



# Daniel and the Last Days

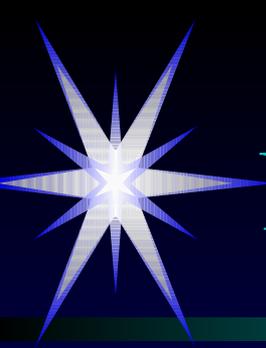
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Vern S. Poythress, Ph.D., Th.D.



# A. The Coming Kingdom

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# Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Dan. 2)

The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

– Daniel 2:32-34



Four parts;  
and a stone.



# The Dream's Meaning (Dan. 2)

- ▶ Gold
- ▶ Silver
- ▶ Bronze
- ▶ Iron and clay
- ▶ The stone
- ▶ Babylon (38)
- ▶ Medo-Persia (39)
- ▶ Greece (39)
- ▶ Rome (40-43)
- ▶ God's kingdom (44)



Wait for it!



# Timing

And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever.

– Dan. 2:44

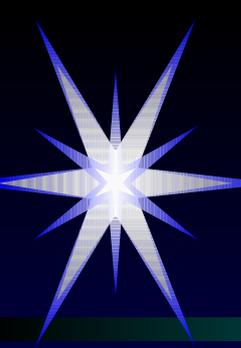


Time of Rome



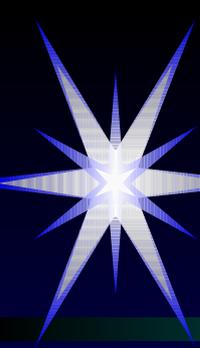
## B. The Beasts: Daniel 7

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## Daniel 7:17-18

These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.



# Daniel's Dream (Dan. 7)

## Beasts

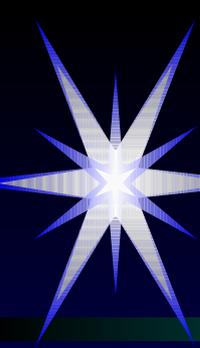
- ▶ Lion (4)
- ▶ Bear (5)
- ▶ Leopard (6)
  - ▶ four heads
- ▶ Ten-horned (7)

## Kingdoms

- ▶ Babylon
- ▶ Medo-Persia
- ▶ Greece
  - ▶ Alexander's successors
- ▶ Rome

Time of Rome





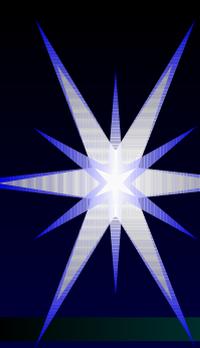
# The Coming of the Kingdom

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

– Matt. 4:17

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

– Matt. 12:28



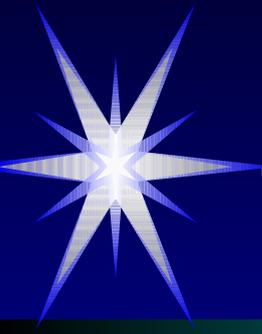
# The Coming of the Kingdom (2)

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

– Rom. 14:17

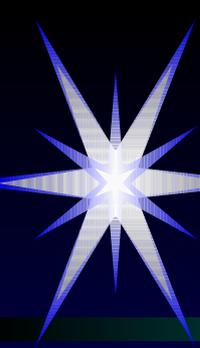
The kingdom here!





# C. The Days: Daniel 9

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# Jeremiah and Daniel's 70

In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

– Dan. 9:2

This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

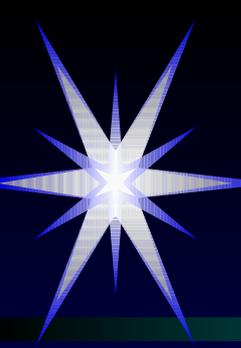
– Jer. 25:11



# Sabbatical Years

He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

– 2 Chron. 36:20-21



# Significance of the 70 years

- ▶ Each year of 70 years of exile is a sabbath
- ▶ One sabbath represents 7 total years
- ▶ Total years represented,  $7 \times 70 = 70$  sevens

A larger pattern



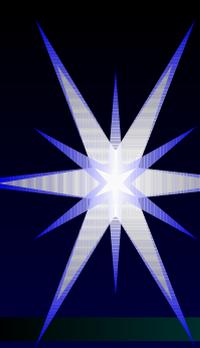


# Seventy Weeks

"Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.

– Dan. 9:24

"Seventy weeks" = "70 sevens."



# Symbol of the Sabbath

So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

– Heb. 4:9-11



# Sabbath Patterns

- ▶ Seventh day
- ▶ Seventh month (Feast of tabernacles)
- ▶ Seventh year ("sabbath year")
- ▶ 50<sup>th</sup> year ("jubilee"; Lev. 25)
- ▶ 70 "weeks": 10 jubilees, leading to consummation

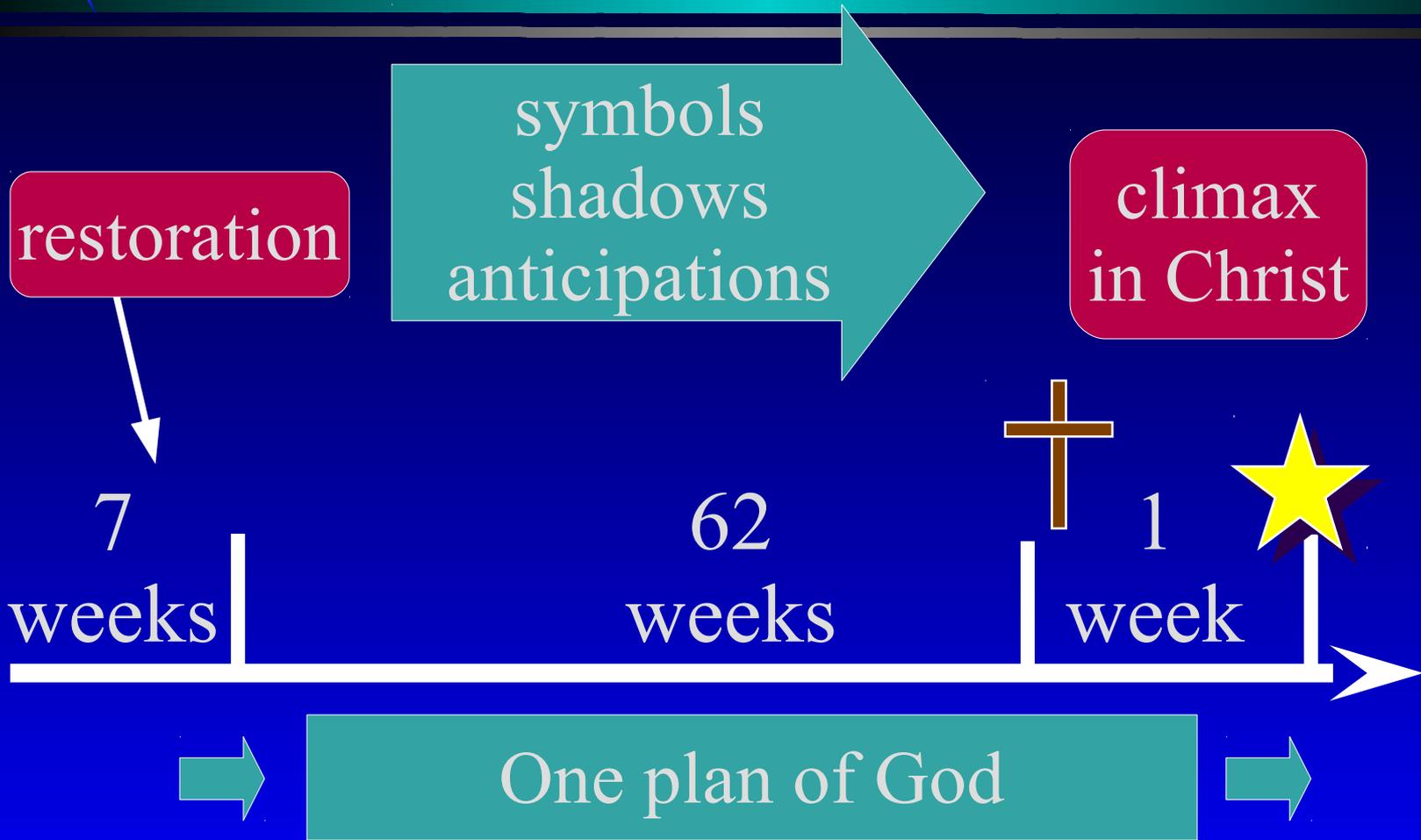
70 sevens are 10 jubilees,  
490 symbolical years

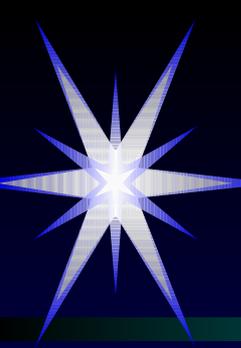
Symbols!





# Divisions of the 70 Weeks (9:24-27)



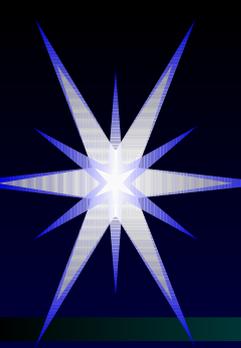


# Structure of 70 Weeks

- ▶ Seven weeks
- ▶ 62 weeks
- ▶ 70<sup>th</sup> week
- ▶ Preliminary
- ▶ Leading to fulfillment
- ▶ Inaugurated
  - ▶ new covenant



Fits.



# Key: Daniel 9:26

And after the sixty-two weeks,  
an anointed one shall be cut  
off and shall have nothing.

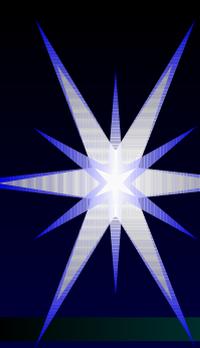
Christ

crucifixion  
and death

And the people of the prince  
who is to come shall destroy  
the city and the sanctuary. Its  
end shall come with a flood,  
and to the end there shall be  
war. Desolations are decreed.

Roman  
armies

Jerusalem



# Key: Daniel 9:27

And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.

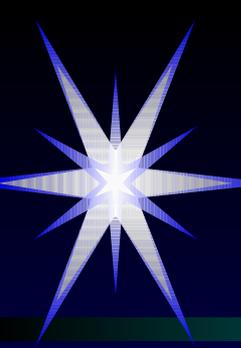
Christ

new  
covenant

interadvent

70 A.D.

Roman  
general  
Titus

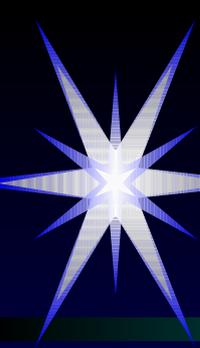


# Structure of 70 Weeks

- ▶ Seven weeks
- ▶ 62 weeks
- ▶ 70<sup>th</sup> week
- ▶ Mid-week
- ▶ End week
- ▶ Preliminary
- ▶ Leading to fulfillment
- ▶ Inaugurated
  - ▶ new covenant
- ▶ destruction of Jerusalem
- ▶ consummation (new heaven and new earth)



Fits.



# Further Reading

- Edward J. Young, *The Prophecy of Daniel*
- Iain M. Duguid, *Daniel*
- Meredith G. Kline, "The Covenant of the Seventieth Week," in *The Law and the Prophets*, ed. John H. Skilton, 452-469
- Vern S. Poythress, "Hermeneutical Factors in Determining the Beginning of the Seventy Weeks (Daniel 9:25)," *Trinity Journal N.S.* (1985) 131-149