

## Lesson 10 - When Is the Start of the Investigation?

1. What building is the focus at the start of the seven last plagues? **Revelation 15:8**

**EGW:** No comment

2. Where is that building? **Psalms 11:4**

**EGW:** The greatness of God is to us incomprehensible. "The Lord's throne is in heaven" (Psalm 11:4); yet by His Spirit He is everywhere present. He has an intimate knowledge of, and a personal interest in, all the works of His hand. {Ed 132.2}

3. What is in the temple? **Revelation 11:19**

**EGW:** Christ sent His angel from heaven to teach John the Revelator in regard to the message that must be understood by us,—a message of warning that concerns all who live in the last days of this earth's history. We are to study the testing message given for this time. John declares: "The temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the ark of His testament." This ark contains God's law, the ten commandments. A knowledge of this law is of great consequence to all who have light and to all who minister in word and doctrine. {BTS, July 1, 1903 par. 5}

4. What part of the temple contains that item? **Hebrews 9:3-4**

**EGW:** In their investigation they learned that there is no Scripture evidence sustaining the popular view that the earth is the sanctuary; but they found in the Bible a full explanation of the subject of the sanctuary, its nature, location, and services; the testimony of the sacred writers being so clear and

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ample as to place the matter beyond all question. The apostle Paul, in the Epistle to the Hebrews, 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 show-bread; which is called the sanctuary. 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 cherubim of glory shadowing the mercy-seat." [Hebrews 9:1-5.] {GC88 411.1}

5. What was conducted on earth by Levite ministers that represents what is done in Heaven? **1**

**Chronicles 16:4**

**EGW:** Remember, a record is made of all your acts. You must meet again the most secret things of your life. You will be judged according to the deeds done in the body. Are you prepared for this? You are injuring yourself physically and morally. {2T 564.4}

6. What needs to happen to our record of sin before allowance into Heaven? **1 John 1:7, 9**

**EGW:** As the sins of the people were anciently transferred, in figure, to the earthly sanctuary by the blood of the sin-offering, so our sins are, in fact, transferred to the heavenly sanctuary by the blood of Christ. And as the typical cleansing of the earthly was accomplished by the removal of the sins by which it had been polluted, so the actual cleansing of the heavenly is to be accomplished by the removal, or blotting out, of the sins which are there recorded. This necessitates an examination of the books of record to determine who, through repentance of sin and faith in Christ, are entitled to the benefits of his atonement. The cleansing of the sanctuary therefore involves a work of investigative Judgment. This work must be performed prior to the coming of Christ to redeem his people; for when he comes, his reward is with him to give to every man according to his works. [Revelation 22:12.] {4SP 266.1}

7. What is the process of removing all confessed sins from the books in the temple referred to as?

**Ezekiel 45:18**

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**EGW:** The blood of the Son of God was symbolized by the blood of the slain victim, and God would have clear and definite ideas preserved between the sacred and the common. Blood was sacred, inasmuch as through the shedding of the blood of the Son of God alone could there be atonement for sin. Blood was also used to cleanse the sanctuary from the sins of the people, thus typifying the blood of Christ which alone can cleanse from sin. The fat was to be used in sacrificial offerings with the beasts, but in no case was it a suitable article of food. If used, disease would be the sure result. {ST, July 15, 1880 par. 11}

8. Prophetically speaking, when was this process to be performed in Heaven? **Daniel 8:14**

**EGW:** In explaining Daniel 8:14, "Unto two thousand and three hundred days, then shall the sanctuary be cleansed," Miller, as has been stated, adopted the generally received view that the earth is the sanctuary, and he believed that the cleansing of the sanctuary represented the purification of the earth by fire at the coming of the Lord. When, therefore, he found that the close of the 2300 days was definitely foretold, he concluded that this revealed the time of the second advent. His error resulted from accepting the popular view as to what constitutes the sanctuary. {GC88 352.1}

In the typical system,—which was a shadow of the sacrifice and priesthood of Christ,—the cleansing of the sanctuary was the last service performed by the high priest in the yearly round of ministration. It was the closing work of the atonement,—a removal or putting away of sin from Israel. It prefigured the closing work in the ministration of our High Priest in Heaven, in the removal or blotting out of the sins of his people, which are registered in the heavenly records. This service involves a work of investigation, a work of judgment; and it immediately precedes the coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory; for when he comes, every case has been decided. Says Jesus, "My reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." [Revelation 22:12.] It is this work of judgment, immediately preceding the second advent, that is announced in the first angel's message of Revelation 14:7: "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his Judgment is come." {GC88 352.2}

9. To help us understand the long-time prophecy, what sub (smaller) time prophecy is provided? **Daniel 9:24**

**EGW:** "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city. . . . 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,

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and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself. . . . 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.” {GC88 325.3}

The angel had been sent to Daniel for the express purpose of explaining to him the point which he had failed to understand in the vision of the eighth chapter, the statement relative to time,—“Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” {GC88 326.1}

10. What wording connects the long-time prophecy with the shorter one? **Daniel 8:27, Daniel 9:21-24**

**EGW:** The angel had been sent to Daniel for the express purpose of explaining to him the point which he had failed to understand in the vision of the eighth chapter, the statement relative to time,—“Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” After bidding Daniel “understand the matter, and consider the vision,” the very first words of the angel are, “Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city.” The word here translated “determined,” literally signifies “cut off.” Seventy weeks, representing 490 years, are declared by the angel to be cut off, as specially pertaining to the Jews. But from what were they cut off? As the 2300 days was the only period of time mentioned in chapter eight, it must be the period from which the seventy weeks were cut off; the seventy weeks must therefore be a part of the 2300 days, and the two periods must begin together. The seventy weeks were declared by the angel to date from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem. If the date of this commandment could be found, then the starting-point for the great period of the 2300 days would be ascertained. {GC88 326.1}

11. What is the last event listed that is to happen within the seventy weeks? **End of Daniel 9:24**

**EGW:** No comment

12. What or who is that action pointing to? **Luke 4:14-19, Mark 1:15, Mark 1:24**

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**EGW:** The burden of Christ's preaching was, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel." Thus the gospel message, as given by the Saviour Himself, was based on the prophecies. The "time" which He declared to be fulfilled was the period made known by the angel Gabriel to Daniel. "Seventy weeks," said the angel, "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." Daniel 9:24. {DA 233.1}

13. Clearly the amount of time between the giving of Daniel's vision and the actual anointing of Jesus is more than a literal period of seventy weeks, especially given Daniel's reaction of fainting and worry (Daniel 8:27). What does the time represent? **Numbers 14:34, Ezekiel 4:6**

**EGW:** A day in prophecy stands for a year. See Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6. The seventy weeks, or four hundred and ninety days, represent four hundred and ninety years. {PK 698.1}

14. What event starts the timeline? **Daniel 9:25**

**EGW:** A starting point for this period is given: "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" (Daniel 9:25), sixty-nine weeks, or four hundred and eighty-three years. {PK 698.1}

15. When was the command completely given to start the rebuilding? **Ezra 6:14, Ezra 7:12-20**

**EGW:** The commandment to restore and build Jerusalem, as completed by the decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus, went into effect in the autumn of 457 B.C. See Ezra 6:14; 7:1, 9.

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16. Specifically, what event is to occur at the end of the sixty-nine weeks (7 weeks + 3 score or 3x20 weeks + 2 weeks) regarding Jesus? **Daniel 9:25**

**EGW:** From this time four hundred and eighty-three years extend to the autumn of A.D. 27. According to the prophecy, this period was to reach to the Messiah, the Anointed One. In A.D. 27, Jesus at His baptism received the anointing of the Holy Spirit and soon afterward began His ministry. Then the message was proclaimed, "The time is fulfilled." Mark 1:15. {PK 698.1}

17. What was to happen to the Messiah after the sixty-nine weeks (referenced by simply pointing to the "threescore and two weeks" being the tail end of the whole prophecy of "seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks")? **Daniel 9:26**

**EGW:** Christ came to this world just as the Old Testament Scriptures foretold that He would come, but notwithstanding this, He was misapprehended and misjudged. The Pharisees were filled with a frenzy of hatred against Him, because they could see that His teaching had a power and an attractiveness of which their words were utterly devoid. They decided that the only way to cut off His influence was to pass sentence of death upon Him, and therefore they sent officers to take Him. But when these officers came within hearing of His voice, and listened to His gracious words, they were charmed into forgetting their errand. . . . {CTr 234.2}

They preached the message which Christ had committed to them, though they themselves misapprehended its meaning. While their announcement was founded on Daniel 9:25, they did not see, in the next verse of the same chapter, that Messiah was to be cut off. {GC88 345.2}

18. How was the Messiah actually cut off? **Matthew 20:18, Matthew 26:66**

**EGW:** The time of Christ's coming, His anointing by the Holy Spirit, His death, and the giving of the gospel to the Gentiles, were definitely pointed out. It was the privilege of the Jewish people to

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understand these prophecies, and to recognize their fulfillment in the mission of Jesus. Christ urged upon His disciples the importance of prophetic study. Referring to the prophecy given to Daniel in regard to their time, He said, "Whoso readeth, let him understand." Matthew 24:15. After His resurrection He explained to the disciples in "all the prophets" "the things concerning Himself." Luke 24:27. The Saviour had spoken through all the prophets. "The Spirit of Christ which was in them" "testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow." 1 Peter 1:11. {DA 234.1}

19. According to prophecy, who did the Messiah not die for? **Daniel 9:26**

**EGW:** While the death of Christ appeared to be a hellish triumph over His humanity, it was a victory so full and broad and deep that it encompassed the world. Christ was cut off, but not for Himself. He died the just for the unjust, that He might bring many sons and daughters to God. Tho innocent and undeserving of punishment, our Substitute and Surety was brought under the curse and condemnation that should have been ours. He, the perfection of holiness, was arrayed in our defiled garments, that we might be clothed with His glorious righteousness. {ST, December 8, 1898 par. 1}

20. Who did the Messiah actually die for then? **2 Corinthians 5:15, Galatians 1:4, 1 John 2:2**

**EGW:** When, in consequence of transgression, Adam and Eve were cut off from all hope, when justice demanded the death of the sinner, Christ gave Himself as a sacrifice. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." 1 John 4:10; Isaiah 53:6. {CT 268.2}

21. What is confirmed by the Messiah during the last week of prophetic time (7 years)? **Beginning of Daniel 9:27**

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**EGW:** Then, said the angel, "He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week [seven years]." For seven years after the Saviour entered on His ministry, the gospel was to be preached especially to the Jews; for three and a half years by Christ Himself; and afterward by the apostles. {DA 233.2}

22. How was the covenant confirmed? **Galatians 3:17, Luke 1:72**

**EGW:** "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week." The "week" here brought to view is the last one of the seventy; it is the last seven years of the period allotted especially to the Jews. During this time, extending from A. D. 27 to A. D. 34, Christ, at first in person, and afterward by his disciples, extended the gospel invitation especially to the Jews. As the apostles went forth with the good tidings of the kingdom, the Saviour's direction was, "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.] {GC88 327.2}

23. What was to happen in the middle of the week of prophetic time? **Middle of Daniel 9:27**

**EGW:** "In the midst of the week He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease." Daniel 9:27. In the spring of A. D. 31, Christ the true sacrifice was offered on Calvary. {DA 233.2}

24. What was done to confirm that those things ceased? **Matthew 27:50-51**

**EGW:** Then the veil of the temple was rent in twain, showing that the sacredness and significance of the sacrificial service had departed. The time had come for the earthly sacrifice and oblation to cease. {DA 233.2}

25. What would the Messiah make of the "overspreading of abominations"? **Rest of Daniel 9:27**

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**EGW:** No comment

26. How did Jesus accomplish that? **Matthew 23:37-38**

**EGW:** When Christ, near the close of His earthly ministry, looked for the last time upon the interior of the temple, He said, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Matthew 23:38. Hitherto He had called the temple His Father's house; but as the Son of God passed out from those walls, God's presence was withdrawn forever from the temple built to His glory. {AA 145.2}

27. With Jesus dying, rising, and ascending during the last prophetic week of time (7 years), what event concludes the seventy-week prophetic prophecy? **Acts 7:59-60, Acts 8:4**

**EGW:** The one week--seven years--ended in A. D. 34. Then by the stoning of Stephen the Jews finally sealed their rejection of the gospel; the disciples who were scattered abroad by persecution "went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4); and shortly after, Saul the persecutor was converted, and became Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles. {DA 233.3}

28. Not using coincidence, what purposeful numeric reference does Jesus state that refers to the seventy-week prophetic prophecy? **Matthew 18:21-22** [Please note that Jesus does not provide the measure to the number leaving it purposely obscure for those that know the prophecy of Daniel 9 having 70 weeks times 7 days in a week, prophetically speaking.]

**EGW:** Christ has died to save souls, and those who wear the yoke with Him will be copartners with Him, and will act in a Christlike manner. When a soul is in spiritual danger and falls from error into sin, such an one will not push him away, drive him to take desperate positions, and discourage him in every effort

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he may make to recover himself. Peter asked, "Lord, how often 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" [Matthew 18:21, 22]. This is to make manifest the fact that there is no limit to the forgiving love of Christ. {21MR 180.1}

29. With the seventy-week prophecy confirmed by Jesus being anointed right on time, Jesus being cut off right on time, the temple sacrifices no longer being accepted in Heaven right on time, and with Stephen being stoned to death causing Christians to spread the gospel beyond the borders of Israel right on time, what is the concluding year of the twenty-three-hundred prophetic day prophecy?

**EGW:** At the expiration of this period, the nation sealed its rejection of Christ by the persecution of His disciples, and the apostles turned to the Gentiles, A.D. 34. The first 490 years of the 2300 having then ended, 1810 years would remain. From A.D. 34, 1810 years extend to 1844. "Then," said the angel, "shall the sanctuary be cleansed." {FLB 208.3}

30. What did God appoint would happen on a specific day? **Romans 2:16, Acts 17:31**

**EGW:** Then since the Lord is working through his own divine agency upon the hearts of those whom we would term hopeless subjects, let not man be officious, let him stand out of the way of God's work; for his word that goeth forth from his mouth, will accomplish its appointed work, and prosper in the thing whereunto it is sent. Let not man set himself up as judge of his brethren; for God "hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." "And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead." "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at naught thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment-seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling-block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son. . . . For as the Father hath life in himself, so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; and hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man." {RH, January 3, 1893 par. 5}