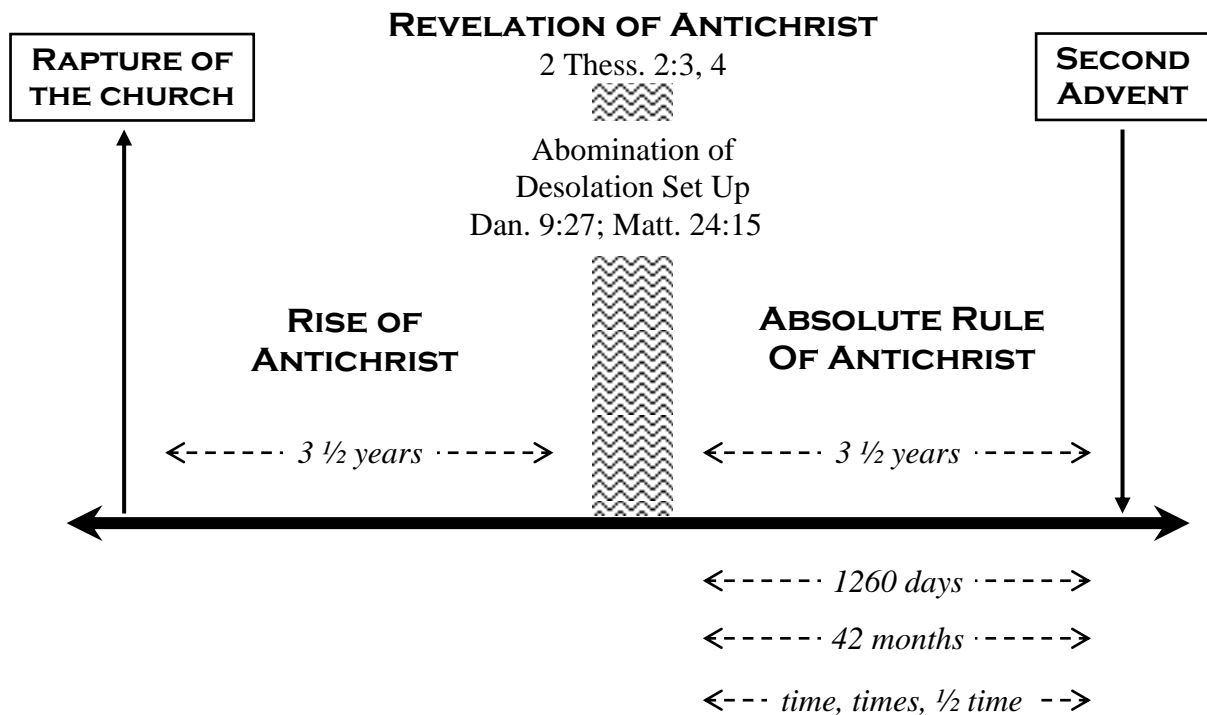


Mt. 24:32-44: The First of Three Parables To Illustrate the Veracity of the 2nd Advent & the Need of That Generation to be Watchful

Review: In Session #2, we demonstrated that the texts of Dan. 9:27, 12:11 & Mt. 24:15 demand that the “abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet” be yet future from Jesus’ day. It is directly related to Daniel’s 70th Week (The Tribulation Period) as the following diagram illustrates.

Daniel’s 70th Week



Mt. 24:32-35 The First Parable to Illustrate the Assuredness of the 2nd Advent

v. 32 Understand the parable: the assuredness that Summer is very near is the _____ of the fig tree.

Read no more into this parable (it has nothing to do with Israel becoming a nation).

v. 33 Understand Jesus’ application of the parable to the context: “When you see all these things [what things?], know that it [the 2nd Advent] or He [Christ] is at the door, meaning, about to return.”

v. 34 Jesus assures the disciples (& us) that the Jewish people* living in The Tribulation will not be wiped out.

* γένεα / genea= “generation” (KJV), better “nation” as in Phil. 2:15, or “people,” “family of people”

v. 34 related to the context:

1. This could not refer to his immediate listeners because none of them lived to see these things.
2. Hal Lindsey tried to use the word “generation” to refer to a literal generation of humans and came up with a date of 1988 for the 2nd Advent. Need I ask if he was wrong or right!
3. It is best to understand *genea* here as the _____ people of the Tribulation period.

v. 35 Jesus further assures us of the _____ of his predictions.

Mt. 24: 36-41 The Uncertainty of the Precise Timing of His 2nd Advent

v. 36 Christ tells us that the _____ moment of his return is known only to the Father. This statement sets the tone for the rest of the Olivet Discourse: believers of that age are to watch for signs. NOWHERE IN THE N. T. EPISTLES ARE CHURCH AGE BELIEVERS SO TOLD. RATHER, THEY ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXPECT THE ANY-MOMENT-RETURN OF THE LORD TO RAPTURE THEM AWAY. NO SIGNS WILL PRECEDE THE RAPTURE (THE DOCTRINE OF _____).

v. 37-41 The _____ generation illustrates Jesus’ point: the certainty of the event at an uncertain time.

Clarification and proof that these verses cannot be referring to the rapture:

1. Who was “taken away in the Flood?” SAVED OR UNSAVED? BELIEVERS OR UNBELIEVERS?
2. Taken to what? HEAVEN OR DEATH & JUDGMENT?
3. Who was left on planet earth for the next stage of human history? SAVED OR UNSAVED?

Now contrast the clear teaching on the Rapture in 1Thess. 4:13-18:

1. Who is taken away (“caught up,” raptured)? SAVED OR UNSAVED?
2. Taken to where or what? HEAVEN OR DEATH & JUDGMENT?
3. Who will be left on planet earth for the next stage of human history? SAVED OR UNSAVED?

v. 40-41 of Mt.24 must be understood as unbelievers taken in judgement to condemnation when Jesus returns to set up his glorious Millennial Kingdom. Only believers will be left to populate the kingdom.

Mt. 24:42-44 Jesus Encourages the Tribulation Believers to be Alert & Watchful

v. 42-44 While that generation of believers will watch for specific signs, we look expectantly for the any moment coming of Christ to take us out of this world and into his presence forever. We do not look for signs; we look for HIM. OUR EXPECTATION IS THE BLESSED HOPE OF THE CHURCH! THEIR EXPECTATION WILL BE THE KINGDOM!