

## Calculation for Daniel's "Seventy Sevens"

Daniel 9:20-27

The use of a 360-day [lunar based] "year" has been adopted by a number of scholars (e.g. Anderson, Hoehner, Walvoord, Hitchcock, etc.) to interpret this prophecy.

**How it works:** the "sevens" are taken as sets of 7 years, but ones in which only 12 lunar months are counted for each; the lunar month is 30 days, thus each unit or "year" is only 360 days. Multiplied by 483 (69x7), this produces 173,880 days, or 476.06 solar years. There are hints elsewhere that a 360-day "year" may be appropriate.

Dan 9:27	Dan 7:24-25	Rev 12:14	Rev 12:6	Rev 11:1
Covenant broken in middle of the week	Persecution for "a time, times, and half a time" [3 ½]	Israel in the wilderness for "a time, times, and half a time"	Israel in the wilderness for 1,260 days	Holy city defiled for 42 months

Gen 7:11 – the Flood began on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month

Gen 8:4 – the Flood ended on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month

Gen 7:24, 8:3 – the Flood lasted 150 days

**Results:** Nehemiah was commissioned to rebuild Jerusalem in Mar/Apr, 444 BC. The date is not specified; Hoehner assumes Nisan 1, or March 5. He argues that the triumphal entry took place March 30, and the crucifixion on April 3, AD 33.

- 444 BC to AD 33 is 476 years.
- 476 x 365.242 is 173,855.28 days.
- Adding 25 days for the difference between March 5 (444 BC) and March 30 (AD 33) produces 173,880 days.

Although such a calculation may seem convoluted:

- there are other places where the year is referred to as 360 days in length
- this is apocalyptic literature, so a use like this would not be surprising; also, the way it is presented ("seventy sevens") is very ambiguous and could represent this kind of thing.
- this would be a way to conceal the prophecy, even while it is in plain sight (Dan 12:9 – these words are sealed up)
- it works—the numbers seem to fit when calculated this way.

A detailed discussion of the chronology involved in this discussion, both of the date of Jesus's crucifixion and the relation to the 70 weeks of Daniel 9 may be found in Harold Hoehner's *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*, Zondervan, 1978.

## THE SEVENTY WEEKS OF YEARS DANIEL 9:24-27

