

# FAQ 5

## Bible Defining *Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week*

### Q #5 Where do you include the 70th Week of Daniel in your chronology?

It's a part of the content to the right of the "Daniel" entry on the "Biblical Synthesis" link (found on our [Proposal](#) page). You will find it in smaller font than the Matthew and Revelation entries. Important textual observations of Daniel can be found [here](#).

Along the line of confessed interpretations (assumptions), where do you find the "70th Week" of Daniel fitting into Bible prophecy? We ask this question of hermeneutical assumptions for very important reasons, all sincerely seeking to get at the clear message of God's Word!

Because we seek to operate within the boundaries of biblical revelation, we only speak to what Daniel 9:24-27 actually addresses. (NB: Verse 24 is the only place in all of Scripture where the eschatological 70 Weeks are explicitly found; Verse 27 is one important place in the Scriptures where the 70th Week is most likely *inferred!*) **If** verse 27 is addressing the 70th Week (and we believe it is due to its tie to verse 24), in light of the verse, we find only the following: 1) a reference to an event that will take place at the beginning of the *week*—one confirms a covenant—and, 2) a reference to an event that will take place in the middle of the *week* \*—the same one brings an end to sacrifice and offering—and, 3) "... on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate ..." There is no other content—content, for example, addressing details about the last half of the *week*, including the consummation of human history.

Once again, please note: Many chronological charts **ASSUME** other passages are speaking of the 70th Week when the immediate contexts often do not clearly say the event is actually taking place during that week. As a result, some who create these chronological charts are speculating on these matters as opposed to offering clearly stated Bible facts. The three contextual facts listed above are clearly stated in Daniel 9:27.

The first two explicit events of the verse are included in our chronology. (As you may have already discerned, we also view "weeks" in this passage as years. We confess this interpretation step but hold it for good reasons.)

The third event—also included in our chronological proposal—is tied to the Abomination of Desolation. Our Lord Jesus addressed this event in Matthew 24, referring to that which we find in the later chapters of Daniel (11:31; 12:11). While we could go on to present a chronology based on the 70th Week of Daniel, we've decided to limit our use of this highly debated paragraph by including only the actual content of verse 27 in our chronological proposal. We acknowledge verse 24's references of purpose, but also observe the text is referring to Israel and Jerusalem, not necessarily to the consummation of the entire human race. Again, time-line dates (biblically referenced) do not allow us to conclude the end of matters takes place at the conclusion of the 70th Week (especially in light of how this

Week unfolds **as defined by many end-time scenarios today**). As a result, chronological charts indicating the consummation of humanity will take place at the end of the 70th Week are incorrect, biblically speaking. The end of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week is not the *end* but actually the beginning of yet another wonderful chapter in God's eternal story.

- \* Due to the NRSV and ESV rendering of Daniel 9:27, the timing of the event of the "taking away" may occur any time after the covenant. See *The Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering: An Introduction* (pg. 94) for details.

Or perhaps you may be intending to ask a different question?

The issue here pertains to multiple concerns—crucial ones.

1. The framing of eschatological chronology based on both inference and on a highly debated passage is problematic at best. Many end-time chronologies are based on huge presuppositions concerning certain details within the 70th Week. We choose to approach the issue of chronology using passages that are not so controversial. Although we do include the more controversial passages, we only include what those passages are clearly stating. We hear from hermeneutic experts that vague, debated passages (and interpretations coming from those passages) should always give way to clear, undisputed ones.

Daniel 9:24-27 is one of the most disputed passages in the Bible. As a result, we do not take a speculative passage and build an eschatological position from that passage. Instead, we use clear data and principles from the Word of God and then evaluate the more controversial passages in light thereof.

2. The justifications for these assumptions made by those who put the chronologies together are of major concern to us. "On what grounds" are these decisions made? Do the biblical texts clearly justify some of these conclusions? While no one disagrees these are possible interpretations (with which we would concur—they are *possible*), the point we are trying to make is this: Are end-time proposals explicitly declared in the biblical text? ... So, **yes**, draw up suggested chronologies, but confess the assumptions therein!

3. Even those who argue a 70th Week conclusion to the affairs of humanity (at the Lord's Second Advent) confess huge difficulties in this specific area. (e.g., see the introduction to the Th.M. paper, *On Reading Daniel 12:11: A New Proposal*) For example, there are periods of time that go beyond the 1,260 days (three-and-a-half years) of the last part of the 70th Week. How are questions along these lines answered? Practically every scholar confesses there are major unresolved problems. Our point: Why build an end-time chronology based on/founded on a very sketchy - that is, debated - passage?