

The 2300 Days Prophecy and the Sanctuary

Part 1 - Introductory Views



HIGHER LEVEL MINISTRIES

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus

Philippians Chapter 2 verse 5

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There are many doctrines that the Christian world has come to understand these doctrines have come from the various Christian denominations which existed long before the Seventh Day Adventist Church was formed. At its inception, these fundamental beliefs were adopted into our church and we are indebted to the reformers of all Christendom. But there is one unique doctrine that no other Christian church has brought to the forefront than the Seventh Day Adventist Church. This is the doctrine of the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary doctrine is based on Daniel 8:14, which is a time prophecy, and the book of Hebrews, which explains how Jesus as the Messiah fulfills the Old Testament sanctuary service.

Let's begin our study of the 2300 day prophecy and the Sanctuary.

1a. Where do we find the 2300 day prophecy? **Daniel 8:14** - _____

1b. What is the 2300 day prophecy about? **Daniel 8:14** - _____

Note: The 2300-day prophecy introduces us to the longest prophetic time line in the Bible. What does this prophecy mean to us? How do we come to a correct understanding of it?

2. Does this prophecy apply to a literal 2300 days or is there another application to this prophecy? _____

There are two views held in Christianity regarding this prophecy and we need to determine which view fits the correct prophetic time line.

VIEW 1:- The "2300 days" are divided by 360 days (equivalent to one Jewish year) which totals 6½ years.

VIEW 2:- The 2300 day prophecy is actually 2300 years.

3a. How is **VIEW 1** applied historically?

The "2300 days" are divided by 360 days (equivalent to one Jewish year) which totals 6½ years. Most of Christendom take this 6½ year time period from the notes of the 1917 Scofield Bible and his interpretation of Daniel 8 and 9 which points to Antiochus Epiphanes IV as the "LITTLE HORN"...

3b. Who is the "LITTLE HORN"?

Most of Christianity see Antiochus Epiphanes IV as the fulfilment of Daniel 7: 8, 19-21 and 25 but does he fit the prophetic time line? Let's read Daniel 7:8, 19-21 that speaks about the little horn and then examine Daniel 7:25 in four parts to reveal the actions of the "Little Horn" towards God and His people...

TEXT 1a: *"He shall speak pompous words against the Most High"...*

Antiochus Epiphanes IV, was responsible for capturing Jerusalem and the desecration of the Temple in 168BC. The desecration included: Erecting an idol, likely a statue of the Greek god Zeus, within the temple precincts and sacrificing a pig on the altar of incense, which was considered an abomination by the Jewish people. Antiochus also issued decrees that outlawed Jewish religious practices, including Sabbath keeping and circumcision. Antiochus suppressed Jewish rites and religious practices. Scofield's Bible commentary applies his actions against the people of God on a localized basis within the 6½ year period. However we will show that this interpretation cannot meet the prophetic time line.

TEXT 2a: *"Shall persecute the saints of the Most High"...*

Antiochus persecuted God's people for about three years. This led to the Maccabean Revolt in 168BC, which ultimately resulted in the Temple's purification and re-dedication in 164BC. **Notice that the temple was desecrated and not destroyed.** The actual destruction of the Temple occurred later, in 70AD, by the Romans under the command of General Titus during the First Jewish–Roman War.

TEXT 3a: *"He shall intend to change times and law"...*

At no point did Antiochus Epiphanes change any times or laws that directly affected the people of God.

TEXT 4a: *"They shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time"..*

Scofield's interpretation of the "6½ year view" of Daniel 8 and 9 simply does not fit the 1,260-day/year period of "a time and times and half a time." **View 1** of Antiochus Epiphanes IV cannot fit, because the scope of the prophecy is more than 6½ years as it deals with the people of God and Christ's ministry.

My Notes: _____

Who fulfills the Prophecy of the Little Horn?
Does View 1 of Antiochus Epiphanes IV fulfill the prophecy of Daniel 7:8, 19-21 and 25?

	Antiochus Epiphanes	
Persecuted the Saints long-term?	NO	
Changed Times and Laws?	NO	
Claimed spiritual authority?	NO	
It's Power lasted 1260 years?	NO	

If Antiochus Epiphanes IV does not fit the criteria of the prophecy, then who does? Let's consider the four parts of Daniel 7:25 regarding another entity that many reformers over the centuries have identified as the "Little Horn"...

TEXT 1b: *"He shall speak pompous words against the Most High"...*

The Papacy has claimed divine titles and the authority of God on earth for centuries, speaking "pompous words" in a global, ecclesiastical sense.

TEXT 2b: *"Shall persecute the saints of the Most High"...*

During the "Dark Ages", the Papal system's crusades and inquisitions lasted for over a millennium, resulting in the deaths of millions of "saints" who held to the Bible over tradition. (See Revelation 6:9)

TEXT 3b: *"Shall intend to change times and law"...*

The Law: The Papacy explicitly claims the authority to have moved the solemnity of the Sabbath from the seventh day of week to the first day (Sunday). The 4th Commandment is the only "law" that deals with Time.


The Times: The Reformation had identified the Papacy as the "Little Horn" power. The Papacy then introduced Futurism (via Francisco Ribera, 1590)... and Preterism (via Luis De Alcazar, 1614) in a deliberate act to move the attention away from the Roman Catholic system. These Jesuit-led interpretations "changed the times" of prophecy, pushing the "Little Horn" into the distant future or the distant past, so that his identity would be obscured...

PRETERISM: (Latin *praeter* "past")
 A Christian view that interprets biblical end-times prophecies, specifically in Revelation and the Olivet Discourse, as events that have already been fulfilled, primarily during the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

FUTURISM:
 A Christian view that most biblical prophecies, particularly in Daniel and Revelation (chapters 4–22), are future events yet to occur.

TEXT 4b: *"They shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time"...*


When the Ostrogoths fell at the hands of Justinian in 538AD, all remaining opposition to Roman Catholic supremacy vanished and the church rose triumphant, sitting enthroned upon the ashes of Imperial Rome. Papal supremacy lasted exactly 1,260 years from the decree of Justinian in 538AD to the capture of the Pope in 1798AD by Napoleon's General Berthier...



Who fulfills the Prophecy of the Little Horn?

Does View 1 of Antiochus Epiphanes IV or does View 2 of the Papacy fulfill the prophecy of Daniel 7:8, 19-21 and 25?

	Antiochus Epiphanes	The Papacy
Persecuted the Saints long-term?	NO	YES
Changed Times and Laws?	NO	YES
Claimed spiritual authority?	NO	YES
It's Power lasted 1260 years?	NO	YES



Note: To unlock this prophecy, only one key can fit, that key is history. As history unfolds, prophecy unfolds. History shows that the Roman Catholic system is the only entity that meets every single identifying feature of Daniel 7.

As we look at **VIEW 2**, Biblically and historically: Let's study this prophecy to determine how these dates were identified, what parts of history were involved, and why...

4. How does the Bible apply "a day" when it is applied in prophecy?
Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:5-6 - _____

Note: We have now established that the 2300 day prophecy concerning the cleansing of the Sanctuary is actually 2300 years. The Bible records that there was the Wilderness Sanctuary, Solomon's temple and Herod's Temple. But how many temples were there at the time of Daniel's vision?

5a. What was the time line for the wilderness Sanctuary, before Daniel's vision? *Exodus 25:8-9* - _____

Note: The wilderness temple (Tabernacle) was built by the Israelites around 1450BC, following their exodus from Egypt, as a portable Sanctuary for God's presence during their 40-year journey. A complete history of this time line is recorded in *Exodus chapter 25 – chapter 40*.

The transition from using the portable wilderness tabernacle to the permanent Temple of Solomon marked the shift from Israel's wandering to settlement.

5b. What was the timeline for Solomon's Temple, before Daniel's vision? *1 Kings 5:3-5* - _____

Note: A complete history of this time line happens between *1 Kings chapter 5 - chapter 8 and 1 Chronicles chapter 22 - chapter 29*.

6. When was the destruction of Solomon's Temple, before Daniel's vision? *2 Kings 25:8-9 and 13-15* - _____

Note: A complete history of this time line happens between *1 Kings chapter 5 - chapter 8 and 1 Chronicles chapter 22 - chapter 29*.

If the sanctuary and the temple are no longer in existence at the time of Daniel's vision, then how can we apply the 2300 day prophecy and "the cleansing of the Sanctuary"? Let's start by determining when this prophecy begins and with who.

7. How can we determine when this prophecy begins?

Ezra 6:14 and Ezra 7:12-14, 19-25 - _____

Note: Therefore, VIEW 2 is the only view that fits the criteria of this prophecy, as it covers Daniel chapters 8 to 9, both Biblically and historically. Daniel 8:14 shows the 2300 day prophecy is a prophetic time line that actually spans 2300 literal years, covering a series of important events for God's people. This is the historicist point of view that as history unfolds, prophecy is revealed.

HISTORICISM: A method of interpreting biblical prophecy, especially in Daniel and Revelation as a continuous, unfolding of history from the 1st century to the Second Coming. This view holds that prophecy is fulfilled throughout the entire history of the church.

IDEALISM: A Christian view that refers to an interpretation where spiritual reality is considered more foundational than the physical, material world. It is often used in prophecy and seen as representing symbolic spiritual truths rather than literal, future events.

NOTE: In this study we have made reference to Preterism, Futurism and Historicism. We have included the view of "Idealism" for reference only.

8. Is there extra Biblical proof that this decree happened? _____

Supporting evidence for question 8...

Flavius Josephus quoted Cyrus' letter that was addressed as follows: "King Cyrus to Sisinnes and Sathrabuzanes, sendeth greeting." "I have given leave to as many of the Jews that dwell in my country as please to return to their own country and to rebuild their city... *Josephus, Antiquities, XI, 1, 3*

In "Observations upon the Prophecies of Daniel and the Apocalypse" - Sir Isaac Newton wrote: "The years of Artaxerxes reign are among the most easily established dates of history... to place the seventh year of Artaxerxes at 457BC." - p154-157.

Historically most Bible commentators have agreed that the command found in Ezra 6 and 7, by the three Persian kings, for Israel to return and rebuild Jerusalem began in 457BC.

Here are a few examples:

In 1768 German Calvinist pastor Johann Petri, a German Reformed pastor was first to specifically link the 490 years (70 weeks) as the first part of the 2300 day prophecy, beginning in 457BC. Around the same time, a deeply spiritual Irish layman by the name of Hans Wood began to reach similar conclusions to those of Johann Petri concerning the start date of 457BC.

Arnold of Villanova (1240–1311) was a Catalan physician, theologian, and scholastic reformer who significantly influenced apocalyptic studies by applying the day-year principle to prophetic numbers in Daniel where one prophetic day equals one literal year specifically the 2300 days in the Book of Daniel, (Daniel 8:14).

Nicholas Krebs of Cusa (1452) was a Roman Catholic cardinal and scholar. He identified the 2300 year starting point as being in the Persian era.

This is in no way exhaustive of the multitudes of reformers that have come to the same conclusion concerning the start date of 457BC.


The Prophet Daniel was given a series of visions along with complete explanations in chapters 2, 7, 8 and 9. In each of these chapters, God deals with the same world empires but elaborates on each empire to a greater degree. However, in chapter 8 we see a vision that is only partly answered. Lets finish by looking at the following chart.

God uses metals, animals and horns to convey a message.

<i>Daniel 2</i>	<i>Daniel 7</i>	<i>Daniel 8</i>
Head of Gold = Babylon	Lion = Babylon	<i>Babylon is now at an end...</i>
Chest of Silver = Medo-Persia	The Bear = Medo-Persia	Ram/Two Horns = Medo-Persia
Thighs of Brass = Greece	Leopard = Greece	The Rough Goat = Greece
Legs of Iron = Pagan Rome	The Beast / Little Horn = Pagan and Papal Rome	Little Horn / A king of fierce countenance = Pagan and Papal Rome
Feet of Iron & Clay = Papal Rome/state		

Daniel 2 reveals a prophetic time line to the 2nd coming.
Daniel 7 and 8 add more detail to the time line.

In our next lesson we will study Daniel chapter 8...

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