

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

TEACHING SERIES ON THE PROPHET DANIEL

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PART 9: DANIEL'S PRAYER FOR ISRAEL

PLACING GOD'S MEN IN HISTORICAL ORDER

It is impossible to understand the different books of the Old Testament unless we know the timeline of God's prophets and leaders. Let's take a look at the following men:

ISAIAH

Isaiah lived in Jerusalem from 783 B.C. to approximately 690 B.C. and lived for more than 90 years. According to Jewish historical tradition, he was sawn asunder after King Manasseh came to power (**Hebrews 11:37**). Isaiah died 86 years before Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem and took Daniel and thousands of Jews captive to Babylon. Isaiah never saw the fall of Jerusalem in his lifetime.

JEREMIAH

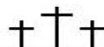
Jeremiah began his ministry in 626 B.C., approximately 64 years after the death of Isaiah. He was born and raised in the city of Anathoth, 3 miles northeast of Jerusalem. When Jeremiah was persecuted in this city, he moved to Jerusalem, where his national ministry was birthed and where he stayed. When Nebuchadnezzar stormed Jerusalem in 587-86 B.C., Jeremiah was given a choice of going to Babylon or staying in Jerusalem. He made the choice to stay in Jerusalem. For 40 years, his ministry consisted of warning and calling the people to repentance with no success. When the remaining people in Jerusalem rebelled and wanted to move to Egypt, they took Jeremiah with them by force, and according to Jewish historical tradition, he died in Egypt when he was stoned by the Jews. It is not known what year Jeremiah died.

EZEKIEL

Ezekiel was part of Jews from Jerusalem who were taken captive in 597 B.C. and settled on the banks of Chebar, a river or canal in Babylonia. Therefore, he lived during the same time period as Jeremiah and Daniel, but in a different location. God had placed one prophet in Jerusalem, another in Babylon, and a third one in the countryside of Babylonia. The last recorded year available in his life is 575 B.C., which means he had a ministry of at least 22 years. The Bible records that Ezekiel was married but his wife died before he did.

ZERUBBABEL

The first group of Jews to return from Babylon took place in 550 B.C., 36 years after the fall of Jerusalem, and 54 years after Daniel had been taken to Babylon.



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Zerubbabel was the leader of this first group that numbered 42,360 men, women and children. **Ezra 1:1-2:70**

EZRA

Ezra was born into captivity at Babylon, and 127 years after the fall of Jerusalem (459 B.C.), he led a second group of Jews to Jerusalem. He was most likely part of the second generation of Jews who had been taken captive. This second group of Jews arrived in Jerusalem 91 years after the first group.

NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah was the cupbearer for King Artaxerxes of Persia, and the story told in the Bible took place 446 B.C., 104 years after the first group had arrived in Jerusalem. **Nehemiah 2:1-6**

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S PURPOSE WITH ISRAEL

- Christian Zionists have made the Jewish people into a "Golden Calf," trying to bring Jews to Israel and help them to rebuild the temple.
- God's plan from the time of Adam and Eve was to bring his Son into the world to pay the atonement for the sins of all people through the ages so that men could be saved.
- God did not bring the Jews back from Babylon to help them rebuild an earthly kingdom and rule all gentiles; He brought them back so they could prepare the land of Israel to receive the Messiah and bring salvation to all nations.
- Isaiah was given a prophecy before the fall of both Jerusalem and its conqueror Babylon; King Cyrus, who was not even alive at the time, would allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem. **Isaiah 45:1-25**

DANIEL CHAPTER NINE

- Daniel tells us that his prayer and vision took place in the first year of the reign of King Darius. Since Darius did not consolidate his grip on the throne until 518 B.C., we cannot tell if this event took place at 521 or 518 B.C.
- It is important to know that some 32 years after the first exiles returned to Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel, Daniel was concerned about the city of Jerusalem. Even if 42,360 Jews had moved back, the city and countryside of Judah were still a wasteland with the majority of the Jews still living in Babylon, 68 years after the fall of Jerusalem. **Daniel 9:1-2; Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10**
- Jeremiah spoke the prophecy found in **Chapter 25** in 604 B.C.

THE PRAYER

This is a model prayer on how to pray for a nation which is living in sin. Daniel identified himself with the Jewish people, even if he was not guilty of the sins the leadership and the people were committing. **Daniel 9:3-19**

THE RESPONSE FROM GOD

This time, the angel Gabriel came to Daniel while he was still praying. **verses 20-23**

THE INTERPRETATION

- ❑ Gabriel gave a time measurement but did not provide the conversion rate to earth time. This verse is a double prophecy because God had told Jeremiah that it would be 70 years of devastation before the rebuilding of Jerusalem would begin. Therefore, we know that in this instance, a week represents one rotation around the sun. In this verse we also find that Gabriel talks about the coming Messiah who would reconcile mankind to God. Historically we know that the birth of Jesus took place 511 years after Daniel prayed this prayer and that his crucifixion and resurrection took place 33 years after his birth. **verse 24**
- ❑ Gabriel sets the time to 69 weeks, which means that each week spoken by Gabriel comes to around 7.41 years. I have arrived at this number by looking at the fact that King Darius had consolidated his reign by 518 B.C. If you then take away 7 seven years, it would equal 511 years till the birth of Jesus. I am using the date 7 B.C for the birth of Jesus, since there was a calendar problem in setting the birth of Jesus to year 0. If you then take 511 and divide it by Gabriel's 69 weeks, we arrive at 7.41 years per week. **verse 25**
- ❑ Gabriel set the time to 62 weeks before the Messiah would be cut off (killed). We know that Jesus spent 33 years on this earth from his birth until his death on the cross, which means that a week in this verse also equals 0.53 years. **verse 26**
- ❑ Jerusalem was totally destroyed in 70 A.D. by the Roman General Titus. The conclusion I am drawing from all this is that God purposely set time frames in such a way that man could not figure out exactly when things would take place. This is consistent with **Daniel 12:7**.
- ❑ Gabriel tells us that the Antichrist will confirm his covenant with the princes of this world for one week and break it in the middle. John Darby and Cyrus Scofield have twisted this verse and set the tribulation time described in the book of Revelation to seven earth years. **verse 27; Revelation 17:12-13**

CONCLUSION

As far as I am concerned, the Bible tells us what is going to happen, but not necessarily when it's going to happen. I became a Dispensationalist by default when I joined a Southern Baptist Church in 1966. It was not until Gordon Ginn challenged me in 1979 on this subject that I began to rethink and investigate the subject. It has taken me some 27 years to come to the conclusion that I do not have a clue as to when events are going to take place and how long each event will last. My personal understanding is that the tribulation period will last for some 41 earth years. I can only repeat the words of Jesus. **Matthew 24:36**