

GOD WILL BREAK THEM TO MAKE THEM

There are essentially 3 MAIN passages that speak of a coming unique UNPARALLELED time of suffering for Israel.

3 Parallel passages on this UNIQUE time of suffering:

1. Jer. 30:7
2. Dan. 12:1
3. Matt. 24:21 (cross ref. Mk. 13:19)

Continuing on from Dan. 12:1, Dan. 12:7 goes on to say that this unparalleled time will be for a **“time, times, and half a time”**, which is to say, for 3 and ½ years.

There are 7 texts that specifically deal with this last 3 and ½ years of the Tribulation Period, specifically called **“great tribulation”** (cf. Mt. 24:21). Three of them are found in the OT in Daniel, and four of them are found in the NT in the book of Revelation (see Dan. 7:25, 9:27, 12:7; Rev. 11:2, 12:6, 14, 13:5).

Daniel 7:25 (NKJV)

25 He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For **a time and times and half a time**.

This is speaking of the Antichrist. Remember that at the midway point of the Tribulation, he breaks his covenant with Israel and goes into the Jewish temple and declares himself to be God (cf. Dan. 9:27), as seen in 2 Thess. 2:4. His **“pompous words”** will defy the Most High God – YHWH, the God of Israel. Four times in Daniel 7 it emphasizes that Antichrist will speak **“pompous words”** (cf. Dan. 7:8, 11, 20, 25).

Antichrist will blaspheme God and he will persecute the saints, which in context especially has believing Jews in view. Since Antichrist can't get to God “personally”, he will take out his animosity on God's people – Israel!

He will seek to **“change times and law”**. This probably refers especially to the Jewish calendar and practices. The Jews have long celebrated various holidays and feasts on their religious calendar, starting with Passover. They have legally kept the Sabbath since the days of Moses. Antichrist will seek to change all of this. He will make illegal any reference to Biblical observances.

And, he will have his way with the saints for a time, and times, and half a time; which is to say, 3 and ½ years.

Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)

27 Then he [**Antichrist**] shall confirm a covenant with many [**Jews**] for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

Daniel 12:7 (NKJV)

7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.

The person in view here is either an angel or I think more likely, the pre-incarnate Christ (cf. Dan. 10:5-6). He raised both hands and swore that this unparalleled time of trouble mentioned in verse 1 will be for 3 and ½ years. The emphasis here is DOGMATIC.

Both Daniel and Revelation speak of this period and consistently mark it off in various ways as specifically being 3 and ½ years in duration. Thus, in a variety of ways, both testaments show that this climactic period is marked with exact precision. All of these passages refer to the same time period of oppression and trouble under Antichrist, which will ensue at the breaking of the 7-year covenant in the middle of the Tribulation, as mentioned in Dan. 9:27.

But, note that Dan. 12:7 says this unique period of distress will continue until ***“the power of the holy people has been completely shattered”***.

Today, Israel is back in the land in blindness. They are a PROUD people and are not broken. Today, most Jews are secular in orientation, and they think they have brought about their own restoration. They are not yet broken. They have not yet come to faith in Jesus as their Messiah.

However, the Jews more and more are feeling the pressure of mounting worldwide anti-Semitism.

In October of 2015 Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stood before the United Nations and rebuked them for being silent in the face of

Iran pursuing a nuclear bomb and threatening to wipe Israel off the face of the map. Netanyahu said, *“The response from every one of you here is utter silence. Deafening silence.”* And then, he stood and glared in silence at them for 45 seconds. It made the point that Israel is feeling very alone in the world.

This pressure will continue to mount until Antichrist will present himself as a Savior and protector of Israel. He will enter into a 7-year covenant with Israel, which Isa. 28:15 refers to as **“a covenant with death”**. After Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel and turns on them, Israel will have NO ALLIES at all in the world. It will be Israel against the world.

Zechariah 14:2 (NKJV)

2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Finally, with the entire world rallied against and attacking them, the POWER of Israel (the holy people) will be broken. They will have nowhere to look but UP. And when they look in faith to Jesus as their Messiah, He will come to their rescue (cf. Acts 3:19-21).

But this will not happen “nationally” until their POWER as a people is completely broken. God is going to break them to make them. He is going to humble them, so that they turn to Him. And so as Jer. 30:7 says, they shall be saved out of the WORST time of trouble ever experienced.

Jeremiah 30:7 (NKJV)

7 Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.