HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: The Seventy Year Prophecy

Jeremiah 25:11, 12 “This whole land shall be a desolation of waste and these nations shall serve the King of Babylonia for 70 years. But when the 70 years are over, I (G-d) will punish the king of Babylonia and that nation for their iniquity.”

Jeremiah 29:10 “For thus says G-d, ‘After 70 years are completed, I will consider you and keep my promise to you to bring you back to this place.”

3319 Nevuchadnetzer assumes the throne of Babylonia, defeats Yehoyakim, King of Judea. The Jewish state becomes a vassal of Babylonia.

3321 Jeremiah predicted destruction of the Temple (Jer. Ch. 25)

3327 Nevuchadnetzer exiled King Yechniya and leaders of the Jewish people including Mordechai

3338 Destruction of the first Temple.

WHEN DOES THE SEVENTY YEAR PERIOD BEGIN?

3389 —Balshatzar, son of Nevuchadnetzer made a feast celebrating the end of the 70 years and ordered the use of the Temple vessels. (3319 + 70=3389). Handwriting appeared on the wall, “Menei Menei Tikel Ufarsin,” (measured, measure, weighed and divided). Balshatzar was assassinated at this party by Darius and the Persian empire takes over Babylonia.

3390 —Cyrus, son of Darius becomes King. And a year later, allows the rebuilding of the Temple to escape Divine wrath. But before much work is done, Cyrus dies, Ahashverosh becomes king and doesn’t allow work on the Temple.

3395—In this third year of Ahashverosh’s rule he makes a party celebrating the end of the 70 years. (70+3327=3395). In this party, Vashti is killed and soon after Esther is chosen queen.

3400—Darius II is born to Esther and Ahashverosh.

3404—Downfall of Haman.

3406—Ahashverosh dies, Darius II succeeds him. Though he is only 6 years, he is brilliant and is aware that his mother and he are Jewish.

3408—Darius II allows the rebuilding of the Temple. The mystery of the 70 year prophecy is solved. 3338 (destruction of Temple) + 70 = 3408.