

The End-Times: The Seventy Weeks of Daniel

9. The Middle of Tribulation



¹Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Revelation 13:1

and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate,
Daniel 9:27b

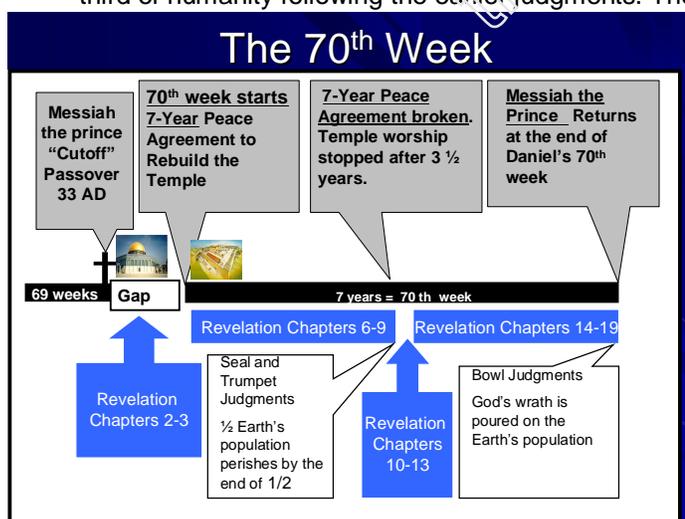
The first half of the tribulation the whole earth has changed. In the first quarter, one quarter of the earth population dies because of the outbreak of war and what follows. Christians are being killed for their faith in Christ. One hundred and forty-four thousand Jewish evangelists spread the gospel, leading an untold number from the nations to faith in Jesus Christ. In Jerusalem, two strange individuals garner world attention, as they seem to call down God's judgment on the earth. As time moves forward, the world becomes more irate at their proclamations, causing an invasion of Jerusalem.

Following a lull in events, the earth cosmological catastrophes strike the earth. Burning hail from the sky strikes the earth, consuming a third of grass and trees. A meteorite or asteroid follows the hail, striking the oceans, killing a third of aquatic life and destroying the ships. A

second asteroid follows; the fresh waters and springs turn poisonous, as the burning fragments scatter over the earth, causing many to die. Burning forests, volcanoes, and meteors turn one third of the skies into darkness. This is still a prelude to greater tragedy about to strike the earth.

A new creature emerges as if from the caverns of the earth, a locust shaped insect, they then begin to sting inhabitants of the earth. Stings so painful, causing their victims to want death, but not able to die for a five month period. Giving many of the survivors of the previous judgments time to choose or reject Jesus Christ, presented by the 144,000 Jewish males and the 2 witnesses in Jerusalem.

War breaks out again, John sees two hundred million demonic horsemen, unleashed on the earth. Whether they are in the spiritual realm or physical is not sure, but the result of their work is the death of one third of humanity following the earlier judgments. These judgments leave at least half of humanity dead within the first three and half years.



Jerusalem the focus of world attention

The seventieth week begins, with the focus of Jerusalem and the Temple agreement between the *prince who is to come* and many. The events on the earth have changed, the prince sees Jerusalem and these two individuals as a problem. They refuse to unite Judaism with a world religious system, by proclaiming the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as the only option, they give the earth inhabitants another choice. Their vocal and bold proclamations cause many who previously rejected the God of the Bible, to turn to Him as their only hope. This conflict comes to a head at the middle of the Tribulation period.

The armies of the prince capture Jerusalem, for at least a short period, with half the city taken into captivity and the women sexually assaulted, according to Zechariah.

1Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst. 2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.
Zechariah 14:1-2

The Two Witnesses

Their identity

The two witnesses engage the Antichrist, the earth's false Messiah. The identity of these two individuals has always been a source of discussion. From the book of Malachi the identity of one of two is Elijah. At Passover, in the Jewish home, a cup of wine and chair is made available for Elijah, who Israel waits for as precursor to the coming of Messiah.

¹For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble....⁵Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.
Malachi 4:1,5

Other than Elijah, Enoch is the only person according to scripture who never died. For this reason, many speculate the second witness is Enoch. Still others argue Moses, because Moses appeared on the Mountain with Elijah with Jesus

28 Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. 30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.
Luke 9:28-31

Their Ministry

These two individual serve a multitude of purposes during their 1260-day period earth. We are told in Malachi 4:6, they restore the relationship of the fathers and children. They also are the vocalization of God's judgment; they are God's witnesses to the inhabitants in the earth. Following their proclamations, the events of the *Seal* and *Trumpet* judgments test the earth and its inhabitants.



³And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."...⁶These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.
Revelation 11:3,6

Their ministry of witness, and judgment on the earth causes the prince who is to come to invade Jerusalem and engage them in a battle where many believe he, the Antichrist is killed in his assault on Jerusalem.

⁴These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. ⁵And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.
Revelation 11:4-5

³And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.
Revelation 13:3

Their ministry concludes with their death and a war between them and the Antichrist. They are killed by the Antichrist, who died and seemingly came back to life to the world's amazement and awe. Resurrected, *the prince to come* kills them, the world celebrates their death as their dead bodies lie in the streets of

Jerusalem.

⁷When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. ⁸And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified

Revelation 11:7-8

Their death and Resurrection

God's two witnesses death is a further demonstration of his grace to the survivors of the earth. In a final act of ministry to those on the earth, they became witnesses to God's resurrection power. At their death, the world celebrates, exchanging gifts and seeing themselves victorious over God's judgment.

⁹Then *those* from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. ¹⁰And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

Revelation 11:9-10

We also see an amazing prophecy here, two-thousand years ago, John foretells a day in the future when people all over the earth will be able to view the same event at the same time. For 3 ½ days the earth will celebrate, while watching the events via satellite and internet the events taking place in Jerusalem. Just then, an amazing event happens as the earth revels in victory,

¹¹Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. ¹²And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

Revelation 11:11-12

These two dead witnesses resurrect in the view of those who were rejoicing. They are called up into heaven as a final close to their public ministry. These two saints reenact the resurrection, in a passion play before the whole earth.

	Jesus	Witnesses
Ministry	3 + years	3.5 years
Public execution	Cross outside walls of Jerusalem	Streets of Jerusalem
Public Miracles	Healing	Judgments
Public reaction to verdict	Cheering	Worldwide celebration
Grave	3 days & nights	3.5 days
Resurrection	3 rd day	3.5 days
Rapture	Ascended up from Jerusalem	Ascend up from Jerusalem

In Heaven

John is reporting on events taking place, both on heaven and on earth. John is in the role of an eye witnesses reporter, recording events he sees. He is taken from one realm to the other and records what he sees. In Revelation 11, John records what is happening on earth, in Jerusalem during the middle of the tribulation.

In Revelation 12, John records events taking place in Heaven. An amazing transition is about to take place, Satan¹ access to Heaven is about to be eliminated. Satan is accuser of the brethren,

¹ Satan is a Hebrew word, שָׂטָן *Satan* and means adversary, to withstand. He is also called Devil, which in Greek is διάβολος *Diabolos*, meaning prone to slander, accusing falsely.

(Revelation 12:7) and has access before the throne of God to accuse the servants of God. We see this in the book of Job, Satan accuses Job righteousness of being insincere.

7 And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." 8 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" 9 So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"
Job 1:7-8

Satan also tempts Jesus with the kingdoms of the Earth, claiming they were delivered to him. Adam's fall caused Satan, to gain the victory over man for a period. The death of Christ for the sin of man, restored man's fellowship with God.

5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish."
Luke 4:5-6

Until this time, Satan access to heaven was permitted, in the middle of the tribulation, his status changes. Transitions take place in Heaven and on Earth. At this time the angel Michael takes a starring role in what is about to unfold in Heaven.

Michael's War



The Angel Michael is mentioned five times in the Bible, 3 times in Daniel (Daniel 10:13, 21 12:1) and 2 times in the New Testament (Jude 1:9, Revelation 12:7). Michael is called Archangel (Jude 1:9), which means chief of the angels. In Daniel 12:1, he is the great prince of the Jewish people. Michael is a leader of the angelic host. Angels, like humanity, are created freewill being, established with an order. Lucifer was a chosen cherub who chose to rebel against God's authority because of his pride. (Ezekiel 28:14, Isaiah 14:12-15)

He tempted humanity, and humanity fell, as a result, he regained access to heaven, as god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4), accusing man before God. This changes at the middle of the middle of the tribulation, as Satan his cast out of Heaven along with angelic host. This battle between Satan and Michael corresponds with invasion of Jerusalem by the armies of Antichrist. This battle allows, the Antichrist to kill the two witnesses, and abominate the Temple, (Abomination of Desolation).

45 "And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him. 1" At that time Michael shall stand up. The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book.
Daniel 11:45,12:1



7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.
Revelation 12:7-9

The Antichrist and Satan

The Incarnation

During the battle between the two witnesses, and the antichrist, the antichrist dies and descends into

the abyss. His descent at the same time corresponds with Satan being cast out of heaven. Satan resurrects the Beast/Antichrist killed visibly by a mortal wound. His return from causes the world to wonder after his person. The resurrected antichrist, now incarnated by Satan, kills the two witnesses, allowing their dead bodies to lie in the streets of Jerusalem for 3 ½ days.

⁷When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

Revelation 11:7

Satan, at the midpoint takes control of the kingdom of the Beast/Antichrist, and begins force the inhabitants of the world to acknowledge him as god. The dragon, (Satan) and the beast (The antichrist) become one in purpose and person in the eyes of the world. All who refuse to worship the beast are killed, the beast at this time enters the Temple, proclaims himself God and demands the world to worship him. (2 Thes. 2:4)

³And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. ⁴So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" ⁵And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.

Revelation 13:3-5

The False Prophet

To aid, the Beast (Satan incarnate), the false prophet, the world spiritual leader is permitted by God to do signs and wonders, even calling down fire from heaven, for all men to see. Those doomed for destruction will be deceived by the signs and wonders the false prophet is permitted to do.

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.

12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. ¹⁵ He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

Revelation 13:11-15

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

This false prophet who united the world into one religion, now unites the world to worship the Antichrist/Beast as god on earth. He creates an economic requirement on the world, unless the Beast is acknowledged and worshipped no one will be able to buy or sell.

16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Revelation 13:16-17

37 "He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.

Daniel 11:37

Israel

After the defeat of the 2 witnesses by Satan incarnate, the antichrist enters the Temple and proclaims himself God. At this point God intervenes on the part of a select group of Jews, who are to be preserved for the remaining 42 months (3 ½ years) of Daniel's 70th Week. Jesus warned of this coming event, he instructed those paying attention on the course of action for survival.

15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

17 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house..."For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Matthew 24:15-17,21-22

4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

5 Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the Lord my God will come, And all the saints with You.

Zechariah 14:4-5

14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

Revelation 12:14

This Jewish remnant will be preserved from Satan's assault for 3 ½ years, within the mountains of Judea. For the next 42 months, as Satan's fury is unleashed, and God's wrath is poured on the Earth, a select remnant, who listened to the words of Jesus, will be protected from the ravages of the outside world as they come to terms with their Messiah.

The Final persecution begins

Satan's fall from heaven and his incarnation of the Antichrist, begins the final phase of persecution in the world. Prior to this event, those who came to the Gospel were killed for their faith, by not submitting to the one world religion. Now the whole world is forced to acknowledge and worship the antichrist as god. Those who refuse will be killed.

Satan's attempt to destroy Israel after his incarnation. His attempt was thwarted through supernatural events as a part of Israel was supernaturally preserved from Satan's power by escaping to the mountains of Judea, preserved by God for the 42-month period. This causes Satan to be enraged and to then pursue any who have any connection with the God of Israel.

16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:16-17

To separate any who might still have any leaning to the God of Israel, or have faith in Jesus Christ, the false prophet sets up an image of the antichrist, all who refuse to worship the image and become part of the system are to be killed. Ironically, death is the better option at this point in the world. Death is the method God uses to separate those who choose Him, over those will chose the antichrist.

6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Revelation 13:6-10,16-17

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¹¹And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.
¹²Blessed as he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirtieth day.
¹³But you, go your way till the end, for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.
Daniel 12:11-13

Michael and his angels battle Satan and his angels. Satan and his angels are cast out of Heaven.
Revelation 12:7, Daniel 12:1

¹¹Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.
¹²And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.
Revelation 11:11-12

⁹Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.
¹⁰And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.
Revelation 11:9-10

another beast coming up out of the earth, ... causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the deadly wound was healed.
¹³He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.
Revelation 13:12-13

¹⁴And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.
¹⁵He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.
Revelation 13:14-15

Portion of Israel under divine protection for 1260 days.

1260 days

30-Day Period-Middle of the Tribulation

1260 days

At the close of the first half of the tribulation period at least 1/2 of the Earth population has perished. The Beast/Antichrist plan of a one world religion uniting is being undermined in Jerusalem. There two individuals one being Elijah (Malachi 4:5) are proclaiming God's judgment on the world. The antichrist who signed the agreement with Israel allowing Temple worship and sacrifice needs to end the arrangement.

The Two witnesses oppose him and his plan, and their words from Jerusalem are causing many to turn to Jesus Christ as Messiah. Those opposed to God hate them and want them destroyed. The Antichrist attacks Jerusalem, and conquers the city at the close of the 1260-days, 3.5 years.

Antichrist wages war against Jerusalem. Conquers the city, stops Temple sacrifice, he is confronted by the two witnesses.

The Antichrist confronts Elijah and Moses/Moses in Jerusalem. He is killed by them, at the same time Satan and his angels are confronted by Michael and his angels. They loose their access to heaven and are sent to earth. Satan, incarnates the Antichrist, who is brought back to life in amazement of the world.
 He then kills the two witnesses, their dead bodies lie in the street of Jerusalem for 3 1/2 days.
 The whole world celebrates their death, exchanging gifts with one another. (Revelation 11:9-10)
 They are then resurrected, and called up into Heaven in the site of all men. An Earthquake follows killing 7,000 in the city of Jerusalem.

Temple sacrifice is stopped. Jesus Warns Israel when you therefore see the "Abomination of Desolation" stand in the holy place flee into the mountains...for there shall be great tribulations...such has not been since the beginning of the world. (Matthew 24:15,21)
 In Revelation we read there is a place prepared for Israel, to protect her for 3.5 years Satan's power. (Revelation 12:13-17)