

Pinpointing Daniel's 70 Weeks

Appendix #1

More than at any other time in history, people are questioning the meaning and application of Daniel's Seventy Weeks. These weeks (of years) cover 490 total years and focus primarily upon two distinct events. First, this period specifically relates to God's judgment upon Israel for their lack of faithfulness. Secondly, this period covers God's timetable of events shortly preceding Christ's establishment of His earthly millennial Kingdom.

Much insight comes from exploring two of the most vocal groups questioning the foundational principles of this fundamental eschatology. The first group wonders whether there still remains a future seven-year period as envisioned by Daniel and recorded in Daniel chapter 9. The other equally vocal group believes the Church's destiny includes entering into some or most of this future period of divine judgment upon Israel and the unbelieving world. Both positions are equally disconcerting!

[Da 9:24](#) expresses the seven comprehensive purposes of Daniel's Seventy Weeks along with setting forth the details of this entire period. Recognizing the historical fulfillment as well as the prophetic significance reveals God's purpose and plan. This period spans over 2,500 years consisting of three distinct time periods of seven weeks, sixty-two weeks, and one week. God further splits the final week of seven years into two halves designated by forty-two months or 1,260 days, or time, times, and half a time (*time* equalling one year).

These three 3½-year designations refer to events that span either the first or last half of the entire seven-year period. It is important to understand the significance for God's emphasis placed upon the dividing of this period into two equal parts. The midpoint of Daniel's Seventieth Week is a defined point of demarcation allowing the astute Bible student to pinpoint the other prophesied events and time periods with precision.

But first . . .

A little background.

Studying the genealogies beginning with Adam reveals that the time covered up until Christ's birth consists of 4,004 years. Additionally, the New Testament, which predominantly applies to the Church Age, is not in force until the death of the testator, Jesus Christ ([Heb 9:16-17](#)).

We also should recognize that the Church Age begins and ends at specifically defined points. It begins shortly following Christ's crucifixion and ends at the Rapture of the Church. The Bible does not indicate any overlapping at the end of the Church Age and God's dealings with Israel. The beginning of the Church Age is followed by God expressly redirecting His focus away from Israel and upon the Gentiles ([Ac 13:44-46](#); [18:5-6](#); [28:25-28](#)). Those who rightly divide the word of truth according to [2Ti 2:15](#) understand these important truths.

The Church's Blessed Hope

The Rapture known as *The Blessed Hope* ([Tit 2:13](#)) has always been a source of encouragement to Christians and serves as the end times' bookend for the Church Age ([1Th 1:10](#); [2:19](#); [3:13](#); [4:13-](#)

[18; 5:8-11,23, etc.](#)). This Blessed Hope refers to the resurrection of those dead “in Christ” and the translation into Heaven of those yet alive when the Lord returns for His body ([1Co 12:27](#)). All Bible-believing prophecy teachers refer to the Rapture as the next great event to take place upon God’s prophetic timetable.

Those who incorrectly champion the Mid-tribulation, or Pre-wrath, or Post-tribulation Rapture positions do *not* believe that the next prophetic event will be the Rapture of the Church. In fact, instead of looking for Christ ([Php 3:20; Tit 2:13](#)), each of these groups believe and teach that Christians should be looking for the signing of the treaty with Israel, or the Abomination of Desolation, or the two Tribulation Witnesses to appear, or one of the Tribulation period earthquakes, or the blood moon that takes place during the sixth seal, or the sun being darkened, or the stars falling from Heaven, or any combination of these yet future prophetic events. This is contrary to scripture!

The Bible nowhere tells *Christians* to be looking for any of those events! One thing for sure, these teachers do not believe that we should be looking for Christ to return *first*. Yet, Christians are never told *to* prepare for nor *how to* prepare for Daniel’s Seventieth Week or the Antichrist’s reign of terror. Surely, the apostle Paul would have been led to offer Church Age saints some form of explicit guidance to withstand this terrible time.

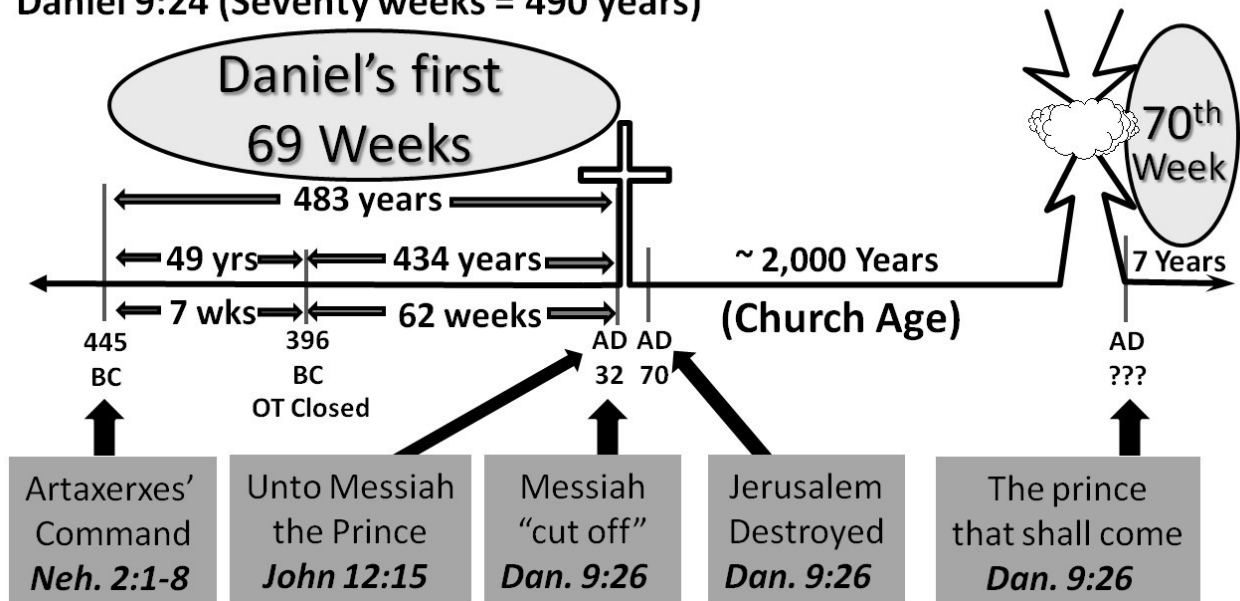
According to scripture, Christians need to be looking for Jesus. That’s why the Lord’s return for His “body” is called the “Blessed Hope.” These truths have offered great *comfort* ([1Th 4:18; 5:11](#)) and *hope* ([1Th 2:19; Tit 2:13](#)) to countless generations. The Church should be constantly and consistently working while awaiting His soon coming. Following the Church’s departure, scripture immediately directs man’s focus away from the Church now absent and reverts focus back upon the nation of Israel.

Daniel’s Seventieth Week (Chart #1)

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[Chart #1]

Pinpointing Daniel’s 70 Weeks
Daniel 9:24 (Seventy weeks = 490 years)



[Chart A.01 Pinpointing Daniel's 70 Weeks 1](#)

Daniel’s Seventieth Week (as defined in Daniel chapter 9) begins by emphasizing God’s focus upon Israel and Jerusalem. This is why the passage immediately offers the context and the focal point of

this period.

Da 9:24 *Seventy weeks are determined upon **thy people** and upon **thy holy city**.*

The focus of all of Daniel's Seventy Weeks is upon *thy people* (Israel) and *thy holy city* (Jerusalem). God's focus is certainly *not* upon Washington, D.C., Mecca, or any other city! All eyes are squarely upon Jerusalem. Additionally, the focus is not upon the Church or the Gentiles! It is not even upon the Muslims. God's focus and that of the world will be upon the little nation of Israel and His chosen people. The only churches left here on earth will be the false church described in Revelation chapter 18 and one similar to "*the church in the wilderness*" (**Ac 7:38**).

Seventy weeks (of years) are determined upon Israel with the first sixty-nine weeks (of years) having already been accomplished. That's 483 years with yet seven years (or one week of years) remaining in the future. During Daniel's future Seventieth Week (like the first sixty-nine weeks of years), God's attention focuses directly upon His people Israel.

Verse 25 follows the seven purposes stated in verse 24 by providing some definite points or demarcations for determining the timing for all seventy weeks of years. The angel Gabriel admonishes Daniel:

Da 9:25 ***Know therefore and understand, that 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.*****

The seven weeks and threescore and two weeks (of years) combine to equal 483 years. The starting point is easy to pinpoint by taking note that Daniel says this period starts from "*the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem*" and continues "*unto the Messiah the Prince.*" Some confusion ensues because the Bible records four instances of decrees issued. The first three are found in the book of Ezra with the final one in Nehemiah.

- **Ezr 1:1-4** Cyrus (536 BC)
- **Ezr 6:7-12** Darius (519 BC)
- **Ezr 7:11-26** Artaxerxes (458 BC)
- **Ne 2:1-8** Artaxerxes (**445 BC**)

Daniel's prophecy refers to the final commandment to build or rebuild Jerusalem issued by Artaxerxes to Nehemiah. Ussher's chronology places this time at **445 BC** using our Gregorian calendar (and not Israel's lunar calendar). Converting the solar calendar to the lunar calendar reveals the time frame within the scriptural delineations. When the Bible says: "*from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem,*" western history pinpoints the year as **445 BC**. The Bible provides the end point of the first sixty-nine weeks as:

Da 9:25 . . . ***unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks:*** . . .

Daniel tells us that the seven weeks and sixty-two weeks of years totalling 483 years continued "*unto the Messiah the Prince.*" This prophetic fulfillment took place when the Lord Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem as the Prince of Israel (**Zec 9:9; Lu 19:38**). At that time, Christ fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah and revealed Himself as the future King of Israel (**Mt 21:5**).

Daniel's prophecy then continues as it reveals the next point of demarcation as Christ's crucifixion that took place after these combined years. The Bible says that Messiah will be "*cut off*" AFTER the second period of sixty-two weeks of years which found its fulfillment in AD 32.

Da 9:26 ***And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself.***

Obviously, Christ's crucifixion takes place at the conclusion of these sixty-nine weeks of years. The Bible confirms that He was cut off "not for himself" but "for the sins of the whole world" ([1Jo 2:2](#)). Daniel then identifies a second prince, which is not Jesus Christ, whose people destroy Jerusalem (which happened in AD 70).

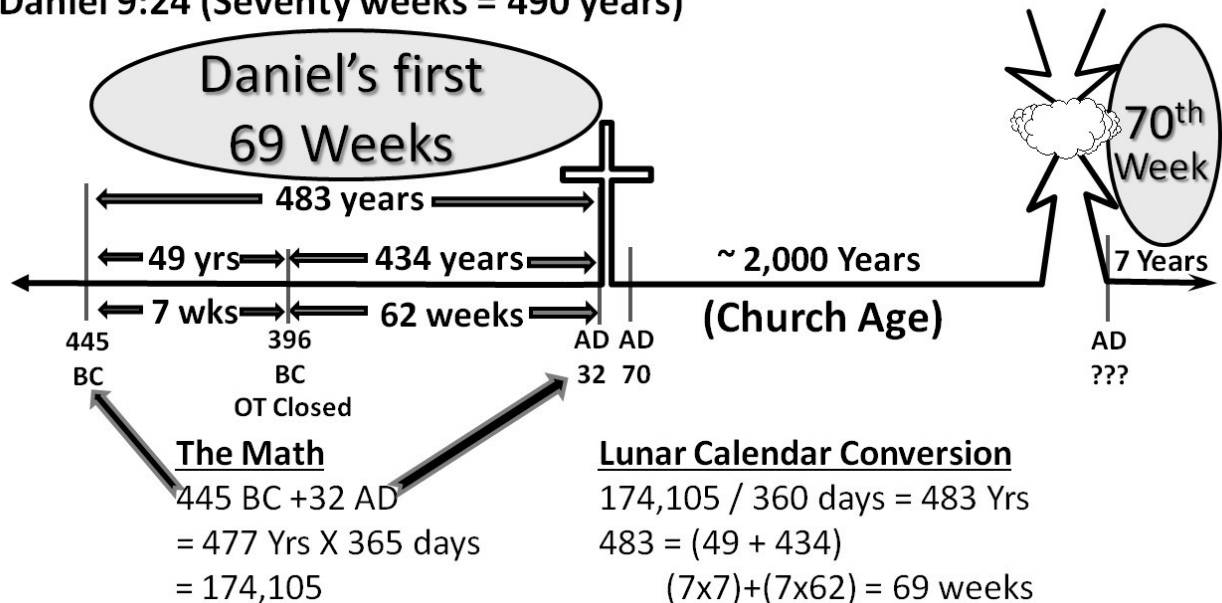
[Da 9:26](#) [A]nd the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city.

Let's Do Some Math (Chart #2)

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[Chart #2]

Pinpointing Daniel's 70 Weeks Daniel 9:24 (Seventy weeks = 490 years)



[Chart A.02 Pinpointing Daniel's 70 Weeks 2](#)

The split between the seven weeks and the sixty-two weeks reveals that the seven weeks (or the first forty-nine years) span from **445 BC** to 396 BC. History reveals that the end point of this first set of years pinpoints the closing of the Old Testament Canon (about four centuries prior to Christ's birth). At that time, all thirty-nine books of the Old Testament were completed with no further recorded prophecy or revelation from God until Jesus shows up.

These forty-nine years (from 396 BC) were followed by 434 years which spanned up until the time that Christ triumphantly rode into Jerusalem in AD 32 as the Prince of Israel. Combining the years from **445 BC** to AD 32 equates to 477 years ($445 + 32 = 477$). It is important to again emphasize that this computation uses the dates from the Gregorian calendar which utilizes a 365-day year equalling 174,105 days. However, the Bible months equal a consistent 30 days. Dividing this total number of days by 360 days converts the time into the Jewish lunar years which equals the 483 prophesied years (that is the 49 years plus the 434 years). This equals the sixty-nine weeks of years foretold by Daniel from Artaxerxes' command concerning Jerusalem up until Christ's riding into Jerusalem ([Joh 12:15](#)).

The first sixty-nine weeks of years span from **445 BC** on our calendar up until the events just prior to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ in AD 32. From the same passage in Daniel chapter 9, we know there remains one week of years to be fulfilled in the future. This last seven years will start after the Rapture of the Church and has been commonly referred to as Daniel's Seventieth Week. The reason the Bible refers to forty-two months, 1,260 days, or time, time, and half a time is because

everything in that last seven-year period hinges upon what takes place at the midpoint. At that point, Satan is cast out of Heaven ([Re 12:9](#)). The covenant is broken ending the daily sacrifice. The two witnesses start their ministry which lasts one half of the Seventieth Week ([Re 11:3](#)). The next appendix will delve into the specifics of the Seventieth Week. "