

- Clarifying Remarks on Proper Interpretation (=hermeneutics):
 - **Context** - always interpret vss in context
 - **Cross-References** - other supporting texts.
 - **Prophecy** - genre: prophetic (clarity to reveal, unveil)
 - **Literal, Plain** - interpret normally, straightforward
 - **Consistency** - consistent w/ other prophecies in context

Mark 13 overview:

1. The **beginning** of the Tribulation (13:1-13)
2. The **midpoint** of the Tribulation (13:14-23)
3. The **ending** of the Tribulation (13:24-27)
4. The **application** regarding the Tribulation (13:28-37)

THESIS — In our text, Jesus speaks of what happens at the ***midpoint*** of the future Trib period. It is the **watershed moment** that marks the change to the “*Great Tribulation*” (the last 3.5 years of the 7-year Tribulation).

I. **WHAT IS IT?** (14a)

A. **Abomination of Desolation**

★ **Summary = what happens in the middle of the 7-year Tribulation period? What happens at the 3 1/2 year point? Note the following 10 events:**

Mark 13:14-23 — “Teaching on the End-Times. The MIDPOINT of the Tribulation: the Abomination of Desolation”

- (1) AntiChrist breaks covenant with Israel & demands they STOP sacrifices (Dan 9.27) - and this is the “abomination of desolation” at the mid-point (9.27).
- (2) AntiChrist will take his seat in the Temple, displaying himself as being God (2 Thess 2.3-4)
- (3) Two witnesses are murdered, resurrected (Revelation 11:3-12)
- (4) The Third Woe/the 7th Trumpet > it contains the 7 bowl judgments of the end (Revelation 11:14-15) - divine wrath will be poured out on wicked earthdwellers.
- (5) The **great** Tribulation (Matthew 24:15-21**)
- (6) AntiChrist’s Claim of Deity (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Dan 11.36-37)
- (7) Satan cast down out of heaven (Revelation 12:7-10)
- (8) Satan persecutes Israel severely (Revelation 12:6, 13, 14, 17)
- (9) Satan fully empowers & energizes the AntiChrist (Revelation 13:4-6**; Daniel 7:25; 2 Thess 2.9-10)
- (10) He will devour the earth pridefully & hate the saints (Dan 7:23-25)

★ **He will be utterly destroyed (Dan 9.27b; Dan 7:26; 2 Thess 2.7-9; Rev 19.20; 20.10)**

II. WHEN IS IT? (14a)

Mid-point of Trib - in middle of 70th week; at mid-point. 3 1/2 years. The 70th week is a 7-year Tribulation period. The mid-point signals the last half: 3.5 years. It’s also called: the ‘middle of the 7-year week’ (Dan 9.27); time, times and half a time (Dan 7.25//Rev 12.14), 1,260 days (Rev 12.6), 42 Months (Rev 11.2). Why time, times, 1/2 a time? a slow beginning with modest success; then a seeming outburst of successful endeavor; then a visible collapse.
(Leupold)

III. WHY TO RESPOND? (14b-20)

A. Swift Action! (14-18) - *Do Not Delay!*

B. Sovereign Decree! (19-20) - *Satanic Destruction*

IV. HOW TO RESPOND? (21-23)

1. Don't believe false reports! (21)
2. Don't be led astray! (22)
3. DO hold on to God's Word! (23)

"Strategic to this period (of the Tribulation) is the fulfillment of the "abomination of desolation" an event first spoken of by Daniel (Daniel 9.27). From Daniels' chronology, this distinguishing event occurs at the midpoint of the Tribulation, or at the 3 1/2 year mark, and it describes the AntiChrist's breaking of his covenant with Israel in which he tries to stop the Jewish worship system in the Temple. Paul notes that this "man of lawlessness" enters the Temple declaring himself to be God (2 THESS 2.3-4). This event launches a severe persecution in Israel, which is why Jesus warns the residents of Judea to flee with no thought of returning for any item (Matt 24:16-20). The end of this period brings cosmic signs: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven" (Matt 24.29). Jesus returns to earth in power and glory (Matt 24.30) and gathers his elect (Matt 24.31). The return of Jesus in glory with his angels leads to a judgment of nations to see who will enter his earthly kingdom (Matt 25.31-46)." (Richard Mayhue, John MacArthur, Biblical Doctrine)

ADDITIONAL, MORE DETAILED NOTES

THE TIME GAP BETWEEN DANIEL 9:26 & DANIEL 9:27 (between the 69th & 70th weeks) — Analysis of Evidence for a "Parenthesis" — Between Daniel's Week 69 and Week 70

This discussion presents evidence favoring the interpretation of a time gap between Daniel's 69th and 70th Weeks (Schematic of "Time Gap"). This time gap is contemporaneous with the church age which was not revealed in the Old Testament, but has been revealed in the New Testament (Eph 3:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9-note). Scholars who do not accept a time gap are primarily those who take the approach that God is finished with Israel, having "transferred" the OT promises to the church (which some refer to as "spiritual Israel" - see Israel of God).

1) The six conditions (Note) in Daniel 9:24 must be fulfilled within the 70 "7's" and these have not been accomplished historically.

For example, to anoint the most holy most likely refers to the Jewish Temple (See note), which was not anointed within 490 years. In fact if one postulates a continuous 490 year period without a time gap, the "holy place" was destroyed after the 490 years. Stated another way, the Temple was destroyed in Da 9:26, yet in Da 9:27 sacrifices are being allowed under the "firm covenant". It follows, that for this condition to be fulfilled, there has to be a rebuilt Temple and yet such an entity does not presently exist. One must postulate a future fulfillment during the Seventieth Week of Daniel 9:27 and this interpretation necessitates a "time gap" which corresponds to the "church age".

Kenneth Baker points out that...All the remaining unfulfilled prophecies (Ed: The Six Infnitives of Daniel 9:24) become unintelligible unless the present church age is regarded as a distinct period of time of unknown duration in God's prophetic program (e.g., Israel's great unconditional covenants; Matthew 24-25; 2 Thessalonians 2; Revelation 6-20; etc) (The Master's Journal. 1998. Sun Valley, CA: Master's Seminary) (Bolding added)

2) The text specifies that Messiah will be cut off AFTER the 69 weeks.

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It does not state that He is cut off DURING or IN THE MIDST of the 70th week. (Click for events of 70th week). In fact it should be noted that at least three events occur after the 69 weeks and before the 70th week...

- (a) The cutting off or crucifixion of the Messiah (33AD although some date it at 30AD)
- (b) The destruction of Jerusalem and the Holy Temple (70AD)
- (c) War and desolation until the decreed end (cf. Mt 24:6-30; Revelation 6-20).

3) The "HE" in Daniel 9:27 appears to best parallel the nearest antecedent "the prince who is to come" in Daniel 9:26.

This person parallels the description of the "little horn" in Daniel 7:25, the individual described in Daniel 11:36ff, the beast in Revelation 11 and 13, the man of lawlessness in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4+, and the description by Jesus in Matthew 24:15+. Clearly the Lord Jesus Himself placed the seventieth seven, with his reference to "the abomination of desolation" at the end of the age just before His second advent to earth and identified this event as the signal for the onset of the Great tribulation (Mt 24:21+).

4) Daniel 9:27 describes the fact that the "HE" will "put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering".

If "he" is Christ as some propose, the fact is that the Crucifixion of Messiah put an end to the need for sacrifice (cf "It is Finished" in Jn 19:30-note), and yet the Temple sacrifices continued until 70AD, over 30 years after His crucifixion (33AD).

5) The scenario pictured in the last 3.5 years of Da 9:27 fits well with the events described in Revelation.**6) One would expect a literal fulfillment of the events in the 70th "seven" in view of the fact that the events in the first 69 weeks were fulfilled literally.**

Christ's first coming and presentation as Israel's king occurred just as predicted in Daniel 9:25. Christ's crucifixion occurred just as predicted in Daniel 9:26a. Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed just as predicted in Daniel 9:26b. It follows that if God was literally correct on these events which are now history, surely the events of the Seventieth Week which are yet future will also be literally fulfilled.

In other words if the Seventieth Week of Daniel 9:27 is taken as literal and one does not accept a time gap, it is very difficult to explain the events of these last seven years in terms of known historical events. It follows that the literal interpretation most plausibly describes a seven year period in which the events have not yet occurred.

7) There is ample precedent from Scripture and other passages in Daniel to support a TIME GAP between prophecies which are grammatically contiguous. Here are a few examples:**A) Isaiah 61:1, 2+ (See also The Incredible Prophecy of Isaiah 61:1-3)**

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners 2 To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God

In Luke 4 Jesus opened His ministry in the Jewish synagogue in Nazareth quoting from Isaiah 61...

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE DOWNTRODDEN, 19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

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And He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed upon Him. 21
And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:18, 19, 20, 21)

Note that Jesus stopped reading after the phrase to proclaim the favorable year of the LORD. The first portion of Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled in Messiah's first coming (Lk 4:21). The day of vengeance of our God awaits a future fulfillment of the outpouring God's righteous wrath which reaches its climax at the Second Coming of Christ as King of kings (cf Rev 19:11, 12, 13, 14, 15-note, Rev 19:16-note).

Paul sums up this time, writing of the day of vengeance

when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution ("vengeance" NKJV) to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed-- for our testimony to you was believed." (2Th 1:7, 8, 9, 10)

B) Zechariah 9:9, 10

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. 10 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem; and the bow of war will be cut off. And He will speak peace to the nations; and His dominion will be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Zechariah 9:9 was fulfilled at His "Triumphal" entry as Jesus rode into Jerusalem to be presented to the nation of Israel as their King (also a fulfillment of Daniel 9:25-note)

Now this took place that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, SAY TO THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, GENTLE, AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, EVEN ON A COLT, THE FOAL OF A BEAST OF BURDEN. (Mt 21:4, 5, see also John 12:14, 15.)

Zechariah 9:10 will not be fulfilled until the Second Coming of the King of kings at which time He will establish peace "from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth".

C) Isaiah 9:6, 7+

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

Comment: Isaiah 9:6 was historically fulfilled at Christ's first coming but the everlasting rule of Messiah on the throne of David prophesied in Isaiah 9:7 will not be fulfilled until His Second Coming. Thus there is a clear "time gap" between these two consecutive verses.

D) A literal interpretation of the prophecies in Daniel 2, 7 and 11 is impossible unless one invokes a time gap. (See these time gaps charted out - Daniel 2, 7, 11).

1) Daniel 2+ - There is a "time gap" between the old Roman empire and the "revived Roman Empire" in its 10 Toe Stage. The 10 Toe Stage has no historical counterpart and can only be explained as a yet to be fulfilled prophecy (See Daniel 2:24-49 Commentary)

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2) Daniel 7+ - The fourth beastly kingdom (Rome) in Da 7:7a has a 10 Horn stage (Da 7:7b, Da 7:8, Da 7:20, 21, Da 7:23, 24) which like the 10 Toe Stage of Daniel 2 has not yet been historically fulfilled.

3) Daniel 11+ - Da 11:35 and Daniel 11:36 support a time gap...

Ryrie Comments: This section gives details of Antichrist's future career. Though some refer the section entirely to Antiochus, the scope also requires reference to some details of Israel's last days (Da 10:14 and Da 12:1, 2). (The Ryrie Study Bible: New American Standard Translation: 1995. Moody Publishers)

Albert Barnes comments: ...Most Christian interpreters suppose that the allusion here to Antiochus ceases, and that henceforward, it refers to Antichrist. So Jerome, Gill, Bp. Newton, and others; and so Jerome says many of the Jews understood it. The only reason alleged for this is, that there are things affirmed here of the "king" which could not be true of Antiochus. (Barnes' Notes on the Old Testament - Volume IX)

E) Malachi 3:1+ speaks of Christ's first coming while Malachi 3:2, 3, 4 speaks of Christ's second coming.

R. Gundry observes: "The possibility of a gap between the sixty-ninth and the seventieth weeks is established by the well-accepted OT phenomenon of prophetic perspective, in which gaps such as that between the first and second advents were not perceived." (Miller, S. R. Daniel: The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994)

Guzik sums up the idea of a "time gap" with the observation that...God has appointed 490 years of special focus on Israel in His redemptive plan. The years were "paused" by Israel's rejection of Jesus. Now (Ed: In the "time gap", often referred to as the "church age"), there is no special focus on Israel in God's redemptive plan because this is the time of the Church. God's focus will return to Israel when the Church is taken away (at the Rapture) and the last seven years of man's (Ed: Gentile) rule on this earth begin.

– adapted from PreceptAustin on Daniel 9:27 < https://www.preceptaustin.org/daniel_927 >

SYNONYMS FOR THE SECOND 3.5 YEARS = THE GREAT TRIBULATION

SCRIPTURE	TIME PHRASE	DESCRIPTION
Matthew 24:15+ Matthew 24:21+	Great Tribulation	The time begins when the abomination of desolation takes His place in the holy place of the Temple as prophesied in Daniel this event inaugurating "a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall."
Deut 4:29, 30+	Distress	"But from there you (Israel) will seek the LORD your God and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. When you are in distress (" tribulation " KJV) and all these things have come upon you in the latter days you will return to the LORD your God & listen to His voice."
Daniel 11:36+	Indignation	"he (Antichrist) will prosper until the indignation is finished (end of 70th week) for that which is decreed will be done."

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Daniel 12:1+	Time of distress	"There will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time and at that time your people (Israel) everyone who is found written in the book will be rescued"
Isa 26:20, 21	Indignation	"Come, my people (Jews), enter into your rooms, and close your doors behind you. Hide for a little while, until indignation (Hebrew = intense anger, wrath) runs its course."
Jer 30:7+	Time of Jacob's distress	"Alas! for that day is great, there is none like it (it is distinct) and it is the time of Jacob's distress but he (Israel) will be saved from it."
Rev 7:14+	Great Tribulation	And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These (Re 7:9-note) are the ones who come out of the great tribulation , and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

PARALLEL TIME PHRASES RELATED TO DANIEL'S 70th WEEK

SCRIPTURE	TIME PHRASE	WHAT TIME IS IT?
Rev 11:3+	1260 days	And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. FIRST 3.5 YEARS
Da 9:27	Middle of the week	The time when the prince who is to come breaks the covenant with Israel and carries out the abomination of desolation MIDDLE OF 7 YEARS
Da 7:25+	Time, times and half a time	The time during which the saints (Jews) will be given into Little Horn's (Antichrist's) hand (power). SECOND 3.5 YEARS
Rev 13:5+	42 months	Authority to act given to Antichrist - "And there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him." SECOND 3.5 YEARS

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Da 12:7+	Time, times and half a time	The time required to shatter the power of the holy people (the Jews) and the completion of the events described in Daniel 10-12. SECOND 3.5 YEARS
Rev 11:2+	42 months	The time period during which the Gentile nations will be given the outside court of the Temple and will trample down Jerusalem. SECOND 3.5 YEARS
Rev 12:6+	1260 days	The time period when Israel flees into the wilderness to a place prepared by God so that she might be nourished. SECOND 3.5 YEARS
Rev 12:14+	Time and times and half a time	The time during which Israel is nourished in the wilderness from the presence of the serpent SECOND 3.5 YEARS

Summary of the Tribulation & Mid-point (3 1/2 year mark):

“Strategic to this period (of the Tribulation) is the fulfillment of the “abomination of desolation” an event first spoken of by Daniel (Daniel 9.27). From Daniels’ chronology, this distinguishing event occurs at the midpoint of the Tribulation, or at the 3 1/2 year mark, and it describes the AntiChrist’s breaking of his covenant with Israel in which he tries to stop the Jewish worship system in the Temple. Paul notes that this “man of lawlessness” enters the Temple declaring himself to be God (2 THESS 2.3-4). This event launches a severe persecution in Israel, which is why Jesus warns the residents of Judea to flee with no thought of returning for any item (Matt 24:16-20). The end of this period brings cosmic signs: “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven” (Matt 24.29). Jesus returns to earth in power and glory (Matt 24.30) and gathers his elect (Matt 24.31). The return of Jesus in glory with his angels leads to a judgment of nations to see who will enter his earthly kingdom (Matt 25.31-46).

This man is “the blasphemous political ruler, the ‘little horn’ who speaks great and boastful words and wages war against the saints of God (Dan 7.8, 21). He is the wicked “prince” who arises from the Romans (Dan 9.26). This prince makes a covenant with the Jewish people for seven years but breaks the covenant at the midpoint, stopping the Jewish sacrificial system and desolating the Temple (Dan 9.27). In Daniel 11.36-45, he is the willful king who exalts himself, speaks against God, rejects any rival gods, and trusts in His military might” (Richard Mayhue).

A good & needed reminder on how we talk about “The Kingdom of God” today:

In present-day Christendom, it is common to hear people speak of Christians being in the kingdom of God, advancing the kingdom of God, and similar references to the present form of the kingdom of God. This is legitimate if one means by “the kingdom” the universal kingdom over which God now rules and forever has ruled from heaven. But it is not correct to equate God’s present rule from heaven with His future rule on earth through the Son of Man. This messianic kingdom, we believe, will begin when Jesus Christ returns to the earth, and it is the kingdom being

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described in Daniel 2, by the stone cut out without hands, and in Daniel 7, by the fifth kingdom that will crush all previous earthly kingdoms. One of God's kingdoms is already present; the other is not yet: it is still to come.

Currently there are 2 ways of biblically speaking of the *Kingdom of God*:

1. *The Majestic Kingdom = Christ sovereignly reigns over everything in creation (presently)*
 2. *The Mediatorial Kingdom = Christ rules from Zion over the world in the future 1,000 year Kingdom. (future)*
- Tom Constable

O WORSHIP THE KING!

O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might and sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.

His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail.
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

BE THOU MY VISION!

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.