

What Christ said about the End Times

Daniel 9:24 “Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.

The timing and who it affects

- 1) Remember the **70 years** of captivity was coming to an end. Daniel wanted to know about the future for **Israel**.
- 2) 70 weeks- 1 week= **7 years**. And 70 would equal **490** years. How do we know this?
 - a) **Years** fit the context.
 - b) The Hebrews were familiar with this- every seven years was a **sabbatical** year and the land was to rest.
- 3) The word **decree**- this word means “to cut, cut off, or cut out”. A certain period, 490 years, was cut out of **history** for a specific purpose.
- 4) Gabriel told Daniel that these years had been **cut out** for Israel and Jerusalem.
- 5) This prophecy has nothing to do with the **church**- something that was hidden in God, and the prophets had no information on.
- 6) But these acts mentioned in this verse will affect not only Israel but all **humanity**.

The accomplishments

- 1) To finish transgression—this is referring to **rebellion**.
 - a) The nation of Israel had a long history of rebellion against God but when Christ comes back at his second coming Israel will accept their **Messiah** and their **rebellion** will be over.
 - b) It also refers to **humanity's** rebellion against God at Christ's second coming- will be dwelt with and controlled during the millennium and completely gone in the eternal state.
- 2) To put an end to sin—the word for sin is **“to miss the mark”**.
 - a) The nation of Israel came **short** in what God wanted them to do. They were God's witness to the world but they missed the mark.
 - b) Humanity misses the mark when not **living** for God.
 - c) “An end” -- those words mean to **seal up** the eternal state. Sin will be sealed up.
- 3) To atone for wickedness – the word *atone* means “to make a **covering**”. This goes back to the mercy seat, on which the blood was sprinkled-which meant the sin of the people was **forgiven**, covered by the blood (Leviticus 16:15-16).
 - ➔ The word *wickedness* means **“iniquity”** and signifies the crookedness of human nature.
 - a) The nation of Israel had distorted the image of God by following **idols**.
 - b) Humanity- we all are wicked people, our hearts and minds are bent **toward sin**.
 - c) This would be **accomplished** at Calvary. We were covered, forgiven by the blood.

- 4) To bring an everlasting righteousness – At the end of the seventy weeks, an era of righteousness will come upon the earth.
 - a) When Christ comes back the nation of Israel will have a right relationship with their God.
 - b) Humanity also will have a right relationship with their God.
- 5) To seal up vision and prophecy – Since at the end of the seventy weeks Christ will be with his people and there will be no other need for visions and prophecy.
- 6) To anoint the most holy – referring to the millennial temple which is described by Ezekiel in chapters 40-48.

Daniel 9:25 *Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.*

The 70 Weeks

The text divides these seventy weeks into three groups and Gabriel tells Daniel the first two groups will end with the coming of the anointed one.

Gabriel tells Daniel to pay attention because this is the answer to Daniel's prayer.

- The starting point for these seventy weeks is a decree (literally “a word”) to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, which was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC.
- The decree to rebuild-there are several views:
 - 1st decree given by Cyrus in 538 BC (Ezra 1:2-4 – not to rebuild walls of Jerusalem but to build a temple- the city was not rebuilt until almost 100 years later).
 - 2nd decree was given by Artaxerxes for Ezra to go to Jerusalem to enact civic reforms in 458 BC (Ezra 7:11-26).
 - 3rd decree was given by Artaxerxes in 445 BC (Nehemiah 2:5-8) this decree specifically refers to the rebuilding of Jerusalem.
 - This is probably what Gabriel is referring to. This decree began in March/April 445 BC
- The first set of weeks is 7 weeks (7x7=49 years). During this time the reconstruction of Jerusalem will occur under Nehemiah but in times of troubles.
- The 2nd division is 62 weeks (62x7=434 years). After the 49 years there will be another 434 years then something will happen.
- After the 69 weeks “the anointed one”: the word *anointed one* in Hebrew means “Messiah” and this term could designate kings and priests- so this anointed one must either be a king or priest or both.
 - The coming of the Messiah could be his birth, baptism, or his presentation on Psalm Sunday.

Formula = remember the Jewish calendar had **360** days in it.

445 BC to approximately 32 AD, 173,880 days is **7x69** years.

Something else, Luke 3:1 says “in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar”. Caesar Tiberius began his reign on August 19, 14 AD. Fifteen years from that is 29 AD – the Lord ministered for three years, which would put his death in **32 AD.**

Daniel 9:26 *And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed.*

After Jerusalem is rebuilt after the first sevens -49 years- and then another 62 sevens-434 years would pass. Then **two** major things will occur.

- 1) The anointed one comes (verse 25) then:
- 2) He will be cut off – this word *cut off* means “**eliminating, removing, or destroying** something.” When this word is used it means **death** inflicted by God or a violent death at the hands of man- never used of natural death (Exodus 31:14; Jeremiah 11:19).
- 3) And will have nothing- this refers to Christ’s **ministry**. It appeared that it was in vain- disciples deserted him and it appeared he had not accomplished what he meant to.

Gabriel also tells Daniel that Jerusalem would be rebuilt but sometime in the future Jerusalem and the temple will be destroyed again- but by the people of the **ruler** who will come.

- 1) The next **destruction** of Jerusalem and the temple will be in 70 AD by Titus Vespasianus, the Roman general and his legions. Christ spoke of this in Matthew 24:1-2.
- 2) The future ruler who will come (**the Antichrist**) will come out of the nations that made up the Ancient Roman Empire (Daniel already told us in chapter 7 that the Antichrist’s origin will come from the fourth empire-Rome).
- 3) The “**end**” refers to the end of the city. The Roman destruction was like a flood that destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD.
- 4) The war will be decreed- this will be a **judgment** upon Israel because of its rebellion against God and its unbelief.

Daniel 9:27 *And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.*

So far we have 69 weeks-434 years of the 490 years. Their predictions have been fulfilled – crucifixion of Christ and the destruction of Jerusalem.

- 1) After the first 69 weeks there is a period of time- how long that time will be no one knows (it should be noted that gaps in Old Testament prophecy are common).
- 2) He- is referring to the prince who is to come. Daniel has already described him in chapter 7; this is the Antichrist.
- 3) Strong covenant- this word covenant indicates a treaty or alliance.
 - a) "with many"- this is with the Jewish people, the nation of Israel which is the focus of this prophecy
 - b) This covenant will be for seven years, the 70th week of this prophecy.
- 4) In the middle of this covenant, 3 ½ years into this covenant
 - a) We need to understand the 70th week is commonly called the Tribulation. And the second half of the Tribulation is called the Great Tribulation (Revelation 7:14; Matthew 24:21). It is in this last part of the Tribulation is when the Antichrist persecutes believers and does other atrocities and breaks the covenant.
 - b) The length of the Great Tribulation is 3 ½ years and mentioned in Scripture several times (Revelation 7:25, 11:2, 12:14, 13:5).
- 5) End to sacrifice and offering- it would appear that the Jewish people build the temple again and part of their worship will be animal sacrifices.
 - a) The Antichrist will end this and will demand to be worshipped (Daniel 11:36; 2 Thessalonians 2:4).
 - b) The Antichrist will also set up some kind of object. *Abominations* (plural) – implies something filthy and loathsome-which causes the temple to be desolate (Revelation 13:8, 14-17).
- 6) The atrocities will not last forever. The Antichrist will have judgment poured out on him (poured out describes a flood of judgment that will overtake him). (Revelation 19:19-21)

Some more timing must be mentioned; Revelation tells us that the Great Tribulation will last 1260 days (Revelation 12:6).

Daniel 12:11 *And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.*

It will be 1290 days- 30 days longer- this extra time appears that those days will cover the time that Jesus takes to create the Great Valley in which the nations of the world will be judged (Zechariah 14:4-5; Matthew 25:31-46).

Daniel 12:12 *Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.*

1335 days which adds another 45 days that would appear to be the **transition** period for Jesus to get his leaders in place. There will be 1260 days of **trouble**, 30 days to **judge**, and 45 days to set up **Christ's Kingdom**.

In **Matthew 24:15** Jesus is also describing a past event that the Jews knew about.

"So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),"

About 175 years before Christ was on earth there was a **Syrian king** by the name of Antiochus Epiphanes. He ruled Palestine from 175-165 BC. Antiochus killed thousands of Jewish men, sold many of their wives and children into slavery. He tried to destroy the Jewish religion. He desecrated the temple by sacrificing pigs and forcing priests to eat pig flesh. He also set up an idol of **Zeus**. He was a preview of an even greater abomination of desolation- which will happen in the day of the Lord.