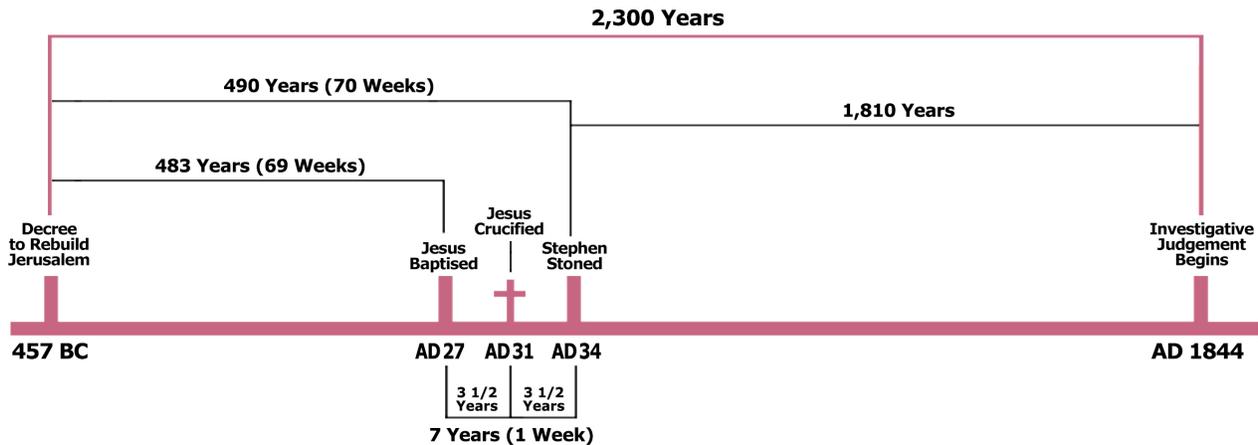


Daniel 8 & 9

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Daniel 8:20

The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.

NOTE: In chapter 7 Daniel was given a vision of four beasts, each representing four world empires; Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. This is yet another prophecy of the same empires, only now we see them as different beasts with horns because God is using new symbolism to introduce a new prophecy. This one starts in the times of the second empire, Medo-Persia because this prophecy was given during that period. Babylon had since passed.

Daniel 8:21

And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

NOTE: The male goat represents Greece and the big horn is a symbol of its first ruler, Alexander the Great. The **four horns** that came after it represent the four generals who divided the empire when Alexander died. Remember in **Daniel 7** that **Greece** was represented as **a leopard with four heads**.

Then from the goat a little horn sprouts up from out of one of the four. What power did this "little horn" represent?

Acts 18:2

Claudius [Caesar] had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome.

NOTE: This **little horn** is the same little horn of **Daniel 7**, which we learned from our other studies is the papacy. Daniel was told that this little horn would defile the sanctuary. The sanctuary could not stay defiled forever.

How long would it be until the sanctuary is cleansed?

Daniel 8:14

And [the angel Gabriel] said unto me, Unto **two thousand and three hundred (2,300) days**; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

NOTE: A day in prophecy represents a year. This **2,300 year** period is the longest time prophecy in the Bible. But the starting point is not given until the next chapter when the angel Gabriel explains the prophecy in greater detail:

Daniel 9:24

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

NOTE: After Daniel's vision about the 2,300 days, we read in **Daniel 9:23, 24** that the angel Gabriel flew quickly to Daniel's side to help him understand it. Gabriel expanded the vision to include **70 prophetic weeks** that were "determined upon," or allotted to, the Jews and the city of Jerusalem.

In Daniels time the Israelites were being punished by God for many years of disobeying His laws—rejecting God for the heathen false gods and idol worship. As a result, the entire nation was exiled into **Babylon**, which fell to **Medo-Persia**. The city of Jerusalem, with its walls and the holy temple, was destroyed by the Babylonian king. Daniel was praying for his people in exile, knowing that someday God would restore them to their own land. In answer to Daniel's prayer, God sent the angel Gabriel to let him know when his people would go back to Jerusalem to rebuild it, and also when the Messiah would come, as well as when other important events would take place. As we saw, Gabriel said that **70 weeks were determined upon the Jews and the city of Jerusalem**. What this meant was that God was giving His chosen nation of Israel another chance—a **490-year opportunity** to accomplish its purpose, which was to present the Messiah to the world.

When do the 2,300-day and 70-week time prophecies begin?

Daniel 9:25

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and

two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

NOTE: The angel told Daniel to begin counting the **2,300-day** and **70-week** prophecies from the **decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem**. God's people were in captivity in the Persian empire at this time. The decree was made in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes. In the book of **Ezra 7:7**, Artaxerxes' decree in **457 B.C.** was the only one that specified restoring and rebuilding Jerusalem. Gabriel said that if you count **69 weeks** from **457 B.C.**, you will come to **Messiah the Prince**.

Acts 10:38

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

NOTE: Hundreds of years before Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit, the event was foretold in this prophecy! "Messiah" is the Hebrew word meaning "anointed." The Greek word is "Christ." **Luke 3:21, 22** says that Jesus was anointed at His baptism.

Remember, in Bible prophecy, one prophetic day equals one literal year. To find out when the Messiah would come, we have to add **69 weeks**, which equals **483 prophetic days** (**69 x 7 = 483**), to the year **457 B.C.** That brings us to the year **A.D. 27**.

Jesus began His ministry as the Messiah after His baptism in **A.D. 27**, exactly **483 years** after the decree given in **457 B.C.** In the gospel of **Mark 1:15**, Jesus said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand." The time that Jesus said was fulfilled was this portion of the time prophecy in **Daniel 9:25**.

What was to take place next in the prophecy?

Daniel 9:26-27

²⁶ And after threescore and two weeks (62 weeks) shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself...

²⁷ And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease.

NOTE: The prophecy predicted that Jesus would be "cut off," (crucified), in the middle of the last week of the 70-week prophecy. That week equals **seven years**. Counting three and a half years from His anointing in the fall of **A.D. 27** would take us to the spring of **A.D. 31**, which is precisely when Jesus was crucified. At the time He died, **Matthew 27:50 and 51** says that the temple veil was miraculously torn into two sections from top to bottom, indicating that Jesus had caused the sacrificial system to cease by His death as the Lamb of God.

For the remaining three and a half years, Jesus told His disciples to preach first to the Jews:

Matthew 10:5

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the

Samaritans enter ye not.

NOTE: Jesus insisted that His disciples preach first to the Jews, because they still had three and a half years remaining of their **490-year** opportunity to accept and proclaim the Messiah. The prophecy in **Daniel 9:27** said that Jesus would "**confirm the covenant,**" or the great plan of salvation, "**with many**" for one prophetic week (seven literal years). But Jesus was crucified in the middle of that final week allotted to His chosen nation. So how could He confirm the covenant with them after His death? The answer is found in **Hebrews 2:3**: "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was **confirmed unto us by them that heard him.**" Jesus' disciples preached to the Jews for that final three and a half years, until the nation officially rejected the gospel message in **A.D. 34**. The event that marked this was when Stephen—a righteous deacon in the new Christian church—was publicly stoned for preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What warning did Jesus give to His chosen people?

Matthew 21:43

Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

NOTE: Jesus had made it very clear that the special status of the Jewish nation would be taken away if the people persisted in rejecting the Messiah.

So what is the other "nation" spoken of by Jesus, which would become His chosen people?

Galatians 3:29

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Romans 2:28

For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh.

NOTE: As of **A.D. 34** with the **stoning of Stephen (Acts 7)**, the literal Jewish nation was no longer God's only chosen nation. Because they consistently resisted God's plan for them, **the nation of Israel is no longer the central focus of end-time prophecy. Now all who accept Jesus are His chosen people**, and the promises God made to literal Israel now also apply to spiritual Israel.

According to the angel Gabriel, what would happen at the end of the 2,300 years?

Daniel 8:14

And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

NOTE: In **A.D. 34**, there were still **1,810 years** left to get to the end of the **2,300 day** prophecy. So if you add **1,810 years** to **A.D. 34** that brings us to the fall of the year **1844**—pretty recent in the scope of prophetic time. The angel said that at that in that year the heavenly sanctuary would be cleansed.

(The earthly sanctuary was destroyed in **A.D. 70** and has never been rebuilt.) Jesus is our high priest in the heavenly sanctuary. The cleansing of the sanctuary has to do with the **judgment of our world...**

Hebrews 4:14

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God.

Revelation 20:12

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Acts 3:19-21

¹⁹ Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out (that is, blotted out of those books in heaven), when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

²⁰ And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

²¹ Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

NOTE: According to the time prophecy, Jesus began removing the records of sin from the heavenly sanctuary in **1844**. This first phase of the judgment is called the **pre-advent judgment** because it takes place before Jesus' second coming.

Whose cases are being considered in the pre-advent judgment?

1 Peter 4:17

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

What will be examined in this first phase of judgment?

Revelation 20:12

...and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Ecclesiastes 12:14

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

James 2:12

So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

NOTE: This is why the Bible consistently stresses the importance of the **Ten Commandments**. Because in the final judgment which will determine our eternal fates; whether we live in heaven or die in the lake of fire, our lives on earth will be measured against God's holy law. **The law of God is the standard by which our deeds will be judged.** Is it any wonder why Satan has been working so hard to tear down God's law?

to make Christians think the commandments have been done away with? Is it any wonder why the devil has convinced the papacy and so many dear Catholic people that God's law has been changed? Satan is trying to get you to forfeit your own salvation by getting you to agree with breaking God's Ten Commandments.

Revelation 14:7

Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for **the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.**

Exodus 20:8, 11

⁸ Remember the **sabbath day**, to keep it holy.

¹¹ **For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.**

Let's look at the judgment. Just like an earthly court, there is a **judge**, a **prosecutor**, a **defense attorney**, and a **witness**.

In God's court, who is the prosecutor, who is our accuser?

Revelation 12:9-10

⁹ And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Satan is our accuser!

Who is the judge?

John 5:22

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

Who is the defense attorney?

1 John 2:1

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Who is our witness in the heavenly court?

Revelation 3:14

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God.

NOTE: Jesus is our judge, Jesus is our defense, Jesus is our witness. The only way to lose in this court of law is to reject all that Christ the Lord has done on our behalf to win in the fight against sin. Friends, if Jesus is your attorney in the judgment, He promises to win your case. Won't you turn your life over to Him today?