

The Great Tribulation¹

by James P. Dawson

Introduction

Chapter 11, 12 and 13 of Revelation present a panorama of the events that occur during the Great Tribulation. Chapter 11 gives some details of the first half of the tribulation and provide a relationship between time measurements. Chapter 12 and 13 cover the same period, the tribulation, but Chapter 12 from the perspective of Israel and Chapter 13 from Satan's perspective. The Antichrist signed the Covenant with many **(1)** and he takes control of the world including the Holy Land for 42 months. **(2)** At this time God sends two witnesses from heaven and witness to the world for 1260 days. **(3)** God gives them the power to bring all kinds of plagues against the earth and those who dwell there! The identification of these two witnesses is possible when one considers the information available from the Scriptures. We know that all men must physically die once **(4)** and the only two who have not died are Elijah **(5)** and Enoch.**(6)** God took Elijah to heaven in a fiery chariot and God translated Enoch. Some scholars suggest that Elijah and Moses are the two witnesses based on the transfiguration event.**(7)** However, Moses died at the end of the Exodus **(8)** and cannot physically die again. Satan kills the two witnesses **(9)** and he takes charge at the midpoint of the tribulation. The witnesses' activity and the 1260 days must be in the first half of the tribulation, because the Antichrist is in charge up to the mid point of the tribulation and then Satan takes over and kills the two witnesses.

Chapter 12 also covers the tribulation period and provides additional information concerning Israel's fate during this period. The symbolic birth and ascent into heaven of Christ are shown **(10)** and Satan's, the dragon, effort to kill Jesus and stop the prophecies of Christ's victory. Satan defies God and a third of the angels follow him and Michael casts him out of heaven at the midpoint of the tribulation. **(11)** Many come to the cross during this period and many of them are beheaded for their belief.**(12)** The second half of the tribulation is truly hell on earth and Christ said He must shorten the tribulation or all would be killed. **(13)**

Chapter 13 describes the rise of the beast and the false prophet and their control and authority for 42 months.**(14)** The beast with seven horns is the Antichrist and the description is the same symbolism as used in Daniel's prophecies. The description shows the thoroughness of the Scripture. Daniel was standing at the beginning of the world empires and looking into the future. He saw a lion first, then a bear and then a leopard, **(15)** but John standing at the end of the empires saw them in the reverse order. **(16)** The Antichrist demands worship. **(17)** Satan fakes the resurrection of the Antichrist and takes over and tries to annihilate the believers and Israel. We show these events of Chapters 11, 12 and 13 in **Figure 144**. Each time a period is in exact days, it relates to Christ and His control of the events. The two witnesses reigning for 1260 days are an example. If Scriptures give the period in months, then the Antichrist is in charge, i.e., the forty-two months that the city is "down trodden." The same consistency is found in the second three and one half year period. In Daniel, every instance in which "a time and times and the dividing of time" is expressed, it refers to the second half of the seven-year period. In Revelation 12 and 13, the same expression refers to the second half of the tribulation. These relationships of time hold in both Daniel and Revelation. These relationships of the times are given in **Figure 144**.

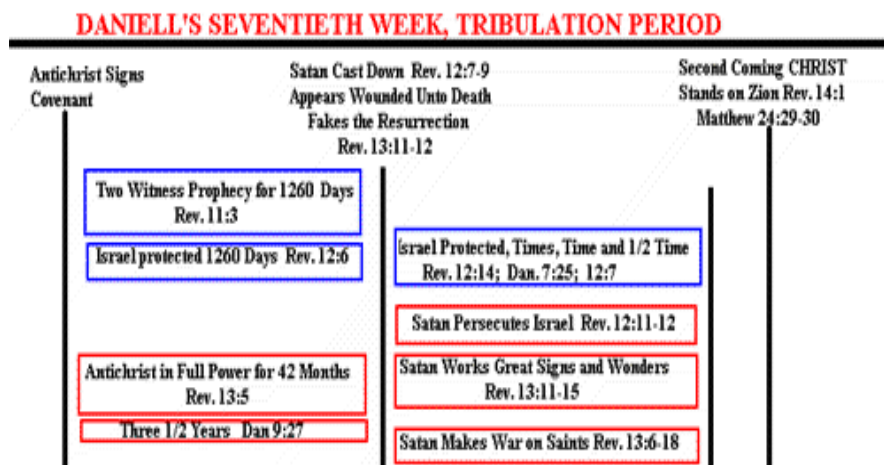


Figure 144
The Great Tribulation Period

During the first half of the Tribulation the **Antichrist** is in full power. We discussed his rise to power in the chaos created by **Ezekiel's war** and the **Seals and Trumpets**. The Antichrist defeats the Kings of the East **(18)** and solidifies

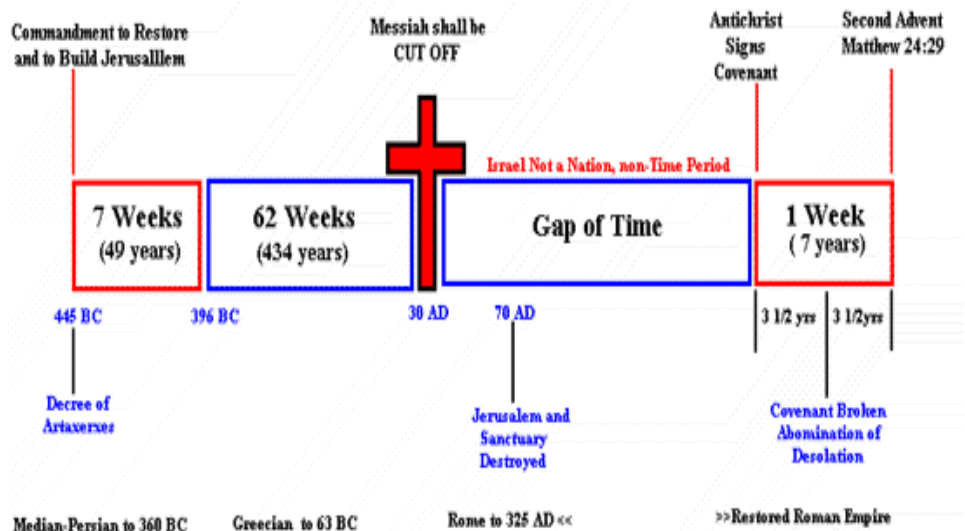
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his control of the world. During his reign of three and one half years, 42 months, **(19)** the two witnesses torment him. The witnesses are given the power to bring all manners of plagues against the earth. They are presenting the same message as given in the plagues of Exodus, the Seals and the Trumpets, “Repent.” They cannot be harmed and they demonstrate God’s sovereignty over the universe. At the end of the 1260 days (42 prophetic months) Satan is permitted to kill them. Since, the Scripture specifies that the “beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit” kills them, the Antichrist has been replaced by Satan at the middle of the seven-year Tribulation period.

The first half of the Tribulation does not appear to affect Israel, since they are protected.**(20)** I believe that the Antichrist condones the construction of the Temple during this time, the Scriptures do not specifically say this, but if the Abomination of Desolation is to occur at the mid point of the Tribulation, then the Holy of Holies must be available. However, Moses kept the Holy of Holies in a forty by forty-foot tent during the Wilderness trek of 40 years. This also implies that after Ezekiel’s war the Arab nations are no longer a threat to Israel. The Antichrist wants to be worshiped, **(21)** so he probably either destroys Islam or greatly suppresses their activity. Judging from Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah **(22)** Syria and Jordan will not be around and the remnant that does remain will have equal inheritance with the Jews.

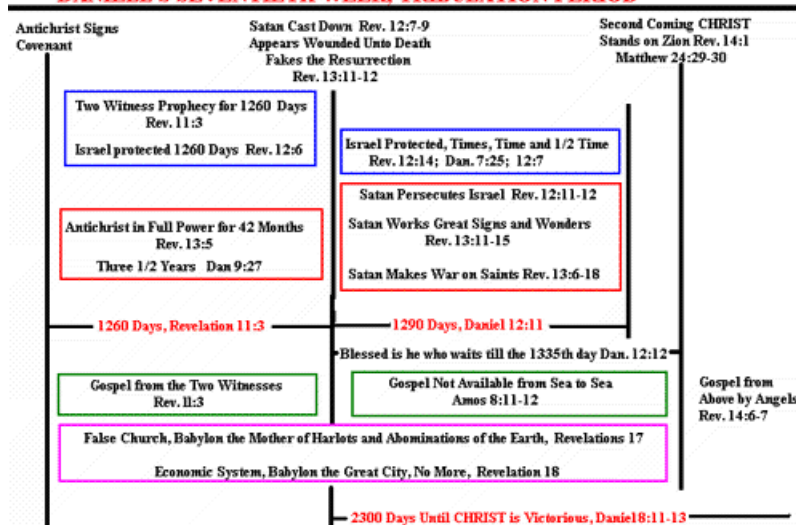
When the Abomination of desolation occurs, the Israelites will know **(23)** that their “benefactor” is not the

Daniel's Prophecy of Seventy Weeks



Messiah and they will repent as a nation. **(24)** Satan tries to eliminate the Messianic blood line, but God protects them from annihilation **(25)** as He has so often in the past. At the end of this time of Tribulation, Christ returns and stands on Zion. **(26)** In Daniel’s prophecy of the Seventy Weeks **(27)** Daniel specified that 490 years of tribulation was declared against the Israelites. Four hundred and eighty three years of the prophecy have been completed. However, the last

DANIEL'S SEVENTIETH WEEK, TRIBULATION PERIOD

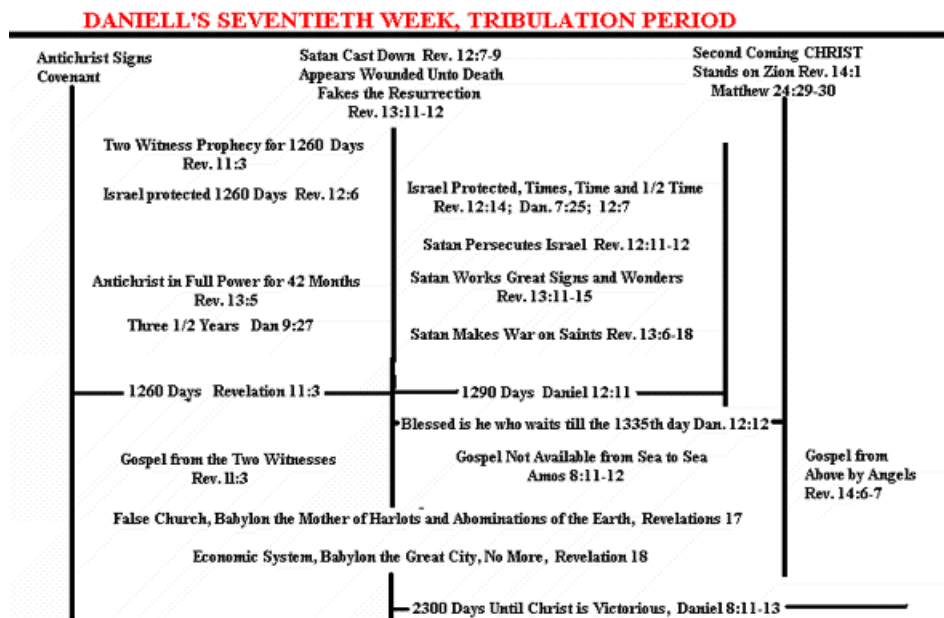


seven-year period is in the future. Daniel says that the seven-year tribulation will commence with the Antichrist signing a covenant with many and in the middle of the seven-year period Satan will be cast down. **(28)** Christ said that

immediately after this tribulation period He would stand on Zion. (29) Then from Scripture we know the event that starts and ends the seven-year tribulation, and the event that marks the midpoint. Both Daniel and Revelation provide details of these events and time frames that occur between the two time extremities of the tribulation.

Daniel (30) divides the seven-year period into two parts with the “abomination which makes desolate,” and Revelation marks this point with the faked resurrection. The Angel also told Daniel that from the time that Satan takes over it will be “time, time and a half time, (31) three and one half years, till the end of the tribulation. This would be the second half of the seven-year period. In Chapter 12 Daniel (32) is told that from the time they take the burnt offering away till the end will be 1290 days, and blessed is he who waits till the 1335th day. The second half of the tribulation period is 1290 days (43 prophetic months), times, time and one half time, three and one half years, but there is a blessing 45 days after this period ends. It appears that after this period it is 45 days before Christ stands on Zion, (33) about the same length of time from the resurrection of Christ until the Holy Spirit came. (34) Some scholars suggest that after the 45 days, the millennial kingdom commence, but Daniel (35) says that from the time they take away the burnt offering, it will be 2300 days before Christ is victorious, 995 days after He stands on Zion. This would be about the same length of time as Christ’s first ministry, but this time He fulfills all the prophecies of the Messiah that the Jews were anticipating at the time of Jesus’ first advent. These known time frames are added to our time flow as shown in **Figure 146.**

Also some suggest that the 1290-day statement is a discrepancy because the second half of the tribulation is also given as 1260 days, but this is not an error it is a misinterpretation and can be explained. In each period of time, we know who delivers the Word of God. Either direct, through the church, through the 144,000 sealed by God in the Tribulation, by the two witnesses in the Great tribulation, by no one and finally after Christ stands on Zion, angels deliver the Gospel. (36) If the exponential function discussed in **Chapter 11** holds, then the curve for the delivery would be, millions by the church; 144,000 by the sealed Jews; 2 by the two witnesses; and none during the second half of the tribulation, (37) **Figure 148.**



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Cited References

(1) **Revelation 10:1-11** And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: . . . and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and

ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

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, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

- (2) **Revelation 11:1-3** 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 them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not: for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.
- (3) **Revelation 11:3-13.** 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 them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not: for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore 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 proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth 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 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 ascendeth 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. 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 hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand; and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.
- (4) **Hebrews 9:27-28.** And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.
- (5) **II Kings 2:9-12.** When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "I pray you, let me inherit a double share of your spirit. And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." And as they still went on and talked, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and rent them in two pieces.
- (6) **Genesis 5:24.** And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.
- (7) **II Peter 1:16.** For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.
- (8) **Joshua 1:1.** Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses's minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.
- (9) **Revelation 11:7-9.** And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth 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. 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.
- (10) **Revelation 12:5-6.** 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 hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.
- (11) **Revelation 12:13-17.** 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 her mouth, and swallowed up the

flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

- (12) **Revelation 20:4.** And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.
- (13) **Matthew 24:22.** And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.
- (14) **Revelation 13:1-7. Revelation 13:1-2** And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.
- (15) **Daniel 7:4-6.** The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.
- (16) **Revelation 13:2.** And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon give him his power, and his seat, and great authority.
- (17) **Revelation 13:8.** And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.
- (18) **Daniel 11:40-45** And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.
- Revelation 9:15-19** And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.
- (19) **Revelation 13:5.** And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.
- (20) **Revelation 12:6.** And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.
- (21) **Revelation 13:12.** And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.
- (22) **Ezekiel 25:10** Unto the men of the east with the Ammonites, and will give them in possession, that the Ammonites may not be remembered among the nations. And I will execute judgments upon Moab; and they shall know that I am the Lord.
- Jeremiah 49:2** Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will cause an alarm of war to be heard in Rabbah of the Ammonites; and it shall be a desolate heap, and her daughters shall be burned with fire: then shall Israel be heir unto them that were his heirs, saith the Lord.
- Isaiah 17:1-3** The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap. The cities of Aroer are forsaken: they shall be for flocks, which shall lie down, and none shall make them afraid. The fortress also shall cease from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus, and the remnant of Syria: they shall be as the glory of the children of Israel, saith the Lord of Hosts
- (23) **Matthew 24:15.** When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

- (24) **Isaiah 10:20.** And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remanant of Israel, and such as are esaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the Lord, the Holy one of Israel, in truth.
- (25) **Revelation 12:6.** And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.
- (26) **Revelation 14:1** And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, haveing his Father's name written in their foreheads.
Matthew 28:28-31 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.
- (27) **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, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.
Revelation 14:1. And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, haveing his Father's name written in their foreheads..
- (28) **Revelation 12:10.** 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 cst down, which accused them before our God day and night.
- (29) **Matthew 24:29-31.** Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and hen shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaen with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
- (30) **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, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.
- (31) **Daniel 7:25** And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.
Daniel 12:07 And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.
- (32) **Daniel 12:11 -12** 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. Blessed is he that waieth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.
- (33) **Revelation 14:1** And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, haveing his Father's name written in their foreheads.
- (34) **Acts 1:3,8.** To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: . . . But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- (35) **Daniel 8:14** Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered. Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.
- (36) **Revelation 14:6.** And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.
- (37) **Amos 8:11-12.** Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.