

SWORD MINISTRIES (Ephesians 6:17)

As we examine the Bible from the Old Testament through the New Testament we must realize that the Person in view is the Lord Jesus Christ. **LUKE 24:13-45; JOHN 5:39,40; COLOSSIANS 2:16,17** Jesus is Who the Bible is all about! In **HEBREWS 10:1-7** we read the Law (specifically found in the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament) was a shadow of Jesus to come.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:6,7 Passover and Unleavened Bread are two of the Feasts found in the Torah, the law. **LEVITICUS 23:1-5** historically Israel had left Egypt about one year prior to the events in this book. The feasts were (and still are) to take place exactly when God said they were to. God is very carefully protecting the times of these feasts. There are seven feasts of the Lord, and all are found in **LEVITICUS 23**. Three are in the spring: **Passover, Unleavened Bread**, and **Firstfruits**; one is in the summer: **Pentecost** (or **Weeks**); and three are in the fall: **Trumpets, Day of Atonement**, and **Tabernacles**. What makes these feasts so exciting is that Jesus died on Passover; Jesus rose on Firstfruits; and the church was born on Pentecost.

LEVITICUS 23:5 "In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's Passover." Historically Passover commemorates Israel's release (deliverance) from Egyptian slavery. **EXODUS 12:1-13** The Israelites were to select an unblemished lamb on the tenth day of Nisan; keep it until the fourteenth and then "kill it in the evening." The blood of the unblemished lamb had to be applied to the doorposts, the body was to be eaten, and the difference between death and life (salvation or judgment!) was the applied blood of the lamb. **JOHN 1:29-36** Jesus is the reality of the Passover lamb; the events in **EXODUS 12**, though quite real, were clearly foreshadowing the True Lamb of God Jesus, and our salvation through His shed blood alone.

LUKE 19:28-40 Jesus enters Jerusalem and by comparing all the Gospel accounts, this is on the tenth of Nisan. **PSALM 118:18-29** The Pharisees want the people to stop this shouting, believing that it was blasphemous to quote this Psalm in connection with Jesus being the fulfillment of it. **ZECARIAH 9:9,10** the events leading up to the triumphal entry were all plainly foretold by the prophets.

LUKE 19:37-44 in Israel on this 10th of Nisan, the people would have been bringing in their lambs to the Temple for the priests to inspect for any blemishes. Here we have the True Lamb of God riding into Jerusalem and He is rejected by the Pharisees; how utterly ironic! Then Jesus says some remarkable words about Jerusalem which is to be totally destroyed by Rome because "thou knewest not the time of thy visitation."

How were they to have known? Daniel's prophecy! **DANIEL 9:20-23** Daniel receives a prophecy from the angel Gabriel, known today as **DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS**. **DANIEL 9:24-27** contains perhaps the most amazing prophecy in the entire Bible. Outline: (v24) the entire 70 weeks (or 490 years); (v25) the first 69 weeks (or 483 years); (v26) the interval or gap – events in this verse happen after the 69th week ends but before the 70th week begins; (v27) the 70th week (or 7 years).

(v24) "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people..." The word 'weeks' in Hebrew is "SHABUA" – meaning literally sevens. This prophecy is directed at Daniel's people, the Jews. Jewish people thought in terms of sevens: seven days in a week, every seventh year was a Sabbath rest year; seven

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sevens of years brought them to the year of Jubilee. This prophecy is looking at 70 weeks of years or 490 years (70 x 7). The events in this verse would take much longer than 490 days if these were weeks of days or 9 ½ years if literal weeks. When the 70th week is over, Jesus' Millennial Kingdom will be here ushering in everlasting righteousness on earth!

(v25) The stunning accuracy of this verse is sure proof that God wrote the Bible. This is a mathematical prophecy with a beginning and an ending point. **Beginning:** "from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem..." In **NEHEMIAH 2:1-8** we find the fulfillment. Secular history dates this in 445 BC in the month Nisan. The Hebrew calendar is a lunar calendar using new moons to calculate time, whereas the Julian calendar is solar (today we use the updated Gregorian calendar), so on the Julian calendar this date converts to **MARCH 14, 445 BC**.

(v25) **Ending:** "unto the Messiah the Prince would be seven weeks and sixty two weeks..." This word "prince" (NIV "ruler") in the Hebrew is "NAGID" – a ruler or king. Thus the prophecy begins **MARCH 14, 445 BC** with the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem and ends when the Messiah the prince or king comes.

Q) When did Jesus present Himself as King?

Not at Bethlehem; and many times during His ministry He would not let them make Him a King (see **JOHN 6:14,15; 7:30**), but then on one special day that all changes at the Triumphal Entry (we call Palm Sunday). **LUKE 19:37-40** Jesus receives the honor of King and goes on to say that if the people did not praise Him "the stones would immediately cry out." So, what was the date of this event on the Jewish calendar? **LUKE 3:1,2** the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar was 29 AD. This passage is the first Passover of Jesus' public ministry; He would die on the fourth Passover of His public ministry. Thus, the crucifixion date was Nisan 14, 32 AD, putting the Triumphal Entry on Nisan 10, 32 AD when Jesus came as King, on the Julian calendar **APRIL 6, 32 AD**.

Back to our 70 Weeks prophecy: it is mathematical prophecy with a beginning date of **MARCH 14, 445 BC** and an ending date of **APRIL 6, 32 AD**. There are to be 69 weeks of years or 483 years in between these two events. One other important point to understand is that in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, years are 360 days **GENESIS 7:10,11; 8:1-4; REVELATION 11:1-3**. There are always 30 days in a month, 360 days in a year.

So, let's figure it out: 69 (weeks of years) x 7 (each week is 7 years) = 483 years. 483 x 360 (days in a Biblical year) = **173,880 days**; from the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem unto the Messiah the King. On the Julian calendar the two dates for the beginning and ending are **MARCH 14, 445 BC** to **APRIL 6, 32 AD**. Let's calculate how many days are in between these two dates: 445 BC to 32 AD = 476 years (no year zero); 476 years x 365 (days in a Julian year) = **173,740 days**; from March 14 to April 6 = **24 days**; leap year days from 445 BC to 32 AD on the Julian calendar = **116 days**. Let's add them up: **173,740 + 24 + 116 = 173,880 days**, the exact amount of days that Gabriel had predicted!

LUKE 19:40-44 Jesus held the Jews responsible for not knowing this prophecy "in this thy day" when the Messiah came exactly when prophesied to come. Jesus is Who He says He is, the Savior of the world! There is a time of tremendous judgment coming upon this earth, the Great Tribulation. You need not go through it! Are you born again? **JOHN 3:1-7; ROMANS 5:6-11. Live for Jesus!**