

Introduction to Daniel 9:27, the 70th Week, and the ENP

Anyone who has been paying attention has observed an escalation in alarming events all over the world. For one thing, more false messiahs, mostly representing various cults, seem to be coming forth, in greater numbers, than ever before. Furthermore, we are seeing a marked increase in the socio-economic instability of nations, rapidly escalating prices of common necessities, worldwide food shortages and famines, bacterial and viral plagues, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, devastating storms, floods, fires, and other horrendous disasters. Many would agree that we are in the time described, by Jesus, as “the beginning of birth pains” (Matthew 24:8).

But is this merely a “blip” of unfortunate occurrences in the historical events of mankind? Or are we witnessing a trend that suddenly may spiral out of control and, within less than a handful of years, lead to the greatest cataclysms humankind has ever experienced? I believe it is plausible to suspect that the latter may be the case.

Most people who know anything about the ancient prophets of the Judeo-Christian Bible should be fairly familiar with the prophet Daniel, a man highly esteemed by God. Here is the final portion of one of the most famous prophecies in the Bible, recorded by Daniel, which was given to him by the angel Gabriel:

²⁷He will confirm a covenant with many for one “seven,” but in the middle of that “seven” he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And one who causes desolation will place abominations on a wing of the temple until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. (Daniel 9:27)

This prophecy specifies a seven-year period (that is, a “week” of years) to take place at a time in Daniel’s future. Some believe that the events described within that seven-year framework already have taken place. I do not. I believe that this “heptad” of years—also known as the “70th Week”—is to transpire at the end of the age. For centuries, Bible scholars have asked, “What will commence this prophetic period?” and “When will it begin?”

The **European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)** is a momentous, *seven-year* agreement between the European Union (EU) and several other nations, including Israel: the *chief* nation in prophecy. In fact, Israel was the first non-European nation to sign the ENP agreement. Officially, the ENP went into effect January 1, 2007, and it is scheduled to extend through the end of 2013: exactly *seven years*. Also, the ENP *confirms* and *strengthens* another accord, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EuroMed), ratified in 1995. Among other goals, peace between Israel and a Palestinian State, as part of a two-state solution, is a *main objective* of the ENP agreement.

Furthermore, the Temple Institute in Jerusalem is anxious to begin construction of the Third Temple. When (or, perhaps, even before) this temple is in place, the ancient rituals of animal sacrifices and other offerings, as ordained by God to Moses and Aaron, will begin again. Interestingly, as part of the ENP, an evaluation of animal “rights” is planned for 2010—midway through the seven-year period. The ENP website is here:

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

In this commentary, I will explain why I believe that the 70th Week *already may have begun*, during the week that the ENP was established and funded in October 2006. Of course, such a suggestion is at odds with the notion of a “Pre-tribulation” Rapture. As such, I also will include a few reasons why I am convinced that the Rapture event(s) will occur *well into* the final seven-year period, rather than prior to its beginning.

I will examine the concept of God’s wrath, from which believers will be sheltered, via the Rapture. And I will explain how we may be able to predict the dates of certain events on God’s prophetic calendar, *even though* Jesus’ declaration, “No one knows about that day or hour...” (Matthew 24:36), *seems* to rule out that possibility.

If, indeed, we have entered the final seven years of this age, it should compel us to have a renewed alertness and vigilance during the months and days to come. We *must* look at Jesus’ stern warning, “For then there will be **great distress** [in most translations: **great tribulation**], unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again” (Matthew 24:21), with a sense of sobering realism, rather than with an idealistic expectation of being “whisked away” before this trying time of human history takes place. In addition, I feel we would be remiss if we do not inform our friends of what may be coming, and negligent if we fail to prepare our families and ourselves for the potential adversities looming on the horizon.

Daniel 9:27, the 70th Week, and the European Neighbourhood Policy

Prophecy

The esteemed Israeli prophet Daniel was visited more than once by the angel Gabriel, who provided Daniel with prophecies about the distant future, from Daniel's perspective in time. One of these prophecies is, perhaps, the *most significant* prophecy in the Bible, pertaining to the future of Daniel's people, Israel:

²⁴Seventy “sevens” are decreed for **your people** [Israel] and **your holy city** [Jerusalem] 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. ²⁵Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem [Nehemiah 2:1-9; Ezra 1:1-11] until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes [Luke 19:28-44], there will be seven “sevens,” and sixty-two “sevens” [= 69 × 7 years = 483 years]. It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. ²⁶After the sixty-two “sevens,” the Anointed One will be cut off 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,” but in the middle of that “seven” he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And one who causes desolation will place abominations on a wing of the temple until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.** (Daniel 9:24-27)

Most Bible scholars agree that the closing verse, **Daniel 9:27**, foretells the final seven years of this age, just prior to the return of Jesus Christ back to earth. The “he” in the prophecy generally is acknowledged to be the Antichrist, to arise near the end of the age. It was prophesied that this man would *confirm* or *strengthen* a previous covenant or agreement “with many” for one seven-year period—the *70th Week*—thus commencing the final seven years. Israel never has engaged in a seven-year accord with anyone—until the Fall of 2006.

European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

On 17 October 2006, the Council of the European Union (EU) allocated more than €11 billion to fund the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). This was achieved via the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), specifically for a span of seven years: 2007 through 2013:

The Council adopted a regulation establishing, and laying down general provisions for, a European neighbourhood and partnership instrument for the 2007-13 period, following an agreement reached with the European Parliament in first reading. ... The regulation will apply as from 1 January 2007. (Luxembourg, 17 October 2006)

A week later, on 24 October 2006, “general provisions establishing a European Neighborhood and Partnership Interest” were laid down for the same (seven-year) period, 2007 through 2013:

This Regulation establishes for the period 2007 to 2013 a financial envelope which constitutes the prime reference amount for the budgetary authority. (Strasbourg, 24 October 2006)

Here are the non-European nations included in the European Neighbourhood Policy, at least initially:

- | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|---|-----------|
| • Algeria | • Belarus | • Israel | • Libya | • Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and Gaza Strip | • Syria |
| • Armenia | • Egypt | • Jordan | • Moldova | | • Tunisia |
| • Azerbaijan | • Georgia | • Lebanon | • Morocco | • Russian Federation | • Ukraine |

Israel was the first non-European nation to sign on to the European Neighbourhood Policy.

ENP's Focus on Israel and a Palestinian State

Many scholars of the Bible have felt that the prophesied seven-year agreement would be a "peace treaty" involving Israel and its enemies. Although the latter is a rather simplistic viewpoint, the ENP, in fact, *does* specify stipulations promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. An important ENP document, involving the EU and Israel, shows the 7-year period 2007-2013, as well as the 3½-year period 2007-2010, on the title page. Furthermore, one paragraph, with a prevailing objective of "peace" in Israel, reads this way:

Relations between the EU and Israel are also part of the Union's wider efforts to contribute to a **resolution of the Middle East conflict**. The achievement of lasting peace in the Middle East is a central aim of the EU, whose main objective is a two-State solution leading to a final and comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on implementation of the Road Map, with Israel and a democratic, viable, peaceful and sovereign Palestinian State living side-by-side in peace within secure and recognised borders and enjoying normal relations with their neighbours. (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument for Israel, 24 October, 2006)

In an ENP progress report for Israel, the following was included:

The European Council considers that **Israel**, on account of its high level of economic development, **should enjoy special status in its relations with the EU** on the basis of reciprocity and common interest.... On that basis, the **EU and Israel** concluded an Association Agreement, and **developed relations further in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership**. (Brussels, 29 November 2006)

A few days later, these comments about the Action Plan were made:

The implementation of the **Action Plan has paved the way for a significant development of EU-Israel cooperation....** The process of implementing the Action Plan has thus helped to **better define the path and framework of EU-Israel relations** while enabling the deepening and strengthening of cooperation.... The Action Plan was designed to **provide support to Palestinian reforms and institution building** in the context of **preparing for a future Palestinian state**. (Brussels, 4 December 2006)

Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EuroMed)

Back in 1995, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EuroMed) was initiated. It also was, and still is, known as the "Barcelona Process," since the conference was held in Barcelona, Spain. At that time, EuroMed was an agreement between the EU and a number of Mediterranean nations, including Israel (represented by Ehud Barak) and the Palestinian Authority (represented by Yassir Arafat). The following was one of the initial declarations:

The participants express their conviction that the **peace, stability and security of the Mediterranean region** are a common asset which they **pledge to promote and strengthen** by all means at their disposal. To this end they agree to **conduct a strengthened political dialogue at regular intervals, based on observance of essential principles of international law**, and reaffirm a number of common objectives in matters of internal and external stability. (Barcelona, 27,28 November 1995)

In spite of its good intentions, EuroMed largely was unsuccessful in its efforts to attain peace and solidarity for all involved. As such, the ENP may be considered to be a *confirmation* or a *strengthening* of EuroMed. The ENP fully complements EuroMed and is a manifest fulfillment of its long-term goals, within a *seven-year* time frame. Thus, it may be that EuroMed was the *initial "covenant"* involving Israel, while the ENP "*confirms*" that covenant, according to **Daniel 9:27**. In fact, in 2005, a vice-president of the EU made this statement:

The European Neighbourhood Policy does not replace the process launched ten years ago in Barcelona. It renews it, clarifies it and breathes fresh life into it.

Third Temple

The Temple Institute, founded in Jerusalem in 1987, has been making steady, ongoing preparations for the construction of the Third Temple on Mount Moriah, where two previous temples stood in ancient times. Virtually all of the sacred vessels and vestments, including the high priest's robe and crown, have been made and are ready to be used in the Third Temple. All that is required now is for the "holy place," as referenced by Jesus, to be standing again in Jerusalem. Below are photos of a miniature model of the temple, along with other items, all presently located at the Temple Institute. The implements will be used in temple rituals and ceremonies.



Third Temple Model



Copper Vessel



Gold-Plated Shofar



Lottery Box



Measuring Cup



Small Mizrak



Sickle



Silver Shovel



Silver Wine Decanter



High Priest's Robe #1



High Priest's Robe #2



High Priest's Crown

Jesus, in His discourse about the end of the age, mentioned the "holy place":

¹⁵So when you see standing in the **holy place** "the abomination that causes desolation," spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.
(Matthew 24:15)

This is a *direct reference* by Jesus to the Daniel 9:27 prophecy. Other biblical references to this structure, in the New Testament, were made by Paul (2 Thessalonians 2:4) and by John (Revelation 11:1). In these two verses, the Greek term actually is better translated as "shrine." This leaves open the possibility that, perhaps, another structure will be used in which to present sacrifice and offering, prior to the midpoint of the prophesied 7 years.

A sacrificial altar stone already has been constructed. There are plans to return to the ancient observances put into practice, for the Israelites, millennia ago by Moses and the high priest Aaron. Potentially, burnt offerings *could* take place on this altar without the presence of a temple (Ezra 3:2-6). Ceremonial rituals were performed, off and on, until 70 A.D., when the Second Temple was destroyed. According to **Daniel 9:27**, midway through the seven years, there will be a forced cessation of sacrifice and offering.

There is no stipulation, in the prophecy, concerning how long the temple, shrine, or altar stone will be present, prior to the middle of the seven years. Furthermore, there is no indication how long after sacrifice and offering begin that they will be stopped. Perhaps they will begin early in **Passover week** (Exodus 12:1-20; Leviticus 23:5-8), a key time for sacrifice and offering to be made, and be stopped later that week.

Passover Week 2010

The European Neighbourhood Policy *officially* began on January 1, 2007. However, *technically* it commenced during the week of October 17-24, 2006. This is because, as noted before, two fundamental ENP regulations were dated **17 October** and **24 October, 2006**. God's timetable would "trump" man's calendar.

Considering a Hebrew month to be 30 days in length, then 42 months (3½ years) would consist of:

$$42 \text{ months} \times 30 \text{ days/month} = 1,260 \text{ days.}$$

We know that the *second half* of the 70th Week will last for 42 months, or 1,260 days (Revelation 11:2,3, 12:6, 13:5). It is reasonable to deduce, then, that the *first half* of the 70th Week also will last 1,260 days. Adding 1,260 days to October 17, 2006, takes us to March 30, 2010—which happens to be **Passover**. Thus, *if* the 70th Week began during the week of October 17-24, 2006, the 3½-year point would fall during Passover week, or the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:5-8), of 2010. There *could* be a Mid-tribulation Rapture, of firstfruit believers, at this time—potentially on Resurrection Day (Easter Sunday) = Feast of Firstfruits: **April 4, 2010**.

Traditionally, during the week following Passover day, many animal sacrifices and offerings were made in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem (Leviticus 23:8,12,13; Deuteronomy 16:5,6). This would seem to be an *optimal* time for there to be a forced termination of sacrifices and offerings in the newly-built Third Temple in Jerusalem.

Protection and Welfare of Animals

An "Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals" also was adopted, as part of the ENP, in 2006. Certain reviews and evaluations, including those pertaining to "planned specific actions to improve the protection and welfare of animals," are to take place in the middle of that seven-year period (2010):

In a table annexed to the Action Plan, the Commission outlines planned specific actions to **improve the protection and welfare of animals**, some of which are already underway. These include: ... the possible establishment of a European Quality Standard for products emanating from **high animal welfare standards** in 2010. (Brussels, 23 January 2006)

It is interesting that the EU plans to have an evaluation of animal welfare standards in 2010. This could turn out to be very significant if animal sacrifices are being made in the new Jewish temple in Jerusalem at that time.

Rosh Chodesh

Biblically speaking, God has considered days of the *new moon* to be significant (1 Chronicles 23:31; 2 Chronicles 8:13, 31:3; Ezra 3:5; Psalm 81:3; Isaiah 66:23). On the Hebrew calendar, the first of each new month—also known as *Rosh Chodesh*—as well as the first of each new year—*Rosh haShanah*—commences with a new moon. Interestingly, a new moon occurred between the two dates on which the European Neighbourhood Policy was funded and established: October 17 and October 24. This new moon was on **October 22, 2006**.

Now, if we consider a Hebrew month to be 30 days in length, then 84 months (7 Hebrew years) would consist of:

$$84 \text{ months} \times 30 \text{ days/month} = 2,520 \text{ days.}$$

So, *if* day #1 of the 70th Week was **October 22, 2009** (a Rosh Chodesh), then day #2,520 will be **September 14, 2013**. To see if this date is significant, it is important to note a few things first. God appointed four Spring feasts and three Fall feasts—a lasting ordinance for Israel (Leviticus 23:4-44). Jesus died on *Passover* (1 Corinthians 5:7), lay in the tomb during the first few days of the *Feast of Unleavened Bread*, was resurrected from the dead on the *Feast of Firstfruits* (15:20), and sent His Holy Spirit to indwell many on *Shavuot* or the *Feast of Weeks*—that is, *Pentecost* (Acts 2:1-4). Thus, Jesus fulfilled all of the Hebrew Spring feasts at His *first coming*. Likewise, we can expect for Jesus to fulfill the Hebrew Fall feasts at His *second coming*.

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) 2013

Presumably, the (main) Rapture will take place on *Rosh haShanah* or *Yom Teruah*, with Jesus' second advent to earth at the Great Trumpet (Shofar) of *Yom Kippur* (Leviticus 25:9; Isaiah 18:3, 27:13; Zechariah 9:14; Revelation 11:15). Then He will accept the worship of many nations, annually in Jerusalem, on *Sukkot* or the *Feast of Tabernacles* (Zechariah 14:16), five days after Yom Kippur.

It seems quite plausible that we have entered the final prophesied period of this age—the 70th Week. If so, it began on **October 22, 2009**: a *new moon*; and it will conclude on **September 14, 2013**: *Yom Kippur*. Those who embrace the notion of a “Pre-tribulation” Rapture, though, have a difficult time accepting the idea that the 70th Week may have begun, as they believe that the Rapture event must occur *before* the 70th Week begins.

Rosh haShanah

Speaking of His appearance in the clouds, Jesus said, “No one knows about that day or hour...” (Matthew 24:36). This statement has led many to believe there is no possible way to predict when He might manifest His visible presence again. Yet, it is quite possible that Jesus was signifying something very specific with that statement.

Rosh haShanah, the Hebrew new year, takes place on a new moon. Before methods were available to calculate the exact time of each new moon, no one knew the *day or hour* of the new moon until two witnesses, peering into the sky, detected the first tiny sliver of the waxing moon. Upon their announcement, Rosh haShanah, officially, would begin. Thus, when Jesus said, “No one knows about that day or hour [of His appearance in the sky]...,” He very likely was making an explicit reference to Rosh haShanah—which one, only the Father knew.

Even if we could know in which year Jesus' aerial appearance will be, Rosh haShanah, traditionally, is observed on *two* consecutive days. A *shofar* (ram's horn or “trumpet”—Psalm 81:3, 98:6; Joel 2:1,15) is blown on *both* days. So we would not know on which of those two days, nor at what hour, Jesus will materialize in the clouds. Also, if there are multiple Rapture events, no believer would know on which day he/she would be caught away.

Protection from Wrath

Paul stated, “for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night” and urged, “let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled” (1 Thessalonians 5:2,6). Also,

⁹For **God did not appoint us to suffer wrath** but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep [dead or alive at that time], we may live together with him. (1 Thessalonians 5:9,10)

On the surface, these three passages, pointing to the *Rapture* event, *seem* to imply the following:

- Jesus can return at any moment, without notice;
- every second of every day, we should be disciplined and expectant of His immediate appearance; and
- following His imminent, sudden manifestation, we will be shielded (via the Rapture) from God's impending wrath—which will be discharged abruptly, upon the rest of humanity, as the Day of the Lord begins.

However, Paul had indicated that the people for whom Jesus will appear unexpectedly are those in *spiritual darkness*, for whom sudden destruction will come “as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape” (1 Thessalonians 5:3). (Before these “labor pains on a pregnant woman” and the “pain and anguish...like a woman in labor” (Isaiah 13:8), the “beginning of birth pains” (Matthew 24:8) will take place.) Next, Paul added this:

⁴But **you, brothers** [that is, believers in Jesus as Messiah, Lord, and Savior], **are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.** ⁵You are all **sons of the light and sons of the day.** We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. (1 Thessalonians 5:4,5)

Sixth Seal, Rapture, and Wrath

Paul's words certainly *did not* imply that believers should not be self-controlled or disciplined in their actions. In fact, he counseled that they *should* be (1 Thessalonians 5:6,8). Paul's important assertions *also* suggest that believers would not be surprised by Jesus' appearance at the beginning of the "Day of the Lord." One might wonder if something will alert them to the Lord's impending manifestation in the clouds. Indeed, something will.

John described distinct "cosmic disturbances," which ultimately will alter our view of the sun, moon, and stars:

¹²I watched as he opened the **sixth seal**. There was a great earthquake. The **sun turned black like sackcloth** made of goat hair, the **whole moon turned blood red**, ¹³and **the stars in the sky fell** to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when **shaken** by a strong wind. (Revelation 6:12,13)

Other than the great earthquake, which will remove "every mountain and island" from its place (Revelation 6:14), these "cosmic disturbances" of the Sixth Seal correspond directly to the *same events* described by Jesus:

²⁹Immediately 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**. (Matthew 24:29)

Immediately following this eerie upheaval, the greatest intervention by God into human history will take place:

³⁰At that time the sign of the **Son of Man will appear in the sky**, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming **on the clouds** of the sky, with power and great glory. ³¹And he will send his angels with a loud **trumpet call** [*shofar* or ram's horn], and they will **gather his elect** from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. (Matthew 24:30,31)

This is a depiction of the Pre-wrath Rapture event. At that time, the trumpet will blow, and the elect believers—the Bride—will be assembled to be with Jesus, the Son of Man—the Bridegroom (Joel 2:15,16). It will occur soon after the Sixth Seal of the Lamb's scroll has been opened. Compare this with Paul's account of the Rapture:

¹⁶For the **Lord himself will come down from heaven** with a loud command [or shout], with the voice of the archangel and with the **trumpet call** [*shofar* or ram's horn] of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷After that, **we who are still alive and are left will be caught up** with them **in the clouds** to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17)

In John's account, following the widespread tumult, the unbelievers of the world will be caught entirely off guard, as Jesus, the Lamb, suddenly will appear "like a thief in the night," at the dawning of the Day of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 5:2). Consequently, they will scramble to hide from "the face of Him who sits on the throne":

¹⁴The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

¹⁵Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶They called to the mountains and the rocks,

"Fall on us and hide us from **the face of him who sits on the throne** and from the **wrath** of the Lamb!

¹⁷For the great **day of their wrath** has come, and who can stand?" (Revelation 6:14-17)

Here, in fact, are the *first* instances of the word "**wrath**" found in the book of Revelation. Lost unbelievers, at that time, will be exceedingly terrified, horror-struck, and aghast at the portending wrath of God, which will have clear and ominous signs of being imminent. His righteous wrath will ensue after the final seal—the Seventh Seal (Revelation 8:1)—is opened, bringing about God's supernatural retribution, via the Trumpet Judgments. However, Jesus will have *removed* all of those who know Him as Lord and Savior, via the pre-Seventh Seal Rapture (and, perhaps, via a Mid-tribulation Rapture about 2½ years prior to that), thus protecting them from God's impending fury. Then His rage will be unleashed on the "day of vengeance," probably for a year (Isaiah 34:8, 61:2, 63:4), as He avenges the blood of His slain saints (Revelation 6:10).

Destiny of Saints

How do we know that the Rapture occurs in Revelation 6:16? For one thing, Jesus, the Lamb, is seen on His throne—not just by believers, but by the entire unbelieving world as well. There is nothing in Scripture indicating that the Rapture will be a “silent and secret” event. Remember, the only ones that Jesus will surprise “like a thief in the night” are *unbelievers*, who are in *spiritual darkness*. On the other hand, *wise* and *vigilant believers* will see the distinct signs (of the Sixth Seal) in the sky and realize that Jesus’ appearance on the clouds is imminent.

Next, John described how 144,000 Israelites will be sealed for protection from God’s wrath (Revelation 7:1-8). (This is *not* the Church; it is literal Israelites.) I believe that, having seen Jesus coming in the clouds and removing His elect, these Israelites instantly will become believers and, presumably, will evangelize for Jesus for the short remainder of the 70th Week. Then John reported how he saw a great multitude of believers in heaven:

⁹After 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 in front of the Lamb. They were **wearing white robes** and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice: “**Salvation** belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:9,10)

This is a picture of the raptured believers in heaven. Next, John had this conversation with a heavenly elder:

¹³Then one of the elders asked me, “These **in white robes**—who are they, and where did they come from?” ¹⁴I 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. ¹⁵Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.” (Revelation 7:13-15)

The “great multitude” of those seen by John in heaven will have been *saved* out of the *Great Tribulation*. When will the Great Tribulation take place? Jesus referred to the “abomination that causes desolation” in the holy place, as described by the prophet Daniel (Matthew 24:15). Daniel’s prophecy (Daniel 9:27) seems to indicate that this will occur in the *middle* of the 70th Week. Also, Jesus had a strict directive to those who will be in Judea at that time to “flee” (Matthew 24:16). (This parallels the fleeing of the “woman,” a Hebrew remnant, and protection for 1,260 days [Revelation 12:6]—the final 3½ years of the 70th Week.) Then Jesus warned,

²¹For then there will be **great distress** [most translations: **great tribulation**], unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again [Daniel 12:1]. ²²If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. (Matthew 24:21,22)

For countless believers, the Great Tribulation, beginning at the midpoint of the 70th Week, will be a time of great persecution, even bloodshed and martyrdom, due to their belief in God’s word and their testimony for Jesus. They will beseech Jesus to “pay back” their attackers. I believe that this parallels the Fifth Seal of the scroll:

⁹When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been **slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained**. ¹⁰They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” ¹¹Then each of them was given a **white robe**, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed. (Revelation 6:9-11)

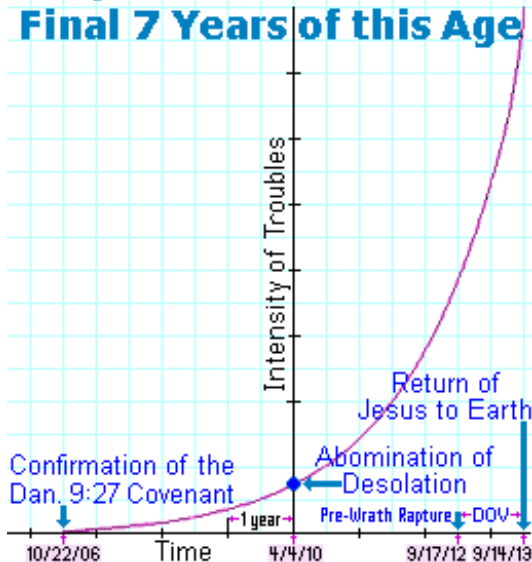
The saints who are slain during the Great Tribulation will be given “**white robes**,” which John later saw them wearing in heaven (Revelation 7:9,13,14). For elect believers who are able to survive, the days of the Great Tribulation will be “cut short” (Matthew 24:22) by the opening of the Sixth Seal (Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:12,13), at which time the believers will be caught up at the Pre-wrath Rapture—to be with Jesus. Ultimately, Jesus and saints will return, to rule and reign, as the Seventh Trumpet sounds (Revelation 10:7, 11:15-17).

The 70th Week

First Half of the 70th Week	Second Half of the 70th Week (1,260 Days = 42 Months = 3½ Years)		
Beginning of Birth Pains	Great Tribulation	‡ Rapture & D.O.V.	
Matthew 24:4-8	Matthew 24:9-11,15-28; Revelation 6:7-11	Matt. 24:29-31; Rev. 6:12-17	Isa. 34:8, 61:2, 63:4
Revelation 6:1-6	Revelation 6:7-10:7		
The "beginning of birth pains" will consist of the appearance of false messiahs, famines, plagues, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, droughts, fires, great storms, inflation, and socio-economic decline.	Revelation 11:1-19 (Review of the Second Half)		
	Revelation 12:6-14:20 (Another Review of the Second Half)		
70th Week Covenant Confirmed (Dan. 9:27; Isa. 28:18) <u>10/22/06</u>	Fourth/Fifth Seals; Abomination That Causes Desolation (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15) <u>4/4/10</u>	Sixth Seal; Pre-Wrath Rapture (Matt. 24:29; Rev. 6:12-17) <u>9/17/12</u>	Return of Jesus at 7th Trumpet (Zech. 14:3,4; Rev. 11:15-17, 19:11-16) <u>9/14/13</u>

Adversity Supplies Basic Check List

Graph of the 70th Week: Final 7 Years of this Age



- ☐ canned meats (tuna, salmon, sardines, ham, spam, chili)
- ☐ canned vegetables (corn, green beans, mixed) ☐ salsa
- ☐ canned milk ☐ canned soups ☐ favorite snacks ☐ chips
- ☐ powdered milk ☐ peanut butter ☐ jellies, jams ☐ honey
- ☐ cases of bottled water ☐ juices ☐ sodas ☐ coffee ☐ tea
- ☐ lentils ☐ peas ☐ beans (pinto, black, red, kidney)
- ☐ rice ☐ flour ☐ pancake mix ☐ cornmeal ☐ crackers
- ☐ cooking oil ☐ sugar ☐ salt ☐ pepper ☐ spices
- ☐ pasta ☐ pasta sauce ☐ cereals ☐ rolled oats, barley, rye
- ☐ nuts (such as peanuts) in cans or jars ☐ dried fruits
- ☐ extra pet food ☐ toilet paper ☐ paper towels ☐ napkins
- ☐ clothes/dish detergent ☐ facemasks ☐ big water containers
- ☐ gasoline generator ☐ propane barbecue ☐ extra propane
- ☐ flashlights, batteries ☐ candles ☐ matches/lighters
- ☐ medicines and medications ☐ cough syrup ☐ vitamins
- ☐ toothpaste ☐ toothbrushes ☐ dental floss ☐ bars of soap
- ☐ plastic Ziploc bags ☐ trash bags ☐ extra cash, gold, silver

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