

THE SEVENTY WEEKS PROPHECY OF DANIEL

By David R Hughes

The Seventy Weeks of Daniel is a prophecy given to the prophet Daniel while in Babylonian captivity under king Darius the Mede after Cyrus defeated the king of Babylon in 539 BC. God had judged the southern kingdom of Judah for idolatry, injustice, neglecting God's Sabbaths and being unfaithful to their covenant with Him. To give some more context to the prophecy, Daniel, a prince of the tribe of Judah while Jehoiakim was king of Judah, was taken captive in the first Babylonian invasion of Jerusalem in 605 BC. Before the second invasion of Jerusalem in 597 BC, Jeremiah, a prophet of God while Zedekiah was king of Judah prophesied that Jerusalem was going to be invaded again and Jerusalem would be destroyed and the Jews would be taken captive to Babylon. The prophecy was fulfilled and Jeremiah after being imprisoned by king Zedekiah for speaking defeat and sedition against Jerusalem. was freed by the Babylonians.

However, at the time of the first invasion in 605 BC, Jeremiah had prophesied that the full time of both captivities would be 70 years. (see [Jeremiah 29:10](#)) After the Babylonians were defeated by Persia in 539 BC while Daniel was still in captivity from the second Babylonian captivity but now under king Darius of Persia, he received the letter about Jeremiah's 70 years of captivity in Babylon prophecy and determined from reading the scriptures that it was near the end of their captivity and Jerusalem's desolations. [2 Chronicles 36:21](#) explains that the seventy years in captivity was to make up for the years of Sabbath rest Jerusalem was not allowed to have before their captivity when the people of Judah did not keep God's Sabbaths.

Daniel went into sincere prayer to God confessing his sins and the sins of Israel and asking God to turn from His anger and wrath on Jerusalem not because they are righteous, but because of God's great mercy. While offering this prayer the angel Gabriel came to him to give him insight and understanding. This is when the seventy-weeks prophecy was given to Daniel. These are prophetic weeks using the day for a year principal from [Ezekiel 4:6](#). Seven days in a week times seventy weeks equals 490 days which is 490 years in this prophetic time equation. This prophecy pointed to the exact year the Messiah would come on the scene 566 years after Daniel received it.

Below is the seventy-weeks prophecy in [Daniel 9:24-27](#) and my comments. Keep in mind there is a lot of controversy over what the correct interpretation of this prophecy is and there are several. My understanding based on years of study and prayer is included after each verse in blue lettering and italicized. Use "control + click or just click" on the keyboard to activate an online link to the King James scriptures in Bible Gateway. This interpretation holds that the 70 years were completed historically and does not include an unknown gap of years between the 69th and 70th weeks of the prophecy as the futurist interpretation does.

Dan. 9 ²⁴ 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.

Daniel's people are the Jewish people of that time consisting mostly of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and a majority of the tribe of Levi, and the holy city is Jerusalem along with the land it occupied. Because of Judah's tendency to keep returning to idolatry, sin and injustice, God decided or determined to set aside a period of 490 years to give them the opportunity to make a final and permanent choice to follow Him and complete the mission He planned for them to be a holy nation and teach the world God's laws and ways He gave to the Israelites at Mount Sinai, and they had agreed to,

in what is called the Old Covenant which they kept breaking. Even though God knew most would make the wrong choice, the people and the city were given 70 weeks meaning 70 weeks times 7 days per week, which is 490 years in God's "one year for each day" prophetic timing principle found in Ezekiel 4:6 to make a final choice as to who they would serve, God or sin. including not keeping God's Sabbath rest days for themselves and for the land. According to [Daniel 9:24](#), the full 490 years would accomplish the following purposes of God through His son, the Messiah and a remnant of His followers after His death.

1. **To finish the transgression** against God' law, each other and the land so the land could have its missed Sabbaths.
2. **To make and end of sins** by preaching the truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom and revealing how to overcome sin by faith in Jesus, the Messiah's death and resurrection, and worshipping God in spirit and in truth. (see [John 18:37](#)) God placed all the sins of the world on Jesus, His son who was without sin at His willing sacrifice to satisfy God's perfect justice and forgive all sinners who would repent or make a firm commitment to change and follow Him. God viewed Jesus's death as the eventual end of sin just as in [Revelation 13:8](#) He viewed from the foundation of the world that Jesus would be the eventual slain Lamb. The crucifixion was the beginning of the end of sin, not the ultimate end of sin because there will still be some sin on the earth during His millennial reign when He rules with an iron rod and even at the end of the millennium, many people will join with Satan's rebellion against God. (see [Rev. 20: 7-10](#)) Also consider what God revealed to the prophet Isaiah "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. (Isaiah 46:9-10) God knows and announces the future before it happens, guaranteeing that His purpose will be fulfilled, and providing comfort that He is in control of His creation.
3. **To make reconciliation for iniquity** by providing the ultimate sacrifice of God's only begotten son as the only way to be forgiven for a person's past sins and be reconciled to God for their iniquities having a changed heart that loves God's law. (see [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#) & [Ezekiel 36:26-27](#)) God established a new way or a New Covenant through Jesus, the anointed one when Jesus fulfilled the law and prophecies of the Old Covenant law and prophets. (see [Matthew 5:17](#)) This made it possible for men to be reconciled to God if they would believe and repent of their sins and be baptized.
4. **To bring in everlasting righteousness** by revealing the truth of God's plan from the foundation of the world for the people to achieve righteousness forever by true repentance, believing in Jesus as the Son of God and accepting His way of life. (see [2 Corinthians 5:21](#) and [1 John 3:7](#))
5. **To seal up the vision and prophecy** by verifying and establishing the truth of the Old Testament prophecies and visions about Christ the Messiah being fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth, God's only begotten son, including being fulfilled in this seventy weeks prophecy in Daniel 9. (see [Matthew 5:17](#))
6. **To anoint the most Holy** by making known His son, Jesus and anointing Him as the Prince of Peace and the coming King of Kings, giving Him the wisdom, power and courage to accomplish God's destiny laid out for Him as the Messiah in the holy scriptures. At the beginning of Jesus' ministry He was baptized, and the Holy Spirit came down from heaven like a dove and rested on Him and John said "behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. (see [Matthew 3:11-16](#))

Dan. 9 ²⁵ 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 (sixty) and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

After Medo-Persia conquered Babylon, three different kings authorized the restoration of Jerusalem and the temple with decrees. First Cyrus in 538/537 BC, second was Darius 1 the Mede in 519/518 BC, and third was Artaxerxes 1 in 457 BC. The first seven weeks or 49 years refers to building the street and the wall with much trouble and opposition which is described in the book of Ezra. The next 62 weeks or 434 years added to the previous seven weeks or 49 years is a total of 483 years. Using Artaxerxes decree of 457 BC as the starting point of the prophecy and subtracting the first 69 weeks or 483 years of the prophecy and adding 1 year to account for no year 0 between 1BC and 1AD, you will arrive at 27 AD which is believed to be the year Jesus Christ began His ministry.

Dan. 9 ²⁶ And after threescore (sixty) and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off (killed 3 ½ years into the 70th week, see vs. 27), but not for himself (He died for our sins) and the people (Roman armies) of the prince (General Titus) that shall come (not until 70 AD) shall destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary (Temple) and the end thereof shall be with a flood (multiple Roman armies), and unto the end of the war desolations (astounding destruction and devastation) are determined.

***AFTER** the first 62 weeks or 483 years, and in the midst of (after 3 ½ years) the last 7 years which was 31AD, and the final or Seventieth Week of Daniel's prophecy, Messiah was cut off or crucified, not for Himself but for our sins. The prince to come was the Roman General Titus who with a flood of armies destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD. The end of the war with Rome and Jerusalem's destruction occurred outside of the 70 weeks prophecy but was the end result of the Jewish leadership, priesthood and the people's rejection of Jesus as the Christ of God and crucifying Him in the midst of the Seventieth Week saying "His blood be on us". (see [Matthew 25:1-25](#)) Thirty-six years after the seventy weeks were completely fulfilled in 34 AD, the Jews revolted against Rome starting a war with Rome and Roman General Titus besieged Jerusalem until the determined desolations were complete and Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed at the end of the war when the final global dispersion of the Jews occurred.*

Dan. 9 ²⁷ And he (Jesus Christ) shall confirm the covenant with many (Jewish converts to Christianity) for one week: and in the midst of the week he (Jesus Christ) shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation (blood and grain sacrificial system of offerings) 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.

During the first half of the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy Jesus confirmed to the Jewish people that the covenant the Israelites made with God on Mount Sanai was fulfilled in Himself. In the middle or after the first 3 ½ years of the 70th week Jesus was crucified which in God's plan of salvation caused the sacrificial system of blood and grain offerings to cease, as they were all fulfilled in the sacrifice of Jesus. After the crucifixion when the disciples received the Holy Spirit at the Feast of Pentecost, they became empowered by God's Spirit to continue the work of confirming to the Jews the fulfillment in Jesus of the old covenant prophetic sacrificial laws, and teaching His new way of keeping the Passover which is the New Testament established by Jesus at the Lord's supper on the evening before His crucifixion. ([Acts 2](#)) The disciples became the Apostles of Christ and leaders of the Church of God in Jerusalem confirming God's New Covenant with the power and direction of God's Holy Spirit living in them, and other new converts, to the Jews throughout the last half of the seventieth week. (see [Hebrews 2:1-5](#)) In 34 AD at the

very end of the seventieth week Stephen was stoned becoming the first martyr of the Church with Saul of Tarsus participating in his death and great persecution of the Church of God began in Jerusalem. (see [Acts 7:54-8:2](#)) Shortly after that, Saul was converted to Christianity and going by his Roman name, Paul, he took the teaching of the Gospel of Salvation by faith in Christ to the Gentiles, mostly in Asia and Europe.

After Stephen was stoned at the end of the seventy weeks or 490 years prophecy, severe persecution of Christians in Jerusalem began and the Jewish people who had rejected Jesus Christ and God, became separated from the true God causing them to fall into moral decay and depravity which spread over all of Jerusalem and created many abominations to God. So, God caused the Roman armies to overrun the city until it was completely consumed and destroyed by fire, and the desolations determined by God were finally poured out on the people by the year 70 AD. Then the land was desolate for 70 years as Jeremiah had prophesied and was allowed to have the Sabbath rests the Jewish people failed to keep after they once again turned to idolatry, lawlessness and injustice toward the end of the 490 years set aside by God, giving them the opportunity to repent and turn back to Him and His law.

God used the Roman army to carry out His judgement on the Jewish people to defeat them, destroy Jerusalem and the temple, and to finally disperse them out of the land of Israel in 70 AD, just as He used the Assyrian army to defeat and take into captivity the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 721 BC and the Babylonian army to defeat and take into captivity the Southern Kingdom of Judah in 586 BC.

The wars of the Jews by Flavius Josephus book VI and VII conveys in great detail the spiritual condition of the Jews and all of the depravity they descended into by 70 AD, just 36 years after rejecting Jesus's way and accepting the killing way of Barabbas the zealot when a large majority shouted in agreement to Pilot to crucify Jesus and let His blood be on their heads. The details are so great that it is very long, and the description of their depravity is sickening to read but it is critical history for serious bible students who desire to interpret the scriptures regarding the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple as God intended. A link to the book is included below.

[The Wars of the Jews by Flavius Josephus - Gutenberg](#)