

**Part 2:**

This is one of the only prophecies God has given which actually give us an exact time when a promised event will occur; this gives us the exact day when Messiah would come. The Pharisees were without excuse; they knew Who Jesus Christ was and they knew He was prophesied to die and they were willing to cause His death. They feared Rome more than they feared God: *'And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, <sup>50</sup> Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. <sup>51</sup> And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; <sup>52</sup> and not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one **the children of God that were scattered abroad.** <sup>53</sup> Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.'* John 11:49

(God gave the exact date of Jesus Triumphant Entry; He told Daniel how many days, exactly, until its fulfillment.)

**Daniel 9:24:** *'Seventy weeks are **determined** upon thy people and upon thy holy city, 1. to finish the transgression, and 2. to make an end of sins, and 3. to make reconciliation for iniquity, and 4. to bring in everlasting righteousness, and 5. to seal up the vision and prophecy, and 6. to anoint the most Holy.'*

God determined these 6 things **will be accomplished** within this time period of 70 (weeks of years) **490 years**.

God declared, through Isaiah, *'Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup> Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure... I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.'* Isa 46:9

There is no question of whether or not these things will happen; the question is, *when*. We can look back on the history of Israel and clearly see that they have not, yet, happened. We might be tempted to say that, yes, they did become accomplished, for the Church, by Jesus Christ in His life, death and resurrection but, no, not even then. And, even more importantly, this prophecy has nothing to do with us, the Church; this is about God's work in Israel and only in Israel; 70 weeks are determined for *THY* people, Daniel and for *THY* holy city.

This is all, and only, **spoken to Israel and to Jerusalem**.

**Verse 25:** *'Know therefore and **understand**, (pay attention!) that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks (49 yrs), and threescore and two(62) weeks (434 yrs) (483 yrs total): the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.'*

Two separate things are determined, by God: the wall and street of Jerusalem will be completed within that first 49 years, during troublesome times, as we clearly see in Nehemiah; then, after *another* 434 years, Messiah the Prince shall come.

From the day that Artaxerxes, king of Persia, gave to Nehemiah the written permission to return to Jerusalem and begin the work of restoration, it would be **exactly** 483 (49+434) years until Messiah, the Prince, came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey's colt, presenting Himself to Israel as their rightful King.

*'Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.'* Zech 9:9

This, through Zechariah, is 550 years before it happened; again, only God can determine a thing and then cause it to happen at His exact, chosen moment.

**Verse 26:** *'And after threescore and two (62) weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people (Rome) of the prince that shall come (the future Antichrist) shall destroy the city and the sanctuary (in 70 AD); and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.'*

Just a few days later, Messiah shall be 'cut off,' crucified, but not for Himself. Jesus Christ was not crucified for His own sin; He was sinless; He was crucified for the sin of others: **Jews and Gentiles alike**.

**...that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad...**

**'ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.' Eph 1:13**

Philippians 3:12: Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also **I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.**

### **Chinese baby**

From the moment Israel rejected her Messiah, God set aside His work to the Jews, as if 'putting them on the back burner' for the next 2000 years; He then turned to the Gentiles to build the Church, that mystery not seen in the Old Testament, the Body and Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. Of course, Jews who turn to Jesus Christ as Messiah during this present 'Age of Grace' are also counted among the Church.

Because Jesus Christ was completely faithful to the Father's will, His greatest reward, from the Father, was begun: the creation of His Bride for whom He died, to redeem. We, the True Church, are His greatest love and treasure. He loves us as every Earthly groom should love his bride: completely, unreservedly, and sacrificially, with complete forgiveness, patience, kindness and forbearance: love that will never fail.

The next thing that God says is a reference to the Antichrist, who will arise during Daniel's final week of years, the 7 year Tribulation, but God only refers to his national origin in this verse: He means Rome, the people who would soon destroy Jerusalem and the Temple just 35 years after Messiah was cut off. Rome: the Antichrist will come out of Rome, the revived Roman Empire; we've watched that 'revival' grow, during the past 75 years: the European Union.

In 70 AD, the Roman legions, under Titus, came like a flood, completely destroying Jerusalem and the Temple, and they left Israel a complete desolation.

Next, He jumps forward to describe what will finally happen during the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy when the Antichrist does come to power for those final 7 years: the Tribulation:

***Verse 27: 'And he (the Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.'***

Antichrist will confirm a 7 year covenant (peace treaty) between Israel and her Muslim neighbors. It might even include Russia who may have just come down to be destroyed by God, as seen in Ezekiel 38-39. God says the treaty will be between 'many,' not just a few. For the first time, Modern Israel will be '*allowed*' to exist.

The Antichrist will be Satan's imitation of Jesus Christ, the True Messiah. Antichrist means the same as Antimessiah: not '*against*' but, rather, '*in place of.*' It appears that Jews will believe the antichrist is the messiah: the 'covenant' may be to allow Israel to rebuild her Temple on the Temple Mount, where it really belongs but first, God will have to remove the current usurper, the mosque of Omar, dome of the rock.

The covenant will be for 7 years, the length of the Tribulation. In the middle of the 7 years, the Antichrist will break the Covenant; he will cease all sacrifices and offerings to God and will, instead, declare that he is god and that he must be worshipped by all people everywhere. He will be the abomination as he sets up his own throne, and image, in the Temple of God. He will cause the Temple and Israel to be desolate. This will be the moment Jesus referred to: '*When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand): <sup>16</sup> Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains... For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.'* Matt 24:15

This will be the mid-point of the Tribulation; from that day, it will be exactly 3 1/2 more years, (*the Great Tribulation*) until Jesus returns. This is when the Antichrist will demand that all people, everywhere take the *Mark of the Beast: 666*, and worship the image of himself which will be set up by the False Prophet.

*'...and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.'*

The Antichrist's rule will be an abomination before God and through the Antichrist, God will desolate Israel completely. Even while Israel is offering sacrifices and offerings during the first half of the 70th Week of Daniel (the Tribulation) it will all be abominations before the Lord in that they will have submitted themselves unto the Antichrist; finally, God will desolate Israel: *'For I will lay the land most desolate, and the pomp of her strength shall cease; and the mountains of Israel shall be desolate, that none shall pass through. Then shall they know that I am the LORD, when I have laid the land most desolate because of all their abominations which they have committed.'* Ezekiel 33:28

*'Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: <sup>16</sup> Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.*

*<sup>17</sup> Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. <sup>18</sup> And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.'* Isa 28:15

Finally, at the end of the 70th Week of Daniel, after God has poured out His Wrath on the wicked world, the Lord Jesus Christ will return in Glory to set up His Millennial Kingdom, to rule and reign for 1000 years!

You would think that the leaders in Israel would have been ready and excited to receive Him as King but you would be wrong. They knew Who He was and they chose to reject and crucify Him as a common criminal which is why they have been so chastened and scourged, by God, for the past 2000 years and why He has spiritually blinded them so that they've been unable to see and recognize the Truth of Jesus Christ. (of course, many individual Jews have come to faith in Christ over the Centuries but never, yet, as a nation.

But, finally, when the Lord Jesus Christ does return, at Armageddon, God will remove their blindness and they will finally see; *'And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.* Zech 12:9 All the Jews who are left alive when He returns will repopulate Israel as God blesses them far above all the other nations of the Earth. Then, finally, all the promises God made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendants will be fulfilled completely. God will have shown Himself to be the faithful Ancient of Days Who keeps and fulfills all His Word and all His good pleasure.

Now: for the most exciting but also the most *perplexing* aspect of this incredible prophecy; it does, in fact, foretell the **exact day** when the Lord Jesus Christ would ride into Jerusalem upon the colt of a donkey and present Himself as Israel's King.

We saw that the 70 Weeks of Daniel refers to 70 ('weeks' of 7 years each):  $70 \times 7 = 490$  years, to be exact. God said that the 'clock' would start ticking on the day that a command was given to allow the Jews to return to Israel after 70 years of captivity in Babylon to rebuild the wall and the street. It would take the first '7 weeks,' 49 years to accomplish that. Then, after an additional 62 weeks of years:  $62 \times 7 = 434$  years, Messiah the Prince would present Himself as King, after which He would be 'cut off.'

From the command to return from Babylon until Jesus Triumphant Entry would be exactly 483 years,  $49 + 434 = 483$  years, leaving 1 final week of years until the future: the 7 year Tribulation, the '70th Week of Daniel.'

This is our task: how do we know, for certain, that Jesus would come exactly 483 years after the command from Artaxerxes to Nehemiah?

When God refers to years, in Prophecy, and History, He means years of 360 days each, unlike our calendar, a solar calendar which is based on the time it takes for the Earth to travel around the sun: **365 days 5 hours 48 minutes and 46 seconds** or, about 365 and 1/4 days. Those extra 1/4 day, each year, is why we have an extra day, February 29, every 4th year... a leap year.

The first way we know that God means 360 day years is in Genesis: we're told that to God, 1 month is 30 days. *'In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.'* Gen 7:11

Then: *'And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated.'* Gen 8:3 *'And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.'* Gen 8:4

The flood began on the 17th day of the 2nd month and ended on the 17th day of the 7th month and we're told that those 5 months totaled: 150 days... 5 months: 30 days each.

We know that the 70th Week of Daniel, the final Week, is the 7 year Tribulation. We know that the Antichrist will enter the Temple and declare himself God at the halfway point of those 7 years. We're told that from that day, it will be 1,260 days remaining: 1260 days is 1/2 of 2520 days which is 7 years of 360 days each.

Here's the salient aspect: we compute years as 365.24 days: a 'solar year,' God bases his year on lunar phases: one full lunar phase is 29.5 days; hence the 30 day month and 360 day year. *'And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and for years"* Gen 1:14 *'He appointed the moon for seasons'* Psa 104:19 All of Israel's feasts are governed by Lunar phases based on a Lunar calendar. When God says, *'1 Year,'* He means 360 days.

In Daniel 12 and Revelation 12, 3 1/2 years are referred to, as: a time, times and half a time. a year, years and half a year. 3.5 years and we're told that the 2nd half of the Tribulation, the Great Tribulation is 1260 days.

So: let's figure how 483 prophetic years gets us from the command from Artaxerxes to Jesus' Triumphal Entry.

First: We know this prophecy and the time given is true because God said it. We don't need to prove it to believe it. Even though we might prove it, especially to a Jew, he will not believe it unless God is in the process of revealing Himself to that Jew and drawing him to Himself. Remember, God told Daniel to *seal up this book until the time of the End* and even then, Daniel was told: *only the wise would understand*. Only a true Child of God has genuine Wisdom which comes only by the illumination of the Holy Spirit living within.

We wouldn't say, 'I can't believe Jesus Christ was born to a young virgin unless I can prove It; it's possible!' It is, in fact, not possible; it's completely impossible and yet, I know it's true because God said so.

Here is the calculation of the 69 weeks of Daniel: 483 years X 360 days each = 173,880 days. God could have said, 'From the command to return, until Messiah the Prince, will be 173,880 days. But He didn't; He gave the prophecy in such a way that anyone could figure it but only the wise would understand and believe.

Remember: at the beginning of the prophecy, Gabriel commanded Daniel to *'therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.'* We are given the same command: 'Understand and consider!'

The short version: figure the number of days in 483 x 360 day years = 173,880 days. Then figure the number of solar years, 365.25 days each, by dividing 365.25 into 173,880 and you get: 476 years.

The decree by Artaxerxes came on the first day of the Hebrew month Nisan in 445 BC. The first day of Nisan in 445 BC corresponds to the 14th day of March: this was verified by the British Royal Observatory.

If we count 173,880 days from the 14th of March 445 BC, we come to April 6, 32 AD, the day of Jesus Christ's Triumphal Entry. This date was also verified by the British Royal Observatory. 5 days later, on April 11, 32 AD, the Messiah was crucified. (By the way, it's possible I'm off a bit but that's only because I'm not God.)

March fourteenth 445 BC to April 6, 32 AD is 476 Solar years but is 483 Lunar years of 360 days each (1 BC to 1 AD is one year. There is no year zero)

173,880 days from Artaxerxes' edict to Nehemiah until Jesus' Triumphal Entry: 483 years of 360 days each.

Remember: this prophecy is true and the calculation correct but it is not necessary for us to completely understand the calculations, though we can, for us to believe that it's true. **God said it; it's true!**

*'And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which*

*shall not be destroyed.'* Daniel 7:14 *'Of the **increase** of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.'* Isa 9:6