SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES



MADE SIMPLE

The Math of Daniel 9

The Seventy Weeks

Seven steps, with the day-count of Sir Robert Anderson

One decree, sixty-nine weeks, and 173,880 days that land on the morning Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Here is the arithmetic a sixth-grader can follow — and why it matters that God kept His word to the day.

THE PASSAGE

Daniel 9:24–27

NASB 1995

THE SOURCE

The Coming Prince (1894)

Sir Robert Anderson · revised by Harold Hoehner

THE PROPHECY

Seventy Weeks, in Seven Steps

The simplest honest account of the numbers

> *"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city … So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks … Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary."*
>
> DANIEL 9:24–26

Daniel had been praying about seventy years (v. 2). Gabriel answered with seventy weeks. Everything below is just working out what that answer means, one step at a time.

1 A "week" is seven years

The Hebrew word is *shavua*, "a seven" — like our word *dozen*. Context decides the unit. Daniel was praying about years, Israel counted sabbath *years* (Leviticus 25), and Jacob "completed the week" of seven years for Rachel. So these are weeks of years.

ONE "WEEK" (HEBREW SHAVUA, "A SEVEN")

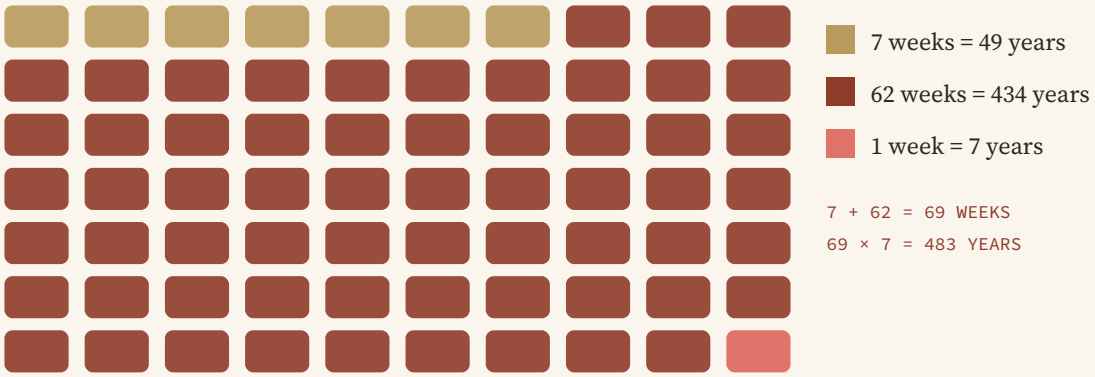


= seven ***years*** — *the way Jacob "completed the week" for Rachel, seven years (Genesis 29:27)*

2 Seventy weeks is 490 years, in three parts

Gabriel splits the 490: **7 weeks** (49 years), then **62 weeks** (434 years), then **1 week** (7 years). The first two run together to the Messiah — 69 weeks, 483 years. The last one stands alone.

SEVENTY WEEKS = 70 × 7 = 490 YEARS, IN THREE PARTS (DANIEL 9:25-27)



The first 69 weeks run to "Messiah the Prince." The last week is separate — a prince "who is to come" (vv. 26–27).

3 The clock starts at a decree to rebuild Jerusalem

Not the temple — the *city*, "with plaza and moat" (v. 25). Four Persian decrees are candidates; only one authorized the walls: Artaxerxes' word to Nehemiah in the month of Nisan, his twentieth year (Nehemiah 2:1–8). Anderson dated it **1 Nisan = March 14, 445 BC**.

SIXTY-NINE WEEKS ON THE CALENDAR



4 Sixty-nine weeks is 483 years

7 + 62 = 69 weeks. 69 × 7 = **483 years** from the decree "until Messiah the Prince." That is the whole prophecy's claim: a fixed span from a known date to the Anointed One.

5 The Bible counts a prophetic year as 360 days

Anderson's key move. The Bible's own prophetic calendar uses 30-day months: in the Flood, five months are 150 days; in Revelation, 3½ years are 42 months are 1,260 days. So 483 years × 360 days = **173,880 days**.

THE BIBLE'S PROPHETIC YEAR = 12 MONTHS OF 30 DAYS = 360 DAYS

Genesis 7:11 → 8:4
5 months (17th of 2nd → 17th of 7th) = 150 days (7:24)

Revelation 12:6 · 13:5 · 11:2–3
1,260 days = 42 months = 3½ years → 30-day months

483 × 360 = 173,880 days

Anderson used the year the Bible itself uses when it counts prophetic time.

6 173,880 days later is Palm Sunday

Count 173,880 days forward from March 14, 445 BC and you land on **April 6, AD 32** — by Anderson's reckoning the 10th of Nisan, the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem and was hailed as King (Luke 19:37–40). Here is his check on our own calendar:

ANDERSON'S CHECK — COUNT THE SAME SPAN ON OUR CALENDAR

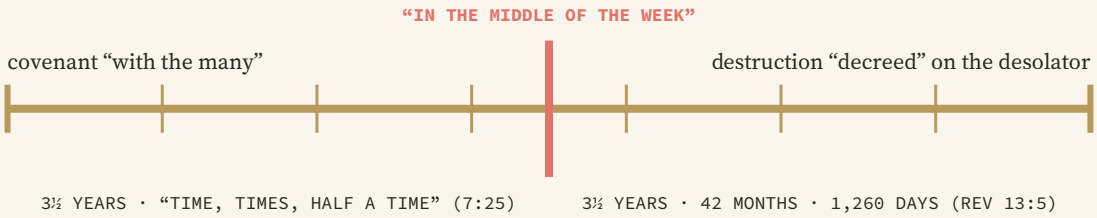
476 solar years × 365 days	173,740
+ leap days, 445 BC → AD 32	+ 116
+ March 14 → April 6	+ 24
Total	**173,880**

445 BC to AD 32 is 476 years, not 477 — there is no year zero. The two counts meet to the day.

7 Then the Messiah is cut off, and one week is left

"After the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off" (v. 26) — the cross, days later. Then the city and sanctuary fall (Rome, AD 70). The seventieth week is not in that list: it belongs to "the prince who is to come" (v. 27), who makes a seven-year covenant and breaks it at the midpoint. Jesus (Matthew 24:15) and Paul (2 Thessalonians 2:3–4) both put that still ahead of us.

THE SEVENTIETH WEEK — STILL FUTURE (DANIEL 9:27)



The clock stopped when the Messiah was cut off (v. 26). It restarts when that covenant is signed.

† Hoehner's refinement

Harold Hoehner (*Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*, 1977) kept Anderson's method but moved the decree to **Nisan 444 BC** (March 5) and the crucifixion to AD 33, landing on **March 30, AD 33**. His count: 476 solar years × 365.24219879 = 173,855 days, + 25 days = **173,880**. Same number, different year. Either way, the sixty-nine weeks end in the one week of history when the Messiah entered Jerusalem as King and was cut off.

† What to keep

- **God dated the Messiah.** Five centuries ahead, to the week — and Jesus held Jerusalem accountable for not counting: "you did not recognize the time of your visitation" (Luke 19:44).
- **The Messiah had to come and die before AD 70.** Verse 26 fixes the order. Any Messiah still awaited is too late.
- **Sixty-nine weeks kept to the day guarantees the seventieth.** The last seven years are bounded, the midpoint is marked, and the desolator's end is already "decreed."

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Daniel asked about seventy years. God answered with four hundred ninety — and kept four hundred eighty-three of them to the day.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Scripture: New American Standard Bible (NASB), © 1960–1995 The Lockman Foundation. Day-count: Sir Robert Anderson, *The Coming Prince* (1894; public domain), with the Royal Observatory's new-moon dates; revision: Harold W. Hoehner, *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ* (1977). "No year zero": 445 BC → AD 32 = 476 years. Smith For Christ Deep Dive series.