

Prophetic Fall Feasts of The LORD

March 27, 2019 Lesson #12 Daniel's 70 Weeks Prophecy

Building Block C: Purpose & Length of The Tribulation & Great Tribulation Period

Daniel's Vision Of The End Times

538 BC: Daniel has been in Babylon for nearly 70 years and is probably in his 80's. As he reads Jeremiah's account of the Babylon's conquest, Daniel realizes that Israel's period of captivity was nearly over. God had told Jeremiah [Jer. 25:11-12] that it would last for 70 years, and then Babylon would be defeated and the Jews would be set free to rebuild their country.

The reason for this judgment was Israel's insistence upon worshiping the false gods of their pagan neighbors. Its duration of 70 years came from the fact that for 490 years they had neglected to let their farmland lie fallow one year out of every seven as God had commanded in Leviticus 25:1-7. The Lord had been patient all that time but finally had sent them to Babylon to give the land the 70 years of rest that were due it. [II Chron. 36:21]

Daniel 9:1-23: While praying one day, confessing Israel's sins and reminding God of His promise to restore them, Daniel was visited once again by the Angel Gabriel.

Dan. 9:21-23 Yea, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.²³ At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore, understand the matter, and consider the vision.

Gabriel interrupted his prayer to reveal more of Israel's future, once again expanding the visions of chapters 7 and 8 with a 4 verse overview of things to come.

Prophecy of Dan. 9:24-27 No prophecy in all of Scripture is more critical to our understanding of the end times than these four verses.

Basic Info For Clarification:

- The Hebrew word translated weeks [or sevens] refers to a period of 7 years, like our word decade refers to a period of 10 years. It literally means "a week of years."
So 70 weeks is 70 X 7 years or 490 years. This period is divided into three parts, 7 weeks or 49 years, 62 weeks or 434 years, and 1 week or 7 years.
 - ❖ 7 weeks = 49 Years
 - ❖ 62 weeks = 434 Years
 - ❖ 1 Week = 7 Years

Dan. 9:24 Seventy weeks [490 Years] are determined upon your people and your Holy City to:

1. Finish the transgression
 2. Put an end to sin
 3. Atone for wickedness
 4. Bring in everlasting righteousness
 5. Seal up vision and prophecy
 6. Anoint the most Holy [Jesus Christ as King; some say (place). Temple]
- Deal with Sin
- Kingdom

Dan. 9:25 Know therefore and understand: From the going forth of the commandment to RESTORE and REBUILD JERUSALEM unto the MESSIAH THE PRINCE: [Anointed One]

- 7 Weeks = 49 years
- Threescore and two weeks = 62 weeks = 434 Years
- The street shall be built again and the wall, even in troublous times.

Clarification: The first 49 years (7 weeks) are the time during which the city was being rebuilt. These were the "times of trouble" mentioned in Daniel 9:25 and recorded in Nehemiah 2-7 as consisting of constant efforts by Israel's enemies to prevent them from completing the project. Nehemiah tells of workmen building with one hand while holding a sword in the other, and sleeping on site in their clothes, for fear of a surprise attack.

The remaining 434 years (62 weeks) began when the city and its walls were complete and ran to the time of the first Palm Sunday when Jesus presented Himself to Israel as their Messiah.

Clear prophecy of the timing of the First Coming.

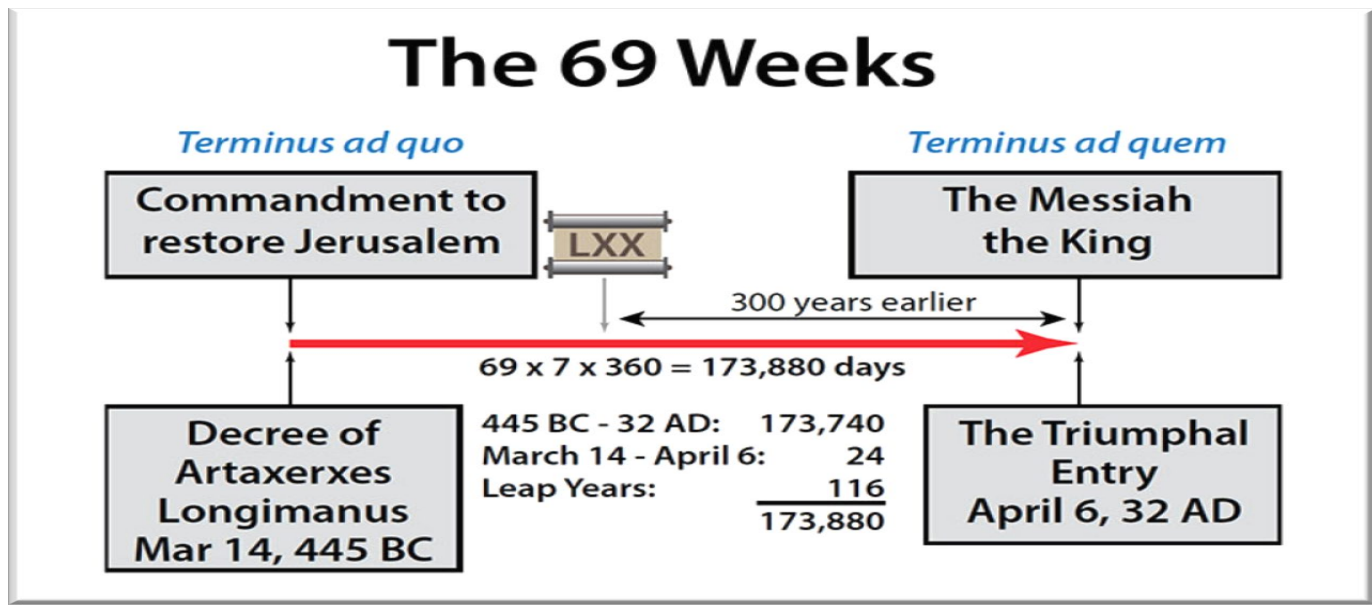
- When this message was given to Daniel by the Angel Gabriel, Jerusalem had lain in ruin for nearly 70 years and the Jews were captive in Babylon.
- Counting forward for 62 + 7 periods of 7 years each from a future decree giving the Jews permission to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, they should expect the Messiah. That's a total of 483 Years After The Decree Is Issued.
- These 483 years would include 49 years to rebuild and stabilize Jerusalem, and then a period of 423 years before the Anointed One (the Messiah) comes.

Crucial: It's important to distinguish the decree that freed the Jews from their captivity from the one that gave them permission to rebuild Jerusalem.

1. Cyrus the Persian conquered Babylon in 539 BC. He issued a decree in 538 BC that freed the Jews to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. It had been prophesied 150 years earlier in Isaiah 44:24-45:6 and was fulfilled in Ezra 1:1-4.
2. 457 BC - Artaxerxes of Persia issued a decree to Ezra to reinstitute the Temple services, appoint judges and magistrates and teach the Law. [Ezra 7:11-26]
3. According to Nehemiah 2:1 the Decree To Rebuild the Walls of Jerusalem was given by King Artaxerxes of Persia. [March of 445 BC on our calendar, about 90 years later].

Note: Most commentators use the starting date of decree #3.

This is the remarkable prediction. There would be an edict to rebuild Jerusalem. A period of 483 years would pass. The Messiah would enter the city and He would be put to death.



Prophecy Fulfilled: Exactly 483 Years After The Decree To Rebuild Jerusalem

The Lord Jesus rode in to Jerusalem on a donkey to shouts of "Hosanna", on the only day in His life He permitted His followers to proclaim Him as Israel's Messiah, fulfilling Daniel's prophecy to the day!

The Hebrew in Daniel 9:25 calls Him Messiah the Prince, denoting the fact that He was coming as the Anointed Son of the King and was not yet crowned King Himself.

Luke 19:39-40 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. ⁴⁰ And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

Jesus made the profound statement that the crowd had to proclaim Him Messiah or the rocks would have to speak out that truth!

This sets up the most incredible fulfillment of Bible prophecy to date.

For 3 1/2 years Jesus had discouraged any talk about Him being the Messiah.

In Matt. 16:15-20 In Caesarea-Philippi, when Peter made his famous "You are the Christ" statement, Jesus said yes, He was the Messiah, but not to tell anyone.

Matt. 16:20 Then He warned the disciples that they should TELL NO ONE that He was the Christ.

But on this day [Palm Sunday], things had changed. Jesus allowed, even encouraged, the multitudes to welcome Him as their Messiah. What was different?

Why did Jesus say it was now OK to call Him Messiah?

The reason is simple. This was a prophesied day that the Jews should have recognized. The "70 Weeks" (490 years) prophecy given by Daniel had begun to count down 173,880 days earlier.

In Luke 19:41-44 He reminded the people of the specific nature of this prophecy. As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, If you had known, even you, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, ⁴⁴ And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

He Held Them Accountable For Knowing Daniel 9:24-27! Wow!

The Daniel 9:24-27 prophecy was being fulfilled right before the Pharisees' eyes!

Daniel gave the exact day the Messiah would arrive. This was that day!

Interestingly, the Daniel 9 prophecy wasn't even in the first five books of the Bible (the Torah) that were read completely through once a year on Shabbat (each Saturday).

You had to dig a little to find this scriptural nugget...and think a lot to understand it.

We should learn a great lesson...Jesus believes Bible prophecy is important! He expects us to know, understand and apply latter-day prophecies! We'll probably also have to dig a little.

A few days later He extended that accountability to us. He wants us to know about events that are yet future.

Matt. 24:15 When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso reads, let him understand:) then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

We are also required to understand Daniel 9 in reference to the Great Tribulation and 2nd Coming.

Remember: First came 7 sevens [49 years]; then the 62 weeks [434 yrs.] = 483 years

Dan. 9:26a Then after the 62 weeks [434 years from the beginning of the prophecy = 173,880 total days], the Messiah will be cut off ["executed"], but not for himself:

- At the end of this 2nd period their Messiah would be executed (literally destroyed in the making of a covenant) having received none of the honor, glory and blessing the Scriptures promised Him.
- We all know that Jesus was crucified, establishing the New Covenant in the process.

Dan. 9:26b and The people of the prince [ruler] who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue till the end and desolations have been decreed.

- The people of a ruler yet to come would destroy Jerusalem and the Temple.
 - ❖ In 70 AD the Romans put the torch to the city and the Temple destroying both.
- The Israelites would be scattered abroad and peace would elude the world.
 - ❖ Surviving Jews were forced to flee for their lives and in the ensuing 2000 years, it is believed not a single generation has escaped involvement in a war of some kind.

Then something strange happened: The Heavenly clock stopped.

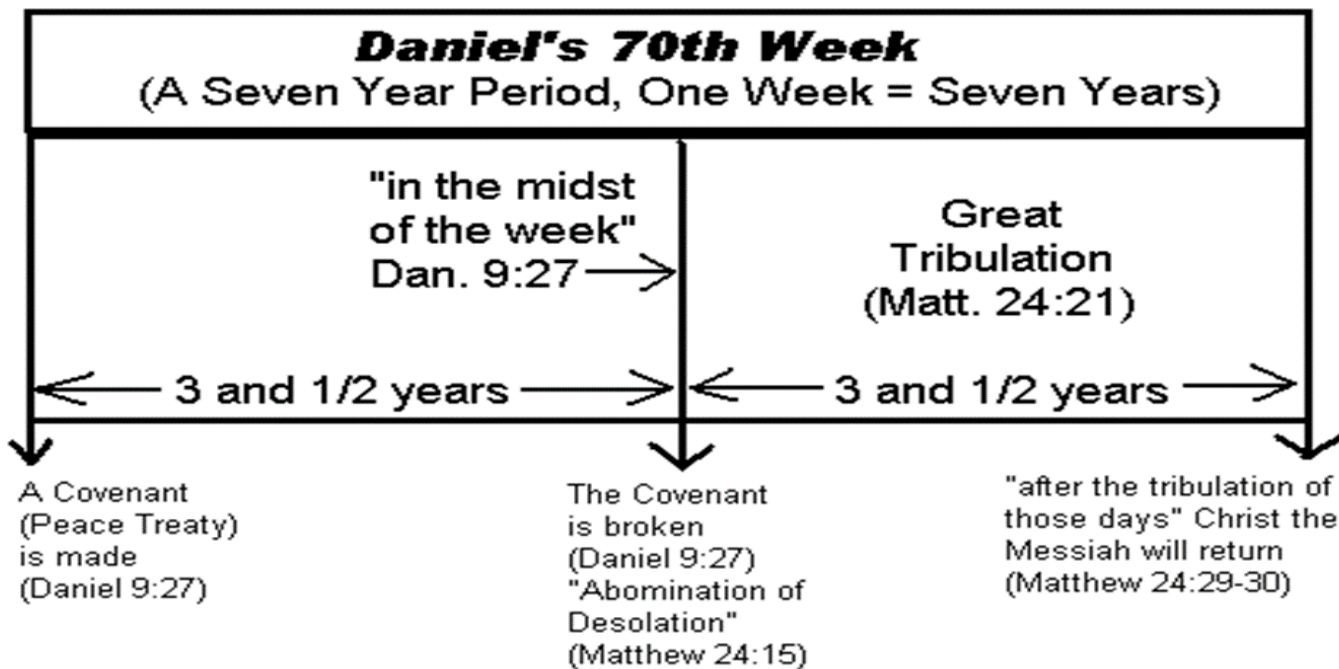
69 of the 70 weeks had passed and all that was prophesied to happen during those 483 years had come to pass but there was still one week (7 years) left.

- ❖ In the New Testament we're told that while God is dealing with the Church, time ceases to exist for Israel [Acts 15:13-18: James at the Jerusalem Council].

Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.¹⁵ And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, ¹⁶ After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

- ❖ The clearest indication that time has ceased for Israel is that the events foretold in Daniel 9:27 simply haven't happened yet.

Dan. 9:27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one week [7 years]. In the middle of the week [$3\frac{1}{2}$ years] he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.



Daniel 9:27 is the missing 70th week [7 years] of Daniel.

Grammar Rule: Pronouns refer to the closest previous noun. "He" being a personal pronoun refers to the closest previous person, in this case "the ruler to come."

So a ruler who will come from some part of the old Roman Empire will confirm a 7 year treaty with Israel that permits them to build a Temple and re-instate their Old Covenant worship system. 3 1/2 years later he will violate this treaty by setting up an abomination that causes the Temple to become desolate, putting an end to their worship.

This abomination brings the wrath of God down upon him and he will be destroyed at the Second Coming.

Consider: The most obvious way in which we know these things haven't happened is that the Jewish Old Covenant worship system requires a Temple and there hasn't been one since 70 AD when the Romans destroyed it.

The Purpose And Length Of The Great Tribulation = Time Of Jacob's Trouble

Two-Fold Purpose of the Great Tribulation

1. Completely destroy the nations among whom His people have been scattered
2. Discipline Israel, purifying them to dwell with Him in the Promised Land. [Ex. 19:4-6]

Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:⁶ And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.

Jer. 30:7, 11 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it. For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet I will not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

Matt. 24:22 He said that if it were left to run its course, not a single human being would survive. But for the sake of His people, He would stop it at its appointed time.

Length of the Great Tribulation: Time of Jacob's Trouble

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| ❖ <u>Dan. 12:7</u> = 3 1/2 years | } Same amount of time |
| ❖ <u>Rev. 11:2</u> = 42 months | |
| ❖ <u>Rev. 12:6</u> = 1260 Days | |

Daniel 9:27 The Abomination That Causes Desolation will occur in the middle of the last seven years, or 3 1/2 years from the end. Satan will now indwell the Anti-christ. How did it happen?

Rev. 12:9, 12 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹² Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the Devil Is Come Down Unto You, having great wrath, because he knows that he hath but a short time.

Matt. 24:15-21 Jesus identified this event as the official beginning of the Great Tribulation.

II Thess. 2:4 Paul confirms this and adds detail by describing the anti-Christ standing in the Temple proclaiming himself to be God.

Rev. 13:14-15 John confirmed it. And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. ¹⁵ And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the

beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

This particular defilement of the Temple happened once in history as a "type or shadow" of the real event to come that begins the yet future "Time of Jacob's Trouble."

In 168 BC, Syrian King Antiochus Epiphanes captured the Temple and converted it into a pagan worship center. He erected a statue of Zeus with his own face on it in the Holy Place, thereby proclaiming himself to be God and demanded the Jews worship it on pain of death.

He also killed a pig on the altar of the Temple.

Result: The Temple unfit for use. It triggered the 3 ½ year Maccabean Revolt. The Jewish re-capture and cleansing of the Temple in 165 BC is celebrated in the eight-day Feast of Hanukkah. 200 years after this event, Jesus told His Disciples that the people of Israel should watch for a future Abomination That Causes Desolation and referred to Daniel's prophecy in doing so [Matt. 24:15-21]. He said it would kick off the Great Tribulation; Time of Jacob's Trouble

- ❖ The blasphemies of Antiochus had not been specifically repeated when the Romans destroyed the Temple. There hasn't been another Temple since. The similarities between this coming event and the one from history being so obvious, most scholars are persuaded that one points to the other since nothing in the intervening years fits so completely.

Therefore, the Abomination That Causes Desolation that took place in 168 BC was only a partial fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy. Jesus referred to it so people in the end times would be able to recognize the complete fulfillment when they saw it. They'll know to look for a man standing in the Temple calling himself God and demanding that his image be worshiped.

Jesus told those living in Judea (Israel) that when they see it to flee into hiding immediately, for the Great Tribulation will have begun.

Following a devastating war in the Middle East, a new leader will soon emerge on the scene. With great personal charisma and a plan to end all wars, he will captivate and control the world. Since God's true Church will have recently disappeared from Earth, he'll [Antichrist] have no trouble persuading most remaining inhabitants that he is the promised Messiah, the Prince of Peace. He will astound and amaze them all with feats of diplomacy and conquest, even performing the supernatural. But when he claims to be God, all hell will break loose on Earth and 3 1/2 years of the most terrible times mankind has ever known will threaten their very existence.

However, before they're all destroyed the real Prince of Peace will return and overthrow this imposter. He will set up His kingdom on earth, a kingdom that will never be conquered nor left to another. Having given His life to finish transgression, put an end to sin, atone for wickedness and bring in everlasting righteousness, and having fulfilled all Biblical vision and prophecy, He will anoint the most Holy Place and receive all the honor, glory and blessing the Scriptures promised Him. Israel will finally have her Kingdom restored and will live in peace with God in her midst, and you and I as the bride of the Christ will rule and reign with Him forever.