

The Revelation Chronologically Arranged

The Middle of the Week — Chapter 7

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The Middle of the Week

In chapter 7 we have come to the middle of the week when many great changes take place. In the first place "the living God" in mercy selects out of all Israel His special servants whom He will preserve alive to be His testimony through the awful ensuing three and one half years of "the great tribulation" and then enter safely into the kingdom which they have been heralding. (Then there in the kingdom they will find the fruit of their preaching, a host of Gentiles celebrating their deliverance in the new temple on the earth.)

It is in the middle of the week that Satan will be cast out of heaven onto the earth (12:9). Realizing that his time is short he will give full energy to his two chief instruments. The antichrist will be unmasked (2 Thes. 2:8), and then employ those who were formerly of Christendom to make an image of the Roman Beast and cause all who will not worship the image and the beast and Satan to be killed (13:14,15 and verse 4.) The other, The Roman beast, immediately throws off and destroys the religious woman that had been controlling it during the first three and one half years (chapter 17, and especially verse 16). She had become an intolerable encumbrance. Now, with the ten horns for the first time crowned (13:1), the beast, the world's invincible wonder, and Satan, become the objects of worship throughout the last three and one half years, "forty and two months" (13:4,5). It is unmistakably evident therefore that the woman can no longer be riding the beast during this black period, the great apostasy of universal blasphemy against God, (verse 6, also 16:9,11,21.)

At this very time Judaism is abolished by the Roman beast breaking his covenant with the Jews and putting an end to their sacrifice. Antichrist cooperates by enforcing the worship of the image, "the abomination of desolation" set up in the temple in Jerusalem

(Dan. 9:27; 12:11; Matt. 24:15.) Here in Matthew verse 21 shows that "the great tribulation" (lasting three and one half years) follows.

In this middle of the week we get heaven's three rejoicings: First, that Satan is cast out, (12:12); Second, that the harlot has been judged, (18:20); Third, that the marriage supper of the Lamb commences, (19:7).