

The Remarkable Fulfillment of Daniel 9:24-27

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Background

- “Week” in Daniel 9 is better translated “seven.” It is a period of seven “somethings.” Correlating with other Scriptures in Revelation we believe “week” equals seven years.
 - Revelation 12:14 = 3.5 “times” (1 time, 2 times, $\frac{1}{2}$ time = 3.5 times)
 - Revelation 11:3 = 1260 days. $1260 / 3.5 = 360$ days per year
 - Revelation 11:2 = 42 months. $1260 / 42 = 30$ days per month.
- There are three segments of time that are sequential, for a total of 70 sevens:
 - 7 sevens 62 sevens 1 final seven
- At the end of the $(7+62)=69$ sevens, something significant will happen with Messiah the Prince. He will be “cut off.”

Start Date

- Daniel 9:25-26 says that clock will start running on the sequence of sevens when a command is issued to restore Jerusalem.
- The command to rebuild Jerusalem was given to Nehemiah in Neh. 1-2.
- We can conclusively pin that date at 445 B.C. month of Nisan (March/April) in the reign of Artaxerxes.
 - Neh. 2:1 = month of Nisan.
 - Neh. 2:5 = rebuild Jerusalem.
 - Artaxerxes I reigned 465-424 BC. His 20th year (1:1) would be 445.
 - We will use a start date of 1 Nisan, 445 B.C., about March 14.

Date Calculations

- The Scripture tells us that we cannot know the day or hour of the Lord's *second coming*. It does not say the same for His *first coming*.
- We now embark on a mission to try to figure out what Daniel 9:24-26 means.
- Don't jump ahead of me in how I present the calculations. I will present them in an ever-refined sequence to come to a more accurate answer.

First Draft

- $(7 + 62) \text{ sevens} \times \frac{7 \text{ years}}{1 \text{ "seven"}} = 483 \text{ years}$
- We will take B.C. as negative, and add those 483 years to it:
- $-445 \text{ BC} + 483 = 38 \text{ AD}$
- But there is no year 0, so add one: 39 AD

Problem with the First Draft

- 39 AD is a bit off. Wasn't Jesus crucified more like around 30-33 AD? Let's see here...
- The 483 "years" that we used above are very likely not "solar years" but rather are "prophetic years." The prophetic year was an even 360 days.
 - Remember Revelation 11-12 passages cited above.

Second Draft

- So we need to convert Daniel's prophetic years (*pyr*) to our solar years (*syr*).
- $483 \text{ pyr} \times \frac{360 \text{ days}}{1 \text{ pyr}} \times \frac{1 \text{ syr}}{365 \text{ days}} = 476.384 \text{ syr}$
- Add one for no year zero = 477.384 syr
- $-445BC + 477.384 = 32.384 AD$

Problems with the Second Draft

- That seems very close. The fractional year is an interesting result:
- $0.384 \text{ syr} \times \frac{365 \text{ days}}{1 \text{ syr}} = 140.16 \text{ days}$
- Jan-Apr = 31+28+31+30=120 days
- This puts us around May 20 of 32AD. But that's a bit late for Easter.

Problems with the Second Draft

- What's worse, we forgot that the command to rebuild was given in Nisan (March/April) of 445 BC. Nisan 1, or about March 14 = about 2.5 months into the year.
- So we have to add 2.5 months more to May 20, putting us in early August 32 AD.
- That's too late in the year for Easter.

Third Draft

- We forgot one other thing: leap years.
- $483 \text{ pyr} \times \frac{360 \text{ days}}{1 \text{ pyr}} \times \frac{1 \text{ syr}}{365.2425 \text{ days}} + 1 = 477.067 \text{ syr}$
- $-445 \text{ BC} + 2.5 \text{ months} + 477.067 = 32.067 + 2.5 \text{ months AD}$
- We are still in 32 AD. But the months/days are different:
- $2.5 \text{ months} + 0.067 \text{ syr} \frac{365.2425 \text{ days}}{1 \text{ syr}} \times \frac{1 \text{ month}}{30.437 \text{ days}} = 3.30 \text{ months}$
- This puts us at about April 10, 32 AD! We are in the ballpark.

Immediately After the 69th Seven

- Daniel therefore points with precision to the timing of the passion week and death of Christ.
- Jesus expected the Jews to know this timing.
 - See Luke 19:42: “If you had known, even you, **especially in this your day**, the things *that make* for your peace!”
 - And Luke 19:44: “...because you did not know **the time of your visitation.**” ← Triumphal entry

Longer After the 69th Seven

- Then the city and temple will be destroyed.
 - That occurred in 70 AD.
- There seems to be a delay between the 69th and 70th seven.
 - We presently exist in this delay in the church age.
- The 70th seven is the Tribulation (Rev. 6-19). This is discussed in verse 27, with a week-long covenant that is broken in the middle of the week, and destruction and desolation.

Significance of This

- Daniel was written by 536 B.C. or so. It was *not* written *after* the predicted events occurred!
- We have Daniel manuscripts dated 100-150 B.C. found among the Dead Sea Scrolls.
 - Realistically, such manuscripts had to be copies of an original that was much older.

Significance, cont.

- What this means is that Daniel prophesied of the specific time of Messiah's coming hundreds of years before it occurred.
- He was given a specific time frame that then came to pass.
- Only God could do this. And only God would inform us about Messiah's coming.

Significance, cont.

- The word of God is utterly reliable.
- ²¹ "And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'"
²² "When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that *is* the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him. (Deut. 18:21-22)

Significance, cont.

- So...what if a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD...in advance...and it *does* come to pass?
 - What do you do with that fact if you presently doubt God's Word?

What Do I Say About This?

- Tell this to the person you are witnessing to:
 - One of the evidences that God's word is true is that it makes specific predictions about future events—with time markers—that have come to pass just as they were written.
 - These predictions were written down hundreds of years before they occurred. Example: Daniel 9.

Comprehensive Prophecy

- This prophetic revelation is condensed into a small package.
- But it is comprehensive in scope, from about 85 to 90 years after Daniel's life forward to the end times that are still future to us today.

Comprehensive Prophecy

- Notice the things that are included in verse 24:
 - To finish transgression
 - To make an end of sin
 - To make atonement for iniquity
 - To bring in everlasting righteousness
 - To seal up vision and prophecy
 - To anoint the most holy place

Comprehensive Prophecy

- This is a “big picture” prophecy.
- This list gives you an idea of what God thinks is important in the big picture, especially for Israel. But there are clear implications for Gentiles as well.