

DANIEL'S

MESSIAH

The 490 years of Daniel chapter nine

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Prologue

Who is Daniel's Messiah? What did Daniel mean when he said, "From the going forth of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be 483 years?" When was this to take place? The answers to these questions are the main focus of this book. I want to encourage and challenge people to be able to accurately identify Daniel's Messiah and pinpoint the time when He will be alive. Messiah is central to Jewish heritage, therefore I review certain claims and commentaries of the Rabbis in an effort to evaluate Daniel's Messiah from their perspective.

However, before we rush to answer these questions I feel it is necessary to examine who Daniel was, and to do a short survey on the book which bears his name. It is important for us to understand Daniel and his Messianic prophecies in their historical setting. It is also necessary to evaluate the book of Daniel in this manner because of the attacks and false accusations brought against it by modern critics. The critics attempt to "disprove" Daniel in an effort to discredit his prophetic historical accuracy. The critics claim that Daniel is historical narrative not prophecy. This claim is made because if Daniel wrote prophetically with historical accuracy, then his Messianic texts can be concluded to be scripted with the same level of detail and accuracy. The book of Daniel would then have to be considered prophecy from the mouth of God.

As I cite the Rabbis, history, and historical literature, I will do it with a certain understanding in mind. On some points there is no unanimous consensus which is especially true in Judaism today. Therefore I will be forced at times to give a consensus view in a general sense. Honesty and fairness must allow for the fact that even though in some instances a particular understanding may be set in stone as fact, there are points where the best of scholars hold views contrary to one another. However, in most cases, I feel confident that a consensus in general can be fair and adequately achieved.