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We don't talk too much about the events that were instrumental in forming our church and giving us our unique perspective on the war between God and Satan and end-time events.

Parts of the story may seem a bit humiliating. And, some of the Biblical interpretations may feel a bit sketchy. But mostly, it's a story of young people committed to Jesus and the struggles they faced trying to figure out what that looked like.

While this isn't a topic I would normally preach about, someone asked about it. So, today we're going to do a brief overview of what happened in 1844.

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Awakening

Our church grew out of what is known as the Second Great Awakening which took place in the late 1700's through the early 1800's.

It was a time of circuit riding preachers, huge camp meetings – the largest with nearly 20,000 people, numerous revivals, temperance and reform movements, and general support for anything that could improve the morals of society.

William Miller, a practicing atheist, got fed up with all of this and decided he would go through the Bible and prove once and for all it was false.

So, starting in Genesis, he began working his way through it determined to uncover every inconsistency and error. Instead, he found a beautiful harmony. He gave himself to Jesus and continued working his way through Scripture not moving forward until he understood the passage he was on.

1844

During his study of Daniel, he came across a combination of verses that appeared to point specifically to the time of Jesus' Second Coming.

**Daniel 8** speaks of the little horn as the representative of Satan that wars against God and His people here on earth. Regarding this little horn's power, in response to the question about how long it's going to last, the answer is given:

*"For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."*  
(**Daniel 8:14**, NKJV)

And then he read what the angel said about the little horn a few verses later:

*He will cause deceit to prosper through his cunning and by his influence, and in his own mind he will exalt himself. He will destroy many in a time of peace; he will even stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be broken – not by human hands. The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true.* (**Daniel 8:25-26**, CSB)

As he compared this prophecy with the other prophecies in Daniel, this again appeared to be talking about the time that God would set up His kingdom at Jesus' Second Coming.

He also knew that in Bible prophecy, most of the time a day stands for a year, so the 2,300 days refers to a period of 2300 years. So, if he could figure out when the 2300 years began, it should take him at least to the year Jesus would return.

He found that answer in **Daniel 9**.

**Daniel 9** begins with Daniel's prayer for the restoration of Israel because he recognized it was getting close to the end of the 70 years prophesied by the prophet Jeremiah that they would be in captivity.

In answer to Daniel's prayer, the angel Gabriel showed up saying he came to give Daniel understanding about the vision. The only vision this could be referring to is the one in Daniel 8 about the 2300 years.

Gabriel's explanation began with these words that tie that vision to Daniel's prayer:

*"Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city ..."* (**Daniel 9:24**, NKJV)

The word translated here as "determined" and in other versions as "decreed" literally means "cut off." Given there was no beginning point given in Daniel 8 for the 2300 years, it made sense that this prophecy was cut off of the beginning and they have the same starting point. Reading on:

*“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 ...”*  
(Daniel 9:25, NKJV)

Using the principle again of a year for a day, this would be 483 years. There were three decrees to return to Jerusalem. The most comprehensive one that gave them autonomy and resources to completely rebuild took place in 457 BC. Jump forward 483 years and this brings us to AD 27 when Jesus began His ministry.

The prophecy goes on to say:

*“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 ...”* (Daniel 9:27, NKJV)

We know Jesus died three and a half years later, just as the prophecy said, in AD 30. It is an amazing prophecy. Because of it, many devout Jews were looking for the Messiah about the time Jesus came, and many accepted Jesus as they examined the Bible following His death and compared His life to the prophecies.

Using this information, William Miller, first came up with a couple of dates in 1843. As they approached 1843, a large number of Christians believed the message of William Miller. They were often forced to leave their home churches because it was considered heresy by many at the time.

When those dates came and went, they went back to Scripture and did more study.

If you simply subtract 457 from 2300, you get 1843. However, there is no year 0, it goes directly from 1 BC to AD 1. So, it was revised to October 22, 1844, the Day of Atonement that year on the Jewish calendar.

After the disappointments in 1843, the date set in 1844 seemed like a sure bet. Many staked their reputation and their livelihood on it, using the time to spread the message rather than harvesting their crops.

We know Jesus did not come that day. Those who had believed He would were deeply disappointed and severely ridiculed by many. Most faced a hard winter because they hadn't prepared for it expecting to be in Heaven instead.

Many simply gave up on religion. In their disappointment, they couldn't bring themselves to trust in God again.

Others, though humiliated, returned to their former churches.

And some, dug in with the assumption that they had misread Scripture somehow. Prayerfully they went back to God and the Bible.

## The Sanctuary

They couldn't find anything wrong with the timing that led them to October 22, 1844; so, they started looking at what it might mean when it said:

*"... then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."* ([Daniel 8:14](#), NKJV)

First of all, the earthly sanctuary was a copy of one in Heaven.

The author of Hebrews, speaking of the Jewish priests, wrote:

*They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."* ([Hebrews 8:5](#), NIV – quoting [Exodus 25:40](#))

He made the same point in the next chapter:

*For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf.* ([Hebrews 9:24](#), NLT)

They also understood the earthly Sanctuary was cleansed each year on the Day of Atonement – described in [Leviticus 16](#).

While there were several parts to the service, the main story line revolved around two male goats. By casting lots, one was chosen to be sacrificed, and the other, called the scapegoat, was banished.

There was a specific procedure for sacrificing the goat and places where its blood was to be sprinkled.

When that was completed, the scapegoat was brought and while holding his hands on the goat's head, the priest confessed over it the sins of Israel from the past year. Then the goat was driven out of the camp to a desolate place they called Azazel – which has several meanings, all somehow related to the devil.

Of course, the sacrificed goat represents Jesus. It is only because of His death and resurrection that we can find forgiveness and cleansing. The scapegoat represents Satan. It shows that the responsibility for sin is finally placed where it belongs – on him. And he will be punished for it.

As they studied all of this they came to a couple of conclusions.

1. Something happened in Heaven on October 22, 1844 that corresponded to the yearly Day of Atonement in the earthly Sanctuary that involved Jesus moving from the Holy Place into the Most Holy Place.

2. The Investigative Judgement, which is largely based on Daniel 7, Revelation 14 & 20 – along with the writings of Mrs. White – is a part of that picture.

## The Last Days

They basically concluded that these are the real last days. There are no extended time prophecies that go beyond 1844.

The events of a Heavenly Day of Atonement would be the clean up events of the last days. They could be completed quickly!

And it was this that created in them a sense of urgency. They never set another date for Jesus' coming, but they expected it to be soon.

Many of them were young people as they shared what they knew about Jesus and His soon coming. Ellen White was 17 years old in 1844; her future husband James, was only a few years older.

The story of 1844 is one of deep personal love for Jesus and a commitment to live by His instructions.

They never expected to grow old and die. They lived like their home was in Heaven and they wanted as many as possible to join them there.

Their love for Jesus and their commitment to Him carried them through numerous hard times as they used most of their personal resources in spreading the Gospel.

I wonder what it will take to bring us back to that point?

I wonder what it will take to wake us up to the fact that this world isn't our home? And, that working to get comfortable here takes our eyes off Jesus and Heaven?

I wonder what it will take to open our eyes to the needs of people around us? What it will take for us to start being the hands, feet, and mouth of Jesus reaching out to them?

## God's Promise

There's a beautiful promise in [Jeremiah 31](#). It states:

*"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people ... For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."*

([Jeremiah 31:33-34](#), NIV)

This tells me what God intends to do. If I invite Him to, He will put His law in my mind – I will understand it and agree with it; and He will write it on my heart – I will emotionally engage with it, I will want to obey it!

We know that God's law really is to love God supremely, and love others the way God loves me. This is what He will put in my mind and write on my heart. He'll do it for you too. This is the only way we will move from where we are to where we need to be.

I've asked Him to do this for me today? How about you? Have you asked for it?

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## Notes

Text you find in **this color** is a link to more information. It may take you to the Bible verse in context and/or in several different translations utilizing [BibleGateway.com](https://www.biblegateway.com). In some cases, it may take you to a website where there is additional information. And, it may take you to a PDF copy of previous sermons in this series.

## Previous Messages in this Series (click on the title to download it)

- May 9, 2020 – *Dead or Alive?* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- May 16, 2020 – *Symptom or Disease?* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- May 30, 2020 – *Out or In?* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- June 6, 2020 – *Starve or Eat?* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- June 13, 2020 – *Atrophy or Exercise?* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- June 20, 2020 – *Just Love?* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- July 4, 2020 – *Am I a Hypocrite?* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- July 11, 2020 – *Burn Out or Rest? – Part 1* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- July 18, 2020 – *Burn Out or Rest? – Part 2* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Aug. 1, 2020 – *A Look Back* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Aug. 15, 2020 – *Love Like Jesus!* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Aug. 22, 2020 – *Distracted or Focused?* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Aug. 29, 2020 – *Mortal or Immortal?* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Sept. 5, 2020 – *Tortured or Destroyed?* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Sept. 12, 2020 – *Now or Later?* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Sept. 19, 2020 – *No or Yes? Part 1* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Oct. 3, 2020 – *No or Yes? Part 2* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Oct. 10, 2020 – *No or Yes? Part 3* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)

## Scripture References

**Leviticus 16 – The Day of Atonement (NLT):** *The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of Aaron’s two sons, who died after they entered the LORD’s presence and burned the wrong kind of fire before him. <sup>2</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Warn your brother, Aaron, not to enter the Most Holy Place*

behind the inner curtain whenever he chooses; if he does, he will die. For the Ark's cover – the place of atonement – is there, and I myself am present in the cloud above the atonement cover.

<sup>3</sup> “When Aaron enters the sanctuary area, he must follow these instructions fully. He must bring a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. <sup>4</sup> He must put on his linen tunic and the linen undergarments worn next to his body. He must tie the linen sash around his waist and put the linen turban on his head. These are sacred garments, so he must bathe himself in water before he puts them on. <sup>5</sup> Aaron must take from the community of Israel two male goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

<sup>6</sup> “Aaron will present his own bull as a sin offering to purify himself and his family, making them right with the LORD. <sup>7</sup> Then he must take the two male goats and present them to the LORD at the entrance of the Tabernacle. <sup>8</sup> He is to cast sacred lots to determine which goat will be reserved as an offering to the LORD and which will carry the sins of the people to the wilderness of Azazel. <sup>9</sup> Aaron will then present as a sin offering the goat chosen by lot for the LORD. <sup>10</sup> The other goat, the scapegoat chosen by lot to be sent away, will be kept alive, standing before the LORD. When it is sent away to Azazel in the wilderness, the people will be purified and made right with the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> “Aaron will present his own bull as a sin offering to purify himself and his family, making them right with the LORD. After he has slaughtered the bull as a sin offering, <sup>12</sup> he will fill an incense burner with burning coals from the altar that stands before the LORD. Then he will take two handfuls of fragrant powdered incense and will carry the burner and the incense behind the inner curtain. <sup>13</sup> There in the LORD's presence he will put the incense on the burning coals so that a cloud of incense will rise over the Ark's cover – the place of atonement – that rests on the Ark of the Covenant. If he follows these instructions, he will not die. <sup>14</sup> Then he must take some of the blood of the bull, dip his finger in it, and sprinkle it on the east side of the atonement cover. He must sprinkle blood seven times with his finger in front of the atonement cover.

<sup>15</sup> “Then Aaron must slaughter the first goat as a sin offering for the people and carry its blood behind the inner curtain. There he will sprinkle the goat's blood over the atonement cover and in front of it, just as he did with the bull's blood. <sup>16</sup> Through this process, he will purify the Most Holy Place, and he will do the same for the entire Tabernacle, because of the defiling sin and rebellion of the Israelites. <sup>17</sup> No one else is allowed inside the Tabernacle when Aaron enters it for the purification ceremony in the Most Holy Place. No one may enter until he comes out again after purifying himself, his family, and all the congregation of Israel, making them right with the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> “Then Aaron will come out to purify the altar that stands before the LORD. He will do this by taking some of the blood from the bull and the goat and putting it on each of the horns of the altar. <sup>19</sup> Then he must sprinkle the blood with his finger seven times over the altar. In this way, he will cleanse it from Israel's defilement and make it holy.

<sup>20</sup> “When Aaron has finished purifying the Most Holy Place and the Tabernacle and the altar, he must present the live goat. <sup>21</sup> He will lay both of his hands on the goat’s head and confess over it all the wickedness, rebellion, and sins of the people of Israel. In this way, he will transfer the people’s sins to the head of the goat. Then a man specially chosen for the task will drive the goat into the wilderness. <sup>22</sup> As the goat goes into the wilderness, it will carry all the people’s sins upon itself into a desolate land.

<sup>23</sup> “When Aaron goes back into the Tabernacle, he must take off the linen garments he was wearing when he entered the Most Holy Place, and he must leave the garments there. <sup>24</sup> Then he must bathe himself with water in a sacred place, put on his regular garments, and go out to sacrifice a burnt offering for himself and a burnt offering for the people. Through this process, he will purify himself and the people, making them right with the LORD. <sup>25</sup> He must then burn all the fat of the sin offering on the altar.

<sup>26</sup> “The man chosen to drive the scapegoat into the wilderness of Azazel must wash his clothes and bathe himself in water. Then he may return to the camp.

<sup>27</sup> “The bull and the goat presented as sin offerings, whose blood Aaron takes into the Most Holy Place for the purification ceremony, will be carried outside the camp. The animals’ hides, internal organs, and dung are all to be burned. <sup>28</sup> The man who burns them must wash his clothes and bathe himself in water before returning to the camp.

<sup>29</sup> “On the tenth day of the appointed month in early autumn, you must deny yourselves. Neither native-born Israelites nor foreigners living among you may do any kind of work. This is a permanent law for you. <sup>30</sup> On that day offerings of purification will be made for you, and you will be purified in the LORD’s presence from all your sins. <sup>31</sup> It will be a Sabbath day of complete rest for you, and you must deny yourselves. This is a permanent law for you. <sup>32</sup> In future generations, the purification ceremony will be performed by the priest who has been anointed and ordained to serve as high priest in place of his ancestor Aaron. He will put on the holy linen garments <sup>33</sup> and purify the Most Holy Place, the Tabernacle, the altar, the priests, and the entire congregation. <sup>34</sup> This is a permanent law for you, to purify the people of Israel from their sins, making them right with the LORD once each year.”

Moses followed all these instructions exactly as the LORD had commanded him.

(Leviticus 16, NLT)

**Numbers 14:34 (NLT):** “Because your men explored the land for forty days, you must wander in the wilderness for forty years – a year for each day, suffering the consequences of your sins. Then you will discover what it is like to have me for an enemy.” (Numbers 14:34, NLT)

**Proverbs 3:5-12 (NIV):** Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

<sup>7</sup> Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. <sup>8</sup> This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; <sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

<sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, <sup>12</sup> because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in. (**Proverbs 3:5-12**, NIV)

**Ezekiel 4:1-6 (NLT):** "And now, son of man, take a large clay brick and set it down in front of you. Then draw a map of the city of Jerusalem on it. <sup>2</sup> Show the city under siege. Build a wall around it so no one can escape. Set up the enemy camp, and surround the city with siege ramps and battering rams. <sup>3</sup> Then take an iron griddle and place it between you and the city. Turn toward the city and demonstrate how harsh the siege will be against Jerusalem. This will be a warning to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> "Now lie on your left side and place the sins of Israel on yourself. You are to bear their sins for the number of days you lie there on your side. <sup>5</sup> I am requiring you to bear Israel's sins for 390 days – one day for each year of their sin. <sup>6</sup> After that, turn over and lie on your right side for 40 days – one day for each year of Judah's sin." (**Ezekiel 4:1-6**, NLT)

**Daniel 7 (CSB):** In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream with visions in his mind as he was lying in his bed. He wrote down the dream, and here is the summary of his account. <sup>2</sup> Daniel said, "In my vision at night I was watching, and suddenly the four winds of heaven stirred up the great sea. <sup>3</sup> Four huge beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

<sup>4</sup> "The first was like a lion but had eagle's wings. I continued watching until its wings were torn off. It was lifted up from the ground, set on its feet like a man, and given a human mind.

<sup>5</sup> "Suddenly, another beast appeared, a second one, that looked like a bear. It was raised up on one side, with three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up! Gorge yourself on flesh.'

<sup>6</sup> "After this, while I was watching, suddenly another beast appeared. It was like a leopard with four wings of a bird on its back. It had four heads, and it was given dominion.

<sup>7</sup> "After this, while I was watching in the night visions, suddenly a fourth beast appeared, frightening and dreadful, and incredibly strong, with large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and it trampled with its feet whatever was left. It was different from all the beasts before it, and it had ten horns.

<sup>8</sup> "While I was considering the horns, suddenly another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. And suddenly in this horn there were eyes like the eyes of a human and a mouth that was speaking arrogantly.

## The Ancient of Days and the Son of Man

<sup>9</sup> “As I kept watching, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was white like snow, and the hair of his head like whitest wool. His throne was flaming fire; its wheels were blazing fire. <sup>10</sup> A river of fire was flowing, coming out from his presence. Thousands upon thousands served him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was convened, and the books were opened.

<sup>11</sup> “I watched, then, because of the sound of the arrogant words the horn was speaking. As I continued watching, the beast was killed and its body destroyed and given over to the burning fire. <sup>12</sup> As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was removed, but an extension of life was granted to them for a certain period of time.

<sup>13</sup> I continued watching in the night visions, and suddenly one like a son of man was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was escorted before him. <sup>14</sup> He was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, so that those of every people, nation, and language should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

## Interpretation of the Vision

<sup>15</sup> “As for me, Daniel, my spirit was deeply distressed within me, and the visions in my mind terrified me. <sup>16</sup> I approached one of those who were standing by and asked him to clarify all this. So he let me know the interpretation of these things: <sup>17</sup> ‘These huge beasts, four in number, are four kings who will rise from the earth. <sup>18</sup> But the holy ones of the Most High will receive the kingdom and possess it forever, yes, forever and ever.’

<sup>19</sup> “Then I wanted to be clear about the fourth beast, the one different from all the others, extremely terrifying, with iron teeth and bronze claws, devouring, crushing, and trampling with its feet whatever was left. <sup>20</sup> I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three fell – the horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spoke arrogantly, and that looked bigger than the others. <sup>21</sup> As I was watching, this horn waged war against the holy ones and was prevailing over them <sup>22</sup> until the Ancient of Days arrived and a judgment was given in favor of the holy ones of the Most High, for the time had come, and the holy ones took possession of the kingdom.

<sup>23</sup> “This is what he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, different from all the other kingdoms. It will devour the whole earth, trample it down, and crush it. <sup>24</sup> The ten horns are ten kings who will rise from this kingdom. Another king, different from the previous ones, will rise after them and subdue three kings. <sup>25</sup> He will speak words against the Most High and oppress the holy ones of the Most High. He will intend to change religious festivals and laws, and the holy ones will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time. <sup>26</sup> But the court will convene, and his dominion will be taken away, to be completely destroyed forever. <sup>27</sup> The kingdom, dominion, and greatness of the kingdoms under all of heaven will be

given to the people, the holy ones of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will serve and obey him.’

<sup>28</sup> “This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts terrified me greatly, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself.” (Daniel 7, CSB)

**Daniel 8 (CSB):** *In the third year of King Belshazzar’s reign, a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after the one that had appeared to me earlier. <sup>2</sup> I saw the vision, and as I watched, I was in the fortress city of Susa, in the province of Elam. I saw in the vision that I was beside the Ulai Canal. <sup>3</sup> I looked up, and there was a ram standing beside the canal. He had two horns. The two horns were long, but one was longer than the other, and the longer one came up last. <sup>4</sup> I saw the ram charging to the west, the north, and the south. No animal could stand against him, and there was no rescue from his power. He did whatever he wanted and became great.*

<sup>5</sup> *As I was observing, a male goat appeared, coming from the west across the surface of the entire earth without touching the ground. The goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. <sup>6</sup> He came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and rushed at him with savage fury. <sup>7</sup> I saw him approaching the ram, and infuriated with him, he struck the ram, breaking his two horns, and the ram was not strong enough to stand against him. The goat threw him to the ground and trampled him, and there was no one to rescue the ram from his power. <sup>8</sup> Then the male goat acted even more arrogantly, but when he became powerful, the large horn was broken. Four conspicuous horns came up in its place, pointing toward the four winds of heaven.*

### The Little Horn

<sup>9</sup> *From one of them a little horn emerged and grew extensively toward the south and the east and toward the beautiful land. <sup>10</sup> It grew as high as the heavenly army, made some of the army and some of the stars fall to the earth, and trampled them. <sup>11</sup> It acted arrogantly even against the Prince of the heavenly army; it revoked his regular sacrifice and overthrew the place of his sanctuary. <sup>12</sup> In the rebellion, the army was given up, together with the regular sacrifice. The horn threw truth to the ground and was successful in what it did.*

<sup>13</sup> *Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the speaker, “How long will the events of this vision last – the regular sacrifice, the rebellion that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and of the army to be trampled?”*

<sup>14</sup> *He said to me, “For 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be restored.”*

### Interpretation of the Vision

<sup>15</sup> *While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there stood before me someone who appeared to be a man. <sup>16</sup> I heard a human voice calling from the middle of the Ulai: “Gabriel, explain the vision to this man.”*

<sup>17</sup> So he approached where I was standing; when he came near, I was terrified and fell facedown. “Son of man,” he said to me, “understand that the vision refers to the time of the end.” <sup>18</sup> While he was speaking to me, I fell into a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. Then he touched me, made me stand up, <sup>19</sup> and said, “I am here to tell you what will happen at the conclusion of the time of wrath, because it refers to the appointed time of the end.” <sup>20</sup> The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia. <sup>21</sup> The shaggy goat represents the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes represents the first king. <sup>22</sup> The four horns that took the place of the broken horn represent four kingdoms. They will rise from that nation, but without its power.

<sup>23</sup> Near the end of their kingdoms, when the rebels have reached the full measure of their sin, a ruthless king, skilled in intrigue, will come to the throne. <sup>24</sup> His power will be great, but it will not be his own. He will cause outrageous destruction and succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the powerful along with the holy people. <sup>25</sup> He will cause deceit to prosper through his cunning and by his influence, and in his own mind he will exalt himself. He will destroy many in a time of peace; he will even stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be broken – not by human hands. <sup>26</sup> The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true. Now you are to seal up the vision because it refers to many days in the future.”

<sup>27</sup> I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for days. Then I got up and went about the king’s business. I was greatly disturbed by the vision and could not understand it. (**Daniel 8**, CSB)

**Daniel 9 (CSB):** In the first year of Darius, the son of Ahasuerus, a Mede by birth, who was made king over the Chaldean kingdom – <sup>2</sup> in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the books according to the word of the LORD to the prophet Jeremiah that the number of years for the desolation of Jerusalem would be seventy. <sup>3</sup> So I turned my attention to the Lord God to seek him by prayer and petitions, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.

<sup>4</sup> I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed:

Ah, Lord – the great and awe-inspiring God who keeps his gracious covenant with those who love him and keep his commands – <sup>5</sup> we have sinned, done wrong, acted wickedly, rebelled, and turned away from your commands and ordinances. <sup>6</sup> We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, leaders, ancestors, and all the people of the land.

<sup>7</sup> Lord, righteousness belongs to you, but this day public shame belongs to us: the men of Judah, the residents of Jerusalem, and all Israel – those who are near and those who are far, in all the countries where you have banished them because of the disloyalty they have shown toward you. <sup>8</sup> LORD, public shame belongs to us, our kings, our leaders, and our ancestors, because we have sinned against you. <sup>9</sup> Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him <sup>10</sup> and have not obeyed the LORD our God by following his instructions that he set before us through his servants the prophets.

<sup>11</sup> All Israel has broken your law and turned away, refusing to obey you. The promised curse written in the law of Moses, the servant of God, has been poured out on us because we have sinned against him. <sup>12</sup> He has carried out his words that he spoke against us and against our rulers by bringing on us a disaster that is so great that nothing like what has been done to Jerusalem has ever been done under all of heaven. <sup>13</sup> Just as it is written in the law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us, yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our iniquities and paying attention to your truth. <sup>14</sup> So the LORD kept the disaster in mind and brought it on us, for the LORD our God is righteous in all he has done. But we have not obeyed him.

<sup>15</sup> Now, Lord our God – who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a strong hand and made your name renowned as it is this day – we have sinned, we have acted wickedly. <sup>16</sup> Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, may your anger and wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors, Jerusalem and your people have become an object of ridicule to all those around us.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, our God, hear the prayer and the petitions of your servant. Make your face shine on your desolate sanctuary for the Lord's sake. <sup>18</sup> Listen closely, my God, and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations and the city that bears your name. For we are not presenting our petitions before you based on our righteous acts, but based on your abundant compassion. <sup>19</sup> Lord, hear! Lord, forgive! Lord, listen and act! My God, for your own sake, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your name.

### The Seventy Weeks of Years

<sup>20</sup> While I was speaking, praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my petition before the LORD my God concerning the holy mountain of my God –

<sup>21</sup> while I was praying, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the first vision, reached me in my extreme weariness, about the time of the evening offering. <sup>22</sup> He gave me this explanation: “Daniel, I’ve come now to give you understanding. <sup>23</sup> At the beginning of your petitions an answer went out, and I have come to give it, for you are treasured by God. So consider the message and understand the vision:

<sup>24</sup> *Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city – to bring the rebellion to an end, to put a stop to sin, to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy place.*

<sup>25</sup> Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until an Anointed One, the ruler, will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. It will be rebuilt with a plaza and a moat, but in difficult times. <sup>26</sup> After those sixty-two weeks the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the coming ruler will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come with a flood, and until the end there will be war; desolations are decreed. <sup>27</sup> *He will make a firm covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the week*

*he will put a stop to sacrifice and offering. And the abomination of desolation will be on a wing of the temple until the decreed destruction is poured out on the desolator.” (Daniel 9, CSB)*

**Hebrews 1:1-4 (NLT):** *Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. <sup>2</sup> And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. <sup>4</sup> This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.*

**(Hebrews 1:1-4, NLT)**

**Hebrews 2:14-18 (NLT):** *Because God’s children are human beings – made of flesh and blood – the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. <sup>15</sup> Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.*

<sup>16</sup> *We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested. (Hebrews 2:14-18, NLT)*

**Hebrews 4:14-16 (CSB):** *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens – Jesus the Son of God – let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16, CSB)*

**Hebrews 8:1-12 (NIV):** *Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, <sup>2</sup> and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.*

<sup>3</sup> *Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. <sup>4</sup> If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. <sup>5</sup> They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” (Exodus 25:40) <sup>6</sup> But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.*

<sup>7</sup> *For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. <sup>8</sup> But God found fault with the people and said:*

*“The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. <sup>9</sup> It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. <sup>10</sup> This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>11</sup> No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. <sup>12</sup> For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. (Hebrews 8:1-12, NIV – quoting Jeremiah 31:31-34)*

**Hebrews 9:11-28 (NLT):** *So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. <sup>12</sup> With his own blood – not the blood of goats and calves – he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.*

<sup>13</sup> *Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer could cleanse people’s bodies from ceremonial impurity. <sup>14</sup> Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. <sup>15</sup> That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.*

<sup>16</sup> *Now when someone leaves a will, it is necessary to prove that the person who made it is dead. <sup>17</sup> The will goes into effect only after the person’s death. While the person who made it is still alive, the will cannot be put into effect.*

<sup>18</sup> *That is why even the first covenant was put into effect with the blood of an animal. <sup>19</sup> For after Moses had read each of God’s commandments to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, along with water, and sprinkled both the book of God’s law and all the people, using hyssop branches and scarlet wool. <sup>20</sup> Then he said, “This blood confirms the covenant God has made with you.” <sup>21</sup> And in the same way, he sprinkled blood on the Tabernacle and on everything used for worship. <sup>22</sup> In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.*

<sup>23</sup> *That is why the Tabernacle and everything in it, which were copies of things in heaven, had to be purified by the blood of animals. But the real things in heaven had to be purified with far better sacrifices than the blood of animals.*

<sup>24</sup> *For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our*

behalf. <sup>25</sup> And he did not enter heaven to offer himself again and again, like the high priest here on earth who enters the Most Holy Place year after year with the blood of an animal. <sup>26</sup> If that had been necessary, Christ would have had to die again and again, ever since the world began. But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice.

<sup>27</sup> And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, <sup>28</sup> so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.

(**Hebrews 9:11-28**, NLT)

**Hebrews 10:19-25 (NLT):** And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. <sup>21</sup> And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, <sup>22</sup> let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. <sup>24</sup> Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. <sup>25</sup> And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. (**Hebrews 10:19-25**, NLT)

**Revelation 14:6-13 (CSB):** Then I saw another angel flying high overhead, with the eternal gospel to announce to the inhabitants of the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. <sup>7</sup> He spoke with a loud voice: "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship the one who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

<sup>8</sup> And another, a second angel, followed, saying, "It has fallen, Babylon the Great has fallen. She made all the nations drink the wine of her sexual immorality, which brings wrath."

<sup>9</sup> And another, a third angel, followed them and spoke with a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, <sup>10</sup> he will also drink the wine of God's wrath, which is poured full strength into the cup of his anger. He will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the sight of the holy angels and in the sight of the Lamb, <sup>11</sup> and the smoke of their torment will go up forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or anyone who receives the mark of its name. <sup>12</sup> This calls for endurance from the saints, who keep God's commands and their faith in Jesus."

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

"Yes," says the Spirit, "so they will rest from their labors, since their works follow them."

(**Revelation 14:6-13**, CSB)