

# Seven Weeks

Newton was a smart guy to be sure; maybe the smartest ever. Many of you already know that he invented the whole branch of mathematics known as calculus. He was certainly smarter than Einstein who didn't even have faith in God. Some 350 years ago or so, Sir Isaac, after spending many years pondering the prophecies of Daniel, was convinced that the scriptures of Daniel 9:25 – 27 dealt with both the first and second coming of Christ. Let's take another look at them and see...

Verse 25 is our main point of focus. It reads,

*Know therefore and understand,  
That from the going forth of the  
command*

*To restore and build Jerusalem  
Until Messiah the Prince,  
There shall be seven weeks and  
sixty-two weeks;*

*The street shall be built again, and  
the wall,  
Even in troublesome times.*

The first thing we notice is that there are five sets of pairs. They are:

- Know and understand
- Restore and build
- Messiah and Prince
- Seven weeks and sixty-two weeks
- Street and wall

We will also find that in looking at the word for "command", it has two meanings.

Now, although it may be a bit 'scholarly' we need to examine the meanings in the original language of each of these words. You can look in Strong's to confirm them:

- Know is pronounced 'yada' and means to perceive or to know by intimacy or experience

- Understand is pronounced 'sakal' and means to be prudent or wise but also means to lay CROSSwise or to CROSS ones hands
- Restore is pronounced 'shuwb' and means to turn back, bring back, or restore
- Build is pronounced 'banah' and means to build or rebuild
- Messiah is pronounced 'mashiyach' and means anointed
- Prince is pronounced 'nagiyd' and means leader or ruler
- Seven and sixty-two need no interpretation; however, weeks is simply a period of sevens and are consistently understood to mean periods of seven years.
- Street is pronounced 'rechob' and can mean street but literally means a broad or open place and is derived from the word meaning to grow wide or large.
- Wall is pronounced 'charuwts' and can mean wall but literally means sharp or sharp pointed
- Command or commandment means both the spoken directive and a putting to flight

Now, several Bible scholars have shown in quite a bit of detail that if you take the total of  $7 + 62 = 69$  weeks or seven year periods and use a prophetic year of 360 days, that starting from the commandment of Artaxerxes Longinus to Nehemiah on March 5, 444 BC to rebuild Jerusalem up to the day Christ rode into Jerusalem hailed as king you do indeed have an exact fulfillment to the day. I discussed this in "This, Your Day" which you can download at heavenly minded.com.

Luke records concerning this event that as Jesus rode into the city on the back of the colt (an act of a new king) the people cried out, "*Blessed is the*

*King who comes in the name of the LORD!*" *Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!*" and you'll recall that *some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples."*

*But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."*

*Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."*

The common understanding of this event, that is, the fulfillment of Daniel 9:25 is in Jesus' first coming, but to be more accurate, it is the partial fulfillment of Daniel 9:25. Let me explain.

Recall our pairs above? Since the conclusion of the 69 weeks of the prophecy is said specifically to come after the 62 weeks – the second period of time -- (see v26) let's line up the second words of each pair and see if they pertain as a group to this partial fulfillment:

- Understand: In rejecting Jesus, the Jewish leaders were certainly "wise in their own eyes" weren't they? But more important is the allusion in this word to the cross. There was definitely a cross associated with this fulfillment.
- Build: Indeed, during this period of time, Jerusalem was rebuilt. You may remember that king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had

leveled it and left it in ruins. It was Artaxerxes, ruler of the Medo-Persian empire who gave the command to rebuild the physical city of Jerusalem. This command was the trigger that began the time period of the 69 weeks.

- Prince: This is particularly important for in this part of the prophecy's fulfillment Jesus came to His people and was acknowledged, albeit briefly, as King. The Pharisees were incensed about that. In fact, it was this title that was placed upon His cross – King of the Jews. The people in general did not acknowledge Him as Messiah though there was some speculation.
- Sixty-two weeks: These are singled out (as opposed to the 69) only for the purpose of pointing to the fact that there is a separate mysterious seven week period as well. Now, in some 37 years of study, I've never run across even a mildly good substantiation of what the seven weeks represent. However, I think I now may have an answer.
- Wall: Of course we also know that during this period, the wall of Jerusalem was rebuilt by Nehemiah (a near-term fulfillment) but of additional significance is the alternate meaning of "wall" which is something sharp pointed. Did Jesus meet with any sharp pointed things? Yes, we all recall the nails of His crucifixion and the spear which pierced His side so we have a far-term fulfillment also.  
As is clear, the second words of the pairs in the prophecy of Daniel 9:25 do describe accurately the events and

timing of the point at which the Jewish people understood Jesus to be their leader. It was their desire and declaration. The consequences are also alluded to and then reasserted in verse 26 which says, *And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself*; It is as if to say, “You guys missed it. You thought you were dealing with your King, but He is more than that. You cut off your Messiah.” Indeed, they did miss it. They were as “blind leading the blind”. Paul wrote,

*God has given them a spirit of stupor,  
Eyes that they should not see  
And ears that they should not hear,  
To this very day.* (See Rom 11:8, Deut 29:4, and Isa 29:10)

But to keep our hearts in the right place, Paul also exhorted us in Romans 11, *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved...* As we can see, the second words had their fulfillment, but that leaves the first words in the pairs:

- Know: This is the ‘know’ that is consistently associated with salvation as in knowing the Lord. Its counterpart in the Greek is ‘ginosko’. It is the intimate, experiential knowledge of the Lord that is born out of faith. (see Luk 8:10, Luk 19:42, John 8:32, John 10:27, John 10:38, John 14:7,9, 2 Cor 8:9) Is there a time coming when the Jewish people or a holy remnant of them will ‘know’ the Lord in this way? Of course, we know there will be such a day.
- Restore: This pertains to Jerusalem. It is not the same as

rebuilding. It speaks of the city’s restoration, that is, its ‘bringing back’ or ‘returning’ to the nation.

- Messiah: Jesus will be known as Messiah by the Jewish people, the anointed, the sinless Lamb of God Who has provided atonement for them.
- Seven weeks: This, to be consistent with the first fulfillment, must represent 49 years of 360 days each or 17,640 days.
- Street: Recall, this word means a broad place and comes from the word meaning to grow large. Did you know that the city of Jerusalem in 1996 was 48 times the size of the city in 1850? (jmcc.org) In fact, its population in 1922 was about 62,200 and grew to about 680,500 by 2002. This is after many centuries of obscurity. But we must also consider the growth of spiritual Jerusalem if you would – the inhabitants of New Jerusalem when “all Israel” is saved.

Also, we must consider that word “command” again and recall that its alternate meaning is to “put to flight”. Consider this – was there a time in which we witnessed a ‘putting to flight’ in connection with Jerusalem? Some of you students of history would say, “Yes! June 7, 1967!” Indeed, that was the day during the ‘67 war in which the Arab armies were put to flight and Jerusalem, being taken, was restored to the Jewish nation after nearly two millennia.

Finally, the prophecy says that these events will transpire during troublous times and this is true for both fulfillments. During the 69 weeks of the first fulfillment Israel was ruled or occupied by Persia, Greece, Syria, Egypt, and Rome with multiple conflicts between foreign powers taking place on her soil. Antiochus

Epiphanes, the foreshadow and type of the Antichrist desecrated the temple during this time as well. During the seven weeks, there have been several wars as well between Israel and her neighbors not to mention never-ending terrorism.

Now, before we tie this together, we need to consider the symbolic nature of the Jewish feasts. Many commentators and prophetic interpreters have suggested that the Jewish feasts set forth in Lev 23 represent past, present and future fulfillments of events such as the death and resurrection of Christ, the coming upon or outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, etc. I heartedly agree; however, I think they really missed the boat regarding the Day of Atonement. You see, most say it represents the second coming of Christ and that’s just sloppy. The Day of Atonement has to do with ATONEMENT.

Yes, the atoning work of Christ came to the world and was embraced first by the mostly gentile church beginning at the conclusion of His first coming, but the salvation of “all Israel” is what the feast of atonement is representing and this cannot be at His second coming. It must precede it.

David Guzik writes, “And, when all Israel will be saved, they will be saved through embracing Jesus Christ as Messiah - as unlikely as this seems. They are not saved with some peculiar “Jewish” salvation. The Bible indicates this is a necessary condition for the return of Jesus Christ (Matthew 23:39, Zechariah 12:10-11). Jesus will not return again until God turns the focus of His saving mercies on Israel again, and Israel responds to God through Jesus Christ.”

You see, when the church is raptured, as I believe it will be, before the Tribulation. The world will need a

witness. Check it out – from Adam to Abel to Seth to Noah to Shem to Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to Israel to the Church (and many names I left out), God has always been faithful to provide a witness for the truth to the world. Indeed, I suggest that this is the focus of the decree or determination made upon the Jews in Dan 9:24 where he records, *Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people...* During the first 69 weeks, the Jewish people were God’s witness to the world and so they will be again during the 70<sup>th</sup> week, that is, the tribulation. In fact, pertaining to this, we read in the book of Revelation chapter seven that 144,000 Jewish people (12,000 from each of 12 tribes) will be sealed or anointed by the Spirit of God. This event is immediately followed by the scene of an innumerable group of saved people who are said to have come out of the tribulation. (Remember the word for “street” points to growing large?) It would appear that this anointed group will be evangelizing like crazy!

So then, to be consistent with the first partial fulfillment of Dan 9:25 we must have a starting date. The command was the key – right? The command of Artaxerxes triggered the first part and ended when Jesus was acknowledged by the people as their King. In like manner, the ‘command’ or ‘putting to flight’ must trigger the final fulfillment. It will proceed for seven weeks or 17,640 days.

If we then use June 7, 1967 as our start date and proceed forward 17640 days, we arrive at (lo and behold) Sept 23, 2015, the Day of Atonement. If you’re like me, you find this much, much more than coincidental. Consequently, I’ll suggest that this may be the time that the fulfillment of Dan 9:25 is complete and that Romans 11:25 begins. Now, if you’ve

been following this, you probably are asking the same question I did and that is – why does the fulfillment of the 62 weeks which are 'last' (69 in total) precede the fulfillment of the 7 weeks which are 'first'? Seems backwards until you consider one of Christ's sayings that is recorded in all three synoptic gospels. He said, "Many that are first shall be last and the last shall be first." (Mat 19:30) This is universally understood to be referring to the salvation of the Jews following that of the Gentiles. Thus, since the fulfillment of the 62 weeks resulted in the birth of the overwhelmingly gentile Church and the fulfillment of the 7 weeks will result in the anointing and redemption of Israel, the order makes sense.

And let me add one more thing... The book of Joel prophesies, *The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.* (Joel 2:31) It is generally understood that this great and terrible day of the

Lord refers not to a single day but to a period of time – seven years, in fact. It is also referred to as the time of "Jacob's trouble" (Jer 30:7). This passage is also found in Acts 2:20 just before the Holy Spirit 'came upon' the believers at the beginning of the 'Church Age' and it again is given immediately preceding the 'coming upon' of the 144,000 in Revelation. Thus, if we're on the right track, we should witness a blood red moon from Jerusalem just before Sept 23, 2015, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

Now, seven back-to-back, blood-red moons have fallen on the first day of Passover and Sukkot, with the eighth time coming in 2014 and 2015.

Mark Blitz of El Shaddai Ministries in Puyallup, Washington found that we have had blood-red moons on the first day of Passover and the first day of Sukkot on back-to-back years seven times since 1 A.D. Three of these occurrences were connected to 1492 (the Spanish Inquisition), 1948 (statehood for Israel and the War of

Independence), and 1967 (the Six-Day War) — some of the most significant days in Jewish history.

In all eight examples, the eclipses have fallen or will fall on the first day of Passover and Sukkot.

The eighth occurrence of back-to-back, blood-red moons will be in 2014–2015. Mark prepared the chart that shows the years 2014 to 2015 and illustrates that indeed we will see a blood red moon on Passover just before Yom Kippur that year.

So, as you can see, this scriptural understanding may give us insight to the **salvation of the Jews**. This does not tell us the time of the second coming of Christ or of the rapture of the Church. Whether or not it is correct, time will tell. I'm no prophet, only a student of the Bible.

Christians know that Jesus has provided our atonement: "...for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 2:23-24). God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. Jesus' death surpasses and replaces the atonement ritual of the Jewish Temple. The book of Hebrews explains the ceremonies of the Day of Atonement as a pattern of the atoning work of Christ. Jesus is our high priest, and His blood shed on Calvary is seen as symbolized in the blood of bulls and goats. As the high priest of the Old Testament entered the Holy of Holies with the blood of his sacrificial victim, so Jesus entered heaven itself to appear before the Father on behalf of His people (Heb. 9:11-12).

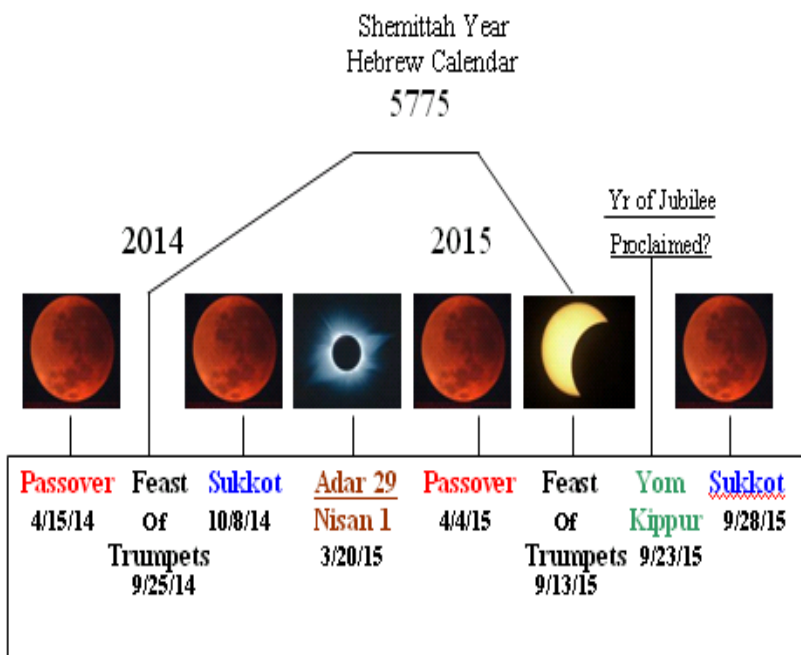
The Old Testament tabernacle was designed, in part, to teach Israel that sin hindered access to the presence of God. Only the high priest, and he only once a year, could enter the Holy

*of Holies, and then not without taking blood offered to atone for sins (Heb. 9:7). Hebrews notes that the levitical offerings could effect only the purification of the flesh. They ceremonially cleansed the sinner, but they could not bring about inward cleansing, the prerequisite for fellowship with God. Just as the high priest had to be sinless to enter the Holy of Holies and live, so Yeshua had to be sinless to live after He entered the grave.*

*But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God (Heb. 9:11-14).*

*The high priest had to offer sin offerings each year for his own sins and the sins of the people. This annual repetition of the sacrifices served as a reminder that perfect atonement had not yet been provided. Jesus, however, through His own blood effected eternal redemption for His people.*

*The moment Jesus died, the veil of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom (Matt. 27:50-51). The earth quaked beneath men's feet. This event is important because it established Jesus as being the new High Priest and Lamb of God. No longer must there be an annual sacrifice for sin on our behalf; instead,*



*He has made payment for us once and for all. Jesus, through a new and living way has entered heaven itself, the true Holy of Holies, where He ever lives to make intercession for His people. The believer need not stand afar off, as did the Israelite of old, but may now through Christ approach the very Throne of Grace! Yes, it is now possible for each of us to have direct access to God through the blood of Yeshua HaMashiah (Jesus Christ)!" –  
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