

The Numeric's of Daniel's Seventy Weeks

By Pastor Kelly Sensenig

Daniel's seventy weeks is a key prophecy which when interpreted literally unlocks the understanding of end-time prophecies as revealed in the books of Daniel, Revelation, and New Testament teaching in the epistles regarding the Tribulation Period and coming Antichrist (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:1-2 Thess. 2:1-12; 1 John 2:18; Rev. 3:10; 6-19). A fresh futurist look at this prophecy is needed today in the midst of preterist confusion (historical fulfillment) which ignores the simplicity of what Daniel was teaching regarding the future of national Israel and God's future plan to draw this nation back to Himself through a coming Tribulation Period of intense persecution by a personal Antichrist who is seeking to destroy this nation (Matt. 24:15-22).

Daniel 9:24-27

“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. 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. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease,

and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”

This passage sets the stage for the Book of Revelation to be fulfilled! If we don't understand and believe what Daniel 9:24-27 is teaching then we won't understand the seven year Tribulation Period and the literal fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

a. Seventy weeks (Daniel 9:24)

Daniel prophesied that His people the Jews would pass through a period of time that consisted of 70 weeks. This prophecy speaks of the prophetic destiny of Israel. Daniel was first informed that God's program would be consummated in 70 weeks or literally "seventy sevens." Since Daniel had been thinking of God's program in terms of years (Dan. 9:1; Jer. 25:11-12; 2 Chron. 36:21) it would be most natural for him to understand these "sevens" as years.

These are 70 weeks (sevens) of years. The Hebrew expression is literally "seventy sevens" which refers to years. The prophetic calculation would be this: $70 \times 7 = 490$ years. This is the time it would take Israel to be fully punished for her sins ("finish the transgression" or rebellion – Dan. 9:24) and be saved by Messiah's sacrifice ("the most Holy") when He personally returns to earth in His Second Coming and establishes the Millennial Kingdom which leads to "everlasting righteousness."

b. Separate time calculations (Dan. 9:25-28)

First Time Calculation (Daniel 9:25)

("shall be seven weeks" or "seven sevens")

Calculation: $7 \times 7 = 49$ years

49 years = seven weeks

(The time it took to rebuild Jerusalem)

Note: The seven weeks (49 years – "shall be seven weeks") relates back to the rebuilding of Jerusalem ("the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem" vs. 25). The 49 years ("seven weeks") are mentioned separately from the 434 years ("sixty-two weeks") because 49 years is undoubtedly the designated time period it took Ezra, Nehemiah and others to rebuild the city (25b). In short, the rebuilding of the city and the re-establishment of Jewish worship took 49 years.

Note: This time began when King Artaxerxes of Persia issued his *second* decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Neh. 2:1). This is a historically recorded date.

Second Time Calculation (Daniel 9:25)

("shall be ... threescore and two weeks"
or "sixty two sevens")

Calculation: $62 \times 7 = 434$

434 years = sixty-two weeks

Note: The sixty-two weeks (434 years – “threescore and two weeks”) relates back to the end of the second period of time, when Messiah the Prince would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey, to proclaim Himself as Israel’s King (“unto Messiah the Prince” - vs. 25). This time period would include the 400 silent years (the years between the Old and New Testaments) up to the official presentation of Jesus as the Messiah to the Jewish nation (Matt. 21:1-11; Luke 19:42).

These two periods of time (7 weeks + 62 weeks) concludes the first 69 weeks (69x7 = 483 years) of Daniel’s prophecy. There is one week left to be fulfilled which is Daniels 70th week (a week of seven years).

A total of 483 years of Daniel’s prophecy has been fulfilled. There are seven years left to complete the “seventy sevens” or 490 years of Daniel’s prophecy (Dan. 9:24) regarding the destiny of the Jewish nation of Israel.

Interim Period of Time (Daniel 9:26)

After the 434 years or “three score and two weeks” (after the second part of the prophecy has expired) there would be a prophetic gap of time before the final seven years of Daniel’s prophecy would be completed. This prophetic gap of time has already existed for over 2,000 years. Harry Ironside has called this “The Great Parenthesis.”

During this prophetic gap of time “Messiah would be cut off” (Christ would die on Calvary) for the sins of the world (“not for himself”). Also, the Romans would destroy Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (“the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary”). During this prophetic gap of time the Church age would come into existence which

has now been running its course for some 2,000 years (Eph. 3:5-6). It's during this time that God's prophetic clock is on hold! It stopped on 11:59 and has been sitting there for over 2,000 years. Someday God is going to put the batteries back into this prophetic clock and it will start ticking again moving up to 12:00.

69 weeks (483 years) of the prophecy have run their course but there is a final week (7 years) that has not yet been fulfilled. We are waiting for the final seven years to begin which is termed as Daniel's 70th week (final seven years). The final seven years will be fulfilled during the seven year Tribulation Period.

Prophecy is not being fulfilled today. The Bible teaches that the next prophecy to be fulfilled in connection with this world is Daniel's prophetic revelation of the seven years. The Tribulation Period is coming. There is a dark cloud and storm gathering over this world. The apocalyptic hoof beats of the four horsemen can be heard in the distance! It's coming! It's coming! Someday the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments will be unleashed upon this earth during this final seven years.

Third Time Calculation (Daniel 9:27)

("one week" or "one seven")

Calculation: $1 \times 7 = 7$

7 years = one week

This is the time when Antichrist will make a seven-year covenant with the Jewish people ("And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week"). We know that this is

referring to the Antichrist for it relates back to “the prince that shall come” (the nearest antecedent - vs. 26) which can be none other than the personal Antichrist who is destined to come on to the world scene.

He will be a Roman prince since the people in verse 26 were the Romans who destroyed Jerusalem. This means that the Antichrist and world ruler will be the final leader of the revived Roman Empire which exists today in the nations of Europe and the Middle East. He will pose as a Roman prince ruling over the territory of the ancient Roman Empire.

This world prince and ruler will make a covenant “with many” (many of Daniel’s people - the Jews) for “one week” (seven years) giving them the right to restore their Jewish sacrifices in Jerusalem within a rebuilt Tribulation temple (Rev. 11:1-2). However, in the middle of the week (“in the midst of the week”), or in the middle of the seven years, the Antichrist will stop the Jews from sacrificing (“cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease”) and erect a statue of himself in the temple within Jerusalem. This action is termed “the overspreading (pinnacle or extreme point) of abomination (a detestable thing).”

This expression means that a statue of the Antichrist (Rev. 13:14) will be placed in the Jerusalem temple which will be the pinnacle of all detestable things to both the orthodox Jews and God. It may also mean the statue itself will have arms that spread over or cover the place of sacrifice in mockery of the Jewish sacrifice and God. Matthew 24:15 calls it the “abomination of desolation.” Israel’s worst days are still ahead. The Antichrist will declare himself to be God when erecting a statue of himself in the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and demand that all people worship him (Revelation 13:7-8). The Antichrist’s blasphemous actions in

the temple will be utterly astonishing to all orthodox Jews ("make it desolate") but this detestable or abominable practice will continue until the "consummation" of Daniel's final week of seven years and everything that was sovereignly "determined" to happen to the Jews ("upon the desolate") who were so utterly astonished by the detestable actions of the Antichrist.

Conclusion

<u>First Division</u>	→	49 Years ("seven weeks" [7 x 7] - vs. 25a)
<u>Second Division</u>	→	434 Years ("sixty-two weeks" [62 x 7] - vs. 25b)
<u>Third Division</u>	→	<u>7 Years</u> ("one week" [1 x 7] - vs. 27)
		490 Years (70 weeks)

Adding the three numbers together (49+434+7) we come to 490 years. This is the total time span of Daniel's prophecy. 483 years of the prophecy (69 weeks) have elapsed but a final seven years (one week) is still future. Daniels 70th week is fulfilled in the 7-year Tribulation Period. This seven-year "week" is characterized by the three series of judgments as outlined in the Book of Revelation: (1) the seven seals, (2) the seven trumpets, and (3) the seven bowls of wrath (Revelation 6-18).

Understanding the numeric's and literal interpretation of Daniel's seventy weeks will enable a Bible student to grasp the prophetic destiny of Israel and the literal end-time events associated with the Rapture (John 14:1-3), the coming

seven-year Tribulation Period, and the personal Antichrist. Trying to find a historical, instead of a prophetic fulfillment for Daniel's final seven years (one week), ignores the clearly stated facts of Scripture, takes interpretive license of a text, and breeds endless confusion regarding the meaning of predictive prophecy. Both the numerics and literal interpretation of this prophecy leads to a future time period of seven years that will come upon the entire earth (Rev. 3:10) which is designed to judge mankind for his sins (Isa. 13:11) and bring Israel back to the Messiah (Jer. 30:7-11; Zech. 12:10-13:1; Rom. 11:25-27).

[See Chart](#)