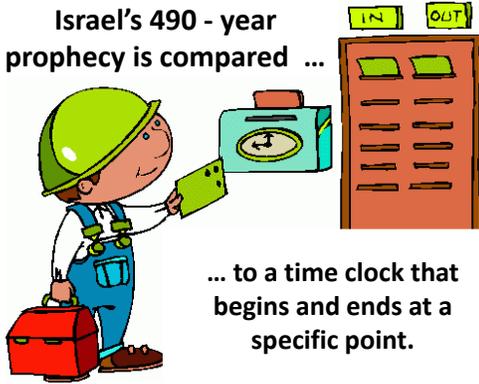


# The Seventy Weeks of Daniel

(God's Prophetic Time Clock for Israel)

Pastor Kelly Sensenig



Daniel was given a prophetic time clock that revolves around a 490-year prophecy that would relate to Israel's future destiny ("**thy people**" – Daniel's people which are Jews - Daniel 9:24).



## A. The Background of the Seventy Weeks (Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10)

Jeremiah 29:10  
 "For thus saith the Lord, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place."

A Sabbath land rest was to occur every seven years (Lev. 23: 3-5; 26:34-35, 43) Israel committed <b>70 Sabbath violations over a period of 490 years</b> $70 \text{ (violations)} \times 7 \text{ (a violation every seventh year)} = 490 \text{ years}$	Historically: <b>Seventy years of Captivity</b> (Jer. 25:11-12; 29:10) For violating the Sabbath rest <b>70 times</b> through a 490 year cycle	Prophetically: <b>Another 490 prophetic years remain for her "transgression"</b> (Dan. 9:24-27) *The Seventy Weeks* (sevens) $70 \times 7 = 490 \text{ years to reach Israel's destiny (Millennial Kingdom)}$
<b>God's Prophetic Time Clock for Israel</b>		

## B. The Bible prophecy of the Seventy Weeks

### 1. The course of Bible prophecy (Dan. 9:24 – "seventy weeks")

The entire course of this Bible prophecy is 490 years (a cycle of Israel's future).

"Weeks" (shabuwa) = "sevens" <small>units of time in seven</small>
Daniel was thinking in terms of years (Dan. 9:1-2) *70 years captivity*
We have "seventy sevens" $70 \text{ (years)} \times 7 \text{ (units of time in seven)} = 490 \text{ years}$

Division 1 = 49 years (7 weeks - $7 \times 7 = 49$ ) *History* = Israel rebuilding Jerusalem
Division 2 = 434 years (62 weeks - $62 \times 7 = 434$ ) *History* = 400 silent years between Old and New Testaments, the Gospels - up to Christ's triumphal entry (Matt. 21:1-11)
Prophetic Gap of Time Between Division 2 and 3 = 2,000 years & counting Christ's death, Roman judgment (AD 70), Church Age (Acts 2)
Division 3 = 7 years (70 <sup>th</sup> week - $1 \times 7 = 7$ ) *Prophetic* (Israel in the end times – the seven-year Tribulation Period)



From our Perspective today →

**69 weeks (483 years) have already passed**  
**7 weeks (49 years) = rebuilding Jerusalem**  
**62 weeks (434 years) = 400 silent years**  
between the testaments , Gospels, up to  
Christ's triumphal entry in Jerusalem

**1 week remains!**  
**1 week (7 years) = the seven year**  
**Tribulation Period**  
**This is called the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel**

## 2. The coming destiny of Daniel's people (Dan. 9:24b)

### **\*The Prophetic Destiny of Israel\***

**1. Israel's apostasy will be finished**  
**("to finish the transgression")**

\*Finish Israel's rebellion against the Messiah

**2. Israel's sins will be taken away**  
**("and to make an end of sins")**

\*New Covenant promise to remove Israel's sins (Ezek.. 36:34-35; Rom. 11:27; Zech. 13:1)

**3. Israel's atonement will be experienced**  
**("and to make reconciliation for iniquity")**

\*Israel's final atonement (payment for her sins) will be offered to her at Second Coming

**4. Israel's earthly Kingdom will begin**  
**("and to bring in everlasting righteousness")**

\*During the Millennium the earth will be prepared for everlasting righteousness

**5. Israel's prophecies will cease**  
**("and to seal up the vision and prophecy")**

\*The prophecies about Israel's future will be fulfilled during Millennium and therefore sealed (terminated)

**6. Israel will recognize Christ as King**  
**("and to anoint the most Holy")**

\*Consecration ceremony when Israel officially recognizes her Messiah



**Has the Church replaced**  
**Israel in God's plan?**  
**God Forbid! (Rom. 11:1)**

**Replacement Theology**

**Covenant Theology**

**Preterism**

**Amillennialism**

## 3. The calculation through the End Times (Dan. 9:25-27)

**a. 49 Years (Division One) = Historical (from our perspective)**

In the first division we see the starting gun that begins the time period of the 70 Weeks of Daniel.



### Review of Division One

**Dan. 9:25 = Rebuilding of Jerusalem took 49 years ("seven weeks")**

The words "from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem" are linked to the "seven weeks" (7x7 = 49 years)

The rebuilding of Jerusalem is also linked to the time when "the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times."

The year 445 B.C. marks an important date on God's prophetic calendar for Israel.

**Nehemiah 2:1** - "And it came to pass in the month Nisan (March), in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king ..." \*

Assuming the Jewish custom of dating from March 1 (the beginning of the month), this would correspond to March 14, 445 B.C. on our present-day calendar.

King Artaxerxes (Longimanus) ascended to the throne of Medo-Persia in 465 B.C. and in his twentieth year as king (445 B.C.) he gave permission to rebuild Jerusalem.

445 B.C. (SECOND decree - permission to rebuild) – 396 B.C. (historical date for finishing Jerusalem) = 49 years.

**The Bible is amazingly accurate!**

"troublesome times" = Sanballet and Tobiah, discouragement, greed and selfishness, trickery (Nehemiah chapters 2-6)

## b.434 years (Division Two) = Historical (from our perspective)

**Next Division is 434 years = "threescore and two weeks" (434 years)**  
62x7 = 434

These words are linked to "unto the Messiah the Prince" (the triumphal entry of Christ in Jerusalem).

Christ's entrance into Jerusalem becomes the official close of the second division of time.

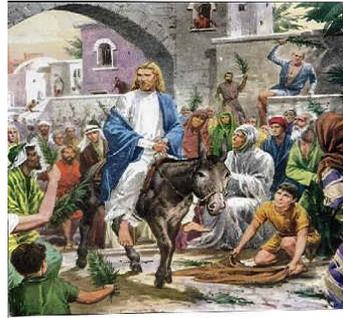
### 400 Silent Years (Leading up to Christ)

- The rise of the Pharisees and Sadducees.
  - Jewish oral laws created which would result in the Mishna.
- Roman conquest of Judea and Jerusalem in B.C. 63.
- Herod was appointed king of the Jews (B.C. 40).
  - Christ was born (1 B.C.).
- The Persian rule continued about 100 years.
- Daniel prophesied what would happen militarily with the rise of the Grecian and Roman Empires (Dan. 2, 7-8).
  - Constant battles between Egypt and Syria (Antiochus) = 360 – 170 B.C.
  - Maccabean revolt that was a Jewish army that took control of Judea (167-164 B.C.).

\*According to Luke 3:1, John the Baptist began his ministry in the 15th year of Tiberius' reign (A.D. 29). Jesus began His ministry shortly thereafter at the age of thirty (Lk. 3:23). Incidentally, this indicates that Jesus was probably born around 1 B.C. (there was no calendar year 0 – A.D. 1 immediately followed 1 B.C.).

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem **UNTO MESSIAH, THE PRINCE...**”  
*Dan. 9:25*

In all 3.5 years of His ministry there was only **one day** in which Jesus presented Himself as **“Messiah the Prince”**



Many scholars recognize that on **April 6, 32 A.D. (Palm Sunday)**, the tenth of Nisan, was the official day when Jesus presented Himself as Israel’s Messiah and brought the second division of Daniel’s prophecy to a close.

In the fourth century **Bishop Epiphanius** stated that Christ died in the spring of 32 which means **his entrance into Jerusalem took place in the spring of A.D. 32.**



Sir Robert Anderson  
 1841-1918

### Sir Robert Anderson’s Calculations

#### Jewish Calendar

The way Daniel figured the 483 years using 360 days in a Jewish year

(49 years – division one) + (434 years – division two) years = 483 years

483 years  
 x 360 days  
**173,880 days - total number of days in 483 years**

#### Gregorian Calendar

(The way our calendar is today using 365 days a year)

445 B.C. to A.D. 32 = 476 years (445 + 32 = 477)

This appears to be a discrepancy. However, it is intriguingly accurate.

476 years  
 x 365 days  
 173,740 days  
 + 116 days in leap years  
 + 24 days (March 14 to April 6) = remaining days  
(due to a difference in the lunar and solar calendars)  
**173,880 days — same amount of days in the 483 years**

### c. Gap Between Divisions 2 and 3 = Historical to the Present Day



Harry Ironside called this gap:  
**“The Great Parenthesis”**

We could call it a **“prophetic time out”** or **“prophetic postponement”** or **“prophetic skip”** before **Daniel’s prophecies** would be fulfilled regarding Israel’s future.

The wording **“after”** (Dan. 9:26) gives us the clear indication of a gap of time that occurs before the final seven years.

The text says **“after”** the first 483 years expires Christ would die and Jerusalem is destroyed - not **during** the final seven years.

It's not unusual for Bible prophecies to contain gaps of time such as a gap between Christ's first and Second Coming (**Isa. 9:6; Zech. 9:9-10; Isa. 61:1-2; Luke 4:16-21**).

Like a Rain Delay  
**Israel’s kingdom program is postponed until later.**

**Matthew 21:43** (important dispensational verse)  
“Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.”

**\*Matthew 23:37-39** - A new generation of Jews at Christ’s Second Coming will receive Him as Messiah

#### Events During the Gap – Daniel 9:26

- **Messiah crucified** (“cut off”)
- **Jerusalem destroyed** (“shall destroy the city”)
  - **War and bloodshed of Jewish people** (“war ... desolations” – devastation and horror)
- **Church Age** (Acts 2) – 2,000 years
- **Rapture** (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

**“After”** (Dan. 9:26 – not **during** the 70<sup>th</sup> week or final seven years). After all of these events have transpired (In a gap of time) Israel’s prophetic clock once again begins, which takes her to the final destiny (The Millennial Kingdom).



**Note:** Many amillenarians (preterists – who deny the literal fulfillment of end-time prophetic events) try and find a continuous historical fulfillment of the final seven years

in Christ's earthly ministry, beginning at Christ's baptism, after three and one half years, Christ's death, and then concluding the final three and half years somewhere the Book of Acts. In this way they can dismiss the prophetic element of the End Times (a literal Tribulation Period, the Millennium, Israel's promises, etc.). Others find a complete allegorical fulfillment of the entire prophecy as being fulfilled spiritually as the successive stages in the history of Christ's kingdom which is the Church (God's people) over which He rules today.

**During the gap of time:**

- Christ was crucified (Matt. 27:35) 
- Jerusalem was destroyed (Matt. 24:1-2) 
- Israel would continue to face war and bloodshed 

"And unto the end ... flood ... war... desolations (devastating judgments) are determined" (Daniel 9:26)

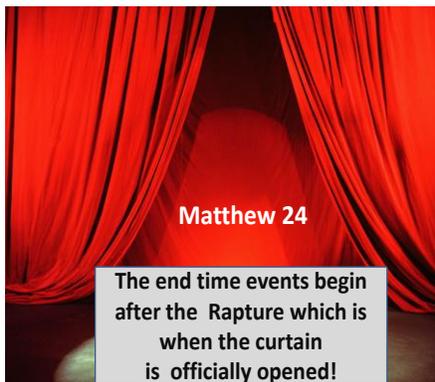
Due to Israel's "rebellion" (Dan. 9:24)



From AD 70, the Roman judgment, "unto the end" (Rom. 9:26), the end of Daniel's 490-year prophecy, there would be war, hardship, and devastation experienced by God's chosen people. Israel is certainly aware of this historically and to our present day (holocaust, Arabs, Iran, the threat of constant war with Israel) and she will experience hardship in the future (Matt. 24; Rev. 12 – Israel fleeing from the Antichrist).

**d. 7 Years (Division 3) = Prophecy**

The Bible predicts that a final week ("one week" or "one seven" = seven years) still remains on God's prophetic calendar for Israel. It is waiting to be fulfilled during the seven-year Tribulation Period. This is the 70<sup>th</sup> or final week in Daniel's prophecy.



**Daniel deals with four prophetic events related to the End Times.**



**“the prince that shall come”**  
(Dan. 9:26)

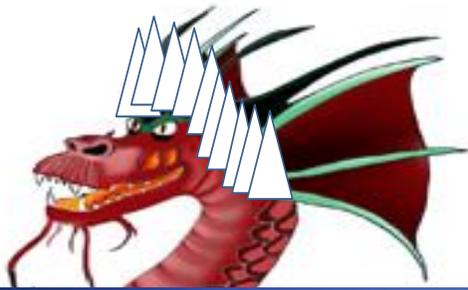
In AD 70 the “**people**” of the prince are emphasized (Romans) who destroyed Jerusalem but the “**prince**” refers to the end-time Antichrist and ruler which Daniel previously spoke about (Dan. 7:8, 24).

**1. A future foe (“he”) – Daniel 9:27**

Some of the allegorical Bible interpreters of covenant theology, who reject the literal fulfillment of God’s covenants to Israel, suggest that the “**he**” of Daniel 9:27 refers back to the Messiah (Dan. 9:26a) and that the final period of seven years ended somewhere in the book of Acts. This is a false assessment grammatically. The rules of basic grammar teach us that the nearest antecedent (object nearest the subject being

talked about) would point to the second person spoken about in verse 26, which is none other than the antichrist (“the prince that shall come” – Dan. 9:26). It’s also false historically. *Nowhere in the book of Acts do we see Christ making a covenant with the Jews for seven years, as the prophecy requires.* In addition, the six goals that are related to this prophecy cannot possibly be fulfilled historically in Israel’s past (Dan. 9:24).

**Note:** In Daniel 9:26 we historically discover that it was “**the people**” of the coming ruler (the End-Time Antichrist or Coming Prince), not the ruler himself (Dan. 9:27), which destroyed the city (Jerusalem) that contains the “sanctuary” (sacred place – the temple). In other words, the ruler comes later. The “**prince**” or ruler who will come is that final head of the Roman Empire, the little horn of **Daniel 7:8**, which Daniel has introduced in the previous prophetic chapters, as an end-time ruler over ten separate kingdoms within the boundaries of Europe and the Middle East, which are the ancient boundaries of the Old Roman Empire (including Britain, Spain, Egypt, Assyria).



The ten horns on the beast vision (Dan. 7:7) represent the Revived Roman Empire Under Antichrist (Dan. 7:24; Rev. 17:12-16).

**Revived Roman Empire = Ten Kings**

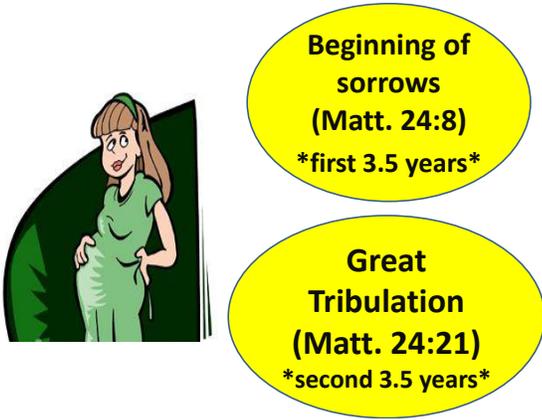
Daniel 7:24    Revelation 17:12-16



**2. A forced contract (“confirm”)**

- a. It’s given to Daniel’s people (“with many”)

- b. It grants Israel peace (“covenant” = peace and protection covenant)
- a. It’s guaranteed for seven years (“one week”)



“a time and times, and the dividing of time”  
 (Dan. 7:25)

“time, times, and a half”  
 (Dan. 12:7)

“a time, and times, and half a time”  
 (Rev. 12:14)

**2. A fractured policy** (“cause the sacrifice and the oblation – gift or offering - to cease”)

What happens when the contract is broken?

- a. There will be an erection of a statute of idolatry (“overspreading of abomination”).  
 \*See Dan. 12:11; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:15
- b. There will be an emotional response from orthodox Jews - “he shall make it – the temple - desolate” – a place of utter amazement and horror to the Jews!

**3. A fallen hero** (“even until the consummation - termination, end, destruction - and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate”). \*Desolate or desolater himself

The Antichrist will be destroyed by the true Christ at the Second Coming (**Revelation 19:19-20**). The Second Coming will result in Israel reaching her prophetic destiny – the Millennial Kingdom (**Revelation 20:1-6**).



This will be the time when Israel will “anoint the most Holy” (Daniel 9:24) and in an official way honor and worship Messiah as her King.