

The Clock is Ticking: Jesus Enters Jerusalem fulfilling Daniel 9:25

Notes: (Scriptures: John 12:12-19; Luke 19:41-42; Daniel 9:24-26; Nehemiah 2:8-9)

Key Terms and Dates (continued on back:)

Daniel 9:24-26 speak of “70 weeks”; “7 weeks” and “62 weeks”.

We will look at the time period of the “7 weeks” and “62 weeks” equalling “69 weeks”.

In the Bible these “weeks” are prophetic “weeks”. A prophetic “week” is 7 years.

The first “7 weeks” mentioned in Daniel 9:25 and is 49 years. These 49 years are the 49 Biblical years it took to “rebuild Jerusalem: the walls and the city. The walls actually took 52 days (Neh. 6:15).

A Biblical year or prophetic year in Jewish reckoning is 360 days.

The “62 weeks” is 434 biblical, or prophetic years. Combine the 7 weeks and the 62 weeks and you arrive at 483 years, or 173,880 days.

Key 1: Daniel's vision was given to him in about 522 B.C., which was the first year of the reign of Darius (Daniel 9:1). The temple was completed by 516 B.C. (Ezra 6:15).

Key 2: Daniel tells us when the God's countdown to the coming Messiah the Prince begins. He tells us plainly, the countdown begins when “from the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem” (Daniel 9:25).

When was the decree actually issued? Nisan 2nd or 3rd 445 B.C.

The story is found in Nehemiah 2. Nehemiah is in agony over the news of the ruined condition of Jerusalem. The temple is complete but the city is in ruin. However, there is good news! Nehemiah 2:8 tells us that the king made the decree to rebuild Jerusalem. We learn from Nehemiah 2:1 that it is the 20th year of King Artaxerxes. Artaxerxes became king in 465 B.C. So, Nehemiah 2:1, and Nehemiah 2:8 occurs in the month of Nisan, 445 B.C. When calculated (by geniuses with greater minds than mine) it comes to Nisan 2 or 3 445 B.C., or March 16 or 17.

So, Daniel's vision came to him in 522 B.C., and the decree was issued 77 years later in Nisan 445 B.C.

When does the second part of the vision of Daniel 9:25 occur? When Jesus enters Jerusalem “seated on a donkey's colt” (John 12:15)

The prophetic clock for Daniel's 69 weeks begins “from the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem”(Da. 9:25), and is completed when, presumably, “the Messiah the Prince” appears.

So, from Nisan 2 or 3, 445 B.C. we count forward 483 prophetic years (which is the seven weeks and the 62 weeks, or 69 weeks total, or 483 biblical/ prophetic years) and we arrive at a precise point in time.

Many bible students prefer converting the 483 biblical years into days. These years equal 173,880 days.

The precise day, when adding 173,880 from Nisan 2 or 3, 445 B.C. comes to Nisan 9, 32 A.D., the day on which Jesus rides into Jerusalem. This would be 5 days before Passover, which began at dusk on Nisan 14.

Jesus controlled every event in His ministry in order to fulfill Scripture!

This is critical to our understanding because we must believe that He left nothing to chance. Several points can be made about this truth, but one especially stands out as we consider the remarkable prophetic fulfillment of Jesus' triumphal entry. Namely, that until this day Jesus would not allow himself to be publicly acknowledged as King. He always walked away or commanded ones to keep quiet. Why? His "hour" had not yet come.

But now, at his coming into Jerusalem on a donkey's colt, 483 years to the day since the start of God's prophetic countdown in 445 B.C., Jesus allows the crowd to hail Him as the King!

No wonder He wept while looking over Jerusalem in Luke 9:41-42, lamenting the fact that the people did not see the salvation that had come on "this day". "This day" which had been put in motion by God's will according to the vision He gave Daniel. Yet, many in the time of Jesus' incarnation were actually prepared, looking for the consolation of Israel (i.e., Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, Simeon and Anna the prophetess to name a few!). Even the well trained Magi from the "east" came looking for the long expected Messiah!

How about you?

God has told us plainly that Jesus is coming soon. Are you looking for the second coming of Messiah?