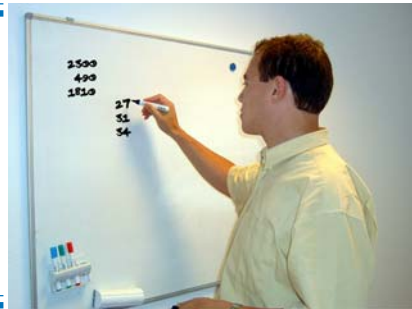


It All Adds Up



SUPPOSE I TOLD YOU, “Right now it’s 6 o’clock.” Then I say, “Count ahead 38 hours and 20 minutes. That’s 8:20 a.m. day after tomorrow. At exactly that time, something incredible is going to happen.” When the time comes, something incredible does happen, exactly as I said! You are impressed. I’ve predicted something 2,300 minutes in advance!

But what if you could predict something, not 2,300 minutes in advance, but 2,300 *years* in advance? The book of Daniel has that prophecy. It’s the longest time prophecy in the Bible, reaching through time to God’s final, urgent message to humanity found in Revelation.

Thoughts to Remember:

- ♦ “Fear God and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment has come” (Revelation 14:7). “And behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every one according to his works” (Revelation 22:12). God’s Word gave us prophecies so we could see that history is in His hand and be ready for Him when He comes. We are near the end of this world’s history.
- ♦ First, we understand that there is a judgment. Why? Doesn’t God know who’s saved and who’s lost? Of course. The judgment is provided so that *the rest of us can see* that a merciful God did all He could to save every person. When Lucifer rebelled and became Satan, he accused Christ of making everyone be lost by setting the bar too high—making His law too hard. But the judgment will reveal God’s enormous love and mercy. The Holy Spirit constantly speaks to us, if we’ll listen, convicting us of sin and helping us overcome. So in the judgment, we will see that the lost were lost because of their own choices, not because God was unjust.
- ♦ “A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him. A thousand thousands ministered to him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated and the books were opened” (Daniel 7:10, 11). Clearly the judgment is an event of overwhelming significance, settling the destinies of all humanity and capturing the attention of the entire universe.
- ♦ “And he said to me, ‘For two thousand three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed’” (Daniel 8:14). The cleansing of the sanctuary was Israel’s yearly day of judgment pointing forward to the final judgment. As the earthly Israelite sanctuary was a symbol of the heavenly sanctuary, so the cleansing of the earthly sanctuary (a judgment for Israel) was a symbol of the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary (a judgment for the whole world).
- ♦ Daniel 8:17 says that the 2,300 days start in Daniel’s day and go to the time of the end. But 2,300 days is only a little over six years! “...I have appointed thee each day for a year” (Ezekiel

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4:6). One prophetic day = one literal year. This is a 2,300-**year** prophecy. Keep the chart below nearby so you can refer to it as often as needed.



♦ **“Seventy weeks are determined for your people”** (Daniel 9:24). If 1 day = 1 year, this means 490 years (70 weeks x 7 days in each week, converted from days to years). “Your people” indicates that this first 490 years is for the Jews; the remaining 1,810 years is for the Gentiles.

♦ **“Know and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks”** (Daniel 9:25). So the start of the 2,300 years is the date of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem. From that date to the Messiah would be 69 weeks, or 483 years (69 weeks x 7 days a week). Ezra 7:13 says that the decree to restore and rebuild was issued in 457 BC—a specific historic date.

♦ So start in 457 BC and go 483 years forward. Remember, there’s no year zero! You end up at AD 27. Daniel predicted that Jesus would come and be anointed as Messiah in AD 27. **“Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...when all the people were baptized...it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized”** (Luke 3:1, 21). The 15th year of Tiberius’s reign was AD 27!

♦ After His baptism Christ ministered for 3 1/2 years. **“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for himself...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”** (Daniel 9:26, 27). Daniel 9 predicted that Jesus would die by crucifixion on the fourteenth day of the first Jewish month in the year **AD 31**. The 3 1/2 years of Christ’s ministry = 3 1/2 prophetic days, or half a week (the middle of the week). AD 27 plus 3 1/2 years brings us from AD 27 to spring **AD 31**, when Jesus was crucified, or “cut off,” at Passover.

♦ Three and a half years later (the last half of the week) brings us to AD 34. The 70 weeks ended here when the Jewish leaders utterly rejected the gospel and Paul was sent as an evangelist to the Gentiles. The 490 years of the Jews ended, and the 1,810 years of the Gentiles began.

♦ 1,810 (years of Gentiles) + 34 (end of Jews’ 490 years) = AD 1844. This concludes the 2,300 years of prophecy. The Bible says that those living since 1844 are living in the judgment hour (review Revelation 14:7)—the final hour of this earth’s history. The destinies of the human race are being settled. Christ, our High Priest, has moved into the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary and begun His judgment work. We have been living in the judgment hour now for 150 years. Like the people of Noah’s time, we are being given every chance by a merciful Christ to come to the cross and settle our destiny there with Him.

The “take-home” message for you . . .

♦ This longest Bible prophecy has a lot of numbers and symbols, yet still, *it all adds up!* And there at the judgment bar we see Jesus, standing between us and Satan the accuser, between us and eternal loss, and pleading His blood on our behalf.

Just between you . . . and God:

♦ Jesus is your Defender. He knows how you’ve sinned and fallen, how hard temptations are to resist; and if you’ve confessed those things to Him, He holds up His perfect life in place of yours. Before God, it’s as if you never sinned. Tell God your great need, and He will help you.

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