

Revelation Chapter 6 (and Daniel 9 v 20 v 27)

The Seventieth Week of Daniel and the Seven Seals...

In Revelation 1 v 19 John is told to write (a) “the things that you have seen” (Chapter 1); (b) “those that are” (Chapters 2 and 3, concerning the Church); and (c) “those that are to take place after this” (Chapters 4 to 22). Revelation Chapters 6 to 19 document the final seven-year period before Christ’s return, the so-called ‘Seventieth week of Daniel’, with the last half (3½ years) labelled the ‘Great Tribulation’ (Matthew 24 v 21).

The “seventy weeks” of years (Daniel 9 v 20 to 27)

Daniel never finished his prayer (verses 20, 21) – he was interrupted by Gabriel’s answer! The seventy ‘weeks’ of years (Hebrew: שָׁבֻעַיִם *shabu'im*), 490 years, are divided into three periods: (a) 7 weeks (49 years); immediately followed by (b) 62 weeks (434 years); followed some time later by (c) the final 70th week.

- Verse 24 sets out an overview of the prophecy. To whom is the prophecy addressed?
- Based on this verse, do you think the prophecy has already been fulfilled, or does its fulfilment still lie in the future?

Verse 25 refers to the decree of Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2), and to the coming of the ‘anointed one’ (Hebrew: מָשִׁיחַ מְלִיכָה *Meshiach negid*), Jesus Christ. Verse 26 predicts that the Christ will be ‘cut off’ (Hebrew: יָקַרַת *karat*) or executed, but ‘not for his own crimes’. The “prince who is to come” (verse 26) refers to the Antichrist, and the “people of the prince who is to come” probably refers to the Romans who under Titus Vespasian destroyed both the city and the temple of Jerusalem in 70 AD. “The decreed end” refers to future events, and the “abominations” is a term used by Jesus to describe the end times in Matthew 24 v 15 to 27. The “one week” (verse 27) refers to the seventieth ‘week’ of Daniel, and the last half of that week (3½ years) is the Great Tribulation... See diagrams (from Missler, Koinonia House, 2005) over, and the ‘*Mathematical Miracle*’ on page 4 of the text file.

The four horsemen (Revelation 6 v 1 to 8)

Throughout the Bible, horses (and chariots) symbolise God’s judgment – see for example Zechariah 6 v 1 to 7. “Behold, a white horse” (verse 2) – some believe the rider on the white horse is Jesus (as described in Revelation 19 v 11), but this is a satanic dictator who *imitates* Jesus (i.e. the Antichrist). He rules with a bow, not a sword (like Nimrod, the first dictator, Genesis 10 v 8, 9), and the results of his rule (verses 3 to 8) show this is *not* the reign of Christ. The word ‘bow’, τόξον (*toxon*), is the same word (in the Septuagint) used for the rainbow in Genesis 9 v 13, which symbolises God’s covenant with Noah – remember, the Antichrist ‘makes a strong covenant’, or ‘confirms the covenant’, with Israel (Daniel 9 v 27).

- Who ‘gives’ the white horseman his crown (verse 2), the red horseman his sword (verse 4), the black horseman the pair of scales (verse 5), and the pale horseman and his companion (Hades) authority to kill a quarter of the world’s population (v 8)?
- Who takes the scroll and opens the seals (verse 1)? See Revelation 5 v 5 to 7.

Notice the extent of the destruction caused by the four horsemen, particularly the ‘pale’ (Greek χλωρός, *chloros* = ‘ghastly green’) horseman and his companion. This is the ‘Great Tribulation’ Jesus warned about in Matthew 24 v 21, 22...

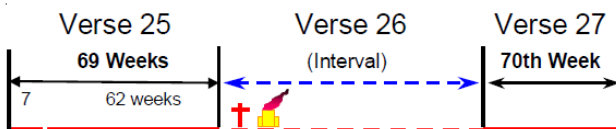
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The fifth and sixth seals (Revelation 6 v 9 to 17)

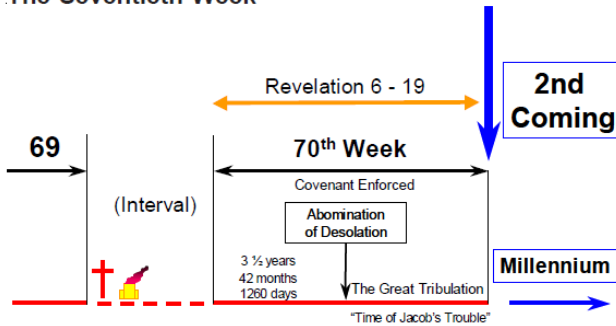
- For what were the martyrs willing to lay down their lives (verse 9)? The fact that these souls are “under the altar” signifies that their life blood was poured out as an offering to God (Leviticus 4 v 7). It is not personal revenge they seek, but vindication of God’s holiness and the establishment of God’s justice.
- This chapter talks about the “wrath of the Lamb” (verse 16). So, these are God’s judgments upon the earth. But what do you think is the purpose of these judgments? See Hosea 5 v 15, Matthew 23 v 37 to 39.

The sixth seal is the climax, and the images occur in several Old Testament passages, e.g. the earthquake and darkness in Joel 2 v 10, 31; people hiding in caves (Isaiah 2 v 19) – see also Matthew 24 v 29 to 31. This seal concludes with a crucial question (verse 17): “Who can stand?” Notwithstanding that the Church (= 24 elders) is with the Lamb in Heaven, and not subject to the Great Tribulation, we should remind ourselves that only the true believer can stand before God’s judgment – since the believer is justified by grace through faith in Jesus (see Romans 5 v 1, 2), because Jesus has already borne the judgment the believer deserved...

The Interval



The Seventieth Week



Order of Events

