

The Seventy Weeks of Daniel

It is the thought of many scholars that unless someone properly understands the 70 week prophecy of Daniel found in chapter 9:24-27 they cannot understand Eschatology as a whole. Also, unless they understand that the Church and Israel are distinct groups of people, they will more than likely be confused about the 70 weeks (called Dispensationalism in theological circles).

The idea of a "week" automatically renders up the idea of the number seven. For us in the west, it is usually seven days. But to the Jews they had "weeks" (sevens) of days, years, and Sabbath years (49 years). One example is in Gen. 29:22 where Jacob fulfilled "her week". This was his service for Rachel which lasted another seven years. Also, the Bible consistently uses 360 day years. In Gen. 7:11, 24 and 8:3,4 we see that Noah went into the ark on the 17th day of the 2nd month and the ark rested on the 17th day of the 7th month which was 150 days. Also in Rev. 11:2; 12:6; 13:3, 5 we see how these numbers equal 360 day years. These are known as "prophetic" years by some.

Daniel 9:24-27

9:24- Seventy weeks of years (70x7=490) were determined for the JEWISH people and the holy city of JERUSALEM. 1)To finish the transgression 2)Make and end of sins 3)Make reconciliation for sin 4)Bring in everlasting righteousness 5)Seal up vision and prophecy 6) Anoint the Most Holy Place. These things would be totally completed when the 490 years were completed. God promised Daniel that this would be true and wanted him to know these things.

9:25- From the command that would be issued (445 B.C.) to build Jerusalem (the city) until the Messiah would come, would be 69 weeks of years (483). Also during this time the street and the wall would be built again, even during times of trouble. The command was given by Artaxerxes for Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem in Nehemiah 2:5-8,17-18. The importance of this decree is that it deals with the streets and walls of the city and not with the temple as other decrees did. (Cyrus-Ezra 1:2-4; Darius-Ezek 6: 1-5,8,12; Artaxerxes.-Ezra 7:11-26). See Chart below.

9:26- After the 7 weeks (49 years) of building the city by Nehemiah and others come the 62 weeks (434 years) which brings the total to 69 weeks or 483 years. So after 483 years the Messiah would be cutoff (executed) not because of his own sin, but for others (Is. 53:5). After He is executed, the *people* (of the prince who will come) will destroy the city and the sanctuary. This happened in 70 A.D. by the Romans. The end of it shall be with a flood (a common idiom for judgment). Until the final war at Jerusalem (2000 years later) desolations are determined for the city of Jerusalem (seen any desolations lately?). As you can see from the time of the execution of the Messiah until the city was destroyed was a gap of 38 years. From this point there is another gap of time until the prince comes in verse 27. So far its been 1936 years.

9:27- The *he* in this verse is the "prince that will come". He is of the people that destroyed the city and the sanctuary. Hence he is going to be a Roman (European) or a Gentile. He will confirm (not make) a covenant with the Jewish people for the final "week" (7 years). In the middle (after 3 ½ years) he breaks this covenant by stopping the sacrifices (in the rebuilt temple) of the Jews, which begins the final desolations(a reference to the Great Tribulation- 3 ½ years long) according to Matt. 24:15-22.

