

He is a prince, a leader, he is one whom the Lord has set apart to perform a specific task. So when it says ~~xxxx~~ it is seven weeks from the going forth of the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem unto Messiah the prince shall be seven weeks, the Messiah the prince, this term can just as well refer to Cyrus as to Christ. It can fit either one as far as the term is concerned. We have to see the situation.

So this can be up to Cyrus, rather than from Cyrus. How about the first part? If Cyrus sent forth the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem you can't say it's seven weeks from Cyrus to Cyrus. At least not unless you are going to have weeks of days here and that will upset the whole prophecy of course.

Well, let's look at the word "commandment." This word that is translated "the going forth of the commandment" is indeed the word translated the ten commandments. But as most of you know the word "commandment" is literally the ten words. There are many words used in the OT for commandments. The most common is mitzwah. They also use doth and koch, and taam and minqah. There are many words for commandment. Davar does not mean commandment, it means "word." Now if the King gave ~~z~~ a word it may be a commandment, yes. But it is not ordinarily used to describe commandment, but it is used dozens of time to describe a divine prophecy. The word of the Lord came to Daniel. We find this in his very chapter, reference to the word of the Lord (twice). Over and over Jeremiah speaks of the word of the Lord that came to him. Cannot this ~~a~~ be interpreted as meaning "from the going forth of the word" (the divine word) to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.

Now if we interpret it that way, we find that in Jer. 32 we have an example of the going forth of a divine word to Jeremiah. There in 587 B.C. we have it described how Nebuchadnezzar was all ready with his army around the area of Jerusalem. It looked absolutely hopeless. Jerusalem was about to be destroyed, and Nebuchadnezzar was saying they ought to surrender to Nebuchadnezzar, it was absolutely hopeless ~~xxxxxxx~~ to fight against him. He had been made a prisoner in the house of the gods. There in the guard house, Jeremiah received a message from the Lord saying, Call in the notary, the official, and get the owner of a certain piece of land in the suburbs of Jerusalem and you pay him some money to buy some land, and you get some official statement. What a silly thing to do when the whole thing is about to be destroyed! Get this land and make a registration that this land belongs to you, because the Lord said, There will yet be land bought and sold in this area and there will be registration of the ownership of the land round about here.

Surely that can be taken as the going forth of a divine word that Jerusalem is going to be restored and rebuilt. It is interesting to me that that happened exactly in 588 to 587 B.C. and Cyrus came as the deliverer to overcome the Babylonian force that was holding the Jews in subjection in 539 -538 so we have exactly 49 years there! So Daniel could look back and say, I have been here in Babylon, I have seen these things, I have ~~xxxxxx~~ gotten the news of them that there's 49 years (7 wks. of years) that