

The Seventy Heptads (Daniel 9)

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Water of Life Bible Class

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INTRODUCTION

Jerusalem's Predicted Seventy-Year Desolation (9:1-2)

Daniel deported to Babylon

605 BC

(Daniel 1:1-3)

First year of Darius

539 BC

(Daniel 9:1) 605 – 539 = 66 years

¹¹ And this whole land shall be a desolation *and* an astonishment, and these nations **shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.** ¹² Then it will come to pass, when **seventy years** are completed, *that* I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the LORD; and I will make it a perpetual desolation. (Jer 25:11-12)

God punished the king of Babylon and his country in 539 BC: Conquest by Media-Persia

¹⁰ For thus says the LORD: **After seventy years are completed at Babylon,** I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and **cause you to return to this place.** ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, says the LORD, and **I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.** (Jer 29:10-14)

At a point after the 70 years were complete, God let the people return to Israel

Daniel Recognizing God's Covenant Loyal Promises (9:3-4)

Which Covenant?

1. Abrahamic: land, seed, blessing

2. Land: land

3. Davidic: seed

4. New: blessing

Blessings and Cursings of the _____ Covenant (Deuteronomy 28:1_____)

Expulsion from the land and return to the land, when Israel _____

Hesed _____ (Daniel 9:4)

Daniel's Confession of Israel's Sins (9:5-14)

Daniel's Petition for Forgiveness and Restoration of Israel (9:15-19)

What does *After* mean?

Arrival of Gabriel (9:20-23)

The Seventy Heptads (9:24-27): The Seventy Heptads Introduced (9:24)

1. Who is involved in the Seventy Heptads?

2. Prerequisites for the Millennium

Finish the transgression/Make an end of sin

Make reconciliation for iniquity/Bring in everlasting righteousness

Seal up vision and prophecy/anoint the most holy [place]

3. Understanding week/heptad

The word *šebû'* means a period of seven _____s (days or years).

The English word dozen has some similarities to this Hebrew word.

Brown-Driver-Briggs, *Lexicon*, 988f, says: “שָׁבוּעַ n.m.: Dn 9:27 period of seven (days, years), heptad, week (on format. v. Lag:BN 67);—abs. שָׁבַע Gn 29:27, 29:28; du. שָׁבָעִים Lv 12:5; pl. שָׁבָעוֹת Ex 34:22 + 4 t. Dt + (in term. techn.) 2 Ch 8:13; late שָׁבָעִים Dn 9:24 + 4 t. Dn; cstr. שָׁבָעֵת Je 5:24 (Ez 45:21 read שָׁבָעֵת with Vrss and all mod., v. שָׁבָע); sf. שָׁבָעֵתִיבָם Nu 28:26; —1. *period of seven days* (fr. a given time), *week*: Dt 16:9, 16:9, Lv 12:5 (P); of marriage feast Gn 29:27, 29:28 (E; cf. Ju 14:12, Tob 11:19); שָׁבָעִים יָמִים Dn 10:2, 10:3 *three weeks, days* (three weeks long); שָׁבָעֵת חֹדֶשׁ Je 5:24 *weeks of statutes* (i.e. weeks appointed by 'י: for harvest; term. techn. חֹדֶשׁ שָׁבָעֵת Ex 34:22 (J) *feast of weeks* (ending seven weeks of harvest), Dt 16:10, 16:16, 2 Ch 8:13 so 'י: alone Nu 28:26 (P). 2. *heptad or seven of years, late*, Dn 9:24, 9:25, 9:26, 9:27, 9:27.—שָׁבָעוֹת Ez 21:28 v. [שָׁבָע].”

Period of seven days (14 uses): Gen 29:27, 28; Exo 34:22; Lev 12:5; Num 28:26; Deu 16:9ab, 10, 16; 2Ch 8:13; Jer 5:24; Eze 45:21; Dan 10:2, 3.

Period of seven years (6 uses): (Dan. 9:24, 25ab, 26, 27ab.

A strong proof is that the second half of the tribulation (Daniel 9:27) is said to be: 3½ years (1,260 days) in Daniel 7:25 and 12:7. It is also said to be 42 months (1,260 days) in Rev 11:2, or 1,260 days (Rev 11:3).

The first Sixty-Nine Heptads (9:25)

The beginning of the timetable:

The target decree must command the rebuilding of Jerusalem, including its plaza and wall. The work must be completed during a troublesome time.

The decree meeting these requirements is in Nehemiah 2:1-8

The date is given in Nehemiah 2:1, but is specified more tightly in Nehemiah 1:1

The date was March 1, 444 BC

From March 1, 444 BC until the presentation of Messiah as Prince (March 30, AD 33) was to be sixty-nine heptads.

Prophetic passages (and others) use a 360-day year: cf. Gen 7:11 and 8:3-4; Rev 12:14; 13:5. The second half of the tribulation is said to be $3\frac{1}{2}$ years (1,260 days) = 42 months (1,260 days), or 1,260 days.

Solar years are 365.24219879 days = 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45.975 seconds

69 heptads = 483 years of 360-days

$$\begin{array}{r} 483 \text{ years} \\ \times 360 \text{ days} \\ \hline 173,880 \text{ days} \end{array}$$

Between March 1, 444 BC and March 30, AD 33, there were 173,880 days (476 solar-years and 25 days)

The Gap Between the End of the Sixty-Ninth and the Start of the Seventieth (9:26)

Did Daniel intend a gap between the end of the 69th and the start of the 70th?

Two events are said to be after the 69th, but before the 70th?

The crucifixion:	April 3, AD 33
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The siege of Jerusalem:	AD 70
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Is it a problem that almost 2,000 years have elapsed already?

Daniel 9:24 contains the answer.

The Seventieth Heptad (9:27)

The covenant

The first half

The second half

Conclusion