

The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

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Context

Daniel 9 occurred during the first year of Darius, 537/538 BC (v1)

Daniel understands that the 70 year prophecy about Babylon's rule is up, and that Jerusalem should be rebuilt soon according to the prophecy (v2)*

Daniel realizes that Jerusalem's rebuilding may be conditional (Jer. 18:7-10), and he prays to God for Israel (v3-19)

Gabriel appears and gives him a message concerning Israel, the object of Daniel's prayer (v20-23)

A Biblical principle for time prophesy

Week = 7 years (Gen 29:26-30)

Day = 1 year (Ezekiel 4:6, Num 14:34)

Daniel 9:24-27

70 weeks = 490 years

1st period:

1. Seven weeks, threescore and two weeks = 69 weeks = 483 years
2. From command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem to Messiah the Prince
3. The Messiah would be cut off after this period
4. The "people of the prince" (LXX reads "the king of nations") shall come and destroy the city and the sanctuary after this period

2nd period:

1. One week = 7 years
2. Fits perfectly as the last 7 years of the 490 years, with the 69 weeks being the 1st period of the 490 years
3. Halfway into this period (i.e. 3.5 years in), the Messiah will cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease
4. The end of this period marks the end of Daniel's people's (Israel) and the holy city's (Jerusalem) period of probation

When did the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem happen?

When Daniel received this vision, Jerusalem and the temple were still in ruins from Babylon destroying and ransacking the town and temple.

3 options that we find in the book of Ezra:

1. Ezra 1:1-4 - the first year of Cyrus, about 537/538 BC
2. Ezra 6:1-12 - the reign of Darius I, soon after 520 BC
3. **Ezra 7:1-26 - the 7th year of Artaxerxes, 458/457 BC**

*see christsmethodalone.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/70-year-prophecy.docx for a detailed Bible study on the 70 year prophecy

Cyrus nor Darius did not make any genuine provision for the restoration of the civil state as a complete unit, though a restoration of both the religious and the civil government was promised in the prophecy of Daniel. The decree of the 7th year of Artaxerxes was the first to give the Jewish state full autonomy, subject to Persian overlordship.

In Ezra 7:9, Ezra begins his journey on the 1st day of the 1st month (Nisan), which is approximately March 27, 457 BC. 4 months later, on the 1st day of the 5th month (Ab), he arrives in Jerusalem, **July 23, 457 BC.**

When did the 69 weeks end?

Late summer of 457 BC + 483 years = 27 AD (add the 0 year back in)

And what happened in 27 AD?

Luke 3:23 – Jesus baptized and entered into ministry when he was 30 years old

Mark 1:14-15 – Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, **“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.”**

Wasn't Jesus born in 1 AD?

Herod the Great was still alive when Jesus was born (Matt 2:13-20), Jesus fled to Egypt and didn't return until Herod died. But Herod the Great died in 4 BC. So Jesus must have been born on or before 4 BC. It is generally understood that Jesus was born in 4 BC. So Jesus was baptized and entered into ministry in 27 AD, when he was 30.

What happened 3.5 years later in spring 31 AD?

Jesus was crucified, fulfilling the sacrificial system and causing it to cease (Matt 27:51)

Matt 26: 18 - And he said, **“Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand;”**

What happened 3.5 years after that in fall 34 AD, the end of the 490 years?

Acts 7:54-8:7 – Steven is stoned and church persecuted begins. As a result, the church spreads outside of Jerusalem into Samaria, going to the gentiles. Israel's 490 year period of probation closed.

