

***“Countdown to the Messiah”***  
**Daniel 9:24-26**

Daniel’s prayer is interrupted by Gabriel’s confirmation of yet another countdown. It contains two decrees (by God / by Persian king), two princes (Messiah / Beast) and two fates for Jerusalem (good / bad).

**Decreed timetable for rebuilding, reform, desolations, and Messiah**

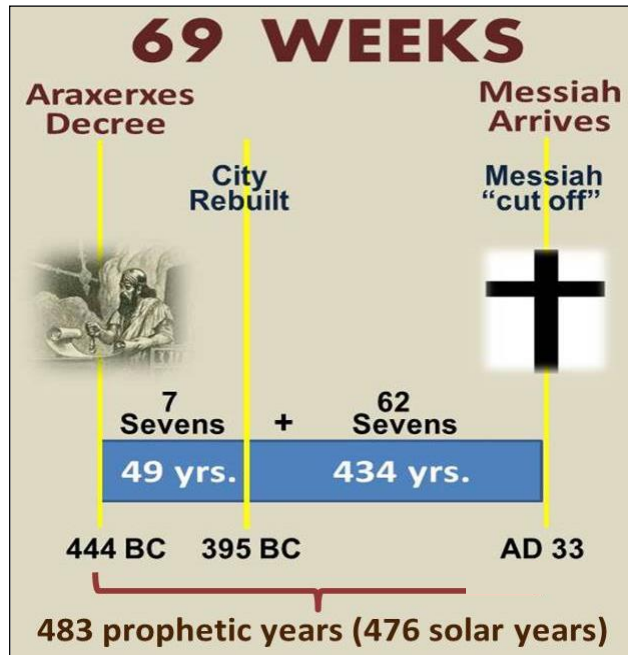
70 weeks: lit. = *seventy sevens* (as in NLT). 10:2,3 (lit. *three sevens of days*). No qualifier needed as context = 70 years. That a week = 7 yrs. fits with 9:27’s broken mid-week cov. (7:25, Rev. 11:3, 13:5)  
Why 70 yrs / 70x7 (490 both ways)? Lv. 26:34,35,43, II Chron. 36:21

**Desired climactic effects for decreed events**

- |                           |                                    |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) Transgression finished | 4) Righteousness for ever          |
| 2) Sin ended              | 5) Prophecy sealed up              |
| 3) Iniquity atoned for    | 6) Most Holy <i>place</i> anointed |
- \*Recall eventual, eternal, righteous regime in visions in ch. 2, 7.

**Decree that begins countdown**

Four different decrees by Persian kings appear in Scripture, but the most likely is by Artaxerxes I in 444 BC, as it concerns the city / walls (Neh. 2:1-8). The 70 sevens (490 years) are split into three parts:  
1) rebuild city, 2) Messiah cut off, 3) in vs. 27 = coming prince’s cov.



The use of a 360-day year vs. a solar year (365) was the ancient norm and especially in biblical prophecy, cf. 7:25, Rev. 11:2,3, 12:6,14 which all require the use of a 30-day month and 360-day year. What do we get when we add 483 prophetic yrs. to Nisan 1<sup>st</sup> 444 BC?

Jesus alone did not miss the date. See Lk. 19:41,42.