

Heritage Baptist Bible Church

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Bible Questions & Answers

I Am Confused About the "Days" of Daniel 12:11,12? #0201

Question

My question is concerning Daniel 12:11,12. What are these "days" referring to? Commentaries don't agree with each other and neither do pastors. Would you please take time and give me your explanation of these verses.

Answer

This is an excellent question and, by far, not the easiest to answer. There is another giving of time recorded in Daniel 8:13,14, which also applies to the same period of time as Daniel 12:11,12. From the context, all have to do with the Tribulation Period of seven (7) years following the Rapture. This seven years is known as the "70th Week of Daniel" (Daniel 9:24-27). And also as a "Time of Jacob's (Israel's) Troubles" (Jeremiah 30:7,11).

The following is a brief outline concerning the number of days in reference to the Tribulation Period, as recorded in the book of Daniel. These references are found in Daniel 8:11-14 and Daniel 12:11,12. We do know that the Anti-Christ makes a covenant with Israel in the first part of the Tribulation, allowing them to worship in their temple and offering them perpetual peace (Daniel 9:27). In the middle of the Tribulation, after 3 ½ years, he breaks the covenant with Israel and seeks to destroy them all. This is the "Abomination of Desolation" spoken of in Daniel 9:27 and amplified upon in Matthew 24:15-22. The verses we are reviewing in Daniel, Chapter 8 and Chapter 12, are in reference to the last 3 ½ years of the 7-year Tribulation Period, known as the GREAT Tribulation. The following diagram and explanation should illuminate these verses in their proper context.

In Daniel 12:11 we are told that "...*from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away...*" Since the daily sacrifice is taken away by the Anti-Christ in the middle of the Tribulation, i.e. after 3 ½ years, we know these scriptures are dealing with the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation. The same is true in Daniel 8:13 "... *concerning the daily sacrifice and the host (Israel) to be trodden underfoot.*" In Daniel 8:14 we find the answer to verse 13, by recording a number of days concerning the last half of the Tribulation Period. Here is the record: "*And he said unto me, unto two thousand and three hundred days, then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.*"

The sanctuary will be cleansed by the coming of Christ at the end of the Tribulation. After the Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel in the middle of the tribulation, he goes into the temple and declares himself to be God (II Thessalonians 2: 3 , 4) and demands all to worship him by taking his mark, "666" (Revelation 13:16-18). When Christ returns, He will chain Satan for 1,000 years, cleansing the temple of Satan's domain and power (Revelation 20:2,3). Christ will

then sit on the throne and reign as King of Kings for a 1,000 years, after which He will create new heavens and a new earth.

Notice, in verse 14 the word "days" does not appear in the old manuscripts. The Hebrew reads "*evenings and mornings*", instead of "*days*." This is referring to the sacrifices offered--one in the evening and one in the morning (Exodus 29:39). The evening and morning sacrifices constituted one day. Therefore, having 2,300 evening and morning sacrifices would constitute 1150 days, which would equate to 3 years, 2 months, and 10 days. Remember, in prophecy we always figure 30 days to a month--as in the Jewish calendar.

Now, let us go to Daniel 12:11,12...

(Verse 11). "*And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY days.*" (3 years and 7 months.)

(Verse 12). "*Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED and FIVE and THIRTY days.*" (3 years, 8 months, 15 days)

1. Here are the three sets of figures Daniel gives:

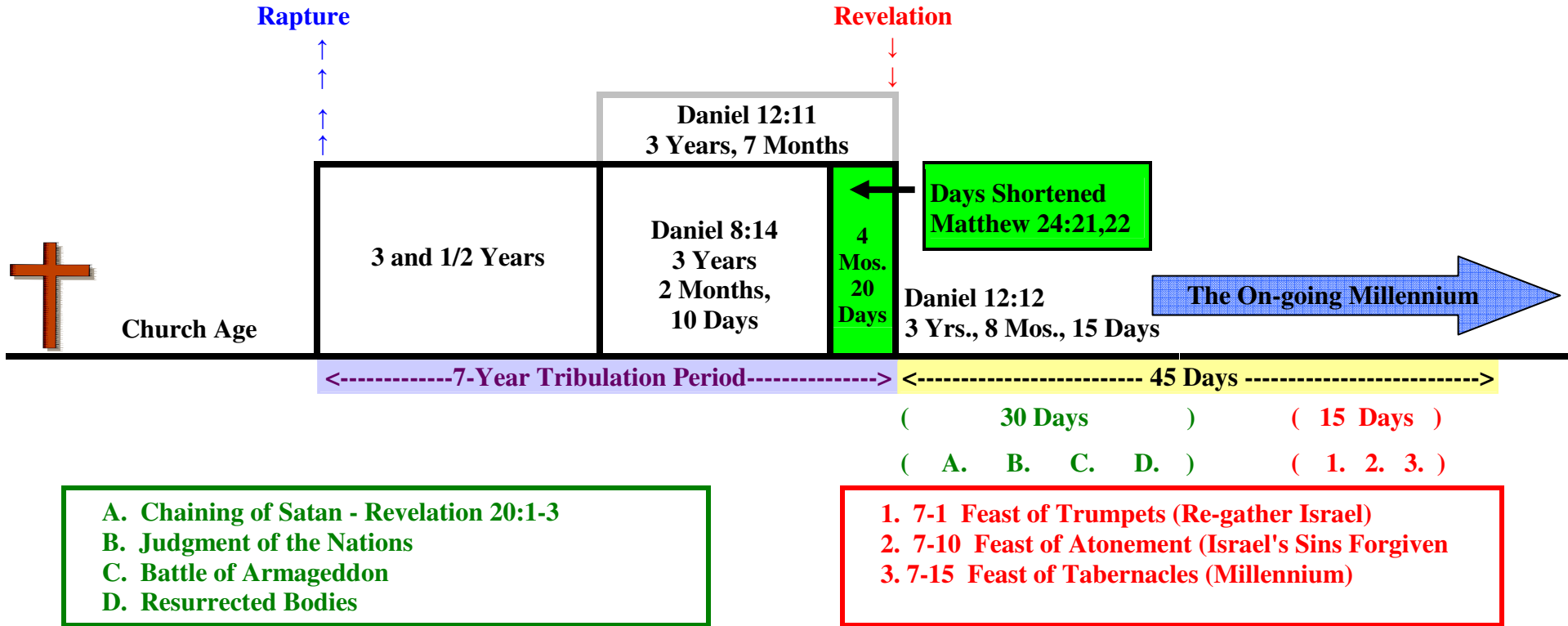
Daniel 8:14 - 3 yrs., 2 months., 10 days

Daniel 12:11 - 3yrs., 7 months.

Daniel 12:12 - 3 yrs., 8 months, 15 days

Since all figures are referring to the last half of the Tribulation Period, there must be a reason why they all differ. If we subtract 3 years, 2 months, and 10 days in Daniel 8:14 from 3 years, 7 months in Daniel 12:11, this would account for the time shortened as recorded in Matthew 24:21,22, since Matthew is speaking of the same period of time (the Tribulation Period) as Daniel. On the next page is a chart which should be helpful.

CHART THE SHORTENING OF THE DAYS OF THE TRIBULATION



If we compare Verse 11 (3 years, 7 months) with Verse 12 (3 years, 8 months, 15 days) of Daniel, Chapter 12, we see an extended length of time of 45 days. This can be accounted for, as there are several things that transpire at Christ's return to establish the Kingdom. Now, let us go to the diagram where it shows where we see the 45 days. Under that we see 30 days with the letters A, B, C, D and the 15 days with the numbers 1, 2, 3.

2. 30 days with letters A, B, C, D.

A. Chaining of Satan - Revelation 20:1-3.

B. Judgment of Nations - Matthew 24:30, 40, 41; Matthew 25:31-34, 41; II Timothy 4:1.

C. Battle of Armageddon - Revelation 14:14-20; Revelation 16:10-16; Joel 3:1-4,9-16 ;

D. Resurrected Bodies - Daniel 12:2; John 6:39,40; Revelation 20:4,6.

3. 15 Days with numbers 1, 2, 3.

(1). 7-1: Feast of Trumpets (Re-gather Israel). Israel was to sound the trumpets: Leviticus 23:23-25.

a. To assemble the people (Numbers 10:2,3) with 2 trumpets.

b. To gather the leaders of Israel (Numbers 10:4) with 1 trumpet.

c. To "Forward March!" (Numbers 10:5,6) .

d. To go to war (Numbers 10:9).

e. Blown at the solemn feasts (Numbers 10:10).

In Matthew 24: 30,31, the sound of a trumpet will be heard to summon the saved in Heaven (Those awaiting their resurrected bodies) to accompany His return. The saved of Israel will be re-gathered, those in Heaven and those alive at the end of the Tribulation and the Kingdom will be established. Israel's land--promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, will now be occupied and enjoyed. (Ezekiel, Chapter 48).

(2). 7-10: Feast of Atonement (Israel's sins forgiven.) Romans 11:26,27; Leviticus 23:27.

During the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation, two-thirds of all the Jews in Palestine will be killed by Anti-Christ (Zechariah 13:8,9). In the rest of the world, outside of Palestine, only one out of ten Jews will survive. (Isaiah 6:11-13 and Amos 5:1-3).

After all of Israel's persecution for disobedience, at last God says "*They shall call on*

my name, and I will hear them. I will say, It is my people; and they shall say, The LORD is my God."

(3). 7-15: Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) --The Millennium. (Leviticus 23:33-44; Zechariah 14:16-19).

This feast was celebrated as a remembrance of Israel's wilderness journey and God's miraculous protection and preservation for 40 years. It will be observed throughout the Millennium as a reminder of God's providential care, protection and preservation since they were formed as God's chosen people. Their unfaithfulness throughout the millenniums could never make God become unfaithful to His promises concerning them.

4. In summary:

(1). The Tribulation will be cut short by 4 months, and 20 days. In Daniel 12:11, we have 3 years, 7 months. In Daniel 8:14, we have 3 years, 2 months, 10 days. Since both are in reference to the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation Period, we can see a difference of 4 months, 20 days; thus, illuminating Matthew 24:21,22.

"For then shall be (the) great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." (Verse 21).

"And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake (i.e., the saved of Israel) these days shall be shortened." (Verse 22).

(2). Comparing Daniel 12:11 with Daniel 12:12, we have the difference of 45 days or a month and a half. The reason we divided this into 30 days and 15 days is because of the three feast days; which, prophetically, have not yet been fulfilled whereas the first four have. These seven feasts as recorded in Leviticus 23 and etc., are types of future fulfillments.

a. "The Feast of Passover" (Exodus 12) is fulfilled in Christ's crucifixion. I Corinthians 5:7 states *"For even Christ our passover is sanctified for us."*

b. "The Feast of Unleavened Bread," fulfilled in Christ's sinless life and enjoins the Christian to lead a clean life as stated in I Corinthians 5:7a, *"Purge out therefore the old leaven that ye may be a new lump..."*

c. "The Feast of First Fruits" is fulfilled by Christ's resurrection as stated in I Corinthians 15:20,23. *"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept."*

d. "The Feast of Pentecost," fulfilled fifty days after Christ's resurrection by the giving of the Holy Spirit. "Pentecost" means fifty, as the Holy Spirit came exactly as promised—fifty days after His resurrection. (Acts 1:3,4),

This, therefore, leaves the last three feasts of “Trumpets,” “Atonement,” and “Tabernacles” to be fulfilled in type, as shown on our diagram. These three feasts cover a period of 15 days. The “Feast of Trumpets” beginning the 1st day of the 7th month (Leviticus 23:23-25); “The Feast of Atonement” beginning the 7th month on the 10th day (Leviticus 23:27); and the “Feast of Tabernacles” beginning on the 15th day of the 7th month, making a total of 15 days. “The Feast of Tabernacles” will continue on into and throughout the Millennium (Zechariah 14:16-19).

(3). The remaining 30 days will be occupied with the Old Testament Saints receiving their resurrected bodies; Christ chaining Satan for a 1,000 years; Christ victorious in the Armageddon battle; and Christ judging the Nations in preparation for His Kingdom Reign

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