

New Features on Prewrathministries.org

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What Others Are Saying

Recently, I was visiting a Christian web forum where they were discussing the pre-wrath view of the end times. I was struck by the interpretations of the prewrath view and some of the assumptions that were made about it. I would like to address a couple of those assumptions.

First, the prewrath view is attributed to be a modification of the post-trib view. Last time I dealt with some who see it as an adaptation of the mid-trib view. The truth is that both mid-trib and post-trib views neglect the scripture where Jesus says no man will know the day and the hour. Furthermore, the prewrath view sees the rapture as happening at an undisclosed time somewhere between the midpoint and the end of the 70th week of Daniel. It will definitely happen **before** God begins to pour out His wrath in judgment of the world.

The second issue I found was that it was stated that the prewrath view, like the pre-trib view, has only been around since the late 1800's. Although the name "prewrath" is relatively new, the teaching of the prewrath view is as old as the church. I actually show on the website at <http://prewrathministries.org/faq.html> under the question "How new is the prewrath view?" that the early church fathers wrote on the end of time including the elements of the prewrath view. Matt 24 IS the prewrath view. So, rather than something new, it is only the name that is new.

Feature Article: The Two Witnesses... When?

By Elbert Charpie

I had someone write in about the timing of the two witnesses described in Rev. 11, and so I wanted to dedicate this issue to understanding when the two witnesses will appear. The scripture that describes the ministry of the two witnesses is as follows:

Rev 11:3 (NIV) And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. 6 These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want. 7 Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. 8 Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. 9 For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. 10 The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. 11 But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. 12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. 13 At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon. 15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

We are told that the two witnesses will prophesy for 1,260 days or 3 ½ years. We know that the 70th week of Daniel (7 years) is divided in half and much is said about the final 3 ½ years. But the question is: **when do the two witnesses appear?** There are only two choices. Some have placed them appearing at the beginning of the 70th week – which would mean their ministry culminates at the mid-point, the other choice is that they appear at the mid-point of the 70th week and their ministry finishes at the end of the 70th week.

If they appear at the beginning of the 70th week, then they will be killed at the mid-point - and I am wrong in what I propose in my study that they are killed at the beginning of the 30 days after the 70th week. And I cannot say that it is impossible for it to happen this way.

However, I believe the overwhelming evidence is that these two witnesses will appear at the mid-point for the following reasons:

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- 1) The context of the death of the two witnesses in the book of Revelation is between the 6th and 7th trumpets. Furthermore, the scripture delineates this time by three “woes” that surround the 5th, 6th, and 7th trumpets. The Antichrist is not revealed until the midpoint which would make these latter trumpet judgments happen at the mid-point. This means that the first 4 judgments would have to happen **before** the Antichrist is revealed.
- 2) The beast that comes from the Abyss attacks them. The Antichrist is not revealed until the mid-point of the 70th week. Although it is possible he is revealed and immediately kills the two witnesses – this seems improbable.
- 3) Every other passage that deals with the 1,260 days or 3 ½ year period obviously points to the second half of the 70th week. If this passage deals with the first half – it is the only passage that does. The scripture basically ignores the first half of the 70th week because this is covered by the seals being opened.
- 4) The scripture says in Rev 11:10, “The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.” The witnesses are blamed for tormenting “those who live on the earth.” The judgment of the world – God’s wrath – does not begin until the 2nd half of the 70th week.
- 5) The phrase “inhabitants of the earth” is literally “the ones dwelling on the earth” or “earth dwellers.” It is a technical term that refers to those left on the earth after God has removed his people.
- 6) Verse 15 says, “The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: ‘The kingdom of the world **has become** the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.’” The 7th trumpet immediately follows the death of the two witnesses and at that point God reclaims the rule of the earth – this does not happen at the mid-point, therefore, the death of the witnesses has to happen after the 70th week is over. We do know that in Daniel 9:27 we are told...

Dan 9:27 (NIV) He will confirm a covenant with many for one `seven.' **In the middle of the `seven'** he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, **until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.**" We are then told in Dan 12:11...

Dan 12:11 (NIV) "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, **there will be 1,290 days.** Therefore, 30 days after the 70th week (1260 + 30 days = 1290 days) the Antichrist will be destroyed. Therefore, the world does not become “the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ” until the 70th week is over.

For these reasons I believe the two witnesses appear at the mid-point rather than the beginning of the 70th week. Therefore, they will be killed at the end of their testimony (1260 days) which would make it the first day of the 30 day period following the 70th week.

We need to understand that much of the scriptural focus of the last days centers around the second half of the 70th week of Daniel. Even in Daniel 9:27 where the 70th week is described it skips immediately to the mid-point:

*Daniel 9:27 (NIV) He will confirm a covenant with many for one `seven.' **In the middle** of the `seven' he will..."*

Furthermore, Jesus himself said:

*Matt 24:15 (NIV) "So when you see standing in the holy place `the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand--
16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

The event He said to look for is the “Abomination of Desolation” which doesn’t happen until the mid-point of the 70th week.

Understanding this makes it all the more clear that the testimony of the two witnesses happens during the focal time that surrounds the coming of the Day of the Lord which is the second half of the 70th week of Daniel.