

FUTURISM'S FAULTY FOUNDATION

George Burnside

Perhaps nowhere does Futurism reveal its confusion and juggling more than in the prophecy of:

DANIEL 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon the holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."

Schofield's Reference Bible adds this note: "These are 'weeks' or more accurately, sevens of years, seventy weeks of seven years each." page 914.

Here Futurism uses the year-day truth, yet all through prophecy they reject it strongly. The importance of this truth is revealed in the chapter on the "Year-Day Truth" in this series. Futurism has persistently rejected this truth, but here they use it. Consistency is seldom found in Futurism.

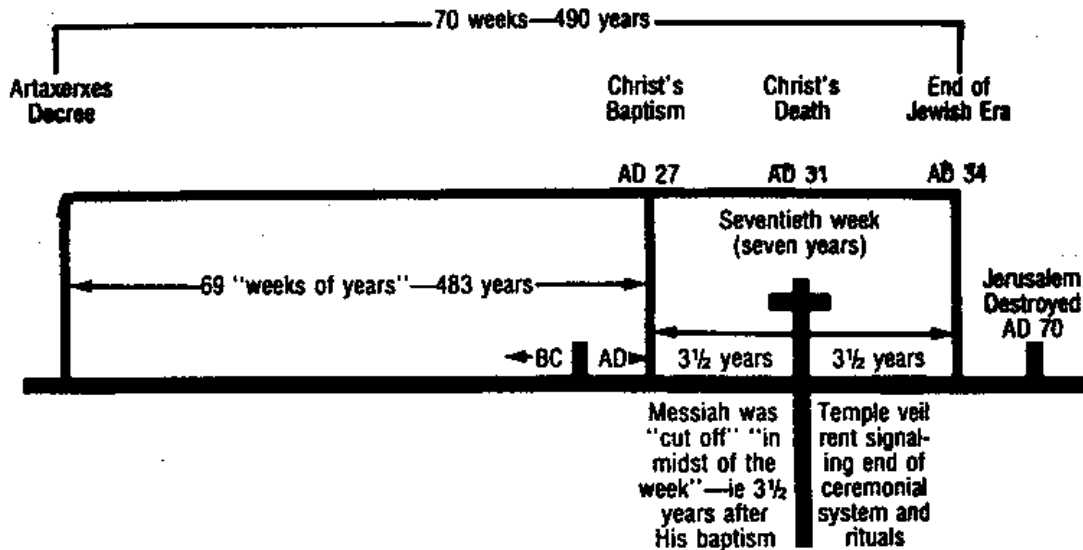
DANIEL 9:25 "Unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks and three score and two weeks." To use literal time would be absurd. Messiah is Hebrew for the Greek word, Christ.

JOHN 1:41 "He first finds his own brother Simon, and said unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is being interpreted, the Christ."

Sixty nine weeks in ordinary time is less than a year and a half. This amazing prophecy revealed the very time of the coming of Christ. It makes Christianity sure and certain. Before this prophecy every Jew and every unbeliever stands defeated. So much so, that the Jewish Rabbi passed a curse of damnation on any Jew, who would dare look into this Christ-proving prophecy.

"In 1656, a dispute occurred in Poland between some distinguished Jewish Rabbins and the Catholics, respecting the seventy weeks. The Rabbins were so hard pushed by the argument that proved Jesus to be the Messiah, the time of His sufferings being at the end of the seventy weeks, that they broke up the discussion. The Rabbins then held a meeting and pronounced a curse upon any Jew who should attempt to ascertain the chronology of this prophetic period. Their anathema was this: 'May his bones and his memory rot who shall attempt to number the seventy weeks.'" The Midnight Cry, August 10, 1843.

FUTURISM'S FAULTY FOUNDATION



This prophecy also defeats the Jesuit invented system of Futurism and reveals their wicked inconsistency of rejecting the God given key to time prophecy, namely the Year-Day Truth.

This is only the first of the inconsistencies and "corrupt" jugglings of Futurism. Of course we should not be surprised, as Scripture warned of corrupters.

2 CORINTHIANS 2:17 "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ."

2 CORINTHIANS 4:2 "But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

The devil hates this Christ-revealing prophecy and he uses men to try to "corrupt" it. This corrupting leads to confusion. However there is no need for confusion. Error leads to confusion! Truth is clear and beautiful.

DANIEL 9:25 "Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and three score and two weeks."

The decree, or "commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem" was issued by Artaxerxes, king of Persia in 457 BC.

How clear are the words of Scripture. "Seven weeks and three score and two weeks," or sixty-nine weeks from that decree would bring us to the appearance of the Messiah. This means that 483 year would pass from the giving of that decree to the appearance of the Messiah.

This prophecy gives us the exact year when Christ would be baptized and become the "Anointed One," "The Christ" for Christ means Anointed. The time is clearly stated with many historical facts, for Truth is not afraid of facts.

LUKE 3:1 "Now In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene."

FUTURISM'S FAULTY FOUNDATION

Tiberius Caesar began to reign jointly with his step father, Augustus Caesar, in AD 12. His fifteenth year was therefore AD 27 in which year Jesus was baptized and began His work. Thus the Messiah appeared on time. He appeared on the very year foretold hundreds of years before by divine prophecy.

Every Jew, every skeptic, every unbeliever of any kind stands defeated at the baptism of Jesus.

The devil hates these prophecies. He tries to deceive and confuse. He led men to reject the correct starting date for this time prophecy and the results are pathetic. Futurists on the whole have chosen the year 445 B.C. as their starting date. This was the year when Nehemiah received permission to carry on the work of rebuilding.

Now notice the confusion, for 483 years from BC 445 will bring you to 39 AD. This is about eight years after the death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord.

Instead of admitting their blunder and following the clear truth, they do some juggling. They change the 483 years into days and they use 360 days to the year, and have as a result 173,880 days. Then they divide this number by 365 days. They must reduce their number by any means.

They started with 360 days to the year and then to try to save face they change the year to 365 days. Thus they changed the divinely given 483 years to their 476 years. Now they add their 476 years to BC 445 and end up at AD 32. This they wrongly claim is the date of Christ's death.

This brings them to another blunder.

MATTHEW 2:1 "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem."

For Scriptures state: "Jesus was born in the days of Herod the king." Herod died in 4 BC (see Unger Bible Dictionary, 1966 Edition. page 199)

But Futurists and their "corrupt" juggling of Scripture and facts are out again.

"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city."

2 PETER 3:16 "They that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction."

DANIEL 9:25 "Messiah the Prince."

DANIEL 9:26 "Shall Messiah be cut off but not for Himself," - He died for you and for me.

DANIEL 9:27 "And He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease."

This wonderful prophecy was given about 538 BC some 565 years before our Lord was baptized and began His work as our Messiah. This shows that our precious Bible foretold some 565 years beforehand, the very year when Christ began His public work as our Savior. Prophecy was exactly fulfilled. Truly the Bible is the word of the Living God.

It is the word of the One who alone knows the future. It also proves that Jesus is the one and only Savior.

This Scripture also shows that in the middle of the last week of the seventy, the Messiah - Our Lord would cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease in God's earthly sanctuary. The Old Testament Sacrifices lost their significance and ceased, through the sacrifice of Jesus. This explains the fact that there has not been a sacrificial lamb slain in Jerusalem as an offering since AD 70.

FUTURISM'S FAULTY FOUNDATION

All the sacrifices and oblations of the Old Testament Jewish system ended at the sacrifice of Christ. The oblation of the sacrifices, as commanded by God cannot refer to anything but the ending of the Old Testament system of Sacrifices, in the Sacrifice of Jesus, when He offered Himself once for all. The veil in the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. It was done by a heavenly being. It was a divine signal, that the sacrifice and oblation had ceased. If we cut a week exactly in the middle we have two periods of three and a half days.

Thus three and a half years from the baptism of Jesus in AD 27 reaches to AD 31, the very time when Our Lord was "cut off" - crucified - "in the midst of the, week."

Christ confirmed God's covenant with "many" in that seventieth week.

MATTHEW 26:28 "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Christ's personal ministry for the Jews was for three and a half years after His baptism to His crucifixion. Christ first commanded His apostles to go only to the Jews.

MATTHEW 10:5 ,6 "These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them saying, Go not Into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: 'But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

At the stoning of Steven the Jews reached the climax of their rejection. Three and a half years after the cross in A.D. 34 the disciples turned to the Gentiles.

ACTS 8:25 "And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans."

The "Seventy weeks" had been "determined" unto the Jews. This period ended in AD 34

How significant that Stephen's death occurred during AD 34 (see Unger's Bible Dictionary, 1966 edition, page 1046) just as God predicted! Stephen's death marked the end of the reign of Israel as God's special people. See Romans 11:7, 11, 19, 20, 32. And thus it also marked the end of the seventy weeks mentioned in Daniel's prophecy.

Steven's martyrdom "marks, therefore, the transition from Jewish to Gentile Christianity. The persecution that followed his martyrdom led to the dispersion of the disciples, and so in fact to the carrying of the gospel to the Samaritans and then to the Gentiles." Westminster Dictionary of the Bible page 906.

With truth every detail of prophecy falls into its proper place like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. Truth fits with glorious harmony. It reveals the hand of God in prophecy and history.