

# The Seventy Weeks

*Daniel 9:20–27*

## Sermon Questions

1. How is the seventy week prophecy commonly understood today? (circle all that apply):
  - i. It is fulfilled in Jesus first coming.
  - ii. It will be fulfilled at the end of time at Christ's second coming.
  - iii. It is a literal prophecy and speak of literal years.
  
2. List three reasons that this understanding may not be correct:
  - i. There is literally no \_\_\_\_\_ between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks.
  - ii. It's accuracy depends on questionable \_\_\_\_\_.
  - iii. The \_\_\_\_\_ authors never use it in connection with Christ's first or second coming.
  
3. In the context of chapter 9, this prophecy is an answer to Daniel's prayer concerning the restoration of the temple and \_\_\_\_\_.
  
4. How was this prophecy fulfilled in history?
  - i. In 172 BC, Antiochus Epiphanes made an agreement with the Hasideans and appointed Menelaus as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ii. Three and a half years later Antiochus turned his wrath against Jerusalem, stopped the sacrifices, and desecrated the temple by erecting an altar to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - iii. Three and a half years later Antiochus \_\_\_\_\_ and the temple was restored and rededicated to the Lord.
  
5. Pastor Tim is going to answer two questions about this interpretation. First, why the 490 years weren't exact years, and second, why some translations interpret these verses to refer to Jesus. If you have other questions, note them here:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
6. List the two reasons given for why this passage is such great news for us today:
  - i. This prophecy was literally \_\_\_\_\_ which leads us to worship, give thanks, take comfort, and know that our God is in control.
  - ii. This prophecy, like other Old Testament events, points us to \_\_\_\_\_.

# Timeline

605 BC — Jeremiah prophesies concerning the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile in Babylon

605 BC — Babylon defeats Egypt and Assyria at the Battle of Carchemish and takes some exiles from Judah who made an alliance with Egypt.

586 BC — Jerusalem is destroyed by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar's rule. Many of the people are taken into exile in Babylon.

539 BC — Babylon falls without a fight to the Persians and is ruled by Darius the Mede.

538 BC — Cyrus (the king of Persia) permits Jewish Babylonian exiles to return to Jerusalem. Zerubbabel and Joshua return with the exiles.

515–490 BC — Joshua serves as the high priest in Jerusalem.

458 BC — Ezra sent back to Jerusalem.

445 BC — Nehemiah sent back to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls.

330 BC — Alexander the Great conquers the Persian empire and Judah becomes part of the Greek empire.

175 BC — Antiochus Epiphanes gains kingship over the region of Judea. He is a wicked ruler. When he comes to power, Onias is serving as high priest in Jerusalem.

175 BC — Jason, a Greek supporter, pays tribute to Antiochus and is made high priest.

172/171 BC — Menelaus, not in support of the Greeks, pays a higher tribute and is made high priest. Onias flees the city and is later murdered.

168/167 BC — Antiochus suffers defeat after going to war with Egypt and returns to lay Jerusalem waste. He kills tens of thousands and stops the sacrifices and the Jewish laws and customs. He erects an altar to Zeus and sacrifices pig flesh on the altar.

164 BC — Antiochus dies of disease while on a military campaign. The temple is restored, its items anointed and rededicated to the Lord. The Jews live for the next 100 years ruling themselves autonomously.