

The Stumblingblock to the Church

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The preaching of “*Christ crucified*” is “*unto the Jews a stumblingblock*” (First Corinthians 1:23). Regarding the Jews rejection of Christ as Messiah, Peter wrote that Christ was “*a stone of **stumbling**, and a rock of offence*” (1st Peter 2:8). The Jews failed to acknowledge that Christ was their long-awaited Messiah due to one glaring fact: they wanted a Messiah who would provide **PHYSICAL DELIVERANCE** from their oppressors, rather than a suffering Messiah who would address the issue of their sins.

The “Church” is very much like the Jews, but in a different regard. The “Church” is primarily focused on **PHYSICAL DELIVERANCE (the Rapture)**, rather than on Christ’s coming Kingdom at the Second Advent. The “Church” fails to recognize that the Second Advent of Jesus Christ is the highest priority of God, not the Rapture. Jesus said “*But **seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you***” (Matthew 6:33).

The “Church” is looking for clues to the timing of the Rapture without focusing on God’s priority, which is the Second Coming of His Son. God has blinded the “Church” to the timing of the Rapture because of their disobedience (in not seeking the kingdom of God first).

This blindness (as the Jews) is due to two errors that are commonly taught as being factual: (1) the doctrine that Christ can come for the Rapture of the saints at any time, and (2) that there is a “seven year tribulation” period preceded by the Rapture.

As with any error, if it is taught long enough as fact, it eventually becomes “truth”. Most Christians have been taught that Christ can come for the Rapture at just any old time He wants. Is this scriptural?

What is the main purpose of the Second Coming for? Among many things, the primary purpose of the Second Advent is for the salvation of Israel. Daniel chapter 9 speaks of this...

Daniel 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 focus of Daniel 9:24 is *“upon thy people”* (Israel-the Jews) and *“upon thy holy city”* (Jerusalem). **For what?** *“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 anoint the most Holy”*. The Second Coming is to save Israel and to anoint Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Israel ceased to be a nation after 70 A.D., when she was dispersed into the four corners of the world, just as God had prophesied. If the Second Coming is for the salvation of the nation of Israel (**and it IS**), then how could Christ come at just any old time He pleased, if there was no nation of Israel in existence until 1948?

Answer: He couldn't!

God caused the nation of Israel to be born in 1948 for the purpose of bringing in His Kingdom! Israel was reborn because God had pre-determined the TIMING.

Why? Because God had already prophesied in His word that He would come *“after two days”* and *“in the third day”* (Hosea 6:2-3). God is NOT going to break His word concerning when He is going to return. The doctrine of “imminence” (that Christ can come back at any old time) is simply unscriptural.

The second stumblingblock to the “Church” is the doctrine of a “seven year tribulation”. Christians have been told by the prophecy “experts” that the Rapture will precede a “seven year tribulation” period. This doctrine is based upon Daniel 9:27 where the antichrist confirms the “covenant” for “one week”. Most prophetic expositors believe this “one week” is the so-called “seven year tribulation” period. **But what exactly is this “covenant”?**

According to the prophecy “experts” the doctrine of the confirming of the “covenant” is that of a “PEACE” agreement, which is only an assumption. The only thing Daniel knew of is that of the Abrahamic covenant, which is God’s covenant to His people only for His giving the LAND to them. In other words, God's covenant (the “covenant” spoken of in Daniel 9:27) is Israel’s God-given right to the land! The antichrist, acting and showing himself **“AS God”** (2nd Thessalonians 2:4) is the one to confirm this covenant (acknowledge/strengthen-militarily enforce or protect Israel’s right to exist).

NO peace agreement is required to accomplish this!

You see, the stumblingblock is that of LOOKING FOR or EXPECTING a peace agreement, and not just the simple acknowledgement and enforcing of the Abrahamic (God's) covenant that Daniel acknowledges at the beginning of chapter 9 in his prayer!

The “one week” is simply a “week” consisting of seven years. It is the TIME REMAINING to the nation of Israel per Daniel 9:24. Sixty nine of the seventy weeks concluded on Palm Sunday, the day that Christ rode into Jerusalem “upon a colt the foal of an ass” (Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 21:5). There is one week (of years) remaining **TO** the nation of Israel. This is commonly referred to as “Daniel’s 70th Week”.

Again, the “one week” of Daniel 9:27 is simply the last and remaining week of years in the total of the “seventy” (Daniel 9:24). The antichrist simply confirms the right of Israel to exist in the land DURING that final remaining week known as the 70th Week of Daniel. It does NOT say that this confirming starts at the beginning of the week, nor does it say how long the confirming of the covenant lasts. The passage simply states that 69 weeks of years are concluded and there is only one week left for the antichrist to do any “confirming” with. When Daniel 9:27 says “he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week” it is referring to the amount of time remaining to the nation of Israel, which is “one week” (seven years-the 70th Week of Daniel)!

The 70th Week of Daniel is simply TIME (seven years of time), nothing more. Within that LAST and FINAL “week” given to the nation of Israel, the time of “great tribulation” will occur. The prophecy “experts” tell us that the first half of the “seven year tribulation” is a time of relative world peace, while the second half is when the “great tribulation” occurs.

Let’s look at the standard interpretation of Daniel’s 70th Week...

The prophecy “experts” tell us that the “seven year tribulation” (what **THEY** call Daniel’s 70th Week) is broken down into the following scenario:

1260 days



1260 days

midpoint

Is there enough time within THEIR scenario for the events prophesied in Scripture to take place?

Daniel 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 (2nd Advent), and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate”.*

Daniel 12:1-“*And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book”.*

Daniel 12:8-“*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. 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”.*

Okay, when the antichrist stops the sacrifices and oblations in the “*midst of the week*”, what “*week*” is being referenced? The “*midst*” of the 70th Week, which is following the PATTERN OF the agricultural Sabbatical cycle, which begins and ends on Rosh Hashanah (the Feast of Trumpets)!

Why?

Because the 70th week is **NOT** the same as the Sabbatical cycle! But the 70th week is **IN** the pattern of the sabbatical cycle!

The “*midst*” of the “*week*”, therefore, is the FOURTH year in the “*week*”, which occurs from Rosh Hashanah to Rosh Hashanah.

Michael stands up for the nation of Israel when the “*abomination that maketh desolate*” is “*set up*”. When is it “*set up*”? In the “*midst of the week*”!

Daniel 12:11 makes it very clear that from the time that the “*abomination*” is set up until the “*end*” (the Second Coming-Daniel 12:8-10), there will be 1290 days.

In the 1260/1260 “traditional view” (above diagram) that the prophecy “experts” propose, there is **NOT** enough time in the 2nd half of their proposed scenario for the 1290 days to occur! The antichrist’s reign begins with the opening of the first seal (Revelation 6:1-2), occurring in the “*midst of the week*”, and runs for “*forty and two months*” (1260 days-Revelation 13:5).

Again, in the proposed scenario of the prophecy “experts”, they have the antichrist’s reign ending at the end of the 1260 days with absolutely no time for Christ to wage war at Armageddon, gather the remnant of the Jews, and travel up the King’s Highway to Jerusalem to be crowned King of Israel!

If you have not already done so, please go to www.godstimeline.net and look at the chart entitled “**The 70th Week & Days of Daniel**” (found under the section entitled “Additional Information”).

In that chart, the “*days*” listed in the Book of Daniel as pertaining to the 2nd Advent are put forth in an understandable timeline of the 70th Week without contradicting God’s word. Covered in great detail are the 1260 day reign of the antichrist, the 1260 day ministry of the two witnesses, the 1335 days between the resurrection/rapture and the 2nd Advent, et cetera.

The proper understanding of these days in relation to each other HINGES upon knowing the time of the Second Advent. God has a timeline that He is following and He gave the pattern for His timeline in Genesis 29 (the story of Jacob, Rachel, and Laban as it relates to the “*time of Jacob’s trouble*”-Jeremiah 30:7).

See the chart entitled “**The Time of Jacob’s Trouble**” at www.godstimeline.net.

The purpose of this article is to show that the 70th Week of Daniel is simply seven years of TIME (just as the previous 69 weeks were simply time), following the PATTERN OF God’s agricultural Sabbatical cycle, beginning and ending on Rosh Hashanah.

The 70th Week of Daniel must conclude with a Sabbatical cycle (of 6 years), for Jesus comes for the salvation of Israel to give “rest” (as in the Sabbath rest for the 7th Day/Year). You must remember that the “*abomination*”, the “*image*”, the battle of Armageddon, et cetera, do not happen instantaneously. These things take time to unfold as the “days of Daniel” clearly show forth.

The traditional prophecy view of 1260/1260 does not work, because the “*week*” (2007 to 2014) is following and contained or fulfilled as PART of a Sabbatical cycle of seven years (2008 to 2015) in which both aspects of scriptural time must be fulfilled by the definitions of those references of time in scripture. They (the 70th Week and the Sabbatical cycle) must BOTH be seen and fulfilled TOGETHER without contradiction to the word of God!

As the article entitled “**Conspicuously Missing**” (see “Additional Information” section at www.godstimeline.net) detailed, Satan is kicked out of heaven (Revelation 12) at the last half of the “*week*” and has only 3 & ½ years remaining until the 2nd Advent. Satan had been in heaven before the throne of God accusing the “*brethren*” per Revelation 12:10.

Christ, acting as our “*Advocate*” (1st John 2:1), is present in heaven as our High Priest (Advocate/lawyer) because Satan is accusing us (the “*brethren*”) of our sins! The High Priest (Jesus the Advocate), the Law (Moses), and the Prophets (Elijah) are there to establish the putting away of our sins as LEGAL fact before the throne of God in response to the accusing of the brethren by Satan!

Christ CANNOT leave heaven as our Advocate until Satan is taken out of the way (2nd Thessalonians 2:7). Once Satan is taken out of the way (via the “*war in heaven*”), Christ can then “*descend from heaven with a shout*” to come for the resurrection/rapture! This is the **SOONEST** that Christ can come for the resurrection/rapture folks. You will have to wiggle your way around Scripture to disagree with this.

Obviously, this puts the resurrection/rapture in the “*midst of the week*”, some time before the “*abomination*” is set up. Daniel 12:11-12 gives you the exact number of days from the time of the resurrection/rapture and the time of the abomination until the 2nd Advent. You just have to know when the 2nd Advent is going to be occurring, and you will if you will abandon your pre-conceived ideas of a “seven year tribulation” period!

The Rapture will occur in the “*midst of the week*”, which is simply that FOURTH year of the 70th Week. The Rapture will occur after there is “*war in heaven*”, but before the first seal is opened. There is a 45 day window of time between the resurrection/rapture and the setting up of the abomination of desolation per Daniel 12:11-12.

This means that the idea of a “seven year tribulation” is a poor term to use of the final seven years of time before the Second Coming. The last seven years is NOT all “*tribulation*”! The Church will be here (and is here now) for the first half of Daniel’s 70th Week (Rosh 2007 to Rosh 2014), but the time of “*great tribulation*” and the “*hour of temptation*” (to worship Satan via his antichrist) will not occur until the Church has been resurrected/raptured!

Remember, these things take time to unfold. The man who will be the antichrist is already in power, yet he will not be empowered by Satan until after Satan is kicked out of heaven in the “*midst*” (4th year of the “*week*”-Rosh 2010 to Rosh 2011). After the resurrection/rapture occurs, there has to be TIME for the “*image*” to be created for the purpose of worshipping the antichrist.

Again, please the chart entitled “**The 70th Week & Days of Daniel**” at www.godstimeline.net.

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