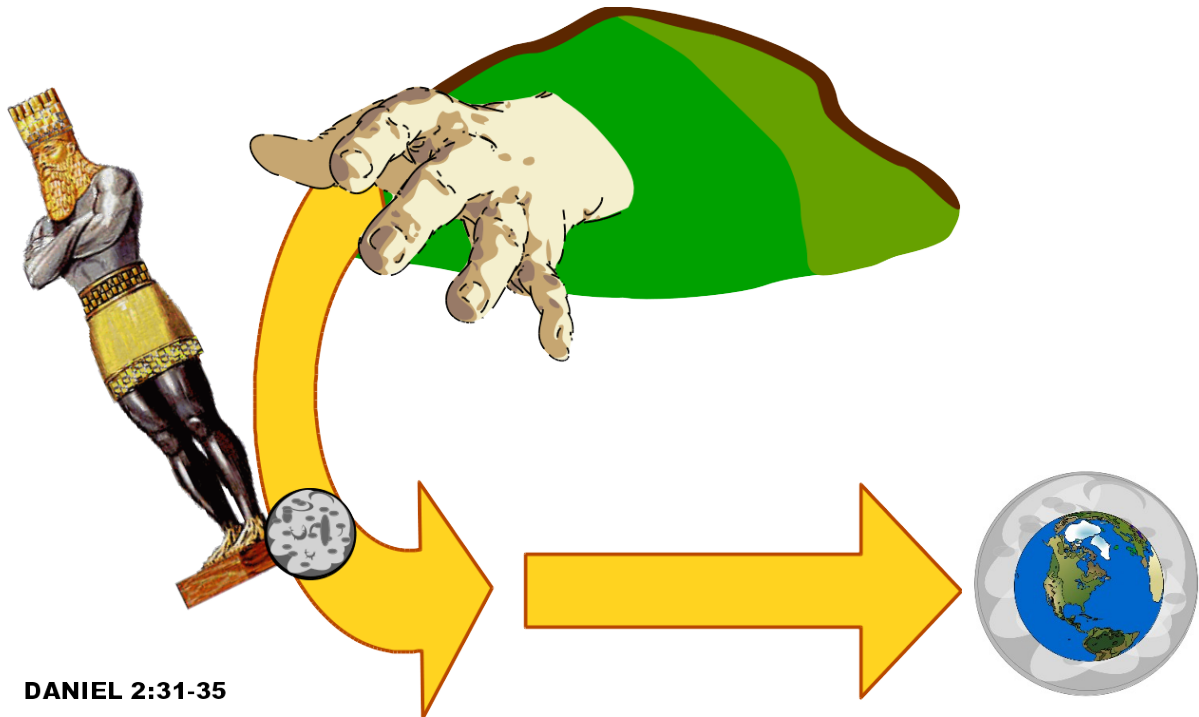


Daniel and the 70 Weeks

The book of Daniel contains information that Daniel was given by an angel and also in visions. These were important understandings of the future, both for King Nebuchadnezzar, the Jews and the nations of the Earth.

The Statue Vision

The king was given a dream by God which Daniel knew the contents of and its interpretation.



Most bible scholars understand this vision of the future to play out this way:

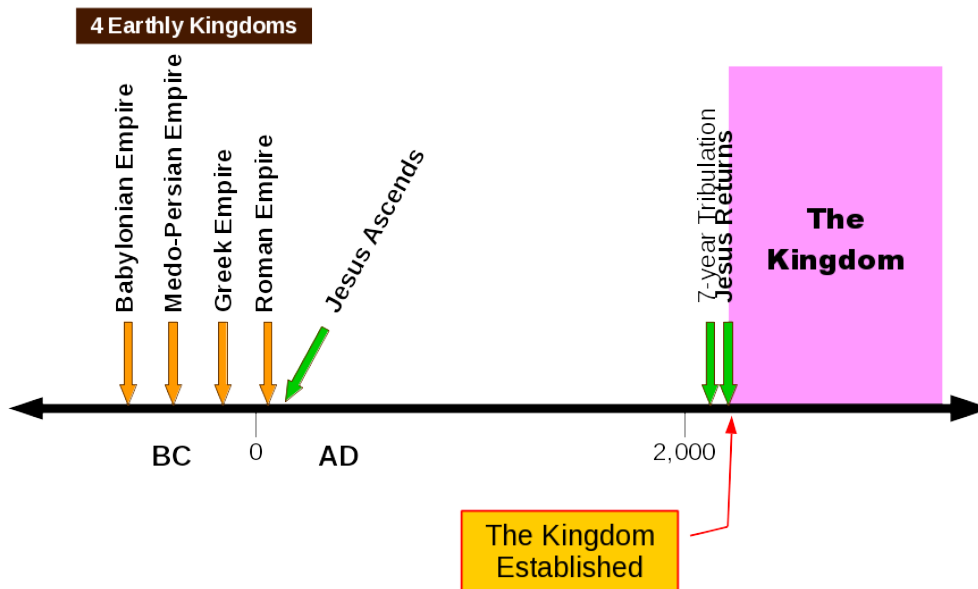
- The Statue represents the major empires of the world beginning with Babylon. These are Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman.
- From the Mountain of God he will release (*his hand*) his Son (*the rock*)
- The Son (*Messiah*) will set up his empire (*The Kingdom of God*) on the Earth which will supersede all the world's empires
- His empire will grow to fill the entire Earth with God's kingdom on Earth (*the mountain*)

There is contention as to what is the final world kingdom in the statue – the one of iron and clay. This could be the divided Roman empire which lasted for a number of centuries but was weak and eventually disintegrated. This is the preferential understanding rather than the Roman Catholic Church which came out of the Roman empire. Daniel's explanation was that the Messiah's empire would appear during the time of the 4 kingdoms and supersede them.

Another contention is the timing of the Rock becoming the Kingdom of God on Earth. The Futurist view has the Kingdom coming after the Tribulation, some time after 2,000AD and only lasting 1,000 years. However, according to Daniel, the Kingdom would be set up "In the days of those Kings"¹, not millennia later.

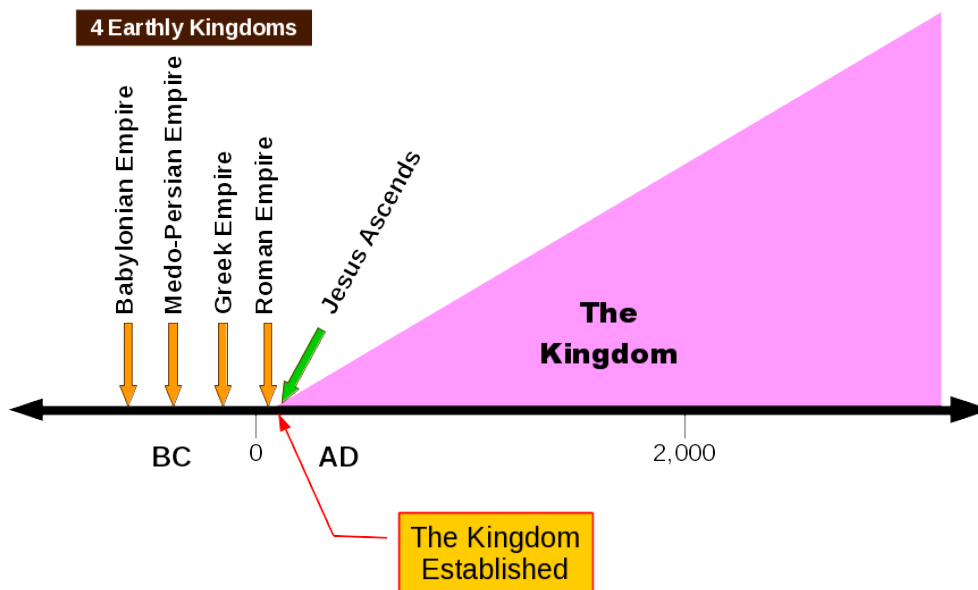
1 – Daniel 2:44

Time Line of Daniel 2 According to the Futurist View



* **NOTE:** There is no increase in the Kingdom to fill the whole Earth in this model.

Time Line of Daniel 2 According to the Preterist View



Jesus' parables help us understand the circumstances around the expansion of the Kingdom up til the time of the End:

1. The Kingdom will expand, but evil will remain. Good and evil will grow together until Jesus returns and separates them.²
2. The Kingdom will expand and become the largest (*the mustard plant*), even though other smaller, unknown kingdoms (*the plants*) are still in existence.³

There is no indication that the Kingdom of God which Messiah was to bring would develop within an evil-free environment. So, this is what has happened so far: **The ascended Jesus sat on his throne as King after his resurrection and his followers have been spreading his kingdom throughout the world so that today $\frac{1}{3}$ of the population of Earth belong to his empire.**

2 – Matthew 13:24-43

3 – Matthew 13:31-32

The vision indicates that the ‘rock’ is released to Earth when all 5 kingdoms have been in existence. This means that the Messiah would destroy the last kingdom (divided Rome) and set up his kingdom at that time. There is no need to wait for a revived Roman empire or to focus on the Roman Catholic organisation and it’s pope as fulfilment of this vision.

So the Kingdom is already here and it’s expanding. Until Jesus returns and sets up his throne physically on Earth we are to help expand and grow the Kingdom until he eliminates all evil.

The 70 Weeks Prophecy

The angel Gabriel came to Daniel to tell him things that were to happen which were of importance to the exiled Jews. One thing he received was this: “Seventy sets of seven time periods have been assigned for your people and your holy city”.

Daniel 9:24 (NOG) – *“Seventy sets of seven time periods have been assigned for your people and your holy city. These time periods will serve to bring an end to rebellion, to stop sin, to forgive wrongs, to usher in everlasting righteousness, to put a seal on a prophet’s vision, and to anoint the Most Holy One.*

Seventy lots of 7 time periods is code for 490 years according to OT prophetic language.⁴ This was a period of time allocated to the Jews for favour following their release from captivity. Having paid for their sin, God was going to restore them – but for a limited time only. However, the Jews were expecting that “the Most Holy One” to be their Messiah and that he would usher in their Messianic kingdom at the end of that time period.

Gabriel divided the period into 3 phases: 7 sevens (49 years), 62 sevens (434 years) and one seven (7 years). The beginning of the timing was the king’s decree to allow the Jerusalem temple to be rebuilt.⁵ This was to be followed by a 483 year period for the end of the first phase of implementation. This would be followed by a final 7-year period during which Messiah would be revealed⁶, and “cut off” in the middle of it⁷.

Jesus the Messiah was born in 4BC⁸, was revealed when he was baptised⁹ by John at the age of 30⁹ (27AD) and was killed 3½ years later¹⁰. That takes us up to mid 30AD.

During this 7-year period, the Gospel of the Kingdom was preached to the Jews¹¹ as their final favour under the terms of their reinstatement from the Babylonian captivity. This included Jesus’ preaching and the preaching of the disciples following the Pentecost outpouring.

Around 34AD Paul was converted¹² and commissioned to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. (This occurred after Peter was shown that the gentiles were not to be excluded from the Kingdom¹³ as their Torah had commanded them.) This incident concluded the 490-year period of Jewish favour. The Kingdom was taken from the Jews and given to the gentile believers¹⁴ – The citizens of the new kingdom.

4 – See Genesis 29:27; Leviticus 25:8; Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:4-6

5 – Daniel 9:25

6 – Daniel 9:26

7 – Daniel 9:27

8 – according to many historians

9 – Luke 3:23 states “Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age”

10 – Eusebius stated that it was 3½ years. “The Proof of the Gospel” VIII:1

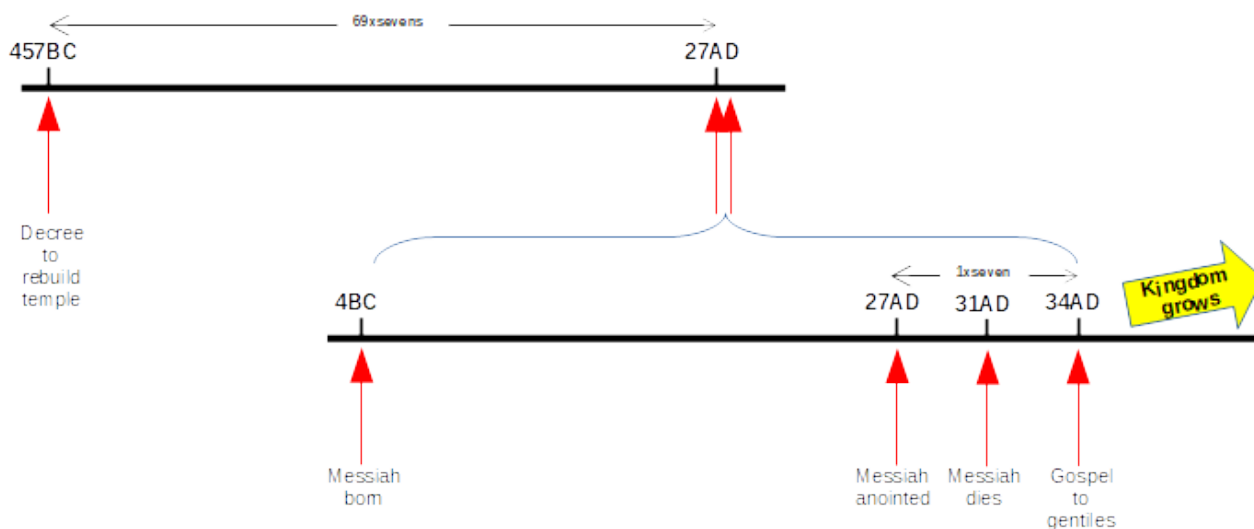
(https://www.preteristarchive.com/Books/pdf/312_eusebius_proof-of-the-gospel.pdf)

11 – Matthew 10:5-6; 15:24; Acts 13:46

12 – Acts 26:15-18

13 – Acts 10:13-48

14 – Matthew 21:43



Important points that are often missed about the 70th week are:

1. “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”¹⁵ – This was the ministry of Jesus. It’s not something he’ll do in the future, but what was accomplished during the 70th week.
2. “But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering”¹⁶ – this is what Jesus’ death caused as he transitioned the world from the OC to the NC.
3. “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”¹⁷ – This is Rome’s destruction of Jerusalem.

Conclusion

The Futurist view puts Daniel’s 70th week in the future just prior to Jesus’ return and the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth from then on.

The Preterist view is harmonious with the text of Daniel in it’s context. It doesn’t require a gap in Gabriel’s timeline of over 2,000 years for the inauguration of the Kingdom.

IMPORTANT: Check out Jonathan Welton's article “The 5 Points on How to Interpret the Bible” to help you properly understand prophecy passages in the Bible:

weltonacademy.com/blogs/jonathanwelton/the-5-points-on-how-to-interpret-the-bible

Laurence

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15 – Daniel 9:24

16 – Daniel 9:27

17 – Daniel 9:26