"THE PROPHECY OF SEVENTY WEEKS"

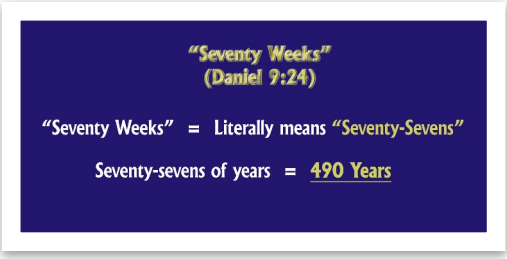
(The Duration of Israel's Sentencing)
Daniel 9:24-27
7-4-2021

INTRODUCTION:

***The sovereign LORD decrees Israel's future.**

I. HOW LONG UNTIL UTOPIA?

70 sevens (490 years) of judgment are decreed against Daniel's people (Israel) and Daniel's city (Jerusalem) (v. 24).



II. HOW LONG UNTIL MESSIAH?

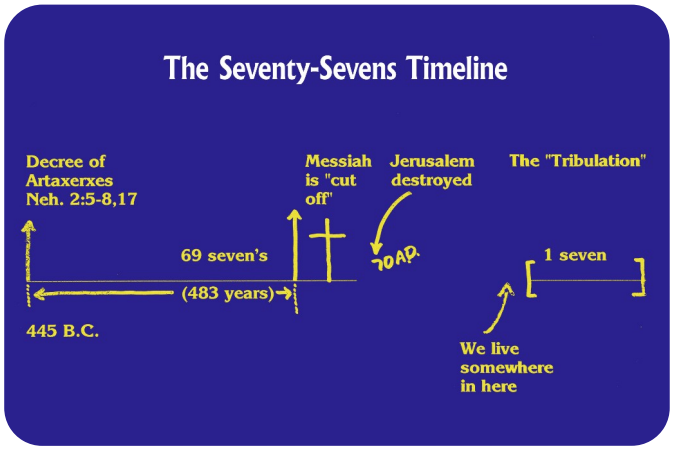
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A. After 69 sevens Messiah would die (v. 26a)

B. After 69 sevens Jerusalem would be destroyed (v. 26b)

III. HOW LONG UNTIL THE END?

1 seven (7 years) under the tyranny of Antichrist is still to come (v. 27).



CONCLUSION: God's promises never fail!

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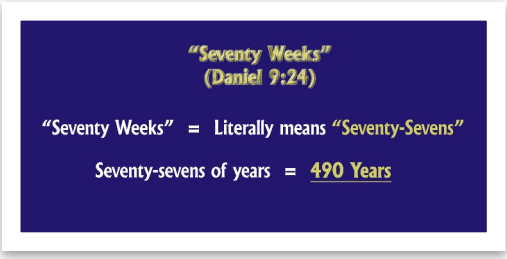
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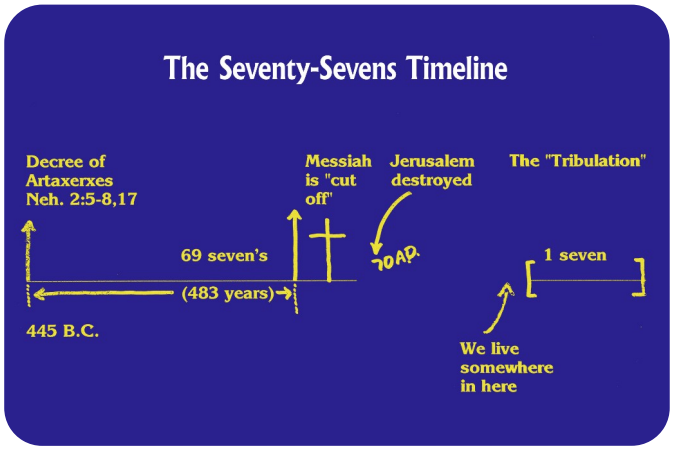
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INTRODUCTION:

No nation has been opposed, persecuted, oppressed like ancient and modern Israel -- SEE Revel. 12.

Examples of the plight of Israel:

--Egyptian Bondage
--Babylonian captivity
--Antiochus Epiphanes
--Roman destruction of Jerusalem & the Diaspora of 70 A.D.
--German Holocaust (8 million slaughtered)
--contemporary Arab-Israeli conflict
--Anti-Semitism
--the future time of "Jacob's Trouble" (Antichrist)

When will it all end? Will it ever end? Daniel 9:20-27 gives the answer.

Note the context - Daniel, having read Jeremiah's prophecy that Israel's subjection by Babylon would only last for 70 years (Dan. 9:2; Jer. 25:11, 12; 29:10), now is given revelation that 70 seven's are determined against Israel.

God as it were, uses the number 70 (cp. v. 2) and expands on it (multiplying it by 7) to let Daniel know how long it will be until <u>total</u> restoration and Messianic blessing is experienced by Israel.

The Babylonian captivity resulted from not observing 70 Sabbath (seventh) years (covering a period of 490 years) - II Chron. 36:20-21.

Now God uses that 70 seven's of years to decree Israel's judgment.

V. 23

"Understand the vision" - What vision? The same vision that Gabriel (v. 21) explained to Daniel in 8:15-26.

Whereas Daniel 8 unfolded a sequence of events from Medo-Persian rule through the reign of Greece with foreshadowing of the future Antichrist (i:23-26), now in chapter 9 God unfolds the timing (the length/duration) of events, beginning with Medo-Persia and extending through the future Tribulation.

***The sovereign LORD decrees Israel's future.**

I. HOW LONG UNTIL UTOPIA?

70 sevens (490 years) of judgment are decreed against Daniel's people (Israel) and Daniel's city (Jerusalem) (v. 24).

"Seventy weeks" - lit. seventy seven's.

The Hebrew word translated "weeks" is "shabim" which refers to a period of seven. Sevens of years is what is in view in context.

Hence, 70 x 7 years = 490 years.

The Hebrew calendar included a 7-year period; a "week of years" (Lev. 25:3, 4).

"Determined" = decreed. God has decreed this prophecy and nothing can reverse it or stop its fulfillment. What God's sovereign will determines, no one can alter.

"Thy people" = Israel (the Jews)

"Thy holy city" = Jerusalem

"To finish transgression" - to put an end to Israel's revolting and transgression (for which she has undergone chastisement); to complete her deliberate violations of God's laws.

"To make an end of sins" - to finish Israel's "missing the mark."

"To make reconciliation for iniquity" - to make atonement for Israel's vain idolatry.

That atonement was provided when Messiah was "cut off" after the 69th seven; it will be applied to national Israel when they look on Him whom they pierced and He pours upon them the Spirit of supplication and grace, which occurs at the end of the Tribulation (Zech. 12:10).

"To bring in everlasting righteousness" = never-ending justice will be brought in by Christ's return to earth.

"In righteousness He doth judge..." "He shall rule them with a rode of iron..." (Rev. 19:11, 15).

NOTE: The Millennial (1,000 year) Kingdom is merely the first phrase or initial stage of the eternal righteousness to be experienced globally.

Perfect justice in a utopian world will never be experienced until the 70 seven's are fulfilled. Therefore, all of man's efforts to "bring in the kingdom," "right all wrongs," establish utopia, are in vain.

"To seal up the vision and prophecy" - Daniel's vision and prophecy is sealed up by God all the way to its fulfillment. (cp. Dan. 12:4, 9)

The sealing is symbolic of protection. God has preserved His Word and will fulfill every jot and tittle of it! (Mt. 5:18, 24:35).

When the 70th seven will be completed, Daniel's prophecy will be history.

"To anoint the most Holy" - lit. "to anoint the holiest of holy ones"

--Could be a reference to the Millennial temple's Holy of Holies (cp. the new future temple - Ezek. 40-48).

**--Or it could be a reference to the anointing of Jesus Christ to rule and reign as King over the earth (Ps. 2:2; cp. context - Daniel 9:25 - "Messiah the Prince" --Heb. = the Anointed Ruler").

II. HOW LONG UNTIL MESSIAH?

69 sevens (483 years) would pass before Messiah was to come (v. 25-26).

V. 25

"The commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem" - this command refers to the decree of "Artaxerxes Longimanus given in 445 B.C. (Neh. 2:5). Earlier, Cyrus had authorized the rebuilding of the temple (in 5:38; II Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4)." Ryrie note

The rebuilding of the wall would transpire during "troublous times" - cp. Nehemiah 4-6.

The work was attacked by Sanballat and Tobiah as well as the Arabians, Ammonites, and Ashdodites.

It was attacked by means of:

1)	mockery (4:1-6)	4)	Compromise (6:1-4)
2)	Conspiracy (4:7-23)	5)	Slander (6:5-9)
3)	Extortion (5:1-19)	6)	Treachery (6:10-14)

Decree to Jerusalem's streets Messiah
Rebuild & wall complete the Prince

7 seven's 62 seven's

----------483 years----------

(Neh. 2:5) (Luke 19:41-44)

The Jews are without excuse for rejecting Christ. They should have known when He was to arrive based on Daniel's dates (Simeon knew the time of Christ's arrival - Luke 2:25-26); but Israel as a nation did not know (*SEE: Luke 19:41-44).

Sir Robert Anderson suggested that the dating should be calculated by "prophetic years" from 445 B.C.

1) His proof of prophetic years (lunar dating - Jewish calendar)

--Rev. 11:2, 3; 3 1/2 years; 42 months; 1260 days.

--Cp. Rev. 13:4-7 & 12:13-14 with Rev. 12:6

2) March 14, 445 B.C. to April 6, 32 A.D. totals 173,880 days.

Exactly 69 seven's of prophetic years [a prophetic year has 360 days]

476 x 365 =	173,740 days
Leap year =	116 days
March 14-April 6 =	24 days
	173,880 days

173,880 360 = 483 prophetic years (or 69 sevens)

Decree of Artaxerxes Neh. 2:5-8,17,18		Wall street completely Rebuilt	then Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
	7 seven's	62 seven's	1 seven
	(49 years)	(434 years)	
	445 B.C.	396 B.C.	A.D. 32
			We live somewhere in here

--Sir Robert Anderson
--Alva McClain

A. After 69 sevens Messiah would die (v. 26a)

"After threescore and two weeks (62 seven's (or 434 years) from the completed 7 weeks) shall Messiah be cut off"

"Messiah" = Jesus Christ

"Cut off" = to kill or put to death.

In a Messianic prophecy describing the suffering and death of the Messiah, Isaiah said "He was <u>cut off</u> out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was He striken" (Is. 53:8) ("cut off" - cp. Gen. 9:11; Deut. 20:20).

"But not for Himself" - Two possible translations:

1) "And have nothing" (NASV; NIV)

"There is nothing for Him" Nothing that rightly belonged to Messiah the Prince was given to Him at that time. His Kingdom would be future.

2) "But not for Himself" (KJV; NKJV) - Jesus would be "cut off" but not for His sin (he was sinless [II Cor. 5:20]); but for the sins of the world (Is. 53; I Cor. 15:3; I Pet. 2:24, 3:18).

B. After 69 sevens Jerusalem would be destroyed (v. 26b)

"The <u>people</u> of the prince" = Rome

"The <u>prince</u> that shall come" - the future leader of the revised Roman Empire; the Antichrist

The people (Rome) ... shall destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary (the holy temple)" - a reference to Titus' conquest of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. whereby he tore down the city (not leaving one stone upon another) and burned it in fulfillment of both Daniel's and Jesus' prophecy (Cp. Mt. 24:2; Mk. 13:2; Lk. 19:44).

"The end thereof (the destruction of the city and temple) shall be with a flood" - like the waters of the Noaic Flood, the enemies of Israel would ruin the city.

"Desolations are determined"

--Israel was desolate of her people (the Jews) from 70 A.D. until 1948.

--Israel will in the future Tribulation be desolate of her people as they flee when the Antichrist desecrates their Holy Place and the Gentiles trample on that city for 42 months (Mt. 24:15ff; Rev. 11:2).

III. HOW LONG UNTIL THE END?

1 seven (7 years) under the tyranny of Antichrist is still to come (v. 27).

An unseen gap in prophetic time is typical of O.T. prophecy (EX: Is. 9:6; Is. 61:1,2; Zech. 9:9, 10; cp. I Pet. 1:11).

The gap between the Messiah's being "cut off" and the signing of the covenant (the time from the 69th to the 70th week) has often been used by Pretribulationalists to demonstrate the distinction between God's dealings with the Church and Israel and to prove a pretribulational Rapture.

NOTE: However, such an observation does not prove a pretribulational Rapture. Such a proof is speculation and assumption. It is not the clear statement of Scripture.

Yes, God goes back to dealing with Israel (Note, however, - under the New covenant, Dispensation) in the 70th week, but to say that the Church will be absent is to be beyond the text and essogete a presupposed belief into the text of Daniel 9.

The gap in time simply moves from a time of fulfilled prophecy to the future time of more to-be-fulfilled prophecy.

The gap simply marks the ending point and the beginning point of God's special dealings with Israel ("thy people") and Jerusalem ("thy holy city" - v. 24).

"He" - "the prince that shall come" (v. 26) - not Christ but the Antichrist.

"Confirm" = to make a strong covenant. Perhaps by force; with mighty global power, the Antichrist will ratify a peace treaty.

"Covenant" - a binding promise of peace; a pact; a treaty (the Antichrist will be the Diplomat of Diplomats. He will do what no leader, no nation, and no United Nations Peace plan has ever accomplished. He will "settle" the Arab-Israeli conflict.)

Such a peace proposal is right on the horizon. The rider on the white horse is coming! Rev. 6:2

"With many" - a peace treaty will be signed between Israel and the many Arab nations that have plagued them throughout history (Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, the PLO, Jordan, Saudi Arabia; Iraq, Iran, etc.)

"For one week" = one period of 7 years.

"A world leader signs a 7 year peace treaty" will one day be the headlines in the NY Times and Daily News. This period of 7 years refers to the 70th week of Daniel (v. 24). 69 are now history; one more period of seven is yet to be fulfilled.

**This signing of a 7-year covenant marks the beginning of the Tribulation period. From the day this covenant is signed, exactly 2,520 days will remain for Antichrist's reign.

"In the midst of the week" = at the mid-point of the 7 years; after 3 1/2 years, he (Antichrist_ will put an end to the Jewish sacrifices and offerings. He will stop the Jew's worship of Jehovah and will set Himself up in their Temple and demand worship, claiming to be God - SEE Mt. 24:15; II Thes. 2:4.

The mid-point of the Tribulation marks the time of Antichrist's recovery from a deadly wound (SEE Rev. 13:3-8), the issuing of the mark of the Beast (Rev. 13:16-18); and the hottest anti-Jewish, anti-Christian persecution to ever be experienced (Rev. 12:12-17).

"Abominations . . . make it desolate" - the Antichrist, who will stand (as "God") in the Holy Temple, will thereby make the temple an abominable (polluted) place and a desolate place (since the Jews will flee Jerusalem at this point - Mt. 24:15ff).

Jerusalem's desolation - cp. Zech. 14:1, 2

"Even until the consummation" - the Temple will be polluted and desolate - right until the end of the 70th week.

"That determined shall be poured upon the desolate" - what God has decreed will be poured upon the Jews at that time (SEE: Rev. 12).

A "remnant" of these desolate Jews will be saved and return to their land (cp. Is. 10:20-23; Is. 28:22).

CONCLUSION: God's promises never fail!

The Jews do have dreadful days ahead. At least one more holocaust awaits them. This is the time of "Jacob's Trouble" (Jer. 30:7). But at the conclusion a multitude of Israelites will be gloriously saved and blessed (Rom. 11:25-27). (SEE: Jer. 30:1-11). Praise God for His sovereign control of history!

Concluding applications:

1. God is sovereign

   (His prophecy is precise; He controls and predicts the affairs of man)

2. God is faithful

   (He will keep His promise to Israel of deliverance, salvation, and Messianic Kingdom)

3. God is merciful

   (Everlasting righteousness is coming - v. 24)

4. Jesus loves you

   (The Messiah was "cut off" for your sins)