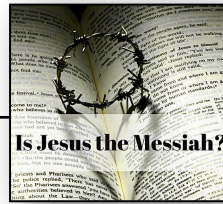


Is Jesus the Messiah of Daniel 9?



- Can we be certain about the identity of the Messiah?

Luke 19:28-44 records the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The crowds welcomed him, waving palm branches, and shouting, “*Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the LORD!*” (Luke 19:38 NLT). Jesus was fulfilling a prophecy recorded in Zechariah 9:9-10 about the Messiah coming to Israel riding on a donkey.

Later, Jesus was on a hill looking out over Jerusalem. He wept over the city and said: “*42 How I wish today* [the NIV: “*this day,*” the Amplified: “*this day of salvation*”] *that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes.*” “*44 ...you did not recognize it when God visited you.*” (NLT)

Jesus’ reference to “*today*” [“*this day*” - NIV] is a **flashback** to a special **prophecy** made by Daniel in **Daniel 9:25-26**. Theologians and Mathematicians have calculated the time from this decree recorded in Daniel 9 to when the Messiah was to come. Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Daniel 9 and confirmed that he was/is the Messiah and Savior of the world.

Central Lesson:

Jesus is the Messiah of Daniel 9 and the only one who can save sinners.

Three Keys to Understanding Daniel 9:25-26

1. The Messiah Would Present Himself to Israel As **MESSIAH** on April 6, 32 A.D. (9:24-25).

“*25 Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the Anointed One—comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.*” (NLT).

- Who’s coming was to be anticipated?
“*a ruler—the Anointed One—comes.*” (NLT). The name “Messiah” is Hebrew for “the Anointed One.” The title “Christ” is the N.T. Greek equivalent.

- When would the count down for Messiah’s coming start?
“*from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem*” (NLT).

Scholar, Dr. Alva J. McClain, in his book, *Daniel’s Prophecy of the 70 Weeks*, writes: “There is only one decree in Old Testament history which...can...be identified as the ‘commandment’ referred to in Daniel’s prophecy. That decree is found in the Book of Nehemiah... we should notice how carefully Nehemiah, writing by divine inspiration, records the exact date of this decree: ‘in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes’ reign, (2:1)... it will be no surprise to learn that the date fixed by Nehemiah happens to be one of the best-known dates in ancient history... Hence in our calendar, the date would be March 14, 445 B.C. Here we have the beginning of the Seventy Weeks.” (pp. 23-24).

- How much time will elapse from the issuing of this decree until Messiah’s coming?

“*Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass...*” (NLT)

Dr. McClain explains, “Since we have 69 Weeks of seven years each, and each year has 360 days [Jewish calendar], the equation is as follows: $69 \times 7 \times 360 = 173,880$ days. Beginning with March 14, 445 B.C., this number of days brings us to April 6, 32 A.D.” This is the momentous day on which Jesus rode into Jerusalem and presented himself as Prince and the King of Israel.

2. The Messiah Would Be “**KILLED**” (v.26).

“*26 After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing...*” (NLT)

The Messiah would be “killed” (NLT & Hebrew), “put to death” (NIV), “cut off” (NASB) according to Daniel’s prophecy! This was also foretold in the prophecy of Isaiah 53:8-9 “*Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. 9 He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man’s grave.*” (NLT)

3. The Messiah Would Come Before the **DESTRUCTION** of Jerusalem and the Temple (v.26)

“*26 ... and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end.*”

The *Life Application Bible* explains (p.1847 NIV): “About 40 years after Jesus said these words, they came true. In A.D. 66, the Jews revolted against Roman control. Three years later Titus, son of the Emperor Vespasian, was sent to crush the rebellion. Roman soldiers attacked Jerusalem and broke through the northern wall but still couldn’t take the city. Finally, they laid siege to it, and in A.D. 70 they were able to enter the severely weakened city and burn it. Six hundred thousand Jews were killed during Titus’s onslaught.”

Since Daniel placed the Messiah’s coming BEFORE the destruction of Jerusalem, and since history records this destruction at A.D. 70, **we are forced to conclude that the Messiah has already come!** There is no biblical basis to still be looking for the first coming of the Messiah! At this point, we must ask ourselves: Who in history before A.D. 70 best fits the description of the Messiah as specified by the Old Testament prophets? If we are fair to the evidence, the answer is Jesus of Nazareth!

Four Questions:

1. Who did the people closest to the time and location (April 6, 32 A.D. and Jerusalem) think the Messiah was? Should we give preference to their claim?
2. Who best fulfilled the many other Messianic prophecies - the place of birth, manner of birth, lineage, death, and resurrection, etc.?
3. If Jesus was not the Messiah, who else was a better possibility?
Not the Jewish nation, nor anyone else, has presented a better alternative.
4. If Jesus was *not* the Messiah, and since the Temple and sacrificial system were destroyed in A.D. 70, how does anyone experience forgiveness of sins?

Central Lesson:

Jesus is the Messiah of Daniel 9 and the only one who can save sinners.

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ.
- ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday’s study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.