

PROPHECY UNCUT

2300 Evenings & Mornings – Understanding the Timing

INTRODUCTION

The book of Daniel is home to a beautiful and intriguing prophecy, which also holds the record for being the longest time prophecy in all of Scripture.

Before looking at the beautiful, prophetic event itself, one first needs to come to terms with the time element. In order to this, one will need to investigate the subject from passage to passage in various books of the Bible.

Above and beyond the Biblical investigation of the subject, one will also need to make use of some basic mathematical skills in order work out and trace the timeline element of Daniel 8:14's prophecy. It's an intriguing subject and one that is well worth every ounce of effort made to find an understanding of it!

WHAT DO THE 2300 DAYS OF DANIEL 8:14 REPRESENT?

**Daniel 8:14; Numbers
14:34; Ezekiel 4:6**

When the bible references a period of a 'day' in a prophetic context it should be understood as referring to the literal time period of a 'year'. Each prophetic day represents one literal year. Applying the principle that each prophetic day represents one literal year, Daniel 8:14 should be understood to be referring to a time period of 2300 years.

Genesis 7:11, 24; 8:3

In addition to this, it is important to keep in mind that the Jewish calendar worked on the lunar year system. This means that a year was made up of only 360 days – not 365 ¼ as is the case with our presently used solar calendar.

Each month in the Biblical calendar was comprised of only 30 days. Evidence for this is found in Genesis 7 & 8. On the one hand, the worldwide flood in Noah's day is explicitly stated to have lasted 5 months to the very day (Gen 7:11, 24). On the other hand, the same flood is stated to have last for exactly 150 days (Gen 8:3). Thus, 150 days spread over 5 months works out to be 30 days per month.

The implications of this concept is that when prophetic timeframes are given in measurements other than 'days', for example, in weeks, months or years, these larger time measurements must first be broken down into the number of days that make them up. Only once this has been done can a clear literal time frame be calculated based on 1 prophetic day being equal to 1 literal year. Always remember that if one is converting from years, one will multiply the number years by 360 days, using Hebrew reckoning. Similarly when converting from months, one should multiply the number of months by 30 days.



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DOES DANIEL 8:14 GIVE THE STARTING POINT OF THE 2300 YEAR PROPHECY?

Daniel 8:14

Unfortunately no start or end point is given in the entire prophecy of Daniel 8. It should be kept in mind that it would be absolutely pointless for the Lord to give a time prophecy for which there is no start or end point clearly identified. Logic would suggest that there must be a key to unlock this cryptic time prophecy hidden somewhere in the Biblical text.

WHICH BIBLE TEXT REVEALS THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING WHEN THE 2300 YEAR PROPHECY BEGINS

Daniel 9:25

The key to unlock the time element of the 2300 year prophecy can be found in Daniel 9:25. Daniel 9:24-27 is another time prophecy which pertains to the first 70 weeks, or 490 years (7 days x 70 weeks = 490 days / years) of the 2300 year prophecy. Thus, the starting point for the 70 week prophecy and the 2300 year prophecy are the same. If it can be determined when the 70 week prophecy begins then the starting point of the 2300 year prophecy will also be known.

WHAT EVIDENCE IS THERE THAT THE 2300 YEAR PROPHECY IS LINKED TO THE 70 WEEK PROPHECY?

There are at least five connecting links between Daniel 8:14 and Daniel 9:24-27:

Daniel 8:16; Daniel 9:21

The same angel messenger that is sent in Daniel 8 to explain the vision returns in Daniel 9 to explain the 70 week prophecy.

**Daniel 8:14; Daniel
9:24-27**

Both Daniel 8:14 & Daniel 9:24-27 are time prophecies.

Daniel 9:24

As Daniel begins to reveal the 70 week prophecy he states that this time period is 'determined' for Daniel's people i.e. the Jewish nation. The Hebrew word translated as 'determined' is the word '*chatak*'. This word literally means 'cut off'. Thus it would seem that the 70 week prophecy (490 years) is cut off from the larger 2300 year prophecy.

Daniel 8:26; Daniel 9:23

In Daniel 8:26 the Hebrew word translated as 'vision' referring to the 2300 year prophecy is the word '*mareh*'. Elsewhere in Daniel 8, when referring to the broader vision as found in Daniel 8:1-13, the word used for 'vision' is '*chazon*'. When Gabriel arrives to explain the 70 week vision in Daniel 9:23, he explicitly states that he came to give



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understanding of the 'mareh' (vision). The use of this particular word for 'vision' would direct the reader's attention back to the 2300 year prophecy.

Daniel 8:27; Daniel 9:23

At the end of Daniel 8 it is clear that despite Gabriel's interpretation of the vision, Daniel still does not understand the 'mareh'. Daniel 8 thus ends without closure on the vision of the 2300 years. In Daniel 9:23 Gabriel arrives with the express purpose of giving understanding to that which Daniel did not comprehend in the previous chapter i.e. the 'mareh'. Thus it would seem that in Daniel 9 Gabriel is sent to finish the job of giving 'understanding' which was not completed in Daniel 8.

In summary, it is the same angel messenger, Gabriel, that returns in Daniel 9 to finish the work he began in Daniel 8 of giving 'understanding' to Daniel pertaining specifically to the 'vision' (*mareh*) of the 2300 year prophecy. He does this by explaining the larger time prophecy of 2300 years in the context of a smaller 490 year time prophecy (70 weeks) which is clearly stated to be 'cut off' from the former.

WHAT DOES GABRIEL SAY WILL BE THE SIGN THAT THE 70 WEEK PROPHECY AND THE 2300 YEAR PROPHECY HAS BEGUN?

Daniel 9:25

When a decree is made that Jerusalem should be both restored and rebuilt, the time prophecies of Daniel 8:14 & Daniel 9:24-27 will have their beginning.

IS THERE ANY BIBLICAL INDICATION OF WHEN SUCH A DECREE WAS MADE?

Ezra 1:1-4; Ezra 6:1, 11-12; Ezra 7:11-26

Three decrees were issued by three different kings which ultimately led to the restoration and the rebuilding of Jerusalem. The decrees of the three kings, in chronological order, were Cyrus in 538 BC, Darius Hystaspes (not Darius the Mede) in 519 BC, and Artaxerxes Longimanus (long-armed) in 457 BC.¹ The question may well be raised concerning which of these decrees should be regarded as the starting point for the prophecies found in Daniel 8:14 & Daniel 9:24-27.

Ezra 6:14

Ezra 6:14 helps us to understand which decree is the starting point for the time prophecies of Daniel 8 & 9. The word translated as 'decree' or 'command' is in the singular number even although all three

¹ J. B. Doukhan, *Secrets of Daniel*, (Hagerstown, MD: Review & Herald Publishing Association, 2000), 142.



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kings are listed. Thus it would seem that these three decrees are seen by Ezra to be one decree which found its ultimate fulfillment and maturity in the decree issued by Artaxerxes Longimanus. Additional evidence that supports the view that the decree issued by Artaxerxes is indeed the one that should be used as the starting point is:

- i. This decree is the most thorough one in that it did not only concern the rebuilding of the temple, but also the reestablishment of Israel as having its own judicial and administrative authority (Ezra 7:25).² The first decree, by Cyrus, initiated the return of the Hebrew exiles to the land of Judah. It also authorized the reconstruction of the Jewish temple. The second decree, by Darius, was essentially an endorsement of Cyrus's decree. However, in reestablishing the judicial and administrative aspects of the Israelite nation, the third decree by Artaxerxes would seem to most closely identify with the statement in Daniel 9:25 that the decree would include not only a reconstruction aspect, but also a restoration aspect.
- ii. This decree is the only one that explicitly mentions God's intervention (Ezra 7:27-28).³
- iii. It is also of interest to note that in terms of the language employed by the Bible writer there is a change. The rest of the book of Ezra from after the decree of Artaxerxes is written in Hebrew – the native language of the Hebrew people. Prior to this, the book is written in Aramaic.⁴

Ezra 7:7-8

The decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus was issued during the seventh year of his reign which can be definitively tied to 457 BC through extra biblical sources.

HAVING ESTABLISHED THE STARTING POINT OF THE TIME PROPHECIES IN DANIEL 8 & 9, WHAT IS THE END POINT FOR THE 2300 YEAR PROPHECY?

Daniel 8:14; Daniel 9:25; Ezra 6:14, 7:7-8

Knowing that Artaxerxes Longimanus issued the decree to both rebuild the temple and to restore Jerusalem as its own judicial and administrative authority in 457 BC, one simply needs to count down 2300 years from the starting point of 457 BC. It should be kept in mind that there is no year 0 AD. As such the termination of the 2300 year prophecy is in 1844 AD.

² Doukhan, 142-3.

³ Doukhan, 143.

⁴ Doukhan, 143.



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CONCLUSION

Daniel 8:14 sets out a time frame that highlights the starting point for a new and wonderful event in salvation history.

Although we have yet to identify the nature of this event, it begins in the year 1844 – a date that is not very far removed from the present day.

Having established the date, the more important question pertains to the nature of the event prophesied. The next study in this series will be dedicated to answering this question.



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Works Cited

There are no sources in the current document.

