

Daniel 9

A Pivotal Chapter

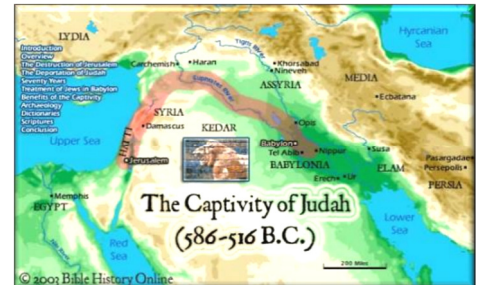
Part 2

Overview

The Jewish people had failed God over and over for nearly one thousand years, **equaling** the longest period of continuous rebellion, which led to their 70-year exile in Babylon. Jeremiah prophesied that 70 years exactly. They are now in the last 3½ of their 70-year Babylonian captivity because of major apostasy over the previous 490 years (they forgot the Sabbath and were steeped in idolatry).

- It all began during Samson’s rule as judge – and
- Around the time High Priest Eli died (~1095 B.C.)

Now, through Daniel, God said that He would give them 490 more years of probation. This would be their last chance.



Two points that need to be addressed before we begin today’s study. We must:

1. Discover when that probation began – so we can discover when its event-filled ending comes.
2. Learn why the 490 years are divided into two major time periods (board):
 - a. 70 Sabbatical years (every 7th year was a year-long land rest Sabbath)
 - b. 10 Jubilee years (occurring at the end of every 49 years or at the end of 7 Sabbatical years)
 - c. Notice once again that the number “seven” is used frequently within the Biblical record. God started that in the Garden of Eden.

When the 490 Years or 70 Sabbatical Years Began



Gabriel continues with the prophecy (from Part 1):

“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 street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times” (Daniel 9:25).

- There's that "*know and understand*" again. If we study it out, we can know what it means.
- From the going forth of the command (decree) to Jesus' anointing at his baptism, **as the Messiah**, would be 69 weeks of years (7 weeks + 60 + 2 = 69, or 483 years) (each of those weeks represents a Sabbatical year cycle).
- We know Christ died in one of two years, either 30 or 33 A.D., because Passover was on a Friday (Abib 14) and it had to be a full moon. (That's a special study – calendar of moons.)
- Jesus ministered for 3½ years; that would mean that Christ's baptism in the Jordan River would have been in 26 or 29 A.D.



From the decree to the baptism was 69 weeks (of years) or 483 years.

1. If Christ was baptized in 26 A.D. that would mean that some decree was made in 458 B.C. (adding one year for 0 B.C./A.D.).
2. If Christ was baptized in 29 A.D. that would mean that some decree was made in 455 B.C. (adding one year for 0 B.C./A.D.)

There are six decrees that Bible students understand from history that are considered in analyzing this prophecy that follow Daniel's receiving this prophecy:

1. ~539 B.C. Darius the Mede, King Cyrus: "I make a decree" to honor Daniel's God (Daniel 6:25-27) (they were still in captivity).
2. 536 B.C. Cyrus made a decree for the Jewish people to return to their homeland and rebuild their temple (Ezra 1:1-4, 6:3-5; II Chronicles 36:23) (this ended the 70 years).
3. ~520 B.C. Darius I made a decree in favor of finishing the temple at Jerusalem (Ezra 6:7, 12b; Nehemiah 12:22; Haggai 1:1).
4. 483 B.C. Xerxes I (husband of Queen Esther), also called Ahasuerus, decreed that the Jews, Esther's people, could destroy their enemies.
5. 458 B.C. Artaxerxes I (sometimes called *Artaxerxes Longimanus*) made a decree that the Jewish people should go to Jerusalem and re-establish their theocracy (their government with God as its head) (Ezra 7:6-25).
6. 444 B.C. Artaxerxes I made another decree for Nehemiah and others to go to Jerusalem and repair the walls that surrounded Jerusalem. It was done in only 52 days (Nehemiah 2:1-18, 5:16, 6:15).

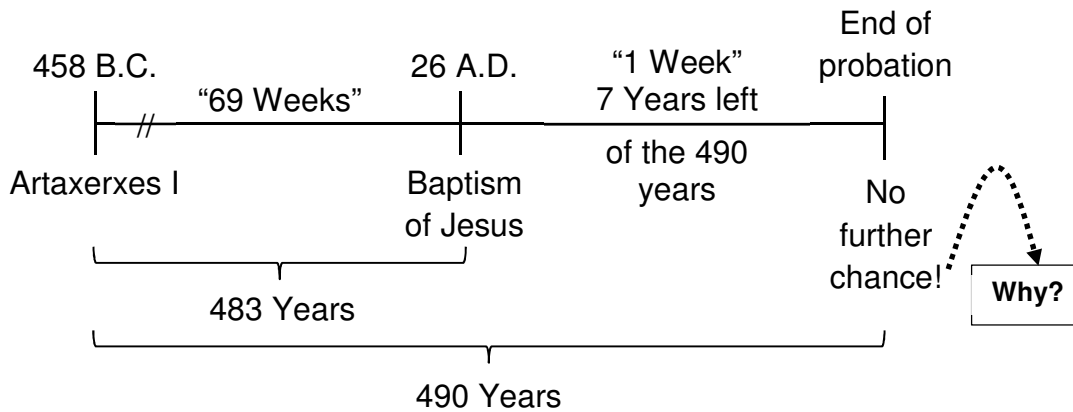
Which decree fits the time period relating to the Messiah?

It has to be #5 in 458 B.C. – a very special decree actually found word for word in Ezra 7!



- Note: much of the Protestant world accepts 444 B.C., when the walls were repaired. They calculated the months as having 30 days each and Christ becoming Messiah the King at the triumphal entry. But this prophecy is couched in “solar years” because of Sabbaticals and Jubilees, not 30-day month years!
- Jesus was never crowned or anointed at His triumphal entry to Jerusalem! God crowned Him with that Spirit-like dove at His baptism with assuring “inaugural words.”
“And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22). Shortly thereafter He began His Messianic ministry.
- As you will shortly see, the issues in this prophecy relate to **spiritual restoration**. Artaxerxes I’s decree is the only one related to spiritual restoration in 458 B.C. (Ezra 7).

The 490 years (of probation):

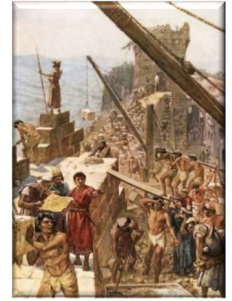


The rest of Daniel 9:25 is a challenge and most interesting.

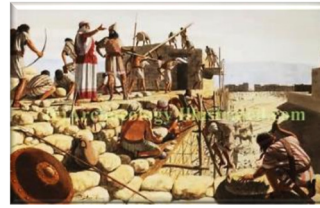
“the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times” (9:25).

- The command or decree suggests that Jerusalem (which had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar), the street (singular) and the wall will be rebuilt.
- But – the Jewish people had been back in Palestine since 536 B.C. when Cyrus permitted them to go home! This is now 458 B.C. when the decree is made.

Question: *In those 78 years has there not been any work done on that city, street or walls?*



We have covered five Medo-Persian kings who are mentioned in the Bible:



- Darius the Mede (539–538 B.C.) (who ruled under Cyrus of Medo-Persia)
- Cyrus (539–530 B.C.) sent them back to Canaan.
- Darius I “the Great” (Hystaspes) (549–486 B.C.)
- Xerxes (Ahasuerus, Queen Esther’s husband) (486–465 B.C.)
- Artaxerxes I (465–424 B.C.) (fulfilment)

History and the Bible tell us something amazing!

1. God said that Cyrus would rebuild Jerusalem, prophesied 250+ years before (536 B.C.) (Isaiah 44:28, 45:1-13).
2. God said that Cyrus would start rebuilding the temple (Ezra 1:2-4).
3. Houses were already built by 520 B.C. (Haggai 1:4).

If Artaxerxes I’s decree was to rebuild Jerusalem, its streets and walls in 458 B.C., and they were already built, what does that mean?

1. Either they were destroyed again – OR
2. That decree is spiritual – 100%

Remember how God began the probation warning from our last study?

- “Seventy weeks [of years] are determined upon thy people and your holy city.”
For what?
 - To give up three different sins!
 - At its end, God promised three eternal gifts – **End of Time.**
- } Verse 24 that we studied last time

Could that decree really be spiritual?

That decree happens to be recorded in Ezra 7:11-26. It is a **restoration decree** of a God-centered life and worship by a pagan king!!! It is totally spiritual.

The symbols of our Daniel 9 prophecy actually tell us everything.

- **“Jerusalem”** represents God’s people in prophecy.
 - It can be when in apostasy (Isaiah 1:21, Matthew 23:27) or fully restored as Christ’s bride (Revelation 19:7, 9; 21:9-10).
- **“Street”** rebuilt in prophecy.
 - Though “rebuilt” was used with actual construction of buildings, walls and roads, there was a metaphorical use introduced by Jeremiah: *“Again I will build you and you shall be built”* (Jeremiah 31:4; cf. Jeremiah 24:6, 33:7).
 - The “street” (*rehob*) denotes an “open place” or often an open square in the middle of a town or village. At the time of Israel’s apostasy these were places where idols were set up (Ezekiel 16:24, 31). With Jerusalem representing God’s people, that would then represent His desire to see their center of worship be re-established with Him only.
- **“Walls”** actually means a moat – something protective made surrounding the city – this represents God’s law protecting His people.

Together God is giving His people – His “church” – 490 years of probation to not only give up those three sins but to turn from all evil and live under His laws.



458 B.C.



26-30 A.D.



Today

How do we know that that probation ends in our day? The eternal promises Gabriel said would occur at the end of the 490-year period are at the very end of time! [Board]

- Most of the Protestant world has given in to the temptation of interpreting this through “literalism,” as we talked about in our very first session.
- Those timing periods have an even greater meaning than we’ve talked about:
 - a. Sabbatical year – every seventh year – when they could “**play heaven.**” All their needs were supplied. Prophecy tells us a Sabbatical year is just ahead of us (tied to that last week).
 - b. Jubilee year – every 49 years – when everything was restored to **original** owners, the **original state! That’s going to occur in our day!**

Do you see what God is doing? He is giving a restoration prophecy for His people. After the Cross everyone in Christ became a descendent of Abraham (Galatians 3:28-29). Those sins have not been addressed yet. That means this really carries us to the very end of time. There has to be a gap in this time prophecy. When Jesus comes a “Jubilee” begins.

- We must fully understand this 490-year period. It began in 458 B.C.
- But extends to eternity.

If it begins in 458 B.C., how can we further explain this? That’s where the next two verses guide us:

That 70th Week or 7 Years:

Gabriel continues:

Recall we have gone to the end of the 7 + 62 weeks at Christ’s anointing.

“And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined” (Daniel 9:26).

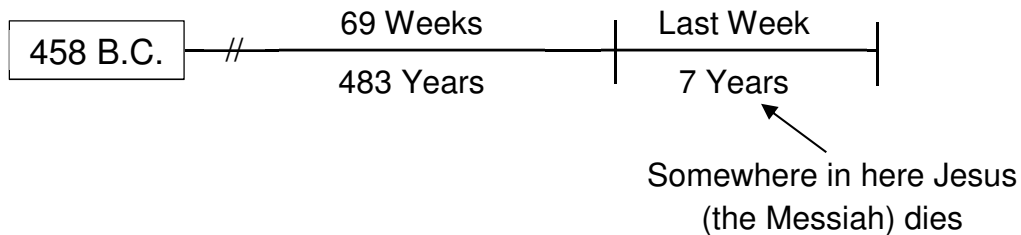
Let’s break it down. It should really be more than one verse. It can be understood.

“And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself:” (vs 26a)

- Following that last 62-week block of time, or 483 years, we move into that last week of the 70 weeks (7 + 62 = 69).

- The Messiah is to be “cut off” or dies during that last week!
- At this point, we don’t know when in that period – but His work lasted 3½ years – and that week began in 26 A.D. at His baptism.

Could it be that he dies in the middle of that 7-year period in 30 A.D.?

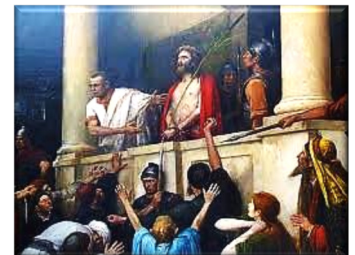


What does “*not for himself*” mean?

- It is mistranslated in the King James Version.
- It means that from all outward appearances his earthly ministry has been seen as being in vain, empty, nothing – a failure.

“And the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary” (Daniel 9:26b).

- Who were Christ’s people – the “people of the prince”?
The Jewish people.
- Who cried “his blood be on us and on our children”?
“Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and our children” (Matthew 27:25).



What did Jesus mean when He said:

- “Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof” (Matthew 21:243).
- “Behold, your house is left unto you desolate” (Matthew 23:38).

God’s church and His people have been destroyed. Jesus is prophesying that He is going to choose another group of people. (This will be the subject of a future study.)

“and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined” (Daniel 9:26c).

This is stunning:

- Their evil will lead to a “flood” – symbolically meaning that their end will be with persecution, and even death will come to them (Isaiah 8:7-8, 28:2). It is final.

- “Are determined” means that it is decreed by heaven – it can’t change.
- “Desolation” means that nothing is left.

Daniel is praying for his people. A probationary period is given of 490 years. God, however, is prophesying that “they still won’t turn to me!” They face “desolation.”

Did the Jewish people face persecution and death?



- Within this prophecy God said that His people would face some form of end.
- In 66 A.D. the Roman armies began to attack the towns and villages of Palestine. By the fall of 70 A.D. they had entered Jerusalem.

1. The temple was destroyed.
2. Over a million people were slaughtered.
3. A large number (100,000) were taken captive.



Desolation came to the Jewish people. First, the curtain between the Holy place and the Most Holy place was torn open; now the temple was destroyed. The Jewish theocracy has ended!

The last verse should, again, be two verses – but we’ll compartmentalize the thoughts.

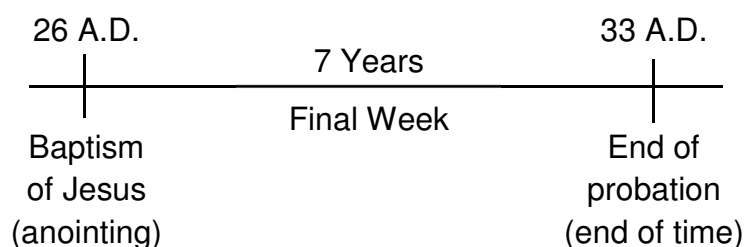
The Amazing Prophecy of Two Ends

“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease” (Daniel 9:27a).

Recall that we have one week unaccounted for. With the 490 years beginning in 458 B.C., this period should be completed by 33 A.D. We’re in that 26–33 A.D. period – the 70th week (7 years).

“He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week.”

- This refers to the final week that is now being described.



This phrase really means: “He (Jesus – the Messiah) will make a strong covenant with many.” That’s what happened at the Cross. **He signed the promise of restoration with His blood. It is now validated.**

- Jesus said: “*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me*” (John 12:32).
- “Lifted up” means being put on the Cross.
- That was the beginning of the “*new covenant,*” sometimes called the “*everlasting covenant.*”
- All this would cover a 7-year period – or that final “week.”
 - Christ taught the first 3½ years.
 - The disciples taught the last 3½ years.
 - **But** – in 33 A.D. there was no end – no Jubilee. Something was wrong!
 - There has to be a temporary halt to the 490-year period!

Our stunning key now comes!

“and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease” (Daniel 9:27b).” – There it is!

- We’re referencing the middle of that 7-year period –
- At the 3½-year point.
- Now we know that Jesus died in 30 A.D. (not 33 A.D.)

This is incredible! We are quite sure that Daniel 9 is the prophecy that the pagan wise men studied to go to Bethlehem and see the Christ child!



- Jesus’ baptism was in 26 A.D. (His anointing). Those men undoubtedly knew this prophecy and calculated when He would be born.
- A Jewish man could enter the priesthood at age 30, so it would be 30 years before A.D. 26!
- That means that He was likely born 3–4 B.C.
- **That would be when they saw the star. They were convicted – and followed the path to Jesus!!!**

What stopped at the Cross? All the sacrifices and oblations or offerings tied to the Jewish religion. To make this absolutely clear when Christ cried, “***It is finished,***” that veil *covering* the Most Holy tore in half.

- That is why the record states:

“And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent” (Matthew 27:51).

- The temple and its rituals and sacrifices were no longer needed!

“and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate” (Daniel 9:27b).

That Last Daniel 9 Message!

- This part of the verse is ***difficult to interpret*** from the Hebrew.
- The NET Bible appears to capture best the meaning that draws from the whole theme of Daniel 8–12:

*“On the wing of **abominations** will come one who destroys, until the decreed end is poured out on the one who destroys” (Daniel 9:27b – NET; cf. NAS).*

To best understand this, it is helpful to go elsewhere, where similar phrases are used in Daniel.

- *“They shall place the **abomination** that maketh desolate” (Daniel 11:31)*
- *“The **abomination** that maketh desolate” (Daniel 12:11)*

These are in the context of the antichrist at the end of time. Putting all the expressions together, the NET and NAS translations capture this essence best: *“on the wing of abominations, will come one who destroys.”*

This could still allude to the desolation that lay ahead for the Jewish people in 70 A.D. But a greater issue is opened. Gabriel already noted that a *“transgression would lead to desolation”* (8:13). He also made clear that **that** would come at the *“time of the end”* – at the *“appointed time”* (Daniel 8:17, 19).

Scholar Miller notes: “In reality the end of this final seven is one of the most significant events in history, the second coming of Christ.”¹ The “last desolation” is linked to earth’s redemptive end. This was recognized even before the first advent!

¹ Miller, Stephen R.; *The New American Commentary*, vol. 18 (Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), p. 270 (cf. Steinmann, *op. cit.*, p. 476).

Expositor White saw this:

“As Daniel's prayer is going forth, the angel Gabriel comes sweeping down from the heavenly courts, to tell him that his petitions are heard and answered. This mighty angel has been commissioned to give him skill and understanding, – to open before him the mysteries of future ages. Thus, while earnestly seeking to know and understand the truth, Daniel was brought into communion with Heaven's delegated messenger....

“In answer to his petition, Daniel received not only the light and truth which he and his people most needed, but a view of the great events of the future, even to the advent of the world's Redeemer. Those who claim to be sanctified, while they have no desire to search the Scriptures, or to wrestle with God in prayer for a clearer understanding of Bible truth, know not what true sanctification is.”²

- Related to the final gospel spread to the world.
- Related to desolation of the earth.

The latter part of verse 27 points to the very end of time, when the work of the antichrist peaks and then ceases by divine mandate.³

- “... until the decreed end is poured out on the one who destroys” (Daniel 9:27b – NET; cf. NAS).
- “He shall be broken without hand” (Daniel 8:25).
- “He shall come to his end, and none shall help him” (Daniel 11:45).

World desolation comes at that point and the approach of Jesus on a cloud will be seen! Here are the two ends:

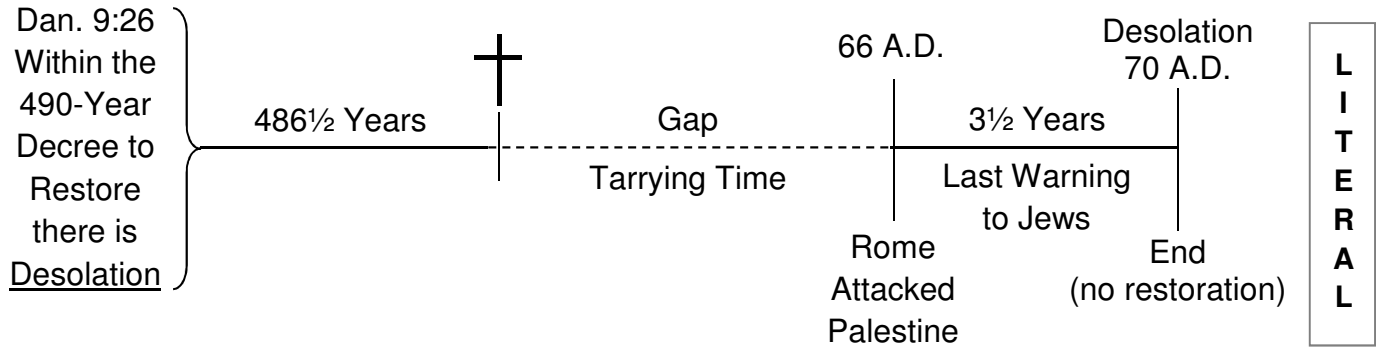


² *The Review and Herald*, February 8, 1881.

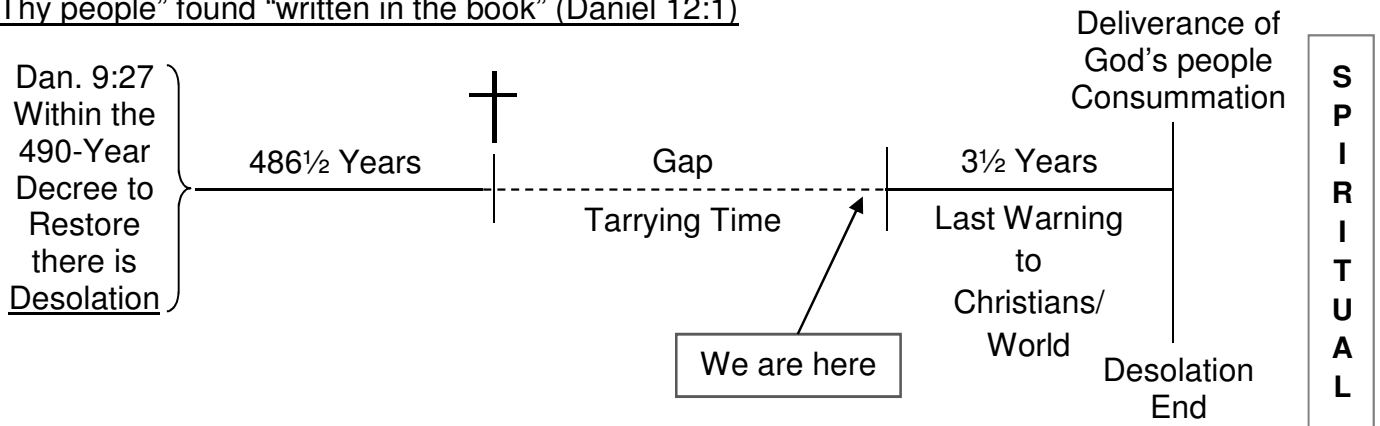
³ Miller, *op. cit.*, p. 273.

Desolation Timing of Daniel 9:26-27 and 12:11

(The key to the dual nature of this prophecy)



“Thy people” found “written in the book” (Daniel 12:1)



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