

# God's Countdown

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Daniel 9:20-27.

B. Daniel pinpoints the exact time in history when the Jewish Messiah would be revealed four hundred years prior to the event.

## II. Daniel realized that he was nearing the time of the end of Jeremiah's predicted time, so he prayed.

A. Prayer is a means by which we get involved in God's work—His program.

B. This is a model prayer for confession, praise and earnest petition before God.

## III. The angel gives Daniel a prophesy that has been called the backbone of prophesy.

### A. Introduction.

1. There would be a period of 490 years.

2. It would concern the people of Israel.

3. It would concern Jerusalem only.

### B. The objectives to be accomplished.

1. The work of redemption.

a. Finish transgression.

b. Make an end of sin.

c. Atone for iniquity.

2. The final realization of the hopes and dreams of men.

a. To establish the kingdom of God.

b. The fulfillment of all the predictions.

c. The establishment of the Temple again in Jerusalem.

### C. Threefold division of time set forth.

1. Seven weeks and sixty-two weeks—the starting point of this period.

2. The forty-nine year period where the city of Jerusalem would be built again.

3. 482 years unto the “Anointed One,” that is the Messiah and a week after He would be cut off.

4. There is a gap between the 69<sup>th</sup> week and the 70<sup>th</sup> week when the Romans would incite terrible times and the Anti-Christ would arise making an agreement with the Jews to allow the construction of a temple before Christ returns.

D. There is a contingency to prophesy—the fulfillment is sure but the timing is conditioned upon the people’s response.

1. Had the Jews received the gospel then we would be in the millennium.

2. However, God is waiting upon the obedience of the Jews.

3. God is waiting for us to give ourselves to the advancement of His work and not ours.

**Application questions:**

1. What stands out to you about the precision of God’s prophesy?

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2. Why is prophesy both sure and contingent? Explain.

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3. What should the Christian response be in light of the contingency of prophesy?

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