

Daniel 9d – The 70 Weeks

THE SEVENTY WEEKS - THE STARTING POINT

(Daniel 9)

The Starting Point: Verse 25

The seventy weeks are to commence with “the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem.” It is of great importance that we be able to clearly establish this date. The Commandment to Restore and to Build Jerusalem

1. Note that the commandment was to be for the restoration and rebuilding of Jerusalem.
2. Three important decrees associated with Jerusalem present themselves:
 - a) Decree of Cyrus. Ezra 1: 1-4. 536 BC.
 - b) Decree of Darius. Ezra 6:1-12. 519 BC.
 - c) (3) Decree of Artaxerxes. Ezra 7 457 BC.
3. The first two commandments have reference only to the rebuilding of the temple and the city, and did not give permission to restore the civil power. Ezra 1:1-4; 4:12, 13.
3. The decree of Darius was made to allow the finishing of the work which had been hindered. The temple was finished in Darius’s reign. Ezra 6: 15.
4. The decree of Artaxerxes does not concern the building of the temple and the city, but gave Ezra full power to ordain laws. It is the only decree of the three which involves the restoration of the civil power. Ezra 7:25, 26.
5. These three commandments combined, constitute “the commandment” to restore and to build Jerusalem. Ezra 6: 14.

The Date 457 BC. Established

1. The Decree of Artaxerxes was given in his 7th year. Ezra 7: 7-9.
2. The Canon of Ptolemy places the first year of Artaxerxes in the year 284 of the Canon, which corresponds to our year beginning Dec. 17, 465 BC That is, Artaxerxes came to the throne somewhere between Dec. 17, 465 BC and Dec. 17, 464 BC, for the Ptolemaic Canon reckons the year of a king not from his accession but from the preceding new year. SDA Source Book, Page 432, 433 (Browne); 433, 434 (Ptolemy’s Canon)
3. Now from Nehemiah 1:1; 2:1 we see that both Chisleu and Nisan were in the same year of the king, and Ezra 7: 7-9 proves both the first and fifth months to be in the same year of Artaxerxes, and the month Chisleu precedes Nisan in the same year of the king. Also the first month precedes the fifth. Chisleu 9th month Corresponds to November-December. Nisan 1st month Corresponds to April. 5th month Corresponds to August.
4. Therefore, Artaxerxes must have come to the throne between August and November, i.e., in the autumn of 464 BC, for the autumn does not appear in the 465 BC portion of Ptolemy’s Canon.
5. Therefore the first year of Artaxerxes would stretch from the autumn of 464 BC to the autumn of 463 BC.
6. Therefore the seventh year of Artaxerxes would be from the autumn of 458 BC to the autumn of 457, BC.
7. The decree was not carried into effect until some time in the autumn of 457 BC. Ezra 7:8, 9; 8:36

8. Therefore the proof is unmistakable that the 2300 days commence in 457 BC (Autumn)

The Closing Date of the 2300 Years

1. The Jewish year commenced in the spring. Hence the Jewish year 457 BC started in the spring, and since this was the method used at the beginning of the 2300 days, it would be consistent to hold to that method. Then since the decree did not go forth till the autumn, approximately half of the year was gone. Therefore we have only 456.50 years out of 2300, and another 1843.50 years are required to make up the required 2300. 1843 years, reckoning from the spring as the beginning of the year, would bring its to the spring of 1844. One-half year more would take us to the autumn Of 1844 the true termination.
2. The same terminal is arrived at by taking the present reckoning of commencing the year in the winter (northern hemisphere). Reckoning thus, it will be that approximately three-quarters of 457 BC had passed before the decree went into effect. Therefore we can obtain only 456.25 years out of BC, and 1843.75 years are required to make up the 2300. But the year AD 1843.75 would bring us to autumn of 1844.

THE SEVENTY WEEKS-DIVISIONS

(Daniel 9)

Divisions Verses 24-27

1. First. There are two main divisions: the 490 years and the 1810 years remaining.
2. Second. The 490 years fall into three divisions:
 - a) 7 weeks = 49 years for the rebuilding of Jerusalem
 - b) 62 weeks = 434 years to the Messiah
 - c) 1 week = 7 years, in the midst of which the Messiah would be cut off

Fulfillment

1. The Rebuilding of Jerusalem. The rebuilding of Jerusalem occupied a period Of 49 years. Daniel And Revelation, Page 226 (Prideaux); SDA Source Book, Page 555, 556 (Pusey)
2. “Unto the Messiah the Prince.” V. 25.
 - a) 7 weeks + 62 weeks = 69 weeks (483 years) from 457 BC to Messiah.
 - b) 483 years from autumn 457 BC would reach to autumn AD 27.
 - c) Messiah = the Anointed One. John 1:41, margin.

Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit Acts 10:38. This anointing took place at His baptism. Mark 1: 10. God’s time prophecy found its fulfillment in the event of the baptism in the autumn of AD 27. Mark 1:15.

3. Messiah cut off. V. 26, 27.
 - a) In the midst of the week Christ was to be crucified, and the ceremonial system was to cease.
 - b) Christ commenced His mission in the autumn Of AD 27, and 3.50 years from here would bring us to the spring of AD 31.
 - c) Christ attended 4 Passovers, at the last of which He was crucified. John 2:13; 5:1; 6:4; 13:1.

Thus we have: 1st Passover in spring of AD 28

2nd AD 29

3rd AD 30

4th AD 31

The spring of AD 31 is just 3.50 years from the autumn of AD 27.

- d) At least 13 credible authorities locate the crucifixion of Christ in the spring of AD 31. Daniel And Revelation, Page 229.
 - e) Following quickly upon the rejection of the Messiah comes the overthrow of Jerusalem by the Roman armies in AD 70. Daniel 9: 26b-27b; Matthew 24:15; SDA Source Book, Page 561 (Clarke, Pusey).
4. Close of the 490 years.
- a) 321 years from the spring of AD 31 brings us to the autumn of AD 34.
 - b) In this year the Jews finally rejected the message of Christ by the stoning of Stephen. Soon after we have the conversion of Paul, the Gentile missionary Acts 9: 15
5. Cleansing of the Sanctuary.
- a) 1810 years from' the autumn of AD 34 bring us to the autumn of AD 1844.
 - b) Hence, according to the type, in 1844 the last phase of Christ's mediatorial work commenced in the heavenly sanctuary.
 - c) We live in a solemn day. Leviticus 16:19, 30
 - d) A view of the work. Daniel 7:9, 10, 13
 - e) The final decree. Revelation 22:11, 12

"It would be well to underline that Artaxerxes' decree was given in the year 457 B. C. This date can be derived from Ezra 7:7-8 where we are told that the decree was given in the fall of the seventh year of Artaxerxes. The year 457 B. C., as the seventh year of king Artaxerxes, is one of the most firmly rooted dates in ancient history. The work of Siegfried Hornand Kenneth Wood, The Chronology of Ezra 7, is definitive in settling the reliability of this date" Bohr

"The decree of 457 B. C., was the original decree given by Artaxerxes authorizing the rebuilding of the city by the Jews. But after he gave this decree, the enemies of the Jews, alarmed by the idea that the Jews would soon function as a theocracy again, sent a slanderous letter to the king which led him to suspend the decree he had given until the matter could be further reviewed. The building project was suspended and remained so until several years latter. In the twentieth year of Artaxerxes we find that Jerusalem was still in ruins. In fact, Nehemiah describes the situation to king Artaxerxes: ". . . the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire. . . ." (Nehemiah 2:3). The significant point here is that the city was still in ruins in 445 B. C. even though Artaxerxes had given the decree to build and restore the city in 457 B. C. And why was it still in ruins? The best explanation is that Artaxerxes had suspended his first decree because of the slanderous accusations of the Samaritans" Bohr

	536	520	515	457	445	408
70 years	+	+	+	+	+	+
Plaza and		Cyrus' Decree	Darius I Decree	Temple	Decree of Artaxerxes	Artaxerxes'
Making	Ezra 1:2-4 Ezra 4:1-3:	Ezra 6:1-13 Haggai	Finished	Ezra 7:12-26 Ezra 4:7-23	Permission to Rebuilding Neh. 2:1-4,	Decision Continue Finally 17,
Established	Samaritans Opposed	Zerubbabel Zechariah Joshua		20: 6:1-15; PK 609, 628-29, 635-80	Daniel 9:25	

“Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate [26-36 A. D.] being governor of Judaea, and Herod [Antipas: 4 B. C. – 39 A. D.] being tetrarch in Galilee, and his brother Philip [4 B. C. – 33/34 A. D.] tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias [dates not known] the tetrarch of Abilene, Annas [A. D. 6-14] and Caiphas being high priests, the Word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.”

The prophecy of the 70 weeks specifies that Messiah was to come “seven weeks and threescore and two weeks” after the decree of Artaxerxes. Beginning in 457 B. C. and going forward 483 years we arrive at 27 A. D. as the date for the manifestation of the Messiah (remember that there is no year “0” so only one year transpires between 1 B. C. and 1 A. D.). We know that Christ was cut off or killed in the middle of the last week, at springtime (Passover). This must mean that Messiah was manifested to Israel three and a half years earlier, in the fall (incidentally, this also means that Artaxerxes’ decree was given in the fall).

[Marcos C. Thaler](#) The 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar was not 28 A.D or 29 A.D., but 27 A.D. -- if recognizing John's account as commencing Tiberius' reign at his joint reign, not sole reign. Jesus was born, not around 1 B.C., but about 3 B.C. or before. (More data on this can be found here: What Year was Jesus Born? [<http://biblelight.net/year.htm>]) The following article by Fowler argues for a precise date of 3 B.C. here: When Was Jesus Born [<http://www.endtimeissues.com/.../Article155-When%20Was...>].) This would make him about 30 years old in 27 A.D., not 28 or 29 A.D. Those Dispensationalists who place the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius in 29 A.D. are directly adding 15 years to the commencement of Tiberius' sole reign date of 14 A.D., but this does not allow for inclusive years. Note that 14 A.D. is the 1st year and 15 is the 2nd, 16 = 3rd, 17 = 4th, 18 = 5th, 19 = 6th, 20 = 7th, 21 = 8th, 22 = 9th, 23 = 10th, 24 = 11th, 25 = 12th, 26 = 13th, 27 = 14th and 28 A.D. is the 15th, not 29 A.D. Now while Tiberius is said to have reigned from 14 A.D. to 37 A.D., we must remember that 14 A.D. is the starting year of his sole reign. But after his adoption in 4 B.C., Tiberius was granted tribunician (legislative) power and proconsular (military) power and in 13 B.C., his powers were made equal to that of Augustus effectively making him ruling co-emperor. So when Augustus died in 14 B.C., the question of succession was not an issue as Tiberius already had the powers of emperor. The 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar using his sole reign would make the baptism of Jesus in 28 A.D. Many get 29 A.D. because they forget to use inclusive years. Thus the calculation should actually be 14 A.D. + - 1 year = 28 A.D. But this of course cannot be reconciled with the decree to rebuild Jerusalem. But if you allow for the fact that he ruled jointly with Augustus for one year prior to 14 A.D., then that would make the baptism of Jesus to be one year earlier in 27 A.D. This then aligns with the other evidence for the starting date of 457 B.C. to rebuild Jerusalem.

If you doubt this data, you're welcome to verify it yourself in the following Encyclopedias:

Augustus: Encyclopaedia Britannica. 2009. Encyclopaedia Britannica Online. 16 Jun. 2009

<http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/imperi.../notes/augustus.html>

"Although Augustus was now feeling his age, these years in association with Tiberius were marked by administrative innovations: ... and the conversion of the hitherto occasional appointment of prefect of the city (praefectus urbi) into a permanent office (AD 13). When, in the same year, the powers of Augustus were renewed for 10 years--such renewals had been granted at intervals throughout the reign--Tiberius was made his equal in every constitutional respect...."

Tiberius: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberius>

"The death of Gaius in AD 4 initiated a flurry of activity in the household of Augustus. Tiberius was adopted as full son and heir and in turn, he was required to adopt Augustus' nephew, Germanicus, the son of his brother Drusus and Augustus' niece Antonia Minor. Along with his adoption, Tiberius received tribunician power as well as a share of Augustus's maius imperium, something that even Marcus Agrippa may never have had. In AD 7, Agrippa Postumus was disowned by Augustus and banned to the island of Planasia, to live in solitary confinement. Thus, when in AD 13, the powers held by Tiberius were made equal, rather than second, to Augustus's own powers, he was for all intents and purposes a "co-princeps" with Augustus, and in the event of the latter's passing, would simply continue to rule without an interregnum or possible upheaval. Augustus died in AD 14, at the age of 76...."

As we can see, Luke would have counted from Tiberius' joint reign if we are to correctly reconcile the dates:

Date for the giving of the Decree 7th Year of Artaxerxes	Plus 483 Years Jesus' baptism	15 th Year Tiberius Joint reign 13 A.D.	15 th Year Tiberius Sole reign 14 A.D.
458 B.C.	26 A.D.	27 A.D.	28 A.D.
457 B.C.	27 A.D.	27 A.D.	28 A.D.

Blessings