

RATIONALE FOR INTERPRETING THE TEMPORAL REFERENCES IN REVELATION 12 LITERALLY

Daniel 9:26-27

"Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

- ▶ Each "week" of Daniel 9:24-27 is seven years.
- ▶ The one making the covenant with Israel in Dan 9:27 is the Antichrist ("the prince who is to come").
- ▶ The covenant is for "one week," hence seven years.
- ▶ The covenant is broken at the middle of the week (i.e., after 3 1/2 years), following which he "makes desolate" for the remainder of the week (the final 3 1/2 years).
- ▶ The Antichrist in Dan 9 (who comes from the Roman people that destroy the city) is the same as the "little horn" of Dan 7 who comes from the 4th beast (the Roman Empire).

Daniel 7:24-25

". . . and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. And 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."

- ▶ The Antichrist has power and wears down the saints for "time, times, and half a time."
- ▶ Based on the parallel of Dan 7 with Dan 9, the phrase "time, times, and half a time" is equal to 3 1/2 years.

Revelation 13:5

"And there was given to him [the Beast] a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him."

- ▶ The Beast of Rev 13 (= Antichrist) is given authority for "forty-two months" (Rev 13:5).
- ▶ This parallels the information about the Antichrist in Daniel 7 and 9 (hence, 42 months = "time, times, and half a time" = 3 1/2 years).

Revelation 12:14

"And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, in order that she might 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."

- ▶ The reference to "time, times, and half a time" in Rev 12:14 means the same, i.e., 3 1/2 years (note the connection of Rev 13 with Rev 12: the Dragon that persecutes the woman is the same that gives the Beast his authority [Rev 13:4]).
- ▶ Rev 12:14 has in view the same situation as Rev 12:6 (woman fleeing into the wilderness)
- ▶ CONCLUSION: The 1260 days of Rev 12:6 are literal (and = 3 1/2 years).