

# God's Time Cycles

## Daniel's 70 Weeks and Israel's Return to their Land

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Recently, I was pondering the great prophecy of Daniel's 70 weeks (9:20-27) that lays out the time frame for Christ's coming nearly 2000 years ago (70 weeks x 7 years/week = 490 years). There are several views [1] as to when Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy began. We will focus on the more prevalent views. One view uses the Gregorian calendar (365 day solar year) with 458/457 B.C. being the starting date. Another view uses 445/444 B.C. for the starting date but yields different conclusions depending upon whether the Gregorian calendar (365 day year) or Jewish calendar (360 day year) is used. [2,3] The 445/444 B.C. dates more closely fulfill requirements for the rebuilding of Jerusalem and its walls, with 444 B.C. being the preferred date. [4]

The Jewish calendar (360 day year) model first proposed by Sir Robert Anderson in his classic presentation, *The Coming Prince*, and Dr. Harold Hoehner's refinement of Anderson's views in his work, *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*, (360 day sabbatical year), provide the best model for completion of the first 69 weeks of Daniel's 70 weeks. [5, 6] The first 69 weeks (483 years) of this prophecy are connected with the first coming of Christ, and the 70<sup>th</sup> week (7 years) is associated with the time that immediately precedes the second coming.

Gabriel's great prophecy to Daniel is fascinating and deserves close scrutiny by all Bible students. My focus, however, will be directed at the beginning date for Daniel's 70 weeks rather than how this prophecy was literally fulfilled by Christ. Is it possible that the prophecy of Daniel's 70 Weeks is linked to God's prophetic plan for Israel's return to its land during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries? Before pursuing this idea, some additional background will be helpful. We can then build a model that connects Daniel's prophecy with the times in which we are living.

In 1998, I published a book called *Timeline 2000* [7], which gives several examples of God's interaction with his chosen people throughout Jewish history between 2000 B.C. and 2000 A.D. In order to better understand the dates, history, and background for the timeline charts, it would be helpful to review a copy of *Timeline 2000*. These Jewish chronology charts reflect God's presence during the Egyptian Bondage, the 400 Silent Years, the Great Reformation, and Israel's return to her land on three separate occasions. They also show how God has been using 40, 80, 400, 430, and 480-year time cycles to carry out His dynamic, redemptive plan for the Jewish people. Consequently, these time cycles paint an interesting and intriguing portrait of God's fingerprints and hand upon Jacob's (Israel) descendants and their homeland, down through the centuries, for the past 4000 years.

Around the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Edwin R. Thiele, (1895-1986), a professor of Biblical studies at Andrews University, Barrien Springs, Michigan, completed an in-depth study of the dating methods used by Judah and Israel from the division of Solomon's kingdom to the fall of Jerusalem, a period covering over 300 years. Dr. Thiele, whose research was the basis for his doctoral dissertation at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, helped establish several critical "absolute dates" of events in the Old Testament, which were subsequently used in my chronological framework for *Timeline 2000* and the Jewish timeline charts. [8, 9, 10]

On May 14-15, 1948, Israel officially returned as a nation a third time to the land given by God to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob over 3,500 years ago. If the starting point for Daniel's 70 Weeks prophecy is 444 B.C., as proposed above, and we use the Gregorian calendar (365 day year) for the method of calculation, we arrive at some notable landmarks in European and Jewish history (i.e. the Great Reformation and Israel's return to their land). It should be emphasized that these findings in no way suggest or imply that anything prophetically will happen this year, next year, or at anytime in the future. Only God knows the future.



The Lord said in Mark 13:31-33: “*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.*” As stated clearly by Jesus in Matthew (24:36) and Mark, no man knows the day or the hour of His coming but the Father only. The same Jesus, however, was very angry with the Pharisees and Scribes for not discerning “*the signs of the times*” and for not knowing the “*time of their visitation*” (Matthew 16:1-4, Luke 19:41-48). [11, 12]

Charles Dickens’ novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*, which describes the conditions in London and Paris in 1775, in some ways describes the times in which we are living: “*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us...*” We are currently living in challenging and provocative times that deserve close scrutiny by students of the Bible, with special emphasis on the prophetic scriptures. May we each be like the Bereans who “*searched the scriptures daily*” and like the children of Issachar “*that had understanding of the times*” in order to know what to do (Acts 17:11, I Chronicles 12:32).



- [1] *Charts of Bible Prophecy, Evaluating Views on Daniel 9:24-27*, H. Wayne House and Randall Price, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2003, p.142, 143.
- [2] *Ibid.*, [Alternate Determinations of the Seventy Weeks of Daniel](#), p. 70.
- [3] *Ibid.*, [The 483 Years in the Jewish and Gregorian Calendars](#), p. 44.
- [4] *The Seventy Weeks of Daniel*, Dr. Thomas Ice, Pre-Trib Research Center, <http://www.pre-trib.org/>, [Sir Robert Anderson](#), [Harold Hoehner](#), p. 13, 14.
- [5] *Ibid.*, [The Terminus a Quo of the Seventy Weeks](#), et cetera, p. 11-19.
- [6] *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*, Harold W. Hoehner, Academie Books, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1977, p.126-128, 135-139.
- [7] *Timeline 2000, Does God Have a Plan for Mankind?, New Evidence*, James Michael Hile, Winepress Publishing, Enumclaw, WA, 1998, [www.winepresspub.com](http://www.winepresspub.com), sales inquiries only 800-326-4674.
- [8] *Ibid.*, [The Bible: Gateway to the Past](#), p. 45-48.
- [9] *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings*, Edwin R. Thiele, Grand Rapids, Michigan: The Zondervan Corporation, 1983, special edition by Kregel Publications, 1994.
- [10] *Kingdom of Priests, A History of Old Testament Israel*, Eugene H. Merrill, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1987, p. 67.
- [11] *Prophecy at Ground Zero, From Today’s Mideast Madness to the Second Coming of Christ, The Last Generation*, William T. James, General Editor, John Walvoord, Phillip Goodman, Jack Van Impe, Arno Froese, Zola Levitt, Dave Breese, J.R. Church, Joseph R.Chambers, Daymond R. Duck, Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, Augusta Harting, J. Michael Hile, David Allen Lewis, Larry Spargimino, Starburst Publishers, Lancaster, PA, 2002, p. 195.
- [12] *The Last Generation*, J. Michael Hile, Rapture Ready, <http://www.raptureready.com/rap101.html>, p. 10.

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# Daniel's 70 Weeks and Israel's Return

(Gregorian calendar)

**Daniel's 70 Weeks Begin** 444 B.C.

**Jerusalem**

**490-Year Cycles Begin** 444 B.C.

(70 x 7 = 490 years)

(Daniel 9:20-27)

Weeks)

c. 6-4 B.C.

c. 26-33 A.D.

c. 31-33 A.D.

c. 30-33 A.D.

47 A.D.

537 A.D.

1027 A.D.

**Reformation Begins** 1517 A.D.

**(1516-1519)**

Turks Enter Palestine

Selim I Captures Jerusalem

Martin Luther's 95 Theses

Turks Secure Palestine

**(1916-1919)**

British Enter Palestine

Allenby Captures Beersheba

Balfour Declaration Approved

Balfour Declaration

Allenby Captures Jerusalem

British Secure Palestine

World War I Ends

**Reformation Ends** 1917 A.D.

British Mandate (1920-1948)

U.N. Palestine Partition Plan 1947 A.D.

**Rebirth of Israel** 1948 A.D.

Israel Captures Jerusalem 1967 A.D.

**490-Year Cycles End** 2007 A.D.

**Decree to Restore/Build**

(Daniel 9:25) (Nehemiah 2:1-20)

(7 Weeks + 62 weeks = 69 weeks)

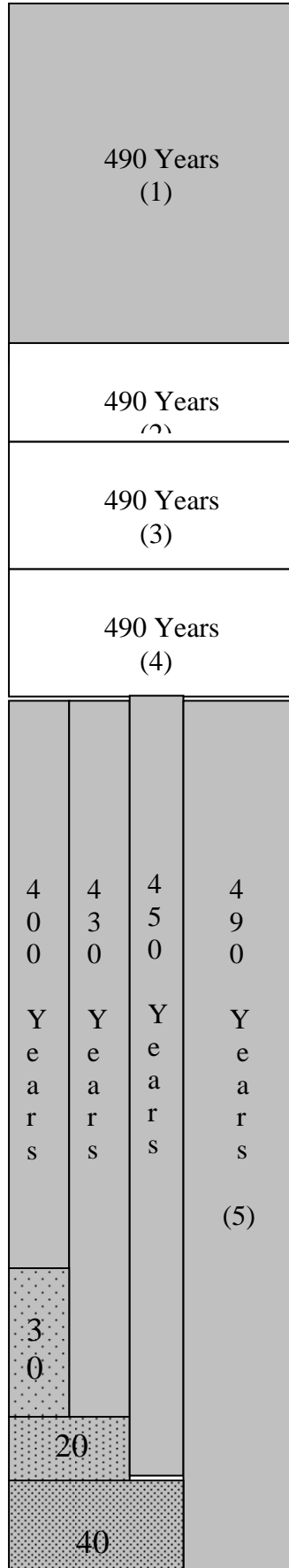
(7 + 62 + 1 future week = 70

Messiah Born

Messiah Ministry

Messiah Triumphant Entry

Messiah cut off



August 24, 1516

December 11, 1516

October 31, 1517

August 1518

August 4, 1916

October 31, 1917

October 31, 1917

November 2, 1917

December 8-11, 1917

September 19-31, 1918

November 11, 1918

November 29, 1947

May 14-15, 1948

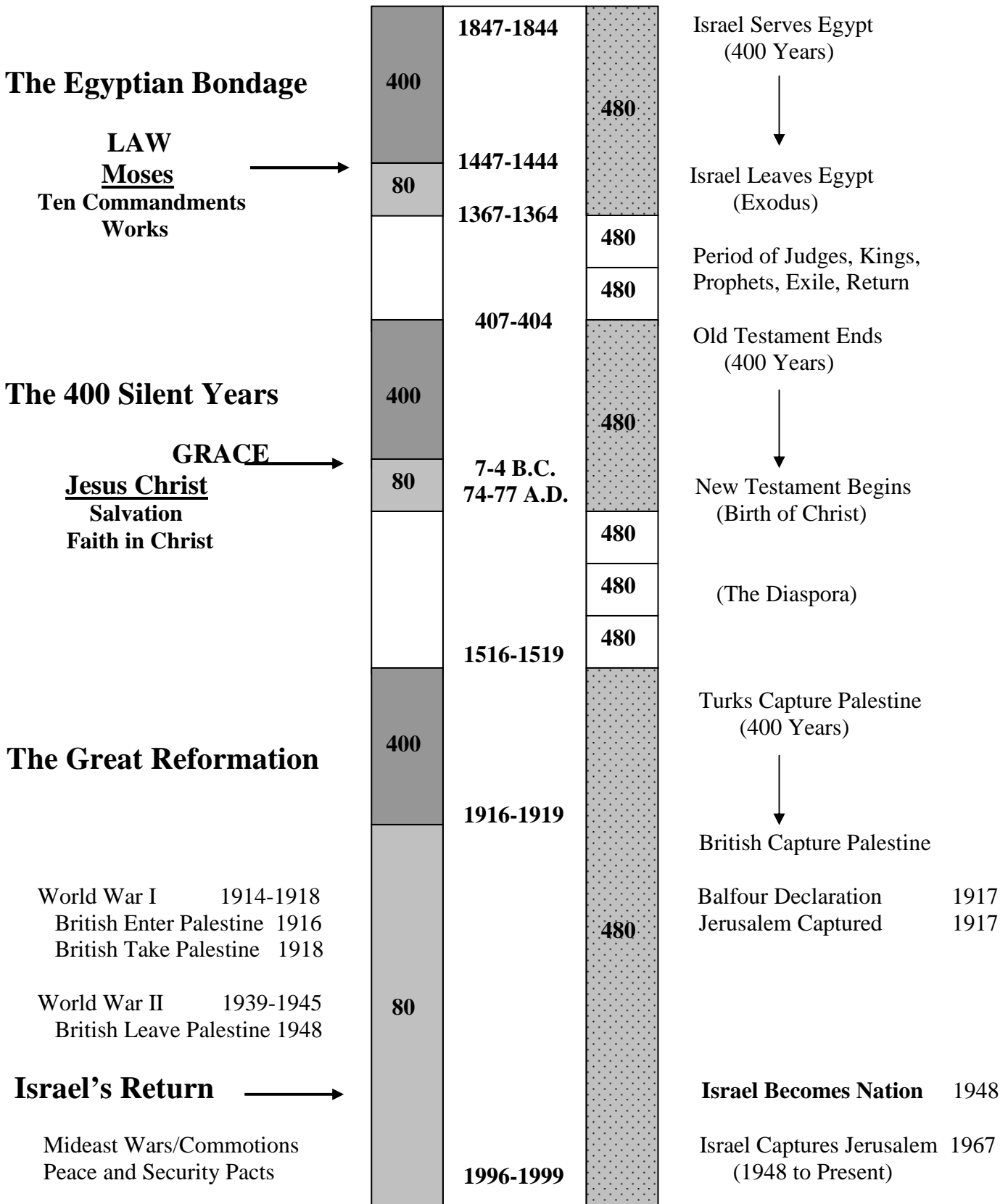
June 5-13, 1967

2007 A.D.



# The Egyptian Bondage

## 400 Silent Years and Great Reformation



# The Great Reformation

Turks Enter Palestine  
Selim I Captures Jerusalem

## Reformation Begins

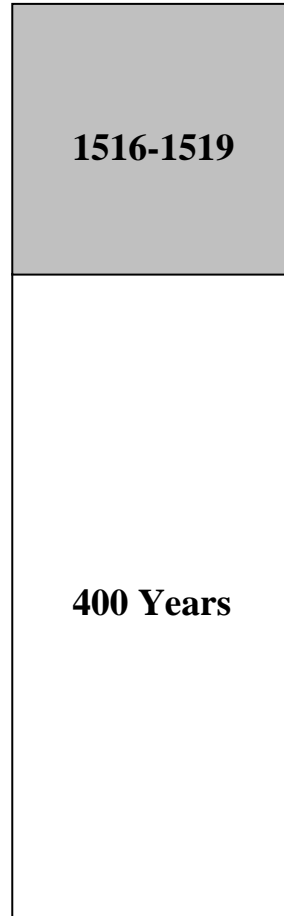
Martin Luther's 95 Theses  
Turks Secure Palestine

Ottoman Occupation

British Enter Palestine  
Allenby Captures Beersheba  
Balfour Declaration Approved

## Reformation Ends

Balfour Declaration  
Allenby Captures Jerusalem  
British Secure Palestine  
World War I Ends



August 24, 1516  
December 11, 1516

October 31, 1517  
August 1518

August 4, 1916  
October 31, 1917  
October 31, 1917

November 2, 1917  
December 8-11, 1917  
September 19-31, 1918  
November 11, 1918

# The Great Reformation And Israel's Capture of Jerusalem

Turks Enter Palestine  
Selim I Captures Jerusalem

August 24, 1516  
December 11, 1516

## Reformation Begins

1516-1519

Martin Luther's 95 Theses  
Turks Secure Palestine

October 31, 1517  
August 1518

## Ottoman Occupation

400 Years

British Enter Palestine  
Allenby Captures Beersheba  
Balfour Declaration Approved

August 4, 1916  
October 31, 1917  
October 31, 1917

## Reformation Ends

1916-1919

Balfour Declaration  
Allenby Captures Jerusalem  
British Secure Palestine  
World War I Ends

November 2, 1917  
December 8-11, 1917  
September 19-31, 1918  
November 11, 1918

British Mandate (1920-1948)

30 Years

## British Occupation

U.N. Palestine Partition Plan  
**Rebirth of Israel**

November 29, 1947  
May 14-15, 1948

## Jewish Occupation

20 Years

## Jerusalem Captured

June 5-13, 1967



