

This week we will study about a prophecy that connects Babylon, the rebuilding of Jerusalem, and Jesus' sacrifice.



Torchlight

*"In the spring of A.D. 31, Christ, the true Sacrifice, was offered on Calvary. Then the veil of the temple was torn, showing that the time had come for the earthly sacrifices to end."
– Royalty and Ruin p. 245*

A Glorious Prophecy



SUNDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, I ask that the Holy Spirit give me understanding in the things we will study this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JUDE 1:24

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.”

THERE'S POWER IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Daniel 9:1–2

KEY TEXT: Daniel 9:2

“In the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

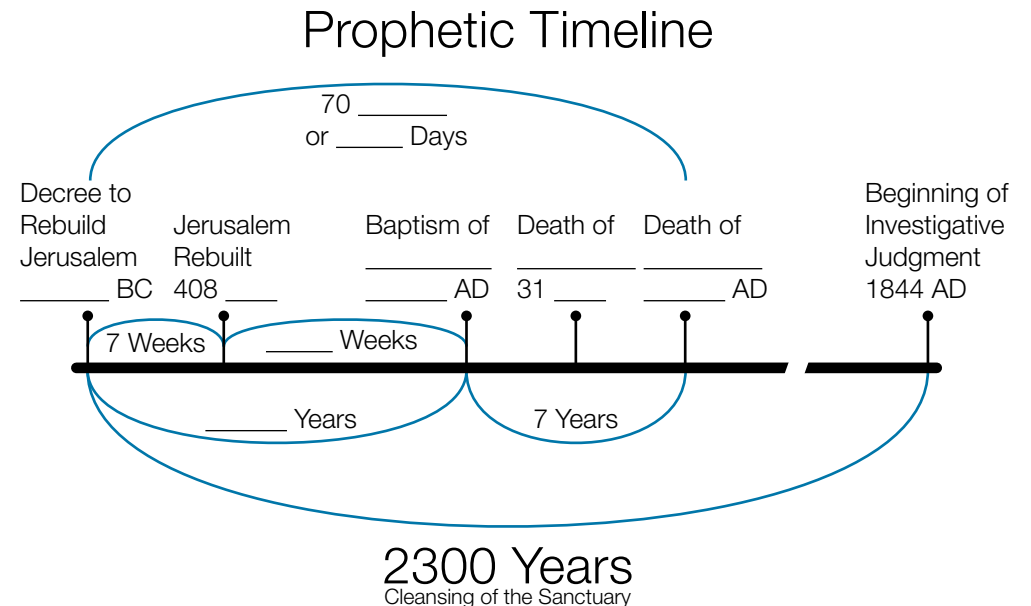
Let's finish looking at the 70 weeks prophecy. In Daniel 9:27 the angel Gabriel said, “Then He shall confirm a covenant with many for one week”. That week is the one during which Jesus died.

But what happened after Jesus died? Half the week was still left. The week ended when Stephen was stoned by the priests. That event marked the end of God's patience with the Jews. They had rejected His Messiah and the persecution of Christians in Jerusalem began. Now, Jesus' followers scattered and took the Gospel to the Gentiles, or non-Jews.

Our verses today remind us that all prophecy must be interpreted according to God's inspiration, not by what we would like it to say. True prophets are inspired by the Holy Spirit and He is the One who is to lead us into ALL truth (John 16:13) because He alone can interpret what He has inspired. Make sure you ask Him to lead you every time you read the Bible.

KEEPING THE TIME

Complete the prophetic timeline by filling in the blank spaces which are underlined. See how many you can remember, or look back through the lesson.





SABBATH

LET'S PRAY Father in Heaven, thank You that Your timing is perfect.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JUDE 1:24

“ _____ who _____ to _____ from
_____, and _____
_____ of _____ with _____.”

THERE'S POWER IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Peter 1:20–21

KEY TEXT: 2 Peter 1:21

“For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Daniel was still in captivity in Babylon, but now under the rule of Darius. The first year of Darius as ruler of Babylon began in 539 BC. Therefore, Daniel and his fellow Israelites had already been in Babylon for at least 65 years.

What book was Daniel talking about in verse 2? When Judah first went into captivity in Babylon, Jeremiah, the prophet in Jerusalem, was giving God's messages to His people. Jeremiah's book was the one that Daniel said helped him understand “the years”. What did Jeremiah say about years? “For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place” Jeremiah 29:10.

So, if Daniel and his people had been in Babylon for at least 65 years, Daniel now understood that the 70 years of captivity was almost over! How amazing it would have been to him to realise this, especially now that he was around 80 years of age.

CYRUS STIRRED UP OVER CAPTIVITY

Find the texts in your Bible and fill in the missing words:

Jeremiah 25:11, 12

“And this whole land shall be a _____ and an _____, and these nations shall serve the king of _____ _____. ‘Then it will come to pass, when _____ _____ are completed, that I will punish the king of _____ and that nation, the land of the _____, for their iniquity,’ says the LORD; ‘and I will make it a perpetual desolation’.”

2 Chronicles 36: 20, 21

“And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to _____, where they became _____ to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of _____, to _____ the word of the _____ by the mouth of _____, until the land had enjoyed her _____. As long as she lay desolate she kept _____, to _____.”

Ezra 1:1

“Now in the first year of _____ king of _____, that the word of the _____ by the mouth of _____ might be _____, the _____ stirred up the spirit of _____ king of _____, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his _____, and also put it in _____, ...”.





MONDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, I thank you that Jesus is my Saviour and that He died to save me from my sins. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JUDE 1:24

“ _____ who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Daniel 9:3–19

KEY TEXT: Daniel 9:17

“Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord's sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate.”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

This part of the prophecy deals with the last week of the 70 weeks. Remember that in verse 25 it says, “there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;”. The 7 weeks refers to the 49 years that it took to rebuild Jerusalem. Add to this the 62 weeks (v 26) and we come to the beginning of the final week of the 70, when Jesus was anointed as Messiah at His baptism.

We are told that the Messiah would be “cut off”, or killed, but not for Himself. He died for the rest of the world. Verse 27 tells us that, in the middle of the week, He would “bring an end to sacrifice and offering”. When Jesus died the big, heavy curtain that separated the Holy and Most Holy places of the temple in Jerusalem, was ripped from top to bottom. By this God showed that the sacrifice system in the earthly temple was now finished as the true Lamb of God, Jesus, had died.

These prophecies are so accurate that only God could have given them to Daniel. The rest of the elements in these verses refer to the Romans destroying the temple and the city in 70 A.D.

CROSS REFERENCE

Are you able to find the words that reference the cross?

A	B	C	L	A	M	B	D	E	F	G
X	N	S	M	O	E	L	I	F	E	P
Z	H	I	J	E	S	U	S	O	Q	R
C	O	N	F	E	S	S	J	R	Z	V
R	P	S	X	F	I	R	U	G	L	W
O	E	Z	Q	N	A	F	L	I	T	Y
S	T	Y	W	K	H	E	A	V	E	N
S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	C	B

CONFESS
CROSS
FORGIVE
HEAVEN
HOPE
JESUS
LAMB
LIFE
MESSIAH
SACRIFICE
SINS





FRIDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, I am thankful that Jesus is my Saviour.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JUDE 1:24

“ _____ who _____ to _____ from
_____, and _____
_____ of His glory with exceeding joy.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Daniel 9:26–27

KEY TEXT: Daniel 9:26–27

“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off,... then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. ...”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

After receiving the vision of chapter 8, Daniel had fainted, and was sick many days. He couldn't understand the vision but had not been told its meaning. Now, a few years later, Daniel read the book of Jeremiah, and the warnings that God's people had rejected. Daniel was distressed. He realised that the time to return to Judah was near but thought that, just maybe, the vision a few years earlier had been a warning to his people. Maybe they had been so sinful and unrepentant that God would not deliver them right now. Could the vision mean that they would be in Babylon for longer?

Daniel was horrified by the prospect and desperately wanted to understand the meaning of the vision. He prayed a deep, heart-felt prayer of repentance to God, asking for mercy and forgiveness for all God's people. What a beautiful, unselfish prayer!


Daniel is a great example of what we should do when we are concerned and worried about something and cannot see a good outcome. Turn to God in prayer and remember His promises.

WHEN WE REPENT GOD IS FAITHFUL TO FORGIVE

Draw a line to match the Bible reference with God's promise:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 2 Peter 3:9 | “in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” |
| Isaiah 43:25 | “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” |
| 1 John 1:9 | “The Lord is... longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” |
| Psalms 103:12 | “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.” |
| Colossians 1:14 | “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.” |





TUESDAY

LET'S PRAY Loving Father in heaven, I thank you that you help us unlock treasures in the Bible. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JUDE 1:24

“ _____ who _____ to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.”

THERE'S POWER IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Daniel 9:20–23

KEY TEXT: Daniel 9:22

“And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, ‘O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand.’”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Three decrees (commands) to restore Jerusalem were made by kings of Medo-Persia (Ezra 6:14), but only King Artaxerxes made a decree that fulfilled the prophecy in Daniel 9 (see Ezra 7:11–27 for the whole decree). King Artaxerxes made this decree in 457B.C., which means that this is our starting year.

B.C. means “Before Christ”, so this decree was made over 450 years before Jesus was born. A.D. is Latin for “anno domini”, meaning “in the year of our Lord”, or the years following Christ's birth.

From the starting year of 457B.C. ‘until Messiah the Prince’, takes us to 27A.D. If we add 483 years (69 weeks) to 457B.C. we come to 27A.D. (as there is no zero year between B.C. and A.D. we must add one year extra). At His baptism Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit as Messiah, the Prince (Luke 3: 21, 22). Luke 3:1, 2 tells us the exact year Jesus was baptised by John. We know from history that this was 27A.D. So, history confirms what the Bible predicted. God is very precise!

A TEST OF TIME

Let's test our understanding of prophecy. Write your answer in the squares.

How many literal years in 1 prophetic day?

How many literal years in 1 prophetic week?

How many literal years in 70 prophetic weeks?

Now, fill in the blank spaces.

Seven _____ and sixty two weeks = _____ weeks

1 prophetic _____ = 1 literal _____

1 _____ week = 7 prophetic days = 7 literal _____

7 + 62 = 69 prophetic _____ = 483 _____ years

457 B.C. + 69 _____ weeks = 27 _____. + 1 _____ remaining

27 A.D. + 1 prophetic _____ (7 literal _____) = 34 A.____.





THURSDAY

LET'S PRAY Lord, only You know the end from the beginning, so I leave my future in Your hands. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JUDE 1:24

“ _____ who _____ to _____ from _____, and _____ faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.”

THERE'S POWER IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Daniel 9:25

KEY TEXT: Daniel 9:25

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

As Daniel was earnestly praying, God was listening. As quick as a flash, while Daniel was yet praying, Gabriel came to him. In fact, as soon as Daniel started to pray God gave the command to Gabriel. Can you imagine how much this would have encouraged Daniel? Isaiah 65:24 says, “It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.”

Gabriel assured Daniel that he was greatly loved in Heaven. Gabriel also said he had come to give him understanding of the vision. This would have been such a relief to Daniel – to have explained that which was so troubling to him. God rejoices when we come to him in prayer.

Who is Gabriel? He's an angel who stands in the presence of God in Heaven (Luke 1:19). He visited Daniel, at least twice, and Zachariah, John the Baptist's father, as well as Mary before Jesus was born, and most likely Joseph in Matthew 1:20.

WHO SAID IT?

On the line beside each text, write the name of the person who spoke these words. Choose a name from the list below. Look up the text and check the verses around it if you need help.

Jesus Elijah David Paul Nehemiah Hannah

1 Samuel 1:27 _____

“For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him.”

1 Kings 17:21 _____

“O Lord my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him.”

Nehemiah 2:4 _____

“Then the king said to me, ‘What do you request?’ so I prayed to the God of heaven.”

Psalms 55:17 _____

“Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice.”

Matthew 21:22 _____

“And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

Philippians 4:6 _____

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”





WEDNESDAY

LET'S PRAY Lord, please clean me from all sin and keep me from stumbling. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JUDE 1:24

“ _____ who _____ to _____ from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Daniel 9:24

KEY TEXT: Daniel 9:24

“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

As we can see from verse 24, there are several things that take place within the 70 weeks. They all concern the Jews (your people) and Jesus (the Most Holy) coming as the long awaited Messiah. In fact, we will find out that this prophecy gives absolute proof that Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth right on time. No doubt about it! Also, God was giving the Jewish nation a final chance to turn from their rebellious ways and to follow God's ways, 'to finish the transgression' and 'make an end of [their] sins'.

We have already learned that a day in prophetic time equals one year, so we can assume that the 70 weeks refers to 490 years. The 70 weeks were "determined", or "cut off". The question is, cut off from what? We will discover that they were cut off from the larger time prophecy of 2,300 years (See Daniel 8:14)

Let's simplify this time period so we can understand it. In prophecy a day represents a year (Numbers 14:34 & Ezekiel 4:6). So, 1 prophetic day = 1 literal year. If 1 literal week = 7 literal days, then 1 prophetic week = 7 literal years. If 70 literal weeks = 490 days (70 weeks x 7 days), then 70 prophetic weeks = 490 literal years.

WHO SEALS THE VISION OF SEVENTY WEEKS?

Fill in the missing spaces from verse 24. Some letters are in squares. Rearrange those letters to see who the Most Holy is, and put your answer in the space provided. HINT: the answer has two words.

_____ weeks are _____
for your _____ and for your _____
To _____ the _____ _____
To make an _____ of _____
To make _____ _____ for _____
To bring in _____ _____ _____
To _____ up the _____ and _____
To _____ the _____

