

Eschatology

A Study of the Book of Daniel Seventy Sevens are Determined for Israel

The verses contained in Daniel 9:24-27 are one of the most comprehensive and concise prophecies concerning the end times to be found in the Bible. This revelation should be placed alongside the prophecies concerning the times of the Gentiles, as previously covered in chapters 2 & 7 of Daniel. The chronology and sequence of events in the times of the Gentiles and how this history relates to Israel is detailed in this scripture.

ALL other prophecies concerning the Day of The Lord, the 2nd Coming of Christ and the Millennial Kingdom originate from these four verses in chapter 9 of Daniel. This is why this small piece of scripture is considered the “back-bone” of all of prophecy.

The Purpose of the 70 Weeks

1. Finish the transgression
2. Make an end to sin
3. Make atonement for iniquity
4. Bring in everlasting righteousness
5. Seal up vision and prophecy
6. Anoint the most holy

Place = Millennial Temple
Person = Jesus Christ

The meaning of “weeks”

Before we can determine the chronology of this prophecy, we must first have an understanding of Daniel’s use of the term “weeks.”

The Jews had a “seven” of years (week) as well as a “seven” of days. And the Biblical “week” of years was just as familiar to the Jew as the “week” of days.

Daniel is referring to “weeks” of years in chapter 9. That is each week is equal to seven years and each year is equal to 360 days (Jewish Calendar).

Therefore the time line that Daniel is establishing for his people is 70 years times seven for a total of 490 years (176,400 days).

The Seventy Sevens broken down

The 490 years is divided into three parts:

1. A 49 year period (seven weeks)
 2. Followed by 434 years (sixty-two weeks)
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3. Then the final 7-year period (70th week)

Start Date: The prophetic time clock begins with “the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem” (Dan. 9:25). The decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus, given to Nehemiah authorized the rebuilding of the city (Neh. 2:1-8).

The date of this decree was March 14, 445 b.c.

483 Years in the Jewish and Gregorian Calendars

Jewish Calendar
(360 days per year)

$(7 \times 7) + 62 \times 7$ years = 483 years

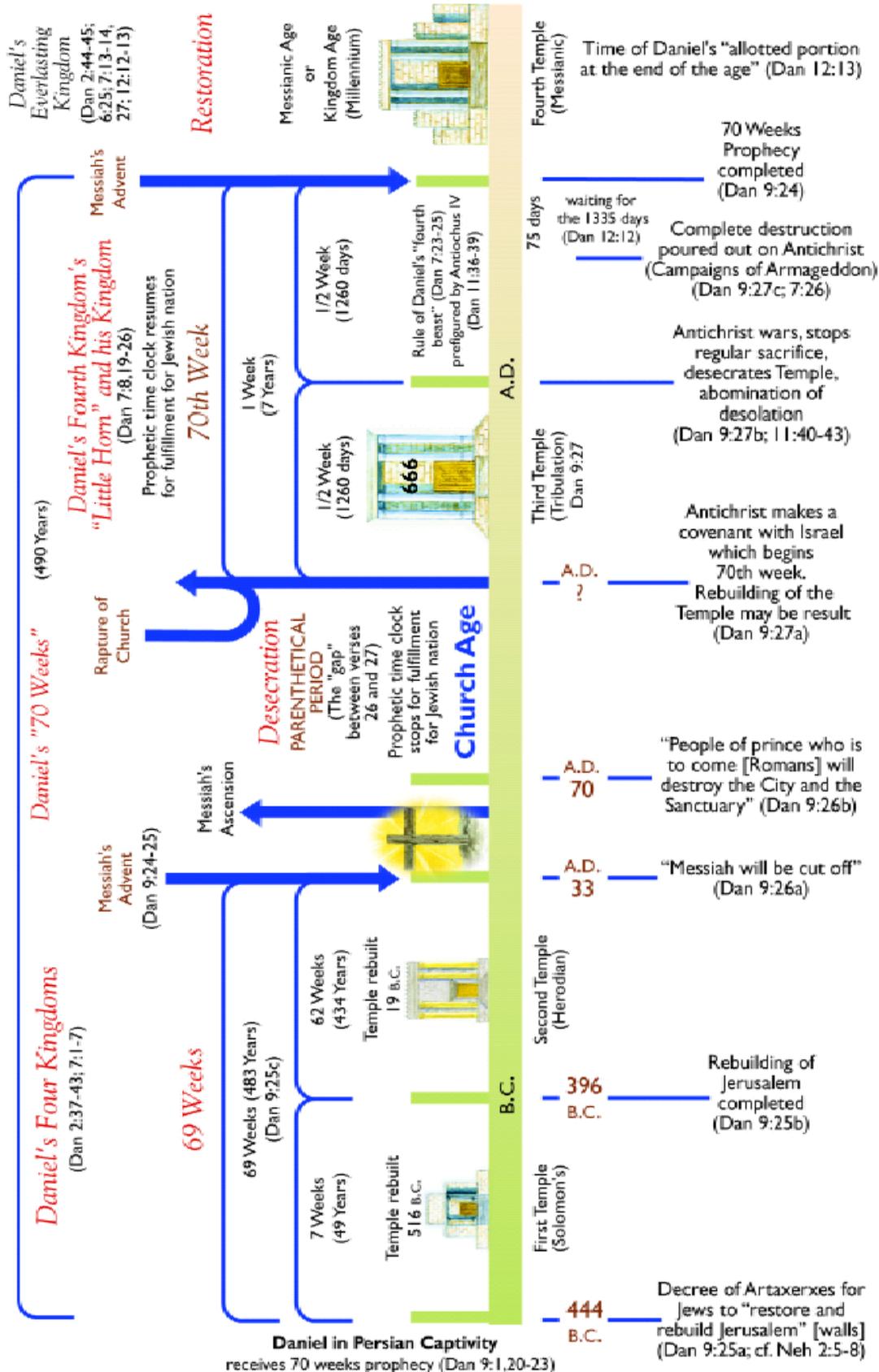
$$\begin{array}{r} 483 \text{ years} \\ \times 360 \text{ days} \\ \hline 173,880 \text{ days} \end{array}$$

Gregorian Calendar
(365 days per year)

445 b.c. to a.d. 32 = 476 years

$$\begin{array}{r} 476 \text{ years} \\ \times 365 \text{ days} \\ \hline 173,740 \text{ days} \\ + 116 \text{ days in leap years} \\ + 24 \text{ days (Mar. 14-Apr 6)} \\ \hline 173,880 \text{ days} \end{array} \text{ (Sir Robert Andrews)}$$

The 70 Weeks of Daniel



Is there a time gap between the 69th and 70th week?

Many people believe that the 70th week was fulfilled historically in the years immediately following the death of Christ. Others believe that Christ died half way through the 70th week; therefore the last half of the week followed his death. Some people go as far as to assert that the entire present age is the 70th week of Daniel. What must be kept in mind is that the nation of Israel, to whom the prophecy was addressed, simply has not experienced a single one of the prophesied benefits of Messiah's 2nd coming as of yet.

The question then arises; can the 69th and 70th week be separated by an indefinite period of time that is biblically justified? The answer is YES.

1. Such a gap is seen in many passages of Scripture:
 - Isaiah 9: 6,7; 1st advent and 2nd advent of Jesus Christ
 - The interval between the Roman Empire and the revived Roman Empire as symbolized by the legs and ten toes in Daniel 2.
 - Hosea 3:4 and 3:5
 - And many, many more
2. Daniel 9:26 requires a gap. Two major events happen after the 69th week and before the 70th week: the cutting off of the Messiah and the destruction of the city and temple in Jerusalem.
3. The NT teaches that Israel has been set aside (Matt. 23:37-39) until the restitution of God's dealing with them is fulfilled with His 2nd coming.
4. Since all the promised blessings are associated with the 2nd coming of Christ if there were no gap, the Lord would have returned 3 ½ or 7 years after his death to fulfill the promises.
5. Jesus himself anticipated a gap in Matt 24:15 referencing the "abomination of desolation" as a sign to Israel that the great trib. is approaching (vs.21). Then "after the trib. of those day, they shall see the Son of man (vs. 29-30).
6. When you study Matt. 24: 15-30 along side of Acts 1:6-8, we see that a whole age of undetermined duration is to intervene between the 69th and 70th weeks of the Daniels prophecy.

Daniel's 70th week:

Daniel 9:27 clearly states that God's clock will resume when the "prince who is to come" will make a firm covenant with the many (Israel) for one week.

The "prince who is to come" is:

- Out of the revived Roman Empire (Dan. 7:8)
- The king of fierce countenance (Dan. 8:23-25)
- The willful king (Dan. 11:36-45)
- The lawless one (2 Thess. 2:3-4; 8-10)
- The beast from the sea (Dan. 7:3, 6-7; Rev. 13:1-10)
- aka **The Anti-Christ**

The Anti-Christ will deceive the nations with his program for peace (Dan. 8:25). His intelligence, persuasiveness (Dan. 7:8, 20; 8:23), subtlety and craftiness (Ezek. 28:6) will allow him to rule over his nations with their consent (Rev. 17:13) and with absolute authority (Dan. 11:36).

At the end of the first 3 ½ years the Anti-Christ will show himself for who he really is by desecrating the temple of God in Jerusalem (Dan. 9:27, Matt 24: 15, 16, 21) thereby breaking his covenant with "the many". This act will begin the time of "great tribulation" (Matt: 24:21-26).

The end of the 70th week will bring "a complete destruction of the one who makes desolate" (Dan. 9:27). This is the description of the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19:19-21), which will be followed by the 2nd return of Jesus Christ (Matt 24: 29-31).

In Summary:

Daniel's prophecy of the seventy sevens comprehends the total history of Israel from the time of Nehemiah in 445 b.c. until the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ.

The culmination of the entire prophecy of the seventy weeks is the 2nd advent of Jesus Christ which closes the 70th week of Israel as well as "fulfills" the times of the Gentiles (Luke 21:24) pictured in Daniel's prophecies of the four great world empires. For most of the period, the two great lines of prophecy relating to the Gentiles and Israel run concurrently, and both end with the same major event – the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ, when oppressed Israel is delivered and the oppressor, the Gentiles are judged (Dan. 2:34, 44-45; Matt. 25:31-46).