

The Prophecy of the 70 Weeks: Daniel 9:24-27

(according to calculations by Sir Robert Anderson)

I. The 6 purposes of the 70 weeks (v. 24)

- A. To finish the transgression
- B. To make an end of sins
- C. To make reconciliation for iniquity
- D. To bring in everlasting righteousness
- E. To seal up the vision and prophecy
- F. To anoint the most Holy

II. The 3 divisions of the 70 weeks

- A. 7 weeks
- B. 62 weeks
- C. 1 week

III. The start of the 70 weeks

- A. The “commandment to restore and build Jerusalem” (v. 25).
- B. In his 20th year Persian king Artaxerxes Longimanus issued this edict (Neh 2:1,5) in 445 B.C.
(Nisan 1 in the Jewish calendar, March 14 according to England’s Astronomer Royal)

IV. The length of the 70 weeks

- A. Literally, “70 weeks” is “70 sevens” in Hebrew .
- B. The 70 sevens could be 70 sevens of days, weeks, months, years, or some other period of time.
- C. Most conservative interpreters take it to mean 70 sevens of **years**.
 - 1. It is impossible to fit the events of verses 23-27 into 70 literal weeks (i.e., 490 days).
 - 2. Daniel had just been thinking about years (“the number of years... seventy years” – 9:1,2).
 - 3. Daniel elsewhere limits “week” by adding the word “days” (10:2,3).
 - 4. The breaking of the covenant in the middle of the week (9:27) may be compared with the “time and times and the dividing of time” (7:25) and the “time, times, and a half” (12:7) – each of which may indicate a period of 3.5 years.
 - 5. “Seven times” (Dan 4:16,23,25) seems to refer to 7 years in Nebuchadnezzar’s life.
 - 6. The period of 7 years that Jacob worked for Rachel (Gen 29:18,20,30) seems to be the same period that Laban called “week” (28:27,28 – same Hebrew word as in Dan 9).

V. The length of Bible years (= 360 days each)

A. The account of the Flood (150 days = 5 months)

- 1. The Flood began on the 17th day of the 2nd month (Gen 7:11), and the ark rested on the 17th day of the 7th month (8:4) – a total of 5 months.
- 2. That corresponds with the Flood waters prevailing for 150 days (Gen 7:24; 8:3).
- 3. Thus, 150 days divided by 5 months yields 30 days per month.

B. The Tribulation (1,260 days = 42 months = 3.5 years)

- 1. The 42 months of the Gentiles dominating Jerusalem (Rev 11:2) is followed by the 1,260 days of the two witnesses’ prophecy (Rev 11:3).
- 2. A period of 42 months is given for the time that the beast from the sea continues (Rev 13:5).
- 3. Israel (called “the woman”) is protected for 1,260 days (Rev 12:6).
- 4. The phrase “a time, and times, and half a time” (Rev 12:14) may – like the similar phrases in Daniel 7:25 and 12:7 – refer to 3.5 years.

VI. The end of 69 weeks (after which Messiah would be “cut off”)

- A. 69 weeks of years x 7 yields 483 years.
- B. Bible years have 360 days each.
- C. So, 483 years multiplied by 360 days/year = 173,880 days.
- D. These 173,880 days come out in historical days and years to April 6 (Palm Sunday) of the year A.D. 32 – which is 476 solar years from March 14, 445 B.C. This is calculated by multiplying 365 days/solar year by 476 years and then adding 24 days (for March 14 through April 6 inclusive) and 116 days for leap years (i.e., 173,880 = 173,740 + 24 + 116).