

## Jesus' Ministry

The 2,300 Evenings and Mornings

### **Background**

We have in the previous two articles seen that the Messiah is the main fulfillment of Daniel 8 and concluded that the time prophecy in Daniel 8 ended in 31 A.D., when He died on the cross. Since the end point of the 2,300 evenings and mornings, or the 1,150 days, is the cross, we should be able to find the starting point as well.

The time of Jesus' ministry on this earth was of tremendous importance since everything we believe in happened during this time. We put all our faith into the trustworthiness of His ministry and without its victorious fulfillment, we would be lost. This is true for all human beings including the whole universe. The time of Jesus' ministry was the most important historical event ever.<sup>1</sup>

If Jesus would have failed, the earth would not have been cleansed from sin. The scar of rebellion would be visible forever and sin could potentially spread to the whole universe. But praise God! Jesus was victorious and very soon He will return. The significance of the time of Christ's ministry should not and cannot be diminished.

If the time of Jesus' ministry on this earth would not have been mentioned anywhere in the Bible, would that not surprise you? What a strange thing, if this time would not have been predicted! Wouldn't you expect to find His time of ministry referred to in Bible prophecy?

Certainly, Messiah's coming and living on this earth has been foretold many times in the Bible. There are about 300 prophecies concerning Messiah and His first coming, someone said. This amount of information about our creator and redeemer seems very appropriate. But – is the duration of His ministry mentioned anywhere?

### **What Was Jesus' Ministry?**

Many of us are used to thinking that the time of Jesus' ministry was 3 ½ years. In that case it started at His baptism and ended at the cross. But if we want to study the time of His ministry carefully, we have to accept how the Bible defines it. Below is Jesus' own saying of what was included in His ministry, Luke 4:18-19:

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (NIV)*

The first thing was “to preach the good news” which refers to the gospel. He was to proclaim that He is the Savior! The second issue was “to proclaim freedom for the prisoners.” This statement should be seen spiritually. To my knowledge He never went to a prison to release prisoners but over and over again He released people from the bondage of sin.

Thirdly, “The recovery of sight” can be seen both literally and spiritually since Jesus healed literally blind men and gave them their eyesight back, but also symbolically when He opened their eyes to the truth as He taught them about God's kingdom.

The fourth issue “To release the oppressed” fits well to the previously mentioned tasks, both literally and spiritually. All these four issues are clearly described by Jesus to be the core part of His ministry.

---

<sup>1</sup> ST, December 9, 1897 par. 1, YI, August 5, 1897 par. 4

## **The Year of the Lord's Favor**

But what is meant with “to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor?” At first look that expression does not seem to make any sense. Was only *one* year of His “ministry” devoted to His agenda described above? Certainly not! If we look at the original word for “year” we find the following translation from “Louw and Nida, Greek Lexicon:”

*A unit of time of indefinite length, possibly shorter than ‘age,’ (but of a relatively uncertain reference – ‘age, era, time,’ ‘to proclaim a favorable time of the Lord,’ that is to say, an era in which the Lord bestows his favor) Luke 4:19.*

This statement fits right into this topic. The “era” was not necessarily one literal “year” of 360 days, but very likely it refers to His time of ministry as a whole.

As we all know Jesus did *not* start preaching the gospel right after His baptism. He did *not* start His healing ministry at that time either. After being filled with the Holy Spirit at the time of His baptism, He immediately was led into the desert by the same Spirit. He fasted and prayed for 40 days without doing any of the tasks mentioned in Luke 4:18-19. That means that His time of ministry, according to Jesus’ own definition, did not start with His baptism!

At the end of the 40 days Jesus became very hungry. In this state of suffering, He won a marvelous victory over the devil. Then the devil left Him and God’s angels attended Him.<sup>2</sup> After such a long fast you do not recover right away. You need to carefully and slowly start eating again. It probably took a few days, maybe even a week before Jesus had recovered enough strength to be able to “work.”

## **John Put in Prison**

Thereafter Jesus heard that John the Baptist was put in prison and beheaded. John the Baptist was a relative of His and also the fore-runner to His ministry. Now John the Baptist’s voice was no longer heard. When Jesus received the news about John’s destiny, He returned to Galilee. In the next verse, according to Matthew’s account, He stayed in Nazareth in Galilee for some time. Exactly how long, we do not know. Thereafter He went to live in Capernaum, by the lake.<sup>3</sup>

Then the Bible tells us that a light would dawn *by the sea* in the land of Galilee.<sup>4</sup> Only then would the prophecy in Isaiah 9:1 be fulfilled according to the Gospel of Matthew. In the next verse, Matthew 4:17, the beginning of Jesus’ ministry is clearly announced.

This means Jesus needed to go to the Sea of Galilee to start His ministry. The prophecy in Isaiah 9:1 had to be fulfilled. Capernaum is by the lake and therefore Nazareth or any other place away from the lake, could not have been the place where He began His ministry! That is why He went and “lived in Capernaum,” after having stayed in Nazareth. If we go to the gospel of John we will see this interpretation confirmed.

## **The Wedding in Cana**

While Jesus was in Galilee, before He went to Capernaum, He attended the wedding in Cana. In those days a wedding lasted for several days and it could possibly be a normal scenario that they ran out of resources. That certainly happened at this wedding and the shortage of wine was a fact. The mother of Jesus came to her son and told Him about the problem. Indirectly she alluded to Him to intervene. Jesus’ reply is, however, very interesting. Jesus answered that, “my time has not yet come.”<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 4:11.

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 4:12-13.

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 4:13-16.

<sup>5</sup> John 2:3-4.

What time had “not yet come?” How should we understand this? Consider this: Jesus said that His time had *not* yet come and then He did the miracle and turned water into wine. Was Jesus a liar or a hypocrite? Of course not! He told the truth because no lie has ever been found in His mouth.

If Jesus meant “my time for doing miracles has not yet come,” He would have been a liar. But, if a miracle in itself was *not* included in His statement concerning His ministry, He would *not* be a liar. Did Jesus come to perform miracles on weddings? Of course not! The only way to understand this phrase is that the divinely determined time of His ministry had *not yet begun!* Obviously He was not referring to the 3 ½ years, since that time already had started.

### **To Capernaum**

When the Wedding in Cana was over, we read that Jesus went down to Capernaum by the lake.<sup>6</sup> That is significant! Of course He could have been there earlier, but that is not the issue. At the wedding, we know that His time had *not yet started!*

But, from Isaiah 9:1-2 and Matthew 4:12-17, we understand that the place where Jesus’ ministry began was by the lake. During His time in Capernaum, which was *after* the wedding in Cana and *after* Matthew’s quotation of Isaiah 9:1-2, we read, “From that time on Jesus began to preach.”<sup>7</sup>

This is the starting point we are looking for! This is what He came to do according to His own definition. The preaching, the healing of the sick, setting people free from sin, etc. did not start during His 40 days of fasting, not during His recovery, and not in Nazareth or at the wedding in Cana – but in Capernaum by the lake. In Mark we find similar information.<sup>8</sup>

In Mark 1:15 Jesus tells His listeners that “the time is fulfilled” without specifically mentioning what “time” He has in mind. But the following phrases highlight His point. The kingdom of God is “approaching” or “drawing near” which indicates the beginning of something new. In the next phrase the “new” thing is defined, namely the “gospel.” In this verse we do not know where in Galilee He was, but the next verse, Mark 1:16, says that Jesus “walked by the Sea of Galilee.” And as mentioned earlier, Capernaum is situated by the lake.

### **After Capernaum Comes the Passover**

If we go back to John’s Gospel we find that Jesus stayed in Capernaum “not many days.”<sup>9</sup> Exactly what that expression indicates, we do not know. The next thing recorded is that the Passover was “at hand.”<sup>10</sup> That implies that the wedding in Cana probably happened a short time before Passover, which would have been in March or April of A.D. 28.

With this interpretation we realize that Jesus’ ministry started shortly before Passover, probably in the beginning of 28 A.D., either in January or February. Many commentators believe that Jesus started His public ministry with the cleansing of the Temple and that He ended His ministry with the second cleansing of the temple. That concept comes very close to our Bible study above.

But is there anywhere in the Bible a text that tells us the exact duration of Jesus’ ministry; that fits to the circumstances described in these articles? Thus, it needs to be a few months shorter than 1,260 days or 3 ½ years. The duration must be part of the heavenly plan and should be mentioned in Bible prophecy.

---

<sup>6</sup> John 2:12.

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 4:17.

<sup>8</sup> Mark 1:15.

<sup>9</sup> John 2:12.

<sup>10</sup> John 2:13.

- Now you know what time I am referring to. It is the 1,150 days or the 2,300 dusks and dawns! This is the time of God’s favor! This is “My time,” as Jesus expressed it. This is the climax of history! During this time the universe had its eyes fixed on HIM!

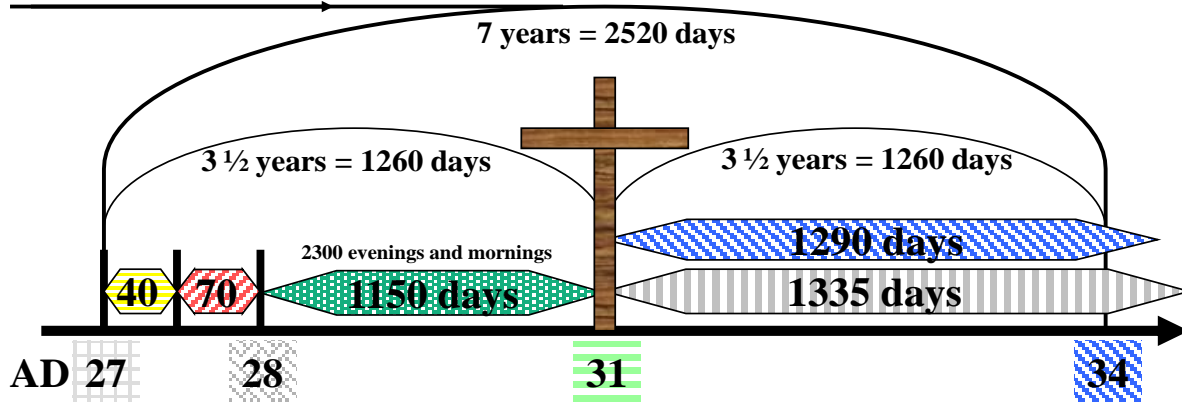
**Jesus Is the Focus**

In the interpretation passage to Daniel 8:14, namely Daniel 8:26, we read that the vision concerning the evenings and mornings is “true.” This is a very profound statement and this word has a strong connection to Jesus Christ. He is the “Truth” not only in the New Testament,<sup>11</sup> but also in the Old Testament.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, when we read that the vision concerning the “2,300 evenings and mornings” is “true,” it is the same as to say that this time refers to the “Truth” – Jesus Christ.

Below is the proposed chart for Daniel 8-12. As you can see, all these articles are centered on the cross. More details of this can be found in my book.<sup>13</sup>

## Daniel Chapters 8 – 12

**Daniel 9:24, The 70-Week (490-Year) Prophecy**



With this interpretation the time of Jesus ministry lasted exactly 1,150 days! It was precisely predicted in Daniel 8 and perfectly fulfilled by Jesus. Therefore, Jesus Christ and His first coming is the epitome of Daniel 8 and 9.

Toby Joreteg MD, PhD  
www.TobyJoreteg.com

<sup>11</sup> John 14:6.

<sup>12</sup> Hebrews 13:8.

<sup>13</sup> From my book: “Daniel and the Visions about the End Time”