

20170408 Daniel Chapter 9 Part 2 - The Prophecy of 70 Weeks - Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Daniel Chapter 9 Part 2 - The Prophecy of 70 Weeks - Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem by Pastor Faber McMullen, Union Grove Baptist Church © 2017



Today is Palm Sunday, but what does this mean in history and what does it mean to you as a Christ-Follower?. Today we will take our last look at the Book of Daniel. Next week I will bring a Resurrection message and then the following week we will begin our journey

through the Torah. Today, it is my prayer that you will see and understand that Daniel prophesied clearly the coming presentation of the Messiah to the Jewish people. Jesus fulfilled that prophesy in his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey approximately 1970 years ago. His followers began to praise him and the Jewish leaders of the day warned him to quiet them down. But this time Jesus does not quiet them, but answers saying, "If they don't praise me the stones themselves will cry out." <sup>1</sup>

STAND WITH ME NOW AS WE READ A PORTION OF GOD'S WORD



As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, <sup>38</sup>saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” (Luke 19:37-40)

Two weeks ago I spoke to you about the amazing prophecy of 70 weeks. We found Daniel in an intense Bible study and prayer time as he wrestled with God concerning the words of the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah had prophesied that God's people would be freed from the captivity in Babylon after a period of 70 years. Seventy years had gone by and now Daniel is reminding God of His promises. This reminds us of **Principle 1: As children of the Lord we can and are privileged to wrestle with God claiming the promises He has made to us.** We see David do this repeatedly in the Psalms. As Rabbi Schnaider reminded us last week, we do not have a master-slave relationship with God, but rather we enjoy a father-child

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<sup>1</sup> Luke 19:40

relationship with God. That status changes how we relate to Him. Daniel wrestled with God.

Scripture tells us that at the very moment that Daniel was in deep prayer, God sent Gabriel who touched him on the shoulder and spoke to him. Daniel was saying essentially, "God you promised to come take us out of captivity after seventy years. Now Lord, where are you? Lord what do you have planned for your people?" Please turn in your Bible's to the 9th Chapter of the Book of Daniel as we finish our sojourn in this book. You will see shortly how this relates to the Palm Sunday passage which we have just read.



**24** "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*.

**25** "So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

**Principle 2: God is telling Daniel that there will be a 69 "week" period that will extend "from the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince will appear".** As I mentioned two weeks ago these "weeks" are actually years, and 69 of these 7 year periods will go by and then there will be a pause in the progression of history for the Jewish people. This prophecy is saying "there will be a 483 (7X360) year period between the issuing of a decree to rebuild the "plaza and moat" (the city of Jerusalem) until the time when Messiah would come.

So let's look for a moment at when we should start counting. In reading scripture relevant to the end of the exile period it is easy to become confused about which decree concerned the rebuilding of "the plaza and the moat" in Jerusalem. Let's look at a couple of possibilities:

1) Ezra 1:1-4/2 Chronicles 36:22-23 - is given by some scholars as starting point. I read, "3Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem." Well, historians tell us that that decree happened in 536 BC, so if you add 483 years to that you come up with = 54 BC That's not when the Messiah appears. As a matter of fact it would be AFTER was born, lived, died, and was resurrected. (But the prophecy doesn't say "build Him a house) - Others in Ezra are much like this. They miss the date by 20 years or so.

Does Daniel 9:25 talk about rebuilding the Temple? NO, but the 70 weeks begin when a King gives a command for the City to be rebuilt. Let's quickly look at a passage in Nehemiah which I believe fills that prophecy.



4) Nehemiah 2:1-8 “If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, **8** and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, **that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.**” And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me..

**Principle 3: Nehemiah 2:1 tells us when this decree takes place. It says, "in the 20th year of the reign of Artaxerxes".** Wikipedia tells us that Artaxerxes began to reign in 465BC.<sup>2</sup> So we're talking about 445 BC. So we're talking about 445 BC on first day of the Month of Nissan The first day of Nissan in 445 BC would be March 14th.

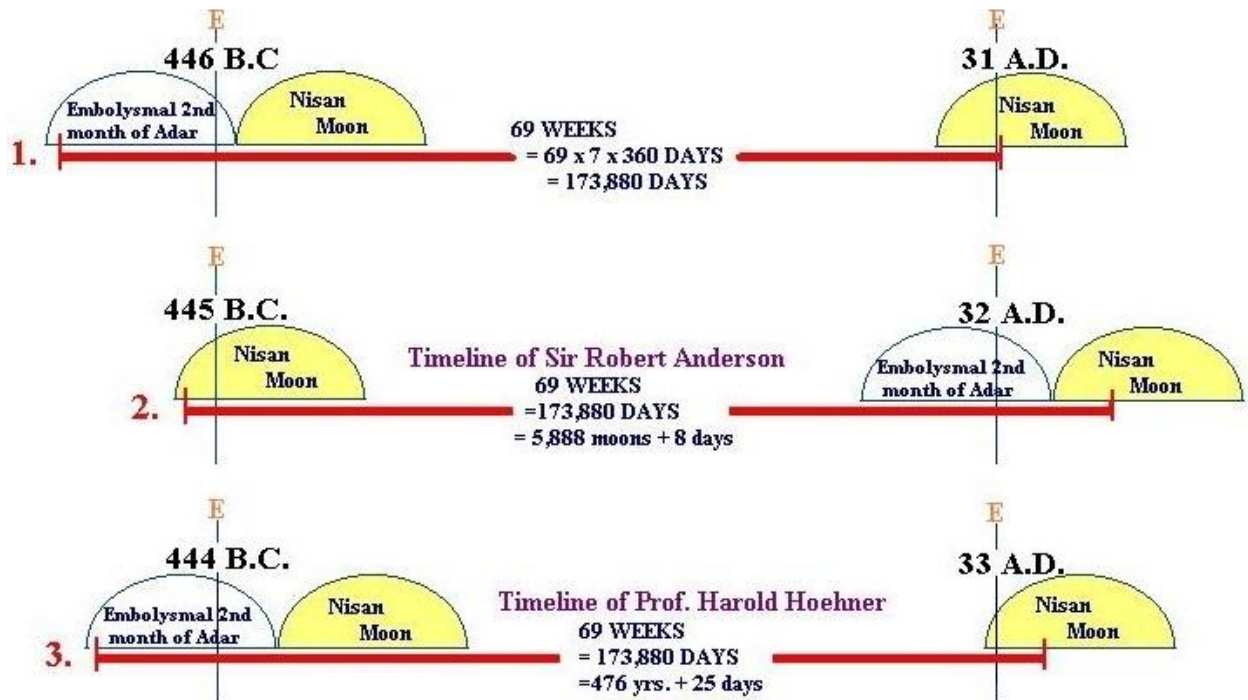
So, March, 14, 445BC + 483 years = will be the date of the appearing and presentation of the Messiah.

**Principle 4: Mathematical theologians have come up with theories on when this started and when this ended. They are all within 3 years of each other.** I just want to show you a couple of these so we can come up with some conclusions.



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<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artaxerxes\\_I\\_of\\_Persia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artaxerxes_I_of_Persia)



### THE TESTIMONY OF THE NISAN MOONS IN ESTABLISHING THE TIMESPAN OF THE 69 WEEKS

Please note that the first calculation in the above diagram shows the Messiah appearing in 31 AD. The second example depicts the calculations of Sir Robert Anderson. The date can be calculated as follows: March 14, 445BC + 173, 880 days = April 6, 32 AD. Anderson's calculations say it was on that day 1,985 years ago THIS MORNING that Jesus Christ rode into the City on Palm Sunday.

The results are a bit different if we put it into our modern calendar. A professor named Dr. Harold Hoehner (deceased) at Dallas Theological Seminary started his chronology differently given that the first year of the king was an accession year. He put all the variables into a computer using minute details, leap years, Passovers, etc and he ended up with 476 X 365.24219879. That's 173,855 days, which would be something like 1,984 years ago THIS MORNING that Jesus rode into Jerusalem.

You are probably wondering right now, Pastor Faber, "Who is right and what does this have to do with my spiritual life?" I'm not sure who is right in all of this figuring, but it tells me that **Principle 5: We might not have figured it out exactly but GOD has figured it out completely.** Gabriel is saying, "God is telling you Daniel when this will all happen and He's putting it down to you in numbers of days!"

God was telling Daniel that a specific number of days would pass, and then Messiah the Prince would appear. Most scholars believe that the event that happened that day was

when Jesus rode into Jerusalem. "from that time until 'Messiah the Prince' was presented there would be a certain number of days."

Let me now speak briefly about verses 26 and 27 for the sake of looking at the completion of the prophecy.



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| 26 | “Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end <i>will come</i> with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.  |
| 27 | “And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations <i>will come</i> one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.” <sup>3</sup> |

You may want to ask me, Faber, what about the 70th week? Isaiah 9:6 illustrates the type of gap that happens between week 69 and week 70. Most of you are familiar with the following verse:

"6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".

So, when and where was a "child born and a son is given?" In Bethlehem of course..."and the government will be upon His shoulder". Did that happen when Jesus was on earth? Was it on His shoulder at the time He came and was born in Bethlehem? No.. The government will be upon His shoulders when He comes the second time. There is a gap in the fulfillment of these types of prophecies. This is the same kind of gap going on here.

What verses 26 and 27 are telling us is that:

**Principle 6: A treaty will obviously be made with the Jewish people, and it will be broken and the "Great Tribulation" will be inaugurated.** When the whole earth will be bathed in blood. It will run as high as a horses bridle. This will be the "Time of Jacob's trouble" This is the event Jesus speaks to in Matt 24:15-34

→ “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), <sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, <sup>18</sup> and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. <sup>19</sup> And alas for
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<sup>3</sup> *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update.* (1995). (Da 9:24–27). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

*women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days!<sup>20</sup> Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.<sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.*

So Pastor, is that it? Is that how it all ends? No, go back now to Verse 24 and remember that all of this has to come to pass. **Principle 7: When Christ the King comes back all those things of v.24 will be over with.** After this God's people will never be in rebellion again, and when the King is in residence, sin and iniquity will be done away with for the Jews.

483 years (by God's calculations) from when the decree was given to rebuild the city of Jerusalem Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. This had been prophesied and I read, "Zachariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

→ In Luke 19 we have the account of the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem fulfilling the words of Zachariah.



**35** And they brought it (the donkey) to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. **36** And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. **37** As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice

for all the mighty works that they had seen, **38** saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" **39** And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." **40** He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

Psalm 118:22-26 prophesied about this one that He would be the cornerstone "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.... Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Today you've heard about a triumphal entry into Jerusalem. You've heard about that day being prophesied to the day some 483 years before the event. Daniel looked on in wonder at what he had seen. He saw the Messiah coming. He saw sin ending. He saw justice reigning. He saw his people being taken out of exile.

There are so many parallels in these passages. I will ask you today. Are you in spiritual exile? God's people learned much in their exile. **Principle 8: God has lessons to teach you while in your exile.** You may know Him or you may not know Him. You can still be in exile.

I have good news. Jesus the Messiah rode into Jerusalem almost 2,000 years ago. And the chief reason He came was to save and redeem you and me. The crowd that adored Him that day on Palm Sunday worshipped Him for different reasons. Most worshipped Him because they thought that something was in it for them to get behind an earthly Messiah. **Principle 9: Do you worship God for what you can get from Him or do you worship Him because He is Lord? Principle 10: Even if you don't worship Him with your life, the stones themselves and all of creation will worship Him.**

Are you following Jesus for what you can get out of Him? Have you been so foolish to believe that you could manipulate God and get something out of Him because of your shallow relationship with Him. Will you abandon Him at the first sign of trouble? Some of you have paid lip service to Him for years, but you've never worshipped Him with Holy worship. I am talking about loving Him with all of your heart, all of your soul, and all of your mind. The Holy Spirit is calling you to come clean today. Worship Him in spirit and in truth. You know, it really doesn't matter whether you acknowledge Him as Messiah or not.

Why? Because even if you don't acknowledge Him as Lord the stones themselves and all of creation will cry out giving Him worship, praise, honor and glory.

Are you ready for a change in your relationship with Him?

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