

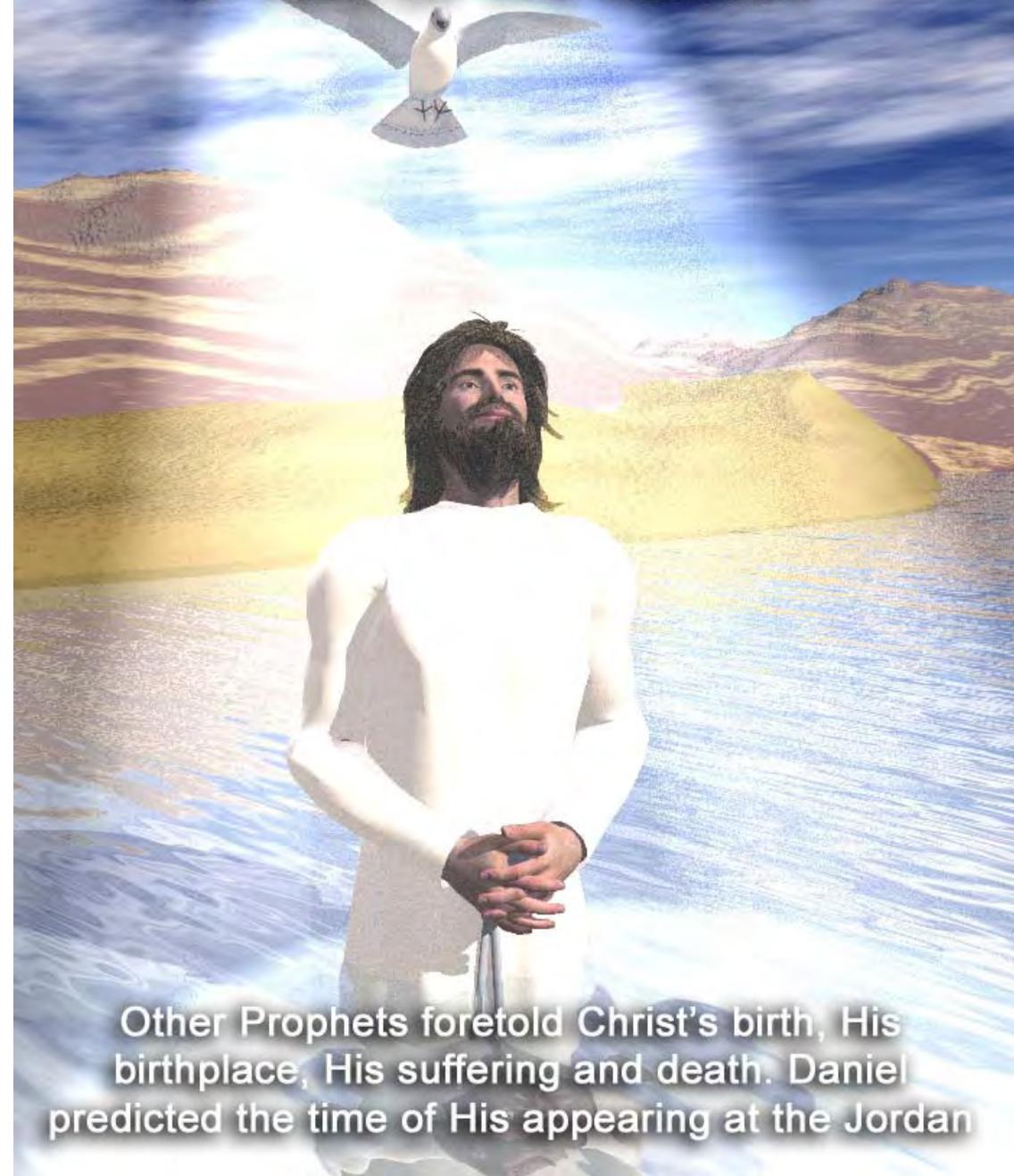
“The Messiah has come”



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DANIEL

13. YEAR OF THE MESSIAH



Other Prophets foretold Christ's birth, His birthplace, His suffering and death. Daniel predicted the time of His appearing at the Jordan

WHAT TO EXPECT IN UNIT 13

- Christ's Messiahship and crucifixion foretold 500 years beforehand.
- Tragedy strikes Jerusalem.
- Gabriel returns with the master key to the 2300 days.
- Are we in the end time?

BACKGROUND TO DANIEL 9

At the close of Chapter 8, we left Daniel devastated by the terrible deeds of the great horn and mystery of the 2300 days. Said Daniel, "I fainted and was sick for days... I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it." (verse 27)

Gabriel had interpreted the ram and the goat, and had foretold the deeds of the exceedingly great horn, but nowhere had he explained the beginning or ending points of the 2300 days. Did this prophecy mean continued oppression for Daniel's people, for "many days" – "2300 days" (or even years) – into the future? Would the desolation of Jerusalem and the sanctuary go on and on? These questions must have weighed heavily upon Daniel's spirit. As Chapter 9 opens we find him searching "books" for help.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. A TROUBLED PROPHET SEARCHES SCRIPTURE

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 9:1, 2, page 867; Jeremiah 25:11,12, page 755)

As Daniel searched, what was the only information he could find regarding the duration of Israel's captivity?

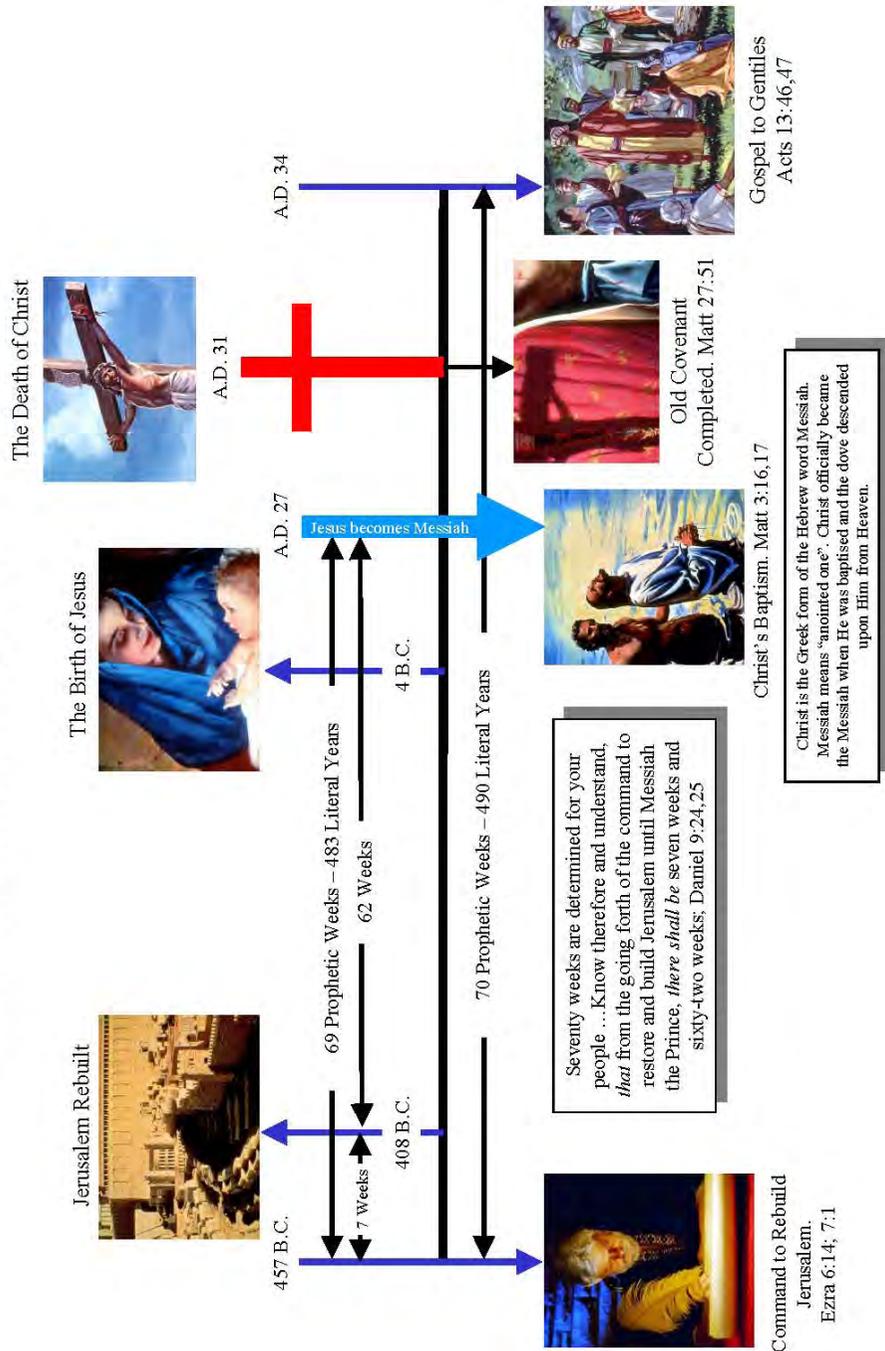


Daniel searches the Scriptures

"The word of the Lord, given through Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish _____ years in the desolations of Jerusalem."

NOTES:

The Predicted Coming of the Messiah



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(Daniel 9:2, page 867)

QUESTION 2 (Take time to read Daniel's prayer: Daniel 9:3-19)

Unable to relate Jeremiah's prophecy to the vision of the 2300 days, Daniel turned to God with "prayer and fasting". Does his prayer indicate a deep anxiety that the restoration of Jerusalem and the sanctuary should not be delayed? It had now been in ruins for many years.



Gabriel returns to explain the meaning of the 2300 day prophecy

"Now, therefore, our God ... cause Your face to shine on your _____ which is desolate." (verse 17)

"O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not _____ for Your own sake." (verse 19)

B. RETURN OF THE ANGEL

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 9:20,21)

In response to Daniel's prayer, who came to help him solve his problem?

"The man _____, whom I had seen in **the vision** at the _____ ." (verse 21)

"The vision at the beginning", mentioned here by Daniel, could only refer to the vision of Chapter 8, for that was the only vision in which Daniel had previously seen Gabriel.

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 9:22,23)

What did Gabriel say to indicate he had come to further explain the vision of Chapter 8?

"Therefore, consider the matter, and understand the _____."

(verse 23)

Gabriel had not come to Daniel with a new vision, but to explain the **time** prophecy of the Chapter 8 vision – the 2300 days. Notice that Gabriel started right at the question of **time**, and that **time** is a major focus right to the end of this chapter.

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 9:24-27, page 868)

What period of time did Gabriel say would be allotted to Daniel's people and their city?

" _____ weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city." (verse 24)

The original word for "determined" (chathak), in many cases, meant "severed from", "cut off", (Strong's Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary). Evidently, in this case, the seventy weeks were to be cut off "for" or "upon" Israel from the longer period of the 2300 days (years). The following diagram illustrates that.

C. THE MEANING OF "70 WEEKS"

QUESTION 6

Remember that this is prophetic (symbolic) time. Using the prophetic symbolism of *A DAY FOR A YEAR*, how many actual years would there be in these "70 weeks"?

ANSWER: ___ years

RSV says "seventy weeks of years" meaning seventy seven of years. (70 x 7 = 490) Study the next diagram briefly.



The 70 weeks allotted to Israel would have been the first part of the 2300 days (years), as becomes evident later.

QUESTION 7 (Daniel 9:24,25, page 868)

Exhibit 3 MASTER-KEY TO THE 2300 DAYS

(The Seventy Weeks)

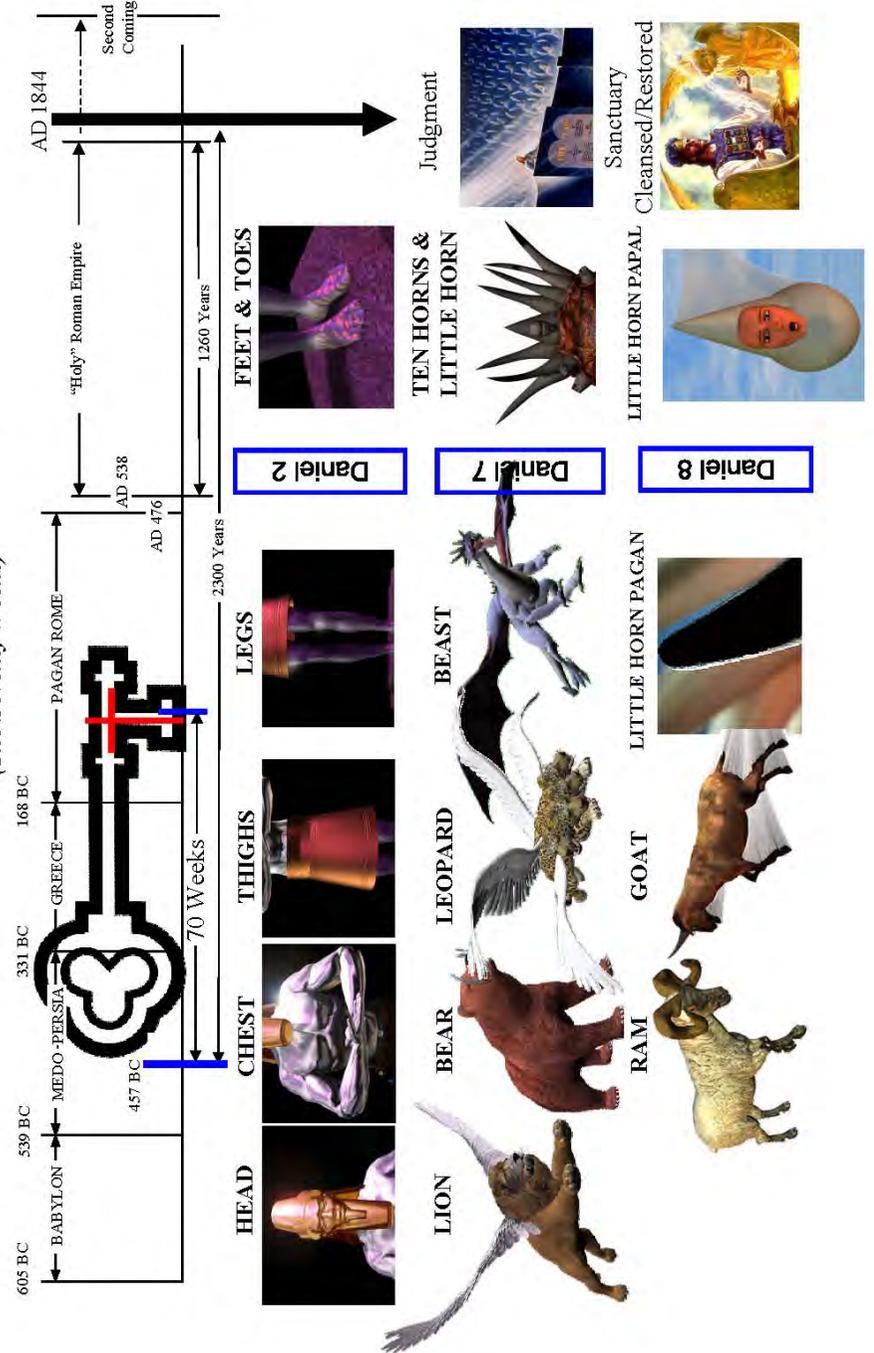


Exhibit 2

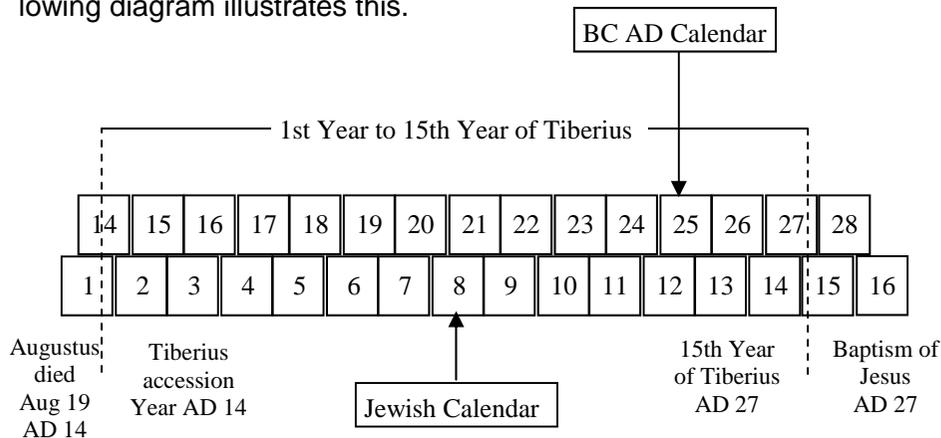
YEAR OF THE MESSIAH

AD27, the Year of the Messiah (the anointed one), is an important prophetic date. The fulfilment of this prophecy is one of the many evidences that Jesus was the true Messiah. He came on time. How do we establish the date as AD27?

First, it was at His baptism that Jesus became the Messiah. ("Messiah" means "Anointed One", as also does "Christ"). As Jesus came up out of the water, God anointed Him "with the Holy Spirit and with power" (Read Acts 10:36-38, page 1063, Luke 4:16-18, page 994).

Luke tells us that Jesus' baptism occurred in the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar (Luke 3:1-3, 21-23, page 993). This gives us a historical event for the year of the Messiah. But the question is; Which year was the 15th year of Tiberius in terms of our calendar, the BC-AD. Calendar? In what year of our reckoning did Tiberius come to the throne?

Tiberius followed Augustus, and historians tell us that Augustus died on August 19 in AD14 (our calendar). We can safely assume then, that Tiberius' first year was AD14. The Jews counted the year of accession as year one of a king's reign, even if only a small part of it remained as in the case of Tiberius. Accordingly, if AD 14 was year one of Tiberius, his 15th year, the year of Jesus baptism would have been AD27. The following diagram illustrates this.



Would these 490 years mean further captivity and delay for Israel such as Daniel apparently feared? No! What was to be the purpose of granting this time to Israel? What was Israel to do during the 490 years?



"finish the _____ "
(verse 24)

"make an end of _____ "
"make reconciliation for _____ "

"bring in everlasting _____ "

"seal up vision and _____ "

"anoint the Most _____ "

"restore and to build Jerusalem" (verse 25)

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 9:25, page 868)

What special person would come during the 490 years?

" _____ the Prince" (verse 25)

D. THE BEGINNING OF THE 490 YEARS

QUESTION 9 (Daniel 9:25, page 868)

What specific event would mark the beginning of the 490 years?

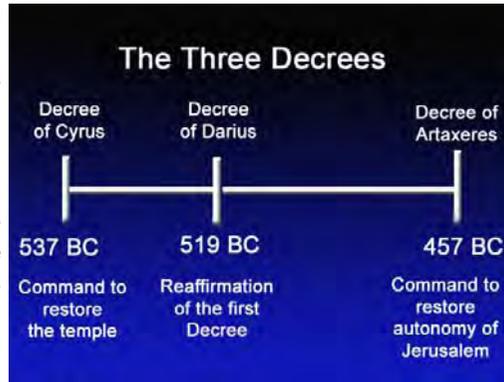
"the commandment to restore and build _____ "(verse 25)

SO GABRIEL HAD BROUGHT WONDERFUL NEWS!
The captivity of Daniel's people would be reversed! Jerusalem would be restored! Above all else the Messiah (Christ) would come! Israel would be called to repentance and godliness. They would be free again with a new opportunity to serve God in their own land!

Do we know when this command was given? We do. Three decrees were issued by Persian kings authorising the return of the Hebrew exiles.

These three decrees were seen by the prophet Ezra as one decree and were said to be God's decree. (Ezra 6:14, page 449)

Not until the decree of Artaxerxes, were full restoration provisions granted to the Jews. Hence the 490 years would need to be calculated from his decree – 457BC.



SEE EXHIBIT 1: Page 15
COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE 70 WEEKS

QUESTION 10

If the 490 years commenced in 457BC, in what year would they have ended?

(Remember to add one year to allow for the change from 1BC to AD1.)

ANSWER: _____

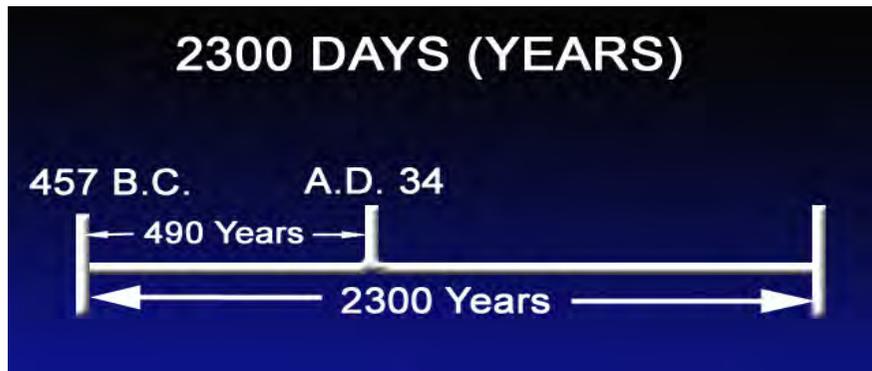


Exhibit 1 (Continued)

Calculating 483 years from the decrees of either Cyrus or Darius brings us far short of the anointing of Jesus as the Messiah. But with Artaxerxes' decree as our starting point we are brought with remarkable precision to the great event as the following Diagram Illustrates:

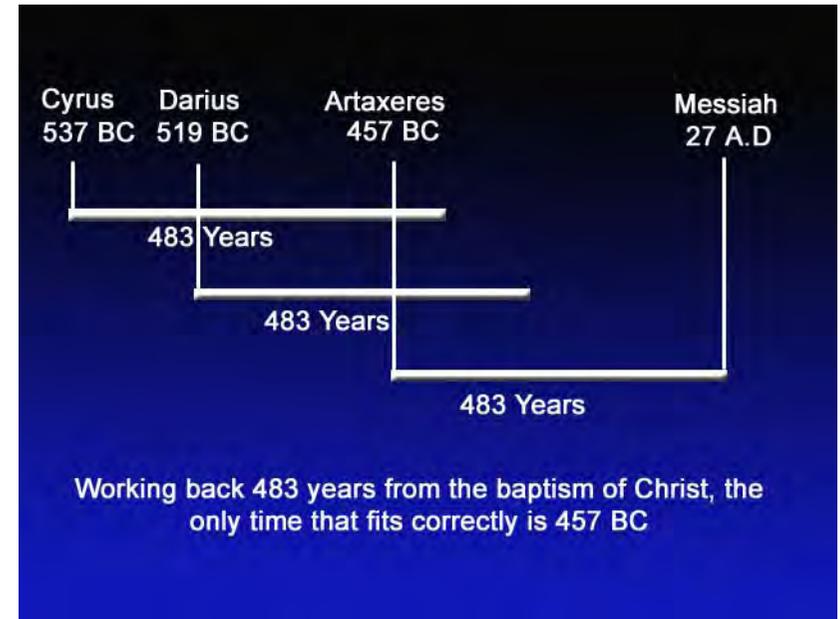


Exhibit 1

COMMENCEMENT OF THE 70 WEEKS

Which of the three decrees—Cyrus 537BC, Darius 519BC, or Artaxerxes 457BC—marks the beginning of the 490 years?

We might assume as many have done, that the first decree—that of Cyrus—should be the one. However, this does not seem adequate, as his decree appears to allow only for volunteers to return and rebuild the ruined temple (Ezra 1:2-4). Gabriel's prophecy (Daniel 9:25) calls for "restoring", and "rebuilding" Jerusalem.

The decree of Darius, likewise only provides for the rebuilding of the temple (Ezra 6:1-12). Full "restoration" does not seem to be indicated in either of these two decrees.

Artaxerxes' decree differed from the former two in that, as well as providing for voluntary migration to Palestine, it specified restoration of autonomy in civil and religious government, which of course, would have to imply a complete rebuilding program. All essential facilities would have to be in place. Thus Artaxerxes decree can be seen to fit the prophecy much more satisfactorily than either of the other two.

However, all three decrees are significant. They are treated as one by Ezra. But such a three fold decree could only be complete at the issue of the third and last—the decree of Artaxerxes (Ezra 6:14)

Perhaps the chief reason why Artaxerxes' decree should be adopted is a more obvious one. It is this. Gabriel gave Daniel an unmistakable anchor point for the 70 weeks, namely the coming of "Messiah the Prince" (Daniel 9:25). This event was to take place 7 weeks plus 62 weeks, or 483 literal years after the decree to restore Jerusalem

Next, read Daniel 9:25,27; and notice that Gabriel divided the 490 years into three periods: 7 weeks, 62 weeks, and 1 week.

1)	7 weeks	=	49	years
2)	62 weeks	=	434	years
3)	1 week	=	7	years
	<u>70 weeks</u>	=	<u>490</u>	<u>years</u>

Visualise this with the aid of the next diagram.



E. YEAR OF THE MESSIAH

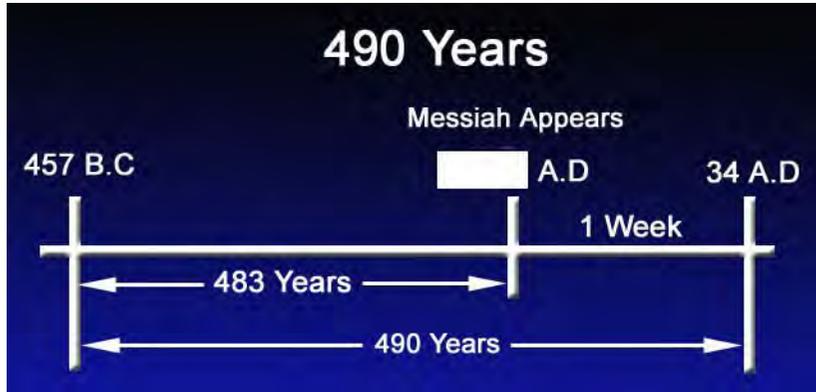
QUESTION 11 (Daniel 9:25, page 868)

At what point of the three periods was the Messiah to come?

"Until Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks and _____ weeks." (verse 25)

That is, the Messiah would appear after 49 plus 434 years. Add the 49 and 434 together. They total 483. So the Messiah would appear 483 years after 457BC.

Calculate the date of the Messiah's appearing and write it on the diagram following. (Add one extra year for the BC-AD changeover.)



If you wrote AD27 you are correct. It was then that Jesus was baptised and anointed by the Holy Spirit as “the Messiah” – “the Christ”. (Matthew 3:16, page 937; Acts 10:36-38, page 1063; Luke 3:21-23, page 993)

SEE EXHIBIT 2: Page 17
YEAR OF THE MESSIAH

Jesus himself recognised that His time had come. After His baptism He announced, “the TIME is fulfilled” (Mark 1:15, page 968) and began to preach as the “anointed one” – “the Messiah” (see Luke 4:18-21, page 995; John 4:25,26, page 1028).

F. THE YEAR OF SACRIFICE

QUESTION 12 (Daniel 9:26,27, page 868)

At what point of time was Christ's sacrifice predicted to take place?

(a) "And _____ the 62 weeks Messiah shall be cut off but not for himself" (verse 26)

(b) "In the _____ of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering." (verse 27)

The middle of the “week” (7 years) would be at the 3.5 year point. Jesus ministry did span just 3.5 years. At the hour of His sacrificial death, the tearing of the temple veil signified the end of the sacrifices and offerings

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

1. What is the most valuable thing you have learned from this chapter?
2. In analysing Daniel's prayer of Daniel 9:3-19 (page 867), have you discovered ways of enriching your own prayer life?

REVIEW QUIZ

Look again carefully at your diagram of the 2300 days and the 70 weeks (Exhibit 1). Try to memorise the main dates, then test yourself on these questions:

1. In what year was the decree of Artaxerxes given to allow the restoration of Jerusalem? _____
2. When was Jesus anointed the Messiah? _____
3. Name some of the important things that were to be accomplished in Israel during the 490 years.

4. What date would mark the end of the "2300 days" and the beginning of the cleansing of the sanctuary? _____
5. What does Gabriel call the time which follows the "2,300 days"?

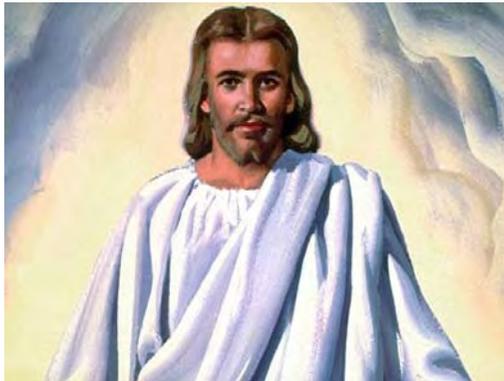
QUESTION 18 (Luke 21:34-36, page 1019)

What urgent appeal did Jesus make to those who would be living in the "time of the end"?

"Watch therefore, and _____ always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to _____ before the Son of Man." (verse 36)

Have you responded to this loving appeal?

ANSWER: _____



Now is the time to make sure we are ready
for Jesus to come

of the earthly sanctuary. (see unit 11, page 6) Thus he caused the sacrifices and offerings to cease. Their continuance held no further significance.

QUESTION 13

If Christ's 3½ year ministry commenced at AD27, in what year would His crucifixion have taken place? (Write the answer in the white box)

**G. THE NEW COVENANT****QUESTION 14** (Daniel 9:27, page 868)

"Then he shall confirm a _____ with many for one week." (verse 27)

A "covenant" means a bond, contract, agreement. The Covenant here would be the New Covenant which Jesus confirmed by His death (Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 8:8-13). "Testament" is another word for covenant. This is how the "New Testament" got its name.

God kept faith with Israel regarding the full 490 years, even though they rejected and crucified His Son 3½ years before its close. After His resurrection, Jesus gave special instructions to His disciples to go first to Israel with the Gospel. (Acts 1:8, page 1051). The nation's time was fast running out.

But, except for the few thousand believers – "the remnant of Israel" – both leaders and people angrily rejected Jesus as the Messiah and turned on the infant church with fierce persecutions. After the stoning

death of Stephen and the conversion of Saul (Paul), the message of the Messiah was carried to the Gentiles. Israel had forfeited her standing as God's chosen nation. The 70 weeks had run their course. (Read Acts 7:54-60, page 1059, 13:46) Henceforth from that time onward, all believers, Jew and Gentile, would be counted as His chosen nation, His church. Details of this come with our next unit.

H. TRAGEDY STRIKES JERUSALEM

QUESTION 15 (Daniel 9:26b, 27b)

What tragedy was predicted to overtake Jerusalem and the sanctuary, after the close of the 490 years?

"The people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the _____ and the _____ ." (verse 26b)

This prophecy was fulfilled in AD70 by the Roman army, and the Jews who were locked in civil war within the city. Jerusalem was utterly destroyed. The nation had failed to accept the Messiah and turn back to God during their 490 years probation. Just before they crucified Him, Jesus said with great sorrow, "Your house is left to you desolate." (Matthew 23:38, page 960; 21:43; 24:1, 2; Luke 19:43,44, page 1017)

QUESTION 16 (John 1:41, 45, page 1026)

What discovery by the disciples Andrew and Philip could have been made by all the Jewish leaders and people?



"We have found the _____ " (verse 41)

" _____ , the son of Joseph." (verse 45)

I. THE END POINT OF THE 2300 YEARS

Having traced the events of the 490 years, we now remind ourselves that the 490 formed the first part of 2300 years. So we are now able to calcu-

late the end point of the 2300.

QUESTION 17

Counting 2300 years from the commencement date, 457BC, in what year would the 2300 end? (Add the extra year for the BC-AD change.)

ANSWER: _____



The End of the 2300 years brings us to the time of the end and the soon return of Christ

TURN TO EXHIBIT 3: Page 18

THE MASTER KEY TO THE 2300 DAYS

Check your answer from this exhibit and review the main historical events of the 2300 years

The 2300 years span the history of God's people from the time of Medo-Persia, and Israel's release from captivity, to "the time of the end". This period, covers many events:

- the reign of Medo Persia
- the rise of Greece and Rome
- the rebuilding of Jerusalem
- the coming of the Messiah
- the Messiah's ministry and crucifixion
- the confirmation of the New Covenant
- the destruction of Jerusalem
- the spread of the Gospel to the Gentile world
- the challenge of the exceedingly great horn
- the arrival of the time of the end and the cleansing of the sanctuary judgement

The prophecy of the 2300 years confirms that we are now living in the closing period of history. Conditions prevailing in the world strengthen the reality of this time prophecy. Heaven's inquiry into the standing of all is now proceeding. Christ is soon to come.