

God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

**Psalms 1:5** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

The investigative judgment is for professed Christian only. “The house of God” refers to believers. The ungodly, or wicked must face another judgment separate from the investigation of God’s professed people. The judgment has been in progress since 1844, and at this moment the work is being carried out. It will continue until this earth’s probation has closed, when the destiny of all is sealed for eternity.

**Revelation 22:11,12** Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy. Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Here is the close of human probation. When the heavenly judgment is completed it will be too late to change. There will be no second chances. “Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment”. Heb 9:27.

All names which have been written in the book of life, (i.e. any person who at any time professed to follow Jesus) will have their names come up for review before the heavenly tribunal. Every name is called, and every name closely investigated. When the judgment of the dead is completed, the judgment of the living will commence and each case will be sealed either at death or at the close of human probation, whichever comes first.

The judgment is a solemn, yet glorious event. If we have accepted Jesus as our Saviour, He will certainly defend us in court and acquit us of Satan’s accusations against us. It will also bring about the sentencing of those oppressive religious powers that have persecuted in God’s name.

Are you preparing for the judgment and is Jesus your Advocate? \_\_\_\_\_



# Life’s VITAL ANSWERS

## The Great Judgment Day.



Fulfilled prophecy is God’s unanswerable challenge to unbelief. In this lesson we will study a unique time-prophecy, written over 500 years before Jesus’ birth, which foretold the time of His baptism, the time of His crucifixion and the time when the Gospel would begin to go out to the Gentile world. It has been called: “The Keystone of Old Testament Prophecy”, because it locks all others securely into place.

**Matthew 24:15** So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—



Christ had confidence in Daniel the prophet. Here in this text, Jesus refers to one of Daniel’s prophecies. Because the Lord Himself endorsed Daniel and his prophecies, we today can also study them with confidence, knowing full well that they come from God.

**Daniel 8:12-14** Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and He cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered. Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, “\_\_\_\_\_”, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled under foot?” And he said to me, “For two thousand three hundred days, then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.” NKJV

In Daniel Chapter 8 is an interesting prophecy outlining the rise and fall of earthly powers. These are described in more detail in Chapters 2 and 7. In this chapter emphasis is given to the ‘little horn’ power, which “waxed exceeding great”, and brought persecution to God’s people. .

The question is asked, “how long” will the oppression last? How long will the sanctuary and the host be trodden underfoot? and the answer is clear – 2,300 days – then the sanctuary would be cleansed. The word “cleansed” can also be translated “justified”, indicating judgment.

**Daniel 8:16,17** “And I heard a man’s voice from the Ulai calling, “\_\_\_\_\_”. As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. “Son of man,” he said to me, “understand that the vision concerns the time of the end.”

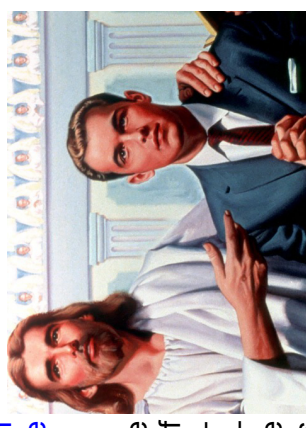
sent an offering made to the LORD by fire.

The reason for using the term “cleansing of the sanctuary” is understood more clearly when we understand the meaning of the Old Testament sanctuary and its services. There were daily sacrifices for sins, but once each year they celebrated the “DAY OF ATONEMENT.”

On this day the people were commanded to “afflict their souls” (i.e. to examine themselves thoroughly to see if there was any unconfessed sin, or anything that would separate them from God). The Day of Atonement was also a day of judgment to the people. Any unconfessed sin on this day would render the sinner guilty, and he/she would bear their own punishment. On this vital day, the sanctuary itself was figuratively cleansed.

**Revelation 14:6,7** Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”



Here we notice a special message from God sounding forth – the hour of His judgment HAS COME – not coming. Early Bible writers spoke of judgment TO COME (Acts 24:25) but here is a special message that judgment is here. The INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT commences at the conclusion of the 2300 years – 1844, which is the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary (Heb. 8:1,2). The Day of Atonement for the Jews was a day of judgment. 1844 commenced the judgment in heaven – similar in principle to a judgment in a court of law. The “EXECUTIVE JUDGMENT”, when sinners are destroyed, takes place at the end of the world. This can be paralleled to a person facing the death sentence. The person has been tried, (investigation), found guilty, (sentenced) and put to death (punishment).

**1 Peter 4:17** For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of



Here is pictured the judgment scene. The “Ancient of Days” (i.e. God the Father) is the Judge, and the books are opened for investigation. Here the characters and lives of humanity pass in review before the Judge of all the earth.

**Daniel 7:13** In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

The Son of man (i.e. Jesus Christ) is also present at the judgment. He is not there to condemn, but he is an intercessor or lawyer on the believer’s part. “And if anyone sins we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1).

Every person’s life record is entered in the books of heaven. No detail is over looked. All secret sin is exposed. All unconfessed sin is revealed. All motives are laid bare. Sins may have been hidden from fellow human beings, but nothing is hidden from God. The books of heaven contain a true and accurate record.

### The Investigative Judgment

**Daniel 8:13,14** Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, “\_\_\_\_\_ concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled under foot?” And he said to me, “For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.” NKJV

As previously mentioned, the word “cleansed” can also be translated, “justified”. To bring about justification, some form of judgment is required. In our study of the 2300 prophetic days, we saw how the first part of the prophecy was fulfilled so accurately. Even though the predictions were made almost 500 years before, nevertheless, Christ was baptised on time and was crucified in the exact year stated by the prophecy. The remaining part of the prophecy brings us to the date 1844, the beginning of the “Investigative Judgment”.

**Leviticus 23:27** The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves, and pre-

The angel Gabriel is sent to make Daniel understand this vision of 2,300 days. Emphasis is made that the vision reaches right down to the end of time – even our day.

**Daniel 8:26,27** The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but \_\_\_\_\_ I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for several days. Then I got up and went about the king’s business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.

Gabriel was unable to continue explanations concerning the vision, because Daniel took sick. All the previous prophecies in the book of Daniel had been explained. The only one left unexplained was the 2,300-day prophecy. At a later time while Daniel was praying, Gabriel was sent to explain the part of the prophecy he didn’t understand. Gabriel proceeds as follows:

**Daniel 9:24** Seventy ‘sevens’ \_\_\_\_\_ to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

Seventy sevens or weeks of the 2,300 days are for Daniel’s people – the Jews. God was giving them seventy weeks to repent and demonstrate their faithfulness.

**Ezekiel 4:6** I have assigned you 40 days, a day for each year.

In this prophecy concerning Israel, God used one day to represent one year. Numbers 14:34 uses the same principle. The day-for-a-year principle is also applied to this prophecy of Daniel. There is no doubt, when we see the accuracy of its fulfillment. Therefore, the 2,300 days = 2,300 years, and the 70 weeks = 490 years – the 490 years being the first part of the 2,300 years.

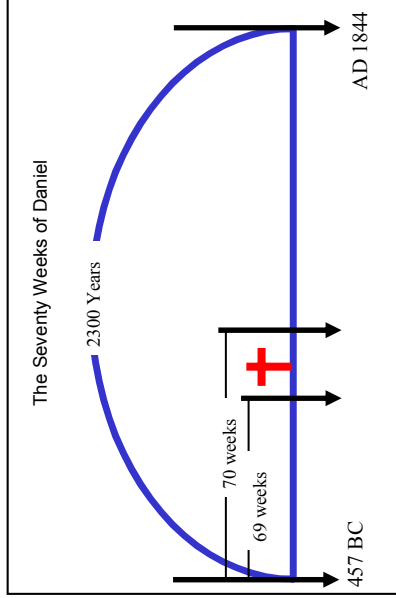


Daniel struggles to fully comprehend the vision but is unable. Before Gabriel finishes the explanation – Daniel faints and the explanation must be continued later in Daniel 9.

**When Does The Great Time Prophecy Begin?**

**Daniel 9:25** Know and understand this: \_\_\_\_\_, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

The prophecy begins when the decree to rebuild Jerusalem is passed. This was given by Artaxerxes, King of Persia in 457 B.C. It is recorded in Ezra 7 and Ezra 6:14. The year 457 B.C. is also an established historical date. The 7 weeks and 62 weeks equal 483 prophetic days or 483 years. This means, counting ahead 483 years from 457 B.C. we are brought to the time of the Messiah, i.e. Jesus Christ. The date comes to 27 A.D. In A.D. 27, Jesus was baptised and anointed with the Spirit, symbolised by the dove. The word Messiah actually means "anointed one". So Jesus began His ministry right on time, and He refers to this in Mark 1:14, where He says the "time is fulfilled".



**Daniel 9:26,27** And \_\_\_\_\_, Then He shall confirm a covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. NKJV

After A.D. 27 Jesus would be "cut off" or killed. The prophecy of the 490 years has accounted for 483 years so far, up to 27 A.D. Now verse 27 mentions the last week (i.e. 7 years). In these last 7 years, the Jews are given opportunity to repent and consecrate themselves to God. However, we notice that the Messiah is cut off in the middle of the 7 years, that is 3½ years after A.D. 27. This brings us to A.D. 31 – the exact year Jesus was crucified. The prophecy is accurately fulfilled once more. Daniel also said in this verse that Jesus would cause the sacrifices to cease. He did this when He died as the One great Sacrifice for sins. In Matthew 27:50,51 it says that the veil of the tem-

ple in Jerusalem was torn in half from top to bottom. That veil was as thick as a man's hand and could not be torn by natural means.

3½ years later, the Jews stoned Stephen as told in Acts 7:58-60;8:1. A far deeper significance is attached to the stoning of Stephen than may appear to the casual reader. It clinches the former rejection of the Gospel by responsible Jewish leaders at Jerusalem (Acts 7:51-54). It precipitates a new era in Gospel expansion. Exclusive labour for Jews abruptly ceases. Christian witnesses, scattered by the sudden outburst of savage persecution, are impelled to evangelise the Gentiles. Samaritans and the Ethiopian eunuch are the first-fruits from among non-Jews (Acts 8:1,4,5,27,29).

In the margin of Daniel 9:26 it reads, "and the Jews, they shall be no more his people". After Jesus' crucifixion, God mercifully gave them 3½ more years to repent, but they did not. When Stephen was stoned in A.D. 34, the Jews were cut off from God as a nation. However, individual Jews were, and still are, welcome into the family of God if they wish to respond to God's pleadings.

The whole aim of the 490 years was to point to the time when Jesus would give His life for the world. This prophecy gives us total confidence that the death of Jesus was ordained of God for our salvation.



So far we have dealt with 490 years of the 2,300 years. That means there are 1810 years to account for. Adding on these 1810 years, we arrive at A.D. 1844. From this time we would expect, on the basis of this prophecy, to see a world-wide movement announcing the time of God's judgment. In 1844 God started two great programs, one in heaven, the other in earth. Truth was restored after 1844 in the earth – in heaven, "the cleansing of the sanctuary".

**Daniel 7:9,10** As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. . . the court was seated, and \_\_\_\_\_.