

# The Seventy Weeks

Daniel 9:20-27

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**BIG BEND  
BIBLE  
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## **The Seventy-Weeks Prophecy, Daniel 9:20-27**

<sup>20</sup> Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God, <sup>21</sup> yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. <sup>22</sup> And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. <sup>23</sup> At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

<sup>24</sup> "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

<sup>25</sup> "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

<sup>26</sup> "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

<sup>27</sup> Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

## **What was Daniel engaged in when he was visited by the angel Gabriel?**

Daniel was praying and he was interrupted at the "evening sacrifice" ...I take it that the "evening Sacrifice" referred to his evening prayer time. There was no temple for sacrifices so prayer is what substituted for animal sacrifices.

## **For what was Daniel praying?**

Confessing his sin, the sin of Israel, and asking God to restore them to Jerusalem.

## **Where had Daniel seen Gabriel before?**

Gabriel helped Daniel understand the interpretation of his vision of the ram and goat, Chapter 8.

## **v22 – What was Gabriel's purpose in coming to Daniel this time?**

He was coming on behalf of God to help Daniel have skill to understand the vision God was giving him of the future.

## **v23 – Why had God chosen Daniel to receive this vision of the future?**

He was highly esteemed by God... Daniel's life, integrity, honesty and God fearing, had not gone unnoticed by God.

## **Did Gabriel answer Daniel's question about letting Israel go back to Jerusalem?**

- Not directly... Daniel knew the seventy years of their captivity was about to be completed so that they could go back to Jerusalem.
- Instead, Gabriel gives Daniel a bigger picture of the future.

## **What was the bigger picture of the future that Gabriel revealed to Daniel?**

Gabriel tells him that there are seventy weeks determined relative to redemption from another sort of captivity, which shall commence from the going forth of the edict to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, shall terminate with the death of the Messiah the Prince, and end with the completion of the Tribulation Period.

## How was the Babylonian captivity a turning point in the history of Israel?

- It terminated the Old Testament government of theocracy (divine guidance of the state of Israel)
- From the Babylonian Captivity, the theocracy never returned to Israel
- The time of the period of Israel's subjection to the Gentiles is to continue until the Millennium (Revelation 20) when Israel will be restored as head of the Millennium theocracy that God will establish (This will be after the seven years of Tribulation).
- The new government of theocracy, with Jesus governing, will encompass the whole world

## v24 – How much time was represented by the term 70 weeks?

The Jews have Sabbatical years by which their years were divided into "weeks" of years (Leviticus 25:8)

- Each "week" contained seven years
- The seventy weeks therefore amount to 490 years (70 weeks x 7 years/week = 490 years)

## What was to happen during these 490 years?

1. To finish transgression (national rebellion against God) – This was certainly the rebellion of Israel but also the Gentile nations. This will be the establishment of an entirely new order on earth where Jesus Christ rules on earth during the Millennial Kingdom. (FUTURE)
2. To put an end to sins – the worst consequence of sin is the second death which results from not having our sins forgiven... the cross made it possible for our sins to be forgiven. (DONE)
3. To make reconciliation for iniquity (wickedness) – This was clearly fulfilled at the cross (DONE)
4. To bring in everlasting righteousness – also accomplished at the cross (DONE)
5. To seal up vision and prophecy – Bringing to a close the final stage of human history when Jesus rules (FUTURE)
6. To anoint the most holy – Jesus will physically rule the nations during the Millennial Kingdom (FUTURE)

## v25 – What event was to trigger the beginning of the 490 years?

The command to restore and build Jerusalem.

## How many years are there between of "the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince"?

Adding 7 to 62 gives us 69 weeks of years between the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince would come. Converting this to years by multiplying 7 times 69 weeks of years we get 483 Jewish

calendar years between the command to restore Jerusalem and the coming of the Messiah.

## How do we convert 483 Jewish lunar calendar years to our current Georgian calendar?

Over this period of time, we'll need to convert to our current 365-day calendar. To determine the equivalent for the Gregorian Calendar, first convert to days:  
 $483 \text{ years} \times 360 \text{ days/year} = 173,880 \text{ days}$   
Then convert to the Gregorian Calendar:  
 $173,880 \text{ days} / 365 \text{ days/year} = 476 \text{ years}$

## How do we know when the command to restore and build Jerusalem occurred?

In Nehemiah 2:1-8, we learn that the Persian king Artaxerxes issued a command which permitted Jerusalem to be rebuilt...

*Nehemiah 2:1 – And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king.*

We know from archeology and historians that King Artaxerxes came to power in 464 BC, so the 20<sup>th</sup> year of his reign would be 444 BC.

## So when would "Messiah the Prince" come?

Subtracting 476 years from 444 BC means that Messiah officially presented Himself to Israel as their king in 33 AD (accounting for 1 BC to 1 AD as one year).

## What happened in 33 AD?

Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, a few days before He was crucified...

*Luke 19:37-38 – Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*

I understand this math works out to the very day Bible scholars determined that Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

## What were the "troublesome times" in reference to the restoration of Jerusalem?

The "troublesome times" that the wall of Jerusalem was built came to pass as recorded in Nehemiah 6. The Jews built the wall in 52 days because people near them felt threatened by this and they needed it for protection.

### **Why is the 69 weeks of years broken up into 7 plus 62 weeks (49 plus 434 years)?**

- It took some period of time for Jerusalem to be actually established once the wall was built... maybe 49 years?
- More likely, these 49 years related to the period of time that God would be speaking to Israel through the prophets. After Malachi, God was silent until John the Baptist.

### **v26 – What does it mean "the Messiah is cut off"?**

The people did not accept Messiah Jesus as King and crucified Him...

*Luke 19:41-42 - Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."*

### **What was to happen after "the Messiah is cut off"?**

The city of Jerusalem and the temple shall be destroyed as Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24. It is a matter of historical record that this happened in 70 AD.

### **Who was to destroy the city and temple?**

The people of the prince who is to come

### **Who is this prince who is to come?**

It is not the Messiah because He was "cut off" so it has to be the one who would confirm a covenant with the many and bring an end to temple sacrifice... the Antichrist.

### **So, who was the people of the prince who is to come?**

The Roman army, led by the future Emperor Titus made up of four legions. The 10<sup>th</sup> legion was the one which sacked Jerusalem and the Temple. While the top officers were Roman, the soldiers were made up of regional conscripts mostly from Syria.

### **So, does this shed any light on from where the Antichrist might come?**

The Islamic region around Israel and especially Syria. This is reinforced by the "type" of the Abomination of Desolation" being committed by Antiochus Epiphanes who was the Greek ruler over Syria.

### **What does the "it" in "the end of it" refer to?**

The "it" is a veiled reference to the church age, that period of time we are now in between the end of the 69 weeks and the beginning of the 70th week (verse 27).

### **How did Gabriel describe the time leading up to the 70th week?**

The end of the church age would come with a flood, in other words, it would overwhelm people rapidly. Also,

that the time leading up to Christ's return would be a war opposing Him and there would be desolations, events causing places to be devoid of people and hope. These calamities serve as wake-up calls to draw people to God reminding them to trust in Him rather than in themselves, their bank accounts, their governments, etc.

### **What kind of wake-up calls have we had?**

Both world wars were wake-up calls because they effected the whole world. The gulf war was another one which involved the whole world and it demonstrated the potency of a unified world power. The 9-11-01 terrorist attacks on the U.S. was a world-shaking event because it was not just an attack on the U.S., it was an attack on Western values. All the world has rallied around the idea that we need to work together to stamp out terrorism. And more recently we have had the corona virus pandemic.

### **What kind of war is Daniel 9:26 referring to?**

A first reaction here is that this is talking about Armageddon but verse 27 describes the 70<sup>th</sup> week which is the tribulation. The book of Revelation says that the war at Armageddon occurs at the end of the tribulation. So, I believe this is talking about spiritual warfare against the church...

*Ephesians 6:12 – For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

### **v27 – What happens during the 70th week?**

The prince who is to come will confirm a covenant, bring an end to sacrifice and offering, and make people desolate which means devoid of hope.

### **What sacrifice is Daniel 9:27 referring to here?**

The Jewish sacrifices as ordained by the Mosaic Law.

### **What must there be for the sacrifice to be ended?**

The sacrifices must have first started. Thus, since the sacrifices must be done at the temple, there must be a new temple in Jerusalem.

### **Why will Israel rebuild the temple and resume the sacrifices?**

Besides the fact that God says it will happen, it is part of Israel's heritage as a people. They will do this in their zeal to please God and bring the Messiah. Certainly, there is a desire for this to happen as anyone who has visited the Temple Institute in Jerusalem can attest. They already the instruments they need to resume the sacrifices, all they need is the temple.

### **Does it seem likely that Israel will have a temple in Jerusalem any time soon?**

No, it seems impossible today but the Lord loves to demonstrate His sovereignty over impossible situations. I wasn't yet living at the time but I understand that it seemed impossible for Israel to re-establish itself as a nation in the land prior to 1948.

### **What does it mean the prince will "CONFIRM a covenant with many"?**

It is likely that there is already a peace agreement with multiple parties in place, the prince just reinforces it. It is likely this covenant will allow the Jews to build a temple in Jerusalem.

### **Do we see this scenario being set up today?**

Certainly, President Trump's "Deal of the Century" could be setting the stage for the peace treaty the Antichrist confirms.

### **What will happen at the middle of the 70<sup>th</sup> week?**

The Antichrist will break the "covenant" with the Jews and commit the "Abomination that causes Desolation"

*Matthew 24:15 – "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation' spoken of through the prophet Daniel – let the reader understand – then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."*

### **Why is the 70<sup>th</sup> week separated from the previous 69 weeks of years?**

The clock stopped when the Messiah was "cut off" ...the 70<sup>th</sup> week is yet future. This temporary "stoppage" happened because Israel did not receive her Messiah during His first coming.

- Israel will be restored to the covenant blessing when she receives Jesus as its Messiah and Savior at His second coming at the end of the 490 years.
- The Jewish clock will start again when the Antichrist "confirms" a seven-year treaty with Israel

### **How did Gabriel's revelation of the future offer Daniel both hope and despair?**

- Hope: Jerusalem would be rebuilt after their captivity
- Despair: This would not be the end of Israel's troubles

### **Why would God reveal the timing of the first coming of the Messiah but not the second?**

This is a trick question... the timing of the Second Coming is also revealed. What isn't revealed is the timing of the end of the Church Age. This timing is a mystery as the fact that there would be a Church Age was a mystery during

Old Testament times. The timing of the end of the Church Age is a mystery by design so that we would live ready.

### **What applications do we see in what Gabriel revealed to us through Daniel?**

- God is in control of history... He is executing His plan for mankind and His will be done.
- Since prophecies of the first coming of the Messiah were fulfilled exactly, we can expect the prophecies related to His return will likewise be fulfilled exactly.
- So, it behooves us to be ready for the return of the Messiah and get on with what He is calling us to do.