

THURSDAY

July 4

The Gospel According to Jesus

Read Mark 1:14, 15. What are the three parts of the gospel message that Jesus proclaimed?

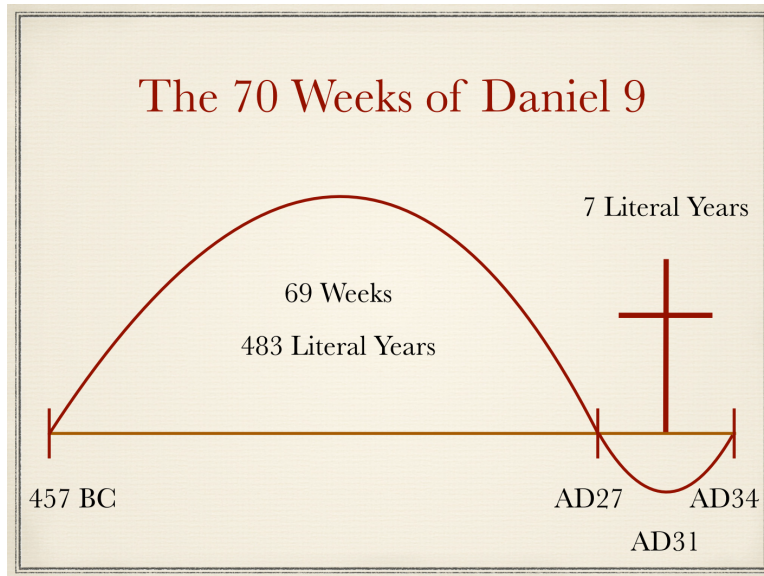
Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.
- Luke 4:18, 19

Mark summarizes here the simple and direct message of Jesus. Its three parts are illustrated in the following table:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Content</i>
Time Prophecy	The time is fulfilled.
Covenant Promise	The kingdom of God is near.
Call to Discipleship	Repent and believe the gospel.

The time prophecy to which Jesus refers is the 70-week prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27. This prophecy finds fulfillment in the baptism of Jesus, where He is anointed with the Holy Spirit

and begins His ministry (*Acts 10:38*). The amazing 70-week prophecy is illustrated in the following chart:



In this prophecy, one day stands for one year (*Num. 14:34, Ezek. 4:6*). The prophecy began in 457 B.C. with the decree issued by Artaxerxes, king of Persia, completing the work of restoring Jerusalem (see *Ezra 7*).

Sixty-nine prophetic weeks would extend to A.D. 27, the time when Jesus was baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit at the commencement of His ministry.

SHARE MESSIAH BOOK AND LUKE 3:1 WALKING BACK 483 YEARS FROM
AD 27. ACTS 10:38, 39

His crucifixion would take place three and a half years
later.

Finally, the completion of the seventieth week would occur in A.D. 34 when Stephen was stoned and the gospel message started going to the Gentiles, as well as to the Jews.

**When was the last time you studied the 70-week prophecy?
How can knowing this prophecy help increase your faith, not only in Jesus but in the trustworthiness of the prophetic Word?**

FRIDAY

July 5

Further Thought: Read Ellen G. White, "The Voice in the Wilderness," pp. 97-108 in *The Desire of Ages*; and "Heralds of the Gospel," pp. 166-176 in *The Acts of the Apostles*.

How fascinating that Revelation 14:6, 7, the first angel's message, parallels the gospel message of Jesus in Mark 1:15.

The first angel brings the everlasting gospel to the world in the last days in preparation for the Second Coming. Just like the message of Jesus, the angel's end-time gospel has the same three elements as illustrated in the table below:

Mark 1	Category	Revelation 14
Time Fulfilled <i>(Daniel 9)</i>	Time Prophecy	Judgment Hour <i>(Daniel 7, 8)</i>
Kingdom Near	Covenant Promise	Everlasting Gospel
Repent, Believe	Call to Discipleship	Fear, Glorify, Worship God

The first angel's message announces the beginning of the pre-Advent judgment, predicted in the 2,300-day prophecy of Daniel 8:14, and which began in 1844. The judgment brings the kingdom of God to His persecuted people (*Dan. 7:22*). The first angel's call to fear, glorify, and worship God is the call to discipleship, issued to the world in the last days as the beast powers of Revelation 13 present a false god to fear, glorify, and worship.

Just as Jesus' message in Mark 1 is intimately tied to the prophecies of Daniel at the beginning of the gospel proclamation, so the first angel's message is as well tied to Daniel at the close of earth's history.