

The Gospel of John

12:12-19

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.
As with this study and all bible studies, remember to pray before you start.

Last week we read at the beginning of chapter 12 about Mary anointing Jesus, which was six days before the Passover and Jesus' crucifixion.

This week's study we start the next day, which is five days before the Passover.
The actual date we will be looking at is **April 6th 33 AD**.
So how do we know this? Well I could not figure this out with my puny little mind. But I thank my pastor Ricky Ryan for the study he did in John and the notes on how this date is figured. The following is taken from those notes.

The section of Daniel that I want us to consider today is commonly called the 70 weeks of Daniel, the 70 weeks section starts in verse 24 of Daniel 9 and it goes through verse 27. Let's start with verse 24 "Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.

So, what is meant by these 70 Weeks? Well we know that what Gabriel is referring to here are 70 weeks of years. It was very common in this day to refer to a long span of time in terms of weeks of years. So one week was equal to seven years. 70 weeks of years is equal to 490 years. So in this space of 490 years, the Messiah will put an end to sin, iniquity and transgression, and bring about everlasting righteousness and in the process be revealed to the world.

But now the Prophecy gets a little more specific look at verse 25. "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

Here is what God wanted them to know and understand. He wanted them to know exactly when it was the Messiah was going to come. That is what this section is all about. Here is what the Messiah is going to do, and here is when He is going to come and do it. So here it is, after the decree is given to go and rebuild the city, the walls, and the streets of Jerusalem, it will be seven weeks of years and 62 weeks of years until the Messiah, the Prince shall come.

The Angel Gabriel is setting the date for the coming Messiah which is going to happen 7+62 weeks, or 69 weeks, after the decree goes forth to rebuild Jerusalem. That is pretty straight forward, the Decree, 69 weeks of years, then the Messiah.

So 69 weeks after this decree, the Messiah is going to come. I want to put this to you another way because there is a difference between the Jewish calendar and Gregorian calendar, so let me put this into days. The Jewish calendar year is 360 days, that means that this comes out to be 173,880 days.

You count out that many days after this decree, and bingo, you have the time of the Messiah.

That still leaves us one problem doesn't it? When was the decree given to go forth and rebuild Jerusalem? In Daniels day it had yet to happen, but it did happen. Look in Nehemiah chapter 2.

In Chapter 2 you have King Artaxerxes setting forth a decree that would allow Nehemiah to go back and rebuild the walls, and streets, and the city of Jerusalem. If you will look carefully at verse 1 you will see that this decree went forth when? In the month of Nissan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes reign. Scholars have nailed this down to March 14th 444 BC.

That is your starting day, so if you use this as your starting date, where do you end up but 173,880 days latter.

What if I told you that put you somewhere around 30 AD, would that get you excited? What if I told you that is put you in the year 33 AD, would that get you a little more fired up? How about if I told you that it put you exactly on April 6th 33 AD which was five days before the Passover and the very day that Jesus Christ mounted the colt of a Donkey and rode into Jerusalem with the crowds chanting, Hossana, blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Folks, that should make all of us fall on our faces and worship God.

Now I can see that some of you are still skeptical, so let me break this down for you. 444 BC to 33 AD is 476 years; remember that there is no Year Zero so there is only one year between 1AD and 1BC. These are Gregorian Years so they have 365 days in them that makes 173,740 days. Then you have to add in 116 days for leap years, you add one day for every four years and subtract three for every century, that is 116 days. And then you have the days between March 14th and April 6th, which adds 24 more days. You come out to exactly 173,880 days.

Folks there is no doubt that Jesus Christ fulfilled this prophecy to a tee. But it even gets better because the Prophecy of Daniel goes on. Look at verse 26.

And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.

There are three prophecies in this section. The first is that the Messiah would be cut off, literally executed for a capital crime. So instead of Israel recognizing and receiving their Messiah, they would cut Him off, they would execute Him like a criminal. But He would not be cut off for Himself; His death would not be for Him. It would be for whom? Us.

The second part of this is that the people of the Prince who is to come, and again you have to take my word for this because it would take too long to develop, but the Prince who is to come is the Anti-Christ and his people are the Romans. Remember the Anti-Christ is going to emerge out of a revised Roman Empire. So the “people of the prince” is a reference to Rome. And what are the Roman’s going to do according to this prophecy? Destroy the City of Jerusalem and the Sanctuary.

In 70 AD, Titus and the Roman Legion came in and not only did they destroy the city of Jerusalem killing 1.1 million Jews, but they also burned down and destroyed the Temple not leaving one stone left upon another exactly as Jesus said that they would.

The result of this is the third part of the Prophecy of verse 26, it would end with a flood, not a flood that came into Jerusalem, but a flood of Jew who would go out. From this point on, the Jews were scattered to the four corners of the earth, Israel, their homeland lay desolate and they were dispersed. And they remained dispersed until 1948 when Israel became a nation again. But I’m getting ahead of myself here.

Think with me, what Gabriel is telling us is that the window for the Messiah would be between the decree to rebuild Jerusalem on the one end, and the destruction of Jerusalem and the scattering of the Jews on the other. That was the one and only window. After that time, all bets are off. 70 AD, the window for the Messiah closed.

The Messiah had to be one that came before that. Can you think of any good candidates?

But let’s move on here because this takes us now into Daniels 70th Week. I told you we would get there. Look at verse 27.

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. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”

The “He” here is the Prince who is to come or the Antichrist. What has happened is that there is a gap between the 69th week of Daniel and the 70th week of Daniel, we know that gap is the Church Age, or the Age of Grace, which we are living in right now. But at some point the age of the Gentiles is going to end and it ends with the rapture of the Church, and then the 70th week of Daniel is going to begin because once again, God is going to be dealing with Israel. Now we know this last seven-year period as the what? Tribulation. And what marks the start of the Tribulation is the coming of the Antichrist and his covenant, his agreement, with the Nation of Israel.

*You see Israel who rejected the True Messiah, will buy in whole heartedly to the False Messiah. He will bring peace to the Middle East, he will allow the Jews to rebuild their Temple on the Temple mount. The world is going to be a wonderful place, for how long? Look at the second sentence in verse 27, **“but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wings of abomination shall be one who makes desolate.”** It will all be great for 3 ½ years, and then the Antichrist will stand up in the Temple and proclaim himself as God, that is the abomination of desolation that Jesus was talking about. After that, all hell breaks loose on planet earth.*

That's the whole prophecy; can you see why people call Daniel 9 the backbone of Bible prophecy? It's all right here. As we come into John 12, we are at the heart of it's fulfillment. And it starts with the Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, right on schedule, 173,880 days after Artaxerxes decree.

Is that to cool or what?

So let's get started in this week's study as we go back to April 6, 33 AD

✎ John 12:12-16 *The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out:*
"Hosanna!
'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'
The King of Israel!'"
Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:
"Fear not, daughter of Zion;
Behold, your King is coming,
Sitting on a donkey's colt."
His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

The week before the Passover and before Jesus was to die for the sins of the world. It is believed that there were about three million people in Jerusalem at this time, since it was required for all Jewish men to return to Jerusalem for the Passover.

I know how packed it gets here in our town or in the surrounding towns when big events go on, especially during the summer. If you try to go downtown, you can't even find a parking space. It's usually better to stay home during these times then to fight with the traffic and all the tourist around town.

Your town may be just like this, so you could imagine the crowds in Jerusalem at this time. It would seem that you couldn't go anywhere to be alone. But as we read through the rest of John, we see that Jesus does find time to be alone with the Father, despite the crowds.

So the people had obviously been talking about Jesus and all the great things He had done. Even the religious leaders talked about Him, maybe not so much in the positive, yet enough for the people to want to make Jesus king. Not so much for the spiritual aspect that Jesus came for, but they wanted Jesus to deliver them from the oppression of the Roman government.

So the people run out with palm branches to meet Jesus.

The waving of the palm branch was the welcome that they gave to the defiant victor. It started with Judas Maccabee after he defeated the Greeks. The waving of the palm branch

was a defiant statement to Rome and hopeful statement to Jesus to free them and deliver them from the oppressor.

As they wave these branches they shout out.

***"Hosanna!
'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!
The King of Israel!"***

Quoting from:

† ***Psalms 118:26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.***

It says then that Jesus got a colt of a donkey and rode into Jerusalem on this colt. Mark gives a more detailed account of what happened here.

† ***Mark 11:1-11 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples; and He said to them, "Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring it. And if anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it,' and immediately he will send it here." So they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed it. But some of those who stood there said to them, "What are you doing, loosing the colt?" And they spoke to them just as Jesus had commanded. So they let them go. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it. And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Blessed is the kingdom of our father David That comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.***

Not only did they wave the palm branches, but they also spread their clothes on the ground. Also note that Jesus returned to Bethany at the end of the day, just as we talked about last week.

✧ ***His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.***

They remembered what was written in the book of Zechariah.

† **Zech 9:9** *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your King is coming to you;
He is just and having salvation,
Lowly and riding on a donkey,
A colt, the foal of a donkey.*

The people didn't even know that they were fulfilling prophecy. They just thought some great prophet had come to them.

† **Matt 21:10-11** *And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."*

But they had no idea that this was the Messiah, they just figured that Jesus would finally release them from the oppression of the Romans.
If they had only remembered the scripture that said:

† *Behold, your King is coming to you;
He is just and having salvation,
Lowly and riding on a donkey,
A colt, the foal of a donkey.*

Salvation, not what they were looking for, or at least not salvation for their souls, but physical salvation from the hardship they had on this earth.
This is the type of salvation we tend to tell people about. We tell them that if they turn to Jesus that all their problems will go away. Some teach of financial gain and no more money problems. Life will be a bed of roses if you just turn to Jesus.
I don't see that anywhere in scripture.

† **Matt 5:10-12** *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

† **Matt 10:17-26** *But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute*

you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes. A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household! Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

† *John 15:18-25 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'*

So why would anyone want to become a Christian, you may think? Because the short time of persecution here on earth does not compare to the reward and the great time we will spend in heaven for all eternity. Just as those who choose not to believe and think they are having so much fun in their sins right now, doesn't compare to the continual oppression and pain that waits for them in hell for all eternity.

Remember going to school and how you couldn't wait to get out. You thought that it was so much easier and life was so much better outside of school. Now if we could we would love to go back to those old days and enjoy our youth in school once again. School was a learning process and preparation for the rest of our lives here on this earth. So is being a Christian, the time we spend here (And it sometimes seems like an eternity) is preparing us for heaven. But it won't be disappointing, and once you get there, you won't want to come back!

One other thing Luke tells us about this account is.

† *Luke 19:39-40 And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."*

The Pharisees knew exactly what was being spoke here and they didn't like it one bit. They had this reserved for the Messiah, not some so called prophet. If they only knew that the Messiah was right in front of them, but their blind eyes would not allow them to see God's Son and His word being fulfilled right before their eyes.

If you ever are blessed to be able to go to Israel, they say you can get a free souvenir there. As you are walking into Jerusalem, pick up one of the rocks and place it in your pocket. When you get home have this rock framed and when people ask you what this rock is, just tell them that this is one of the rocks that would have cried out from Luke 19:40 if the people didn't.

✠ *His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.*

Notice that neither the disciple nor the people had planned this out. They had no idea what was going on. They weren't trying to make Jesus something He wasn't or trying to fulfill prophecy, no it was God all the way.

✠ *John 12:17-19 Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign. The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!"*

Telling others about the great things Jesus had done.

What has the Lord done in your life lately?

Who have you told?

Do you know that if you do, that others will want to meet Jesus!

✠ *For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.*

We are always afraid of stumbling over our words, or not have the right things to say, or not knowing the bible well enough.

Jesus just tells us to just be a witness

✠ *Acts 26:16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.*

You have seen the change in your own life, and as you spend time in the word, God will reveal His word to you so that you can answer those questions when they come to you.

But for now, just tell them about Jesus and what he has done in your life.

People can argue scripture all day with you, but they can't refute what the Lord has done in your life. No one can take that from you.

✠ *Romans 8:37-39 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height*

nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Finally, to end this week's study we read.

✠ ***The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!"***

These guys were mad, to put it lightly. They were no longer the big shots that they were used to being. People weren't looking to them for answers anymore. Their business of taking advantage of God's people was dwindling and they were losing money.

But not only the Jews followed Jesus, but it seemed everyone one was. "*What was going on here?*" the Pharisees wondered. Why was the world following after this man?

It's the same thing the world now asks about us. "*Why are they following after this Jesus guy?*"

Just like the Pharisees the world just doesn't get it, after all most of us are poor (Worldly poor), and we don't have much stuff. They think we never have any fun. We lose out on sleeping in on Sunday mornings (but we never have a hangover or have to wonder who that person is lying in bed next to us.). We are not famous or get awards or recognition for the things we do (But we will in heaven).

We could go on and on with what the world thinks about us, but until they experience it for themselves, they will never understand, just as we didn't until we came to Jesus.

Next week we will continue on in chapter 12.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy, and may you tells others about what Jesus has done in your life so that they also will come to Him!