



## **Dispensationalism in the biblical sense is characterised by two primary distinctives:**

- 1) A consistently literal interpretation of Scripture, especially Bible prophecy, and
- 2) A view of the uniqueness of Israel as separate from the Church in God's program.

A knowledge of this big picture view of the bible is essential to be able to understand and correctly interpret scripture, especially prophecy. We went through each one in detail when we started Chapter 4. The message is entitled Revelation 4v1—Overview of how God relates to man, and is available (with its sermon notes) as a podcast or can be downloaded from our website, [www.calvarychapelesperance.com.au](http://www.calvarychapelesperance.com.au)

### **Age of Grace vs Age of Law**

All we will do today is quickly look at the church age, the age of grace, and how it different to the age of law (from Moses to the cross).

So, as you probably already realise, we are now in the church age, of which nothing was written in the Old Testament. The church age or the age of grace was never mentioned until Jesus mentioned it to His disciples in Matthew chapter 16 verse 18, where He says “on this rock I will build My church.”

The church age began with the miracle of the Holy Spirit coming to dwell in and upon every believer in Jesus Christ on the day of pentecost. That was unique, it was something that had never happened before. In contrast, in the Old Testament, under the law or old covenant, only a select few were chosen to receive the Holy Spirit upon them—prophets and kings—and that was only on a temporary basis. That's why David prayed in Psalm 51, after his great fall with Bathsheba and planning her husband Uriah's murder, “Take not your Holy Spirit from me.” David knew that this was a real privilege, and that it was the most valuable thing that God could give him—God actually dwelt upon Him, empowering Him for service. David didn't want to lose God's presence and empowering from His life.

However, today, in the church age, to pray that same prayer, “Take not your Holy Spirit from me,” would be an insult to God because God says that every person from the moment they believe in Jesus Christ is permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells in and wants to come upon every born again believer, and God does not take the Holy Spirit away. Even if we are out of fellowship, God doesn't take the Holy Spirit away.

Ephesians 4:30 NKJV

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

In contrast to the Old Testament, in the church age, believers are sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption, which is when we get our resurrection bodies. For the church, this will be at the time of the rapture, and includes both those who have already died, and those who are still alive when Jesus comes back to get us.

So all believers have the Holy Spirit in us, but it says to not grieve the Holy Spirit of God. The idea is that the Holy Spirit can be grieved by wilful sin our lives, but He doesn't leave.

# The Scriptural basis for the seven year Tribulation

Now, we are about to find out where the 7 year tribulation comes from and answer at least 5 specific questions:

1. What scriptures refer to the tribulation?
2. How long is the tribulation?
3. When does the tribulation occur?
4. What does it have to do with Israel?
5. What are the main prophecies that must be fulfilled during this seven year period?

Once we have answered these questions, the book of revelation will make a whole lot more sense and will be a lot easier to understand as you will have the background to it. To start, let's turn to Daniel 9:24-27. These verses are the key to understanding where the book of Revelation fits in prophecy. Daniel 9:24-27 is like the edge of the jigsaw puzzle that revelation and other new testament books fill in. It's been called the backbone of biblical prophecy. You need to understand this prophecy to properly understand all the other messianic and last days prophecies. Today I won't be doing a complete verse by verse exposition of these verses, only pulling out the main points that refer to the tribulation. I recommend that you listen to the verse by verse teaching of Daniel 9 which we went through a few months ago to get a more complete understanding (We studied the book of Daniel prior to the book of Revelation).

I've given you a great chart from the website, "[www.alwaysbeready.com/propehcy](http://www.alwaysbeready.com/propehcy)" from which you can also get great audio, visual and written resources that help explain what the rapture is, and how to prove it from scripture. But now let's read:

Daniel 9:24-27 NKJV

<sup>24</sup> "Seventy weeks [sevens or sabbaths] are determined

For your people and for your holy city,

To finish the transgression,

To make an end of sins,

To make reconciliation for iniquity,

To bring in everlasting righteousness,

To seal up vision and prophecy,

And to anoint the Most Holy.

<sup>25</sup> "Know therefore and understand,

*That **from** the going forth of the command*

To restore and build Jerusalem

**Until** Messiah the Prince,

*There shall be **seven weeks and sixty-two weeks**;*

The street shall be built again, and the wall,

Even in troublesome times.

<sup>\*\*26</sup> "And **after** the sixty-two weeks

Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;

And the people of the prince who is to come

Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

The end of it *shall be* with a flood,

And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

<sup>27</sup> **Then** he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;

But in the middle of the week

He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,

Even until the consummation, which is determined,

Is poured out on the desolate."

# Daniel's Seventy Weeks Prophecy

## The Seventy Weeks

v 24 “**Seventy weeks are determined [decreed] for your people and for your holy city:** So this prophecy concerns two things, what are they? The nation of Israel (Daniel's people) and Jerusalem (the holy city, where the temple was).

Now what about the **seventy weeks**? In the Hebrew Calendar they had weeks of days and weeks of years. We also go by weeks of days (groups of 7 — e.g. 52 weeks or groups of 7 days in a year), but when it comes to years we count by decades. So the Jews counted their years by sevens, but we count them by 10's. We refer to time past as decades or groups of ten, e.g. the 90's or the 70's etc. In contrast, the Jews thought in groups of 7 years. So here it is talking about Sabbatical years, or groups of 7 years. Here is an example:

Leviticus 25:8 NKJV

And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years.

The **weeks** in Daniel 9:24-27 are literally groups of 7 or heptads. Therefore, in context with the rest of the chapter, which talks about 70 years of captivity, the seventy sevens refers to seventy lots or groups of 7 years. Daniel would have understood this to be seventy sabbatical years, with one sabbatical year every 7 years. If you do the maths, 70 x 7 years makes 490 years.

To further explain this, we need to remember that the context of Daniel chapter nine is Daniel asking God about the future of Israel, or what would happen to the nation of Israel in the future. God had put them into Babylonian captivity because they had failed to keep 70 sabbatical or rest years, and that's important to God. The nation of Israel was commanded by God to not sow or reap every seventh year, but they had never done it. All the time that Israel had been a nation, they had not even once let the land rest for the seventh year.

Leviticus 25:1-5 NLT paraphrase

While Moses was on Mount Sinai, the Lord said to him, <sup>2</sup> “Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. When you have entered the land I am giving you, the land itself must observe a Sabbath rest before the Lord every seventh year. <sup>3</sup> For six years you may plant your fields and prune your vineyards and harvest your crops, <sup>4</sup> but during the seventh year the land must have a Sabbath year of complete rest. It is the Lord's Sabbath. Do not plant your fields or prune your vineyards during that year. <sup>5</sup> And don't store away the crops that grow on their own or gather the grapes from your unpruned vines. The land must have a year of complete rest.

So, according to the law, they were not to plant their fields or do any work every seventh year. They were supposed to trust the Lord and spend their time learning about the Lord and praising the Lord and talking to each other about the scriptures. God said that this will show your faith to the nations, that I am real. Because I will take care of you, even though you don't do anything for a whole year. Wouldn't you just love to have a year off every seven years today?

This was very important to God because it was a part of why God created the nation of Israel—they were basically created to be a witness to all of the other nations that were trying to push God out of their memory. And so after 490 years of not doing that (in which is 70 Sabbatical years,  $70 \times 7 = 490$ ), God, just as He warned through the prophet Jeremiah, caused them to be defeated and carried away captive to Babylon.

God said that as long as you are in Babylon, the earth shall enjoy its sabbath years—God caused the land to rest for 70 years, one year for every seven in the land. They had been in the land for 490 years.  $490 \div 7 = 70$ . The nation of Israel owed God 70 sabbatical or rest years, where they should not have sown or reaped their crops. And this is the context that this prophecy was given. That's why we know, that just as they failed to keep seventy sabbatical years, God allots them another 70 sabbatical years to fulfil the reason that they were created. God allocates to the nation of Israel 70 more sabbatical or rest years, but they only happen every 7 years, so that means that God has allocated them  $70 \times 7$  years or 490 years. Does that make sense? That is the underlying premise of this prophecy which is the greatest single prophecy in the bible.

Next Daniel goes on to name six things that will be accomplished within the scope of that allotment of time, the 490 years. We won't go through these now, but if you are interested in finding out more, see the Daniel study.

### **From... Until... The first 69 sevens (483 years or 173,880 days)**

Daniel 9:25 NKJV

“Know therefore and understand, That **from** the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem **until** Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;

There are some prepositions and conjunctions that are extremely important here. This is why it's so important to believe in the verbal inspiration of scripture—that is, every word was inspired, not just ideas or “thought inspiration” (which some denominations believe). It's not just the general idea that's inspired or has divine origin, but every word. Thus why we take scripture literally where possible. Yes there are symbols in prophecy, but those symbols have a literal meaning. Most of the time it's possible, by cross referencing other scriptures, to find the actual, literal, meaning of the symbol.

Anyway, back to our text and the important prepositions and conjunctions. I encourage you to underline these words in your bible. First the prepositions “**from**” and “**until**” in verse 25.

So, **From** the command, **until** the Messiah, there will be 7 weeks and 62 weeks or groups of 7 years. As we discussed before, each “week” represents 7 years. There is no break here. So you add that up and you get 69 sabbatical years or groups of 7 years.  $69 \times 7 = 483$  years. *Do you notice that we are missing 7 years?*

Then in verse 26 underline the word “**after**” the sixty two weeks, Messiah shall be cut off.

Daniel 9:26a NKJV

“And **after** the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;

Let's go back to v 25. "**From**" starts the time clock ticking for this allotted time. It's the decree that's issued to rebuild and restore Jerusalem. We know exactly when that was given and by who. It was given by Artaxerxes Longimanus of Persia, and that started the 490 year allotment of time clicking. So exactly 483 years later Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey to the very day. One thing to point out is that these are biblical years, or 360 days, which makes 173,880 days from the time Artaxerxes Longimanus issued that decree to not just allow them to rebuild the temple, but also the city and the walls (this why we know that it was the decree given in Nehemiah 2). Again, we covered this in detail in our Daniel study.

So, from that time, when the decree was given, exactly 173,880 days later Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey—the triumphant entry. It was the first time that He allowed Himself to be declared to be the Messiah, the Son of David. Before this He would not allow anyone to declare this, He wanted to keep it quiet. He refused to let people declare Him to be the King. But when the time was right, He allowed Himself to be declared to be the Messiah, the Son of David, because He knew that it was the exact day that Daniel had predicted the Messiah would come to be anointed. And it happened, exactly, precisely, on the very day that Daniel predicted that it would occur.

### **What happened after Jesus fulfilled the 173,880 days?**

Daniel 9:26 NKJV

"And **after** the sixty-two weeks

**Messiah shall be cut off**, but not for Himself;

And the people of the prince who is to come

Shall **destroy the city and the sanctuary**.

The end of it shall be with a flood,

And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

Now, critical to understanding this is where it says in verse 26, "**after**." "**After**" what? *After Messiah the prince comes*. So we go 173,880 days, and then **after** the end of those days, two very important historical events would take place.

1. Messiah would be cut off (killed), but not for Himself—Jesus was crucified seven days later on Passover.
2. The city of Jerusalem and the sanctuary (temple) would be destroyed (which happened 70 a.d.)

So firstly, the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing. "Cut off" in Hebrew is an idiom for being put to death, being executed. So it says that sometime **after** that exact time period which finished when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, the Messiah would be executed. We know that this happened one week after Jesus marched into Jerusalem, fulfilling the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 which foretold that Jesus would come in riding on a donkey.

Now, the second event is what is important. It says in verse 26,

Daniel 9:26 NKJV

"And **after** the sixty-two weeks

Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;

And the people of the prince who is to come

**Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary**.

The end of it shall be with a flood,

And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

Okay, when was Jerusalem and the temple destroyed? In 70 a.d., 37 years after the crucifixion. That tells us something very important. *If the time clock of allotted time for the nation of Israel had kept running or ticking (only the last 7 years of the 490 years remaining), it would have been over long before 70AD, correct? So it tells us that the “after” means that the clock was stopped.* And after the clock is stopped these two events take place, the crucifixion a week later, and the destruction of the temple 37 years later in 70 a.d.. *This shows that the Israel clock was stopped with seven years remaining on it.*

There is also a big time gap between the Messiah being executed and Jerusalem and the temple being destroyed and what we read in verse 27, where it says.

Daniel 9:27 NKJV

**Then** he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week (here is our lost or missing sabbatical year or set of 7 years;

The “**then**” is after or follows the two historical events described in v 26. *The clock starts ticking again. The last seven years begins. The clock will stop ticking at the end of the 7 year tribulation because that will be the end of the 490 years, the seventy sevens of time allotted to Israel to fulfil her purpose.*

Remember that in the Hebrew Calendar they had weeks of days and weeks of years. We go by weeks of days, but decades of years. The Jews counted their years by sevens, we count them by 10's. But this is talking about Sabbatical years, or groups of 7 years. So when the Messiah came, He came right on time. This is why when Jesus came into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, riding on the donkey, He burst into tears. When He looked at Jerusalem He said in:

Luke 19:41-44 NKJV

<sup>41</sup> Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, <sup>42</sup> saying, “If you had known, even you, **especially in this your day**, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup> *For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,* <sup>44</sup> *and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”*

Notice that Jesus rebukes them for not understanding Daniel's prophecy. “**because you did not know the time of your visitation.**” In other words, the time, the very day, that the Messiah would come.

Notice also what Jesus says in verses 43-44, “<sup>43</sup> *For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,* <sup>44</sup> *and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another,...*”

What does that remind you of?

Daniel 9:26

And the people of the prince who is to come  
Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

A few days after the triumphant entry Jesus said in:

Matthew 23:37-39 NKJV

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! <sup>38</sup> See! Your house is left to you desolate; <sup>39</sup> **for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’**”

Again these verses show that there will be a break between the end of the 69th week and the 70th week. It's not until Jesus comes back again that the Jews being protected by God at Petra will say, “**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**”  
So what do we have in the mean time? The church age, the age of grace.

Romans 11:25 NLT paraphrase

I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts (have been blinded), but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ (the end of the 7 year Tribulation).

Daniel 9:27 NKJV

**Then he** shall confirm a covenant with many for **one week**;

So this is still a part of the seventy sevens prophecy. The Nation of Israel still has one seven or one set of 7 years allotted to them to finish the purposes for which God created them as a nation. Now they fulfilled many of them, but the one big purpose that the nation of Israel, the Jews or Israelites, never completed, was to evangelise the world. And it says that last week will begin when **he** confirms a covenant with many for one week or 7 years.

Now we need to ask who “**he**” is. When we study any language, to find out of whom a pronoun is speaking, you have to go back to the last person in context that is named. Who is the last person in the context, before this, that was named? The prince that would come in verse 26. It says:

Daniel 9:26 NKJV

“And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.”

It was the Roman armies that destroyed Jerusalem, so the prince who is to come, the antichrist, must be of Roman descent.

Verse 27 continues:

But in the middle of the week (7 years)

He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

What does this tell us? To put an end to sacrifice and offering, what do you need to have? A temple.

And then it says:

And on the wing of abominations shall be one (the prince who is to come) who makes desolate (causes desolation),

Even until the consummation (complete destruction), which is determined (decreed),

Is poured out on the desolate (the one who makes desolate).”

Now, Daniel 9:27 divides up this last 7 year period, this final week, Daniel's 70th week, the seven year Tribulation, into two halves. But there is probably more scripture about this last 7 years concerning Israel (The 7 year tribulation), than any other similar time period in the bible. Because what happens in those 7 years is so important, that we have tremendous numbers of prophecy about it.

So here we have it. First the church, which is every living believer is going to be snatched out of the world. Then right after the rapture, the antichrist will be revealed or unveiled. And He will immediately mesmerise the world. I think that the world will be going through really tough times and will be desperate for a strong leader who can solve their problems. Now the good thing is that I've read the end of the book and we aren't going to be here!

Now, this here then, is going to be, the fulfilment of why God created Israel. They are going to accomplish what God created them for, to be a light to the gentiles. They are going to do in seven years, what they haven't done in their whole history. They are going to evangelise the whole world, led by 144,000 Jewish Billy Grahams who are going to be specially anointed and specially gifted. We'll see that as we go through chapter 7. So it really important that we understand that that is one of the things that the Israelites have not fulfilled and that they are there in the 7 year Tribulation to do it.

The second reason is that God is going to use these terrible events that take place during the 7 years to so drive the Israelites to despair, that they will finally look up and see who their real messiah is. Zechariah 12:10 says:

Zechariah 12:10 NLT paraphrase

"Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem. They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him as for a firstborn son who has died.

It's all prewritten. When Jesus comes back to earth with the church, the Jews will see Jesus wounds and they will feel personally responsible for them. During this time there will be a tremendous number that will be brought to faith in Jesus as their Messiah.

I'm spending a lot of time on this because if you get this right, at this point, then you will understand the rest of the book of revelation. This is the basic framework that the book of Revelation fits into.

## Summary of Daniel's Seventy Seven's Prophecy

1. 490 years (70 lots of 7 years) are decreed for the nation of Israel (Daniel 9:24).
2. **From... Until...** The first 69 sevens (69 x 7 = 483 years) started when the decree in Nehemiah 2 to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, and finished when Jesus declared Himself to be the Messiah when he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, exactly 173,880 days after the decree (Daniel 9:25).
3. **After...** the 483 years were up, two events were predicted to happen (Daniel 9:26): Messiah would be cut off (killed) (which happened a week later), and Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed (which happened 37 years later in 70 a.d.). This proves that the "Israel clock has stopped ticking" for now until...
4. **Then...** Daniel 9:27 tells us that the antichrist (the Roman prince from v 26) will confirm a covenant for **one week**, the last set of seven years, but, he would break his covenant after half way or 3.5 years, and defile the newly built Jewish temple. Obviously, this hasn't happened yet, so the 7 year Tribulation is still future.

So now we understand that the 7 year Tribulation is actually Daniel's 70th week, or the last 7 years of the 490 years determined for Israel and Jerusalem.

## Does Revelation confirm the 7 year Tribulation?

Now let's confirm that it's going to be seven years according to the book of Revelation. Let's see if it lines up with Daniel 9:24-27. First we will look at Revelation 11:2-3. Now I only want to look at two specific points. The other details we will get into later.

Revelation 11:2-3 NKJV

But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for **forty-two months (three and a half years)**. <sup>3</sup> And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy **one thousand two hundred and sixty days (three and a half 360 day years)**, clothed in sackcloth."

How long is 42 months? Three and a half years

How long is 1,260 days? Three and a half years (each year being 360 days)

*So you see the 42 months, when the gentiles are going to tread Jerusalem underfoot is the second half of Daniel's 70th week, the last 7 year time period allotted to Israel. The 1,260 days that the prophets preach in Jerusalem will be the first half.*

So here we have the seven year Tribulation described in the book of Revelation, also mirroring Daniel 9:27 as it has also has the 7 year Tribulation split into two halves.

## What happens right after the Tribulation when Jesus returns with His church?

Now, I'm going to read something that has mystified interpreters of prophecy for a long time. Here is the conclusion to the prophecies that Daniel was given.

Daniel 12:11-12 NKJV

<sup>11</sup> "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be **one thousand two hundred and ninety days**.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the **one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days**.

What do you think that is? Notice that we are talking about the second half of the tribulation here. Because remember that back in Daniel 9:27 it says that the antichrist would cause sacrifice and offering to cease in the middle of the seven years. So "*from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be **one thousand two hundred and ninety days***" (Dan 12:11).

So why is 30 days added? Well, the most logical or scriptural conclusion is that when Jesus comes back at the end of the 1260 days, at the end of the 7 years, the first thing that He will do is gather all gentiles together—Matthew 25, *the sheep and goat judgement*. And in Ezekiel 20:34-38 it says that Jesus will gather all the Israelites together. The gentiles who survived the tribulation will be gathered in the valley just outside of Jerusalem. The Jews who survived the tribulation will be gathered, most likely out by Mt Sinai, and both are going to be judged. The gentiles in one place and the Israelites in another. It's segregation, meaning that there is a separation of Jews and gentiles, which is strong evidence that the church will not be there during the

tribulation period. Why? Because if the church were there, there would be no difference between the Jew and the gentile. We talked about this in more detail a few weeks ago when we covered Revelation 4:1-2, the Rapture of the church part 1.

Now, I believe that it is the gathering of all these people in the 30 days that is after that 7 years (the 1,260 days) takes place, when the Messiah Jesus comes back. Then it says in Daniel 12:12 “Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the **one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.**” And I believe that the blessing here refers to all those who have gone through the 45 day judgement, and it has shown that they are believers. So when the judgements at the end of the tribulation period are over, all who are survivors and believers will go into the 1,000 Millennium or Kingdom, which is that last age or dispensation, the one at the end of the chart, the 1,000 years.

Now turn to Matthew 24:15-22. This is Jesus speaking and predicting the events that would precede His return.

## **The Abomination of Desolation explained**

Matthew 24:15-22 NKJV

“Therefore when you see the ‘**abomination of desolation,**’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (**whoever reads, let him understand**), <sup>16</sup> “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. <sup>18</sup> And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. <sup>19</sup> But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! <sup>20</sup> And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. <sup>22</sup> And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake (those who believe during this time) those days will be shortened.

v 15 **whoever reads, let him understand:** It’s rare for the Holy Spirit to put this kind of post script in the scriptures. It’s like saying, “now hear this!” or “don’t miss this!”

The **abomination of desolation** is explained by Paul in:

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 NKJV

Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* [the Tribulation] unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

So basically, Paul is saying that the man of lawlessness, the son of perdition or destruction, will sit in the temple of God and claim to be God. That is the abomination that causes desolation. This is a technical Jewish phrase, and it’s only happened a couple of times in history, and it means to desecrate the Holy of Holies. So, that will be the ultimate desecration, when the Roman antichrist declares himself to be God in the Holy of Holies in the temple. Daniel said in Daniel 9:27 that this event will happen during the mid point of the final week or 7 year period.

## Why we know the 7 year Tribulation is still future

***So all this to point out that this prophecy, the abomination of desolation, predicted by Daniel, Jesus and Paul, hasn't happened yet. Therefore, the tribulation, the last week or seven year period of Daniel 9:27 has to be future.*** Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians around AD 52, and no one since that time has fulfilled this prophecy. Also, Daniel 9:26 tells us that the city of Jerusalem and the temple had to be destroyed before the **then** of Daniel 9:27, so it couldn't have happened before 70 a.d..

So what has to happen for this to be fulfilled? Well, the the Jews need to become a nation again—that's already done. Then, the temple needs to be rebuilt in its original location, and the sacrificial system restarted. As we read earlier, Revelation 11 tells us that the temple of God will be rebuilt during the last week or 7 years of the 490 years allotted to Israel in Daniel 9:24, "seventy sevens are determined for your people."

Again, why is this so important to get right? There are some who say that the tribulation happened at the time of Christ. There are some who say that the tribulation was fulfilled or happened during the time of the Roman empire. There are some who say that the tribulation and associated prophecies are only allegorical or not real. But I hope that you now see that those positions don't fit with scripture. 69 of the 70 weeks or sabbatical years have passed (that is 483 years)—up to when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey. However, the 70th week or last 7 years can't have been fulfilled yet because the abomination of desolation has not happened yet, ***and all prophecy must be fulfilled literally.*** Yes some prophecy contains symbols, but those symbols have a real and literal meaning. Does that make sense? Revelation chapters 4-22 are yet future and they must come to pass because God has said it will. We are currently in chapters 2-3, the church age, which is rapidly drawing to a close. Let's finish by going through the questions we started with.

1. What scriptures refer to the tribulation? **Daniel 9:24-27**
2. How long is the tribulation? **7 years**
3. When does the tribulation occur? **Just after the Rapture**
4. What does it have to do with Israel? **It is all about Israel, them being a light to the world and finally recognising Jesus as their Messiah.**
5. what are the main prophecies that must be fulfilled during this seven year period? **The confirming of a seven year treaty, followed by the breaking of the treaty when the antichrist defiles the temple—the Abomination of Desolation.**