

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK

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Welcome back to our study of the Book of Revelation. We recommend that you begin by reading Revelation Chapter 11. (*Note: All Scriptures are KJV unless otherwise noted.*)

1 “And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. **2** But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. **3** And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.”

Revelation 11:1-3

In this discussion, we will review the two witnesses and examine more extensively what was covered in Chapter 10 concerning Daniel’s insight into the Tribulation period. The Book of Daniel shows us that the seven-year Tribulation is divided into two halves. Let’s take a look at the Book of Daniel.

DANIEL’S 70TH WEEK

1 “In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— **2** in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. **3** Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.”

Daniel 9:1-3 NKJV

Darius is now king over the region of the Chaldeans. In the first year of his reign, Daniel was reading the scroll of Jeremiah. God was keeping Israel captive in Babylon for 70 years.

11 “And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. **12** Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,” says the Lord; “and I will make it a perpetual desolation.”

Jeremiah 25:11-12 NKJV

Daniel knew Israel was about to finish their 70 years of captivity in Babylon. Daniel began to pray, fast, and repent for Israel in sackcloth and ashes. Here is what Daniel prayed:

4 “And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, ‘O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, **5** we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.’”

17 “Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord’s sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate.”

19 “O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

Daniel 9:4-5, 17, 19 NKJV

Gabriel appears to Daniel while he was praying and mentions 70 weeks:

20 “Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God, **21** yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. **22** And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, ‘O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. **23** At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision: **24** Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. **25** Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. **26** And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. **27** Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”

Daniel 9:20-27 NKJV

DANIEL 9 COMPARED WITH REVELATION 11

This passage in the Book of Daniel parallels what we covered last time in the Book of Revelation. Let’s compare and examine it.

1 “And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. **2** But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. **3** And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.”

Revelation 11:1-3

The Temple in Jerusalem is revealed in Verse 1. Its court is given to the Gentiles to trample it without respect for 42 months—that’s three-and-a-half years. Forty-two months seems to refer to the last half of the seven-year Tribulation. Two witnesses clothed in sackcloth will be on

Earth and prophesy for 1,260 days. One thousand two hundred sixty days seems to relate to the first three-and-a-half years of the seven-year Tribulation. It's a distinction.

These two three-and-one-half-year periods equal seven years. Daniel's 70th week is also seven years. There are three divisions of time listed in verses 24 through 27 in Daniel, Chapter 9: Seven weeks, 62 two weeks, and one week. These add up to 70 weeks, which is 490 years. The last week is Daniel's 70th week, which is seven years.

Note: The Bible uses a calendar based on a year of 360 days. Ancient calendars were also based on a 360-day year.

70 WEEKS ARE DETERMINED

As mentioned earlier, Israel's Babylonian captivity was coming to a close. Soon, they would return to their own land to begin a great rebuilding program. Daniel found this out by reading the scrolls of Jeremiah. Then, the angel Gabriel says to Daniel:

24 "Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy."

Daniel 9:24 NKJV

The Hebrew word used for "weeks" in Daniel 9:24 is "*shabua*," which means a group or period of seven. It is a heptad. The term "weeks" in this text does not refer to literal weeks but groups of seven years. One "week" (*shabua*) is seven years.

24 "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city..."

Daniel 7:24 NIV

24 "A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city..."

Daniel 7:24 NLT

Seventy weeks, which is 70 sets of seven years, equals 490 years. Gabriel said, "*70 weeks are determined.*" Four hundred ninety years is the total figure determined and assigned to Israel.

The First 483 Years

25 "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and 62 weeks (483 years); the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times."

Daniel 9:25 NKJV

Artaxerxes, King of Babylon, during his 20th year, gave a decree to Nehemiah to restore the city of Jerusalem. We find this in the Book of Nehemiah:

1 “And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. **2** Therefore the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart. So I became dreadfully afraid, **3** and said to the king, ‘May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?’ **4** Then the king said to me, ‘What do you request?’ So I prayed to the God of heaven. **5** And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may rebuild it.’ **6** Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), “How long will your journey be? And when will you return?’ So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.”

Nehemiah 2:1-6 NKJV

Prior to Nehemiah’s return to Jerusalem, after the Babylonian exile, some 50,000 Jews were allowed to return under Zerubbabel’s leadership for the reconstruction of the Temple. At a later date, Ezra led a group to re-establish worship in the Temple. Some returned and brought the sad report to Nehemiah that Jerusalem’s walls lay in ruins. As a result of this report, Nehemiah petitioned King Artaxerxes for permission to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city.

In spite of Sanballat, Tobiah, and other discouraging factors, Nehemiah knew it was the will of God to rebuild the city wall, and he did it in 52 days.

15 “So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days.”

Nehemiah 6:15 NKJV

Look again at **Daniel 9:25 NKJV**:

2 “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and 62 weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.”

Seven weeks, which is 49 years (7x7), plus 62 weeks, which is 434 years (62x7), equals 69 weeks, which is 483 years. From the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem to the Crucifixion of Jesus the Messiah was 483 years. This leaves us the final week, Daniel’s 70th week, a seven-year period in the future. This is the seven-year Tribulation. God will once again deal with Israel as a nation. When this period is over, it will complete the full 70 weeks (490 years) in the Book of Daniel.

Daniel’s 70th Week

Now, let’s look further at Daniel’s 70th week. Remember, this is seven years, not a week of seven days. These seven years will constitute the Tribulation period, which includes the time of Jacob’s trouble. The Tribulation is the entire seven-year time period. The Great Tribulation is the last three-and-one-half years of the seven-year Tribulation.

Jesus was crucified 483 years after the decree to restore and build Jerusalem. No one could see what was coming after Jesus was crucified. After His resurrection and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, He was going to cause an interlude. This interlude is the Church Age, which has lasted close to 2,000 years. We are currently in this dispensation. Daniel, including other prophets, did not see this. During this interlude and before Daniel’s 70th week is completed,

Jesus grafts Gentiles into His Bride. In the Church Age, God is grafting in Gentiles before He resumes his dealings with Israel as a nation. The Church of Jesus Christ is comprised of Jews and Gentiles.

The Crucifixion of Jesus completed the 69th week in Daniel, at which time God ceased to deal with Israel as a nation. Look *what Jesus said* over Jerusalem before He was crucified, resurrected, and ascended.

37 *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 See! Your house is left to you desolate.”*

Matthew 23:37-38 NKJV

Israel rejected her Messiah. Because the Jews rejected Jesus and did not receive Him, the Lord said Jerusalem would be destroyed, as well as the Temple. The Law was fulfilled. The Dispensation of Grace was introduced. Look what Paul said:

25 *“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”*

Romans 11:25 NKJV

Now, look at **Daniel 9:27 NKJV**:

27 *“Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”*

This is how Daniel handles the Temple. What Daniel didn't explain, John reveals in the Book of Revelation. John filled in the details.

2 *But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles; and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.*

Revelation 11:2

Israel will be in possession of Jerusalem during the first half of the Tribulation, but the city will be trampled by Gentiles during the second half of the Tribulation. During the last half of the Tribulation, Israel will undergo the most bitter persecution of her entire history.

AT THE END OF THE TRIBULATION

Daniel 9:24 tells us six things that Jesus, the Messiah, will do at the end of the Tribulation. These are yet to happen.

24 *“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in*

everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.”

Daniel 9:24 NKJV

Jesus will finish the transgression, put an end to sin, make reconciliation for iniquity, bring in everlasting righteousness, seal up the vision and prophecy by fulfilling them, and anoint the Most Holy Place (cleanse the Sanctuary, the Temple)

THE TWO WITNESSES

Let's go back to the book of Revelation and talk about the two witnesses, reading from Revelation Chapter 11 again.

3 “And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. 7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. 11 And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. 13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.”

Revelation 11:3-14

It is evident that these two witnesses will prophesy and have authority on Earth for 1,260 days. I believe this is during the first three-and-one-half years of the Tribulation. It seems to fit better here than the last three-and-one-half years because Christ returns to Earth at the end of the Tribulation.

A Closer Look

Let's take a closer look at these two witnesses. They prophesy and wear sackcloth, representing grief and mourning, and look out of place, like men from ancient history. They are headquartered in Jerusalem, where Jesus died. God has these two men do in the modern

times what they did in Biblical times. God also gives them supernatural power to destroy anyone who tries to hurt them.

5 “And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.”

Revelation 11:5

After three-and-one-half years, they lose that authority, and they are killed.

“And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.”

Revelation 11:7

Who Are the Two Witnesses?

Some think they are Joshua, the High Priest, and Zerubbabel from the book of Zechariah. Joshua, the High Priest (*not the same Joshua that succeeded Moses*), and Zerubbabel were key figures known for their leadership roles in the restoration of Jerusalem and the Temple in the Old Testament. Zechariah Chapters 3 and 4 mention Joshua and Zerubbabel.

Zechariah Chapter 4 mentions two olive trees who are the two anointed ones.

11 “Then answered I, and said unto him, ‘What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof?’ 12 And I answered again, and said unto him, ‘What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?’ 13 And he answered me and said, ‘Knowest thou what these be?’ And I said, ‘No, my lord.’ 14 Then said he, ‘These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.”

Zechariah 4:11-14 NKJV

Look what Revelation says about the two witnesses.

4 “These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.”

Revelation 11:4

But it is not these two men. They do not fit the task. Some think it is Enoch and Elijah since neither man ever died, but they both were raptured. Most Bible prophecy preachers and scholars believe the two witnesses to be Moses and Elijah. We cannot be definitive it is them because they are not named.

Look at an interesting passage in the Old Testament.

4 “Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. 6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

Malachi 4:4-6 NKJV

Moses and Elijah are both mentioned in this Scripture. They represent the Law and the Prophets. Moses equals the Law; Elijah equals the Prophets. Basically, the Old Testament can be represented by these two men—by the Law and the prophets.

The Book of Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament. The Old Testament ends by mentioning the Law of Moses and the prophet Elijah. Elijah will reappear before the great and dreadful day of the Lord!

4 “Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.”

Malachi 4:4-5 NKJV

A Look at the New Testament.

Now, let’s go to the New Testament. Both Moses and Elijah appear together at the Transfiguration of Jesus.

1 “Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; 2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. 3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. 4 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ 5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!’ 6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. 7 But Jesus came and touched them and said, ‘Arise, and do not be afraid.’ 8 When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. 9 Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, ‘Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.’”

Matthew 17:1-9 NKJV

These two men, Moses and Elijah from the Old Testament, appeared and talked with Jesus in the New Testament. They show up together in Scripture.

Their Earmark

Let’s notice their earmark; they have power! The two witnesses will be able to call plagues up at will.

6 “These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.”

Revelation 11:6

God trusts these two men in a modern era to use plagues at their discretion to try to get men and women to turn and repent. They shut heaven so it will not rain. They turn water into blood. They smite the earth with plagues.

Remember, in the Old Testament:

Elijah

Elijah had power to shut up the heavens for three-and-one-half years.

1 “And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, ‘As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”

I Kings 17:1 NKJV

17 “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.”

James 5:17 NKJV

Look at what happened when men were sent to get Elijah in Second Kings. Elijah called down fire to consume them.

7 “Then he said to them, ‘What kind of man was it who came up to meet you and told you these words?’ 8 So they answered him, ‘A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist.’ And he said, “It is Elijah the Tishbite’ 9 Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men. So he went up to him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: ‘Man of God, the king has said, Come down!’ 10 So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, ‘If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.’ And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.”

II Kings 1:7-10 NKJV

God gives the two witnesses supernatural power to have fire come out of their mouths to destroy anyone who tries to hurt them.

5 “And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.”

Revelation 11:5

Moses

God poured out plagues on Egypt through Moses when Pharaoh would not let Israel go. Among the plagues, the Nile was turned to blood.

14 “So the Lord said to Moses: ‘Pharaoh’s heart is hard; he refuses to let the people go. 15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river’s bank to meet him; and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand.’”

17 “Thus says the Lord: ‘By this you shall know that I am the Lord. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood.’”

20 *“And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the Lord commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.”*

Exodus 7:14-15, 17, 20 NKJV

Some of the other plagues Moses executed were a severe hailstorm with fire mingled with hail and a thick darkness which covered all of Egypt. These types of events are also found in the Book of Revelation.

THE TWO WITNESSES DIE

What happens when the two witnesses die, having been assassinated?

7 *“And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. **8** And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. **9** And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. **10** And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. **11** And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. **12** And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, ‘Come up hither.’ And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.”*

Revelation 11:7-12

The inhabitants of Earth see this! It is probably by satellite TV or the Internet. Modern society has no tolerance for Elijah or Moses. They resist and hate these prophets. These two witnesses are significant figures in the Tribulation. They will be resurrected and taken up into Heaven. But after this:

13 *“And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. **14** The second woe is past; and behold, the third woe cometh quickly.”*

Revelation 11:13-14