

April 2nd

At the end of Deuteronomy 18, God tells Israel how to test to see if a prophet is from God. It's simple. He must come in the name of the Lord, ascribing all credit to God and secondly, must be 100% accurate about a future event. Now a lot of prophesies are poetic, even obscure, thus can be thought of in different ways, but some are stunningly literal and exact in what the original hearers thought they heard.

One March 30th, 33AD, four days before Passover, Jesus set out for Jerusalem from the village of Bethany, a few miles southwest on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives. He sent two disciples to fetch an unknown donkey with a colt and to bring them to Him. He sat on the colt. The disciples began to lay their cloaks down on the road in front of him. The crowds began to chant "Hosanna to the Son of David! Bless the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" They waved and spread palm branches on the road. Palms were the symbol for the Jewish nation, and clearly the people wanted Jesus as a conquering king to set them free from Rome. This mistaken identity left Jesus weeping and praying for Jerusalem as he rode in two of the gospel accounts. The Messiah began his official entry into Jerusalem, riding as King Solomon had done a thousand years before (I Kings 1:33 – 46) and in fulfillment of Zec 9:9.

Daniel 9:24ff had been prophesied 500 years earlier, in the typical poetic language of prophesies, that "an anointed one shall be cut off and have nothing." But when? A literal interpretation is that the anointed one, "Messiah" would be sacrificed in 69 weeks of years, 483 years after King Cyrus gave a decree that the Temple should be rebuilt in Jerusalem. Then if you convert our Gregorian calendar years into Jewish 360-day years and note that the day Persian rulers gave decrees was the 1st of Nisan, then the start date (20th year of Cyrus) is March 5, 444BC. Accounting for some skipped Julian calendar days, the prophesy predicts that on March 30, 33 AD the Messiah would arrive to be "cut off." March 30, 33AD is the day that began the Passover celebration and the day that Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, the day of the Triumphal Entry. The prophesy would then be fulfilled exactly to the day in 33AD. (Different scholars have different slants on this prophesy and controversy concerning which year Jesus was crucified.) Was the prophesy fulfilled to the day?

This particular writer thinks that the more important part of the prophesy is that the anointed one was to be 'cut off and have nothing.' But cut off from what? When Jesus cried to his Father on the cross, "My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?" it strikes one in the heart. Jesus took the sins of the entire world upon Himself. God the Father turned his back on His only Son and some dynamic we will never understand on this earth happened, far worse than crucifixion. Jesus died my death spiritually, forsaken and cut off from His Father. There it is, absolute 100% accuracy that no man, reading Daniel, would have ever dreamed of.