

Section Two: The Kingdom of God on Earth (Present)

Category B: Rapture – Kingdom Intelligence Report #2

Topic: The Context of the Event (the Daniel 9:27/Matthew 24:15 connection)

Bible prophecy can be confusing. Making sense of it isn't easy. It's also not impossible. The critical groundwork for an accurate understanding of future events has already been set forth. It involves the distinction between Israel and the Church; revealing the Church as a temporary replacement for the nation of Israel, as God's current instrument in furthering Plan B, for the purpose of restoring Plan A. However, this temporary replacement of Israel by the Church will reach a point of completion. The Church, as a whole, will be taken from the earth, suddenly and dramatically, in order to be with her Lord forever. At that time, God will again direct His attention toward the nation of Israel, for the similar purpose of furthering Plan B, with the goal of finally restoring Plan A. With that in mind, there are two texts of Scripture which will help us in determining precisely when the Rapture event will occur. They are Daniel 9:24-27 and Matthew 24:1-39. The connection between Daniel 9 and Matthew 24 is irrefutable in that it is established by Jesus Himself, in **Matthew 24:15**. An accurate perspective regarding Bible prophecy in general, and the Rapture, in particular, demands a comparison of this connection.

Daniel 9:24-27 is a revelation given to the prophet by the angel Gabriel, providing him with insight and understanding as it pertains to the fulfillment of God's Kingdom plan for the nation of Israel (9:20-23). It consists of a decree of seventy weeks for Daniel's people (9:24). Based on the sequence of events in 9:25-26, we can be certain that sixty nine of those weeks have been fulfilled. In order for this prophecy to match the historical record which occurs between the time of Daniel and the first advent of the Messiah, each "week" must be a period of seven years. In light of human history, as well as Daniel 9:24, the seventieth week has not yet been fulfilled.

This is where the connection between Daniel 9:27 and Matthew 24:15 becomes all-important. Jesus' Olivet Discourse consists of a detailed answer to the disciples question (24:3), providing an account of "the end of the age." That description focusses upon the mention of "tribulation" on three separate occasions (24:9, 21, 29). Jesus compares this period to the world-wide flood of Noah, confirming that it will be an unprecedented time of suffering for the entire world (24:21, 37-39). However, He also declares that this "tribulation" will be **immediately** followed by His literal return to earth (24:29-30); which repudiates the Dominionist's contrived assertion of the tribulation occurring in the context of the Roman army's destruction of Jerusalem in AD70.

Given the above distinction between Israel and the Church, there are three conclusions which can be made in comparing the connection between Daniel 9:27 and Matthew 24:15. **First**, Daniel's 70th Week is one and the same with the tribulation period portrayed by our Lord in Matthew 24. **Second**, the "interval" between the first sixty nine fulfilled weeks of Daniel's prophecy, and the 70th unfulfilled week, has been occupied by the mystery of the Church. **Third**, this "interval," known as the Church Age, will culminate in the Rapture event; which in turn will initiate Daniel's 70th week. Anyone conversant with this issue, understands what this means in locating the Rapture on God's prophetic calendar. The question that every student of Bible prophecy must then answer is this: **"if the interval between Daniel's sixty ninth and seventieth week is the Church Age, is there any reason to believe that the Church Age will 'overlap' into Daniel's seventieth week, decreed for the nation of Israel?"** There is none, thereby creating an ironclad proof text for the precise timeframe of the Rapture, which we will consider, next.