

“T minus 7 and Holding”

Daniel 9:1-2, 24-27; Jeremiah 29:10-14

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- T-minus and holding
- Modern day “clock watchers”
- Introduction to a 5th Century BC Clock watcher

“T minus 7 and Holding”

A. Background to T Minus 7

- Daniel 9:1-2 -- *“In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans — in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolation of Jerusalem.”*
1. Note the current time-- 1st year of Darius the Mede 538 BC
 2. Prophecy of Jeremiah concerning the 70 years of captivity
 - Jeremiah 25:8-12-- *“Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Because you have not heard My words, behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,’ says the LORD, ‘and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations. Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Then it shall come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,’ says the LORD; and I will make it a perpetual desolation.”*
 3. Cause of the deportation: Failure to observe the sabbatical year
 - 2 Chronicles 36:21-- *“The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the words of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah.”*
 4. Letter that Jeremiah writes to the exiles that Daniel was reading- Jeremiah 29
 - a. Summary: Settle down for it will be a long time
 - b. Promise of a wonderful future plan for the nation of Israel
 - Jeremiah 29:10-14-- *“For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed in Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.”*

B. God’s Wonderful Plan for Israel: T minus 490 years

- Daniel 9:24-27-- *“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the*

command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The streets shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. And after sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wings of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."

1. **Meaning of the "Seventy weeks" as 70, 7 year cycles.**
2. **The wonderful blessings for the nation—Daniel 9:24**
 - a. *"to finish transgression"*
 - b. *"to make an end of sins"*
 - c. *"to make reconciliation for iniquity"*
 - d. *"to bring in everlasting righteousness"*
 - e. *"to seal up visions and prophecies"*
 - f. *"to anoint the Most Holy"*
3. **The Breakdown of God's Plan**
 - a. First seven sevens or 49 years—rebuilding the city of Jerusalem
 - b. Next 62 sevens or 434 -- from rebuilt Jerusalem to Messiah the Prince
 - c. After the 69th week, a gap during which the Messiah will be cut off, the city of Jerusalem destroyed, and a period of wars and desolation for Israel.
 - d. Sometime in the future the resumption of the 490-year plan, and the 70th week will take place.

C. God's Wonderful 490-Year Plan for Israel: The Countdown

1. **The Countdown begins with the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem**
 - a. Four recorded decrees recorded regarding the rebuilding of Jerusalem.
 - 1) A decree to rebuild the temple by Cyrus in 538 BC.
 - 2 Chronicles 36:22-23-- *"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 the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up."*
 - 2) A decree by Darius in 512 BC to supply the needed materials to rebuild the temple.—Ezra 6
 - 3) A decree by Artaxerxes in 457 BC to provide animals for sacrifice in temple
 - Ezra 7:17 -- *"to buy with this money bulls, rams, and lambs, with their grain offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them on the altar of the house of your God in Jerusalem."*
 - 4) A decree by Artaxerxes on March 5, 444 BC to rebuild the city of Jerusalem—Nehemiah 2:1-8
 - Nehemiah 1:4 -- *"The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down and the gates are burned with fire."*
 - b. The first phase of rebuilding the city, including the infrastructure, took 49 years, or "seven sevens"
2. **The Countdown Continues: 434 years from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to Messiah the Prince**
 - a. ***If the decree to rebuild Jerusalem was issued on March 5, 444 BC, when did Jesus Christ present Himself as the Messiah the Prince?***
 - 1) If using a solar calendar (365 days per year plus an additional day every four years), Jesus Christ would have presented Himself as Messiah the Prince around AD 36, well past the time most people believe Jesus lived.

- 2) But the Jews did not follow a solar calendar, but rather a lunar calendar.
 - a) 30 days in a month. 12 months in a year with an occasional extra month
 - b) Daniel 9:27 reveals that in the middle of the week, that is, in the middle of the seven year period the antichrist will break his covenant with Israel, and the last 3 ½ years he will persecute the Jews. This 3 ½ year period is described in Revelation 11:2-3; 12:6; and 13:5 as lasting 1,260 days or 42 months. 42 months times 30 days equals 1,260 days, thus a prophetic year is equal to 360 days.
- 3) 483 years times 360 days equals 173,880 days. Our Gregorian calendar has 365 days in year plus an extra day every four year. So, if you divide 173,880 days by 365 days, that equals 476 years plus 140 days. Leap year would account for 116 of the remaining 140 days, leaving 24 extra days.

b. Jesus Christ presents Himself as Messiah the Prince on March 30, 33 AD

- 1) Jesus Christ, at His triumphal entry, rode into Jerusalem on a donkey
 - Zechariah 9:9-- *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.”*
- 2) Some in the crowd recognized Him as their coming King, but many did not.
- 3) Jesus weeps over the city of Jerusalem because they missed the “day” of visitation.
 - Luke 19:41-44-- *“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 in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.’”*

3. The Countdown Suspended: T minus 7 years and Holding

- a. The cutting off of the Messiah takes place just a few days later.
- b. The destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70, 40 years after the presentation of Messiah the Prince.
- c. The desolation of Israel is on-going.

4. The Countdown Resumes: Sometime in the future God will once again turn His attention to Israel and the Jews, preparing them spiritually for the return of their Messiah, their coming King. God will fulfill the 70th week in the future.