

**THE GREAT TRIBULATION
AS UNDERSTOOD BY
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A survey of the tribulation period resulting from the studies of the writer. This is not a full nor complete study of that period of time which is called THE TRIBULATION PERIOD. The results from this study may not be in agreement with other studies which have been set forth on the subject under consideration, but in the search of the truth one must at least consider the conclusions of others on any given subject. The basic concept for this study is the result of writings and preaching of Dr. Peter Hoogendam, who in the experience of the writer was the Pastor the Philpot Tabernacle in the city of Hamilton , Ontario.

Acts 17:11-12

11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

12 Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

INTRODUCTION

The consideration of any subject dealing with future events will be one that captures the attention of any Believer of the Word of God. The matter of future events in the Scriptures cannot be denied as to their existence. The concern is that some may conclude that the events of the future have no meaning to Christians living in this day and therefore ignore them altogether. Others have concluded that there is so much controversy related to the subject, how is one to separate the truth from error. One who considers such conclusions must ask themselves an important question. "If one is not to be interested in future events, then why did God include them in His Word?" One of the greatest examples of this is the Book of Revelation. It is vital that one should take notice of the fact that this book opens with an address to the seven Churches and concludes with a word from the Lord Jesus Himself with a statement about the churches.

Rev 1:3-4

3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Rev 22:16

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

The record of future events is for the benefit of the churches and the Church must take these records seriously. There is a great deal said in the Word of God with respect to that period of time called The Tribulation. This period of time is known by several names in Scripture. It is called The Great Tribulation, it is called Daniel's Seventieth Week, it is called The Day of the Lord, it is known as The Tribulation, The Great, it is also identified as the Time of Jacob's Trouble. A very important detail of this period is related to "TIME". The Word of God provides this time element in several ways. It is called

Daniel's Seventieth Week which is made up of 2520 days or seven Biblical years of 360 days. This time is to be divided in the middle into 42 Biblical Months or 1260 days. Some may argue that the word "day" is not necessarily to be understood as a period of one rotation around sun or 24 hours. This writer accepts the 24 hour concept of a day used in this context. This paper does not claim to cover the whole subject, but only those matters which deal with the subject of time as it relates to the Great Tribulation. This subject is mentioned in several places in the Word of God, the two basic areas are the Book of Daniel, in the Old Testament and the Book of Revelation in the New Testament. Both of these sections of the Bible related to matters of time and purpose. The purpose of this period of time is related in Daniel 9:24, which purpose must be seriously considered in order to arrive at a proper conclusion as to the timing of this tribulation period.

Dan 9:24

24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

1. THE PLACE OF ISRAEL IN THE TRIBULATION

Many of the signs given in the Bible are to be seen in this time. The important factor of the whole subject is the state of Israel and especially the City of Jerusalem. The people and the city are those chosen by God and this must be understood at the very outset of this study. God made the following commitment:

Gen 12:1-3

12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

The explanation that follows has been described by one as a theory. This may have some truth in it. The author has been informed that not everyone agrees with the position taken in this paper and that is fine.

Theory as defined by an old dictionary:

Speculation; a doctrine or scheme of things, which terminates in speculation or contemplation, without a view to practice. It is here taken in an unfavorable sense, as implying something visionary.

Theory is distinguished from hypothesis thus: a theory is founded on inferences drawn from principles which have been established on independent evidence; a hypothesis is a proposition assumed to account for certain phenomena, and has no other evidence of its truth, than that it affords a satisfactory explanation of those phenomena.

The words “Day of the Lord” are found 25 times in the Bible. All but 5 are in the Old Testament. It will be a terrible time for this world. Consider some of the references:

Joel 2:31

31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

Amos 5:18

18 Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light.

Zeph 1:14-15

14 The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

Mal 4:5

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

2 Peter 3:10-12

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Please note some of the terms used by the Holy Spirit to describe this day: "Great and terrible; darkness and not light; terrible and distress; great and dreadful," and there are others as well. This "day of the Lord" is equated with "the tribulation, the great" mentioned in the Book of Revelation. The Lord Jesus spoke of this tribulation period, which is the day of the Lord.

There is a concept related to the Tribulation Period given by the Lord Jesus, which is found twice in the Gospels:

Matt 24:21-22

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Mark 13:19-20

19 For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom He hath chosen, He hath shortened the days.

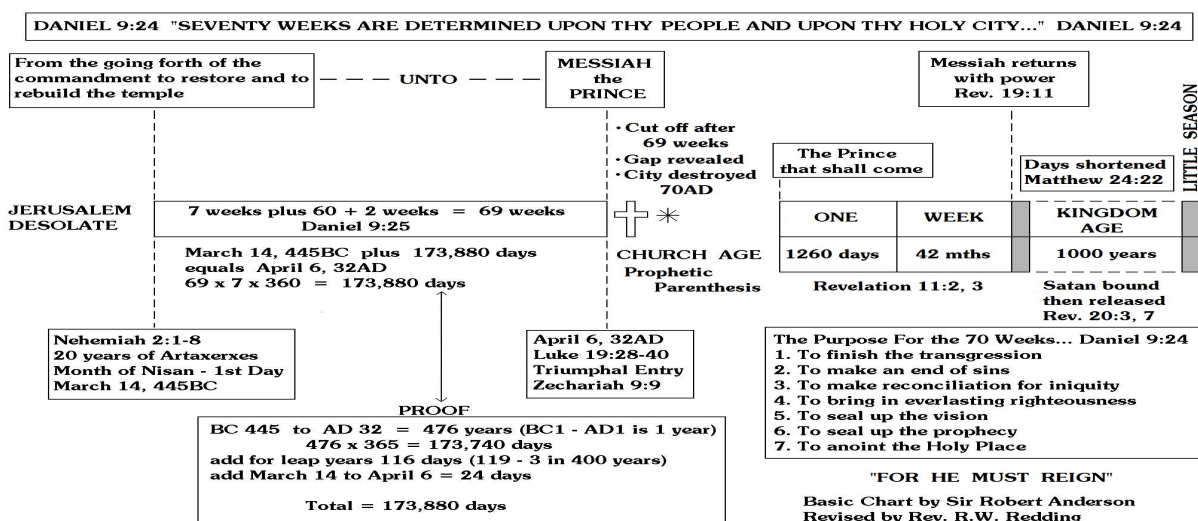
The Lord Jesus describes these day as “affliction, such as was not from the beginning of creation...”, and except those days be shortened the whole of the human race would be destroyed. Some have concluded that the 2520 days of the 70th week of Daniel had already been shortened, and that the 2520 days are the shortened version of the time period involved. Does this mean then, that all 70 weeks have been shortened?

1. Is there any indication in Scripture about the number of days in the Tribulation period?

The Book of Daniel 9:24-27 has a reference as to the length of the Tribulation. In verse 24 the word “determined” is an indication that the days in question must come to pass. The word “determined” means:

Ended; concluded; decided; limited; fixed; settled; resolved; directed. Having a firm or fixed purpose, as a determined man; or manifesting a firm resolution, as a determined countenance.

Daniel then goes on to describe the time element that is “decided” and “the firm or the fixed purpose of this period of time”. The “decided” time is described as “70 weeks” and the key to understanding the time is provided by the angel Gabriel. The conclusion of which is that each of the weeks is a period of seven Biblical years. Sir Robert Anderson has put together a chart explaining the number of days involved and how they work into the seventy weeks.



The timing of the fulfillment and completion of the purpose is of utmost importance and it is suggested that this timing is revealed by Gabriel to Daniel in Daniel 9:25-27. It is suggested that this timing falls into three distinct periods.

The first period involved the Messiah:

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.
26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself:

The second period describes the city and the PEOPLE OF THE PRINCE THAT SHALL COME.

“and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary;”

It is “the **PEOPLE** of the Prince that shall come” not the Prince himself, but the people of the Prince. This took place in 70AD. This PRINCE is not “Messiah the Prince” of verse 25, but is the AntiChrist. Therefore the second period indicates that the 70th week does not immediately follow the 69th week. There is a notable gap between them, which indicates that the 70th week is still future.

Third period speaks of “THE END”.

and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

This last period, is dominated by the word “HE” which refers to “the PRINCE that shall come”, who is ANTICHRIST and who makes a covenant and then in the middle of the covenant breaks the agreement. The period of this agreement is for “ONE WEEK” which has to be the 70th week of Daniel’s 70 weeks. It becomes the tribulation period described in the Book of Revelation. It is obvious that there is a gap or period of time between the 69 and the 70th week. The 70th is still future and becomes what is known as the Tribulation period. The Book of Revelation provides the number of days and months in the tribulation:

Rev 11:2-3

2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

Rev 12:6

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

The two periods of days are mentioned, 42 months or 1260 days described the days in the last half of Daniel’s prophecy, for Daniel declares that “in the midst of the week” something dramatic will occur, namely the covenant made by Antichrist shall be abolished. It is suggested that this is related to the casting out of heaven of the Devil:

Rev 12:7-9

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Rev 12:12,13

Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

The woman is without a doubt the nation of Israel. The persecution is the tribulation, this great and Terrible persecution results in the threat of annihilation for Israel. Zechariah 14 explains that the Lord will bring all nations against Israel and Jerusalem in which two thirds of Israel will be killed, this, it is suggested, triggers the Lord's return to earth. Not only is Israel threatened, but the Lord spoke of "no flesh" as well.

Rev 6:8

8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

Rev 9:15

15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

Rev 9:18-19

18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

It is submitted and suggested that in Rev. 6:8 one quarter of the human race is killed. and in Rev. 9:18 one third of those remaining after the first slaughter. Now just for argument sake, consider the earth's population at the time of the Tribulation is 8 billion. Removing one fourth of Rev. 6:8 would leave 6 billion, and then remove one third of the remaining 6 billion would reduce the number to 4 billion or one half the earth's population would be killed. It is also suggested that a part of this number is two thirds of the Jews in all the land of Israel as indicated in Zech. 13:8,9

Zech 13:8,9

8 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

As the days of the Tribulation nears **the coming of the Lord**, the Lord will cause all nations to come against Jerusalem as defined in Zech. 14:1-3

Zechariah 14

14:1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

This situation results in the “shortening of the days” of the tribulation which is the concern of this paper. The concern centers around the words “except those days should be shortened” and “except that the Lord had shortened those days”. It is evident that the Lord is speaking of the days of the tribulation period, and both Matthew and Mark indicated that if those days are not shortened no flesh would be saved or survive. There are several questions that come to mind:

1. Have the days indicated been shortened or is that determination yet to be made?

The answer to this question is debatable. One writer recently wrote “After the vial judgments probably 2/3 of the earth’s population will be killed. Jesus said “except those day should be shortened (limited to 7 years), no flesh should be saved” Matt. 24:22. There is no problem with the tribulation lasting for the seven Biblical years, but to relate these numbers to the time of the Lord’s return is very

questionable. If one were to follow this logic then it would be possible for anyone in the Tribulation period to figure out the exact day of the Lord's return to earth to set up His 1,000 year reign on the earth. There is a statement made by the Lord Jesus just before His ascension which is exceedingly important to the subject under consideration.

Acts 1:7-8

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

It will be noted that the word "power" is used twice. These are two different words in the Greek. The first is "authority" and the second is "ability". Is it worth considering the phrase, "the Father has put in His own power.." or authority? Does this suggest that "times and seasons" are known only to the Father and the day of Christ's return to earth is to be determined by the Father at a time in which He will determine? It could very well be that the Father will make the determination in the future. Matt 24:36

2.To whom does the word "elect" refer in the passages cited?

There is little doubt that Israel is the elect. When the Lord returns it will be centered around the chosen people. The plan of many today is to annihilate Israel and it will be in danger of annihilation during the tribulation period, in fact, it is this danger which triggers the Lord's return:

Isa 44:1-2

44:1 Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen:

2 Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.

Isa 45:3-5

3 And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy

name, am the God of Israel.

4 For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

5 I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

Rom 11:28-29

28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Matt 24:21-22

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

The context would certainly identify Israel as the elect and that Israel will be the center of interest at that time.

3. Just what is the purpose of the tribulation period?

Just what is the purpose of this 70th week of Daniel? One writer gives a fourfold purpose. These four, ending with the tribulation are summarized as:

1. To punish sinners and remove them from the earth.
2. To bring about a world-wide revival.
3. To redeem Israel.
4. To judge and destroy the harlot church.

The Book of Daniel provides the answer to this question.

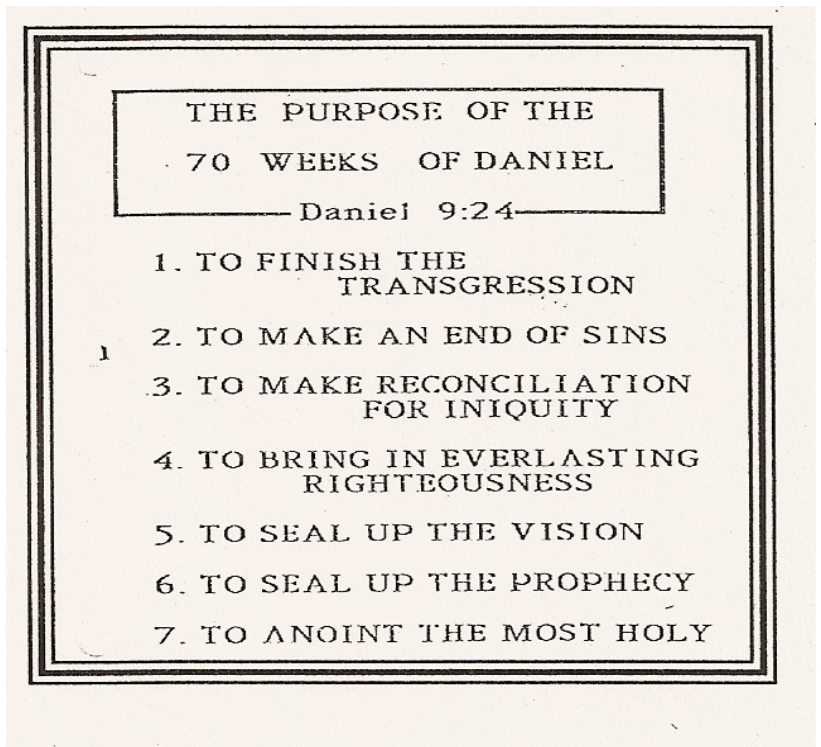
Dan 9:24

24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

It is submitted and suggested that there is a six or sevenfold purpose of this period. This sevenfold purpose is listed on the chart provided. The major question to be considered with reference to this purpose is, "when will this purpose be fully realized?" Is this purpose to be fulfilled at the Second Coming, when Christ sets up His Kingdom?

If so, why is the rod of iron needed and from where do the men of the Battle of Gog and Magog come to go against the holy city? Is there sin and death during the reign of Christ? If so then the purpose

of the tribulation has not been fully realized! Isaiah 65 is about the reign of Christ and speaks of sin, death and accursed.



Isa 65:18-20

18 But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

The ultimate purpose then of the tribulation period is clearly stipulated by Daniel in chapter 9:24 in which a sevenfold purpose is revealed:

Dan 9:24

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make

reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

The first of this sevenfold purpose is

“TO FINISH THE TRANSGRESSION”

The word **FINISH** means - “To bring to an end; to end; to put an end to.” The plain purpose described with this word is obvious - to put an end to. And the word **TRANSGRESSION** means, “The act of passing over or beyond any law or rule of moral duty; the violation of a law or known principle of rectitude; breach of command”. The first purpose of the 70 weeks of Daniel then is to bring to an end the matter of going beyond those borders laid down by God. The question then is “when”? It is suggested that the “when” is recorded in Rev. 20:7-9:

Rev 20:7-9

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

The second of this sevenfold purpose is

“TO MAKE AN END OF SINS”

The word “**END**” means “The close or conclusion; as the end of a chapter.” There is a day coming in which sins will come to an end. It is suggested that this can never take place until the instigator of sin is removed from the scene. Consider the following statement:

Rev 20:10

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

The third of this sevenfold purpose is

“TO MAKE RECONCILIATION FOR INIQUITY”

This third part of the purpose of the 70 weeks of Daniel is very significant!

The word “reconciliation” is found 8 times in the Bible, and this is the only place in the Bible where this phrase is to be found. Most students, if not all relate reconciliation with the following definition:

Reconciliation:

1. The act of reconciling parties at variance; renewal of friendship after disagreement or enmity.
Reconciliation and friendship with God, really form the basis of all rational and true enjoyment.
2. In Scripture, the means by which sinners are reconciled and brought into a state of favor with God, after natural estrangement or enmity; the atonement; expiation.

But is this the only consideration to be given to this important word?

To reconcile - (Webster) - to adjust, settle, to bring into submission or acceptance, syn - “accommodate, harmonize, coordinate”. This word is also related to the keeping of books so that there must be perfect agreement between what is used and what is left or balanced. There is a revealing statement made in Rev. 20:11-15 with such words as “the books were opened, according to their works”. In other words the sentence and the records must be reconciled. The judgement at the time of death is to determine whether one is redeemed or is unsaved. Has sin been removed or is sin still on the books? The great White Throne is the sentencing of sin in the life of an individual who has never had His sins removed by receiving the Biblical Christ as Saviour and Lord. This and the other parts of the purpose must be involved and be completed by the end of the

70 weeks of Daniel. The question is just when will this all take place? Please consider the following statement of Scripture:

Rev 20:11-15

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The “dead” to which reference is made is to be connected to Eph 2:1-5

2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

The big question for anyone and every one is “are you saved?”

The fourth of this sevenfold purpose is

“TO BRING IN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS”

The word “**EVERLASTING**” means “[ever and lasting.] Lasting or enduring for ever; eternal; existing or continuing without end; immortal.”

The 1000 year reign of Christ has a limit placed upon it of 1000 years and then something dramatic takes place (see Rev. 20). It is true that the reign of Christ is eternal or everlasting, but it must be clear that there is an interruption related to the 1000 years. The “little season,” when it has been taken care of, there will be no further limits to the reign of Christ!

2 Peter 1:11

For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Rev 21:1-4

21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

The fifth and sixth is considered as one by many and that is fine so long as one considers the difference between the twofold statement. The writer considers both of the statements as two with the word “seal” as related to both matters.

The fifth of this sevenfold purpose is

“THE SEAL UP THE VISION”

The word “seal” means “That which effectually shuts, confines or secures; that which makes fast.” Rev 20-22 sees the fulfillment of the visions that God has

given over the time of Scripture. In Scripture the word “vision” is used as follows: “a revelation from God; an appearance or exhibition of something supernaturally presented to the minds of the prophets, by which they were informed of future events. Such were the visions of Isaiah, of Amos, of Ezekiel, and others as well.

The sixth of this seven fold purpose is

“TO SEAL UP THE PROPHECY”

The word “seal” is used in the matter of “prophecy” as well. The word “prophecy” as used in Scripture may be defined as follows “A foretelling; prediction; a declaration of something to come”. As God only knows future events with certainty, no being but God or some person informed by him, can utter a real prophecy.” The prophecies recorded in Scripture, when fulfilled, afford most convincing evidence of the divine origin of the Scriptures, as those who uttered the prophecies could not have foreknown the events predicted without supernatural instruction. And when will all the visions and prophecies be fulfilled? It is suggested that Revelation’s last three chapters give the clear answer.

The seventh of this sevenfold purpose is

“TO ANOINT THE MOST HOLY”

The word “**Anoint**” presents the following concept “To consecrate by unction, or the use of oil. That which excites piety and devotion. (The reception of spiritual privilege 1 John 2:20,27) “Thou shalt anoint the altar, and sanctify it”. Ex. 29. What is the “most holy” to which reference is made and carries the conditions so described? Consider the following:

Rev 21:1-4

21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no

more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Certainly this experience will be one of excitement and joy.

These seven points are the clear reasons for the 70 weeks of Daniel and when the weeks are finished then the matters covered will be finished. The big question again is “when?” When will this conclusion come into affect? It is suggested that the conclusion of the “little season” must be seriously considered.

If the conclusions presented in this paper are not correct, then one must come up with an explanation of the need of the “rod of iron” to be employed during the 1000 year reign of Christ and where do the personnel for the final attack of Rev. 20 come? The rod of iron is explained in the four places where it is found and clearly indicates the need of such a rod.

Ps 2:9

9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Rev 2:27

27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Rev 12:5

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Rev 19:15

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

In the Book of Zechariah 14 there is a clear declaration about refusing to obey the instruction of Christ -

Zech 14:16-18

16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

It is obvious that not all will be content with the reign of Christ, in spite of all the characteristics of the millennium.

Rev 20:7-9

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

4. By how many days will or was to be involved in this action?

There is no revealed knowledge about the number of days by which the Tribulation will be shortened. What is revealed in God's Word is after the 1000 year reign of Christ, there is a LITTLE SEASON.

Rev 20:3

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Rev 20:7-9

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Just how long is the “little season”? It is suggested and submitted that the little season is that period of time by which the tribulation is shortened at the coming of the Lord Jesus to earth! There is no revelation as to how many days are involved in this little season. If one knew the number of days involved it could very well be that one could figure out the very day of Christ’s return to earth. However it is a well-known fact that no one knows the day nor the hour.

Matt 24:36

36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Matt 24:44

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

This is probably the reason that the number of days involved are not revealed. It is obvious that the little season follows the reign of Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:3

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Please note the word MUST. Why MUST Satan be loosed for this little season? It is suggested and submitted that the “determined” time of Daniel nine must be completed. It will be then that the seven-fold purpose of the seventy weeks of Daniel will be fully realized at the conclusion of the little season. It is suggested then that the little season is composed of days by which the tribulation is cut

short.

There is another consideration to be considered in light of what has been said, and that is related to the seals, trumpets and bowls of the book of Revelation. There are seven of each of these items. It is suggested that these three items run consecutively, and not one coming out of the others. These do not all start at the same time, but they all end up at the same place. The first seal deals with a period of false peace, until the agreement of the Antichrist will be broken. The second seal, plus the trumpets and bowls all begin after that covenant is cancelled by the casting of Satan out of heaven and the tribulation the great begins, which is to be shortened by a little season. There is an interesting comparison provided by the experience of the Lord Jesus. There are four Gospels, each beginning the life of Christ at a different point of time, but all end up at the same place. Thus it is with the seals, trumpets and bowls of Revelation. The little season would be the seventh seal, trumpet and bowl. It is important to see the relation of the seventh seal, trumpet and bowl. The seventh seal is recorded in Rev.8:1; the seventh trumpet is recorded in Rev. 11:15-19 and the seventh bowl is found in Rev. 16:17-21.

Rev 8:1

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

Rev 10:7

7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

Rev 11:15

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Rev 16:17

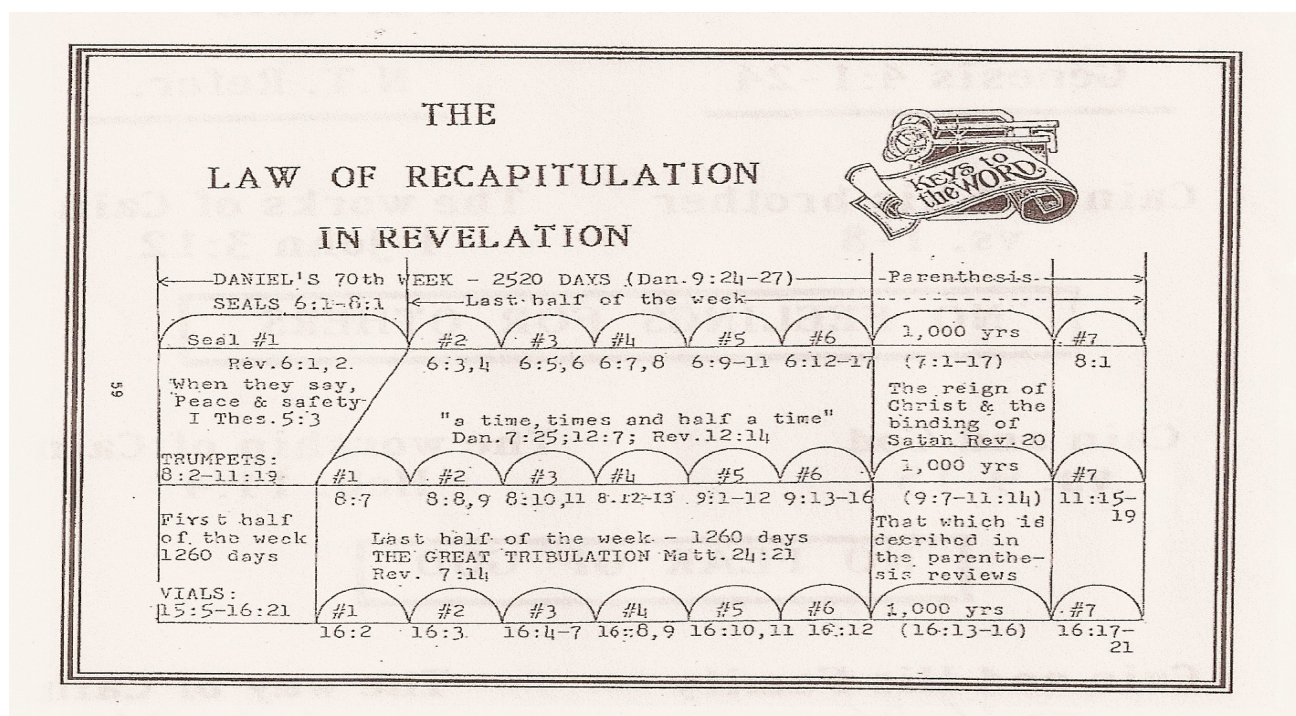
17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

Rev 21:5-6

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

The question that comes out of these verses is "what is it that is "done" and what is "the mystery of God" that is finished? There is another "it is done" in Revelation 21:5,6. The need is to determine just what it is that is done and finished. It is suggested that it is the 70 weeks of Daniel and what it projects that is completed. Consider the chart which shows the progression of the tribulation period and how it fits in with the 70th week of Dan. 9:24. The tribulation is described with the use of seven seals, trumpets and bowls with a marked gap between the 6th and seventh of each which run concurrently. It is very important for the student to become familiar with the activities related to the sixth seal, trumpet and vial. Please note what is revealed with respect to the sixth vial, and then look at the characteristics of the seventh vial in the following statement.



Rev 16:12-17

12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

Rev 9:13-18

13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

Rev 11:15-19

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshiped God,

17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Rev 16:17-20

17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

Following the seventh seal, trumpet and bowl the great white throne will become a reality, Satan will forever be removed, the new Heaven, Earth and Jerusalem will be made by God, the eternal state will become a reality. The seventy weeks of Daniel, the Day of the Lord will be finished, the “determined” days and the full purpose of Daniel’s words shall be done, the mystery of God will be finished.

5. What is involved in the words “shall be saved”?

If Satan should kill all the good people and the Lord all the bad people, who will be left for Christ to reign over in the millennium? A reminder:

Matt 24:21-22

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Zech 14:16

16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Once again God's promise to Abraham comes into action, for in this great day of calamity, it will be because of Israel that all flesh will not be destroyed. The word "saved" means "to save, rescue, to preserve safe and unharmed" which relates to "...that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem...". These will go into the Millennium to be tested as to whether they will obey the commands of Christ Jesus. It is important to note the place of Israel in all of this and to note that it is because of "the elect", Israel that all flesh will not be destroyed. These are ones that shall be blessed.

Gen 12:2-3

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

The conclusion is that there will be those who will not be destroyed in the Tribulation period, probably close to one half of the earth's population at the time being described. The Lord has a plan and it will be fulfilled in total as God's timing for the seventy weeks of Daniel is brought to fulfillment.

That which begins this process is the Rapture of the Church of Jesus Christ! This rapture shall take place so suddenly that one will not have time to prepare for it. The key then is BE READY!

1 Cor 15:50-54

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

**51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.
54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.**

1 Thess 4:13-18

**13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.
14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.
15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.
16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**

There are two matters that are to be taken care of at the rapture of the Church. The two matters that take place are, first, a resurrection and secondly, a change is to take place of those who are alive and remain at the time of the rapture. It is absolutely imperative that one take notice of the statement **“even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him”**. And **“and the dead in Christ shall rise first”**. This relates to those Believers who have died in that period of time between the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and that event described above. It also needs to be pointed out that this company has been with the Lord where He is (John 14:1-3). The purpose of this event is to

receive a glorified body like that of the resurrected Christ (1 John 5:1-3; Phil . 3:20,21). The other matter is related to those Believers who have not died physically:

1 Cor.15:51-52

Behold I show you a mystery, we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. w this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.”

Some of these matters may be new to some. The encouragement to such is:

Acts 17:11-12

11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

12 Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

There is one more item that needs to be addressed related to the subject under consideration. “.....should be time no longer.”

Rev 10:6-7

6 And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

A very important statement in the verses quoted above is related to the subject of TIME. At the end of verse 6 it is stated “that there should be time no longer”. The word “time” means “time, whether in respect of duration or a definite point of the lapse; to while, spend time, to linger, delay, be long”. One of the ways to translate the word time uses the word “DELAY”. “That there should be delay no

longer". It is obvious that the phrase does not mean the end of time, for in verse 7 reference is made of "the days of the voice of the seventh angel". There must be some other significance to the phrase. One of the important factors in the comment is that this comment comes between the 6th and 7th trumpets. Just what is to take place in the days of the sixth trumpet? Another matter has to do with the One who made that statement. He is described in verse 6 with very powerful words. It should remind the Believer of Acts 1:7, the "authority of the Father" who determines the "times and seasons". Here He is saying that the second Coming of Christ can be delayed no longer, for if it is not, the world of man would be completely destroyed. Thus the shortening of the days of tribulation.

Rev 9:13-15

13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

KJV

One would be wise to check out the activities of the 6th seal and vial and compare them with the activities related to the 6th trumpet. The 6th seal is as devastating as the 6th trumpet. This 6th seal is a clear description of the return of Christ to the earth and this between the 6th and 7th seal! This would indicate that the return of Christ to setup 1000 year Kingdom takes place between the 6th and 7th seal, trumpet and bowl.

Rev 6:12-17

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

**15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;
16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:
17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?**

When it comes to the 6th vial a similar conditions will take place.

Rev 16:12-15

12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

The conditions that are a part of the 6th seal, trumpet and vial are related to the statement made by Christ in Matt. 24

Matt 24:21-22

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

The conditions relate to the 1-6th seal, trumpet and vial reflect the days of the great tribulation and if these days are not shortened “no flesh be saved”. Who is to shorten these days?

Acts 1:7

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

KJV

The “time” of Rev 10:6,7, it is submitted is affected by the One described in verse 6

Rev 10:6

And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

Here is the act of God, exercising “His own power”. It is suggested that in the days of the 6th angel that time cannot be delayed for the return of His Son to earth. If this logic is correct then the Lord Jesus returns to the earth in the days of the 6th seal, trumpet and vial which still leaves the 7th yet to be fulfilled, which is to be cared for after the 1,000 year reign of Christ. Consideration of the 7th seal, trumpet and vial must be carefully considered. The **seventh seal** is simply defined in Rev. 8:1

Rev 8:1

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

It is suggested that this silence is to permit the unrestricted release of Satan as he seeks to deceive the nation according to Rev. 20:3

Rev. 20:3

And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Rev 10:7

7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

Rev 11:15-18

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshiped God,

17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Rev 16:17-18

17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

Is this tribulation period to affect only Israel or is there a global impact to be expected? Statements in the Book of Revelation indicate that the whole world is involved in this period, it is not restricted to only Israel.

Rev 16:14

For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Rev 13:8

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Rev 13:3

And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Rev 12:9

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Rev 20:7-9

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Dan 9:27

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

“Consummation”

1. Completion; end; perfection of a word, process or scheme.
2. The end or completion of the present system of things; the end of the world.

“Desolate”

1. Destitute or deprived of inhabitants; desert; uninhabited; denoting either stripped of inhabitants, or never having been inhabited; as a desolate isle; a desolate wilderness.
2. Laid waste; in a ruinous condition; neglected; destroyed; as desolate altars; desolate towers. Ezek. Zeph.
3. Deserted of God; deprived of comfort.

Daniel at the conclusion of His book asks a question, which is most interesting.

Dan 12:7 - 13

7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?

9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

11 And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

12 Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.

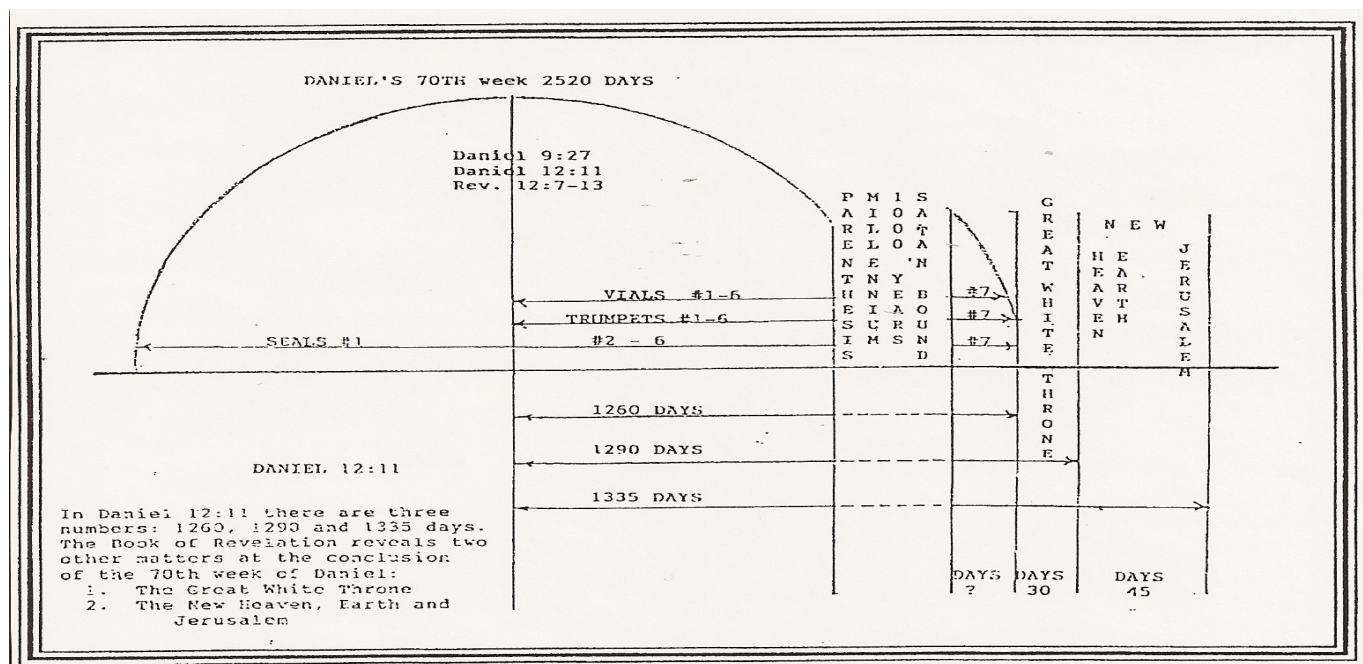
13 But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

The question is found in verse 8 which is “ **O MY LORD WHAT SHALL BE THE END OF THESE THINGS**”. Daniel writes about three time elements in these verses recorded above. In verse 7 he writes about “a time, times and a half”. This refers to the later half of the tribulation which is to be shortened or no one

would survive. In verse 10 he writes about the wicked who have no understanding of what they are doing. In verse 11 he mentions the second number which is 1,290 days. This is an additional 30 days. He speaks about the time of two things that are mentioned. The first is "the daily sacrifice shall be taken away". This is understood to be the covenant made by antichrist with Israel and is cancelled in "the midst of the week" or the last 1260 days to the end of the tribulation period. He then adds another 30 days, so the question is why the thirty days. What is it that follows the completion of the tribulation period? It is the GREAT WHITE THRONE which is the judgement of the unredeemed. Could it be that this judgement will last but 30 days?

But then Daniel adds another 45 days with the comment "blessed is he that waiteth and cometh to the 1,335 day. What is to follow the Great White Throne judgement? According the last two chapters of Revelation it is the "make all things new". This would be the NEW heaven, earth and Jerusalem. The old must be destroyed because of the stain of sin, and when these new things are brought into existence which will take 45 days , the blessing of God shall be the experience of those who become a part of the whole plan of God, which is the "end" asked by Daniel in Daniel 12:8. What a blessed future awaits the saved by God.

When all of these facts are seriously considered, just what conclusion is to be realized?



There is another matter related to the Tribulation Period that is of utmost importance, and that is the church's relation to this period. There are basically three views concerning this matter. These views are related to the second coming of the Lord Jesus. There is the view that the church will go through the entire tribulation. This is known as POST-TRIBULATIONISM. It is of the opinion that the second coming of Christ will be at the end of the tribulation and that there is no such thing as a rapture before the beginning of this awful period of time. There is another view which views the church going through the first half of the tribulation, at which time the rapture of the Church will occur. This is known as MID-TRIBULATIONISM. The other view is known as PRE-TRIBULATIONISM. This view holds that there will be a removing of the Church which is His Body before the beginning of the tribulation. This removing is known as the RAPTURE of the Church. All three views could be called PRE-MILLENNIALISM, due to the placing of each before the Millennium, the 1000 years reign of Christ on earth. The position of this paper will be that of PRE-MILLENNIAL,- PRE-TRIBULATIONISM. This position states that the removal of the Church from the earth will take place before both the tribulation and the millennium. The question arises, "on what is this view based?" The answer to the question could be "THE BIBLE"! But each of the views would also make the same claim. The Biblical position of the Pre-Trib, Pre-Mill. position will be the consideration of this paper. One of the main factors to be considered is, "is there a difference between the Church and Israel?". "Is the Church spiritual Israel?" There is a position related to this matter which states that it is. It has concluded that all the promises made to Israel are now the possession of the Church, spiritual Israel. All of the curses made to Israel are still those of natural Israel, but do not affect the Church. When consideration is given to Daniel's 70 weeks it is so very clear that Israel and Jerusalem are the main subjects of concern.

Dan 9:24

24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

The greater part of the Book of Revelation deals with Israel.

Rev 7:4

And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. (all of)

Rev 21:12

And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

Rev 2:14-15

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

The word, "Israel" is found only three times in the Book of Revelation which appear in the verses above. This does not mean that these are the only times that deal with Israel as a nation, but they are significant. Israel is not the Church and the Church is not Israel. They are distinct entities in the Word of God. The Apostle Paul makes a clear statement about this matter:

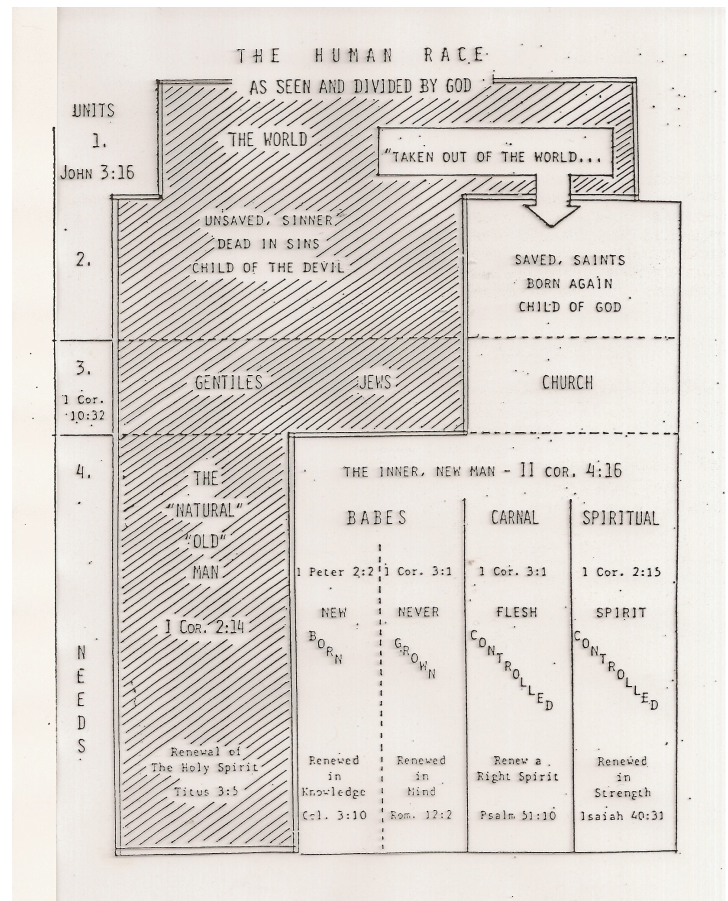
1 Cor 10:31-32

31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

It is interesting to note how God views the human race. This view could be considered as four units.

The first unit is one. God considers THE WORLD, the whole of which was unsaved. Then when some were saved there are two units. It is very important to note that the saved are taken out of the world. The third unit is made of three entities. There are the Gentiles, the Jews and the Church of God. The church is distinct from the Jews or Israel and the Gentiles. The Church of God is made up of saved Gentiles and saved Jews. The fourth unit deals with the natural man, the unsaved Gentiles and Jews, and the spiritual man, those who are saved. There are three conditions related to the saved. There are those who are considered “Babes”, which may be described as new born or never grown. The second is the carnal man and then the spiritual man. It is important to note the third unit because it reveals



that Israel and the Church are to be considered as separated entities. The apostle Paul makes the distinction between the Church and Israel in Rom. 9-11. These three chapters have been designated as Israel's past (9). Israel's present (10) and Israel's future (11). In the 11th chapter there are some clear statements made concerning Israel, which could not be said of the Church.

Rom 11:1-3

11:1 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

Rom 11:25-27

25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Remember the third unit on the chart above:

1 Cor 10:31-32

31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

The tribulation is related to the Jews and the Gentiles, and not to the Church. The Tribulation period involves the Gentiles and the Jews due to the fact they are unsaved, are not in possession of the Gift of God nor of Eternal life. It is the Church of Jesus Christ that is to be removed and gathered together at an experience known as the Rapture of the Church.

1 Thess 4:17

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

The words “caught up” is in the passive voice which indicates that the Church is to be acted upon. The word in the Greek language is “arpalesometha” which simply means “to seize, take away by force, steal away, to convey away suddenly, to transport hastily”. This quick removal is verified in another passage dealing with this action.

1 Cor 15:51-52

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

In 2 Thess. 2:1 there is another term describing this event.

2 Thess 2:1

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

Please note the words “gathering together” which means “the act of bringing together or assembled together”. This assembling will include “the dead in Christ” and those who will still be alive when this event occurs. 1 Thess. 4:13-18. This event is referred to as “the coming of the Lord Jesus” and is often referred to with reference to the Church.

1 Thess 1:10

And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

1 Thess 2:19

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

1 Thess 3:13

To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

1 Thess 4:15

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

1 Thess 5:23

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is very important to note that this “coming” is not the return of the Lord to the earth to set up 1000 years of reigning on the earth. He comes in the above references to the clouds of the air.

1 Thess 4:17

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

This coming is called the RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH. There are two matters to be accomplished at the event, as mentioned previously. These matters involve the “dead in Christ” and “we who are alive”. The dead in Christ are those who have received Christ since the coming of the Holy Spirit explained in Acts 2 and this meeting of the Lord in the air. This involves a resurrection of the bodies of the dead in Christ. This is mentioned in Phil. 3:20-21

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

The second matter to be experienced by “those who are alive and remain.” A change is required in order that the living may join with the resurrected bodies of the dead in Christ.

1 Cor 15:50-52

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Thess 4:17

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

This event is what the Apostle Paul called the “Hope” of the Church.

1 Tim 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

Titus 2:13

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

This event is called “the rapture” of the Church” which means “transport; ecstasy; violence of a pleasing passion; extreme joy or pleasure.” The apostle Peter speaks of the is event as well.

1 Peter 1:3-4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

The Apostle John also makes reference to this event.

1 John 3:2-3

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

It is also believed that Rev. 4:1,2 indicates that this event is coming. This, it is to be noted, comes after the letters of Christ to the Churches.

Rev 4:1-2

4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

The Church Age was unknown in the Old Testament. It has been revealed through the Apostle Paul. This is not to say that the Old Testament has no benefit to the Church.

Rom 15:4

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

What is known today as the “rapture of the Church” was not taught in the Old Testament, but it is suggested that there are pictures of it in the experiences of some Old Testament saints.

The word “picture” indicates “Any resemblance or representation, either to the eye or to the understanding.” The Old Testament pictures will include the experiences of basically three individuals.

The first of these pictures is that of Noah and the ark of safety, which may also be called the ark of salvation. The record of this event is found in Genesis 6 and may be summarized as follows:

Gen 6:8

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Gen 6:13-14

13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

Gen 7:1

And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation

The point of this picture is that Noah and his family were saved from the wrath of God which was to come in the form of a flood. There was not one drop of the flood waters that fell upon those who were in the ark, they were delivered by being in the ark.

1 Thess 5:8-10

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

The Church, like Noah was not appointed unto wrath because of the fact that they were in the ark and the grace of God.

The second picture is that of Lot, the record of which is found in Gen.19. The whole chapter needs to be read, in light of the word of the angel to Lot concerning Sodom and Gomorrah:

Gen 19:21-22

21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken.

22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither.

The cities could not be destroyed until Lot was out of the way. Can this be said of the tribulation period? The church **MUST** be removed before the judgement of the tribulation begins because the Church is not appointed unto wrath.

There is a third picture of the **RAPTURE** and that is the experience of Elijah

2 Kings 2:10,11

And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

The emphasis of this picture is that Elijah was taken into heaven by means of a whirlwind. The Church may not be taken into heaven by a whirlwind, but will surely be caught up into heaven.

The three pictures indicate three things. The deliverance from the judgement of God, the need for the removal of Believers before God can do anything to the cities and thirdly, the fact of being caught up into heaven. These have a resemblance to the rapture of the Church.

There is a very interesting statement made by the Apostle Paul in his second letter to the Thessalonians;

2 Thess 2:1-3,5

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our *gathering together unto him*,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

There is some debate about the words “day of Christ” and “that day”. To some the “day of Christ” should read “the day of the Lord”. The opinion of the writer of these notes is that it really does not matter that much, due to the fact that both could very well be involved. The “day of Christ” is a time of blessing and involves

the Rapture of the Church. The “day of the Lord” is a time of judgement. It would seem that both are introduced at the same time. As the Church is raptured, the tribulation begins.

There was a concern amongst the people that “the day of Christ” was already present and that they had missed it. This scene of foreboding came as the result of a forged letter as from Paul. This letter led the people to a conclusion that was not a fact and Paul wrote to correct the matter. He assures the saints that they had not missed the day of Christ . He does this by telling them that “that day shall come except there come a falling away first”. The words “falling away” are considered by many to be the “falling away from the faith” mentioned by the Apostle Paul.

1 Tim 4:1

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Dr. Schuyler English has an interesting thought in his book on Rethinking The Rapture, page 63, which begins the chapter entitled “THAT DAY SHALL NOT COME EXCEPT”. The words “falling away” in second Thess. 2:3 are the subject of his concerns and to summarize his comments, he makes the following observations. The words “shall depart” have a common base in the word “aphistami” which means “to put away, separate, draw off or away, withdraw, induce to revolt”. The Greek word is the one from which comes the term “apostasy”, but the word simply means “to depart”. The word does not indicate a departure from what. The question that needs to be asked and answered is “departure from what?” In Paul’s letter to Timothy he specifies what it is that should be expected in the latter times which is “a departure from the faith”. The word “departure” itself does not indicate “from the faith”. The root word is found some 15 times in the New Testament and is used to describe a departure from many items. A few examples are found in the following passages.

Luke 2:37

And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

Luke 4:13

And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

Luke 8:13

They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away

Luke 13:27

But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

Acts 12:10

When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

2 Cor 12:8

For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

2 Tim 2:19

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Dr. English states that he is not dogmatic on this matter, but he does draw attention to some interesting factors, some of which are summarized as follows. Did the Thessalonians know about the “departure from the faith”? There is no record of that information being passed on to them. The Thessalonian letters were among the first of Paul’s letters and he did inform them of “the departure” of the Church. This was a specific departure to which Paul refers due to the use of the word “THE” in the original and one of which the Believers at Thessalonica would be familiar. That is the departure described in 1 Thess 4:13-18.

Thess 4:13-18

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

2 Thess 2:1-3,5

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our *gathering together unto him*,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a (the) falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

The Apostle asks the readers to remember what he had told them when he was yet with them. The conclusion of the matter is that a departure must occur before "the man of sin (the Antichrist) be revealed, the son of perdition".

The Church must be removed before the tribulation can begin!

Futher consideration of Rev. 20 and the “Little season”

One of the disturbing factors of this whole matter is the seeming neglect or refusal to accept literally “the 1000 year” revelation or the significance of the “little season” of Rev. 20. It seems as though most writings over look this passage when in reality it is one of the most significant statements related to whole subject of the Tribulation period. This chapter stands between time and eternity, between the 1000 year reign of Christ and His rule forever and forever. It is astonishing how that many writers refer to the Battle of Armageddon as the “last war”; it is the end of the tribulation period and signifies the return of Christ to the earth, period. It would seem that so many argue about the literalness of the 1000 years and have nothing to say about the rest of the chapter.

Consider some questions based on Rev. 20:

1. Why is Satan bound and cast into the Bottomless pit?
2. Why is not Satan cast into the lake fire at this point?
3. Why is Satan bound for 1000 years?
4. Why must Satan be released from the bottomless pit?
5. Why is Satan allowed to deceive the nations?
6. What nations are in view here?
7. What is the battle that is mentioned in vs 8?
8. Does this indicate that Armageddon was not the last battle?
9. From where does Satan gather so many people?
10. Against whom is this battle waged?
11. Is the 70th week of Daniel not completed before ch. 20?
12. Why is Satan cast into the lake of fire at this point?
13. What happened to Satan's army?
14. How long will the false beast be in the lake of fire at the time of Satan's sentence?
15. What follows the riddance of Satan?
16. Who are the dead?
17. What are the books? What do they record?
18. What is “the other book”?
19. What is the second death?
20. What is the book of life?
21. Is the Lake of Fire literal fire?
22. How long will the lake of fire exist?
23. What is the experience of those in the lake of fire?

24. What will be the basis of the Judgment?

25. What is this judgment called?

There are probably many more questions that could be asked, but these are asked just to create an interest in this powerful chapter.

The phrase “1000 years” is to be found 10 times in the Bible and of these the phrase is used 6 times in Revelation 20.

Vs. 2 The Removal of Satan for 1000 years

Vs. 3 The Reason for the binding of 1000 years

Vs. 4 The Reign of Christ with His saints for 1000 years

Vs. 5 The Resurrection after the 1000 years

Vs. 6 The Relations with Christ for the 1000 years

Vs. 7 The Release of Satan after the 1000 years

Is there any reason why this term should not be taken literally? It might be argued that the reign of Christ is forever, and that is very true. But how does that exclude the 1000 year reign following the tribulation period? And what is the reason for this 1000 year reign? Could it have something to do with the shortening of the days of the tribulation?

There is no question about Christ’s reign for ever and ever. It is clearly laid out in the Scriptures.

Rev 11:15

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

The question arises as to when “the Kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our God.” Some might argue that this takes place at the beginning of the 1000 year reign of Christ. But these conclusions raise several questions. Why the rod of Iron and from where did Satan get his huge army after his release? It is suggested that the 1000 year reign could be a part of the eternal reign of Christ, but it is during this time that the nations are tested with the reign of Messiah. A good many were unhappy with the reign of Christ as recorded in:

Rev. 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth

It might be questioned as to the timing of this verse, but the timing is clearly laid out in Rev. 11:18

And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Rev 20:11-12

**11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.
12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.**

There is no question as to Christ's reign, but somehow the 1000 years must fit into the scheme of things.

Rev 22:5

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

It is suggested again that

Rev 20:1-7

**20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.
2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,**

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

One of the great questions that needs some careful consideration is related to the binding and loosing of Satan. In verses 1-3 a statement is made concerning this binding of Satan in the “bottomless pit”. Verse 3 states that after the 1000 years Satan **MUST BE LOOSED FOR A LITTLE SEASON**. Why **MUST** Satan be loosed? There can be absolutely no question that this loosing comes after the 1000 years. Why at this time? Just why is “the little season” needed?

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

In this statement it is revealed that after the 1000 years of the reign of Christ with His saints, Satan will be released from his prison, but just for a little season and that following the little season he will be cast into the Lake of Fire. Satan is to be imprisoned for 1000 years to simply be released for a little season. Why bother releasing him at all, why not just leave him there? There has to be a reason!

That reason is related to the coming of the Lord Jesus to the earth.

Daniel made it very clear that 70 weeks were determined upon Israel and Jerusalem (see Daniel 9:24). That means that the full number of days included in the period must be fulfilled, the full number of days - no more no less. When the Lord Jesus was teaching about this time period in Matt. 24 He stated very clearly

Matt 24:21-23

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

Mark 13:19-20

19 For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

Now how can those be shortened, they cannot unless some arrangement is made to make up for the days by which they are shortened. If not then the determined 70 weeks have not been fulfilled.

Note the character and content of the sixth seal, trumpet and bowl. It seems clear that these verses describe the coming of Christ to earth to setup His 1000 year reign on the earth.

The sixth seal, trumpet and bowl:

Rev 6:12-17 The sixth Seal

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Rev 9:13-16 The sixth trumpet

13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

Rev 16:12-16 The sixth Bowl

12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

The sixth seal, trumpet and bowl indicates the coming of the Lord Jesus to deliver the world from destruction and to set up His 1000 year reign, leaving the seventh of each to be fulfilled after the 1000 year reign during the little season". Then and then only will the 70 weeks of Daniel be fully realized. The contrast between the 6th and 7th seal, trumpet and bowl are very significant.

The seventh seal, trumpet and bowl, it is suggested take place after the 1000 year reign of Christ.

Rev 8:1

8:1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

Rev 10:7

7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

Rev 11:15-19

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Rev 16:17

17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done

This phrase "it is done" is also found in Rev 21:6

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

The conclusion of this whole situation is that Rev. 20 is the transition between time as is known to man and the eternal estate. There is a good and solid reason for the "little season" as God brings time to a conclusion and brings into existence the eternal estate. The things that stand in the way of the eternal estate are resolved in Rev. 20. This is only means by which it can be said, "IT IS DONE".