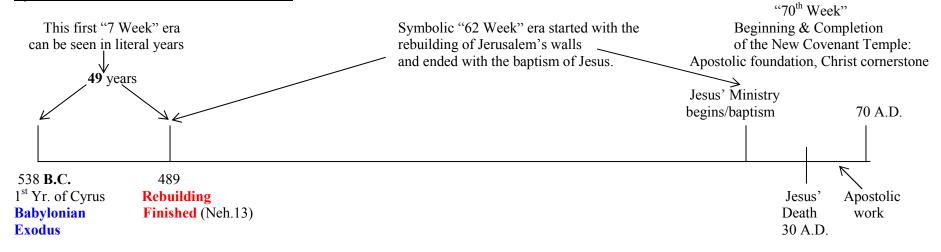


## Symbolic "70 Weeks" of Years in Daniel 9:



## Observations:

Daniel's symbolic time period of "70 weeks" appears to be based on the literal time period from the Exodus to the completion of Solomon's Temple. After the Egyptian Exodus and Conquest, on the 62<sup>nd</sup> Sabbath Year (62 Weeks), Solomon began to build the temple. Over the next 7 years (1 Week), Solomon finished the Temple.

Likewise after the Babylonian Exodus and Rebuilding Project, Daniel says there will be a period of "62 Weeks" until the Messiah's ministry begins. The 70<sup>th</sup> week refers to the ministry of Jesus and work of the Apostolic Church until the destruction of Jerusalem. Just as the Old Temple took 7 years (1 Week) to build, even so Daniel most likely uses this history to support his symbolism – that within the "70<sup>th</sup> Week" the Messiah will be sacrificed, and Old Jerusalem destroyed. Clearly the New Covenant Temple was officially and visibly established when God destroyed the Old Temple by the Romans.

The only difference that I can see between the historic and the symbolic is the 2 years in the first "Week". Exodus to Conquest was 47 years; but 49 years was from Babylonian Exodus to the rebuilding of the walls. Yet this may not be a major issue considering Daniel's "70 Weeks" is mostly symbolic. Nevertheless, the parallels are overwhelming when we compare the Exodus themes from Egypt and Babylon, the "62 Week" eras, and the Temple-building work: first Solomon's and then the Apostle's Temple with Christ being the chief cornerstone. Thus I think it is safe to say that Daniel was relying on the historic events from the Egyptian Exodus to the Temple's completion, to base his symbolic "70 Weeks" from the Babylonian Exodus to the completion of the New Covenant Temple.