

70 WEEKS AND
THE COMING OF
THE MESSIAH



1. 70 Weeks and the Coming of the Messiah



2. *(As an alternative, you can put in a picture of your little girl or boy and change the story)—*

Melaney is a one-year old little girl who loves to point. Whenever she wants something, she points at it. If her family is walking through the store and she sees a toy she wants, she points at it. If she's eating at the dinner table and she sees some food that looks good, she points at it. If she sees a dog taking a walk and she wants to pet it, she points at it. And she keeps pointing until someone pays attention.



3. For little Melaney, there's a lot of power in that little finger. You see, when someone points at something, it communicates that there's something important they want you to see. In other words, there's something they want you to pay attention to.

4. So tonight, we're going to look at a passage in the Bible that does a lot of pointing. We're going to explore a powerful prophecy in the book of Daniel that points to Jesus in a very dramatic way. It's known as the 70-weeks prophecy.

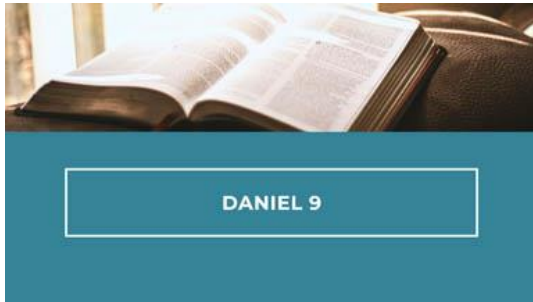


POINTING TO THE MESSIAH

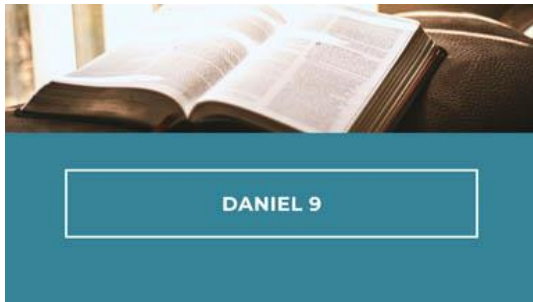


POINTING TO THE MESSIAH

5. And it's really one of the most Christ-centered prophecies in the Old Testament. Here's why. This prophecy pinpoints the exact time when Jesus would come as the Messiah the first time, and it pinpoints the time when He would die on the cross of Calvary for our sins. There is no other prophecy in the Old Testament that identifies Jesus Christ more clearly as the Son of God. And there is no other prophecy in the Old Testament that uplifts Jesus Christ more perfectly as the Savior of the world.



6. So, I want to invite you to take your Bibles and turn with me to Daniel chapter 9. We are going to be in this chapter for quite a while tonight. Now, before I start reading, I want to give you the background of what is happening in this chapter because it will help us to understand the prophecy. In order to understand Bible prophecy correctly, it's always good to get the context.



7. Here in Chapter 9, it's somewhere around 500 B.C. The Jewish nation and the prophet Daniel are living in captivity to the Persian Empire. What empire did I say? Persian Empire. You see, years before that, God had spoken through Jeremiah and many of the other prophets warning the nation of Israel that if they continued to be unfaithful, if they continued to worship other gods and get involved in sexual immorality with other nations, He would allow a foreign power to conquer them and to take them captive. God was trying to wake His people up!



8. But Israel did not listen and in 586 B.C., that's exactly what happened. King Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom of Babylon came down from the north and besieged and conquered the city of Jerusalem. Babylon partially destroyed the city. It tore down the walls and took many of the people captive. One of those taken captive was the prophet Daniel. He was probably just a teenager at that time.



9. Fast forward a few years. Persia has conquered Babylon and is now the dominant power in the world. And the Jewish people are living in captivity to the Persian nation. Daniel chapter 9 opens with one of the sincerest prayers you will ever hear in the Bible. Daniel is praying for his people. Daniel is asking, "O Lord, when will you deliver us? When will you save us and allow us to go back to Jerusalem? When can we rebuild our city and rebuild our walls and be free again?" Daniel confesses their unfaithfulness and pleads for his people.

DANIEL 9:4-6

"And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, 'O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who



10. Let's pick up the story in verses 4-6. Notice the humility of Daniel's character in this prayer. The Bible says, "*And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, 'O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him and with those who*

DANIEL 9:4-6

love Him and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by



11. *keep His commandments ..."*

Now, notice verse 5, "*we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by*

DANIEL 9:4-6

departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and



12. *departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and*

DANIEL 9:4-6

our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land.”



13. *our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land.”*



14. Do you sense Daniel’s sincerity? I want you to notice something in this prayer. Daniel does not have a judgmental, critical attitude toward his people. He does not pray in a holier-than-thou manner even though Daniel is not the one who was unfaithful. He is living in captivity because of the unfaithfulness of other people. Yet he doesn’t say, “Oh Lord, these wicked people and corrupt rulers of ours have caused all this to happen, but Lord, I have been faithful.” He doesn’t say that.



15. He says, *“We have sinned. We have rebelled.”* He puts himself right there with his people. Daniel’s humility and strength of character shine through in this prayer. You can tell that God had control of his heart. He could have been bitter because of all that had happened to him. But he chose to keep trusting God. There’s a powerful lesson in that for us.

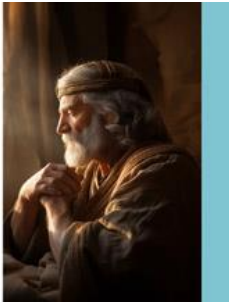
Sometimes we see people who are behaving badly in our lives, maybe in church or in our families or in our neighborhoods.



16. And we’re sometimes tempted to have a critical spirit towards them, like the Pharisee who said, *“Oh Lord, I thank you that I’m not like this tax collector.”* But what God would want us to do is to have the attitude of Christ towards others. Yes, that person may be making poor choices, even foolish ones. But the truth is, we all have our own issues, don’t we? And God has been mighty patient with us. We should extent that kind of patience towards others. Can you say, Amen? Now, back to the prayer.

DANIEL 9:19

"O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."



17. Daniel then ends the prayer in verse 19, where he says with much emotion,

"O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

That's the passion of Daniel's prayer.



DANIEL 9:21-23

". . .yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly,

18. Then in verses 20-21, God hears that prayer and sends the angel Gabriel to give Daniel a prophecy of hope. Let's pick it up in verses 21 to 23.

The Bible says: *". . .yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly,*



DANIEL 9:21-23

reached me about the time of the evening offering. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have

19. *reached me about the time of the evening offering. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, 'O Daniel, I have*



DANIEL 9:21-23

now come forth to give you skill to understand. At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell

20. *now come forth to give you skill to understand. At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell*



DANIEL 9:21-23

you, for you are **greatly beloved**. Therefore, consider the matter and understand the vision."

21. *you, for you are ...” What’s that next phrase? “... greatly beloved. Therefore, consider the matter and understand the vision.”*

Before we jump into the prophecy, there are some really powerful lessons here. At first, you might think, *“Wow! Daniel prays one prayer and boom, the angel Gabriel appears to answer his prayer!”*, just like that!



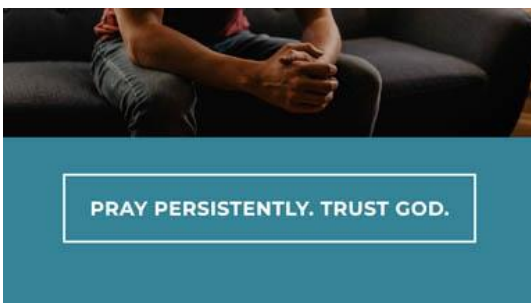
DANIEL 9:21-23

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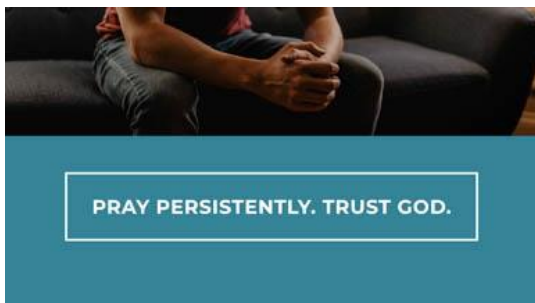
22. We might be tempted to think, “Oh, I wish it happened like that for me.” Because I can tell you, when I pray about something, very rarely, in fact, never has an angel just appeared on the spot to answer my prayers. But you must understand something. Do you think this was the first time Daniel prayed that prayer for his people? No way. Daniel had been in captivity many years by then. Daniel prayed that prayer probably every day, every week, every month, year after year. He was persistent. He trusted God to answer when the time was right.



23. **Pray Persistently. Trust God.** That’s the lesson God often wants to teach us. We may pray about something one time and forget about it. But think about your children. They see a brand-new toy on the internet and want it. Now, if they only bother you about it for three or four days and you never hear about it again, you know it’s just a passing fad.



24. But if they bring it up over and over again over a period of weeks and months, you know they’re serious about it. It’s become part of their heart. In a sense, that’s how God wants our prayers to be: consistent and persistent. It’s not that we have to convince God to hear and answer our prayers, but God knows the more persistent we are, the more we daily bow before Him, the more it’s going to draw us closer to Him. So, God wants us to be persistent, just like Daniel was in praying for his people.



25. The other thing you notice is what the angel says. “Daniel, your prayers have been heard. You are greatly beloved.” What would it be like to hear one of God’s angels say, “Perry, or Mark, or Christine, you are greatly beloved. Your name is known in heaven”? How many people think that would be awesome? Well, I’ve got good news for you. God has already said that about you. You say, “Really? What book of the Bible is that in?”

God has said it in two places. Firstly, God says you are beloved—in His hands.

ISAIAH 49:16

“See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands.”



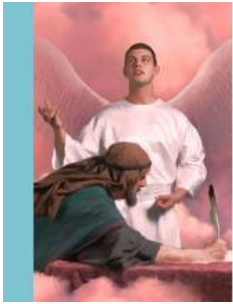
26. In Isaiah 49:16, He says, “*See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands.*” God sees you. God knows you. God loves you. When He allowed those hands to be nailed to the cross, it should tell us just how loved we really are.



27. Secondly, God says you’re beloved—on the cross. When Jesus Christ was crucified, when He died for your sins, when He gave you His righteousness, that was Christ saying to you, “You are greatly beloved.” Isn’t that awesome?



28. Now, back to the prophecy. In verse 24, the angel begins to give Daniel a prophecy that will answer his questions: What’s going to happen to his Jewish people? What’s going to happen to Jerusalem? What does the future hold? Those are the things Daniel is concerned about. I’m going to put this into slow gear now because we are going to go through this one verse at a time to make sure we understand. Verse 24.



DANIEL 9:24

"Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation

29. The Bible says—and the angel is speaking—*"Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation"*



DANIEL 9:24

for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."

30. *for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."*

Now, we have to stop there. The angel says, "Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city." So, let's answer a simple question. If Daniel is a Jew, what people is the angel talking about? The Jewish nation, Israel. And what is the holy city? Jerusalem.



DANIEL 9:24

for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."

31. So, whatever these 70 weeks are about, we know that it has something to do with the Jewish nation and the holy city of Jerusalem. If that makes sense, could you say, Amen?



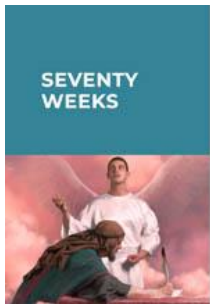
- Finish Transgression
- Make an End of Sin
- Bring in Everlasting Righteousness
- Seal up Vision & Prophecy
- Anoint the Most Holy

32. But now, the question is, what's supposed to happen during those 70 weeks? Well, notice what the last half of verse 24 says. I have outlined it on the screen. During the 70 weeks, they are to finish their transgression, make an end of sins, so that God can bring in everlasting righteousness and seal up vision and prophecy and anoint the most holy.



- Finish Transgression
- Make an End of Sin
- Bring in Everlasting Righteousness
- Seal up Vision & Prophecy
- Anoint the Most Holy

33. You say, “Well, great, but what does that mean?” What does it mean to “finish the transgression and put an end to sins”? Let’s keep something in mind. God had a purpose for the nation of Israel. His purpose was for them to be a light to the world. God wanted to have a nation of people who would live according to His laws, live according to His principles, so that they could be an example to the rest of the pagan world of what a blessing it is to serve the true God of heaven.



- Finish Transgression
- Make an End of Sin
- Bring in Everlasting Righteousness
- Seal up Vision & Prophecy
- Anoint the Most Holy

34. The purpose was that when the Messiah came, Israel would accept Christ as their Savior and they would be the ones to take the gospel to the world and introduce people to Jesus. That was God’s plan for Israel.

The problem we find is that Israel is living in apostasy. They’ve been worshiping foreign gods. They’ve been ignoring the commandments of the Lord. They haven’t been keeping their covenant God made with them.



- Finish Transgression
- Make an End of Sin
- Bring in Everlasting Righteousness
- Seal up Vision & Prophecy
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35. They’ve become like the other pagan nations. That’s why they’re in captivity. God wants to bring the Messiah, Jesus, but He can’t do that while Israel is living in unfaithfulness.

So, in a real sense, the rest of the world was having to wait for the Messiah to come because Israel wasn’t ready to receive Him. The rest of the world is missing the blessing.



- Finish Transgression
- Make an End of Sin
- Bring in Everlasting Righteousness
- Seal up Vision & Prophecy
- Anoint the Most Holy

36. So God is basically saying to Daniel, “Look, I’m giving your people 70 weeks of probation. 70 weeks to start keeping your end of the covenant, to be faithful, to start being a light to the world, so I can bring the Messiah.” In other words, they have 70 weeks to prepare for Jesus to come. Does that make sense? That’s what the 70 weeks are for. You say, “Okay, I can understand that.” But now, let’s go a little further.



- 37.** This is where I need to introduce you to an important principle of prophetic interpretation known as the day-for-a-year principle. In the symbolic portions of Bible prophecy, there is a principle that most scholars of various denominations agree upon and that is one day symbolizes one year. I want you to say that with me, one day symbolizes what? One year.



- 38.** Now, that's only in the symbolic portions of prophecy. That's not referring to the narrative portions of scripture. You say, "Well, what's a narrative?" That means the stories. In other words, when it says that King David ruled for 33 years, that literally means 33 years. When it talks about the seven days of creation, that literally means seven 24-hour days. It's only in prophecy that you apply the day-for-a-year principle.



- 39.** (IF YOU NEED TO SHORTEN THE SHORTERN YOU CAN SKIP THE EXAMPLES OF THE DAY FOR A YEAR IN NUMBERS 14:34 AND EZEKIEL 4:6)
I want to take a moment and show you where scholars get this from the Bible. I'm not going to spend a whole lot of time on it, but I want you to see its validity. Remember the story when Moses and the Israelites were on the borders of the promised land? They had been wandering in the wilderness and they were about to enter Canaan. So, Moses sent 12 spies to go into the promised land and check it out. Their job was to go throughout the land, see what it looked like, and assess the people who lived there.



- 40.** After spending 40 days spying out the land, they came back and presented a bad report to the rest of the encampment of Israel. "Oh, it's a beautiful, glorious land. But the people are tall. They're like giants. They are mighty warriors. We'll never be able to conquer this land!" Then they started to complain saying, "We should have never listened to Moses. We should have stayed in Egypt. We'd be better off there." And they were ready to stone Moses.



DAY-FOR-A-YEAR PRINCIPLE

- 41.** They forgot everything God had done for them while they wandered through the wilderness. They forgot all those miracles, all those the manifestations of God’s power in their behalf. So often you and I forget what God has done for us in the past. We are never better where we were before Christ saved us and changed us.



DAY-FOR-A-YEAR PRINCIPLE

- 42.** There were only two spies who gave a faithful report and encouraged the people to trust God. Who were they? Joshua and Caleb. They said, “Listen, God brought us this far by His power and we can take this land.” But the people listened to the negative report of the other 10 spies. They listened to the majority—not always a good idea.

NUMBERS 14:34

“According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection.”



- 43.** God marveled, “After all that I have done for you and you still don't trust me.” So finally, God says to them in Numbers 14:34,

“According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt ... how long? “... one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection.”

NUMBERS 14:34

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- 44.** In other words, for every day they spent complaining against God as they spied out the land, they would wander another year in the wilderness. So, since they spent 40 days complaining and rebelling against God, they were going to spend 40 more years wandering in the wilderness. 40 days equals 40 years. That’s one of the verses that present the day-for-a-year principle.

EZEKIEL 4:6

"And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year."



- 45.** You see the same thing in Ezekiel 4:6 where God tells Ezekiel to lay on his side in the middle of town to get the people's attention and protest their unfaithfulness. He said to Ezekiel, "And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year."
There's that day-for-a-year principle. 40 years of unfaithfulness equals 40 days of lying on his side

70 WEEKS



One Week = 7 Days

Seventy Weeks $\begin{array}{r} 70 \\ \times 7 \\ \hline 490 \end{array}$ Days

Equals 490 Years

- 46.** So now, if we apply the day-for-a-year principle to the 70 weeks, we have to do a little calculation. I bet you never knew when you did your math class in high school that this would become helpful when you study the prophecies of the Bible. So, here's what we have to do. How many days are in one week? Seven. So, if I want to know how many days are in a 70-week period, what must I do? I have to multiply 70 times 7. When you do that, it equals 490. So, there are 490 days in a 70-week period. But when I apply the day-for-a-year principle, it's not really 490 days. It's 490 years.

70 WEEKS



One Week = 7 Days

Seventy Weeks $\begin{array}{r} 70 \\ \times 7 \\ \hline 490 \end{array}$ Days

Equals 490 Years

- 47.** So, God is saying to Israel, "I'm giving you 490 years to come back to Me, to start being faithful again, to keep my laws and commands." In other words, they are being given 490 years of probation. But after the 490 years, if they have not kept their end of the covenant, if they have not been faithful to God, if they reject the Messiah when He comes, God is saying, "I'm going to have to go on a different path to take the gospel to the world."

70 WEEKS

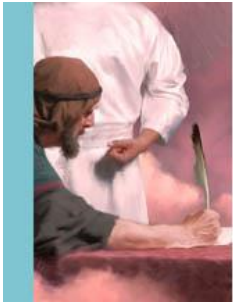


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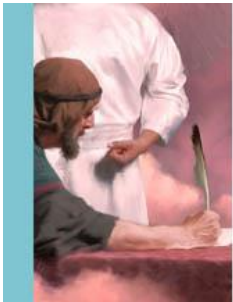
- 48.** So, we understand the 70 weeks is actually 490 literal years. But we are still missing something important. In order for us to know when these 490 years ends, what do we need? Yes, a starting date. When does the 70 weeks begin? We have to go to verse 25 to get the answer.



DANIEL 9:25

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince..."

49. So let's go to Daniel 9:25. The Bible says, and this is the angel speaking: "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince..." I'm going to stop there. I know it's only halfway through the verse, but we're going to break that verse up into two because there's so much in it. Notice the angel has said that the beginning date of this prophecy is when a command goes forth to restore and build Jerusalem.

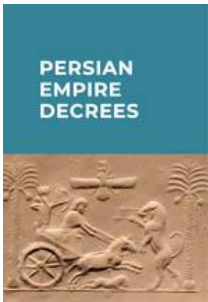


DANIEL 9:25

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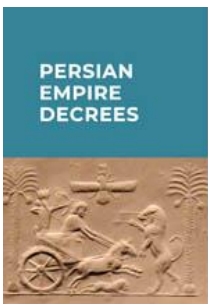
50. Did you catch that? In other words, when the Persian Empire puts forth a decree that allows the Jews to go back to their homeland in Jerusalem, rebuild the city, and rebuild their walls, that's the beginning date for this prophecy.

So, the question is, did Persia do that? And if so, what was the date? When you go back in history, do you know what you find? There are actually multiple decrees that were made.



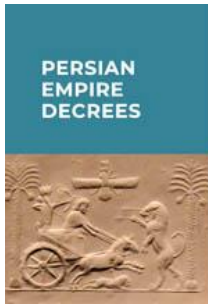
- Cyrus made one in 537
- Darius made one in 520
- Artaxerxes made one in 457

51. Cyrus made one in 537. Darius made one in 520. Artaxerxes made one in 457. You might say, "Oh, great. Which one are we supposed to choose?" Now, I suppose we could take a vote and let the majority rule, but that won't lead us to truth. I suppose we could also flip a coin, but that doesn't sound like a good option either. Let me ask you a question. If Cyrus's decree was powerful enough, would you need a second one by Darius? No. If Darius's decree was powerful enough, would you have needed another one by Artaxerxes? No.



- Cyrus made one in 537
- Darius made one in 520
- Artaxerxes made one in 457

52. Artaxerxes' decree is the one we want for the prophecy. His decree was the most powerful. His decree is the one that allowed any Jew in the Persian realm to go back to Jerusalem. It gave them permission to rebuild the city, rebuild the torn down wall, rebuild the temple, and even begin their own civil government again. It gave them a large measure of freedom. Now, they were still under Persian rule, but they were given many of their liberties back. In addition, Artaxerxes' decree is the one that is recorded in the Bible.



- Cyrus made one in 537
- Darius made one in 520
- Artaxerxes made one in 457

53. In Ezra 7, you can read Artaxerxes's decree almost word-for-word. And do you know what's amazing? How much money do you think it would cost for all those people to go back and rebuild their city? A lot. Do you know who paid for it? Artaxerxes. He financed part of the operation. Now, you tell me if that's not a miracle from God that the Persian king gives them permission, issues a decree, and finances the operation? That is a definite fulfillment of Bible prophecy. So, Artaxerxes decree was issued in 457 B.C.

70-WEEKS PROPHECY



54. So let's take the next step. You can either look at the chart on the screen or you can look at the one that you have in your hands. If 457 B.C. is the beginning date, and if I add 490 years to 457 B.C., it's going to tell me when the 70 weeks, or the 490 years, has ended. If you do the addition, do you know what year you come to? Thirty-four A.D.

70-WEEKS PROPHECY



55. If by 34 A.D. the Jewish people have not kept their end of the covenant, if they have not accepted their Messiah, God is saying, "I'm going to have to go on a different path to take the gospel to the world." So, the Jewish nation has until 34 A.D. If you are doing this calculation on a calculator and take -457 and add 490, it will come to 33. Keep in mind you must add a year when going from B.C. to A.D. because there is no such thing as year 0. That's how you get to 34 A.D.

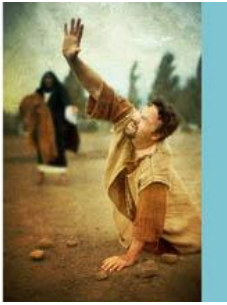
70-WEEKS PROPHECY



56. Do you know what happened in 34 A.D. that sealed the Jewish nation's rejection of the gospel, of the covenant, and of the Messiah Jesus? In 34 A.D., the first Christian martyr was stoned at Jerusalem. His name was Stephen. And a great persecution broke out against the believers at that time. I want to read this to you from the Scriptures. Now, this passage is somewhat lengthy, but Acts 7:54 gives us the Bible's description of what happened at the end of this 70 weeks.

ACTS 7:54-8:4

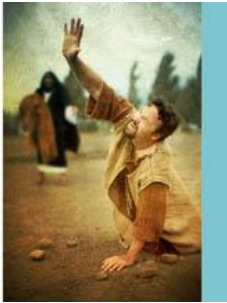
"When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.



- 57.** The Bible says: "When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth."
Stephen was preaching a hard-hitting sermon showing from the Scriptures and the Old Testament prophecies that this Jesus who was crucified was the Son of God. The Bible says, When they heard these things they were cut to the heart. If you're cut to the heart, what does that mean? It means you're convicted. And this is their response, they gnashed at him with their teeth.
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ACTS 7:54-8:4

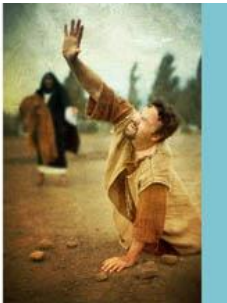
But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,



- 58.** Let's read on, from verse 55: "*But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,*
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ACTS 7:54-8:4

and said, 'Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!'

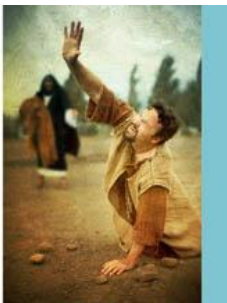


- 59.** *and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"*

Stephen was equating Jesus with God and the Jewish leaders did not want to hear it. The Bible goes on to say:

ACTS 7:54-8:4

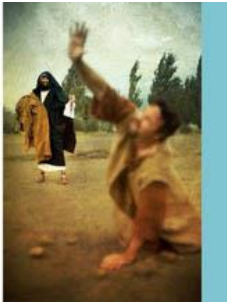
Then they cried out with a loud voice stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him...



- 60.** "*Then they cried out with a loud voice* ... and did what? "*... stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him.*"

ACTS 7:54-8:4

At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at **Jerusalem**; and they were all scattered throughout the regions



- 61.** Now notice Acts 8:1: *“At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was...” in what city? What city is this prophecy about? “. . .Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions*

ACTS 7:54-8:4

of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles ... As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women,



- 62.** *of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles ... As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women,*

ACTS 7:54-8:4

committing them to prison. Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”



- 63.** *committing them to prison. Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”*

The Bible is describing for us what happened at this time around 34 A.D. For 3 ½ years, they had listened to the preaching of Jesus. They saw Him. They heard Him.

ACTS 7:54-8:4

committing them to prison. Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”



- 64.** They watched His miracles. They witnessed His compassion. But they still crucified Him. Yet the influence of Jesus lived on. The apostles mainly stayed in Jerusalem trying to reach their own people. But by 34 A.D., Israel was so tired of hearing the gospel message about Jesus that now they started killing the Christians—and they began with Stephen-- the first Christian martyr.

ACTS 7:54-8:4

committing them to prison. Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word."



- 65.** When Stephen was stoned, the Bible specifically says, At that time a great persecution broke out in Jerusalem, led by what man? Saul, who would later become Paul. Saul literally went outside of Jerusalem to all the different cities to drag believers back to Jerusalem and put them to death.

MATTHEW 21:43

"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it."



- 66.** Jesus Himself alludes to this in Matthew 21:43. Standing at the temple in Jerusalem during the Passover feast, Jesus makes this statement:

"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it."

MATTHEW 21:43

"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it."



- 67.** Jesus doesn't speak with anger. I'm sure He spoke with tears in His eyes. He knew that Israel had rejected Him. He knew they were going to nail Him to the cross. He knew they were going to persecute His disciples. Oh yes, there were a few who believed in Him, but overall, the leaders, the Pharisees, the government rulers had rejected the Savior.

- 68.** That's why Paul wrote what he did in Galatians 3:28.

The Bible says,

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

GALATIANS 3:28-29

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."





GALATIANS 3:28-29

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

69. Then in verse 29, Paul says something significant that we may overlook. He said,

"And if you are Christ's, then you are ..." what? "... Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."



GALATIANS 3:28-29

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

70. Do you understand what that's saying? That's saying to be part of God's chosen people, you don't have to be a literal, ethnic Jew that's born in Israel. If you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, wherever you are, you are Abraham's offspring! You are part of God's chosen people! Because anyone who accepts Christ as their Savior can receive all the promises made to Israel in the Old Testament.



GALATIANS 3:28-29

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

71. The covenant God made with Israel is not gone. God is still going to fulfill those promises. But it's not going to be to literal Israel. It's going to be to spiritual Israel. In other words, to all those who have chosen to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior! It doesn't matter what language you speak. It doesn't matter the color of your skin. It doesn't matter what country you're from. If you have a relationship with Jesus, you are Abraham's seed and all those promises made to Abraham will be fulfilled in the lives of God's people today who walk with Christ. Can somebody say, Amen?



GALATIANS 3:28-29

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

72. Now just to make sure we don't misunderstand this, let's clarify something. Sometimes people take a negative attitude toward the Jewish nation and say, "Well, if I had lived back then, I certainly wouldn't have crucified Jesus." We need to make sure we don't have a self-righteous, judgmental attitude. This prophecy does not give license for anti-Semitism. Yes, the Jewish nation made a mistake, but can you and I sit here and say we've never made a mistake? We need to show mercy and forgiveness to them just like Christ did for us.

ROMANS 11:23

"And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again."



73. The good news is that Jesus wants Jews to be saved, too. The Bible says in Romans 11:23,

"And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again." Hallelujah!

ROMANS 11:23

"And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again."



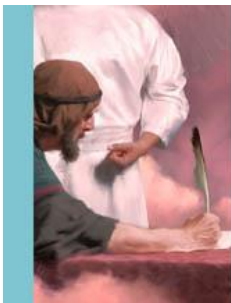
74. In other words, if they will accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, the promises are still available to them and salvation is still offered full and free. In fact, we are beginning to see that happening today. It's in the Messianic Jewish movement. Many Jews today are choosing to accept and follow Jesus Christ as their Savior. Prophecy is being fulfilled. You see, salvation doesn't depend on your name. It depends on the name of Jesus. Somebody ought to say, Amen.

ROMANS 11:23

"And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again."



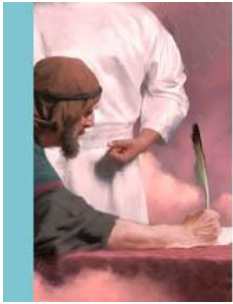
75. But now we need to go a little farther. This whole prophecy covers a time period of 70 weeks. But in verse 25, the angel says something important will happen after 69 weeks. Let's pick it up again in verse 25. It gets a little more detailed.



DANIEL 9:25

"Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah, the Prince, there shall be

76. The Bible says, *"Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah, the Prince, there shall be*

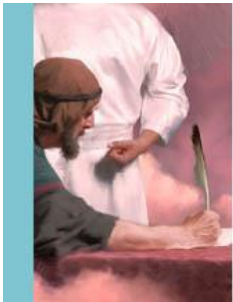


DANIEL 9:25

seven weeks and 62 weeks. The street shall be built again and the wall even in troublesome times."

77. *seven weeks and 62 weeks. The street shall be built again and the wall even in troublesome times."*

Depending what version of the Bible you have, the time period is worded a bit differently. It all calculates out to be the same, though.



DANIEL 9:25

seven weeks and 62 weeks. The street shall be built again and the wall even in troublesome times."

78. The Bible says that in 69 weeks from the beginning of this prophecy, who is going to come? The Messiah. Messiah, the Prince will begin His ministry on this earth. The prophecy is talking about Christ's coming to the earth the first time, not the second time.



Seven Weeks (7)

Threescore (60)

Two Weeks (2)

Seven Weeks & 62 Weeks

79. Now, I'm going to put something on the screen. If you're using the King James version, it says, Seven weeks, three score and two weeks. It uses a term we don't often use today: score. What's a score? A score is twenty. So, what's three score? That's 60. If you add up seven, three score, and two weeks, what is that? 69 weeks. The New King James Version, that I'm using, says, Seven weeks and 62 weeks. Well, what's 62 plus 7? 69. So, it doesn't matter what version of the Bible you use, it all equals 69 weeks.



$$69 \times 7 = 483$$

80. So now we've got to apply the day for a year principle. How many days are in one week? Seven. So, if I want to know how many days are in a 69-week period, what must I do? I have to multiply 69 times 7. When you do that, what calculation do you come to? 483. There are 483 days in a 69-week period. Apply the day-for-a-year principle and it's saying that 483 years from the beginning of this prophecy, Messiah, the Prince, will come and begin his ministry. It's predicting the year Jesus would begin His ministry as the Messiah. Wow! Let's see if it was fulfilled.

70-WEEKS PROPHECY



- 81.** If you add 483 years to our beginning date of 457 B.C., what do you come to? 27 A.D. You say, “Well, what happened in 27 A.D?” According to the Scriptures, that’s when Jesus came to the river Jordan to be baptized by John the Baptist. It was at that time He began His public ministry as the Messiah. Before He was baptized by John, He never preached a sermon, never proclaimed himself the Son of God, never healed anybody, and never performed a miracle.

15TH YEAR OF
TIBERIUS CAESAR
WAS 27 A.D.
- LUKE 3:1



- 82.** How do we know Jesus was baptized in 27 A.D.? The Bible doesn’t give us a date. That’s true. But it does give us an important piece of information. In Luke 3:1, it says that Jesus was baptized in the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar. Tiberias was the Roman emperor at that time, and if you go back to the secular history books, guess when the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar was? 27 A.D. Jesus came right on time!

15TH YEAR OF
TIBERIUS CAESAR
WAS 27 A.D.
- LUKE 3:1



- 83.** Jesus was a student of Bible prophecy. He knew this prophecy in the book of Daniel. He knew the Messiah was not supposed to begin His ministry until 27 A.D. This was prophesied hundreds of years before Jesus was ever born. This gives us the confidence that Jesus Christ, this man of Nazareth, that history says died on a cross, is certainly the prophesied Messiah of the Old Testament. There is no doubt about it. He came right on time!

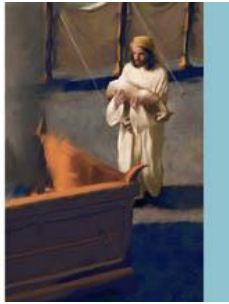
15TH YEAR OF
TIBERIUS CAESAR
WAS 27 A.D.
- LUKE 3:1



- 84.** Now, if this is a 70-week prophecy, and the first part talks about 69 weeks, then how many weeks do we have left? One. So, let’s talk about that last week. It’s in Daniel 9:27. But before we do, let’s look at something in verse 26.

DANIEL 9:26

And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.



- 85.** The Bible says, "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary."
You say, what is that referring to? The prophecy divides the 69 weeks into two parts.

70-WEEKS PROPHECY



- 86.** You had the first 7 weeks, and then the 62 weeks, as you see on the screen. It's saying after the 62 weeks, Messiah will be cut off. That's referring to Jesus's crucifixion on the cross. And when it talks about the people of the prince destroying the city and the sanctuary, this is referring to the Roman armies who would come into Jerusalem years later and destroy the city and the temple.

70-WEEKS PROPHECY



- 87.** Jesus declared, "Your house is left unto you desolate" because Israel had rejected their Savior. In fact, Jesus said there would not be one stone left upon another. And when Rome destroyed the temple, they started a fire inside of it. The fire burned with such fury that it melted the gold in the temple. The gold got in between the cracks of the huge stones that made up the edifice. Because the Roman soldiers wanted the gold so badly, do you know what they did? They tore that temple apart rock by rock until literally, there was not one stone left upon another. Jesus's words were fulfilled.

70-WEEKS PROPHECY



- 88.** **But now let's focus on verse 27 and the last week of the prophecy.** Because the prophecy says that something of utmost importance will happen during that last week.



89. Now, let me ask you a question. How many days are in a week? Seven. So, if we apply the day for a year principle, then this is talking about a seven-year period. In other words, this last week symbolizes seven years.



90. Now this last week, this seven-year period, has been a source of controversy in the Christian world because there are alternative doctrines surrounding it. The most common alternative theory takes this last week and accepts that it is, in fact, seven years. But then it takes these seven years, detaches them from the prophecy, and throws them 2000 years into the future to the end of time. This theory goes on to say that at the beginning of this seven-year period there will be a rapture of the church.



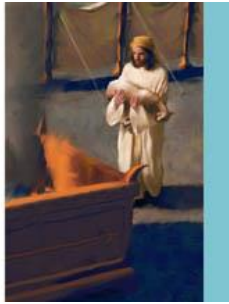
91. God's people, they say, will suddenly just disappear because they have been raptured away, the way the movie Left Behind portrayed. According to this teaching, a seven-year period of tribulation now begins, where the anti-christ enters the picture. In the middle of these seven years, the anti-christ stops the sacrifices being done at a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. Then, at the end of the seven years, will be the coming of Christ. This teaching maintains that those who had resisted the anti-christ will have a second chance at salvation.



92. That's what this rapture theory says. But does it really fit with the Bible's prophecy? There's nothing in this prophecy that even remotely says to break off these seven years and throw them into the future at the end of time. But let's ask an honest question, because we are searching for truth, not for what's popular. Who has this whole prophecy been about? Not anti-christ, but Jesus Christ.

DANIEL 9:27

"Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week, he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering."



93. Let's go back to the Word of God and let the Scriptures make things clear. The Bible says in verse 27: "Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week, he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering." I'm going to stop there. The big question is this: who is the 'he'? Who's the "he" that confirms this covenant? Who's the "he" that brings an end to sacrifice and offering? Now, let me ask again. Who is this whole prophecy centered around? Jesus Christ. When you look at the context, clearly, this is talking about Jesus.

70-WEEKS PROPHECY



94. How can we be sure? It says in the middle of the week, He brings an end to sacrifice and offering. Do you know what happened in the middle of that seven-year period, from 27 A.D. to 34 A.D.? Jesus was crucified on the cross of Calvary. That happened around 31 A.D., right in the middle of that seven-year period.

70-WEEKS PROPHECY



95. When Jesus died on the cross, He put an end to the entire sacrificial system. Remember, God had instituted a system of sacrificing lambs and goats and doves that was to point forward to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ, in the future. He was the real Lamb of God. So, now that Jesus has died, the sacrificial system is no longer necessary. That's why Hebrews says we are not saved by the blood of lambs or calves, but by the blood of Jesus. Can you say, Amen?

70-WEEKS PROPHECY



96. That's also why in Matthew 27:51, when Jesus died on the cross, the veil in the temple that separated the Holy from the Most Holy Place, was torn in two from the top to the bottom, signifying that this system of sacrifices was now done away with because the true Lamb of God has died for the sins of the world. It's clear. The "he" in Daniel chapter 9 verse 27 is Jesus! This prophecy is uplifting the supreme sacrifice Christ would make to save humankind. The cross is the center of this prophecy.

70-WEEKS PROPHECY



- 97.** Since the cross is the focus of this prophecy, let's take some time to look at the sacrifice of Jesus and His journey to the cross. Turn in your Bibles with me to Matthew 26:36-39.

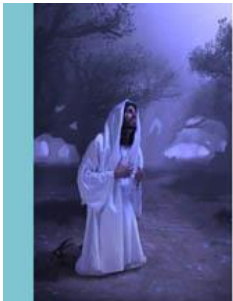
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MATTHEW 26:36-39

"Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, 'Sit here while I go and pray over there.' And He took with Him

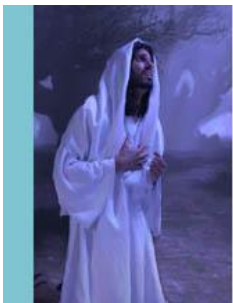
- 98.** The Bible says:
"Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, 'Sit here while I go and pray over there.' And He took with Him



MATTHEW 26:36-39

Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful,

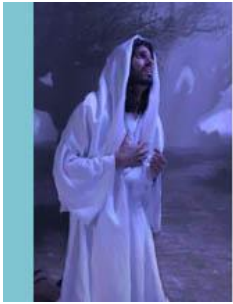
- 99.** *Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful,*



MATTHEW 26:36-39

even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.' He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father,

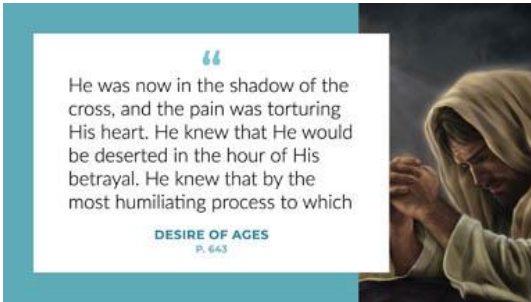
- 100.** *even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.' He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father,*



MATTHEW 26:36-39

if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

101. *if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”*



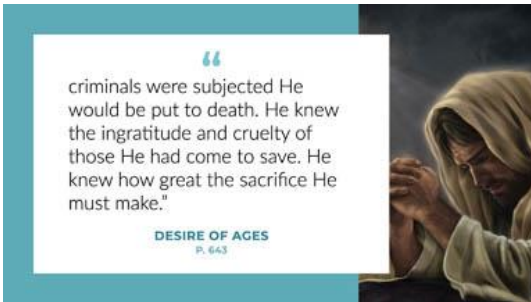
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He was now in the shadow of the cross, and the pain was torturing His heart. He knew that He would be deserted in the hour of His betrayal. He knew that by the most humiliating process to which

DESIRE OF AGES
P. 643

102. One Christian writer describes it like this:

“He was now in the shadow of the cross, and the pain was torturing His heart. He knew that He would be deserted in the hour of His betrayal. He knew that by the most humiliating process to which

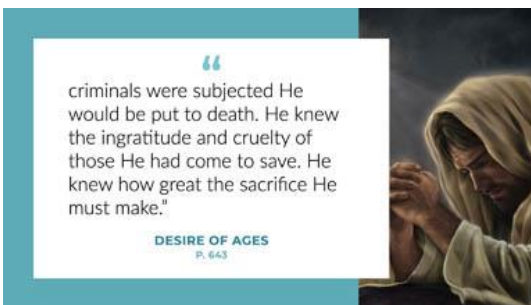


“

criminals were subjected He would be put to death. He knew the ingratitude and cruelty of those He had come to save. He knew how great the sacrifice He must make.”

DESIRE OF AGES
P. 643

103. *criminals were subjected He would be put to death. He knew the ingratitude and cruelty of those He had come to save. He knew how great the sacrifice He must make” (Desire of Ages, p. 643).*



“

criminals were subjected He would be put to death. He knew the ingratitude and cruelty of those He had come to save. He knew how great the sacrifice He must make.”

DESIRE OF AGES
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104. That’s why He cries out, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.” Jesus knows the journey to the cross has begun. He knows that this night He would be betrayed and arrested. He knew He would be on trial throughout the night where He would be mocked, beaten, lied about, and pronounced guilty. He knew that tomorrow He would be mercilessly nailed to a cross.

“
criminals were subjected He
would be put to death. He knew
the ingratitude and cruelty of
those He had come to save. He
knew how great the sacrifice He
must make.”

DESIRE OF AGES
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105. What exactly is happening here? The sin and guilt of a lost world was being laid on Jesus. All the sin from the time of Adam to the end of the world was being laid on Him. Do we understand what that means? Every sin that had ever been committed, every evil atrocity that has ever been done, it was as though Jesus was the one who had committed them. He was taking the awful responsibility for thousands of years of sin. He was feeling the guilt of them all.

“
criminals were subjected He
would be put to death. He knew
the ingratitude and cruelty of
those He had come to save. He
knew how great the sacrifice He
must make.”

DESIRE OF AGES
P. 643



106. Can you imagine what that must feel like? Sometimes we can't handle our own feelings of guilt— and you and I are just one person! What must it be like to experience the guilt of billions and billions of people who ever lived?

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

“For He made Him who
knew no sin to be sin
for us. . .”



107. That's why the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:21: “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us. . .”

But what makes this so personal is Jesus didn't just take the responsibility for the sins of the world. He took your guilt and laid it on Himself, and then He gave you His righteousness. Do you know what that means?

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

“For He made Him who
knew no sin to be sin
for us. . .”



108. That means when you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, the perfect life He lived counts for you. When God looks at the record of your life, He doesn't see all your sins and mistakes, but instead He sees the perfect life of Jesus that counts for you. What would it feel like to know that God could look at you as though you are perfect? Isn't that a beautiful thought. That's why the Bible says He is our substitute. That's what it means to have Jesus as a personal Savior.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us. . ."

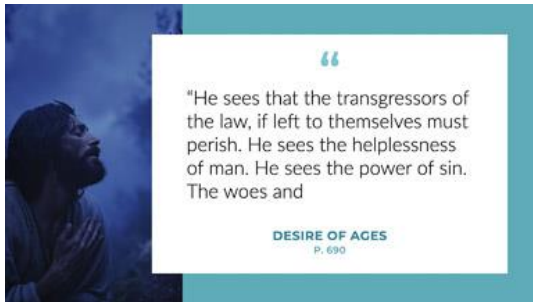


109. As Jesus lay prostrate on the ground, Satan pounded Him with temptation. He told Jesus to walk away from it all. He urged Jesus to give up the idea of saving humankind. He pressed upon Jesus that the risk was too great. It wasn't worth it to save one little planet. He reminded Jesus that His own people had rejected Him. That one of His own disciples would betray Him.



110. That one of His most dedicated followers will deny Him not once, not twice, but three times. That many will look upon His sacrifice as having no significance. That many will see it as just the execution of a criminal. That in the future many will never even know His name.

Picture the legions of Satanic forces hovering around Jesus oppressing Him with these thoughts. Picture Jesus clinging to the cold, hard ground, sweating drops of blood and in agony and terror crying out, "O Father, let this cup pass from Me. Let it pass."



“He sees that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves must perish. He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin. The woes and

DESIRE OF AGES
P. 690

111. The book *Desire of Ages* paints this picture, *“He sees that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves must perish. He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin. The woes and*



lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself.”

DESIRE OF AGES
P. 690

112. *lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself”*
(Desire of Ages, p. 690).

When Jesus had to choose between saving Himself and saving you, He chose to save you!

MATTHEW 27:11-14, 20-26

"Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, 'Are You the King of the Jews?' Jesus said to him, 'It is as you say.' And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He



113. Once the Jewish leaders had arrested Him, beaten Him, and pronounced Him guilty, they lead Him to the Roman ruler Pontius Pilate. Let's pick up the story in Matthew 27:11-14 and 20-26.

"Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, 'Are You the King of the Jews?' Jesus said to him, 'It is as you say.' And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He

MATTHEW 27:11-14, 20-26

answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, 'Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?' But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly... But the chief priests and elders



114. *answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, 'Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?' But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly... But the chief priests and elders*

MATTHEW 27:11-14, 20-26

persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release to you?' They said, 'Barabbas!' Pilate said to



115. *persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release to you?' They said, 'Barabbas!' Pilate said to*

MATTHEW 27:11-14, 20-26

them, 'What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said to him, 'Let Him be crucified!' Then the governor said, 'Why, what evil has He done?' But they cried out all the more, saying, 'Let Him be



116. *them, 'What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said to him, 'Let Him be crucified!' Then the governor said, 'Why, what evil has He done?' But they cried out all the more, saying, 'Let Him be*

MATTHEW 27:11-14, 20-26

crucified!' When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, 'I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You



117. *crucified!' When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, 'I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You*

MATTHEW 27:11-14, 20-26

see to it.' And all the people answered and said, 'His blood be on us and on our children.' Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified."



118. *see to it.' And all the people answered and said, 'His blood be on us and on our children.' Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified."*

MATTHEW 27:11-14, 20-26

see to it.' And all the people answered and said, 'His blood be on us and on our children.' Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified."



119. The Jews could not put someone to death without the consent of the Romans. So, Jesus stands before Pilate for questioning. Meanwhile, the Jewish leaders are in the background hurling all kinds of accusations against Him. But Jesus did not answer them. He is silent.

MATTHEW 27:11-14, 20-26

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120. Pilate is perplexed by this. He knows Jesus is innocent, but He is afraid to let Him go. So, he places a ruthless prisoner named Barabbas next to Jesus and asks the people to make a choice. He expected them to choose Jesus, but to his shock they chose the murderer, Barabbas. They shouted that Jesus should be crucified.

MATTHEW 27:11-14, 20-26

see to it.' And all the people answered and said, 'His blood be on us and on our children.' Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified."



121. Now the pressure was on and Pilate didn't know what to do. It was clear what decision Pilate should make, but if he let Jesus go, he would lose control of the people. He could lose his power. He could lose his position. He could lose the favor of others. Those were risks he was not willing to take. So, he washed his hands and said, "I am innocent of this man's blood." But in reality, he wasn't.

MATTHEW 27:11-14, 20-26

see to it.' And all the people answered and said, 'His blood be on us and on our children.' Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified."



122. Sometimes it costs us to follow Jesus. It might jeopardize our business. It might jeopardize our popularity. It might jeopardize our relationships. But we can't sit back and do nothing. We can't wash our hands of the whole thing. We have to make a decision. Why? Because there is no other way to be saved except through Jesus. He is the One who died for our sins. He is the One who gives us His righteousness. If I want to be innocent in God's eyes, then I need a Savior. I need Jesus.

MATTHEW 27:11-14, 20-26

see to it.' And all the people answered and said, 'His blood be on us and on our children.' Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified."



123. After Pilate gave him over to the people, they placed the cross on His back, and led Him out to be crucified. Picture the scene in Matthew 27:35, 45-46, 50-51, 54.



MATTHEW 27:35, 45-46, 50-51, 54

"Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots . . . Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus

124. The Bible says: *"Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots . . . Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus*



MATTHEW 27:35, 45-46, 50-51, 54

cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' . . . And Jesus cried out again with a loud

125. *cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' . . . And Jesus cried out again with a loud*



MATTHEW 27:35, 45-46, 50-51, 54

voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split . . . So when the centurion

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MATTHEW 27:35, 45-46, 50-51, 54

and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'"

127. *and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'"*



128. *As they led Him to Calvary, Jesus laid down on the cross and stretched out His hands. They nailed those hands to the wooden instrument of death. Then they lifted Him up as a spectacle before the people.*



129. From noon until 3 p.m., the land was covered with darkness as the Son of God hung on that cross. At 3 o'clock, Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" The Father hadn't really forsaken Him. It just felt like it because Jesus was bearing the sins of the world—and sin separates us from God. Jesus felt that separation intensely, and it broke His heart. Then Jesus bowed His head, gave up His life, and He died. The ultimate sacrifice had been made. The ransom had been paid. You and I could now be saved.



130. As the Roman soldier in charge witnessed the awesome scene, he could only exclaim, "Surely this was the Son of God." That was His response to the cross. But the important question is, what's your response to the cross? Like the Roman centurion are you ready to say, "Truly, this was the Son of God"? Are you ready to accept Him as your Savior? Are you ready to surrender your life to Him?

HEBREWS 4:7

"Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."



131. That's why it says in Hebrews 4:7: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."

70-WEEKS PROPHECY



132. You see, my friends, the 70 weeks is the most Christ-centered prophecy in the Old Testament. It prophesied when Jesus would come as the Messiah to begin His saving ministry. It prophesied when He would die on the cross and put an end to the sacrificial system. It uplifts His supreme sacrifice for humankind. And it tells us that Jesus came right on time. There's no doubt that He is the prophesied Messiah and Son of God.

70-WEEKS PROPHECY



133. My friends, I don't know what your life has been like. I don't know what tragedies have come your way. I don't know what path life has taken you on. Maybe you're struggling with guilt because of the past. You may be struggling with a sense of unworthiness because you can't change the choices that you've made. Maybe you feel enslaved by addictions. Or maybe you are consumed by anger towards someone, or towards God. And you wonder, "Can Jesus really love me? Can I truly be saved? Is there still hope for me?"

70-WEEKS PROPHECY



134. This prophecy tells me there is hope! This prophecy tells me there is a Savior! This prophecy tells me there is Someone who loves me. There is Someone who died for me. There is Someone who was wounded for your transgressions. There is Someone who offers us His righteousness. There is Someone who says we can start over again.



REVELATION 22:17

"And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely."

135. That's why the book of Revelation ends with an invitation. Jesus says: "And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely."



REVELATION 22:17

"And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely."

136. Tonight, if you're willing to say in your heart, "Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God and I want to spend eternity with you," then I'd like to invite you to stand with me as I pray. In your heart if you want to say, "I believe Jesus is the prophesied son of God and I desire to be in heaven with Him. I desire to have eternal life," I invite you to stand as we close in prayer.



REVELATION 22:17

"And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely."

137. Heavenly Father, we are excited about the prophecies of Your Word. We are awed that You would love us so much, that You would give us powerful prophecies like this to point us to Jesus. Thank you, Lord, for sending Jesus to open the door of Heaven to us. Give us the courage to follow Christ with all of our hearts and all of our souls and all of our minds. These things we ask and pray in Jesus' name, Amen.



138.