

THE LONGEST TIME PROPHECY

(LESSON 24)

Bible Study

1. Do we know when the END OF TIME is, in other words, when Jesus will return? **Matthew 24:36**
2. Do we know when the TIME OF THE END is? **Daniel 12:9, 4**
3. How long is the longest time prophecy? **Daniel 8:14**
4. What are the two compartments to the temple called? **Hebrews 9:1-3**
5. Which compartment did Jesus ascend to? **Hebrews 9:11-12**
6. What piece of furniture identifies the first compartment existing in heaven? **Revelation 1:12**
7. What piece of furniture identifies the first compartment existing in heaven? **Revelation 11:18-19**
8. What process is being performed in the Temple of God? **Revelation 3:5**
9. How did Jesus cause the sacrifices to cease? **Matthew 27:50-51**
10. What does the honey represent? **Psalms 119:103**
11. Did Jesus confirm? **Galatians 3:17**

What Group of People Does the Third Angel Reveal?

Revelation 14:12 tells us, "*Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*" God has saints and will have saints right up to

and including the second coming (Revelation 14:14).

These saints are “*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints*” (Ephesians 6:18).

What are they watching with? “*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*” (Ephesians 6:17).

This would lead into studying events leading up to the last days. One particular study that is ignored by many is that of the feast days, which were covered in the lesson called *Nailing It to His Cross*. We studied the prophetic meaning of the feast days in which Jesus has fulfilled or is in the process of fulfilling. Each feast day recorded in Leviticus 23 appears in exact sequence of fulfillment.

- Jesus fulfilled the first one at the cross by becoming the Passover lamb (Leviticus 23:5 and John 1:29).
- Immediately upon death, Jesus’ blood then fulfilled the next feast day of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6) by purging our sins (Hebrews 1:3), which is to remove the leaven from our lives.
- Just a couple days later, Jesus fulfilled the feast of First Fruits (Leviticus 23:10) by presenting Himself to the Father on the day He rose from the tomb (John 20:17, 1 Corinthians 15:23).
- Fifty days later (Leviticus 23:16), Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on the feast of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4),

however, as centuries passed into history, Christianity, as predicted, began to fall asleep (Matthew 25:1-5).

- Jesus then inspired a movement to wake up the world before He would commence with His judgment. The feast that was fulfilled in waking up the world was that of the feast of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:24) and is recorded in history books as the *Great Awakening* occurring in the early to mid 1800’s.
- Next in our timeline of feast days is the feast of Atonement (Leviticus 23:28), which is when Israel was annually judged. All sins were to be confessed else, that person was cut off from the nation (Leviticus 23:29). In other words, by confessing their sins were being blotted out. This process is what we are going to study in this lesson. Please note that the fulfillment must be after the feast of trumpets, which was fulfilled by *The Great Awakening* in the early to mid 1800’s.
- The feast of Atonement must also be fulfilled before the second coming because the feast of Tabernacles or Ingathering (Leviticus 23:34) representing that event is yet another feast day.

What does the Bible say about the judgment? Revelation 14:6-7 tells us, “*And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation,*

and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” There is a time when God’s judgment will be in progress, yet the second coming will not be for a little while further (Revelation 14:14). Note the present tense of this verse – IS COME. That implies that prior to some point, judgment was not being conducted.

Do You Know the Difference?

Do we know when the END OF TIME is, in other words, when Jesus will return? According to Matthew 24:36, we are told, “*But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*” Again, in Matthew 25:13, it says, “*Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*” And once more in Mark 13:32, it is stated, “*But of that day and [that] hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.*” That is perfectly clear. We cannot know the day nor the hour of Jesus’ return. As a matter of fact, the principle of knowing even the year is inclusive.

Now, do we know when the TIME OF THE END is? Wait! Is that the same question? No it is not. Daniel 12:9 tells us, “*And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words [are] closed up and sealed till the time of the end.*”

The book of Daniel will remain closed until we enter into the TIME OF THE END.

When is the TIME OF THE END? Daniel 12:4 "*But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, [even] to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*" From an earlier lesson, we found that Daniel was driving in a form of horse and buggy. That mode of transportation did not change significantly until the 1800's and 1900's with the invention of the train, steamboat, cars, planes, and rockets. Also, at the same time, knowledge leaped tremendously. The 1800's and the 1900's were a boom for inventions. So, from this, we see the TIME OF THE END has been for a few decades if we look on the physical aspect. However, God is more interested in the spiritual. Therefore, looking at the knowledge of the Bible, has it grown significantly since a given time frame? Yes, it has. That time frame is shortly after the dark ages when Bible societies sprung up during the 1800's. And, with concordances, running through and fro through the Bible was made much easier.

The phrase, the TIME OF THE END is like watching a movie. When the credits begin to scroll, you know it is the end of the movie, but before then, you probably had a sense that the movie was coming to an end. How did you know that? Well, all the robbers were behind bars and there was only conversation left in the police station to wrap up the loose ends. Or in love stories, the couple finally made it to the church to get married. Or

whatever type of movie, you can sense the loose ends being wrapped up. This is referred to as the "time of the end." The movie is about to end, but it is not the end of the movie.

Now applying this to the greatest drama that is unfolding, the history of this world is just about over. The END OF TIME is the second coming, which is the ultimate display of closing credits, but before then, we know that there are a few loose ends to clean up. There are signs of the times, which, from our earlier lessons, have been fulfilled. There is the Image of the Beast, which is soon to be upon us where the Mark of the Beast will be enforced. This period of fulfilling the final prophecies is the TIME OF THE END.

What Is the Longest Time Prophecy?

According to Daniel 8:14, we are told, "*And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.*" Daniel is told that the sanctuary will be cleansed in 2,300 days.

What is so important about this prophecy? Daniel 8:17-19 states, "*So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end [shall be] the vision. Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright. And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of*

the indignation: for at the time appointed the end [shall be]." That is quite clear. If we understand the prophecy, we will know when we entered into the period of time known as the TIME OF THE END.

Now you can see how important it is to know the difference between the END OF TIME and the TIME OF THE END. If we did not know and if we thought that both statements meant the same thing, then this prophecy could easily and honestly be interpreted to mean the pinpointing of the second coming.

So how do we figure it out? Well, we need to understand two basic questions:

- 1) What is meant by the phrase "*Sanctuary to be cleansed*", and
- 2) When does the clock begin ticking?

What Does Cleansing of the Sanctuary Mean?

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 says, "*Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*" All that is established by reading these verses in the New Testament is that Paul is writing about literal Israel. How do their experiences apply to us? 1 Corinthians 10:11 tells us, "*Now all these things happened*

unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.” What happened to literal Israel is for our admonition, that is, a warning, notice, or advice. That means God did not have literal Israel doing all kinds of weird things just to see if they would do it. They served as object lessons, especially for those living in the last days.

Hebrews 8:1-2 says, “*Now of the things which we have spoken [this is] the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.*”

Notice that God has a sanctuary, and we know that man has made an earthly sanctuary. Jesus serves today as our High Priest of the real sanctuary, which is in Heaven. Also, we notice that the sanctuary is also a New Testament teaching. As the lesson unfolds, the concept of Jesus being our High Priest serving in a sanctuary will be well studied.

To understand the sanctuary, let us look at the earthly one and what role it played. Hebrews 8:5 says, “*Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, [that] thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.*” God told Moses to create a sanctuary on earth so that God could dwell with man. The pattern or blue prints that Moses used came

right out of Heaven.

You may be asking why God had Moses go through this? God longs to reveal Himself and His wisdom to mankind. Unfortunately, our minds cannot handle all that God knows. Some things He simply states, but in other things He illustrates.

Let us look more closely at the sanctuary. Hebrews 9:1-2 says, “*Then verily the first [covenant] had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein [was] the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.*” Literal Israel, which is represented by the first covenant, had ordinances of divine service in the earthly sanctuary. The sanctuary consisted of two compartments. The first was known as the Holy Place where the seven-pronged candlestick was placed and a table for the shewbread was located.

Hebrews 9:3-5 tells us, “*And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein [was] the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.*” The second compartment was known as the Most Holy Place. It contained the Ark of the Covenant, Aaron's rod, a golden pot of manna, and the tables of the covenant. Those tables were placed inside the ark. What are those tables called? The Holy Ten

Commandments.

The curtain that separated the two compartments was intertwined with gold and other precious metals, and was multi-layered. No wind would ever be able to blow on the curtains and reveal the Most Holy Place.

Hebrews 9:6 states, “*Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service [of God].*” In the Holy Place, the high priest went daily. There, people would come with their sin offering, confess it over the animal, which symbolically transferred the sin to the animal; the animal was then killed; the blood was sprinkled; and the sin was forgiven. In affect though, the sin would remain in the sanctuary.

Why was killing an animal necessary? Romans 6:23 reveals, “*For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” When we sin, we deserve to die. God made a provision to allow us to live. Blood was to be shed.

Over time, symbolically the sanctuary would fill up with sin. So, God made provision for taking care of this problem. Hebrews 9:7 shows, “*But into the second [went] the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and [for] the errors of the people.*” Once a year, the sanctuary was cleansed by a special sacrifice.

To understand the process of washing the sins away, He did not simply state it; He demonstrated it physically in the sanctuary and later in bodily form. You now are probably

beginning to see the importance of this part of the lesson especially in the next question.

How Was the Sanctuary Cleansed?

Ten days before the day of cleansing, silver trumpets were blown (Leviticus 23:24), which is known as the feast of trumpets. This served as a warning to the people that the day of cleansing was approaching, so they were to confess all of their unconfessed sins or be cut from the fellowship of God (Leviticus 23:29).

Leviticus 16:16 states, *“And he shall make an atonement for the holy [place], because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.”* The day of cleansing is known as the Day of Atonement or today as Yom Kippur.

Leviticus 16:18-19 goes on with, *“And he shall go out unto the altar that [is] before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put [it] upon the horns of the altar round about. And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.”* It was necessary to cleanse the altar where the daily sacrifices were held.

Leviticus 16:7-10 shares, *“And he shall take the two goats, and*

present them before the LORD [at] the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him [for] a sin offering. But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, [and] to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.”

The two goats represent Jesus and Satan respectively. Yes, Jesus is also represented by a lamb in other ordinances, but here Jesus was offered as our sin offering. Jesus being innocent died for our sins while Satan who is ultimately the guilty one is exemplified by the scapegoat.

Now, Leviticus 16:15 says, *“Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that [is] for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat.”* The blood of the sin offering was symbolic of Jesus' blood, which truly is the cleansing agent.

Leviticus 16:20-22 tells us, *“And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy [place], and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send [him]*

away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.” Satan is the one that is lead into the wilderness, which will bear the responsibility for mankind's sin. Jesus fulfilled the literal sacrifice at the cross. Satan will literally fulfill the wilderness experience during the Millennium. [You might want to review those notes.]

In regards to the earthly sanctuary, once it was cleansed, the Israelites would start over with their daily sacrifices. The high priest would year after year, cleanse the sanctuary. This kept occurring over and over until finally Jesus Christ came and died. Praise the Lord! All these sanctuary services were pointing to the literal fulfillment of Jesus making the services and feast days but a shadow now (Colossians 2:17, Hebrews 10:1).

Now, in comparison to our day, all actions, both good and bad, are recorded in the book of remembrance (Malachi 3:16). Daily we confess our sins to Jesus who *“is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9). These confessed sins, which are wiped clean by the full atoning sacrifice of Christ, are being transferred to the holy place in heaven. At some point, all that must be cleansed permanently away, hence the focus of discussion – the cleansing of the sanctuary.

Where Did Jesus Go After He Ascended?

Hebrews 4:14-16 says, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Jesus is now the Heavenly High Priest and knows what we are going through because He was tempted in all points as we are.

Hebrews 9:11-12 states, "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption [for us]."

Some Christians believe that Jesus ascended to the Father and is sitting in a chair next to the Father's throne just waiting to come back. Further, many versions of the Bible outside of the KJV, put Jesus in the Most Holy Place, and that is erroneous because then Jesus would have skipped several feast days (First Fruits, Pentecost, and Trumpets) that He needed to fulfill to get to the Atonement Feast. That is how we know those other versions are in error.

So, what does it mean that Jesus ascended to the right hand of God? In the Jewish

court system, there were three vote recorders. The one on the left of the judge counted all of the NO or GUILTY votes. The one in front of the judge's seat counted all of the votes. The one on the right counted all of the YES or INNOCENT votes. In other words, Jesus has gone to the Father in our favor (the right hand). That is great news!

Now there is no "Thus Saith the Lord" regarding this in the Bible, but there is a reference to the fact that the "right hand of God" does not necessarily mean it is literal. "*The voice of rejoicing and salvation [is] in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly. The right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord doeth valiantly*" (Psalms 118:15-16). This actually is in reference to all that God does – not just what He does with His right hand. Similar references include:

1. Exodus 15:6: "*Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.*"
2. Psalms 17:7: "*Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust [in thee] from those that rise up [against them].*"
3. Psalms 18:35: "*Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.*"
4. Psalms 20:6: "*Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with*

the saving strength of his right hand."

5. Psalms 21:8: "*Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee.*"
6. Psalms 45:4: "*And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness [and] righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.*"
7. Psalms 48:10: "*According to thy name, O God, so [is] thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness.*"
8. Psalms 138:7: "*Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.*"
9. Isaiah 62:8: "*The LORD hath sworn by his right hand, and by the arm of his strength, Surely I will no more give thy corn [to be] meat for thine enemies; and the sons of the stranger shall not drink thy wine, for the which thou hast laboured*"

Other possible Bible definitions for RIGHT HAND includes: next in authority (Matthew 20:23), actions in general (Ecclesiastes 9:10), and completion (Hebrews 10:12).

Hebrews 9:23-24 goes on to tell us, "*[It was] therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places*

made with hands, [which are] the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." In heaven, Jesus has a work to perform. Just as the earthly High Priest was a mediator between God and man, Jesus is now the mediator in heaven between the Father and us.

Is the Holy Place in heaven referenced beyond Hebrews 9:11-12? Revelation 1:12-18 reveals, "And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks [one] like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and [his] hairs [were] white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes [were] as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance [was] as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I [am] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Where are the seven candlesticks located? In the Holy Place. Notice that Jesus gave the Book of Revelation right from the Holy Place.

Does the Most Holy Place exist in heaven? Revelation 11:19 tells us, "And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and

there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."

Are their other elements of the earthly sanctuary found in heaven? Hebrews 9:4 made reference to the golden censer. Note, Revelation 8:2-3 states, "And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer [it] with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne." In addition to the golden censer reference in Revelation 8:3-4, a golden altar as well as incense that is offered before God with the prayer of the saints is also stated. Note the list of items made for the earthly sanctuary. Exodus 39:32-41 tells us, "Thus was all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation finished: and the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did they. And they brought the tabernacle unto Moses, the tent, and all his furniture, his taches, his boards, his bars, and his pillars, and his sockets, And the covering of rams' skins dyed red, and the covering of badgers' skins, and the vail of the covering, The ark of the testimony, and the staves thereof, and the mercy seat, The table, [and] all the vessels thereof, and the shewbread, The pure candlestick, [with] the lamps thereof, [even with] the lamps to be set in order, and all the vessels thereof, and the oil for light, And the golden altar,

and the anointing oil, and the sweet incense, and the hanging for the tabernacle door, The brasen altar, and his grate of brass, his staves, and all his vessels, the laver and his foot, The hangings of the court, his pillars, and his sockets, and the hanging for the court gate, his cords, and his pins, and all the vessels of the service of the tabernacle, for the tent of the congregation, The cloths of service to do service in the holy [place], and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and his sons' garments, to minister in the priest's office." So, if anybody tells you that a physical sanctuary does not exist in heaven, do not believe them. The Word of God clearly states that there is.

What is happening in the Heavenly sanctuary? Hebrews 9:25 reveals, "Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others." Jesus does not have to come to the earth and die year after year but rather once was enough.

This is continued in Hebrews 9:26-27, which says, "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Now we see how the judgment fits in with this lesson.

But notice something that happens before Jesus returns. Hebrews 9:28 says, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the

second time without sin unto salvation.” Did you catch that? At the beginning of the verse, Jesus was our sin bearer. Yes, we are looking for him the second time, but notice how He returns -- Without sin. How is that possible? How can Jesus go from being the sin bearer to bearing no sin? There must have been a cleansing, hence, our lesson.

Now with understanding the purpose of the sanctuary and how Jesus’ specifically fits into the plan of salvation, let us study the time of the cleansing.

When Does the Clock Begin?

Well, let us review the verse under study in Daniel 8:14, the Bible says, “*And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.*” Remember that both Revelation and Daniel are made up of symbolic references and not literal references such as, no one has seen a seven-headed beast. It is symbolic. Also, the times referenced in both books are symbolic. We already discovered from previous lessons that God has a day for a year principle regarding time in prophecy. This is substantiated in Numbers 14:34, which says, “*After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, [even] forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, [even] forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise*”, and in Ezekiel 4:6, which tells us, “*And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou*

shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year.” This principle is applied consistently to prophecy. So, this period of time is 2,300 years making it the longest time prophecy.

What is Daniel’s reaction? Daniel 8:26-27 reveals, “*And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told [is] true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it [shall be] for many days. And I Daniel fainted, and was sick [certain] days; afterward I rose up, and did the king’s business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood [it].*” Daniel fainted and was sick and yet was determined to understand it. Why was he quite perplexed? Well, Daniel was a captive Jew at the time. Jerusalem was still laying in ruin by the Babylonians. He wanted to know when it would be possible to offer the sacrifices again and when the Messiah would come the first time, let alone the second time. He was quite troubled.

Now, if the 2,300 days were literal, six and a half years from the time given would not be worth fainting over. The fact is, Daniel knew the day for a year principle. He knew that it would be 2,300 years from a starting point. That is why he fainted.

Well, when one is troubled, where do we turn? To God. And that is what Daniel did. In Chapter 9, Daniel prays a prayer for his people and himself as well as for understanding. It runs from verse 3 through 20.

God of course answers prayer. The answer is provided in the following verses. Daniel 9:21-23

states, “*Yea, whiles I [was] speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed [me], and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew [thee]; for thou [art] greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.*”

Gabriel returns to tell Daniel about the vision of the 2,300-year prophecy seeing everything but the timeline has been explained already. Daniel was missing just one piece – the timeline.

Now, how does Gabriel help Daniel understand? Daniel 9:24 says, “*Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*” Gabriel told Daniel not to tackle the whole thing, but instead, begin with the first 490 years of the prophecy. That portion is for Daniel’s people who are the Jews. The 490 years is arrived at by taking the 70 weeks and multiplying it by 7 days in a week and then applying consistently, God’s day for a year principle. The Jews have that much time to end their sinful ways and for the ushering in of the Most Holy who is none other than Jesus Christ the Messiah.

What begins the 490-year prophecy? Daniel 9:25 tells us, "Know therefore and understand, [that] from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince [shall be] seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times." It is the completed command to go and rebuild Jerusalem.

Was there a command to rebuild Jerusalem? Yes. In fact, a three-part decree is given in Ezra 6:14, which says, "And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished [it], according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia." Cyrus gave the first part of the decree in 537 BC, Darius the second part in 520 BC, and Artaxerxes the third part in 457 BC. As we will see in a moment, Jesus confirms this beginning date of 457 BC eliminating any guesswork.

What specifically was the king's decree? Ezra 7:12-13, 20 tells us, "Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect [peace], and at such a time. I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and [of] his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee. And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have

occasion to bestow, bestow [it] out of the king's treasure house."

What year was the decree given? Ezra 7:8 says, "And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which [was] in the seventh year of the king." When did Artaxerxes rule? Artaxerxes I, d. 425 BC (r. 464-425 BC), was a member of the Achaemenid dynasty [*The Concise Columbia Encyclopedia*].

Now we take 464 BC, which is the beginning of his rule, and subtract 7 years, being on the BC time side of things, which is when the decree was given. That means the beginning date ends up in the year 457 BC.

Now, from 457 BC, the Jews have 490 years to achieve a list of items. Taking 490 years minus 457 BC years, that leaves 33 on the AD side. But do not forget that there was no zero year. So, by adding 1 to 33 AD, we end up at 34 AD, when the covenant between God and the nation of Israel would come to an end.

What happened in 34 AD? Acts 7:58-8:5 tells us, "And cast [him] out of the city, and stoned [him]: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon [God], and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad

throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen [to his burial], and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed [them] to prison. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them." When Stephen was stoned, the Gospel was then officially preached unto the Gentiles. At this point the Jews, as a nation, closed the door to salvation. What did Jesus say about that? Matthew 21:43 says, "Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."

Now, inside of these 490 years, we have some more details. From 457 BC, 483 years later, the Messiah was to come (Daniel 9:25). The 483 years is calculated by taking the 69 weeks ("seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks") and multiplying it by 7 days in a week and applying consistently, God's day for a year principle. Taking then 483 years minus 457 BC years, we end up in the year 26 AD. Adding 1 year for the lack of a zero year, we end up in 27 AD, right when the Messiah was to come.

Did the Messiah come in 27 AD? Luke 3:1-2 tells us, "Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of

Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.” Did you ever wonder why throughout the Bible, it lists the rulers and their ruling period or dates? The rulers and leaders that are listed pinpoint the date of 27 AD as that was the only year that all of these people were in position at the stated time. And what happened in 27 AD? Luke 3:21-22 tells us, “*Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.*” Jesus was baptized and began His public speaking. April 8, 1996 issue of *Newsweek* confirms this date.

Also notice that in the accumulation of the time until the Messiah “seven weeks” or forty-nine days, which represents years, is broken out from the time reference. Did anything occur within forty-nine years? John 2:19-20 says, “*Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?*” After the commandment went forth to rebuild Jerusalem, the temple was completed by 408 BC.

Daniel 9:26 continues on to say, “*And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the*

people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof [shall be] with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.” After Jesus was baptized right on time, He was to be cut off, that is to die. But He would not die for Himself, rather for you and for me.

Also notice that the city and the sanctuary will be destroyed a second time. Further, the end of the temple and city would be by a flood as well as war and desolations. You may understand war and desolations, that is, to make desolate, but what of the flood? Isaiah 59:19 reveals, “*So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.*” This fits with the Biblical definition of water used in prophecy.

Revelation 17:15 says, “*And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*” So, during a war, the place will be made desolate via a flood of enemy soldiers. Jesus foresaw this and warned His followers. Matthew 24:15-20 states, “*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:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that*

are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day.” This, by the way, occurred in 70 AD. “Roman General Titus lays siege to Jerusalem destroying inhabitants, city, and Temple. The Temple is---set afire.” *Encyclopedia of the Orient*. “70, Tenth of Av (Thursday, August 30). The Temple of Jerusalem is destroyed. Jerusalem is taken by Titus. The War effectively ends.” (Josephus - First Century Historian).

The short of it is that the Roman soldiers surrounded the city like a flood. The Christians remembered what Jesus said and they got ready to flee. For some unknown reason, the Romans pulled back; the Christians fled; within a week the Romans came back and made the place desolate including the temple. All that dry wood in the temple burned so hot that the gold just ran down into the crevices. After the temple cooled off, the Romans came back and fulfilled another prediction that Jesus made. Luke 21:5-6 stated, “*And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said, [As for] these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*” These soldiers removed every stone of the temple so as to get to the gold. The temple to be destroyed was the one they were beholding, in other words, that physically existed in 33 A.D., which was the rebuilt one.

Further Biblical support for this

understanding is in Luke 21:20, which says, *“And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.”*

Now the next verse tells us more details about the death of our Lord and this timeline. Daniel 9:27 says, *“And he 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.”*

Did Jesus confirm the covenant? Galatians 3:17 says so: *“And this I say, [that] the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.”*

Since Jesus had to keep the covenant with the Jews while He walked on this earth, that explains why He said, *“These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into [any] city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”* (Matthew 10:5-6).

How close are we in understanding this prophecy? Matthew 18:21-22 says, *“Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.”* Peter thought he was doing a

good thing by forgiving someone seven times. But notice Jesus’ answer – Seventy times seven. Jesus could have picked any combination of numbers, but of all the numbers, He chose *seventy times seven*, which equals four hundred and ninety. Notice also that Jesus did not qualify the quantity in any way but left it open. Why? To draw those with an honest heart seeking truth to look back to the seventy-week prophecy. Jesus explains that it is a continuous period of time coming to a close very soon. In fact, it came to a close only three and a half years after the crucifixion.

How did Jesus cause the sacrifices to cease? Matthew 27:50-51 tells us, *“Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.”* God the Father showed them that the sacrifices ceased by tearing the curtain from the top to the bottom.

According to Daniel 9:27, the temple, especially regarding the sacrifices, will remain desolate until the “*consummation*” which means COMPLETION, TERMINATION, FULL END, COMPLETE DESTRUCTION, CONSUMPTION, and ANNIHILATION according to the *Bible Lexicon*.

What is remaining of the 2,300-year prophecy? Well, take 2,300 years for the prophecy and subtract the 490 years that were for the Jews. That leaves 1,810 years for “that other nation” that Jesus spoke of (Matthew 21:43), which is the Gentiles. Add that to 34 AD and you come to the year 1844, which is when the

sanctuary began to be cleansed and we entered into the TIME OF THE END when Jesus began judging, thus fulfilling the feast of Atonement.

How sure are we that God has waited until a specific time to judge? Daniel 7:9-10 reveals, *“I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment [was] white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne [was like] the fiery flame, [and] his wheels [as] burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.”* The judgment did not begin, according to these verses. The courtroom is placed on hold. It states that it was ready with books open, but it reached a SET position or waiting time. That is to say, it waited until the 2,300-day prophecy was fulfilled.

Further, we studied in an earlier lesson regarding the feast days. In that lesson, we discovered that the second coming and judgment are two separate events and that the judgment precedes the second coming (Revelation 14:7 compared to Revelation 14:14). The year 1844 definitely precedes the second coming.

Additionally, the feast days from Leviticus include a period of ten days preceding the Day of Atonement or Judgment at which time is a warning to the people of the impending event known as the feast of trumpets (Leviticus 23:24). That event happened right on time, and

since Jesus literally fulfilled all the other feasts prior to that one and we have faith that Jesus will return again to fulfill the last feast of Ingathering, then we ought to believe that Jesus began the sixth feast right on time too.

What has been happening since 1844? The process of cleaning the books has been in session. This is denoted in Revelation 3:5, which says, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." The Heavenly books, as we studied in *Revelation's Book of Life*, are being reviewed. In this process, the sins that have been confessed are blotted out of the Book of Remembrance while those who choose to serve sin have their names removed from the Book of Life.

It is true that Jesus' death on the cross made full atonement for our sins, but He cannot apply it to people until two events occur: their birth and their death. Birth you can understand seeing prior to it, the blood could not be used to wash away any sins since no sin has occurred. But do you understand why the blood cannot be applied until after death? Hebrews 9:27 states, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." It is because the Bible says so. All confessed sins are permanently removed by Jesus' own blood upon death.

But what about those who are living when Jesus appears the second time? Revelation 22:11-12 says, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which

is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward [is] with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." At some point, all the living will be instantly judged and will not be able to switch sides after which, Jesus will return with his reward.

Was This the Only Understanding of Daniel 8:14?

Revelation 10:1-2 says, "And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow [was] upon his head, and his face [was] as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and [his] left [foot] on the earth." Now what does water mean in prophecy? Revelation 17:15 tells us, "And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." And the earth being the opposite of water would be the non-populated places of the world. In other words, the angel has a message for the whole world.

What is that message? It is a little book that would be opened in the last days. What little book of the Bible would be closed specifically until the last days? Daniel 12:4, 9 identifies, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, [even] to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words [are] closed up and sealed till the time of the end."

What was to be done with it? Revelation 10:3-6 goes on to say, "And cried with a loud voice, as [when] a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer." Thunder usually is associated with warnings. So, a warning message was uttered yet not recorded. In the meantime, the angel specifies that the message focuses on "that there should be time no longer."

What prophecy in the book of Daniel speaks of no more time? Daniel 8:14 tells us, "And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Are we sure? Daniel 8:19 states, "And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end [shall be]." That seems quite clear. If one deciphers the 2,300-day prophecy, they will be able to pinpoint the end of the world, in other words, the second coming.

That is why it was so important to know the difference between the TIME OF THE END and END OF TIME.

What else does God reveal? Revelation 10:7-10 continues with, "*But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go [and] take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take [it], and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.*"

What does the honey represent? According to Psalms 119:103, it says, "*How sweet are thy words unto my taste! [yea, sweeter] than honey to my mouth!*" And the greatest words that would be so sweet is what is contained in verse 7, "*when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished.*" The message is that God is about to wrap things up.

Notice how the message will be received. "*It was in my mouth sweet as honey.*" At first, it would be received as sweet words. Finally, the time has come! But notice what happens soon afterwards. "*And as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.*" The message would become a great disappointment.

But the prophecy does not stop there. Notice the last verse, which is very significant. Revelation 10:11 reveals, "*And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.*" The

message of the 2,300 days must be properly taken to every nation once again.

Today, some people believe the message and understand the prophecy. Others simply ignore it. The correct message is that the heavenly sanctuary is being cleansed since 1844, referring to the books of record. Jesus entered the Most Holy place of heaven and is performing what is known as the investigative judgment.

But those that thought Jesus was coming in their day are not alone. Even the apostles made that mistake. Acts 1:6 says, "*When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*"

May God bless you and keep you and may you feel His loving mercy when you need it most.

