

Daniel and the Chronology of the End Time

21 December 2005

In 605 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar conquered Israel, destroyed the land and temple, and took the most able of the Jews into captivity in Babylon. Among these was Daniel, who was then a young man “without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for learning, well informed, and quick to understand.” (Daniel, chapter 1, verses 1-4) Daniel and three friends were trained for three years. They learned the Babylonian language, however they refused the rich food and wine that Nebuchadnezzar offered them and instead ate only vegetables and drank only water. As a result they grew in health, and “God gave them knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning.” Daniel came to understand dreams and visions. He was an exceptional being and became even more so; he eventually became a prophet.

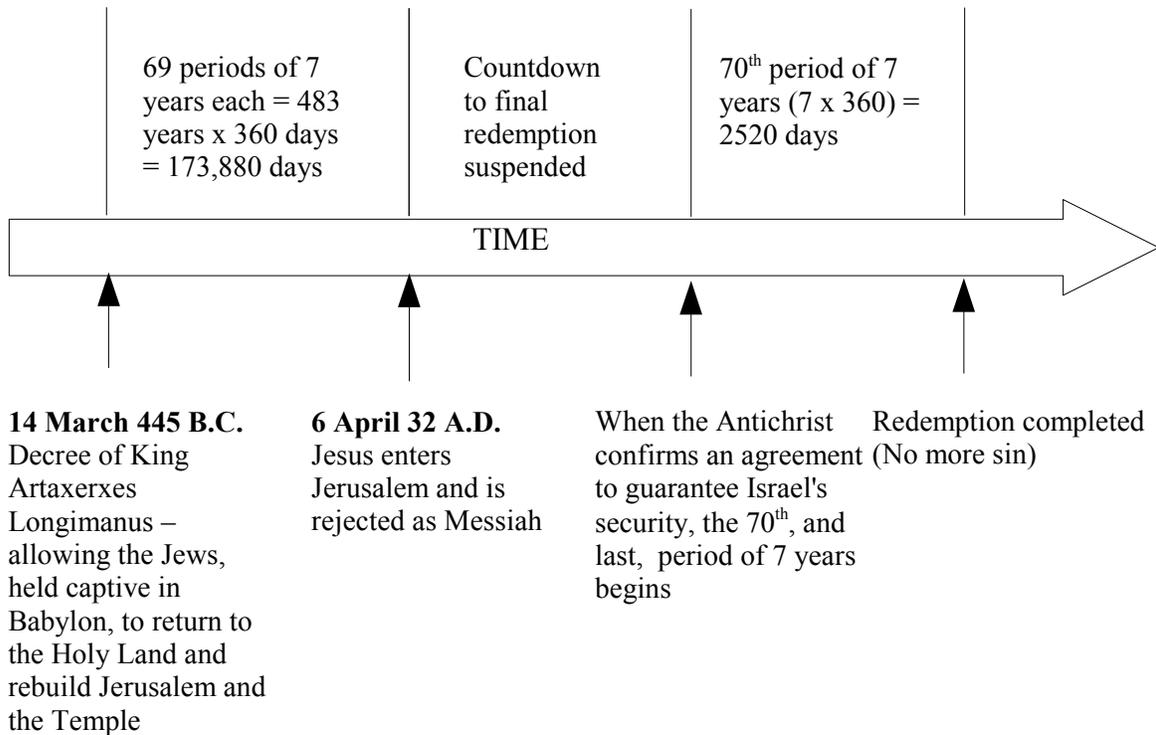
In about 570 B.C., while Daniel was praying to God to allow his people to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple, that is, to absolve his people from their sins (Daniel 9:16-19), he had a vision of the angel Gabriel. Gabriel told Daniel how long it would take for the Jews to get *completely* released from their sins: "Seventy 'sevens' are determined for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophesy and to anoint the most holy." (Daniel 9:24) The word translated here as 'seven', sometimes translated as 'week', is the Hebrew word 'SHABUWA,' which means a period of seven years. Thus, the angel is telling Daniel that 70 periods of seven years each, or 490 years, will be needed for the Jews to overcome their desires sufficiently to permanently put an end to sin.

In the next verse (Daniel 9:25) Gabriel tells Daniel when those 490 years are to begin: "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One (Messiah), the ruler, comes, there will be seven

'sevens,' *and* sixty-two 'sevens.' " 7 plus 62 is 69 periods of seven years, or 483 years. (During the first seven 'sevens,' or 49 years, Jerusalem and the temple were rebuilt, and the sixty-two 'sevens' were the period between that restoration and the coming of the Messiah.) The number of days in a prophetic Hebrew year is 360 (not the 365.25 days of our solar year), thus the number of days from the issuing of the decree to the coming of the Messiah is 483 times 360 days, or 173,880 days. The restoration decree was issued by King Artaxerxes Longimanus on the first day of the Jewish month of Nisan in the twentieth year of his rule, 14 March 445 B.C. Counting forward from that day 173,880 days brings one to the tenth day of the month of Nisan A.D. 32, which is 6 April A.D. 32. 6 April A.D. 32 is the day Jesus of Nazareth rode into Jerusalem on a colt, presenting himself as Israel's Messiah. (See Sir Robert Anderson's The Coming Prince; Grand Rapids: Kregel Publication, 1988, page 124.)

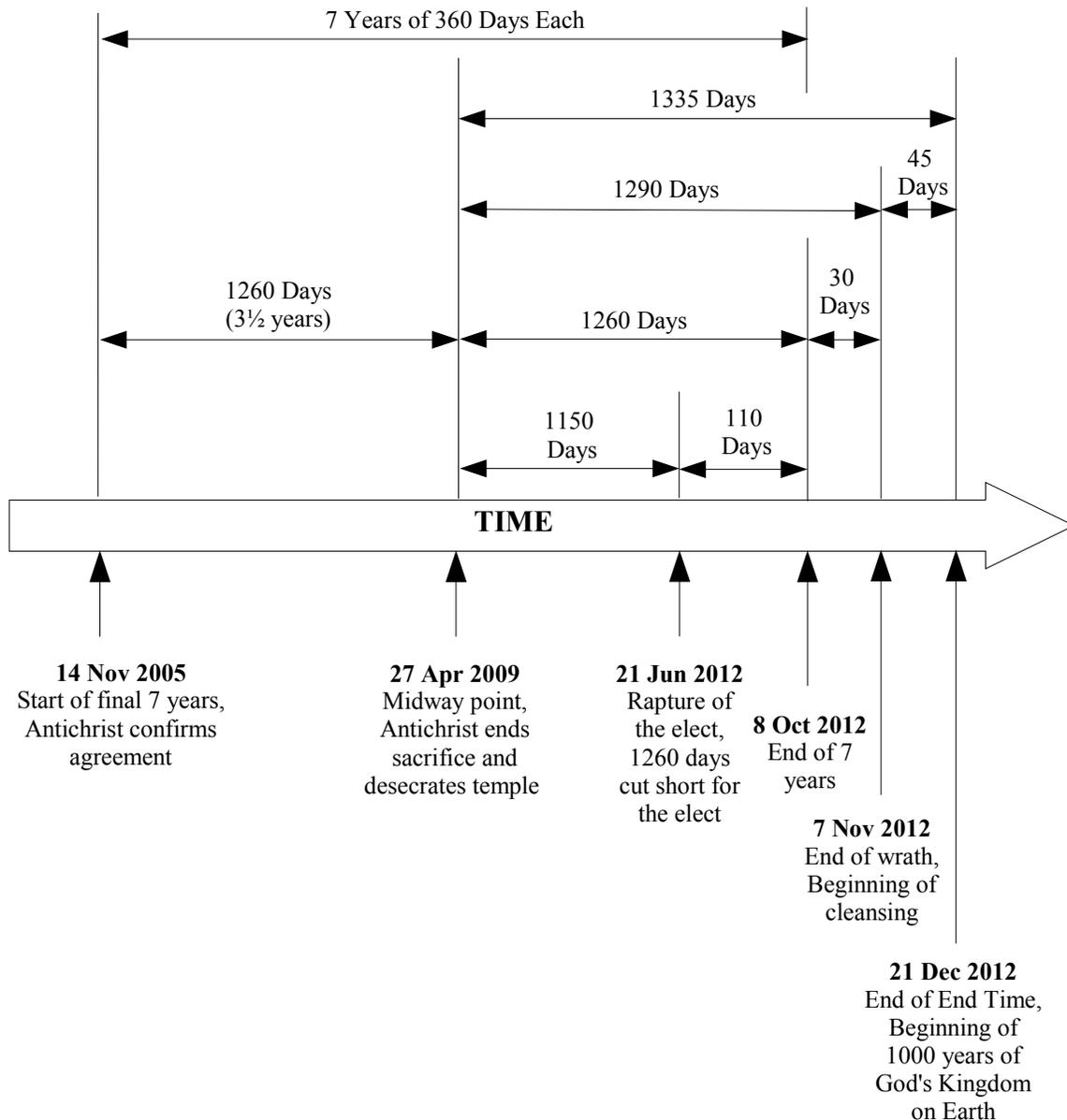
The Jewish government rejected Jesus as Messiah. Gabriel had predicted this in Daniel 9:26: "And after the sixty-two 'sevens' the Messiah will be cut off and will have nothing." The term 'cut off' is used throughout the Bible to mean 'killed.' Jesus was crucified a few days after he entered Jerusalem. At this point the 69 periods of seven years were complete, however the 70th period of seven years, the flood of desolations, was yet to come. Gabriel goes on to say: "The people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood. War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed." The 'prince to come' is the 'Antichrist' of the Book of Revelations. The city of Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by Titus and the Roman legions, and the Jewish people were dispersed. The Jews again became sovereign over Israel in 1948 A.D. and over Jerusalem in 1967. However, Daniel reports, in the first part of 9:27, that Gabriel says a specific event is required to start the 70th, and last, period of seven years: "He (the Antichrist) will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven'." The 'many' should include Israel, Palestine, and several other nations. It seems that with the arrival and cutting off of the Messiah, the countdown to complete redemption stopped, only to be resumed when this event initiates the last 7 years allowed by God to complete the task of putting an end to sin.

A Timeline Summary of the Above



The 70th seven-year period is to complete the redemption of the Jews and all who seek to overcome sin. Is this completion the same as the end of the end time? No! For in the second part of 9:27 the angel Gabriel says, "In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the pinnacle of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him." The middle of the 7 years is, of course, at 3½ years, or 1260 days. This is when the Antichrist stops the animal sacrifice at the Temple Sanctuary. However, in Daniel 12:11, Gabriel explains that, "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1290 days." This is 30 days longer from the midpoint of the 7 years than the remaining 1260 days of the 70th seven years. Then in the next verse, 12:12, Gabriel says, "Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days." This extends the end of the End Time another 45 days, for a total of 75 extra days.

70th (Last) 7-year Period and On To the End



Neither in the Book of Daniel nor in any Book of the Bible is a *date* given for the end of the End Time and the beginning of the 1000 years of God's Kingdom on Earth prophesied in Revelations. There are, however, other sources that might be considered in order to put an end date, and thus also a beginning date, to the 7 final years.

According to tradition, the Buddha said that 2500 years after his death there would be a second Buddha, called 'Maitreya' ['Metteyya'], who would give us a final chance to attain Nirvana. Although there is some uncertainty as to the year Buddha died, it was sometime between 480 and 490 B.C., giving a date for the next Buddha of $2500 - 485 = 2015$ A.D., ± 5 years.

In 1733, Sir Issac Newton published his book Observations on Daniel and the Apocalypse of St. John. In it he wrote that the 1260 days can also be taken as 1260 *years* from the establishing of the Roman Catholic Church in the material world in 800A.D., making 2060 the end of the End Time. Later however, Newton wrote that "The most likely date [for the establishing of the Church] is 752 [A.D.], when the temporal dominion of the popes began by Pepin the Short's grant to [Pope] Stephen II," later confirmed by Charlemagne (Pepin's grandson) in 800 A.D. Adding 1260 years to 752 A.D. gives 2012 A.D.

The Mayan long count calendar ends at 13.0.0.0.0 baktun, which is equivalent to 21 December 2012.

If we assume that 21 December 2012 is the same as the end of the End Time in the Bible, then, by counting back 1335 plus 1260 days we reach 14 November 2005 as the first day of the final 7 years. Concerning this first day, Gabriel said to Daniel that the Antichrist would "confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven' (7 years)." Did this event happen on 14 November 2005? Probably! In separate interviews on the News Hour of the American Public Broadcasting System, the Palestinian primary negotiator, Arakat, and the U.N. Special Middle East Envoy, James Wolfenson (former head of the World Bank), who were both present at a meeting in Jerusalem on the night of 14 November 2005 comprised of Israel, Palestine, and the European Union, revealed that it was the U.S.A.'s Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice who 'as by a miracle' got the agreement of Israel to open the Palestinian province of Gaza to world commerce. The Sydney Morning Herald stated that the opening of Gaza was only a beginning but was "... a milestone on the road

to full sovereignty, a step towards full autonomy [for Palestine]. Condoleezza Rice pushed both sides together in a night of high stakes diplomacy in Jerusalem. Stefan Feller, a German police general attached to the EU mission said, the crunch details of the agreement were still 'a work in progress'." In June 2003, the U.S.A. President G. W. Bush at a meeting in Shaarm al-Sheikh told Mahmud Abbas, a Palestinian leader and Nabil Shaath, the then foreign minister, "I feel God's word coming to me, 'Go get the Palestinians their state and get the Israelis their security...' And by God I'm gonna do it." (BBC Television special, 10 October 2005)

There is an important additional event that the angel Gabriel explained to Daniel, in Daniel 8:14, in answer to Daniel's question as to how long it would take for the temple to be restored from the desecration perpetrated by the Antichrist: "It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated." We have seen that the desecration of the Temple occurred at the midpoint of the final 7 years (Dan 9:27). Assuming that the beginning of the End Time is 14 November 2005, the desecration should occur on 27 April 2009 and "2300 evenings and mornings" (that is, 1150 days) later, on 21 June 2012, the sanctuary should be restored to its rightful state. This would cut short by 110 days the previously allotted 1260 days needed for our redemption from sinning. In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 24, verses 21 and 22, Jesus says, " For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened."

There is symbolism in the phrase "the sanctuary will be reconsecrated." The outer meaning of the 'sanctuary' is the Temple in Jerusalem, the inner meaning is given by Paul in 1 Corinthians, chapter 6, verse 19: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, within you, which you have from God?" One becomes "elect" if one accepts that one's body is sacred, thereby one is redeemed from having sinned. By this sanctified sacrifice of one's body to God, divine power enters one's body and elevates it so that it is reconsecrated; that is, one is caught up, or risen, in spiritual ecstasy. One is exalted to a

pure state of knowledge of divine things. This divine state of one's body and mind is called the 'Rapture'. If these timing assumptions are correct, according to what Gabriel told Daniel, those who are sincerely dedicated to rising above desire will experience this Rapture by 21 June 2012. Then during the last 110 days of the 1260 days, the 'wrath of God' continues to pour out on those who reject God.

Those who still have not accepted the Messiah by the end of the 1260 days will undergo the seventh trumpet (Revelation, chapters 11, 15 and 16), which includes the seven Bowls, until 7 November 2012, 1290 days from the midpoint of 27 April 2009. Then, after the 45 Days of cleansing, the End Time ends, on 21 December 2012, and God's Kingdom on Earth begins.