

# Daniel's 'Seventy Sevens' Prophecy

Daniel 9:20 – 27

**70 x 7**

## How it begins...

While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill-- while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.

God gave a quick reply.  
Gabriel was sent with the  
answer to Daniel's  
prayer.



He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed.

This was the answer to your prayers for your people and Jerusalem (his holy hill).

An encouragement to pray

A blessed man of God



What will happen to God's people and his city in the future?

Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision..

Take careful note ...

This requires thinking about. (the danger of playing numbers)

Many interpretations have been made about this passage.



## "Seventy `sevens` are decreed

After 70 years of exile

$$70 \times 7$$

Now it's a prophecy of 70 'sevens'

Are they weeks or periods of seven years?

cf. the count for the Jubilee Year in Leviticus 25:8

*You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years.*

So the period of time referred to appears to be 490 years

"Seventy `sevens` are decreed for your people and your holy city

After 70 years of exile a period of 490 years have been determined by God.

It refers to Daniel's people (the Jews) and the city (Jerusalem)

Decreed – God's secret purposes are being revealed.

It comes in three phases that we see described later



## God's ultimate purpose ...

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.

Lots of questions:---What is the meaning and difference

To stop sin and atone

To seal up prophecy

Anoint ? What is the most holy?





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.

We have 2 contrasting groups of 3 statements:-

1

Finish transgression

End sin

Atone for wickedness

2

bring in righteousness

seal up vision & prophecy

anoint the most holy

The Ultimate perfect state?





**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.**

Atonement – points to Jesus' completed work

Sin has been put away

And righteousness will be restored (pointing to the ultimate end?).



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.

To seal up (complete?) prophecy  
All will have been fulfilled at the end of time.

*1 Corinthians 13:8-10 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.*



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.**

Anoint ? What is the most holy – the holy of holies?  
It refers to a place - the rededication of the temple?  
cf. the Maccabean re-dedication?  
cf. New temple -people of God? (Ephesians 2:21)  
cf. Ezekiel's vision – the third temple?  
cf. the Heavenly City of God? (Hebrews 12:22)

There may be multiple partial fulfilments before the end.



## The starting point for counting the seventy weeks ?

"Know and understand this.. From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem

There were three decrees issued about Jerusalem:-

- 1, Cyrus's decree to return in **538 BC** (Ezra 1:1-4)
- 2, Artaxerxes decree and Ezra's return in **458 BC** – Ezra 7
- 3, Artaxerxes decree and Nehemiah's time in **445 BC**  
– Nehemiah 2:1 – 6).

The first 2 refer more to the 2<sup>nd</sup> temple restoration.

The decree in Nehemiah's day was to rebuild the city walls etc. and so appears to fit better.

# The 3 phases of God's Decree

until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes,  
there will be seven `sevens,` and sixty-two `sevens.`

The 3 phases :      **7 – 62 – final 1**

‘UNTIL’ = End point of 69 with the coming of Messiah  
(Anointed One), the ruler

69 sevens are split into 2 parts 49 and 434 years?

445 → 396 **phase 1**

396 → 33 AD (no year zero 1 BC → 1 AD) **phase 2**

It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

## **Phase 1: and Phase 2**

Rebuilding of the Temple and Jerusalem during the early 100 years was in difficult times – Zerubbabel to Nehemiah.

cf. the books of Ezra & Nehemiah.

This was also true of the following period, which saw the rise of Antiochus IV and the Maccabean revolt



# The perfect ending isn't yet !

After the sixty-two `sevens,`  
the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing.

At the end of 69 sevens from the beginning of the decree  
Messiah is killed and all seems lost.

This is a clear prophecy of Messiah's death.  
The term 'cut off' is also used of making a covenant  
(the New Covenant)





## Phase 3 – the final 7 years?

The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.

After the 69 'sevens' a nation led by a coming ruler will destroy the city and the sanctuary (temple)

*Matthew 24:15-16* “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

We can see one fulfilment of this in 70AD when the Roman army under Titus destroyed Jerusalem.



The end will come like a flood..

Overwhelming loss?

This phase makes references that apply at the end of time. Daniel make a lot of reference about the 'antichrist', first illustrated in Antiochus IV and he appears in this last 7 years.

It seems that the 'clock' has stopped since Jesus' crucifixion until near the end so that the 70 sevens will be completed then.

*Luke 13:35 Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"*



War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

This also describes the subsequent history of the world.  
Sin's outworking

*Matthew 24:6 And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars.  
See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place,  
but the end is not yet.*



## Phase 3 begins ?

He will confirm a covenant with many for one `seven.`

Has the clock restarted?



Who is he? The ruler who will come was the previous subject of the sentence.  
Antichrist makes a covenant made for the last seven years?  
Who are the 'many' ?



In the middle of the `seven`  
he will put an end to sacrifice and offering.

cf. The acts of Antiochus IV after 3 ½ years  
Are the 'temple' rituals reinstated in a rebuilt 3<sup>rd</sup> temple and  
then stopped?





And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, ESV

And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, NIV

In an area of the temple?/altar?

cf. Antiochus IV desecration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> temple.

It leads to abandonment of 'worship'.

*2 Thessalonians 2:4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.*



until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

The end decreed by God brings his 'reign' to a final destruction.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.





# Why did God show all this to Daniel so long ago?

- 1, The Lord has good purposes for his people.  
He keeps his covenant promises.
- 2, The Messiah has to come (twice).
- 3, Preparation gives strength.

