



SAVED TO SERVE
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WILL WE BE RAPTURED
SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2025? PART 2

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study the 70 weeks prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27 and reveal which date is the correct starting date: 457 B.C. or 444 B.C.? Many Christians are now teaching that there will be a secret rapture on September 23 or 24, 2025, and we must be ready to give an answer of what we believe.
 2. Read Daniel 9:24. How much time was “determined” upon Daniel’s people, the Jews?
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3. **Note:** The seventy weeks are a prophetic time period. Using the ‘day for a year’ Biblical template for prophecy (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6), the 70 weeks represent 490 literal years. 70 weeks x 7 days = 490 days. 490 days represent **490 years**, because a day represents one year in Bible prophecy.
 4. Which event signals the beginning of the 70 weeks prophecy? Daniel 9:25
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5. Which king gave the commandment or decree for the Jews to restore and build Jerusalem, and in what year of his reign was it given? Ezra 7:7-13, 21-27
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6. **Note:** According to history, king Artaxerxes began his reign in 464 B.C. See the following reference for confirmation.

“In (Nehemiah 2:1) we have another Artaxerxes. We may safely identify him with Artaxerxes Macrocheir or Longimanus, the son of Xerxes, who reigned 464-425 B.C.” Smith’s Bible Dictionary <http://biblehub.com/topical/a/artaxerxes.htm>

*Count seven years in the future from 464 B.C. and you will arrive at the date **457 B.C.**, the year that Artaxerxes gave the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.*

7. **Current Event:** The Date for the END OF THE WORLD REVEALED | The message I received personally from Jesus | Mr Joshua <https://youtu.be/bSfKjB9xkPM?si=147HgwoTvnO5Srem>

It’s THE END TIME | Rapture, Judgement, the Anti-Christ | 7 Year Tribulation | My Heaven Visitation | Part 2
<https://youtu.be/HgPwLADrios?si=O0ukJoedF5cerudT>

YouTube: Is the RAPTURE Really Next Month? The Bible’s Timeline Is Shocking | 5th Gospel - Shervin Youssefian | 8/14/2025

Some Christians, such as in the video, are using 444 BC as the starting date for the 70 weeks prophecy based on their interpretation of Nehemiah 2:1-8. Let us study this out together.

8. **Note:** There were three Persian kings involved in the decree to restore and build Jerusalem. Cyrus originated the decree in 538 B.C., Darius I continued it in 520 B.C., and Artaxerxes I completed the decree in 457 B.C., which was the seventh year of his reign. This is why Ezra 6:14 says that the Jews builded and finished the temple and city according to the commandment of all three kings.

However, this is what causes controversy and confusion for some people. In Nehemiah 2:1-8, Artaxerxes I gives Nehemiah permission to go to Jerusalem and build the city and the walls, in the 20th year of his reign, namely 444 B.C. So which date is the correct starting date for the 70 Prophetic Weeks? **We will now prove from scripture, why the correct starting date is 457 B.C., the seventh year of King Artaxerxes I.**

9. In Nehemiah 2, did Nehemiah receive a decree or a letter from Artaxerxes to return to Jerusalem and build? Nehemiah 2:1, 4-5, 7-8
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10. Read Nehemiah 1:2-4. Why would Nehemiah ask about Jerusalem and then be shocked and sorrowful as he heard about the walls and gates being broken down? It's because he expected them to already have been built! See the following pertinent study notes.
- a) In Nehemiah 2:15-16, Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem and inspects the wall by night. Verse 16 refers to "the priests ... who did **"the work"**". This **"work"** is undoubtedly referring to the construction of the wall of the city since the temple had already been completed decades earlier (Ezra 6:13-18).
11. Here is more confirmation. In Ezra 4:11-13, what did the surrounding nations petition Artaxerxes to hinder the Jews from constructing?

a) What was Artaxerxes' response? Ezra 4:21

b) When was that commandment or decree given by Artaxerxes for the Jews to continue construction in Jerusalem? Ezra 7:7, 13-27 **Answer:** It was the seventh year of his reign, 457 B.C.!

c) Notice also that the Ezra was given extra silver and gold to do as it seemed good to him (Ezra 7:18), and part of the decree gave Ezra power to appoint rulers (magistrates/judges) for self-government. Therefore, we can definitively conclude that Artaxerxes put Cyrus' decree in its final form in 457 B.C. Since no new decree was issued to facilitate the work of Nehemiah, only letters, Nehemiah's work in 444 B.C. should be understood as implementing what had *already* been permitted by Artaxerxes, yet which was not put into effect due to Samaritan opposition.

12. **Further Study:** Read the following excerpt for deeper insight into why many protestants begin at 444 B.C. and arrive at 32 or 33 A.D. (depending on the source) as the completion of the first 69 prophetic weeks of Daniel 9.

"Many Protestants, using a 360-day "prophetic" year and quite a bit of calculation, begin on Nisan 1, 444 BC, and end up on March 30, AD 33, the day (they say) of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem before His crucifixion. This fits neatly into their scheme, as the Passover in AD 33 occurred on a Friday, but they are two years off! Jeremiah's seventy years of captivity were seventy literal years, not 360-day years. Why should Gabriel's seventy weeks of years be anything else? Their method of calculation is contrived and confusing. They have forced the prophecy into conforming to their beliefs rather than following the simple sense of the Bible's words."

"Besides, Christ was not proclaimed as the Messiah for the first time during His triumphal entry, but at His baptism. God the Father, not the people, publicly proclaimed Him to be the Messiah, "My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:16-17).

<https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Topical.show/RTD/cgg/ID/7396/Rebuilding-Jerusalem.htm>

13. Now that we have proven 457 B.C. as the starting date for the 70 Prophetic Weeks, let's continue to unpack the prophecy. After how many prophetic weeks were the Jews to expect the Messiah the Prince? Daniel 9:25 (Also convert the prophetic weeks to literal years).

a) **Note:** The word Messiah means "the anointed one." See The Strong's Exhaustive Bible Concordance, number 4899.

14. Jesus is the Messiah. At which event was He anointed, and who was He anointed with? John 1:29-36, 40-41; John 4:24-26; Acts 10:36-38.

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15. Using 457 B.C. as the starting date and going 483 years in the future, what date will you arrive at for the baptism of Jesus? (**Hint:** It is VERY IMPORTANT to remember that when you cross over from B.C. to A.D., you must add one year because there is no "zero year." Look at the following example for clarity (2 B.C., 1 B.C., then 1 A.D., 2 A.D., etc).

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16. **Note:** Let us now look at another way to confirm that the baptism of Jesus took place in the year of 27 A.D. As the Lamb of God, Jesus, was crucified on the Passover day. Passover was always held during the spring of the year. In John 1:29-36, 40-41, Jesus was baptized. This date, as mentioned before, is 27 A.D. Jesus attended the first Passover feast after His baptism, which was only a few months afterwards. See John 2:13. At this Passover feast, there was a conversation between Jesus and the Jews. It was told to Jesus that the Jewish temple had been in renovation for 46 years. Read John 2:18-21.

17. When did Herod begin renovating the Jewish temple? **Answer:** Between 20 and 19 B.C. See reference below.

“In the eighteenth year (20-19 B.C.) of his reign Herod rebuilt the Temple on a more magnificent scale. There are many evidences that he shared the passion for building by which many powerful men of that time were moved. He had adorned many cities and had erected many heathen temples; and it was not fitting that the temple of his capital should fall beneath these in magnificence. Probably, also, one of his motives was to placate the more pious of his subjects, whose sentiments he had often outraged.” <https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/14304-temple-of-herod>

18. **Note:** How do we know whether to use 20 B.C. or 19 B.C. as the starting date for Herod’s rebuilding of the temple? Since we know that Jesus was baptized in 27 A.D., we have to choose the date which will bring us to 28 A.D. - the year after Jesus’ baptism when He attended the Passover feast in John 2:13. Using 19 B.C. as your starting date, go forward 46 years in the future; you will arrive at 28 A.D. (Remember when you cross over from B.C. to A.D. you add 1 year). Therefore, with certainty, we can conclude that the Passover feast of John 2:13 took place in 28 A.D. spring, because Passover is always held in the spring of the year.

19. As we close, let us now look at how we can practically have this anointing experience before Jesus returns. Just as Jesus was anointed in 27 A.D., who does Jesus want to pour out upon His faithful followers? Acts 2:1-4

20. What work does the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth, do in our hearts? John 16:7-8, 13

21. Once we are cleansed of our sins and are guided into God’s truth, what will be our God-given work? Isaiah 61:1-2
