

THE GREAT TRIBULATION AND THE CLIMACTIC COMING OF CHRIST

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If we are going to know the prophecy concerning the consummation of this present age, we need to know the truth concerning the four “sevens” in the Bible. The prophecy of these four “sevens” is related to the Messiah (Christ), the nation of Israel, the New Testament believers, and the church.

The Seventy Weeks in Daniel 9

The seventy weeks are related to the great tribulation and are apportioned into seven weeks, sixty-two weeks, and one week. In Daniel a week is seven years, so seventy weeks is four hundred ninety years. Seven weeks are forty-nine years, sixty-two weeks are four hundred thirty-four years, and the last week is seven years. The last week of the seventy weeks will be the last seven years of this present age, the age of the church. After these coming seven years God’s kingdom will be on this earth, and that will be the thousand years for Christ to reign in the millennium.

The last week of the seventy weeks in Daniel 9 will be cut in half. The last half of this week is three and a half years, referred to by Daniel as “a time and times and half a time” (7:25; 12:7). If we are going to understand the seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls, we have to understand the last half of the last week of the seventy weeks of Daniel 9. This will be the last three and a half years of this present age. The overcomers will be raptured before these last three and a half years. The believers on earth at that time who are not matured will be left on earth to pass through the last three and a half years, which will be the time of the great tribulation. We must understand the prophecy concerning this period of time because our destiny lies there.

John and Daniel Being One

The apostle John and the prophet Daniel were one in the prophecy concerning the consummation of the present age.

“A time and times and half a time” in Revelation 12:14 is a quotation from Daniel 7:25 and 12:7. “A time” is one year, “times” is two years, and “half a time” is half a year. John’s quoting of Daniel in this way shows us that he was one with Daniel and that his prophecy was given based upon Daniel. Another evidence of John being one with Daniel is that the beast in Revelation 13:1 corresponds with the fourth beast in Daniel 7:7. In Revelation 13 there are two beasts. The first beast, referred to in verse 1, is the Antichrist, and the second beast is the false prophet. In Daniel 7 there are four beasts. These four beasts correspond to the empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. This fourth beast, which signifies the Roman Empire, is mentioned in Revelation 13 as the beast with seven heads and ten horns, signifying the coming ten kings of the revived and restored Roman Empire.