

LET THE COUNTDOWN BEGIN

Daniel 9:20-27

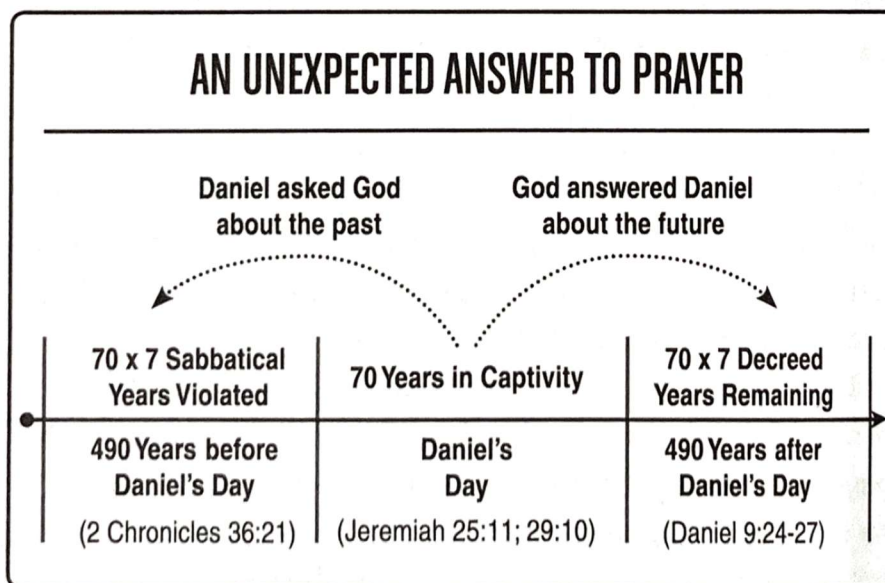
Sir Isaac Newton once said, "To reject [Daniel's] Prophecies is to reject the Christian religion. For this religion is founded upon his Prophecy concerning the Messiah."^a He also believed we could stake the truth of Christianity on this prophecy alone.^b

H. A. Ironside says this section is "the greatest of all-time prophecies."

Philip Newell calls this chapter "the greatest chapter in the book of Daniel and one of the greatest of the entire Bible."

I. An **Answer** to the Prayer (Daniel 9:20-23)

- "The moment that you prayed, Daniel, I was sent..." (v.23) Daniel is still praying while Gabriel appears.
- W. A. Criswell – "Listen to a holy saint and you will think he is a vile sinner. Listen to a rogue and you will think he is the most excellent of mankind. The farther we get away from God, the finer we think we are."
- Jeremiah 33:3 – "Call unto Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things."
- John 15:7 – "If you abide in Me and My Words abide in you, you will ask what you will and it will be done for you." (see also Matthew 7:7-11)



^a Sir Isaac Newton, *Observations upon the Prophecies of Daniel and the Apocalypse of St. John* (London: J. Darby and T. Browne, 1733), as quoted in Michael Youssef, *Leading the Way through Daniel* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2012), 189.

^b Ibid., as quoted in David Jeremiah, *Agents of Babylon* (Carol Stream, Ill: Tyndale, 2015), 257.

- James 5:16 – “The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”
- Ps 25:14, “The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.”
- Daniel had no idea that day when he fell to his knees to pray to God that he would be given such a great vision of God’s extended dealing with His people.
- Sometimes God answers:
 - o **Directly** – Praise the Lord!
 - o **Delay** – Not right now.
 - o **Different** – We ask God for one thing, and He answers what we need, which is better than what we wanted. God hears our heart praying just as much as our words praying.
 - o **Denial** – Have you thanked God for prayers He has said “No” to?

II. The **Announcement** of the Prophecy (Daniel 9:23-27)

- Daniel prayed about Israel’s past. God answers by showing hundreds of years into Israel’s future!

The King James translators spoke of seventy “weeks,” which is unnecessarily misleading, while the more modern translators use the word “sevens.” In Hebrew the word actually is the word “seven,” or perhaps more accurately “a group of seven” something. “weeks” in Hebrew simply means “sevens”. It could be seven of anything – days, weeks, years – depending upon the usage in the verses – kind of like our term “dozen”. “determined” means “cut out and set aside”. The idea is cutting out a stone from a quarry and setting it aside for a specific purpose.

Daniel 9:25 - There were actually four decrees issued concerning the restoration of Jerusalem and the Temple:

- 1) **Cyrus in 538 BC** (Ezra 1:1-4; 5:13-17), instigating the rebuilding of the Temple but not the city.
- 2) **Darius in 517 BC** (Ezra 6:1-12) was limited to the rebuilding of the Temple.
- 3) **Artaxerxes in 458 BC** failed to provide for the rebuilding of Jerusalem (which is stated in Daniel 9:25).
- 4) **Artaxerxes in Nisan, 445 BC** (Nehemiah 2:1) 20th year of Artaxerxes (who’s accession was 465 BC)

70 weeks of years is 490 years, which Gabriel divided into three sub-periods: 7 weeks of years (49 years), 62 weeks of years (434 years), and a final period of 1 week of years (7 years).

69 x 7 x 360 = 173,880 days. Beginning with March 14, 445 BC, this number of days brings us to April 6, 32 AD.

6 Things accomplished from v. 24:

1. Transgression is to be finished.
2. An end is to be made of sin.
3. An atonement for wickedness is to be made.
4. Everlasting righteousness is to be brought in.
5. The vision and prophecy are to be sealed up.
6. The most holy (the Most Holy Place or the most holy One) is to be anointed.

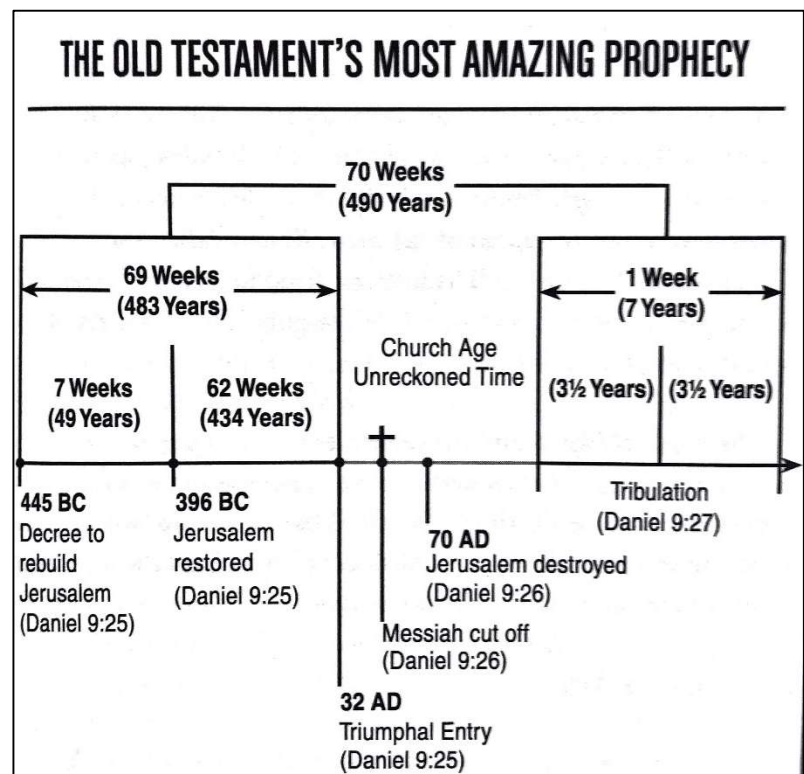


Chart Source: David Jeremiah, *Agents of Babylon*, p. 273.

The Seventy-weeks Prophecy

Daniel's "Seventy Weeks" (490 years) for the Holy City (Dan. 9:24a)

