

THE PROPHETIC WORD TODAY

God's Timetable

Text: Daniel 9

INTRODUCTION: Last week we saw how Daniel became a man of understanding – by going to the Word of God. We can become men and women of understanding the same way. In fact, I told you last week that if you would become a serious reader and student of the Bible that you could understand a multitude of things, including God's timetable for the future.

Today I am going to show you that is true. Through the Word of God, I am going to show you a revelation of God's timetable. This is not all that is revealed in God's Word about God's timetable, but it is a very important part. In fact, it is such a key part, that if you do not know this, you will not understand the other portions revealed in other places of the Word of God.

Many devoted students of the Scripture have referred to this passage as the single most important prophecy in the Bible. I do not think their appraisal is over stated. In just a minute we are about to read it. If at first it seems obscure to you, don't zone out. Stick with me. We are going to look at the prophecy line by line, and at times word by word. You can understand this, and if you will invest a little time and effort with me this morning, you can understand a great deal about God's timetable, which includes His timetable for the future.

I. REMEMBER THE CONTEXT

Daniel in Bible Study. Discovers something wonderful.

Jeremiah 25:11 And this whole land shall be a desolation *and* an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

A. The Captivity was determined by God to be for 70 years.

1. They had been in captivity for 68 years.
2. The captives of Judah were now under the authority of the Persian empire.
3. Daniel further read

Isaiah 44:28 Who says of Cyrus, '*He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid."*

- B. Cyrus had been named by God**, before he was king, before he was even born, as the king who would let willing Jews return to their homeland and rebuild Jerusalem and the temple.
- C. This discovery drove Daniel to prayer for his people and for his nation**, which prayer we shall examine more carefully on another day.
- D. While he was praying, God sent the angel Gabriel, to bring a message to Daniel.**
- E. That message sent by God through His Messenger Angel Gabriel is the prophecy revealing God's timetable.**

That is what we read this morning.

Dan. 9:24-27 ²⁴ “ Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy. ²⁵ “ Know therefore and understand, *That* from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, *There shall be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. ²⁶ “ And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it *shall be* with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. ²⁷ Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

II. EXAMINE THE PROPHECY

Beginning notes:

Dan. 9:24 “ Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

Dan. 9:24 “ Seventy weeks are determined

A. Significance of 7's for Israel

1. 7 day/weeks – 7th holy (Sabbath)
2. Every seventh year (Sabbath year) – land rests
3. 7 - 7 year periods – then Jubilee (every 50 years) - slaves are freed, debts forgiven, and lands returned.

Dan. 9:24 “ Seventy weeks are determined

B. The Time Prescribed

1. 70 – 7’s are determined (not literally weeks)
2. Each 7 is 7 years
3. 70 – 7’s = 490 years
4. God’s prescription of prophetic time is 30 days/month,
12 months per year
360 days per year. (not our 365)

Dan. 9:24 “ Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city,

C. This prophecy is about the Jews and Jerusalem

Dan. 9:24 “ Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city,
To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity,
To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

FIVE PURPOSES OF THE 490 YEARS

To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins,	Sin and transgression shall reach their peak and be brought to an end.
To make reconciliation for iniquity,	Reconciliation between God and man will be provided.
To bring in everlasting righteousness,	Eternal righteousness will be brought to the Jews.
To seal up vision and prophecy,	Vision and prophecy will be completed, never needed again.
And to anoint the Most Holy.	The Most Holy One will be anointed.

Dan. 9:25 “ Know therefore and understand, *That* from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem...

D. The starting point for counting the 490 years is from the command to restore and build Jerusalem.

1. There are 4 possible decrees
 - a. The decree of Cyrus in 536 B.C.
 - b. The decree of Darius in 519 B.C.
 - c. The decree of Artaxerxes in 458 B.C.
 - d. The decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus in 445 B.C.

Of these decrees only the last concerned the rebuilding of the city.
The rest were only about the rebuilding of the temple.

...until Messiah the Prince, *There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.*

E. 483 years after this command

$$7 + 62 = 69$$

$$69 \times 7 = 483 \text{ years}$$

1. The streets and walls of Jerusalem will have been rebuilt, even though it was done in troublesome times.
2. Messiah, the Prince shall come.

Daniel 9:26 “And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;

F. After the completion of the 483 years, the Messiah will be killed but not for Himself.

Daniel 9:26 ... And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it *shall be* with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

G. Also after the 483 years, another prince will come. The followers of that prince will destroy Jerusalem and the temple with great destruction and desolation.

Then we come to the final period of 7 years.

Daniel 9:27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”

H. A prince who is contrary to Messiah the Prince will confirm a covenant or treaty with the Jews.

1. He will honor the terms of the treaty for 3 ½ years.
2. In the middle of the 7 years he will end the sacrifices and offerings in the temple.
3. He will commit the abomination of desolation – an act of blatant blasphemy and desecration in the temple itself.
4. This tragic state of affairs will continue until the consummation.

III. THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROPHECY AND THE AFFIRMATION OF GOD’S TIMETABLE.

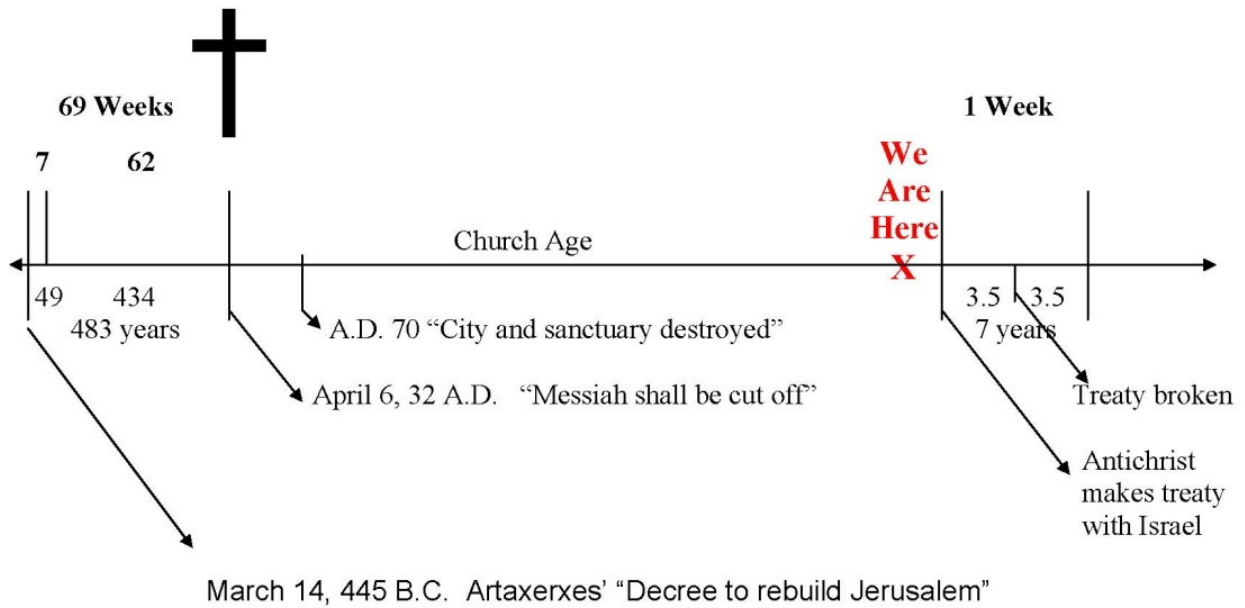
70 weeks are determined for your people and your holy city	God's plan for the Jews and Jerusalem will be accomplished over a period of 70 '7s' (490 years) .
To finish transgression, end sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, bring in righteousness, seal prophecy, and anoint the Most Holy.	In this period of time God will bring about an end to sin and a way for reconciliation with God by means of the Messiah.
The 62 "7s" and 7 "7s"	The first 483 years
From the command to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah will be 7 "7s" and 62 "7s"	From command of Neh. 2 by King Artaxerxes Longimanus until Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday was 483 years to the day!
the street and wall shall be built again	Jerusalem was rebuilt under Nehemiah
After 62 "7s" (69 total) Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself	Jesus died on the cross for our sin a few days after entering Jerusalem
the people of the "prince to come" shall destroy Jerusalem and the temple	The Romans destroyed the temple and Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
The final "7"	The future 7 year Tribulation
the "prince" will enter a covenant with Israel	The Antichrist will enter a covenant (treaty) with Israel
in the middle of the last "7" he will commit the abomination of desolations	Antichrist will break the treaty at the midpoint of the tribulation
until the consummation	This state continues until the Lord returns at Armageddon

**But the prophetic clock stops.
 This prophecy is for the Jews and Jerusalem.
 Rather than receive their king, they refused Him.
 They cut Him off so He cut them off, for a time.**

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in the middle of the last "7" he will commit the abomination of desolations	Antichrist will break the treaty at the midpoint of the tribulation
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Here is the whole picture in a graph.

Daniel's Seventy "7s"



Conclusion: God's timetable has been perfect for 98.57% of this prophecy. Don't you imagine the remaining 1.43% will be right as well?

Are you ready?