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The Dry Rot of Dry Rote and 1844

by James Rafferty

Dry rot can be serious, especially if it goes undetected. My mother once lost the ceiling in a downstairs bathroom. It just caved in. Fortunately no one was inside at the time.

In the spiritual realm, our faith can cave in much like that ceiling, only this time from dry rote.

Rote is a memorizing process that uses a habitual routine or mechanical repetition, often without thought, full attention or comprehension of the meaning. As a boy I learned to say the Lord's Prayer by rote (and the hail Mary). It was only after serious Bible study and a major switch in faith that I began to comprehend even the first two words, "Our Father." Having grown up without an earthly father, those words took on deep meaning to me as I realized the all-encompassing truth of God's love for the world. Recently I found dry rote still lurking in my spiritual house, waiting to cave in my faith.

It's a familiar Bible verse, linked to one of the most significant prophecies ever recorded. It became the backbone for a major movement emerging out of the great disappointment of 1844. The verse is Daniel 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" (Daniel 9:24).

As a gospel worker for the past 18 years, I have read this verse more times than I can remember. But just three months ago, I experienced a better understanding of what it really means. I had always understood this prophecy as applying to the Jewish nation, which it does. They were given seventy weeks, 490 prophetic days, to accomplish various tasks dealing with the sin problem; but failing to complete those tasks, they ended up rejecting the Messiah and their probation, as a nation, closed.

Recently, however, in re-reading this verse with a gospel focus, I began to realize that this prophecy was NOT about what God expected from the Jews. Rather it was about what He WAS PROMISING to them and to us. God was promising that, before the seventy weeks were over, before

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the 490 prophetic days were fulfilled, *He* would:

- 1) Finish transgression
- 2) Make an end of sins
- 3) Make reconciliation for iniquity
- 4) Bring in everlasting righteousness
- 5) Seal up the vision
- 6) Seal up the prophecy
- 7) And anoint the Most Holy (*Kodesh, Kodesh*).

Daniel 9:24 makes even more sense when the following verse (Daniel 9:25), promising that Messiah would arrive before the

outlined in verse 24 before the 490 prophetic days were concluded. The Messiah, God's Anointed One, was the only way sin could ever be conquered. The Prince would be anointed after 69 weeks or 483 prophetic days. In A.D. 27 Jesus was anointed, with just one prophetic week remaining. And in the midst of that final week, Christ cried out, "It is finished!" He had done it! He had accomplished what He had come to do—what *only* He could do—namely, finish transgression, make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, and bring in everlasting righteousness. Praise God!

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appointed time had ended, is brought into the picture:

"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" (Daniel 9:25).

The first two verbs of this verse, *know* and *understand*, tell the whole story—both the Jews' story and ours. Know (that is, "perceive, discern, discriminate, recognize") and *understand* (that is, "give attention to, consider, ponder, have insight, comprehend"). Know therefore and understand. The *therefore* of this verse points this entire thought directly back to what had been said previously. The message then becomes unmistakable:

Based on this promise, God, through the Messiah, would accomplish the seven tasks

then He admonished us (don't miss this part) to know and understand that before this time was up—in fact, exactly 483 prophetic days into this time period—Messiah, the Prince, the Savior, the Redeemer of the world, would be anointed for the fulfillment of this mission. Amen!

God stated the task, an impossible one for man. Then He assured us of the solution: My Son, the Prince, the Anointed One, would be here. In due time, on time, Jesus would arrive. He, the only one who could, would meet every specification of this prophecy. Christ would come to accomplish what God had pledged. And God keeps His promise.

The Apostle Paul picked up this very truth in Romans chapter five when he wrote:

"For when we were yet without strength, in *due time* [set or appointed time] Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in

that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were *reconciled to God* by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life” (Romans 5:6-10).

We had no strength and have no strength still. Yet this prophecy was not contingent upon our abilities, but upon God’s. Jesus the Messiah made “reconciliation for iniquity.” He accomplished this by His death before the ending of the time prophecy. Based on this one truth, the 2300-prophetic-day prophecy stands without impeachment. No one else would or could do what Christ did by His life and death. Through His life and death, Jesus destroyed for all time the dry rot of transgression, sin and iniquity, sealing the placement of this prophecy and vision so that it could not be altered or moved.

This new insight into Daniel 9:24 has expanded my love for this prophecy. Its words may have lodged in my memory years ago, but never with such clarity and understanding as they do now.

God is calling us into a spiritual understanding and comprehension of truth that cannot be discerned by rote. Memorizing Scripture, though good in and of itself, can be dangerous to spiritual discernment. Jesus put it this way when speaking to our forefathers:

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them [in knowing them by rote] you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me” (John 5:39, NAS95).

Then, in Jesus’ intercessory prayer in John 17, He maps the true way to the heavenly kingdom:

“And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent” (John 17:3).

It is not in knowing the Scriptures that we have eternal life. We can recite prophecy by rote, but without a thorough understanding that Christ is the core of all prophecy, such an experience will bring spiritual cave-in. So, know and understand that it was Jesus the Messiah who would finish transgression, make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, bring in everlasting righteousness, seal up the vision and the prophecy, and anoint the Most Holy.

Is your faith caving in? Are you experiencing dry rote? Try re-examining this incredible prophecy from a New Covenant gospel perspective. I think you will discover, as I did, that our message is founded not on 457 B.C. or even 1844, as important as

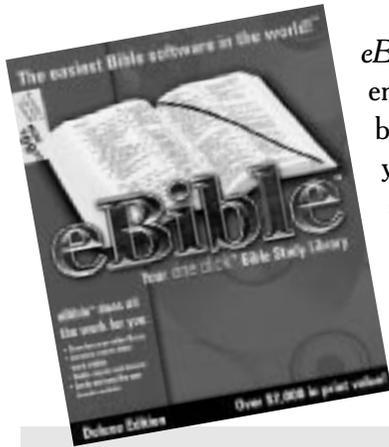
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those dates are. Our message, the message of the Advent movement, is built on nothing less than Jesus and His righteousness. For this reason 1844 stands without impeachment—because the cross stands as the singular, steadfast, immutable achievement of our salvation. Amen. 

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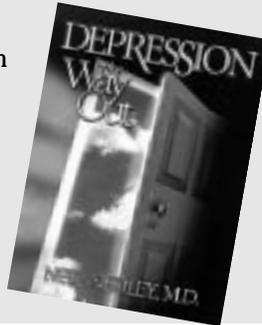


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Herb Montgomery—☎(909)824-5046
- ◆ **September 16-21**
Upper Columbia Academy
Week of Prayer
Ty Gibson—☎(509)245-3600
- ◆ **September 16-21**
Monterey Bay Academy
Week of Prayer
Herb Montgomery—☎(831)768-1175
- ◆ **September 22-28**
Eden Valley Week of Prayer, CO
James Rafferty—☎(970)667-1770
- ◆ **September 27-28**
Columbia Falls SDA Church, MT
Herb Montgomery—☎(406)863-9263
- ◆ **September 27-October 13**
Evangelistic Meetings, Tillamook, OR
Ty Gibson—☎(503)842-7182
- ◆ **October 17-20**
Country Haven Academy
- ◆ **October 18-19**
Marysville SDA Church, WA
James Rafferty—☎(360)391-4083
- ◆ **October 18-27**
Evangelistic Meetings, Madison, TN
Ty Gibson—☎(615)868-3696
- ◆ **December 7**
Newport SDA Church, Wa
James Rafferty—☎(208)437-2580

Lift Him Up

3ABN Schedule

(GE- 4 Satellite;

Sky Angel Channel 9710)

Tuesday	4:30 p.m. (PST)
	10:30 p.m. (PST)
Thursday	11:00 a.m. (PST)
Saturday	3:30 a.m. (PST)
	10:30 a.m. (PST)

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Light Bearers is a non-profit ministry based in the beautiful northeastern mountains of Washington State. Our purpose is to help proclaim the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ through the spoken and published word.