

7

The Hour of His Judgment



“Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come” (Revelation 14:7).



An Amazing Fact: *Because it is far cheaper than incarceration, many courts are now opting for low-risk defendants to wear electronic ankle monitors while awaiting judgment. These durable devices use a GPS tracking system to constantly report a person's location.*

The convenience of technology comes at a price rarely considered. When you search for and buy a product online, do you start getting advertisements related to it? When you visit a new city, does your social media pop up promotions for restaurants or activities in that area? And, of course, the growing number of video cameras in homes, stores,

street corners, and satellites provide a nearly constant record of people's activity.

Let's face it: In our day and age, it's getting harder to keep anything secret.

But you may be surprised to find out that when it comes to God, that's not always a bad thing. God sees everything—He knows what you are doing, saying, and thinking (Hebrews 4:13). And the Bible promises that one day, He “will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

People often see such a judgment as scary—but this lesson will help you to understand it in a new light. Let's begin with a time prophecy introduced in Daniel chapter 8. In this chapter, the prophet Daniel was given a vision of Earth's timeline through the rise and fall of world powers that interacted with His people on Earth, the Israel nation.

The climax of the vision is all about God's final judgment and its relevance for your life today ...





When you see a blank, look up the passage in your Bible and write in the missing word.

1. Daniel's vision starts with a ram with two horns (Daniel 8:1-4). What does this ram represent?

Daniel 8:20. *The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of _____ and _____.*

ANSWER: The ram and its two horns are symbols for the joint kingdom of Medo-Persia, which ruled the world after Babylon fell

from power. (The Bible records how Babylon fell to the Medo-Persians in Daniel 5.) From Daniel 7, we learn that in matters of Bible prophecy, beasts represent kingdoms or nations (vv. 17, 23).

2. Next, Daniel saw a goat with a big horn (Daniel 8:5). What does this mean?

Daniel 8:21, 22. *The male goat is the kingdom of _____. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first _____. As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four _____ shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.*

ANSWER: The goat represents Greece, and the big horn its first ruler, Alexander the Great. True to the prophecy, Medo-Persia was succeeded by Greece (Daniel 8:5-7). History also records that Alexander died at the height of his power—again, just as Scripture foretold (v. 8).

The four horns represent Alexander's four generals, who divided the empire after his untimely demise. Horns symbolize power (Psalm 18:2; 89:17; Zechariah 1:19, 21) and, in Bible prophecy, represent kings or kingdoms.



3. Then “a little horn” sprouts up (Daniel 8:9). What power does it represent?

Luke 2:1. *It came to pass in those days that a decree went out from _____ Augustus that all the world should be registered.*

John 19:15. *Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but _____!”*

ANSWER: In his vision, Daniel sees a little horn persecuting God’s people (Daniel 8:10, 24) and even “the Prince,” Jesus Christ (vv. 11, 25; see also Acts 3:13–15). When Jesus walked on the earth, the world was run by

Caesars, the emperors of Rome. Christ lived under Roman rule and was crucified by the Roman government. History shows that Rome took power from Greece; thus, the little horn is Rome!

Read Daniel 8. Notice its emphasis on the little horn compared to the ram and goat, especially in its exploits against God. Rome was unique in that it transitioned between two forms: the pagan, growing horizontally under the Caesars (v. 9), and the papal, growing vertically

under the popes (v. 10). Pagan Rome murdered Christ and persecuted His followers. Papal Rome, distorting the true message of salvation, continued persecuting Christians for over a thousand years.

4. What time prophecy is introduced in the vision?

Daniel 8:14. *For _____ days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.*

ANSWER: After the little horn, the vision changes from what Daniel sees to what he hears. A question is asked and answered by two holy beings: “How long will the vision be?” (Daniel 8:13). The answer is the length of the longest time prophecy in the Bible—the 2,300 days. Remember, in Bible prophecy, one *prophetic* day equals one *literal* year (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6).



5. What happens at the end of the 2,300 prophetic days?

Daniel 8:14. For two thousand three hundred days; then the _____ shall be _____.

ANSWER: We've learned that the cleansing of the earthly sanctuary points to the cleansing of the heavenly—the final judgment! At the end of the 2,300 prophetic days, Jesus, our High Priest, enters heaven's most holy place (Hebrews 9:11, 12) to begin investigating—that is, judging—human beings.

This judgment is completed just before the Second Coming, at which point each individual is given the sentence of either eternal life or eternal death. Wow! That means the end of the 2,300 days is the beginning of the ultimate end! To know the starting point of this final judgment, we need to find out when the 2,300 prophetic days *begin* ...

6. In Daniel 9, Daniel is given another time prophecy (vv. 21–27). How is this time prophecy related to the 2,300 days?

Daniel 9:22–24. O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. ... Therefore consider the matter, and understand the _____: seventy weeks are _____ for your people and for your holy city.

ANSWER: Fifteen years later, Daniel is told the starting point of the 2,300 prophetic days! God sends the angel Gabriel again so the prophet can “understand the vision.” Which vision?

Let's go back to Daniel 8. The word “vision” is translated from one of two Hebrew words. *Hazon* refers to the entire vision (for example, vv. 1–3), while *mareh* refers specifically to the 2,300 days, “the *mareh* of the evenings and mornings” (v. 26). Now jump back to Daniel 9:23 and look up the original word used for “vision”—it's *mareh*.

Gabriel then explains the *mareh* by giving another time prophecy, called the 70-week, or the 490-day, prophecy. In the original Hebrew, the word “determined” means divided, cut off, or marked out. From what time



period is the 70 weeks marked out? None other than the time prophecy given in the *mareh*—the 2,300 days!

The angel then tells Daniel to start counting from a certain event (v. 25); in other words, the angel gives a *start date* for both the 70 weeks and the 2,300 days. This is the information needed to explain the *mareh*! Without this date, both prophecies lose their significance.

7. When is the start date of the 70-week and 2,300-day prophecies?

Daniel 9:25. *Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to _____ and build _____ until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks.*

ANSWER: The starting date given is the date when it was commanded to restore Jerusalem. The Jews' holy city had been destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC (2 Kings 25:1-10). History tells us that it was in the reign of the next ruling kingdom, Medo-Persia, that Jerusalem was rebuilt. Although there had been two previous efforts, it was Persian King Artaxerxes who, in 457 BC, issued the decisive decree that resulted in Jerusalem's complete restoration (Ezra 6:14; 7:7, 11-26).

8. What other important events are revealed from the start date of the 70-week prophecy?

Daniel 9:25. *From the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until _____ the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks.*



Daniel 9:26, 27. *After the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be _____, but not for Himself. ... 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.*

ANSWER: Hundreds of years before Jesus came to our world, His anointing was foretold in prophecy! “Messiah” is the Hebrew word for “Anointed”; the word “Christ” is the Greek equivalent. Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit at His baptism in AD 27, officially beginning His ministry as Messiah (Acts 10:37, 38).

But does this fit with the prophetic timeline? It does—remember that in Bible prophecy, one *prophetic* day equals one *literal* year. So, “Seven weeks and sixty-two weeks” add up to 69 weeks, or 483 *prophetic* days ($69 \times 7 = 483$), which equal 483 *literal* years. (See also Genesis 29:27.) The prophecy states that Messiah would be anointed 483 years after 457 BC, which, since there was no “0” year between 1 BC and AD 1, brings us to AD 27—when Christ was baptized and anointed! This is why Jesus, after His baptism, began preaching, “The time [the 69 weeks] is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand” (Mark 1:15).

The prophecy next foretold another crucial event in the life of Christ. Daniel 9:26, 27 reveals that “in the middle of the” last prophetic week of the 70—that is, three and a half years after the Messiah’s anointing—He would “be cut off.” Jesus was crucified in AD 31, three and a half years after His baptism, “not for Himself” but for us (Isaiah 53:5). Lastly, remember that Christ’s death as the sacrificial Lamb signaled the “end to sacrifice and offering” in the sanctuary service.

9. What happened at the end of the 70-week prophecy?

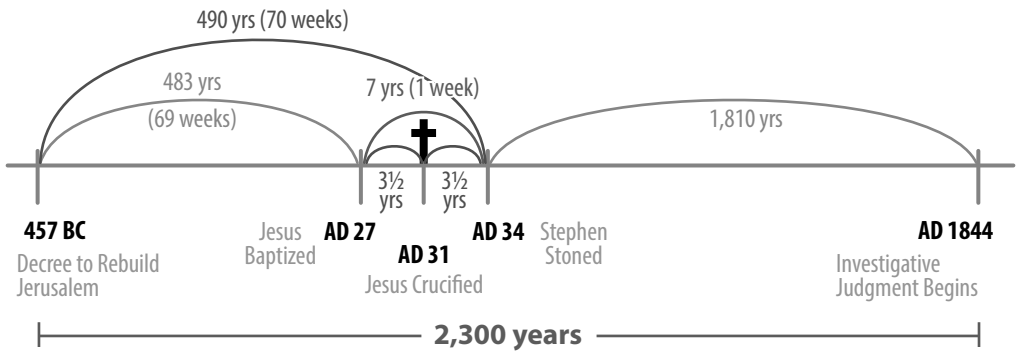
Daniel 9:24. *Seventy weeks are determined for _____ people and for _____ holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.*



ANSWER: Daniel was a Jew (Daniel 1:3, 6). Gabriel was referring to the Jews and Jerusalem.

Recall that the Jews made a covenant with God to be His “special treasure,” His chosen people representing His character to the world (Exodus 19:5). Sadly, despite God’s many mercies, they did not fulfill that role. In Daniel’s day, their rebellion against God resulted in their captivity and exile under Babylon and Persia (2 Chronicles 36:11–17; Daniel 1:1–6; 5:30–6:2).

Yet the 70-week prophecy revealed that God was still giving the children of Israel another chance—a 490-year opportunity to point the world to the coming Messiah. Even after the Jews ended up crucifying



Him (Acts 4:8–10), God gave them three and a half more years to repent in accordance with the 490 years allotted to them. But in AD 34, the end of the 70 prophetic weeks, the Jewish high court heard Stephen present Jesus as the Messiah, but they “stopped their ears” and ordered Stephen to be stoned (7:52–60). In this act, the nation of Israel failed in its role as God’s chosen people.

The privilege of being God’s chosen people was then expanded to all on Earth who believe in the name of Jesus, the “nation” of spiritual Israel (Romans 2:28, 29; Galatians 3:29; 1 Peter 2:9). As Christ foretold, “The kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it” (Matthew 21:43). However, the Bible also makes it clear that the door of salvation is always open to any Jewish individual (Romans 11).

10. On what date did the 2,300-day prophecy end?

Revelation 14:7. *Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment* _____

ANSWER: Since the 2,300 days is, like the 70 weeks, a time prophecy, we can apply the same year-for-a-day principle. Counting 2,300 years from the start date of 457 BC (remember to add an extra year between 1 BC and AD 1) brings us to AD 1844. In that year, Jesus began cleansing the heavenly sanctuary. That means



the judgment is going on right now! (See “The 2,300-Year Prophecy Timeline” at the end of this lesson.)

No wonder, then, that God’s last message to the world begins with the first angel’s announcement that the judgment is already here. The 2,300-day prophecy tells us the urgency of the time in which we live. If you desire to be saved, now is the time to accept the everlasting gospel (2 Corinthians 6:2).

11. What is “the pre-advent judgment”?

1 Peter 4:17. *For the time has come for judgment to begin at the _____ of _____.*

Daniel 7:10. *The court was seated, and the _____ were opened.*

James 2:12. *So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the _____ of liberty.*

ANSWER: The time from 1844 to the Second Coming is also known as “the pre-advent judgment.” As in any judgment, trial proceedings occur in a courtroom. “The books ... opened” during each trial is the evidence inspected; in them are recorded all the details of a person’s life (Psalm 56:8; Revelation 20:12).

During this time, only the cases of those who claim to be of “the house of God” are examined. This makes sense in that all others not professing faith in Jesus’ grace are already condemned (John 3:18). In rejecting His salvation, they have chosen to receive the only other option: the sentence of eternal death. Even so, the records of their lives are also fairly examined at another time, as we’ll learn in a later lesson.



As for those who claim Christ’s saving blood, they are judged from the open books by the standard of God’s law in order to prove their claims (2 Corinthians 5:10). Just because a person says he believes in Christ doesn’t mean he does: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven,” Christ said (Matthew 7:21). “You will know them by their fruits” (v. 16).

12. What is the good news of this pre-advent judgment?

1 John 2:1. *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an _____ with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

John 5:22. *For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the _____.*

Revelation 3:14. *These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True _____.*

ANSWER: With “every secret thing” you’ve done exposed in God’s courtroom (Ecclesiastes 12:14), you really have no hope as a sinner (Romans 3:23). But with Christ representing you, you can’t lose!

The 2,300-day prophecy assures us of this. Why else would God link this time prophecy with the 70-week one? Together, they reveal Christ’s complete advocacy for the human race. The 70-week prophecy shows Messiah’s coming to save humanity through His life and death and the role of spiritual Israel in sharing that good news with the world. The 2,300-day prophecy magnifies the same Messiah, who now pleads His blood in the most holy place for all who accept His free gift.

To any sinner being tried under the blood of Jesus, the final judgment is not scary—it is the means of receiving eternal life.

13. When you receive Jesus as your Lord, Savior, and Advocate, He promises to win your case in the judgment. Will you turn your life over to Him today?

Answer: _____





Lesson 7 Supplemental Material

Cleansing a Temple in Heaven and on Earth

The prophecy in Daniel 8:14 says, “For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.” We have learned that God has a sanctuary in heaven where Jesus intercedes as our Advocate and High Priest (Hebrews 8:1, 2). In the year 1844, Christ entered the final phase of His heavenly priestly ministry, which corresponds to the earthly Day of Atonement.

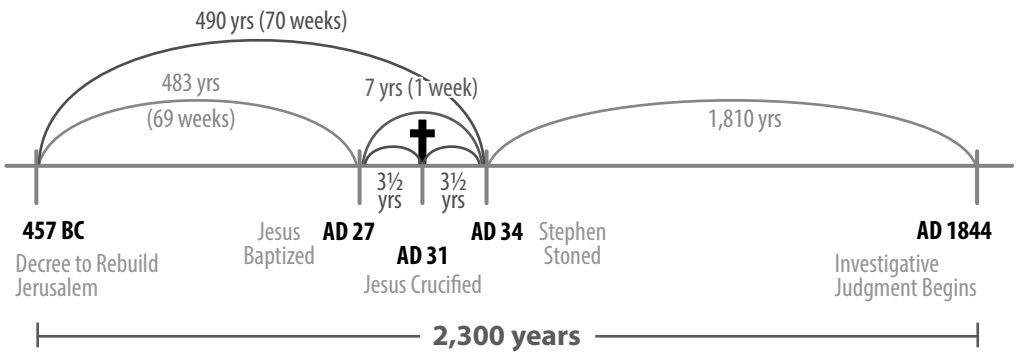
Yet the Bible also shows that Christ has a temple on Earth. When Jesus said, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up,” the Jewish leaders thought He was referring to the stone building. “But He was speaking of the temple of His body” (John 2:19–21)—a symbol of His church (1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:27).

The Bible affirms that “Jesus Christ Himself [is] the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:20–22, emphasis added). And, about His church, 1 Peter 2:5 says, “You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

As Christ began His special work of judgment and cleansing within the heavenly sanctuary, He also began a special work of cleansing His earthly sanctuary or church. Daniel foretold that the beast power

would “cast truth down to the ground” (Daniel 8:12). In 1844, Christ began a special movement of revival and cleansing to restore Bible truth to His church. God is raising up a people who will return to the teachings of the early apostles and reflect the character of their Savior (Jude 3). Of course, the devil hates this movement, which teaches *all* the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus (Revelation 12:17). That work continues to this day—and this same movement is bringing you these Bible studies!

The 2,300-Year Prophecy Timeline



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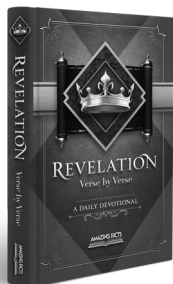
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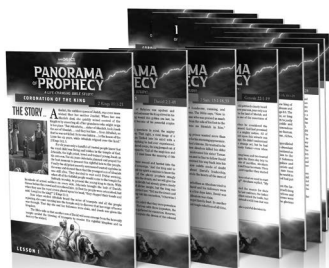


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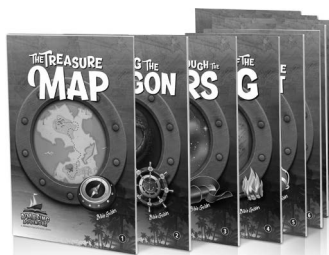
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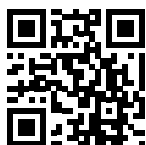
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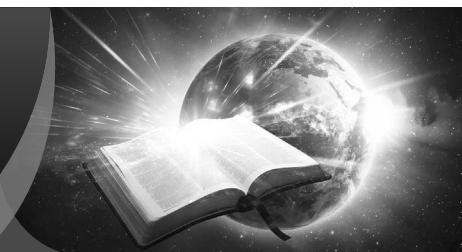
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Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 14:6–12

