



Outline of Daniel 9: The Seventy Weeks by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Daniel 9:20-27 – “The 70 Weeks”

20 Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, **21** yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. **22** And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. **23** At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision: **24 Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city,**

[1] To finish the transgression,

[2] To make an end of sins,

[3] To make reconciliation for iniquity,

[4] To bring in everlasting righteousness,

[5] To seal up vision and prophecy,

[6] And to anoint the Most Holy. [Explanation #6 below]

25 Know therefore and understand,

That **from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince**, There shall be **seven weeks** and **sixty-two weeks**; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

26 And **after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself**; And **the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary**. The end of it shall be with a flood, And **till the end of the war desolations are determined**.

27 Then he shall **confirm a covenant with many for one week**;

But **in the middle of the week** He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And **on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate**, Even **until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate**. (Daniel 9:20-27)

1. THE RULE OF BIBLE PROPHECY: **2 Peter 1:16-21**

A. God knew what He wanted to say through a prophet;

B. God knew how to select the exact words He wanted to convey the exact prophetic statement(s);

C. God give another statement to point to the fulfillment/intended purpose of the previous prophecy;

D. NO ONE is authorized by God to question either end of prophecy!

2. Jesus Christ, Himself, made application of Daniel's prophecy.

A. Jesus only spoke of "the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" in connection with His prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman army, which occurred in A. D. 70 (**Matthew 24:15-26; Luke 21:20-24**). [cf *Gospel Gleaner*, April, 2011, "Interesting Inquiries," www.doverchurchofchrist.info]

B. Jesus lamented over what was to happen to His people (**Matthew 23:29-39**).

C. This was to happen because of the abominable leadership of the chief priests and Pharisees (**Matthew 21:33-46**).

D. This, then, could not have reference to Antiochus Epiphanes in the Maccabean Revolt of 160 B. C., thus speculating that Onias III is the "anointed one," without denying the inspiration of Jesus Christ!

3. Therefore we may safely conclude that:

A. Since this (**Daniel 9:24-27**) is the only reference in Daniel to such an occurrence, and;

B. Since Jesus Christ made only one reference to this prophecy by pointedly aiming it at the destruction of Jerusalem after His life;

C. THEN it safe to conclude the other language phrases in the Daniel prophecy must be matched up with other events connected with Christ's life on earth. **If not, why not?**

4. The language of a prophecy determines its fulfillment, especially when we are given a beginning point (or points!) to help us see its completion. This is the only way to make sense out of such statements as in **Galatians 3:5-9**:

5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? --

6 just as Abraham 'believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' **7** Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. **8** And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed.' **9** So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

God's promise to Abraham (**Genesis 22:18**) was based upon God's assessment of Abraham's consistent, obedient faith (**Genesis 15:6**), and God's timelessness and truthfulness in seeing that it would be fulfilled in those who are obedient to Jesus Christ.

5. God predicted that He would:

A. Use Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, "My Servant," to make the Promised Land "desolate," and then punish Nebuchadnezzar and make his land "desolate" (**Jeremiah 25:8-14**);

B. Listen to His people's prayers at the end of 70 years, (**Jeremiah 29:8-14; Daniel 9:1-23**);

C. The prayer of Daniel was interrupted with its answer in the days of "Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans" who is not certain in secular history, but specifically identified in inspired history!

6. Daniel 9:24 is an outline of the works of Jesus Christ on earth:

[1] **Luke 11:45-54; 13:31-35**

[2] **Hebrews 9:8-28**

[3] **Romans 5:6-11; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

[4] **Psalm 119:142; Luke 23:44-47; Acts 17:30-31; 1 John 24-29**

[5] **Luke 18:31-34; 22:15-20; 24:44-49; Acts 13:26-41**

[6] **Luke 4:16-21; Acts 4:26-30; 10:36-43**

7. The number of weeks of the prophecy is divided up into the following divisions: 7 + 62 + 1 = 70, or 490 years. In **Leviticus 25:8**, it was not unusual for Jews to count "seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years." **Thus, when necessary, God could use "weeks" with reference to "years" by counting one day as one year, for the sake of prophesying.** If the "abomination" of which Daniel spoke was to end with the destruction of Jerusalem, as Jesus clearly indicated, then the first period of "seven weeks" involved the re-building of the city of Jerusalem in Daniel's day, thus ending the 70 years exile of the Israelites, giving Daniel an answer to his prayer.

A. The ending date of the 490 is A. D. 70, then the beginning date would have to be 420 B. C. for the "7 weeks" to begin the count "for your people and for the Holy City;"

1. The numbering begins with "the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem."

2. In the work contained in 2 Chronicles 36:11-33; Ezra 1:1-4; 6:1, 15 – the temple is finished, but the city is not yet built. ;

3. Nehemiah 2:1-20; 3:1-32; 4:1-23; 5:1-19; 6:1-19; 7:1-2 – Nehemiah was responsible for bringing authority from Persian King Artaxerxes in the 20th year of his reign. Hence, Daniel's prophecy should begin with this year to count "7 weeks" (or 49 years) for Jerusalem to be built. The wall of Jerusalem was finished in 52 days, according to **Nehemiah 6:16; the population given in **Nehemiah 7:66-67**; and the conclusion was that, "When the seventh month came, the children of Israel were in their cities" (**Nehemiah 7:73**).**

Whatever the beginning date one selects, the ending date of all calculation should end in A. D. 70!

B. The last "week" involves the activities of "Messiah the Prince" which could be none other than Jesus Christ. After the period of 49 years for Jerusalem to be re-built, there would come "62 weeks" (or 434 years).

1. The "62 weeks" end with Messiah being "cut off, but not for Himself." This "cut off" could coincide with the "middle of the week" as therefore including that last week of calculation. OR, one could begin the count with the 400 years between Malachi and the birth of Jesus Christ; add in His "about 30 years of age" when He was baptized of John and began His teaching (Luke 3:23**); and end with His 3 ½ years of ministry (the "middle of His week"), He was crucified, whereby He brought an "end to sacrifice and offering" (**Daniel 9:27**) by nailing the Old Law on the cross (**Colossians 2:14-16**). He thus opened the way for the "desolation" to show God's complete changeover to another people ("Christians").**

2. Jesus "confirmed the covenant" while on earth, for He preached that the "kingdom of heaven" was "at hand." He taught the principles of that kingdom that continue today.

3. Whatever our speculation(s), no one may conclude:

(a it goes beyond A. D. 70;

(b it is not about Jesus Christ;

**(c it keeps the Jews as God's chosen people;
(d it keeps Jerusalem as God's "Holy City."**

When people have become engrossed in the speculation of prophecy fulfillment, they err by not paying attention to what is revealed about its fulfillment, or lose sight entirely of the purpose of the original prophecy, or else they become frustrated with their lack of knowledge of all God intended by the prophecy in the first place. May we never miss God in all of this!