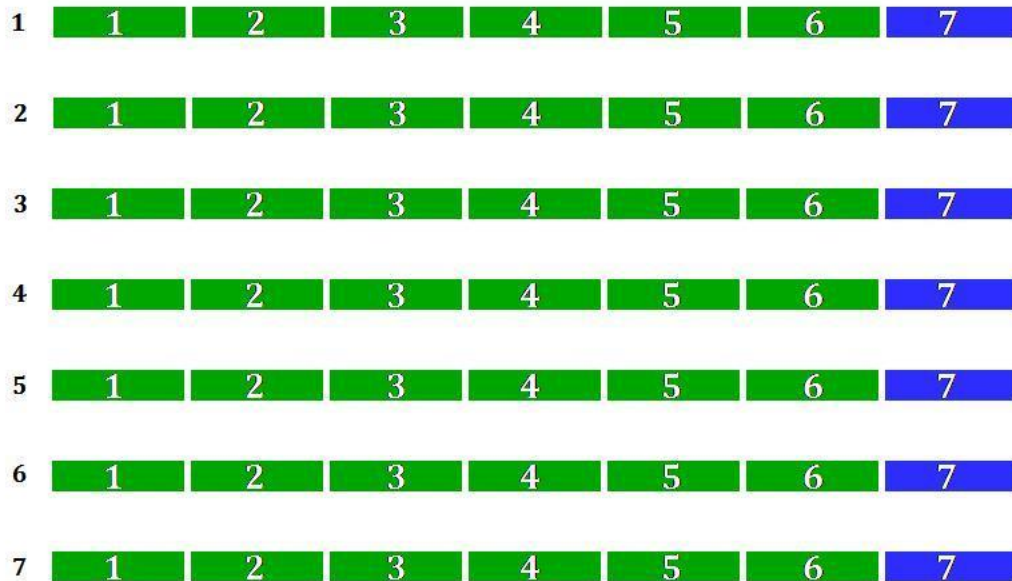


# The “Futurist” Interpretation of Revelation

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- I. There are two main interpretations of Revelation among Adventist churches
- A. The “Historicist” view interprets Revelation chapters 2-19 as spanning the entire time between Jesus’ ascension and His second coming.
1. The “historicist” view takes stated time periods non-literally.
  2. The “historicist” view is a product of the Protestant Reformation (1,500s)
  3. The “historicist” view has led to failed date-setting by Adventist groups (William Miller & the “Great Disappointment” of 1844,<sup>1</sup> Seventh-Day Adventists, Jehovah’s Witnesses, World Wide Church of God – H. W. Armstrong, etc.).
- B. The “Futurist” interpretation of Revelation confines chapters 6-19 to the last seven years before Jesus returns. (7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls).
1. The “futurist” view interprets time periods in Daniel & Revelation literally (1,290 days; 1,260 days; 42 months; time, times, & half a time {3.5 yrs.}).
  2. The “futurist” view was held by the earliest Christian writers with links to the Apostles, some of whom were taught by John and/or his students.<sup>2</sup>
- II. The essential information & biblical evidence for the “Futurist” view is as follows:
- A. The Sabbatical – Jubilee Calendar (Lev. 25). Every 7<sup>th</sup> year<sup>3</sup> is a Sabbatical year, and the 50<sup>th</sup> year was the “Jubilee Year” and was intercalated.<sup>4</sup>

## Sabbatical & Jubilee Cycle Calendar



Jubilee <sup>50<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Year

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<sup>1</sup> See: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Miller\\_\(preacher\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Miller_(preacher))

<sup>2</sup> For documentation, see article on my blog “Chiliasm’s 7-Year Tribulation & Personal Antichrist” at this link: <https://www.4windsfellowships.net/blog/2-chiliasms-7-year-tribulation-personal-antichrist/>

<sup>3</sup> Sabbatical & Jubilee Years begin and end in the fall (Sept.) on Rosh Hashanah (Heb. “head of the year”).

<sup>4</sup> The Jubilee year follows the 7<sup>th</sup> Sabbatical year, making an even 50 years. The next cycle begins after the 50<sup>th</sup> yr.

- B. The 70-Weeks Prophecy of Daniel 9 is given using the Sabbatical – Jubilee system.
1. The prophecy was given to Daniel at the very end of the 70-Year Babylonian Exile (Jer. 25:8-12; Jer. 20:10-14; Dan. 9:1-2).
  2. Dan. 9:24-27 The 70 “Weeks” (literally 70 “sevens” Heb. “*shabua*,” Gr. “*hebdomas*,” same word in Lev. 25:8 LXX) are “determined” (set in stone) and were given to Daniel in 3 distinct segments: (7+62+1=70).
    - a. (Vs. 25) 7 weeks of years (49 yrs.) + the Jubilee year = 50 years. This 50-year period was for the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple. It begins with the decree of Cyrus ending the Babylonian exile (Isa. 44:24 – 45:5; 2 Chron. 36:14 – Ezra 1:11). The Temple was completed during the 50<sup>th</sup> year.
    - b. (Vss. 25-26) 62 weeks of years (434 yrs.) + 8 Jubilee years = 442 yrs. Begins with completion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple & ends 6 mo. before Messiah is cut off (**after** 62 weeks).
    - c. (Vs. 26) **An undetermined gap is required here** during which the Temple is destroyed again (by Rome in AD 70). This gap is the “*Times of the Gentiles*” during which the Gospel is proclaimed (Luke 21:20-22; Rom. 11:25-26). There were 40 years between Jesus’ crucifixion AFTER the 62<sup>nd</sup> week and the Roman destruction of Jerusalem, which necessitates the gap.
    - d. (Vs. 27) 1 “Week” (7 years) after which comes the Jubilee (8<sup>th</sup> year).
      1. The “*abomination of desolation*” occurs in the MIDDLE of this final 7-year period.
- C. The “*time of trouble*” and the “*abomination of desolation*”
1. Dan. 12:1-4 The “*time of trouble*” is immediately followed by the resurrection.
  2. Dan. 12:5-13 Daniel will be resurrected to his inheritance after 1290 days counting from the “*abomination of desolation*” which is also a “*time, times, and half a time*” (3.5 years).
- D. Jesus & the Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24)
1. The signs of Jesus’ coming and the end of the age (v. 3)
  2. Jesus predicted an apostasy from Christianity before His return (vss. 9-14)
  3. Jesus placed the “*abomination of desolation*” at the beginning of the “*time of trouble*” prophesied in Dan. 12:1 (which begins 1290 days {3.5 yrs.} before resurrection and the land inheritance).
- E. Paul’s interpretation of Jesus’ Olivet Discourse (2 Thess. 2:1-12)
1. Two major signs which signal Jesus’ return is imminent are:
    - a. The great apostasy from the Faith (v. 3) derived from Matt. 24:9-13.
    - b. The “*Man of Sin*,” the “*abomination of desolation*” (Matt. 24:15)
    - c. John calls this person “*the Antichrist*” (1 John 2:18; 1 John 4:3)
      1. For the “*spirit of antichrist*” already present, cf. 2 Thess. 2:6-8.
- F. The Book of Revelation expands on all of these themes:
1. Rev. 7:14 describes the faithful coming out of “*the great tribulation*” mentioned in Dan. 12:1 & Matt. 24:21,29-31.
  2. Rev. 11:3 two Prophets will prophesy for the first 3.5 yrs. – 1260 days.
  3. Dan. 7:25; Dan. 12:7; Rev. 11:2; Rev. 13:5 Antichrist will rule for the second 3.5 yrs. (42 months), during which many faithful will be preserved (Rev. 12:14).

# The 70 "Weeks" of Daniel 9

## "Futurist" Interpretation"

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