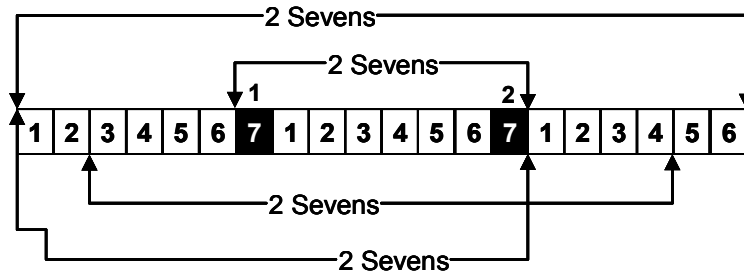


ing stick and the beginning point fit. If these two elements are confirmed, then the end point date is also confirmed.

First, let us work on the measuring stick. The prophecy is measured in terms of so many sabbatical years. To this Jewish tradition admits, and Christian tradition ignores. The Jewish tradition has a solid biblical foundation. The units of measurement are called “sevens” (שָׁבָעִים). In the consonant text of Daniel 9:24-26, this is simply the word for seven (שָׁבַע) with a plural ending (ִים). Now it is necessary to understand that the word “seven” (שָׁבַע) in Hebrew is used in both a cardinal sense “seven” and ordinal sense “seventh.” Deut. 15:9 speaks of a Sabbatical year as “year of the seven” (שְׁנַת־הַשְּׁבַע), using the cardinal number, but the meaning is “seventh year” and so the New American Standard Bible translates it “the seventh years” are sabbatical years. A “seven” need not be the whole seven years. It only needs to be the seventh year of rest. At the same time, a “seven” can also be the whole period, but if we count “sevens,” we may count unit-wise. To count three sevens, thus, can be part of a whole seven, a whole seven, and part of a seven. The prophecy works both by inclusively counting seven year periods and by counting all the “seventh” years. It works both ways. Here is an illustration of different ways to count “sevens”:

Figure 66: Various Ways To Count a "Seven"



By using inclusive counting, we see that the only essential requirement is that the period of time in question contain the stated number of sabbatical years. For “two sevens” is the same as “two seventh years.” Inclusive counting allows us to say that “seven sev-