



Prophets and Kings: An Old Testament Study

High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study | A 16-lesson study

Lesson #4: Daniel (Tuesday, October 20, 2026)

This is the fourth lesson in our in-depth study of the Old Testament prophets and kings. In this lesson we'll explore the book, life, and ministry of Daniel. As we'll do throughout this series, we'll reference the two (2) resources you've been given (please use these and bring them with you to our study). The book of Daniel shows God's sovereignty over earthly kingdoms and calls His people to remain faithful in exile. Daniel was taken from Judah to Babylon as a young man (Daniel 1:1–6). He and his friends served in foreign courts without abandoning their devotion to God. Their choices under pressure reveal the courage that grows from trusting Him (Daniel 1–6).

Daniel also received visions about kingdoms that would rise and fall (Daniel 7–12). These visions can be difficult to interpret, but their central assurance is clear: human rulers have limited power, and God's kingdom will endure. Daniel 7 pictures "one like a son of man" receiving lasting dominion from the Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:13–14). The book invites us to live faithfully now because history rests in God's hands. On a personal level Daniel is one of the most interesting people in the Bible and had an amazing life, including a ministry that spanned

Prophet:	Daniel
Years of Ministry:	About 605 to 535 B.C. (served through successive reigns)
National Focus:	Judah in exile; Babylon and Persia
Concurrent Kings:	Jehoiakim of Judah; Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar of Babylon; Darius and Cyrus in the account of Medo-Persia.
Key Points & Observations:	• Exile and Faithfulness: Daniel and his friends were taken to Babylon and sought to honor God while serving in a foreign court (Daniel 1). • God Gives Wisdom: God enabled Daniel to interpret dreams and reveal what human advisers could not (Daniel 2:17–30). • God Rules Kingdoms: Nebuchadnezzar learned that the Most High rules over human kingdoms (Daniel 4:34–37). • Courage in the Furnace: Daniel's friends refused to worship the king's image even when threatened with death (Daniel 3:16–18). • Prayer Under Pressure: Daniel continued his practice of prayer despite the decree against it (Daniel 6:10). • God Delivers: God preserved His servants in the furnace and Daniel in the lions' den (Daniel 3:24–27; 6:19–23). • Visions of Kingdoms: Daniel saw earthly kingdoms rise and fall under God's ultimate authority (Daniel 7:1–12). One like a son of man receives dominion that will not pass away (Daniel 7:13–14). • A Biblical Prophecy Timeline: Daniel's 70th week describes two blocks of time covering 490 years. The first 69 weeks of Daniel's prophecy (Daniel 9:25) represent a historical period of 483 years (69 groups of seven years) that began with the decree to rebuild Jerusalem and culminated with the coming and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The final seven years is known as the Tribulation Period that reflects a period when the Jews will come to see Jesus as Messiah and the Antichrist will rule (Daniel 9:20-27).

1. Read Daniel 1:1–21, which describes Daniel and his friends beginning their life in exile in Babylon.
 - a. What pressures did Daniel and his friends face in the king's court? Why did the food and drink matter to Daniel?
 - b. How did Daniel approach the chief official with his request? What do you notice about both his conviction and his manner?
 - c. According to Daniel 1:17–21, what did God give these young men, and how did their faithfulness shape their service?
2. Read Daniel 3:1–30. Daniel's friends faced a command to worship a golden image.
 - a. What choice did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego face, and what would obedience to the king have required of them?
 - b. What do their words in Daniel 3:16–18 reveal about trusting God even when the outcome is uncertain?
 - c. How did God meet them in the furnace? What did Nebuchadnezzar learn from what he saw?
3. Daniel continued to pray despite a royal decree as described in Daniel 6:1–28.
 - a. Why did Daniel's opponents target his devotion to God? How did Daniel respond when he learned of the decree?
 - b. How did God deliver Daniel from the lions, and how did King Darius respond?
 - c. Compare Daniel 3 and 6. What do these accounts teach about faithful obedience when public pressure or personal risk is high?
4. Daniel's visions look beyond the kingdoms of his day. Read Daniel 7:1–14 and 7:21–27.
 - a. What contrast do you see between the beasts and the Ancient of Days? What does the judgment scene say about earthly power?
 - b. Who receives dominion in Daniel 7:13–14, and how is His kingdom different from the kingdoms represented by the beasts? How does this passage point toward the Messiah?
 - c. Daniel served faithfully under multiple rulers while trusting God's lasting kingdom. Throughout your career did you ever struggle to show allegiance to leaders you did not like?

5. Daniel prays for his people and receives a message about the "seventy sevens." Read Daniel 9:1–27, especially verses 20–27.
 - a. What prompted Daniel's prayer in verses 1–3? How does he confess his people's sins, and on what basis does he ask God to act (verses 4–19)?
 - b. According to Gabriel, for whom and for what are the seventy sevens decreed (verse 24)? Which of the six stated purposes stand out to you?
 - c. How do verses 25–26 divide the sevens? What events and figures are mentioned, and what does the text say happens to the "anointed one"?
 - d. What does verse 27 say about a covenant, sacrifice, and desolation? Which details seem clear, and which require careful interpretation?

The focus of this portion of the lesson is on Daniel 9:27. Probably the most exciting passage centers around the math associated with the first 69 of the 70 weeks. **Figure 1** is provided that captures mathematical calculations completed by Sir Robert Anderson (1841 to 1918) where he traced the fulfillment of prophecy from the *rebuilding of Jerusalem* based on the command from Artaxerxes (March 14, 445 B.C.) to *Jesus' Triumphal Entry* into Jerusalem (April 6, 32 A.D.) as a fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9. There are several key points:

- In the context of this passage a "week" is referred to as a 7-year period. The Hebrew word for "week" is *shabua*, which would be better interpreted as "seven". Hence, 69 "sevens" corresponds to a period spanning 483 years (i.e., 69×7).
- Had the Jewish leaders of Jesus' time carefully studied Daniel (and not been so obsessed with their self-preservation and self-honoring agenda), like you and me (and our dear Brother, Sir Robert Anderson), they could have predicted not only the timing of the Messiah's arrival, but the time of His entry into Jerusalem; a day we refer to as Palm Sunday. I find the accuracy of this passage astounding!

Sir Robert Anderson's computation of the 2nd 70:

From decree to rebuild Jerusalem to cutting off of Anointed one is "**sevens SEVEN**" plus "**sixty two sevens**", SO:
 $7 + 62$ is 69. 69×7 is 483. 483 years $\times$ 360 days (prophetic year) is **173,880 DAYS**
 The edict to rebuild Jerusalem was issued **MARCH 14, 445 B.C.** (to the Jews this was the 1st Nisan in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes)
 Christ entered into Jerusalem (the Anointed One to be cut off) was **APRIL 6, A.D. 32**
 The intervening period was 476 YEARS AND 24 DAYS.
 476×365 days (Julian) ----- 173,740 days
 Add (14 March to 6th April, both inclusive) 24 days
 Add for leap years - 116 days
TOTAL: 173,880 days

Figure 1: Anderson's calculation for the "sixty-nine" sevens

Daniel's 70 Weeks Vision

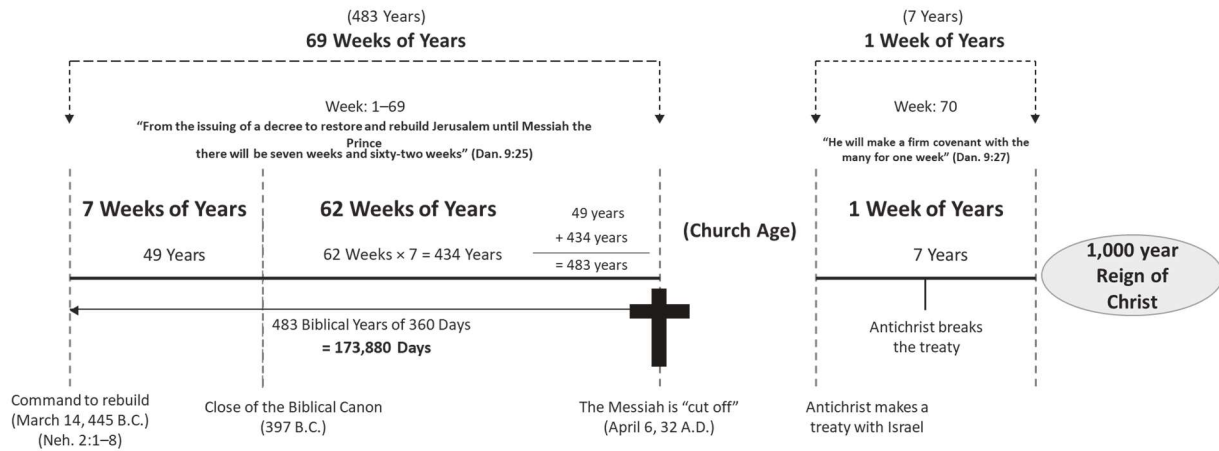


Figure 2: Daniel's 70 Weeks (assuming a "gap" position with unfulfilled prophecies)

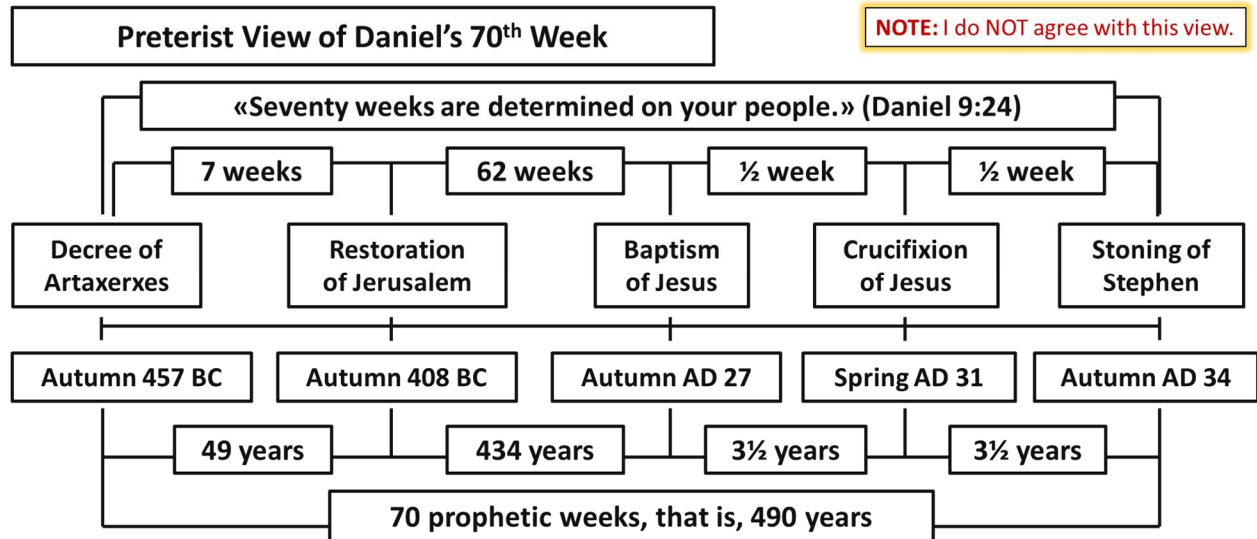


Figure 3: Alternative view of Daniel's 70 Weeks (Preterist View)