

Christ & His Bride

Lesson #12

The Hour of Trial

April 23, 2025

Jesus Christ Words To The Church of Philadelphia

Rev. 3:7a These things says He who is Holy, He who is True,

1. Philadelphia was a temple warden and gave to the emperor the title "The Son of the Holy One." It is undoubtedly for this reason the Lord is called, "He who is holy, who is true."
2. Philadelphia, filled with heathenism and paganism, had pagan temples on every corner. People called it "Little Athens." There were hundreds of manufactured Greek false gods and goddesses. Only Jesus Christ could rightfully claim to be the one and only true God.

Rev. 3: 7b-13 "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": ⁸ "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

⁹ Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

¹¹ Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

¹² Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. ¹³ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Smyrna: Rev. 2:10 Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days.

Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Note: Both letters speak of a coming time of trouble and stress the brevity compared to the glory that follows.

1. Smyrna Tribulation caused by the devil and suffered by the church
2. Philadelphia Judgmental tribulation sent by the Lord and suffered by men who dwell on the earth.

Note: Christ's judgment of the church will be at The Judgment Seat of Christ. [II Cor. 5:10]

Faithful Church of Philadelphia

- a. Little strength = "but little strength" > The fact they have but little strength is the source of their power. They must depend wholly on the Lord.

II Cor. 12:9 My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

Truth: Every weakness I have is an opportunity for God to show His strength in my life.

I Cor. 3:7 It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering.

What's important is that God makes the seed grow. [NLT]
Nothing of man's strength can yield an effective ministry.
The Lord alone has opened the door; He gives the increase.

b. Kept My Word: There are pressures to repudiate God's Word, distort, dilute, allegorize or even ignore God's Word which compromises your witness. Scripture warns:

I Tim. 6:20-21 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"— which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith.

Jude 1:3 Earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Col. 1:23 Continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the Gospel which you heard.

c. Have Not Denied My Name

When you deal loosely with God's Word, you will sooner or later deny the name of Christ. His name stands for His character, His position, His work - all He is.

➤ His formal name is "the Lord Jesus Christ."

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

We are to honor him in all 3 names:

Jesus = Salvation > Accept His salvation provided by His sacrificial death & resurrection

Christ = the anointed One >

Acknowledge His 3-fold eminence as God's anointed prophet, priest and king

Lord = Honor Him as "Lord" by obeying and believing His Word

d. Kept My Command to Persevere

Rev. 3:10 Because you have kept my command to endure [persevere], I will also keep you from the hour of testing which shall come upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth.

1. The test is future. I also will keep you.
2. The test is worldwide. Shall come upon the whole world
3. It is a limited test. I will keep you from the hour of testing.

This indicates it is a controlled duration: not eternal or permanent.

4. It is called "an hour of testing."

Greek word for "hour" is *óra*. In John's writing an hour does not refer to a literal 60 minutes.

➤ John typically refers to an age, an extended period of time.

John 12:27 Jesus said, Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

➤ He's not talking about 60 minutes.

➤ He's talking about the ordeal of experiencing the wrath of God during the crucifixion.

Peirasmos is used in the Bible for trial or temptation. A test exposes you, reveals your character and what you know. It puts you under a severe test to determine your actions.

Patient Endurance: #5281 hupomoné > endurance, steadfastness, patient waiting for.

Used to describe a quality of steadfastness and endurance, particularly in the face of trials and difficulties. It conveys the idea of remaining faithful and patient under pressure, maintaining one's faith and hope despite challenges. This term is associated with the virtue of perseverance, reflecting a trust in God's promises and a commitment to His will.

5. The Hour of Testing is for unbelievers. "It is to test those who DWELL UPON THE EARTH."

Note: 10 more times in Revelation > 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 12:12; 13:8, 12, 14; 14:6; 17:2, 8

Rev. 6:10: Earth dwellers are identified as those who are persecuting and killing believers who come to faith during the Tribulation.

Rev. 8:13 Many judgments are targeted for the earth dwellers.

Rev. 11:10: Earth dwellers are those who rejoice and send gifts to one another when the 2 witnesses of God are killed in Jerusalem.

Rev. 13:8, 12: All who dwell on the earth will worship the Antichrist.

Rev. 13:14 During the Tribulation, the earth dwellers will follow the Beast, will be deceived by the false signs and wonders of the Beast and will erect an image of the Beast, likely in the Jewish Temple.

Key Point: 100% of earth dwellers receive the mark of the beast and will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Rev. 14:6 The earth dwellers will be the target of the preaching of the gospel by an angelic Messenger.

Rev. 17:8 No earth dweller will follow the Lamb; they will wonder after the Beast.

- They seem to trust in man and their environment.

Renald Showers: "All the Revelation references to 'them that dwell upon the earth' clearly indicate that they will be unsaved people of the future period of testing who will never get saved. . . . In spite of the devastating horrors of the sixth trumpet, which will kill one-third of mankind, the earth-dwellers will not repent of their wicked deeds [Rev. 9:20-21]."

Mark Hitchcock: Earth dwellers are unsaved people during the Tribulation who stubbornly and steadfastly continue in their rejection of God. They are totally given up to evil and the hatred of God and His people. This hour of trial which is yet to come has no purpose for the Church. It is a testing for unbelievers and an hour of trouble for Jacob, Israel. [Jer. 30:7] It makes sense to believe that God will spare His Church from the wrath to come.

Contrast Earth Dweller With A Citizen Of Heaven.

Phil. 3:18-21 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:* ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

I Thess. 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from The Wrath To Come.

Remember: God destroyed all the earth dwellers before with the world-wide flood.

He is coming again to destroy all the earth dwellers.

Side Note Pattern: In the world-wide flood, God destroyed all the earth dwellers.

He preserved the remnant of 8 people in the Ark, type of Jesus Christ.

He "raptured" Enoch, a type of the Church, before His judgment fell.

6. This hour of testing is also for Israel. Daniel calls it the seventieth week,

the one seven-year period still left in which Israel will believe and be saved. [Dan. 9:24-27]

Belief: The Hour of Trial is for those who dwell on the earth and for the nation of Israel.

The Hour Of Testing Or Temptation

1. Rev. 4:1-2 After this I [John] looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven:

and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. [church age]

2. Prophecy of Dan. 9:24-27 No prophecy in all of Scripture is more critical to our understanding of the end times than these four verses.

9:24 Scope of the prophecy [all 490 yrs.] 9:25-26 the 69 weeks [7 weeks + 62 weeks]

Interval - Building of the Church [undetermined amount of time]

9:27 70th week [last 7 yrs-Tribulation]

Basic Info For Clarification:

- The Hebrew word translated weeks [or sevens] refers to a period of 7 years, like our word decade refers to a period of 10 years. It literally means "a week of years." So 70 weeks is 70 X 7 years or 490 years.
- This period is divided into three parts,
 - 7 weeks or 49 years, 62 weeks or 434 years, and 1 week or 7 years.
 - ❖ 7 weeks = 49 Years Verse 25
 - ❖ 62 weeks = 434 Years Verse 25
 - ❖ 1 Week = 7 Years Verse 27

Dan. 9:24 Seventy weeks [Seventy sevens = 490 Years] are determined upon your people and your Holy City to:

1. Finish the transgression
 2. Put an end to sin
 3. Atone for wickedness
 4. Bring in everlasting righteousness
 5. Seal up vision and prophecy
 6. Anoint the most Holy [Jesus Christ as King; some say (place). Temple]
- Deal with Sin
- Kingdom

Key Point: The Church is not "Daniel's people." The Church is specifically excluded from the events of this 490-year period. This period began in 605 BC before the Church was formed. This period was suspended or put on pause when the Messiah was "cut off." The Church has never experienced any part of the 490-year period designated for Israel. Nor will it ever!

Note: All these purposes and outcomes are focused exclusively on preparing Israel to enter the Kingdom following Tribulation at Christ's Second Coming. This is further confirmation that this period of great distress on the Earth is focused entirely on Israel and not on the church. The extreme nature of the events during Tribulation impacts the whole earth, but the intended target is Israel.

Start the Prophetic Clock

Dan. 9:25 Know therefore and understand: From the going forth of the commandment to RESTORE and REBUILD JERUSALEM unto the MESSIAH THE PRINCE: [Anointed One] shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

- 7 Weeks = 49 years
- Threescore and two weeks = 62 weeks = 434 Years
- The street shall be built again and the wall, even in troublous times.

Clarification: The first 49 years (7 weeks) are the time during which the city was being rebuilt. These were the "times of trouble" mentioned in Daniel 9:25 and recorded in Nehemiah 2-7 as consisting of constant efforts by Israel's enemies to prevent them from completing the project. Nehemiah tells of workmen building with one hand while holding a sword in the other, and sleeping on site in their clothes, for fear of a surprise attack.

- They completed the rebuilding in 396 BC [Ezra 9-10]. 49 years or 7 weeks have passed.

Awaiting The Messiah: The remaining 434 years [62 weeks] began when the city and its walls were complete and ran to the time of the first Palm Sunday when Jesus presented Himself to Israel as their Messiah. [v. 25b unto Messiah the Prince]

Clear prophecy of the timing of the First Coming.

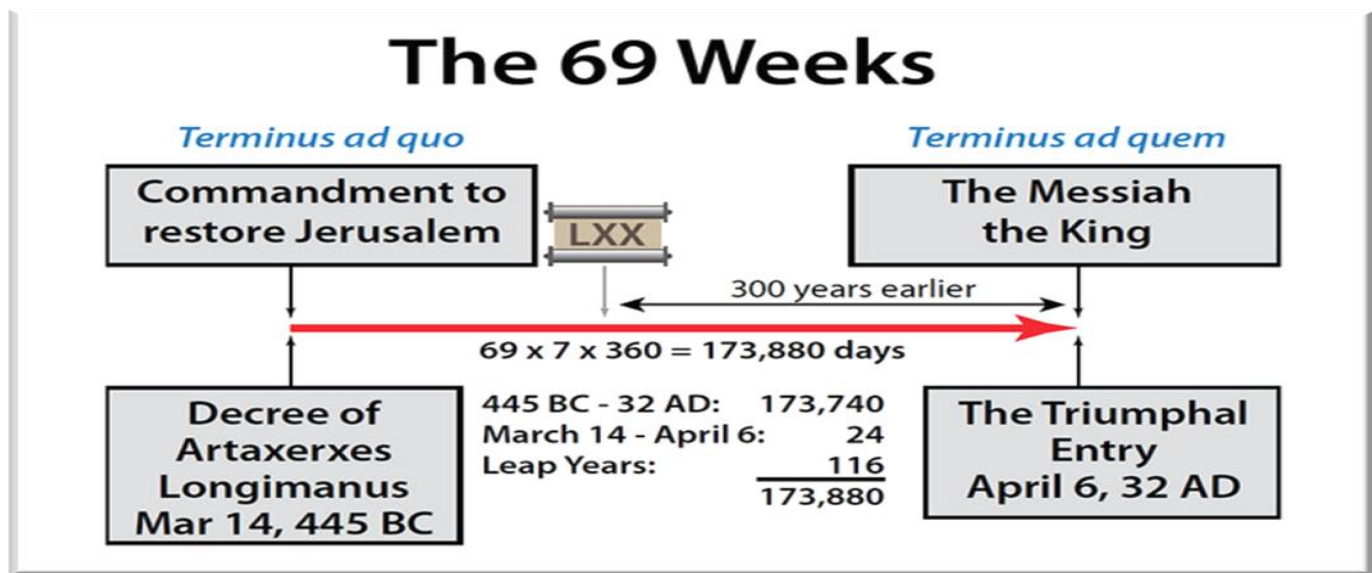
- When this message was given to Daniel by the Angel Gabriel, Jerusalem had lain in ruin for nearly 70 years and the Jews were captive in Babylon.
- Counting forward for 62 + 7 periods of 7 years each from a future decree giving the Jews permission to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, they should expect the Messiah. That's a total of 483 Years After The Decree Is Issued.
- These 483 years would include 49 years to rebuild and stabilize Jerusalem, and then a period of 434 years before the Anointed One [the Messiah] comes.

Crucial: It's important to distinguish the decree that freed the Jews from their captivity from the one that gave them permission to rebuild Jerusalem.

1. Cyrus the Persian conquered Babylon in 539 BC. He issued a decree in 538 BC that freed the Jews to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. It had been prophesied 150 years earlier in Isaiah 44:24-45:6 and was fulfilled in Ezra 1:1-4.
2. 457 BC - Artaxerxes of Persia issued a decree to Ezra to reinstitute the Temple services, appoint judges and magistrates and teach the Law. [Ezra 7:11-26]
3. According to Nehemiah 2:1 the Decree To Rebuild the Walls of Jerusalem was given by King Artaxerxes of Persia. [March of 445 BC on our calendar, about 90 years later].

Note: Most commentators use the starting date of decree #3.

This is the remarkable prediction. There would be an edict to rebuild Jerusalem. A period of 483 years would pass. The Messiah would enter the city, and He would be put to death.



Prophecy Fulfilled: Exactly 483 Years After The Decree To Rebuild Jerusalem

The Lord Jesus rode in to Jerusalem on a donkey to shouts of "Hosanna", on the only day in His life He permitted His followers to proclaim Him as Israel's Messiah, fulfilling Daniel's prophecy to the day!

The Hebrew in Daniel 9:25 calls Him Messiah the Prince, denoting the fact that He was coming as the Anointed Son of the King and was not yet crowned King Himself.

Luke 19:39-40 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. ⁴⁰ And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

Jesus made the profound statement that the crowd had to proclaim Him Messiah or the rocks would have to speak out that truth!

This sets up the most incredible fulfillment of Bible prophecy to date.

For 3 1/2 years Jesus had discouraged any talk about Him being the Messiah.

In Matt. 16:15-20 In Caesarea-Philippi, when Peter made his famous "You are the Christ" statement, Jesus said yes, He was the Messiah, but not to tell anyone.

Matt. 16:20 He warned the disciples that they should TELL NO ONE that He was the Christ. But on this day [Palm Sunday], things had changed. Jesus allowed, even encouraged, the multitudes to welcome Him as their Messiah. What was different?

Why did Jesus say it was now OK to call Him Messiah?

The reason is simple. This was a prophesied day that the Jews should have recognized. The "70 Weeks" [490 years] prophecy given by Daniel had begun to count down 173,880 days earlier.

In Luke 19:41-44 He reminded the people of the specific nature of this prophecy.

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, If you had known, even you, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, ⁴⁴ And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

He Held Them Accountable For Knowing Daniel 9:24-27! Wow!

The Daniel 9:24-27 prophecy was being fulfilled right before the Pharisees' eyes!

Daniel gave the exact day the Messiah would arrive. This was that day!

A few days later He extended that accountability to those living in the Tribulation.

- Context of Matthew 24 is the Tribulation Period.

Matt. 24:15 When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso reads, let him understand:) *then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

We are also required to understand Daniel 9 in reference to the Great Tribulation and His 2nd Coming.

- Remember: First came 7 sevens [49 years]; then the 62 weeks [434 yrs.] = 483 years

Dan. 9:26a Then after the 62 weeks [434 years from the beginning of the prophecy = 173,880 total days], the Messiah will be cut off ["executed"]. but not for himself:

Key Point: 5 days after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem as the Promised Prince, the Jews called for His execution.

- This fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy of the Suffering Servant and Daniel's prophecy that the Messiah would be "cut off." [Isa. 53:1-12; Daniel 9:26]
- They knew about Isaiah's suffering servant but they did not realize the Servant and the Messiah were one in the same person.
- They expected The Messiah to appear as the majestic "Ancient of Days" in Dan. 7:9-10.
- When He appeared as "One with no form nor comeliness," they did not "receive Him."

Dan. 9:26b and The people of the prince [ruler] who will come

will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood:

War will continue till the end and desolations have been decreed.

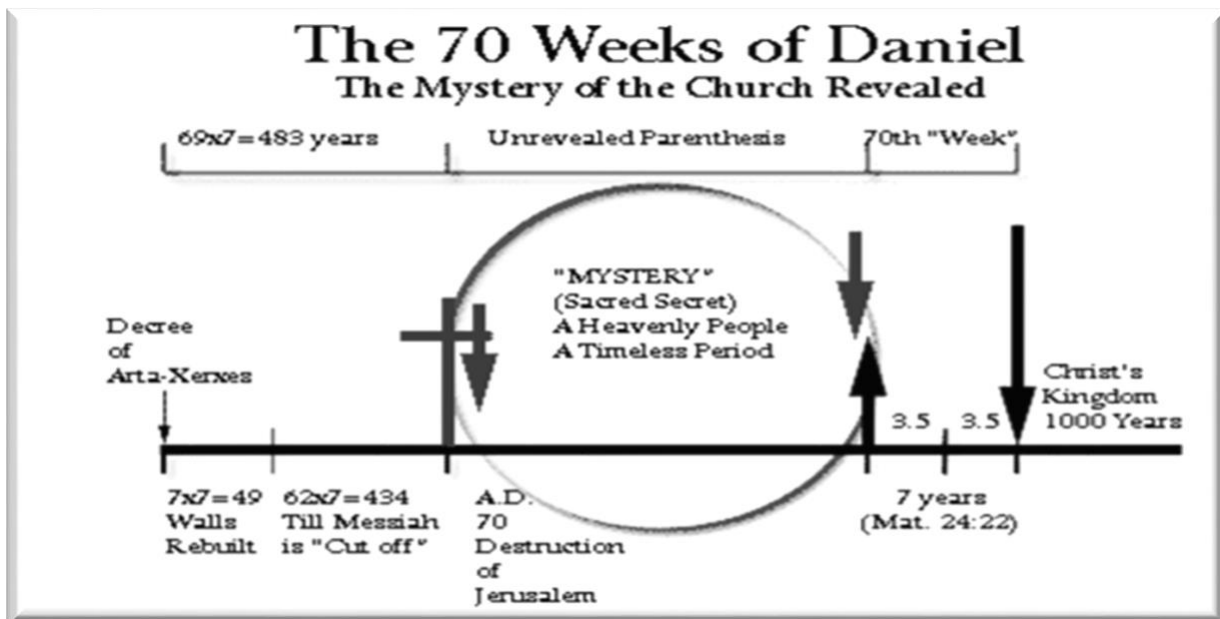
- The people of a ruler yet to come would destroy Jerusalem and the Temple.
 - ❖ In 70 AD the Romans put the torch to the city and the Temple destroying both.
- The Israelites would be scattered abroad and peace would elude the world.
 - ❖ Surviving Jews were forced to flee for their lives and in the ensuing 2000 years, it is believed not a single generation has escaped involvement in a war of some kind.

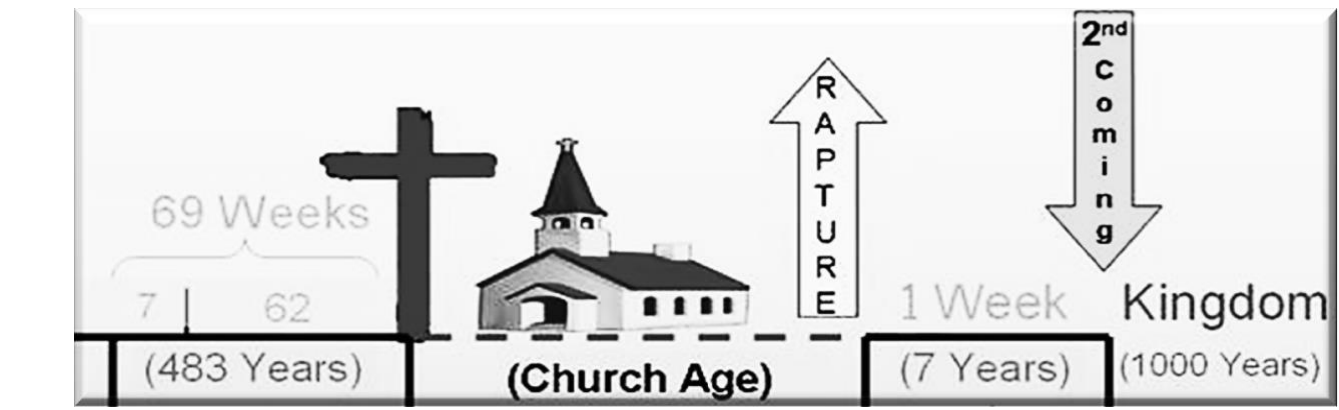
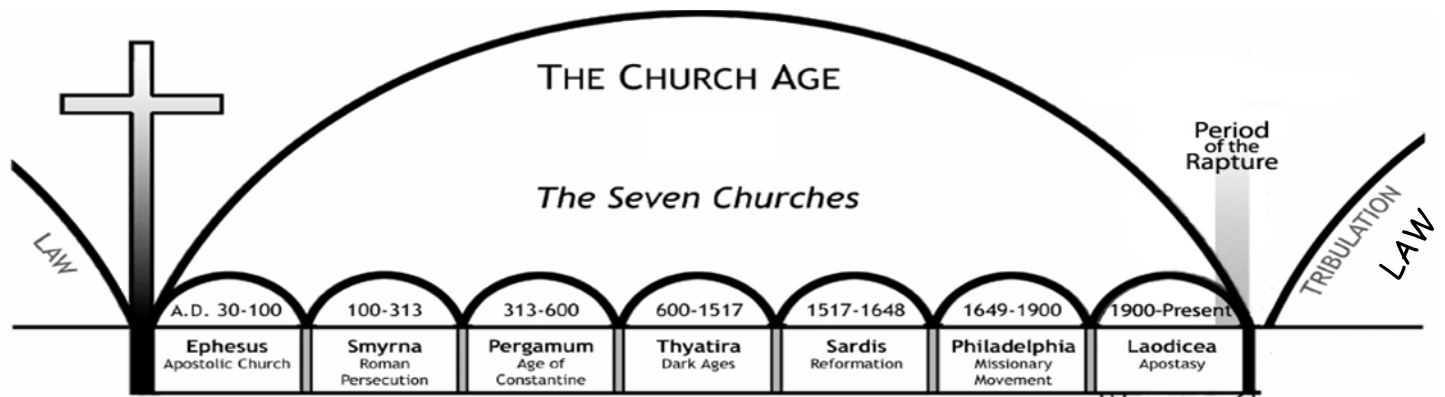
Suspension Of The Prophecy: The Prophetic Clock Is Paused

The prophecy clock of Daniel 9:24-27 stopped.

69 of the 70 weeks had passed and all that was prophesied to happen during those 483 years had come to pass but there was still one week (7 years) left.

- ❖ In the New Testament we're told that while God is dealing with the Church, time ceases to exist for Israel [Acts 15:13-18: James at the Jerusalem Council].





The Church Age: The period between the 69th week [Messiah's death] and the beginning of the 70th week is seen as the "gap" or "parenthesis" where the Church Age exists.

This is when Jesus builds his Church, which will be raptured before the 70th week begins.

Why a Gap? The 70 weeks prophecy is primarily focused on the Jewish people and their land.

- The Church is a "divine parenthesis or interval" inserted into that timeline.

The Church Age is a time when God works with the world through the Church, but it is not part of the specific timeline for Israel's redemption.

The Mystery: The Great Pause

- Helps us to better understand why the Rapture must take place before the Tribulation

Purpose of the Pause:

Acts 15:14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name.

- Take out = lambano = one who takes something for the purpose of carrying it away

Consider: Once the church is complete, the Lord will carry us away before He returns to Israel.

Note: This is consistent with Paul's statement of Israel's restoration in Romans 11:25.

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel,

until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

- Be come in = to arrive at one's destination; when a ship has "come in"

Our destination: John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. Once the Church has reached its destination, the blinders will come off Israel's eyes and the great pause will end. The remaining 7 years of the 490 years will commence.

Acts 15:13-17 And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: ¹⁴ Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

¹⁵ And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

- Isa. 11:10, Isa. 42:1, 6; Isa. 49:6, 22; Isa. 60:3; Isa. 66:19; Rom. 9:25-33; Malachi 1:11; Amos 9:10-11

¹⁶ After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

¹⁷ That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

Rev. 4:1-2 After this I [John] looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven:

and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. [church age]

Rev. 5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

Rev. 6:1-2 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

²And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

Daniel 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.

This event inaugurates the last 7 years, the Tribulation period.

I Thess. 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from The Wrath To Come.