

William Tyndale found God while studying a Greek Bible and became a strong supporter of the scriptures. He became a travelling preacher but was frustrated when the priests would undo his work after he had left; he realised if the people had their own Bibles they could study and test the truths for themselves.

One day someone argued with him, "We were better to be without God's laws than the Pope's." Tyndale replied: "I defy the pope and all his laws; and if God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plough to know more of the Scripture than you do." (GC refers: --Anderson, Annals of the English Bible, page 19.)

There had been no printing presses when John Wycliffe translated the first English Bible from Latin almost 150 years earlier - it was copied by hand. Now Tyndale determined to translate the Greek Bible into the English of the common people so even the poorest could understand. He was soon forced to flee and seek shelter in Germany, where more than once, he had to move but finally the Bibles were printed and smuggled into England.

One time, the Bishop of Durham, trying to stop the spread of Bibles, by purchasing all the Bible for sale; what he didn't realise was the money he paid enabled Tyndale to print even more Bibles. When Tyndale was arrested and ordered to tell who paid for the printing, he said the Bishop helped most!

Tyndale became a martyr, but the influence of his Bibles could not be stopped. It was around this time that the Church of England was created as the country's official church and while many of the doctrines of Rome were renounced, much of the style of worship was kept and the king of England was declared the head of the church rather than the Pope. Religious freedom was still forbidden and the principal salvation through Jesus rather than by works was gradually lost again.

John and Charles Wesley were born in the early 1700's; they found the truth when they experienced a violent storm on a ship and saw the peace of a group of Moravians – a church founded on the teachings of John Huss. For years they had been working to earn God's salvation; now, after much study, they realised that they had salvation through Jesus as a gift of God.

They spent the rest of their lives sharing this truth with the people of England. Their followers became known as the Methodists. The life of the Methodists was not easy as they were often persecuted and beaten, and their property was damaged and stolen. John Wesley wrote that God saved him from death several times: One time, a mob tried to push him over and trample him, but he did not fall; someone in the mob tried to hit him over the head with a large stick, but he kept missing. At other times he was punched or hit with stones, but God worked miracles and he felt no pain at all!

Writing on the Wall

Sabbath

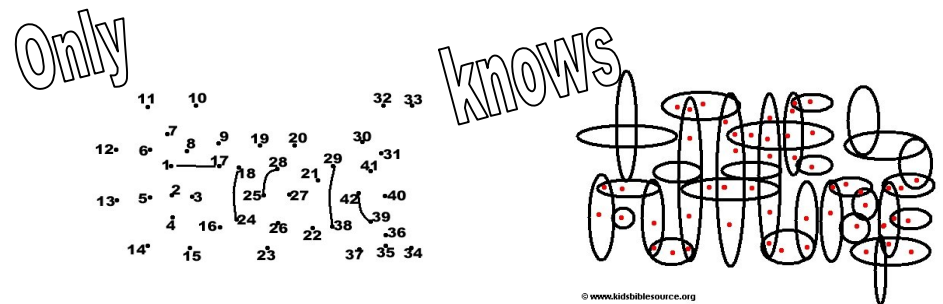
Have you ever wished that you knew what would happen tomorrow? YES / NO / MAYBE / SOMETIMES / OFTEN

Have you ever wished that you knew what would happen next week? YES / NO / MAYBE / SOMETIMES / OFTEN

Have you ever wished that you knew what would happen next year? YES / NO / MAYBE / SOMETIMES / OFTEN

Have you ever wished that you knew what would happen in the future? YES / NO / MAYBE / SOMETIMES / OFTEN

If you could ask God about anything, what would you ask about?



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Refer: Daniel 5, 9 NLT; Prophets and Kings p503-513; The Bible Story vol7 p33-48; The Great Controversy ch14

Sunday

One day while King Belshazzar was giving a great feast, he called for the gold and silver cups that his grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar, had taken from God's temple in Jerusalem. Belshazzar and his nobles drank wine from them while praising their idols.

Suddenly, a human hand appeared and began writing on the wall! The king's face turned pale with fright and his knees shook with fear so he could not stand. He shouted for the wise men, but none of them could read the writing.

When the queen mother heard what had happened, she hurried to the banquet hall. She said to Belshazzar, "Don't be so frightened; there is a man in your kingdom with the Spirit of God in him. While Nebuchadnezzar was king, this man was found to be very wise. King Nebuchadnezzar put him in charge of all the wise men of Babylon. This man, Daniel, can interpret dreams and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means."

When Daniel arrived, he said to the king, "You have been drinking wine from the cups taken from God's temple, and praising gods of silver and gold — gods that don't see, hear or know anything at all. But the God of heaven controls your future, and He has sent this message to you.

"The message says, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN, and this is what it means: Mene means God has numbered the days until the end of your kingdom. Tekel means you have been tested and failed, and parsin means your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

Then King Belshazzar ordered that Daniel be dressed in purple robes, a gold chain was hung around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

That very night Belshazzar's enemy Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, and King Belshazzar, the last King of Babylon, was killed.

Friday

Isn't it amazing that 500 years before it happened, Daniel knew when Jesus would come!?

Now let's look at the last part of Gabriel's message:

"After the 434 years the Anointed One will be put to death; He will confirm a covenant for **7 years**, but after **3½ years**, He will put an end to the sacrifices."

When did Jesus put an end to the sacrifice system?

Mark 15:37_{NLT}, "Then _ _ _ _ _ (1a) uttered another loud cry and breathed His _ _ _ _ _ (3d). And the _ _ _ _ _ (5a) in the sanctuary of the _ _ _ _ _ (4d) was torn in two, from top to bottom."

When Jesus died the curtain in the temple that separated the Most Holy place from the Holy Place was torn open to show the earthly Sanctuary and its' sacrifices were no longer needed.

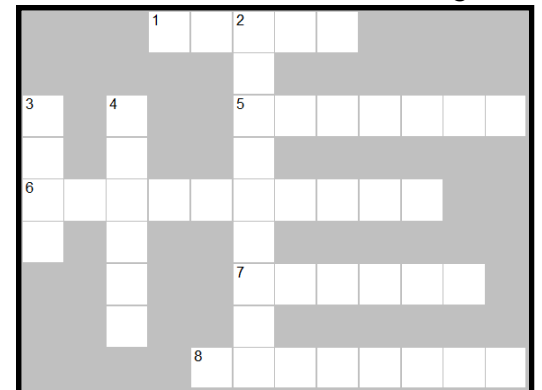
Why were they no longer needed? Romans 3:25_{NLT}, "For God presented Jesus as the _ _ _ _ _ (2d) for sin."

All the animal sacrifices pointed forward to Jesus' ultimate sacrifice, 3 ½ years after His baptism.

The only thing left is to find out what happened in 34AD which is the end of the 70 years given to the people of Israel. Who did Jesus tell His disciples not to go to in Matthew 10:5_{NLT}?

"Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions: 'Don't go to the _ _ _ _ _ (8a) or the _ _ _ _ _ (6a), but only to the people of _ _ _ _ _ (7a) -God's lost sheep.'"

It wasn't till after the death of Steven that the disciples spread out and God showed them that the message of the gospel would now go to everyone.



Thursday

Back in 457 or 458BC when King Artaxerxes sent Ezra to Jerusalem, he didn't know that the year would be called 457BC and that in approximately 457 more years, the Messiah would be born. Ancient people had their own various calendar systems.

The calendar system that we most commonly use today is called the Gregorian calendar with the year 1AD at Jesus' approximate year of birth. The years BC, count down to Jesus' birth and the years AD count up from there.

What year is it now? _____ That is approximately how many years it has been since Jesus was born!

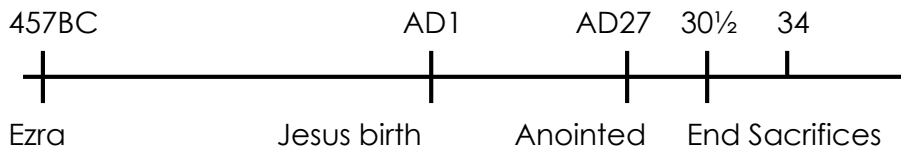
Let's put some dates on a timeline.

$49 + 434 = 483$ years until the Anointed One

$483 - 457 = 26$ more years after AD1 = AD27

$27 + 3\frac{1}{2} = \text{AD}30\frac{1}{2}$ to confirm covenant and finish sacrifices

$27 + 7 = \text{AD}34$ for the end of the prophecy



The Anointed One appeared when Jesus was baptised. We can read about this in Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3 and John 1 and although none of these verses give the age of Jesus, we can calculate His age from Numbers 4 which tells us that the men began serving in the temple as Priests from the age of 30.

If we believe the Bible, AD1 to AD27 is nearly, but not quite 30 years so it seems likely that when they created the BC/AD calendar they mixed up the dates slightly and Jesus' birth is actually closer to 4BC.

Monday

It was during the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede that Daniel decided to dedicate a time of fasting and prayer to God. He knew from reading the prophecies of Jeremiah that their exile would last seventy years (Jeremiah 29:10). He humbled himself before God by putting on sackcloth and ashes and prayed, praising God for His righteousness, acknowledging that the people of Israel had sinned and the punishment they received was right and just.

As Daniel was praying, the angel Gabriel came to him again and said, "70 weeks are set aside for Israel to put an end to sin. And know this: From the time when the word is given to rebuild Jerusalem, until the Anointed One comes, will be 7 weeks and 62 weeks. Then after 62 weeks the Anointed One will be put to death; He will confirm a covenant for one week but in the middle, He will put an end to the sacrifices."

So now Daniel knew that the return to Jerusalem would still happen as prophesied by Jeremiah; he could rest assured that God was not finished with the people of Judah.

When the prophet Ezekiel was acting out prophecies, God told him to act out one day for every year in Ezekiel 4:6, and many prophecies in the Bible use this one day for a year principle.

Change the weeks into days in the prophecy of the angel Gabriel, which is found in Daniel 9:25-27. (How many days are in each week?)

"From the time when the word is given to rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One comes, will be _____ days and _____ days. Then after _____ days the Anointed One will be put to death; He will confirm a covenant for _____ days but after _____ days He will put an end to the sacrifices."

(The answer is on Wednesdays page)

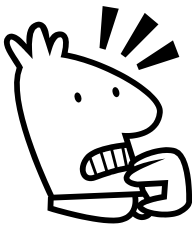
Tuesday

Did King Belshazzar respect God? ☐ yes ☐ no

Did God care what Belshazzar did with the cups from God's temple? ☐ yes ☐ no

If Belshazzar had not been drinking, and had remembered Nebuchadnezzar's dream and what happened at the fiery furnace – would he have used the temple cups for drinking?

☐ yes ☐ no



Find these words:

**Babylon, Belshazzar, drinking,
God, gold, hand, king,
kingdom, Medes, mene,
message, Nebuchadnezzar,
parsin, Persians, silver, tekel,
temple, writing.**

G O K O D B G A D G O O D B
B K I N G D O M E S S A G E
A D N G O O D M B A D H G L
B O G O L D P E R S I A N S
A T E K E L S N O D B N A H
B E D G O O R E D B A D G A
Y M E D E S S I L V E R O Z
L P O D W R I T I N G B A Z
O L D D R I N K I N G G O A
N E B U C H A D N E Z Z A R

Daniel lived to see the fulfilment of the second kingdom from Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the statue in Daniel 2, and Daniel's own vision of the four beasts in Daniel 7.

Which part of the statue represented the Medes and Persians?

Which beast represented the Medes and Persians?

Wednesday

When we apply the one prophetic day equals one real year, Gabriel's message becomes:

"From the time when the word is given to rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One comes, will be **49 years** plus **434 years**. Then after the 434 years the Anointed One will be put to death; He will confirm a covenant for **7 years** but after **3½ years** He will put an end to the sacrifices."

The 70 weeks for Israel to put an end to sin becomes **490 years**.

By the way, what does $7 + 62 + 1 =$ _____?

The first thing to know is when does the prophecy time start?

The end of the 70-year exile in Babylon occurred around 538BC/BCE. Read Ezra 1:1-3. What were they to do?

This was the first year of Cyrus the Great, when Cyrus allowed any Israelites who wish to, to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple, led by Zerubbabel and Jeshua.

Ezra is sent to Jerusalem some 80 years later. What else was Ezra to do at this time? Read Ezra 7:25-26.

This occurred around 457 BC/BCE

Do you know what BC and BCE means?

When I young, most dates were referred to as BC, meaning "Before Christ" and AD which is Latin for "The year of our Lord."

Now it is common to use BCE and CE which stands for: "Before common Era" and "Common Era!" It seems like they are trying to remove Christ from history since the year 1AD – the "first year of our Lord" was originally calculated as the year of Jesus birth!