

Introduction to My E-Book, "Introduction to The Mid-Week Rapture"

By Karl Kemp; April, 2014

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This e-book originated with the written texts behind my twenty-four, half-hour radio broadcasts of the series titled "The Mid-Week Rapture." I improved the written texts by adding bold (all of the key Bible passages are in bold lettering), underlining, and italics, which makes this e-book easier to read, and I made some other improvements in the content, including adding a Chronological Chart at the end of the e-book. The chart is essentially the equivalent to the fold-out Chronological Chart at the end of my paperback book, "The Mid-Week Rapture: A Verse-by-Verse Study of Key Prophetic Passages."

The primary goal for these twenty-four articles was to discuss the most important Bible passages that enable us see that the Lord Jesus will return, and the rapture will take place, right in the middle of the seven-year period that is sometimes called Daniel's 70th week (based on Daniel 9:24-27). The articles in this e-book present the scriptural basis for the mid-week rapture rather thoroughly, and they serve as a good introduction for my paperback book, "The Mid-Week Rapture," which contains a large amount of information not contained in this e-book. (For example, the paperback book contains verse-by-verse studies of Psalm 110; Daniel 2:31-45; Daniel chapters 7, 8, 9, 12; and Zechariah chapters 9-14; and an eight page discussion that goes with the Chronological Chart that is included in the back of the paperback book and at the end of this e-book.) I frequently quoted from the paperback book in the twenty-four articles of this e-book.

As I mentioned, this e-book focuses on the most important passages of the Bible that enable us to understand the mid-week rapture. (See the Contents of this e-book in the section that follows.) There is a strong emphasis on passages from the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation is God's last word in the Bible on the details of the end of this age, and it is packed with those details. It contains very much information that was not included in the prophetic passages that had been given before that super-important revelation was given to the apostle John (and through him to us) about AD 95. I should mention that there are some major differences of interpretation, including some of the key passages which are referred to, among those teaching the mid-week rapture.

Now that this e-book is available, it should be read before the paperback book. It summarizes the scriptural basis for the mid-week rapture, and is easier to read.

Those who are interested in this topic and like this e-book will want to go on to read the much more extensive paperback book. Both books are available at amazon.com and the paperback book is also available on my internet site.

I'LL LIST THE PRIMARY CONTENT OF THIS E-BOOK (I'll underline the passages/verses if they are quoted in this e-book [some Christian article sites do not reproduce the underlining]; most of the passages/verses that are quoted are discussed to some extent; some of them are discussed to a significant extent):

Listing of the Chapters in My Paperback Book, "The Mid-Week Rapture"

Abbreviations and Other Such Information

Acknowledgements

Article #1. Introduction; Matthew 24:30, 31; Romans 5:9; 1 Corinthians 15:50-52; 1 Thessalonians 1:9, 10; 4:13-5:6; 5:9; Revelation 3:1-6; 11:15-17

Article #2. Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11; Daniel 7:21, 25; 9:27; 12:11; Matthew 24:15; Luke 21:34-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Revelation 3:10; 13:2, 5, 7; 14:6, 7; 14:9-12; 17:16, 17; discuss abomination of desolation to some extent

Article #3. Isaiah 27:12, 13; Daniel 9:27; 12:11; Matthew 24:15, 21, 22, 29-31; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5; Revelation 9:13-21; discuss short great tribulation

Article #4. Daniel 11:40-12:2; Joel 2:30-32; Matthew 24:15, 21, 22, 29; Revelation 6:12-17; 9:2; 12:3, 4, 7-9

Article #5. Isaiah 27:12, 13; Zechariah chapter 4; MATTHEW 24:29-51; Luke 21:20-24; start REVELATION CHAPTERS 11-13; REVELATION 11:1-4

Article #6. Zechariah 12:10; 13:1, 8; 14:1, 2; and 14:4, 5; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 9:27-29; 11:26, 27; REVELATION 11:1-13; Revelation 17:8; extreme importance of the book of Revelation

Article #7. Psalm 2:1-6; Zechariah 12:10; 13:1; Romans 2:28, 29; 11:17-24; Revelation 1:4, 5, 8; 4:2-4, 8; 8:13; 19:5; REVELATION 11:14-19; start REVELATION CHAPTER 12; REVELATION 12:1

Article #8. Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 66:7, 8; Daniel 7:21, 25; Romans 16:20; Revelation 2:26, 27; 3:21; REVELATION 12:1-5; Revelation 13:5-7

Article #9. Psalm 2 (espec. verses 7-9); Micah 5:1-3; Matthew 23:37-39; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Revelation 2:26, 27; 3:21; 11:18; REVELATION 12:5

Article #10. Micah 5:3; Matthew 24:29; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; REVELATION 12:5-9

Article #11. Exodus 19:4; Daniel 7:21, 25; 12:7; 1 Peter 2:24, 25; Revelation 11:15, 17; 12:5; 13:7; 15:2; REVELATION 12:10-16

Article #12. Zechariah 12:10; 13:1, 8; 14:1, 2, 4, 5; Revelation 11:13; 17:8, 12, 13, 14; 19:19-21; REVELATION 12:17; start REVELATION CHAPTER 13; REVELATION 13:1-6

Article #13. Daniel 7:21, 25; 12:7, 10; Zechariah 11:15-17; 13:9; start DANIEL CHAPTER 12; Matthew 24:24; Ephesians 1:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12; Revelation 3:1-6; 12:17; 13:2, 4, 5; 14:6, 7, 9-11; 15:2; 16:13, 14, 16; REVELATION 13:7-18

Article #14. DANIEL 12:1-7; Daniel 10:4-6; Matthew 13:43; 24:21, 29-31; Revelation 1:10-20

Article #15. DANIEL 12:5-12; Daniel 7:21, 25, 26; 9:27; Zechariah 13:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10; 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4; Revelation 12:17; 13:5, 7; 15:2-4

Article #16. DANIEL 12:12, 13; Matthew 27:50-53; start REVELATION CHAPTERS 4-10; REVELATION 4:1-5:5; Revelation 1:19; 3:21; 6:12-17; 19:11-16

Article #17. Matthew 24:6-9, 14, 15; 28:18; John 1:29; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 1:6; 8:1; 19:2; 20:6; REVELATION 5:6-6:11

Article #18. Isaiah 2:12-22; 13:9-13; Ezekiel chapter 9; Matthew 24:29; Hebrews 12:26-29; REVELATION 6:12-7:8; introduction to REVELATION CHAPTER 7 Revelation 5:6; 8:1; 9:4; 12:17; 14:1; 21:16, 17; the symbolic numbers 7, 12, and 144,000

Article #19. Ezekiel chapters 9, 10 and Daniel chapters 10, 12 and the man dressed in linen; Matthew 5:8; 1 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Peter 2:24; Revelation 1:5; 22:3-5, 14, 15; REVELATION 7:1-8:6

Article #20.; Exodus 9:18-26; Daniel 2:37-39; 4:20-22; Joel 1:6; 2:4; Luke 2:1; Romans 1:8; Ephesians 1:13; REVELATION 8:7-9:12; first five trumpets

Article #21. Ezekiel 2:8-3:4; Daniel 11:36, 37; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Revelation 1:16; 4:3; 17:16, 17; REVELATION 10:1-11; brief discussion of Revelation chapters 14-18; start REVELATION CHAPTER 19; REVELATION 19:1-3

Article #22. Ezekiel 1:1; 1 Peter 2:24; Revelation 1:3; 3:4, 5; 7:14; 11:15-17; 14:14-16; 17:1, 15; 18:24; 19:13, 14; 22:10-15; REVELATION 19:1-11; discuss the word *hallelujah*

Article #23. Isaiah 63:1-6; Matthew 25:41; 1 Corinthians 15:24, 25; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Revelation 2:17, 26, 27; 3:12; 11:15-18; 14:1-5, 9-11; 14-16; 16:12-14, 16; 17:14; 20:10, 14; REVELATION 19:11-21; start REVELATION 20:1-9; REVELATION 20:1-3; discuss the words *gehenna*, *hell*, and *hades*

Article #24. Isaiah 66:7, 8; Ezekiel chapters 38, 39; Daniel 7:9, 18, 22, 27; Zechariah 13:9; 14:10; 1 Corinthians 15:20-24; Galatians 4:26; Revelation 4:6; 12:6, 14-16; 15:2-4; 13:10; 20:14, 15; 21:27; 22:5; REVELATION 20:1-9; discuss salvation of "the nations"

Chronological Chart

I'll list the chapters in my paperback book, "The Mid-Week Rapture"

1. Introduction
2. Chronological Chart for Daniel's 70th Week with Explanatory Notes (The chart itself is located at the end of the book.)
3. Christians Will Be Saved from the Day of Wrath
4. When (How Soon) Will the Lord Jesus Christ Return?
5. Daniel Chapter 2
6. Daniel Chapter 7
7. Daniel Chapter 8
8. Daniel Chapter 9
9. Daniel 11:36-45
10. Daniel 12:1-4
11. Daniel 12:5-13
12. Introduction to Zechariah Chapters 9-14
13. Zechariah Chapters 9 and 10
14. Zechariah Chapter 11
15. Zechariah Chapters 12-14
16. Isaiah 66:1-8

17. Micah 4:9-5:6
 18. Psalm 2
 19. Psalm 110
 20. Revelation Chapter 11
 21. Revelation Chapter 12
 22. Revelation Chapter 13
 23. Revelation 14:1-5
 24. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
- Chronological Chart

Abbreviations and Other Such Information

cf. compare
e.g. for example
f., ff. following verse or verses

I typically quote the primary Scripture passages we are discussing in bold print throughout this e-book.

I frequently make comments in the middle of quotations in brackets [] or [[]] to make them more obvious.

Acknowledgements

Bruce Andrews spent several hours modifying the Chronological Chart in the back of my paperback book, *The Mid-Week Rapture*, to make it more suitable for this e-book format. Greg Holtzmann produced the cover for this book. Norma Wagner proofread the manuscript, which enabled me to remove quite a few typos. I want to thank all of the students I have had dealing with this topic for the past forty plus years (and many other topics, but especially the topic of righteousness, holiness, and victory over sin). They encouraged me and many of them helped support my ministry, which enabled me to have the time and resources to do the things I have done.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge my infinite debt to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Apart from the Father's saving grace in Christ Jesus and all the work of the Holy Spirit, I would still be lost and spiraling downward. I readily acknowledge that my Christian life and ministry is totally dependent on the sufficient grace of God in Christ Jesus, which includes all the work of the Holy Spirit. The triune God must receive all the glory forever! He is

the ultimate source for truth, righteousness, holiness, victory over sin, life, peace, order, and everything else that is good!

MID-WEEK RAPTURE #1 (Article #1)

Introduction. I'll give a little background information since this is the first article in the twenty-four article series. I am a Bible teacher. For one thing, I have been teaching the Bible in the greater St. Louis area for about forty-five years, in churches, Bible colleges, home Bible studies, etc.

I received BS and MS degrees in engineering from St. Louis University, and I worked as a test engineer on various space projects throughout the 60s; it was interesting. Very often we were doing things for the first time.

In 1964 the best thing that ever happened to me happened. I became a born-again Christian; thanks be to God! In the fall of 1969 I quit my job as an engineer. For one thing, I wanted to go to seminary to learn Greek and Hebrew and everything else that could help me understand the Bible. But I realized back then, and I realize even more now, how dependent I am on the Holy Spirit to be my primary teacher. I graduated from Covenant Seminary in 1972 with an MA degree in Biblical Studies with high honors. I have found Greek and Hebrew to be very helpful in my study of the Bible, especially Greek, and I have taught some ten classes in New Testament Greek over the years.

The church I was attending when I became a born-again Christian - and I'm very thankful for that church - taught me the pre-week rapture. Most Christians call it the pre-tribulation rapture, but I believe it is far more accurate to call it the pre-week rapture. The week refers to that seven-year period we learn about from Dan. 9:27. It's called Daniel's 70th week; it's a week of years.

Not long after I became a born-again Christian, I learned of the mid-week rapture while taking night classes at Covenant Seminary in St. Louis. My first five or six years as a Christian, I didn't study the end times much, and I didn't teach on the end times. Finally, about 1970, after I began to seriously and prayerfully study the topic, it became clear to me that the mid-week rapture is correct, and I have been teaching the mid-week rapture for about forty-five years now. I wrote a 360 page paperback book titled "The Mid-Week Rapture: A Verse-by-Verse Study of Key Prophetic Passages."

You can check out the book (or order a copy of the book) by going to my internet site (Google to Karl Kemp Teaching). A chapter of the book is included on my internet site. You can also check out my other paperback book there, "Holiness and Victory Over Sin: Full Salvation Through the Atoning Death of the Lord Jesus

Christ." The topic of that book is more important than "The Mid-Week Rapture." And many of my articles and papers are posted on my internet site. Both books are available at amazon.com, and I have another e-book on amazon.com, "Righteousness, Holiness, and Victory Over Sin." That e-book serves as a good introduction for the paperback book.

I'm not here to argue, and I'm thankful I can sincerely say that I respect those teaching the pre-week rapture (people like Hal Lindsey and Dave Hunt, for example), and I respect those teaching other views like the end-of-the-week rapture, and the pre-wrath rapture, but it is very important that we seek God and make it a top priority to find the balanced truth of what the Bible teaches on the end times, and on every topic. Some topics are more important than Bible prophecy, but that topic is quite important, and especially for those living in the end times, which I believe we are. The primary topic I have been studying, teaching, and trying to live the last forty-five years is holiness and victory over sin.

I have been reading the Jerusalem Post every week for about twenty-five years now and the Jerusalem Report every two weeks for about that long; they are both written in Israel. And I read some other publications too, trying to keep up with what is happening in the world, especially in and around Israel. For one primary thing, I have been watching for the treaty that will initiate the seven-year period we call Daniel's 70th week.

That seven-year period is very important in Bible prophecy. We learn about that seven-year period from the book of Daniel, but the book of Revelation picks up on that theme. The book of Revelation never mentions seven years, but it mentions the equivalent of three and one-half years five times; it mentions 1,260 days, 42 months, and a time, times and half a time. The first two uses refer to the first half of Daniel's 70th week and other three uses refer to the second half of that seven-year period. This information is very important to help us understand the end times. For one primary thing, the book of Revelation speaks of several very important things that will take place right in the middle of the seven-year period, including the sounding of the seventh and last trumpet, the return of the Lord Jesus to save His people and to judge the world, and the resurrection, glorification, and rapture of the saints. At that same time, the devil and his angels will be cast down to the earth and Antichrist will begin his super-evil three and one-half year reign. God will use Antichrist in His end-time judgment of the world (cf., e.g., Rev. 17:16, 17).

One last comment before we move on to the Scriptures. We'll spend most of our time discussing key passages of Scripture verse-by-verse. I read an important article in the Jerusalem Post recently titled, "Chirac, it's time to impose peace." Chirac, as you know, is the president of France, and he was speaking of France and the European Union doing everything they could do to bring about peace between Israel and the Palestinians, or should I say, to use his word, to "impose"

peace. That mentality in Europe and many other places around the world could easily lead to the final seven-year treaty before long. I should mention that Chirac has been replaced by Sarkozy since I made that comment, but that mentality is stronger than ever. At the present time (February, 2014), John Kerry, the U.S. Secretary of State, is doing everything he can do to bring about a treaty between Israel and the Palestinians very soon; he has been aiming for this spring (2014).

Let's turn to the Bible, 1 THESSALONIANS 1:9, 10. I'll always use the NASB, 1995 edition, unless I mention otherwise. I have been using the NASB since about 1969. Before that I used the KJV, the Scofield Reference Bible. I will frequently make comments in the middle of quotations using brackets [] or [[]]. 1 THESSALONIANS 1:9, "**For they themselves report about us** [referring to the apostle Paul and his companions Silvanus and Timothy] **what kind of a reception we had with you** [referring to the time when Paul and his companions first came to Thessalonica to share the gospel with them. See Acts 17 for the details.], **and how you turned from idols to serve a [or, the] living and true God.**" Whether we translate "**a living and true God**" or "**the living and true God,**" which sounds better, there's only one living and true God, the God of Creation, the God of the Bible (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit).

1 THESSALONIANS 1:10. "**and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus who rescues us [or, delivers us] from the wrath to come.**" Our being delivered from the wrath to come is good news, good news indeed! We probably know more about the details of this deliverance from the wrath to come than the apostle Paul did. For one thing, he died some thirty years before the book of Revelation was given, and the book of Revelation is super-important and packed with important details regarding the end times.

I'll read two other verses that speak of our being saved from the wrath to come. 1 THESSALONIANS 5:9, "**For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.**" And ROMANS 5:9, "**Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.**" I believe we should understand the words "**having now been justified**" in a very full sense here, as is often the case in the New Testament, a very full sense that includes being forgiven and declared righteous and being born-again and made righteous by the awesome power of Jesus' blood and the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. We are made righteous and holy by the atoning death of Christ, as we walk in, by, and after the Holy Spirit by faith, in accordance with the terms of the new covenant. (See my book, "Holiness and Victory Over Sin" and my e-book, "Righteousness, Holiness, and Victory Over Sin." Both books are available at amazon.com.)

What wrath will we be saved from? The primary wrath we will be saved from is the eternal lake of fire, the second death of Revelation chapter 20. But we will

also be saved from all the wrath that will be poured out during the second half of that seven-year period called Daniel's 70th week.

Now we'll discuss 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-17. **"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep** [Those who are asleep are the Christians who have died already; they are with Christ now.], **so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope** [[Christians are the only ones who have the hope, "Christ in you the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27), for example. Our hope looks to the future, when we will be glorified, at the time of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. We can't receive the glory until it is God's time. If we stay faithful we will receive the glory at the right time. And we can stay faithful by the sufficient grace of God in Christ. And we are going to stay faithful, aren't we?]]. **(14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God** [God the Father] **will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus** [[Don't worry about the Christians who have died, Paul says, they are with Christ now, and when the Father sends His Son back to fully save His people and to judge the world, He will bring with Him the spirits of the departed Christians, who are with Him now. They will come back to get their resurrection bodies, to be glorified, and to begin to reign along with the overcoming Christians who will still be living on the earth at that time.]]. **(15) For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep** [The apostle Paul will have more to say on this point as he continues.]. **(16)** [Verses 16 and 17 are very important verses to understand the end times] **For the Lord Himself** [the Lord Jesus Christ] **will descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel** [[The voice of the archangel, that's Michael. We read in Revelation chapter 12 that Michael and his angels are going to wage warfare against the devil and his angels. That intense, brief warfare will take place right in the middle of the seven years, and that is when the devil and his angels will be cast down to the earth. By the way, we learn from that passage in Revelation chapter 12 that a third of God's angels joined Satan in his rebellion against God. The sin problem runs very deep, with the rebellion and fall of the devil and the evil angels and the demons, and finally with the rebellion of a large number of the sons of mankind who follow the devil in his rebellion against God.]] **and with the trumpet of God**

[[This double bracket goes on for four paragraphs. Then we'll continue with 1 Thess. 4:16.) This trumpet is very important. It is quite significant that this is the same trumpet as the trumpet of Matthew chapter 24; the trumpet of 1 Corinthians chapter 15; and the trumpet of Revelation chapter 11. In Matthew 24:30, 31 there is a trumpet when the Lord returns with the clouds to initiate the rapture and the day of judgment. In 1 Corinthians 15:52 the apostle Paul gets more specific. He speaks of our being changed at the LAST trumpet (Our being changed includes the resurrection unto glory for the believers who will have died before that time and of the glorification of the believers who will be living on the earth at that time). Paul may not have known the details regarding the LAST trumpet

because, for one thing, he died some thirty years before the all-important book of Revelation was given. When we finally get the book of Revelation (about AD 95), we read of the seven trumpets, and we see that at the seventh and last trumpet the Lord returns and the glorification of the believers take place. We read of the seventh and last trumpet sounding in Revelation 11:15. It is important to see that the trumpets of 1 Thess. 4:16; Matt. 24:31; the LAST trumpet of 1 Cor. 15:52; and the seventh and LAST trumpet of Rev. 11:15 are the same trumpet and that that trumpet will sound right in the middle of Daniel's 70th week. Let's take a quick look at these three passages that speak of this same trumpet. (We will look at these passages in more detail in future articles.)

First let's take a quick look at 1 CORINTHIANS 15:50-52, "**Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable** [In other words, we have to be glorified, which includes having glorified bodies, to inherit God's eternal kingdom of glory.]. **(51) Behold I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed** [Some true Christians will still be living on the earth when Christ returns. They will not die, but all will be changed. That is, we will be glorified and enter God's kingdom in its fully glorified sense. We will begin to reign with Christ at that time in a never ending reign.], **(52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the LAST TRUMPET** [my emphasis]; **for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we** [referring to the believers still living on the earth when Christ returns] **will be changed** [we will be glorified, including having glorified bodies designed for us to live in God's eternal kingdom of glory]."

Now let's take a quick look at MATTHEW 24:30, 31. I'll read the verses and make a few comments, "**And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn** [They will mourn because the day of judgment will have arrived.] **and they will see the SON OF MAN** [the Lord Jesus Christ] **COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. (31) And He will send forth His angels with a GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other** [In other words, the angels will gather His elect worldwide.]." This gathering of God's elect at the time of the sounding of this trumpet is the rapture. His elect are the believers of all generations, all the members of God's true Israel. I believe the saints/believers from Old Testament days will be included. In Romans 11:17-24 the apostle Paul spoke of the fact that all true Gentile Christians have been grafted into the tree of God's true Israel.

Now I'll quote REVELATION 11:15-17, verses of key importance, and make a few comments, "**Then the seventh angel sounded** [The seventh angel sounded his TRUMPET. The seven trumpets were given to the seven angels in Rev. 8:2.]; **and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of this world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord** [God the Father] **and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever** [When the Lord Jesus returns at the sounding of

the seventh and last trumpet of the book of Revelation, He will begin to reign on the earth, and His reign will include judging. In most ways God is not reigning on the earth at the present time. He has all authority, but He has not chosen to reign on the earth in any full sense. If He were reigning things would come into divine order quickly, but as it is many things are getting worse (more sinful) instead of getting better. But it will be different when the Father sends His Son to begin to reign on the earth at the sounding of the seventh trumpet in the middle of Daniel's 70th week.].' **(16) And the twenty-four elders** [high-level angelic beings who are reigning with God (see Psalm 89:6-8, for example)], **who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, (17) 'We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and HAVE BEGUN TO REIGN** [my emphasis].' " God the Father will begin to reign on the earth (mostly through the ministry of God the Son) at the time of the sounding of the seventh and last trumpet of the book of Revelation.

Now I'll continue quoting from 1 Thess. 4:16.]], **and the dead in Christ will rise first** [That is, the true Christians who will have died before the Lord Jesus returns will rise from their graves with resurrected bodies.]. **(17) Then we who are alive and remain** [referring to the true Christians who will still be living on the earth when the Lord returns] **will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air** [That is, the resurrected believers and the other glorified believers will be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. That's the rapture. The catching up of the believers in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air is the rapture.], **and so we shall always be with the Lord.** [And not only will we be glorified and be with Christ, we will be reigning with Him from that time on in a never-ending reign.] **(18) Therefore comfort one another with these words.**" Yes, I guess so! What a destiny! Resurrected if we have died, glorified, raptured, and beginning to reign with the Lord Jesus Christ in a never-ending reign in glory.

Let's consider one more detail regarding those who will be raised from the dead at the time of Christ's mid-week return to the earth. Will the believers from the Old Testament days be resurrected at that time? Many Christians say no, but I believe they will be included, even if the apostle Paul didn't really make that point here. See Dan. 12:2, for example. (We'll study all of Daniel chapter 12 verse-by-verse in these studies.) They are saved through the Lord Jesus Christ, and they are part of God's true Israel along with us.

Let's go to 1 THESSALONIANS chapter 5; I'll quote and discuss the first four verses here. Then I'll quote and very briefly discuss verses 5, 6. **"Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.** [Why not? Because Paul had taught them quite a bit already.] **(2) For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.** [[It is very important to see that the Lord Jesus is not coming for Us like a thief in the night, like many teach He is. He is coming like a thief in

the night for those who are living in rebellion against Him and who are not looking for, and ready for, His coming. Verses 3 and 4, which I'll read next, suffice to demonstrate that the Lord is not coming for Us like a thief in the night.]] **(3) While THEY** [my emphasis throughout this verse] **are saying, 'Peace and safety!' then destruction will come upon THEM suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and THEY will not escape.** [[They will be saying things like "Peace and Safety" instead of repenting and submitting (in faith) to God and His new-covenant plan of salvation. They will not escape, but those who are ready for, and looking for, Christ's second coming will escape. Instead of facing God's destructive judgments, they will be glorified and raptured from the earth to begin to reign with Him.]] **(4) But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief."**

I'll give an important cross-reference, Revelation 3:1-6. **"To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars** [The Lord Jesus Christ], **says this: 'I know your deeds [or, works], that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. (2) Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds [works] completed in the sight of My God** [[To the extent we really have faith, we will have works, the works that the saving grace of God in Christ, which includes the indwelling Spirit of God, enables us to do. Faith without works is dead; that is, it isn't real faith.]]. **(3) So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent.** [[We don't hear the word "repent" near enough in our day. We should hear about the need for repentance when we become Christians and the need for repentance whenever Christians are living in sin. If we are in sin, we must repent; there is no other satisfactory answer. The Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, has a lot to say about repentance.]] **Therefore if you do not wake up** [Christ warns these Christians at Sardis and all Christians in the same situation], **I WILL COME LIKE A THIEF, AND YOU WILL NOT KNOW AT WHAT HOUR I WILL COME TO YOU** [my emphasis]. **(4) But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white for they are worthy** [We are made worthy by the saving grace of God in Christ]. **(5) He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. (6) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'** " There is a powerful warning here. The Lord Jesus warned those Christians that if they did not repent they would forfeit their place in God's eternal kingdom that is filled with His glory. If we look to God, He will give us the grace to repent.

Jesus said that if those Christians at Sardis who needed to repent did not repent, He would come against them in judgment like a thief (like a thief in the night; at an hour they would not know) and He indirectly stated that He would erase their names from the book of life, which would mean that they would no longer be His people. He said the same thing to many other Christians in the seven churches.

You frequently hear it said that those Christians that Jesus threatened with loss of salvation never were true, born-again Christians, but that is clearly wrong. In verse 2 Jesus exhorted them to "wake up and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die." Those words confirm that they were still part of the true Christian church at that time. And the fact that the Christians who needed to repent at Sardis had soiled their clean garments through living in sin without repentance (unlike the few Christians at Sardis who had not soiled their garments), showed that they had become true Christians. I'll read Revelation 19:8, which speaks of the bride of Christ, "It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints [the righteous acts (and lifestyle) of the Christians during their lives on the earth]." If the Christians at Sardis who had soiled their garments would repent, which Jesus was calling them to do, they would cleanse their garments through the powerful saving grace of God in Christ.

The fact that that Jesus indirectly stated that He would erase their names from the book of life also demonstrates that they had become true Christians. Otherwise their names wouldn't have been in the book of life "from the foundation of the world." (See Rev. 13:8; 17:8.) I'll give one more example to demonstrate that the Christians who were called to repent, or forfeit their salvation, were true Christians. The fact that the Christians at Ephesus (see Rev. 2:1-7) had a lampstand demonstrated that they were part of the true Christian church (Rev. 1:20). However (even though they had so much right), Jesus warned them that if they didn't repent, He would "remove their lampstand" (Rev. 2:5).

I recommend that you read my paper, "Once Saved, Always Saved?," that is on my internet site. I tried very hard to give the balanced truth of what the New Testament teaches on this topic in that paper. Even though it is clear that there are a large number of passages in the New Testament that demonstrate that true Christians can lose their salvation, I don't have too much of a problem with that doctrine as long as it is not being abused, and there are many Christians who hold that doctrine who are not abusing it. An example of abusing the doctrine is when Christians disregard the powerful warnings to repent throughout the New Testament in passages like Rev. 3:1-6, based on the fact that they know (they think they know) that Christians cannot lose their salvation. As long as Christians who need to repent take the warnings seriously and repent, we don't have too much of a problem.

True Christians should not lose their salvation. I am much closer to Christians who don't believe true Christians can lose their salvation, as long as they aren't abusing the doctrine, than I am to Christians who very sincerely end up striving (striving mostly in the flesh) trying to please God and stay saved. They believe that they frequently lose their salvation, and they have no assurance of salvation. That is a miserable way to live. We desperately need the balanced truth of what the Bible teaches!

I have observed over the years that large numbers of Christians are not doing much seeking God for the balanced truth of what the Bible teaches, because they assume that they have it already. All of us Christians (and especially ministers) need to humble ourselves before God and sincerely seek Him for the balanced truth of what the Bible teaches. Every misinterpretation of the Bible hurts, and some are catastrophic.

Now I'll quote 1 THESSALONIANS 5:4 again and further discuss this verse, "**But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;**" "The darkness" goes with Satan's kingdom of darkness, a kingdom of rebellion and sin, a kingdom not established in God's truth, righteousness, and holiness. The apostle Paul clearly states here that the day of judgment will not overtake us like a thief if we are living for God in His divine order (by grace through faith).

One reason that the day of judgment will not overtake us as a thief in the night is that God has told us several definite things that will come to pass in the years just preceding the return of Christ. For example (and we will talk more about all these things in some detail as we continue with this study), we will see the seven-year treaty that Antichrist will make, or confirm, with Israel. There may be some doubt at first about whether that particular treaty is the one spoken of in Dan. 9:27. But any doubt will be removed when things start taking place in sequence in accordance with God's prophetic word. For example, the three and one-half year ministry of God's two prophets/witnesses that we learn about from Revelation chapter 11 will begin at the time that treaty is initiated. The first six trumpets of the book of Revelation will sound and the prophesied events associated with those trumpets will all come to pass, in sequence, before the Lord returns at the sounding of the seventh, and last, trumpet in the middle of Daniel's 70th week. For one last example, Antichrist's abomination of desolation will come to pass in the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem about a month before the Lord returns and the rapture takes place. We (those who are living for Him and ready for His coming) should know the approximate day of His return many days before He returns.

Now I'll read 1 THESSALONIANS 5:5, 6. "**for you are all sons of light and sons of day** [The light and the day goes with walking in God's truth and His righteousness and holiness.]. **We are not of night nor of darkness; (6) so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober** [or, self-controlled]."

Mid-Week Rapture #2 (Article #2)

Let's go back to 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-6, which we discussed at the end of our study in the last article. I'll read the verses and make some comments and add to what I said last week. I'll read from the New American Standard Bible, 1995 edition, which I'll always use unless I mention otherwise. Frequently I'll make comments in the middle of quotations using brackets [] or [[]].

"Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need for anything to be written to you. [That's because the apostle Paul had already taught them about these things.] (2) For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. (3) While they are saying, 'Peace and Safety!' then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. (4) But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; (5) for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; (6) so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober."

The day of the Lord, the day of judgment, will start when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to the earth in the middle of the seven-year period known as Daniel's 70th week. As we discussed in some detail in the last article, verse 4 shows that the Lord is not coming for us as a thief in the night. However, many Christians believe He is coming as a thief in the night for us too. He is coming as a thief in the night only for those who are living in sin, without repentance. He is not coming as a thief in the night for those who are ready for His coming. How do we get ready for His coming? By believing the truth of the gospel and living the truth of the gospel, through the powerful saving grace of God in Christ. If we should sin, we must repent and be forgiven.

I'm going to turn to Jeremiah 6:14 and 8:11. These verses will help us understand 1 Thess. 5:3. (Ezekiel 13:10 is a similar verse, but we won't look at that verse here.) I'll read Jeremiah 6:14, "**They have healed the brokenness of my people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace.**" The backsliden prophets and priests in Jeremiah's day were telling the backsliden people of Judah what they wanted to hear, "**Peace, peace,**" all is well, which contradicted what Jeremiah, who was a true prophet, was telling the people. Jeremiah was telling the people that they must repent, and that if they did not repent intense judgment would fall on them. But the backsliden people of Judah were clinging to false words like "Peace and safety!" (1 Thess. 5:3) instead of repenting, and some were plotting to kill Jeremiah. They didn't need to worry (they thought) because God will never let a bunch of pagan Babylonians come and destroy Jerusalem or His temple. The people of Judah didn't repent, and many of them were carried into captivity, and in 587/586 BC the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and the temple.

Now I'll read Jeremiah 8:11, "**They heal the brokenness of the daughter of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace.**" There can't be peace when God's people continue to live in sin.

I'll read 1 THESSALONIANS 5:3 again: "**While they are saying, 'Peace and safety!' then destruction will come upon them suddenly** [that is, God's destructive judgments will come upon them like a thief in the night], **like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.**" They will not escape, but we will escape. We will be glorified and raptured to meet the Lord in the air at the time He returns; we will escape all the wrath of God being poured out throughout the second half of Daniel's 70th week, and (much more importantly) we will escape the wrath of the second death, which is the eternal lake of fire.

Now we will look at two important cross-references that deal with our escaping the wrath to come. First we'll look at LUKE 21:34-36. Jesus said, "**Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day** [He is speaking of the day of judgment that will begin when He returns to the earth.] **will not come upon you suddenly** [or, **unexpectedly**] **like a trap** [(This double bracket continues for three paragraphs.) The NIV translates "unexpectedly" instead of "suddenly." For that day to come upon people suddenly (or unexpectedly) like a trap is the same thing as the day coming upon them like a thief in the night. But, as we have discussed in some detail, He is not coming after those who are living for Him and ready for His coming like a thief in the night. He has commanded us to get ready for His coming and to always stay ready for His coming. We are in a dangerous place if we are not always ready for His coming. We have been warned!

The Lord has commanded all Christians to always be ready for His coming; we certainly cannot wait for end-time signs to get ready for His coming. But He has taught us of several things that will come to pass before He returns. We learn in Matthew chapter 24 and in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, for example, that Antichrist's abomination of desolation will take place before the Lord Jesus returns to the earth with the clouds of heaven. And we learn from the book of Revelation that the first six trumpets will all sound before the Lord returns (in the middle of Daniel's 70th week) at the sounding of the seventh and last trumpet of the book of Revelation. Also, we learn from Revelation chapter 11 of the three and one-half year ministry of the two witnesses (also called prophets) that will take place throughout the first half of Daniel's 70th week, in the days preceding His coming.

The Lord Jesus is not coming for us like a thief in the night, and end-times signs will precede His coming. But again, we cannot wait for end-time signs to get ready for His return. In Matthew chapter 24, for example, the Lord Jesus exhorted every Christian of every generation (not that He made it clear that there

would be more than one generation) with the need to always be ready for His return. For one thing, if we are living in sin, He may come for us in judgment like a thief in the night at any time (see Rev. 3:3, for example.); **(35) for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. (36) But keep on the alert at all times** [always staying ready for His coming], **praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place** [or, things that are going to take place, and the NIV translates "that you may be able to escape." Those who are ready for His coming will escape all these things that are going to take place. For one thing, we will be raptured from the earth to meet the Lord in the air at the time of His return.], **and to stand before the Son of Man."**

The "Son of Man" is the Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of being blown away by judgment when He comes, we will be glorified and stand before Him; we will even begin to reign with Him in a never-ending reign. Keep on the alert at all times, praying (looking to God in prayer and living for Him by His sufficient grace) that you may be able to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. We will escape, but as 1 Thess. 5:3 says, **"they will not escape."**

I'll read 1 THESSALONIANS 5:3 again, **"While they are saying 'Peace and safety!' then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape."** And I'll read LUKE 21:36 again, **"But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength [be able] to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."** They will not escape. He is coming after them like a thief in the night. We will escape. He is coming for us who are living for Him and looking for His return to bless us and to glorify us.

Now let's look at another very important verse that deals with our avoiding (with our being kept out of) the wrath to come, REVELATION 3:10. This verse confirms that we (faithful believers) won't be living on the earth when God pours out His end-time judgments on the world. The words of this verse were addressed to the faithful Christians of the city of Philadelphia in Asia Minor, modern Turkey, about AD 95, but the words apply to all faithful Christians of all generations, and they have the greatest application for the true Christians who will be living on the earth when the Lord returns. I believe the Lord is coming very soon and that we are that last generation. However, even if we are not the last generation, we must make it top priority to live in the light of His coming and to always be faithful to Him by His sufficient grace and thereby always be fully ready for His coming.

REVELATION 3:10, **"Because you have kept the word of My perseverance** [[In other words, they were staying faithful to the Lord Jesus and keeping His Word, even when it required PERSEVERANCE (in times of trials and testings). It

was difficult, but they were staying faithful to His Word (by His grace); they were overcomers, which we must be according to the book of Revelation.]], **I also will keep you from [or, out of] the hour of testing, that hour which is about to [or, which is going to] come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."**

He didn't say I will keep you THROUGH, or IN, or DURING the hour of testing; He said I will keep you OUT OF, or FROM, the hour of testing. (The Greek preposition translated "out of," or "from," is "ek.") We will be glorified and raptured just before this hour of testing takes place on the earth. This doesn't mean, of course, that the Christians living on the earth before this hour of special (very intense) testing takes place can avoid being tested. All Christians are tested during the time they live on the earth.

The Christians who will be living on the earth throughout the second half of the seven-year period will have to go through this time of special testing. Those Christians, which center in the end-time remnant of Israel, but which also undoubtedly includes many Gentiles, will not become Christians until after the (mid-week) rapture. They will be very thankful to be saved at the last minute (even after the Lord Jesus has returned and the day of judgment has begun), and they won't be complaining about the difficulty of living on the earth when Antichrist is having his super-evil three and one-half year reign throughout the second half of Daniel's 70th week.

Daniel chapter 7 and Revelation chapter 13 both mention that Antichrist's super-evil reign will last for three and one-half years, and that HE WILL OVERPOWER the saints. I'll read DANIEL 7:21 and 25, "**I kept looking, and that horn [Antichrist] was waging war with the saints and overpowering them.**" And verse 25, "**He [Antichrist] will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they [the saints] will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.**" There is widespread agreement that "a time, times, and half a time" equals three and one-half years.

I'll read REVELATION 13:2b (the last part of the verse) and then REVELATION 13:5, 7. (We will look at these important verses in more detail later as we continue with this study of the end times.) "**And the dragon [the devil] gave him [Antichrist] his power and his throne and great authority.**" This transaction will take place right in the middle of Daniel's 70th week (right after the devil and his angels are cast down to the earth [Rev. 12:4, 7-9]), and at this time Antichrist will begin his super-evil three and one-half year reign: REVELATION 13:5, "**There was given to him [to Antichrist] a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him [that's three and one-half years].**" And REVELATION 13:7, "**It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue was given to him.**" Ultimately that

authority has to come from God. He uses Antichrist in His end-time judgment of the world.

Based on these verses in Daniel chapter 7 and in Revelation chapter 13, it is easy to see that the three and one-half years of the second half of Daniel's 70th week will be a time of severe testing for Christians. But it is also clear that Antichrist and his associates will also be against other peoples. As I mentioned, God is going to use Antichrist in His end-time judgment of the world. For one thing, we learn from Revelation chapter 17 that God will use Antichrist to destroy Babylon the great harlot (Rev. 17:16, 17), which is a major feature of His end-time judgment of the world. The book of Revelation devotes some three chapters to God's judgment of Babylon the great harlot.

Babylon is a symbol for the world, which includes all the things the devil uses to seduce people from worshiping God, very much including all false religion, including apostate Christianity. I'll read REVELATION 17:16, 17, "**And the ten horns which you saw** [the ten horns are the ten kings of the revived Roman Empire, who reign with Antichrist throughout the second half of Daniel's 70th week], **and the beast** [Antichrist], **these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. (17) For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.**" It is clear that God will use Antichrist and his associates to destroy Babylon the great harlot.

Jesus said, in REVELATION 3:10, "**I will keep you from (or, out of) the HOUR** [my emphasis] **of testing.**" Let's discuss the word "**hour.**" It is clear that Jesus was not speaking of a literal (sixty minute) hour here. I believe this *hour* of testing speaks of the second half of Daniel's 70th week. It is interesting that the word *hour* is used several other places in the book of Revelation for the second half of that seven-year period. I'll give two examples, First I'll read REVELATION 17:12, "**The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom** [that is, in the days of the apostle John, these kings had not yet even been born, much less received a kingdom], **but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.**" We'll discuss this verse in more detail later. I believe it is quite clear in this context that the ten kings will reign with Antichrist, who is called the beast here, throughout the three and one-half years that is the second half of Daniel's 70th week. And note that Rev. 17:12 says that they will reign with him "for one HOUR."

I'll also read REVELATION 14:6, 7, "**And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; (7) and he said with a loud voice, 'Fear God, and give Him glory, because the HOUR** [my emphasis] **of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.'**" These verses confirm, for one

thing, that the gospel will still be proclaimed after the mid-week rapture. I have to assume that at least most of the people who will repent and submit to the gospel after the rapture will be people that God didn't deal with (or at least He didn't deal with them much) before the rapture. If God is dealing with us now, we had better repent and submit to Him now (in faith). It is very dangerous to put off submitting to God and His gospel when He is dealing with us. But the primary reason we are looking at these verses here is because of the use of the word "hour." The book of Revelation shows that God's *hour* of judgment will continue throughout the second half of Daniel's 70th week. Some other verses in the book of Revelation that apparently use the expression "hour" or "one hour" to refer to the second half of Daniel's 70th week are Rev. 14:15 and Rev. 18:10, 17, and 19.

Now back to REVELATION 3:10, "**Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from [or, out of] the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to [or, which is going to] come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.**" People will be tested regarding who they will worship. God will be calling all people to repent and submit to Him and His Son; and at the same time, Antichrist, who will have great power at that time, will insist that all mankind worship him. It will be difficult to not worship Antichrist. As I mentioned, the devil will have given Antichrist his power and his throne and great authority (Rev. 13:2), and the New Testament shows that miracle-working power will attend his reign (2 Thess. 2:9-12; Rev. 13:13-15); furthermore the people who don't worship him and take his mark will not be able to buy or sell and large numbers will be killed (Rev. 13:15-17).

Ultimately, however, it will prove a lot more difficult for those who reject God and worship Antichrist. I'll read REVELATION 14:9-12, "**Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast [Antichrist] and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand [We learn of the image of the beast and the mark on the forehead or on the hand in Revelation chapter 13; that's where the number 666 comes in.], If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives a mark on this forehead or on his hand, (10) he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. (11) And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.'** (12) **Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.**" As I mentioned, I believe these are the saints/Christians who will be converted after the mid-week rapture. This last sentence confirms that these will be very difficult days for the saints/Christians; it will require intense perseverance. The book of Revelation shows that many of these Christians will be martyred. As Rev. 3:10 (and other verses) shows, the Christians who are being faithful now will be kept out of (or, from) that hour of testing that will come to pass throughout the second half of Daniel's 70th week.

Let's turn back to 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-6, where we started; I'll read 5:2-4. **"You yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.** [Yes, it will come like a thief in the night for those living in sin and not ready for the day of judgment; but it will not come like a thief in the night for those living for God and looking forward to His return.] **(3) While they are saying 'Peace and safety!'** [instead of repenting and submitting to God and His gospel of salvation], **then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape** [but we will escape, starting with the rapture], **(4) but you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief."** Praise God for full salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ! Let's get ready for His coming and stay ready for His coming with top priority, as is required of all Christians. This will work for the glory of God and for our great good, and there is no reasonable alternative.

Now we'll turn to MATTHEW CHAPTER 24. This chapter is discussed to some extent in my book, "The Mid-Week Rapture," and there is a verse-by-verse study of Matthew chapters 24 and 25 on my internet site. I'll start with MATTHEW 24:15, **"Therefore [Jesus said] when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place....** I agree with the widespread viewpoint that **"the holy place"** refers to the temple that will be rebuilt in Jerusalem. What is the "abomination of desolation" that is spoken of several places in the book of Daniel? Briefly, the abomination of desolation centers in the fact that Antichrist will go into the temple, stop the sacrifices, and want to be worshiped himself. This blasphemous, ABOMINABLE act will lead to great DESOLATION; it deserves the name, "abomination of desolation."

I'll comment briefly on the word **"therefore"** at the beginning of Matt. 24:15, **"Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION....** This word builds on the preceding verses and shows that the abomination of desolation will take us beyond "the beginning of birth pangs" that Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24:8, "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs." The change comes at the abomination of desolation. At that time things will really begin to shake.

WHEN IS THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION? This is a very important question. Most end-time teachers say that the abomination of desolation will take place right in the middle of Daniel's 70th week, that super-important seven-year period that we learn about from Daniel 9:27. We'll look at that verse in just a minute. Daniel 9:27 says that the abomination of desolation will take place IN THE MIDDLE of Daniel's 70th week, but it is important (I believe) to see that Dan. 9:27 is speaking of the APPROXIMATE MIDDLE, not the precise middle of Daniel's 70th week. We'll discuss this important point in some detail. I believe the

book of Daniel (and other considerations) shows that the abomination of desolation will take place about a month before the precise middle of Daniel's 70th week.

I'll read most of MATTHEW 24:15 one more time, then turn back to the book of Daniel, "**Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place....**" Daniel 9:27 is extremely important to understand the end times. (Daniel chapter 8 is an important chapter on the abomination of desolation. That chapter is discussed in some detail in my paperback book, "The Mid-Week Rapture.") I'll read DANIEL 9:27, and make several comments, "**And he** [most agree that "he" refers to Antichrist.] **will make a firm covenant [or, he will confirm a covenant] with the many for one week**" [[Most agree that Antichrist will make this covenant, or confirm this covenant, with Israel. At the present time it looks like this covenant/treaty will involve Israel and the Palestinians. The treaty undoubtedly will include promising Israel security if they give the Palestinians (at least most of) what the world is demanding they give them. This "**one week**" is the 70th week of Daniel; it is a week of years, a seven-year period. Daniel 9:27 is the one verse in the Bible that speaks of this seven-year period. But quite a few other verses in the book of Daniel and in the book of Revelation speak of one-half of this seven-year period, sometimes the first half and sometimes the second half. The first sixty-nine weeks that precede the 70th week of Daniel are discussed in the preceding verses, starting at Dan. 9:24. Daniel 9:24-27 are discussed in some detail in my book, "The Mid-Week Rapture."]], **but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate** [referring to Antichrist], **even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed** [one that is decreed by God], **is poured on the one who makes desolate** [referring to Antichrist's being cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20). It is interesting that almost every time that Antichrist is mentioned in the Bible his destruction is mentioned.]."

"In the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering." That's when Antichrist goes into the temple, stops the sacrifices, and demands worship; that's the ABOMINATION that leads to great DESOLATION.

One primary reason we are looking at Dan. 9:27 here is because of the words, "**in the middle of the week.**" This verse shows that the abomination of desolation will take place in the middle of Daniel's 70th week. But, as I mentioned, I believe it is important to see that this verse is speaking of the APPROXIMATE MIDDLE of the seven-year period. Daniel 12:11, which we'll look at next, shows that the abomination of desolation will actually take place a month before the exact middle of the seven-year period. A month before the middle is still the middle, using the word middle in an imprecise sense, which is commonly done in the Old Testament, as I will demonstrate. A month before the middle is only 2.38 percent removed from the exact middle.

The Hebrew noun that is translated middle here is "chatsi." It is easy to demonstrate that this noun is sometimes used in an imprecise sense. (The NASB translated this noun as "middle" six times, and as "midst" two times, and quite a few other ways too.) In Ruth 3:8, for example, "chatsi" is used of something happening in the "middle" of the night. The *middle* of the night is used in a very imprecise sense here. I'll give one more example; in Psalm 102:24, the psalmist requests that he not be taken away in the "midst" of his days. The midst of his days is very imprecise terminology. It is quite reasonable therefore to say that the use of the noun *chatsi* need not be understood in a precise sense in Dan. 9:27.

Now I'll turn to DANIEL 12:11. This verse uses more precise terminology than Dan. 9:27 and demonstrates that the abomination of desolation will take place a month before the precise middle of Daniel's 70th week. It's time to stop for now. We'll come back to Dan. 12:11 and the time of the abomination of desolation in the next article. God bless you!

Mid-Week Rapture #3 (Article #3)

Last time when we stopped we were in the middle of a discussion regarding WHEN the abomination of desolation will take place. Daniel 9:27 says that the abomination will take place in the middle of the seven-year period that is sometimes called Daniel's 70th week. But, as I mentioned, I believe it is very important to see that the Hebrew noun "chatsi" that is translated "middle" in Dan. 9:27 is being used in an imprecise (approximate) sense, as it often is in the Old Testament, and that Dan. 12:11, which uses more precise terminology than Dan. 9:27, shows that the abomination of desolation will take place a month before the exact middle of the seven-year period.

I'll read DANIEL 12:11, "**From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up [or, the abomination of desolation is initiated] there will be 1,290 days.**" We know that Antichrist will stop the sacrifices being offered in the temple at the time of his abomination of desolation. Based on Dan. 9:27, which mentions that Antichrist will stop the sacrifices in the middle of the seven-year period, we expect Dan. 12:11 to say that there will be 1,260 days (which equals three and one-half years, where the months are rounded off to 30 days) from the time of the abomination of desolation to the end of the seven years, but this verse says 1,290 days.

If we count back 1,290 days from the end of Daniel's 70th week to the time of the abomination of desolation, it shows that the abomination of desolation will take place some thirty days (a month) before the middle of Daniel's 70th week. The desolation will not end until Antichrist is destroyed at the end of Daniel's 70th week. Revelation chapter 19, for example, shows that Antichrist and his forces

will be destroyed at the end of the seven years; then it will be time for the millennial kingdom, which is spoken of in Revelation chapter 20.

I have always taught that the Lord Jesus will return and the rapture will take place right in the middle of Daniel's 70th week. (I have quite a few reasons for believing in the MID-WEEK rapture, but my primary basis is the book of Revelation, which is God's last word on prophecy contained in the Bible, especially Revelation chapters 11-13, which we will discuss in some detail as we continue with these studies.) And I have always taught that the abomination of desolation will take place a few weeks, or so, before the Lord Jesus returns. There must be time for the short great tribulation of Matt. 24:21, 22 to take place after the abomination of desolation (Matt. 24:15) and before the Lord returns and the rapture takes place (Matt. 24:30, 31).

Eventually I came to understand that Dan. 12:11 shows that the abomination of desolation will take place some thirty days (a month) before the Lord returns and the rapture takes place. In Matthew chapter 24 (as we will discuss next) Jesus taught that the abomination of desolation will take place; then the short great tribulation; and then He will come with the clouds of heaven and the trumpet, and His angels will gather His elect to Him in the rapture.

I'll turn back to MATTHEW 24:15, "**Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand).**" These last words "**(let the reader understand)**" caution the readers to pay close attention because of the awesome significance of this teaching. Let's jump down to MATTHEW 24:21, 22, "**For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. (22) Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.**"

WHAT IS THE GREAT TRIBULATION? WHEN WILL IT START? HOW LONG WILL IT LAST? These are very important questions, and we'll spend quite a bit of time answering these questions. Briefly, I believe the short great tribulation will begin shortly after the abomination of desolation and that it will be over before the Lord Jesus returns with the clouds of heaven and the rapture takes place (Matt. 24:30, 31), right in the middle of the seven years. The short great tribulation will involve very intense warfare that won't last more than a few weeks. It will involve very intense warfare of armies of the world against one another. This very intense warfare, warfare that will undoubtedly involve nuclear weapons and perhaps other weapons of mass destruction, is pictured, for one place, in the second half of Revelation chapter 9, which spells out the events that will accompany the sounding of the sixth trumpet of the book of Revelation.

That trumpet will sound about a month before the middle of Daniel's 70th week, about the time of the abomination of desolation. (As we have discussed, the Lord Jesus Christ will return and the rapture will take place right in the middle of Daniel's 70th week, at the sounding of the seventh and last trumpet of the book of Revelation.) The great tribulation isn't something coming against true Christians. In fact, as we will see, we can even say that the great tribulation and God's end-time judgment of the world is coming (in part) in answer to the prayers of God's people, including the prayer "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." We will, however, still be living on the earth at the time of the short great tribulation in that the great tribulation will take place just before the Lord Jesus Christ returns and the rapture takes place.

I'll read MATTHEW 24:21, 22 again, "**For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. (22) Unless those days had been cut short no life would have been saved** [The warfare is going to be very intense, and the loss of life will be gigantic]; **but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.**" Yes, short indeed, not lasting more than a few weeks. I am just giving a brief overview of some of the key points of Matthew chapter 24 here; we will discuss these important things in more detail as we continue with these studies. Later in this article we will begin a more detailed study of the short great tribulation. It is of crucial importance for us to understand the short great tribulation.

Now we'll skip down to MATTHEW 24:29, "**But 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 the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.**" What is going to cause the darkening of the sun and moon? I believe that most of the light coming from the sun and moon will be blocked out by the large amounts of smoke and dust generated during the very intense warfare of the short great tribulation. Notice that verse 29 says, "**But immediately after the tribulation of those days**" [referring to the days of the short great tribulation spoken of in verses 21, 22; in the Greek the same noun for "tribulation" is used in verses 21 and 29]. I will have a lot more to say about the darkening of the sun and moon as we continue with these studies that will confirm this interpretation.

"AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken." Satan's kingdom will be greatly shaken at that time, right in the middle of Daniel's 70th week. For one major thing, Revelation chapter 12 shows that Satan and his angels will be cast down to the earth right in the middle of the seven-year period, and significantly, Satan's angels are called STARS in Revelation chapter 12. This helps us understand the meaning of these words here in Matthew 24:29 about the STARS falling from the sky. Satan's angels will be cast down to the earth with him when he is cast down right in the middle of Daniel's 70th week.

MATTHEW 24:30, 31, "**And then the sign of the Son of Man** [the Lord Jesus Himself] **will appear in the sky** [This is the primary sign we need to be looking for (see Matt. 24:3), the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, when He returns with the clouds of heaven, at the sounding of the great trumpet, to take us to Himself in the rapture and to begin His end-time judgment of the world (and to do some other things).], **and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn** [They will mourn because they will know that the day of judgment has arrived.], **and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. (31) And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."**

The Lord Jesus Christ will return (He only returns once), and it won't be a secret coming (as many believe it will be). His coming will be visible across the world. His angels gathering together the elect worldwide is the rapture, the same rapture the apostle Paul spoke about in 1 Thess. 4:16, 17, verses that we have discussed already. And the great trumpet here in Matt. 24:31 is the trumpet of 1 Thess. 4:16. Also, as we have discussed, this is the same trumpet as the last trumpet of 1 Cor. 15:52 and the seventh and last trumpet of Rev. 11:15.

Most Christians who believe that the Lord Jesus will return and the rapture will take place (just) before Daniel's 70th week begins insist that Matt. 24: 30, 31 do not speak of the same coming of the Lord with the clouds of heaven and the trumpet that the apostle Paul spoke of in 1 Thess. 4:16, 17. They are pretty much forced into this unnatural interpretation by their view of the end times. They believe that Christ will return and the rapture will take place before the seven-year period begins, but His coming pictured in Matt. 24:30, 31 is AFTER the abomination of desolation, and essentially everyone agrees that the abomination of desolation will take place in the (approximate) middle of Daniel's 70th week. Therefore, they are pretty much forced to deny that the coming of the Lord in Matt. 24:30, 31 is the same coming that the apostle Paul spoke of. However, it has always seemed clear to me (and to very many others) that Matt. 24:30, 31 are talking about the same event that Paul taught about.

Matthew chapter 24 was one of the two primary passages that began to convince me that the pre-week rapture viewpoint is wrong. The other primary passage was 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, which we will discuss later in this article. As I mentioned, I'm not here to argue with anyone, but it is very important for us to rightly divide God's word. The closer we get to the time of the return of the Lord Jesus, the more important it is for us to rightly understand the end-time prophecies.

I'll read MATTHEW 24:30, 31 again and make another comment. "**And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. (31) And He will send forth His**

angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other." That worldwide gathering of the elect includes the mid-week rapture. I believe it also includes the gathering ON THE EARTH of the repentant end-time remnant of Israel that is spoken of in Isa. 27:12, 13. It is significant that Isa. 27:13 mentions the sounding of a GREAT TRUMPET.

Now I'll turn to 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-5. These verses are very important too. As I mentioned, I never could reconcile Matthew chapter 24 or 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 with the pre-week rapture viewpoint. **"Now we request you, brethren [the apostle Paul says], with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** [[This is the same "coming" (Greek "parousia") of the Lord Jesus Christ (with the clouds of heaven and with the trumpet) that the New Testament frequently speaks about that will come to pass (I believe) right in the middle of Daniel's 70th week. The Greek noun "parousia" is also used, for example, in Matt. 24:3, 27, 37, 39; 1 Cor. 15:23; 1 Thess. 4:15; and 2 Thess. 2:8.]] **and our GATHERING TOGETHER [my emphasis] to Him** [[I'll read Matthew 24:31 again, "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to other." The Greek verb translated "THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER" in Matt. 24:31 is "episunago." The Greek noun translated "gathering together" here in 2 Thess. 2:1 is "episunagoges"; this noun was derived from the verb "episunago." This helps confirm that Matthew chapter 24 and 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 are speaking of the same event. This is the same coming of the Lord that the apostle Paul spoke about in 1 Thess. 4:16, 17.]], **(2) that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.** [[(This double bracket goes on for two paragraphs.) The apostle Paul had learned that some of the Thessalonian Christians had been deceived and become quite agitated through accepting an erroneous report, whether by a spirit (which could include a spiritual gift that supposedly came from God) or a message or a letter that supposedly came from Paul. Regardless of how they got the report, the apostle wanted to make it very clear that it was an erroneous report. He rebuked the Christians who had accepted this erroneous report, reminding them that the information they were accepting as true contradicted what he had already taught them. What the apostle had already taught them came from God.

Let's discuss the words, **"to the effect that the day of the Lord has come."** It wasn't that they thought that they had missed the rapture (as some say), but that they were thinking, based on the erroneous report they had accepted, that the coming of the Lord was super imminent and they were quite agitated. And agitated people often do irresponsible things.]] **(3) Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy [or, rebellion] comes first** [[That is, the day of the Lord that Paul just mentioned at the end of verse 2 will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and it was understood that the day

of the Lord will begin when the Lord Jesus returns and the rapture takes place.]], **and the man of lawlessness is revealed [or, manifested], the son of destruction** [[I would translate "**rebellion**" instead of "apostasy" with the NIV. This is the rebellion led by Antichrist, who is the man of lawlessness that the apostle Paul mentions here. Antichrist will be revealed, or manifested, at the abomination of desolation, when as Paul says in the following verse, "he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God." At the end of verse 3, Paul calls Antichrist "**the son of destruction.**" These words mean that Antichrist will be destroyed. The NIV translates "the man doomed to destruction." As I mentioned, it is interesting that Antichrist's destruction is typically mentioned whenever he is mentioned in the Bible.]], **(4) who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.** [[And, significantly, Paul's main point here is, I told you before and now I am telling you again, that the Lord Jesus Christ will not come back, and we will not be gathered together to him in the rapture, until after Antichrist is revealed/manifested by taking his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. And since Antichrist had not yet been revealed/manifested, there was no reasonable basis for them to have accepted this erroneous report, or the resulting agitation.]] **(5) Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?** I'll stop with 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 for now, but this chapter is discussed in some detail in my paperback book, "The Mid-Week Rapture."

Now let's turn back to MATTHEW 24:21, 22 and get into more detail regarding the short great tribulation. As I mentioned, it is extremely important for us to rightly understand the short great tribulation. "**For then** [The word "**then**" in this context refers to the times of great shaking that will follow Antichrist's abomination of desolation that Jesus spoke of back in verse 15.] **there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. (22) Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.**" The elect are the true Christians, very much including those who will become Christians after the mid-week rapture.

The most important cross-reference to understand the short great tribulation is Revelation 9:13-21. These verses tell of the events that will come to pass with the sounding of the sixth trumpet of the seven trumpets of the book of Revelation. The sixth trumpet will sound about the time of the abomination of desolation, about a month before the mid-week return of Christ and the rapture. The sixth trumpet is all about the intense warfare of the short great tribulation. Then, at the sounding of the seventh and last trumpet of the book of Revelation, in the middle of Daniel's 70th week, the Lord Jesus will return and the rapture will take place.

REVELATION 9:13-21. **"Then the sixth angel sounded** [This is a mighty, good angel of God; he sounds the sixth trumpet.], **and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God** [[These words are quite significant to give us the right perspective. The events of this trumpet (and the other trumpets) are not coming against true Christians (those who believe the truth and are living for God and are ready for Christ's coming). In Rev. 8:3, we see that our prayers are offered before God on this golden altar. Apparently these words about a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar, which is before God, that give instructions to the angel with the sixth trumpet, are designed to show us that these events are coming (in part) in answer to our prayers. These events are not coming against us (cf. Rev. 9:20, 21), but in answer to our prayers, prayers like "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."], **(14) one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, 'Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates** [[This mighty angel who sounds the sixth trumpet does a whole lot more than just sound the trumpet. He releases the four evil angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates at the right time (God's predetermined time), and he will be on the scene to make sure that everything works out according to God's plans. We don't have to be concerned, for example, that the evil angels may rebel and not do the things they have been prepared to do. God has ways of making sure that the devil, the evil angels, the demons, and evil men like Antichrist will do what God's prophetic Word says they will do. God often uses those who are evil and in rebellion against Him.]].' **(15) And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind** [[(This double bracket goes on for two paragraphs.) Talk about a major event, a third of mankind will be killed in a very short period of time, something like a couple of weeks. If this is a third of mankind worldwide, the number of people killed will be more than 2 billion. The worldwide population now (November 2007) is almost up to 6 billion 800 million. (In February, 2014 it is up to 7.1 billion. One third of that would be more than 2.3 billion people.) I lean toward the idea that the number of people killed will be far less than two billion. The Bible frequently speaks of the world when only a rather small part of the globe is involved. Even if the number killed was only a tenth of two billion that would still be 200,000,000 people, which is a staggering number. In World War 2, which lasted more than five years, the total number of deaths was about 50,000,000.

Let's discuss the words, **"and the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year."** It's clear that these four evil angels have been prepared in accordance with the end-time plans of God, and it seems clear that God has already determined exactly when these evil angels will be released to do their destructive work. God leaves much room for the free will and sin of angels and demons and men, but HE IS GOD, and He is in control!]]. **(16) The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them** [[These gigantic armies will undoubtedly be gathered by the four evil angels. Two hundred million soldiers are going to come into that part of

the world that includes Israel. Even back in the 50s China boasted that they could put 200,000,000 soldiers in the field. Also, India has a population greater than a billion and there are many more than a billion Muslims in the world today. These soldiers will not be riding on horses (at least most of them won't); they will have modern weapon systems for which there were no concepts, or words, in the ancient world. As we continue it will become obvious that these soldiers will be using modern weapon systems.]]. **(17) And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire** [the "fire" goes with warfare] **and of hyacinth** [that's bluish, like smoke] **and of brimstone** [that goes with the warfare; the margin the NASB says, "that is, burning sulphur"]; **and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone** [It is obvious that these are not literal horses. We can think of cannons on tanks, for example, and we can think of missiles, etc.]. **(18) A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire, and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths** [[It is significant that the word "smoke" is used in verses 17 and 18. As I have mentioned, I believe this *smoke* (and the dust generated during this intense warfare) will block out most of the light coming from the sun and the moon. We see the sun and moon darkened in Matt. 24:29 in the days right after the great tribulation and at the time the Lord returns and the rapture takes place, as pictured in Matt. 24:30, 31, right in the middle of Daniel's 70th week. And we will look at several other passages as we continue that speak of this same warfare and of the sun and moon being darkened when the Lord returns and the day of the Lord begins.]]. **(19) For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.** [You can think, for example, of cannons coming out of the rear of tanks, or you can think of missiles, etc. It is very clear that these are not literal horses, and we can probably see some nuclear weapons here.] **(20) The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; (21) and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts."** "The rest of mankind" spoken of here clearly excludes God's people. As I mentioned, the judgments of the sixth trumpet are not coming against God's people; for one thing, His people are not living in sin. These verses speak of the unrepentant condition of mankind *after* the events of the sixth trumpet have come to pass. It is amazing that the sin problem is so deep seated in the heart of man. The devil, the evil angels, the demons, and a large part of mankind never do repent.

Now that the events of the sixth trumpet have come to pass, it is time (right in the middle of Daniel's 70th week) for the seventh and last trumpet to sound and for the Lord Jesus to return to rapture out His people and to officially begin the day of judgment, though it is true that the events of the sixth trumpet involve quite a bit of intense judgment for some. That concludes our discussion of Rev. 9:13-21,

which is the most important cross-reference to understand the short great tribulation spoken of in Matt. 24:21, 22 and other verses.

Some Christians believe the "great tribulation" covers all seven years of Daniel's 70th week. Many others say that it will take place throughout the second half of Daniel's 70th week. I agree that some major tribulation will take place throughout the second half of Daniel's 70th week, but (as we have discussed), the short great tribulation of Matt. 24:21, 22, which involves very intense warfare, will start *after* the abomination of desolation and be over *before* the Lord returns in the middle of Daniel's 70th week.

This completes Article #3 and this "Introduction to My E-Book, 'Introduction to The Mid-Week Rapture.' " May God's will be fully accomplished through this four part article and through the e-book! And may God's will be fully accomplished in us and through us! In Jesus' name!

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