

Living Connections Bible Study



God's Clock

Text: Romans 11:25-27; Daniel 9:24-27

Prayer

Icebreaker Why do the Jewish people weep and pray at the Walling Wall in Jerusalem?

1. How would Israel be able to recognize their Messiah at His first Advent when He came?
Zechariah 9:9

The angel Gabriel revealed to Daniel the very day this would take place. False messiahs cannot meet this qualification. Jesus is the only one who rode a donkey's colt into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, April 6, 32 AD. In this lesson we are going to discover how this calculation was hidden in God's Word so we can know beyond any doubt that Jesus is God's true Messiah.

3. How many prophetic weeks (heptads) did Gabriel say were determined by God to be placed on Israel's prophetic time clock? Daniel 9:24

The word weeks here is the word heptads meaning groupings of sevens, and would be similar to our word dozens meaning groupings of 12. One heptad could be a combination of 7 days, 7 weeks, 7 months, 7 years, or even 7 centuries.

4. If I say 12 dozen years or 12 dozen cookies how many years or cookies am I referring to?

5. God said there would be 70 weeks (heptads or 70 combinations of 7) of years that were going to transpire on Israel's prophetic clock. How many years would this be?

6. What six things did Gabriel say would have to take place to bring these 490 years of prophetic history to a conclusion? Daniel 9:24

Gabriel's revelation of these facts to Daniel took place in 538 BC, in the first year of the reign of King Darius. He said that these 70 weeks (heptads) would be divided into three periods of time: seven weeks, sixty two weeks, and one week, making a total of 490 years on Israel's prophetic clock.

7. What does Gabriel say would mark the beginning of the first 7 weeks (heptads)? Daniel 9:25

8. What would this time of rebuilding Jerusalem be like according the last part of verse 25?
Nehemiah 4:1-3, 11-13

The end of these first 7 weeks (49 years) marked the end of Malachi's ministry and the completion of the Old Testament Canon in 396 BC. The next time period of 62 weeks encompasses the history of the inter-testament period between Malachi and Matthew leading to Christ.

9. What marvelous event in Christ's life would take place to bring the first 69 weeks (7 weeks plus 62 weeks or heptads – 483 years) to a conclusion? Verse 25

The Jews went by a lunar calendar of 360 days a year, instead of our solar calendar with 365 days a year. If we multiply these 69 heptads by 7 we get 483 years. Each year contained 360 days, so 483 years times 360 days per year gives us 173,880 days. Beginning with the decree of Artaxexes on March 14, 445 BC and adding 173,880 days brings us to Palm Sunday, April 6, 32 AD, the precise day Jesus officially presented Himself to Israel as their Messiah through His triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

The third period on God's prophetic clock for Israel involves one final heptad, but before this 70th prophetic week of 7 years could take place the clock stopped ticking.

10. How do we know that the prophetic clock stopped here and did not run out its course seven years after Christ was introduced to Israel, crucified? Verses 24, 26-27

11. What events would take place in history after Israel's prophetic clock stopped ticking according to verse 26?

12. What event will mark the beginning of the 70th week on Israel's prophetic clock? Daniel 9:27

13. What will Antichrist do at the 3½ year point of this 7 year tribulation period? Verse 27, Daniel 7:25

Think about this week

What will it be like for Israel when they finally recognize their Messiah when He comes to save them at Armageddon?

*See! Your house is left to you desolate;
for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say,
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*

~ Matthew 23:38-39

*It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.
And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem
the Spirit of grace and supplication;
then they will look on Me whom they pierced.
Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son,
and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.*

~ Zechariah 12:9-10