

# THE LONG PILGRIMAGE TO ZION

DANIEL'S WORD FOR THE  
WHOLE CHURCH AGE



CATHY HOWE

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# Introduction

Daniel's Word for the Whole Church Age

This book is more than a historical look at Daniel's remarkable visions; it shows how their truths speak with power and relevance to our world today. My hope is that the reader will come away with a much better understanding of how the end times, our times, are connected to these Old Testament visions.

Much of the professing Christian church today has interest in topics related to the last days, especially the second coming of Christ and the time of tribulation. These are difficult subjects that must be approached with reverence and care. I have studied them prayerfully and diligently, seeking clarity from Scripture rather than from popular trends or assumptions.

My perspectives do not fit neatly within any single theological system, but I often find that the amillennial and Reformed approaches to prophecy align closely with my own reading of Scripture. Nevertheless, I view a number of Reformist beliefs, such as election differently than they do. I believe God's eternal plan is that everyone who turns to Jesus Christ for grace and mercy is included among His chosen and elect.

Dispensationalism is a theological system that views history as a series of divinely ordered periods, in which God's relationship and purposes for Israel and the Church are kept distinct, reflecting different ways He works with Jews and Gentiles. I am

not a dispensationalist.

Dispensationalism teaches that many Old Testament prophecies, especially those concerning Israel, are to be fulfilled in a nationalistic sense. In simpler words, they expect a future fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies in a literal, national Israel.

Dispensationalists also take Revelation 20:1-6 literally, expecting Christ to return to reign on earth for a literal 1,000 years to fulfill the promises made to Israel in the Old Testament. They expect a national restoration.

Reformed and amillennial theology believe that the 1,000-year “millennium” is not a future earthly reign, with ethnic Israel as the center, but is symbolic of Christ’s current reign through the Church, from His resurrection until His return. The bible is viewed as one unified story of redemption, centered on God’s covenant of grace, fulfilled in Christ. The church is the continuation and fulfillment of God’s promises to Israel. This is my belief as well.

Again, while I am not fully aligned with every aspect of Reformed theology, I find much common ground with its understanding of eschatology (end-times) and with many amillennial beliefs as well. I believe the promises given to Israel find their ultimate fulfillment in Christ and the new covenant, rather than in a return to old covenant practices and systems. In this view, “the seventieth week” of Daniel 9 is fulfilled in the life, death, resurrection, and continuing reign of Jesus Christ, rather than being deferred to a future millennial age, centered around the ethnic Jews.

In this book, I explore an alternative interpretation of Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy. While my interpretation of Daniel's 70 weeks may be considered unconventional by some, it is nonetheless rooted in careful attention to Scripture and supported by sound theological reasoning. It offers a perspective that is both thought-provoking and worthy of serious consideration, especially for those willing to explore the richness and depth of biblical prophecy through a Christ-centered lens.

I hold my views with sincerity and conviction, but not with dogmatism. I'm open to correction and further insight, always wanting to grow in understanding.

Daniel's twelve Old Testament chapters include significant prophecy about the end-times. Like many parts of Scripture, Daniel's prophecy has oftentimes been taken in directions that don't fully reflect its fulfillment in Christ and the new covenant. But that is where all prophecy should lead.

Christ's once-for-all sacrifice (Hebrews 10) means there is no return to animal sacrifices or need for a physical temple. The Church is not a temporary pause or detour in God's redemptive plan, but the very fulfillment of it in Christ, and is the true Israel of God (Galatians 6:16), composed of Jew and Gentile believers united in Christ. God's promises to Israel are fulfilled in Christ and extended to all who are in Him - not in a future geopolitical restoration.

My intent with this study has been to approach the book of Daniel with a desire to understand the richness of God's redemptive plan for "whosoever" (Rom. 10:13). I do not want to infer that other people who believe differently are insincere or unfaithful. Prophecy is complex, and the theological lenses we wear from our upbringing and training can shape what we expect

to see, or what we believe. I have sought to set aside my own theological lenses and look for clear interpretation and fulfillment in Jesus Christ and the new covenant. I hope you will do this as well.

CathyHowe.com