JOHN'S LITTLE BOOK THE FOUR VISIONS OF REVELATION CHAPTERS 11 THROUGH 13

1

www.SecondTree.net by Chuck Porritt (4/25) dcporritt@gmail.com

PROLOGUE: THE 'MARK OF THE BEAST' IS HERE!

STARTING: WITH DANIEL'S 70th WEEK

In the past, at the beginning of each page in the Prophecy Section of this journal, I used to ask this question: '<u>Do you know what time it is</u>?' I then explained the 70th Week of Daniel, and how close at hand the second coming of Jesus Christ truly is.



I explained how that, after examining Daniel chapter 9 and Jesus' Olivet Discourse, we can realize that the <u>MIDPOINT</u> of Daniel's 70th Week is Rome's destruction of Jerusalem in <u>70 AD</u>. And then I explained that, after examining the <u>FOUR VISIONS</u> of John's Little Book (Revelation 11-13), we can fully understand the entire Week:

THE FOUR VISIONS OF JOHN'S LITTLE BOOK REVELATION 11-13 'TO THE JEW FIRST'	
	AD (LUKE 21:24)
VISION #1: THE VAC THE TEMPLE AND ITS SACRIFICES TEACH THE WORLD ABOUT GOD AND SALVATION	ANT TEMPLE MOUNT THE TEMPLE MOUNT VACANT GIVEN TO THE GENTILES FOR 42 MONTHS
VISION #2: THE TWO WITNESSES	
THE 'LAW AND THE PROPHETS' TESTIFY	JERUSALEM GUILTY BEFORE GOD
GOD GIVES THE BIBLE TO THE WORLD DURING 1260 DAYS	GOD'S PROPHETS LIE DEAD IN ITS STREETS FOR 3.5 DAYS
VISION #3: THE WOMAN, THE CHILD AND THE DRAGON	
ISRAEL GIVES BIRTH TO THE CHRIST	ISRAEL'S DISPERSION (1260 DAYS, 3.5 TIMES)
JESUS RESURRECTED TO GOD'S THRONE	SATAN CAST DOWN TO EARTH ENRAGED
VISION #4: THE BEAST OF REVELATION	
	THE BEAST AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE FOR 42 MONTHS

ADDING: CLARIFICATION ABOUT THE 'MARK'

But now, after more recent Bible study and my continued observation of world events, I have concluded that another important aspect of 'the last days' <u>has come</u>; the 'Mark of the Beast'. It is a 'Mark' that the False Prophet will impose upon <u>the entire world</u>:

The False Prophet causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a Mark <u>FROM</u> their right hand or <u>FROM</u> their foreheads. And that no one may buy or sell except one who has the Mark, or an official name from the Beast, or an official number associated with his official name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number from the Beast, for it is the (identification) number of each man. That number is 666. Revelation 13:16-18

Until recently I had suspected that the 'Mark of the Beast' might be a bar code or QR code tattooed upon a person's skin. Or that it might be an RFID chip inserted underneath a person's skin. But with more recent study I have discovered that, in the original Greek of Revelation 13:16, the words 'forehead' and 'hand' were <u>not</u> written in the <u>DATIVE</u> case (indicating that something is being done <u>TO</u> them). Rather they were written in the <u>GENITIVE</u> case; indicating that something is being taken <u>FROM</u> a person's forehead or hand.

And the Greek word translated 'mark' can also be translated as an 'image' or 'impression' of something. And so I now believe that the Beast's 'Mark' is actually a <u>scan</u> taken <u>from</u> people's faces and hands. These comprise the <u>biometric data</u> being collected <u>today</u> by many nations. And it will all come together in a worldwide system of human registration.

This registration of people will be comprised of three things; all three of which are described in Revelation 13:17:

- 1) Biometric scans (markings or images) taken <u>from</u> faces and hands.
- 2) An official legal name assigned by the system.
- 3) An official number connected to the person's official name.

And that no one may buy or sell except one who has 1) the scan (mark, image or impression), and 2) an official name from the Beast, and 3) an official number associated with his official name. Revelation 13:17

I have not yet identified the Beast's official numbering system, based upon a 6-6-6 format. But God is just and fair. And so when the Beast's 'number' does come, I trust that it will be obvious.

My concern, however, regards the fact that all of us are already accustomed to using facial recognition and fingerprint technology. And so the Mark (SCAN) of the Beast will just seem like a harmless improvement upon the status quo. For a further discussion of the False Prophet and his 'Mark', I refer my visitor to my page titled 'Understanding the False Prophet'.

In Revelation God has warned that those who embrace this 'Mark' will suffer <u>never-ending</u> torment in the 'Lake of Fire and Brimstone'. And so I am placing this prologue regarding the 'Mark' at the beginning of every page in this web site. What each of us does now in response to the False Prophet's 'Mark' will determine our eternal destinies:

Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice "If anyone worships the Beast and his image and <u>embraces</u> his SCAN, taken from his own forehead or from his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God; which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

And the smoke of their torment ascends <u>forever and ever</u>. And they have no rest day or night, who worship the Beast and his image, and whoever receives the SCAN associated with his own name." Here is the patience of the saints. Here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:9-12

CONCLUSION: WE NEED TO FOCUS

And so <u>combining</u> a knowledge of 1) how close the second coming of Christ is, together with 2) a better understanding of the 'Mark of the Beast', my warning is...

DO NOT SUBMIT TO THE MARK (SCAN) OF THE BEAST!

So what is it that God is calling Christians to do in this hour? <u>To prepare for death</u>. God now calls upon Christians to follow the three young Hebrew men, who went into the fiery furnace <u>rather than deny their God</u> (Daniel 3). And to follow Daniel, who risked the lion's den rather than to cease worshiping the one true God (Daniel 6). God calls upon Christians to hear His word and to understand the choice that now confronts <u>all of mankind</u>:

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested. And you will have tribulation ten days. <u>Be faithful until death</u>, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death (the Lake of Fire and Brimstone). Revelation 2:10-11

And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, <u>and they did not love their lives to the death</u>. Revelation 12:11

As I explain in my four pages on 'The Beast and its Three Allies', the rise of Constantine to conquer the world under the banner of the Cross was seen by many as <u>THE triumph of</u> <u>Christianity</u>. It represented God finally exercising <u>dominion</u> over the world; taking His great power and reigning (Revelation 11:17) <u>through specific people and institutions</u> chosen by Him.

This was the 'great falling away from the faith' that Paul said would accompany the rise of a 'man of sin' (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). And so a simple choice still confronts us. Do we want to share in Constantine's 'victory', or will we share in Christ's sufferings?

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. And if children, then heirs. Heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, <u>if indeed we suffer with Him</u>, <u>that we may also be glorified together</u>. Romans 8:16-17

This is the FOURTH page in a series of four prophetic chain links, that lead to an understanding of Daniel's 70th Week. For a condensed version of those four links, I refer my visitor to my page titled 'The Four Links Condensed', and to my 'ALL FOUR LINKS CONDENSED PDF'.



PROPHETIC LINK #4: RECEIVING THE BOOK

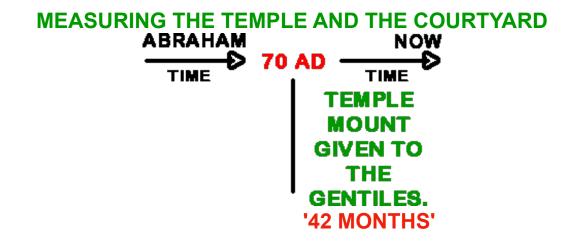
Revelation 10 describes the apostle John's reception of the 'Little Book'. He was told to eat it. It was sweet in his mouth, but bitter in his stomach. Then John was told that he must 'prophecy <u>again</u>'. In other words, that John must give additional prophetic information over and above what he was already receiving in the larger book of Revelation. That 'Little Book' and its information are opened up for us in Revelation chapters 11-13.

John's Little Book sits in the larger book of Revelation, much like the 'inserts' that we find in magazines today. It is held in place and connected to the rest of Revelation by the 'staple' of the 7th Trumpet (Revelation 11:15-19). John's Little Book provides us with four visions of Daniel's 70th week.

VISION #1: MEASURING THE TEMPLE

In this vision John was told to measure the Temple, the Altar and the Jewish people who worship there. But he was to leave out the court (the Temple Mount); because it would be given to the Gentiles for 42 months (42 months is 1/2 of 7 years).

And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying "Rise, and measure the Temple of God, and the altar, and those that worship there. But the court which is outside the Temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles. And the holy city shall they tread under foot for forty two months". Revelation 11:1-2

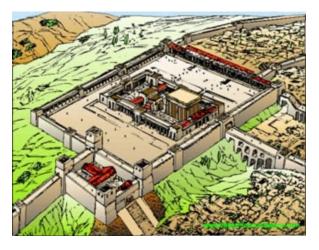


In the Bible the 'measurement' of things sometimes represents God's judgment of those things. In the downfall of King Belshazzar in Daniel 5:27, the king was told that he had been 'weighed in the balances' and found lacking (coming short of God's commandments). And we see this same idea in Jesus' warning that we will be 'measured' with the same measure that we apply to others (Matthew 7:2).

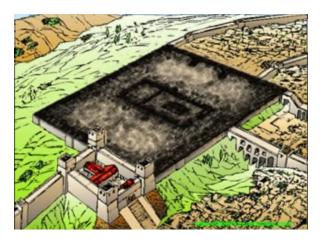
In this passage God's re-assessment of the usefulness of the Mosaic Covenant (with its Temple and animal sacrifices) is described. And this assessment was done after Christ's finished work upon the cross, and His establishment of a 'New Covenant'. God's evaluation of the old Mosaic Covenant is summed up in <u>one</u> word: 'OBSOLETE'.

In that God says "A new covenant," He has made the first (Mosaic Covenant) <u>obsolete</u>. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. Hebrews 8:13

For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. Hebrews 10:4



THE TEMPLE MOUNT BEFORE 70 AD



THE TEMPLE MOUNT AFTER 70 AD



THE TEMPLE MOUNT TODAY STILL TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT '42 MONTHS' LATER

For Jews in Israel today to seriously consider restarting Mosaic animal sacrifices would be to miss the message of 70 AD; that the old Mosaic animal sacrifices are over because the true Lamb of God has come, and has replaced their symbolism.

The fate of the Christ-rejecting Jewish generation that was first preached to by John the Baptist, then by the Son of God, and then finally by Spirit-filled apostles <u>bears loud witness</u>. And that preaching was accompanied by miracles, signs and wonders from God the Father. The worldwide dispersion of the Jewish people, since the majority of them rejected the true Lamb of God, should cause Jews today to fear God's possible response to animal blood now.

The removal of the Temple, the Altar and the Jewish people from the Temple Mount declares two things very loudly:

- 1) The Mosaic Covenant is over.
- 2) God is not mocked; He repays His enemies.

This vision is one of 3 passages within the book of Revelation (the others being Revelation 3:9 and 17:10), which indicate that the book of Revelation was written <u>before</u> the fall of Jerusalem. If John had received the Little Book <u>after</u> the fall of Jerusalem, there would not have been a Temple, altar or people for him to measure. As it is, there is not a single indication within the book of Revelation that Jerusalem had already fallen when John wrote it.

VISION #2: THE TWO WITNESSES

These two witnesses perform the same miracles that Moses and Elijah performed. But they are <u>NOT</u> Moses and Elijah. These witnesses symbolize what the Jewish people called the Bible; "The Law and the Prophets".

This is a vision of God giving the entire Bible (in both the Old and New Testaments) to the world. And it portrays God's validation of His 'book' through supernatural miracles performed by Old Testament prophets, the Son of God, and by New Testament apostles as well. This giving of the Bible, verified by 'signs and wonders', ended just before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

And I will give power unto My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceeds out of their mouth, and devours their enemies. And if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy.

And they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the Beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified (Jerusalem).

And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them "Come up here". And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour there was a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell. And in the earthquake seven thousand men were slain. And the remnant were frightened, and gave glory to the God of heaven. Revelation 11:3-14



THE ONENESS OF THE BIBLE

It is appropriate to view the New Testament as a continuation of 'the Law and the Prophets'. This connection was evident in the words and life of Christ. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explained His relationship to 'the Law and the Prophets'. He said that His work was a fulfillment and enforcement of them:

Think not that I am come to destroy the Law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to <u>fulfill</u>. Matthew 5:17

In the transfiguration on the mount, Jesus first appeared to His disciples standing together with Moses and Elijah. And <u>then</u> God the Father spoke from heaven:

Then answered Peter and said unto Jesus "Lord, it is good for us to be here: if You will, let us make here three tabernacles; one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah". While he yet spoke, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them. And behold a voice out of the cloud, which said "<u>This is my beloved Son</u>, in whom I am well pleased. <u>HEAR HIM!</u> Matthew 17:4-5

Here the Lord Jesus was not only associated with 'the Law and the Prophets', but given preeminence over them. This is because although Moses and Elijah were faithful <u>servants</u> of God, Jesus was identified by the Father as <u>His Son</u> (Hebrews 3:1-6).

GOD'S JUDGMENT UPON ISRAEL

In the second half of this vision, God's witnesses lie dead in the street of Jerusalem. This represents the fulfillment of the words of the Lord Jesus, when He warned the Jewish leaders that He would be sending more messengers to them (apostles and disciples), and that their mistreatment of these Christian witnesses would result in terrible judgment upon Israel:

Therefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them you shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall you scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city; <u>that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth</u>, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom you slew between the Temple and the altar. Matthew 23:34-35

The apostle Paul summed up the three great sins of Israel that would lead to its severe judgment

1) The killing of Christ (the Son of God and Seed of Abraham).

2) The persecution of His apostles (who would announce Christ's fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant to the Jews first).

3) Preventing the proclamation of salvation to all of the other nations of mankind.

For you Thessalonians became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Jews. Who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us. And they do not please God and <u>are contrary to all men</u>; <u>forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved</u>, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them <u>to the uttermost</u>. 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16

The profound wickedness of stubbornly unrepentant Jews after the ministries of John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, and then the apostles of Christ, was foretold by the Lord Jesus:

When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation. Matthew 12:43-45

And finally Jesus had this to say about Jerusalem:

Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following. For it cannot be that a prophet should perish OUTSIDE OF JERUSALEM. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house (Temple) is left to you desolate. And assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'" Luke 13:33-35

There should be no doubt that the many sufferings of the Jewish people, from 70 AD up to the present time, represent the fulfillment of Jesus' words. Again we are talking about a period of time much longer than one half of 7 years. In this vision God describes the first half of the 70th week as a period of 1260 days (3.5 years), while twice He describes the second half as lasting 3.5 days. Here God is clearly indicating that the 70th Week is flexible and symbolic, and should not to be understood as seven literal years.

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET

This trumpet is a continuation of the trumpets of Revelation chapters 8 and 9, and is the 'staple' that attaches John's Little Book to the rest of the book of Revelation. John's Little Book can be left in place within the larger book of Revelation. Or it can be removed, leaving the 'staple' of the seventh Trumpet behind; and read as a 'stand-alone' containing only its four visions.

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. And the twenty-four elders, who sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces and worshiped God, saying "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, Who are, and were, and are to come; because You have taken your great power and have reigned.

And the nations were angry and Your wrath has come; and the time of the dead, that they should be judged. And that You should give reward unto Your servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Your name, small and great. And should destroy those who destroy the earth. 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. Revelation 11:15-19

The 7th Trumpet's placement here (at the resurrection of the Two Witnesses) is appropriate, because it dovetails perfectly with the promised resurrection (or 'rapture') of <u>all</u> of God's saints throughout the world; at the sounding of the last Trumpet. It brings a 'note' of hope and comfort amidst all of the gloomy things portrayed in the four visions:

Now this I say, brethren; that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed; in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, <u>at the last trumpet</u>. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible; and we shall be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:50-52 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord. That we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep (dead). For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

It needs to be recognized, however, that the bodies of God's servants are portrayed as lying in the street of Jerusalem right up <u>until the rapture</u>. Thus in God's eyes, even though He has been graciously and encouragingly restoring the nation of Israel since 1948, <u>the guilt of Israel still lies in its streets</u>. Just as Joseph had to push his brothers toward repentance, placing his cup in Benjamin's sack (Genesis 44:12), so Jesus today is using Israel's dangerous neighborhood to push His 'brothers' toward truthfulness and repentance as well.

Today some of the most evil people in the world are Jews living both within Israel and outside of Israel. And God still confronts every Jew with the same commandment that He presents to all people: 'Repent and believe in my Son, the Lord Jesus Christ'.

Gentiles who flatter Israel just because of its Biblical heritage are doing the Jews no favors. Jewish people must be told what they <u>need</u> to hear, not what they <u>want</u> to hear. When Jesus comes back and the kingdom of David is fully restored, every citizen of Israel will be BOTH physically <u>and spiritually</u> circumcised (through regeneration in Christ, Deuteronomy 10:16, 30:6, Acts 7:51).

VISION #3: THE WOMAN, THE CHILD, AND THE DRAGON

The Woman in this vision is the nation of Israel, passing down through Old Testament times to successfully bring Abraham's promised 'Seed' into the world. The Child is born and Satan tries to devour Him. This may represent Herod's attempt to kill the Christ-child at His birth. And it might also represent Satan's frequent temptations of the Lord Jesus, to keep Him from fulfilling His work of redemption in righteousness.

The flight of the Woman into the wilderness represents the dispersion (Diaspora) of the Jewish people throughout the world, beginning with the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. And she being with Child cried out, travailing in birth and pained to be delivered.

And there appeared another wonder in heaven: Behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to deliver, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

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. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and sixty days. Revelation 12:1-6



THE WOMAN PRESERVED

Not only was the destruction of Jerusalem a judgment from God upon Israel. It has also been, at the same time, the means of preserving a remnant of Israel. This vision tells us that, if the Jewish people had not been dispersed throughout the world throughout the second half of the 70th Week (1260 days), they might not have survived as a people group at all.

The sun, moon and 12 stars are a reminder to us of Joseph's dream (Genesis 37:9-10). Joseph is symbolic of the Lord Jesus. Both men were betrayed into the hands of the Gentiles by their Jewish brothers; because they enjoyed A SPECIAL SONSHIP, and because they had VISIONS OF RULERSHIP over their brothers some day:

Again the high priest asked Jesus, saying to Him "Are You the Christ, the <u>Son</u> of the Blessed?" Jesus said, "<u>I am</u>. And <u>you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power</u>, and <u>coming with the clouds of heaven</u>." Mark 14:61-62

After their betrayal, both men were thought by their brothers to be dead. Jesus is now working behind the scenes, as Joseph did, to bring His Jewish brethren to repentance. Someday this greater 'Joseph' is going to reveal Himself to Israel; in a tearful reunion that will restore the land to Abraham and David, and the twelve tribes to God's everlasting blessing (Zechariah 12:6-13:1).

11

WAR IN HEAVEN

This passage presents to us one of the most powerful lessons in all of the Bible. First of all it explains Satan's work as mankind's accuser. Until Jesus had accomplished salvation on the cross, Satan had always been able to come to the Father and point out how undeserving we are of His grace and mercy.

I believe that, as Jesus hung upon the cross being mocked and tormented by those for whom He was dying, Satan was shouting in the Father's ear, asking 'How could you let your Son die for such wicked people as these?'. And his accusations were truthful, and had merit.

But once the Father and the Son fulfilled Their plan of the cross, the salvation of sinners became possible and MERCY TRIUMPHED OVER JUDGMENT. Satan had no more legal standing before the throne of God, to argue the 'merits' of his case.

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven "Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ. For the accuser of our brethren is cast down, who accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Therefore rejoice, you heavens, and you 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 knows that he has but a short time". Revelation 12:7-12

The judgment and 'casting out' of Satan is central to the Christian message. Jesus twice referred to it in the gospel of John. God wants all people, Christian and non-Christian alike, to understand what happened to Satan after the resurrection and glorification of Christ. And the implication of these facts for us down here on earth.

<u>NOW</u> is the judgment of this world: <u>NOW</u> shall the prince of this world be cast out (of heaven). John 12:31

And when the Holy Spirit is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. Of sin, because they believe not on Me. Of righteousness, because I go to My Father, and you see Me no more. <u>Of judgment</u>, BECAUSE THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD IS JUDGED. John 16:8-11

AN ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (AND TRIBULATION)

As I have explained in my pages on Daniel's 70-Weeks Prophecy and Jesus' Olivet Discourse', the one who comes upon the 'wings of abomination' to bring desolation (in the third sentence of Daniel 9:27) is Satan; defeated and cast out of heaven through the finished work of Jesus Christ upon the cross.



Satan is like Pharaoh in the book of Exodus. Though he was defeated, Pharaoh chose to pursue Israel into the Red Sea; rather than to acknowledge his well-deserved defeat and let his captives go. Satan also knows that He has lost and that God's 'Lake of Fire and Brimstone' rightly awaits him. But that does not stop him from hardening his heart and trying to take as many people down into that 'Lake of Fire' with himself as he can. Soon that 'Lake' will close over him, just as the Red Sea closed over Pharaoh's armies.

In this vision God explains the persecution of the Jewish people, beginning with the first 'flood' of destruction that hit Jerusalem in 70 AD. Satan has been pouring out his frustrated rage upon the people who brought the 'Seed of Abraham' into the world; a human 'Seed' who has conquered Satan on behalf of humanity.

And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man Child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place; where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time from the face of the serpent.And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman. And the earth opened its mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was angry with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed; who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Revelation 12:13-17 Now we can understand the spiritual reality behind the visible scenes of history, and who it was working within men like Hitler to seek the destruction of the Jewish race. Satan is still at work today, seeking to rally the nations against Israel and the Jewish people. These verses also tell us that <u>faithful</u> Christians will be suffering <u>with</u> the Jews, rather than persecuting them.

This passage describes the second half of Daniel's 70th Week in very grim terms. It is the time of Satan's wrath, and is the 'Great Tribulation' spoken of in Revelation 7:14; stretching from the destruction of Jerusalem to the second coming of Christ.

I believe that the 6th Seal of Revelation chapter 6 represents 'the Day of the Lord', and the onset of nuclear warfare that will have been set in motion by Satan. And Revelation chapter 7 begins by describing that same moment in time as the point when God will remove His people from the planet, while He simultaneously 'seals' a portion of the Jewish people for preservation during the events that follow.

And I suspect that this nuclear wave of destruction will be the underlying cause of the first four Trumpets of Revelation chapter 8; impacting the lands, oceans, fresh water and atmosphere of the earth. When God says 'Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea' (Rev. 12:17), He is referring to a Satanic rage that first expressed itself against Jews and Christians beginning in 70 AD. But that rage will culminate in the almost total destruction of the planet, as foretold by Isaiah:

They that see you (Satan) shall narrowly look upon you and consider you, saying "Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms? That made the world as a wilderness and destroyed the cities thereof? That opened not the house of his prisoners?" Isaiah 14:16-17

For those of us living comfortably in America, the idea that we are now in the Great Tribulation seems inappropriate. But it is not a strange concept for much of the rest of the world. American Christians are given to wealth, ease and comfort. And their eyes are blinded by the false doctrines of Dispensationalism, Postmillennialism, and 'Once Saved, Always Saved'.

In this vision we are twice shown the 'Diaspora' of the Jewish people, that began in 70 AD. First we see the woman fed in the wilderness for 1260 days. Later we see her nourished in the wilderness for 3.5 times. Again God is showing us that the 70th Week is not a period of 7 literal years.

VISION #4: THE BEAST FROM THE SEA

In this fourth vision of John's Little Book, we are shown <u>how</u> Satan will bring tribulation and desolation upon the planet throughout the second half of Daniel's 70th Week. He will use the Beast of Revelation. We encounter two Beasts in Revelation chapter 13:

The Beast from the Sea (verses 1-10)
The Beast from the Earth (verses 11-18)

The 'Beast from the Sea' is simply referred to as 'the Beast' throughout the rest of Revelation. The 'Beast from the Earth' is subservient to the 'Beast from the Sea', and is referred to as 'The False Prophet' throughout the rest of Revelation. I provide a more thorough explanation of the Beast in my page titled Understanding the Beast. And I provide explanations of the three 'allies' of the Beast (which are also described in the book of Revelation) in my pages titled Understanding the False Prophet, The City of Rome in Prophecy, and The United States in Prophecy.

