

Daniel's SEVENTY WEEKS

Daniel's prophecy of the seventy weeks (Dan. 9:24-27) is in the portion of his book (chaps. 7-12) that reveals God's divine program for the kingdoms of this world. Finding that Jeremiah had prophesied that Israel's exile would last for 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11-12, 29:10), Daniel interceded for Israel in order to realize the fulfillment of the prophecy with the restoration of Jerusalem and the temple (Dan. 9:3-19). The archangel Gabriel was sent to explain to Daniel that the "seventy weeks" of Years (total 490 years), was the time necessary to compensate for Israel's violation of her sabbatical law (for the land) (2 Chr. 36:21; Lev. 25).

According to Dan. 9:25-27, this 70-week period is divided into three time periods consisting of seven weeks (49 years), sixty-two weeks (434 years), and one week (7 years). The time would not be completed until 6 restoration goals were realized (Dan. 9:24), INCLUDING a time of tribulation for Israel (Dan. 12:1 [cf. 9:27; Matt. 24:31; Luke 21:24, 28]).

Dispensationalists interpret the first 483 years (the first two periods) as being fulfilled before the death of the Messiah (Dan. 9:26). The remaining week of seven years, the 70th week, will end with the

restoration of Israel. However, since this is to take place through Jesus the Messiah, and since Israel as a nation REJECTED her Messiah at His first advent, this time period has been postponed.

When the covenant is made between Israel and a coming Gentile ruler (the Antichrist), the temple will be rebuilt and the sacrificial system re-established. In the middle of this 70th week, a profaning of the temple will force the cessation of the sacrificial system (Dan. 8:13). Such a time is also identified with the unparalleled birth pangs of the End Times, known as the "time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7) and a "time of trouble" (Dan. 12:1) in which the evil Gentile ruler (Antichrist) will blaspheme God and invade Jerusalem (Dan. 11:36-45). However, the Antichrist who has brought such desolation will be destroyed (cf. 2 Thess. 1:6-10; 2:4-9; Rev. 19:19-21). Jesus, Paul, and John also saw the time of the 70th week as an end-time judgment, closing with the re-gathering of Israel, the destruction of the Antichrist, and the 2nd advent (return) of Christ (Matt. 24:15, 21, 29-31; 2 Thes. 2:4, 8; Rev. 11:1-2; 12:6, 13-14; 19:19-21).

The New Testament confirms the postponement of the 70th week TO the time of the Tribulation period by the patterning of the sequence of events of the Olivet Discourse AND the judgment section of the book of Revelation (chaps. 4-19) upon the 70 weeks prophecy.

There are those who deny that a gap exists between the 69th and 70th weeks. They

wrongly assert that such a long prophetic postponement would be inconsistent with other passages of predictive Scripture. However, prophetic delays are really not uncommon at all. For instance, in some passages, both advents of Christ are mentioned practically in the same breath, *yet we know that an indeterminate period of time exists between them (e.g. Gen. 49:10-12; 2 Sam. 7:13-16; Ps. 2:7-8 [cf Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:5; 5:5]; 22:1-31; 34:14, 16; Isa. 9:1-7; 11:1-2, 11; 52:13—59:21; 61:1-11 [cf. Luke 4:16-19; 7:22]; Joel 2:28, cf. Acts 2:17; Mic. 5:2-15; Zeph. 2:13—3:20; Zech. 9:9-10; Mal. 3:1-3; 4:5-6).*

The End

SEVENTY WEEKS — PART TWO

The prophecy of the "seventy weeks" is the major biblical prophecy about future events related to the nation of Israel—FROM the decree to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem TO the first and second comings of the Messiah. Each "week" (Hebr. Shavuah) is a unit of seven years, thus the seventy "sevens" constitute a total of 490 years. Israel will be punished during those 490 years—a punishment that would be administered because of the following six reasons:

1). Their transgression will be finished. They did not allow the land to rest for 70 sabbaticals—a 490 yr period. When Messiah comes, He restores them to their land permanently. They were removed from the land as the transgression required. Now He returns to settle the debt and provides for His people permanent restoration.

(see Zech. 13:1)

2). their "sins" will end. The corporate sins of the nation Israel will come to an end at the second coming of Jesus Christ. The Jews, as all people, have sinned and their transgressions would be paid for by the blood of Jesus shed at Calvary. Because this provision has been made, Messiah comes to announce that the sin that brought all the judgment upon them has been removed (Heb. 10:17).;

3). "reconciliation for iniquity" will be made. — During this 70 week period, God has made redemption available through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Zech. 12:10).;

4). "bring in everlasting righteousness" - This speaks of the return of Christ at the end of the 490 years. He establishes His kingdom as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.;

5). to seal up vision and prophecy; - When Messiah, Son of Man returns, He will be in our midst and prophecy will be sealed forever, because there will be nothing left to predict. and

6). to anoint "Most Holy" - A reference to Ezek. 41-46, when the prophet talks about the anointing of the Holy of Holies in the "millennial" temple. Father God says, at Christ's return, "I will set my king upon my holy hill of Zion—Ps. 2:6.

Just as God's priests in the Old Covenant were anointed for holy service, so Jesus Christ the Prince, the King of Kings, will be anointed for the centuries to come., . These 6 things will not be completely fulfilled until the entire 490 years transpire.

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Daniel's
SEVENTY
WEEKS



ET-104

Pastor Harlan & Doris Stilwell Sr.



Daniel's SEVENTY WEEKS

(continued from inside)

Some biblical scholars suggest that the first 69 "weeks" (483 years) began with the decree that was issued to Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem in 445- 444 B.C. and ended during the week of Jesus' crucifixion.

A gap apparently exists in this prophecy between the 69th and 70th weeks. Many prophecy scholars believe that this gap corresponds with the Church Age; therefore as long as the Church Age continues, the "70th week of Daniel" will remain future.

According to this teaching, after Christ raptures His Church, the clock of God's judgment will count off the final "week" of Daniel. This 70th week of Daniel (9: 27) then is synonymous with the 7 year Tribulation Period.

- the end -

