

Is Jesus the Messiah?

Christmas

December 21 & 28, 2014; January 04, 18, 21, 22, & 24, 2015

Timing of Messiah's Arrival (continued)

39. There are three passages that deal exclusively with the timing of Messiah's arrival, Daniel 9:24-27, Micah 5:2, cf. Matthew 2:6. We'll visit the expanded translations of each:

Daniel 9:24 - Seventy weeks [group of seventy *shavua'* totaling 490 years: $70 \times 7 = 490$ lunar years] have been decreed [by Artaxerxes I] for your people and your holy city [Jerusalem], to finish the transgression [2d Advent terminates 5th cycle of discipline imposed in A.D. 70], to make an end of sin [Jewish unbelievers removed to Tartarus under the baptism of fire], to make atonement for iniquity [regathering of Israel], to bring in everlasting righteousness [the perfection of the millennial kingdom], to seal up vision and prophecy [fulfillment of the unconditional covenants], and to anoint the most holy place [dedication of the Holy of Holies in the millennial temple].

Daniel 9:25 - "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command [decree issued by Artaxerxes Longimanus in 445 B.C.] to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince [c. Palm Sunday A.D. 33]; there shall be seven weeks [seven heptads equaling 49 lunar years] and 62 weeks [62 heptads equaling 434 lunar years for a total of 483 years]; the streets of Jerusalem shall be built again and the walls, even in times of distress [Roman occupation].

Daniel 9:26a - “Then after the sixty-two heptads—434 years—have passed the Messiah will be cut off but not for Himself [but for the sins of the world, April 3, A.D. 33], ... [an ellipsis: the dispensation of the Church is intercalated here; the rest of the verse prophesies events that take place in the dispensation of the Tribulation] ...

Daniel 9:26b - the people [citizens of the former Roman Empire] of the prince who is to come [a citizen of the area that includes the boundaries of nations comprising the former Roman Empire; the Beast-Dictator who becomes the ruling “prince” of the Revived Roman Empire] will destroy the city [the “people” are the Roman Army led first by Vespasian & later by Titus who will destroy Jerusalem & the Temple, August 10, A.D. 70]; and the end will come like a flood [the city and the people are overwhelmed by the Roman Army]; even to the end [the end of the dispensation of Israel at the 2d Advent of Messiah] there will be war; desolations causing grief and sadness are decreed.” (EXT)

Micah 5:2 - “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though too small to be among the clans of Judah, yet from you One shall go forth on My behalf to be Ruler of Israel [**Messianic rule in the Millennium**]. His appearance is from long ago from the days of eternity past [**Deity of Christ**].” (EXT)

Matthew 2:6 - “And you Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel. His appearance is from long ago from the days of eternity past.” (EXT)

40. Daniel’s prophecy is easily tracked to its terminus that occurs on April 3, A.D. 33. This indicates that the person who is the most likely candidate to be the Messiah on that date is Jesus of Bethlehem.
41. Three questions are left to be answered: **(1)** How do we know He was born in Bethlehem, **(2)** How do we know that His parents are descended from the Davidic line, and **(3)** How do we know He was the “Son of God?”

42. We have firmly established the answer of the first question from Micah 5:2. The Theologians were able to answer King Herod's desire to learn where Scripture indicated the place of Messiah's birth would occur by quoting Micah 5:2 in Matthew 2:4-6.