

Survey of the Bible Daniel 7:25 “Time, times and half a time”

In the last study we did in Daniel 7 I ended with an observation regarding the phrase “time, times and half a time,” that we hear so much of in the pre-millennial camp which they conclude is the seven year tribulation at the end of which time Jesus Christ returns to this present, sin-filled, cursed world to set up a literal 1,000 year reign in Jerusalem where the temple and its sacrifices are reestablished once more to bear witness to the redemptive work that Christ accomplished on the cross.

Daniel 7:25 ²⁵ He 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 will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

This particular phrase of “time, times and half a time” also shows up in the book of Revelation which is the counterpart and fulfillment of the prophecy found in Daniel.

^{NAU} **Revelation 12:14** But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

As we have stated previously, when the N.T. addresses an issue, it, not the O.T., will be the final word on what was intended by the O.T. passage.

So, when there is a question as to what is meant by an O.T. passage, if there is a N.T. equivalent, then the N.T. trumps the O.T. since the O.T. is always pointing forward to the New.

And so, when Christ tells His disciples that all the Scriptures of the O.T. spoke of Him, (Luk.24:25-27), then it must be acknowledged that He is the final fulfillment of what came before.

And, since all of history is moving toward the final fulfillment of what Christ came to accomplish regarding His people and His kingdom, it must necessarily mean that the N.T. gives the fuller and final revelation concerning which the O.T. prophets spoke.

So, what of this phrase, “time, times and half a time?”

The first thing to note is that a related issue to time is conspicuously found in the Daniel 7:25 passage that should frame our take on what this passage means.

Does anyone see the reference in verse 25?

Daniel 7:25 ²⁵ 'He 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.*

The first thing we notice is that the one who desires to make alterations in times and in law is the one who is speaking out against the Most High and wearing down the saints of the Most High.

This is in the context of the four Kingdoms that Daniel spoke of in the previous verses.

Daniel 7:21-24 ²¹ "I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them ²² until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. ²³ "Thus he said: "The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. ²⁴ 'As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

You'll note here in verse 22 that there is another reference to time.

Anyone see that?

Daniel 7: 22 until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and *the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.*

So, time plays an important role here in conveying a particular message regarding the final chapter of history where the Ancient of Days delivers the Kingdom to His people.

The first thing to notice in these verses is that the fourth King, who represents the fourth kingdom, is the final kingdom before the Ancient of Days inaugurates His eternal Kingdom.

Daniel 7:26-27 ²⁶ 'But the court will sit *for judgment*, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. ²⁷ 'Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'

What we see here is that the fourth kingdom is now represented as "all the kingdoms under the whole heaven,"

What this alludes to is that the numbers that Daniel has been utilizing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit are not necessarily arithmetical identifications of specific nations, but rather are representing vast numbers of kingdoms that have arisen to make war with the saints of the Most High which started in the Garden.

Genesis 3:15 ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

The word enmity is one that conveys the idea of being an enemy and thus one who wars with his opponent.

This enemy, the serpent of old, spoke out against the Most High in the Garden of Eden as he spoke lies about God and His law.

Genesis 3:1-5 ^{NAU} Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden '?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴ ***The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! ⁵ "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."***

Daniel is bearing witness to this attempt to make changes in time and law, according to Dan.7:25, as Satan lies about both, as we see he has lied about the truth that ***in the day*** that you eat from it, (time bearing statement), you will surely ***not*** die, (change in law statement).

This lie has continued through Daniel's day and will continue to the very end. The New Testament is filled with warnings to beware of false teaching.

So, with the enemy trying to alter time, (that is, history), and law, according to Daniel 7:25, another time element is added to the text.

Daniel 7:25 ²⁵ 'He 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 will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.*

What is the difference here between the 4th king intending to make alterations in times and in law, and the statement, “and they will be given into his hand for a time, times and half a time?”

In the first statement the 4th king himself determines to make these changes regarding times and laws, but in the second statement he is not the one making the changes.

Who is making the changes regarding times and laws?

Again, look at the language. “They will be given into his hand.”

The inference here is that someone outside of the king is doing the giving. But the one who does the giving is the same one who takes it away.

Daniel 7:26 ²⁶ 'But the court will sit *for judgment*, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.

So, let's do a little recap here. The fourth king who represents the fourth kingdom is the symbolic equivalent to all kingdoms of the earth who speak out against the Most High.

Daniel 7:27 ²⁷ 'Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of **all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One;**

All of these kingdoms would certainly include those four kingdoms identified by Daniel in the Great Statue that represented four literal kingdoms which included Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome.

This only goes to show that the kingdoms of this world include real people who hate God and come against the people of God.

But it only underscores who the real beast is who motivates these kingdoms and murdered the first people of God in the garden with his lies and continues to do so until the Kingdom of God is ushered in with his final judgment where God delivers the final death blow forever.

1 Corinthians 15:25-26 ²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

So, when Daniel utilizes a general time frame, (time, times and half a time), he is not identifying a chronological approach to time but rather a theological approach from God's perspective.

In other words, time here is in reference to the working of the fourth king which is the kingdom that is represented in the world at the time in which God's kingdom is finally ushered in.

This kingdom of the beast represents that kingdom that is already in place when Christ returns. And so, the time, times and half a time represent the entire time period in which this kingdom is in place from the time of the Kingdom of God being inaugurated at the cross to the time of the consummation of God's Kingdom at Christ's Return.

As we look at the phrase "time, times and half a time" the first thing we notice is that it is not a specific reference to a particular time.

It is assumed by some that it is in reference to 3 ½ years. But the text of Daniel gives no indication that it is 3 ½ years, or days or months or millennia.

It isn't until we go to the book of Revelation that we get any indication of a particular time frame where we can connect some of the dots as we bring other passages of time into the equation. Let's look at these and compare them to what Daniel is shown later in his vision.

Daniel 12:7-12 ⁷ I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half *a time*; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these *events* will be completed. ⁸ As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, what *will be* the outcome of these *events*?" ⁹ He

said, "Go *your way*, Daniel, for *these* words are concealed and sealed up until the end time. ¹⁰ "Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand. ¹¹ "***From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.*** ¹² "***How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!***

We see similar numbers as John receives his vision from God.

Revelation 11:1-2 ^{NAU} Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. ² "Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for ***forty-two months***.

Revelation 11:3 ³ "And I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for ***twelve hundred and sixty days***, clothed in sackcloth."

Revelation 12:6 ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for ***one thousand two hundred and sixty days***.

Revelation 12:14 ¹⁴ But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished ***for a time and times and half a time***, from the presence of the serpent.

Revelation 13:3-6 ³ *I saw* one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed *and followed* after the beast; ⁴ they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" ⁵ There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for ***forty-two months was given to him***. ⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, *that is*, those who dwell in heaven.

If we do a little math here we will see that all of the numbers being utilized by John in this vision speak to 1,260 days.

The forty two months of Rev.11:2 and Rev.13:5, using a 30 day calendar, add up to 1,260 days.

In the context of Rev.12:6, where the woman, who fled into the wilderness was nourished for 1,260 days, we have that same woman who flies into the wilderness to be nourished only a few verses later in verse 14 where the language of Daniel is implemented where she is nourished from the presence of the serpent for a time, and times and half a time.

In light of these passages in both Daniel and Revelation, which is the final word on Daniel, we can conclude that a time, times and half a time is the equivalent of 1,260 days which is the equivalent of 42 months. All of these symbolic time indicators are pointing to one thing.

It is the time frame of the fourth kingdom, according to Daniel 7:25, where this king speaks arrogant words against the Most High.

Daniel 7:25 ²⁵ *'He 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 will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.*

These saints who are worn down by the beast of Daniel for a time, times and half a time, are the same saints who are tread under foot for that same time period that John speaks of Rev.11:1-2 who worship God in His temple.

Revelation 11:1-2 ^{NAU} Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. ² "Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and *they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months.*

And these saints comprise the entire church from Christ's first coming until His second coming as they faithfully witness for God during this entire time and are protected in the wilderness for a time, times and half a time, or 1,260 days.

Revelation 11:3 ³ "And I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for *twelve hundred and sixty days*, clothed in sackcloth."

Revelation 12:6 ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for *one thousand two hundred and sixty days*.

At the end of this time period, which is symbolic language for the entire church age, which has literally lasted so far about 2,000 years, the Lord will crush the kingdom of the beast and establish His everlasting Kingdom, according to Daniel.

Daniel 7:27 ²⁷ 'Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'

This is the same Kingdom that John addresses.

Revelation 11:15 ¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

When Daniel and John use the phrase, time, times and half a time, they are describing a reality that the serpent has tried to alter the law of God and the time or history of God's redemptive plan. But God has stepped in to make sure that the enemy works within God's time frame according to God's will as found in His word.

In other words, the serpent has tried to twist the word of God and the will of God, according to His holy word, in such a way that Satan attempts to alter the true meaning of that word, but the Lord uses this to further His kingdom.

What Satan could only and feebly attempt to alter, God in His sovereignty appointed the times in which He would come to redeem His people and ultimately come for them as He establishes His kingdom as He destroys the kingdoms of this world.

Unlike Satan, God is in control of time as He ordains time for His purposes. As is clear from all of the passages in both Daniel and Revelation, the time being addressed is the time where the church, the woman in the wilderness, is accosted by the beast but is protected by Christ and nourished in the wilderness for a time, times and half a time or 1,260 days.

Again, this is the time from the first advent of Christ to His second coming in which we live presently, which is symbolically part of the 1,000 year reign of the saints of Christ.

The numbers that are being utilized by God are symbolic numbers that speak to spiritual realities that are being fulfilled before our very eyes as we see the hand of God working in His time frame to bring all things in subjection to Himself.

What Daniel was shown by God finds its fulfillment in what John saw, and what John saw was the Kingdom of God being established as the Lord crushes the kingdoms of this world even as Daniel depicts those same kingdoms.

Daniel 2:32-35 ³² "The head of that statue *was made* of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴ "You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. ³⁵ "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. ***But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.***

That stone that struck and destroyed the world system with its kingdoms at war with God, is the stone that the builders rejected and who is also the rock of our salvation, Jesus Christ.

You and I are part of this Kingdom that Christ has purchased for us and will find its ultimate expression in what John shows us.

Revelation 21:1-5 ^{NAU} Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." ⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."