

5. **397 B.C.**, Ezra 7:7-28. To reform the people, teach the Torah, and restore the Temple to its proper function after much neglect, and to cancel the prohibitive taxes that were imposed by Judah's enemies. Given by Artaxerxes II. Ezra is the first anointed.

It may be pointed out that the Jews had every right to build the Temple and the city based on Cyrus' first decree. However, Daniel 9:24 said that the counting of the "seventy sevens" would begin with a decree to rebuild the city. Only the decree of 445 B.C. qualifies as fulfillment of the Daniel 9:25 criteria.

The Seven Sevens (See Figure 232.39)

The seven sevens are the seven sabbatical years occurring between Nehemiah's rebuilding of Jerusalem and Ezra's coming to complete the reformation (F1-3696 to F1-3744). Figure 232.39 shows 49 years and seven sabbatical years in the interval. The first seven is counted inclusively, and the seventh sabbatical year falls in **402 B.C.** Ezra's reformation is finished just before the arrival of the 8th sabbatical year which 8th year is also the 1st sabbatical year of the sixty-two sevens. Ezra's coming to Jerusalem concisely establishes the meaning of the break between the seven-sevens and the sixty-two sevens in the prophecy. Ezra is the first anointed and Yeshua is the second Anointed Prince.

The command to rebuild Jerusalem was given in the **20th** year of Cyrus, who is known as Artaxerxes I in the year **3696**, (**445** B.C. Refer to Daniel 9:24-27 Chart, page 210 and Fig. 231.34) The reign of this Cyrus is astronomically synchronized in the **11th** year by VAT **5047**.¹⁹² The decree of the year **3696** is immediately followed by the seventh year: **7**. Seven of these take us to the year **3738**. Now the actual number of years covered by $n \rightarrow 7^{\text{th}}$ years is: $7n - 6 \leq \text{years} \leq 7n + 6$. Therefore, $7 \rightarrow 7^{\text{th}}$ years: $7 \times 7 - 6 \leq \text{years} \leq 7 \times 7 + 6$: $43 \leq \text{years} \leq 55$. In the 7th year of Artaxerxes II, **3744**, Ezra went up to Jerusalem¹⁹³, completing reforms to put the Temple back in service in **3744**. Therefore, from the decree to the end of the reforms is $3744 - 3696 + 1^{194} = 49$ years. This fits the rule $43 \leq 49 \leq 55$; when it is known that the first year is pre-sabbatical, the limits become $43 \leq 49 \leq 50$ (cf. expression 3), and we see that Ezra's reforms are near the upper limit.

The $7 \rightarrow 7$'s, $62 \rightarrow 7$'s, and $1 \rightarrow 7$ sum up to $70 \rightarrow 7$'s. This shows that they do not run concurrently. They run consecutively. The purpose of the $7 \rightarrow 7$'s is not to suggest a gap before $62 \rightarrow 7$'s, but to highlight Ezra's reforms, as the text puts

¹⁹² *Venus Astronomical Text* 5047. This is a tablet containing a diary of two lunar positions relative to planets and the positions of Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, and Saturn. The information is detailed enough to provide an unambiguous astronomical date via retro-calculation. The tablet is dated the 11th year of Artaxerxes I, and the retro-calculation shows that this regnal year was **454 B.C.**

¹⁹³ See "The chronological order of Ezra and Nehemiah," Rowley, H.H., pages 137-168, (254.104). Also, Bullinger (252.24), 1888, explains the correct order of Ezra and Nehemiah.

¹⁹⁴ Add 1 to obtain the inclusive count. For example, to count the numbers from 15 to 19: $19 - 15 + 1 = 5$ numbers: **15, 16, 17, 18, and 19.**

these two in consecutive sequence. On the other hand, an undetermined gap is implied in the prophecy about the destruction of the city and temple between the $62 \rightarrow 7$'s and the $1 \rightarrow 7$.

The Sixty-Two Sevens (See Chart, page 210)

The Sixty-Two Sevens begin counting right after Ezra's reforms. These are counted out in column F1-3746 to F1-4173. It will be seen that the final sabbatical year occurs just before **A.D. 34** when Yeshua was crucified and rose from the dead. This reckoning is the exact solution to the Daniel 9 enigma. It is so mathematically precise that shifting the sabbatical year so much as one year would irreparably collapse biblical chronology into total ruin. If the reader is not mathematically inclined, then he or she can simply count out the sabbatical years in the charts and see that this is so.

Without any gap, $7 + 62 = 69$, and the limits are determined by $n = 69$; $7 \times 69 - 6 \leq \text{years} \leq 7 \times 69 + 6$. Therefore: $477 \leq \text{years} \leq 489$. But the condition that the first year is a 6th year reduces the upper bound by 5 years: $477 \leq \text{years} \leq 484$ years $\leq 7(n+1) - \delta$; $n = 69$; $\delta = 6$. And the condition that the final year is the first year of the cycle lowers the upper bound 6 more years: $477 \leq \text{years} \leq 478$. Since Nehemiah must build the walls before the debt release, the answer is **478**.

The starting year is **3696**.¹⁹⁵ If $3696 \rightarrow 1$, then $3696 + 477 \rightarrow 1 + 477$: **4173** $\rightarrow 478$. **4173** laps the end of the 7th year: **7**. And, the prophecy says that Messiah must be cut off "after" the 62nd seven. Therefore, the earliest Messiah could be cut off is Nisan **4174**. This year marks the lower bound of crucifixion years that work with the prophecy. The upper bound is $3696 + 483 \rightarrow 1 + 483$: **4179** $\rightarrow 484$. The crucifixion happened in the range **4174**-**4179**. This corresponds to **34**-**39** A.D. Other details show that **A.D. 34** is the correct year.

Confirmation

The timing of the sabbatical year is confirmed by the Torah reading in Nehemiah 8 after the walls were finished. (see Figures 232.40, 232.41). Israel also read the Torah in **529 B.C.**, and **921 B.C.**, and **1586 B.C.** Subtract these dates from the creation date, and then divide by 7 to confirm the reading at the beginning of each sabbatical year. (Adjust dates for the end point of the sabbath year for whole number results, i.e. subtract 1.)

1. **4140 B.C. - 1585 B.C. = 2555 \div 7 = 365.**
2. **4140 B.C. - 920 B.C. = 3220 \div 7 = 460.**
3. **4140 B.C. - 528 B.C. = 3612 \div 7 = 516.**
4. **4140 B.C. - 444 B.C. = 3696 \div 7 = 528.**

All these calculations may be figured geometrically, that is graphically just using the charts and counting. The fancy math really isn't necessary.

¹⁹⁵ From the just before the 1st Sabbatical year, or the 1st heptad.