

Sunday, February 15, 2009  
Living Hope EFC

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The Seven Years of Tribulation: The Last of God's Prophetic History. Daniel and Revelation

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Looking at God's Prophetic History: Broad yet specific.

#### INTRO

In case you think the book of Revelation or the subject of prophecy is not relevant, consider that I received an email this week about a guy who claims to be one of the two witnesses in Revelation 11.

If you look at Rev. 11 – you'll see that these two witnesses are special servants of God during the tribulation period. "If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies," 11:5

I submit that if this fellow who claims to be one of these witnesses, cannot do this...he is a fake!

In our study today, I'd like to establish some definite chronology for the setting of the tribulation events. God gives us some specific details about the length of the tribulation period.

#### The Chronology of Revelation 6-19:

##### 1. **In 11:2-3 - Two witnesses ministry: 1260 days, = 42 mos, 3 ½ yrs**

- Read – summarize chapter 11.
- This is during the first half of the tribulation.
- It may be the killing of these prophets that catapults the final world ruler into his position as President of the World (ch.13).
- The measuring of the Temple is symbolic of God's ownership.

##### 2. **In 12:6 – Israel is hidden for 1260 days = 42 mos, 3 ½ yrs**

- Read – summarize chapter 12.
- **12:14** This period is also called time, times & ½ time.
- This woman (12:1-2) is Israel – **Gen.37:9-11**.
- Notice Jacob understood the sun & moon refer to himself (*Israel*) and Rachel, and the stars refer to his sons/ tribes.
- The enormous red dragon = **Satan** – **Vs.9**.
- It is at the mid-point of the tribulation he is thrown to earth.
- His hatred for Israel & Christ are legendary.
- If he can destroy either – God's program/promises fail.

##### 3. **In 13:5 – A "beast" is given authority to reign for 42 mos.**

- Read – summarize chapter 13.
- **This beast** is given authority to rule, from Satan **V.2**.

- He is **Anti-Christ: vs.6-9**, supreme ruler of planet earth. **(Future!)**
- He has a "false prophet" as his enforcer v.**11-17**. 16:13.
- The world ruler is in a league of **10 other kings v.1; 17:12**
- The dragon, beast & prophet from an unholy trinity.
- As the HS glorifies Christ & leads people to trust in Him, so the false prophet glorifies & leads people to trust in antichrist.
- The final form or world religion will be worship of antichrist.
- Satan's plan for earth is to mimic God, have his own false Messiah, rule the world, and usurp worship from God.
- Once he is thrown from heaven, earth is his final stand!

Both Christ and Paul foretold these events:

Paul spoke of this ruler, antichrist: 2 Thes.2:3-4, 9-10a,

The Lord spoke of this very time: Matt24:12-30.

## **2 Thessalonians 2** The coming of the Antichrist

3 - Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for (that day will not come) until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

9The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of *counterfeit miracles*, signs and wonders,

10and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.

## **Matthew 24** The time of Great Tribulation

15"So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation, spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— 16then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountain.

21For then there will be *great distress*, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

24For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform *great signs and miracles* to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.

27For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

30"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and *all the nations of the earth will mourn*.

THE PROPHET DANIEL FORETOLD THESE DAYS & EVENTS
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**Dan. 7:** Daniel had a vision of the broad scope of world powers.

- Read – summarize chapter 7.
- We see what God says & thinks about future world gov'ts.
- Out of ROME – comes another k'dom, an alliance of 10 kings.
- Another king rises, subdues 3 nations, & becomes dominant.
- **Point of interest:**  
-After WW 1 = Europe began rearming immediately.

- After WW 2: they didn't rearm, formed European Community
- NOTICE: The saints are handed over to him for **"time, times, half a time 7:25**; which corresponds with Rev.13:5-7.
- At the end of his time, God establishes His kingdom.
- NOTE TOO: There is a great time gap between Rome & anti- christ that is not mentioned. It is the **church age** we live in.

### **Dan.9: Daniel's vision of Christ's 1st coming & Antichrist's coming.**

DANIEL 9:24-27

"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

25 "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. 26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the **Anointed One will be cut off** and will have nothing. The people of **the ruler who will come** will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. 27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an **abomination that causes desolation**, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

1- Note the time span covered in this prophecy: **9:24.**

- It takes us to the END of prophetic history. – **Rev.10:7.**
- It specifically has to do with *Daniel's people & Jerusalem.*

2 – **Seventy Sevens**: = 70 weeks of years = 490 years.

- 70 weeks of days = 490 days, 70 weeks of weeks = 9 ½ yrs?
- Context: **9:2** = 70 "years" captivity.

3- We are given a definite beginning point: **9:25.**

*Four decrees were made by Persian rulers regarding the Jews:*

- Cyrus – 538BC = Rebuild the temple (Ezra 1)
- Darius – 521BC = To finish the temple (Ezra 6)
- Artaxerxes – 457BC To have Ezra begin temple worship (7)
- Artaxerxes – Mar 444BC = Rebuild the walls & city (Neb.2)  
(None of the others mention rebuilding the city.)

4 – We are told when Christ would come & what would happen.

- Vs.25-26

5 - We are told when **antichrist** would come & set up the abomination that causes desolation, v.26-27 - Matt.24:15

- This is the "little horn" (Dan.7), the "beast" (Rev.13).
- In the middle of the 7 year period of his cov't with Israel, (3 ½ years, 42 mos, **1260 days**) he sets himself up against & as God
- Daniel further identifies him in **11:31-32**, 36-37, 40a, 41-45.

- In **12:1**- Michael (Rev.12:7) and the tribulation are foretold.
- Daniel is told how long the beast will reign: **12:6b, 7, 11**.

#### SOME OBSERVATIONS:

**1. Daniel's vision of world powers (ch.7) and of the 70 weeks (ch.9) - primarily deal with the final Gentile kingdoms and Israel.** We shouldn't be surprised if the church fades from center stage during the great tribulation period.

**2. Israel must be a nation, Jerusalem and the temple rebuilt – before the 70<sup>th</sup> week can begin.**

- Israel became a sovereign nation again – in 1948. It was the first time since 600BC.
- They have no temple today. It could be built in 7-8 mos.
- Priestly garments, temple utensils, red heifers – all are ready!

**3. We can expect a uniting of Europe as the time draws near.**

- Also – a uniting of the global community, currency, and religion, etc.

**4. The next item in prophetic history is the rapture of the church.**

- Titus 2:13-15. Shortly after this, the Cov't with Israel will be signed to begin the final chapter of 7 years of history.
- Jesus Christ holds the scroll that begins earth's final chapter.

**5. Knowing these things, how then ought we to live?**

- What is God's purpose for your life? For Living Hope Church?