
The 2300-year prophecy explained by Daniel 9

The 2300 years brings us down to our time as described by Daniel the prophet; Many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased. {Daniel 12:4} In 1844 the modern age was born with the telegram and today the communication revolution. At this there was a Christian spiritual awakening and interest in the prophecies and to counteract this an explosion in the occult shortly after with the modern age of spiritism which began with the fox sisters. Spiritism has developed so far that the principals of Alice Bailey are the framework for the UN policies at this time that make way for the antichrist. The occult was the force behind the German leadership that led to mass slaughter in the 1st and 2nd World Wars.

Sir *Isaac Newton* called the seventy weeks the '*cornerstone*' of the Christian religion. It fits perfectly with the real gospel for most gospels preached today reject the message of Daniel 9.

Gabriel was sent to Daniel to finish the explanation of the vision Daniel received in chapter 8. All the details of the vision except the 2300 days were explained.

Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain [saint] which spake, How long [shall be] the vision [concerning] the daily [sacrifice], and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. {Daniel 8:13,14}

The 'daily' of Daniel 8 shall be trodden underfoot for 2300 days but there is no reference to its starting point but this is explained by Gabriel who returns in answer to Daniel's prayer of repentance and to 'understand thy truth' at the end of Daniel chapter 9.

At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show [thee]; for thou [art] greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision. {Daniel 9:23}

Not only are the kingdoms or powers set in symbols but also the Biblical prophetic times are set in code using a day for a year. The disciples asked Jesus why do you always speak to the public in parables and not in plain speech? He spoke this way to protect His ministry and likewise the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation are set in a simple code to protect its messages.

I have appointed thee each day for a year. {Ezekiel 4:6}

Times also represents years

Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him: and let seven times pass over him. {Daniel 4:16}

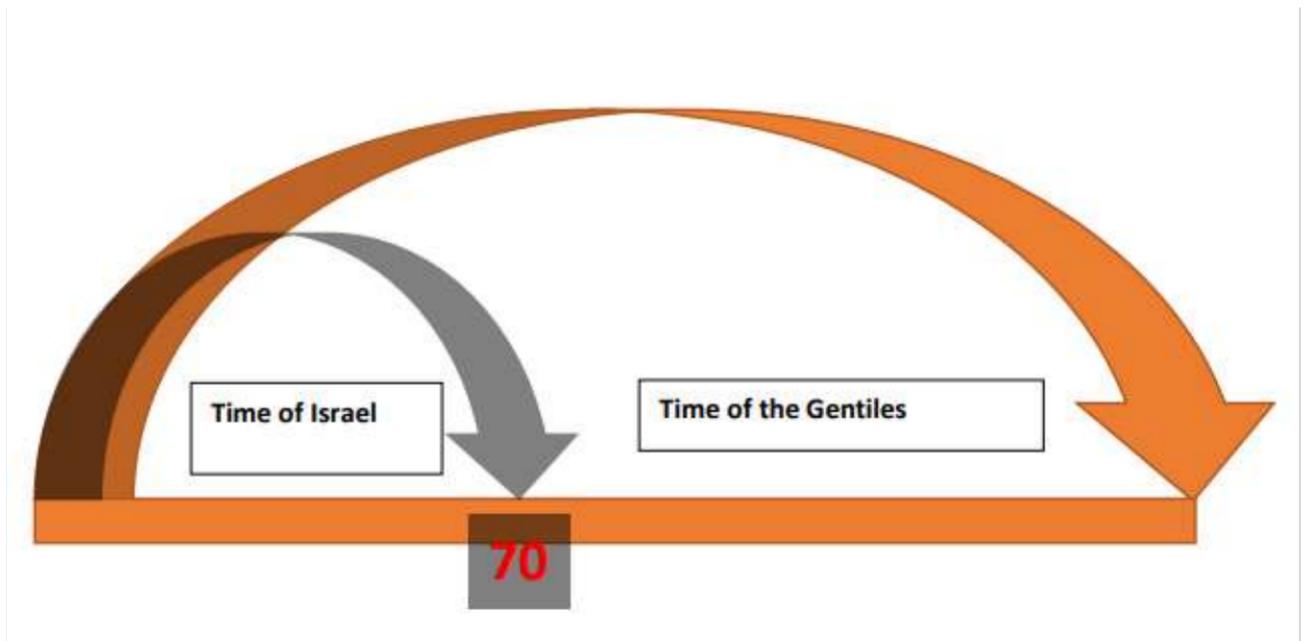
70 weeks are determined upon thy people to accept the gospel.

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

The gospel of course was not accepted by Jews for they crucified God's son and to this day refuse to recognise Him as their king and Saviour or accept the truth and by so doing could not bring in everlasting righteousness to seal up the vision and prophecy.

If we examine carefully this passage {Daniel 9:24} it is the essence of the gospel. Each person in order to be saved has to accept Christ as the King of their life and have such an intimate relationship with Him that it will make an end of sin in their lives and make reconciliation for iniquity. Such is impossible without the work of God on the heart in our 'daily' walk with Him. Notice the connection of the gospel and sanctification when comparing Daniel 8:11-14 & Daniel 9:24. Repentance and sanctification through a 'daily' or continual presence of God are the messages here. The real gospel not only relies on Christ's merits but is practical, changing hearts bringing into fellowship God's commandment keeping people.

70 weeks are determined upon thy people that is cut off from the 2300 years after which the gospel would be taken to the gentiles- to the world.



70 weeks of the 2300 years- truth to be established by Israel was rejected & then passed on to the gentiles.

70 weeks are determined upon thy people.....and then Gabriel goes on to give us a starting date of the 2300 years.

Know therefore and understand, [that] from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince [shall be] seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. {Daniel 9:25}

Lets look at the starting date for the 2300 years- the command to restore and to build Jerusalem



3 decrees are made by the Kings of Persia

1st decree of Cyrus- the decree by Cyrus is found in **Ezra 1:1; 6:1; and 2 Chron. 36:22, 23**- The first decree allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem in 536BC.

God calls Cyrus by name from birth and also calls him my shepherd. His role is to re-establish Israel in Jerusalem & the Sanctuary.

Prophecy of Isaiah concerning Cyrus and the rebuilding of the temple.

That saith of Cyrus, [He is] my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid. Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; {Isaiah 44:28;45:1}

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD [spoken] by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and [put it] also in writing, saying, {2 Chronicles 36:22}

The 1st PROCLAMATION of CYRUS: Cyrus would rebuild God's temple

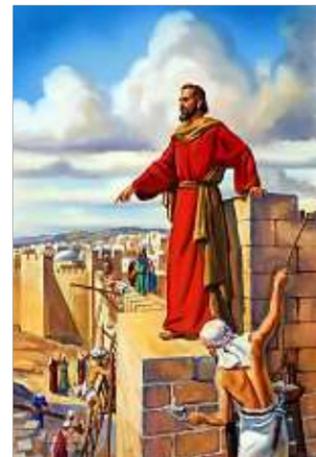
Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which [is] in Judah. Who [is there] among you of all his people? The LORD his God [be] with him, and let him go up. {2 Chronicles 36:23}

But in the first year of Cyrus the king of Babylon [the same] king Cyrus made a decree to build this house of God. {Ezra 5:13}

In 530BC that which had been established started to be undone when destroyed by Israel's enemies.

2nd Decree Darius the Great. The Temple rebuilding that started under the decree of Cyrus was completed under Darius and conformed by His 2nd decree but the city itself still remained undone as specified in the prophecy of Daniel 9:25.

'Darius was a member of the royal bodyguard of Cambyses II, the son and heir of Cyrus the Great who ruled for several years before dying mysteriously in 522.'



3rd decree of Artaxerxes in the 7th year of Artaxerxes reign is given much attention and detail. Ezra 7:8, 9—Israel’s enemies the Samaritans, successful appealed to Artaxerxes and stopped the building and caused damage to city until Nehemiah converses with the King. This results in Israel receiving their own autonomy, city and country. Nehemiah supervised the rebuilding of Jerusalem in the mid-5th century BC after his release from captivity by the Persian king Artaxerxes I. Israel could now successfully defend themselves. ‘Artaxerxes was probably born in the reign of his grandfather Darius I, to the emperor's son and heir, Xerxes I. In 465 BC, Xerxes I was murdered by *Hazarapat* ("commander of thousand") Artabanus, the commander of the royal bodyguard and the most powerful official in the Persian court, with the help of a eunuch, Aspamitres.’

“In 457 B.C., a decree was granted to Ezra by the Persian emperor Artaxerxes Longimanus to go up to Jerusalem with as many of his people as were minded to go with him. The commission granted him an unlimited amount of treasure, to beautify the house of God, to procure offerings for its service, and to do whatever else might seem good unto him. It empowered him to ordain laws, set magistrates and judges, and execute punishment even unto death; in other words, to **restore the Jewish state, civil and ecclesiastical, according to the law of God** and the ancient customs of that people. Inspiration has seen fit to preserve this decree; and a full and accurate copy of it is given in the seventh chapter of the book of Ezra. In the original, this decree is given, not in Hebrew, like the rest of the book of Ezra, but in the Chaldaic (or Eastern Aramaic), the language then used at Babylon; and thus we are furnished with the original document by virtue of which Ezra was authorized to restore and build Jerusalem.” {Daniel & the Revelation by Uriah Smith p223.1}

To establish dates, one key to understand human dates of prophetic significance is autonomy is granted by legislation and then implemented by the action.

Sometimes circumstances do not allow the legislation to be carried through straight away for even years but in this instance, the action is straight away.

The key here is that we know the date of the 7th year of Artaxerxes rule as given in Ezra 7:7.

EZRA 7:7 And there went up [some] of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king. 7:8 And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which [was] in the seventh year of the king.

judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether [it be] unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment. {Ezra 7:11-26}

In the restoration of Jerusalem and the sanctuary, 3 decrees were given and the third decree established the nation of Israel again with its own autonomy. The Temple or sanctuary referred in Daniel 8:14 refers to both the physical building which represents the mind of Christ & the ministration of heavenly agencies to restore the moral character of God in men and women- the purpose of the whole structure. Christ referred to Himself as the temple.

“The 3rd decree that was given by Artaxerxes to Ezra is recorded in Ezra 7:11–26. **The month in which it was given is not recorded**, but it was given in time for Ezra and those with him to depart on the first day of the first month of Nisan (Ezra 7:7–8). They left central Babylonia at that time, and on the 9th day of that same month they encamped at the Aha’va River (Ezra 8:15, 21, 31). After camping there for three days, during which a fast was proclaimed, they pressed on to the province of Judah. They arrived there on the first day of the fifth month (Ezra 7:8). They spent three days in Jerusalem and then unloaded the vessels for the temple (Ezra 8:31–34). The decree which led to this return undoubtedly was given during the winter, probably January or February, in order for them to be ready for a departure in March–April or Nisan, the first month. This locates these three events on the following time scale: The decree of Ezra 7:11–26 in the winter of 458/457 B.C., the departure in the spring of 457 B.C., and the arrival in the summer of 457 B.C. This was then followed by the fall New Year of 1 Tishri in September–October of 457 B.C. This completed the Jewish fall-to-fall calendar year from 1 Tishri in September of 458 B.C. to 1 Tishri in September of 457 B.C. This was the 7th year of Artaxerxes according to Jewish reckoning.”
William H. Shea

457 is a well-recognised date in history that can easily be referred to in Wikipedia but Sir Isaac Newton used the Egyptian calendar to establish this date.

457 BC has been verified through the work of Herodotus using Babylonian records and by Alexandrian astronomer Ptolemy; the canon of Ptolemy being an important historical reference. Newton studied the prophecies of Daniel and verified 457BC as the starting date of the 2300 year prophecy. Newton’s finding was referenced in the 1611 King James Bible footnotes and has commented that 457 BC is ‘among the most easily established dates in history’.

ESTABLISHING 27AD FOR THE ANOINTING OF THE MESSIAH

457BC + 69 weeks

The prophecy of Daniel 8:14 centres around Christ- His anointing and His death and His ministry following His death.

Daniel 9:25 Know therefore and understand, [that] from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the **Messiah** the Prince [shall be] seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks:

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. {Mark 1:15} What time was fulfilled? Jesus gave reference to Daniel several times throughout His ministry. This time is pointing to is anointing at His baptism. **Messiah meaning anointed one**- when the Father said this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased and at that time the Holy Ghost ascended upon Him in the form of a dove.

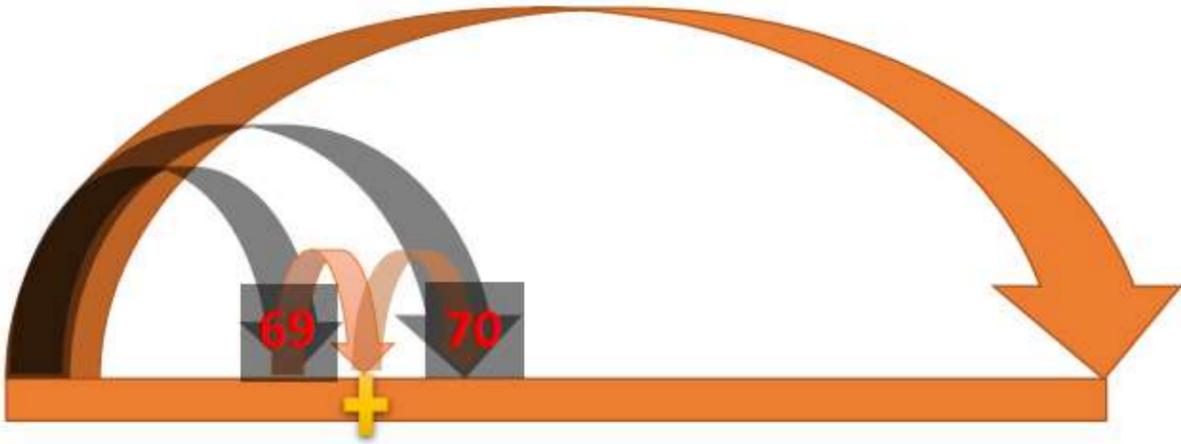
And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, { Luke 3:22-24} (Josephus confirms this)

By historical records Herod started renovating the temple in 20BC and

Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? {John 2:19,20}

Jesus made this statement just after His baptism and 46 years from the 20 AD brings us to the year 27 AD.

Luke 3:1, states that John the Baptist entered on his public ministry in the fifteenth year of Tiberius reign. Although Tiberius was sole emperor in 14 AD, he was co-regent with Augustus in 12 AD and his 15th year would be A.D. 27. Tiberius was name co-princeps in 12 AD, so when Augustus died, he would succeed him. This is described by the historian Suetonius. Most calculate the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar as A.D. 29—but this does not match with the prophecy of the 2300 days.



69 weeks brings us to baptism of Christ and the opening of His ministry

In the midst of the week, He was cut off but not for Himself.

31AD (as part of the 2300-year prophecy) established as the date of Jesus death

The 2300-year prophecy is centred on the life and death of Jesus in 31 AD. **Please note this date is confirmed by the prophecy to restore and rebuild Jerusalem or the 70 weeks prophecy but is not the date that the majority hold by tradition. Most know however that Jesus was not born in the year 1 AD.** Some scholars believe that Christ was born between the years 4-6 AD but we know close to the year of his birth from his death using the 2300 day prophecy which is approx. 4 AD. **How do scholars come to this conclusion? Through the history of Herod the Great who died 4BC.** If 'most scholars assume a date of birth between 6 and 4 BC' **then the idea that Jesus died in 33/34AD is incorrect for Jesus started His ministry at the age of 30.**

And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli. {Luke 3:23}

We have many speculative dates for the death of Christ but the Bible confirms the year by Daniel's prophecy. Daniel is the most important book for establishing an understanding of history and its dates.

Jesus died and rested in the grave on a high Sabbath meaning type met antitype, pointing to the important work of man's restoration which would be complete in Christ.

The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and [that] they might be taken away. {John 19:31}

High day meaning the weekly Sabbath coincided with the Passover.

"In John, Passover day fell on a Saturday, thereby coinciding with the weekly Sabbath. "That sabbath day was an high day" (19:31), in which the two festivals were celebrated on the same day, and Friday was the Day of Preparation for them both." This occurred in the year AD 31.

To identify this year, the Karaite calendar was used as a more accurate way to determine the date. The Karaite calendar is identical to the Rabbinic calendar used before the Sanhedrin changed the Rabbinic calendar from the lunar calendar to the current, mathematically based system. The Barley ripening kept the lunar year in line with the solar year. The 1st day of Nisan was calculated from the first sighting of the New Moon following the Barley Harvest using this [observational calendar](#).

Some have thought that because the Jewish calendar was based on a lunar activity that the Sabbath should be calculated by the moon. The great memorial of God's work of creation has remained throughout history on the 7th day which means it remains unchanged. The rest and memorial of creation remains consistent and is emphasised over and over again through the use of the number 7. However, the days and seasons of the year were based by the Jews in Old Testament time by the phases of the moon.

The moon is seen a new after being invisible for 1.5-3.5 days. Because the moon is seen a new after a period of invisibility the ancients called it a "New Moon." The new moon is when the first faint sliver or crescent of the moon is seen after a period of total darkness of the moon. None of the recent calculations of the lunar calendar using the US naval astronomical calculations fall on a Sabbath from the years 26AD to 34AD because they are not based on sightings of the [crescent moon](#) after the barley harvest. The Astronomical New Moon when the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, at which time it is not visible.

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"The difficulty with regard to the day is, quite similarly, to know what precise relation the first day of the Jewish month bore to the astronomical new moon. In later Christian times the Paschal

month was calculated from the astronomical new moon; in earlier Jewish times all months were reckoned to begin at the first sunset when the new moon was visible, which in the most favorable circumstances would be some hours, and in the most unfavorable three days, later than the astronomical new moon." (Encyclopedia Britannica 11th edition Vol 3. pg 890.) Astronomical New Moon which is not a crescent new moon which has a variable of 1.5-3.5 days

We are told that Samuel S Snow just prior to 1844, first used the Karaite calendar to affirm the date 31 AD as the date of Christ's crucifixion- how exactly he was able to obtain these detail remains unclear. However, this date is also affirmed by other historical dates such as the date of Christ's birth and the rein of Caesar's. "In the spring of A. D. 31, Christ the true sacrifice was offered on Calvary." E G White

ESTABLISHING 34AD as the end of the 70 weeks

The gospel given to the Jews was rejected but for a few of Jesus disciples and now opportunity would be given for the gentile nations.

MARKING THE TURNING POINT AT 34AD

1. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen. {Matthew 28:19,20}
2. Peter was given a vision in which God called Peter to the work of the gentiles. (Jesus first sent the disciples to the lost sheep of Israel.) {Acts 10:10-20}
3. The execution of Stephen recorded in Acts which was at the time of Paul's soon conversion is traditionally taken by some to be the end of the 70-week prophecy. {Acts 7:69}



The end of the 2300-year significance

Found Daniel 8:14 2300 days/ years

Jesus said concerning the prophecies of Daniel 'Whoso readeth, let him understand'. {Matt. 24:15}

As truth was committed to Israel and rejected it was given also to the gentiles and rejected. The Bishop of Rome held a vice grip through its influence on the nations on the world known as the 'dark ages'. Truth was trampled upon by the abomination of desolation otherwise referred to as the little horn until the cleansing of the sanctuary.

Here it is: And an host was given [him] against the daily [sacrifice] by reason of transgression, and **it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered.** Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain [saint] which spake, **How long [shall be] the vision [concerning] the daily [sacrifice], and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?** And he said unto me, Unto **two thousand and three hundred days;** then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. {Daniel 8:12-14}

Recap: The little horn power in relation to the sanctuary

The abomination of desolation or little horn which rides the beast, would wax strong and cast down truth and the place of His Sanctuary (the Daily) to the ground. How long? To 2300 years.

2300 days marks the opening of the judgement in heaven. It is to arouse people to get their life in order for the soon return of Christ. The gospel truth is part of sanctification. John 17:17,19

"In the parable of Matthew 22 the same figure of the marriage is introduced, and the investigative judgment is clearly represented as taking place before the marriage. Previous to the wedding the king comes in to see the guests, to see if all are attired in the wedding garment, the spotless robe of character washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. Matthew 22:11; Revelation 7:14. He who is found wanting is cast out, but all who upon examination are seen to have the wedding garment on are accepted of God and accounted worthy of a share in His kingdom and a seat upon His throne. This work of examination of character, of determining who are prepared for the kingdom of God, is that of the investigative judgment, the closing of work in the sanctuary above." {Great Controversy p428.1}

The gospel message of apostolic times would be revived, through the understanding of the sanctuary or the High Priest work of Christ. During the Dark ages Bibles were burnt, the ministry of Christ's High priesthood was replaced by men and God's people persecuted. This is encapsulated by the following verse-

And he shall speak [great] words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. {Daniel 7:25}

The very understanding of the meaning of the gospel was obliterated and still in most circles has the taint of Rome. There are many gospel truths in the world that fit into two categories relying on the merits of Christ but not prepared to follow Christ by keeping His commandments as specified in great detail in Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 31:13-18 and Deuteronomy 5:12-15. Another gospel is one of good works to merit God's favor. So, what's the problems with that?

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. {John 14:21-24} It is vitally important that the love of God is in us or God is not part of us and we are not saved. Love is tested by truth and our willingness to follow the truth and receive by a 'daily' experience the fruits of the Spirit. Our good works have nothing to do with our salvation but if we are not willing to follow Jesus and receive the gifts of the Spirit against which there is no law then we have not been sanctified by the truth and will not inherit eternal life. It is to be a love affair with God that is a life changing experience.

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. {1 John 4:8} We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not [his] brother abideth in death. {1 John 3:14} The great standard of the judgement is the 10 commandment that measures the thoughts and intents of the heart. So, in the gospel is a paradox. Keeping God law does not save you for all have broken the law but without repentance and keeping God's law, without a change of thought and feelings a person will never be saved.

Jesus tells us that we are sanctified by the truth but that truth was not present freely till the end of the dark ages; at the end of the 2300 years.

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. {John 17:17,19}

Therefore, the truth or the doctrines or teachings of Jesus, love and the gospel are all one and has a cleansing effect on the heart.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. This must occur before the Christ comes. {John 15:3}

In the 1840s prophecies were being searched, the Bible was freely available and the yoke of church and state had been broken. An incredible amount of work was done to search historical records to confirm prophetic dates and proclaim the 2300 year prophecy that had to be recovered from the dust of time.

The prophecies were searched for answers and is called the time of the 'great awakening'. Thousands in North America and Europe, some selling all their earthly possessions expecting Jesus to return in 1844.

In explaining Daniel 8:14, "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed," Miller, as has been stated, adopted the generally received view that the earth is the sanctuary, and he believed that the cleansing of the sanctuary represented the purification of the earth by fire at the coming of the Lord. When, therefore, he found that the close of the 2300 days was definitely foretold, he concluded that this revealed the time of the second advent. His error resulted from accepting the popular view as to what constitutes the sanctuary. {GC 352.1}

You may consider this false interpretation an obvious error but despite the access we have to the Bible and surrounding information today people remain in gross error on their understanding of the gospel and important teachings.

Like many of the people of the 1840s who composed the various denominations of their time and ours, people assume that Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient alone for their salvation but the book of Daniel goes to great lengths to describe the judgement before the second coming of Jesus. The cleansing of the sanctuary is a cleansing of those candidates by the truth and their 'daily' experience with God, ready for the second coming of Christ. They have a first apartment experience ready for the full endowment of the Holy Spirit as seen in Pentecost.

The little horn received a deadly wound for a time and was unable to continue its persecution of God's people. At the end of 1844 God sent His people a messenger to guide His church to the end.

There are several keys truths emerged such as

- ❖ The sanctuary with its judgment message which is integral to understanding the true gospel
- ❖ The second coming of Jesus
- ❖ The 7th day Sabbath
- ❖ The state of the dead
- ❖ The health message

These were now publicly held and practiced for the first time in a worldwide denomination with a name that was peculiar pointing to the truth it upheld- Seventh Day Adventists

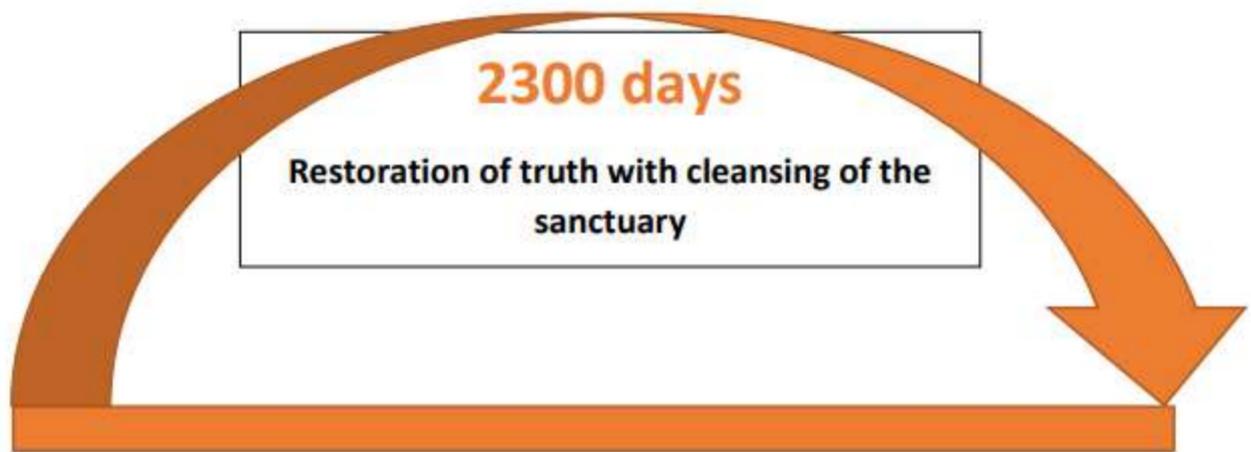
At no time in history has there been such a degeneration in humanity and at the same time God's fullness of truth revealed with the promises of God's Word to restore in man God's image.

The prophecy of the life and death of Christ are central to the prophecy of the 2300 days. The prophecy marked by the detail of the third decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem points to the restoration of the church of God before the Second Coming of God. It is a message of perfect unity with God in mind and Spirit.

A mark of God's people are they love one another and keep the commandments of God. God is manifest prophetically to a commandment keeping people.

The significance of the end of the 2300 years is revisited in Revelation 10. Revelation 10 devoted the whole chapter to the experience of God's people and Revelation heavily concentrates on the sealing or second apartment experience. This is the picture of what happened in 1844.

I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment [was] white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne [was like] the fiery flame, [and] his wheels [as] burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. {Daniel 7:9,10}



Many students of prophecy have established the prophetic dates and in the year 1844 Ellen White received her first vision following the great disappointment to guide and reaffirm the right prophetic positions. A new church was to be established across the world to prepare a people fore the end of the world and the Second Coming of Christ.

“Calculating Years Across B.C. and A.D.

If you have a math problem that requires you to calculate years across B.C. and A.D., it's crucial to adjust for the fact that there was no year 0. For example, if you need to work out how many years are between January 1, 200 B.C. to January 1, A.D. 700 you add the BC and AD numbers. The calculation is $700 + 200$, which equals 900 years. However, you still have to adjust for the absence of year 0. You do this by removing 1 from your answer, so $900 \text{ minus } 1$ is 899.”