

## Study notes on "42 Months" of Rev 13 and other places

42 months (13:5 beast's authority; 11:2 Gentiles trample the holy city), 1260 days (12:6 woman to desert; 11:3 the witnesses will prophesy), time, times and half a time (12:14 woman to desert)

Daniel 9:25ff

62 "sevens" and 7 "sevens" = 69 "sevens"

Usually interpreting "sevens" as years thus 483 years between decree to rebuild Jerusalem following Babylonian captivity and the coming of the Messiah.

Re. 483 years the NIV note on Ezra 7:11 is helpful: Many regard the letter of Artaxerxes I as the beginning point of Daniel's first 69 "sevens" (Da 9:24-27). Others regard the commission of Nehemiah by the same king as the starting point of this prophecy (Ne 1:1,11; 2:1-8). By using either a solar calendar with the former date (458 B.C.) or a lunar calendar with the latter date (445 B.C.), one can arrive remarkably close to the date of Jesus' public ministry."

Daniel 9:25 refers to a time when the saints will be handed over to a kingdom that will "devour the whole earth" and "oppress the saints".

The saints will be handed over to him for "time, times and half a time"

Daniel 9:24 "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."

Apparently the 70th 'seven' is spoken of in

9:27 "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 is decreed is poured out on him."

This is a difficult verse to know who "he" is.

In Matthew 24:15ff Jesus refers to this "abomination that causes desolation" and I think places it in the future during the tribulation period.

Because the first 69 'seven's are apparently years - each seven standing for seven years (69 sevens = 483 years - though this is debatable) it is reasonable to assume the 70th 'seven' refers to seven years. BUT it is very hard to make that work in Revelation.

No where in Rev are 3 1/2 and 3 1/2 ever added up to equal 7.

Instead in:

11:2 the 42 months (3 1/2 years) seems to refer to the tribulation.

11:2 the 1260 days (3 1/2 years) seems to refer to that same period of tribulation

13:5 the 42 months seem to refer to the tribulation activity of the beast.

But back in

12:6 the 1260 days seem to refer to the age in which we now live - the time after the "male child" is snatched up to God and the "woman" is taken care of by God.

12:14 the "woman" is nourished for "time, times and half a time" again apparently referring to

this present age.

But in Daniel 9:25 the "time, times and half a time" had referred to the tribulation period.

Thus:

"1260 days" is used of two periods of time, one of which has already been 2000 years while the other is apparently a relatively short period of time (tribulation).

"Time, times, and half a time" is used in Dan 9 as apparently referring to the tribulation period but in Rev 12:14 it refers to this present age.

Tentative conclusion:

The reference to 'seven's were not meant to be taken literally as years but as some "unknown to us" period of time.

The 3 1/2 (1260 days, 42 months, time,times and half a time) are all references to periods of incompleteness.

3 1/2 can indicate a long period of time (present age)

and it can refer to a relatively short period of time (tribulation).

A tribulation of literally 7 years is a theory but cannot be exegetically supported.

42 months is the traditional indication of a limited period of time for persecution of believers according to Mounce.