

# Daniel's Prophecy of The Seventy Weeks

## Dispensational Premillennialism

Text: DANIEL 9:24-27

### 1. Introduction

- A. Daniel understood the 70 year captivity was nearing an end – Dan 9:2/Jer. 29:10
- B. Two possible dates: 606-536 B.C. (1<sup>st</sup> deportation to 1<sup>st</sup> returnees under Zerubbabel) & 586 – 516 B.C. (Destruction of 1<sup>st</sup> Temple to completion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple by Zerubbabel)
- C. His prayer – Dan 9:4-19
- D. The angel Gabriel appeared to him to give him skill and understanding – Dan 9:22
- E. Gabriel gives him the Seventy Weeks Prophecy – Dan 9:24-27
- F. This prophecy is the **chronological key** to all New Testament prophecy (for Dispensationalism)

### 2. Points to consider in studying this prophecy

- A. The entire prophecy deals with Daniel's "*people*" (the Jews) and his "*city*" (Jerusalem)
- B. Two different princes are mentioned, the first is called "Messiah the Prince" (Jesus) and "the Prince that shall come" (Antichrist)
- C. The entire time period involved is Seventy Weeks and is further divided into three subdivisions of *seven weeks, sixty two weeks, and one week* (7 weeks, 62 weeks, 1 week)
- D. The beginning of this time period is set at "*the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem*"
- E. At the end of 69 weeks marks the appearance of "*Messiah the Prince*"
- F. In between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks we see that Messiah is "*cut off*," and that Jerusalem is destroyed by "*the people of the prince who is to come*"
- G. The beginning of the 70<sup>th</sup> week is established when the Prince that shall come (Antichrist) "confirms the covenant"
- H. In the middle of the 70<sup>th</sup> week the Antichrist causes the daily Jewish sacrifice to cease
- I. With the full completion of the whole period of the Seventy Weeks, there will be ushered in a time of great and unparalleled blessings for the nation of Israel

### 3. What is the measure of time indicated by the word "*weeks*"

- A. Hebrew word "shabua" means seven (*seventy sevens*)
- B. Jews familiar with the concept of a week of years and not just a week of days
- C. The 70 year captivity was a judgement for violating the sabbath of allowing the land to rest every seventh year (This had been violated for 490 years, or seventy sevens)
- D. The angel's message was that God's future dealings with Israel would extend for the same number of years ( $70 \times 7 = 490$ ) as the violations of the Sabbatic year
- E. The context of the prophecy along with the usage of the Hebrew words demands the Seventy Sevens be understood in terms of years

### 4. What is the length of the year

- A. According to the Genesis record of the flood, a month consisted of 30 days (Genesis 7:11,24; 8:3-4)
- B. Daniel and Revelation each speak of timeframes of the tribulation period, or the 70<sup>th</sup> week in terms of months having 30 days each
- C. The length of the Biblical prophetic year is 360 days

### 5. When did the Seventy Week period begin? 4 Possibilities (Letter D is correct)

- A. Cyrus' decree in 539 BC – Ezra 1: 1-4, 5:13,17
- B. Darius I decree in 512 BC – Ezra 6:1-12
- C. Artaxerxes Longimanus' decree to Ezra in 457 BC – Ezra 7
- D. Artaxerxes Longimanus' decree to Nehemiah in 444 BC - Nehemiah 2:1-8

## Lesson 2: Daniel's Prophecy of The Seventy Weeks

### 6. The end of the 69 weeks – LUKE 19:29-44

- A. The Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem marked the end of the 69<sup>th</sup> week (Jewish year 3793)
- B. Exactly 173,880 days (69 prophetic weeks) from Nisan 1, 444 B.C. brings you to Nisan 10, 33 A.D.
- C. Jesus wept over Jerusalem because they did not know what that day represented. It was the day fixed on God's calendar by Daniel's prophecy that belonged to Israel where their Messiah would manifest Himself as the Prince (Luke 19:42). Now it was hid from their eyes (Rom 11:25-26)
- D. Notice that the Messiah being cut off (33 A.D.) and the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple (70 A.D.) occurred between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks (Dan 9:26)

### 7. Two interpretations the of chronological relationship between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks

- A. Continuous view, that the 69th week continues immediately onto the 70th week
- B. The Gap view includes a great parenthesis of time after the 69th week, this gap being the church age: Examples of this concept in scripture;
  - Isaiah 61:1-2 / Luke 4:18-19
  - Isaiah 9:6
  - Zechariah 9:9-10

### 8. The 70<sup>th</sup> Week

- A. Begins when the "prince that shall come" (antichrist) confirms the covenant for one week (peace treaty which makes provisions for allowing for sacrificial worship on the Temple Mount)
- B. The 70<sup>th</sup> week is the seven year tribulation period

### 9. What is accomplished at the conclusion of the seventy weeks?

- A. **To finish the transgression**, of Israel after 490 years. Israel's sin of disobedience will be brought to an end at Christ's second coming, when she repents and receives Christ as her Saviour and Messiah. Christ's work on the cross has made possible His future 'finishing' of Israel's transgression.
- B. **God will make an end of sins**. Christ would be punished for Israel's and the world's sins on the cross. At Christ's second coming He will remove Israel's sins (Ezekiel 37:23; Romans 11:26-27).
- C. **God will make reconciliation for iniquity**. Reconciliation = atone = to cover, to make amends. God's final atonement for Israel's sin (iniquity) is when she repents at Christ's second coming, as atonement provision has been made at the cross.
- D. **God, being satisfied with Christ's death, will bring in everlasting righteousness**. God will establish a 1000 year kingdom characterized by righteousness (Isaiah 60:21; Jer. 23:5-6).
- E. **God will seal up the vision and prophecy**. All God's promises for Israel will come to pass in the millennial kingdom. Until they are fulfilled, prophecies are unsealed. When fulfilled, they are sealed (Strong's #2856 - closed up, make an end)
- F. **God will anoint the most Holy**. This refers to the consecration of the millennial Temple that Christ builds (Ezek. 43:1-5, Zech. 6:12,13), not by literal oil, but by the presence of the Shekinah glory cloud. The Tabernacle, altar, and all holy vessels were anointed with oil (Ezekiel 26:34; 29:36; 30:26-28).

Gap Theory:

Daniel’s Seventy Weeks Prophecy

