

AN INVESTIGATION OF THE CHRONOLOGY OF DANIEL 9:24-27

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This study attempted to investigate the chronological issues of Dan 9:24-27. Its main objective was to provide an interpretation based upon textual, linguistic, literary, grammatical-syntactical, structural, and contextual study of the major terms and expressions in Dan 9:24-27.

Chapter 1 surveys the chronological interpretations of Dan 9:24-27. Four major schools of interpretation emerged (Historical-Messianic Interpretation, Historical-Critical Interpretation, Futurist-Dispensational Interpretation, and Symbolic-Amillennialist Interpretation) under the main categories of continuous and noncontinuous interpretations. Major chronological issues emerged from these interpretations and set the stage for this study.

Chapter 2 examines major Hebrew expressions and terms that affect chronology (*šābu'im ših'im*, *nehtak*, *dābār*, *l'hāšib w'libnôl*, *tāšub w'nibn'lah*, *r'hôl w'hārûs*, *māšiah*, *nāgîd*, *b'rit*). The term *dābār*, determines the *terminus a quo* of the Seventy Weeks to be computed continuously and sequentially, and is itself contextually defined by three pairs of parallel terms, namely, (1) *l'hāšib w'libnôl*, "to restore and to build," which designates political "restoration" and physical "rebuilding" of Jerusalem; (2) *tāšub w'nibn'lah*, "it shall be restored and be built," which provides comparative support for the first word pair, and (3) *r'hôl w'hārûs*, "square and decision-making," which stresses further that the "word" is about the restoration of Jerusalem as a religio-political self-governing entity with the rights to judicial decision-making. The three expressions, "Messiah, the Prince" (v. 25), "Messiah" (v. 26a), and "Prince" (v. 26b), refer contextually and structurally to the same personality.

Chapter 3 investigated the historical-chronological correlates of the events stipulated in Dan 9:24-27. The decree of Artaxerxes I given to Ezra is the only *terminus a quo* that fits the stipulations of the text of Dan 9:25 and the chronological outline of Dan 9:24-27. The events of the "seventieth week" relate to the Messiah and are properly fulfilled by Jesus Christ.

Finally, a summary and conclusions bring together the various chronological issues of Dan 9:24-27. This study has provided new evidence that shows that the Historicist-Messianic interpretation emerges from the text as the viable view for the chronology of the passage.