

Figuring out Daniel's 70 Weeks

Daniel 9:24-27

²⁴ “Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. ²⁵ “Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. ²⁶ After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. ²⁷ He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

Last week, we touched briefly on a future event known as the Abomination of Desolation set to happen *in the middle* of the seventieth “seven.” If we use this event as a “primer” or “key” we can determine that the so-called “weeks” in Daniel 9 are indeed weeks of years. The key is found in Daniel 12.

Daniel 12

In Daniel 12:11, we find a reference to the Abomination of Desolation:

¹¹ “From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.

We know that:

- A ruler will rise up who will confirm a covenant with many for one “seven.”
- We know that in the middle of that “seven”
 - Sacrifice and offering will be ended
 - An abominable thing will be set up on a wing of the temple and it will cause desolation
 - The end will come for this ruler

Now, we still don't know what a “seven” is until we can find a verse of Scripture that uses time frames we understand. We have just such a Scripture in Daniel 12:11. It refers to the same event but tells us that when the abomination of desolation happens there will be 1,290 left in that period of time, that seven. And since we know that the Abomination of Desolation will

happen in the middle of the “seven” we know that the entirety of the seven consists of 2,580 days, which when divided by 365 we get a little over seven years.

So, this is how we know that Daniel’s 70 Weeks are weeks of years which last a total of 490 years.

Gabriel said the prophetic clock would start at the time that a decree was issued to rebuild Jerusalem. From the date of that decree to the time of the Messiah would be 483 years. **We know from history that the command to “restore and rebuild Jerusalem” was given by King Artaxerxes of Persia c. 445 B.C. (see [Nehemiah 2:1-8](#)).**

The first unit of 49 years (seven “sevens”) covers the time that it took to rebuild Jerusalem, “with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble” ([Daniel 9:25](#)). This rebuilding is chronicled in the book of Nehemiah.

Using the Jewish custom of a 360-day year, 483 years after 445 B.C. places us at A.D. 30, which would coincide with Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem ([Matthew 21:1-9](#)). The prophecy in [Daniel 9](#) specifies that after the completion of the 483 years, “the Anointed One will be cut off” (verse 26). This was fulfilled when Jesus was crucified.

[Daniel 9:26](#) continues with a prediction that, after the Messiah is killed, “the people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.” This was fulfilled with the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. The “ruler who will come” is a reference to the Antichrist, who, it seems, will have some connection with Rome, since it was the Romans who destroyed Jerusalem.¹

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/seventy-weeks.html>