

Dominion or Departure?

Daniel's 70 Weeks

Daniel 9:24-27 – Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. 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.

Dispensationalists:

- The 70 weeks are a prophetic clock that stopped ticking in the first century when Jesus came, but it will resume ticking once the Antichrist is revealed and the Church is raptured.
- That starts a 7-year countdown to the Battle of Armageddon.
- So, they insert a huge gap (almost 2,000 years and growing) between Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and the rapture of the Church.

#1 – Understand the historical context.

- Daniel received the prophecy in 538 BC.
- Israel in captivity in Babylon, and Jerusalem & the Temple were in ruins.
- Daniel is praying for Jerusalem, the Temple, and his people.
- The angel Gabriel comes and gives him this prophecy.

#2 – Understand that the weeks stand for years.

- Universally understood.
- “week” is used 7 times in the Book of Daniel.
- 6 times are here in this prophecy, and there is no qualifier added.
- Immediately following this prophecy, we find the 7th use of the word “week” and it has a qualifier: “week of days”.
- Daniel 10:2 – In those days, I, Daniel, have been mourning three weeks of days.
- The prophecy tells us that during the 70 weeks, the city of Jerusalem would be rebuilt. We know from history that it took just shy of 50 years to complete the rebuilding of Jerusalem.
- Therefore, it must be weeks of years.
- 70 weeks are equal to 490 years.
- The full 490 years are broken up into 3 time periods:

- 7 weeks (49 years)
- 62 weeks (434 years)
- 1 week (7 years)

#3 – Understand the timing that is given.

- Daniel 9:25 – 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.
- 7 weeks & 62 weeks = 69 weeks = 483 years
- When did the decree happen?
 - Cyrus' decree in 537 BC
 - Artaxerxes' first decree in 457 BC
 - Artaxerxes' second decree in 444 BC
- Cyrus' decree was only to rebuild the Temple, not the city.
- Artaxerxes' second decree, which resulted in Nehemiah rebuilding the walls, looks possible until you dig deeper.
- “restore” = shub = restore ownership
- This is what Artaxerxes' first decree did.

- If you count forward 69 weeks (483 years) from Artaxerxes' first decree, you land on 27 AD.
- The Messiah had to come on the scene in the year 27 AD.
- John 2:19 – Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
- Our Gregorian Calendar has to be adjusted 4 years.
- Luke 3:23 – When Jesus began His ministry, He was about thirty years of age.
- That’s 27 AD exactly!
- Luke confirms that when he tells us in Luke 3:1 that this “was in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar.” (27 AD)

#4 – Understand the purpose of the 70 weeks.

- 70 weeks (490 years) have been decreed for Israel & Jerusalem, to fulfill 6 wonderful goals.
- “to finish the transgression”
- “to make an end of sins”
- “to make reconciliation for iniquity”
- “to bring in everlasting righteousness”
- “to seal up the vision and prophecy”
- “to anoint the Most Holy”

Daniel 9:26 – 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.
- Who destroyed Jerusalem? God, through his agent, Titus.

Daniel 9:27 – 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.

- “one week” = last week = 70th week
- That week is 7 years.
- “middle of the week” = 3½ years
- Jesus’s death on the cross ends the sacrificial system.
- Jer. 31:31-33 – Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers...For this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord: “I will put My law within them and write it on their heart; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”
- Mark 26:27-28 – Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood that establishes the covenant; it is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
- Acts 8 happens in 34 AD --- the 70 weeks had been fulfilled.

- Acts 13:45-46 – When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him. Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you have rejected it, and judged yourselves unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.”
- NASB & NKJ – It was necessary that the Word of God should be spoken to you first.

Seventy weeks are determined for your people and your holy city...

- It began in 457 BC, and ended in 34 AD.
- 490 years
- 70 weeks of years.
- All predictions were fulfilled.
- There is no future 7-year tribulation period.