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DANIEL NINE'S "70 WEEKS"

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Kings of Judah		Year From Creation	Kings of Babylon and Persia		Jeremiah's Prophecies Of Seventy Years	
Name of King	Years of Kingship		Years of Kingship	Name Of King		
Jehoiakim	4	3319	1	Nebuchadnezzar	Jeremiah 25:12 - "And it shall be at the completion of seventy years, I will visit upon the king of Babylon and upon that nation, says the Lord, their iniquity, and upon the Chaldeans, and I will make it for everlasting desolations."	
	5	3320	2			
	6	3321	3			
	7	3322	4			
	8	3323	5			
	9	3324	6			
	10	3325	7			
	11	3326	8			
	Jehiachin 3-month reign		3327			9
	Zedekiah	1	3328			10
		2	3329			11
3		3330	12			
4		3331	13			
5		3332	14			
6		3333	15			
7		3334	16			
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		3362	44			
		3363	45			
		3364	1			
		3365	2			
		3366	3			
		3367	4			
		3368	5			
		3369	6			
		3370	7			
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		3372	9			
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		3384	21			
		3385	22			
		3386	23			
		3387	1			
		3388	2			
		3389	3			
		3390	1			
		3391	2			
		3392	3			
		3393	1			
		3394	2			
		3395	3			
		3396	4			
		3397	5			
		3398	6			
		3399	7			
		3400	8			
		3401	9			
		3402	10			
		3403	11			
		3404	12			
		3405	13			
		3406	14			
		3407	1			
		3408	2			

* In the year 3390, Daniel contemplated two critical prophecies in which Jeremiah spoke of Babylon's demise following 70 years (Jer. 25:12 and 29:10). Although both of these 70-year visions foretold the termination of the Babylon Empire, it was only the second prophecy (Jer. 29:10) that spoke of the restoration of the Jewish people to the Promised Land. When Daniel considered these two texts, however, he mistakenly concluded that Jeremiah's two 70-year prophecies were speaking of an identical period of time. This misunderstanding caused him to draw three flawed conclusions. First, that the point to begin counting the 70 years for both prophecies was the year 3320, when Babylon conquered Jerusalem. Second, these prophecies must therefore end 70 years after Jerusalem's subjugation, in the year 3390, when Darius the Mede succeeded the throne. Third, because Jeremiah's second prophecy (Jer. 29:10) spoke of God restoring Israel after the completion of 70 years, Daniel concluded that the second temple would certainly be built in the year 3390, in the first year of Darius the Mede.

When Daniel realized that the year 3390 was at hand, and there was no sign of the impending redemption, he became deeply agitated. He thought that the sins of Jewry had caused the date to be delayed, or worse - canceled. This terrifying thought compelled Daniel to fast and pray (Dan. 9:4-20) for the restoration of Jerusalem and its Sanctuary.

It is therefore in this chapter that Daniel is made to understand that the two prophecies of Jeremiah are in fact not identical, and each one of them referred to a separate, but overlapping, 70-year period of time. Whereas the prophecy of Jeremiah 25:12 was in fact referring to the 70-year time span that began in the year 3320, when Jerusalem was subjugated, the prophecy that promised the restoration of the Jewish people to their land (29:10) was not to begin for another 18 years.

Accordingly, Gabriel here relates to Daniel that in order to correctly ascertain when the Second Temple would be built, he must begin counting the 70 years "from the going forth of the WORD [דבר] (9:25)," which is "the WORD [דבר] of Jeremiah" that begins at "the destruction of Jerusalem (9:2)," in the year 3338. In fact, Jeremiah's prophecy of restoration (29:10) was fulfilled in the year 3408, 18 years later than Daniel had originally thought.

**The angel Gabriel responds to Daniel's prayerful inquiry of God by carefully outlining the course of events which was to unfold over a crucial period of time that spanned 490 years, or "70 weeks" (the Babylonian exile lasted 70 years, plus the 420 years which the Second Temple stood). Thus, the angel was not only revealing to Daniel when the Second Temple would be restored, but when it would be destroyed as well.

Gabriel also reveals that once these "70 weeks" were completed, the Messianic Age could begin. Thus, in verse 24, the angel describes six elements that will characterize the world in the Messianic Age:

- 1) termination of transgression
- 2) end of sin
- 3) removal of all iniquity
- 4) ushering in of everlasting righteousness
- 5) sealing of vision and prophet
- 6) anointing of the Holy of Holies. And once these 490 years are completed, it would indeed be up to each subsequent generation to turn back to God in order to bring about the glorious arrival of the messiah.

Emperor of Rome		
Nero	3823	10
	3824	11
	3825	12
	3826	13
	3827	14
	3828	Year of Three Emperors
Galba; Otho; Vitellius		
Vespasian	3829	1

415 Years

Seven years before the Second Temple was destroyed, Rome permitted the Jews to offer sacrifices. This agreement, however, was broken when Nero sent Vespasian to crush Jewish life in Jerusalem in 66 CE, 3 1/2 years before Titus razed Herod's Temple in the year 3829 (Daniel 9:27).

Rome's Emperor Nero goes to war against Jerusalem in 66 CE, 3 1/2 years before Vespasian destroyed the Second Temple in the year 3829, completing 490 years of Daniel's prophecy

Messianic Age

CHRONOLOGICAL CHART OF DANIEL CHAPTER NINE

Beginning of the Kingdom of Babylon - 3319
 Babylon's subjugation of Jerusalem - 3320

*The prophet Jeremiah predicted (25:12) the termination of Babylon following a period of 70 years. This prophecy began when Babylon subjugated Jerusalem in the year 3320, and culminated when Cyrus called for the rebuilding of Jerusalem and a temple (Isaiah 44:28-45:1) in the year 3390.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, destroyed the First Temple in the year 3338, 18 years after he subjugated Jerusalem in the year 3320.

Destruction of the first temple - 3338

Jeremiah 29:10 - "For so said the Lord: 'For at the completion of seventy years of Babylon I will remember you, and I will fulfill My good WORD toward you, to restore you to this place.'"

**70 WEEKS (of years) - Gabriel begins his prophecy to Daniel (9:24) with the revelation that "70 weeks" (490 years) have been decreed upon the Jewish people and Jerusalem, after which the Messianic Age can commence. The verses that follow contain a detailed description of what would transpire during this time. This period spanned from the destruction of the First Temple until the destruction of the Second, exactly 490 years (3338-3829).

"Seven weeks" (of years) - Gabriel reassured Daniel that after a full "7 weeks" (49 years) passed, counting from "the going forth of the WORD [דבר]" when Jerusalem was destroyed (9:2), an anointed ruler would command the Jewish people to return and rebuild Jerusalem (9:25). Indeed, after a half century passed, Cyrus, who God declared as His "anointed one," (Isaiah 45:1), ordered the Jews to return and rebuild Jerusalem and the holy sanctuary (Isaiah 44:28-45:1, 13; Ezra 1:2-3; II Chronicles 36:22-23).

Cyrus calls for the city and temple to be rebuilt - 3391

"Sixty two weeks" (of years) - In verse 9:25, the angel reveals to Daniel how, for a nearly four and a half centuries, Jerusalem would be "rebuilt, street and moat." Gabriel adds, however, that throughout these "62 weeks," the Holy City would endure "troubled times." Accordingly, the Second Temple period was filled with spiritual and political turbulence. In verse 9:26, the angel reveals that the "62 weeks" would tragically conclude with two watershed events. First, an anointed one (the high priest) would be cut off, and would cease his ecclesiastical functions. Second, the "people of the prince" (the legions of Vespasian and Titus) would come to destroy the Holy City and its sanctuary. Both of these tragic events occurred simultaneously, shortly after the 434 years, or "62 weeks" were completed.

Building of the second temple - 3408

Final events of Purim - 3405

Sacrifice Ends

3 1/2 years