

Session 2

Session 1 ended with the explanation of how the three views of the millennium reflect our understanding of interpreting scripture. One can approach scripture from an allegorical viewpoint, or a literal - face-value approach. This study takes a literal or face-value approach to interpretation. There are five keys to a face-value hermeneutic or interpretation.



The first is to accept the meaning of scripture in its most normal, natural, and customary sense. Number two is to take scripture in context. Any individual or group of individual scriptures can be made to say almost anything. The setting and ideas of the passages surrounding the scripture must be taken into account. Number three: compare scripture with scripture.

Someone once said that scripture is its own best interpreter. Number four: before truth is realized, all seeming scriptural contradictions must be harmonized. If the proper interpretation is found in a scriptural passage, it will harmonize with all other scripture. Number five: watch for near/far prophetic applications in scripture.

Matthew quoted Isaiah's prophecy to King Ahaz...

Isaiah 7:14 (NIV) Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. **15** He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. **16** But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

This prophecy was given to Ahaz and was fulfilled in his time. But Matthew quotes this prophecy...

Matt 1:22 (NIV) All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: **23** "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel-which means, "God with us."

There were several hundred years between these two fulfillments. Therefore, it was fulfilled in the near future in King Ahaz's time and in the far future when Jesus was born. This is a common occurrence in Biblical prophecy. So, the fifth key is to watch for possible near/far applications to prophecy.

Understanding Prophecy

We start with a proper scriptural interpretation (Hermeneutic), and then we must understand that end-time prophecy revolves around five concepts as depicted in the pillars in the illustration below:



These five concepts are 1) Daniel's 70th Week, 2) The Salvation of Israel, 3) The Rapture, 4) God reclaiming rule of this earth, and 5) The Battle of Armageddon. These are five prophetic markers that delineate end-time events.

Daniel's 70th Week

The first pillar of end-time understanding is Daniel's 70th Week. This week is described in Daniel.

Dan 9:24 (NIV) Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

These "sevens" are seven years. The KJV called them "weeks" of years. Therefore there are 70 sets of seven years prophesied. Daniel tells us that the 70 "sevens" are decreed regarding two things: 1) your people (Israel) and 2) your holy city (Jerusalem). Then he lists six goals for establishing this period of years.

1. To finish transgression
2. To put an end to sin
3. To atone for wickedness
4. To bring in everlasting righteousness
5. To seal up vision and prophecy
6. To anoint the Most Holy

In the next verse he elaborates on this 70 "sevens" of years...

Daniel 9:25 (NIV) Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

- (7 sevens + 62 sevens = 69 sevens)
- 69 X 7 years = 483 Years

In 445 B.C. Artaxerxes Longimanus issued a decree to rebuild Jerusalem (cf. Neh 2:5). From 445 B.C. to Jesus Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem = 483 years exactly! Daniel continues...

Daniel 9:26 (NIV) *After the sixty-two 'sevens,'* the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. **27** 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. (emphasis added)

- 69 sevens + 1 seven = 70th seven = Daniel's 70th Week

We are told in verse 27 that the "ruler who will come" will confirm a covenant with many for one "seven." Most agree that this "ruler" refers to the Antichrist. Therefore the 70th Week of Daniel will begin by the signing of a seven-year covenant by Antichrist with many. Most also agree that this will be a covenant of peace between Israel and the "many." Isaiah writes of this covenant.

Isaiah 28:15 (NIV) You boast, "We have entered into a covenant with death, with the grave we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place."

"69 Weeks are past, and only the 70th week remains before 'everlasting righteousness' can be brought to Israel and the most Holy One will be anointed, reclaiming rule over the earth from Satan." (Van Kampen, Robert, The Sign, 1999, page 91).

Daniel's seventieth week is also referred to in the book of Revelation. Although the prophecies do not explicitly mention Daniel the correlation is unmistakable.

Rev 13:4-5 (NIV) Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?" **{5}** The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

- 42 months = 3 ½ years
- 3 ½ years = “the middle of the seven”

Rev 12:6 (NIV) The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

- 1,260 Days = 3½ Years

Rev 12:14 (NIV) The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.

- Time (1 Year) + Times (2 Years) + ½ Time (½ Year) = 3½ Years

The prophet Daniel elaborates further on these time periods...

Dan 12:11-12 (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. **{12}** Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.

- 1,290 days = [1,260 days + 30 days]
- 1,335 days = [1,290 days + 45 days]

Daniel prophesies of “the middle of the seven” which is 3½ years or 1,260 days. Then at the end of the book he mentions that from time that the Abomination of Desolation is set up - which is at the “middle of the seven,” there will be 1,290 days - this is 30 days more than the 3½ years. Then he says that “blessed is the one” who reaches the 1,335 days. This is 45 more days than the 1,260 + 30. Each of these periods have a significant point of reference. Rev. 13:5 tells us that he will rule for 42 months or 1,260 days. Daniel 9:27 states the Abomination of Desolation will be set up until the “end is poured out on him.” and last, we are told that one is blessed if he reaches the 1,335 days. Therefore, we can put together this picture. The Antichrist will rule until the end of the 70th week or 1,260 days. Thirty days later he will meet his “end.” The book of Revelation tells us that his “end” will be at Armageddon. The next event will be the establishment of the millennial reign of Christ which we can surmise will happen 45 days later. This is depicted in the chart below...



The final event that takes place during Daniel's 70th week is the salvation of all Israel. The Apostle Paul states...

Rom 11:25-28 (NIV) I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. **{26} And so all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. **{27}** And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins. (emphasis added)

The prophet Zechariah records that by the this time there will only be 1/3 of Israel left!

Zechariah 13:8-9 (NIV) "In the whole land," declares the LORD, "two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. **{9}** This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'"

Now we can modify our chart to include this last event of Daniel's 70th Week...



We are left with two time periods that need a more detailed explanation - that is the 30 day period and 45 day period following the 70th Week.



These periods will be covered in detail in the next two sessions, but we can classify them as follows:

- 30 Days = Reclamation Period
- 45 Days = Restoration Period