

THE 2300 DAYS OF DANIEL 8:14

In lesson 15 we studied the great parallel prophecies of Daniel 2, 7, and 8. It is remarkable to discover how God revealed the near and far-distant future to Daniel over twenty-five hundred years ago, and how, with the passing of time, the history of both nations and religions has shown the precise accuracy of these prophecies as they have slowly been fulfilled. There are still some points in the chapters to be fulfilled. But the accuracy of past fulfillment leads us to the belief that the few remaining details will also be accurately fulfilled.

Last time we concluded at the point of Daniel 8:14. The angel who came to Daniel in verses 15-17 told Daniel what the ram, the goat, and the horn referred to, but not the part dealing with the 2,300 days. Can we discover what it means? The purpose of this study is to examine this part of the prophecy and attempt to see where it falls in history, and its significance.

1. In studying Daniel 8, it is important to note that Daniel "saw," in vision, the ram, goat, and horn. But after "seeing" that, he "heard" (verse 13) a heavenly being speaking in verses 13 and 14.

- (a) In verse 13, what question did he hear asked? _____
- (b) In verse 14, what answer did he hear given? _____
- (c) In verses 26,27, how did Daniel react? _____

(Note carefully that the question deals with an attack on the sanctuary and its services (as in verses 11,12), and the answer deals with a promise for the cleansing or restoring of the sanctuary (We will study this in the next two lessons.) It is very significant that the "how long" of verse 13 might better be "until when," emphasizing not the time span of 2,300 days, but what would take place at the end of the time span and beyond.)

2. What about the time--the 2,300 days? Many Bible scholars have tried for centuries to find a fulfillment that took exactly six years, four months, and twenty days, but such is yet to be found. Did the kingdoms of Daniel 2, 7, and 8 cover short or long periods of time? In Daniel 8 as in the previous historical outline visions of Daniel 2 and 7, the march of world empires and their following political and religious powers cover centuries. This is evident again in Daniel 8 which begins with the world empire of Medo-Persia, followed by Greece, etc. Thus the 2,300 evenings and mornings (or "days") are expected to cover a long period of time commensurate with these lengths of time. This initial expectation is supported by the question of the heavenly being of Daniel 8:13: "How long (literally, "until when") shall be the vision?" The Hebrew term for "vision" is used for the first time in the chapter in verse 2 which begins the "vision" of the ram, the goat, and the little horn to "the time of the end" (verses 17, 19), clearly indicating that the 2,300 days cover centuries beginning somewhere during the Medo-Persian (ram) empire period and continuing through the historical phases of Greece (goat) and pagan and papal Rome ("little horn"), to "the time of the end" (verse 17).

3. Having observed this, we can now turn to Daniel 9 for further explanation of the time element, and the year-day principle in Bible prophecy. Some ten years passed from the close of chapter 8 to the time of chapter 9. The Babylonian kingdom had been taken by Medo-Persia, and the 2300 year prophecy needed further explanation.

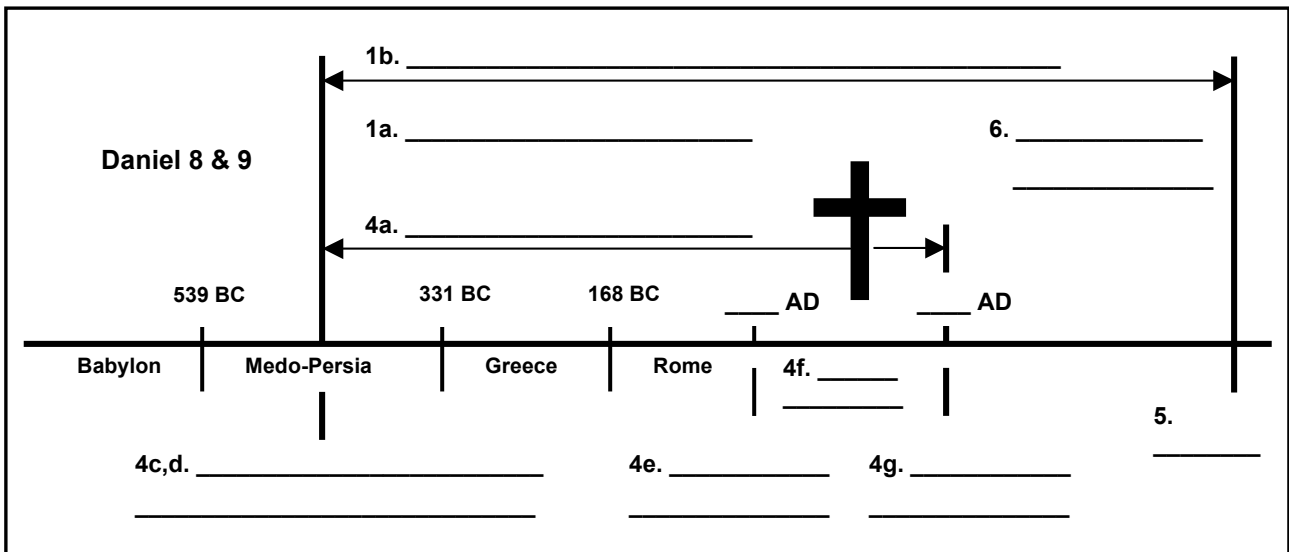
- (a) In Daniel 9:2, what was on Daniel's mind? _____
- (b) In his great prayer in verses 3-19, what is his concern in verse 17? _____
- (c) Who returns, and why, in verses 20-23? _____

4. Beginning with Daniel 9:24, the angel begins to explain the previously unexplained 2,300 days by introducing its first "leg," a specific section of the longer period. ("Determined" means "cut off"--from the longer period of time.)
- (a) How much time does this first leg contain? _____
(Many Bible scholars here see clearly that each day represents a year.)
 - (b) What was the purpose of this specific section of time, as given in the rest of verse 24?

 - (c) According to verse 25, with what coming event was this first time period to begin?

 - (d) According to Ezra 7:11-13, this was the decree of _____
which took place in 457 BC.
 - (e) From the date in (d), how long would it be until the coming of "Messiah" according to Daniel 9:25? _____
(In AD 27, at the end of this specific time, the Messiah, or Christ, or the Anointed One, was anointed by the Holy Spirit at His baptism in Jordan. (See Acts 10:38; Luke 3:22; and Mark 1:14,15.)
 - (f) What do verses 26 and 27 say would happen to Messiah during the seventieth week, or last seven years (27 AD to 34 AD) of the 490 years? _____

 - (g) The 490 years ended in AD 34, marking the end of Jewish probation, and the early apostles turned fully to the spreading of Christianity among the Gentiles. (See Matthew 10:5; Acts 7:51-60; Acts 9:15; Acts 10:34-48; and Acts 13:46.)
5. If the 490 years ended in 34 AD, and was the first leg of the 2,300 days (clearly years) of Daniel 8:14, then when would the longer period end? _____ AD. That was not so long ago, was it?
6. If the explanation of the time period of Daniel 8:14 comes so close into our own days, how would we then understand the idea of a "sanctuary" and a "cleansing" of that sanctuary in connection with a modern-day date of 1844? Our next study will deal with the question, "What is the sanctuary?" Then, in the following study we will seek to find an answer to the question, "What is the cleansing?" in connection with the sanctuary, and in connection with 1844. These will be exciting and revealing studies.



Introduction

Review Daniel 2, 7, and 8 from last week.

Daniel 8:14

¹⁴And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."

Daniel 8:15-17

¹⁵Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. ¹⁶And I heard a man's voice between *the banks of the Ulai*, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this *man* understand the vision." ¹⁷So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Understand, son of man, that the vision *refers* to the time of the end."

1. Daniel 8:13, 14

¹³Then I heard a holy one speaking; and *another* holy one said to that certain *one* who was speaking, "How long *will* the vision *be, concerning* the daily *sacrifices* and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?"

¹⁴And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."

Answer: (a) "How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?"

(b) "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."

Daniel 8: 26, 27

²⁶ "And the vision of the evenings and mornings
Which was told is true;
Therefore seal up the vision,
For it refers to many days in the future."

²⁷And I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days; afterward I arose and went about the king's business. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it.

Answer: (c) He couldn't believe what he was hearing and became sick, he was so distressed.

2. Read through the paragraph in the study guide.

3a. Daniel 9:2

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.

Answer: He was thinking about prophecies of Jeremiah (given by the word of the Lord) which told that Jerusalem would be desolate for 70 years.

3b. Daniel 9:3-17

³Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. ⁴And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, ⁵we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. ⁶Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. ⁷O Lord, righteousness *belongs* to You, but to us shame of face, as *it is* this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You.

⁸"O Lord, to us *belongs* shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. ⁹To the Lord our God *belong* mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. ¹⁰We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. 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. ¹²And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem.

¹³"As *it is* written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth.

¹⁴Therefore the Lord has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the Lord our God *is* righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. ¹⁵And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as *it is* this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly!

¹⁶"O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people *are* a reproach to all *those* around us. ¹⁷Now 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.

Answer: (b) Daniel is concerned that God's name will be dishonored because His sanctuary is desolate.

3c. 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:

Answer: (c) Gabriel came to explain what Daniel was concerned about relative to the prophecies of Jeremiah concerning the desolation of Jerusalem.

4a & b. Daniel 9:24

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.

Answer: (a) 70 weeks (if day = year, the 490 years) are determined, or set aside, for the Jewish people as a nation and Jerusalem.

(b) This time (490 years) was set aside for the Jewish people, at which time God would deal with the sin problem once and for all.

4c. Daniel 9:25

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.

Answer: (c) An official command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.

4d. Ezra 7:11-13

¹¹This *is* a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave Ezra the priest, the scribe, expert in the words of the commandments of the Lord, and of His statutes to Israel:

¹² Artaxerxes, king of kings,
To Ezra the priest, a scribe of the Law of the God of heaven:
Perfect *peace*, and so forth.

¹³ I 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.

Answer: (d) King Artaxerxes

4e. Daniel 9:25

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.

Answer: (e) 7 wks + 62 wks = 69 wks = 483 days = 483 yrs (69 wks x 7d/wk = 483 days or years).

483 years from 457 BC (when the command to rebuild Jerusalem was given) brings us to 27 AD, when Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit at His baptism.

Acts 10:38

³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Luke 3:22

²³ Now Jesus Himself began *His ministry* at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) *the* son of Joseph, *the son* of Heli,

Mark 1:14, 15

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

4f. Daniel 9:26, 27

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.
²⁷ Then 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.”

Answer: (f) In the middle of the week the Messiah would bring an end of sacrifice and offering.

4g. Matthew 10:5-7

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “**Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.** ⁶ **But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.** ⁷ **And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’**”

Acts 7:51-60

⁵¹“You 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.

Acts 9:15

¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.”

Acts 10:34-48

³⁴Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. ³⁵But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. ³⁶The word which *God* sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all— ³⁷that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached:

³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom  they killed by hanging on a tree. ⁴⁰Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, ⁴¹not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, *even* to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

⁴²And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷“Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *have*?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Acts 13:46

⁴⁶Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.”

5. Daniel 8:14

¹⁴And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."

Answer: 457 BC – the start of the 2300 day (year) prophecy – bring us to 1844, when the "sanctuary would be cleansed".

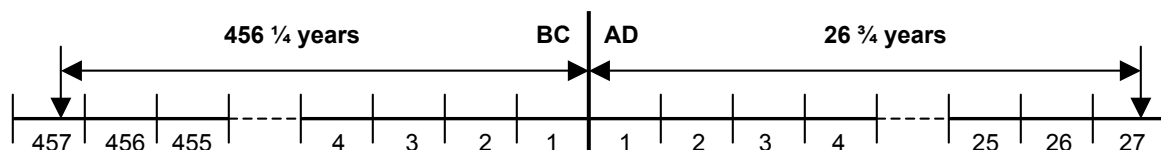
THE 2300 DAYS OF DANIEL 8:14Notes for the Instructor

Purpose of lesson 16: Following the introduction to Daniel 2, 7, and 8 in lesson 15, this lesson serves to complete the study of the 2,300 years of Daniel 8:14, necessarily involving the 490 years of Daniel 9:24-27. Lesson 16 sets the stage for the next two studies, the answering of the question, What is the sanctuary? and then the question, What is the cleansing of the sanctuary?--both as they relate to the year 1844. If this is the significant contribution of Adventists as we have long claimed, then the allowance of four studies in the series is not without justification. It is a foundation upon which we build, a real taproot of the message, a key to the modern day proclamation of the three angels' messages. Here is a key to our uniqueness, a message that other Christians and non-Christians need to hear in order to better understand salvation, the full ministry of Christ for sinners, and the vital importance of daily readiness to meet the Lord.

During the study itself: There are a number of points in this lesson that the instructor must spend adequate time to carefully explain. Do not leave any point indistinct. Explain at the very beginning that this lesson, preceded by lesson 15, and followed by lessons 17 and 18, form a most important series, as stated above.

In connection with question 2, the literal time, 6 years, 4 months, and 20 days is based on 360 days per year. There is no attempt here to bring in the "evening-morning" theory of 1150 days. (See discussion in 4 BC 844.) Question 3 emphasizes that Daniel is still thinking of time, of the defiled sanctuary, and is face-to-face again with the same angel as in chapter 8.

In connection with question 4(a), explain the idea of seventy weeks being "determined," or "cut off"--from the 2,300 day period. Also, show how the authors of the RSV, even though being interpretive, recognize the seventy weeks to be seventy weeks of years. This is recognized by many Bible scholars. Also explain, in connection with 4(b), that the 490 year period was a period of probation for the Jewish people. (See 4 BC 852.) Explain with question 4(d), that there is no known explanation of any literal seventy weeks or 490 actual days from the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. (See SDA Bible Commentary for discussions of the decree of Artaxerxes in connection with Daniel 9:25 and Ezra 7:11-13.) You will need to clarify the computation of time from BC to AD in connection with question 4(e).



Appeal: Make it twofold: First, appeal to the marvelous certainty of Bible prophecy, and second, appeal to the vital importance of the next two studies.

Illustration: Keep it very simple. By experiment, see if you like it best as a review at the end of the study, or built up as you go.

