

The best defense for the Bible is the internal witness of prophecy. The Bible invalidates itself if prophecies contained in it are false. (Deut. 13:14; 18:20-22; Matt. 7:15-20) There are over 300 fulfilled prophecies concerning Christ, one of the most fascinating is the one following in Daniel 9 which foretold the exact day Jesus would come into Jerusalem.

In this study we will attempt to prove that if the Jews had carefully sought out and followed the Scriptures, they could have know the EXACT DAY that Jesus came into Jerusalem, lowly and riding on a donkey. (Zech. 9:9; Lk. 9:28-40) Jesus was to be crucified a few days later on April 3rd, 33 A. D.

I. BACKGROUND TO THE PROPHECY

- A. They were exiled to Babylon because of disobedience. (Deut. 28)
- B. Daniel himself was a student of prophecy.
 - 1. He confessed his sins and those of the people.
 - 2. He knew the time of captivity was almost over. (Jer. 25:11, 12; 29:10)
 - 3. The seventy years was on his mind as he sought God.

II. JEWISH UNDERSTANDING OF THIS PROPHECY

- A. They knew it referred to the Messiah (or "a" messiah).
- B. They knew it referred to the first century A. D.
 - 1. Talmud Book of Nazer 32:B
- C. When Jerusalem fell in 70 A. D. they were confident the Messiah would intervene. (Zech. 14:5; 11:14)

III. WHAT THE PROPHECY DEALS WITH

- A. Two rulers (or princes)
 - 1. Messiah (Anointed one) vs 25
 - 2. Ruler to come (Anti-Christ) vs 26
- B. Time period of seventy weeks vs 9:24
 - 1. As unit vs 9:24
 - 2. As a division of three periods; seven weeks, 62 weeks and one week
 - 3. Specified beginning of the 70 weeks vs 25
 - 4. Messiah to appear at end of 69 weeks vs 25
 - 5. Destruction of city and sanctuary by prince to come (Anti-Christ)
 - 6. Covenant made between coming prince (Anti-Christ) and Israel is broken in the middle 9:27

IV. INTERPRETATION OF THE PROPHECY

- A. A number of things happen concerning Daniel's people (Jews) and the Holy City (Jerusalem).
 - 1. Finish Transgression
 - 2. Put an end to sin
 - 3. Atone for wickedness
 - 4. Bringing in everlasting righteousness
 - 5. To seal up (fulfill) vision and prophecy
 - 6. To anoint the Most Holy

- B. Meaning of the "Weeks"
 - 1. NIV translates it "sevens"
 - 2. The Hebrew word "Shabua" literally means "seven."
 - 3. Jacob served Laban "Shabua" for Leah and another "Shabua" for Rachel. (Gen. 29)
 - 4. Leviticus 25:8
 - 5. Daniel knew the Babylonian captivity was based on violation of the sabbath year and since they were in captivity 70 years, the sabbath year must have been violated for 490 years; (Lev. 26:32-35; II Chron. 36:21; Dan. 9:24) therefore, the prophecy deals with 70 sevens.

- C. Daniel was thinking in terms of 7's and 70's 9:1, 2.

- D. Daniel 12:11 makes 1/2 of a seven 1,290 days or 3-1/2 years. Conclusion - The 70 sevens are 70 seven year periods or 490 years. $70 \times 7 = 490$.

V. LENGTH OF A BIBLE YEAR

- A. Gen. 7:11 17th Day of 2nd month \

Five months

 Gen. 8:4 17th Day of 7th month /

- Gen 7:24 150 Days \

Five months

 Gen 8:3 150 Days /
- B. Tribulation period is seven years and calculations make a year have 360 days (Rev. 13:4-7; 12:13, 14; 12:6; Dan. 9:12; 7:24, 25). Therefore, we have 490 years of 360 day years.

VI. WHEN THE PERIOD BEGINS

- A. From the command to rebuild Jerusalem - 1st Nisan (March) 444 B. C. Artaxerzes commanded to Nehemiah (Neh. 2:1-8)

- B. Messiah will come after seven and 62 sevens which will bring us to 14th of Nisan (March) 33 A. D.

