

DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS PROPHECY

Sunday, November 19, 2023.

Harmony Baptist Church. Pastor Stephen Baker.

Start Date: "...from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem..." (Daniel 9:25c). This command is in Nehemiah 2:1-8.

"And it came to pass **in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king...**" (Nehemiah 2:1).

The month of Nisan = April on our calendar.

"Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, **that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchers, that I may build it.**" (Nehemiah 2:4-5).

King Artaxerxes gave this command. It started the time clock. Scofield wrote: "In the present state of biblical chronology the date of the decree of Artaxerxes cannot be unanswerably fixed farther than to say that it was issued between 454 and 444 B.C." We will use the date of **April 445 BC** throughout this study.

The timetable is: "...from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks..." (Daniel 9:25c).

Are these literal weeks?

If they were literal weeks, the Messiah would have come around 443 BC. Obviously, Christ did not come in 443 BC, so this cannot be right.

Are these figurative weeks?

If these cannot be literal weeks, then are they figurative weeks? At the beginning of Daniel, Chapter 9, the 70 years of captivity are literally 70 years. At the end of the chapter, we come to 70 weeks. These cannot be literally 70 weeks, but they also cannot be something fanciful. They must fit a timeframe.

How to interpret the weeks

If we let each day of the week represent one year, instead of 445 BC + 69 weeks, we have 445 BC + 483 years. (7 days per week for 69 years is: $7 \times 69 = 483$ years.)

To further break this down, this is prophecy. **A biblical, prophetic year had 360 days (not 365).** For example: "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth." (Revelation 11:3). Here, 1,260 days = 3.5 years of Great Tribulation. To arrive at this number: 1,260 days, divided by 360 = 3.5 years.

Using this formula, Daniel's 483 years, X 360 days per prophetic year, = **173,880 days.**

Let's run the calculations to discover what year we would be in. I decided to ask BING to do this complicated calculation for me. I asked, "If I started in April of 445 BC and added 173,880 days, what year would I be in?" BING responded: "If you start in April of 445 BC and add 173,880 days, **you would end up in the year 32 AD.**"

Wow! That is when Christ was on earth and around the time He died for our sins. Daniel wrote: "And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself..." (Daniel 9:26). Christ would be "cut off" or killed, but "not for himself." Christ died as a criminal, though he was innocent. He died on the cross for our sins. Daniel 9:26 includes the "seven weeks" from verse 25. So, we have 69 weeks from April 445 BC until Messiah comes and is "cut off, but not for himself."

"...and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined." (Daniel 9:26b). In Daniel's prophecy, this takes place after the Messiah is crucified. This is a prophecy of **Titus and the Roman army** who, like a great flood, invaded Jerusalem in **70 AD**. Barnes wrote: "The series of events under the Romans which led to the destruction of the city and temple, in fact, began very soon after the death of the Lord Jesus, and ceased only when the temple was wholly demolished, and the city was raised to its foundations."

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week, he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." (Daniel 9:27) This is a prophecy of the last week – **the 70th week**. The Antichrist ("the prince that shall come" from vs. 26) will make a covenant with the Jews to allow them to offer sacrifices in their Temple. **A week in Daniel's prophecy is 7 years.** So, for 3.5 years the Jews will be at peace under this agreement with Antichrist. But "...in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease..." He will walk into the Temple and declare himself to be God and break his covenant with the Jews. That starts the last 3.5 years, or **Great Tribulation**. (Cf. Matthew 24:21, Revelation 7:14).