



THE DAY OF THE LORD AND FULFILLED PROPHECY

A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF HERMENEUTICS-THE INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE

Let's begin with a brief discussion of **hermeneutics (her-men-eutics)**. What is a hermeneutic? Webster defines it as "the study of the methods and principles of interpretation." As it applies to the Bible it is the study of how to understand the Bible.

1. First we should seek to understand the authors' intended meaning. This is sometimes called "**exegesis.**" Exegesis is getting the meaning out of the text as opposed to **eisegesis**, which putting meaning into the text. Think of exegesis like an extraction. We want to receive or extract the meaning of the text, not insert our preexisting conclusion into the text, and we do that through things like context.
2. All Scripture must be taken in its proper context. This means that the interpretation of Scripture should be looked at in light of the verse and book in which the passage is found. The argument of the author and historical and cultural context should be taken into account.
3. Let "*Scripture interpret Scripture.*" Let the New Testament interpret the Old Testament, and not vice versa. Always compare scripture with other scripture. For example, if one is studying the return of Christ in one instance, then one needs to compare passages from Matthew, John, First and Second Thessalonians, Second Peter, Jude, Revelation, Daniel, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah, etc. Only once all relevant passages have been studied and compared can we be sure of our interpretation. **Exegesis from the New Testament helps clarify difficult Old Testament passages.**
4. Determine the literal references of figures of speech that provide comparison, substitution, and amplification. Scripture, like any serious literature, uses figures of speech. These include similes, metaphors, hyperbole, idioms, and parallelisms. When the Bible wants you to allegorize or take something as a symbol it will make that clear. For instance, words such as 'like' or, 'as', or 'as it were' are used. For instance, "as sack-cloth made of hair."
5. Recognize the near/far implications and applications of prophetic passages. It is common in prophetic literature to have a both near application and far application to a certain prophecy.
6. There are no contradictions in Scripture. If you have a contradiction you have the wrong hermeneutic (interpretation). Justin Martyr once said, **"Since I am entirely convinced that no Scripture contradicts another, I will rather acknowledge that I do not understand what is written."**

THE DAY OF THE LORD

1. The Day of the Lord Will be Sudden—and Dark with Judgment!

The “Day of the Lord” phrase is used directly in the Old Testament some 25 times, and another 40-50 or so by indirect reference. The prominent theme of every *Day of the Lord* prophecy is God’s judgment of unbeliever’s sin. It is God’s day—not Satan’s day. God already knows this unique day. But it will not be a happy day for the unbelievers left on earth. Between the Old and New Testaments, the Day of the Lord is referred to directly or indirectly at least 70-80 times by many different authors.

Amos 5:18-20(NIV)

Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord! Why do you long for the day of the Lord? That day will be darkness, not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light— pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

Zechariah 14:5-7 (NIV)

Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. It will be a unique day—a day known only to the Lord—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light.

Matthew 24:29-30 (NIV)

Jesus said: “Immediately after the distress of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man.”

Luke 17: 26-35 (NIV)

Jesus said: “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot’s wife! Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.”

The Bible says all these events listed below will happen on the Day of the Lord. Are they literal or symbolic? Is the Bible true? Can they all happen on one day? Can 1,000 years still be one day? **These events will all happen on this unique day when Jesus returns a second time.**

1. **Jesus will return a second time** (2 Thessalonians 5:7-10, Acts 1:11, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-5:4, Hebrews 9:28, 1 Peter 2:12, Revelation 1:7-8, Revelation 22:20-21, Colossians 3:4, Matthew 24:1-33, Mark 13: 1-37, Luke 21:5-38)
2. **The Lord will once more shake the heavens and the earth** (Haggai 2:6, Hebrews 12:26)
3. **The Lord will move the earth away from its solid foundation (orbit)** (Isaiah 13:13, Job 9:6, Isaiah 24:1-10, Revelation 7:1, Isaiah 24:19-20, Daniel 4:35)
4. **It will be a unique day with only twilight, and neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness** (Zechariah 14:1-9)
5. **When Christ returns stars will fall from heaven to earth** (Matthew 24:29, Mark 13:25, Revelation 6:13, Luke 21:25-26)
6. **The surface of the earth will be twisted** (Isaiah 24:1-6)
7. **When Christ returns the sun and moon will not give their light** (Joel 2:31, Matthew 24:29, Isaiah 24:23, Mark 13:24, Isaiah 13:10, Joel 2:10, Ezekiel 32:7-8, Luke 21:25, Zechariah 14:6)
8. **Satan will be bound in the abyss for 1,000 years, return to earth, deceive and be quickly destroyed by God** (Revelation 20:1-10)
9. **Dead believers come to life and reign with Christ for 1,000 years** (Revelation 20:4-6)
10. **Living believers will be instantly changed and fly up to meet Jesus (the "rapture")** (Revelation 14:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, 1 Corinthians 15: 51-52)
11. **Those remaining on earth will be scorched by a very hot sun and then plunged into darkness** (Revelation 16:8-11)
12. **A great battle with the living non believers left on earth** (Revelation 19:11-21, Isaiah 24:1-10, Zechariah 12:1-14)
13. **Unbelievers will be judged on this day** (Revelation 20:11-15, Matthew 25: 31-46, Daniel 7: 9-10, Acts 17:31, Daniel 12:2, Hebrews 10:26-28, Matthew 16:27, Revelation 22:12, Psalm 98:9, Romans 2:5, Revelation 14:17-20)
14. **Satan is defeated** (Revelation 20:7-10, 2 Thessalonians 2:8)
15. **The sky will roll up like a scroll** (Isaiah 34:4, Isaiah 51:6; Matthew 24:35; 2 Peter 3:7; 2 Peter 3:10; 2 Peter 3:12; Revelation 6:14)
16. **The current heavens and earth will burn up suddenly** (2 Peter 3:10, Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33, Revelation 21:1, Haggai 2:6, Hebrews 12:26, Isaiah 51:6, Isaiah 34:4, 2 Peter 3: 7-8, Revelation 6:14, Revelation 20:11, Isaiah 65:17)
17. **The Day of the Lord is the end** (Isaiah 24:21-22, Zephaniah 1:14-18, Isaiah 13:9-11, Jeremiah 46:10, Isaiah 27:1, Isaiah 19:16-17, Romans 2:16, Amos 5:18-20, Isaiah 2:12, Joel 1:15, Matthew 7:22-23, John 12:48, Romans 2:5, Mark 13:26-27, Zechariah 14:20-21, Malachi 4:1-2, 1 Corinthians 1:8, Isaiah 4:2, Isaiah 11:10, 2 Peter 3:11-12)
18. **With the Lord a day is like 1,000 years, and 1,000 years are like a day** (2 Peter 3:8)
19. **God then creates a new heavens and a new earth** (Isaiah 65:17, Hebrews 12:26-27, 2 Peter 3:12-13, Revelation 21:1, Isaiah 66:22, Revelation 21:3-4)

2. Paul Indicates the Day of the Lord, Resurrection of Believers and Rapture Occur at the Same Time

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The above verses have become the cornerstone Scripture for pre-tribulation rapture theorists. They believe the Day of the Lord is still far (either 7 years or 1,000 years) in the future. They consider this to be their most important passage. The problem is they often do not look at the following verses.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (NIV)

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Here in Thessalonians, context plays a vital role. It is important to understand First Thessalonians 5:1 is in overlapping context with First Thessalonians 4:16-17. The Apostle Paul (the author of the letter) has already established the context and is still addressing the resurrection and rapture subject. He's stating: —But of the times and the seasons [concerning the afore mentioned resurrection and rapture], I have no need to tell you anything.

Paul makes clear the resurrection of the dead believers and rapture of living believers occur in a specific order, but very close in time such that the raptured believers **"who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."**

Paul writes: **"for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."** This is an extremely important verse because Paul first describes the resurrection of dead believers and rapture of the church in First Thessalonians 4:16-17 and then, through the consistency of context, refers to both the resurrection of dead believers, and next the rapture of living believers, as the "Day of the Lord" in First Thessalonians 5:2. This reveals that the catching away of the present day church is actually to occur on a day that is known to the apostle Paul as the Day of the Lord.

Taking Paul's words as he wrote them, we see this sequence of events:

1. The Lord (Jesus) comes down from heaven
2. He gives a loud command (shout or trumpet call)
3. The dead in Christ rise first
4. Next those who are alive are caught up with them {the dead believers} in the clouds to meet Jesus
5. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night
6. Destruction will come on the unbelievers suddenly
7. God did not appoint us to suffer wrath (God's wrath)

There is much evidence to support this important relationship in other parts of the Bible. The most notable is found in the Old Testament book of Joel. Joel's message concerns the coming Day of the Lord. After studying Paul, we can easily understand Joel's message. Paul says Jesus will give a loud command-the trumpet call of God. Joel says the Lord will thunder and roar on the Day of the Lord.

Joel 2:11 (NIV)

The Lord thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty is the army that obeys his command. The day of the Lord is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it?

Joel 3:13-16 (NIV)

Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow—so great is their wickedness!" Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine. The Lord will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

Paul was fortunate to be living in an era of the revealed Messiah, and he knew that the Lord being referenced in the book of Joel that hadn't yet been revealed in Joel's day--of course was none other than Jesus Christ.

This becomes the first in a series of many additional proofs that Paul was indeed linking the rapture of the church to the day of the Lord, with multiple confirmations coming from the book of Joel. It also gives us an initial peek into where Paul is actually gathering his information from when establishing the rapture doctrine for the church. Throughout this book, you will begin to notice that he was merely referencing already-established truths, using both Christ and the Old Testament prophets as a guide.

Realize, that prior to his conversion, Paul was a devout orthodox Jew and was well versed in Old Testament writings. In fact, he persecuted the early Christians because they chose to live by grace and not under the Mosaic Law like he was accustomed to. When he finally came to the truth of Christ, his well-grounded Old Testament upbringing allowed him to view prophecy in a whole new light, and when using Christ as the view finder, it gave him fresh insight concerning the end of the age. This, of course, included in-sight into the rapture of the church.

Paul tells us the same thing again in First Corinthians chapter 15.

1 Corinthians 15:50-56 (NIV)

I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is also interesting that Paul begins this discussion with his statement about how the living will inherit the kingdom (v. 50). We know that this will take place at the second coming. Paul clearly says: "*I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*" This entire chapter is about the resurrection and Paul had already stated that you must first die to receive a glorified body (vv. 35-38, 42-44). Then he states in verse 50 that you cannot inherit the kingdom with a mortal body. The question naturally arises, "So what about those who are still alive when Christ returns? Will they be excluded from the kingdom?"

Paul goes on to reveal the answer to this mystery by basically saying, "Look, those who are still living will not have to die to receive an immortal body but will be transformed while they are still alive." Not everyone will have to die first, but everyone will be changed (v. 51). He goes on to say that this is because the perishable must put on the imperishable and the mortal must put on immortality (v. 53). When Jesus returns, even those who are still alive and in their mortal bodies must be changed in order to inherit the kingdom, because it is itself imperishable (v. 50).

3. Peter Confirms Paul's Message about the Day of the Lord

Here, the same Day of the Lord event Paul wrote about in First Thessalonians is further addressed by Peter the Apostle. Peter sets up his passage context in the same manner by first clarifying in verse 10 (*"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief"*) that he is speaking about the Day of the Lord.

2 Peter 3:1-18 (NIV)

Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

4. Is “Tribulation” Persecution from Satan, or the Wrath of God on Judgment Day?

Consider three events: 1) historical ongoing generalized tribulation or persecution, 2) a special one of a kind “Trouble for Jacob” or “Great Distress” and 3) the wrath of God. General persecution, and even “Great Distress” are Satanic. The wrath is God’s judgment on the last day. (Romans 2:16 “This will take place on the day when God judges people’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.”)

Technically, Satan cannot do anything that is not subject to God’s power. But the first two events are most likely different from God’s judgement day wrath. Pre-tribulation rapture dispensationalism always teaches the tribulation is the wrath of God. In other words, they are not different but the same event. Thus, pre-tribulation rapture writers tend to find interpretations of the tribulation, and God's wrath on the Day of the Lord, that merge the two. They also must interpret the literal "Day of the Lord" as being a very, very long-time period on earth--as a thousand earth years, or more. Literal interpretation of the "Day of the Lord" Biblical text in context is that it is simply **one unique day on earth**. Judgement day!

The well-known Bible prophecy writer David Reagan states that the “Day of the Lord” is at least 1,007 earth years long. He writes: *"I therefore think that in reference to the end times, the broad use of the term {the Day of the Lord} refers to the period of time from the beginning of Daniel’s 70th Week to the end of the Millennium."* Reagan also writes: *"The pre-tribulation view argues that the entire 7 years of the Tribulation (Daniel’s 70th Week of Years) constitutes a pouring out of the wrath of God."* There is no doubt David Reagan has studied this for most of his life. But it seems his two statements on the topics of duration, and wrath of God, are not at all consistent with simple literal Bible text. (Reference: Lamplighter Jan-Feb 2015 pages 9-12)

If we equate the tribulation as meaning “the wrath of God on the Day of the Lord”, a pre-tribulation rapture is required because the Bible is absolutely clear believers are to be spared from the wrath of God.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 (NIV)

...serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Romans 5:8-10 (NIV)

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

John 3:34-36 (NIV)

For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.

There is “general tribulation” or persecution listed in many places in the Bible: Revelation 7: 13-17, 2:7, 3:21, Romans 2:9, 5:3, 8:18-21, Matthew 13:21, 24:9, 21, 29, Mark 4:17, 13:19, 24, Acts 11:19, 2 Thessalonians 1:4, and 1 Thessalonians 3:4, just to list a few. It seems clear from many Bible verses that God allows his children (believers) to endure general tribulation. Thus, literal text interpretation seems to indicate general tribulation must be different from God’s wrath.

What about special or unusual great distress? The “Trouble for Jacob” and “Great Distress” (all NIV) in Jeremiah 30:6, Daniel 12:1, Matthew 24:21 must be a special type of trouble or distress, since each says nothing else will be like it—so they must be writing about the same event. Also—they must only concern Israel since this trouble is for Jacob, and Daniel’s 70 Sevens are only for his people. Is this event (predicted with at least three prophecies) different from general tribulation, as well as the wrath of God on judgment day? Yes, as it seems these all describe the same terrible Jewish event--the holocaust. The “Trouble for Jacob” and the “Great Distress” special tribulation was a time of intense persecution. The holocaust was during World War II (1939-1945) right before the end of the Daniel’s 70th Seven (1948).

1) Jeremiah 30:6 “How awful that day will be! No other will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.” 2) Daniel 12:1 “There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then.” 3) Matthew 24:21 “For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again”

Thus, it seems general tribulation, and even the special “Great Distress” or “Trouble for Jacob”, are both different from the wrath of God on judgement day. The wrath of God is a time of judgment on the last day which will be poured out upon the world by God. Its purpose is to punish the Beast and those who have taken his Mark and worshipped his Image, along with all other nonbelievers.

The phrase "**great tribulation**" versus general persecution type “tribulation” is only used once in the NIV Bible. Only in Revelation 7:14 is the phrase “great tribulation” used. But it seems this is just another way to describe the cumulative general tribulation of believers throughout the ages, and certainly not the special “Trouble for Jacob” or “Great Distress” which was only for Israel.

It also cannot be the wrath of God, since believers will not face wrath. Revelation 7:9 makes clear this group in the white robes is not Israel: “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.”

Revelation 7:13-17 (NIV)

Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. “Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.”

5. The Purpose of Daniel's Seventy Sevens

The Book of Daniel was written in the sixth century BC while the Jews were in exile in Babylon because of their rebellion against God. Daniel 9:24-27 has a prophecy spoken by the angel Gabriel to encourage the Jewish people as they were to be given a "second chance" to end their sin and rebellion, return and rebuild Jerusalem and the temple and then receive their Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Daniel 9 (NIV)

24 "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

25 "Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. 26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

This is Only for Israel

There can be little question about the identity of the subjects of Daniel's prophecy: it concerns the nation of Israel, those for whom he had been praying in their captivity, and Jerusalem, their capital city. "Seventy sevens are determined upon your people and upon your holy city" cannot possibly indicate anything else. Daniel had been pondering the future of his people, and in the writings of Jeremiah he found a partial answer: they would soon be delivered. Gabriel informed him of still more details of his nation's future--specifically, a period of 69 (7 + 62) sevens, $69 \times 7 = 483$. The last seven was set aside as something different. About 150 years later after Daniel wrote his prophecy this actually begins in the year 444 BC, with the decree of Artaxerxes to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. This is only for Israel, not the church of believers.

The Purpose of the 70 Sevens

Daniel's prophecy contains a statement concerning God's six-fold purpose in bringing these events to pass. Verse 24 says this purpose is 1) "to finish transgression," 2) "to put an end to sin," 3) "to atone for wickedness," 4) "to bring in everlasting righteousness," 5) "to seal up vision and prophecy," and 6) "to anoint the most holy place." Of special note is the third in the list of results: "to atone for wickedness." Jesus accomplished the atonement for sin by His death on the cross (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17).

6. Much Prophecy Was Fulfilled in 1948 with Closing the Final 70th Seven

Jesus tells the disciples that in the future an abomination spoken of by the prophet Daniel will stand in the holy place where it does not belong. When the people of Israel see it they should head for the mountains ("wilderness"). Jeremiah 31:2 tells us before the Jews return to Israel for the final time they will wait in the wilderness for God to come to them.

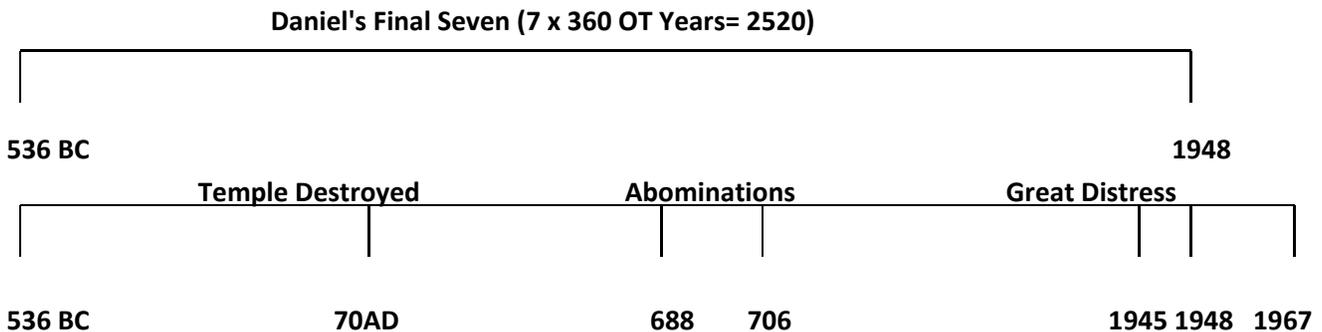
Revelation tells us there will be 1260 days (years) of prophecy and waiting in the wilderness. What prophecy? The prophecy is from Ezekiel 37 that predicted the restoration of Israel in the last days. Daniel's final seven stretches from 536 BC to 1948. The two abominations were set up on the Temple Mount in 688 (the Dome of the Rock) and 706 (the Al-Aqsa Mosque). Gentiles will trample the holy city for 42 months or 1278.4 day/years from 688 until Jerusalem liberated in 1967. The 1260 in wilderness days/years are from 688 to 1948.

Revelation 12:6 (NIV) "The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days." Revelation 11:3 (NIV) "And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." Revelation 11:2 (NIV) "But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months."

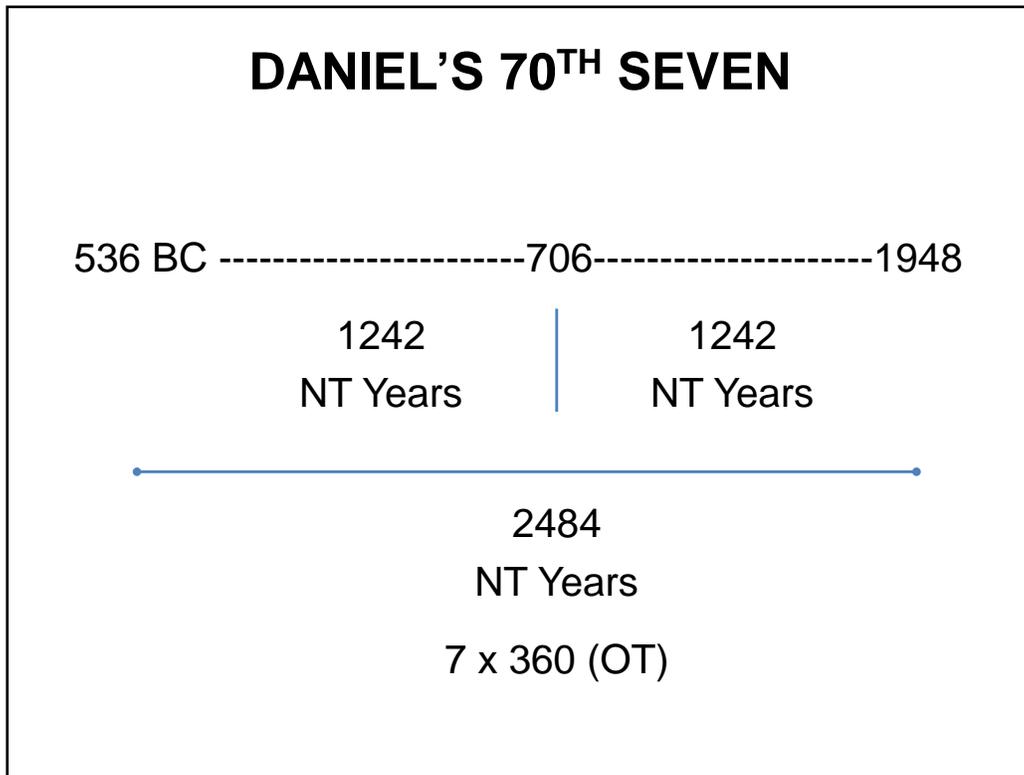
Matthew 24 (NIV)

15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house.

21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again."



The Punishment of Israel During the Final Seven



The Jewish people were continuously punished during the 70th seven. Satan was in control. Israel was punished for exactly 2,484 modern NT years (2,520 Old Testament 360 day years) from 536 BC until 1948 AD. During this time they were continuously occupied, under many different foreign powers, and subject to war after war, and atrocity after atrocity. They would suffer 67% killed in lands controlled by Adolph Hitler during 1930-1945.

The Jews did not come out of the wilderness until 1948 with the rebirth of Israel.

The 2,520 Old Testament years/days (360 days) calculation is perfect for a whole number prophecy. The historical time period was 2,484 modern (365.24 days) years, while the prophecy calculation is 2,483.85. The "error" is 0.006%. There is no whole number that can be more accurate than what God gave us. Any other whole number gives a greater error. The whole number is a perfect fit.

7. Do Not Miss Fulfilled Prophecy Today

During the time of Jesus the Jewish people made a common mistake when it comes to understanding biblical prophecy. **They thought that the primary purpose of prophecy was to describe what would happen in the future for them.** They also added too many assumptions based upon their limited understanding of the prophecies. They missed what was right in front of them!

Even though the prophecies were fulfilled (to that point) exactly as given, many of the Jewish people did not recognize it because they were not fulfilled the way they expected. We must be careful to not make a similar mistake when studying end-time prophecies. Many today are still looking so far in the future they are missing what is currently happening.

For example, after listing a number of signs of the nearness of His coming, Jesus reveals in Matthew 24:14 *“This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”* There have been many advances since World War II. Even so, during the last 50 years it has not been possible to physically reach all countries. The former communist nations did not allow freedom of religion. China, with one quarter of the world’s people, still restricts religious speech. All Islamic nations also try to suppress the publication of biblical truth and even the Bible itself. In some Islamic countries people risk the death penalty for changing religion.

But the Internet is changing everything. The internet can reach all nations. It is much harder for governments to control. The gospel message of the coming Kingdom of God is going out to all the world. It will finish when God has decided that His work is completed and the time is right for the final end-time events to take place.

8. The Use of “A Thousand Years” in the Bible

The phrase “a thousand years” is used in just three places in the Bible. The three are Psalm 90:4, 2 Peter 3: 3-10, and Revelation 20: 1-10. It is used nowhere else. Two passages tell us a thousand years is like a day.

Psalm 90:4 (NIV)

4. *A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.*

2 Peter 3: 3-10 (NIV)

3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”

5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that

time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

*8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like **a thousand years**, and **a thousand years** are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare

Revelation 20: 1-10 (NIV)

*1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for **a thousand years**. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the **thousand years** were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.*

*4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ **a thousand years**.*

*5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until **the thousand years** were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for **a thousand years**.*

*7 When **the thousand years** are over, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. 9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

9. The Full Text of Matthew 24

Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. 2 “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

4 Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. 6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

9 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

15 “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house.

18 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. 19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

22 “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. 23 At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. 24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you ahead of time.

26 “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. 27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

29 “Immediately after the distress of those days “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

30 “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. 31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

32 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 33 Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it[e] is near, right at the door. 34 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. 47 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ 49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. 50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. 51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

10. Summary of Recent Fulfilled Prophetic Events

Gentiles were given the Temple outer court with the construction (during 687-691) of the Islamic Dome of the Rock¹. The holocaust was a time of trouble for Israel unlike anything else in history². The killing of two thirds of Jews in the Nazi controlled land fulfilled Zechariah's dire prophecy³. World War II was shortened for the sake of the elect⁴. The true "elect" are the Messianic Jewish remnant of Israel⁵.

Israel's rebirth on May 14, 1948 fulfilled the restoration prophecies in Ezekiel 36 and 37⁶. The rebirth of Israel in **1948** fulfilled the 1260 days in the wilderness⁷ (Dome of the Rock 688 to **1948**), the 1260 days of prophecy⁸ (Dome of the Rock 688 to **1948**) and **1948** also fulfilled the 2300 days of Daniel⁹. **1948** marked the completion of the last Seven¹⁰ of Daniel's 70 Sevens prophecy (360 x 7 = 2520 Hebrew years 536 BC to **1948**). The completion of the Temple Mount Al-Aqsa Mosque in **706** was the abominable temple on the wing during in the middle of the Seven¹¹.

1948 marked the completion of time, times and half a time when the power of the holy people was finally broken--these things were completed¹². The immediate Islamic war on May 15, 1948 fulfilled the Psalm 83¹³ war and the Beast that would immediately attack them¹⁴. The delivery of "slain" Jews trapped in Islamic countries occurred from May 1948 until the end of 1951 (3 and ½ years) and was fulfilled in Operation Ezra and Nehemiah¹⁵. The removal of nearly all Jews from Islamic countries fulfilled "not leaving anyone behind" in Ezekiel 39¹⁶.

The times of the Gentiles were fulfilled with the end of trampling the Holy City¹⁷. Gentiles trampled the Holy City of Jerusalem for 42 months (1278.4 years from 688 until 1967)¹⁸. After the Jews were brought back to Israel, God poured out his Spirit on them¹⁹. Beginning in 1967 the Lord cleansed the "elect" Messianic Jewish remnant from all their sins, and in the land of Israel, God resettled their towns, and the ruins were rebuilt.²⁰

¹ Revelation 11:1-2

² Matthew 24:21, Daniel 12:1, Jeremiah 30:6

³ Zechariah 13: 8-9

⁴ Mark 13:20

⁵ Romans 9:6-33

⁶ Ezekiel 36 and 37

⁷ Revelation 12:6

⁸ Revelation 11:3

⁹ Daniel 8:13-14

¹⁰ Daniel 9:24

¹¹ Daniel 9:20-27

¹² Daniel 12: 7-10

¹³ Psalms 83: 1-18

¹⁴ Revelation 11:7

¹⁵ Revelation 11: 8-13

¹⁶ Ezekiel 39:28

¹⁷ Luke 21:24

¹⁸ Revelation 11:2

¹⁹ Ezekiel 39:29

²⁰ Ezekiel 33:33-36

11. Matthew 24 Important Events and Prophecy

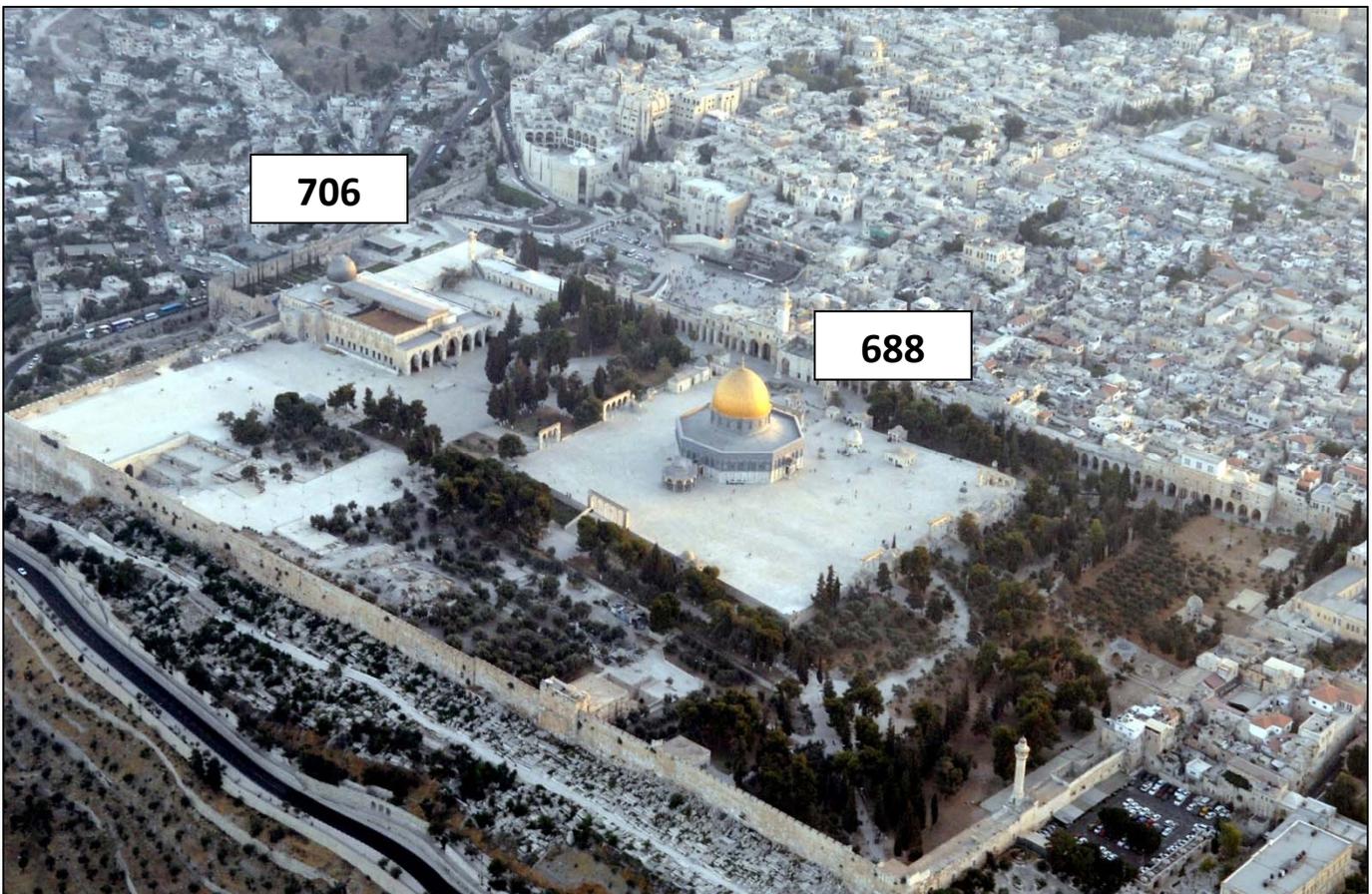
Verse 2: “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” **Fulfilled in 70 AD with the destruction of the Temple and sacking of Jerusalem.**

Verse 11: "and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people." **Fulfilled throughout time, and in detail with the False Prophet Mohammad in 610 AD.**

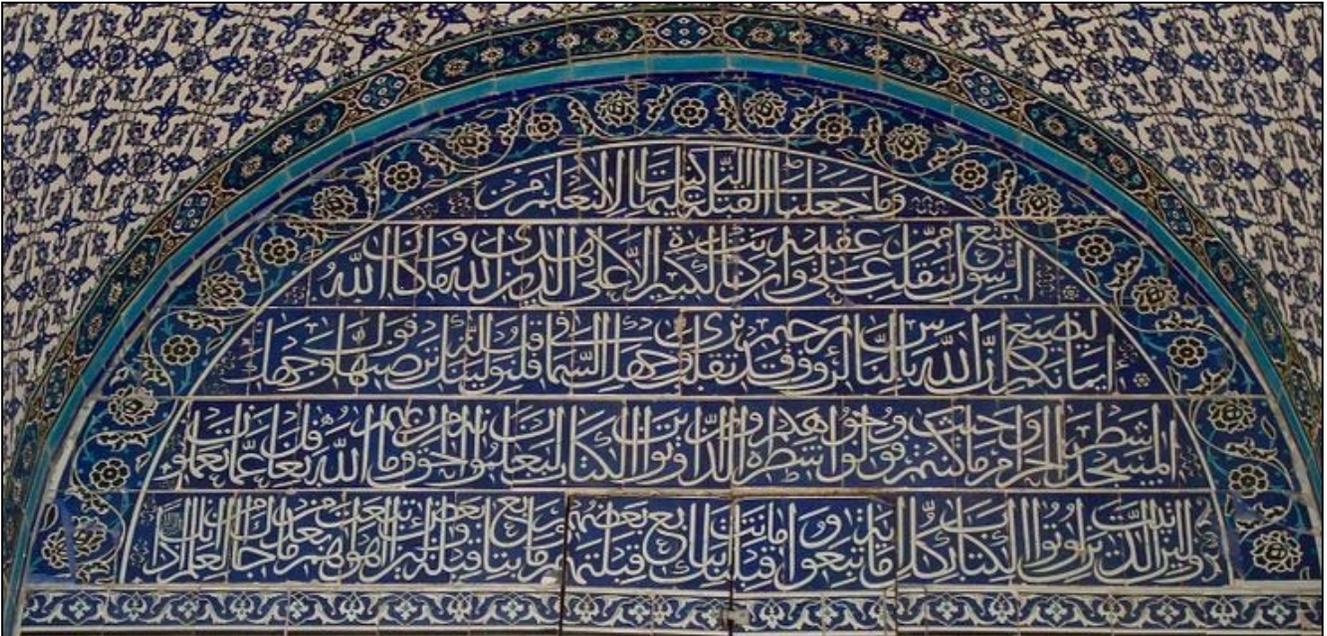
Verse 13: "but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved." **Fulfilled throughout time until today.**

Verse 14: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." **Fulfilled since 1948 through today via the internet.**

Verses 15: “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—” **Fulfilled in 688 (Dome of the Rock in outer court) and 706 (Al-Aqsa Mosque on the wing).**



The abominations on the Temple Mount contain these blasphemous names and quotes--directly on God's Holy Mountain--Mount Moriah:



- ✓ In the name of Allah, the Merciful the Compassionate. There is no god but Allah. He is One. He has no associate.
- ✓ Far be it removed from His transcendent majesty that He should have a son.
- ✓ Peace be on him the day he was born, and the day he died, and the day he shall be raised alive! Such was Jesus, son of Mary, this is a statement of the truth concerning which they doubt. It befitted not the Majesty of Allah that He should take unto Himself a son!
- ✓ When He decrees a thing, He says unto it only: Be! and it is. Lo! Allah is my Lord and your Lord. So serve Him. That is the right path.
- ✓ Those who formerly received the Book differed only after knowledge came unto them, through transgression among themselves. Who disbelieved the revelations of Allah will find that lo! Allah is swift at reckoning!
- ✓ There is no god but Allah. He is One. He has no associate. Mohammad is the Messenger of Allah.
- ✓ Allah, who hath not taken unto Himself a son, and who hath no partner in the Sovereignty, nor hath He any protecting friend through dependence. And magnify Him with all magnificence.
- ✓ Nor say anything but the truth about Allah. The Messiah Jesus son of Mary, was only Allah's messenger, His word that He committed to Mary, and a spirit proceeding from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers. Do not say 'three'. Refrain, it is better for you. For Allah is one god.
- ✓ There is no god but Allah alone, without partner. Say: Allah is God, One.
- ✓ There is no god but Allah alone, without partner. Mohammad is Allah's messenger, may Allah bless him. There built this dome the servant of Allah.
- ✓ There is no god but Allah alone, without partner.

The Dome of the Rock also contains the Mark--the Shahada.



Verse 16: "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains." **Fulfilled in the 1260 days in the wilderness, Jews dispersed from 688 to 1948, and Islamic conquest of Jerusalem.**

Verses 21: "For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again." **Fulfilled in the Holocaust with 2/3 Jews killed in the Nazi lands.**

Verse 22: "If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened." **Fulfilled in World War II with prevention of Nazi takeover of Middle East in association with Islam, and America winning the war.**

Verse 29: "Immediately after the distress of those days "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." **SOON TO BE FULFILLED?**

Verse 30-31: "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. **SOON TO BE FULFILLED?**