

Date: Wednesday, 9/27/17

Text: Daniel 9:1-27

## Lesson 8

# 70 Weeks

Chapter 9 can easily be divided into three sections. **Daniel's Prayer (1-19)**, **The Answer (20-23)**, **The Prophecy of Seventy Weeks (24-27)**. Verses 1-23 are not too difficult to understand, but since the vision of seventy weeks is highly figurative it becomes a little more difficult.

1. When did the events of this chapter occur? (Vs :1-2)
2. What passage was Daniel reading that caused his understanding of the events about to happen?



**Summary** Daniel reads & understands, then prays for mercy. It has been 70 years since the people had been taken captive. The captors had now been defeated by those that Daniel could see were to be used as liberators. Therefore, he asks God to restore His people to their homeland. The angel Gabriel comes to Daniel announcing the answer to his prayer. ***“At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved . . .”*** (23). After this assurance a message is given to Daniel that will have a profound impact upon the people of God several years after the days of Daniel.

3. Summarize Daniel's prayer of 9:4-19 -- what is the main thought, the message, etc.
4. Upon what basis did Daniel plead with God to turn away His anger?
5. What had happened when Daniel *began* to pray?
6. What was this “command” (or “answer”) that was issued in 9:23?
7. In 9:22-23, what reasons are given for Daniel being provided this prophecy?

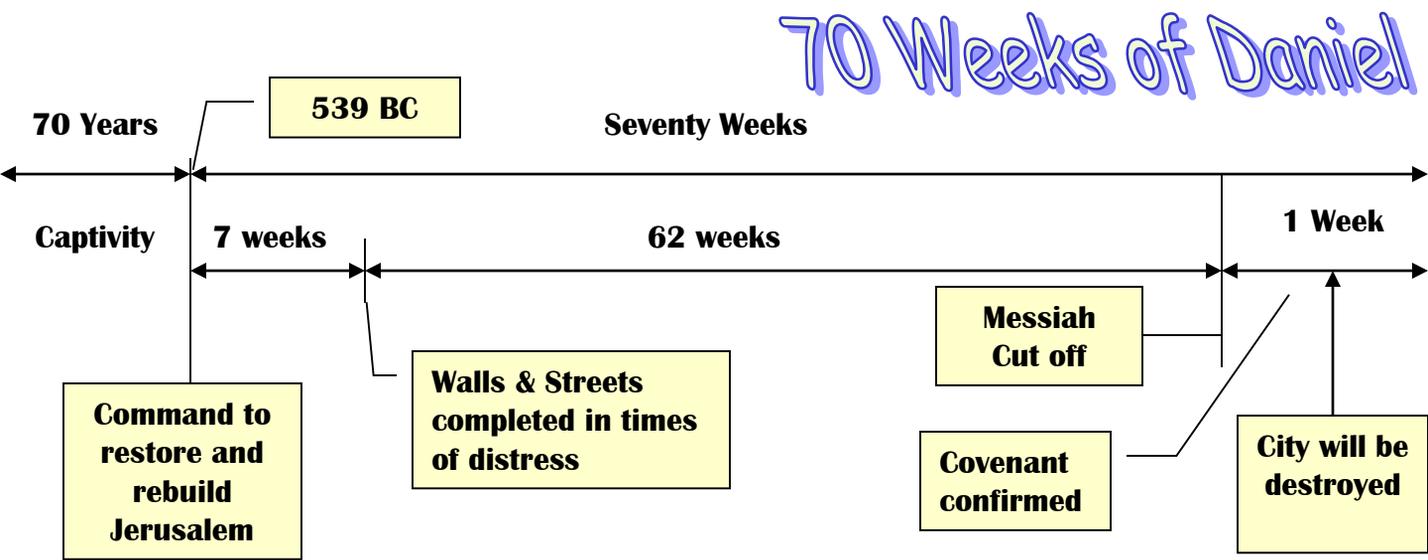


The seventy weeks of Daniel has been the source of much confusion. It is one of the cornerstones of premillennial teaching. While the basic premise of these verses are not in dispute, the approaches taken in trying to understand them are. Should these verses be taken *figuratively* (as we have seen must be done in understanding apocalyptic language) or *literally*?

**Literal interpretation** would mean that there are a literal 70 weeks (490 days) in this prophecy. The first thing that is done in this approach is to say that each **day represents a year**, hence 490 years. This is done “based” on Ezk 4:5-6. (See question 10 below!) The 70 weeks began ***“from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem”*** (:25). This is started from either the decree of Cyrus to Zerubbabel in 539BC, or Artaxerxes I to Ezra in 457 BC. (Which is right? See questions 5&6 above!) Most who interpret this literally then must add a “parenthesis” or “gap period” between the 69th & 70th week.

They do this to claim that the events of the 70th week have not yet occurred, and the establishment of the kingdom was temporarily put on hold.

**Figurative interpretation** would mean that this is to be taken symbolically. A week (or “7”) represents “completeness” or a full measure. (See Mt 18:21-22!) A half week would be a broken 7, a limited time with suffering involved. The events foretold would happen relative to each other, but not at some literal time. The seventy weeks began **“from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem”** (:25). As in questions 1, 5, & 6 this *has* to be the decree issued by King Cyrus in Ezra 1:1-4; 2 Chron. 36:23; Isa. 44:26-28. The seventy weeks is divided like this: **Seven weeks to rebuild the city** (this was during the times discussed in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah). **Sixty-two weeks** until the **“Messiah will be cut off”** (This can only be the death of Christ on the cross, Isa. 53:8). **One week** during which Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed (This is the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD by Rome, Mt 24:3-35; Mk. 13:14; Lk. 21:20-24). This would occur in the middle of the 70th week (:27). **See the illustration below.**



8. In 9:24, to whom does the 70 weeks prophecy apply?

9. In 9:24, 6 reasons are given for the 70 weeks. List each, and what it means.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.

10. Where in the 70 week prophecy are we told that each day represents a year?

How does Ezk 4:5-6 relate to *this* prophecy?

Would using “represents” make this a literal or symbolic interpretation -- or “both”?

**11.** Does this passage in any way indicate a “gap” between weeks 69 & 70?

If a gap must be placed here to make the interpretation of this prophecy come true, what does this indicate?

**12.** Assume a “literal” 490 years for this prophecy. Start from the decree of 539 BC, and figure out the dates for:

- (a) the completion of the city (49 yrs)
- (b) the cutting off of the Messiah (483 yrs)
- (c) and the final fulfillment (490 yrs)

Some try to use the approval by Artaxerxes I to let Ezra go to Jerusalem as a starting point for the decree of this prophecy. This was in approximately 457 BC.

SO -- Now do the same calculations assuming the prophecy starts fulfillment in 457 BC.

*Do either of these methods match **known** dates?* (restoration of Jerusalem appx 432 BC, Jesus' birth 4-6 BC, Jesus' death 27-29 AD, Destruction of Jerusalem 70 AD)

**13.** Verses 25 & 26 both speak of a prince. Is this the same prince or two different princes?

**14.** What would the people of the prince destroy?

**15.** In 9:27, who is confirming the covenant, and what is this covenant?

**16.** What is prophesied of at the end of 9:27, “destruction...the one who makes desolate”?