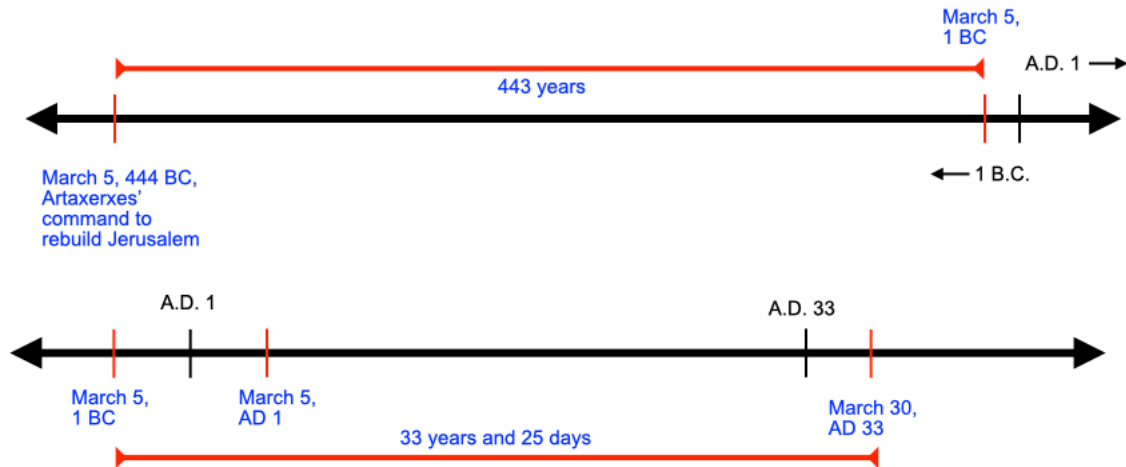


GOD'S PROGRAM FOR ISRAEL (Daniel 9:24-27)

Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks have been determined concerning your people and your holy city to put an end to rebellion, to bring sin to completion, to atone for iniquity, to bring in perpetual righteousness, to seal up the prophetic vision, and to anoint a Most Holy Place. **25** So know and understand: **From** the issuing of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem **until** an anointed one, a prince arrives, there will be a period of seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. It will again be built, with plaza and moat, but in distressful times. **26** Now **after** the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one will be cut off and have nothing. As for the city and the sanctuary, the people of the coming prince will destroy them. But his end will come speedily like a flood. Until the end of the war that has been decreed there will be destruction. **27** He will confirm a covenant with many for one week. But in the middle of that week he will bring sacrifices and offerings to a halt. On the wing of abominations will come one who destroys, until the decreed end is poured out on the one who destroys.

- I. WHO/WHAT IS THIS PROPHECY ABOUT?
 - a. "your people" – meaning Daniel's people, the Jews
 - b. "your holy city" – meaning Daniel's holy city, Jerusalem
- II. WHAT IS A WEEK?
 - a. A week is literally a "seven," but seven days? Seven weeks? Seven years?
 - b. None of the prophesied events happened within 70 weeks (of days).
 - c. If Daniel meant literal weeks he would say "sevens of days" as he did in Daniel 10:2-3
 - d. Daniel was praying about the 70 years of captivity, and so it is most natural to think of the "sevens" / weeks as weeks of years.
 - e. But how long is a year? In Jewish reckoning, years were composed of twelve 30-day months, for a total of 360 days in a year (as was common in many other ancient civilizations). This is confirmed in the book of Revelation 11:2-3, 12:6-14, 13:5 (compare to Daniel 7:24-25, 9:27).
- III. WHAT IS THE 6-FOLD PURPOSE OF THE 70 WEEKS? (Daniel 9:24-25)
 - a. "to put an end to rebellion" – their rebellion against the rule of God will finally stop at the end of the 70 weeks when they turn to Christ.
 - b. "to bring sin to completion" – here "sin" is plural; their sin will not end until the root sin of rebellion is removed at the end of the 70 weeks.
 - c. "to atone for iniquity" – the atonement Jesus provided at the cross will be applied to a remnant of Israel at the end of the 70 weeks (cf. Zech. 13:1).
 - d. "to bring in perpetual righteousness" – this will characterize the Messianic kingdom, both "perpetual" and "righteousness."
 - e. "to seal up the prophetic vision" – all of the prophecies are sealed up in the sense of no longer being a concern.
 - f. "to anoint a Most Holy Place" – location for the new Temple (see Ezekiel 40-48) will be consecrated for God's service.
 - g. Culmination is the arrival of the anointed one, a "prince" or ruler, Jesus Christ (Daniel 9:25), who will be anointed as king.
- IV. WHAT IS THE STARTING POINT OF THE 70 WEEKS? END OF 69 WEEKS?
 - a. The challenge is identifying "the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem...with plaza and moat" (Daniel 9:25).
 - b. Cyrus issued a decree in 539 B.C. (2 Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4, 5:13) pertaining to rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem.
 - c. Darius I (522-486 B.C.) issued a decree in 518/519 B.C. that confirmed Cyrus' earlier decree (Ezra 6:1, 6-12).
 - d. Artaxerxes (464-424 B.C.) issued a decree in 457 B.C. (Ezra 7:11-26) relating to the finances for animal sacrifices at the temple.
 - e. THIS ONE FITS: Artaxerxes issued a decree in Nissan 444 B.C. (March / April), and if we assume for our purposes the decree issued on Nissan 1, 444 B.C., that translates to March 5, 444 B.C.



69 weeks = 69 X 7 years = 483 years (Jewish reckoning)

483 years = 483 X 360 days = 173,880 days

173,880 ÷ 365.24 = 476.07 years on Gregorian calendar

Or about 476 years and 25 days

- V. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE 69 WEEKS? (Daniel 9:26)
- “an anointed one will be cut off and have nothing” – the Messiah will be killed and have nothing befitting his role as Christ and King.
 - “the people of the coming prince will destroy” the city and Temple – it is not the “coming prince” / anti-Christ, but his people, that will destroy Jerusalem and its Temple; this was fulfilled by the Romans in A.D. 70; the “prince” is the little horn of Daniel 7:8 and he will be the future and last Roman ruler.
 - “his [the prince / ruler] end will come speedily like a flood” – the anti-Christ will die in an outpouring / flood of God’s wrath, this happens in the 70th week.
 - “until the end of the war that has been decreed there will be destruction” – there will be war affecting Israel until the end of the 70 weeks as God has decreed (these wars ultimately turn Israel back to God).
- VI. WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE 70th WEEK? (Daniel 9:27)
- “he will confirm a covenant with many for one week” – “he” refers back to the “coming prince” of Daniel 9:26; the anti-Christ will enter a covenant with Daniel’s people, Israel, presumably promising peace
 - “in the middle of that week he will bring sacrifices and offering to a halt” – the anti-Christ breaks the deal, assuming political and religious power and stopping the Levitical system (which is apparently restored by this time); he will apparently cause people to worship him (2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:8)
 - “on the wing of abominations will come one who destroys” – Jesus referred to this in Matthew 24:15, may indicate defiling a then-existing temple in Jerusalem, and mandating idolatry (Rev. 13:14-15)
 - “until the decreed end is poured out on the one who destroys” – the anti-Christ and his false prophet are killed and dispatched to the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20; cf. Daniel 7:11, 26)

**A great resource on dating Biblical events related to Jesus is *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ* by Harold W. Hoehner.