

Thus it is known that Nisan 1 of Artaxerxes 20th year began on April 13th (Julian) 445 B.C. The reign of Artaxerxes I is also astronomically fixed by tablet VAT 5047, dated to the 11th year of Artaxerxes and recording the positions of Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, and two lunar positions. From this information astronomers can fix Artaxerxes reign in absolute time.³²⁰ This means the decree to rebuild the city walls was in the spring of 445 B.C. And as explained before, the walls were built next, and then the Sabbatical year began in the fall. This is the first “seven.”

To repeat, the year between Tishri 1, 445 B.C. and the last day of Elul 444 B.C. is confirmed to be the seventh year by two witnesses. First Nehemiah caused all the debts to be remitted at the beginning of this year, and second a scribe named Ezra read the Torah. For the Torah commands that it be read at the beginning of every seventh year (Deut. 31:10) and that debts also be cancelled then. The year expressed above is summarized 445/444 B.C. This year was the seventh year, as proved by the two witnesses. The first seven year period includes the first sabbatical year. The commandment was given just before it began in 445 B.C. We thus count part of the first Sabbatical period inclusively, there being part of year six and all of year seven left. Or we merely count the “seventh” years. Counting out seven sevens and then sixty two sevens moves us forward to 32/33 A.D. The prophecy says, “then after the sevens sixty and two Messiah will be cut off” (Dan. 9:26). So after 32/33 A.D. would be 34 A.D. The measuring stick is thus perfect.

There is no way that the crucifixion could be in A.D. 33. This is because it is still during the Sabbatical year in A.D. 33, and the prophecy says Messiah would be “cut off” “after” the Sabbatical year. Further, it is quite impossible to shift the seventh year back one year because then Nehemiah would be canceling debts at the end of the seventh year, and Ezra would be reading the Torah after the end of the seventh year. And this would contradict the instructions to do these

³²⁰ Further details on this prophecy are given in *The Scroll of Biblical Chronology and Prophecy* by the author.