

The Backbone of Biblical Prophecy

DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS

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Daniel 9

- Daniel 9 contains one of the most precise and important prophecies in the entire Bible.
- The Importance of This Prophecy
 - Gives a panoramic view of the whole of Biblical prophecy.
 - Concerns both the first and second advents of Christ.
 - Gives an end point of the times of the Gentiles.

The Background

- Daniel is reading the prophecy of the Seventy year captivity from the Book of Jeremiah – Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:1-10
- This prompts him to pray since at that time he knew the seventy years were coming to an end
 - The captivity started in 605 B.C. under Nebuchadnezzar.
 - The captivity ends in 536 B.C. under Cyrus the Persian.

The Background

- Although Daniel knows the time is near for the return of Israel to their land – he also knows they are not ready – this prompts his prayer in Daniel 9:3-19
- As Daniel is praying, Gabriel is sent to inform Daniel that not only is the seventy year captivity about to end, but that seventy weeks are determined to bring in the promised Kingdom to Israel

The Sevens

- The term “weeks” is the Hebrew word for “sevens” .
- The “sevens” must be determined from the context, is it seven days, months, years, decades, or what?
- Additionally, the prophecy is split up into two sections of 69 “sevens” and a final “seven.”

The Sevens

- By comparing Scripture, we find that “weeks” refer to units of seven years.
 - Daniel is already thinking in terms of years
 - In Daniel 7:25 we read of a time, times, and the dividing of time which translates to $3\frac{1}{2}$. In this verse it is a period of $3\frac{1}{2}$ of something.
 - In Daniel 12:7 we read of a period of 1,260 days during which the Antichrist will scatter the people of God. That is $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of 360 days each (the prophetic year).

The Sevens

- By comparing Scripture, we find that “weeks” refer to units of seven years.
 - In Revelation 11:2 we read that the temple will be trodden down 42 months, or 3-1/2 years.
 - Thus we conclude that “week” must refer to years, since according to Daniel 9:27 Antichrist abominates the temple in the midst of the “week”, a period of seven years, which makes 1/2 of the “week” 1,260 days, a time, times, and half a time, or 42 months in duration.

Its Scope

- To finish the transgression.
 - Literally means “to restrain firmly the transgression.”
 - Sin will one day be fully and ultimately restrained.
- To make an end of sins.
 - Means to finally deal with sin, both individually and generally.
- To make reconciliation for iniquity.
 - “Reconciliation” is the Hebrew word *kephar*, which means to atone or cover.
 - This refers to Christ’s atoning work on the cross.

Its Scope

- To bring in everlasting righteousness.
 - Refers to the eternal state and Millennial Kingdom.
- To seal up the vision and prophecy.
 - Indicates the cessation of visions and prophecies in the Millennial Kingdom and the eternal state.
- To anoint the most Holy
 - Refers to the establishment of the eternal temple.

Its Start

- The rebuilding of Jerusalem
- Three possible starting points
 - The decree of Cyrus in 536 B.C. - Ezra 1:1-4
 - This decree only referred to the rebuilding of the Temple, not the city walls.
 - The decree of Artaxerxes in 458 B.C. - Ezra 7:11-26
 - Again, this decree did not refer to the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.

Its Start

- Three possible starting points
 - The second decree of Artaxerxes in 445 B.C. - Nehemiah 2:1.
 - This is the most likely candidate.
 - Exactly 483 prophetic years from this date, on 9 Nisan A.D. 32, Christ rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey to present himself as King.

Its Start

- First 69 weeks
 - Begins 14 March 445 B.C. (Accession Year) or 14 March 444 B.C. (non-Accession Year)
 - 483 years (69 x 7) times 360 days per prophetic year equals 173,880 days
 - 476 calendar years of 365 days each (from 444 B.C. to A.D. 32 is 444 + 32 or 476 years) totaling 173,740 days
 - Add 116 days for leap years and you have 173,856 days

Its Start

- First 69 weeks
 - Add 24 days between 14 March and April 6 and you get exactly 173,880 days.
 - Christ's Triumphal entry took place on 9 Nisan A.D. 32 (n-AY) or 9 Nisan A.D. 33 (AY).
 - This corresponds to 6 April A.D. 32 or 33.
 - Is it A.D. 32 or A.D. 33?
 - Most likely A.D. 33 since Luke 3:1 tells us Christ began his public ministry in the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius – or A.D. 29
 - Add 3 1/2 years of public ministry and you have A.D. 33

Its Suspension

- An implied break between the first 69 weeks and the seventieth.
 - Implied in the phrase, “the Messiah shall be cut off.”
 - Implied in the destruction of Jerusalem.
- At the end of 69 weeks, Jerusalem will be destroyed.
 - This was actually accomplished in A.D. 70 by the Romans.
 - Hints that the Antichrist will come out of the people represented by the Roman Empire.

The Seventieth Week

- Begins with the confirmation of a treaty
 - The Prince Who is to Come (Antichrist) will make a treaty with Israel to insure the peace for a period of seven years.
 - Israel will feel secure in this peace - Ezekiel 38.
 - This is the event that officially begins the Tribulation.
 - The Rapture does not start the Tribulation, but rather comes before its start

The Seventieth Week

- The cessation of the sacrifice
 - In the middle of the seven years, Antichrist will desecrate the temple and set himself up to be worshipped - 2 Thessalonians 2:4, Revelation 13:4-15.
 - This is the abomination of desolation mentioned in Matthew 24:15.
- The consummation of the desolation
 - In the end, Antichrist will lose and no one will come to his aid - Daniel 7:21-27.

Questions?