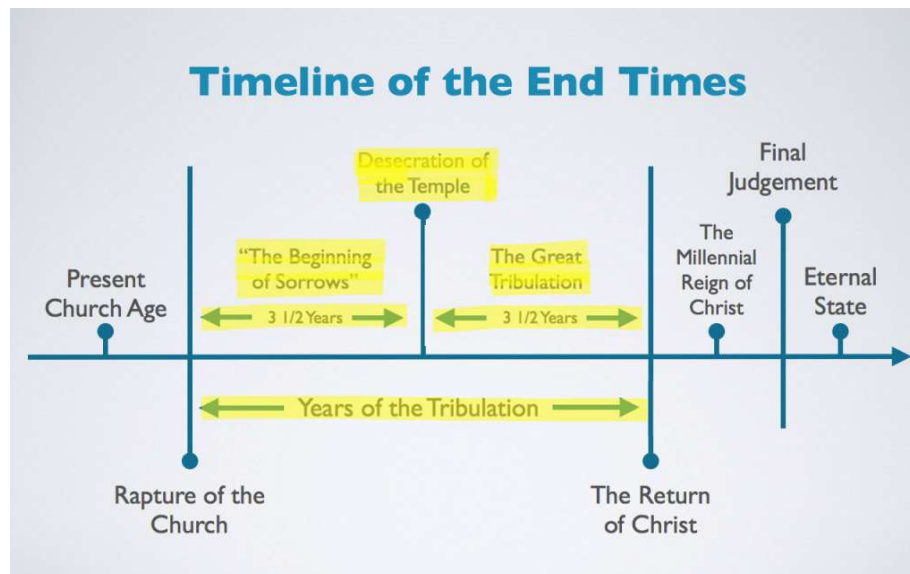


# ARE WE LIVING IN THE END TIMES?

## The Tribulation

1



2

## What is the Tribulation?

### Referenced multiple times throughout the Bible

- The Day of the Lord (Isaiah 2:12)
- The Time of Jacob's Distress (Jeremiah 30:7)
- Time or Day of Trouble or Distress (Daniel 12:1)
- Trouble of Tribulation (Zephaniah 1:1)
- The Time of Refining for the Jews (Malachi 3:1-4) and (Zechariah 13:8-9)
- The Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21)
- Tribulation and Great Tribulation (Revelation)

3

## Tribulation Defined

### The Tribulation is a future time period when the Lord will accomplish at least two aspects of His plan

- Complete His discipline of the nation of Israel (Dan 9:24)
  - 2/3 of Jews will perish during the Tribulation
- Judge the unbelieving, godless inhabitants of the earth (Rev 6-18)
  - Bring unbelievers to Salvation

**The Tribulation will begin when the "Great Restrainer" is removed (2 Thes 2:7). The Church will be raptured, allowing the evil and fullness of God's plan to move forward.**

4

## Daniel's "Seventy Sevens" (Dan 9:25-26)

- God would accomplish all his purposes for the Jewish people (atonement) over 70 weeks of years (490 years) .... 1 week = 7 years; therefore 70 weeks = 490 years
- The first **7 weeks** spans the timeframe from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (457 BC) to the city being rebuilt by Nehemiah (408 BC)
- The next **62 weeks** (434 years) spans the timeframe from Jerusalem being rebuilt (408 BC) until the Messiah, Jesus begins his public ministry (27 AD)
  - remember only 1 year elapses between 1 BC and 1 AD!

5

## Daniel's "Seventy Sevens" (Dan 9:25-26)

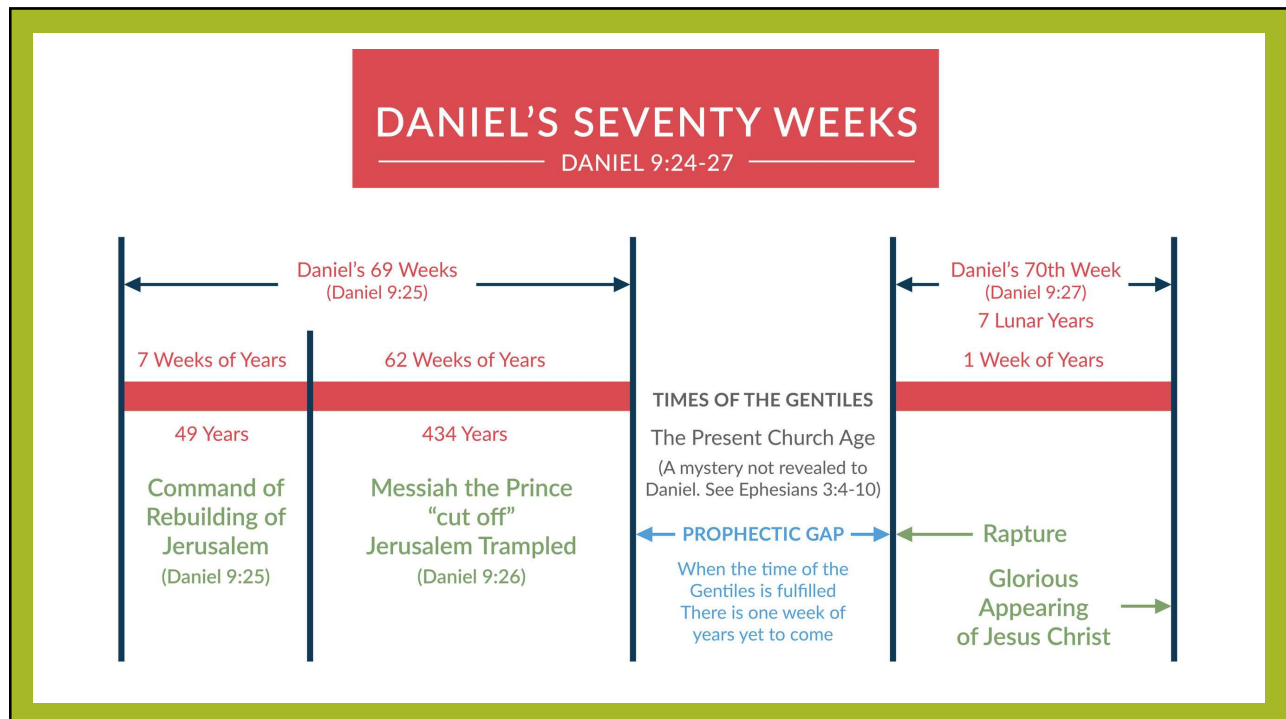
- Followed by a "gap" between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks, which includes the "Church Age"; a period of time in which the Gentiles are used for HIS purposes which was kept secret from the Old Testament prophets and revealed to Paul (Eph 3:4-10).
- So what about the 70<sup>th</sup> week?.....

6

## Daniel's 70th Week (Dan 9:27)

- The prophet Daniel defined the exact length of the Tribulation, because it is the final week (Dan 9:26-27)
  - Confirmation of a 7 year tribulation comes from the Book of Revelation (Rev 11:3, Rev 11:7 and Rev 13:5)
  - The Tribulation will be divided into two 3 ½ year periods with the Abomination of Desolation occurring at the midpoint.

7



8

## Who is the Anti-Christ?

### Characteristics of the Anti-Christ (slide 1)

- He will not be revealed until after the Rapture (2 Thes 2), “after the great restrainer is taken out of the way” – Good news! We will not know who the Anti-Christ is!
- Skilled in intrigue and deceit
- Descendent of the Old Roman Empire (Dan 7:23-25) (Dan 2:31-45) and (Dan 7:1-8)
- Will be possessed by Satan (Dan 8:24)

9

## Who is the Anti-Christ?

### Characteristics of the Anti-Christ (slide 2)

- Jesus foretold that the Jews will accept Anti-Christ as the Messiah. “I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; If another should come in his own name, you will receive him (John 5:43).
- Will focus the first half of the Tribulation on world dominance.
- Will desecrate the Temple at the midpoint of the Tribulation, declare himself to be God and focus on annihilating the Jewish people.

10

## Other Key Players

- False Prophet – associated with the Anti-Christ, the FP will deceive, perform supposed miracles and convince the world to worship the Anti-Christ. Along with Satan and the Anti-Christ make up the “unholy trinity” (Rev 13:11-15).
- Two Witnesses – clothed in burlap, they will have miraculous powers to accompany their message. They will preach and prophesy and ultimately be killed and resurrected before ultimately ascending to heaven (Rev 11:1-14).
- 144,000 – 12,000 Jews from 12 tribes of Israel. They will have special protection from God against the Anti-Christ. They will evangelize during the Tribulation and will have the seal of God on their foreheads. Contrast this with those who have the mark of the beast (Rev 7:1-8).

11

## First Half of the Tribulation

### The Beginning of Sorrows – Man’s Wrath

- The Jewish people will live in relative peace
- But that is not the case for the rest of the world, as the Anti-Christ uses military might to conquer the world
  - 1/4 of humanity will perish in first war of the Seal Judgements (Rev 6:8)
  - 1/3 of those left alive, will perish in the Trumpet Judgement as a conventional war appears to morph into nuclear (Rev 8-9)
  - Upwards of 3 billion people may perish

12

## The Mid-Point of the Tribulation

### The Abomination of Desolation (Dan 9:27)

- Anti-Christ will make a 7-year treaty with the people of Israel.
- Midway through this time, Anti-Christ will gather his troops and put an end to the sacrifices and offerings in the temple.
- At that time the ruler will desecrate the temple, setting up some type of sacrilegious object.
- Jesus confirms the desecration foretold by the Prophet Daniel (Matt 24:15)
- The desecration of the temple will continue until the judgment of God is finally meted out on the Anti-Christ and his followers for 3½ years

**“Mark of the Beast”** – no one shall buy or sell without receiving the “mark” which will pledge allegiance to the Anti-Christ. It is believed that the mark will be required at the mid-point of the Tribulation. (Rev. 13:15-18)

13

## Second half of the Tribulation

### The Great Tribulation – God’s Wrath

- 2/3 of the Jewish people will perish
- 7 Bowl Judgements
  - #1 - God releases a very foul and loathsome sore or boil to come upon all the people who have the mark of the Beast. Note, those that do not have the mark are spared.
  - #2 - God causes the entire sea to turn to blood and every living creature in the sea is killed.
  - #3 - God now comes after all the rivers and springs and also turns them into blood.
  - #4 - God allows the heat of the sun to scorch men with great heat.
  - #5 - God goes directly after the Antichrist along with his kingdom. God causes total darkness to fall upon his kingdom.
  - #6 - The Euphrates river is allowed to dry up so as to prepare the way for the kings of the east to come for the last and final battle on planet earth – the battle of Armageddon.
  - #7 - the greatest and most severe earthquake that has ever hit our planet will strike! Mountains are reduced to rubble.
- Battle of Armageddon ushers in the return of Christ and the Millennial Reign

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## Final Thoughts

- While this is the darkest time in human history, many will come to faith during the Tribulation, but they will be martyred for it (Tribulation Saints)
- Don't think about the Anti-Christ, but rather look for Jesus Christ
- Remember, we are not destined for God's wrath, we will be with Jesus during the Tribulation

**Next Week – Revelation – A Deeper Dive**