and came to the earth and now He has returned to His place, heaven.

For how long will He remain in heaven? Hosea tells us, **“till they acknowledge their offense.”** What was their offence or sin? And note that **“offense”** or **“sin”** is in the singular and not the plural form. Their sin was the rejection of Jesus Christ as their Messiah. The prerequisite to His return is their repentance and their seeking the One whom they have pierced! Once again this will reach its complete fulfillment at the end of the Tribulation Period. Remember the 490 years will bring this to a completion.

D. TO BRING IN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS

The fourth point that will come to pass at the end of these 490 years is that everlasting righteousness will be brought in. Do we see that today? Of course we don't. Every day we can turn on the news, read the newspapers or even witness for ourselves the wickedness of this world. We can clearly say that righteousness is far from the people of this world.

In fact Isaiah calls our righteousness **“filthy rags”** which has been cleaned up for us a bit, it is even worse than that! You see, our righteousness is in Christ and one day Israel will recognize this and the earth will be filled with the righteousness of Christ as He rules and reigns in the Kingdom Age.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 tells us **“Behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.’”**

And in Ezekiel 43:4-9 we read, **“And the glory of the LORD came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple. Then I heard Him speaking to me from the temple, while a man stood beside me. And He said to me, ‘Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever. No more shall the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their kings, by their harlotry or with the carcasses of their kings on their high places. When they set their threshold by My threshold, and their doorpost by My doorpost, with a wall between them and Me, they defiled My holy name by the abominations which they committed; therefore I have consumed them in My anger. Now let them put their harlotry and the carcasses of their kings far away from Me, and I will dwell in their midst forever.’”**

With the Lord dwelling amongst the people, righteousness will permeate the land! And again we see this spoken towards Israel, although it will encompass all people living during the Kingdom Age. So by the end of the Tribulation Period we will see this come to pass and they will enter into the Millennial Reign of Christ. Remember the 490 years will bring this to a completion.

E. TO SEAL UP VISION AND PROPHECY

The fifth point in regards to what we will see at the end of these 490 years is that “**vision and prophecy**” will be sealed up! Now some feel this speaks of the fulfillment of all that is written in the Word of God. When the new heavens and the new earth are created we see an end of this world and the beginning of a new one with Christ dwelling amongst us. But again we must relate this to Israel and even though this idea has a lot of merit to it, I don’t believe this is what God is saying to us.

This speaks of bringing to a close all visions and prophecies which will occur when Christ sits on the throne of David to rule as King. God will be with us and thus we will no longer need prophecy or visions. That should just make sense, the Lord is with us, He will speak to us directly! So by the end of the Tribulation Period we will see this come to pass and they will enter into the Millennial Reign of Christ. Remember the 490 years will bring this to a completion.

F. TO ANOINT THE MOST HOLY

The sixth point in regards to what will happen at the end of these 490 years and how they relate to the Jewish people is that they will anoint the Most Holy! This will be fulfilled when Jesus Christ comes into the Millennial Temple as King.

In Ezekiel chapter 37 we read, **“They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God. David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children’s children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever. . . . My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.”** Ezekiel 37:23-25, 27-28.

So by the end of the Tribulation Period we will see this come to pass and they will enter into the Millennial Reign of Christ. Remember the 490 years will bring this to a completion.

Thus, at the end of these 490 years these six events will be completed. This is the scope of the prophecy or an overview of verses 25-27. Now we are going to move into more specifics about the things that will take place during that period of time. We have seen the culmination of these events and now we will look into what will be taking place in between. And you will be surprised at how much information is packed into these 3 verses.

VERSE 25

1. We hear people today tell us that we are not to be bothered with prophecy, there are more important things for us to deal with. That may sound great until you realize that some 30% or more of the Bible is prophetic in nature. So do we cut out that 30% or ignore it? Of course not and I think Daniel or I should say the angel Gabriel makes that very clear!

You see, we are told that we are to **“know”** and **“understand”** this prophecy. God wants us to know these things, these prophecies. He did not make this so hard to understand that we would not be able to glean what this is all about. He did not hide this from us and, in fact, He held the nation of Israel responsible for not knowing this prophecy as we shall see in a few minutes here.

The second key point is the starting point of this command. If you get everything else right but mess up on the starting point you will come up with the wrong conclusion. The starting point, we are told, begins with the command to **“restore and build Jerusalem.”** Notice that it says nothing about the Temple but only the city of Jerusalem itself. That is what we need to be looking for in the Scriptures as our starting point for this prophecy.

The time frame is seven weeks and sixty two weeks or specifically, 49 years and 434 years. What we will see at the end of this 483 year period is the ushering in of the **“Messiah the King”** or the MESHIAH NAGID. This prophecy is based on a 360 day year and that would come to 173,880 days. If we can find the starting point we then could count off the 173,880 days and come to this event.

Again, the Scriptures need to be our guide and thus, as we look at the Scriptures we can find four starting points, but only one is correct and you will see why. And we will look at the other 3 first before we get to the correct one so you can clearly see why we say they are wrong. And keep in mind the rebuilding of the city is the key.

A. In Ezra chapter 1 we see a decree by Cyrus, King of Persia, to rebuild the Temple in around 536 B. C. But this is not speaking of the streets and the walls of the city but only the Temple and thus this is not the starting point.

B. In Ezra chapter 6 we see a decree by Darius, King of Persia to again rebuild the Temple around 520 B. C. and thus, this too is not the starting point.

C. In Ezra chapter 7 we see a decree by king Artaxerxes Longimanus to restore the articles of the Temple around 447 B. C. and again this is not the starting point. Do you see how clear it is, we are looking for the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem!

D. But in Nehemiah chapter 2 we see king Artaxerxes Longimanus give the command to Nehemiah to rebuild the streets and the walls. This is the starting point which we are told occurred in the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes reign.

We see in the 1990 edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica that it states that King Artaxerxes ascended to the throne of the Medo-Persian Empire in July 465 B. C. So that means if the command was given in the twentieth year of his reign that would put the year the command was given at 445 B. C.

Now according to Hebrew tradition, when the day of the month is not specified, then it is taken to be the first day of that month. So the day of the decree by Artaxerxes was the first day of the Hebrew month Nisan 445 B. C., which corresponds to the fourteenth day of March. Thus, our starting date is March 14, 445 B. C.

Now we need to deal with one more issue before we move on. Why is there this separation of the 49 years and the 434 years? It was during those 49 years that the city walls and streets were rebuilt and Daniel gives us a hint of what those times would be like. He says that **“the streets and walls shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.”**

Keep in mind that when Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem he took on this enormous task of rebuilding. And besides the physical work, there was the opposition from the enemy. Thus, we read in Nehemiah 4:16-23, **“So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah. Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me. Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, ‘The work is great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.’ So we labored in the work, and half of the men held the spears from daybreak until the stars appeared. At the same time I also said to the people, ‘Let each man and his servant stay at night in Jerusalem, that they may be our guard by night and a working party by day.’ So neither I, my brethren, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me took off our clothes, except that everyone took them off for washing.”**

I love this. Some 200 years before Nehemiah started rebuilding the walls of the city Daniel had predicted how the people would have one hand on their weapons and the other doing the construction. Daniel told them that the walls would be built in “**troublesome times**” and they were!

Now let’s go back to the starting date of March 14, 445 B. C. and count off the 173,880 days to come to our end point, which will bring us to the Messiah. Here is how we do it:

MARCH 14, 445 B. C.
TO
MARCH 14, 32 A. D.
IS 476 YEARS
(FROM 1 BC TO 1 AD IS ONE YEAR. THERE IS NO YEAR FOR ZERO)
476 YEARS TIMES 365 DAYS PER YEAR = 173, 740 DAYS
ADD FOR LEAP YEARS = 116 DAYS*
MARCH 14 TO APRIL 6 = 24 DAYS
TOTAL = 173,880 DAYS!

* 1 day for every 4 years, (476 years divided by 4, 1 leap year for every four years, gives us an additional 119 days), subtract 3 years, for centennial years are not leap years, although every 400th year is a leap year, giving us 116 days in leap years.

Now let’s look at this a little closer. 173,880 days from our starting point of March 14, 445 B. C., the command given by Artaxerxes Longimanus until the Messiah the King comes. Now the birth of Christ took place around 3 B. C., but He was not brought into the world as King.

And it is interesting as you read the Gospels and see when the crowds wanted to make Jesus King, that Jesus retreated from them, which sounds kind of strange. For instance, in John 6:15 we are told, “**Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.**”

Why did He do that? Because His time had not yet come!

But there is one place where Jesus sets things up so He can be proclaimed as King. It was during the week of Passover when the city was packed with people and we see Jesus come riding into Jerusalem, down the Mount of Olives, on the back of a donkey, as Zechariah told us would occur.

And in Luke 19:35-38 we are told of this event, **“Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road. Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: ‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”**

The crowds were singing Psalm 118:26 which was a Psalm to herald the Messiah. And the Pharisees recognized exactly what was happening and they knew that they themselves could not control the crowd, so they went to Jesus, the one who was being heralded as the Messiah.

And they brought this to the attention of Jesus, that the people were blaspheming the true God by what they were doing. And I love the response of Jesus, **“... ‘I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.’”** Why would that happen if the crowds were silent? Because this was the day that was predicted over 500 years before His birth, that God would ride through Jerusalem as the Messiah their King! Nothing was going to stop that.

What was the date that this took place? We call it Palm Sunday, and it was 173,880 days after the command by King Artaxerxes, which brings us to April 6, 32 A. D. as Jesus, the MESHIAH NAGID had come!

2. Now some like to say that Christians have made this date up but when you look at what the Scriptures tell us, what Jesus said about this date, you see that they are wrong. Jesus held the nation of Israel responsible for not recognizing this date in which the Messiah was to come.

We read in Luke 19:41-44, **“Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, ‘If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.’”**

Blindness had come upon the nation of Israel because they did not recognize what day it was. They were not aware that the Messiah had come and was with them and thus they were accountable for not knowing prophecy! Understand this, no man, as clever as he may be, could arrange such a plan, only God can!

3. So the King has come but something will happen after His arrival that may shock some. Let’s read on and see.

VERSE 26

1. Now something happens after the King has come and there is a break between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel. It is after the 483 years that the Messiah was to be **“cut off.”** It comes from the Hebrew word KARAT which means “to kill, to destroy, or the execution of a criminal.”

Literally it speaks of a person who is being punished with death by piercing! You see, Jesus was executed for a capital crime. By the Jewish leadership, the Sanhedrin, it was blasphemy. And for the Romans, it was for the insurrection He caused against the Roman Empire. Both of these capital crimes are punishable by death.

And notice what it says, **“But not for Himself.”** This is saying that He was not guilty of these crimes that were laid at His feet. He was innocent. It is as Peter said **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”** I Peter 3:18. And as Daniel tells us, the Messiah was cut off without receiving His Kingdom.

2. Then Daniel speaks of **“the people of the prince who is to come.”** The **“people”** are the Romans, who in 70 A. D. under the Roman general, Titus Vespasian, destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the Second Temple. The historian Josephus dramatically records for us that the city was burned to the ground and millions of Jews were killed, cannibalized or starved to death. The end of the nation was to come with a dispersion of the Jews. And that is what took place!

But who is this **“prince who is to come”**? Please understand that this is not speaking of Christ but of the Antichrist who will come out of the revived Roman Empire. And we will read more about him in verse 27.

3. But what about this break between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel, what is that all about?

This break is known as the “*church age*” or the “*age of grace*” where the Holy Spirit is drawing out a bride for Christ. God in all His grace and mercy towards us has allowed this period to go on for some 2,000 years, but this age will come to an end and then the 70th week of Daniel will begin. You see, God deals with the Church and Israel separately. So before the 70th week of Daniel begins, that last 7 year period of time known as the Tribulation Period, the Church will be with the Lord!

4. Now as we finish up this chapter we will see some of the things that the Antichrist will do during the Tribulation Period.

VERSE 27

1. As we continue speaking of the Antichrist in these verses we see that he will enforce A specific treaty or covenant with THE many, which is a idiom for the nation of Israel. This treaty is the beginning of the seventieth week of Daniel as the Antichrist comes on the scene to solve not only the problems in the Middle East, but the world. And Paul tells us in I Thessalonians **“For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.”** I Thessalonians 5:3.

2. Keep in mind that this man that comes on the scene is an imposter but the Jews will herald him as their Messiah. You see, the Jews are looking for their Messiah to come. Several years ago now, when we were in Israel, there was a sign opposite the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem that said ***“PREPARE, MESSIAH IS COMING!”*** Make no mistake about it they are looking for the Messiah to come! And keep in mind that they are not looking for God to become flesh and free them from their sins but they are looking for a man, much like Moses, to deliver them.

What I find interesting is that with the orthodox Jews of today, if you ask them how they will know that this man is their Messiah, they will answer, “Because He will help us build the Temple!” This man will be the Antichrist. Jesus even warned them when He said, **“I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.”** And this man will deceive the people into trusting him.

3. Now what is this **“covenant”** or **“treaty”** that Daniel speaks of and is related to the start of the seven-year Tribulation Period? I believe it deals with the rebuilding of the Temple and the starting up again of the daily sacrifices in the Temple.

Please understand that the Jews are ready for this Temple to be built. They have the plans drawn up, the articles of the Temple are made, the priests are being trained, and they could put this structure together in just a few months! They are all set to go, only the Muslims will not let them build it on the Temple Mount, the site of Solomon’s Temple, for they claim this as their holy site!

What is interesting to me is that we are told in Revelation 11:1-2, **“Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, ‘Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.’”**

Here we see that John is told to measure this Tribulation Temple but he is told to leave out the outer court, why? The reason is simple; it has been given over to the Gentiles. That is very interesting to me. The Temple Mount is a 35 acre piece of property in which Solomon’s Temple was built, then after the Babylonians destroyed it, as the Jews were in captivity for 70 years, when they returned home under the leadership of Zerubbabel the Temple was rebuilt, but it did not compare to the glory of Solomon’s Temple!

Then, in about 20 B. C., Herod the Great tried to get in good with the Jews, and he enlarged this Second Temple and this huge building project lasted till 63 A. D., only 7 years before the Romans destroyed it. But Herod’s Temple was beautiful! Thus, since 70 A. D. the Jews have not had a Temple.

Today this Temple Mount area is a hot bed of contentions. You see, in around 630 A. D. Omar built this Dome of the Rock supposedly on the spot where Mohammad was to have ascended up into heaven. In fact, it is the third most holy site for Muslims, Mecca being the first, which is the birthplace of Mohammad and then Medina.

Back in 1967, during the Six Day War, the Jews recaptured the old city of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. And General Moshe Dayan, in a gesture of peace, gave control to Jordan to oversee the Temple Mount and now the Palestinians are in charge. So what is the problem?

The problem with the Jews building their Temple on this Muslim site is given to us in a Time magazine article dated October 16, 1989 and titled, "Time for a New Temple?" They said, "The merest hint of rebuilding the temple is considered an outrage by the prophets followers, who, in the words of an official at Al Aqsa, 'Will defend the Islamic holy places to the last drop of their blood.'" You see, if the Jews attempted to rebuild on this site, you would see a holy war break out! I believe the key to the site of this Third Temple is found in this verse as John is told to leave out the outer court because it has been given to the Gentiles!

There are many theories out there as to where this Temple should be built and they focus on where the previous Temple and Holy of Holies was located. I tend to lean more towards the one given to us by Dr. Asher Kaufman, who is a Plasma Physicist at the Rachan Institute in Jerusalem.

He feels that King Solomon's Temple stood to the north of the Dome of the Rock and feels that the Holy of Holies was located in a place called the Dome of the Spirits or the Dome of the Tablets. The Muslim's called it this in around 600 A. D. and could it be speaking of the place where the stone tablets, the 10 commandments were kept in the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies? It is a flat rock where the Dome of the Rock area is a jagged rock and the Ark of the Covenant would be placed on a flat rock, not a jagged one!

Also, according to the Mishna, a highly esteemed book of Jewish oral traditions, when the high priest stood at the entrance of the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, as he looked out he could look right through the eastern gate up the Mount of Olives. And back in 1970 they excavated and have confirmed that the original eastern gate is directly below the present day eastern gate that has been sealed up by the Turks to prevent the Messiah from coming through it! Like that is going to stop Him!

If this is the place, the Dome of the Spirits or the Dome of the Tablets, the same place, the Jews could rebuild their Temple and the Dome of the Rock would not have to be destroyed or taken down. Why? Because it will be in the outer court, a place that John was told not to measure for it has been given to the Gentiles!

4. Now when this man, the Antichrist comes on the scene, people will love him, he will seem like a man of peace with the solution to the world's problems. But then, at the end of the 3½ year mark of the seven-year Tribulation Period, he comes into the rebuilt Temple and demands to be worshiped as god! He will put an end to the sacrifices in the Temple.

The word "**sacrifice**" or ZEBAH speaks of a bloody sacrifice, while "**offering**" or MINHAH speaks of a non-bloody sacrifice or a grain sacrifice. So to stop this activity means that the Temple must be rebuilt.

And Paul tells us how this man puts an end to the worship of God that will be going on in the Temple. He says **“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”** II Thessalonians 2:3-4. These things will come to pass!

And the culmination of these things is that the Messiah, Jesus Christ will return and put down man’s rebellion and usher in the Kingdom Age. And remember, at the end of the 490 years we will see for the Jewish people, what will take place, **“... To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.”** Daniel 9:24.

God is going to pour His Spirit upon the Jewish people once again and at the end of the Tribulation Period they will turn to Jesus and be saved! It is as Paul said in Romans 11:25-27, **“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.’”**

Gentile domination upon the Jewish people will come to an end and God will forgive them of their sins because they have repented and come to the Savior, Jesus Christ!

5. Learning prophecy is great and I do love to study it, but if all you do is learn and don't put to use what you have learned, it is useless! We need to use the opportunities that God has given to us and be wise in the days we are living in. God held the Jewish people responsible for not knowing the time of His First Coming and I wonder if He will do the same with the Church because many do not know the season of His Second Coming and I believe the season is here!