

The Seventy Sevens

“The Book of Daniel” (Ch. 9)

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1. Jeremiah’s 70 Years

A. $605 - 539 = 66 \approx 70$

B. Jeremiah 29:10-11

*This is what the Lord says: “When **seventy years** are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

C. Nebuchadnezzar’s first deportation (605) 2 Chronicles 36:20-21

*He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his successors until the kingdom of Persia came to power. The land enjoyed its **sabbath** rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah.*

D. Cyrus’ proclamation to rebuild the Temple (539) Ezra 1:1

*In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by **Jeremiah**, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:*

2. Daniel’s 70 Weeks

A. 7 and 10 are numerology for a completed cycle of time

1) 7.38 days in a lunar “week”, 10 fingers, 10 toes

2) 7 years is the sabbatical cycle for the land (Lev 26:34)

3) $7 \times 7 = 49$ is the Jubilee cycle for returning the land (Lev 25:10)

4) $7 \times 10 = 70$ is a full measure of time, a generation (Ps 90:10)

5) $70 \times 7 = 490$ is 10 Jubilee cycles

B. The Old Prophecy—Daniel 9:3

*“I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last **seventy years.**”*

C. The New Prophecy—Daniel 9:24

*“**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 Place.”*

3. Daniel's 62 Weeks (62 x 7 = 434)

- A. The Beginning of the Persecution
 - 1) First deportation by Nebuchadnezzar (605)
 - 2) Andronicus murders High Priest Onias III (171) 2 Maccabees 4:34
Andronicus came to Onias, and resorting to treachery, offered him sworn pledges and gave him his right hand; he persuaded him, though still suspicious, to come out from the place of sanctuary; then, with no regard for justice, he immediately put him out of the way. (NRSV)
- B. The Middle of the Persecution
 - 1) Jeremiah' prediction of 70 years (597)
 - 2) Rededication of the Temple, death of Antiochus (164)
- C. The End of the Persecution
 - 1) Final destruction of the Temple (586)
 - 2) Jonathan Apphus anointed as High Priest (152)
- D. The Final Week
 - 1) Desecration of the Temple (167)
 - 2) The Maccabean Revolt comes to an end (160)
- E. 539 – 490 – 49 = year 0?

4. Creating the Illusion of Control

- A. Self-blame—if it is my fault I can keep it from happening again
 - 1) Romans 8:1-2
Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.
- B. Numerology—if I can predict the future perhaps I can control it
 - 1) Mark 13:32
"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."
 - 2) Matthew 16:3-4
"You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign."