

Gabriel begins the message by saying to Daniel, “You are greatly loved”.

²⁴ *“Seventy weeks are determined
For your people and for your holy city,
To finish the transgression,
To make an end of sins,
To make reconciliation for iniquity,
To bring in everlasting righteousness,
To seal up vision and prophecy,
And to anoint the Most Holy.*

Gabriel mentions 6 things in the context of this timing. He says that 70 weeks are determined for the people of Israel. This can't be taken literally because in the ancient Hebrew the word translated as “week” is a unit of sevens. It often means 7 days, it can also mean a unit of 7 years. There are other biblical examples of this. So, for this reason, scholars believe this is a unit of 490 years which is 70X7. During 70 weeks of years are decreed for the Jews and the holy city of Jerusalem.

So what will be accomplished? 1) finish transgressions, 2) end sins, 3) reconciliation for iniquity, 4) bring everlasting righteousness, 5) to finish up prophecy, and 6) to anoint the “Most Holy”. So these are things that are going to be fulfilled during a 490 year period. So now we're going to see more specifically how these time periods need to be viewed.

²⁵ *“Know therefore and understand,
That from the going forth of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;
The street shall be built again, and the wall,
Even in troublesome times.*

This is a time-frame to figure out the coming of the Messiah to the Jews.

From the “going out of the word to rebuild Jerusalem” – this was given in the Book of Nehemiah. King Artaxerxes made a command to rebuild the walls of the city. It begins when the “streets and the walls” shall be rebuilt again. This happened in 445 BC [ADD SCRIPTURE] when Artaxerxes made this decree. This is when the clock began ticking for 490 years. So there will be 7 sevens (49 years) plus 62 weeks/sevens (434 years) totaling 483 years. So this is saying that Messiah the Prince will appear in 483 years after the decree to rebuild the streets and walls of Jerusalem.

The Jews were told when Messiah would come the first time. They could mark it on a calendar.

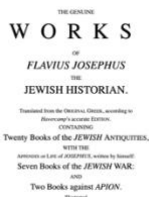
*26 "And after the sixty-two weeks
Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;*

Daniel is saying that He will die.

*And the people of the prince who is to come
Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.
The end of it shall be with a flood,
And till the end of the war desolations are determined.*

Daniel is seeing that they are going to be allowed to go back to their homeland, and he's been told that they'll rebuild the walls and the streets of the city, but he's told that it's going to be destroyed again. Who is going to destroy it? The "people of the prince who is to come". It will come in like a flood. We know that the Roman army flooded into Jerusalem in 70 AD and burned the city and destroyed the Temple. Jesus predicted this in Mark 13:1-2

13 Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!"² And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down."



Over the last year I have been reading Josephus as we have worked our way through the patriarchs and the conquest of Canaan. It gives great insights into scripture. You can look any of his works up at <https://penelope.uchicago.edu/josephus/index.html> There is a full description of the horrific destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.

So Jesus predicted about 30 years before the destruction that it would happen. So, who is this "prince" of the people? Please remember that many prophecies refer to two different events and/or people. The destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD was a foreshadowing of the attack and destruction that will be accomplished by the Antichrist. That is why the Olivet Discourse is so hard to get your mind around. It is talking about two time periods. In it Jesus makes reference to things that didn't happen in 70 AD. They are going to happen during the Great Tribulation. The Jews call that time period the "Time of Jacob's trouble".

*27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; (a 7 year period)
But in the middle of the week
He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.
And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,
Even until the consummation, which is determined,
Is poured out on the desolate."*

This is how we know that half way through the seven year period that there will be a decree broken. The Antichrist will go on to desecrate the Temple. This will happen until he is made

desolate. So, we're told here that the Antichrist is going to set up his own image demanding worship from the world.

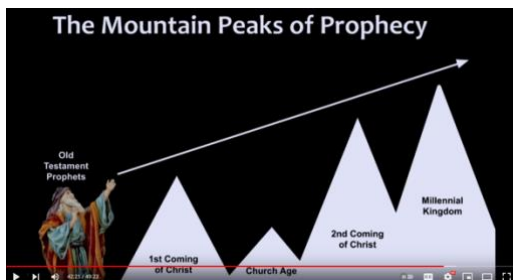
Time periods in three DIVISIONS:

- 7 weeks (or 49 years)
- 62 weeks (or 434 years)
- 1 week (or 7 years)

So, let's go back and figure out how all these things work out during this 490 years. If you count 490 years, it goes to about 7 years after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. This is where the separation of time occurs. You have these 69 weeks plus the 1 week to complete the prophecy that Gabriel gave Daniel.

But something happened between the 69 weeks and the final 70th week. This is the "Church Age". God paused the clock, and the 69th week has been suspended.

The clock was stopped as pertaining to the Jews. The OT prophets could see a lot of things in the future, but they couldn't see the Church Age. Paul tells us that the Church is a "mystery". That means something previously unrevealed that is now revealed.



The prophets couldn't see the church so they just prophesied about the things that encompass the "Day of the Lord", the "End of the Ages", the "Coming of the Lord", the Messiah, and a Millennial Reign of peace. The Church was hidden only to be revealed later.

This stopped the clock for Israel because her time was not completed and it will not be completed until the Church is removed. The Church will be removed at the time of the rapture, and then Daniel's prophesied 70th week will occur. The 70th week is the time period of the 7 year Great Tribulation.

Daniel's Incredible Prophecy: Dan 9:20-27
 "70 Weeks Are Determined Upon Thy People and Upon Thy Holy City"

The last four verses of Daniel 9 comprise four distinct parts:

1. Dan 9:24 – The scope of the entire prophecy
2. Dan 9:25 – The 69 weeks (of years)
3. Dan 9:26 – An interval between the 69th and 70th weeks
4. Dan 9:27 – The 70th week: The Tribulation

