



# God's Grand Story: The Chronology of the Kingdom

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What must happen before Christ returns to the earth? One of those things is the fulfillment of the Great Commission:

*Matthew 24:14 – “Jesus said, ‘And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.’”*

Something else that must happen before Christ comes again is this:

*2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 – “Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.”*

The Antichrist will be revealed before we are gathered up. We will not be raptured before he starts his reign of terror against Jews and Christians. Many will be disillusioned because they have been taught that they will be raptured before any difficulty or persecution, and that is not true.

Daniel 9 gives a specific timetable for the two comings of the Messiah:

The First Coming occurred exactly 483 years after the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. The Second Coming will occur seven years after the “ruler who will come” (the Antichrist) makes a firm covenant with Israel.

*Daniel 9:24-27 – “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. 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; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. 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. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”*

\*Note: the weeks that are talked about in this passage are *weeks of years*, and not days.

This passage is important for several reasons:

First, the fact that Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the specific day that was predicted by Daniel is proof that Jesus was and is the Messiah, the Savior of the human race.

Second, the fact that there is a final week (a final seven-year period) that is yet unfulfilled in Daniel's prophecy, gives us the framework by which we can understand the end-time events spoken of in the New Testament, especially in the book of Revelation.

This final seven-year period is divided in half by an event known as the Abomination of Desolation. It is predicted by Daniel and also by Jesus in Matthew 24:15-21. Jesus refers to Daniel and says that when the Abomination is set up, the world will experience the worst time of trouble that it has ever seen. Jesus calls it the Great Tribulation.

The context of this passage is where Daniel considers the prophecy in Jeremiah regarding the seventy years of captivity. Daniel knows there are four years left of captivity, and he prays before God and pleads for forgiveness for Israel's sin (Daniel 9:3-19). Daniel then sees the angel Gabriel who tells him important information about the future of Israel.

## I: Verse 24 – The prophecy as a whole is presented

*Daniel 9:24 – “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the wrongdoing, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy Place.”*

This prophecy encompasses seventy weeks of years or 490 years, and it applies to Daniel's people and the holy city (the Jews and Jerusalem). The prophecy will end when **six** things take place.

1. Transgression is finished
2. Make an end of sin
3. Atonement for iniquity

*Zechariah 12:9-10, 13:1 – “And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn....In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.”*

4. Bring in everlasting righteousness

*Jeremiah 23:5-6 – “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, ‘The Lord our righteousness.’”*

5. Seal up vision and prophecy
6. Anoint the most Holy Place

## Jesus Christ will return at the end of the seventy weeks of years.

### II: Verse 25 – Description of the first 69 weeks of years

*Daniel 9:25 “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; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.”*

King Artaxerxes issues this decree on the first day of the month of Nisan in the 20th year of his reign (March 14, 445 BC).

*Nehemiah 2:1 – “And it came about in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes...”*

After 7 weeks of years, or 49 years, the city of Jerusalem will be rebuilt, but it will happen under duress. What about the next 62 weeks of years?

A year in the bible is 360 days long.  $69 \times 360 = 173,880$  days. The Messiah was predicted to come on April 6, 32 AD.

*Zechariah 9:9 – “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”*

In 32 AD, Passover fell on April 11. April 6 would have been the Sunday we now commonly celebrate as Palm Sunday and was the day Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey.

Jesus had many faithful followers who recognized and proclaimed Him as the Messiah, but the leaders of Israel, and thus the nation as a whole, had rejected Him. This is why before He entered the city He looked out upon it and wept saying:

*Luke 19:42 – “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been*

*hidden from your eyes.”*

Jesus also predicted the destruction of Jerusalem:

*Luke 19:43-44 – “For the days shall come upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank before you, and surround you, and hem you in on every side, and will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”*

Daniel's prophecy in 535 BC is the *only* prophecy that pinpoints the exact time of the Messiah's coming.

### **III. Verse 26 – Description of events between the 69th week and the 70th week**

*Daniel 9:26 – “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. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.”*

The first 69 weeks (7 weeks and 62 weeks) end after the coming of the Messiah to Jerusalem. The 70th week begins in verse 27 when the future ruler makes a covenant with Israel. Daniel 9:26 describes what happens in the interval between the end of the 69 weeks and the start of the 70th: The Messiah would come, He would be cut off, Jerusalem and its Temple would be destroyed, and the land would become desolate.

This entire prophecy contains a very long gap in time which has now lasted for almost 2000 years.

### **IV. Verse 27 – The 70th week**

*Daniel 9:27 – “And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”*

The “He” at the start of this verse is the future “Ruler” of the last verse. This is a reference to the Antichrist. (The Antichrist) “makes a firm covenant with the many [the Jews]...”

The fulfillment of this prophecy necessarily involves the reactivation of the Mosaic sacrificial system on Temple Mount in Judea. The sacrificial system will be back and functioning at this time. It is likely that the agent of the Antichrist, the False Prophet, will carry out the order to stop the sacrificial system of the Jews.

After the False Prophet forcibly stops the temple sacrifices, he will set up the “abomination of desolation” on Temple Mount. This is an image of the Antichrist which the False Prophet is also shown setting up in Revelation 13:14-15. Jesus gives a warning to the Jews who see this happen:

*Matthew 24:15-21 – “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place—let the reader understand—then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get things out of his house. And whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. But woe to those women who are pregnant, and to those who are nursing babies in those days! Moreover, pray that when you flee, it will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will again.”*

The Jews are told very explicitly to immediately flee from Jerusalem because it is after this point that the Antichrist has the authority to persecute all who resist him.

The Messiah is cut off and killed after the 69th week, but is alive and comes again at the end of the 70th week. This points to the resurrection. He rose again and ascended to heaven to the right hand of God the Father and He is awaiting the time to come and fulfill all that this passage talks about.

This event is dramatically pictured in Revelation 19 when the beast and the false prophet are cast into the lake of fire. This is the termination of the seventy sevens of Daniel and this is the second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth.

Daniel's great prophecy of the seventy weeks of years comprehends the total history of Israel from the time of Nehemiah in 445 BC until the second coming of Jesus Christ. The culmination of the entire prophecy of the 70 weeks is the second coming of Jesus Christ.