

## A Times and Numbers Prophecy 7

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Based on the study work of CJ Lovik

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## Library Information

The 2520 Prophecy

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In this study we will be looking into the prophecies of the prophet Daniel focusing on chapter 9 and the 70 week prophecy. We will look into the decree that went forth from the Persian King Artaxerxes Longimanus in search of the key to unveil the prophetic season of future events.

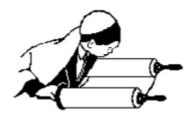
Daniels 70 Week prophecy is a **Times** and **Numbers** prophecy considered to be the most biblically prophetic end times prophecy in the entire bible. It includes Jesus' death on the cross, burial, resurrection and His ascension into heaven and His return. The Apostle Paul calls the teaching of these events the "Good News of the Gospel."

The Jews rejected their king and killed Him, thus making way for a period of time we call the Church Age in which we find a beginning and an ending. This is the time of the preaching of the Good News of the Gospel.

The church age, based on its beginning in the books of Acts and counted from the cross has already been a period of 2000 plus years. Some say it has been a silent 2000 years suggesting God has stopped the prophetic clock of His coming until some unknown time in the future that is not revealed in scriptures. Did God really stop His prophetic clock or has He added time to it due to "unbelief?" As we look at Biblical patterns and types we find reasons to believe that this church age is about to come to an end sooner than you might think.

The key to understanding Biblical Eschatology is to discover the most important date on the human calendar. If you were God and you were about to offer up your own Son to pay the sin debt of the human race, knowing He will die for sin which was not His own, then what day in the history of mankind would be the most important to you? If it is important to God the Father then it is to us also.

"Lord ... open our eyes to see what you see." Show me Lord ... where is it written?



The single most important day in human history was the day the Son of God was crucified and on the cross where He took our place so we can live. This I know and this is that which I testify of, that you may believe.

"Come Holy Spirit and open our hearts and our minds to the understanding of your word and the prophecies that are being revealed to us for this time in which we live. To the UNSEALING of the prophecies that have been sealed unto the 'Time of the end.' Give us wisdom and knowledge as we search out what has been hidden unto now."



#### A SHORT REVIEW

#### The Cross

In the first study on this subject, "The Beresheet Prophecies," a date was proposed of 30 A.D. for the crucifixion and death of Jesus. As was presented at that time, this date represents the most commonly agreed upon date for the crucifixion from scholars in this field. It is taken from within a range of just a few years. The range we found could be anywhere from 28-31 A.D. for the crucifixion. The date of 30 A.D. was settled on as a general consensus of the scholars.

In time another search began. Lengthy days and hours have been spent looking into the day Christ died. A decree that went out from Artaxerxes Longimanus, all in an attempt to find the year, if not the season that started the clock ticking on Daniel's 70 week prophecy. Daniel gives us hard numbers that take us to the "cutting off" death of the Messiah.1

Based on all the scriptural evidence pertaining to the crucifixion of Jesus, I now agree with those who have gone ahead of me studying and/or by direct revelation of scripture conclude that the crucifixion of Christ happened on Passover Nisan 14 as God commanded in Exodus 12:6, Leviticus 23:5, Numbers 9:3. There is only one day on earth that this event could have happened. On the Roman calendar it was Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 28 A.D.<sup>2</sup> at approximately 3pm in the 9<sup>th</sup> hour of the day Jesus, God's Passover Lamb died for the sins of all mankind. Exactly 72 hours later, after having completed three days and nights in the grave, Jesus rose from the grave on Saturday (Sabbath) May 1<sup>st</sup> (John says "early on the first day" so it would be closer to the 6pm time frame) just before sunset. It was early the next morning on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd 3</sup> that the very much alive and risen from the dead Jesus had a brief encounter with Mary, (who thought he

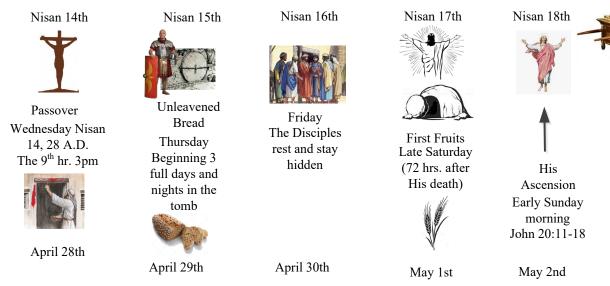
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Daniel 9:26 "... Messiah shall be cut-off,"

http://intercontinentalcog.org/Appendix/Passover\_dates\_26-34\_AD.php Jn. 20:17

was the gardener). When she suddenly realized who he was, Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me for I have not yet ascended to my Father."

These are the facts as presented in scripture. Together they represent what the Apostle Paul called the "GOOD NEWS of the GOSPEL"



After Jesus rose from the dead there was one last thing to do on our behalf. At the time He met Mary in the garden, Jesus told her He had not yet ascended into heaven. Sometime possibly the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour of the first day (9am) He ascended into heaven to the tabernacle of God and there (as the Lamb of God) presented His blood poured out on the Mercy Seat of God, <sup>4 5</sup> a "one-time" blood sacrifice for all who would believe in Him.

A Side Note: In Hebrews 8:5 Paul tells us that Moses patterned the earthly tabernacle and Ark of the Covenant with its Mercy Seat, after the pattern of the one shown him on the mountain. God brought Moses to His place of meeting high on Mount Sinai. There in a vision He showed Moses the tabernacle in heaven. It would be used as the pattern for the earthly one. (Ex. 25:9, 40; 26:30; 27:8; Num. 8:4; Acts 7:44; Heb. 8:5, 9:23-26) This heavenly Mercy Seat is the one Christ poured out His blood on.

Hebrews 9:23-24 <sup>v23</sup> "It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:"

The Lord is now unsealing the prophecies of Daniel that had been concealed unto the "time of the end." So it is fitting to start our look with Daniel and one of the most

<sup>5</sup> https://www.cherylford.com/single-post/2019/05/22/The-Mercy-Seat-and-the-Empty-Tomb

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> http://www.thywordistruth.com/questions/qa066.html#.YBAqZuhKiUk

profound prophecies in scriptures, for in it God has given us a starting and an ending time line.

So as it is said in Proverbs 25:2

"It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings is to search out a matter."

So I say to all the kings and queens and those whom God loves, that it is our honor to search out the matter and allow the Holy Spirit of God to open our hearts and minds to the understanding of His word. To those who love the study of the sacred text, then it will be revealed to you, for we are the last church age just before His return. We are the generation that will see all that has been prophesied come to pass. This is the fulfillment of Daniel12:4.

Now let's go and look at the details at, how we came to this understanding.



# Part 1

## Numeric Biblical Prophecy

Clearly God uses numbers to communicate His divine purposes to mankind and expects us to seek His understanding in order to find what those numbers reveal.

There is one series of numbers that God has chosen as the crowning number that is meant to alert man that something new is in the works. It chronicles a period of time that reminds man that God is on the throne, accomplishing His purposes and plans for the earth and in the lives of those who dwell in it.

The Numbers:<sup>6</sup>

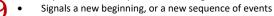
If you were to guess a number that you thought would be a holy number, you might pick the number 7 as it announces with every cycle that final day of rest. Each week, it points to that final day of the week, but it's more. In God's providence and in His reckoning of time it is also applied to years. There is set before all mankind a period of 6000 years. The scriptures tell us at the end of 6000 years that we will enter into a 1000 year time of rest, this is called the Millennial Reign of Christ, it is for 1000 years. Six Thousand years has been appointed to man to work, but God's last 1000 years is a time of rest in the house of the Lord. That day may be closer than anyone has believed before.



Announces the final day of a rest cycle. Days/years/ 1000 years of Rest cycle

Seven is a Sacred Number based on how it is used in scripture. Seven represents **Divine Completion** 

Represents the completion of all things



Biblically associated with judgment

Nine represents the completion of all things. It signals a new beginning, or sequence of events. There are only 9 numbers in the world as zero 0 is not a number but a place holder. It is the number that is Biblically associated with judgment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://appleofgodseye.wordpress.com/tag/ordinal-perfection/

Though the number nine is not a sacred number it most often signals the completion of a sequence of events that ends in evaluation which most often ends in judgment.



A number that represents the completion of a cycle represented by a circle.

If we are looking for a number that represents the completion of a cycle and is represented by a circle then there is only one number in scripture that is shown to represent this and that is the number 360. The number 360 represents a complete circle, and is the one number God has identified as a prophetic number, as it represents from His perspective one **PROPHETIC YEAR**<sup>7</sup>

All these numbers are prominent in God's revelation to man and are also prominent in the one series of numbers that are the most amazing in the world. There are four of them.

## 4 Numbers

The Scriptures Identify as Sacred Numbers

Introduction of the number 2520

- 3 The number of Divine Perfection
- 7 The number of Divine Completion
- 10 The number of Ordinal Perfection
- 12 The number of Governmental Perfection

 $3 \times 7 \times 10 \times 12 = 2520$  This number **2520**, depending on how it is used in scripture is **God's Divine Chronological Clock**. This number signals a divine and ordained period of time that overarches the numbers 7, 9 and 360. The number 2520 can be called the number of the Divine Super Cycle.

The number 2520 is the only number that can be divider by all the numbers 1 through 9 without leaving a remainder (A mathematical wonder). It has been said that 2520 is the number 7 on steroids and so it just might be.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophetic\_Year https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophetic\_Year

The last week of Daniel's prophecy is separated out because of Israel's unbelief. The last **7** years (Divine Completion) x **360** prophetic days = **2520** days. In Daniel's 70 Week prophecy the number 7 doesn't represent the number of days, but rather the number of years. In this passage the word "weeks" in Hebrew is the word "Shabua" or [Heptad] in the Greek meaning a period of 7 and a sign of completeness.

Daniel 9:24 "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city"

Using a week for a day concept, (7 years = 1 shabua week) then **7** weeks of years **x 70** weeks represents **490** years and the first **69** of those weeks represent **483** years. The time given until Messiah should be "cut-off." We will look and see if history supports this.

The 70<sup>th</sup> week of years equals 2520 days and are the times referred to in scripture as the time of "Jacob's Trouble" (Jer. 30:7) covering Revelation 6:1- 20:4. Remember Jacob's name was changed to Israel (Gen.32:28). The last week of years of the prophecy speaks of the days of the tribulation (2520 days) as being the time of Israel's trouble. The last 3.5 years of the 2520 days (1,260 days) are known as the "**Great Tribulation**" which shall come upon the entire world, not just Israel. At that time the Antichrist will sit in the Holy place of God and declare to the world that he is God. On that day the countdown to the return of Messiah Jesus starts at 1,260 days and counts down to the return of Christ. In this prophecy we are told of the exact day of His return.

\*\* Since we are being told of the exact day Christ returns to put a stop to the tribulation at the Battle of Armageddon, then by reason, all other scripture stating we will not know the hour or the day of His coming (some call it return getting the two events missed up) refer to the Rapture and His coming in the clouds.



# Part 2

## The Adding of Time

The **Pattern** of Things to Come

#### GOD'S DEALING WITH ISRAEL IN THE SINAI

A Shadow type of God first adding to Israel's chronical time clock is found in the book of Numbers, chapter 13.

We all know the story when Israel came to the Jordan river intending to cross over it into their promised land, but Moses first sent out 12 spies (1 from each of the 12 tribes) to spy out the land of Canaan. The spies were gone a total of 40 days. When they returned, they gave their report each man as he saw. The Lord called the reports of 10 of the spy's evil, 8 because it infected the hearts of all of Israel. They fell into fear and open rebellion with doubt that produced grumbling and unbridled unbelief. So what did God do? Did He stop the prophetic clock? No ... He added time to it.

Numbers 14:34 (KJV), "After the number of the days in which you searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall you bear your iniquities, even forty years, and you shall know my breach of promise."

The sequence of the major events.

- Moses sends spies into the promise land for 40 days (Nu.13:1-24).
- 10 of the spies come back with what the Lord called "An evil/bad report" (Nu.13:32-33).
- All of the people feared and wanted to kill Moses and Aaron (Nu.14:2,10).
- God wants to destroy the people for their unbelief (Nu.14:11-12).
- Moses pleas for the people for forgiveness (Nu. 14:13-19).
- Time multiplied a year for a day (Nu.14:34).

Did God destroy Israel for their lack of faith ... the answer is no, and neither did He stop the clock on Israel. He did as He said He would and added time to their wondering in the desert, as a means to discipline them for their unbelief. It would be an additional 40 years before Israel would see the promise land and God laid the blame for it on them.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Evil / Bad report (Nu.13:32-33, 14:27) KJV calls the report evil, NASB translates it Bad report)

## TIME SERVED<sup>9</sup>

Deuteronomy 2:14 (NASB), "Now the time that it took for us to come from Kadesh-barnea until we crossed over the Wadi Zered was <u>thirty-eight</u> years, until all the generation of the men of war perished from within the camp, just as the LORD had sworn to them."

If in Numbers 14:34 the Lord added time to Israel's wondering in the wilderness, why do we read in Duet. 2:14 above, of 38 years they wondered. I believe that in the answer we see a pattern that will be played out again by Israel.

Moses pleaded to God to forgive the people and not to destroy them for their unbelief. God did forgive the people, but He refused to let them cross over the Jordan because of their unbelief, until that generation had passed away.

God had Mercy on the people and started the counting of the 40 years back to the year they left Egypt. Let's look at the events that happened in those two years God credited Israel for having already gone through.

Moses was 80 years old at the time of the 10 plagues and the great exodus (Exodus 7:7)<sup>10</sup>

## First Year: month/days

- Numbers 33:3 1m/15d Exodus from Egypt
- Exodus 15:22 3 days journey, no water found at Shur
- Exodus 16:1 2m/15d Israelites murmur against Moses
- Exodus 19:1 3m/15d Israelites enter the wilderness of Sinai
- Exodus 24:16 7<sup>th</sup> Day Moses ascends Mt. Sinai
- Exodus 24:18 40 days / 40 nights

Moses receives the 10 Commandments Israelites worships the Golden Calf

## Second Year: month/days

- Exodus 1m/1d Tabernacle built
- Numbers 1:1,18 1m/1d Census Taken
- Numbers 1:1,18 1m/1d Passover Kept
- Numbers 10:11,12 2m/20d Israelites leave Sinai
- Numbers 10:33 3 days journey in the wilderness
- Numbers 11:19-21 30 days (Whole Month)
- Numbers 12:15 7 days Miriam shut out from camp
- Numbers 13:20 "Time of Ripe Grapes" Moses sends Spies into Canaan 40 days
- Numbers 13:25, 14:34 40 days / 40 nights, Bring back an Evil Report.

Now let's look at the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> year when Israel actually crossed over the Jordan River.

#### Fortieth Year: month/days

- Numbers 33:38,39 5m/1d Aaron Dies at 123 years old
- Numbers 20:29 30 days Israelites mourn for Aaron
- Duet 2:14, Numbers 21:12 Space of 38 years from Kadesh to Zered all the men of war died
- Deut. 1:3 11m/1d Moses' final speech to Israel
- Deut. 34:7 40<sup>th</sup> year Moses dies at 120 years old
- Deut. 34:8 30 days Israelites mourn for Moses

Forty First Year: month/days

- Josh. 1:11,2:16-22, 3:2 3 days "Within 3 days you shall pass over"
- Josh. 4:9 1m/10d Crossed Jordan & camped
- Josh. 5:10,11 1m/14d Passover kept, manna ceases on the following day

So Israel wondered in the wilderness just as God said they would and in this we see the pattern of a "day for a year" and it would not be the last time it is visited on Israel.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> https://judaism.stackexchange.com/questions/44095/38-years-or-40-years-in-the-desert

<sup>10</sup> https://sites.google.com/site/thepatternofprophecy/moses-40-years



## A Look at

# Daniel's 70 Weeks

The prophecy in Daniel chapter 9 specifically tells us when the 70 weeks will begin and when it will end. It is a "Time-stamped" prophecy in which the angel Gabriel gives to Daniel an outline of the things to come. He tells Daniel of the pending death of the Messiah and in doing so he reveals to us the most important date in human history.

Now Gabriel has our attention also.

Daniel 9:25-26 (NASB), <sup>25</sup> So you are to know and understand *that* from the issuing of a <u>decree to restore and **rebuild Jerusalem**</u>, until Messiah the Prince, *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, *with* streets and moat, even in times of distress. <sup>26</sup> Then after the sixty-two weeks, the Messiah will be cut off ..."

### Events Gabriel told Daniel in v25-26

- The start of the prophecy will be the decree to rebuild Jerusalem.
- From the start date of the decree until Messiah the Prince, will be 69 Weeks, which is broken up into a period of 7 weeks and 62 weeks.
- After the 62 week of years, Messiah (Christ) will be cut off (Crucified).

The key to our understanding is to identify who gave this decree to rebuild Jerusalem and when did they do it.

Ezra 6:14 (NASB), "And the elders of the Jews were successful in building through the prophecy of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they finished building following the command of the God of Israel and the decree of **Cyrus**, **Darius**, and **Artaxerxes** king of Persia.

Three kings of Persia issued three decrees. Which one is the one we're looking for, or can they all be the same decree ... continued?

Cyrus: In 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 and Ezra 1:3 says clearly that "The Lord of Heaven gave to the Prophet Jeremiah a word for King Cyrus of Persia, to <u>rebuild Him a</u> house in Jerusalem which is in Judah."

Ezra1:2 (NASB), "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to rebuild for Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

This first decree by Cyrus was for the rebuilding of the **TEMPLE** the "*The House of the Lord*," as God had commanded him to do,

**Artaxerxes:** By this time Artaxerxes had become king of Persia. There were those who opposed the building of the temple in Jerusalem and went to King Artaxerxes and was able to convince him to stop the project (Ezra 4:1–24). This would be the first time period of the 7 weeks which would be 49 years. But the God of heaven had a plan.

God has an inside man named Nehemiah. In the book of Nehemiah, chapter 2, we find Nehemiah the prophet of the Lord who served as the cup-bearer to King Artaxerxes and by reason of the closeness of his job to the king they became friends. After hearing the news of the trouble going on in Jerusalem, Nehemiah was sorrowful in the presence of the king. The king asks Nehemiah the reason why he was unhappy, for it was against the law to be unhappy in his presence. Nehemiah had a chance to tell the king what was going on in Jerusalem.

Note: As a footnote here, we need to understand that the law of the Medes and Persians were permanent and could not be revoked, so it was normal then for kings to add to or embellish upon a former decree invoking it again in his name. What Cyrus started, Artaxerxes continued and Darius would finish.

Nehemiah 2:4-8 (NASB), <sup>4</sup> Then the king said to me, "What would you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup> Then I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, I request that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may **rebuild it**." <sup>6</sup> Then the king said to me, with the queen sitting beside him, "How long will your journey be, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me, and I gave him a definite time. <sup>7</sup> And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me for the governors *of the provinces* beyond the River, so that they will allow me to pass through until I come to Judah, <sup>8</sup> and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, so that he will give me timber to make beams for the **gates** of the citadel which is by the temple, for the **wall of the city**, and **for the house** to which I will go." And the king granted *them* to me because the good hand of my God *was* on me.

So, the king agrees that Nehemiah should return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city and its walls, but this was not the signing of a decree. Artaxerxes agreed with Nehemiah that he should return, so the king agreed in principle and certainly it took some time for the Jews to make themselves ready and at the appointed time we are told in the book of

Ezra of the official signing of the decree which begins Daniel's 70 week countdown. The year was 457 B.C.<sup>11</sup>

King Artaxerxes and King Darius both continued in the original decree of Cyrus and by issuing their own decrees in the matter of the building of the Jewish temple.



Ezra 7:12-13 (NASB), <sup>12</sup> "Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven, perfect *peace*. And now <sup>13</sup> I have issued a decree that any of the people of Israel and their priests and the Levites in my kingdom who are willing to go to Jerusalem, may go with you.

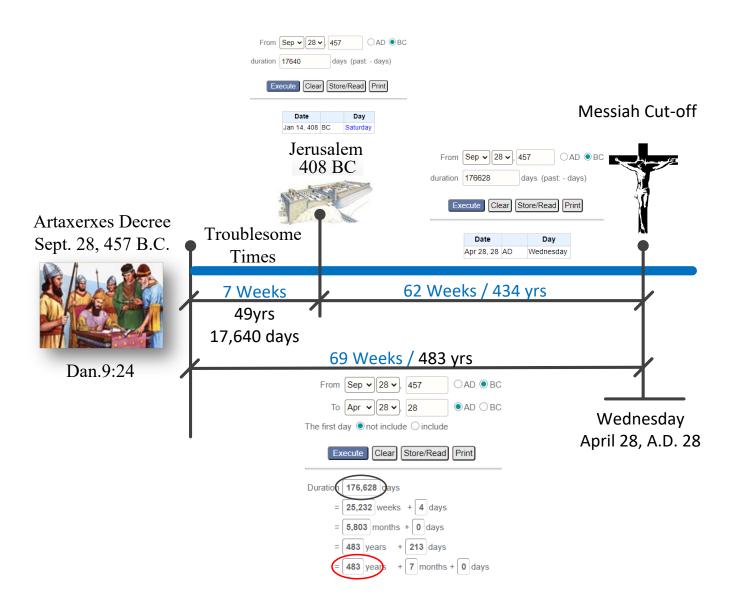
Artaxerxes decree was for the building of the city, and allowing as many of the Jews who wished to return to Jerusalem to go with him. That makes Artaxerxes decree the one we are looking for per Daniel 9:25 "... issuing the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, until Messiah ..."

This decree from King Artaxerxes was made in the year 457 B.C. in the Jewish month of Tishrei. No one knows the date in Tishrei that this decree went out, we can only speculate that. The Jewish month of Tishrei is in the middle of the fall season which is a 90 day season from September 28<sup>th</sup> to December 26<sup>th</sup> 457 B.C. This becomes the season that we are looking for. For the sake of this study we will use the date of September 28, 457 B.C. The month of Tishrei is also the time of the 5<sup>th</sup> Jewish Feast of Trumpets and the next feast to be fulfilled by Jesus Christ. This would be the season that God's Divine Chronical Clock started counting down the days until He would return.



Spring Feast Fall Feast First four feast reveal the Last three feast reveal the 1st coming of the Messiah 2nd coming of the Messiah Trumpet of God Rev.4:1 Great White Throne Daniels Judgment 70th Week The Tribulation 4 Atonement **Tabernacles** Shavuot) **Trumpets** First Fruits Pentecost Rosh Sukkot HaShanah Kippur

<sup>11</sup> https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1988/04/establishing-the-date-457-b.c





# 22 Part 4

## The Counting of the Years

With the crucifixion of Jesus on Passover, Wednesday April 28, 28 A.D. 12 some have taught that the prophetic clock stopped at 69 weeks while God allows for the "Time of the Gentiles and the Church Age." The question becomes did God stop the prophetic clock or did He add time to it by reason of Israel's unbelief. Like their ancestors in the wilderness, because of their unbelief, God multiplied their time (1 year for every day the spies were in Canaan). Now before Pilot they openly and publically rejected the Son of God.

When will the 70<sup>th</sup> week of years start? It's been 2000 plus years and still we wait. Is there another prophecy or pattern that we should be looking for, that would explain this 2000 year gap of time, after which Jesus will come back and finish the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniels prophecy?

Is it possible that God's Divine Chronical Clock is still hidden and sealed, still ticking waiting to fulfill God's eternal purpose? God told Daniel the book would be sealed up until the "time of the end" (Daniel 12:4). Today, the last church of the seven church ages is desperately close to experiencing the next event on God's calendar, the Rapture, just prior to the beginning of the 70<sup>th</sup> week. The Laodicean church today finds its self at the "time of the end." God has begun unsealing and revealing the ancient prophecy in order to announce that the very season of His coming, is both knowable and that it is eminent.

There is no place in scripture where you can find evidence or numeric patterns showing that God stopped the clock on Daniel's prophecy. There is evidence that shows where God multiplied time and then added it to His Divine Calendar just as He did with Israel (in the wilderness) He would do again if they fell into unbelief. Adding time was meant to discipline them, so that Israel would repent and turn back to Him. In this, we find the **PATTERN** of how God would deal with Israel if they fall back into unbelief. Examples of this can be found in the book of Leviticus, Numbers and Ezekiel.

<sup>12</sup> https://timeofreckoning.org/category/messiahs-crucifixion-28-ad

We all know what happens on that great day when Jesus returns and puts an end to the tribulation (Rev. 20:4). He will set up His Millennial Kingdom. This is the final fulfilment of the 70 week prophecy. Remember we are not looking for a date, but the **SEASON** of His coming.

What has been hidden has now been revealed to this church age and its people, so that they may know the closeness of His coming and MAKE THEMSELVES READY. The Bridegroom is about to come for His bride and fulfill His promise to her.

John 14:1-3 (NASB), "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father's house are many rooms; if *that* were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you also will be.

The unbelief of Israel in the desert caused God to not only "breach" His promise to Israel, but added time to the journey. The reason for this was "Unbelief" and caused them to cry out for the death of Moses and Aaron (Num. 14:2).

**Moses** (a type of Christ) **interceded** for the people pleading directly to God for forgiveness and that Israel be spared. God listened to Moses and agreed to forgive them, but they would be disciplined for their unbelief and not enter the promise land at that time (Num. 14:11). The end result was Numbers 14:34 "... In accordance with the number of days that you spied out the land, forty days, for every day you shall suffer the punishment for your guilt a year, that is, forty years, and you will know My opposition."

A pattern is set, a year for every day that the spies were in the Promised Land. When they came back, 10 of the spies gave a bad (evil) report. They showed their lack of faith in God, that even though He had been with them and brought them this far, they stopped believing that He would go with them now. The punishment ... 40 years in the wilderness, until that generation passed away. Notice God didn't give them 40 more years, it says that they would wonder for 40 years. They had already been in the wilderness 2 years which left them 38 MORE years. I will share again the scripture that supports this. From Joshua's own words ...

Deuteronomy 2:14 (NASB), "Now the time that it took for us to come from Kadesh-barnea until we crossed over the Wadi Zered was thirty-eight years, until all the generation of the men of war perished from within the camp, just as the LORD had sworn to them."

## Moses and Jesus Prophetic Parallels

Jesus is revealed all throughout the story of Moses. The prophetic parallels within the story of Moses foreshadows Christ's first and second coming.

1. The story of Moses begins with a decree from the Pharaoh of Egypt. He ordered the killing of all the male children of God's people. The Mother of Moses placed her baby in a small basket and floated it on the Nile River trusting God to protect her infant son. The daughter of the pharaoh found the basket and the baby and kept him as her own son. In this case the daughter represents Egypt.

In the story of Jesus' birth, we find King Herod doing the same thing (Matthew 2:16–18), as he also issued his own degree for the killing of all the male children two years old and under. Jesus was saved because Joseph and Mary took him to Egypt where he stayed until the death of Herod (4 B.C.).

- Both Moses and Jesus were babies.
- They both escaped from a decree to kill children
- They both were sent to Egypt
- 2. Moses left his royal status as a prince of Egypt and was willing to join the low status of his people in order to save them. Likewise, in the same way, Jesus left the royalty of Heaven, sitting on the right hand of the Father to join the low status of humanity, in order to save us.
- 3. When Moses began his work for God, his entire mission was to save Israel from slavery to the kingdom of Pharaoh. Jesus said that His mission was to save mankind from slavery in the kingdom of Satan.
- 4. Israel trusted in their God to lead them out of Egypt headed to the promise land. Two years later when they finally got to the point of crossing over the Jordan River they believed a bad report from their spies and suddenly lost their faith that God due to unbelief. God was ready to kill all of them, but Moses would be with them turned from trusting God and to have unbelief away from God and worshiped idols, Moses asked God to forgive them and offered his own life for the salvation of his people (Ex. 32:30-32). In the case of Jesus, He gave His own life for the sins of the world.
- 5. Moses interceded for the people asking God not to kill the people for their unbelief (Ex and Jesus both asked God to forgive the people Luke 23:34

- 6. Moses spent 40 days fasting on the mountain in preparation for what God would have him do. Jesus also spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness, and on mountains, to prepare for what God would have Him do.
- 7. Moses performed signs and wonders and the people believed in him because of it. After he went up onto the mountain of God, taking a long time to return, the people started to turn on him. They started to wonder, "Where is God and where are the miracles and wonders that we saw earlier?" Many of them stopped believing because they believed Moses would never come back. In the same way, Jesus also performed mighty miracles, signs and wonders. When Jesus was resurrected, He went up to Mt. Zion at the right hand of God. As in the story of Moses, many today wonder, "Where is Jesus? Is He ever coming back? Why is He taking so long?" This is exactly what

the Israelites said about Moses, and many today are saying the same thing about Jesus.

Today, as it was in the day of Moses, they are saying "We don't see any miracles or signs today," "We don't see people walking on water today" "We don't see today what we read about in the Bible. Where are the miracles and signs?" After all Jesus had done, after all His miracles and healings, He answered their shouts for more saying, "Before His return, that generation would say the same thing and demand a sign, but the only sign they would be given would be the sign of Jonah and the sign of Jonah refers to His resurrection and return. Jesus was telling them, the sign of all signs will be when He was resurrected, and when He would return.

- 8. It took the death of Pharaoh's first born son for the kingdom of Egypt to lose its grip on God's people and set them free. It took the death of God's firstborn son (and only son), Jesus Yeshua to make the kingdom of darkness lose its grip on God's people and set us free. The story of Moses foretold that it would be the loss of a first born son that would lead to the freedom of God's people. Before Jesus was born, His entire life was predicted in the Old Testament.
- 9. Moses interceded for the people asking God not to kill the people for their unbelief (Ex and Jesus both asked God to forgive the people Luke 23:34

## REVEALING OF ISRAEL

God's prophetic time clock



## Parable of the Fig Tree<sup>13</sup>

Matthew 24:32-35 (NASB), <sup>32</sup> "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: as soon as its branch has become tender and sprouts its leaves, you know that summer is near; <sup>33</sup> so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door. <sup>34</sup> Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.



FIG TREE

Many times in scripture Israel is (in one way of another) represented in parable as a fig tree or the figs themselves (Hosea 9:10; Jeremiah 24:3-10). From the date of the cross (A.D. 28) plus another 1920 years we come to the greatest sign that would manifest itself, and start God's prophetic countdown to His return, the rebirth of the nation of Israel (1948). Gods end-time calendar just got a "Red Letter day" added. Count-down has begun to Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> return and this time there is a Kingdom to establish and it will last for 1000 years.

The Fig Tree Prophecy:

If Israel is represented in Jesus' telling of the Fig tree prophecy (and it is), then the parable is meant to notify us that and end-time countdown has begun. This is the final countdown, the finality of God's prophetic calendar. There will be no more adding of time and restarts.

The key to understanding the parable is to first understand that in this case a tree is not a tree, but a nation. The solution to the parable is not in trying to solve the length of a generation, but by understanding that those where were born in the same time frame, if

 $<sup>^{13}</sup>$  The Fig Tree Prophecy - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPFsCsuZrlw&t=627s

not the same year. That generation would not pass away until **ALL THE SIGNS** (Olivet Discourse and the 70<sup>th</sup> week Tribulation) would be fulfilled. The date of Israel's rebirth as a nation is a date that cannot be changed. It is forever recorded in history as May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1948. That generation of the lost and unrepentant will not pass away until Jesus returns. The bride of Christ has an appointment (*moed / moedim*) in the clouds with her Bridegroom.

Upon His coming Jesus will destroy the enemies of Israel, administer the sheep and goat judgment and establish His 1000 year kingdom here on the earth. Now to answer another question that you might have had by now, let's look at another scripture, this time from Psalms:

Psalm 90:10 (NASB), "As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years ..."

Eighty years is the general time frame of a man's life if he is in good health, some even longer. If you add 80 years to 1948 (The year Israel became a nation) you would get the expectation that Jesus will return in **2028**, another **RED LETTER** day on God's prophetic calendar.

Even though 1948 is a fixed date, could it still be possible that Jesus would return maybe in 2030? Would there still be a remnant of the generation that was alive and witnessed the birth of Israel? What about 2035, would there be any alive on that date? Maybe ... maybe not, but I believe it is unlikely and not the correct understanding of the parable. While all these dates are possible, I believe the one that matches the biblical revelation seems to be the 80 years, beginning in 1948 and ending in the Fall of 2028. This is the most common understanding of the Parable of the Fig Tree. There is something else to consider found in Luke 21;

### The Return of Christ:

Luke 21:29-33 (NASB), <sup>29</sup> Then He told them a parable: "Behold the <u>fig tree and all the trees</u>; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they put forth *leaves*, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. <sup>31</sup> So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

In verse 29 Jesus says the parable is not only about the fig tree (Israel) but **ALL THE TREES** at that time when they begin to put forth their leaves.

History tells us that the Ottoman Empire ruled all of the Middle East for over 400 years and it came apart in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919 at the Palace of Versailles in Paris, France. This ended World War I. The end of the Ottoman Empire gave way to the re-establishment of a

dozen new nations' states having their borders redrawn by the English and the French. Below is a list of some of the new nation states that bordered ancient Israel. These would be the trees Jesus mentioned in the above scripture v29.

The Date Palm Cedar Tree Palm Tree Olive Tree Fig Tree

WINDSTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Saudi Arabia 1932 Lebanon 1943 Jordan 1946 Syria 1943 Israel 1948

The Date Palm Tree blossomed as the nation of Saudi Arabia was founded in 1932; the Cedar Tree began to blossom as the French protectorate Lebanon became a sovereign nation in 1943; The Palm Tree began to blossom as Jordan became sovereign kingdom in 1946 and the Olive Tree began to blossom as Syria became a sovereign kingdom also in 1943. The Fig Tree of Israel began to blossom in 1948.

Jesus said "As soon as they put forth their leaves that the kingdom of God is near  $v^{30}$ ," but there is more. Jesus continues with a message to you, " $v^{31}$  "So **you** also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away." Once again ... 80 years from 1948 is the Fall of 2028.

The parable of the Fig Tree is a parable of Israel coming back to life, and bears fruit. Unlike the Fig Tree that Jesus cursed, that Israel passed away, but now it has been resurrected just as Jesus was. Fulfilling ancient prophecy:

Ezekiel 37:5-6 (NASB), <sup>5"</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says to these bones: 'Behold, I am going to make breath enter you so that you may come to life. <sup>6</sup> And I will attach tendons to you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin, and put breath in you so that you may come to life; and you will know that I am the LORD."

Isaiah 66:8 (NASB), "Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be given birth all at once? As soon as Zion was in labor, she also delivered her sons."

Israel came back to life in 1948. As Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven May 2, 28 A.D. God's people (the nation) also rose from the dead. The "Dry

bones" of Ezekiel 37, was fulfilled on May 14, 1948. This date then becomes the beginning of the "**Season of His Coming,"** it is an 80 year season (Psalm 90:10).

So by now you might be asking "When does this happen? When will Jesus return?" The answer is immediately after the time of Jacobs Trouble, when Jesus sets up His kingdom in Jerusalem and Israel is no longer the tail, but the head of all the nations of the world.

The Season of His coming is filled with the "SIGNS of HIS COMING" and they have a beginning and they have an end. All end-time prophecies after 1948 will do so in the course of one generation. This is the message of the Parable of the Fig Tree. The timing of these events was told to Daniel after he had recorded all the prophecies revealed to him.

Daniel 12:4 KJV, "but you, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the <u>time of the end</u>: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

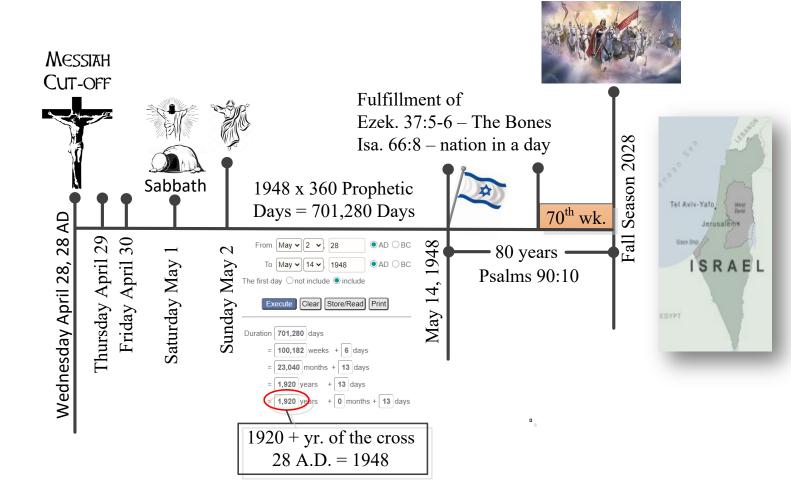
How do we know when the "time of the end" has come? Is there an event that we can look at to find this starting point? If there is, then it is at that time that God said He would reveal the understanding of Daniels prophecies to us.

## The sign of the **TIME OF THE END**:



All signs and wonders begin with the birth of Israel as a nation and that itself is one of the biggest signs of them all. As we have said before, Israel became a nation in 1948. As to the prophetic year 1948, if you use that date and multiply it by 360 prophetic days you would end up with 701,280 prophetic days.

Ezekiel's prophecy is the fulfillment of the shadow picture of the resurrection and accession of Christ to heaven. As you can see from the chart below, if you take the date May 2, 28 AD (John 20:17) and add to it the number of prophetic days in 1948 (701,279) you will come to an extraordinary event. May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1948, Israel is reborn as a nation, raised from the dead just as God's Son was. God's divine time clock has not stopped, it is being revealed. The understanding of this has been sealed up in the Daniel 12:4 prophecies. In this picture we find the beginning of the "TIME OF THE END."



A "Time-Stamped" prophecy which fulfills the prophecy of Ezekiel 37:5-6 and Isaiah 66:8.

And thus the nation of Israel came back to life, from their dry bones to living flesh; they are back in their home today. Nothing like this has ever happened in human history before. This is a prophetic pattern mystery that has been hidden for years, a numeric Biblical prophecy that has remained hidden since 1948. A prophecy that the Lord unsealed that we might know the time and understand the season of His soon coming.

In Daniel's prophecy, the words "shut up," and "seal" (Dan.12:4) are now being revealed as God allows the knowledge of His prophesies to be understood just at the time of the end. The **CHURCH AGE** is indeed coming to an end, just as the **KINGDOM AGE** is about to unfold. I believe the Lord Himself is revealing to us (The Laodicean church) the key for our understanding in these last days.



## A PATTERN IS ESTABLISHED "YEAR FOR A DAY"

(Paul tells us why in 1 Cor. 10: 1-11)

What did Israel learn, if anything? Let's fast forward to the cross. Jesus' ministry had begun and He spent His time telling the people how they could receive heaven, how He was the only way to God. He compared Himself as the door, the way, and the shepherd. In essence those who believed in Him saw Him for who He truly was, the King and the son of God.

As their ancestors did in the wilderness, the Jews proved that nothing had really changed. After turning the water to wine, casting out demons, healing the lepers, raising the dead, calming the storm, opening the eyes of the blind, feeding the 5000 and many more things He did. If everything He ever did were written down in a book, the world could not contain them (John 21:25). After all this, Israel still wanted a sign and came to Jesus demanding He give them a sign. Here is Jesus' response:

Matthew 16:4 (NASB), "an evil and adulterous generation wants a sign; and so a sign will not be given to it, except the sign of Jonah. And He left them and went away."

Now let's go look at the curse Israel put into motion when they called for the crucifixion of Christ.

Matthew 27:24-25 (NASB), <sup>24</sup> Now when Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; you yourselves shall see." <sup>25</sup> And all the people replied, "<u>His</u> blood *shall be* on us and on our children!"

Notice that from the cross, Jesus (like Moses had Num.14:11-19) also pleaded for Israel.

Luke 23:34a (NASB), But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

Israel was told that the kingdom was at hand (Mk. 1:15) and they killed the King. In unbelief they rejected Him, and what was the punishment? Did God stop the prophetic clock as some suggest? He did not! Nowhere can you find in scripture where God stopped the prophecy, or His Divine Chronological Calendar, but you can find where He **ADDED TO IT** ... Pattern is Prophecy.



#### PATTERN IS PROPHECY

Looking for the **Season** of His Return



If God did not stop the counting of His Divine Chronological Calendar, but added time to it, then how much time did He add and when did it begin? There is a large period of time between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> week (2000 + years). Has these year's just been given to history or was there another divine plan on God's Divine Calendar? This period of time does have an ending, it will culminate with the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel and it just might be closer than you think.

#### TIME ADDED AGAIN

With just one more week of the 70 week prophecy remaining, Israel rejects their king in unbelief and yelled out "Crucify Him, His blood be on us and our children," just as they did in the wilderness when they called for the death of Moses and Aaron (Num. 14:2). The punishment was just as God did against Israel in the wilderness for their unbelief, when He multiplied a year for a day and so He did this a second time when they rejected His Son.

Israel had one more week of years which totaled 2520 days which according to the prophet Daniel said they would see their promised "Messiah the Prince." Because of their unbelief in His Son, the 2520 days would now be 2520 years, "a year for a day" and a new count-down started. This new count down would include all the "time served" from the decree of Artaxerxes in 457 B.C. The new count-down had a beginning and it has and ending date, but how long is that time?

First we already know the number of years added. They are the days that are now years (2520 years). To find the number of days added to the prophetic calendar, we multiply the now 2520 years x 360 prophetic days = 907,200 days. At the end of these days, we will have arrived at the end of Daniels  $70^{th}$  week. On that day, Israel and the rest of the world will see the Messiah their Prince coming with the armies of heaven to make war with the Antichrist and to judge the nations (Rev.19:11-16).

Pattern is prophecy as we see in Numbers 14 the pattern is established. If you apply the 2520 years you will find the missing key that answers the question, "When will Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week prophecy be fulfilled."

Now no one really knows the exact day in 457 BC Artaxerxes decree was made, but there are only two possible answers. The decree went forth either in the month of

Nisan<sup>14</sup> in the Spring of the year, or it was made in the Fall which is the month of Tishrei [Tishri]. 15 Once again we will use the date of September 28<sup>th</sup> 457 16 because of its approximation to the 5<sup>th</sup> Jewish feast date, the "Feast of Trumpets."

Remember that because of their unbelief in the wilderness God added 40 years to their wondering. The counting of those years did not start with that day in which the punishment was declared, but for mercies sake God started the counting of the additional years when they entered the wilderness. In other words God gave them credit for time already served in the wilderness and therefore giving us a pattern that answers the question as to when this new timeline was to begin.

The answer is that God began the counting of the 907,200 days back at the original decree of Artaxerxes in 457 B.C. giving an allowance for all the time served up until the time of their rejection of their prophet, priest and king. As He had mercy on His people in the wilderness, so again as Jesus asked His Father to "forgive them for they know not what they do," God had mercy once again.

God's new timeline accounts for the 2000 + years since the cross and His coming back to fulfill the last 70<sup>th</sup> week prophecy and set up His Messianic Kingdom. The season of His coming is closer than you might think.

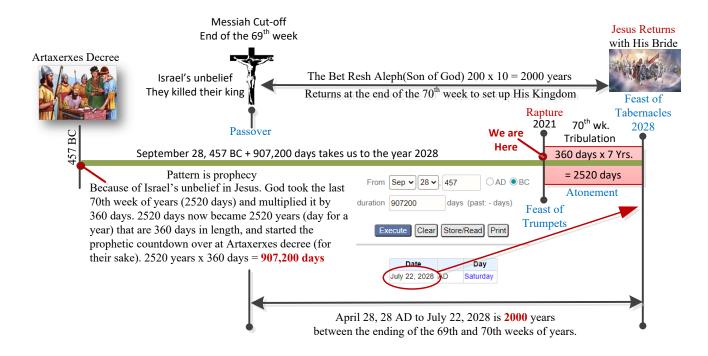
907,200 days / 360 days = 2520 years



As the calendar calculations show 2,483 years, (circled in red) we see the 483 years from Artaxerxes decree to the crucifixion of Christ. It also reveals the 2000 year time span since the cross to His return. Remember there are 2000 years from Adam to Abraham, 2000 years from Abraham to Christ and finally 2000 years from the cross to Jesus' return and that makes up the 6000 years of man's rule on the earth. The last 1000 years, Jesus will rule this world. It shall become the kingdom of our Lord. At the end of the 7000 years, we find ourselves at Revelation 21-22 and the Glorious Future. The eternal Kingdom is where righteous is all we will know.

16 http://www.cgsf.org/dbeattie/calendar/?roman=457bc

March–April on the Gregorian calendar
 September–October on the Gregorian calendar (September 28<sup>th</sup> to December 26<sup>th</sup> in 457 B.C.)



A new time line (shown in green) shows us the beginning and the end of the 907,200 days added to Israel's wait. Even though it was applied at the end of the 69<sup>th</sup> week, it takes in "time already spent" and makes the way for the "Church Age," and the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This time period would see Israel rise up to become a nation once again. We have already seen Israel rising up in fulfillment of Ezekiel 37:5-6 and Isaiah 66:8. This time-stamped marker of 1948 is one of many signs of the soon coming of the King of Kings. This current generation who has seen Israel become a nation will not pass away until all has been fulfilled.

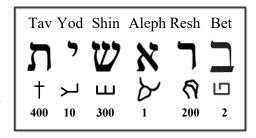
For those who are called by His name will soon hear the blast of His trumpets and together with the righteous dead of all the ages and shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye and rise to meet Him in the air and so shall we forever be with the Lord.

John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, \*I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

\* In this verse when Jesus says "I will come again, and receive you unto myself," this is the rapture of the Bride of Christ, those who are called and love His appearing.

If you have already been through the first study call the "Beresheet Prophecies" then you are familiar with the timeline I included in the chart above. From the cross to the coming again of Jesus I show 2000 years. Where did this come from?

In the first word of scripture Genesis 1:1, the first word of the first verse in the Hebrew we find six Hebrew letters, Bet, Resh, Aleph, Shin, Yod and the Tav. In the pictographic translation of the word Beresheet it reads "The **Son of God** shall be **destroyed** by His own **hand** upon a **cross.**"





Yes, right there in the first verse of the Bible is the Gospel message We are also being told of the first three letters of the Bible the Bet Resh Aleph, meaning "Son of God."

It will be 2000 years after His death that Jesus shall return and He will bring the host of heaven and His bride with Him. He will set up His Messianic Kingdom here on earth to be ruled with a rod of iron. On that day (Revelation 20:4) will be the end of Daniels 70 week prophecy.

Revelation 20:4 (NASB), "Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And *I saw* the souls\* of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."

\* These are the tribulation Saints who have died at the hands of the Antichrist.

This is the time you should be looking inward and asking yourself if you are ready. As God has done in the past so He is doing now, giving His church, and His people time to "MAKE THEMSELVES READY, for the time is near. You may not have years, but months before the ancient trumpet (shofar) is blown in the heavens above ... and suddenly those who love Him (the Bride) shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye.

THE END



# Establishing the date 457 B.C.

The date 457 B.C., is the base date where we find the beginning of the fulfillment of Daniels 70 week prophecy. It is firmly established in both scripture and in history. If we are correct, we ought to be able to justify our claim by producing evidence that will support it.

Three Persian decrees played roles in the restoration of God's people from the captivity that started with the Babylonians. Confirming our interpretation of these important prophecies of Daniel depends on identifying and dating the decree with which God intended the time calculations to begin.

Cyrus issued the first decree in the first year of his Babylonian reign, which was 538/537 B.C. (see Ezra 1:1; 6:1; and 2 Chron. 36:22, 23). The Bible does not indicate when in the first year of his reign this decree was given, so we do not know whether the year involved was 538 or 537 B.C. Nor does the Bible tell us when Zerubbabel's party left Babylon and when they arrived in Jerusalem, so we do not know when this decree became effective. The Bible's vagueness about these details argues against this being the all-important decree. Furthermore, Cyrus's decree says nothing about the restoration of the city. It speaks only of the rebuilding of the Temple.

Another piece of evidence that this is the wrong decree is that it simply doesn't work with the Daniel 9 prophecy of the time of the arrival of the Messiah, the anointed one. With the date of this decree as a starting point, the 483 years Daniel spoke of do not reach anywhere near Jesus' time.

Scripture gives no date at all for the second decree, that of Darius the Great. All we know is that it was given in the early years of his reign, because, as a result of it, the Temple was completed and dedicated. And, like Cyrus's, Darius's decree was concerned with the restoration of the Temple, not of the city. Obviously, for establishing a starting point for Daniels prophecy, this decree is not of much use either.

If God intended either of these decrees to mark the beginning of a time prophecy as important as that of Daniels 490 year prophecy, then certainly He would have seen that the details needed were recorded in the Bible.

## ARTAXERXES' DECREE

It is in connection with the third decree--that of the seventh year of Artaxerxes, you find the prophet Nehemiah 2:4-8 before the king making his case for rebuilding Jerusalem. The results are recorded in Ezra 7:8, 9, 12-13 that we have the information

necessary to locate in time this important prophecy. Regarding this decree we are told that Ezra left Babylon on the first day of month 1 of the seventh year of the reign of Artaxerxes, and that he and his group arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of month 5 of the same year. For no other decree is such detail given. This fact alone should alert us. Surely God is saying something to us when His Word is so explicit regarding this decree and so vague regarding the other two.

Furthermore, this decree provided for the restoration of local government on a scale not mentioned in the other decrees (note Ezra 7:21-28). It empowered the judiciary to punish wrongdoers, even granting the authority to impose the death sentence. And as a result of this decree Ezra began to build the city--see the letter to Artaxerxes in Ezra 4.

However, perhaps the strongest argument of all is that when we calculate the Daniel 9 prophecy of 70 weeks to the messiah, using the date of this decree, 457 B.C., as marking its beginning, the prophecy reaches exactly to the crucifixion of Jesus (*ie: the "cutting off of Messiah*). In fact, Daniel 9:24 suggest that the events that take place within the 70 weeks set God's seal of approval on the whole of the prophecy. They show that the prophecy was divinely given, and thus absolutely dependable. And no other date even begins to satisfy the demands of this prophecy.

Obviously, then, the decree God intends us to use is that of Ezra 7, the one issued in the seventh year of Artaxerxes. God has given us details about when it was issued and when it went into effect. And the precision with which it relates to Jesus' baptism marks it as authentic. It is just too accurate to be wrong!

Having determined that it is Artaxerxes' decree that marks the beginning of these prophetic periods, we must now establish that the year in which he issued his decree actually was 457 B.C.

#### **BABYLONIAN AND PERSIAN DATING METHODS**

In the time of the Persians, all events and documents were dated in terms of the day number, month name or number, and year number of the current king's reign. For example, as we have already noted, Ezra says that he left for Jerusalem on the first day of month 1 of Artaxerxes' seventh year, arriving there on the first day of month 5 of the same year.

When a king died and a new one took the throne, the remaining portion of that year was considered the accession year of the new king and was not counted as or called the first year of the new king's reign. Only the first full calendar year of a king's reign was called his first year (see Figure 1). As can readily be seen, the accession year could be long or short, depending on when the new king came to the throne.

To establish the date of an event in terms of our calendar, scholars first had to determine the succession of the kings and the length of their reigns. The lists of kings that

ancient writers provided are one source of such information. Another is the method that Richard A. Parker and Waldo H. Dubberstein developed as they gathered the information published in their useful book *Babylonian Chronology: 626 B.C.-AD. 75*. Parker and Dubberstein's method grew out of the fact that thousands of tablets dated by their authors to the reigns of ancient Near Eastern kings have been found. These two men suggested that by finding the three or four tablets bearing the latest dates from each king's reign and the three or four tablets bearing the earliest dates of each successor's, the transition points between each reign might be pretty well established. Using this method, scholars can calculate the month and sometimes almost the day of the month that a king died and his successor took his place. In this way they have been able to compile a list of the Babylonian and Persian kings together with precise details as to when each came to the throne and how long each ruled.

To assign B.C. dates to the reigns of these kings, scholars had to take one more step; they had to find a way to link the reigns of the kings to our B.C. scale. They established this link by means of the tablets that record and date the eclipses that occurred in the days of those kings. Most of these tablets describe in detail eclipses that had already occurred, but at least one predicts an eclipse at that time yet future; it was to occur in the seventh year of Cambyses. That they were able even to predict eclipses reveals the high standard of astronomical science these ancient people practiced.

As archeologists have found and translated tablets describing eclipses, astronomers have been able to calculate when in terms of our calendar those eclipses took place. Thus guesswork has been eliminated and precise dates given to the reigns of these ancient kings. In terms of chronology, the Babylonian and Persian periods are among the very best documented periods of history. (The table below lists some of the eclipses the tablets describe.)

#### THE DATE FOR THE SEVENTH YEAR OF ARTAXERXES

With such a wealth of information regarding the chronology of this period, we can with confidence ascertain the B.C. date of the seventh year of Artaxerxes' reign.

Xerxes, the predecessor of Artaxerxes, was murdered sometime between December 17, 465 B.C., and January 3, 464 B.C. The tablet bearing the latest known date from his reign is dated to month 9 (which corresponds to December) of his twenty-first year of reign. And the Elephantine papyri from Egypt contain the first known date identified with Artaxerxes' reign the equivalent of our January 3, 464 B.C. Since this date comes from records originating in Egypt, most scholars agree that Xerxes died before the end of December, as it is hardly likely that news of his death and Artaxerxes' succession would travel from Persia to Egypt in three days. Thus it appears certain that Xerxes' death must be dated in late December, 465 B.C.

While the Jews followed a spring-to-spring calendar for their religious year, in time they came to use a second calendar as well--much as many nations today have a

fiscal year as well as a calendar year. Just as the beginnings and endings of our fiscal years differ by six months from those of our calendar years, the Jewish fall-to-fall calendar differed by six months from the spring-to-spring calendar. And much as the months of our fiscal and calendar years retain the same names, *the months of the spring-to-spring and fall-to-fall calendars retained the same numbers*. So while the spring-to-spring calendar began with month 1 and ended with month 12, the fall-to-fall calendar began with month 7 and ended with month 6 (see Figure 2).

With this information we can construct a time line for the early years of Artaxerxes and thus arrive at the all-important seventh year of his reign. We calculate that year according to the Jewish fall-to-fall calendar, the calendar Ezra was using when he referred to Artaxerxes' decree.

Figure 3 shows that Artaxerxes' seventh year began in 458 B.C. and extended into 457 B.C., and that the dates Scripture records in connection with this decree-those for Ezra's departure for Jerusalem and for his arrival there, fall well within 457 B.C.

It is interesting to note that William Miller and his associates used a different method for calculating which of our years corresponded to Artaxerxes' seventh year. Basing their work on Ptolemy's Canon, they came up with the same date we have arrived at above. This certainly is a gratifying reassurance as to the trust worthiness of our position and should help to fortify our faith in the message we bear to the world. As the apostle Peter declared: "We have not followed cunningly devised fables" (2 Peter 1:16).

The rebuilding of the Temple Cyrus's decree initiated had ended. The Jews began work on the Temple again and then wrote, asking Darius's permission. In his second year, Darius replied, granting that permission. The work continued, and in his sixth year, the Temple was dedicated (see Haggai 2:10-18 and Ezra 6:15).

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### Jewish use of the fall-to-fall year

The calendar by which the Babylonians and Persians reckoned their years was a spring-to-spring calendar. That is, their year began in the spring and ended with the ending of winter. In reckoning their religious year, the Jews also followed a spring-tospring calendar. But at times they used a fall-to-fall calendar when reckoning the reigns of their own and foreign kings.

Four lines of evidence--three biblical and one extra-biblical, show that the Jews did use the fall-to-fall calendar.

## 1. The building of Solomon's Temple

Scripture tells us that Solomon began to build the Temple in the fourth year of his reign, in the month Zif, the second month of the Jewish year, and that he finished the Temple in the eleventh year of his reign, in the month of Bul, the eighth month of the Jewish year (1 Kings 6:1, 37, 38). On a spring-to-spring calendar, these dates would comprise seven and one half literal years, which the Jews would have counted as eight years with their inclusive reckoning.

But based on a fall-to-fall calendar, the same dates would yield six and one-half years, which, with inclusive reckoning, the Jews would have counted as seven years the time Scripture actually specifies for the building of Solomon's Temple (verse 38).

#### 2. Josiah's reforms

In 2 Kings 22:3-23:23 we read about the reforms that Josiah carried out in Judah, and of the Passover celebration with which he capped those reforms. Josiah sent his men throughout his kingdom to call on the people to forsake the worship of idols and to turn to the true God. Places of pagan worship were destroyed, the groves were cut down, and the people were invited to assemble in Jerusalem for the Passover. It is not hard to see that Josiah's men would need a fair amount of time to accomplish all this. It would also take the people some time to travel to Jerusalem, especially those who lived in the farther reaches of the kingdom. Yet Scripture indicates that the reforms were carried out and the people gathered between the beginning of the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign and the time of the Passover that took place in that year.

Since the Passover occurred on the fourteenth date of the first month of the year, if these events were reckoned on the basis of the spring-to-spring year, they would all have had to take place within 14 days at the most! However, if we allow that the Jews were using a fall-to-fall year, there would have been up to six and one-half months for these reforms to be carried out before the celebration of the Passover a much more likely schema.

## 3. Nehemiah before the king

In beginning the account of his work in Jerusalem, Nehemiah says he heard bad news about the condition of that city in the month of Chislev (Neh. 1:1-4), which is the ninth month of the Jewish year. He continues by saying that as a result of this bad news he was sad in the king's presence in the month of Nisan (Neh. 2:1-8), the first month of the Jewish year. More to the point of our concern here, he dates both his hearing of the bad news and the occasion on which Artaxerxes noticed his sadness to that king's twentieth year. If he were following the spring-to-spring calendar, in which the months proceeded in numerical order, his sadness before the king would have preceded his hearing of the news that precipitated that sadness! But in the fall-to-fall calendar his dating of the events poses no problem, because in that calendar month 9 precedes month 1 (see figure 2).

Two factors make this instance of the use of the fall-to-fall calendar of particular import for the dating of Artaxerxes' decree. First, while the previous two examples involved dates based on the reigns of Hebrew kings, Nehemiah, like Ezra, was basing his dating on the reign of a Persian king.

And second, Nehemiah was Ezra's contemporary in time and circumstances--both were Jews who were raised in Persia and wrote within a few years of each other after their return to Palestine. We would expect two people with the same background who were writing at the same time and place to use the same dating technique.

## 4. The Elephantine papyri

S. H. Horn and L. H. Wood have found extra-biblical evidence for Jewish use of the fall-to-fall calendar during the Persian period. Some of the manuscripts written by Jewish soldiers stationed at the fortress on the Elephantine Islands in the Nile in upper Egypt were dated by two calendars, the Egyptian calendar and the Jewish fall-to-fall calendar. These manuscripts, from around the years 422 B.C. to 419 B.C., offer another evidence of Jewish use of this calendar even when the king upon whose reign the dates were based was a foreigner, in this case the Persian, Darius II. (Kraeling Papyrus No. 6 is of special importance here.) Horn and Wood have provided the details of this evidence in their book *The Chronology of Ezra* 7.

So the probability that Ezra used the fall-to-fall calendar can be established from both biblical and extra-biblical sources.

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