

## A New Time Schedule of Revelation

### Comparison of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week with Revelation

#### Introduction

In the following article, a new time schedule of Revelation is presented. This is largely chronological. Among biblical expositors there is controversy especially on the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Israel according to Daniel 9:27 when comparing this to Revelation.

According to J.N. Darby, W. Scott, W. Ouweneel, B. Peters et al. Revelation contains only the second half of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Israel. Therefore, they assume that the two witnesses (Rev.11,3) have authority simultaneously with the beast (Rev.13,5). In contrast to this, other well-known and esteemed Bible scholars see the time of the two witnesses in the first half of Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> week, as shown in Fig.1.

1260 Days Power of 2 Witnesses 2 <sup>nd</sup> Woe (11,1-14)	Death of 2 Witnesses	42 Months Power of 2 Beasts (13,5) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Woe (11,15 & 15,1 & 16,1-21)
70 <sup>th</sup> Week of Years of Israel		
First Half: With Sacrifices in Jerusalem	Middle	Second Half: Without Sacrifices; Jacob's Trouble

**Fig. 1 Time schedule of Revelation 11-16 in comparison to the 70<sup>th</sup> week of years of Israel** according to A. Fruchtenbaum, C. Ryrie, and "What the Bible teaches," Revelation by J. Allen.

We will now compare the reasoning of J.N. Darby with texts from Daniel and Revelation.

J.N. Darby writes (Apocalypse, Outline, Revelation 11:2):

"The holy city is trodden under foot of the Gentiles forty-two months. This is the second half of the last of the seventy weeks of Daniel. We only find the last half of the week spoken of in Revelation. The whole week is spoken of in Daniel 9:24-27. First, you have seven weeks – these were historical; then sixty-two weeks are added, bringing us "unto Messiah the Prince." "After these things [it does not say how long] Messiah is cut off." The first half of the remaining week we find is the ministry of Christ which lasted three years and a half. Then the Messiah is cut off. So now to faith there is only the last half of the week to come. But the apostate nation, not owning the period of Christ's ministry, "confirms the covenant" with Antichrist for the whole week. They go on flourishing till the middle of the week."

The assumption that the first half of Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> year "is found in the the public ministry of Christ" is in contradiction to Dan.9,25-27: *From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah, the Prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and its end shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 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 offering to cease.*

The 69<sup>th</sup> week ends with the death of Messiah. The 70<sup>th</sup> week will begin when in the future the 7-years covenant between the Coming Prince and Israel takes effect. In the first three and a half years of this covenant, the sacrifices take place on the altar of burnt offerings in Jerusalem (Dan.9,27a; Rev.11,1; see my article: "The Future of the Temple in Jerusalem"). The altar and the worshippers in the holy city Jerusalem are mentioned in Rev.11. During this the two divine witnesses have power and the temple court outside the

inner temple building with the altar in front of it is trodden under foot by the Gentiles for 42 months together with the holy city. This first half of the 70<sup>th</sup> week ends with the death of the two witnesses.

The second half of this week is the time of Jacob's trouble (Jer.30,7), the most severe tribulation (Dan.12,1; Mt.24,15-21) during the power of the beast (Rev.13,1-18). During this time *the sacrifice and offering is caused to cease* (Dan.9,27b) by the beast.

Many expositors teach that the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Israel will start directly after the rapture of the Church or very shortly after this event, which is thought to take place between chapter 3 and 4 of Revelation. Therefore, the return of Jesus Christ as King of Kings is expected ca.7 years after the rapture. This view, however, leaves no room for the five months duration of the first Woe.

### **Comparison of different time schedules with the Bible**

To clarify the contradictory time schedules I follow a suggestion by David Gooding and construct a new time schedule of Revelation starting with the well-defined point of time of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in Rev.19 and the Judgment the two Beasts in Rev.13 and the Little Horn in Daniel 7. This event ends the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Israel.

After the *silence in heaven for about half an hour* (Rev.8,1) God's judgement on this earth will start with the sound of the first four trumpets. The durations of the trumpets 5 to 7 are identical to the three Woes are listed below.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet = First Woe: Five months of agony**

Rev.9,1      *And **the fifth angel sounded**, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.*

Rev.9,5 *they should be tormented five months*

Rev.9,12      ***One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more after these.***

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet = Second Woe: 3 ½ years, War and torment by the two Witnesses**

Rev.9,13-14      *And **the sixth angel sounded**, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, Loose the four angels who are bound in the great river Euphrates.*

Rev.11,1-2      *And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. 2 But the court which is outside the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.*

Rev.11,3      *And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and three score days, clothed in sackcloth.*

Rev.11,6-8      *These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.*

Rev.11,12-13      *And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up here. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour there was a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the*

city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the rest were frightened, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Rv.11,14 **The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe comes quickly.**

**7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet = Third Woe: 3 ½ years refuge for the faithful remnant of Israel during this most intensive tribulation by the beast from the sea**

Rev.11,15 And **the seventh angel sounded**; and there were great voices in heaven.

Rev.12,1 And there appeared a great sign in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.

Rev.12,6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three score days.

Rev.13,1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea.

Rev.13,5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Rev.15,1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having **the seven last plagues; for in them is completed the wrath of God.**

**After the third Woe Messiah returns as victor.**

Rev.19,11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon it was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he does judge and make war.

Rev.19,19-20 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that worked miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

**The victory of the King of Kings in Revelation as compared to AT prophecy**

Rev.19,11-21: Victory and judgement of enemies

Dan.7,25-26: Victory over the little horn after 3 ½ years of power

Dan. 9,27: End of the last 7 years of Israel

Dan.12,1;11-12: End of most intensive tribulation and coming of Messiah

Zech.14,3-5 & 9: Coming of the LORD with his saints, victory and kingdom

<b>5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> Woe		
Abaddon torments men		
<b>5 Months</b> (9,5+11)		
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Woe		
Power of 2 Witnesses		
<b>1260 Days</b> (11,3)		
Holy City trodden down		
<b>42 Months</b> (11,2)		
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet</b>		
<b>1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Bowl of Wrath</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Woe		
Refuge for Woman		
<b>1260 Days, 3½ Years</b> (12,6 +14)		
Power of 2 Beasts		
<b>42 Months</b> (13,5)		

**Fig.2 Durations of the three Woes in Revelation.**

When referring to Israel, the duration is given in days (sun, day),  
when referring to the nations in months (moon, night).

AT prophecies to the end of the last 7 years of Israel and to the begin of the kingdom of peace: Zech.12,9-10; 14,3-9; Dan.7,9-27; 9,27 & 12,1-2 & 11-12; Is.2,4.

The time periods of the 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> trumpets mentioned in the Revelation are shown in Fig. 2.

The end of the judgments in Revelation and the appearance of Messiah is the reference point with AT Prophecies: the arrival of Messiah in power and glory.

The three woes follow each other without overlapping and have a duration in total of seven years and five months. During the second Woe the two witnesses have power for 3½ years. During this time the sacrificial offerings are performed on the altar in Jerusalem (Rev.11,1-3). The third Woe also lasts for 3½ years during the time of Jacob's trouble (Jer.30,7; Dan.12,1). During this time the sacrificial offerings in Jerusalem are stopped (Dan.9,27). The total duration of the second and third Woe is seven years, which are the last seven years before the coming of Messiah

Thus, we conclude, that the view shown in Fig. 1 agrees with the prophetic scriptures in the OT and in the Revelation.

## Outline of Revelation

**Introduction** – „I am Alpha and Omega” (1,1-8)

**Things, which thou hast seen:** Jesus Christ, judge of the churches (1,9-19)

**Things, which are:** Presence, His sentence on the seven churches, (2,1-3,22)

**Things, which shall be hereafter:** Future (from John's point of view, (4,1-22,5)

**End** – “Behold, I come quickly” – “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come”.

The future part of the Revelation contains seven seals, trumpets, and bowls of wrath, which can be represented schematically as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> seal**

**7<sup>th</sup> seal => 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet = 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Woe)**

**7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet = 3<sup>rd</sup> Woe = 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Bowl of Wrath**

The basis of correct Bible interpretation is the understanding of the original meaning of the text. Therefore, the first step in the interpretation should be the exploration of the understanding of the text by the original readers. How did John and the recipients of the letters understand the words, "*what is and what will happen after this*" (Rev 1, 19)?

"*What is*" refers to the presence, the state of the seven churches in John's time, as described in the seven letters to the churches. "*What will happen after this*" was understood by John and the recipients of the letters as the future, i.e. the time beginning with the second century AD. None of the original readers could think of a future that begins after the time of the church has ended. This idea was possible only through our review of the history of the church in comparison to the seven letters.

The hidden reference to church history gives us an idea of the depth of God's thoughts in his Word. However, we should distinguish this hidden meaning from the basic meaning. According to the basic meaning the future begun in the year 100. We do not know exactly how much of the events described in the chapters 4 -7 are already past for us today.

According to many interpreters, the wrath of God begins with the opening of the seals. The Rapture of the church is set by many between Kp.3 and 4. But John, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, does not reveal the moment of the Rapture in Revelation. However, the Rapture will take place before the beginning of the Divine wrath on this earth (compare my essay: "Die Entrückung der Gemeinde vor Gottes Zorngericht auf dieser Erde").

In the following, the opening of the seals 1-6 are considered as "preparation" for the opening of the scroll (compare "beginning of labor pains", Mt.24,8). The scroll can only be opened after opening the 7<sup>th</sup> seal. The sealed scroll identifies the earth as the legitimate possession of the Lamb. The taking possession of the earth begins with the direct judgment of the Lord. This is the day of the wrath of God which starts with the seven trumpets.

<b>Seals:</b>	Before the onset of the wrath of God (Mt.24,4-8; Rev.6,1)
<b>Trumpets:</b>	Beginning of the Wrath of God (Rev.8,7)
<b>Bowls of Wrath:</b>	Completion of the Wrath of God (Off.15,1)

Before the beginning of God's direct judgment on the people of the earth, God's care for his followers is described in Chapter 7:

- 1.) The sealing of the 144,000 servants of God from Israel, who are protected by the seal of God during the trumpet judgements.
- 2.) The innumerable crowd that is safe in heaven before the beginning of the judgments.

To my understanding this crowd is the raptured church that came from the same tribulation in which also John suffered (Rev.1,9). With this view, the chronology of revelation is kept, and chap.7 is a consolation for both groups mentioned above.

The Tribulation, the Great (Rev.7,14 original Greek translation), is to be distinguished from the tribulation of Jacob, which is the most intense tribulation of all time (Mt.25,21 & Dan.12,1). This tribulation begins when the abomination of desolation is established (Dan.9,27).

John calls himself "*companion in the tribulation*" (Off.1,9 original Greek translation). Here and in Rev.7,14 a defined tribulation is described by the definite article. In Mt.24,21 and Dan.12,1 the definite article is missing. This tribulation is defined by the addition: *such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be*. This can be shortened: "The most intensive tribulation of all times".

In Rev.7,14 to the tribulation defined by the definite article the description is added "The Great". To my understanding this addition indicates that the total tribulation of the whole Church from Pentecost till the rapture is in view. At the time of John – in the year 100 – this added description had not become reality.

### **Seven parts of Revelation – each initiated with an opening in heaven**

Following a suggestion by D. Gooding, a subdivision of Revelation from chapter 4 is described in seven sections, which are initiated by six openings in heaven.

#### **Part 1: God's government under the sign of the Noah covenant,**

Rev 4,1 *After this I looked, and behold, **a door was opened in heaven.***

God had set the rainbow as a sign of his covenant to the sky with the promise not to judge the earth by a flood. As part of the Noah covenant, God had delegated jurisdiction to humans. This covenant ends with the beginning of the Judgment Day of God, the Day of the Wrath of God.

#### **Part 2: Day of Wrath begins with the Trumpet Judgements.**

Rev.5,5 *Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah the Root of David, has prevailed to **open the scroll**, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*

Rev.8,1 *And when he **had opened the seventh seal**, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.*

Only after the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal can the scroll be opened.

This section contains the first six trumpets and the 1260-day authority of the two witnesses. This is the first part of the last week of years of Israel (Dan.9,25a: *he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the offering to cease.*) During this time, God is worshiped in the Temple in Jerusalem (see my article: The Future of the Temple in Jerusalem). With the end of the second woe – the death and ascension of the two witnesses – this part ends (Rev.11,13-14).

#### **Part 3: Israel in the second half of the last 7 years**

Rev.11,19 *And **the temple of God in heaven was opened**, and the ark of his covenant was seen in his temple.*

This part contains a sign in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, who painfully gives birth to a son who is caught up to God (see my article: The Mystery of Glad Tidings in the Darkest Days).

Rev 12,9 *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

On earth he persecutes the woman who bore the son. The woman – Israel – flees to the desert, where she gets a safe place for 1260. The dragon empowers the beast from the sea, to lead a reign of terror with victory over the saints and blasphemy for 42 months (see Dan.7.7-26 "The Little Horn").

#### **Part 4: The world during the bowls of wrath**

Rev 15,5 *And after that I looked, and, behold, **the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.***

The 4<sup>th</sup> part runs temporally parallel to the 3<sup>rd</sup> part. The simultaneity is indicated by the temple being opened twice. This part contains the seven bowls of wrath with which the wrath of God was completed (Rev.15,1). After the prophecy about the harlot Babylon this part ends with the marriage of the lamb.

#### Part 5: Arrival and reign of the Messiah King and the 1000-year Kingdom of Peace

Rev.19,11 *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon it was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he does judge and make war.*

This section describes the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as King of Kings, the judgment of the enemies of God, the first resurrection, and the Millennium of Peace.

#### Part 6: Final Judgement

Rev.20,12 *I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

#### Part 7: Completion: New Heaven and New Earth

Rev.21,1 & 3 *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

Part 1	Part 2	Part 3			
<i>Opened: Door</i>	<i>Scroll</i>	<i>Temple (1)*</i> Israel's most severe tribulation	Identical event in OT and NT (Dan.7; Rev.19)		
God's reign under the Noah-covenant, Lamb with scroll	Day of Wrath starts with first trumpet	<i>Part 4</i> <i>Temple (2)*</i> Wrath of God completed with	<i>Part 5</i> <i>Heaven</i> Victory of Christ, Millennium	<i>Part 6</i> <i>Books</i> Final Judgement	<i>Part 7</i> New Heaven & New Earth
<i>7 Seals</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Trumpets</i>	<i>7 Bowls of Wrath</i>			
Old Testament Prophecy					
End of time between death of Messiah and 70 <sup>th</sup> week of years of Israel (Dan.9,26a)	1 <sup>st</sup> half of 70 <sup>th</sup> week of Israel, 7-years treaty, sacrifices for 3 ½ years (Dan.9,27a), 2 witnesses (Zech.4,14)	2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 70 <sup>th</sup> week of Israel, sacrifices stopped for 3 ½ years (Dan.12,11) abomination of desolation (Dan.9,27b) Tribulation (Dan.12,1)	Israel's repentance, (Zech.12,10) Victory, Judgement, reign of Messiah, Millennium (Zech.14,3-9 ; Is.2,2-4 11,1-9; Dan.7, 9-14,27)	Final Judgement (Ps.9,8) The Lord shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.	New Heaven and New Earth (Is.65,17; Is.66,22)

\*) The two openings of the temple indicate that these two parts are parallel in time.

#### Fig. 3 New Time Schedule of Revelation

Only the parts 3 and 4 are parallel in time. This is indicated by the two openings of the temple in heaven. All other parts follow in chronological order.

#### Conclusion

Based on the time of the second coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory, clearly defined in the Old Testament and in the Revelation, the new time schedule of Revelation was established using the clearly stated durations of the three Woes (see fig.2). It turned out that the above-mentioned openings in heaven allow a chronologically continuous division into seven sections. The only exception to the chronology is the temporal overlap of parts 3 and 4. The overlap is indicated by the temple being opened twice.

(2020-01)