

## Eschatology—Doctrine of Future Events

### *Emphasizing a Midtribulation Premillennial Rapture of the Saints*

Dr. Edward H. Overbey

God gave an outline and summary of last things to Daniel. Daniel will be our guide as we study the last things. In the book of Daniel, guidelines are provided for all the basic events and times, both specific and general. In our study, we will also review additional Scriptures that describe future events. Our desire is to use the Bible as our ultimate guide for better understanding God's plan for the future.

#### **I. The Bible Outline** (*Daniel 2, 7*).

##### A. The kingdoms and their symbols.

1. *Daniel 2*. Symbols and their meaning: gold-Babylon; silver-Persia; brass-Greece; iron and clay-Rome; great mountain-Messiah's Kingdom.
2. *Daniel 7*. Symbols and their meaning: lion-Babylon; bear-Persia; leopard-Greece; terrible beast and 10 horns-Rams; the throne-Messiah's kingdom.
3. *Daniel 2* and *7* describe two outlines of the gentile kingdoms and Messiah's kingdom from Daniel's day until the Messiah's kingdom which will be set up at His second coming.

##### B. The times.

1. *The times of the gentiles* (*Luke 21:24; Romans 11:25*). The term *time* refers to the times the four gentile kingdoms of *Daniel 2* and *7* rule. Each gentile kingdom is allotted a time to rule by God (*Daniel 2:20-22*). These times from the time Babylon began to rule over Israel until the end of Rome's time of ruling are called *the times of the gentiles*. These times may also be called *the last times*. These are the last times before Messiah sets up His kingdom on earth and rules forever.
2. *A time, times and dividing of time* (*Daniel 7:25*). This statement means the same thing as *the times of the gentiles*. *A time* is Rome's time; *times* are times given to Greece and Persia to rule; *dividing of time* is the portion of time that Babylon ruled beginning when they defeated Israel in Daniel's day until defeated by Persia.
3. *The last time*. This is the time given for Rome to rule. It began shortly before Jesus was born and ends with the second coming of Jesus. *The last time* may

also be called *the time of the end*, etc. (I John 2:18; Hebrews 9:26; 1:2; Acts 2:16-17).

C. The events.

1. Many events are given in Daniel. These are *the last things* which happen in *the last times*.
2. The events from Jesus' first coming to His second coming are described.
3. Summary.
  - a. The time of Greece.
  - b. The time of Rome or the last time.
    - (1) Messiah comes to die.
    - (2) The New Covenant.
    - (3) The Tribulation.
    - (4) The Antichrist.
  - c. The Messiah comes in power.
  - d. Eternity.

D. General chart of the Bible outline.

### General Chart of the Bible Outline

Israel's Latter Time 2:28	1/2 Time ←	Times		Time →	
Times of Gentiles	Babylon	Persia	Greece	Rome & Germanic Tribes	
Daniel 2 Image & Mountain	Gold	Silver	Brass	Iron & Clay	Mountain
Daniel 7 4 Beasts & Lord's Kingdom	Lion	Bear	Leopard	Terrible Beast & 10 Horns	Lord's Kingdom
Daniel 8 Ram & He-Goat		Ram	He-Goat Antiochus Epiphanes & Persecution		
Daniel 9 70 Weeks		← 70 Command- ment Goes Forth	Weeks	→ Christ Dies	← Nation Destroyed
Daniel 10-12 Kings		Cyrus & 4 Kings	Alexander the Great Ptolemy Philadelphus Antiochus the Great Antiochus Epiphanes Persecution	Herod the Great Michael The Great Prince Stands up Nation Destroyed People Saved	Resurrection of saved  Resurrection of Lost

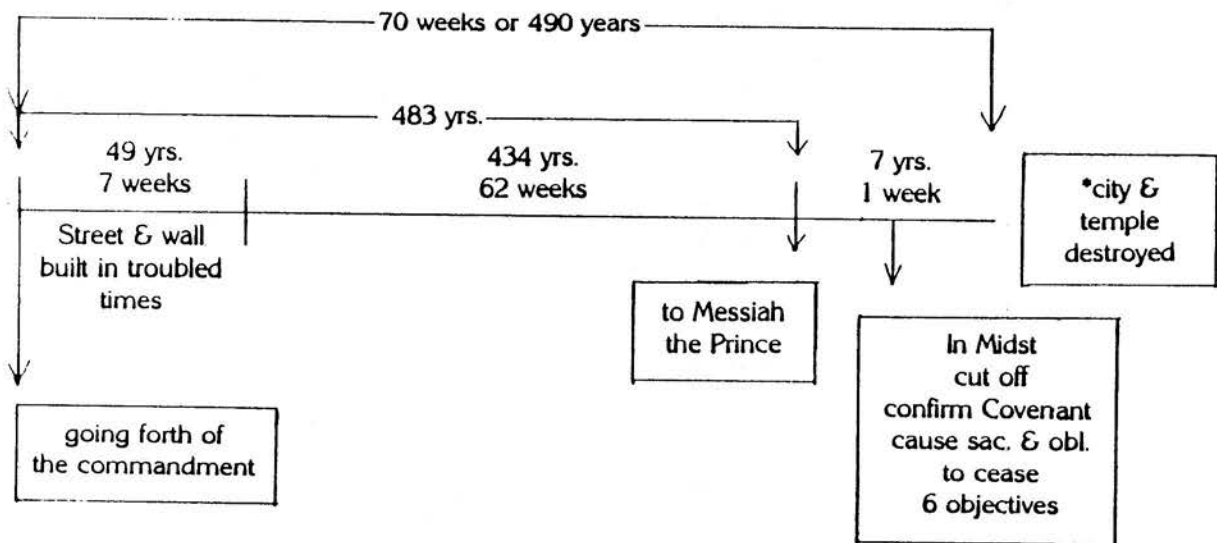
## II. The Messiah comes to die (Daniel 9:24-27).

### A. The 70 weeks.

1. *Weeks* is a translation for the Hebrew word which means *sevens*. *Sevens* in *Daniel 9* refers to *sevens of years*, that is, 490 years.

2. The 70 weeks begin with a command by a Persian king. This prophecy pinpoints the time that the Messiah begins His ministry and when He ends His ministry by His death on the cross.
- B. In the last time
1. The Messiah comes to die near the beginning of the last time or the time of Rome (*Hebrews 9:26; 1:2; I John 2:18; Acts 2:16-17*).
  2. Chart of the 70 weeks.

### Chart of the 70 Weeks of Daniel 9



- C. The purpose.
1. Accomplished for *thy people, thy Holy City*. This is Israel and Jerusalem.
  2. This is the establishment of the New Covenant by the Messiah's death.
  3. The details to be accomplished.
    - a. Finish transgression.
    - b. Make an end of sins.
    - c. Make reconciliation for iniquity.
    - d. Bring in everlasting righteousness.
    - e. Seal up the vision and prophecy.
    - f. Anoint the Most Holy.

### III. The New Covenant (*Daniel 9:26-27; Hebrews 8-10*).

- A. The New Covenant promised.
1. The New Covenant is promised to be established at the death of the Messiah. *Daniel 9:27a* indicates, *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week. He refers back to Messiah in verse 26 as its antecedent. When the Messiah shall be cut off in death, the New Covenant shall be*

confirmed by His blood. *Cut off* in verse 26 refers to His death on the cross (*Isaiah 53:8*).

2. The Old Covenant was promised to cease at the death of the Messiah. *Daniel 9:27b* states, *And in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease*. The Old Covenant centered in the sacrifices and oblations of the ceremonial law. When Messiah was cut off in death establishing the New Covenant, it was also the cause of the Old Covenant ceasing. God did not recognize the Old Covenant as in force any longer at the moment the Messiah died. At that moment a New Covenant was in force. Since most of the people of Israel rejected Jesus as the Messiah, they considered the Old Covenant still in force: they were spiritually blind. They continued to observe the Old Covenant with its sacrifices. They felt it was still necessary. God brought this to an end at the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. *Daniel 9:26b* and *27b* promise the destruction of Jerusalem and the sanctuary (Temple). This was fulfilled in 70 A.D. The Old Covenant had been established at Mount Sinai in the days of Moses. It was established by the blood of animal sacrifices. This Covenant was to be temporary. It was to last from the days of Moses until the Messiah died on the cross and established the New Covenant (*Galatians 3:19, 23-25*). The Old Covenant was to teach Israel that they were sinners and needed the Messiah as their Saviour (*Romans 3:19-20; Galatians 3:19-22; Hebrews 10:1-10; Colossians 2:16-17*). It was to teach about the Messiah and His saving work. Israel would be blessed with earthly rewards as a nation for faithfully observing the Old Covenant (*Exodus 19:5-6*). The Old Covenant could not save them and it was never given for this purpose. It was given to teach Israel about sin and salvation through the coming Messiah.

3. Many other promises of the New Covenant are contained in the Old Testament. Under the New Covenant it is promised that there will be a perfect nation of Jews and gentiles in which every citizen will have the law written in his heart and all of his sins will be forgiven forever. There will be a perfect Saviour who will bring salvation to every believer. This Saviour will be the King from the line of David who will rule over Israel forever. There will be a perfect land in which Israel will live forever (*Genesis 12:1-7; 17:7-8; Galatians 3:15-17; II Samuel 7:16; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:26-28; Isaiah 53; 9:6-7; 65:17-190*).

B. The New Covenant established.

1. When Jesus, the Messiah, died on the cross, this new covenant was established and went into force in Israel. The night before Jesus died He began the Lord's Supper which would remind believers of the Messiah's death for His people. He spoke of the wine that pictured His blood as the *blood of the new testament* (*Matthew 26:28*). *Testament* is the same word translated *covenant*.

2. *Hebrews 8-10* gives a full treatment of establishing of the New Covenant. The New Covenant was established by the blood of Jesus shed on the cross (see *Hebrews 9:15-17*). Notice, *He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second* (*Hebrews 10:9*). Jesus, the Messiah, took away the first covenant and established the second covenant when He died on the cross. When Jesus died on the cross the Old Covenant died also. The ordinances of the Old Covenant were nailed to the cross with Jesus (*Colossians 2:14-17*). When Jesus died on the cross, He broke down the middle wall of partition.

This wall was the Old Covenant. Jesus destroyed this wall when He died on the cross. At the same time He established the New Covenant (*Ephesians 2:11-12*).

3. The Old Covenant was a constitution for the nation of Israel. When Jesus died this constitution ceased and a new constitution was established, the New Covenant. The majority of the citizens of Israel rejected the Messiah and His New Covenant. Because of this they were put out of Israel, they lost their citizenship when Jesus died on the cross. Those who received Him as the Messiah and received His New Covenant retained their citizenship in Israel. This is the Israel of God. Those Jews who rejected Him can yet receive Him and have their citizenship in Israel restored. Gentiles who receive Jesus as their Saviour also receive citizenship in Israel (*Matthew 21:33-46; Luke 20:9-19; Romans 11:11-27*).
4. The transition from the Old covenant to the New Covenant took place in a moment when the Messiah died on the cross. The lost Jews didn't understand this because they rejected Jesus as the Messiah but the transition still took place. The saved Jews as a whole did not fully understand the ramifications of this transition and it took awhile until they began to apply it correctly in their lives. Some were slower than others in their understanding. The Lord had to teach them some lessons about receiving the saved gentiles as they should. These lessons are brought out in *Acts 10; 11; 15; Galatians 2*. Before Jesus died on the cross, saved Jews and lost Jews knew exactly what a gentile must do to become a citizen of Israel under the Old Covenant, but after Jesus died the saved Jews were not sure what a gentile must do to become a citizen of Israel under the New Covenant. This is why Peter and his Jewish brethren had to be taught some lessons concerning life under the New Covenant. The fact of this uncertainty among saved Jews was evidence that they recognized the change from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant had taken place, but they didn't know how to apply the New Covenant to every situation yet.
- C. The New Covenant summarized (*Romans 11:15-24; 12:1; Hebrews 8-10; 13:8-16; I Peter 2:5; Revelation 21:3, 22; Acts 10-11; 15; Revelation 2:17, 28-29; John 1:11-12; Philippians 3:3*). When the New Covenant was established at the cross of calvary, it meant:
  1. Saved Jews only are in Israel since that time.
  2. Lost Jews were put out of Israel at that time.
  3. Lost Jews can be received back into Israel and become citizens again if they will receive Jesus as their Saviour.
  4. Saved Gentiles were received as citizens in Israel at that time. Gentiles saved since then become citizens of Israel the moment they are saved.
  5. Only a remnant of Jews are in Israel since that time because only a few have received Jesus as their Saviour.
  6. All Israel are saved since that time. This is true since the time of Christ's death and will continue to be true forever because the lost Jews were put out of Israel at that time and only saved Jews and Gentiles ever receive citizenship in Israel again.
  7. The New Covenant was to last forever. There would be no more temporary covenants for Israel.

8. Every citizen of Israel under the New Covenant is a priest who is to offer up spiritual sacrifices. There is to be no literal temple or animal sacrifices in the future of Israel under the New Covenant.
9. The Old Covenant ceased forever for the Israel of God. Circumcision, eating laws, animal sacrifices, etc., are no longer necessary for a citizen of Israel.
10. The Kingdom of God is the government of Israel. The Messiah of the line of David is its king.
11. The family of God has the same membership as the Israel of God. The life of the family of God is the life of Israel.
12. New Testament churches are agents for Israel. They are to carry on the work in this world until Jesus comes again. They are like embassies in foreign countries. The membership of New Testament churches is not the same as the membership of Israel because there are false professors in the churches and some saved persons do not join New Testament churches.
13. God recognizes only the Jews and Gentiles who receive Jesus as their Saviour as Israel. He does not recognize lost Jews as Israel since Jesus died on the cross. Even though lost Jews call themselves Jews and Israel, God says they are not. They have taken a name that no longer belongs to them.

**IV. The Tribulation** (*Daniel 7:21, 25; 9:26-27; 12:1; Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; etc.*).

A. The tribulation on the world.

1. Tribulation means affliction or trouble. It is a general word that includes earthquakes, wars, famines, etc.
2. The Lord promises a tribulation that will last from the first coming of the Messiah until the second coming. This tribulation will affect Jews, Christians, and all peoples of the world.
3. The world tribulation consists of the following: false teachers, wars, famines, earthquakes, pestilences, persecution of Jews, persecution of Christians.

B. The tribulation on the Jews involves the:

1. Destruction of Jerusalem and Temple in 70 A.D.
2. Scattering and persecution of the Jews until the second coming of Christ.

C. The tribulation on the gentiles involves:

1. Many persecutions by the Jews, by the Roman caesars, by the Popes and Roman Catholicism, by Protestant Catholicism, etc.
2. New Testament days until the second coming of Christ.

**V. The Antichrist** (*Daniel 7:7-8, 19-25; II Thessalonians 2:1-12; Revelation 13; 17; 18*).

A. The time of the Antichrist.

1. A Little Horn, the Antichrist, is on the head of the fourth beast in *Daniel 7:7-8*. This is the Time of Rome or the Last Time.
2. The Little Horn comes in the midst of the ten horns. This is the time when the Germanic Kingdoms rule the Roman Empire.



3. Three Horns are uprooted before the Little Horn. Herules, Ostrogoths, and Lombards all ruled over Rome before him. The last Roman Caesar was put off the throne by the Germanic Kingdom called the Herules. They ruled until uprooted. The next Germanic Kingdom to rule were the Lombards. They ruled until the Franks defeated them and gave Rome and central Italy to the Pope in 754 A.D. The Papacy of Rome has ruled ever since.
  4. The duration and end of the Little Horn is given. He continues to rule until the end of the times of the gentiles when Jesus comes again and destroys him.
- B. The position of the Antichrist.
1. The Little Horn is a king and his kingdom is among the other kingdoms. The Little Horn is also the Head. He is the only horn with head features. He has eyes and a mouth. Even though he is little in comparison to the other horns or kingdoms, he is the head. He rules in the capital, Rome, where the Caesars had ruled. He is a small kingdom, a little horn, but he rules the Roman Empire from Rome in his day (*Revelation 17:9, 18*). He is the eighth horn and the seventh head (*Revelation 17:11*).
  2. The Little Horn has a big mouth. He claims to be Christ on earth. He claims to be over all the world. He calls himself the Vicar of Christ. *Vicar* means *in place of*. *Vicar* comes from the Latin and means the same as *anti* which comes from the Greek.
  3. The Little Horn looks more stout than the others. The other horns had their crowns, robes, thrones, riches, etc., but none looked more regal, majestic, important, impressive, and rich than the Pope.
  4. The Little Horn is diverse from the others. He is different than the other horns in that he is a religious and political power of the greatest magnitude. As a religious power he comes out of a great falling away from the true doctrine. He comes to great religious and political power when Caesar is removed from the scene. He is likened to a lamb and a wild dangerous beast. He receives worship as God and has worldwide power. His teachings have their historical roots in ancient Babylon.
- C. The work of the Antichrist.
1. The Little Horn speaks great words against God. He blasphemes against salvation by grace, church doctrine, the ordinances, etc.
  2. The Little Horn makes war against Christians. He persecutes and kills many. He wages hot and cold war. The ten horns help him persecute Christians and yet they hate him and fight in other matters (*Revelation 17:12-17*).
  3. The Little Horn changes laws and times. He has changed many of God's laws and times to suit his own purposes. He has a different plan of salvation, different ordinances, a different church doctrine, etc. He promotes images and claims many miracles to support his teachings.
  4. The Little Horn deceives many by his teachings and miracles. Even believers are deceived by him. Because he teaches the deity of Christ, the virgin birth, the trinity, inspiration, moral principles, etc., many can not believe he is the Antichrist. He has deceived many. The true doctrines to which he adheres helps strengthen his position. He claims to Christ on earth. Any doctrine that strengthens Christ strengthens him. But he is opposed to the true teachings concerning salvation, the church, etc. If he

were a monster in every area, he would deceive no one. The papacy fulfills every prophecy concerning the Antichrist except his destruction by the Messiah at his second coming. This will be fulfilled when Jesus comes again.

**VI. The Messiah comes in power** (*Daniel 2:7; 12; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:50-58; II Peter 3; Revelation 20; 21; 22; Jeremiah 14:2-3; Philippians 3:20-21; Acts 1:9-11; II Thessalonians 1*).

A. The Messiah comes in power to change.

1. Resurrection of the saints changes their bodies into perfect bodies like the Messiah. Saints will be caught up to meet the Messiah in the air.
2. The Messiah comes in power to judge.
3. Saints are judged for rewards in the millennium (*Revelation 20:4-6*).
4. The Lost are judged for sins after the millennium following the Battle of Gog and Magog (*Revelation 20:7-15*).

B. The Messiah comes in power to rule.

1. The Messiah rules forever.
2. The Messiah rules perfectly.

**VII. Conclusion.**

- A. To Daniel, all was future. Daniel lived at the beginning of the Last Times.
- B. To us today, all is fulfilled except the Messiah coming in power. We are living near the end of the Last Times relatively speaking.
- C. **JESUS IS COMING!!**—*22 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen (Revelation 22:20-21).*