

“Fresh Illumination Showing a Mid-Week Rapture”

By John Shorey www.tribulationtruth.com

What I am going to share was proposed to me over a year ago by some friends from Canada. I looked at it as just a play on words and dismissed it as not important enough to care about.

My friends told me that that Great Tribulation was only three and a half years long, not seven years long and then the wrath of God would follow. My position, a generally accepted position amongst most Christians, was that the seven years of Daniels Seventieth Week was all Great Tribulation with the wrath of God occurring afterwards. About a week ago the Lord opened my eyes to the error of the position I was holding. The truth of the matter is, the Rapture will follow after three and a half years of Great Tribulation, which is the entire length of the Great Tribulation, and this three and a half year point is the Mid-Week of Daniels Seventieth Week event which is seven years in length.

To correctly label the timing of the Rapture based on this new revelation to me would be to call the timing of the Rapture, **a mid-week, or pre-wrath Rapture. In this study I will prove from Scripture that the Great Tribulation is only 3.5 years long with the 3.5 year wrath of God to follow. This technically makes the Rapture a post-tribulation Rapture but I prefer to call the timing of the Rapture a mid-week Rapture because most people associate the post-trib position as meaning we will go through all seven years before the Rapture.**

What I will be showing in this study is that the labeling of the Great Tribulation as a seven-year event is not backed by scripture but it is founded on the traditions of man. I have always believed that the Great Tribulation was a seven year event because that's what I was always taught.

If you will go back to the book of Daniel, you will see that Daniels Seventieth week was divided into two parts. I will be typing out large portions of scripture to allow God's Word to speak for itself.

Daniel 12:1 *"At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a **time of distress** such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people -- everyone whose name is found written in the book -- will be delivered. **Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake**, some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. But you Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end."*

Before I write out more of Daniel 12, let me point out a couple of important points. In the first verse of Daniel 12, it talks of a coming **time of distress** that will be unlike any time in history. If you will read Matthew 24 you will recognize that this time of distress is spoken about by Jesus on the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 24:21 *"For there will be **great distress**, (Great Tribulation) unequalled from the beginning of the world until now and never to be equaled again. You will notice that I have labeled this time of great distress as the **Great Tribulaion**. I will show you why I see this as the Great Tribulation by looking at the Greek words used in Matthew 24:21. The Greek word for distress , "Thlipsis" or pressure is the same Greek word found in Revelation 7:14, at the time that an uncountable number of saints show up at the throne and it was asked, "**Who are they and where did they come from?**"*

Revelation 7: 9a, 13, 14 *"After 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."*

*"Then one of the elders asked me. These in white robes -- who are they and where did they come from? I answered , "Sir, you know." And he said, these are they who have come out of the **Great Tribulation**." This word **Tribulation** found in*

Revelation 7:14 is the same Greek word found in Matthew 24:21 for a time of **great distress**.

Now I will point you back to the verse I wrote out above from Daniel 12. The portion of Daniel 12 that says, “ **Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake.**” *This is talking about the Rapture.*

It is at this point that Daniel was told to seal up these words until the time of the end. But Daniel wanted some questions answered and his first question is found in Daniel 12:6, “**How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?**”

When you read back from the beginning of Daniel 12 up until he asks this question, you will see that Daniel was told about two astonishing things. **Number one**, he was told about a time of distress or Great Tribulation and then **the second event** he was told about was a time when those whose names are written in the Lambs book of life will awaken from the dead, or as we know the Rapture.

Daniel was given the answer in the following verse. Daniel 12:7 “*It will be for a time, times and half a time, and when the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.*” This time , times and half a time is referring to a three and a half year period, a period when the war on the saints will defeat the believers going through the Great Tribulation. I will further back this up by going back to Daniel 7:21, 22 and 25.

Before I write out these verses let me point out the verse above that talks about, “**the holy people has been finally broken.**” I will show you that this time when the holy people have been broken is the time that both Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 **calls the War on the Saints, that is to last for three and a half years.**

Before I go any further let me explain where I am going with this. I will be showing why I see the time of distress or Great Tribulation is referring to the same time that is called “The War on the Saints”. I will show you why I see this period called the “**War on the Saints**”, a forty-two month period - is in fact the time period of the Great Tribulation and I will further show that **the time following** the forty-two months of “**War on the Saints**” is called the time of God’s

wrath. Further note that Gods Word has warned the saints that we will face tribulation but it also says that **“we are not accounted to wrath.”**

Daniel 7:21,22 and 25, *“As I watched this horn **was waging war against the saints and defeating them**, until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.”*

*“He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. **The saints will be handed over to him for time, times and half a time.**”* -(again, three and a half years).

These three and a half years of War on the Saints is what I see as **the time of pressure or tribulation** that the saints will have to go through. Remember the Bible says that we will have tribulation but it also says we are not accounted to wrath. Confirmation of these 3.5 years of War on the Saints is shown in Revelation 13:5-7: *“The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and **to exercise his authority for forty-two months**. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. **He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them**. And was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.”*

To further show this division of Daniels Seventieth Week into two 3.5 year periods, we need to look at Daniel 9:27, and Daniel 12:8,9 and 11.

Daniel 9:27, *“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,”*

This verse in Daniel 9:27 is referenced in Matthew 24:15a, *“So when you see standing in the holy place, the abomination that causes desolation, spoken through the prophet Daniel, let the reader understand.”*

This is very important in making my point. The reference in Matthew 24 is speaking of the prophecy from Daniel 9:27. Daniel is describing the event that will happen in the middle of the seven years. Notice this reference to the desecration of the temple in Matthew 24 is placed after what describes the fifth seal and just before the sixth seal. It is at the sixth seal of Revelation chapter six that describes the sun going dark and the moon not giving its light. This sixth seal of the book of Revelation Chapter six matches Matthew 24:28-30, where the sun goes dark and at that time we see the sign of the Son of Man appearing in the sky.

Now we need to go back and look at Daniels second question that he asked and was given an answer to, even though it says that this Word would be sealed or a mystery until the time of the end.

Remember from Daniel 9:27 that it says that the desecration of the temple will happen in the middle of the seven year covenant.

Daniels Second Question

Daniel: 12: 8,9 and 11, "I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, my Lord, what will be the outcome of all this" (One translation says, "What will be the end of all things?")

"He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end." **(One verse down after saying the words are closed up and sealed, Daniel is given the answer to his question.)**

"From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1290 days."

This is a very interesting number, based on a 30 day month, 1290 days is 43 months. This is one month more than 3.5 years for the second half of Daniels Seventieth Week. Matthew 24 gives us a clue to this discrepancy. As Matthew 24 says the temple will be desecrated before the Rapture. If you overlap these two time spans to crunch this time to just seven years, then the answer to Daniel's

second question starts about 30 days before the rapture until the completion of the wrath of God that will occur at the Battle of Armageddon. Again Matthew 24 shows the desecration of the temple happening before the Rapture, and is again confirmed in Daniel 9:27, that the seven years of Daniel's Seventieth Week is divided in two.

My closing for this study will put some very important pieces of the puzzle together. I will be showing how Matthew 24 lines up with the opening of the seals in Revelation chapter six and how this will clearly show the division of Daniels seventieth week into two distinct parts. The first part being the Great Tribulation and the second part being the Wrath of God.

When we read the account of Matthew 24, where three of Jesus disciples asked Him, **"When this will happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age."** They were basically asking Jesus, What will we see that will let us know the time of your coming? Jesus gives an outline of the first six seals that would later be recorded in the book of Revelation. The fourth seal is not clearly mentioned in the Matthew 24 account but the other gospels of this same meetings on the Mount of Olives covers this seal. Jesus also tells his disciples other events that would let us know that the time of His coming would be knocking at the door.

One of the most important signs of Christ coming for the saints is the antichrist desecrating the temple. This event is placed just before the sixth seal where the sun goes dark and the moon does not give its light. As you read Matthew 24:29 and 30, you read the sign of Christs coming in the clouds.

Matthew 24:29,30a, *"Immediately 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.'* *"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky."*

As I mentioned earlier in this study, the desecrating of the temple is the event from Daniel chapters 9 and 12 that marks the middle of the Seventieth week. When you look at the events mentioned in Matthew 24, we clearly see the outline

of the seals of the book of Revelation **but what we don't see is any descriptions of the Seven Trumpets or the Seven Bowls of God's wrath.**

When we look at the verse from Matthew 24:29, *"Immediately after the distress of those days"* the Greek word for "**distress**"(thlipsis) meaning pressure, this same Greek word is used for the word "**tribulation**" in Revelation 7:14 where it says, *"These in white robes have come out of the **Great Tribulation.**"*

I will now finish this study looking at what happens in Revelation chapters 6, 7, and 8. I will show that Revelation. 6 matches the last events mentioned in Matthew 24 that precedes the Rapture. I will show the saints coming to the throne in Revelation 7 is from the Rapture and I will show the beginning of the wrath of God starting in Revelation chapter 8. This study Concludes with a Greek word comparison, showing that the word for "**wrath**" that starts with the passing out of the seven trumpets in chapter 8 is a different Greek word for the word "**distress**" and "**tribulation**" that denote the time period that will be the forty-two months of War on the Saints. This forty-two months is the "distress of those days" that will lead to the Rapture of the saints.

Revelation chapter 6

Revelation 6:12 and 16, 17, *"I 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, and the stars in the sky fell to earth as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind.** The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They 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!** For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"*

*As we look at Revelation Chapter 6, where it says the sun will be darkened, this is a very good match with Matthew 24:29 "Immediately 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.**"*

I see both Matthew 24:29 and Revelation 6:12 building up to the Rapture and the completion of the forth-two month period of the War on the Saints.

*If you will look further down in Revelation chapter six, you will see where the unrepentant are trying to hide and escape from the coming wrath of the Lamb and the one who sits on the throne. Rev.6:16, 17 **"Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come,***

This verse is so important, as it uses the word "Wrath" twice.** This verse is saying that the great day of **their wrath has come.** This is pointing to a beginning of the wrath of God. **When you look at the Greek word for wrath it is, "orge" meaning violent passion. The word for wrath is used thirteen times from Revelation 6:16 to the end of the Book of Revelation.** There are two Greek words for wrath that are used almost equally in Revelation. The second word is , "thymos" meaning righteous indignation. What is most interesting in this study of the Greek words for "Tribulation and wrath" is that the Greek word for tribulation, "(thlipsis) meaning pressure , is not used again after Revelation 7:14, **"These in white robes have come out of the Great Tribulation."

This discovery was such a wow moment for me, as it shows that the time of pressure or tribulation is over and it is the time for the second half of Daniels Week to begin, the time of God's wrath.

Revelation chapter 7

Revelation 7:9,13,14 "After this I looked and 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.

13, "Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?"

14, "I 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."

These verses from Revelation chapter 7:14, show the saints arriving at the throne. **The forty-two months of "War on the Saints", is over** and the saints have just been delivered from the pressure of the anti-christ as prophesied in Daniel chapter 7:21,22. *"As I watched this horn **was waging war against the saints and defeating them**, until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when **they possessed the kingdom.**"*

To possess the Kingdom of God the saints must go there. . . and this is the Rapture.

Revelation Chapter 8

Revelation 8:1,2 and 6,7 *"When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about a half an hour. **And I saw seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.**"*

If the Rapture happens as described in Revelation 7:14, when uncountable saints in white robes arrive out of the Great Tribulation, then it would mean we have just been removed from harm's way and I believe we will be in silent awe at the throne just before the wrath of God begins. Then when you read the next two verses below show, the angels with the seven trumpets are ready for the wrath of God to begin.

6,7 "Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them. The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up."

In closing, calling the Rapture a mid-tribulation event just does not hold up under the light of God's Word, it is not mid-trib but mid-week of Daniel's seven years. We should carefully and prayerfully consider this revelation of Scripture. Studying and admit where we were wrong about the length of the Great Tribulation One constellation is that I still see confirmation that the forty-two month period of the War on the Saints happens during the first half of Daniels Seventieth

Week, which is the same period of time known as the Great Tribulation, shown in this study to be three and a half years. My position is now a mid-week rapture better called a "mid-week, pre-Wrath Rapture". I would rather eat humble pie than be guilty of teaching error.