

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW (of Matthew 24)

QUESTION 1:

(24:36) No one (apart from the Father) knows when the *parousia* will be (cf. Mark 13:32)

(24:37–39) When the *parousia* starts (in the Rapture), all unbelievers will be caught off-guard and will be unprepared for the following calamity, just as they were in Noah's day

(24:40–41) When the *parousia* starts (in the Rapture), neither the man taken nor the man left nor the woman taken nor the woman left will know beforehand that it would happen

(24:43–51) Jesus warns His disciples that they will not know when He will come to rapture them, so they need to be rewardable at all times (because the Rapture will be at an unexpected time)

QUESTIONS 2–3

(24:4–14) Then (after the Rapture & gap) the beginning of labor pains starts (first ½ of Trib)

(24:15–31) Then the world will enter the Great Tribulation (the second half of the Trib) and Christ will return (Second Advent)

(24:15–28) The world will enter the Great Tribulation

(24:29) As the time of Tribulation draws to a close, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give light, stars will fall, and the heavens will be shaken

(24:30–31) The Son of Man will appear in the heavens (in the clouds, per 1 Thess 4:17) as a sign to all people & earth will mourn and will see Him come on the clouds of heaven He will gather together His elect from the ends of the heavens (e.g., the clouds, as 1 Thess 4:17 says)

Review of Daniel 9

(9:1–2) In 539 BC Daniel recognizes from Jeremiah 25:11–12 that the captivity in Babylon was nearing the 70 years prophesied by Jeremiah

(9:3–19) In light of Jeremiah 25 Daniel confessed Israel's national sin in the desire that God would end the captivity and return the people to Jerusalem

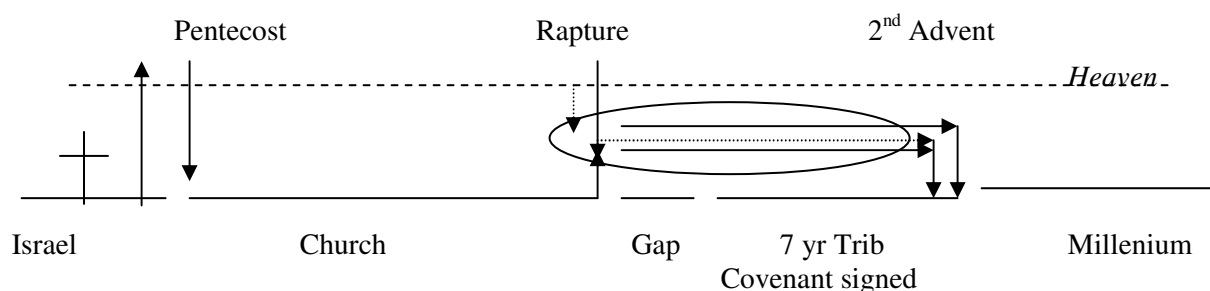
(9:20–23) The angel Gabriel came to inform Daniel (that the end of the 70 year captivity would be followed by another 490 years in which God would prepare Judah for the Kingdom)

(9:24) 490 Years of dealing w/ Judah & Jerusalem will be necessary to prepare for the Kingdom

(9:25) Starting with the March 5, 444 BC decree to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince (makes triumphal entry: March 30, AD 33) will be 69 (7 + 62) heptads

(9:26) After March 30, AD 33, Messiah would be killed (He was crucified on April 3, AD 33); then the (Roman) people of the coming prince (the beast) would come as a flood and destroy Jerusalem and the Temple (which happened in AD 70)

(9:27) The 70th heptad (still future) will start w/ a covenant that will be broken at the 3½ year point, at which time Jews will not be allowed to sacrifice & the abomination of one who desolates (will despoil the Temple) as the first of many desolations; then the beast will be destroyed



Review of 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10: The thematic statement for 1 Thessalonians

Review of 1 Thessalonians 5:9–11

The church is not appointed for wrath but for deliverance through Jesus Christ

Review of Revelation 5:9–10

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us^A to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made them^B kings and priests to our God; And they^C shall reign on the earth.”

This is an antiphonal arrangement

1. The twenty-four (human) Church-Age elders sing (5:9b)

<i>You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed</i>	
<i><u>us</u></i>	<i>to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,</i>

2. The four (angelic) living-creatures sing (5:10)

<i>And You have made</i>	<i><u>them</u></i>	<i>kings and priests to our God;</i>
<i>And</i>	<i><u>they</u></i>	<i>shall reign on the earth.</i>

3. Tens of thousands of angels, the four living creatures, and the elders sing (12b)

<i>Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!</i>
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4. Every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them [including angels, the living creatures, and the elders] (5:13b)

<i>Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!</i>
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5. The four (angelic) living-creatures (Verse 14b):

<i>Amen!</i>

6. The twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped (5:14c)

Observations:

Those who sing v 9 are human, because they sing *You have redeemed us by Your blood.*

The 24 elders are human. They have been redeemed and they will be kings.

The ones who sing verse 10 sing about humans, because they sing *You have made them kings and priests to our God and they will reign upon the earth.*

The four living creatures are angelic

The judgment seat of Christ happened prior to Revelation 5:9–10

The Rapture happened prior to the judgment seat of Christ

The seven seals are opened after Revelation 5:9–10

Widespread agreement exists that the seals occur very early in the seven years

NEW EXPOSITION

Many claim that the book of Revelation focuses on the last 3½ years of Daniel's 70th heptad to such an extent that it scarcely mentions the first 3½ years. What do they offer as evidence? They say that Revelation speaks of 3½ years, not 7 years.

Rev 11² But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months (3½ years)
³ And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days (3½ years), clothed in sackcloth.

First 3½ years

Rev 12⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days (3½ years).

Last 3½ years

Rev 12¹⁴ But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time (3½ years), from the presence of the serpent.

Last 3½ years

Rev 13⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months (3½ years).

Last 3½ years

It is true that more space in Revelation is devoted the last 3½ years than to the first. However, Revelation does say some things about the first 3½ years. We will focus on one: the ministry of the two witnesses in Rev 11.

OVERVIEW OF REVELATION

(Rev 1:9) John was exiled to the island of Patmos

(Rev 1:10) He wrote the letter to seven churches in Asia Minor

These were churches that John oversaw. Churches 1–7 are arranged in the sequence that a messenger (going from Patmos) would travel to each of the cities.

The book of Revelation gives no clues that these seven churches serve in any allegorical capacity to speak of seven ages within the Church Age Dispensation.

The outline of Revelation (Rev 1:19) Write the things (1) which you have seen, and (2) the things which are, and (3) the things which will take place after this.

(1) John has seen the things of Rev 1:1–18

(2) The seven churches which are (that is, which were) when John wrote

(3) The things which will take place afterwards

Big question in Revelation 11: Will the 2 witnesses be in the 1st or 2nd ½ of 70th heptad?

Consider their 3½ year ministry as the basis for giving an answer

(Rev 11:3–4) God will empower 2 witnesses for a 3½ year ministry

(11:5) The two witnesses will have power to slay anyone who tries to kill them

(11:6) The two witnesses will pronounce a 3½ year drought, will turn water to blood, and will unleash plagues whenever they desire

(11:7) When the 2 witnesses finish their (3½ year) testimony, the beast will make war against them, defeat them, and kill them

(11:8–9) Their dead bodies will lay in the street of Jerusalem, as Gentiles from around the world see their bodies for 3½ days and refuse to allow burial

(11:10) The earth dwellers will celebrate the death of these who tormented those who dwell on the earth (for 3½ years)

(11:11–12) After 3½ days, the two witnesses come back to life, putting those who saw them into great dread and then they ascended to heaven in a cloud as their enemies watched

(11:13) That same hour there was a great earthquake that killed 7000 in Jerusalem and put the rest into terror, who then glorified God

This ending is not the Second Advent. It is, rather, the midpoint of the 7 years

This ending is not Daniel 9:24

The ministry of the two witnesses is in the first half of Daniel's 70th heptad

They poured out God's wrath on planet earth for the entirety of the first 3½ years of Daniel's 70th heptad

CONCLUSION

The two witnesses have a ministry of divine wrath in the first half of Daniel's 70th heptad. Therefore, we must say that the book of Revelation does discuss both the first half and the second half of Daniel's 70th heptad. Furthermore, divine wrath characterizes even the first half. (Therefore, the rapture must precede the first half of Daniel's 70th heptad.

This reinforces Rev 5:9–10, where the twenty-four human elders are declared kings who will (during the Millennium) reign on earth. This proclamation precedes Rev 6:1ff, where Jesus opens each of the seals the seven-sealed scroll the seal judgments (proclaiming divine judgments). In turn, the rapture and the judgment seat of Christ necessarily preceded Rev 5:9–10

This is in harmony with Matthew 24 and 1 Thess 1:9 and 5:1–11.

In other words, each passage that discusses the rapture places it before Daniel's 70th heptad.

Next week, I plan to start 2 Thessalonians.