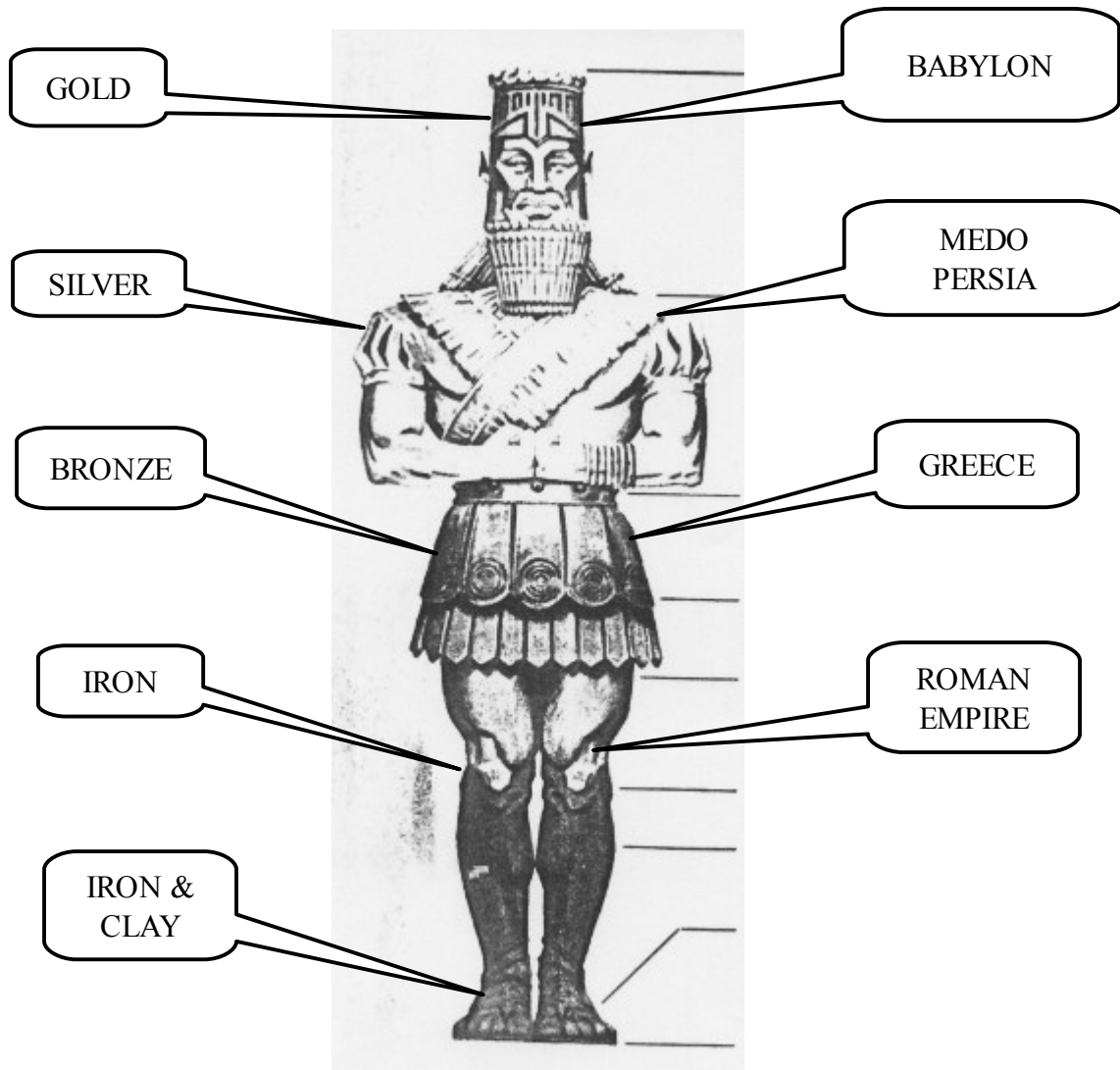


# OVERVIEW: DANIEL, REVELATION

## DANIEL 2 - THE STATUE



**Daniel 2 - 31** "You looked, O king, and there before you stood a *large statue*—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. **32** The *head* of the statue was made of *pure gold*, its *chest and arms* of *silver*, its *belly and thighs* of *bronze*, **33** its *legs* of *iron*, its *feet* partly of *iron* and partly of baked *clay*. **34** While you were watching, a

**rock** was cut out, but not by human hands. **It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.** 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

36 "This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. 37 You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; 38 in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. **You are that head of gold.**

39 "After you, **another kingdom** will rise, inferior to yours. **Next, a third kingdom**, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. 40 Finally, there will be a **fourth kingdom**, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. 41 Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, **so this will be a divided kingdom**; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. 42 As the **toes** were partly **iron** and partly **clay**, **so this kingdom** will be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

44 "In the time of **those kings**, the God of heaven **will set up a kingdom** that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. **It will crush all those kingdoms** and bring them to an end, but it will itself **endure forever**. 45 This is the meaning of the vision of the **rock cut out of a mountain**, but not by human hands—a **rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.**

"The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."

## ROCK

The Rock in verse 34 is *Christ ... and His Kingdom*.

In verse 44 it talks of a *Kingdom ... separate from the Four Kingdoms of the Statute ... a Kingdom that will endure forever*.

In verse 45 is an explanation that says this *eternal Kingdom* is the SAME as the *Rock*.

## 'Kingdom is Near'

**QUESTION** - When Jesus says the Kingdom is NEAR ... is He really referring to some distant **FUTURE** Millennial Kingdom?

**Matthew 3** - *1In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea 2and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."*

**Matthew 4** - *17From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."*

**Matthew 10** - *5These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. 6Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. 7As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'*

## 'Spiritual Kingdom'

Whatever the supposed future millennial kingdom is all about ... for sure, Jesus says there is a Kingdom right **NOW** that is WITHIN ... that is, a **Spiritual** Kingdom.

**Luke 17** - *20Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, 21nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."*

## 'Born Again'

Does the following really sound like Jesus is talking to Nicodemus about entrance into a Future Millennial Kingdom ... or about Salvation right now?

**John 3** - *3In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."*

*4"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"*

*5Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."*

## NOW ... Not Future

We are presently in a Kingdom according to Paul in **Colossians 1**,

*13For he has **rescued us from** the dominion of darkness and **brought us into** the **kingdom** of the Son he loves, 14in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

## THE QUESTION

What is the *Rock / Kingdom* mentioned in Daniel 9: 34,44,45?

Is it a *future* millennial kingdom?

Is it the *spiritual* kingdom Jesus talks about in the New Testament?

Also notice that the *Rock* in Daniel 9:44,45 *destroys* and *crushes* **ALL** the *Four Kingdoms* ... not just the *Fourth* one ... even though the first three Kingdoms have gone out of existence. By the time of the Roman Empire ... the Babylonian, Medo Persian, and Greek kingdoms were a thing of history.

YET ... Daniel 9:44,45 talks about **ALL** the Kingdoms as though they were **ALL** still in existence.

Revelation 17 **explains** *WHY*.

## 4 KINGDOMS

First notice that Daniel 2:32,33,38-40 mentions four Kings / Kingdoms,

- Nebuchadnezzar the head of **Gold**
- Chest and Arms of **Silver**
- Belly and Upper Thigh (hips?) of **Bronze**
- Legs of **Iron** ... Feet of **Iron** and **Clay**

Also notice that in verses 39,40 they are called **KINGDOMS** ... whereas in verse 44 they are called **KINGS**. That is, the term *Kings* is interchangeable with the term *Kingdoms*.

There are only **FOUR Kingdoms** mentioned ... not three ... not five. That the Fourth Kingdom describes the legs of iron and the feet of iron and clay **DOES NOT** imply that these are two separate kingdoms ... that is, that the *legs* are the Fourth Kingdom ... and the *feet* are some Fifth Kingdom. The *legs* and *feet* **together** make up the Fourth Kingdom.

## DANIEL 7 - THE BEASTS

**Daniel 7 - 1** *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.*

*2 Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the **four winds** of heaven churning up the great sea. 3 **Four great beasts**, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.*

*4 "The **first** was like a **lion**, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it.*

*5 "And there before me was a **second beast**, which looked like a **bear**. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!'*

*6 "After that, I looked, and there before me was **another beast**, one that looked like a **leopard**. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had **four heads**, and it was given authority to rule.*

*7 "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a **fourth beast**—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large **iron teeth**; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was **different** from all the former beasts, **and it had ten horns**.*

*8 "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.*

For now we will not try and figure out what the *little horn*, *three horns*, or *ten horns* mean. We will first concentrate on what the four kings / kingdoms mean. Once we understand that, then we can go back to these details. That is, once we understand what the four kingdoms mean, then our interpretation of these *horns* will have to fit in ... not contradict ... our interpretation of the four kingdoms.

Let's summarize the meaning of the **Four Kingdoms**.

- Gold – Babylonian Empire
- Silver – Medo Persian Empire
- Bronze – Greek Empire
- Iron & Clay – Roman Empire

Notice in Daniel 7: 5, it describes the Second Beast as a Bear ... that was *raised up on one side*. That means the *Bear* was *uneven* ... it was taller on one side than the other. Now notice that the Medo Persian Empire is called

- Medo
- Persian

because it was composed of **two** empires. The *bear* was raised up on one side to represent the one-sided union of the Persian and Median Empires.

**QUESTION** – Can we be sure that these Four Beasts represent Four Kingdoms?

**ANSWER** – Continue reading **Daniel 7**,

15 "I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. 16 I approached one of those standing there and *asked him the true meaning of all this*.

"So he told me and gave me the *interpretation* of these things: 17 'The *four great beasts* are *four kingdoms* that will rise from the earth. 18 But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.'

19 "Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the *fourth beast*, which was *different* from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws—the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. 20 I also wanted to know about the *ten horns* on its head and about the *other horn* that came up, before which *three* of them fell—the *horn* that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. 21 As I watched, this *horn* was waging war against the saints and defeating them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

23 "He gave me this *explanation*: 'The *fourth beast* is a *fourth kingdom* that will appear on earth. It will be *different from* all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. 24 The *ten horns* are *ten kings* who will *come from* this kingdom. After them *another* king will arise, *different from* the earlier ones; he will *subdue three kings*. 25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a *time, times and half a time*.

So we learn,

1. The Four Beasts of Daniel 7 are the same as the Four Kingdoms of Daniel 2
2. The Fourth Kingdom / Beast is *different from* the other three Kingdoms in a very significant way
3. **OUT OF THE** Fourth Kingdom *shall come* the Ten Kings ... so it appears that there is a **FIFTH Kingdom** in some sense
4. The Saints are to be *handed over* for a *time, times and half a time*

## REVELATION 17 – THE KEY

**QUESTION** – Is there anything in the Book of Revelation that might shed some light on the meaning of Daniel's *Beast / King / Kingdoms*?

**ANSWER** – Yes ... in chapter 17 we find the *key* that unlocks these mysteries.

**Revelation 17** - *When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. 7Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. 8The **beast**, which you saw, **once was, now is not, and will come up** out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he **once was, now is not, and yet will come**.*

*9"This calls for a mind with wisdom. The **seven heads** are **seven hills** on which the woman sits. 10They are also **seven kings**. **Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come**; but when he does come, he must remain for **a little while**. 11The **beast** who once was, and now is not, **is an eighth king**. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.*

*12"The **ten horns** you saw are **ten kings** who have not yet received a kingdom, **but who for one hour will receive authority as kings** along with the beast. 13They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. 14They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."*

**QUESTION** - What is the meaning of the *five, one, other* in Revelation 17:10?

**ANSWER** – Revelation 17:9 says they are,

- heads
- hills
- kings

So if we accept the analogy of Daniel 2 and 7 ... that *Kings* represent *Kingdoms* ... then we could interpret Revelation 17:10 as referring to *Seven Kingdoms*.

- 5 - **Five** have fallen
- 1 - **one** is
- 1 - the other *has not yet come*

So what do we do to unravel this puzzle?

Let's start with the easiest ... WHAT would be the Kingdom referred to by the “one is”?

**QUESTION** - What was the name of the Kingdom when John wrote the Book of Revelation?

**ANSWER** – The *Roman Empire*.

Let's try our hand with the “five have fallen”.

Can you think of any *Kingdoms* that preceded the Roman Empire?

Does the Bible give any *hint* of any such kingdoms?

How about letting the Book of Daniel give us some help.

The Book of Daniel lists *FOUR Kingdoms*.

1. Babylonian Empire
2. Medo Persian Empire
3. Greek Empire
- 4. Roman Empire**

Wow! ... look at #4 above ... that looks like our “one is” of Revelation 17:10. So let's make a list.

1. ?
2. ?
3. Babylonian Empire
4. Medo Persian Empire
5. Greek Empire
6. Roman Empire ( the “one is”)
7. ? ( “the other has not yet come”)



That seems to be a pretty good interpretation. But what about the first two kingdoms?

How about this list?

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylonia
4. Medo-Persia
5. Greek
6. Roman
7. *Future* End Time Kingdom

That list fits Biblical history pretty well.

## **The Beast**

How about that **Beast** talked about in Revelation 17:8?

*The **beast**, which you saw, **once was, now is not, and will come up***

What can we do to figure out who or what this beast represents? Notice something interesting about this *Beast*,

- *once was*
- *now is not*
- *will come*

That is, this *Beast* seems to come-and-go. It *was* in the past, then is *gone*, then *comes back*.

Let's take a look at **Revelation 17:3**,

*3Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a **woman** sitting on a scarlet **beast** that was covered with blasphemous names and had **seven heads** and **ten horns**.*

Now John gives us the explanation of this vision in **Revelation 17:6,7**

*When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. 7Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will **explain** to you the **mystery** of the **woman** and of the **beast** she rides, which has the **seven heads** and **ten horns**.*

What pieces of information do we have?

1. There is a *Beast*
2. The Beast has *Seven Heads*
3. We have already determined that *heads* refers to *kings* which refers to *kingdoms*
4. So these *Seven Heads* are *Seven Kingdoms*
5. We have figured out the names of *Six* of those *Kingdoms*
6. The Beast also has *Ten Horns*
7. In Daniel 7:24 we saw that *horns* referred to *kings*
8. so we are going to assume that *Ten Horns* refers to *Ten Kingdoms* (*kings* = *kingdoms*)
9. we also read in Daniel 7:24 that *ten horns* would *come from* the *Fourth Kingdom* of Daniel 2
10. we will then assume that these *Ten Horns* represent a *Kingdom* comprised of 10 something-or-others
11. WAIT ... what about that *Seventh Kingdom* in Revelation 17:10 ... maybe it is talking about the same thing as the *Ten Horns*

Let's redo our list of kingdoms,

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylonia
4. Medo-Persia
5. Greek
6. Roman
7. *Future* Ten Kings Empire

But Revelation 17:11 tells us there is actually an *EIGHTH Kingdom* ... the *Beast* itself. So we do our list again,

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylonia
4. Medo-Persia
5. Greek
6. Roman
7. *Future* Ten Kings Empire
8. The **BEAST**

So ... the *Beast* not only has *Seven Heads* which represent *Seven Kingdoms* ... but that *Beast* is really a *Kingdom* also.

In fact, it is the *Beast* that is the foundation for those *Seven Kingdoms*. So you might think of that *Beast* as being the *real guy behind the curtain* ... and those *Seven Kingdoms* as just his minions.

Think of it this way ... throughout history the *Beast* is actively trying to *DESTROY* the *People of God*,

- Egypt – Moses and the Red Sea
- Assyria – 10 tribes taken into captivity
- Babylonian – 2 remaining tribes taken into captivity
- Medo-Persia – ruling world power from 539-331 BC
- Greece (and 4 kingdoms into which it was divided) – persecution under Antiochus Epiphanes
- Rome – Herod tries to kill Jesus at birth
- Future 10 Kings – near time of end when Satan is loosed ... and things start to get real bad
- Beast – no holds barred *LAST* ditch effort of Satan

## **An Analogy**

Think of a *submarine*.

The *submarine* comes to the surface and fires its missiles ... then *submerges* ... only to surface again later and do it all over.

Now think of the *Beast* as that *submarine*. The *Beast* “surfaces” through the guise of the ancient Egyptian Empire in order to try and destroy the *People of God*. That fails, but the *Beast* later “surfaces” as the Assyrian Empire to take the ten northern tribes into captivity. Ditto for Babylonian, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome. The *Beast* comes, then goes, then comes back.

**Revelation 17:8** - *the world will be astonished when they see the **beast**, because he once **was**, now **is not**, and yet **will come**.*

Sounds pretty similar. ☺

## **QUICK SUMMARY**

1. We have determined the *Four Kingdoms* in Daniel 2
2. We saw that the *Rock Kingdom* of Daniel 2 refers to the coming of *Jesus* and the *Kingdom* He established in the first century
3. We have matched up Daniel 2, 7 with Revelation 17 and determined the *Eight Kingdoms*
4. We saw that the *Beast* has been working through worldly empires to try and defeat the *People of God*
5. From Daniel 7:25 we saw that the **Saints** are to be *handed over* for a ***time, times and half a time***
6. We have **not** determined the ***timeline*** for the *Seventh* and *Eighth Kingdoms* ... or what this “***time, times and half a time***” means

## REVELATION 12 – THE TIMELINE

Notice this *time, times and half a time* is mentioned in Daniel 7:25 and again in **Revelation 12**,

*13When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. 14The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for **a time, times and half a time**, out of the serpent's reach. 15Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. 16But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.*

## DANIEL 9 – THE PROPHECY

Any idea where this *time, times and half a time* comes from? Let's break it down,

- time – **ONE** time
- times – this word is a *dual* in the original language ... it means **TWO** times
- half a time – **HALF** a time

Let's add these three terms up,

1 time + 2 times + ½ time = **3 ½ times**

Does that ring any bell? Take a look at Daniel's 70 Weeks Prophecy.

**Daniel 9 - 24** ***"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.*

This passage does not say 70 weeks ... but 70 *sevens* ... which is interpreted to mean *weeks*. These 70 weeks are divided into three sections.

1. 7 weeks
2. 62 weeks
3. 1 week

This can be further divided into,

1. 7 weeks
2. 62 weeks
3. ½ week
4. ½ week

Hmm ... do you notice anything? How many days in *half a week*?

The answer is **3 ½ days**.

Might there be a possible connection between,

- **3 ½ days**
- **time, times and half a time (3 ½ times ... as per calculation above)**

Strange ... didn't we just read above that **Revelation 12:14** also mentions this *time, times and half a time*? Almost seems like too much of a coincidence ... if these passages were not somehow related. And that is what the *Amillennial* interpretation teaches ... that these terms are all related ... and are all talking about the same thing.

## **END OF 70 WEEKS**

Let's see what other *clues* we might find in Daniel 9:24-27. Look at **Daniel 9:24** where, to paraphrase, it says that 70 Weeks are *decreed* to carry out some tasks. When those 70 Weeks are done, then those tasks should be completed. In *Plain English* at the **END** of the 70 Weeks certain things will be completed,

1. finish **Transgression**
2. put an end to **Sin**
3. bring in Everlasting **Righteousness**

Turn to **I Corinthians 15** to help us better understand *when* these events will take place.

*50I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51Listen, I tell you a **mystery**: We will not all sleep, but we will all be **changed**— 52in a **flash**, in the **twinkling of an eye**, at the **last trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, the **dead will be raised** imperishable, and we will be changed. 53For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54**When** the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, **then** the saying that is written will come true: "**Death has been swallowed up in victory.**"*

*DEATH* is *CONQUERED* when,

- Last Trumpet
- perishable puts on imperishable
- raising of the dead
- mortal with immortality

But I Corinthians 15 has another hint for us. Take a look at what Paul says earlier in this chapter.

*20But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21For since **death** came through a man, the **resurrection** of the dead comes also through a man. 22For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; **then, when he comes**, those who belong to him. 24**Then the end will come**, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25**For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet**. 26The **last enemy** to be destroyed is **death**. 27For he "has put everything under his feet."Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.*

*DEATH* is the **LAST** enemy conquered ... there are **NO MORE** enemies to conquer.

Not Satan, the Beast, False Prophet, Anti-Christ ... or any other "enemy" you might imagine.

There are **NO** more enemies.

That can **ONLY** be true on Judgment Day.

Look at verse 54 above ... death is conquered when the perishable is replaced by the imperishable ... and that happens at the resurrection of the righteous. Put another way, death is destroyed at the time of the resurrection ... the resurrection happens at the Second Coming of Christ ... which means that death is destroyed at the Second Coming. When death is destroyed ... that is the time of the end.

In summary, the Second Coming of Christ is the **END**.

If Christ's Second Coming is the End ... then there can be no 1000 years between the *Second Coming of Christ* at the **beginning** of the 1000 year millennium ... and the *END* at the **close** of the 1000 year millennium.

Thus ... Jesus comes at the End of the World ... not in a *secret* rapture at the beginning of some seven year tribulation ... and not at the end of the aforementioned seven year tribulation.

So here is the *dilemma* ... at the time of the resurrection of the righteous ... death is conquered. But when death is conquered, it means we are at the END of the world.

This means the resurrection of the righteous and Christ's Second Return come all together at the END ... and there can not be any 1000 years *after* the End!

**QUESTION** – *WHEN* is the *Last Trumpet* sounded?

**ANSWER** – Read **I Thessalonians 4**,

*13Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. 14We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18Therefore encourage each other with these words.*

There is a *Trumpet Call* when Jesus returns.

The *dead* are *raised* when Jesus returns.

Sounds like same thing being said in I Corinthians 15 above.

Notice also in I Corinthians 15 this is all being described as happening *very quickly*.

Read **I Thessalonians 5,**

*1Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2for you know very well that the day of the **Lord will come like a thief in the night.** 3While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will **come on them suddenly,** as **labor pains on a pregnant woman,** and they will not escape.*

*4But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should **surprise** you like a thief.*

A thief sneaks in suddenly when you aren't looking for him. This means that when Jesus returns, it will be **SUDDEN**. This matches I Corinthians 15 when it says *flash* and *twinkling of an eye*.

So we are going to **equate** I Corinthians 15:50-54 with I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 5:1-4.

**QUESTION** – What key point do we learn from these passages?

**ANSWER** – That *death* is **conquered** at Christ's **RETURN**.

**QUESTION** - OK ... so what ... what has all this to do with all the Daniel and Revelation passages?

**ANSWER** – In the game of chess, this is called *checkmate*!

Look again at our list of things that must be complete by the **END** of the 70 Weeks ... the list at the beginning of this section. Here is that list again,

1. finish **Transgression**
2. put an end to **Sin**
3. bring in Everlasting **Righteousness**

These three things above will *only take place* when *death* is **destroyed** ... and according to I Corinthians 15, that happens **WHEN** Jesus returns.

Put another way ... the **END** of the 70 Weeks **coincides** with the **RETURN** of Christ.

Boy ... does that mess up the case for *millennialism*.

**QUESTION** – Again ... **WHEN** will the **three events** mentioned in Daniel 9 take place in the Prophetic History of the world?

**ANSWER** – At the **END OF THE WORLD** .... at the **END OF TIME** ... on **JUDGMENT DAY**.



## ***TIMELINE***

That is a ***VERY IMPORTANT*** conclusion / observation.

**Why?**

**Because** it means that the 70 Weeks **start** in either 445 BC or 457 BC with the *decree* to rebuild Jerusalem. And the 70 Weeks **end** on Judgment Day. Those 70 Weeks are the *WHOLE REST* of the history of the world ... all wrapped into one prophecy.

## ***PROBLEM***

But we have a *BIG* problem ... because we read in **Mark 13**,

32"***No one knows*** about that ***day*** or ***hour***, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

**QUESTION** – ***WHAT*** is the problem?

**ANSWER** – If we knew ***exactly how long*** the 70 Weeks were, then we could ***calculate*** the **END** ... but Mark 13:32 says ***no one can know*** when that will happen.

**QUESTION** – What does this *imply* about the length of time covered by the 70 Weeks?

**ANSWER** – Although we may be able to *calculate some portion* of the 70 Weeks ... we will not be able to calculate *all* of it. This means that the ***total length*** of the 70 Weeks must be **SYMBOLIC** ... because if it were not *symbolic*, then it might be possible to calculate how many years is made up by the 70 Weeks ... and **Mark 13:32** says we canNOT do that.

OK ... let's go on the assumption that we might be able to calculate *part* of the 70 Weeks.

There are at least four *decrees* concerning the rebuilding of Jerusalem,

1. 538 BC – decree of Cyrus to rebuild the temple (II Chronicles 36:22-23)
2. Decree of Darius confirming the decree of Cyrus (Ezra 6:6-12)
3. 458/457 BC – decree of Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:11-26)
4. 445/444 BC – decree of Artaxerxes given to Nehemiah authorizing the building of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:1-8)

The choices are usually narrowed down to 457 BC and 445 BC. And the measure of days in a year is either 360 for the *Prophetic Year* or 365.25 for the *Normal Year*.

Remember our breakdown of the 70 Weeks from above,

1. 7 weeks
2. 62 weeks
3. ½ week
4. ½ week

Also remember from **Daniel 9** that the *Anointed One* ... that is, Jesus ... will come after the combination of,

1. 7 weeks
2. 62 weeks

Which means Jesus will come after  $7 + 62 = 69$  weeks (of years).  
 $69 * 7 = 483$  days → **483 years.**

Let's do some calculations.

### **PROPHETIC YEAR (360 days)**

1. Start at 445 BC
2.  $483 \text{ years} * 360 \text{ days/year} = 173,880 \text{ days}$
3.  $173,880 / (365.25 \text{ days in normal year}) = 476+ \text{ years}$
4.  $445 \text{ BC} + 476 \text{ years} = 31 \text{ AD}$
5. Oops ... going from 1 BC to 1 AD there is a year missing ... so we need to add an extra year
6.  $31 \text{ AD} + 1 \text{ year} = \textbf{32 AD}$

### **NORMAL YEAR**

1. Start at 457 BC
2. 483 normal years
3.  $457 \text{ BC} + 483 \text{ years} = 26 \text{ AD}$
4. Oops ... don't forget to add that extra year lost when going from 1 BC to 1 AD
5.  $26 \text{ AD} + 1 \text{ year} = \textbf{27 AD}$

### **JESUS BIRTH**

When was Jesus born? The traditional date is about 4 BC, but others think it was closer to 1 BC. Jesus was not born in 1 AD (the first year of AD) because the calendar got goofed up.

Let's take the 4 BC date as a first guesstimate.

**Luke 3 - 23** Now *Jesus* himself was **about thirty years old** when he began his ministry.

So let's add  $4 \text{ BC} + 30 \text{ years} = 26 \text{ AD}$ .

But we still have to add one extra year when we go from BC to AD.

So  $26 \text{ AD} + 1 \text{ year} = \textbf{27 AD}$ .

Wow ... what a coincidence ... the 70 Weeks Prophecy has the *same date* for the *Coming of the Messiah*. Is that just a coincidence ... or is it Prophecy?

**QUESTION** – How long was Jesus' ministry?

**ANSWER** – Scholars compare the Bible information with historical information. For example, **Luke 3** states,

*In the **fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar**—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— 2during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. 3He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

This gives a historical date to determine the **beginning** of Jesus' ministry.

The events surrounding Jesus death and burial ... in conjunction with the Jewish Passover laws ... allow scholars to narrow down the **end** of Jesus' ministry.

The *bottom line* is that Jesus' ministry lasted about **3 ½** years.

Here is a quote from one source,

Based on these points, we believe that **Jesus' ministry** lasted about *three and a half years* ...

Hmmm ... here is that mysterious **3 ½** number again!

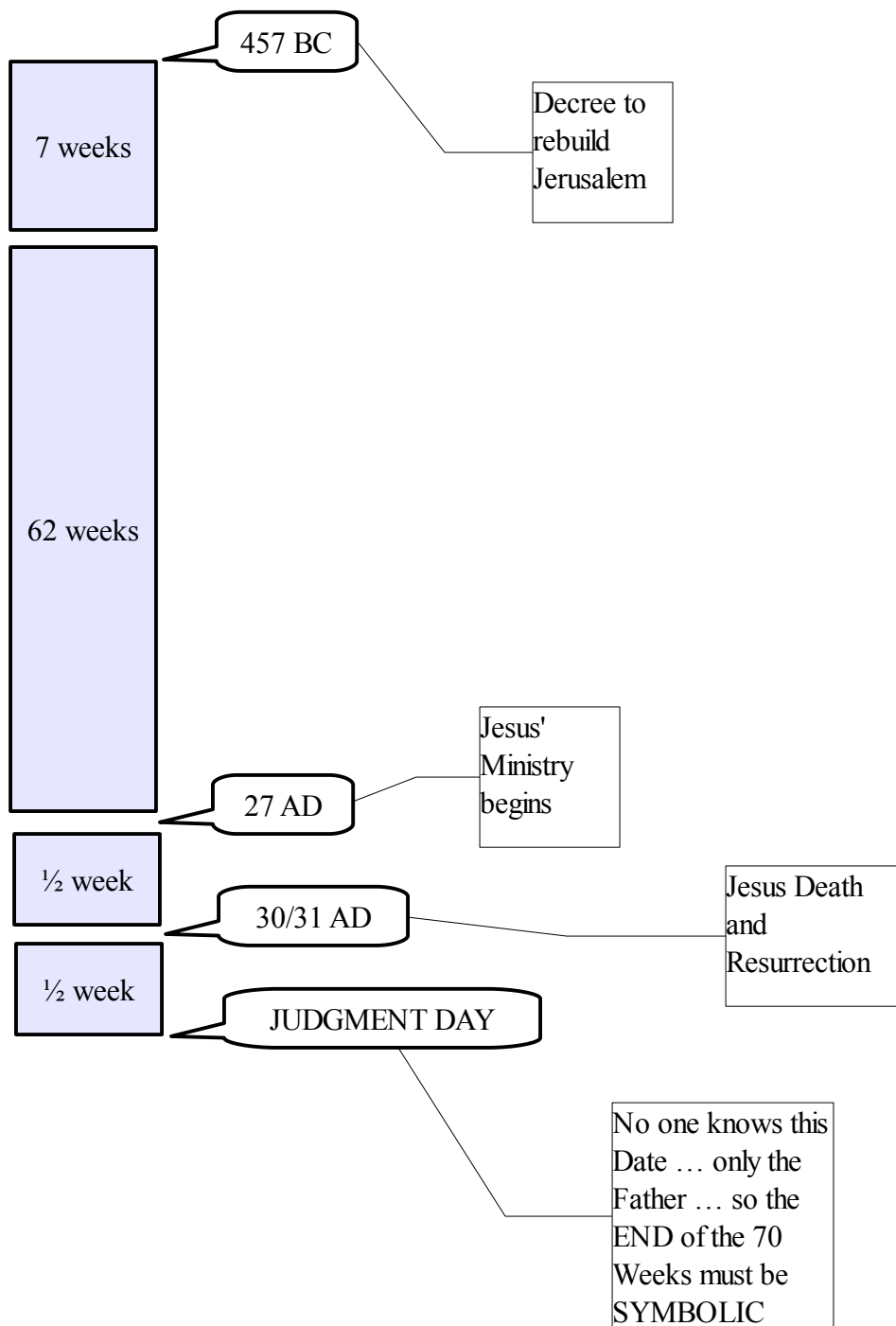
## **IDEA**

If we go back to the 70 Weeks Prophecy breakdown,

1. 7 weeks
2. 62 weeks
3. ½ week
4. ½ week

Then we lay it out as a *diagram* ... we see that the **END** of the 70 Weeks can**NOT** be determined.

The *only explanation* I can think of is that the *last half* of Week #70 has a **start** date, but **no end** date ... that is, the *last half* of Week #70 is **SYMBOLIC** of the time **starting with** Jesus' Death and Resurrection ... and **going all the way till** Judgment Day.



## LAST HALF OF WEEK #70

We see that the *last half* of Week #70 in Daniel's Prophecy appears to be **symbolic** of the time span **starting** with Jesus' Death and Resurrection ... and *going all through history* until it **ends** on Judgment Day.

Does that make any sense?

In one *sense* ... it does make sense that no one knows the date of the end of the world.

But from another perspective, it sure seems mighty *strange* when compared with the proclamations of the TV Evangelists.

**QUESTION** – Are there any other Bible passages that might sync up with this interpretation?

**ANSWER** – First let's take a look at how other passages might possibly *describe* 3 ½ times. Let's list some different ways of writing this strange 3 ½.

**1. time, times, and half a time**

2. 3 ½ times

3. 3 ½ days

**4. 3 ½ years**

5. 3 ½ years \* 365.25 days/year = 1278 days (*Normal Year*)

6. 3 ½ years \* 360 days/year = **1260** days (*Prophetic Year*)

7. 3 ½ years \* 12 months/year = **42** months

That is a good set of options we can start searching Scripture and look for matches. Here are some passages,

**Daniel 7 - 25** *He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a **time, times and half a time.***

**Comment** – At first reading, this sounds like a reference to something happening during the end times ... so this might be used as an argument against the position taken in this paper. Remember, however, that in Daniel 2 that the *Rock* smashed the *feet* of the *statue* ... so one might conclude that the *Rock* only destroyed the *Fourth Kingdom* (Rome) ... but the passage goes on to say that the ENTIRE *Statue* was destroyed by the *Rock*. So there was a sense that the entire statue was *all tied together* for some specific purpose. Again in Revelation 17 we read of seven *Kingdoms* that rise out of the *Beast* ... which could easily lead us to see that the *Beast* and the *Kingdoms* were separate. But later in the passage it states that the *Beast* will be the *Eighth Kingdom*. So, again, there is some continuity between all these images. Coming back to this verse, we might want to leave open whether this *time, times and half a time* ONLY belongs to an end time event ... or whether it might also stretch over a longer period of time. The deciding factor might be how it is used in the following passages.

**Daniel 12** - 1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a *time of distress* such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. 2 *Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.* 3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. 4 But you, Daniel, *close up and seal* the words of the scroll *until the time of the end*. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. 6 One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "*How long* will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?"

7 The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "*It will be for a time, times and half a time.* When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed."

**Comment** – Describes *dead* people that *come to life* and live forever. That sounds like an end time event. Daniel is told to *close up and seal* this vision *until the time of the end*. Daniel then asked *how long* before these things are fulfilled? The answer is, "*It will be for a time, times and half a time.*" That sure sounds like the *whole* rest of human history up till Judgment Day.

**Revelation 12** - 13 When the *dragon* saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he *pursued* the woman who had given birth to the *male child*. 14 The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where *she* would be taken care of for a *time, times and half a time*, out of the serpent's reach.

**Comment** – Mary gave birth to Jesus ... and Herod tried to kill Jesus in His infancy. The Church (i.e., People of God) escaped to the desert where she was protected for a "*time, times and half a time*". That is not hard to understand to mean that the Church was being protected throughout the rest of mankind's history ... until the *end* of the world ... the **Return** of Christ.

**Revelation 11** - 1 I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the *worshipers* there. 2 But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the *Gentiles*. *They will trample* on the holy city for *42 months*. 3 And I will give power to my *two witnesses*,

and *they will prophesy for 1,260 days*, clothed in sackcloth." 4These are the *two olive trees* and the *two lampstands* that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. 6These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

7Now when they have finished their *testimony*, the *beast* that *comes up from the Abyss* will attack *them*, and overpower and kill them. 8Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. 9For *three and a half days* men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. 10The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

11But after the *three and a half days* a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. 12Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

**Comment** – There is a lot of symbolism in this passage ... plenty of rope to hang oneself. First notice that these are all the same,

- 42 months
- 1,260 days
- *time, times and half a time*

Second, if *time, times and half a time* refers elsewhere to the entire Gospel Age ... from Christ's first coming to His second coming ... then we might use that as a guide as we try to figure out what this all means.

Next notice in **Revelation 7** that the "*servants of our God*" are all **numbered**. These people are the *servants of God* ... in other words, they are those who *follow* God ... which is the same as saying *God's People*. And who are *God's People*? *God's People* is the *Church*. It is the *Church* that is being *numbered* in Revelation 7 ... where the *Church* is being described under the **symbolism** of *Israel's earthly tribes*.

Back to Revelation 11 where the *worshipers* are **COUNTED**. In Revelation the *Church* was being *numbered* ... in Revelation 11 we have *worshipers* being *counted*. Sound similar?!

Revelation 7 uses *earthly Israel* to **symbolize** the *Church* ... Revelation 11 uses the *earthly Sanctuary* to **symbolize** the *Church*. The **physical** Sanctuary symbolizes the **spiritual** Sanctuary, namely, the *People of God* ... another name for the *Church*.

The *Gentiles* (or *Nations* in other translations) would be either *unbelievers* and/or *unfaithful church members* who must be cast out.

Now take a look at the *two witnesses*. How long do they prophesy? For 1,260 days. Now that is a BIG

problem if the *two witnesses* are two end time figures, perhaps Moses and Elijah, that prophesy for a short while during the *supposed* Seven Year Tribulation.

What do the *two witnesses* do? They,

- prophecy
- testify

That is also the function of the *Church*.

If these *two witnesses* are another symbolism for the *Church*, then their *prophesying* and *testifying* throughout the *Church Age* ... would exactly **MATCH** with the description of the 42 Months; 1260 days; *time, times and half a time*.

This is surely a point the *millennialist* will likely resist because of all the TV Evangelists he has watched ... and *Late, Great Planet Earth* books he has read.

The *Amillennial* interpretation views these *two witnesses* as symbolizing the missionary task of the Church.

**Luke 10** - *After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them **two** by **two** ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.*

These two witnesses **symbolize** the Church militant **bearing testimony** through its **ministers** and **missionaries** throughout the Church Age.

But we aren't quite done with these *two witnesses*. Those *two witnesses* sounds like they are *men* ... some say Elijah and Moses. But **Revelation 11:3,4** has *more* to say about them ... did you notice what else it says?

*3 And I will give power to my **two** witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." 4 These are the **two** olive trees and the **two** lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.*

So this *symbol* is described in three ways,

1. witnesses
2. olive trees
3. lampstands

Are you still confident that this is referring to *two prophets* (i.e., two men)?

Any idea what these *olive trees* and *lampstands* might be referring?

The closest reference in the Bible seems to be **Zechariah 4**,

*1 Then the angel who talked with me returned and wakened me, as a man is wakened from his sleep. 2 He asked me, "What do you see?"*

*I answered, "I see a **solid gold lampstand** with a bowl at the top and seven*



lights on it, with seven channels to the lights. 3 Also there are **two olive trees** by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left."

4 I asked the angel who talked with me, "**What are these**, my lord?"

5 He answered, "Do you not know what these are?"

"No, my lord," I replied.

6 So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

7 "What are you, O mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of 'God bless it! God bless it!' "

8 Then the word of the LORD came to me: 9 "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you.

10 "Who despises the day of small things? Men will rejoice when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel.

"(These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range throughout the earth.)"

11 Then I asked the angel, "**What are these two olive trees** on the right and the left of the **lampstand**?"

12 Again I asked him, "**What are these two olive branches** beside the two gold pipes that pour out golden oil?"

13 He replied, "Do you not know what these are?"

"No, my lord," I said.

14 So he said, "**These are the two who are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth.**"

Here is what it says in the Jewish Commentary Soncino Books of the Bible, *The Twelve Prophets* about **Zechariah 4:14**,

*the two anointed ones, lit. 'the two sons of oil.'* The **allusion is clearly** to Joshua and Zerubbabel, the **representative** of the **priestly** and **regal** offices. They are the **channels** by which Israel (symbolized by the lamps) **is kept supplied with the Divine spirit** (symbolized by the oil).

The passage in Zechariah is talking about two offices ... *priestly* and *regal* ... which were *channels* through which Israel was *supplied* with the *Divine spirit* throughout the Old Dispensation.

Now use that as the basis when interpreting the *two witnesses* in Revelation 11. Which fits better with Zechariah 4?

1. Moses and Elijah (?) as prophets for a short *engagement* at the End Time?
2. The two offices of *preaching the Word* and *administration of the Sacraments* via which God blesses the Church throughout the New Dispensation?

I am going with ***Door #2***.

## **CONCLUSION**

The symbolic terms,

1. **time, times, and half a time**
2. 3 ½ times
3. 3 ½ days
4. **3 ½ years**
5. 3 ½ years \* 360 days/year = **1260** days (*Prophetic Year*)
6. 3 ½ years \* 12 months/year = **42** months

... ALL refer to the period of time between Christ's *First Coming* and His *Second Coming*.

Remember ... in the *Amillennial* interpretation, Christ's *Second Coming* means essentially the ***same*** thing as,

1. Rapture
2. Judgment Day
3. End of Time

There is no *1,000 years* between Jesus' *Second Coming* and the *Judgment Day*.

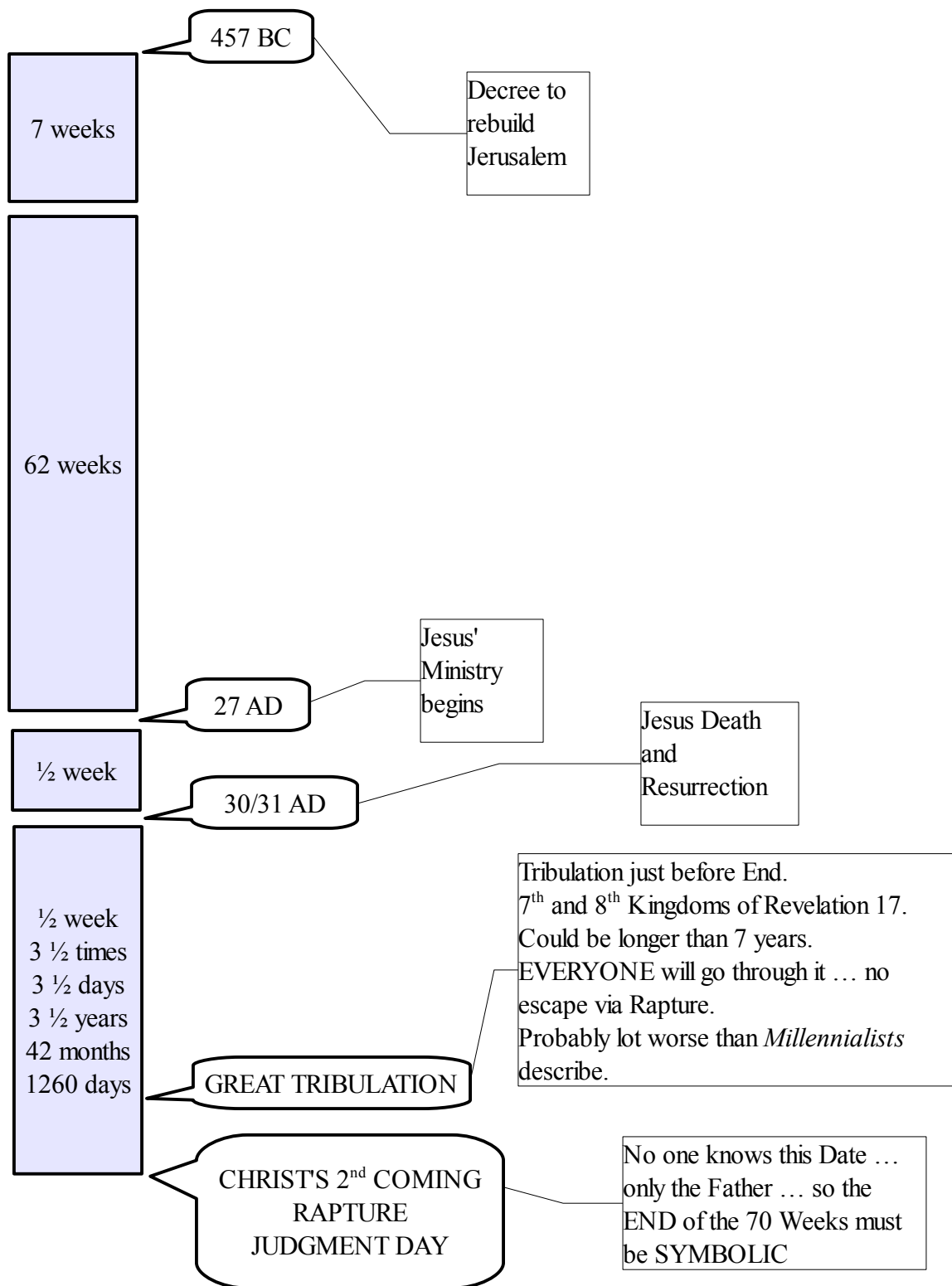
## **REVELATION 20 – 1000 YEARS**

So let's now take a look at this *1000 Years* which seems to be the basis for the TV Evangelist *Millennial Kingdom*.

### ***The Story in Plain English***

Here is a summary of events.

We will take our ***graphic*** above and ***add*** some ***details***.



## 1000 Years

We read in **Revelation 20**,

*1And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2He seized the **dragon**, that ancient serpent, who is the **devil**, or **Satan**, and **bound him** for a **thousand years**. 3He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, **to keep him from deceiving the nations** anymore until the **thousand years** were ended. After that, he must be **set free for a short time**.*

*4I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and **reigned with Christ a thousand years**. 5(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and **will reign with him for a thousand years**.*

*7When the **thousand years** are over, **Satan** will be **released** from his prison 8and will go out to **deceive the nations** in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for **battle**. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. 9They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

From the diagram on the previous page, there is **no room** for an *additional 1,000 years*.

The description in Revelation 20 describes Satan as being *bound* during this 1,000 years.

We saw that Satan was *bound* at Christ's *First Coming* ... and this *binding* extends to His *Second Coming*. So first thought that comes into one's head is that the *1,000 Years* is referring to the **same period of time** as the 3 ½ days, 42 months, 1260 days.

At the end of the 3 ½ days, 42 months, 1260 days ... comes the *Great Tribulation* ... which would be the time when Satan is *released* to *deceive* the nations and prepare for the *Final Great Battle*.

The use of *1,000* implies *completeness* ... and is just another *symbolic* way to refer to the period of time between Christ's *First Coming* and His *Second Coming*.

## PARALLEL PASSAGES

<p><b>Rev 12:5-12</b></p>	<p>5<i>She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.</i> 6<i>The woman fled into the desert to a place <b>prepared for her</b> by God, where she might be <b>taken care of</b> for <b>1,260 days</b>.</i></p> <p>7<i>And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.</i> 8<i>But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.</i> 9<i>The great <b>dragon was hurled down</b>—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.</i></p> <p>10<i>Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:</i></p> <p><i>"Now have come the <b>salvation</b> and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ.</i></p> <p><i>For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.</i></p> <p>11<i>They <b>overcame him</b></i></p> <p><i>by the <b>blood</b> of the Lamb</i></p> <p><i>and by the <b>word</b> of their testimony;</i></p> <p><i>they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.</i></p> <p>12<i>Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them!</i></p> <p><i>But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you!</i></p> <p><i>He is filled with fury, because <b>he knows that his time is short</b>.</i>"</p>
<p><b>Rev 20:1-3</b></p>	<p>1<i>And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain.</i> 2<i>He seized the <b>dragon</b>, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and <b>bound him for a thousand years</b>.</i> 3<i>He <b>threw him</b> into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the <b>thousand years</b> were ended. After that, he must be set free for a <b>short</b> time.</i></p>

There is a connection between the birth, death, ascension and coronation of Jesus ... and the binding or

*hurling down* of Satan.

In Rev 12, the Church is taken to a *safe* place for *1,260 days* ... in Rev 20 Satan is *bound* for *1,000 Years*. Do you notice any potential relationship between the Church being *safe* and the *binding* of Satan?

Satan's power over the nations is *curbed* ... Satan is *restricted* in his power to *deceive* the nations. Instead of the nations conquering the Church, the Church begins to conquer (*evangelize*) the nations.

Revelation 12:11 says that the Church overcame Satan by the **BLOOD** of the Lamb ... and by the **WORD** of their testimony. Notice that **TWO** things are mentioned. Do you remember any other mention of *two* in these passages? .... how about in Revelation 11? Might there be a connection?

At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan is to be *set free* for a *short* time. This *short* time coincides with the *final* Battle ... *Armageddon*.

Rev 11:2-6	<p>2But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the <i>Gentiles</i>. They will trample on the holy city for <b>42 months</b>. 3And I will give power to my <b>two witnesses</b>, and they will prophesy for <b>1,260 days</b>, clothed in sackcloth." 4These are the <b>two olive trees</b> and the <b>two lampstands</b> that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. 6These men have <b>power</b> to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have <b>power</b> to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.</p>
Rev 12:14-17	<p>14The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a <b>time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach</b>. 15Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. 16But the earth <b>helped the woman</b> by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17Then the <b>dragon was enraged</b> at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.</p>
Rev 20:4-6	<p>4I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been <i>given authority to judge</i>. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their <b>testimony</b> for Jesus and because of the <b>word</b> of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and <b>reigned with Christ a thousand years</b>. 5(The rest of the dead did not come to life <i>until the thousand years were ended</i>.) This is the <b>first resurrection</b>. 6Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and <b>will reign with him for a thousand years</b>.</p>

Revelation 11, 12 says that for a period of time,

- 42 months
- 1,260 days
- *time, times and half a time*

... the Church is *protected* ... *out of* Satan's reach.

Revelation 20 says that Satan is *bound* for *1,000 years*.

Seems like they are talking about the **same** span of time ... the Gospel Age ... period from Christ's *First Coming* to His *Second Coming*.

Revelation 11 says the *two witnesses* have **power**.

If we equate the *two witnesses* with the *Church* ... then that would mean the Church has *power*.

**QUESTION** – What kind of *power* was given to the Church?

**ANSWER** – Read **Matthew 16:19**,

*I will give you the **keys** of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you **bind** on earth will be **bound** in heaven, and whatever you **loose** on earth will be **loosed** in heaven."*

Revelation 20:4 says that *souls* were *beheaded*.

Who were those *souls*?

Weren't these *souls* the *saved ones* who were *members* of the *Church* ... the *saints*?

So ... this is saying that *some* members of the *Church* were *beheaded*.

Why?

Because of their **testimony** for Jesus ... and because of the **word** of God.

Here we have **TWO** reasons mentioned again ... as we did above in Revelation 12.

Does this add any weight to our explanation of the *two witnesses* in Revelation 11 as being the *Church*?



<p><b>Rev 11:7-14</b></p>	<p>7Now when they have <b>finished</b> their testimony, the <b>beast that comes up</b> from the Abyss will <b>attack</b> them, and <b>overpower</b> and <b>kill</b> them. 8Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is <b>figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified</b>. 9For <b>three and a half days</b> men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. 10The <b>inhabitants</b> of the earth will <b>gloat</b> over them and will <b>celebrate</b> by sending each other gifts, because these <b>two prophets had tormented</b> those who live on the earth.</p> <p>11But after the <b>three and a half days</b> a breath of life from God entered them, and they <b>stood</b> on their feet, and <b>terror struck those</b> who saw them. 12Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.</p> <p>13At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.</p> <p>14The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.</p>
<p><b>Rev 13:7</b></p>	<p>7He was given <b>power</b> to <b>make war against the saints</b> and to conquer them. And he was given <b>authority</b> over every tribe, people, language and nation.</p>
<p><b>Rev 20:7-10</b></p>	<p>7When the <b>thousand years</b> are over, <b>Satan</b> will be <b>released</b> from his prison and will <b>go out to deceive the nations</b> in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to <b>gather them for battle</b>. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. 9They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.</p>

Revelation 11 says Satan will be *released* to *attack, overpower, kill* the People of God. This release will come *after* the 1,260 days that the *two prophets* had been prophesying.

Revelation 13 says Satan was given *power and authority* to *make war* on the *Saints* (i.e., Church).

Revelation 20 says Satan will be *released* after the 1,000 Years so that he can go out to *deceive* the nations in order to prepare for *battle* against *Saints* (i.e., Church).

Notice in Revelation 11:8 that it *specifically* mentions **Sodom** and **Egypt** ... and then says that this is where Christ was **crucified**. But Christ was *crucified* in **Jerusalem** ... so this is another example of **symbolic** language being used in the Book of Revelation. The verse even says this is *figurative*.

Rev 11:17,18	<p>17saying:  <i>"We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,  the One who is and who was,  because you have taken your great power  and have begun to reign.</i></p> <p>18The <b>nations</b> <i>were angry</i>; and your wrath has come.  The time has come for <b>judging the dead</b>,  and for <b>rewarding your servants</b> the prophets  and your saints and those who reverence your name,  both small and great—  and for destroying those who destroy the earth."</p>
Rev 14:14-16	<p>14I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one  "like a son of man" with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.  15Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who  was sitting on the cloud, "<b>Take your sickle and reap</b>, because the time to reap has  come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." 16So he who was seated on the cloud  swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.</p>
Rev 20:11-15	<p>11Then I saw a <b>great white throne</b> and him who was seated on it. Earth and  sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12And I saw the <b>dead</b>,  <b>great and small, standing before the throne</b>, and books were opened. Another  book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were <b>judged</b> according to  what they had done as recorded in the books. 13The sea gave up the dead that were  in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was  <b>judged</b> according to what he had done. 14Then <b>death</b> and Hades were thrown  into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15If anyone's name was not  found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.</p>

Revelation 11 says that the time has come for *judging the dead*.

Revelation 14 says that the time has come to *take your sickle and reap*.

Revelation 20 talks about the *great white throne* ... and about the *dead, great and small, standing before the throne* ... and about the *dead were judged*.

Do these passages sound like they are talking about the **same** thing?

These are, in fact, **parallel passages** describing the **same** End Time events.

# ARMAGEDDON

Rev 11:7-10	<p>7Now when they have finished their testimony, the <b>beast</b> that <b>comes up from the Abyss</b> will <b>attack them</b>, and <b>overpower</b> and <b>kill</b> them. 8Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. 9For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. 10The <b>inhabitants of the earth will gloat</b> over them and will <b>celebrate</b> by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.</p>
Rev 16:12-16	<p>12The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. 13Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the <b>dragon</b>, out of the mouth of the <b>beast</b> and out of the mouth of the <b>false prophet</b>. 14They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the <b>kings of the whole world</b>, to <b>gather them for the battle</b> on the <b>great day of God Almighty</b>.</p> <p>15"<b>Behold, I come like a thief!</b> Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."</p> <p>16Then they <b>gathered the kings together</b> to the place that in Hebrew is called <b>Armageddon</b>.</p>
Rev 19:11-21	<p>11I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. 12His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:</p> <p>17And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the <b>great supper of God</b>, 18so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."</p> <p>19Then I saw the <b>beast</b> and the <b>kings of the earth</b> and their <b>armies gathered together to make war</b> against the rider on the horse and his army. 20But the <b>beast</b> was captured, and with him the <b>false prophet</b> who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were <b>thrown</b> alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. 21The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.</p>

<b>Rev 20:1-10</b>	<p><i>1And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or <b>Satan</b>, and bound him for a thousand years. 3He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore <b>until the thousand years were ended</b>. After that, <b>he must be set free for a short time</b>.</i></p> <p><i>4I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.</i></p> <p><i>7When the thousand years are over, <b>Satan</b> will be <b>released</b> from his prison 8and will go out to <b>deceive</b> the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to <b>gather them for battle</b>. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. 9They <b>marched</b> across the breadth of the earth and <b>surrounded</b> the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10And the <b>devil</b>, who deceived them, was <b>thrown</b> into the lake of burning sulfur, where the <b>beast</b> and the <b>false prophet</b> had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.</i></p>
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Now tell me that these are not all *parallel passages* ... talking about the *same Great Battle*!

But the *Millennialists* claim that these are **not** all the *same* battles.

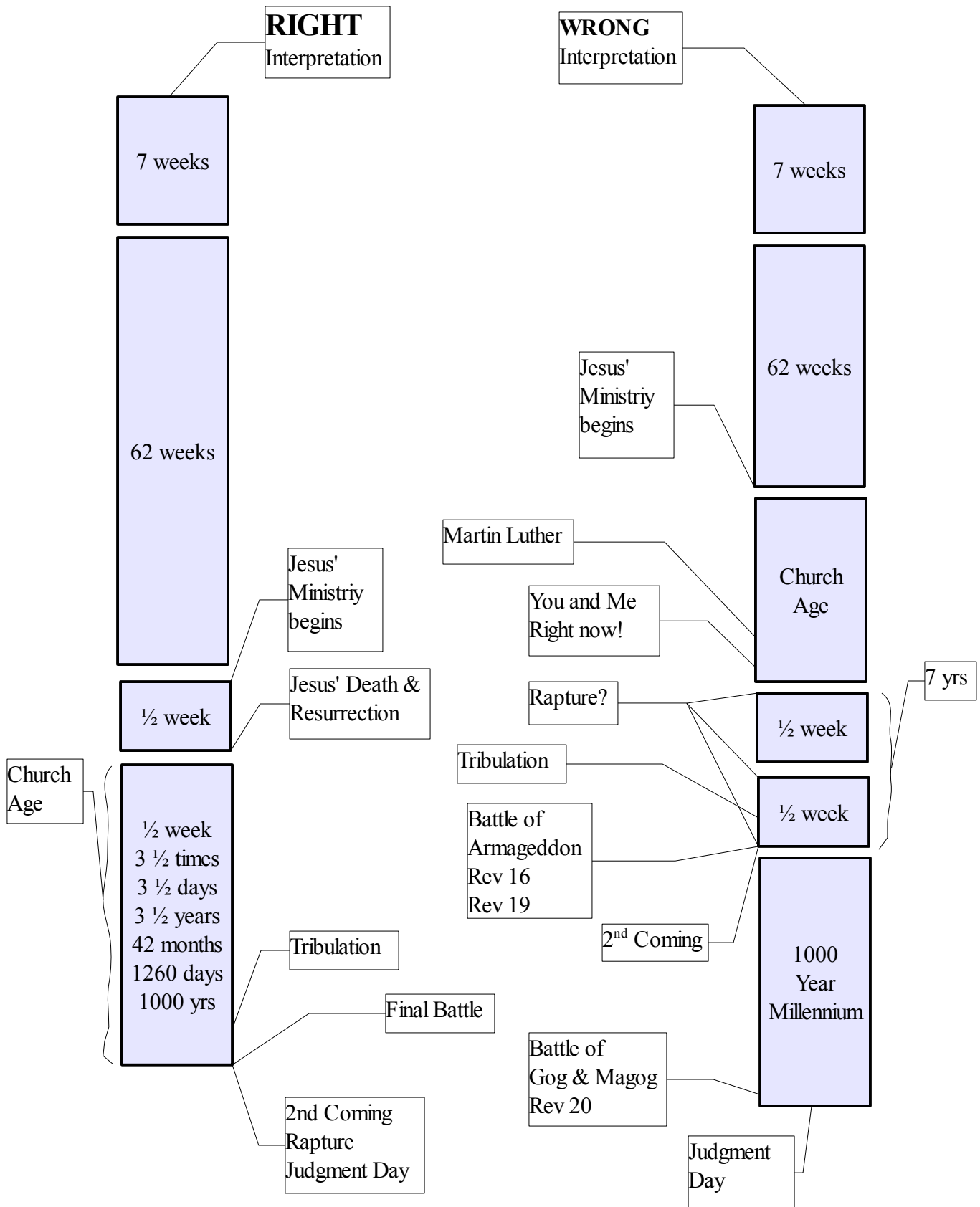
*Millennialists* say there is one BIG Battle at the end of the Tribulation.

- Revelation 16
- Revelation 19
- *collectively called* the Battle of **Armageddon**

*Millennialists* say there is another BIG Battle at the end of the 1000 Year Millennium.

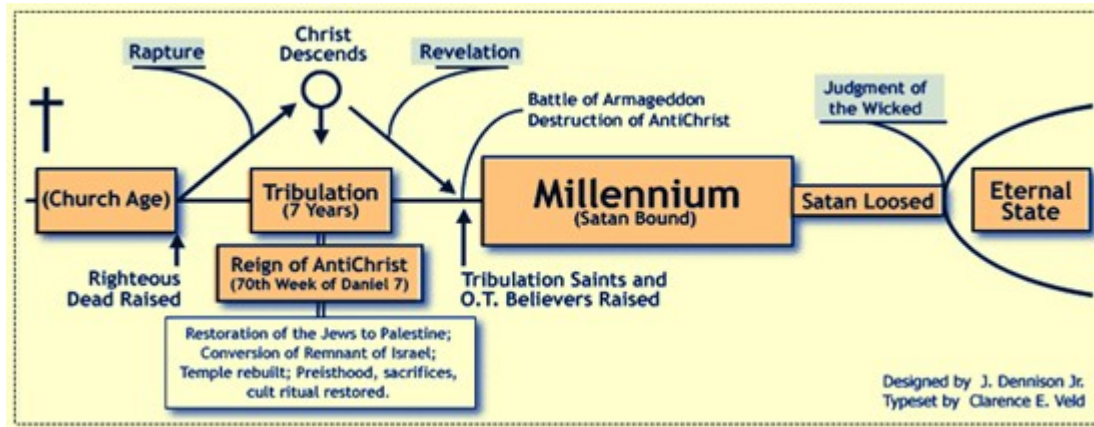
- Revelation 20
- *called* the Battle of **Gog and Magog**

Does not look that way to me ... looks like it is all the **SAME** Battle.



Here is a *Premillennial* diagram found on the internet.

You can compare this diagram with the diagram on the right hand column above.



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More Than Conquerors by William Hendriksen