

# Prophecy Unveiled - Time, Times and Half a Time

Sunday, February 6, 2022

Our ground rules for studying prophecy...

- **There is much we can learn from studying prophecy**
- **There is much that will still be unclear** (It is best for us to focus on what we can know rather than argue about what is still unclear)
- **The point of studying prophecy is not to be able to set times and dates**
- **By studying prophecy, we can become more aware of the devils' schemes and the world in which we live.**
- **Prophecy helps us be prepared**
- **We must keep in mind that prophecy must be examined from three different viewpoints** (The Past - prophecy that has already been fulfilled, The Present - Prophecy that is currently unfolding, and The Future - Prophecy that is yet to be fulfilled) In some cases a particular prophecy may have application to all three.

Remember that prophecy is like a multi-faceted diamond. We can view it from many different angles and learn something new from each one and yet, it also must be viewed as a whole

Over the last several weeks we have studied

The prophecies of Daniel Chapter 2, which through Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a statue, showed us...

1. **4 KINGDOMS - The Rise of 4 earthly kingdoms** (The Babylonians, The Medio-Persians, The Grecian Empire of Alexander, and the Roman Empire)
2. **MAN APART FROM GOD** - man's attempts to rule his own destiny apart from God.
3. **THE CONTINUED DEGRADATION OF SIN**
4. **THE ROCK** - The coming of the Messiah and the establishment of a Kingdom that will never end
5. **A MIXTURE** - A commentary on a characteristic of the people of the last days (A form of godliness without power)

Next, we looked at Ezekiel 34 which used the picture of...

1. **Shepherds** (those who were supposed to be caring for God's flock - but were not),
2. **The condition of the flock** (because of the shepherd's lack of care)
3. **God's judgment upon the unfaithful shepherds**
4. **The coming of the Great Shepherd** (Jesus - who would shepherd us with great compassion and care),
5. **Judgement within the flock** (Sheep and Goats) and
6. **The blessings of coming into the flock** (believing in Jesus Christ and the blessings in this life and in eternity)

Then we jumped to the New Testament and Matthew 24. Here we learned that we need to be ready...

1. Be Ready for Distressing Times
2. Be Ready for Persecution of The Church
3. Be Ready for False Prophets and Messiahs
4. Be Ready for Wickedness to Increase Exponentially
5. Be Ready for Complacency
6. Be Ready for Many to Walk Away from The Faith
7. Be Ready for a Great End Times Revival
8. Be Ready for The Rise of The Antichrist Followed by The Great Tribulation
9. Be Ready for The Return of Our Lord and The Rapture of The Church
10. Be Ready for Mystery to Remain Mixed with Understanding
11. Be Ready by faithfully Continuing to Serve
12. Be Ready for Final Judgement

Matthew 25 taught us that having a REAL REALATIONSHIP is the key to being ready for the Last Days and Christ's Return

1. A real relationship is PERSONAL
2. A real relationship GROWS
3. A real relationship PRODUCES FRUIT

Last week we went back to the book of Daniel and looked at the first 4 verses of chapter 12 which also give us a prophetic look at the Last Days...

1. The continual battle of spiritual warfare fought over God's creation and His plan of salvation
2. The Great Tribulation of the last days
3. Salvation from eternity in hell as well as a deliverance (the rapture of true believers) from the time of great distress
4. The resurrection of the Righteous as well as the Wicked dead
5. The promise of eternal life
6. A reference to some characteristics of the Last days (Global travel, The increase of Knowledge)

Today, I would like to finish Daniel Chapter 12 and specifically examine verses 7, 11 & 12 as they relate to other prophecies in the Word of God and what they have to teach us about the timing of the last days.

## Daniel 12:5-13

5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. 6 One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?”

(Notice that Daniel, like us, longs to have an understanding of when things are going to happen. His question is also a clue that while he will receive an answer, the answer won't make everything exactly clear)

7 The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, “It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.”

(When the Angel lifts his hands to heaven and swears by Him who lives forever, it reminds us that all of this is a part of God's plan. These events are not manipulated by men, but have been established by God and are under His control)

## Time, Times and half a time

There is great agreement that this phrase stands for 3 1/2 years.

*What is this mysterious 3½ year period? Some consider the number to refer symbolically to a short period of time, deliberately half of seven—the perfect number throughout the Bible. Evil may appear to triumph during this imperfect period, but ultimately it will be defeated. Others consider the 3½ years to be a literal period, referring to the second half of the tribulation period, known as the Great Tribulation.*

This is not the first time this prophetic phrase has been used nor will it be the last.

## Daniel 7:25

25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time. (He is referring to the 4th beast of his vision, its 10 horns and a little horn that arose and uprooted 3 horns. It had eyes and spoke boastfully. Within this prophecy there is reference to Antiochus Epiphanies {God Manifest} and how he rose to power and what he did to the Jews, as well as the future rise of the Antichrist and the latter part of the 7-year tribulation. Antiochus Epiphanies did indeed sacrifice a pig on the altar desecrating the temple and so will the Antichrist)

In Daniel Chapter 9 the Angel Gabriel gives Daniel insight and understanding by giving him a prophetic message about 70 sevens. At the end of that chapter, we read a specific reference to the Antichrist and what will happen during the final 7 (years)

#### **Daniel 9:27**

**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.** (The middle of 7 years would be 3 1/2 years or time, times and half a time)

And in Revelation 14 we see the same phrase applied to the protection of the woman who is fleeing the dragon

#### **Revelation 12:14**

**14 The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.**

(The woman represents Israel through whom the Messiah would come {God's protection of them}, Mary, the mother of our savior, Jesus Christ {God's protection of Jesus from the plans of Herod}, the church of God - the woman's offspring {vs 17 those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus}, as well as Israel and its continued part in the plan of God {God's protection of them during the events of the Great Tribulation and their eventual salvation})

Note also that Revelation 14 equates the phrase time, times and half a time with the number of days 1260... Something that we will discuss a little later this morning

#### **Revelation 12:6**

**6 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.**

**8 I heard, but I did not understand. So, I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?"** (This is that mystery mixed with understanding that we spoke of)

**9 He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are rolled up and sealed until the time of the end. 10 Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.** (Many will be saved through their belief in Jesus Christ and his work on the cross and yet during this time of salvation, wickedness will continue, and they will not be able to understand what is about to happen)

A we study these next two verses I want you to keep in mind three of the thoughts we have talked about already

- **There is much that will still be unclear** (It is best for us to focus on what we can know rather than argue about what is still unclear)
- **The point of studying prophecy is not to be able to set times and dates**
- **Be Ready for Mystery to Remain Mixed with Understanding**

11 “From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.

Like in revelation we have a more specific number that seems to relate to the more general idea of time, times and half a time or 3 1/2 years.

*Various calendars were in use at the time. Some were based on a lunar year of 354 days, some on a solar year of 364 days, and others on a luni-solar year of 360 days. Each had to employ corrections of various kinds to keep it in line with the true solar year of just over 365 days.*

There is some extremely specific work that goes into more detail about how to make sense of these numbers; but for this morning we are going to focus more on what we can know - and that is that the 1290 days here in Daniel 12 and the 1260 days of Revelation 12 refer to a period of approximately 3 and 1/2 years.

*The Hebrew calendar year can have a length of 353, 354, or 355 days, while the leap Hebrew calendar year can have a length of 383, 384, or 385 days.*

The 1260 is easier for us to equate with the 3 1/2 years in that using a luni-solar calendar of 360 days; 3 & 1/2 years exactly equals 1260 days. The extra 30 days may be due to using a different calendar with different leap years or leap months or some have suggested that the 1290 days may mean that the...

**12:11 ...the abomination of desolation will be set up in the temple of Jerusalem thirty days before the Great Tribulation {last 3 1/2 years} begins; this would explain the **one thousand two hundred and ninety days** here.**

Don't forget that Jesus also spoke of the abomination that causes desolation in Matthew 24. Jesus' reference comes almost 200 years after Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the temple which means that Jesus was speaking of something that was yet to come. His prophecy actually has two fulfillments, the destruction of the temple in ad 70 at which time not one stone was left upon another, and the daily sacrifice ceased. It will also be fulfilled again by the Antichrist halfway through the 7 years of tribulation when he breaks his covenant of peace with the Jews.

This also means that since there has not been a temple or sacrifices since 70 ad, the temple will have to be rebuilt in some form and the daily sacrifices reinitiated. (We don't have time to talk about it this morning, but much has been happening for decades behind the scenes in preparation for this to take place.

The prophecies of the Book of Revelation use another means of referencing this 3 1/2 year period and its equivalence to 1260 days

*[Revelation 11:2](#) says that the holy city (Jerusalem) will be trampled by the enemies of God for 42 months, again a period of 3½ years. The next verse ([11:3](#)) speaks of God's two witnesses prophesying for 1260 days, which is also 3½ years (using the traditional 360-day year). Finally, in [13:5](#) the "beast" from the sea is allowed to exercise its authority for 42 months.*

*What is this mysterious 3½ year period? Some consider the number to refer symbolically to a short period of time, deliberately half of seven—the perfect number throughout the Bible. Evil may appear to triumph during this imperfect period, but ultimately it will be defeated. Others consider the 3½ years to be a literal period, referring to the second half of the tribulation period, known as the Great Tribulation.*

*[12:12](#) As for the **one thousand three hundred and thirty five days**, this has been explained as taking us past the Coming of Christ and the judgment of His foes to the beginning of His reign.*

*[Verse 12](#) is one of the most enigmatic statements in this chapter. Between 1,290 and 1,335 days there is an interval of 45 days, or a month and a half. What is destined to take place in that short period can only be conjectured. It may be the time when the thousand-year earthly rule of Christ will be officially inaugurated, as he takes his seat on David's throne. The intervening time may well be devoted to repairing the devastation and burying the bodies left by the Armageddon campaign (cf. [Eze 39:12](#)). The believers who survive to that day and share in the glory of Jesus' coronation on earth are here acclaimed as "blessed". They are about to become citizens of the most wonderful society governed by the most wonderful ruler in all human history—the millennial kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

The main point of verse 12 has less to do with the number and more to do with the phrase "blessed is the one that waits for and reaches the end - we must wait, we must persevere we must hold fast until the end.

**13 "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance."** (Here again we have a reference to the resurrection of the righteous and our eternal inheritance)