

What Does the Bible Really Teach... about Daniel's 70 weeks?*

What Jehovah's Witnesses believe	What Does the Bible <i>Really</i> Teach?
70 'weeks' starts with a decree in 455 BCE to rebuild Jerusalem	<p>Nehemiah was given permission to repair Jerusalem's walls, not a decree to rebuild Jerusalem</p> <p>Nehemiah 2:1a: In the month of Ni'san, in the 20th year of King Ar-ta-xerx'es [445 BCE]</p> <p>Nehemiah 7:7-8: Then I said to the king: "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me for the governors of the region Beyond the River, granting me safe passage until I reach Judah, ⁸ as well as a letter to A'saph the keeper of the Royal Park, so that he may give me timber for beams for the gates of the Fortress of the House and for the walls of the city and for the house where I will go." So the king gave them to me, for the good hand of my God was upon me.</p> <p>See also Nehemiah 1:3; 2:13-17; 3-5; 6:1, 15; 7:1; 12:27.</p> <p>Early versions of Daniel 9:25 did not mention a decree to rebuild Jerusalem</p> <p>Daniel 9:25 (Greek Septuagint, Old Greek):</p> <p>and you will know and will understand and will celebrate and will find statutes to be answered and καὶ γνώση καὶ διανοηθήσῃ καὶ εὐφρανθήσῃ καὶ εὐρήσεις προστάγματα ἀποκριθῆναι καὶ you will build a city for the lord οἰκοδομήσεις πόλιν κυρίῳ</p>
Messiah and Leader are the same individual	<p>Early versions of Daniel 9:25 did not mention 'Messiah' and 'Leader' together</p> <p>See <i>Greek Septuagint</i> text above.</p> <p>Messiah ("anointed one") was initially a reference to Cyrus in support of restoring Jerusalem</p> <p>Isaiah 45:1a: This is what Jehovah says to his anointed one, to Cyrus,</p> <p>Leader is an enemy of Jerusalem</p> <p>Daniel 9:26b: "And the people of a leader who is coming will destroy the city and the holy place. And its end will be by the flood. And until the end there will be war; what is decided upon is desolations.</p>
Messiah is "cut off" at "the half of the week"	<p>Messiah is cut off after 62 weeks</p> <p>Daniel 9:26a: "And after the 62 weeks, Mes-si'ah will be cut off, with nothing for himself.</p>
Messiah causes "sacrifice and gift offering to cease"	<p>Leader causes sacrifice and gift offering to cease</p> <p>Daniel 9:26b-27a: "And the people of a leader who is coming will destroy the city and the holy place. ... And he will keep the covenant in force for the many for one week; and at the half of the week, he will cause sacrifice and gift offering to cease.</p>