

(ii). Daniel's seventy sevens/weeks Dan. 9. 20 – 27;

Introduction: Daniel had been taken captive and deported to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar in 605. B.C. He would have been a teenager.

Likely he would have been a government employee for around sixty years.

He lived in Babylon under the reigns of four kings – Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius and Cyrus.

Darius and Cyrus were Kings over Persia including Media, and from 539. B.C. Babylon.

History tells us there was an alliance between Media and Persia from 550 B.C. when Cyrus founded the Persian Empire, hence Darius the Mede. Information regarding Darius' identity is scant.

The common belief is that Darius was appointed ruler over Babylon by Cyrus and himself ruled over all Persia. Persia became the second of the four great world Empires until 331. B.C. (Pwr Pnt)

Introduction: Daniel's prayer of confession Dan. 9. 20 – 27;

Daniel's prayer of confession 9.1: This took place at the same time as Dan. 6. (between 539/538) *in the first year of the reign of Darius* Just one year before Cyrus permitted the Jews to return to Jerusalem, (538. B.C.) His prayer was on behalf of his Nation. It was during prayer that God appeared to him and spoke very clearly through the heavenly messenger - *"the man Gabriel"* (v.21, 22;) who had appeared to him previously (8. 16;)

Gabriel: purpose was for him to give Daniel *skill and understanding* (v22, 25;) with regard to future events and a time-frame, which would lead up to the **first and second advents.**

This knowledge was to be well beyond the *end* of the seventy years captivity; to the appearing of the **Anointed One**, His *'cutting off'* and eventually up to the **'Second Advent'** (v. 26). But not the precise time of. (See Dan 12. V.9;)

The time frames - Daniel was given are in ch. 9. 20 – 27;

Knowledge of The seventy Years captivity - through the study of the scriptures: 9. vv1, 2; *In the first year of Darius the son of Xerxes, (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian Kingdom – in the first year of his reign, 'I, Daniel understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet':*

(see. Jer. 25.11, 12;) *that the desolation (fall) of Jerusalem (586. B.C.) would last seventy years.* (516. B.C.)

(There could be discrepancy in the dates, depending on whether we take the first exile from 605 B.C. which would then make it 525. B.C. Or from the actual fall and destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar in 586. B.C.) which would then bring it to 516 B.C.

So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with Him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sack cloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed.

It was at the end of his prayer when Gabriel appeared (v21)

Gabriel's answer - vv 22, 26; (beyond the seventy years captivity).

(v24) *"Seventy sevens are decreed upon your people"*

* (sevens NIV. (weeks AV) (that is, divided off). The word translated sevens (NIV) or weeks (AV) simply means a number 'seven.' Some use the word **'Hebdomad'**. Hebdomad is used for 'a seven' as we would use the word 'Dozen' for twelve. Others use the word **Shebua** – sevens. In this case 'seventy sevens of years.' (25 – 26;) (bear in mind the seventy years captivity were lunar years).

Let me repeat this has no bearing on the 'seventy years' captivity that Daniel mentions in vv1 and 2.

Daniel's experience occurred at or towards the end of the captivity.

God is revealing that Daniel's revelation lies in the future – a long period of time in view for the Children of Israel. v.24 *to bring in everlasting righteousness.* See Zech. 13. v1; Isa. 11. v9; Hab. 2. v14;

The indignation would continue to its end (8. 19;)

The seventy sevens (hebdomads) of years would be for a six fold purpose, given in v24; *"...to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most Holy."*

Daniel's context - exclusively for, and upon the Jew.

Note: Daniel was taken captive in 605.B.C. He served in the government for around 60yrs. During the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius and Cyrus.

The calculation:

v. 24; Seventy sevens (of years)		<u>490 yrs.</u> Total. This is broken up or divided off.
v. 25a; Seven sevens	"	049 yrs. Total (from the rebuilding of Jerusalem)
v. 26; sixty two sevens	"	434 yrs. Total (cutting off of the Anointed One)
v. 27; One seven	"	<u>607 yrs. Total</u> (confirming and breaking of the covenant)
		<u>490 yrs. Total</u> (v24;)

King Cyrus of Persia - overthrew Babylon in 539.B.C. His edict came in

538 B.C. Allowing Exiles to return to their homeland (Ezra 1. 1 – 4;) First of all to rebuild The Alter and Temple (Ezra. 1. 2;) which Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed 586.B.C. when many more Jews taken into exile.

516.B.C. Temple was completed - 22yrs later. (Jews continued to filter back to their homeland).

479.B.C. Esther becomes Queen of Persia Married to King Xerxes.

458. B.C. Ezra returns to Jerusalem.

Approx. **70 – 80+ yrs. Later Nehemiah builds the wall** around Jerusalem. **445.B.C.** It is this date we will concern ourselves:

(By 538 B.C. the first group of Exiles had arrived at Jerusalem. These included Joshua the High Priest, and Zerubbabel of the Royal line of Judah. Ezra. 3. 8, 9. 14–16) By 516 B.C. many Jews were back in their homeland with a restored worship. (For more information see notes on Minor Prophets – Haggai)

From this point onward, for the next couple of studies, will be concerning Daniel's seventy weeks time frame (*seventy sevens of years = 490 years total.*)

Six things - mentioned that would take place in the time-frame of 490 yrs as detailed by the Angel in Dan:

9. 24; **'To finish transgression.'** The expression literally means to *shut up* - signifying to remove Israel's transgression from God's sight.

2. v 24; **'To put an end of sins'** or *'seal up sins'*

3. v 24; **'To atone for wickedness.'** The New Testament word would be *'reconciliation'* (to cover sin)

4. v 24; **'To bring in everlasting righteousness'** — *a lasting peace.*

5. v 24; **'To seal up vision and prophecy.'** *literally to bring to a conclusion by their fulfilment, not only the various prophecies but the Prophetic Office itself.*

6. v 24; **'To anoint the Most Holy.'** *'The Most Holy' can either refer to 'Holy Place' or 'Holy One'.*

Scholars vary in their opinions. Generally the Old Testament reference would normally refer to *'Holy place'* i.e. The Temple (or as was in the Exodus 'the Tabernacle.')