

A COMPREHENSIVE BIBLE STUDY

The 2,300 Days of Daniel 8:14



An Adventist Perspective on the Sanctuary, Judgment, and Prophetic Time

"Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

Daniel 8:14 (KJV)

The Prophetic Timeline

2,300 years from 457 B.C. to A.D. 1844



Part 1: The Vision of Daniel 8

A vision given to Daniel ~550 B.C. at the citadel of Susa

The Ram — Medo-Persia

Two horns (Media & Persia), the higher coming up last.
Pushes westward, northward, southward.

"The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia."

Daniel 8:20

The He-Goat — Greece

Notable horn between its eyes. Strikes the ram. Great horn breaks; four arise in its place.

"The rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn... is the first king."

Daniel 8:21

The Little Horn — Rome (Pagan & Papal)

Grows "exceeding great." Opposes the "Prince of the host" (Christ). Removes the daily (*tamid*). Casts truth to the ground.

Pagan Rome: Crucified Christ, destroyed the temple (A.D. 70) • **Papal Rome:** Substituted a counterfeit mediation system for Christ's priestly ministry

Part 2: The Question & the Answer

"How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

Daniel 8:13-14

The Question

How long will the little horn's oppressive activities — removing the daily, trampling the sanctuary and God's people — continue?

The Answer

2,300 days — then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.
Hebrew *tsadaq*: "justified," "vindicated," "restored to its rightful state"

The Year-Day Principle: In apocalyptic prophecy, 1 prophetic day = 1 literal year

(Numbers 14:34 • Ezekiel 4:6)

2,300 prophetic days =
2,300 literal years

Part 3: The Connection to Daniel 9

The key to the starting date

Gabriel Returns

Daniel 8 ends with the 2,300 days left **unexplained**.
Daniel is sick and "none understood it." (Dan 8:27)
In Daniel 9, Gabriel returns:

"O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding... consider the vision."

Daniel 9:22-23

70 Weeks "Cut Off"

Hebrew *chatak* = "**cut off**"
The 70 weeks (490 years) are **cut off** from the 2,300 years — forming the first portion of the longer prophecy.

Both prophecies share the **same starting point**

The Starting Point: 457 B.C.

The decree of **Artaxerxes I** (Ezra 7:12-26) to **restore and build Jerusalem** — not merely the temple, but the city and its civil governance. This is the only decree that authorized full restoration of civil and judicial functions.

Part 4: The 70-Week Prophecy

490 years of precise fulfillment — proof of the starting date

| Segment | Duration | Dates | Fulfillment |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------|---|
| 7 Weeks | 49 years | 457 → 408 B.C. | Jerusalem rebuilt "in troublous times" |
| 62 Weeks | 434 years | 408 B.C. → A.D. 27 | Jesus baptized — " <i>Messiah the Prince</i> " |
| ½ of 70th Week | 3½ years | A.D. 27 → A.D. 31 | Crucifixion — " <i>Cut off, not for Himself</i> " |
| ½ of 70th Week | 3½ years | A.D. 31 → A.D. 34 | Stoning of Stephen — Gospel to the Gentiles |

457 B.C. + 483 years =
A.D. 27 – Baptism of Jesus

This stunning fulfillment validates 457 B.C. as the correct starting date.

"In the Midst of the Week"

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease."

Daniel 9:27

A.D. 31 — The Cross

$$\text{A.D. } 27 + 3\frac{1}{2} \text{ years} = \text{A.D. } 31$$

- Jesus crucified in the spring of A.D. 31
- "Cut off, but not for Himself" — He died for the world
- The temple veil torn from top to bottom (Matt. 27:51)
- The sacrificial system met its fulfillment

A.D. 34 — End of 70 Weeks

$$\text{A.D. } 31 + 3\frac{1}{2} \text{ years} = \text{A.D. } 34$$

- Stephen stoned (Acts 7)
- The gospel goes to the Gentiles (Acts 8-10)
- End of the 490-year Jewish probation
- 490 of 2,300 years now fulfilled

Part 5: The Terminus — A.D. 1844

457 B.C. + 2,300 years =

A.D. 1844

"Then shall the sanctuary be cleansed"

What Sanctuary?

The earthly temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 — long before 1844.

Therefore, the sanctuary cleansed in 1844 must be **the heavenly sanctuary** — "the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched, and not man" (Heb. 8:2).

Biblical Evidence

- **Hebrews 8:1-2** — Christ ministers in the "true tabernacle"
- **Hebrews 9:23-24** — Earthly was a "pattern" of the heavenly
- **Revelation 11:19** — The ark of His testament seen in heaven

If the first **490 years** were fulfilled with pinpoint accuracy, we can trust that the terminus in **1844** is equally reliable.

The Day of Atonement — Type & Antitype

Leviticus 16 • The meaning of "cleansing"

| Earthly Day of Atonement | → | Heavenly Antitype (1844–) |
|---|---|---|
| Once a year — 10th day of 7th month | → | Once in history — beginning 1844 |
| High priest enters the Most Holy Place | → | Christ enters Most Holy Place of heavenly sanctuary |
| Blood on the mercy seat (over Ten Commandments) | → | Christ's blood applied; lives measured by God's law |
| Sanctuary cleansed from accumulated sins | → | Sins blotted out for those in Christ (Acts 3:19) |
| Scapegoat (azazel) bears sins to the wilderness | → | Satan bears ultimate responsibility for sin |
| A day of judgment — "afflict your souls" | → | Investigative judgment — books are opened (Dan. 7:10) |

Part 6: The Judgment Scene — Daniel 7

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit... the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I saw... one like the Son of man came... to the Ancient of days."

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

- This is a **pre-Advent judgment** — it occurs **before** Christ's second coming
- The Son of Man comes **to the Ancient of Days** (the Father) — not to earth
- Occurs **after** the little horn's 1,260 years (A.D. 538–1798) and **before** the saints receive the kingdom
- **Books are opened** — indicating an investigation of records (Mal. 3:16; Rev. 20:12)
- **Result:** The Son of Man receives "dominion, and glory, and a kingdom" (Daniel 7:14)

Daniel 7 and Daniel 8:14 perfectly parallel each other —
the **cleansing/judgment begins in 1844**

Part 7: The Three Angels' Messages

Revelation 14:6-12

"Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment IS COME: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

Revelation 14:7

First Angel — The Everlasting Gospel

The hour of judgment **has come**. Worship the **Creator** — echoing the fourth commandment's creation language. A call to Sabbath observance.

Second Angel — Babylon Is Fallen

Apostate religious systems have rejected truth. God calls His people **out** of confusion and error.

Third Angel — Solemn Warning

A warning against receiving the **mark of the beast**. The most solemn warning in all of Scripture.

Part 8: What This Means for Us Today

1 Christ Is Our High Priest — Now

He is actively ministering on our behalf in the heavenly sanctuary. We can come **boldly** to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:14-16).

2 We Live in the Antitypical Day of Atonement

A time for heart-searching, confession, and full surrender to Christ. "*Repent... that your sins may be blotted out*" (Acts 3:19).

3 The Judgment Vindicates God & His People

Not a cause for fear for those in Christ. God demonstrates His grace is sufficient and His sacrifice effective.

4 We Have a Present-Truth Message

The three angels' messages are not relics of 1844 — they are God's message for **this hour**.

Part 9: Common Objections & Responses

"The 2,300 days are literal, not years."

Literal days (~6.3 years) cannot span Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The year-day principle is biblically established (Num. 14:34; Eze. 4:6). Gabriel says the vision is for "the time of the end."

"This is about Antiochus Epiphanes."

Antiochus was a minor king (not "exceeding great"), his desecration lasted ~3 years (not 2,300), and the "Prince of the host" fits Christ, not a Jewish priest.

"Daniel 9 is not connected to Daniel 8."

Hebrew *chatak* means "cut off" from a larger whole. Gabriel references the prior unexplained vision. Thematic continuity binds the chapters inseparably.

"There is no heavenly sanctuary."

Hebrews 8-9 is built on the heavenly sanctuary's reality. Revelation depicts its altar (8:3-4), lampstands (1:12), and Ark (11:19). The earthly was always a "copy and shadow."

Master Timeline



Biblical References

Key Scriptures for Every Major Point

The Vision & Year-Day Principle

Daniel 8:1-14 — The ram, goat, little horn, 2300 days
Daniel 8:20-22 — Gabriel identifies Medo-Persia & Greece
Numbers 14:34 — "each day for a year"
Ezekiel 4:6 — "I have appointed thee each day for a year"
Daniel 8:17, 26 — "time of the end," "many days"

The 70 Weeks & Starting Date

Daniel 9:20-27 — Gabriel returns; 70 weeks explained
Ezra 7:12-26 — Decree of Artaxerxes (457 B.C.)
Ezra 6:14 — Three kings' combined decree
Nehemiah 2-6 — Rebuilding in "troublous times"
2 Chron. 36:22-23 — Cyrus' earlier decree (temple only)

Fulfillment of the 70 Weeks

Mark 1:9-15; Luke 3:1, 21-22 — Baptism of Jesus (A.D. 27)
Matthew 27:50-51; Mark 15:38 — Crucifixion; veil torn (A.D. 31)
Isaiah 53:5-8; John 1:29 — "Cut off" / Lamb of God
Acts 7:54-60; 8:1-4 — Stephen stoned; gospel spreads (A.D. 34)
Acts 10:1-48 — Peter sent to Cornelius (Gentiles)

Heavenly Sanctuary & Judgment

Hebrews 8:1-5; 9:11-12, 23-24 — The "true tabernacle"
Revelation 11:19; 8:3-4 — Ark & altar seen in heaven
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 — Pre-Advent judgment scene
Leviticus 16:1-34; 23:27-32 — Day of Atonement
Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9 — Sins blotted out
Revelation 14:6-12 — Three Angels' Messages

Additional: Exodus 25:9, 40 (pattern) • Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:25 (Christ as priest) • Romans 8:1, 33-34 (no condemnation) • Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matt. 12:36-37; 1 Peter 4:17 (judgment) • 2 Peter 1:19 (sure word of prophecy)

Ellen G. White References

Spirit of Prophecy sources for deeper study

| Source | Chapter / Page | Topic |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| <i>The Great Controversy</i> | Ch. 18 — "An American Reformer" | William Miller's study of the 2,300 days |
| <i>The Great Controversy</i> | Ch. 23 — "What Is the Sanctuary?" pp. 409-422 | Heavenly sanctuary revealed; Dan. 8:14 as foundation |
| <i>The Great Controversy</i> | Ch. 24 — "In the Holy of Holies" pp. 423-432 | Christ's ministry in the Most Holy Place |
| <i>The Great Controversy</i> | Ch. 28 — "Facing Life's Record" pp. 479-491 | The investigative judgment in detail |
| <i>The Great Controversy</i> | pp. 326-328 | Gabriel explains Daniel 9; 70-week fulfillment |
| <i>The Great Controversy</i> | p. 489 | Living in the great day of atonement |
| <i>Prophets and Kings</i> | p. 572 | Artaxerxes' decree & the 2,300 years starting point |
| <i>Christ in His Sanctuary</i> | Entire book | Comprehensive sanctuary doctrine compilation |
| <i>The Desire of Ages</i> | Ch. 23 | Christ's baptism & fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy |
| <i>Early Writings</i> | pp. 54-56; 250-253 | Vision of heavenly sanctuary; end of 2,300 days |
| <i>Testimonies</i> , Vol. 9 | p. 19 | SDA mission: "watchmen and light bearers" |

"The subject of the sanctuary was the key which unlocked the mystery of the disappointment of 1844. It opened to view a complete system of truth, connected and harmonious, showing that God's hand had directed the great advent movement."

Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 423

Historical References

Archaeological, scholarly, and historical confirmation

| Source | Date / Origin | Relevance to Prophecy |
|--|--|---|
| Ptolemy's Canon | Claudius Ptolemy, 2nd c. A.D. | Astronomical dating confirms 457 B.C. as 7th year of Artaxerxes I |
| Elephantine Papyri | Discovered 1903, Egypt | Aramaic documents from Jewish colony confirm Persian king chronology |
| Josephus, <i>Antiquities</i> | c. A.D. 93 | Bk. 11, Ch. 8: Alexander shown Daniel's prophecy; Persian/Greek history confirmed |
| Josephus, <i>Wars of the Jews</i> | c. A.D. 75 | Bk. 6: Eyewitness account of Jerusalem's destruction in A.D. 70 |
| Greek Olympiad Records | Various ancient sources | Cross-dating confirms Artaxerxes I accession in 464 B.C. (7th year = 457 B.C.) |
| Babylonian Chronicles | Cuneiform tablets | Confirm fall of Babylon in 539 B.C. under Cyrus |
| Jerome, <i>Commentary on Daniel</i> | c. A.D. 407 | Refuted the Antiochus Epiphanes interpretation (promoted by pagan philosopher Porphyry) |
| Sir Isaac Newton | <i>Observations upon the Prophecies of Daniel</i> , 1733 | Recognized year-day principle; calculated Passion chronology |
| Horn & Wood, <i>Chronology of Ezra 7</i> | SDA Scholarly Research | Archaeological confirmation of the 457 B.C. date |
| The Great Disappointment | October 22, 1844 | Millerites expected Christ's return; study revealed heavenly sanctuary event |

Luke 3:1 dates Christ's ministry to the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar (A.D. 27). **John 2:20** — "46 years was this temple in building" (20/19 B.C. + 46 = A.D. 27). Multiple independent lines confirm the prophetic dates.

Key Spirit of Prophecy Insights

"In the seventh chapter of Ezra the decree is found. In its completest form it was issued by Artaxerxes, king of Persia, 457 B.C.... These three kings, in originating, reaffirming, and completing the decree, brought it to the perfection required by the prophecy to mark the beginning of the 2300 years."

Prophets and Kings, p. 572

"As in the typical service there was a work of atonement at the close of the year, so before Christ's work for the redemption of men is completed there is a work of atonement for the removal of sin from the sanctuary. This is the service which began when the 2300 days ended."

The Great Controversy, p. 421

"We are now living in the great day of atonement. In the typical service, while the high priest was making the atonement for Israel, all were required to afflict their souls by repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people."

The Great Controversy, p. 489

"In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world."

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 19

We Serve a Risen Savior



The 2,300-day prophecy is the **longest time prophecy in the Bible**. Its fulfillment marks the opening of the final phase of Christ's heavenly ministry. Rooted in Scripture, validated by precise fulfillment, and proclaimed in the three angels' messages — this prophecy gives us our **identity, mission, and urgency**.

"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Revelation 22:20

Further Study: Daniel 7-9 • Leviticus 16, 23 • Hebrews 7-10 • Revelation 14:6-12

Ellen G. White: *The Great Controversy* Ch. 18-24, 28 • *Christ in His Sanctuary* • *Early Writings* pp. 54-56, 250-253