In the Book of Daniel there is a crucial prophecy that goes out to foretell of when the Messiah would come and what would happen from there. This prophecy is referred to as the 70 weeks of Daniel.

Dan 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city; to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

These are the things Jesus Messiah would and did accomplish in His time.

70 Weeks?
We know that a week is symbolic language for 7 years by looking at the Scripture:

Num 14:34
34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year…

So we have 70 weeks or 70 x 7 years = 490 years. But it’s broken down further starting in verse 25. We see where the 490 years begin.

Daniel 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

The 490 years begins at the commandment to restore Jerusalem(457bc). We see there are 7 weeks = 49 years and threescore and 2, (a score = 20, so 3 x 20 and add 2) 62 x 7 = 434 years, and the final week of 7 years.

7 weeks = 49 years
62 weeks = 434 years
1 week = 7 years
70 weeks = 490 years

The Decree to Rebuild
We see the call for the restoring and rebuilding of Jerusalem in the sixth Chapter of Ezra, and in the 2nd chapter of Nehemiah. This brings us to the beginning of Jesus’ ministry in 26ad with John the Baptist. It was at His Baptism that we see Him being anointed by God, Himself. (To anoint the Most Holy). This began the 70th, and final week of the prophecy.

Matt 3:16-17
16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:
17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

We then go back to Daniel 9:26 and look at this verse

Jesus’ Crucifixion Prophesied
Daniel 9:26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

Here we see that Jesus would be cut off AFTER the sixty ninth week. This, of course was His crucifixion. He was cut off, but not for himself, and as Jesus resurrected, His power and glory will never cease. This verse then reveals the destruction of Jerusalem, which occurred in 70ad.

Verse 27 continues this information.

The Abomination of Desolation
Daniel 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

He came to bring in the New Covenant and 3½ years later, He was crucified which caused the sacrifice and the oblation to end. And for the overspreading of abominations, He shall make the city desolate. What were the abominations? The prophets that were sent to bring the people back to God were disregarded and killed.

Matt 23:37-39
37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!
38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.
Here we read Jesus speaking of why Jerusalem was to be destroyed; they would not hearken unto the will of God!

Continuing in next Chapter of Matthew:  
Matt 24:14-21  
14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.  
15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Here Jesus is answering the question posed to Him by His disciples “Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” Matt 24:3b

He is speaking of the End Times. What end times you may ask? The end of the world! The word world in this usage simply means AGE.

Look up the Greek word ‘world’ and you will find 3 different meanings for 3 different uses in Matthew 24. This is very important to understand and a Bible study in itself. Aion, Oikoumene, and Kosmos are the three Greek words used for world.

The first means Age; the second, Roman Empire; and the third refers to the Creation. When the disciples were asking when the end of the world would be, the word for age was employed. When Jesus was saying that the Gospel would be preached in all the world, He was referring to the Roman Empire. The end thereof was the end of the age, with total destruction of Jerusalem and the temple! This was the beginning of the closure of the age of the law!

False Teaching:  
The now common teaching of Dispensational theology teaches that Jesus accomplished everything within the first 69 weeks including going to the cross. Dispensationalists then teach that there is an unknown amount of time between the 69th and 70th week in which “an Antichrist” will make a covenant with National Israel only to interrupt it in 3 ½ years. Where Daniel reads “and cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease” is interpreted to mean ‘an antichrist’ will stop the now reinstated practice of animal sacrifice. This is all supposed to happen in a 3rd temple and the sacrifice of red heifers will be reinstated.

If this has been your belief, you should think about the following:

Why would God expect or accept animal sacrifice again when Jesus was the final and perfect Lamb of God?

What this means to you

The teaching of the 70 weeks of Daniel is of utmost importance because it sets the timing for end times. All Christian teachers agree with this; it’s just a matter of correctly interpreting the prophecy. If this has made any sense to you, you owe it to yourself to look into it deeper. Call to schedule a more in depth Bible study.

2Tim 2:15  
Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

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