

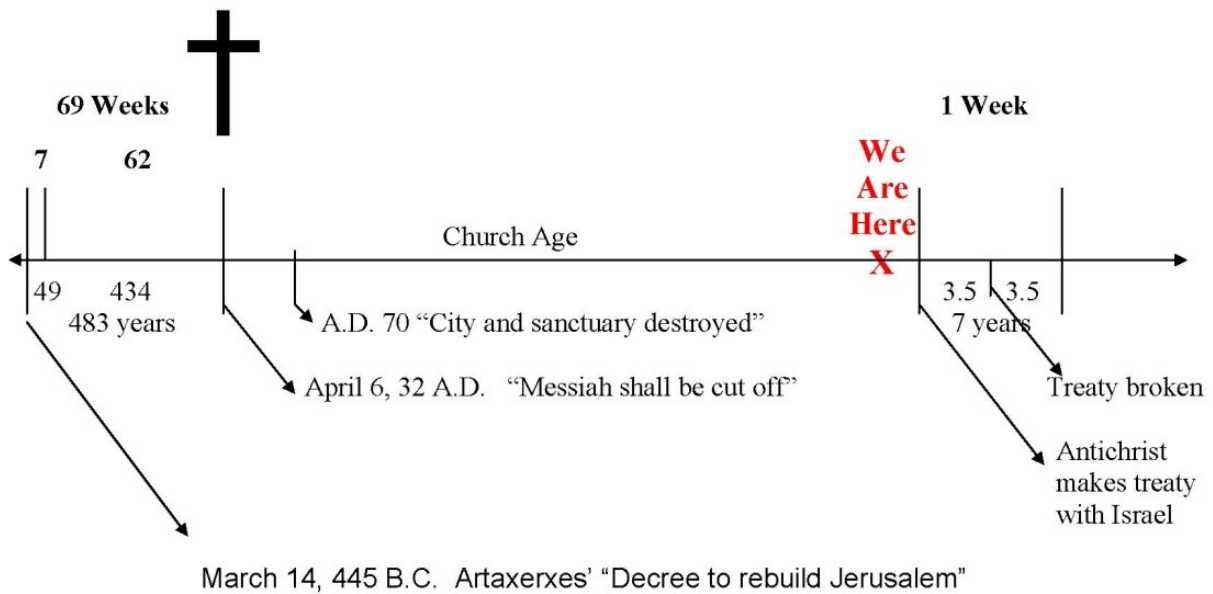
# THE PROPHETIC WORD TODAY

## The Battery in God’s Clock

Text: Daniel 9; Mt 24, Ezk. 37

INTRODUCTION: Through his study of the Word of God, Daniel became a man of great understanding. We saw in Daniel 9 last week that God revealed his timetable for the future to Daniel in a vision of 70 seven year periods of time for a total of 490 years.

## Daniel’s Seventy “7s”



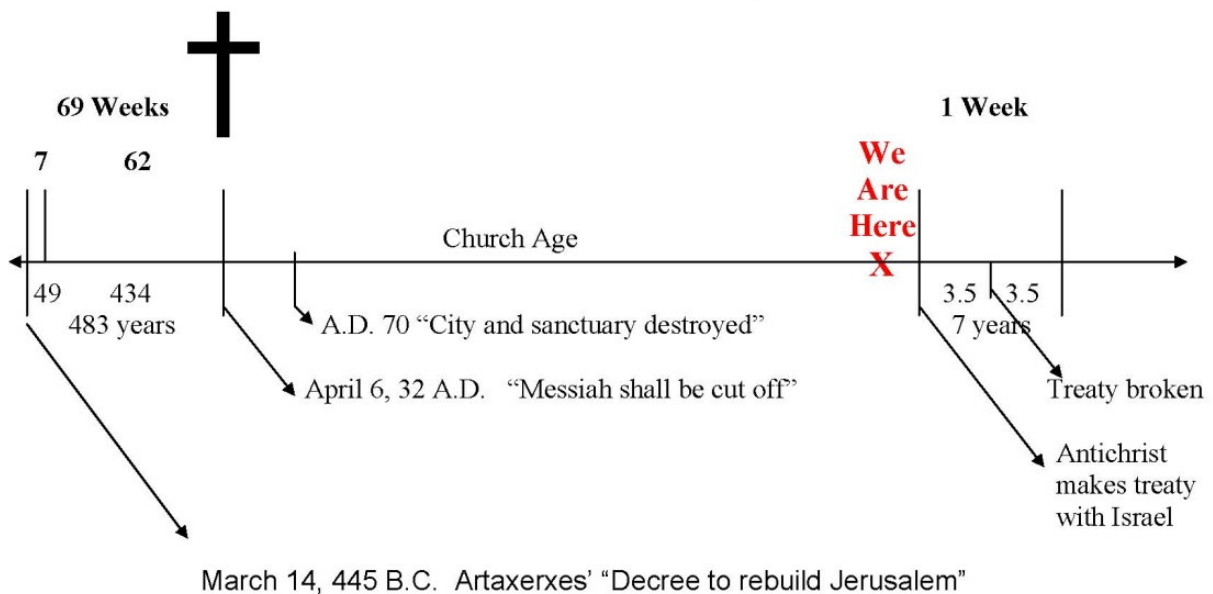
In the vision, God broke the 490 years in two periods: 483 years and 7 years. During the 483 years, starting from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem, God said He would accomplish five things.

PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
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.
From the command to rebuild Jerusalem	From command of Neh. 2 by King Artaxerxes

until Messiah the Prince will be 7 "7s" and 62 "7s"	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.

Everything God promised He would do in the 483 years, He accomplished with exact precision.

# Daniel's Seventy "7s"



But as I shared with you last week, at the end of the 483 years, God's clock stopped. With only 7 years of the plan still to go, the countdown was put on hold. But I also told you, that we were very, very close to the restarting of the prophetic clock that would tick off the final seven years of world history and then the Consumation – the physical return of our Lord Jesus Christ to begin His reign in the Millennial Kingdom.

In fact, I really allowed too much space between the X marking we are here and the beginning of the final seven years. We are much closer than that. If this graph were to scale, the X would be nearly indistinguishable from the vertical line marking the beginning of the final seven years before Armageddon.

Now nobody yelled it out, but I could feel the brain waves of a lot of people saying, preacher, how do you know we are that close? And the answer is, "The same

way Daniel knew the captivity was 70 years. It says so in the Scripture.” In fact, the words that reveal that we are standing upon the threshold of these final days were spoken by the Lord Jesus Himself.

Now before I show them to you and we read them together, I need you to remember one final thing we talked about last week.

## **I. ISRAEL IS THE BATTERY IN GOD’S PROPHETIC CLOCK.**

- A. The prophecy of the Seventy Sevens was a prophecy about the Jews and Jerusalem.**

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

- B. The prophetic clock stopped because when Jesus offered Himself to the Jews on Palm Sunday as Messiah, their Prince, they rejected Him.**

**They crucified Him!**

- C. Paul explains in Romans that God cut the unbelieving branches of the Jews off of God’s family tree.**

- D. Then God began to graft on the branches of believing Gentiles. This period of time in which many more Gentiles are responsive to the gospel than Jews is called the age of the Gentiles.**

- E. The Age of the Gentiles will not last forever. There is a coming time when God will begin working among the Jews, to discipline them, purify them, and draw them to faith in Christ.**

- F. God’s prophetic clock will start again. The final seven years before the Return of Christ will begin.**

## **II. JESUS IDENTIFIED THE “SEASON” OF HIS RETURN.**

- A. He said we would not know the day or the hour. But He Himself told us the season.**

- B. Jesus told us the sign that we are in the season of His return.**

Matthew 24:29–35 <sup>29</sup> “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>30</sup> Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and

great glory. <sup>31</sup> And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

<sup>32</sup> **“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup> So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!”**

<sup>34</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

### 1. What is the fig tree?

**Whenever the fig tree is used figuratively in the Bible, it always refers to Israel.** Look at these examples

**In Jeremiah 24:2-8 the fig tree is Israel and the figs are the people of Israel.**

Joel 1:6-7 <sup>6</sup> For a nation has come up against My land, Strong, and without number; His teeth *are* the teeth of a lion, And he has the fangs of a fierce lion. <sup>7</sup> He has laid waste My vine, And ruined **My fig tree**; He has stripped it bare and thrown *it* away; Its branches are made white.

Hosea 9:10 “I found Israel Like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers As the firstfruits on **the fig tree** in its first season. *But* they went to Baal Peor, And separated themselves *to that* shame; They became an abomination like the thing they loved.

**In Mt 13:6ff, the barren fig tree is unfruitful Israel.**

### 2. The sign that Jesus gave is the “budding” of Israel. Budding refers to a tree coming out of a period of dormancy and beginning a period of active growth again. **Has there been a period of dormancy in the national life of Israel?**

**Yes, indeed!**

**Jesus had predicted it in Mt. 24.** He had said of the temple that not one stone would be left upon another. **Daniel predicted it in Dan. 9:26**

**In 70 A.D., under the leadership of the Roman General Titus, it happened. Jerusalem and the temple were conquered, burned and utterly destroyed.** It was only a matter of a brief time before **Israel ceased to exist in any sense as a national entity** on the world political scene. By 300 A.D. if you asked someone to point to Israel, his finger would go not to a map but to a history book.

**3. Was it ever predicted that a dormant Israel would be revived?**

**Absolutely!** Ezekiel 37, the prophecy of the valley of dry bones.

Ezekiel 37:11-12 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' "Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

Ezekiel 37:21 "Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;

**4. And many have seen it happen with their own eyes.** The thought of national Israel never died, not in the hearts of Jews dispersed throughout the world, not in its place in the Word of God which promised a restoration of the nation of God's chosen people.

**On May 14, 1948, aided by a declaration of the U.N. and the withdrawal of British forces, Israel declared its independence.**

**As May 14 changed to May 15 at midnight, British rule ended; and Israel became known as "the nation born in a day."**

**5. This was also a fulfillment of many other prophecies concerning a restoration of the nation of Israel.**

Isaiah 66:7-8 <sup>7</sup> "Before she was in labor, she gave birth; Before her pain came, She delivered a male child. <sup>8</sup> Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? **Or shall a nation be born at once?** For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

Amos 9:14-15 <sup>14</sup> I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit *them*; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. <sup>15</sup> I will plant them in their land, **And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them.**" Says the LORD your God.

This prophecy was not fulfilled when the remnant returned from captivity, because the Jews were once again uprooted from their land, following the destruction by Titus. But although the Arab nations intended to utterly destroy Israel as they launched an invasion on the very day Israel was born, the tiny newborn nation won their war of independence. Now they will occupy the land until and after the return of the Messiah!

Deuteronomy 30:3-5 <sup>3</sup> that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you. <sup>4</sup> If *any* of you are driven out to the farthest *parts* under heaven, from there the LORD your God

will gather you, and from there He will bring you. <sup>5</sup> Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. **He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.**

**Today, the Gross Domestic Product of the average person in Israel is twice what it is in any of Israel's neighboring countries!**

Conclusion: Now there is still one more prophecy I want to show you that just reinforces the truth I have shared with you today. I will show you that next week as we complete our study of the Book of Daniel on the tenth anniversary of 9/11.

Let me conclude with one other observation from God's Word. Do you remember what Jesus said immediately after He told us how we would know we lived in the season of the final seven years that culminates with His return?

He said,

**Matthew 24:37** But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

He said, in the same way people ignored the warnings of the approaching flood while Noah built the ark, people are going to ignore the signs of the times, including the sign of the budding of the nation of Israel. They are going to go on with their lives as if things will continue to be like they have always been, and they will perish.

Jesus said,

**Matthew 24:44** Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Therefore,

1. The lost must get ready,
2. The saved must live ready,
3. We, like Daniel must be about the King's business of testifying of the Lord Jesus and making disciples.