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DANIEL'S VISIT FROM GABRIEL

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(editing by Kathy Boynton)

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When Jerusalem was conquered, and laid in ruins, Daniel and his friends were captured. They were taken to serve in Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian court. Through the years, Daniel served as a leader of wise men for several Babylonian kings. Now, as an elderly man, he was praying to the Lord about his beloved city, Jerusalem. It had been in ruins for many years.

"In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem." (Daniel 9:1-2)

As he was praying, God sent His Angel, Gabriel, to provide Daniel with more details about the future. Here is what Gabriel told Daniel.

"At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consid-

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er the vision. 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. 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. 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." (Daniel 9:23-26)

Gabriel had just given Daniel a revelation of the future which predicted the exact time of Messiah's crucifixion. Each "week" in this prophecy represented seven years for a total of 490 years. Years later, Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem. He lived a sinless life and was crucified fulfilling this prophecy.

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