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Chapter 13 *The Reaping*

Daniel 12:1 *"Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time;"*

The Judgment of Humanity. The book of Daniel prophesies of a coming "reaping" for humanity for individual and corporate sin. In this "reaping," humanity will bear the consequences of its many choices of sin and rebellion against God. The principle of "reaping" is found in many Biblical passages, among which is Galatians 6:7-8:

Galatians 6:7-8 "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

"Reaping" is also described in prophetic passages. One of the most descriptive is Revelation 14:14f as below. As you read the passage, be sure to notice in whose hand the sickle is held:

Revelation 14:14 "Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe." . . . 20 And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles."

As we will see, the "Reaper" is the Only Begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ, and His angels. Because of humanity's sins against God, divine wrath has been stored up; and, a judgment is due humanity in the last of this age. This judgment will be referred to in this chapter with an upper case "R" (the "Reaping"). As we will see, the world and the covenant people of Israel will be made ready for the return of Jesus, the establishing of His 1000 year Kingdom reign on earth (the "Millennial Reign" of Christ, Revelation 20:6), and the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem.

In this chapter, we will interpret the "Great Tribulation," the period often interpreted by Bible scholars as the 7 years of tribulation immediately preceding the 2nd coming of Christ. Disagreement among scholars exists on whether the entire 7 years should be referred to as "Great" or only the last 3 ½ years. For this reason, and for other reasons mentioned in this chapter, we will refer to this entire 7 year period as the "70th week." We will view it as the 7 year period immediately before the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ.

We will also interpret another important prophecy event: the “rapture,” including the time that the rapture is prophesied to occur. We have previously interpreted Islam’s prophesied Al Mahdi to be the coming Antichrist. We will add another name for him in this chapter. He is the one who “makes desolate” of Daniel 9:27, and who is “made desolate” by God at the end of this age.

Three Periods of Reaping - Introduction. Daniel 9:24-27 describes three separate and dependent periods of judgment decreed by God for humanity to bear the consequences of its sins and to bring in the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. In the discussion following, we will refer to each of these three dependent periods as a separate period of “Reaping.” As we will see, the total length of time decreed by God is 70 “weeks of years,” i.e., 490 years. At the end of the 490 years, God will bring in “everlasting righteousness, seal up vision and prophecy, and anoint the most holy place.” As one might expect, *the 490 years are not consecutive years*. Humanity’s sins are not limited to one nation or people group or even to one or more generations of humanity’s existence. Rather, humanity’s sinfulness extends over all nations, over all peoples, and over all time periods of human existence. The three dependent (but separate) periods of Reaping, likewise, extend over multiple generations of humanity, and each is separated by many generations.

We might compare the divine purpose of these three reaping periods with the divine purpose of the 6th century BC destruction of Jerusalem and the ensuing seventy year exile of the Jews as recorded in the book of Ezekiel. The prophet Ezekiel, an exile in Babylon at the time, is instructed by God to *lie on the ground* for 430 days (Ezekiel 4:4). This period of time was “calculated” for the time of the people’s sinfulness against God (Ezekiel 22:31). Ezekiel’s laying prone was a visual statement to the Jewish exiles in Babylon that until this reaping was completed, they would not return to their beloved Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 4:4 "As for you, lie down on your left side and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel on it; you shall bear their iniquity for the number of days that you lie on it. 5 "For I have assigned you a number of days corresponding to the years of their iniquity, three hundred and ninety days; thus you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. 6 "When you have completed these, you shall lie down a second time, but on your right side and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah; I have assigned it to you for forty days, a day for each year."

Thus, the people bore their sins by reaping the consequence, and the wrath of God was satisfied:

Ezekiel 5:13 'Thus My anger will be spent and I will satisfy My wrath on them, and I will be appeased; then they will know that I, the Lord, have spoken in My zeal when I have spent My wrath upon them.'

God's intention in Israel's judgment was not punitive, but redemptive. That is, God's purpose was to reveal Himself through the fulfillment of prophecy. The book of Ezekiel repeats the phrase "then you will know that I am the Lord" in 25 separate verses:

Ezekiel 24:20 "Then I said to them, "The word of the Lord came to me saying, 21 'Speak to the house of Israel, "Thus says the Lord God, 'Behold, I am about to profane My sanctuary, the pride of your power, the desire of your eyes and the delight of your soul; . . . 24 'Thus Ezekiel will be a sign to you; according to all that he has done you will do; when it comes, then you will know that I am the Lord God.' "

It is the view of this writer that God's purpose in the Reaping of Daniel 9:24 will also be redemptive in nature. It will bring about His divine will and purpose beyond humanity's bearing the consequences of its sins. As we will see, God's ultimate purpose will include the "bringing in" of "everlasting righteousness, the sealing up of vision and prophecy, and the anointing of the holy place." This writer interprets these three fulfillments to reference the beginning of the 1000 year reign of Christ and His saints:

Revelation 20:4 ". . . ; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years."

How long will the "Reaping" Require? Daniel 9:24 describes three periods of Reaping (totaling "70 weeks of years") which have been "calculated" for humanity's sins and the bringing in of the Kingdom of Christ. Bible scholars have interpreted this period of "70 weeks of years" in different ways. One of those interpretations is used in the calculation of the 70 weeks of years below. Here is the text that describes the decree of God:

Daniel 9:24 "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."

The first question which must be addressed is what time period is meant by the phrase "seventy weeks" have been decreed for your people. . . ."

Daniel 9:24 describes the total period of Reaping to be "seventy weeks." Literally, 70 weeks is 490 days (70 x 7 days in a week). We must first decide whether to take the seventy weeks (490 days) literally or metaphorically. It seems hardly possible to interpret the text literally for how can 490 days of judgment properly reckon the sins of humanity? The 490 days would be over shortly after the Angel transmitted the prophecy to Daniel in the 6th century BC!

If the seventy weeks are interpreted metaphorically, then one day in a week is symbolic of some other period of time. An Old Testament passage helps us to interpret the period best represented by a “day” in the seventy weeks of Daniel 9:24:

Leviticus 25:8 *“You are also to count off seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years, so that you have the time of the seven sabbaths of years, namely, forty-nine years.”*

“Seven sabbaths of years” is specifically defined for us by Leviticus 25:8 as: *“seven times seven years, namely forty-nine years.”* Therefore, each day in a week is symbolic of one year, and one week equals seven years. Using this same definition in Daniel 9:24, brings us to a total length of time of 490 years (70 x 7 “week-years”). This period must be divided into three separate but dependent periods as can be seen in the remainder of the text:

Daniel 9:25 *“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. 26 “Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, . . .” 27 “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.”*

Notice the three periods: “seven weeks” (v 9:25), “sixty-two weeks” (v 9:25), and “one week” (v 9:27), the sum of which is 70 weeks (7 + 62 +1). Also, notice that the 70th week is separated by an indefinite period of time by the insertion of the phrase “after the sixty-two weeks” (9:26).

We can summarize the three periods as below:

Daniel 9:24 - 27			
v 24	Total Reaping Period (all 3 periods)	70 x 7 week-years =	490 years
<i>Divided into Three Nonconsecutive Periods of Reaping over a Span of Centuries:</i>			
v 25	1 st period - the rebuilding of Jerusalem	7 x 7 week-years =	49 years
v 25	2 nd period - the time of Messiah Jesus	62 x 7 week-years =	434 years
v 27	3 rd period - the coming of the “desolater”	1 x 7 week-years =	7 years

The dating of the periods could be as follows:

- 1st Reaping Period (49 years): Decree issued in the 7th year of Artaxerxes (457-56 BC; the mission of Ezra; compare Ezra 7:8ff), confirmed and extended to the 20th year of the same king (compare Neh. 2:1ff; 6:15-16).¹ See also Miller and others for discussion of alternative views.²
- 2nd Reaping Period (434 years): The 483 years (49 + 434) extends from 457 BC, the date of Artaxerxes decree, through 27-28 AD, (457 - 483) when Christ's public ministry began.
- 3rd Reaping Period (7 years): The last 7 year period, i.e., the "70th week," is a future period that will end just before the return of Christ. This 70th week will complete the time decreed by God to *bring in* everlasting righteousness. . .

There are many different views on the dating of the three Reaping periods above. It is not the purpose of this writing to discuss and date the first two periods with certainty; rather, this writing is concerned with the third period, the 70th week of Reaping. This is the only period that is future, and the one most relevant to the day.

The Biblical Reason for the Terrible Trauma of the 70th Week of Reaping. How do we understand these three periods of "Reaping," and particularly, the last of the three periods which we are referring to as the "70th week"? So devastating is the 70th week, that Daniel 12:1 describes it as ". . . a *time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time.* . ." (Joel 2:1, Matthew 24:21, Mark 13:19).

The reason we have difficulty understanding the severity of the Reaping is because we fail to grasp the severity of our own sin; nor do we grasp the reality of God's justice that will not "pass over" sin, but requires a "return" for the sin that we have individually chosen. If you think about it, how could it be any other way? If God did not pass over Adam and Eve's sin of disobedience in the opening pages of human history, how can He not do the same for our acts of disobedience?

The following passages summarize this principle both from the standpoint of individual sin as well as the nations of the world. As you read the passages, be sure to notice the word "indignation" that frequently occurs. "Indignation" describes God's emotive and active response to man's sins. The Bible's description of God's response is almost akin to someone having a dangerous allergic reaction that threatens their life. Why is such a word used to describe God's response? *God is holy; so holy that our unending sin is an insult to Him and His Hand of mercy and grace in our lives. Our sin repulses Him!*

Ezekiel 22:29 *"The people of the land have practiced oppression and committed robbery, and they have wronged the poor and needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice. 30 "I searched for a man among them who would build up*

the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one. 31 "Thus I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads," declares the Lord God.

Obadiah 1:15 "For the day of the Lord draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head. 16 "Because just as you drank on My holy mountain, All the nations will drink continually. They will drink and swallow And become as if they had never existed."

Zephaniah 3:8 "Therefore wait for Me," declares the Lord, "For the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal.

Isaiah 26:20 "Come, my people, enter into your rooms And close your doors behind you; Hide for a little while Until indignation runs its course. 21 For behold, the Lord is about to come out from His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; . . ."

Isaiah 34:1 "Draw near, O nations, to hear; and listen, O peoples! Let the earth and all it contains hear, and the world and all that springs from it. 2 For the Lord's indignation is against all the nations, And His wrath against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to slaughter."

Daniel 8:19 "He said, "Behold, I am going to let you know what will occur at the final period of the indignation, for it pertains to the appointed time of the end. . . , 23 . . . A king will arise, insolent and skilled in intrigue. 24 "His power will be mighty, but not by his own power, And he will destroy to an extraordinary degree And prosper and perform his will; He will destroy mighty men and the holy people. 25 "And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; And he will magnify himself in his heart, And he will destroy many while they are at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, But he will be broken without human agency."

Based on the above passages, the 490 years of Daniel 9:24 might just as well have been referred to as the "Reaping." That is, humanity, having chosen rebellion against God rather than submission to God; having chosen sin against God rather than repentance before God, must now bear their sins and "reap" what humanity, not God, has chosen. God's "indignation" is His just and right response to what we have chosen. His indignation forces Him to "give us over" to our choices.

Romans 1:18 "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it

evident to them. . . . 24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, . . . 26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, . . . 28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness,. . . .”

Six Separate Spiritual Events Must Occur. Daniel 9:24 has these six prophetic elements that will occur during the three periods of Reaping:

1. To finish the transgression
2. To make an end of sin
3. To make atonement for iniquity
4. To bring in everlasting righteousness
5. To seal up vision and prophecy
6. To anoint the holy place.

The first three spiritual events deal with sin and what God will do to “finish” it. We might say that these first three are the “negative” aspects of God’s decree. The last three deal with what will happen once the 1st three have been finished. We might describe the last three as the “positive” events of the six because once the first three are finished, the last three can begin.

One might initially conclude that the six events have been fulfilled already by the coming of Jesus Christ. But this view cannot be adequately supported for the following reason: the prophecy itself is not “finished” with the coming of Jesus in the 1st century AD. Notice:

Daniel 9:26 “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.”

Verse 9:26 prophesies that after Messiah “*is cut off and (has) nothing,*” *the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. . .*” If “sin, transgression, and iniquity” were “finished” within the context of this prophecy by Messiah Jesus, then no part of the seventy weeks of judgement would remain following His coming. That is, Jesus, having been crucified and raised on the third day, would have “finished” sin within the meaning of this prophecy. *Such is not the case.* The prophecy states that the six events are not completed until all 70 weeks have been finished, and Messiah comes in the 69th week, not the 70th week. Daniel 9:27 specifically states that for the 70th week prophecy to be fulfilled, the “one” who “makes desolate” must experience *his own “destruction.”* The “desolater” made “desolate” does not occur in the 69th week but in the 70th week of prophecy! The desolater is not Jesus Christ, but rather the Antichrist.

Three Positive Events of Daniel 9:24. Everlasting righteousness. Notice further the three positive events of the six listed in Daniel 9:24. The first is “everlasting righteousness” which will be *brought in* when the 70 week years have been completed.

Everlasting righteousness is impossible so long as satan, the “prince of the air” (Eph 2:2), the “ruler of this world” (John 12:31, 14:30), continues his reign on earth (Luke 4:6). The Bible’s prophecies that at the 2nd coming of Christ, satan will be bound up and imprisoned for 1000 years (Rev 20:1-3). This “binding up” is referred to when Daniel 9:27 prophesies that the “one who makes desolate” will come to his “destruction.” Although Daniel 9:27 is not referring specifically to satan, it is referring to his false prophet; and, satan, his false prophet, and his 1st beast, are all three “thrown alive into the Lake of Fire” at the same time. We have interpreted the false prophet to be Islam’s Al Mahdi, and Islam’s, Allah, to be the 1st beast:

Revelation 19:20 “And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. . . . 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

Thus, when satan and his agents are bound in the Lake of Fire, the Millennial Reign of Christ can begin and everlasting righteousness can be *brought in*. The “bringing in” of everlasting righteousness is implied in another passage. Revelation 19:1f describes the “resurrected” and “raptured” saints that accompany Christ upon His return to earth to set up His Millennial Kingdom on earth. Notice how the saints are “clothed” as they accompany Christ to earth:

Revelation 19:1 “After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; 2 because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and he has avenged the blood of his bond-servants on her.” . . . 7 “Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. . . . 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.”

Being clothed in the “fine linen, bright and clean,” is a metaphor for the spiritual condition of those who accompany Christ in His 2nd coming: they are *made pure* by the

blood of Christ (Revelation 1:6), and accordingly, can bring in everlasting righteousness, not of their own, but of Christ's which has been imputed to them (2 Cor 5:21). Christ, "*the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth,*" who has ". . . released us from our sins by His blood. . ." (Revelation 1:5-6) will return with His kingdom. When He does, He will bring in everlasting righteousness.

Vision and prophecy sealed up. Vision and prophecy cannot be *sealed up* until the prophecies of the New Testament have been fulfilled as well as those of the Old Testament. Consider this prophecy of Daniel 12 yet to be fulfilled:

Daniel 12:9 "*He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time. 10 "Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand. . . . 13 "But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age."*

And this prophecy:

Philippians 2:9 *For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

And these two:

Revelation 20:1 "*Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time."*

Revelation 1:7 "*Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen."*

Neither of these prophecies have been fulfilled – yet. Neither can be fulfilled until the end of the present age, the end of the 70th week. When they are fulfilled, the Millennial Reign of Christ can begin.

Most Holy Place Anointed. Lastly, the third positive event referred to in Daniel 9:24 is that the "most holy place" will be "anointed" (Daniel 9:24). The "most holy place" is the Temple in Jerusalem previously located on the Temple Mount. The Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. Since then, it has been desecrated by the construction of numerous pagan shrines, the latest being the Dome of the Rock, Islam's

shrine to Muhammad. The Temple cannot be “anointed” until it is rebuilt; and, it cannot be rebuilt until the Dome of the Rock, Islam’s shrine to Muhammad and its blasphemy against Jesus Christ, is removed from its present site. Then, the blood of Jesus can purify the site, and the altar of sacrifice can be consecrated (Ezek 43:26) . When this occurs, it will likewise be a fulfillment of all prophecies of Ezekiel 40 - 48 regarding the Millennial Temple. For example:

Ezekiel 43:7 “He said to me, “Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever. And the house of Israel will not again defile My holy name, neither they nor their kings, by their harlotry and by the corpses of their kings when they die, And they have defiled My holy name by their abominations which they have committed. So I have consumed them in My anger. . . . 10 “As for you, son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and let them measure the plan.”

Likewise, the last verse of Ezekiel’s prophecy describes Christ’s literal presence in Jerusalem:

Ezekiel 48:35 “The city shall be 18,000 cubits round about; and the name of the city from that day shall be, ‘The Lord is there.’ ”

The “anointing of the holy place” is a distant future event occurring subsequent to the 2nd coming of Christ and during the Millennial Reign of Christ.

Three Negative Events that Must Be Fulfilled. The three negative events of Daniel 9:24 include: (1) to finish the transgression; (2) to make an end of sin; and (3) to make atonement for iniquity.

To Make Atonement for Iniquity. When Christ died on the cross 2000 years ago, His death was the atoning event for the sins of the world. Through this event, forgiveness for sins could be offered to humanity:

1 John 2:2 “and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”

“Propitiation” translates the Greek word, “*ilasmos*,” which has also been translated “atoning sacrifice.”³ That is, Christ is the “atoning sacrifice,” the “satisfaction” or “required payment,” for the sins of the whole world. His death thereby “atones” for the sins of humanity much like a criminal, having served his sentence, is freed from further condemnation for his crime. Here are two passages that gives the sense of what the death of Christ has done for our sins:

Colossians 2:13 “When you were dead in your transgressions and the

uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Isaiah 53:5 *"But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him."*

The work of Christ on the cross is the "atonement for iniquity" that is prophesied in Daniel 9:24. *It has already occurred.*

To Finish the Transgression. When we look at the second event of Daniel 9:24, it is important that we not miss the definite article, "*the*." The text states: ". . .to finish the transgression. . ." It does not state, "*to finish transgression. . .*" The text is speaking of a specific transgression, not sin, in general. Sin, in general, was atoned for with the death of Christ as we discussed above (1 John 2:2). The specific transgression the text is referring to is a particular event that has reference to a particular people:

John 19:14 *"Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said* to the Jews, "Behold, your King!" 15 So they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."*

Matthew 27:24 *"When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to that yourselves." 25 And all the people said, "His blood shall be on us and on our children!" (John 1:11-12)*

"The transgression" Daniel 9:24 is referring to is the rejection by the covenant people of God, the Jews, of one of their own: Jesus of Nazareth, the Only Begotten, Son of God, descendant in the line of King David (Ps 89:36-37), and Himself, a Jew. This specific sin can only be finished when the Jewish people have repented of their rejection of Jesus as Messiah. Until they do, their own words as quoted above will continue to condemn them, and their experience of the three positive elements of Daniel 9:24 will be beyond their grasp.

The Bible prophesies of the time that the Jews will have completed this transgression when it states:

Revelation 1:7 *"Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen."*

Matthew 24:29 *"But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened , and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. 31 "And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."*

Zechariah 12:10 *"I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn."*

But why is it that those who have "pierced Him," i.e., the Jews, will "mourn for Him"? It is because they will realize upon Jesus' 2nd coming that He was their Messiah when they nailed Him to the "tree" in the 1st century AD. When He returns the second time, He will return with the *wounds in his hands* such that even His "elect," the people of Israel will mourn their mistake. Consider another passage from Zachariah:

Zechariah 13:1 *"In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity. . . . ' 6 "And one will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms (hands)?' Then he will say, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.' . . . 8 "It will come about in all the land," Declares the Lord, "That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it. 9 "And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' And they will say, 'The Lord is my God.' "*

Zachariah 13 prophesies that the "third part" of Israel will be refined as "silver is refined," and "tested as gold is tested." Then the "fountain" of cleansing will be opened for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the Jewish people will be restored to the Lord God. This restoration is also prophesied by the Apostle Paul:

Romans 11:25 *"For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "The deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob." 27 "This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." 28 *From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; 29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."**

The "transgression" has not yet been finished. It will be finished in the 2nd coming of

Jesus Christ and Israel repents of their sin of unbelief. They will then experience forgiveness and their “sins will be taken away” (Romans 11:27); but it will take the completion of the 70th week of Reaping to do so.

To Make an End of Sin. Daniel 9:24 provides that before the three positive events can be brought in, sin must be “made an end.” This third negative event is the most difficult to interpret.

The Bible tells us that sin, death, and the flesh are irrevocably “connected;” and so long as we are “flesh and blood,” there will be sin and death:

Genesis 2:16 *“The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.””*

Romans 6:23, *“The wages of sin is death but the free gift is eternal life through Jesus Christ as our Lord.”*

Until death comes to an end (and thereby the flesh), sin cannot be “made an end.” The late Bible expositor J. Vernon McGee, describes the relation between sin and death as follows:

“This is the way God says sin is. “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:15). . . . Like leprosy, sin destroys the whole man. Both are corrosive in their effect, working slowly and surely, until finally they break out in an angry display that eventuates in death. No man ever went wrong overnight. Leprosy did not kill in a day -- it is not like a heart attack. The leper's life was a walking death. Just so, the sinner is also dead even while he lives. . . . The final, desperate, and inescapable end of sin and leprosy is death.”⁴

The Bible tells us that sin and the flesh irrevocably bring death; and, it tells us how death (and sin) is conquered. Put an end to flesh and blood, and death will have ended; and, sin will have been conquered! Consider:

1 Corinthians 15:50 *“Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; . . . 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. . . . , then will come about the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

The text of 1 Cor 15:52 describes the transformation of flesh and blood “at the last trumpet,” when the dead, in Christ, will be raised; and, we who remain, in Christ, “will be changed.” Thus, the *living, in Christ, at that time will bypass death*, and will receive an “imperishable body,” a “glorified body,” no longer subject to the wear and tear of flesh and blood; and the *dead, in Christ, at that time, shall be raised* to receive the same type of body, it also being an “imperishable body.” Death having lost its power, *sin will be made an end for those who are in Christ.*

Likewise, we read of other passages describing a resurrection of the dead, in Christ, and a transformation of the living, in Christ, and the receipt of glorified bodies and everlasting life in those bodies for believers in Jesus:

1 Thessalonians 4:16 *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.”*

Daniel 12:1 “. . .; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. 2 “Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. . . 13 “But as for you (Daniel), go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.”

Conclusion. Christians who are living at the return of Christ, whether the rapture or the 2nd coming of Christ, will be transformed from flesh and blood bodies to glorified, immortal bodies. Christians who have predeceased the return of Christ, will be raised from their graves at that time to receive the same immortality. They will reign with Christ during the Millennial period in their immortal forms.

What about the unbelievers during the Millennial Reign of Christ? It appears that during the Millennial Reign of Christ, *death will still take place for unbelievers.* We make this conclusion because the Bible contemplates a period of time that passes before the “kingdoms of the earth” are “handed over” to Christ, and before Christ comes to fully reign:

1 Corinthians 15:22 *“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, 24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.”*

Revelation 20:5 *“The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years*

were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. 7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. . . 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

This means that those unbelievers who survive the 70th week of Daniel 9:24 will actually enter the Millennial Reign of Christ and will do so as flesh and blood, whose bodies are subject to death and decay. They enter the Millennial period by virtue of having survived the Tribulation. This group will grow to be as numerous as the "sand of the seashore" (Rev 20:8). This group will experience the "second death," God's judgment for eternity separated from His presence in the Lake of Fire (Rev 20: 14-15). How this occurs and how this group grows to be as numerous as the "sand of the seashore" (Revelation 20:8) during the Millennial Reign of Christ is a question that a sufficient answer has not been revealed.

Death, then, is "made an end" in two stages. For believers, it is "made an end" at the return of Christ just before the Millennial period. Believers will receive immortality at that time. For all others, it is not "made an end" until the "second death" which does not take place until the close of the Millennial period.

Conclusion. The six spiritual events of Daniel 9:24 extend from Daniel's time (6th century BC) until and into the future Millennial Reign of Christ. The three positive events are prophesied to be "brought in" only as the three negative events are "finished." As we enter the 1000 year Millennial Reign of Christ, resurrected and transformed believers will reign with Christ, eternally. The Jews (only the 3rd part) will have repented of their unbelief in Jesus as Son of God and Messiah, having "seen his wounds" upon His return. These will reign with Him during the Millennial Reign, and, they also with transformed bodies.

What about the "Rescue" of Daniel 12:1? The closing phrase of Daniel 12:1 describes a "rescue" that will take place some time before or during the 7 year period comprising the 70th week.

Daniel 12:1 "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued."

This rescue is referred to by many Christians as the "rapture"⁵ and is thought to also be

described in the following passages:

1 Thessalonians 4:15 *"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words."*

John 14:1 *"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.""*

Daniel 12:1 goes so far as to identify those who will be rescued:

" . . . everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued."

The Bible gives us ample evidence to identify those named in the "book": *they are those who hold to the testimony of Jesus*, i.e., Christians, whose salvation is through Jesus Christ and whose names have been recorded in the "book of life of the Lamb" since the foundation of the earth:

Rev 13:8 *"All who dwell on the earth will worship him [the 1st beast], everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain."*

Revelation 21:27 *"and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it ["new Jerusalem"], but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."*

Thus, only those who "hold to the testimony of Jesus" will be rescued from all or some part of the tribulation of the 70th week – for only their names are written "in the Lamb's book of life" since the foundation of the world, and only they will refuse to bow down to the 1st beast, interpreted herein as Allah.

When will Christians be "rescued?" When will the rescue described in Daniel 12:1 and related passages occur? Will the rescue occur at the *beginning* of the 7 year period of tribulation, some time during the 7 years, e.g., the middle, or will it occur at the *end* of the 7 years, when Christ returns? Bible scholars have referred to these three views as "pretribulation," "midtribulation," and "postribulation," respectively. There are entire books written on these three views alone.⁶ It is not the purpose of this writing to review the merits of these three views nor the many scholarly variations on each. To

the extent necessary to complete the main issues at present, these issues will be discussed.

Christians will be “worn down” and “overcome.” Consider the following two passages, both of which contemplate some period of the 7 years of tribulation that Christians will experience:

Daniel 7:25 “He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.”

Revelation 13:2 “. . . And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. . . ; 4 they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast,. . . 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, . . . 15 And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.”

These passages contemplate a yet to be fulfilled event. In Daniel 7:25, the “other horn” is “wearing down” the saints of the highest one. We have interpreted the “other horn” to be a reference to the Antichrist, Islam’s Al Mahdi. This is the same spiritual being referenced in Revelation 13:11, but there as the the 2nd beast. The 2nd beast (as Antichrist) has the role of directing the world to worship the 1st beast, Allah (13:2). Notice what happens to those who do not worship the 1st beast (Rev 13:15): they are killed. This group that is killed is identified in Rev 13:8: “. . . *everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.*” The group being killed are Christians. The time of fulfillment is the end of time, the 70th week.

Compare Daniel 8:19, 9:26 and 8:24 with Revelation 13:7. They are all prophesying of the same time period – the 70th week, the 7 years of tribulation immediately preceding the return of Christ. All of these passages contemplate believers in Jesus being martyred or overcome by the 1st or 2nd beasts, satan’s agents, Allah and Al Mahdi, respectively.

Some will be martyred. We find in Revelation 20 a scene of John’s heavenly visit. There he sees the “souls of those who had been beheaded” because of their “testimony of Jesus” (20:4). The text describes further the reason for their martyrdom: “. . . *who had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received the mark . . . on their hand*” (the same prophecy as Rev 13:8). This event is an end time event occurring during the 70th week (the 7 years of tribulation preceding the return of Christ). The closing sentence of the verse implies this because the blessings given to the beheaded

souls are reserved for the Millennial Reign which follows the 70th week: *“they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”* Since the failure to worship the 1st beast (we have interpreted to be Allah) is a 70th week event, and since there are believers who have been martyred by the 1st beast during this 7 year period, the rescue *cannot take place until some time during the 70th week, the 7 year period of tribulation.*

Two more passages support the view that some portion of the 70th week will be experienced by Christians:

Revelation 7:13 *“Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?” 14 I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”*

Revelation 6:9 - 11 helps us interpret the identity of those who “come out of the great tribulation” of Revelation 7:14:

Revelation 6:9 *“And when he broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and because of the testimony which they had maintained. 10 and they cried out with a loud voice . . . “How long . . . wilt thou refrain from avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” 11 And there was given to them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while until the number of their fellow servants . . . who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.”*

The martyred souls of Revelation 7:14 are the “completion” of the required martyrs in Revelation 6:11. They are beheaded *“because of the word of God and because of the testimony which they had maintained.”* They are beheaded by satan and his agents, just as those had been in Revelation 6:11. Revelation 20:4 states similarly: *“And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus.”* Further, both passages appear to describe the same martyrs because both groups have been given the same “white robes.”

Conclusion. We conclude that the “rescue” envisioned in Daniel 12:1 will not occur prior to the beginning of the 70th week, the 7 year period of Reaping. A pretribulation rescue cannot be supported by the above texts. The rescue must take place either midway through the 7 years or the end of the 7 years. Therefore, Christians will experience some part of the 7 year period.

What about Christians not being subject to the “Wrath of God.” Perhaps you are wondering how this can be? Aren’t Christians suppose to be “raptured” before the 7 years of tribulation? Aren’t we “protected” from the “wrath of God”? Consider:

Romans 5:9 *Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.*

1 Thessalonians 1:9 *For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.*

1 Thessalonians 5:9 *“For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,”*

Look closely at the above passages. Only the first one, Romans 5:9, states the source of the wrath we are saved from, i.e., *the wrath of God*. The other two passages only state that we are saved from the “wrath” to come. Which wrath? The wrath of God or the wrath of satan? They must be speaking of the wrath of God – only. Consider this passage quoted many times in earlier chapters relative to the “wrath of satan”:

Revelation 12:17 *“So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”*

Clearly, Rev 12:17 contemplates satanic wrath being poured out upon the “offspring of the woman,” i.e., Christians. How then can the two passages in 1 Thessalonians be stating that Christians are not subject to the “wrath of satan” when Revelation 12:17 states they are subject to the wrath of satan? The passages would be in opposition to one another! Perhaps you are saying but the two passages could be referring to two different time periods? *Makes no difference*. If believers of the 1st century are subject to the wrath of satan then believers of the 70th week must also be subject to satan’s wrath. Otherwise, the scripture is contradicting itself, and that can only happen if we are misinterpreting scripture in one place or the other!

Suppose the 7 years of tribulation of the 70th week are broken into two periods: one for the wrath of satan and the other fore the wrath of God? That is, suppose Christians are saved from the wrath of God but not from the wrath of satan! Remember this passage we looked at in the opening paragraphs of this chapter? *Notice who is holding the sickle:*

Revelation 14:14 *“Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, . . .” 16 Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped. 17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. 18 Then another angel, the one who has*

power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe." 19 So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. 20 And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles."

Now, notice whom is being "reaped" by the Reaper:

Revelation 14:9 "Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb."

The Reaper is Christ and His angels. The wrath is the wrath of God (14:10,19). The Reaper swings the sickle at the *last 3 ½ years* of the 70th week. It is the view of this writer that Christians will not be on earth when the Reaper "*gathers the clusters from the vine of the earth.*" Why? The first 3 ½ years of the 7 years are the years of the wrath of satan, and the last 3 ½ years are the years of the wrath of God. *Christians are raptured in between the two periods. We experience satan's hand, but not God's hand. There will be quite a difference between the two.*

Biblical scholar Gleason Archer is my source for much of this view. In describing the 7 year period of tribulation, he distinguishes the wrath of God from the wrath of man/wrath of satan. He states,

*"Thus we see that chapters 8 - 19 [Revelation] relate to the terrible strokes of judgment by which the wrath of God is poured out upon man. These stand in clear contrast to the preceding chapters (6-7) [Revelation] which relate the period of the wrath of man against the loyal, Christ-confessing church. . . The sixth seal ushers in the final phase of the wrath of God upon the Antichrist and his realm."*⁷

Here are the texts that form the basis to divide the 7 years between years of the wrath of satan and years of the wrath of God:

Wrath of satan - he is "enraged" against believers and therefore makes war with them:

- Revelation 12:17 *So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.*
- Revelation 13:2 ". . . And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. . . . ; 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, . . . 7 It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, . . .

- Revelation 13:15 *And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.*
- Daniel 7:25 *“He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.”*
- Revelation 20:4 *“Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”*

Wrath of God - of which, believers are saved from:

- Romans 5:9 *“. . . , we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.*
- John 3:36 (NIV) *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.”*
- Revelation 7:2 *“And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.”*
- Revelation 9:4 *“They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.” (Ezekiel 9:4-6)*

Wrath of God - unbelievers are not saved from:

- Ephesians 5:6 *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (Col 3:6)*
- Revelation 14:9 *“. . . , “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”*
- Revelation 15:1 *Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished. . . . 16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.” 2 So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.*
- Revelation 6:15 *“Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the*

commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; 16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

- Revelation 16:1 *"Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God." 2 So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image."*

Conclusion. The 70th week will be divided into two periods of wrath. The first half will be the time of the wrath of satan which actually began immediately following the time of Christ (Revelation 12:2-4, 17). It has continued through the 2000 years, plus, since that time and will reach its apex during the first 3 ½ years of the 70th week. The last half of the 70th week will be the time of the wrath of God. Christians will not experience the wrath of God, as they will be raptured before God's wrath is poured out. The wrath of God will be poured out upon the unbelieving world who will, at that time, be aligned with Allah and Islam, the 1st beast. The world, having gone after the false god, Allah (Revelation 13:3,7-8), will experience the same fate as that of Allah, his false prophet, Al Mahdi, and satan, – eternal judgment in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 14:9-11).

The wrath of satan and the wrath of God – when does one end and the other

begin? We have concluded that Christians are subject to the wrath of satan, but not the wrath of God. We have posed a breaking of the 7 years between two periods of 3 ½ years, each. On what basis do we make the break midway through the 7 years? Consider this text describing the dividing of the 70th week:

Daniel 9:27 "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."

The "middle of the week"? The "week" described is the 70th week, the 7 years just before the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ. The middle of 7 is 3 ½. Thus, 3 ½ years into the tribulation, the "desolater," satan, will break his "firm covenant"; and, before the 7 year period ends, the desolater, satan, will himself experience desolation. The Bible is telling us the point in time when one wrath begins and the other ends. It will be the midpoint of the seven years. *This will be the time of the rapture.*

Here is what is envisioned by this passage. As we have already discussed, the 1st beast, Allah, and his followers will bring the world under the dominion of Islam (Rev 13:8). This event will occur to *begin* the 70th week based on Daniel 9:27. At that time, a seven year "peace" agreement ("firm covenant") will be entered into between the

“Antichrist” and “the many.” Based on Revelation 13:7-8, the “many” are the nations of the world who deem themselves unable to successfully wage war (Revelation 13:4) against Islam and, therefore, will submit to its dominion. The “firm covenant” will allow non-Muslims to worship as they please in spite of having submitted to Islam; for it is not until the middle of the week, i.e., 3 ½ years into the Great Tribulation, that the Antichrist will “put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering.” This phrase parallels precisely what happened to Israel in the 1st century BC when Antiochus Epiphanes prohibited the practice of Judaism, including the keeping of the Sabbath, circumcision, reading of the Torah, and the offering of burnt offerings in the Temple. Antiochus killed those Jews who refused to “Hellenize.” Antiochus further desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem by destroying the Altar of Burnt Offering, and replacing it with an altar to Zeus. He sacrificed a pig on the altar rendering the Temple unclean and desecrated. This “abomination of desolation” is the high mark of Antiochus’ anti-God actions. In so doing, Antiochus attempted to end the practice of Judaism and the worship of Jehovah God – to no avail.

This sacrilege of Antiochus becomes a “type” to look for in the years following, including the 70th week. Just as Judaism was sought to be ended by Antiochus, so the Antichrist will seek to end Christianity. Christians will be martyred through the midpoint of the 7 years. When the martyrs of Revelation 6:9 are “completed,” as foretold by Revelation 7:13, *the rapture will occur*. Right then.

The world will submit to Islam. How is it possible that all the world will submit to Islam? America, Great Britain, other countries of the West and the entire world, including China and Russia, all nations except Christendom within them, will worship Allah. Only one explanation makes any sense. In the coming years, the world will experience economic hardship the likes of which we have not known. The very survival of whole races and nationalities will be at stake. Satan will seize the moment. Al Mahdi will “rise” and lay claim to the caliphate of all Islam. Islam, united, will be a sufficient force to overcome a world in economic meltdown. To survive, the world will capitulate to Islam. Islam will promise the world a return to peace, provision, and harmony. Petroleum will be just one of its “swords” in conquest. Consider this passage once again in the context of world economic chaos:

Revelation 13:16 “And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, 17 and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.”

The required “mark” will designate one’s submission to Islam. Without it, one will be unable to buy or sell – food, clothes, the basic necessities of life, even wages for services rendered, all will be denied, without the “mark” of Islam. Only believers in Jesus will refuse to submit to Islam in the time of “satan’s wrath” (Rev 13:8), and for many, death will be the result. Praise the Lord! Believers will be given the opportunity to “suffer for the sake of Christ” (Philippians 1:29). Once the “number of martyrs is

complete,” the believer remaining will be raptured at the high mark of satan’s wrath. Satan’s desolation will follow.

Does Islam Fit the “Type” of Mid-point Sacrilege? In previous centuries, when Islam succeeded in conquering a foe, the option of nonconversion was offered, but only after sufficient lives had been taken to insure domination. The Qur’an provided that the victors were allowed to pillage, rape, kill, and take anything or anyone they desired for three days following their victory.⁸ The children of the conquered were often sold into slavery and the women desired were taken as wives. Those who lived beyond this three day massacre who were not sold into slavery, were allowed to live as “dhimmis.” Dhimmis were the conquered who agreed to the payment of an annual tax, along with the continued and ongoing humiliation and subjugation to his or her Islamic masters. The religion of the conquered could still be practiced, however, churches or religious houses could not be maintained. Children of the conquered were required to convert to Islam. A contract was signed by the conquered to this end. The contract could be revoked at any time by Islam but never by the conquered. We discussed “dhimmitude” in an earlier chapter. Applying the Islamic concept of “dhimmitude” to the 70th week:

Daniel 9:27 "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."

Daniel 9:27 is foretelling of the breaking of covenant by Islam. It is also foretelling of the desolation of the desolater.

Endnotes to Chapter

1. For a review of different interpretations of the first period, the seven 7's, see Steven Miller, Stephen R. Miller, *Daniel, New American Commentary*, p. 253. Edward J. Young, *The Prophecy of Daniel*, p. 262f; John E. Goldingay, *Daniel*, Word Biblical Commentary, p. 257f.
2. The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, under heading "seventy weeks," Electronic Edition.
3. Stephen S. Smalley, *Word Biblical Commentary*, Volume 51: 1, 2, 3 John, (Dallas, Texas: Word Books, Publisher) 1998, Electronic Edition, under reference 1 John 2:2.
4. *Thru The Bible with J. Vernon McGee*, the Electronic Edition, under reference Leviticus 13:3..
5. "Rapture" comes from the Latin word, "*raptus*," the Vulgate; which translates the Greek word "*harpazo*," meaning "to pluck" or "to catch." Hence, "caught up" (verse 4:17) becomes the English translation, sometimes rendered, "rapture." Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.
6. "*Three Views on the Rapture*," by Gleason L. Archer Jr., Stanley N. Gundry, Paul D. Feinberg, and Douglas J. Moo, 1996; "*Jesus is Coming*," William E Blackstone; "*The Rapture Question*," John Walvord.
7. "*Three Views on the Rapture*," by Gleason L. Archer Jr., Stanley N. Gundry, Paul D. Feinberg, and Douglas J. Moo, 1996, p. 104-106.
8. Need quote from Qur'an re 3 days booty.