

**THE BEAST STRUCTURE
THE SECOND PROPHETIC TIME PERIOD
IN THE BEAST STRUCTURE
THE SEVENTY WEEKS PROPHECY**

By Marie Casale
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Dan 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy.

Dan 9:25 Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks and threescore and two weeks; the street shall be built again and the wall even in troublous times.

Dan 9:26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof [shall be] with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

Dan 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make [it] desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

In a book called Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy by J. Barron Payne, there is a chart on page 384 showing 5 different interpretations for each of 22 points in this prophecy. After seeing this I realized that the debate could go on forever as to God's true and intended meaning on each of these points. After consideration of these interpretations, I am giving here my opinion as to God's true intended meaning knowing that I could be wrong on any of these 22 points. So even if the reader disagrees with me, I hope he/she will gain greater understanding by this article.

VERSE 24.

A period of seventy weeks is determined upon the people of Israel and upon Jerusalem in which these purposes are to be fulfilled:

1. To finish the transgression:

The transgression is that Israel broke their covenant with God and he sent them into captivity for it. The transgression will not be 'finished' until:

* Rom 11:26-27 there shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this [is] my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

This was written after the first coming of Christ showing that the fulfillment is still future.

Therefore I believe the prophecy of finishing the transgression extends to the second coming of Christ

2. To make an end of sins:

When will sins come to an end? As long as human beings are in the flesh they are capable of sin because of the law of sin and death. (See Rom 7-8) But after a person is born into the Kingdom of God he cannot sin.

* 1Jo 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

This is another indication that the prophecy extends to the second coming of Christ when 'an end' of sins will be seen when many are born into the Kingdom in the first resurrection. (See 1Cor 15:51-53)

3. To make reconciliation for iniquity:

This is the statement that most proves this prophecy has to do with Jesus Christ because many scriptures testify to the fact that he is the one who made reconciliation for iniquity by his death is 30 AD.

* Col 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in [your] mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

* 2Cr 5:18 And all things [are] of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ

4. To bring in everlasting righteousness:

Everlasting righteousness is something God has; and we are waiting to obtain it by faith.

* Psa 119:142 Thy righteousness [is] an everlasting righteousness, and thy law [is] the truth.

* Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

It shall be brought in to us when we are changed into everlasting righteous beings in the first resurrection . (See again 1Cor 15:51-53)

5. To seal up the vision and prophecy:

Like the prophecy in Dan 12, this one also shall be shut up and sealed until the time of the end. *

Dan 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, [even] to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

6. To anoint the most holy.

It is the Lord Jesus who was anointed by God and who is called the Holy One of Israel.

* Luk 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

* Mar 1:24 Saying, Let [us] alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

VERSE 25

Dan 9:25 Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks and threescore and two weeks; the street shall be built again and the wall even in troublous times.

The going forth of the commandment is the starting point. In the scriptures there are actually four such commandments given to restore and build Jerusalem. But the prophecy does not

specify which one of these four is the correct starting point. Only one of them, however ends with the beginning of Jesus Christ's ministry in 26 AD

These are the four decrees mentioned in scripture.

1. The decree of Cyrus in 539 BC.

539 BC + 7 weeks (49 years) = 490 BC + 62 weeks (434 years) You end up at 56BC

These are the scriptures for the decree of Cyrus

* 2Ch 36:22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord [spoken] by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and [put it] also in writing, saying,

2Ch 36:23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which [is] in Judah. Who [is there] among you of all his people? The Lord his God [be] with him, and let him go up.

* Ezr 1:1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and [put it] also in writing, saying,

Ezr 1:2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which [is] in Judah.

Ezr 1:3 Who [is there] among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which [is] in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel, (he [is] the God,) which [is] in Jerusalem.

Ezr 1:4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that [is] in Jerusalem.

2. The decree of Darius I in 519/518 BC

519/518 BC + 7 weeks (49 years) = 470 BC + 62 weeks (434 years) You end up at 36BC

These are the scriptures for the decree of Darius I:

* Ezr 6:1 Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon.

Ezr 6:6 Now [therefore], Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shetharboznai, and your companions the Apharsachites, which [are] beyond the river, be ye far from thence:

Ezr 6:7 Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place.

Ezr 6:8 Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God: that of the king's goods, [even] of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered.

Ezr 6:9 And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which [are] at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail:

Ezr 6:10 That they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons.

Ezr 6:11 Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this.

Ezr 6:12 And the God that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter [and] to destroy this house of God which [is] at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with speed.

3. The decree of Artaxerxes I to Ezra in 457 BC

457 BC + 7 weeks (49 years) = 408 BC + 62 weeks (434 years) You end up at 26AD

These are the scriptures for the decree of Artaxerxes I:

* Ezr 7:11 Now this [is] the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, [even] a scribe of the words of the commandments of the Lord, and of his statutes to Israel.

Ezr 7:12 Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect [peace], and at such a time.

Ezr 7:13 I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and [of] his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee.

Ezr 7:14 Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy God which [is] in thine hand;

Ezr 7:15 And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation [is] in Jerusalem,

Ezr 7:16 And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which [is] in Jerusalem:

Ezr 7:17 That thou mayest buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them upon the altar of the house of your God which [is] in Jerusalem.

Ezr 7:18 And whatsoever shall seem good to thee, and to thy brethren, to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, that do after the will of your God.

Ezr 7:19 The vessels also that are given thee for the service of the house of thy God, [those] deliver thou before the God of Jerusalem.

Ezr 7:20 And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow [it] out of the king's treasure house.

Ezr 7:21 And I, [even] I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which [are] beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,

Ezr 7:22 Unto an hundred talents of silver, and to an hundred measures of wheat, and to an hundred baths of wine, and to an hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribing [how much].

Ezr 7:23 Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven: for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?

Ezr 7:24 Also we certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, Nethinims, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.

Ezr 7:25 And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that [is] in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that [are] beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know [them] not.

Ezr 7:26 And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether [it be] unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.

4. The decree of Artaxerxes to Nehemiah in 444 BC

444 BC + 7 weeks (49 years) = 395 BC + 62 weeks (434 years) You end up at 39AD

These are the scriptures for the decree of Artaxerxes to Nehemiah:

* Neh 2:1 And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, [that] wine [was] before him: and I took up the wine, and gave [it] unto the king. Now I had not been [beforetime] sad in his presence.

Neh 2:2 Wherefore the king said unto me, Why [is] thy countenance sad, seeing thou [art] not sick? this [is] nothing [else] but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,

Neh 2:3 And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, [lieth] waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?

Neh 2:4 Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.

Neh 2:5 And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.

Neh 2:6 And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

Neh 2:7 Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah;

Neh 2:8 And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which [appertained] to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

Neh 2:9 Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

Now examine each of these decrees keeping in mind that the decree that begins the time period is the one to RESTORE AND BUILD JERUSALEM.

The decree of Cyrus

Some assume that the decree of Cyrus is the right one because his decree was first, and Isaiah even prophesied of him.

* Isa 44:28 That saith of Cyrus, [He is] my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

The decree of Cyrus, however, actually does not fit the criteria as the one to RESTORE AND BUILD JERUSALEM because when you read the decree you see that it has to do only with

rebuilding the temple. Also Ezra indicates that ALL of the decrees are to be considered, not only Cyrus's.

* Ezra 6:14 And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished [it], according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.”

The decree of Darius

Reading Darius' decree, you can see that it simply confirmed Cyrus's earlier decree to rebuild the temple. It also does not fit the criteria to RESTORE AND BUILD JERUSALEM.

The decree of Artaxerxes to Ezra

This is the only one whose period of time ends when Jesus Christ began his ministry in 26 AD. It does not at first appear to fit the criteria to restore and build Jerusalem because most of the decree is concerned with the return of additional exiles and the beautification of the temple. But notice that in Ezra 7:25 and 26 Artaxerxes gave Ezra authority to appoint judges and magistrates and to teach the laws of God to all the people. So this decree can qualify as it began to RESTORE God's government in Jerusalem. And the criteria is to RESTORE AND BUILD JERUSALEM

The decree of Artaxerxes to Nehemiah

This is the only decree that fits the criteria to BUILD Jerusalem. The commandment went forth in the decree given to Ezra in 457 BC and extends 7 weeks or 49 years to 408 BC. This was the period of time that Jerusalem was being built during the governorship of Nehemiah. It is estimated that he died about 413 BC. It was during this time that 'The street was built again and the wall even in troublous times.'

Then from 408 BC, 62 more weeks are added (434 years) and you end with 26 AD, the beginning of the Messiah's ministry.

Now we are finished with the 69 weeks or 483 years. We have one week of seven years left of the 70 total weeks.

VERSE 26

A. After threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself:

This tells us that at some point after 26 AD, the Messiah was cut off. Compare with VERSE 27 B that tells us he shall be cut off in the midst of the week of seven years. Jesus was cut off on the Passover in 30 AD. The first year of his ministry, 26 AD began in Tishri 26 AD and extended to Elul 27 AD. The second year of his ministry, 27 AD began in Tishri 27 AD and extended to Elul 28 AD. The third year of his ministry, 28 AD extended from Tishri 28 AD to Elul 29 AD. The fourth year of his ministry 29 AD began in Tishri 29 AD and extended only half a year to Passover of 30 AD.

At the point of his being cut off in 30 AD there are three and a half years remaining of the seventy weeks

B. The people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary:
This tells us that at some point after 26 AD, a prince shall come whose people shall destroy Jerusalem and the temple. This destruction did not happen in the three and a half years immediately after Jesus' death. When does it take place? It could be assumed that it took place in 70 AD. But these are the reasons I believe it takes place in the end time just before the second coming of Jesus.

1. Dan 7:23-25, and Dan 12:1-7 tell us that there shall be a three and a half year period in the end time.

2. The fulfillment of several statements in verse 24 (such as: to make an end of sins, and: to bring in everlasting righteousness) could only take place in the end time when Jesus returns.

3. Zech 14, Mat 24 and Luk 21 show that there is a destruction of the city and the sanctuary in the end time just before the return of Christ.

Luk prophesies the destruction of Jerusalem.

* Luk 21:20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

Zech 14:1-4 places this destruction in the end time at the second coming of Christ.

Matthew prophesies of the destruction of the temple.

* Mat 24:1-2 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to [him] for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Mat 24:21 places this destruction at the time of the great tribulation.

C. The end thereof [shall be] with a flood:

The end of Jerusalem and the temple shall be with a flood. Does this mean a flood of water? In the Bible a flood is symbolic of an overflowing of ungodly men.

* 2Sa 22:5 When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid

D. Unto the end of the war desolations are determined:

Desolations are determined for the entire three and a half year period. Compare with verse 27 C.

VERSE 27

A. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week:

This is the same week of seven years that began in 26 AD. Passover 30 AD was the middle of the week when Christ died. The last three and a half years begins with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in the end time and ends at the second coming of Christ. During this entire seven-year period of time HE, shall confirm the covenant. HE is Jesus Christ who is confirming the New Covenant with us.

* Hbr 8:6 But now hath he (Christ) obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

B. In the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease:

HE is Jesus Christ who by his death in the midst of this week, 30 AD, caused the Old Testament sacrifice and oblation to cease and replaced it with the New Testament Christian Passover.

* Mat 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Also consider these scriptures showing that he caused the sacrifice and oblation to cease and replaced them with being a living sacrifice to do God's will.

* Hbr 10:6 In burnt offerings and [sacrifices] for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

Hbr 10:7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

Hbr 10:8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and [offering] for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure [therein]; which are offered by the law;

Hbr 10:9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

C. And for the overspreading of abominations he (the Messiah) shall make [it] desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate:

The last three and a half years shall begin with the setting up of the abomination of desolation spoken of in Mat 24:15-16,21, which shall begin the great tribulation. The overspreading of abominations caused this seventy weeks of desolation. And in the final three and a half years, God-determined destruction shall be poured out until the city and the temple are desolate.

This, I believe, is the best interpretation of the seventy weeks prophecy according to God's will.