

Big Picture Bible Study

Lesson 05: Preparing for the Messiah

LESSON 04: RECAP AND REVIEW

What does it mean to be a Protestant? The Five Solae

The Protestant Reformation was founded on three main principles, each of which were intended to represent a major distinction from Catholic doctrine: **scripture over tradition**, **faith over works**, and **grace over merit**. Two more were added: **Christ over church**, and **glory to God and not to man**.

SOLA SCRIPTURA (by scripture alone)—**SOLA FIDE** (by faith alone)—**SOLA GRATIA** (by grace alone)—**SOLO CHRISTO** (by Christ alone)—**SOLI DEO GLORIA** (glory to God alone)

What does it mean to be a Protestant? An understanding of the Antichrist

Sadly, we ended our last study with overwhelming historical evidence that the Catholic Church, the Roman Church State (RCS), became the antichrist power through a process of trying to merge paganism with Christianity. This has been taught by nearly every single church reformer since the early 1500s. **Luther, Calvin, Cranmer, Williams, Wesley, and White** all taught that the supposed Christian church of Rome has tried to replace Christ. Remember the quote from historian A. Hislop:

- “To conciliate the Pagans to nominal Christianity, Rome, pursuing its usual policy, took measures to get the Christian and Pagan festivals amalgamated, and, by a complicated but skilful adjustment of the calendar, it was found no difficult matter, in general, to get Paganism and Christianity – now far sunk in idolatry – in this as in so many other things, to shake hands.” **Hislop, A. (1858). *The Two Babylons*.**

Catholicism is still the pagan Roman religion, masked in pseudo-Christianity.

Certainly, one of the greatest evidence points is the attempted change in God’s Moral Law. It is the same law that was in Heaven (**Self-Sacrificing Love**), the same law that Jesus uplifted in two pillars (**love God—love your neighbor**), and the same law that was stored in the Ark of the Covenant (**10C**). The RCS claims that it has the authority to change this law. Let’s review some quotes to confirm:

Walter Drum (1914) – Roman Catholic Scholar

- “Protestants make much of the observance of the Sunday and are sometimes sincerely and honestly shocked that we Catholics seem to make little of that same observance. It does not occur to our separated brethren that by their principle of faith – the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible – there is no Sunday observance of obligation at all... The observance of the Sunday thus comes to be an ecclesiastical law entirely distinct from the divine law of Sabbath observance. The prescriptions of Gen. 2:2-3 regard to the Sabbath having nothing whatsoever to do with the law of the Church about Sunday, the Lord's Day. Catholics should observe the law of the Church, not by the Old Testament observances of the Sabbath nor by the dictates of Protestants or of Jews, but by the prescriptions of the Church herself. The author of the Sunday law is the only one who has a right to interpret that law; and that author is the Catholic Church.” **Drum, W. (1914, February). *Recent Bible Study. The American Ecclesiastical Review, (50), 236-239.***

Converts Catechism of Catholic Doctrine (1957) – Roman Catholic Church Publication

- “Q. Which is the Sabbath day? A. Saturday is the Sabbath day. Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.” Geiermann, P. (1957). *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*. Ed. 3, p. 50.

Stephen Keenan (1833) – Roman Catholic Author

- “Q. Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept? A. Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her—she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.” Keenan, S. (1899). *A Doctrinal Catechism*. 3rd ed., New York: P. J. Kenedy and Sons, p. 174.

The Sentinel, Saint Catherine Catholic Church (1995) – Roman Catholic Newspaper

- “Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever did, happened in the first century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. “The Day of the Lord” (dies domini) was chosen, not from any directions noted in the Scriptures, but from the Church's sense of its own power. The day of resurrection, the day of Pentecost, fifty days later, came on the first day of the week. So this would be the new Sabbath. People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become 7th Day Adventists, and keep Saturday holy.” (May 21, 1995). The pastor's page. *The Sentinel* 50(22), Saint Catherine Catholic Church: Algonac, Michigan.

Man's Laws Cannot Supplant God's

It is clear from Scripture that God prophesied that this would happen. Remember Paul said that there must first be a falling away, or a divorce between the church and God. This process began in the early church but accelerated dramatically once Constantine placed Christianity as the main religion of the Roman Empire in 313. This process was slow and methodical even still, but nowhere is the change clearer than in the Church Council of Laodicea. Here is a quote from that council.

- “Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honouring the Lord's Day; and, if they can, resting then as Christians. But if any shall be found to be judaizers, let them be anathema from Christ.” Canon 29, Council of Laodicea in Phrygia Pacatiana, 364 A.D.

In the Council of Laodicea (364 AD) the Roman Catholic Church State transferred the solemnity of the seventh-day Sabbath to Sunday.

They wanted to make sure that they were not confused with the Jews, when what they ought to have been doing was follow Peter and Paul and *reach out* to the Jews! Sadly, the history of the church grows very dark, very fast once it was merged with Rome. Satan had managed to take the bride of Christ and cause her to become the harlot of Babylon. But we can follow Peter's advice:

- **Acts 5:29-32** “²⁹But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. ³¹Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.” ”

NOW... ON TO LESSON 05: "PREPARING FOR THE MESSIAH"

THE THREE MAJOR "TIME PROPHECIES" IN THE BIBLE

70 Weeks Prophecy

- Israel's final chance to live up to the light they had been given.
- If you reject the Messiah – you forfeit the right to carry this Blueprint to the world.
- Earthly Temple is of no more use – focus on the Heavenly Sanctuary.
- Earthly Israel is no longer the people of God – now it is Spiritual Israel.

1260 Days Prophecy

- Spiritual Rome (The Papacy) would attempt to attack Spiritual Israel.
- Spiritual Rome would attempt to attack the Heavenly Sanctuary.
- Cast the place of God's sanctuary and its truths down to the ground.
- Direct men's attention from the truths of the Heavenly Sanctuary to the things of this world.

2300 Days Prophecy

- Cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary.
- Total restoration of truths that were lost during the Dark Ages.
- Beginning of the Time of the End.
- The very last time prophecy fulfilled.

THE 70 WEEKS PROPHECY: THE COMING OF THE ANOINTED ONE

This amazing prophecy was given to Israel while they were in Babylonian captivity. But many of the people had hope because of the prophet Jeremiah. No one had listened to him when he had told them about God's message concerning the coming Babylonians; no one had listened to him when he had told them that they were not in God's favor. But now his word was vindicated and God's people read the message that Jeremiah sent in a scroll from the remains of Judah to the Jews in Babylon:

- **Jeremiah 29:10-11** ¹⁰For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. ¹¹For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah's scroll was kept deep in the Babylonian archives, and then one day the prophet Daniel is searching through the libraries for an answer to his longing for the redemption of his people when he finds Jeremiah's scroll! Look at his reaction in the very beginning of Daniel chapter 9.

- **Daniel 9:1-2** ¹In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—²in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem."

God had promised through Jeremiah that the people and the Temple would only lay destroyed for **70 years of desolation** (586 B.C. – 516 B.C.). Daniel must have been so excited when he read that promise, because the first thing he does is pray a long prayer from Daniel 9 verses 3-19. Then Gabriel the angel shows up in verse 20 and gives Daniel this special prophecy: (**Daniel 9:24-27**).

- **Daniel 9:24** “Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your 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.”

Imagine being Daniel and seeing and hearing that! Gabriel confirms Jeremiah’s prophecy and gives him more. He says that the people of literal Israel have **70 prophetic weeks** that have been specifically set aside for them to get ready and stop breaking the covenant with Yahweh. As we know from our principles, because this is prophecy (and because it is not in years like Jeremiah’s), we first convert these 70 weeks into days and then extend them out to 490 years (remember from **Ezekiel 4:6** that when using prophecy, God has said that He has allotted “*a day for each year*”).

70 weeks = 490 days = 490 prophetic years

The 70 Weeks Prophecy: when do we begin counting?

King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and the Sanctuary in 586 B.C., taking the Jews including Ezekiel, Daniel and his friends into captivity. 47 years later, in 539 B.C., Cyrus’ Medo-Persian army conquered Babylon. After another 17 years, Darius the Mede became governor of Babylonia in 522 B.C. Daniel had been living in Babylon for 64 years when Gabriel continued his message:

- **Daniel 9:25** “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.”

Daniel is told to begin counting the timeframe of “**70 Prophetic Weeks**” from the royal command that would be given to do two things: **1)** restore Jerusalem, and **2)** rebuild Jerusalem (Sanctuary included). When Cyrus came to power in Babylon in 539 B.C., he gave the miraculous and unexpected decree that the Jews could return to their homeland.

- **Isaiah 44:28** “²⁸who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose’; saying of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be built,’ and of the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’ ”
- **Ezra 1:1-3** “¹Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, ²Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: ‘All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. ³Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem.’ ”

DECREE #1: Cyrus gave the decree to build the Sanctuary, but not to restore it to its former glory. This decree does not fit the criteria. Even still, Zerubbabel was able to take a group back to Jerusalem and they laid the foundation, but they were so badly persecuted that, once Cyrus died, they were coerced to stop by an armed force. Nearly 20 years later (two years after Daniel’s vision) Darius the Mede was made aware of Cyrus’ original decree and issued a repetition in 520.

- **Ezra 6:8** “⁸Moreover I issue a decree as to what you shall do for the elders of these Jews, for the building of this house of God: Let the cost be paid at the king’s expense from taxes on the

region beyond the River; this is to be given immediately to these men, so that they are not hindered.”

DECREE #2: Darius gave the decree to continue building the Sanctuary, but not to restore it to its former glory. *This decree does not fit the criteria.* Thanks to the bravery of Haggai and Zechariah the prophets—and now empowered by Darius to compel their persecutors to leave them alone to build—four years later, in 516 B.C., the new temple is completed (fulfilling Jeremiah’s prophecy to the exact year). Even though the city was still in ruins and the prophecy remained incomplete, God had kept His promise to return His people to the Promised Land.

For 59 years, the new Temple sat built but unrestored; it was a pale shadow in comparison to the one Solomon had built. But in 457 B.C., a full **129 years after Nebuchadnezzar** had come and taken them captive, Ezra, the direct descendant of Aaron the High Priest, comes to Jerusalem with the best news:

- **Ezra 7:13, 18-20** “¹³I issue a decree that all those of the people of Israel and the priests and Levites in my realm, who volunteer to go up to Jerusalem, may go with you... ¹⁸And whatever seems good to you and your brethren to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, do it according to the will of your God. ¹⁹Also the articles that are given to you for the service of the house of your God, deliver in full before the God of Jerusalem. ²⁰And whatever more may be needed for the house of your God, which you may have occasion to provide, pay for it from the king’s treasury.”

DECREE #3: Artaxerxes gave the decree to fully restore the Sanctuary. *This decree does not, by itself, fit the criteria.* Ezra returns to Jerusalem with the full approval of the Persian Empire to restore the Temple. So when you combine this third decree together with the first two, it is exactly what we need! Notice that the Bible confirms this combination of decrees with **our anchor verse**:

- **Ezra 6:14** “¹⁴So the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they built and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the command of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.”

The counting of the 490 years was to begin from the day that the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem was given. This happened on the day that Artaxerxes gave the missing piece of the earthly powers’ confirmation of that which was already God’s commandment.

The timeframe for the 70 Weeks Prophecy begins with the final Persian decree that was made by Artaxerxes in 457 B.C.

This final decree was given in the seventh year of Artaxerxes (**Ezra 7:7**). Secular history confirms that King Xerxes was murdered in 465 B.C. by his bodyguard commander, Artabanus. Avenging his father, Artaxerxes ascended the throne in the same year and became Shah of Persia, reigning from 465 B.C. – 423 B.C. **THEREFORE, THE 7TH YEAR OF ARTAXERXES’ REIGN WAS 457 B.C.**

The 70 Weeks Prophecy: how long do we count, and for which event?

Now that we have a starting point nailed down, we can look at the details of the prophecy. Let’s go back to the second of the four verses:

- **Daniel 9:25** “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.”

This verse implies that it is pointing to two major concepts: **1)** a longer timeline of 69 weeks that leads to the arrival of the Messiah, and also **2)** a shorter timeline of only 7 weeks that will end with the full building of the city Jerusalem and its streets and walls. Remember that Ezra took the final decree of Artaxerxes back to Jerusalem in his seventh year. 13 years later, Nehemiah, who was still in Babylon, one day hears that even with Ezra's leadership, the city and its walls had remained unfixed. We then find this incredible story of Nehemiah, the royal cupbearer to Artaxerxes himself:

- **Nehemiah 2:1-5** ¹“And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. ²Therefore the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart.” So I became dreadfully afraid, ³and said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?” ⁴Then the king said to me, “What do you request?” So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may rebuild it.” ”

The 70 Weeks Prophecy Fulfilled: the first 7 weeks (49 years), 457—408 B.C.

What faith! Artaxerxes approves his mission and so Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem and leads his people through a period of building and restoring that takes exactly 49 years, **7 prophetic weeks**, to accomplish. It took so long because, just as Gabriel had prophesied, they were attacked, hindered and persecuted the entire time by the Canaanites who did not want the Israelites back in town.

- **Nehemiah 4:16-17** ¹⁶“So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah. ¹⁷Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon.”

The 70 Weeks Prophecy Fulfilled: the 7+62 weeks (483 years), 457 B.C.—27 A.D. (Fall)

Time carried on for centuries. The stories of Alexander the Great, Antiochus Epiphanes, Judah Maccabee and many others all came and went. But the message of the coming Messiah that Gabriel had spoken to Daniel remained a cherished part of the Jewish people.

- **Daniel 9:26** ²⁶“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.”

This verse is packed with information. The first portion is easy to understand: the Messiah would arrive after the first 69 weeks of the prophecy, but would eventually be killed for no fault of His own, but rather (it is implied) His death would be for others. Then *“the people of the prince who is to come”*—a reference to the Roman power—would come and destroy the city of Jerusalem and the Sanctuary, and the people of Israel would remain in desolations until the end of the war between Satan's human forces and God's power. Basically, Rome would destroy literal Israel and they would never have the direct presence of God in the Sanctuary until the Second Coming.

But remember, verse 25 said that the Messiah (מָשִׁיחַ—*Mashiach*, “Anointed One”) would arrive on the scene 69 prophetic weeks (483 years) after the restoration command. Well, we know that the command was given in 457 B.C. and if you move 483 years forward, we come to the fall of 27 A.D.

What happened in 27 A.D.?

Secular history tells us that Tiberius Caesar began his joint rule with Emperor Augustus in 12 A.D. That means that 27 A.D. was the 15th year of his reign. Thank the Lord for Dr. Luke: the historian.

- **Luke 3:1a, 21** “Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea... ²¹When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²²And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.” ”



His second cousin John baptized Jesus in 27 A.D. This is a direct fulfillment of prophecy. And the rest of the story comes alive when we know these details:

- **John 1:35-37, 41-42a** “³⁵Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. ³⁶And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus... ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ).” (**Acts 10:37-38**)

The 70 Weeks Prophecy Fulfilled: the 7+62+3½ weeks (486.5 years), 457 B.C.—31 A.D. (Spring)

The final verse of Daniel’s 70 Week Prophecy gives us almost as much insight into the whole point of this prophecy as the first three verse do combined.

- **Daniel 9:27** “²⁷Then 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. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”

As verse 24 made clear, these 70 weeks were given specifically to literal Israel. But the last week of the 70 would be when the Messiah (Jesus) confirms a new covenant with not just a singular nation, but with many nations—with all nations. And right in the middle of the week, 3½ years after he was anointed, the prophecy says that the Messiah would be cut off and would cause the sacrificial system to be brought to its end. Could he have been more specific?!

After 3½ years of ministry, Jesus was crucified on the Feast of Passover in the Spring of 31 A.D.

- **Hebrews 8:7-10** “⁷For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. ⁸Because finding fault with them, He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—⁹not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. ¹⁰For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put



My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

The 70 Weeks Prophecy Fulfilled: the full 70 weeks (490 years), 457 B.C.—34 A.D.

Since the Jews broke the first covenant, the angel Gabriel delivered God’s message to Daniel that the nation of Israel had been allotted a final 70 weeks to turn from their ways and repent (the same offer made to Nineveh). But God also prophesied that at the end of the time period they would seal up their own measure of iniquity and therefore a new covenant would be made, one in which all people from any nation could be part of **Spiritual Israel**: God’s people. To mark this transition, God raised up Stephen to present the case of the end of literal Israel to the leaders of the nation, acting as **God’s attorney**, declaring the case, bringing forth evidence, and proclaiming that the time of their judgment was at hand. Remember as you read this passage from Acts, in this culture, when a judge stood to his feet was when the judgment was about to be delivered.

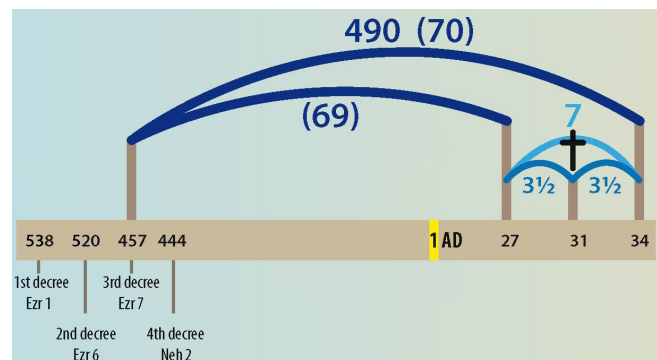
- Acts 7:51-60** “*51You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.*” *54When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. 55But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” 57Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”*



The stoning of Stephen 3½ years after Jesus’ death (31 A.D. – 34 A.D.) ended the period of the 70th week and the entire 70 Week Prophecy.

The Jews had officially rejected Jesus and the truth, culminating in their stoning of Stephen and their subsequent persecution of the apostles. Just as Gabriel had prophesied to Daniel nearly 600 years before, in 70 weeks they had ruined their birthright and they had lost their blessed position as God’s chosen by killing **God’s Chosen**.

But the good news is that the gospel was then preached in the entire world! It may have been the end of literal Israel but it was only the beginning of Spiritual Israel.



THE 70 WEEKS PROPHECY: SHOWING THE GLORY OF GOD

Daniel finished his book in c. 530 B.C. as an old man. So consider this: 456—Artaxerxes decree; 408—Jerusalem is finished; 27—Jesus is anointed; 31—Jesus is crucified; 34—Stephen is stoned. We breezed over Persia, Greece and Rome; we passed by Zerubbabel, Ezra, Haggai, Zechariah, Nehemiah, Judah Maccabee, John the Baptist, and the apostles. Every year, through each century, the Jews were inspired by reading the book of Daniel, but he never got to see or even understand his own words. That takes incredible faith. And Daniel demonstrates this with his prayer.

- **Daniel 9:17** ¹⁷“Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord’s sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate.

For all of verses 3-20, Daniel is speaking on behalf of his people. They were conquered. They were destroyed and the remains were dragged off in slavery. Yet Daniel had faith and begged God to keep His promise that He had made through the prophet Jeremiah. He asks God to have **His face** shine upon the Sanctuary once more. Does this ring a bell of any other story? Think about Moses...

- **Exodus 33:18-20** ¹⁸“And he said, “Please, show me Your glory.” ¹⁹Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” ²⁰But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.” ”

Moses had seen the burning bush; he had stood on holy ground. Moses had spoken to God; he had walked across the Red Sea, and he had heard the voice of God booming across the plains of Sinai. Now he is standing in the midst of the cloud; he is speaking directly with the Creator. He bows his head and humbly asks God, “*Lord, show me your **GLORY**.*” God responds, “*I am sorry Moses, but no man can see my **FACE** and live to tell about it.*” Imagine the pain of God’s heart to have to say that.

God compares His glory with His face. It is as if the two are the same. In similar fashion, notice the interaction that Adam and Eve had with God right after they first sinned. They hid themselves from His presence, but the true translation is that they hid from His face.

- **Genesis 3:8** ⁸“And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”
- **Genesis 3:8 (Young’s Literal Translation)** ⁸“And they hear the sound of Jehovah God walking up and down in the garden at the breeze of the day, and the man and his wife hide themselves from the face of Jehovah God in the midst of the trees of the garden.”

Daniel knew exactly what He was asking for: he was seeking the face of God; he was asking for the glory of God, the Shekinah Glory, to come back to the nation of Israel, to return to fill the Sanctuary.

We also need to have the face of God (the glory of God) fill our all of our hearts (the Temple) with the presence of God (the Holy Spirit).

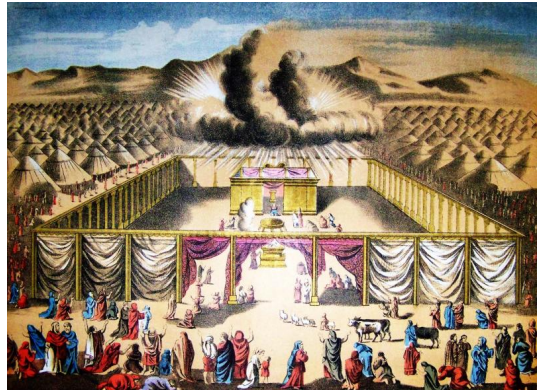
The Tabernacle: The Sanctuary in the Desert

To understand this amazing point, we have to first establish the pattern that spurred Daniel to request this in his prayer to begin with. You see, the history of the Sanctuary was very well known in the Hebrew culture. Daniel would have heard the story of Moses and Solomon from a very young age. When the Sanctuary was first given to mankind, God made a special promise to them, saying:

- **Exodus 29:43** ⁴³“And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory.”

During the same conversation where Moses requested to see His glory, God promised that He would send His glory (*or His face*) to sanctify the Sanctuary; He would shine His face upon it and fill it with all of His glory. So Moses and company build and dedicate, and then watch as it happens.

- **Exodus 40:33-35** “³³And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So Moses finished the work. ³⁴Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁵And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.”



Moses built the Sanctuary exactly as God had directed and when the work was done, the cloud that veiled the watching Israelites from God’s presence came and rested above the structure. In a very literally and yet strikingly symbolic way, the glory of God burst from that cloud and filled the newly constructed Sanctuary with His presence. Imagine being on the plains of Sinai—imagine having heard the voice of God boom out from the cloud, having seen Moses descend with those precious blue stones, having seen Moses’ face glow after he returned with the new stones and directions for the Temple. Imagine having given your earrings and bracelets, having seen them transformed into the articles of furniture. Imagine praying and begging for the promise of God to remain steadfast. And then you see the cloud... it comes close and there, in the desert, the face of God flashes into the Sanctuary, and the entire structure seems to glow with the veiled light shining out of the Most Holy.

The Tabernacle was built and blessed and then God filled it with His glory.

The First Temple: The Temple of Solomon

In just the same way, after they reached Canaan and established their kingdom through Saul and David, Solomon built a permanent Sanctuary as a Temple for the Lord.

- **II Chronicles 5:11a, 13b-14** “¹¹And it came to pass when the priests came out of the Most Holy Place... ¹³...that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, ¹⁴so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.”



Solomon built the Temple exactly as God had directed and when the work was done, the glory of God came and filled it with His presence just as had happened with the Tabernacle in the wilderness! The face of God was shining upon the Temple in the Jerusalem—the presence of God was with His people.

The First Temple was built and blessed and God filled it with His glory in the form of a cloud.

Again God shone His face upon His people. Full of mercy and forgiveness, He gave them a sign of His presence, a gift of evidence upon which to base their faith. It is only through our own personal decisions to commit iniquity that we separate ourselves from that face (remember **Isaiah 59:2**).

Daniel Fulfills Jeremiah

Jeremiah had warned the remaining two tribes after the Assyrians had conquered the northern ten. He had given them the message from God over and over: submit to the Babylonians and live, rebel and die in exile. But they did not listen, they continued worshipping false Gods and disobeying. Daniel does not mince words; he even accepts responsibility for his people's actions.

- **Daniel 9:5, 11** “⁵we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments... ¹¹Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him.”

Daniel's prayer demonstrates self-sacrifice, the heart of God. He understood the reason for their captivity but he also claimed the promises of God given through the spirit of prophecy in Daniel. With humble boldness, the kneeling prophet begs God to remember them and come dwell among them once more:

- **Daniel 9:17** “¹⁷Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.”

Jeremiah had given word that God had promised to give them another chance. Daniel prays to God His glory and His face to once again shine on the people of Israel.

Daniel is asking for God to shine His face on the Sanctuary and return to fill the Temple with His glory once more.

This bold and faithful prophet did not care about what the evidence of his senses told him. Instead, he trusted in prophecy, in the word of God. That is to be our calling as well. Notice what happens at the end of his prayer.

- **Daniel 9:20-23** “²⁰Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God, ²¹yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. ²²And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. ²³At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:”



Daniel recognized the angel Gabriel from a previous vision. Here Gabriel shows up in direct answer to Daniel's prayer! But even more cool, what did Gabriel say? He said that God sent him to Daniel “*at the beginning*” of his prayer. Daniel's prayer takes about 3.5 minutes to pray. So it is not impossible that Heaven is about that far away from Gabriel when he is “*cause to fly swiftly*.”

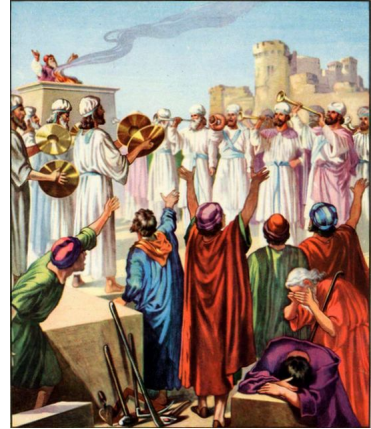
Gabriel gives Daniel the good news that his prayer has been heard. The very next four verses contain the amazing **70 Weeks Prophecy!**

God heard Daniel's prayer and gives him the exact timeframe of the coming Messiah, promising that He will shine His face upon the Sanctuary.

The Second Temple: Later known as “Herod’s Temple”

Israel had broken the covenant receiving the curse written in Leviticus 26. God allowed Babylon to destroy the Temple. But Jeremiah gave the remnant people hope, and Daniel gathered that hope. Under Ezra, Zerubbabel and Joshua the new Temple’s foundations are laid and are blessed. They must have hoped for the cloud of God’s glory to show up and give them validation...

- **Ezra 3:12-13** “¹⁰When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the ordinance of David king of Israel. ¹¹And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord: “For He is good, for His mercy endures forever toward Israel.” Then all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. ¹²But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers’ houses, old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid before their eyes. Yet many shouted aloud for joy,”



The foundation for the Second Temple was built and blessed but this time it was NOT filled with the glory of the Lord in the form of a cloud.

God did not send the glory covered in a cloud, but He did give the people a message through the spirit of prophecy. Haggai comes to the group and stands boldly before them. Imagine hearing him shout out the message, boldly proclaiming the blessing of the Lord.

- **Haggai 2:3-4, 7** “¹In the seventh month, on the twenty-first of the month, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying: “²Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, saying: ‘³Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing?’ ⁴Yet now ***be strong***, Zerubbabel,’ says the Lord; ‘and ***be strong***, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and ***be strong***, all you people of the land,’ says the Lord, ‘and work; for I am with you,’ says the Lord of hosts. ⁵According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, ***so My Spirit remains among you***; do not fear!’ “⁶For thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; ⁷and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and ***I will fill this temple with glory***,’ says the Lord of hosts. ‘⁸The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,’ says the Lord of hosts. ‘⁹***The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former***,’ says the Lord of hosts. ‘And in this place I will give peace,’ says the Lord of hosts.”

God still promises that the Temple would be filled with His glory. There was no cloud, there was no Shekinah brightness, there was nothing visual they could look to; but they were given prophecy to trust. They were given prophecy to pass down to each generation that the glory would still come.

Even though no glory filled the Temple when it was built, God still promised not only that it would be filled with His glory, but also that the glory would be GREATER than that of even Solomon’s Temple.

How is this possible?

THE TRUE GLORY OF GOD: THE FACE OF JESUS

- **Malachi 3:1** “¹Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,’ says the Lord of hosts.”

The promise of the Messiah to come was also the promise that God would fill the Temple with His glory in the form of “*the Messenger*.” This happened when the Messiah, the Son of God personally—and in human nature—came and filled it with His own presence.

Jesus Christ, baptized with the Holy Spirit to begin His ministry as the Messiah, entered the Sanctuary and thus filled it with even greater glory.

- **II Corinthians 4:6** “⁶For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

Daniel’s message was held true, confirmed by Haggai’s prophecy: 69 weeks (483 years) after the three-fold decree to rebuild and restore Jerusalem, God caused His glory in the face of Jesus to shine upon the Second Temple. Jesus knew this prophecy well for He said numerous times that:

- **Mark 1:14-15** “¹⁴Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵and saying, “***The time is fulfilled***, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” ”

Passover 28 A.D.: John 2:13-17

Jesus’ first entrance into the Temple did the same thing that the cloud did back in the Tabernacle of Moses and in the Temple of Solomon: it moved people out of the Temple. What a beautiful parallel and confirmation of the pattern!

- **John 2:13-16** “¹³Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. ¹⁵When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables. ¹⁶And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!” ”

In just the same way, at the end of His ministry right before His death on Passover 31 A.D. Jesus’ face came into His Temple and it was filled with His glory. (*Mat. 21:12-13, Mar. 11:15-18, Luk. 19:45-46*)

- **Isaiah 56:7** “⁷Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

At the beginning and ending of His 3½ year ministry, Jesus cleansed the Temple, filling it with the glory of God and fulfilling the prophecy.

We can trust the spirit of prophecy, in all times of this world!

