

# God's Everlasting Covenant

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## Has the Tribulation Begun? Part 2

This is an addendum to our first teaching on the “Tribulation – Is It Here?” If you haven’t looked at that yet, may we suggest you read it first? It will help you to better understand this one.

Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler comes, there will be seven ‘sevens’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two ‘sevens’ the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing...

Daniel 9:24-26a

Bible students have been studying and interpreting this prophecy in Daniel for centuries. For those who are not familiar, we will give a brief overview of a widely accepted interpretation.

This is a prophecy that has to do with God’s redemptive plan for the nation of Israel and the Jewish people. We know this because the angel is speaking to Daniel the prophet, who is living in Babylon during the Jewish peoples’ 70-year captivity. Daniel is a Jew, and the angel says, “Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for *your* people.” Daniel’s people were the Jews.

Then, there are two separated periods of time mentioned, which I have underscored for you above: seventy ‘sevens’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ The ‘sevens’ are referring to periods of seven years. So, the seventy ‘sevens’ represent a period of 490 years ( $70 \times 7$ ). Then, the prophecy further divides the 490 years into two periods of: 49 years ( $7 \times 7$ ) and 434 years ( $62 \times 7$ ). The remaining ‘seven’, although not mentioned in this text, is one period of 7 years and is talked about elsewhere in Scripture. Thus you have  $49 + 434 + 7 = 490$ . This final ‘seven’ is also known as the time of Jacob’s Trouble, or Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week, or the Tribulation.

Most prophetic scholars have put the two sets of years together ( $49 + 434 = 483$  years) to explain the timeline to Yeshua’s first coming, which they interpret as beginning from the issuing forth of a decree by the Persian King Cyrus to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, which is written about in the books of Ezra & Nehemiah. We are not here to refute this interpretation but we will say it has been difficult to pinpoint the exact date that this “decree” went forth. Even if this is a proper interpretation, and this has already been partially fulfilled, there is usually a dual fulfillment in Biblical prophecy.

It is a little known or talked about fact that Sir Isaac Newton was a Bible student and actually came to a different conclusion about the meaning of this prophecy about 300 years ago. Newton focused on the Scripture's division of the two sets of times, the 49 years and the 434 years. He believed they were not to be understood as needing to be added together, and that the two periods of seven 'sevens' and sixty-two 'sevens' were separated because they are separated in time. He believed that the seven 'sevens' were actually referring to 49 prophetic years of time. What in the world do I mean by a prophetic year?

In a Jewish year, there are 360 days rather than the 365 days of our Gregorian calendar year. They operate on a lunar-solar calendar, while we operate only on a solar calendar. The key to unlocking how many days to use for our prophetic year is in Revelation 12:14 and 12:6.

And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness, inter her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time from the face of the serpent.

In Revelation 12:6, this "time, time and a half a time" is interpreted for us as 1260 days. The simple meaning of a time, and times and half a time is: one year + two years + half a year = 3.5 years

Therefore: 1260 days divided by 3.5 years = 360 days in a prophetic year

Isaac Newton believed the prophecy in Daniel contained a hidden formula to determine a countdown to "the Anointed One", when Yeshua would return to Jerusalem and declare a Jubilee Year, which would be the beginning of His thousand year reign on earth, or the Millennial Kingdom.

Now, before we are accused of "date setting", please understand, we are not talking about the Rapture. Also, we are putting together another teaching which addresses the misunderstanding in Christendom about what Yeshua meant when He said, "No one knows the day or hour" and "only my Father knows." These were idiomatic phrases which mean something entirely different in the Hebraic mindset. We in the western world have not been taught this and so this passage has been seriously misinterpreted. We highly recommend a set of DVD's on the Feasts of the Lord produced by El Shaddai Ministries. Understanding these Jewish feasts unlock prophetic truths that have to do with the Second Coming. <http://elshaddaiministries.us/storefront/dvd.html>

If you don't want to purchase the DVD's you can also listen to the teachings by podcast on their website. However, we highly recommend you purchase them because you will want to refer to them again and again.

Now, back to Isaac Newton's formula:

$7 \times 7 = 49$  prophetic years  $\times$  360 days = 17,640 days

Some have believed that the 49 prophetic years, or the 17,640 days began when Israel became a nation on May 14, 1948. But that would have meant Yeshua would have

returned in 1997. This also could not have been the date because the prophecy in Daniel says, "...from the issuing forth of the decree to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One...it will be rebuilt in troublous times..." The Jews did not have possession of Jerusalem on May 14, 1948. That happened on June 7, 1967. Indeed, Jerusalem has since been rebuilt in very troublous times.

Now, before we begin to count forward 17,640 days, there's just one more thing that is important to understand. In the Bible, the Jewish people celebrated a Sabbath year. They were to count six years, when they were to sow their fields, prune their vineyards, gather their crops. But in the seventh year, the land was to have a Sabbath rest. This is known as a Shemittah year. The Lord promised that during the seventh year, even though they were not working the land, He would make sure it yielded enough for their entire household, including the livestock.

In addition, they were also to count forty-nine years and then the fiftieth year was a Jubilee. A Jubilee year is a year of liberty. It can only be proclaimed on Yom Kippur, which is the holiest day of the Jewish year.

Count off seven Sabbaths of years – seven times seven years – so that the seven Sabbaths of years amount to a period of forty-nine years. Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout the land. Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields. In this Year of Jubilee, everyone is to return to his own property.

Leviticus 25:8-13

So again,  $7 \times 7 = 49$  years leading up to a Jubilee year, which is the 50<sup>th</sup> year. This is very important to understand biblically because Messiah will begin His reign in a Jubilee year!

Finally! Let's begin our count! Remember, our target number of days is 17,640. (\*\*\*)see note at end of this teaching regarding the source for this information.)

### **1967**

June 7 to June 30 =	23 days
July 1 to 31	31 days
August	31 days
September	30 days
October	31 days
November	30 days
December	<u>31 days</u>
	207 days

1967	207
1968	366
1969	365
1970	365
1971	365
1972	366
1973	365
1974	365
1975	365
1976	366
1977	365
1978	365
1979	365
1980	366
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2004	366
2005	365
2006	365
2007	365
2008	366
2009	365
2010	365
2011	365
2012	366
2013	365
2014	365

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17,374

## 2015

January	31
February	28
March	31
April	30
May	31
June	30
July	31
August	<u>31</u>
	243

1967 - 2014 = 17,374 days + 243 days (January – August 2015) = 17,617

Remember, our target number of days is 17,640

- 17,617

23 days left

23 days left starting September 1 puts you on September 23, 2015. That day is **Yom Kippur!!!** On the Jewish calendar, it is Tishri 10, 5776 (the Jewish New Year begins on Tishri 1; hence the change from 5775 to 5776). The year 5775 is a Shemittah (Sabbath rest year), and 5776 could be the next Jubilee! The uncertainty is due to the fact that the Jubilee has not been celebrated in Israel since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple period. Most historical records have been destroyed and no one knows for sure when the last one was celebrated. According to some reckonings, 5776 is slated to be a Jubilee, but we won't know for sure until Messiah returns and declares it on some future Yom Kippur.

Could Yeshua's feet touch on the Mount of Olives on September 23, 2015? If you backdate seven years from then, that would mean that Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week began on Yom Kippur 2008. There are many signs that point to the possibility that the Tribulation has begun. Only time will tell. If you have not read our first teaching on the Tribulation, now would be a good time to do it!

One final note. You have probably guessed by now that we do not believe in a pre-Tribulation rapture as many followers of Yeshua do. We believe that the Scriptures teach something different. But we do not intend to address rapture positions because it is a source of such division within the Body of Messiah. If we are in Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week, then the progression of time and events that transpire in the world, especially in Israel, will bring the truth to light. Watch for future teachings on this subject! We also recommend that you sign up for El Shaddai Ministries free Newsletter. Pastor Mark Biltz is very good at lining up current events with the biblical calendar. If you wish to contact us, please click here: <http://www.godseverlastingcovenant.com/contact-us>

Shalom!

\*\*\*This calculation is a reproduction of Jim Bramlett's work based on his understanding of *Newton's Riddle* by Neill G. Russell. Jim's comments can be found at <http://www.fivedoves.com/letters/feb2008/jim228-1.htm>