

James Tregenza: Waiting for the Messiah (6/4/19)

Intro:

Although the Jews had been expecting the Messiah for years, when He actually came, it seemed they were not really expecting Him!

Some people were expecting Him. There was Simeon who knew he would see Him before he died, Joseph & Mary obviously had His coming on their minds after the Angel came to visit them. There were the Wise men and those Shepherds whom God called to come and witness the event. But on the most part, the Jews were caught unawares.

When Herod was looking for the location of the Messiah in order to stamp Him out and protect his rule he asked the Jews where he could find Him and they had to go and search the scrolls! These were the people of God. The ones chosen to herald His coming. Yet they were caught unawares by the event!

If this happened to them, could it also happen to us - the ones chosen to herald His second coming? Could we who are supposed to be waiting for His appearing also be caught unawares?

Daniel 9 - the 70 Week Prophecy:

The Jews really had no excuse for their lack of expectancy. The event had been prophesied about in multiple places throughout what we now refer to as the old testament. One of the clearest of these prophecies is found in the ninth chapter of the book of Daniel. This prophecy indicated that there would be 69 weeks until Messiah would be anointed, and then in the middle of the week He would be cut off. In other words, they knew the exact time period when Messiah would be on the earth. They should have been waiting expectantly on and all around that time period.

The prophecy was specific. It said that there would be 70 weeks until a certain event. According to Daniel, the prophesied time period would begin at the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.

There was just one problem with this - there were three decrees!

However, this too becomes clear. The first two decrees concerned only the temple specifically. The third, in 457BC, the decree was made to restore and rebuild Jerusalem - the street and also the wall.

You may be asking the question: how does this add up? It seems like the time periods are out.

Correct! When interpreting biblical prophecy it is important to remember that prophecy often uses symbols to communicate its message. When you read of a "day" in scripture, the symbols use this principle: 1 day = 1 year.

If the Jews, who had this definitive prophecy to guide them, could mess this up. Could the same thing happen to us today? Is it possible that we would miss the second advent of the Messiah??

In Matthew 24 it says "no man knows the day or the hour" of the coming of the Son of Man. But then, as if to clarify, Jesus says that we *can* know when His coming is "near - even at the doors." And that is exactly what the Prophecies of Daniel go on to do!

Even at the Doors:

Daniel 2 - Gold, Silver, Brass, Iron, Iron & Clay, Stone.

- Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, Divided Rome, God's Kingdom.

This is the timeline that all the other prophecies in the book of Daniel fit into.

In other words, it becomes the framework into which prophecy fits.

Daniel 7 - Lion (with wings), Bear (raised up on one side), Leopard (wings and four heads), Terrible Beast, Ten Horns, Little Horn, Judgment and the setting up of the Kingdom of God.

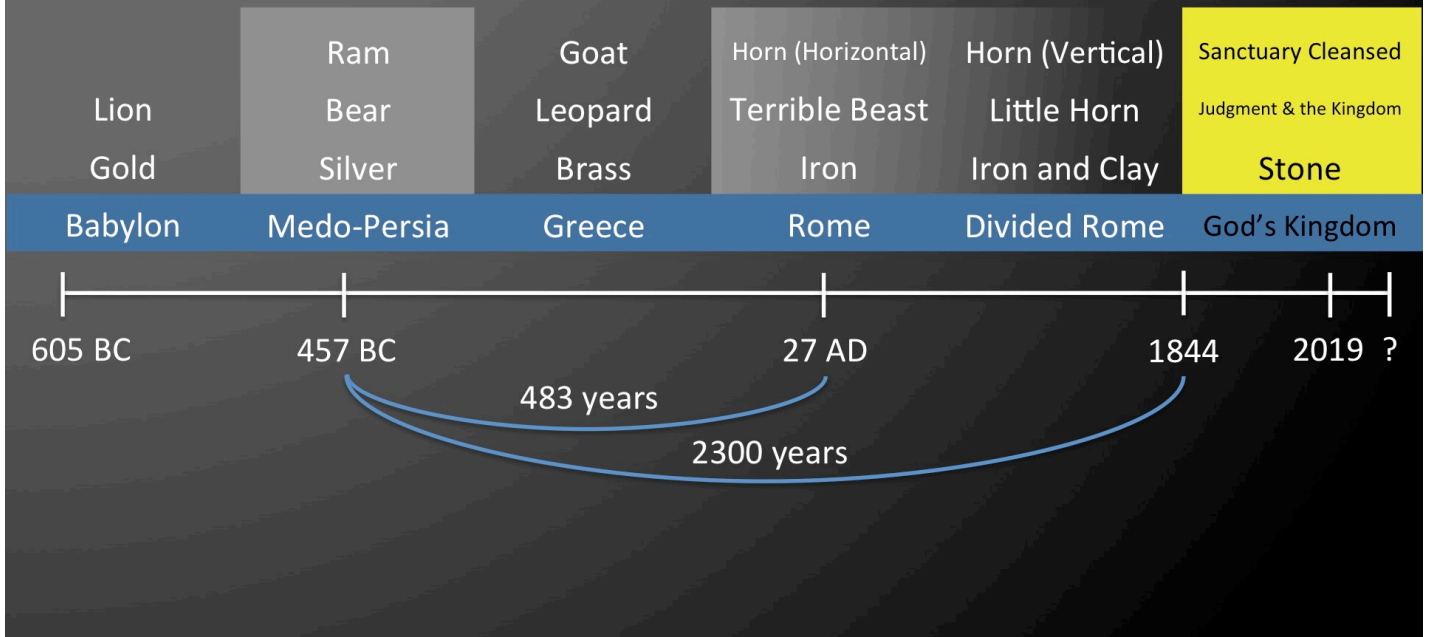
Daniel 8 - Ram (two horns - one higher than the other), Goat (one great horn and four horns that come in its place), Little Horn (grew exceedingly great - horizontally), Little Horn (attacks against heaven - vertical growth), Sanctuary cleansed.

Daniel 9 - 69 weeks = 457BC-27AD

- 2300 days of Daniel 8 begins on the same date as the 70 weeks of Daniel 9 (spanning from 457BC-1844AD)

The Yellow Zone began at 1844. We are now living 175 years on from then! Jesus could come at any time now!!

Waiting for the Messiah



Are you Ready?

Matthew 24:42-44

Illustration - Thief in the night

- It is pretty reasonable to believe that at one point or another in your life time your house will be broken into. With that said, would you stay up all night every night waiting for him to come?

No! right? But if you knew that a thief was going to be coming on a certain night would you stay up in wait? Of course you would. You would seek to catch him in the act.

In the same way, knowing that you are living in the time period that Jesus has promised He is coming back, are you awake to His coming? Or are you sleeping like the Jews were?

That night has come! We need to stay awake for this whole time period in readiness to meet Him. In the words of Jesus "watch and be ready."

Luke 14:16-24

- The people in the parable were caught up in other things. Good things, but things were out of balance in their priorities. In the same way, how are your priorities? Are you "actively waiting" for Jesus to come? Or are you taking life for granted and walking in a passive relationship with Him?

Appeal:

Is your life demonstrating an expectancy that Jesus is coming back soon?

Would people know if they saw me?

If I knew Jesus was coming soon would I be living my life differently?

- Both in personal preparation and missional preparation.