

#41 *FORUM POST ON DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS PROPHECY

Dear Q _____,

Just a quick question; why do you believe that Jesus' earthly ministry lasted for 3 1/2 years? Do you have any scripture?

I'm not asking you because I disagree with you. I am certain His ministry lasted 3 1/2 years, but I know of only one scripture (**Dan 9:27**) which teaches this truth. Do you have a second witness of scripture?

Thanks,
Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I think the 3.5 years was foretold in Daniels 70 week prophecy.

The last week starts when Christ began His ministry. At the 3 1/2 years mark, Christ was cut off. The last 3 1/2 years continue until about 4 A.D. when the Gentiles were offered salvation.

Q _____

Dear Q _____,

Yes, I agree with your understanding except for how you explain the last 3 1/2 years of the prophecy. That part is not correct.

Not many people understand the last week of Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy as referring to Christ.

Christ is the one who confirms the covenant and that "confirmation" occurred when Christ was baptized by John the Baptist. This began the last 7 years countdown. In the "midst of the week", Christ was "cutoff" at the cross. This left 3 1/2 years for Christ to complete the goals of Dan 9:24.

The first 69 1/2 weeks were completed under the Old Covenant which is physical and outward. The last 3 1/2 years are being completed under the New Covenant which spiritual and within. This understanding is vital in understanding how Christ completes the last 3 1/2 years of the prophecy.

Under the New Covenant, the last 3 1/2 years are completed individually within a person. When a person receives the Early Rain, the last 3 1/2 years begin for that person. It ends for that person when they receive the Latter Rain and are "born again".

All the verses which mention 3 1/2 years, 1260 days, 42 months or time, times and a half are referring to this last 3 1/2 years of Daniel's prophecy which is being spiritually fulfilled under the New Covenant. Also, there is a great deal of scripture which applies to this time period within a person and it is called "end-time" prophecy. End-time prophecy is not teaching on future world

events which happen at the end of the literal age. Those end-time prophecies are teaching on the spiritual events which happen to an individual between them receiving the Early Rain and the Latter Rain.

When the "ends of the ages" come to a person, they are converted and Dan 9:24 is fulfilled for them.

1Cor 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as types, and have been written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

The angel's reply to Daniel's prayer about his people (the Jews; that is the context) was 70 weeks are determined upon **"your people"**. The last week of the 70 weeks has God's gift delivered to them personally (the Jesus event in person and in message) In the middle of the week they (the Jews) killed him. The last 3.5 years the gospel went exclusively to the Jews. At this juncture they stoned Stephan (the final rejection of their Messiah) and there on after, the Gospel went to the Gentiles.

The Jews had forfeited their special status.....thus was the determination.

Q

Dear Q_____,

"Your people" is referring to the spiritual descendants of Abraham (by faith, Daniel was one of the faithful). Only the spiritual descendants of Abraham are saved:

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Joe, the context is Daniels prayer confessing his sin and the sin of his people. They are captives in Babylon and Daniel realizes from reading Jeremiah that their captivity is drawing to a close. It is in answer that Gabriel was sent with his message. We must keep it in context so we don't spin out on some limb.

Q

Dear Q_____,

The promises are not made to physical Israel or to earthly Jerusalem. They were made to the OT faithful (your people) and to the Elect (New Jerusalem).

Dan 9:24 “A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. (NLT)

The earthly Jerusalem is not holy and neither are the physical descendants of Israel.

Rom 9:6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

Gal 4:25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. 26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Only the "mother of us all" (spiritual Jerusalem, New Jerusalem) will satisfy the goals of Dan 9:24. The earthly Jerusalem and the physical descendants of Abraham are in bondage to sin and cannot and never will complete the goals of Dan 9:24.

The Seventy Weeks prophecy is a spiritual prophecy and was made to the spiritual descendants of Abraham through Isaac and to Holy Jerusalem.

This is the context in which the prophecy is presented.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Sorry Joe, you have manufactured 'a context' and so created a pretext.

Q

Dear Q _____,

Your understanding of scripture is carnal and not spiritual.

1Cor 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

1Cor 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches (carnal words) but which the Holy Spirit teaches (spiritual words), comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

The words of Christ are "spirit" and must be received spiritually to be understood.

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another language (spiritual language) will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

You believe that the promises of being an heir were made to the physical Nation of Israel but the promises were made to the spiritual Nation of Israel. They alone will be the heirs.

For a Gentile to become an heir, they must become a spiritual Jew:

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Rom 4:13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: 15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. 16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, 17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

The Seventy Weeks prophecy is made to the spiritual Nation of Israel and they will fulfill the goals of Dan 9:24.

Is Abraham your father or are you still seeing yourself as a Gentile?

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Concerning Daniel's Seventy Weeks prophecy. Here is my timeline:

Different calculations of the 70 weeks (490 years) have been used to support various interpretations, one of which perfectly fits the ministry of Jesus Christ. It uses the starting point of 457 BC, as detailed in [Ezra chapter 7](#), during the seventh year of the reign of Artaxerxes I. The first time period of 7 weeks (49 years) covers the rebuilding of Jerusalem - plus 62 weeks (or 434 years) brings us to the beginning of the ministry of Jesus Christ. That leaves 7 years to complete the prophecy.

D _____,

Dear D _____,

I agree that the ministry of Christ began after the completion of the first 69 weeks of years. That left 7 years for the goals of the prophecy stated in Dan 9:24 to be accomplished.

Dan 9:24 “A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. (NLT)

At the beginning of the final week of years, Christ confirmed His covenant that He made with Abraham when He was baptized by John the Baptist but in the midst of that final seven years, Christ was "cutoff" at the cross. It was at that point that Christ fulfilled the Old Covenant of Law. This ended the temple sacrifices (caused the sacrifice and oblation to cease) and left only 3 1/2 years to complete the prophecy.

Dan 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.

The last 3 1/2 years are now being fulfill under the New Covenant. When you see the terms 1260 days, 42 months, 3 1/2 years and time, times and a half mentioned in scripture, they are referring to this last 3 1/2 years.

Do you understand how Christ, under the New Covenant, is fulfilling the last 3 1/2 years so that the goals of Dan 9:24 are completed?

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

My view has been that they are a literal 3 1/2 years that will be fulfilled in the future during the ministry of the two witnesses in Rev 11. However, I would be interested to read how you understand these 3 1/2 years.

D _____,

Dear D _____,

Here is one of keys to understanding scripture: The Old Covenant is physical and outward and are the works of man. The New Covenant is very different. It is spiritual and within and are the works of Christ. We must rightly divide the Word by these two covenants to properly understand scripture.

Notice in Dan 9:24 to whom the prophecy is addressed to:

Dan 9:24 “A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. (NLT)

The goals of the Seventy Weeks prophecy apply to "your people and your holy city". "Your people" are the Old Testament faithful. The "holy city" represents the Elect. The Elect are the "New Jerusalem" in Rev. chapter 21.

Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Both groups are spiritual descendants of Abraham and are the heirs of the promises.

The heirs will become the "great and mighty nation" promised to Abraham.

Gen 18:7 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; 8 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

At this time, the "great and mighty nation" (Kingdom of Heaven) is in the process of being formed during the remaining 3 1/2 years of the prophecy. After the last heir enters the Kingdom of Heaven, Daniel's Seventy Weeks prophecy will be fulfilled.

Here is how to understand the remaining 3 1/2 years:

After Christ was "cutoff" at the cross, the physical countdown of the 70 weeks changed from being fulfilled under the Old Covenant to being fulfilled under the New Covenant.

The remaining 3 1/2 years are now being completed spiritually within the heirs of the promise. The 3 1/2 years are no longer physical, literal years as they were under the Old Covenant. Under the New Covenant, the years are completed individually and spiritually within a person.

The 3 1/2 years begins when a person receives the Early Rain of the Spirit and it ends when the person receives the Latter Rain of the Spirit and is converted.

The "Early and Latter Rains" is probably a new concept for you - very few people understand it.

The Early Rain is given by Christ to "call" a person out from the world. The Early Rain was given to the Jewish Elect when Christ came in the flesh. For that reason, when Christ introduced the New Covenant upon His resurrection from the grave, the Jewish Elect only needed to receive the Latter Rain. They received it on the Day of Pentecost and were then converted and saved. Daniel's prophecy was then completed for them.

The Gentiles must follow the same pathway. They first must receive the Early Rain and be called out from the world. At that time, they will enter the "church". And like the Jewish Nation, they too will "fall away" (Mat 12:43-45). For the believers who have been chosen, Christ will "come again" to them and pour out the Latter Rain. This is their moment of conversion/salvation and is when they, too, complete the Seventy Weeks prophecy.

The time an Elect believer spends between receiving the Early and Latter Rains represents the last 3 1/2 years of the prophecy. This time period is also referred to as a time, times and a half, 42 months and 1260 days. When you see those terms in scripture, it is teaching on this time period each Elect believer will spend between the Early and Latter Rains. The events of the time period are quite involved and there is a great deal of scripture which teaches them. In fact, this is what end-time prophecy teaches. The events of end-time prophecy are not teaching on outward future world events as most believe. End-time prophecy is teaching on the spiritual events which happen in the lives of the Elect in between them receiving the Early and Latter Rains. When they receive the Latter Rain, the "ends of the ages" (1Cor 10:11) come upon them and they are saved.

Since you mentioned the "two witnesses", I will comment on that teaching. The "two witnesses" is a spiritual symbol which represents ALL the Gentile Elect. The story of the two witnesses teaches the events each Elect person will experience during their 3 1/2 years (time between them receiving the Early and Latter Rains). In the story, it references "42 months" and "1260 days" and presents what happens to them (through symbols) during that time period. The story ends with the conversion of the "two witnesses".

I have a paper which teaches the full story but it is too long to post on the forum. You can find it on my website www.greatmystervofchrist.com.

One more point: after the "great and mighty nation" is formed, they will be used to bless all the nations of the earth in the final age. That is their purpose and why they were formed. They will reign with Christ in the final age to bring in the full harvest of mankind. After the last person is saved, this verse will be testified to be true:

1Tim 2:3-6 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Thanks for sharing your understanding ... but I remain firmly in the literalist camp concerning the 70 weeks which relate to only the Jewish people, as Gabriel told Daniel (Dan 9:24). If the first 69 weeks are literal, I can see no justification for making the remainder spiritual/symbolic.

I also believe the two witnesses are literal men (in fact I believe they are Elijah & Moses who appeared to Jesus at the transfiguration). You appear to be saying that the symbol of the olive

trees (Rev 11:4, Zech 4:14) which represent the two witnesses, which is another symbol ... thus you appear to have a symbol representing a symbol.

D

Dear D _____,

I used to believe as you stated in your last post. In fact, I used to teach end-time prophecy in my church. But after I was converted in 2005 and was given "eyes that can see", my understanding of scripture quickly changed. I no longer understood the words of Christ carnally but spiritually.

This truth is taught in the healing of the blind man in Mark 8:21-25. The blind man's first healing represents the Early Rain. However, it leaves the blind man near-sighted (still carnal in his understanding). But after Christ heals the blind man a second time (represents the Latter Rain), the blind man could see clearly. Until Christ "comes again" to a believer with the Latter Rain, they will remain spiritually blind and unable to "see" the truth.

On the teachings of Revelation, consider what Revelation actually says:

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for THE TIME IS AT HAND.

Rev 22:7 Behold, I COME QUICKLY: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Rev 22:10 And he saith unto me, SEAL NOT the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for THE TIME IS AT HAND.

If the time for the Book of Revelation is still future as you believe, how can anyone, especially those who lived and died over the past 2000 years, ever hope to KEEP THE SAYINGS OF THE PROPHECY?

Was Christ mistaken when He said "I come quickly" and "the time is at hand"? Two thousand years is not "quickly" nor can that long length of time mean that the time is "at hand".

So what does it mean for the time to be at hand?

We don't have to guess. All we have to do is look to scripture and it will give us the answer:

Mat 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Jesus Christ is the Kingdom of Heaven. With His proclamation in **Mat 3:2**, Christ was announcing that the Kingdom of Heaven had come - that the time was at hand.

The truth is the prophecies of Revelation were fulfilled in the 1st century A.D. even before John received the prophecy and they have continued to be fulfilled over and over again since that time within the life of each of Christ's Elect. They are "keeping" the sayings of the prophecy.

For Christ's Elect, Christ has already come or is presently coming or will come in the future.

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to COME; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne...

Rev 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to COME, the Almighty.

Christ's second coming to His Elect is a reoccurring event. His "coming" will continue until the last chosen person has been saved. Only then will the bodily resurrections occur and this present age will come to an end.

The book of Revelation is not teaching about outward coming world events. The book is teaching on the Pathway to Salvation and that salvation is the unveiling of Christ within an individual at their moment of conversion.

Also, the events which were shown to John were presented to him in spiritual symbols.

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto it by his angel unto his servant John:

They are not literal nor do they carry the same meanings as "man's wisdom teaches":

1Cor 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

The symbols used in the teachings of Christ are not describing physical outward events which take place in the world. They are describing spiritual events which happen within a person. We must transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant in our way of understanding.

If a person has been chosen by Christ to be a heir and a First Fruit of His harvest, Christ will see to it that they keep the sayings of the book and receive salvation before they physically die.

Matthew chapter 24 is one of the great end-time prophecy teachings of Christ. And just like the Book of Revelation, Matthew chapter 24 is teaching about the Pathway to Salvation which Christ will cause His Elect to travel in their lifetimes. End-time prophecy is not teaching on future physical world events.

In Matthew 24:34, Christ is referring to His Elect (the generation) who have been chosen for salvation in this present age.

Christ said:

Mat 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

The generation of First Fruits will not pass away until each of Christ's Elect have kept the sayings of the prophecies and have been converted.

If the two witnesses are literal people who will appear in the future, how can any of Christ's Elect keep that saying? They can't. But since the symbol "two witnesses" represents all the Elect and

since the story teaches the pathway they will travel to be saved, they can keep that saying - and Christ will see to it that they do.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I believe the "*time is at hand*" means that events in the book begin unfolding in the first century and carry on till the final consummation in the future.

We "*keep the sayings*" by understanding & believing what the book says is true.

Jesus will come "quickly" ... it is a very quick or sudden event ... "*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye*".

Do you believe that nothing in the book of Revelation concerns future events, not even the final judgment?

Also, what is it about Rev 11 that makes you think it is about the pathway the two witnesses will travel to be saved?

I know I did not address all your points but I'm not sure I understood them enough to comment.

D _____

Dear D _____,

You asked:

Do you believe that nothing in the book of Revelation concerns future events, not even the final judgment?

My detailed answer is below:

All the spiritual events that led up to an Elect believer's conversion are "is, was and will be". They happen within the lifetime of each of the Elect. Most of the book of Revelation teaches these reoccurring spiritual events.

To get to the "one-time events", I will start with Revelation chapter 19.

Chapter 19 of Revelation teaches the Latter Rain event for the Elect by using the marriage analogy. The Marriage to the Lamb (v. 7) is when the believer is "born again". This creates the new child of God. With the Latter Rain, the believer is given "eyes that can see". With this new vision, the Word of God opens up to them and they are fed the truth of scripture by Christ (Marriage Supper of the Lamb, v. 9). After they are sufficiently fed the truth, Christ appears to them spiritually. This is the point when the Man of Sin is revealed to them and they find that he is the one who is looking back at them in the mirror. Also, at that time, they "see" the Abomination of Desolation. Once they "see" who they are, the Day of the Lord will fall on them. The Day of the Lord is the judgment of Christ. To begin that judgment, Christ will remove the spirit of anti-Christ and the Great Harlot (worsened carnal nature) from within them. They are both "taken" and cast into the Lake of Fire for their destruction.

These verses teach this truth:

Mat 24:40 Then shall two (one flesh, one Elect believer) be in the field; the one shall be taken (Man of Sin/spirit of anti-Christ), and the other left (child of God). 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken (Great Harlot), and the other left (child of God).

Rev 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

The ones who are taken are the Man of Sin and the Great Harlot. The one who remains is the new child of God.

In Rev chapter 19, the child of God is the one who is riding with Christ over the judgment of the believer's spirit of anti-Christ (which made them into a Man of Sin/Seven Headed Beast) and their worsened carnal nature (Great Harlot, Mystery Babylon). They are removed from the believer and are judged in the Lake of Fire. Since the new birth occurs prior to judgment, the believer does NOT experience the wrath of the Lake of Fire. In contrast, the "lost" of the final age are not "born again" prior to their judgment so they do experience the wrath of the Lake of Fire. But prior to the destruction of the "lost", Christ will have mercy upon them and give them the Latter Rain. The new child of God will then be born in heaven and the judgment in the Lake of Fire over their Man of Sin/Great Harlot will continue until its completion.

Here is what Christ said to the Pharisees concerning the Law:

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Christ's administration of the Law in judgment is not like the Pharisees' judgment. Christ will not pervert judgment (**Job 34:12**) and will not omit mercy and faith when He judges a person.

Joel chapter 2 teaches the judgment of the "lost" in the final age. The Elect (who reign with Christ) are shown as Christ's army in the first part of the chapter. But before the judgment of the "lost" is completed, Christ will have pity (mercy) upon them and will pour out the Early and Latter Rain:

Joel 2:18 Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people...23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the Early Rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the Early Rain, and the Latter Rain in the first month.

After the Elect are judged at the end of Rev chapter 19, they are "converted". To be converted, a person must receive from Christ the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain) and the baptism of Fire (symbol for judgment):

Mat 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with Fire: 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Rev chapter 20 begins by saying that the judgment which the Elect just experienced at the end of chapter 19 is called the Thousand Years Reign. Peter references this term also and relates it to the Day of the Lord. After the Elect's judgment is complete, it calls the whole process of conversion the "First Resurrection". It is a spiritual resurrection and is when an Elect believer is born again and judged. It happens to all the Elect in this age prior to their physical deaths.

The events I will now describe below are the events which are still future and are one-time events. This is my answer to your question above.

At the mid-point of chapter 20, the bodily resurrections occur and everyone appears before the White Throne. This is when Christ separates the sheep from the goats (**Mat 25:32**). Those who are found in the Book of Life (OT Faithful and Elect) are the sheep. Those not found in the Book of Life are the goats. The goats are cast into the Lake of Fire at the end of chapter 20.

Chapter 21 begins by showing us the bodily resurrected "sheep" and calls them the New Jerusalem (the Lamb's Bride). A great deal of symbolic detail is given to describe them in that chapter. Chapter 22 wraps up the book and makes this "call" which will occur at the time Christ has "pity" on the "lost" who were cast into the Lake of Fire at the end of chapter 20:

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Christ "typed" this call when He attended the Feast of Tabernacles in the book of John:

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

The Feast of Tabernacles represents the great harvest of mankind which will occur at the end of the final age. The Feast of Weeks (First Fruits), "types" the early harvest of the Elect.

The events, which are the one-time events, begin with the bodily resurrections which occur at the end of this literal age. Then the White Throne judgment will occur at the start of the final age. This will be followed by the judgment of the "lost" in the Lake of Fire. The last event will be the great harvest of mankind at the end of the final age. This scripture applies to that time:

1Cor 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection from the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming (the Elect**). 24 Then cometh the consummation (**everyone else**), when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his**

feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

This scripture ends the "ages" and completes the purpose for them. God will then be "all in all" because all mankind has been made into a child of God.

You asked:

What is it about Rev 11 that makes you think it is about "the pathway they will travel to be saved"?

My short answer is: because the pathway the "two witnesses" travel matches to the pathway where it is taught (over and over again) in other places of scripture - even in the Old Testament.

Paul's conversion experience was given in "type" as the pattern (1Tim 1:16) which the Elect will travel to be converted. For that reason, a great deal of detail is given about it in Acts chapter 9.

I have a detailed teaching on it if you would like to see it.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

All the prophecies concerning the first coming of Jesus were fulfilled literally so I see the prophecy in Revelation being fulfilled literally also.

What has persuaded you that the events in the book of Revelation are not literal?

D

Dear D _____,

That's a good question. I touched on the answer to this question in one of my earlier posts.

Scripture is serious when it says that we have to "rightly divide the Word":

2Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

It is absolutely necessary to divide the Word between the Old and New Covenants.

The Old Covenant is outward and physical and is man's work of trying to be righteous before God.

The New Covenant is completely different. It is inward and spiritual and is Christ's work of making mankind righteous before God.

Under the Old Covenant, the prophecies were outwardly and physically fulfilled. But any OT prophecy that was not fulfilled prior to the resurrection of Christ will now be fulfilled spiritually

under the New Covenant. This truth applies to most OT prophecies and certainly includes Daniel's prophecies which are about the "latter times" or the "time of the end".

When Christ went to the cross, He fulfilled the Old Covenant and His physical and outward work was finished. That is what He meant when He said "it is finished":

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Christ's work under the Old Covenant is finished and He is now doing His work under the New Covenant. His work under the New Covenant is spiritual work and happens within mankind. It does not happen out in the world. All the unfulfilled prophecies need to be understood in this spiritual manner.

The "end-time" prophecies from both the OT & NT are teaching the spiritual work of Christ which He does within a believer that takes them to the point of their salvation. When a believer is converted and saved, that is their "end-time" or as Paul says, it is when the "ends of the ages" come upon them:

1Cor 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as types, and have been written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.

Look at this verse:

Acts 3:20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: 21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Christ will remain in the "heavens" (spiritual realm) until all His work of the New Covenant is completed. Christ's Second Coming is spiritual and it is a reoccurring event. I pointed this truth out to you in an earlier post on explaining how to understand the book of Revelation. Christ is never going to be seen again with human eyes.

Consider this verse:

Rev 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

This verse is teaching on the Second Coming of Christ. If it is a one-time outward event where mankind can see Him with human eyes, how can the verse be true? The Jewish leaders who crucified Christ have been dead for around 1900 years.

To properly understand this verse, it must be understood "spiritually" and not "carnally". The reason every eye will see Christ is because Christ will spiritually come to every person who has ever lived. Then AFTER He heals their spiritual blindness, He will "appear" to them unto salvation.

Heb 9:28 So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

This is when the new child of God is born and when Christ will gather the believer to dwell with Him in heaven.

I just made a post on another forum that teaches on "carnal" vs. "spiritual" understanding of God's Word. I will post a copy of it here to add to what I stated above.

Joe

Dear D_____,

Here is that post:

All called out believers (Early Rain only) in the church are spiritually blind. It is unavoidable. Paul dealt with this same issue with the churches he started;

1Cor 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ.

God's Word is written in "spirit" words:

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are SPIRIT, and they are life.

The reason it is written in Christ's "spirit" words is to keep the truth hidden from all but the converted Elect who have received both the Early and Latter Rains:

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another language will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

A believer can only understand the spiritual language of Christ after they receive the Latter Rain and have been "born again". Carnal mankind and carnal believers in the church (Early Rain only) cannot understand the "another language" which Christ uses in scripture. For this reason, the church has fallen "backward" and has been "broken, and snared and taken" by the spirit of anti-Christ. They are following "another Jesus" and "another gospel":

2Cor 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse

things, to draw away disciples after them. 31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

Though Paul did not write much about it, he did verbally warn (with tears) his churches for three years that the apostasy was coming.

Nothing has changed in the church since it became apostate. Satan is still masquerading as Christ and is still killing the saints by his "another gospel" which teaches a mixture of works and faith.

This false gospel is so deceptive that Christ said that it could even deceive the very Elect if they had not been converted prior to its coming into the world.

Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Because Satan's gospel is so deceptive, it is accepted by all unconverted believers. Once they have accepted it, they will only "buy and sell" (be taught or teach) from those who likewise have the mark of the beast:

Rev 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

The number for mankind is six. The number for fallen away believers in the apostate church is 666. The number six is repeated three times to represent the spiritual process the spirit of anti-Christ causes a called out believer to experience. After this process is complete, the believer will be made "worse than the first":

Mat 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself SEVEN other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is WORSE THAN THE FIRST. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

The spiritual symbol of an unclean spirit represents a spirit which teaches Satan's false truth through lies and deceptions.

Since a new believer remains spiritually blind (**Mark 8:21-25**) after receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit, they cannot replace their worldly false beliefs with the truth of Christ. ONE unclean spirit leaves but comes back with SEVEN more. The number "seven" represents perfection. In this case, the number seven represents the perfection of Satan's lies/deceptions which come to a

believer by the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ. Now, instead of ONE unclean spirit within the believer, they now have EIGHT. The number eight is a spiritual symbol which represents a new spiritual condition. In this case, the new spiritual condition is worse than the first.

This "worse than the first" spiritual condition causes the believer to become a False Prophet/Man of Sin/Minister of Satan and a Seven Headed Beast with Ten Horns & Crowns.

When Christ comes a second time to one of His Elect who are in this fallen away "worse than the first" condition, He will pour out the Latter Rain and heal their spiritual blindness. When He does, the Man of Sin will be revealed to them and they will find that he is the one who is looking back at them in the mirror.

The spiritually blind church does not understand the truths that I presented above. They are following Satan instead of Christ and are "dwelling in peace and safety" (**1Thes 5:3**) in his apostate church.

Everyone (includes the Elect) who is called into the church in this age will experience this Day of Evil in the apostate church. It is a step on the pathway to salvation the Elect will follow. I experienced it just as you are experiencing it now. It cannot be avoided:

Mat 4:4 But he answered and said, it is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

For the Elect's sake, their days in the apostate church will be shortened (**Mat 24:22**), but for those who are called and not chosen, they will remain in the apostate church until they physically die. They will then be resurrected to judgment with the unbelievers. And as I pointed out in my first post, Christ will eventually have "pity" upon them and will pour out the Early and Latter Rains. After the last person is saved, God will be "all in all" (**1Cor 15:28**).

D_____, the person on the other forum responded to my post to him but could not understand what I was teaching so I continued in a second post. I will present it in my next post to you.

Joe

Dear D_____,

Here is my final post on "carnal" vs. "spiritual" understanding from the other forum:

Christ says that the words used in scripture are "spirit" – they are heavenly things. The words mankind uses are "carnal" – they are earthly things.

Also, when Christ teaches us with "spirit" words, you are applying the message He is teaching "carnally" (outwardly) rather than "spiritually" (inwardly).

Here is an example of what I am saying:

Mat 26:52 Then said Jesus unto him, put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Does Christ really mean that if you use a sword to kill others, then you must likewise be killed with a sword?

I hear that verse quoted quite often by others but they understand its message carnally. They really believe that Christ is talking about a literal steel bladed sword. So if we understand this verse carnally, Christ's statement can easily be proven to be FALSE. There are countless examples of people who have used violence to kill others but then do not die from that same type of violence - it almost goes without saying.

Is Christ mistaken or is His message something else?

The spiritual language of the Word of God utilizes the Hebrew and Greek languages. However, Christ assigns meanings to the Hebrew and Greek words which are different from how they are commonly defined:

1Cor 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

In **Matt 26:52**, Christ is using the word SWORD to teach us a spiritual message. To understand what the spiritual symbol "sword" represents, we must look at how it is used elsewhere in scripture. In other words, we must compare spiritual things with spiritual.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Heb 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edge sword...

Rev 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword...

From the verses presented above, it is easy to understand that the spiritual word "sword" represents the Word of God who is Christ.

Christ's hidden spiritual point He is making in **Matt 26:52** is that all who take up the Sword (those who are "called out"), must perish (death of the carnal nature) by the Sword. This death is a necessary part of the conversion process which happens when the Word of God (Christ, the Sword) comes to a person.

When Christ gives an unbeliever a blow to their head with His Sword, He does so when He gives them the Early Rain. However, the Early Rain leaves them spiritually blind. Because they are

blind, Satan quickly and easily deceives them into accepting "another gospel". After they accept this false gospel, the deadly wound to their head is healed. In other words, their carnal mind does not die. However, to be saved, it must die so that the believer can have the mind of Christ.

Christ is the head of the church but Satan heals the wound by his deceptions and the believer remains a child of the Devil. And with the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ, the believer becomes an even worse child of the Devil.

This truth is presented by the spiritual symbol "Seven Headed Beast" used in Rev chapter 13. The Seven Headed Beast represents a fallen away believer who is under the control of the spirit of anti-Christ. Contained in the description of the Beast, it shows that one of its heads has a deadly wound by a sword which has been healed:

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Because it is healed, the believer is still a child of the Devil (mankind). For this reason, Christ must "come again" to His fallen away Elect and give them the Latter Rain. With the Latter Rain, Christ gives them a second blow to their head by His Sword. With this blow, they will die and be converted into a child of God.

This spiritual message is what this verse is also teaching:

Isa 66:16 For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

So when I tell you that your understanding of God's Word is carnal and not spiritual, what I have explained above is what I mean. You define the words of Christ as man's defines them and then you apply those words carnally (outwardly) rather than spiritually (within). This is why "end-time" prophecy is so greatly misunderstood. Carnal believers define Christ's "spirit" words as mankind defines them. They then apply the message "outwardly" into the world rather than "inwardly" into a believer.

D_____, I hope this helps to fully answer your question. It is a very important concept that must be considered when studying God's Word.

Joe

D_____ did not respond.