



# The Amazing Prophecy Of The **SEVENTY WEEKS**

*“Seventy weeks are determined upon your people and upon your holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy (place).” (Daniel 9:24)*



## The Golden Rule Of Interpretation

Created By Dr. David L. Cooper

Trying to understand what the Bible is saying can be difficult. I have discovered a way which has helped many people. It is known as Dr Cooper's Golden Rule. It is the rule that we will follow in this series.

***“When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic (i.e. self-evident or unquestionable) and fundamental truths indicate clearly otherwise.”***

**“A. Seek the plain, literal meaning of the scriptures.**

**“B. Seek the figurative meaning only when the facts demand such an interpretation.**

**“C. Study every statement of the scriptures in context.**

“Then study the facts of the context in the light of related passages and axiomatic (*i.e. self-evident or unquestionable*) fundamental truths.

*“No prophecy of scripture is of private (special) interpretation (2 Peter 1:20)*

*“The sum of thy word is truth (Psalm 119:160)*

“1. *The Golden Rule of Interpretation* is one of the most important principles governing us in our interpretation of the Scriptures.

“2. If we follow this rule, we shall never go very far wrong; **but if we fail to follow it, we shall never go right.**”

C. H. Spurgeon agrees,

*“I wish never to learn the art of tearing God's meaning out of His own Words. If there is anything clear and plain, the literal sense and meaning of (the) passage, (it's) a meaning not to be spirited or spiritualised away. (C. H. Spurgeon Sermon No. 582 on-line source)*

(“Cooper's Golden Rule” source: <http://www.messianicassociation.org/ezine19-dc.hermeneutics.htm>)



# The Amazing Prophecy Of The **SEVENTY WEEKS**

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# Introduction: The Amazing Prophecy Of The Seventy Weeks

This introduces a series of single-paged A4 sized documents dealing with the amazing prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27. It only has four verses, but what a wealth of information they contain outlining God's continuing dealings with Israel and revealing His hand in all of world history. This is a genuinely exciting passage and shows how the Lord God controls all things. This prophecy outlines the order of the various events that God has ordained. If you put your mind to it, and honestly seek the Lord, then He will lead you into His truth. *"Dear Lord, please open our eyes to know Your Truth."*

Daniel had been in Babylon for most of his life and was probably more than 80 years old when he wrote this book. The evidence for this comes from the book itself. Daniel was captured as a youth when King Nebuchadnezzar overthrew Jerusalem. (Daniel 1: 1-6) He was taken to Babylon where his wisdom was soon recognised by the King when he was able, under God, to interpret the King's dream.

## Background To The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

In Daniel nine we read

*"In the first year of Darius (who) was made king... I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem."* (Daniel 9:1-2)

Daniel here is referring to the prophecy of Jeremiah who revealed God's judgment on Israel for their sin. *"And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years."* (Jeremiah 25:11)

The reason for their capture was Israel's rebellion against the Lord. Part of that rebellion was Israel's constant refusal to let the land lie fallow. Under the Law that God gave to Moses the land was to have a "sabbath rest" every seven years. Here it is, *"And the Lord spoke unto Moses ... saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When you come into the land which I give you, then shall **the land** keep a sabbath unto the Lord. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the Lord: you shall neither sow your field, nor prune your vineyard."* (Leviticus 25:1-4)

Israel had disobeyed the Lord for 490 years and so the judgment came. Under the Law the land was to rest for one year in seven, its sabbath. Based on the judgment pronounced by Jeremiah that the "nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy

years," we conclude that the land must **not** have its sabbath rests for 490 years. Simple mathematics reveal that one seventh of 490 is 70 and so the Lord had them banished from the land for 70 years, so that the land could have its "sabbath rests."

Daniel says that he "understood by books" (by reading Jeremiah) why they were taken captive, and he also realised the length of that captivity. Daniel recognised that the time of their captivity was nearly over, for he had been a captive there for the whole of that time. So he immediately began to pray about the matter.

*And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, ... We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from your precepts and from your judgments: Neither have we listened unto your servants the prophets, which spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.* (Daniel 9:4-6)

Jumping ahead to verse 13 we read,

*13 As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us ... 18 O my God, incline Your ear, and hear; open Your eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name: for we do not present our supplications before You for our righteousnesses, but for Your great mercies. 19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for Your own sake, O my God: for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.* (Daniel 9:13-19 selected)

The Lord heard the emotional and honest cry of Daniel and, while he was still praying, God sent the angel Gabriel who interrupted his prayer saying *O Daniel, I am now come forth to give you skill and understanding. At the beginning of your supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show you; for you are greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.* (Daniel 9:22-23)

Then Gabriel revealed to Daniel the prophecy that we are now about to consider. The above summary is the background to the vision. Things to note are

- Israel was banished from the land for 70 years because they had not let the land lie fallow one year in every seven,
- thus the land had not had its sabbath rest for 490 years,
- and these are the exact numbers that feature in this remarkable *Prophecy Of The Seventy Weeks*.

God controls all, so it is not a coincidence, is it?

# What Is Going To Happen After Seventy Weeks?

We will examine each verse of this Prophecy separately as all contain remarkable information.

*Seventy weeks are determined upon **your people** and upon **your holy city**, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy (place) "Place" is in the margin. (Daniel 9:24)*

Some remarkable events are promised here so we must examine them separately. What does it mean when it says "seventy weeks"? To us a week is seven days, but that is not what is meant here. We are all familiar with "dozen" and it means twelve of anything. In the same way the Hebrew language has a word "shabua" that means "seven" and it can mean "seven of anything." The original verse simply said "seventy sevens are determined ..." and this was interpreted in English to say "seventy weeks." To English speakers that means a week of days, but that is not what it means here. In fact the expression "seventy weeks" means "seventy weeks of years." Some Bible translations say exactly those words, whilst certain others say "490 years are determined upon your people etc" based on simple mathematics:  $70 \times 7 = 490$  years. As we progress in his study you will see that, by comparing Scripture with Scripture, the words "seventy weeks" means "seventy weeks of years." That is what is meant here as we will see.

## A Jewish Prophecy

The next thing to note that the prophecy is linked to "your people" and to "your holy city." Daniel was Jewish and Daniel's only "holy city" is Jerusalem. The plain words here show that these promises are for the Jewish people and Jerusalem: and that means Israel.

Israel today exists as a nation fulfilling the promises God made in Ezekiel 37. The prophet was given a vision and saw "a valley of dry bones." God told him that "these bones are the whole house of Israel." (Ezekiel 37:11) Ezekiel saw the dry bones come together "bone to his bone." God promised "Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel." (Ezekiel 37:12)

In May 1948 the scattered "dry bones" of Israel miraculously became a Nation once again. The Jewish people had "wandered" amongst the nations for almost 2000 years. The children of Israel is now in the land of promise, but Ezekiel's

prophecy is only partially fulfilled for he was told that the children of Israel...

*"... shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, **And shall put my spirit in you, and you shall live,** and I shall place you in your own land: then shall you know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, says the Lord." (Ezekiel 37:13-14)*

Something like eight million Jewish people are now "back in the (promised)land" but the great majority of them do not yet know "that Jesus (is) the Lord:" but they will. There is more to come to complete this part of the prophecy, but we are witnessing its beginnings. Israel today does not yet recognise Jesus as their Messiah, but increasing numbers are turning to Jesus. There is a stirring in Israel and Ezekiel's prophecy (Ezekiel 37:11) is being fulfilled and will soon be fully realised.

The plain words of the prophecy list six realities and they all relate to Israel and the Jewish people. After this "seventy weeks" have elapsed these astounding things will have happened in Israel. What a glorious time it will be for Israel when the promises of this passage are fulfilled. The promises from Daniel 9:24 are...

1. "to finish the transgression." All Jewish rebellion against God will cease. The Jewish people will recognise Jesus as their Messiah.
2. "to make an end of sins." All Israel will love and obey the Lord and their sin forgiven.
3. "to make reconciliation for iniquity." All the wickedness of Israel and its people will be forgiven. They will be reconciled to God.
4. "and to bring in everlasting righteousness." Jesus Himself will reign from Jerusalem and His rule will be totally righteous, for what else could it be?
5. "to seal up the vision and prophecy." The prophecies will be fulfilled, or will be in the process of being fulfilled, during the reign of Christ on the earth.
6. "and to anoint the most Holy (place)." During Christ's reign from Jerusalem a new Temple will be built and this is a reference to it. (For detail see <https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/ezekiel-s-temple>.)

It is more than obvious that all of these things have not yet happened. The conclusion has to be that the *seventy weeks* are not concluded yet. The following "Single Paged Papers" will examine this matter and more of its remarkable truths will be examined.

# The Starting Point Of The Seventy Weeks

The *seventy weeks* have to begin sometime and Daniel was given the commencement date.

*“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks (i.e. 62 weeks): the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.”* (Dan 9: 25)

So this verse reveals:

- The starting date of the prophecy
- The date of the coming of the Messiah.

This verse also reveals that the *seventy “sevens”* or seventy weeks of “*years*” is made up of three unequal time periods.

The commencement date is the time when a “*commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem*” is given. There are several commands given regarding the reconstruction of the **Temple** in Jerusalem, but Daniel 9:25 speaks about the rebuilding of Jerusalem itself, **NOT** the Temple. The command for that is found in Nehemiah 2: 1-8...

*“And it came to pass in **the month Nisan**, in the **twentieth year** of Artaxerxes the king, ... Then the king said unto me (i.e. Nehemiah), *For what do you make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if your servant has found favour in your sight, that you would send me unto Judah, **unto the city of my fathers' graves, that I may build it.*** (Nehemiah 2: 1-8 selected verses for brevity)*

These verses establish the starting date. The command was given in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes reign, and in the month of Nisan. There are a number of books that go deeply into the details and they examine the precise mathematics to establish this date historically. The most famous of these books, and the most detailed, is “*The Coming Prince*” by Sir Robert Anderson. There is an alternative book “*Daniel’s Prophecy Of The Seventy Weeks*” by Dr Alva J. McClain. It is less detailed, but covers all the facts, is very readable and also available on-line.

Sir Robert Anderson, KCB, was the second Assistant Commissioner of the *London Metropolitan Police* from 1888 to 1901. He was also an intelligence officer, theologian and writer. He was trained in examining and discovering evidence and he applied his talent and vast experience to this remarkable prophecy, so he is fully qualified for the job.

In a *one paged series* such as this, it is impossible to explain all the details that Sir Robert Anderson so adequately provides. He proves with painstaking

accuracy the precise commencement date for the reconstruction of Jerusalem as recorded by Nehemiah. Anderson explains how the date relates to our modern calendar but it is far too detailed for a full explanation. The aim of the *Single Paged Papers* is to give an overview of these things as most people don’t really want all the detail.

Sir Robert Anderson reveals that the countdown of the “*seventy weeks*” began on 14th March 445 BC. Now that we have the starting date we turn our attention to the fact that the prophecy itself is broken up into several segments or time periods as certain events take place at those intervals viz...

- seven weeks (which is 49 years)
- sixty two weeks (which is 434 years) and
- one week from verse 27 (which is 7 years)
- thus  $7 + 62 + 1 = 70$  weeks which is 490 years.

Daniel tells us that “*the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*” That is a fair description of Nehemiah’s experience when rebuilding the city. He was hampered and constantly attacked by certain men who recruited a sort of “*army.*” These days that group would be called *terrorists*. Nehemiah’s workmen armed themselves and even carried weapons whilst doing the repair work. (Nehemiah 4:16-18) This reconstruction work took up the first “*seven*” of the “*seventy sevens.*” That is  $7 \text{ years} \times 7 = 49 \text{ years}$ .

## The Coming Messiah

The prophecy goes on to make a startling announcement: **the exact date of the coming of “*Messiah the Prince.*”** Daniel revealed that “*Messiah the Prince*” would come after 69 “*weeks*” had passed. This is made up of 7 “*weeks (of years)*” plus 62 “*weeks of years*” making 69 “*weeks of years*” in all. So Daniel teaches that Messiah the Prince will come after 69 weeks of years. That is 483 years after “*the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem*” was issued.

Sir Robert Anderson explains the mathematics of these 483 years and shows that Jesus, “*Messiah the Prince,*” rode into Jerusalem “*upon a colt the foal of an ass*” (Zechariah 9:9) at exactly that time. He gives the date as 6<sup>th</sup> April 32 AD.

In a small space like these “*Single Paged Papers*” all the evidence can hardly be provided so, if you want a more detail of how these calculations were made, get a copy of Sir Robert Anderson’s book “*The Coming Prince*” or Dr McClains excellent book, “*Daniel’s Prophecy Of The Seventy Weeks.*” Alva McClains book can be read in one afternoon.

## **“The Messiah Shall Be Cut Off,” “A Prince Shall Come,” and “Jerusalem And The Temple Will Be Destroyed”**

**The Prophecy Continues:** *And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for Himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.* Daniel 9:26

Last time we saw how Jesus the Messiah rode into Jerusalem at the end of the 69th week, made up of 7 weeks of years plus 62 weeks of years (v25). Here we read that “*Messiah (will be) cut off*” after the 69th week. From our vantage point in history we know precisely what that means. Jesus, our Saviour, died an undeserved death as far as His sinless life was concerned. Jesus suffered what is called a “*vicarious*” death, that means He suffered death “*for another,*” specifically for you and me.

### **The Kingdom Rejected**

In Mark we read that “*Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent and believe the gospel.*” (Mark 1:14-15) The religious leaders totally rejected Jesus and His offer of the Kingdom by stating the hypocritical lie that “*We have no king but Caesar.*” (John 19:15)

This official rejection of the Kingdom by the Jewish leaders led Jesus to later cry out

*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that kill the prophets, and stone them which are sent unto you, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, You shall not see Me henceforth, till you shall say, Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.* (Matthew 23: 37-39)

So Jesus was rejected bringing heartache to our Lord. Hear His tragic words: “*and you would not!*” His offer to bring in the kingdom was withdrawn. The first 69 weeks of Daniel’s prophecy had ended and soon Jesus would be “*cut off.*” The rejection of Jesus, and His death, completed the first 69 weeks of Daniel’s prophecy. “*He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.*” (John 1:10-11) The countdown clock of the prophecy stopped when Jesus was rejected, as will be explained.

The prophecy shifts its focus at this point where it says, “*and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary*”. There are **two elements** to examine here

7. Certain people are mentioned and we are told that they “*shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.*”

8. We are then made aware of another person, an unnamed man, who is described as the “*prince who shall come.*”

This verse gives essential knowledge in order for us to understand what is to come. If we look at it closely it will soon sort itself out. There are three elements described here.

1. Messiah will be “*cut off.*”
2. A prince “*shall come,*”
3. and that “*coming prince*” shall arise out of those people “*who destroyed the city.*”

As we saw, Jesus was rejected by the Jewish leaders and consequently He, with anguish, told the Jewish people that their “*house was left unto them desolate.*” He also told them that the Temple would be destroyed, saying not “*one stone would be left upon another.*” (Matthew 24: 1-2) That is exactly what Daniel 9:26 is describing. The prophet reveals that certain people “*... shall destroy the city and the sanctuary,*” meaning Jerusalem and the Temple. We all know that the it was the Romans who “*destroyed the city and the sanctuary.*”

Now we come to the next bit which says that a “*prince (or leader) ... shall come (or arise)*” **from out of those people who destroyed Jerusalem.** The Romans destroyed it, so how can a prince arise from the Roman Empire that no longer exists? The Roman Empire was never overthrown and it was a geographical and political entity. In many ways Western or European civilisation grew out of that Roman culture.

This verse is teaching that a “*coming prince*”, or leader, shall arise out of the geographical area of the ancient Roman Empire. That area includes much of what is known today as Western Europe (the EU), Turkey, parts of Asia Minor and North Africa. Many Christian writers refer to this geographical area as the “*Revived Roman Empire.*”

Who is this “*prince who shall come?*” Firstly the prince **is not** Jesus the Messiah. He is in fact the Antichrist, and that fact is made clear in the next verse coming up on the next “*Single Paged Paper.*”

This prophecy is very far reaching extending beyond our current year. The Antichrist is still not recognised today, but it is possible that he could be living right now, and “*out there*” somewhere waiting for his moment on the stage of history.

# The Seventieth Week: Part I

**The Prophecy Continues:** *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.* (Daniel 9:27)

This part of the Prophecy requires a bit of extra effort so it will be covered in two parts. The King James wording above is admittedly difficult and the NIV puts it in a simpler form. It says,

*“He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven’. In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”* (Daniel 9:27)

Here we learn more about this other “prince” mentioned here by using the pronoun “he.” We read *“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week.”* In context, the “he” is the “prince that shall come.” The “he” **cannot be Christ** as nowhere does our Lord make a seven year Covenant with anyone. Furthermore our Saviour would never cause “an abomination” anywhere, as that is what this “prince” does.

The “prince” here is *Antichrist*. What does he do?

- He makes a covenant of seven years duration, *“he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week.”*
- With whom does he make it?
- With the people whose city and sanctuary were destroyed by the ancient Romans as we saw in the previous page.

This can only be referring to Israel. Daniel tells us that *“Seventy weeks are determined upon **your people** and upon **your holy city**,”* so it must be about Israel. The whole of the seventy weeks concern Israel. The first 69 weeks have now passed and we have just one “seven” or “week” left, the 70<sup>th</sup> week.

Here in verse 27 we read that this “coming prince” will *“confirm the covenant with many for one week.”* This seven year covenant is the final or missing “week” of Daniel’s prophecy. Israel now takes the leading role again in God’s dealings with mankind.

The world is in turmoil at this time. Strange things have happened in Israel and all over the world, and more is to come. Many in Israel today are well aware of prophecy because of missioning evangelicals who believe the prophecies. These faithful men and women have been missioning there for decades, and thus many in Israel are also well aware of the events that we are discussing.

Most Israeli’s still reject these missionaries and their message, but they do hear it. The missionaries are

in Israel today because they know what the Lord is doing and will be doing. In fact there are many missions to the Jewish people all over the world and most are bringing the same message, the return of the Messiah.

There will be great tensions in Israel when these events are unfolding. We remind ourselves that the amazing event called the rapture has just happened when millions all over the world have disappeared. Many Jewish people today know what Jesus said about the rapture, but they don’t believe it yet, but they will. When the rapture happens there will be an overwhelming interest in Israel for God will awaken such an interest.

This has always been the plan of God. Jesus, in His earthly life, addressed the Israeli’s **who will be living at that time** saying, *“So likewise, when you shall **SEE all these things**, know that it is near, even at the doors. ... Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for you know not what hour your Lord does come.”* (Matthew 24: 33, 40-42) Jesus long ago told them about the rapture and this generation has **seen** it.

Jesus said, *“When you shall **SEE all these things**.”* This is THAT moment for the whole of Israel are effectively eye-witnesses that the rapture has happened. It has a wonderful effect on many who are instantly “ripened” for the Gospel. This is the very moment when God raises up 144,000 Jewish evangelists who are described as *“the first-fruits unto God and to the Lamb.”* (Rev 14:4) These men, from every tribe of ancient Israel, realise just whom Jesus is and they are immediate witnesses for Him. They are Jewish, from every tribe, but will be of many nationalities and speak many languages, and all will be faithful witnesses for the Lord.

God also raises up two special witnesses who may be a part of the 144,000. We are told that these two men witness for Christ for 1260 days. (Rev 11:3) We read *“And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.”* (Rev 11:7) So these two special witnesses must have arisen immediately after the Rapture as they witness for 1260 days. The Tribulation is made up of two periods of 1260 days, and they are the Lord’s witnesses for the first 1260 of those days. (Continued on the next Single Paged Paper.)

# The Seventieth Week: Part 2

**The Prophecy:** *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.* (Daniel 9:27)

More evidence that the “*prince*” is Antichrist. We can easily identify him because we are blessed to have scriptures that were unknown to Daniel. The New Testament gives more detail.

In Revelation we read of a man called *Antichrist* or the *Beast*. Revelation clearly identifies *Antichrist* as the one who makes a seven-year Covenant with the people of Israel. **This “seven” or “year” is the missing seventieth “week” of Daniel’s prophecy.** The agreement Antichrist makes with Israel marks the time when God’s clock for Israel starts ticking again, it is the seventieth “seven,” the last “seven.”

Some extra detail of how Antichrist behaves comes from Revelation 13. There we discover that the agreement is broken after half of its time has elapsed. Daniel puts it this way “*in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease.*” So Antichrist breaks the Agreement in the middle just as Daniel said. Revelation confirms it.

The half of this “seven” is described in Revelation in several different ways. It is called “*a time, times and half a time*” (that is 3 1/2 times) (Rev 12:14), “*forty two months*” (Rev 13:5) and also “*1260 days*” (Rev 11:3) leaving no doubt that it means half of seven years.

How does Antichrist break the Agreement? Daniel tells us that “***in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease ...***”

Revelation gives extra detail by revealing that Antichrist sets an image of himself in the Temple and demands that it is worshipped,

“*... Saying to them that dwell on the earth that they should make an image to the beast... and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*” (Rev 13: 14-15)

Jesus gave a very comprehensive warning about this period in Israel’s history **and He links it to the exact verses we are examining.** Jesus calls the image of antichrist in the Temple as “*the abomination of desolation.*”

Jesus sounded this urgent warning to the Jewish people who will be living at that time saying “***So when you SEE standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel...then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains...For there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. If those***

*days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.* (Matthew 24: 15-22)

Jesus here gives a fearful warning of the extreme dangers about to come upon the people of Israel. The whole of the 70th week is a time of trouble, but the second half is by far the worst for it is a time of horror never yet known in history. The Old Testament calls it “*the time of Jacob’s trouble*” for it is all about yet another attempt to annihilate the Jewish people. “***Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble***” (Jeremiah 30: 7)

Jesus thus confirms that this is a future event because horrors like this have never happened. Jesus also confirms that “*the prince*” is Antichrist. Furthermore Jesus endorses the reliability and certainty of Daniel’s prophecy.

Antichrist deceives most of the world. We read “*And they worshipped the dragon (Satan) which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast (Antichrist) , saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*” (Rev 13:4-8)

Antichrist comes to a dreadful end, as do all who oppose our Lord Jesus Christ.

“*And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*”

(Revelation 19:19-20)

Daniel’s prophecy ends with these words “*and that determined shall be poured upon the desolator*” and Revelation 19 above shows precisely what that means.

# An Objection Regarding The Seventieth Week

As may be expected, there are objections to this understanding of Daniel's prophecy. The primary one is that it creates a "time gap" between the 69th and the 70th "weeks." This "time gap" now extends to about 2000 years and is increasing daily. Critics say that this "time gap" cannot be justified.

These critics mostly come from the "Replacement Theology - Amillennialism" camp some of whom teach that God has long ago finished with Israel. In their view Israel is now totally irrelevant in the plan of God, being replaced by the Church. So, in some ways, proponents of this view cannot afford to admit the involvement of national Israel, because it totally destroys their theological position that God is finished with Israel.

The fact is that there are many "time gaps" in Biblical prophecies and it is not at all rare. In many prophetic visions the prophets looked down the ages and saw certain events that were to occur, but they did not realise that there were sometimes extensive "time gaps" in their vision of the future.

A great example of a "time gap" is found in the prophecy of Isaiah. **It is Jesus Himself who reveals this example** and it comes from Luke 4 ...

*"And Jesus came to Nazareth, where He ...went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up to read. And there was delivered unto Him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.' **And He closed the book...**"* (Luke 4: 16-20)

To appreciate what Jesus taught here we must examine the original prophecy from Isaiah. The underlined section, shown below, is the portion that Jesus read and the **bold type shown below are the words Jesus DID NOT read...**

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;*  
(Isaiah 61:1-2)

Luke tells us that Jesus "closed the book" after reading the words, "To preach the acceptable year

*of the Lord."* **In doing so He stopped reading right in the middle of the passage and, in doing so, Jesus Himself revealed a "time gap."** Why did Jesus stop there? Because, at that time, He was only fulfilling the first part of Isaiah's prophecy. Jesus left out the part that tells of "**the day of vengeance**" as "*the day of vengeance*" had not yet arrived, and still hasn't arrived. The part that Jesus read from Isaiah's prophecy was being fulfilled **at that very moment** as Jesus immediately explained. Here it is. Jesus, after reading the passage, "*closed the book*" and began to preach. His first words were, "**This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**" (Luke 4: 21)

So we are given unassailable evidence by Jesus Himself that prophecy is sometimes partially fulfilled, with other portions of it coming at a later time. The part that Jesus left out, Isaiah's *Day of Vengeance*, still has not come, but it will! The ancient prophets, like Isaiah, saw these events and recorded them accurately, but they were not aware of the "time gap." In this case between "*the year of the Lord's*" coming and "*the day of vengeance of our God.*" **So the idea that there are "time gaps" in prophecy is established by Jesus Himself.**

The theory that there is NO time gap argues that all the years of the prophecy follow each other just as normal time does. So let us look at the *Seventy Weeks* prophecy itself for it reveals a built-in "time gap." It predicts the coming and subsequent death of the Messiah in verse 26.

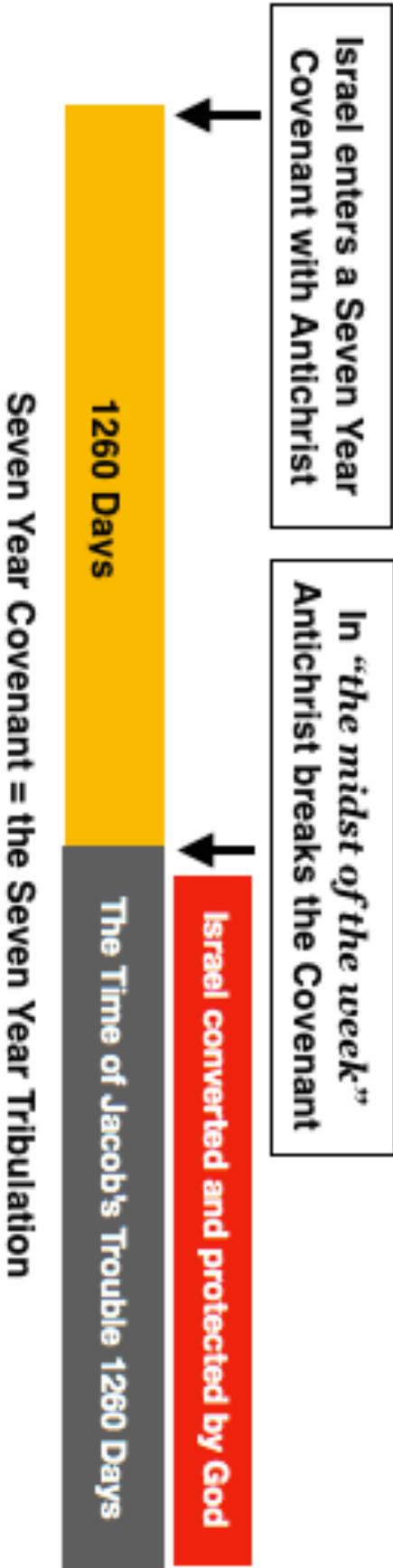
*"And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for Himself:"*

It then goes on to announce that the city of Jerusalem and the Temple will be destroyed.

*"and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary..."*

The crucifixion of Jesus happened at the end of the 69th week. Thus if there was no time gap, the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple would have had to occur within seven years of the death of Jesus, but it didn't! It was close to 40 years later that the destruction of Jerusalem occurred in 70AD. Daniel links the destruction of Jerusalem to a time BEFORE the events of the 70th week and thus Daniel shows a "time gap" between the 69th and 70th week.

Once a "time gap" has been established it does not matter how long the "time gap" may be. The truth is that no one knows how long a time will pass before the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy is fulfilled, for that date is not revealed.



# Glossary Of Terms Used

## **Replacement Theology aka Supersessionism**

This is a doctrine that promotes the idea that God is now and forever finished with Israel. Israel has been "*replaced by the Church*" and so the promises to Israel now devolve upon the Church. It is the basis of the doctrines of the Anglicans, the Roman Catholics, the Presbyterians, some Baptist Churches, the Uniting Church and others. Click here for this subject. <https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/replacement-theology>

## ***The Great Tribulation also known as "The time of Jacob's trouble."*** (Jeremiah 30:7)

The above two terms are used in Scripture to describe this period of turmoil and destruction that comes upon the whole of the earth. It is "*a time of great fear and trembling*" when "*men's hearts fail them for fear.*" It is a time when God's wrath will be poured out on wicked mankind. It leads to the glorious moment when Israel at last recognise Jesus as their Messiah. From that moment on the Lord fights for Israel.

## **Amillennial(ism)**

Amillennial literally means "no millennial." It is the doctrine that Christ **will NOT** reign on the earth for 1000 years. It is irrevocably linked to the Replacement doctrine shown above.

## **Premillennial(ism)**

The doctrine that Christ will Return before the Millennial begins and **WILL** then reign on the earth for 1000 years. It comes from a literal understanding, that is a normal understanding, of the plain words of the Scriptures. Click here for more on this subject. <https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/amillennial-or-premillennial>