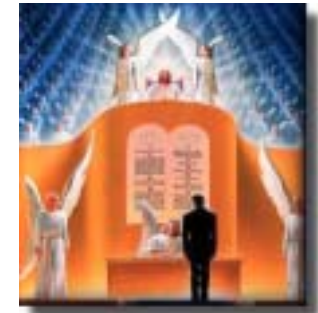


# Bible Glances



## Lesson 10 “Court is Convened”

In previous lessons we learned that Jesus is involved in a work of investigative judgment in the heavenly sanctuary that has to precede His second coming. We also learned that our life’s decisions and actions will be compared to God’s great Ten Commandments. Our next question revolves around the timing of the judgment. In this lesson we will learn just when this court is convened!



1. Are the results of the judgment revealed at the second coming of Jesus or sometime before or after His return?

*Revelation 22:12*

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2. Has God foretold a specific day for His second coming?

*Matthew 24:33, 36 (Matthew 24:42-44)*

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ANSWERS: 1) At His second coming. 2) No. We were only given signs to know when it was near. 3) Yes. God has appointed a day to begin the judgment. 4) Yes! God’s end-time people will give the warning message of the judgment. 5) The beginning of the day to begin the judgment. 6) The angel Gabriel told Daniel that the judgment would begin some 2300 years in the future. 7) Yes. The angel Gabriel returned to explain the last part of the vision to Daniel. 8) “They people” refers to Daniel’s people—the Hebrews/Jews. 9) Yes. From the going forth of the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. 10) When the deacon Stephen was stoned by the leaders of Israel it marked the close of the 490 years and Paul was then called by Jesus to take the Gospel directly to the Gentiles. 11) The Day of Atonement. 12) Reverting God and keeping His Ten Commandments. 13) Jesus. 14) We can have confidence that we will be found not guilty. 15) That probation has closed.

3. **Has God appointed a specific day for the judgment to begin?**

Acts 17:31 (Amos 3:7)

4. **Will God's people know and proclaim this set time?**

Revelation 14:6, 7 (Acts 24:24-25)



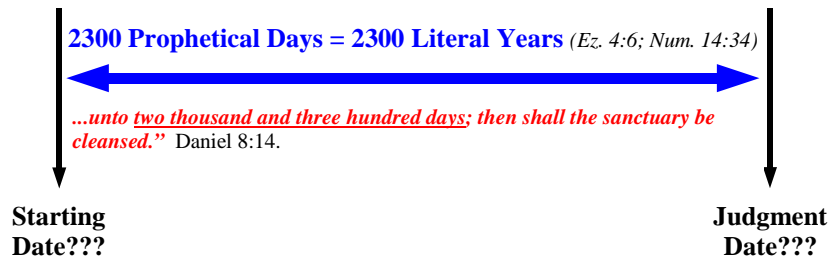
5. When studying the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation we find that God revealed the successive rise and fall of earthly powers from ancient Babylon through to the Papal power of the middle ages (the "little horn" of Daniel 7), which came to an end in the year 1798 (the "deadly wound" spoken of in Revelation 13), completing the 1260 years of persecution foretold by Daniel & John the revelator. **What did Daniel see happening in heaven sometime after 1798?**

Daniel 7:9, 10 (Revelation 5:8-11)

6. We noted in a previous lesson that God's throne, before which the judgment is held, is in the sanctuary in heaven. Another term for this judgment in the sanctuary is the "cleansing of the sanctuary." This expression is used because the record of sins for those who pass the judgment will be cleansed and blotted out of the books of record, while the names of those who do not pass the judgment will be blotted out of the book of life. **When does the Bible say that this "cleansing of the sanctuary" would begin?**

Daniel 8:14 (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34; revelation 11:15-19)

In apocalyptic prophecies, a 'prophetical' day is equal to a 'literal' year. The judgment would begin after 2300 'prophetic' days, or 2300 'literal' years.



Before the Flood, after Noah entered the ark, God shut him in and shut the ungodly out; but for seven days the people, knowing not that their doom was fixed, continued their careless, pleasure-loving life and mocked the warnings of impending judgment. "So," says the Saviour, "shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:39. Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty men. "Watch ye therefore: . . . lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping." Mark 13:35, 36. Perilous is the condition of those who, growing weary of their watch, turn to the attractions of the world. While the man of business is absorbed in the pursuit of gain, while the pleasure lover is seeking indulgence, while the daughter of fashion is arranging her adornments--it may be in that hour the Judge of all the earth will pronounce the sentence: "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." Daniel 5:27." {White, *The Great Controversy*, p.491 }

God could have finished this judgment, which began on October 22, 1844, long before now, but He delays, for He is "longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9). Yet He will not wait forever. We have already had more time to repent than the people of Noah's day. **Will you choose today, while probation lingers, to let Jesus be your advocate in the judgment by making Him the Lord of your life?**





13. Who has promised to be our advocate (lawyer) in this judgment?  
 1 John 2:1, 2 (Micah 7:9; Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:25)

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14. If we have accepted Jesus as our Savior by allowing Him to forgive our past sins and to write His law in our hearts, what attitude can we have toward the judgment?

1 John 2:28 (Hebrews 10:19-23)

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If we have accepted Jesus as our Savior by allowing Him to forgive our past sins and to write His law in our hearts, we can have confidence toward the judgment which is to prove us NOT GUILTY!



15. After the judgment is finished, what decree will God issue?

Revelation 22:11, 12 (Matthew 24:37-41; Daniel 12:1)

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Friends, we do not know when the judgment passes from the dead to the living, or when the judgment is finished, but we do know that it is close for Matthew 24:37-39 says:



“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, **And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**”

As the door of Noah’s ark was closed seven days before the flood began, so probation will close shortly before Jesus comes for the second time. Notice what one Bible writer says about this:

“The righteous and the wicked will still be living upon the earth in their mortal state--men will be planting and building, eating and drinking, all unconscious that the final, irrevocable decision has been pronounced in the sanctuary above...

7. The angel Gabriel explained to Daniel the whole vision of Daniel chapter 8, except the last part, the starting date for the 2300 years (probably because Daniel fainted). **Did Gabriel come back to Daniel and finish the explanation concerning the start of the judgment?**



Daniel 9:21-23

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8. In explaining “the vision” of the 2300 years, Gabriel said that 490 years of it (70 prophetic weeks) were “determined” for certain purposes (the word “determined” is the Hebrew word “chathak,” which literally means to “cut off.”). **For whom were these first 490 years “cut off” ?**

Daniel 9:24 (Matthew 21:43; Ephesians 2:11-14)

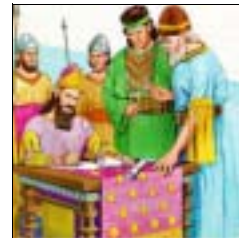
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Knowing that the 70 year exile prophesied by Jeremiah was soon to end, Daniel was glad at heart... but then the angel Gabriel brought a message from God that told how the condition of his people hadn’t changed as was intended by the captivity. Notwithstanding this, the Lord would, in His mercy, give them an additional 70 prophetic weeks—490 years to set things straight.

9. Before we can determine when the 2300 day and 490 day prophecies end, we must first discover when they begin... knowing that they begin at the same time because the 490 years were to be ‘cut-off’ from the 2300. **Does Gabriel tell Daniel the starting point of the prophecy?**

Daniel 9:25

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The 70 weeks and the 2300 days found in Daniel 8:14 from which it is cut off begin at “the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem.” This fits with the decree of Artaxerxes I found in Ezra 7. Let’s consider Ezra 7:1, 6-9: “Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah... This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he [was] a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him. And there went up... unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king. And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which [was] in the seventh year of the king. For upon the first [day] of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first [day] of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.”

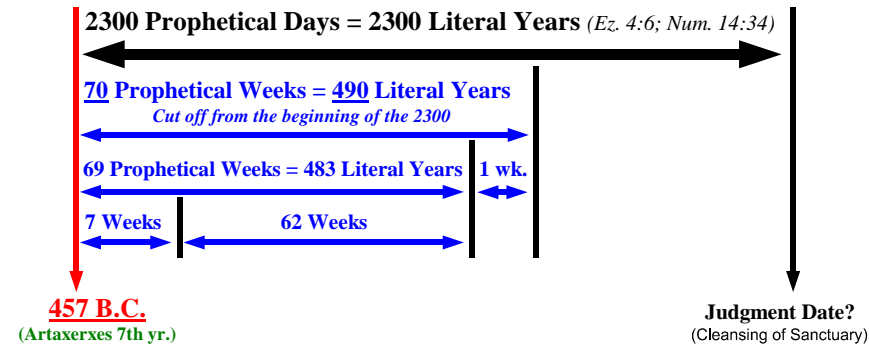
The question is, when was the seventh year of the reign of Artaxerxes I? This is in reference to his seventh reigning year. Ancient peoples had different ways of dating the reigning years of their kings. Through records of ancient history we know that the first year of Artaxerxes reign aligns with the fall of 465 B. C., which the Jewish reckoning counted as 464 B. C. (Since their calendar was offset by approximately six months overlap where they counted the last portion of 465 as 464.) The year 464 minus seven years takes us to 457 B. C. Thus we can firmly date "the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem" to the fall of 457 B. C. So we have our starting date for the 2300 year prophecy of which 490 years was to be cut-off—**457 B.C.**

So 490 years of the 2300 year prophecy can be subtracted, leaving 1810 years remaining in the prophecy to be added to the year 34 A.D. Adding 1810 years to the year 34 A.D. will tell us what year the cleansing of the sanctuary, or the judgment would begin. **What year would that be? The year 1844!** 34 A.D. plus 1810 years brings us to the year 1844 A.D.

11. As the Passover in the spring (Jewish first month) symbolically pointed forward to the crucifixion of Jesus, what ceremony in the autumn (Jewish seventh month) symbolically pointed forward to the cleansing of the sanctuary?

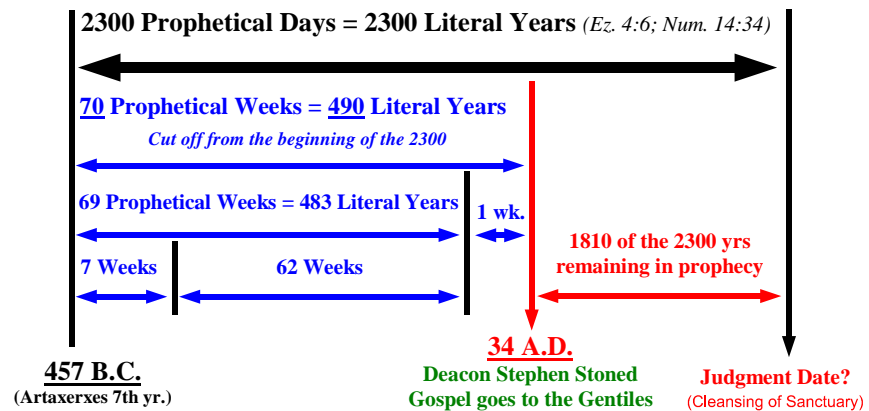
*Leviticus 16:29-34 (Leviticus 23:26-32)*

As Jesus died on the very day of the Passover in 31 A.D., so the judgment must have begun on the Day of Atonement in 1844, which was on October 22nd of that year.

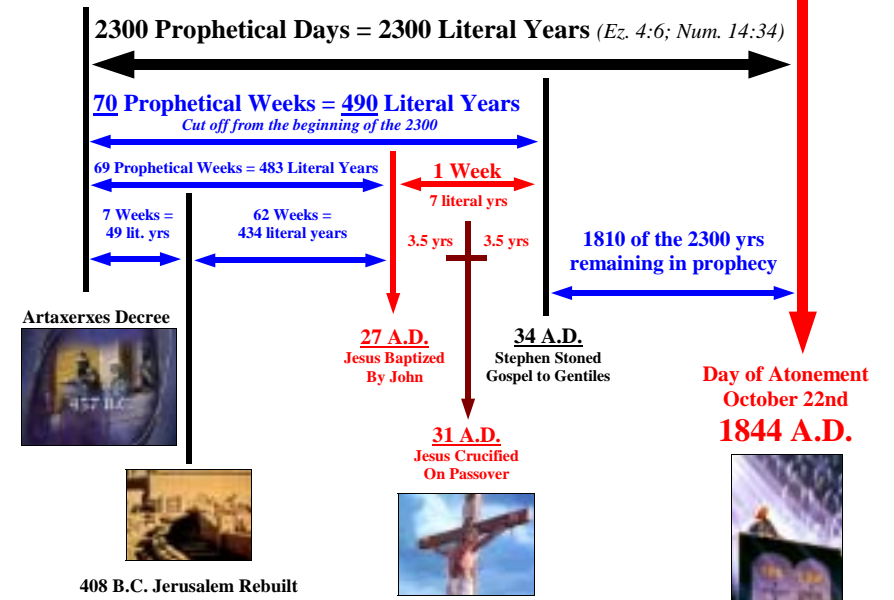


10. What event marked the end of the 490 years allotted to the Jews?  
*Acts 7:59-60; 9:1-6*

The 490 years lasted from 457 B.C. until 34 A.D. at which time Stephen was stoned to death in response to God's last appeal for Israel to repent and worship Him. Thus, probation closed for the Jewish nation (they were "cut off"), and the apostle Paul was called by the Lord to take the Gospel to the gentiles.



**When Does the Judgment Begin?**



12. In light of the fact that the judgment has already begun, how should we live?

*Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14 (1 John 2:3-6; 3:1-8)*