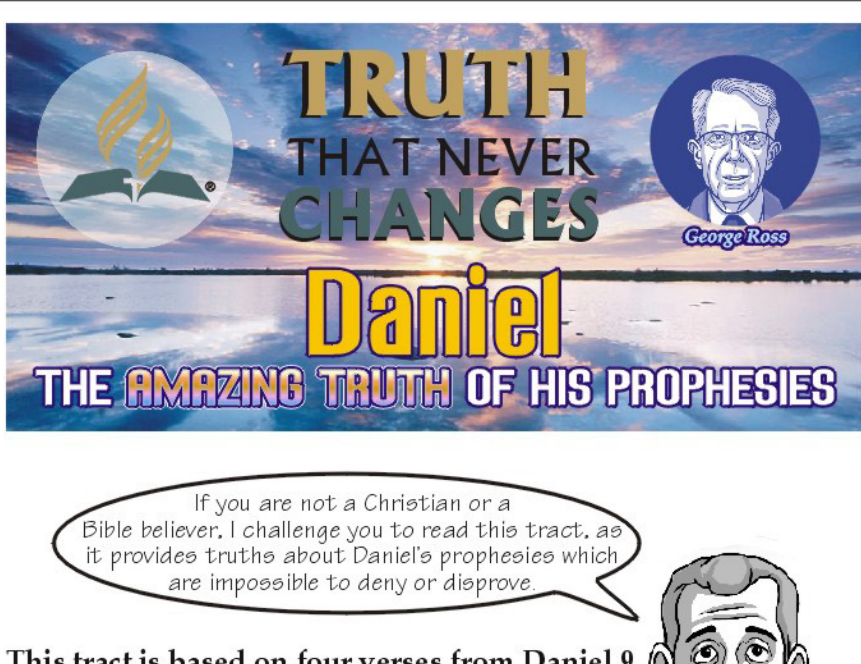
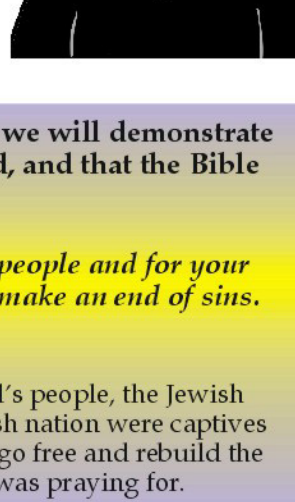




If you are not a Christian or a Bible believer, I challenge you to read this tract, as it provides truths about Daniel's prophecies which are impossible to deny or disprove.

This tract is based on four verses from Daniel 9. If you are sceptical, I am sure that the logical truth presented here will fully dispel any doubts you may have! These Bible verses reveal three things:

- 1 The Bible is the truth;
- 2 Christ is Divine; and
- 3 Daniel's prophecy is reliable.



OK, so let's start with Daniel 9:24. What we will demonstrate is that Jesus is the Messiah of the world, and that the Bible is trustworthy.

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

DANIEL 9:24

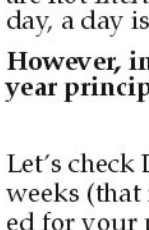
Who were these people? They were Daniel's people, the Jewish nation, and the city was Jerusalem. The Jewish nation were captives in Babylon and Daniel wanted his people to go free and rebuild the city of Jerusalem, and this is what he was praying for.

70 Prophetic (Symbolic) Weeks x 7 (days per week) = 490 Prophetic (Symbolic) Days = 490 Literal Years

Daniel 8:14 prophesies an event which will take place 2,300 years later. The 70 prophetic weeks of Daniel 9:24 were cut off from this prophecy and applies specifically to the Jewish nation.

In biblical prophecy a day represents a year, so the 70 prophetic weeks, or 490 prophetic days, in fact means 490 actual years.

What is the evidence that a prophetic day means a prophetic year? We find that in Ezekiel 4:6: "I have laid on you a day for each year."



In Bible prophecy one prophetic day equals one literal year, a formula we find throughout Scripture, not only in the book of Ezekiel. A good example occurs in Numbers 14, when the children of Israel spied out the land and they came back with a negative report. God made us a prediction (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."

When do these 490 literal years begin? Is there a mathematical proof that Christ is the Messiah? And is there proof that this prophecy was fulfilled exactly as the Bible said it would be? There is! Just look at the 490 years that's cut off from the 2,300 years of Daniel 8:14.

Time Period prophesied (Daniel 8:14): 2,300 days, equalling 2,300 years.

Divided between Jews and Gentiles:

Part 1: Jews = 490 years

Part 2: Gentiles = 1,810 years

Part one applies to the Jews, part two to the Gentiles or 'God's people'.

So how do we know the principle that a biblical day equals a literal year applies to this prophecy? There are two ways:

- 1 The events that the prophecy envisages are exact.
- 2 When prophetic symbolism is embedded in Bible prophecy, the days are not *literal* days, but *prophetic* days; yet when the Bible mentions a day, a day is a day - the seven days of creation are seven literal days.

However, in the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation the day equals a year principle applies.

Let's check Daniel 9:24 again: "Seventy weeks (that is, 490 years) are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins."

In other words, God was giving the Jewish nation a 490 year period of probation, where they would come to repentance as a nation. And then it says to *make an end of sins*, meaning to end their rebellion against God.

And if during that time an event were to happen, what would it be?

"If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

So Daniel outlines this fact - that the Messiah would come - and that He would come in accordance with this 490 year time line.

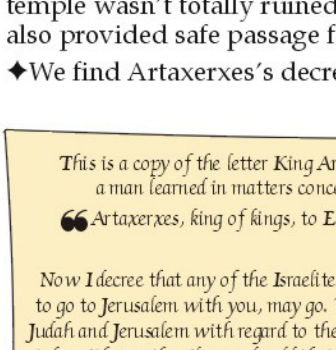
2,300 Years Prophecy

490 YEARS **2,300 YEARS**

WHEN DOES THIS PROPHECY COMMENCE?

As shown here, 70 weeks out of the 2,300 years are cut off for Daniel's people - this period of probation is for the Jewish nation as a whole to repent. And during this time the Messiah will come.

So when does this prophecy begin? In verse 25 Daniel assures us: "Know therefore 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..."



PIETER LASTMAN (DETAIL)

This explanation was given to Daniel by an angel. When an angel tells one to know something, or to understand something, it must be incredibly important. This crucial prophecy begins at a command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. The Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar had attacked Jerusalem in 605 BC and again in 587 BC. The city was devastated and the temple destroyed. And so here the prophecy says: "Know therefore from the going forth to restore and build Jerusalem..." **From the day that command goes forth, that's when this prophecy begins.**

History tells us three commands or decrees were issued, the first by Cyrus, the second by Darius and the third by Artaxerxes.

The first and second decree did not restore Israel as a nation, they merely allowed some of the Jews to go back. Many, though, didn't.

It was the decree of Artaxerxes that would enable the Jewish nation to be restored as a nation and to allow worship to take place.

Funding was provided so that the temple and city could be rebuilt. The temple wasn't totally ruined, but it needed extensive repairs. Artaxerxes also provided safe passage for the Jews.

♦We find Artaxerxes's decree in **Ezra 7:11-26**. I quote Ezra 11-17:

This is a copy of the letter King Artaxerxes had given to Ezra the priest, a teacher of the Law, a man learned in matters concerning the commands and decrees of the Lord for Israel:

"Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, teacher of the Law of the God of heaven:

Greetings.

Now I decree that any of the Israelites in my kingdom, including priests and Levites, who volunteer to go to Jerusalem with you, may go. You are sent by the king and his seven advisers to inquire about Judah and Jerusalem with regard to the Law of your God, which is in your hand. Moreover, you are to take with you the silver and gold that the king and his advisers have freely given to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem, together with all the silver and gold you may obtain from the province of Babylon, as well as the freewill offerings of the people and priests for the temple of their God in Jerusalem. With this money be sure to buy bulls, rams and male lambs, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings, and sacrifice them on the altar of the temple of your God in Jerusalem. You and your fellow Israelites may then do whatever seems best with the rest of the silver and gold, in accordance with the will of your God."



So what year was this, does the Bible tell us? Yes, it says 'in the seventh year of Artaxerxes'.

Historical records enable us to determine this year precisely.

Artaxerxes I was the fifth king of kings of the Achaemenid Empire, from 465 to December 424 BC. He was the third son of Xerxes I.

So the seventh year of his reign was 457 BC.

Relief of Artaxerxes I at his tomb at Naqsh-e Rostam (Wikipedia)

The prophecy thus begins in 457 BC. Sixty-nine prophetic weeks from that time the Messiah, Jesus Christ, would come. (*Messiah* means 'the anointed one'.) It is the answer to Daniel's prayer.

Let's look at Daniel 9:25 again:

"Know therefore 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..."

Let's do the math!

70 WEEKS:

69 PROPHETIC WEEKS

x7 DAYS PER WEEK

= 483 PROPHETIC DAYS

♦We'll explain the missing week later.

483

-26

457

69 weeks / 483 years of the 70 weeks from 457 BC forward on the time line would take us to the coming of the Messiah. In fact, it takes us from when Artaxerxes issued his decree to restore and build Jerusalem not to the Messiah's birth, but to His anointing or His baptism. This is because in history, when moving from BC to AD, there is no year nil (-1 BC to 1 AD is only one year), so we end up with the year 27 AD. The Bible tells us clearly what happened in that year.

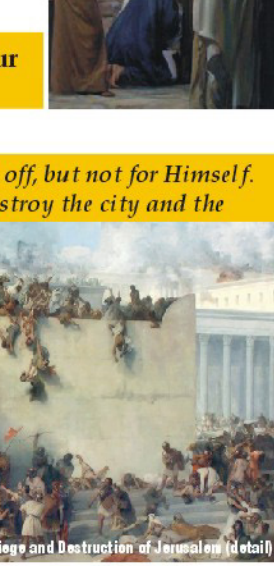
Luke 3:1: "Now in the fifteenth year in the reign of Tiberius Caesar..." Roman historians tell us that was 27 AD, exactly as per the prophecy.

But you might ask if Jesus was 30 when He was baptised, how then could that be in the year 27 AD?

Luke 3:21: "When all the people were baptised, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptised." Just when was this?

We know Jesus was 30 years old at His baptism, which happened in 27 AD. Jesus was not born in the year zero - He was born about 4 BC. How do we know that? Matthew tells us (Matthew 2) that Herod consulted with the wise men, so he must still have been alive when Jesus was born.

Herod, history tells us, died in 4 BC. So we know Jesus was born around 4 BC - and 27 years later, when Jesus was 30 years old, He is baptised... **exactly as the Bible predicted 483 years before!**



Jesus said: "The time is fulfilled."

MARK 1:15

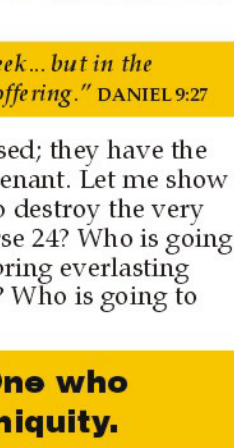
That is, the time appointed for sending the Messiah, and particularly the time specified by Daniel (see Daniel 9:24-27).

Yet the prophecy becomes even more amazing. Daniel 9 once again:

"Know therefore 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; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off..."

Consider the 483 years (i.e. 7 + 62 = 69; 69 x 7 = 483) take us to 27 AD, as predicted. After this period the Messiah the Prince (Jesus) will be 'cut off'.

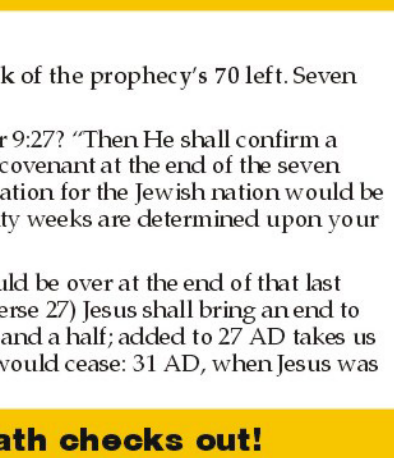
What does this mean? It means the Messiah, our Redeemer, will be crucified.



"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." DANIEL 9:26

Was Jerusalem destroyed? Yes. When was that? Historical fact: it happened in AD 70, after the crucifixion (the 'cut off') of Christ. The general who destroyed the city was Titus, future emperor of Rome. Exactly as foreseen by Daniel!

To be 'cut off', but not for Himself - for you and me. Jesus died for *your* sins. Forgiveness and pardon are yours. Bible prophecy makes it clear that Jesus is the Messiah.



"Then shall he confirm a covenant with many for one week...but in the midst of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering." DANIEL 9:27

Now here's where many good folk get confused; they have the idea that it is the Antichrist who will confirm the covenant. Let me show why that is impossible and is an invention of Satan to destroy the very truth of this prophecy. Who is the main subject of verse 24? Who is going to make reconciliation for iniquity? Who is going to bring everlasting righteousness? Who is going to seal up the covenant? Who is going to anoint the Most Holy?

Jesus Christ. He is the only One who can bring reconciliation for iniquity.

What is the main theme of verse 25? Who is 'Messiah the Prince'? It is Jesus Christ, the theme of verse 26. The Messiah who will be cut off is Jesus.

So, when the prophecy has Christ as the focal point of verses 24, 25 and 26, would it not be just like Satan to try to confuse the issue?

Secondly, there is no indication anywhere else in the Bible that the Antichrist makes the covenant. Jesus Christ is the author of the Eternal, Everlasting Covenant: He sheds His blood to confirm it. Now notice how precisely the Bible states what will happen: *He shall confirm a covenant with many for one week in the middle of the week; He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.*

Who brings an end to sacrifice and offering? Who brings an end to the lamb sacrifices?

It is Jesus Christ, our Saviour!

Thus far the 69 weeks, but there is one week of the prophecy's 70 left. Seven symbolic days equal seven literal years.

So what does the Bible say in Daniel chapter 9:27? "Then He shall confirm a covenant with many for one week." So this covenant at the end of the seven years would be confirmed, the days of probation for the Jewish nation would be over. Remember, the prophecy says, "Seventy weeks are determined upon your people" (verse 24).

The Jewish nation's covenant with God would be over at the end of that last week, but in the *middle of that last week* (verse 27) Jesus shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. Half of seven is three and a half; added to 27 AD takes us to the time when the sacrifice and offering would cease: 31 AD, when Jesus was crucified at age 33.

Once again, the math checks out!

Jesus was baptised and crucified at the prophesied time.

Daniel 9 shows with mathematical proof that Jesus Christ is indeed the Messiah, leaving no doubt that the prophetic Word, the Bible, is true. How could Daniel have known these things hundreds of years before the birth of Christ?

Jesus said: "For this is the blood of the new covenant." MATTHEW 26:28

So the words of Jesus confirm the new covenant.

Dear Friend!

I trust reading this short tract helped you see the irrefutable accuracy of Daniel's prophecies, proof of the truth of the Bible, God's eternal Word.

"For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

MATTHEW 26:28

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