

History Proves It!

There are certain undeniable, undebatable facts that everyone can agree on. History proves it. The record proves it. The book of Daniel was written about history in the 5th and 6th century B.C. The people of Israel had been taken captive by the Babylonian Empire and then the Medo-Persian Empire. What is contained in the book of Daniel is substantiated by historical events and facts. Israel was a nation from the time Moses led them out of Egypt to the time of its captivity to Assyria, Babylon, and Medo-Persian. No sound historian denies these events or facts. History proves it.

Daniel wrote about some interesting things much of which may be hard to believe, and harder to explain. However, within his writings were undeniable, undebatable historical events and facts. Read the following excerpt from Daniel 9:2, 20-26:

²I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. ... ²⁰ While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for his holy hill — ²¹ while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. ²² He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. ²³ As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision:

You may or may not accept those verses as historical fact. However, Daniel’s next words are indisputable:

²⁴ “Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city [Jerusalem] to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

²⁵ “Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the **Anointed One [Messiah]**, the ruler, comes, there will be **seven sevens**, and **sixty-two sevens**. It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. ²⁶ After the sixty-two sevens, **the Anointed One [Messiah] will be put to death** and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will **destroy the city and the sanctuary**. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. [*Emphasis added*]

Daniel wrote of 70 sevens, which according to history represented 70 weeks of years. In other words, there were 7 “sevens” or weeks (7 x 7) representing 49 years and 62 “sevens” or weeks (62 x 7) representing 434 years. Daniel wrote about the future that eventually took place! He had been given a vision that played out ~500 years later!

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The temple in Jerusalem was built under Solomon's kingship and supervision after 1000 B.C. and then it was destroyed ~505 B.C.* by Babylon. Whether you understand or agree with the Old Testament writings, the temple is a historical fact ... its construction and its destruction. Daniel was one of the captives who wrote about history.

Let's break it down:

Daniel 9:25 → *"Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem" ... This took place near the end of the fifth century B.C. (~455 B.C.*) when Cyrus decreed that the temple in Jerusalem should be rebuilt. Emperor Cyrus the Great of Persia decreed that the Jews be allowed to return to Jerusalem. Many Israelites returned immediately, When the Israelites arrived in Jerusalem, led by Zerubbabel, they immediately began to rebuild the temple and surrounding city (Ezra 3).*

While the Israelites worked on the repairs, they faced great opposition from people in the surrounding lands (Ezra 4:1-5). This adversity continued even to King Artaxerxes' reign (Ezra 4:5-6). In the seventh year of his reign, Artaxerxes allowed Ezra the priest to take as many Israelites as he wished back to Jerusalem, even providing gold and silver for the people to purchase offerings and whatever else was needed for the temple (Ezra 7:11-20). This is history.

Daniel 9:25 → *"Until the Anointed One [Messiah], the ruler, comes, there will be seven sevens, and sixty-two sevens."* Once the decree was official and the Jews were called out of exile to Jerusalem, it took 49 years for the temple to be completed. That's 7 weeks of 7 years!

Daniel 9:26 → *"After the sixty-two sevens, the Anointed One [Messiah] will be put to death and will have nothing."* Sixty-two sevens represents 434 years, which was the time from the completion of the temple to the death of a man named Jesus Christ around A.D. 29.

All sound and truthful historians wrote of a man named Jesus Christ who was born around 6 B.C. and died via crucifixion approximately 29 A.D. This man, Jesus, claimed to be the Messiah who would take away the sins of the world as Daniel had prophesied 500 years earlier. No other person at that time in history made such a claim and was crucified prior to the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70. Daniel wrote of the "Anointed One" which literally means "Messiah" and was defined as such by the ancient Rabbis who translated the Septuagint (Greek Bible Translation).

"The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary." Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed in A.D. 70 by the Roman army.

Jesus Christ was a man who lived ~500 years after Daniel's prophecy and before the prophesied destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. He and Daniel both claimed that this man was the Messiah who would take away the sin of the world. History proves it! Do you believe it?

**Dates are not in agreement with the secular dates which the Jews do not hold true either.*