



Week Eight: Daniel's 70th Week and the Tribulation Period

Let's review: Futuristic Premillennialism is based on a hermeneutic that takes statements in their normal, literal way unless obviously figurative or allegorical. God made promises to Abraham and Israel that He will keep. There is a distinction between Israel and the Church, and God will keep His promises to Israel in the future kingdom. Christ is coming for His church imminently, at any time, before the tribulation period described by Daniel and Revelation 6-19.

Daniel's 70th week:

"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place." "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate." Dan 9:24-27

"Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Mat 24:15-16

Terms Used of the Tribulation Period

- Tribulation and great tribulation – Matthew 24:21
- The Day of the Lord – The day of man comes to a screeching halt. Called “the great and awesome day of the Lord” in Joel 2:31
- The time of Jacob's trouble – Jeremiah 30:7
- The wrath of God – Revelation 6:16-17

The Length of the Tribulation Period

- Daniel 9:27 describes it as a “week”, which means a week of years or 7 years.
- Revelation 11:2, 12:6, 12:14, 13:5 describe the 7 years as 42 months, 1280 days, a time, times, and half a time.

The Purposes of the Tribulation Period

- Judgment on wicked, unbelieving men and nations for their sinfulness.
- Restoring Israel to salvation and preparing her for the Messianic kingdom.

Key Personalities of the Tribulation Period

The Anti-Christ

Names – Man of Sin, Son of Perdition, Beast, Little Horn, Abomination.

Character – motivated by Satan, given great leadership abilities to persuade the nations - 2 Thessalonians 2; Revelation 13; Daniel 7:8.

Rule:

Phase #1 – AC will be the leader of a powerful western nation prior to the beginning of the tribulation period. Daniel 7:8, 20-21

Phase #2 – AC rules revived Roman Empire, brings peace to Israel, assassinated and revived (resurrected?) to life, becomes object of worship. Revelation 13:1-4

Phase #3 – AC rules world for 3 ½ years using economic control for domination. Revelation 13:5-18

Phase #4 – AC destroyed by Christ at the second coming, thrown into the lake of fire immediately. Revelation 19:19-20

False Prophet – uses signs and wonders to give world-wide credibility to the Anti-Christ. Revelation 13:11-18; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10.

144,000 Jews – Revelation 7:1-8

- Literal Jews, not figurative of the church.
- Bond-servants of God – apparently flaming evangelists during the tribulation period.
- Sealed – God sovereignly protects them from death during the tribulation period.

Two Witnesses – Revelation 11

- God's gospel lights in the morally and spiritually dark city of Jerusalem.

- Opinions differ as to their time - during the first or second half of the tribulation period. Some believe God will use these two witnesses to preach the gospel so that the 144,000 Jews hear and come to Christ, along with many Gentiles.

Events of the Tribulation Period

First Half

- Israel is in her ancient land at the beginning of the tribulation period. Ezekiel 36:24-26.
- God's judgments – Christ will break open the seal judgments.
- Anti-Christ consolidates power over restored Roman empire (10 nations).
- Religions – Jewish temple worship restored and other religions thrive, including apostate Christendom.
- Many come to Christ, including 144,000 Jews and many Gentiles.

Mid-Point

- Israel's temple worship is terminated and intense persecution begins. Matthew 24:15.
- AC receives a fatal wound, comes to life, and presents himself as god. 2 Thessalonians 2; Revelation 13.
- Satan is cast out of heaven and in rage persecutes God's people, knowing he has a short time – Revelation 12:7-12.
- Religion – only worship of AC will be tolerated. Revelation 13:15

View John MacArthur's message from Mark 13 entitled "The Grim Reality of the Last Days" for an eye-opening teaching on Islamic eschatology - <http://youtu.be/ZpMSRV1e2ac> (See especially from 35 to 55 minutes in the message).

Second Half

- Israel is persecuted but receives divine protection in the wilderness. Revelation 12.
- AC is world dictator but growing rebellion against him leads to Armageddon.
- Believers – global evangelism and persecution continue and increase.
- God pours out the trumpet and bowl judgments (bowls close to the very end of the period).
- Armageddon – a military campaign covering much of the land of Israel. Isaiah 34, 63, Zechariah 12, 14, Revelation 14 16:16. 100 lb. hailstones!!!!

The Second Coming of Christ

- Christ brings salvation to Israel. Matthew 23:39, Zechariah 12:10; 13:9; Romans 11:26
- Christ defeats all of God's enemies on earth. Revelation 19:19-20:3
- Christ establishes Himself as King over the entire world! Zechariah 14:9; Daniel 2:44

Final Judgments

- Judgment seat of Christ for believers following the rapture of the church. 2 Corinthians 5:20; Romans 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15.
- Judgment of tribulation Jews and Gentiles and OT saints at the Second Coming.
Matthew 25:31-32; Daniel 12:2-3
- Judgment of all lost people following the millennial kingdom at the Great White Throne.
Revelation 20:7-15.