

Daniel's Seventieth Week

Daniel 9:21-25

** Defined: Each "week" in this prophetic statement is a seven year period. Thus this 70 week period is 490 years. We will find 483 have been fulfilled and 7 are yet to come.

- I. Prophecy fulfilled
 - a. Decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:1-8) –
March 14, 445 BC
 - b. The 69th week (483 years) concludes Palm Sunday-
April 6, AD 32
 - c. This is 173,880 days – 360 days in Prophetic calendar
– 483 years exactly
- II. Note that Israel was given a 7 year system of time agriculturally
- III. Why a gap between 69th and 70th week?
 - a. Consistent with scripture – note Daniel 2 and Statue
 - b. This is the Church Age
- IV. Importance of this 7 year period
 - a. Time on earth for Israel
 - b. Time in Heaven for the Church

The Rapture of the Church

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- Word “rapture”: to take up
- I. Belief’s on the timing of the rapture
 - a. **Pre-Tribulation** – follows chronological order of the Bible – we believe there is ample Biblical evidence for this position. Traditional position of the church.
 - b. **Partial Rapture** – only those believers that are watching and ready will be taken. Believers that are carnal will not be raptured and will face the Tribulation.
 - c. **Mid-tribulation** – God will remove the church half way through the Tribulation just before God’s wrath is poured out upon the earth.
 - d. **Post-tribulation** – God will set aside His church at the end of the Tribulation.

- II. Biblical evidence that the Rapture is the next prophetic event
 - a. Follows the literal/chronological order of the Bible (Rev. 4:1)
 - b. “Saved from the wrath to come”
 - i. I Thes. 1:10, I Thes. 5:9, Rev. 3:10
 - ii. Biblical example of Noah – in ark before rain falls
 - iii. No mention of the “church” from Rev. 4 to Rev. 19
 - c. Anti-christ will emerge at the beginning of the Tribulation period
 - i. Holy Spirit’s presence in the Believers has been removed due to Rapture thus paving the way for this false leader to emerge – (II Thes. 2:7-8)
 - ii. Rapture will be global event – opening the door for unity worldwide
 - d. Strong biblical distinction between Israel and the Church in regards to God’s plan

- e. Rapture will be a surprise “twinkling of an eye”
 - f. Church will be at the Judgement Seat of Christ and the Marriage of the Lamb during this time period.
 - g. Very little mention of the Tribulation period in the Epistles. If the Church was to go through this period, God would have given additional information to help us.
- III. Who will be Raptured?
- a. Christians (The Church) living today
 - b. Believer’s who are deceased.

The Seven Churches of Revelation

Revelation 2 & 3

1. Ephesus (2:2-6) – The Orthodox Church
 - a. Commendations
 - i. Worked and labored for Christ
 - ii. Patiently endured
 - iii. Did not tolerate sin
 - iv. Tested the ministers sound doctrine
 - v. Bore up under persecution
 - b. Condemnation: They “lost their first love”
2. Smyrna (2:8-11) The Persecuted Church
 - a. Commendations
 - i. Endured tribulation
 - ii. Bore up under poverty
 - iii. Had spiritual wealth
 - iv. Dealt with blasphemy
 - b. Promised
 - i. Will endure more persecution
 - ii. Crown of Life
 - iii. Deliverance from second death

3. Pergamons (2:12-17) - The corrupted Church

a. Commendations

- i. Loyal to Christ's name
- ii. Pure in doctrine
- iii. Stood during persecution

b. Complaint – mixed in the things of this world

4. Thyatira (2:18-29) – Compromising Church

a. Commendations

- i. Works of love and peace
- ii. Works of faith and patience
- iii. Growth of ministers

b. Complaint

- i. False teachers
- ii. Compromised on their stand

5. Sardis (3:1-6) – A dying church with a valued past

a. Note the seven spirits of God

- i. Comforter
- ii. Truth
- iii. Presence of Christ
- iv. Manifestation of Christ
- v. Trinity
- vi. Teacher
- vii. Peace

- b. Complaint – complacency
- 6. Philadelphia (3:7-13) – Faithful and Alive
 - a. Commendations
 - i. Used evangelism
 - ii. Faithful to the Word
 - iii. Confessed Christ
 - b. Promise of Overcoming
- 7. Laodicea (3:14-22) – Affluent but lukewarm
 - ** Warning of lukewarm Christianity