

# THE CORNERSTONE

June 2017



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The Journey Begins at [biblebee.org](http://biblebee.org).

**DISCOVER**  
ETERNAL TREASURE!



## Missions for the Month

Here is a recent prayer request from:  
**Debbie and Patrick O'Connor:**

Dear friends in Sugar Land,

Debbie and I take off in about six days. We will be traveling for roughly one month, mostly in South Asia and then also for a time off celebrating wedding anniversary on our way home. I wanted to send out a special prayer request asking that the church prays with us as we travel. You guys are greatly appreciated. May 22 to June 17 are the dates.



Pray for:

1. Safety for travels during the 27 day trip.
2. Safety in India, overall -- also on our anniversary in Ireland.
3. Safety for relationships in India. Relationships are such a vital foundation for ministry.
4. Safety in our spirits....that both of us would have very long quiet times every day of the 27 day trip. This is also always one of our foundations for ministry...in that as we minister hard we pray hard for safety in our spirits.
5. A bit of relaxing fun as we celebrate 30 years of being married. We are to be in Ireland at the end of the trip. We are really looking forward to this. But again -- like prayer and like the spirit -- the marital relationship is such a foundation for ministry. Please pray that Ireland will be a blast!
6. Safe arrivals home on June 17th where Kathryn will be waiting for us, having arrived from Australia on June 11th. Thanks, Patrick and Debbie

### Scripture for the Month:

#### 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and *that* you may lack nothing.

*The Cornerstone Newsletter  
 deadline for News articles is the  
 19th of each month.*

*You can e-mail Patricia Chandler at:  
[earlbudc@att.net](mailto:earlbudc@att.net) or send infor-  
 mation to Carol Henry at [Car-](#)*



## DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS, PART 8

**Andy Woods—Pastor**

In this series of articles, we are exploring a very important Bible prophecy, which is generally referred to as Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks, found in Daniel 9:24-27. In the first installment, we explained the background of the giving of this prophecy. With this background information in mind, we then turned our attention to a textual analysis of Daniel 9:24-27. We began to break the prophecy down into ten manageable facts. As the reader tracks with me through the presentation of these ten facts, concepts, or ideas, he will develop a very clear understanding of the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. In turn, he will be rewarded by the Holy Spirit with greater confidence that the Bible is indeed God's Word, and he will also obtain a blueprint or timeline through which he can understand how all end time events predicted in the Bible will ultimately come to pass.

In our second installment, we noted our *first* fact, which is the idea that the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks concerns the nation of Israel in general and the City of Jerusalem in particular. As previously noted, this prophecy has nothing to do with the present age of the Church. In fact, the Church was a mystery, which is an unknown spiritual reality (Eph. 3:3-6), at the time the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks was given. In our third installment, we noted a *second* feature, which is the notion that the prophecy consists of a 490-year stop watch. In our fourth installment, we noted our *third* feature, which is the idea that each year of Daniel's 490-year stopwatch consists of 360 days. In our fifth installment, we noted our *fourth* feature, which is the idea that at the end of Daniel's 490-year period Israel will be politically and spiritually restored. In our sixth installment, we noted our *fifth* fact, which pertains to the notion that Daniel's 490-year stop watch began to run on March 5, 444 B.C. In our seventh installment, we presented our *sixth* fact. Exactly 483 years elapsed between the beginning of the prophecy (March 5, 444 B.C.) and when the Messiah formally presented His messianic credentials to the nation of Israel on Palm Sunday (March 30, A.D. 33). In other words, the first 69 weeks of the prophecy was fulfilled to the exact day. Before moving on to our seventh fact, in this installment, we would like to explain why understanding the precision of this prophecy is necessary for making sense out of much of the New Testament as well as for interpreting biblical prophecies whose fulfillment is still yet to come.

### **Fact # 6: 483 Years Elapsed Between Artaxerxes' Decree and the Messiah's Coming (Dan 9:25b)**

As indicated in the prior installment, according to fact number 6, exactly 483 years will elapse in between the decree of Artaxerxes and when the Messiah will show up. Daniel 9:25 says: "So you are to know and to discern that from the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks."

#### *An Exact Fulfillment*

As explained in our last installment, both the work of Dr. Harold Hoehner and Sir Robert Anderson demonstrate that Daniels' Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks had the potential of being fulfilled to the exact day! There are exactly 173,880 days between the decree of Artaxerxes (Neh. 2) and the coming of Jesus Christ to His own nation on Palm Sunday. God is a God of precision and certainty who deals in time with minute details. Such precision should cause us to worship and praise Him all the more.

#### *New Testament Background*

Understanding this background related to the precision of the Seventy Weeks Prophecy helps us to make sense of much of the New Testament. Luke 19:37-44 records Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, on Palm Sunday. These verses say:

<sup>37</sup>As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen,  
<sup>38</sup>shouting: "BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" <sup>39</sup>Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disci-



ples.”<sup>40</sup> But Jesus answered, “I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!”<sup>41</sup> When He approached *Jerusalem*, He saw the city and wept over it,<sup>42</sup> saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.”<sup>43</sup> For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side,<sup>44</sup> and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

According to verses 37-38, as Jesus was riding into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the crowds were reciting Psalm 118:26, which is a Messianic Psalm. [Psalm 118:26, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.”] Why are the masses here citing this particular Psalm on this particular day? They did so because they most likely had in the back of their minds Daniel’s prophecy. Thus, they knew that this was a special day according to Daniel’s Seventy Weeks Prophecy. Moreover, according to verses 39-40, after some of the Pharisees told Christ to silence His disciples Christ responded, “I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!” Jesus made this statement because this was a very special day predicted by Daniel. Consequently, if the disciples could not publicly declare its significance, then the very stones themselves would announce it.

In Luke 19:42, Jesus indicates, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.” Why would Jesus make an issue out of this very day? Jesus laid stress on the particular day of Palm Sunday because this was the exact day that Daniel had predicted in Daniel 9:25. The “things which make for peace” represents Christ’s bonafide offer of the kingdom to first-century Israel. The nation should have known that the kingdom was within their grasp since Daniel had predicted the exact day their Messiah would present His Messianic credentials to them. Had they received the kingdom on the King’s terms, the Messianic kingdom would have been established.

Verse 44 says, “and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.” Why would Jesus mention “the time” of their “visitation”? He mentions “the time” because His triumphal entry on Palm Sunday was predicted by the prophet Daniel to the exact day. However, first-century Israel’s failure to recognize this predicted day would result in their failure to receive the kingdom and consequently experience the covenant curses articulated in the Mosaic Covenant (Deut. 28:15-68). Jesus reveals these curses when He also says in verse 44, “and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another.” Furthermore, the anticipation of these covenant curses that were eventually meted out nearly forty years later in the horrific events of A.D. 70 helps explain why Jesus is here portrayed as weeping as He rides into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Luke 19:41). In sum, when Luke 19:37-44 is understood in light of the precise prediction found in Daniel 9:25, the better the sense can be made out of Christ’s repeated references to the divine significance of the time of His entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Other portions of the New Testament also become understandable when considered alongside the background of the mathematical precision provided by Daniel’s Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. The New Testament indicates that Christ lived His entire life in His First Coming according to a divine timetable (John 2:4; 7:30; 8:20, etc...). Galatians 4:4 says, “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law.” Jesus had to be born into the world at a specific time so He could come into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday at a specific time. This background also helps explain why there was a heightened Messianic expectation at the time of the birth of Christ. Many people of Christ’s time understood the precise nature of Daniel 9:25 and consequently could estimate when the Messiah would be born. This reality helps explain why there were Godly people, like Simeon and Anna as recorded early on in Luke’s Gospel, waiting in the temple for the coming of the Messiah (Luke 2:25-38).

Daniel’s Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks also helps us understand why the Magi came from the east searching for the Messiah (Matt. 2:2). In the Scripture, the east is generally understood as Babylon (Gen. 2:8; 11:2). The Magi came from Babylon because they understood Daniel’s Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks, which was given to Daniel while he was in Babylon. Recall that when Daniel successfully revealed and interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar in turn promoted Daniel into the ranks of the Babylonian magicians (Dan. 2:48). These Babylonian magicians were the precursors of the Magi who would seek the Messiah six-centuries later as recorded in Matthew 2. The reason that they were seeking the birth of the Mes-



Did you know that a child is abused every 8 minutes in the state of Texas? "Child Abuse is a critical issue and public health epidemic that gravely impacts the victims themselves – the children and their families. But it also puts stress on our community – our courts, child welfare system, law enforcement, judicial system, medical centers, mental health providers, substance abuse centers and schools."

-Ruthanne Mefford, CEO of Child Advocates of Fort Bend Child Advocates of Fort Bend is a nonprofit agency serving child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect. Started in 1991, it celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016 having served over 14,000 children ages birth – 18+ years old over those years. Its mission is to: Provide a Voice, Heal The Hurt and Break the Cycle of Abuse and Neglect for Children in Fort Bend County.

Please visit the Child Advocates of Fort Bend website at [www.cafb.org](http://www.cafb.org). The website is designed to be a one-stop resource for child abuse and neglect, whether you need help or want to find a way to help. You can learn about abuse, access resources and find out what services and programs are offered to victims and their families. You can get involved by volunteering, donating, attending an event or becoming an ambassador to spread the word.

Fort Bend County is very blessed to have such a wonderful resource for our community. Let us each consider what we can do to help the most vulnerable people in our society.

Submitted by Fabiana Morris



siah at that particular time in history was that they, as the Babylonian Magi, had access to and familiarity with the mathematical precision of Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. Daniel, the giver of this prophecy, had been promoted into their very ranks just six centuries earlier.

Furthermore, they were following a star because in Numbers 24:17 the prophet Balaam analogized the coming of the Messiah to a star. Numbers 24:17 says, "I see him, but now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob...." Interestingly, Balaam, who gave this prophecy, was from Mesopotamia, or Babylonia. Deuteronomy 23:4 indicates this when it says, "...they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you." Thus, the Magi, coming from the east or Babylon, most likely had access to Balaam's prophecy (Num. 24:17), which helps explain why they were following a star. These Magi also knew the general time period when the Messiah would be born because they had access to the precise chronology given by the prophet Daniel (Dan. 9:25). Thus, the Magi likely had familiarity with both the predictions of Balaam (Num. 24:17) and Daniel (Dan. 9:25), which explains why the Magi were following a star at that particular point in history. Given these prophecies, the Magi could piece together the general time of the Messiah's birth. Matthew records this information (Matt. 2) as a rebuke to the chosen people. While those from pagan lands, like Babylonia, well understood that they were living in Messianic times given their access to only two prophecies, God's chosen nation Israel, possessing the complete Old Testament canon, did not similarly understand that they were living in Messianic times.

The Bible teaches that to whom much is given much is also expected (Luke 12:48). Thus, Jesus held first-century Israel accountable for knowing this prophetic information. According to Matthew 16:1-3:

The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. <sup>2</sup> But He replied to them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' <sup>3</sup> And in the morning, 'There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot *discern* the signs of the times?"

Here, Christ rebuked the leadership of first-century Israel for knowing how to interpret weather patterns such as "red sky in the morning, sailor take warning." However, while being able to successfully interpret the physical world, they refused to properly interpret the prophetic signs related to the coming of their own Messiah. Christ's point was simply to ask, "how is it that you can effectively interpret the physical world and yet you cannot see the coming of your own Messiah right before your very eyes when His coming was predicted on a divine timetable as revealed by the prophet Daniel (Dan. 9:25).

One peculiar occurrence recorded in the Gospels is something known as the "Messianic Secret." This phrase represents the times when Jesus would perform a miracle and consequently a minority of people would recognize and identify Him as their long-awaited Messiah. Yet, Jesus would tell these insightful observers not to disclose His Messianic identity (Mark 1:40-45; 8:27-30). Even though scholars spill pages and pages of ink in their attempt to figure out the significance of the "Messianic Secret," the answer to its significance is really quite simple if one views it through the background of the prediction found in Daniel 9:25. Jesus made statements like these because His revelation of His Messiahship to the Jewish nation had to occur on a specific day, which is the very day predicted by Daniel (Dan. 9:25). Therefore, the public revelation of His Messianic identity to Israel had to transpire on Palm Sunday of March 30, 33 A.D. Because that day had not yet arrived, Jesus desired to keep His Messianic identity concealed until the appointed day of Palm Sunday predicted by Daniel. The point that I am trying to make through all of these various aforementioned New Testament examples is that the more the Bible reader is familiar with the background of Daniel's prophecy of the Seventy Weeks and its mathematical precision in terms of predicting the exact day of Christ's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the more sense the interpreter will be able to make of a plethora of enigmatic New Testament contexts.

### *A Pattern for Future Fulfillment*

Thus, the first 483 years, or 173,880 days, or sixty-nine sevens of Daniel's prophecy were fulfilled to the exact day. Such a prophetic track record has a monumental impact regarding how we understand and interpret the remainder of Daniel's prophecies that are yet to be fulfilled. The simple fact of the matter is that if the first sixty-nine weeks of Daniel's prophecy were fulfilled literally, then the remaining week will certainly be fulfilled literally as well. Let us suppose that a basketball player stands at the free throw line and makes nine



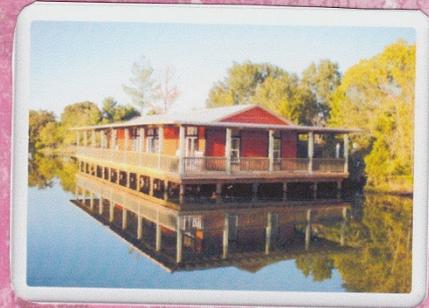
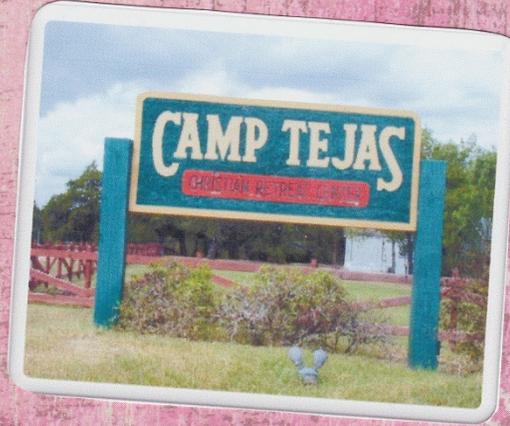
*Join Us...*

*SLBC*

*Ladies' Retreat*

*Oct 13-15, 2017*

*@ Camp Tejas*



*"Set Your Mind on the  
Things Above" Col 3:2*

*--Speaker Betty Cooke*

*Registration Open!*



*See foyer table for details.*

free throws in a row. Then he asks, "do you think that I can make the tenth free throw?" The obvious answer would be, "yes," you can make the tenth free throw because I watched you make the first nine free throws." In other words, because you have a demonstrated track record that you can see and validate, you can use that to make an intelligent and educated guess regarding free-throw shooting accuracy in the future. This is exactly what the Holy Spirit has given us in Bible prophecy. Because the first sixty-nine weeks of Daniel's prophecy were fulfilled to the exact day, the remaining seven years that are yet to come will be fulfilled with the same degree of literalness, accuracy, and precision. In his book, *The Coming Prince*, Sir Robert Anderson clarifies this very point, when he says:

There is not a single prophecy, of which the fulfillment is recorded in Scripture, that was not realized with absolute accuracy, and in every detail; and it is wholly unjustifiable to assume that a new system of fulfillment was inaugurated after the sacred canon closed....Literalness of fulfillment may therefore be accepted as an axiom to guide us in the study of prophecy.

Why would the Holy Spirit reveal in Scripture prophecies in great detail that were fulfilled literally at Christ's First Coming, and then simultaneously give us prophecies related to the Second Coming that are merely non-literal symbols or allegories. Such interpretive methodology would be tantamount to reversing course or changing horses in midstream. Yet, the Holy Spirit is not schizophrenic. Just as prophecies regarding Christ's First Coming were very literal in nature, rudimentary logic and consistency of interpretation would dictate that the prophecies related to Christ's Second Coming will be fulfilled very literally as well. All of this to say, if the first 69 weeks of Daniels Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks was fulfilled with mathematical precision, then the remaining and unfulfilled seventieth week will also be fulfilled precisely. Analyzing this future Seventieth Week will be the focus of the remaining four points of this ten point presentation.

Based on our study of the Seventy Weeks prophecy, what have we learned thus far? *First*, the prophecy specifically concerns the nation of Israel. *Second*, the prophecy in Daniel 9:24-27 covers a 490-year time period. *Third*, each year of this prophecy consists of 360 days. *Fourth*, by the time the prophetic clock reaches its 490-year completion, Israel will be both politically and spiritually restored. *Fifth*, the 490-year prophetic clock began to run on March 5, 444 B.C. *Sixth*, exactly 483 years elapsed between the beginning of the prophecy (March 5, 444 B.C.) and when the Messiah formally presented His messianic credentials to the nation of Israel on Palm Sunday (March 30, A.D. 33).

(To Be Continued...)

Robert Anderson, *The Coming Prince*, 2nd rev. ed. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1882; reprint, Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1957), 147-48.

## Dear SLBC Church Family and Friends,



We would like to schedule Baptism Classes during the month of June, *(if not sooner)*, so if you or a family member desire to be baptized, please respond to this email as soon as possible with the **full name** of the Candidate for Baptism *(as it should appear on the Baptismal Certificate)*. Also, in the meantime, please take time to carefully review the information in the attached, "**SLBC Baptism Guide for Adults, Parents, and Children**", with **each** candidate for baptism. We will be reviewing this information with the candidates, in the Baptism Classes.

***PLEASE NOTE THAT SLBC POLICY REQUIRES THAT ALL CANDIDATES FOR BAPTISM ATTEND***

***"ONE" SCHEDULED BAPTISM CLASS PRIOR TO BEING BAPTIZED.***

**IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY RESPONDED, THERE IS NO NEED TO RESPOND AGAIN. THANKS!**

## The All Church Ladies Fellowship Reunion



**Date: July 22, 2017**

**Time: 1:45 pm to 4 pm.**

**Place: SLBC ~ Fellowship Room**

**Theme: Encouragement for Survival**

**Ice Cream Sundaes will be served**



Kits will be prepared for each lady, we ask that the Ladies who will be attending to sign up in the foyer.

**Sign-up list will be out June 11th, 2017 at the Foyer.**



## Fajita Fest July 2nd



# 1st Sunday in July!

in lieu of having it on the

## 4th of July



**Sugar Land Bible Church will have their 4th of July Celebration on the First Sunday in July.**

**If you are planning to attend, please signup in the foyer! Sign up sheets will be in the Foyer on June 11th!**

