

A Position Paper on the Chronology of the End-Times Judgments: A Sequential Model of Revelation and Daniel 12

This paper presents a sequential and tiered interpretation of the three series of seven judgments in the Book of Revelation—the seals, trumpets, and bowls—and proposes a refined timeline for the events described in Revelation and Daniel. Particular focus is given to the timing of the abomination of desolation, the 7th trumpet, and the bowl judgments, arguing that the bowl judgments dismantle the Antichrist's kingdom after his formal authority ends.

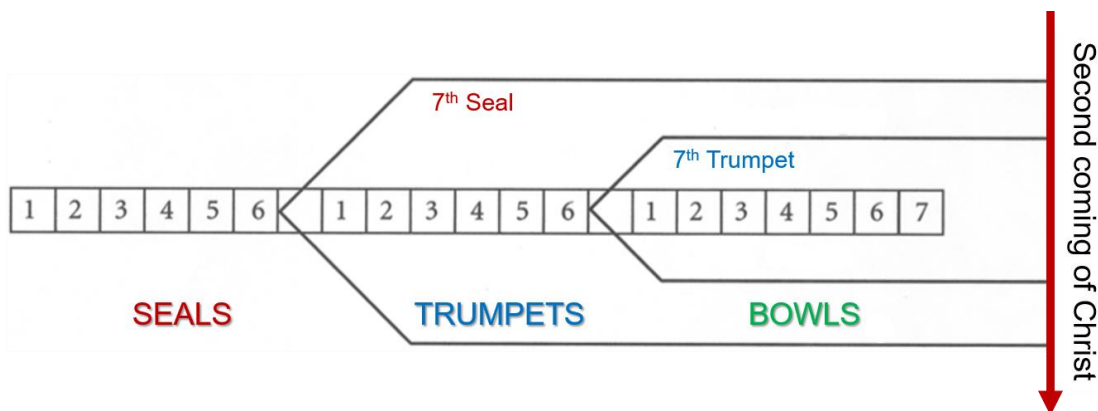
1. Sequential and Tiered Judgments

The judgments in Revelation are sequential and increasing in intensity:

- The seven seals culminate in the seven trumpets.
- The seventh seal contains the seven trumpets.
- The seventh trumpet contains the seven bowls.

This structure suggests a cascading and intensifying divine judgment (e.g., 1/3 destruction in trumpets to total destruction in bowls). It also suggests that the seventh seal (which contains the seven trumpets and the seventh trumpet contains the seven bowls) brings us to the end of the tribulation and reaches all the way to Christ's return.

The sixth seal (Rev. 6:12–17) parallels the cosmic signs in Matthew 24:29–30, suggesting Christ's imminent return. At this point of the narration, we are in the tribulation, specifically the sixth seal but then the storytelling fast forward to the end of the tribulation because John saw “the ones who come out of the great tribulation (Rev. 7:14) ... a proleptic vision. The seventh seal then opens to silence in heaven” (Rev. 8:1), followed by the next cycle of trumpet judgments.



2. The Seventh Trumpet: The End of the Antichrist's Authority

The seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15) declares: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.” This announcement signals the legal end of the Antichrist’s reign. Revelation 13:5 gives the beast authority for 42 months (1260 days), consistent with Daniel 7:25 and 12:7. Thus, the seventh trumpet sounds at Day 1260, ending the beast’s God-allowed authority. His formal, divinely permitted authority ends, though he continues to act unlawfully in rebellion until destroyed.

3. The Abomination of Desolation: Not at Midpoint

The traditional view is that the abomination of desolation will be set up in the temple at midpoint of the tribulation (Dan. 9:27; 11:31). The setting up of the abomination of desolation in the temple (Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess.2:4) would defile the temple for at least 42 months. This would run counter to Rev. 11:1-2.

In Revelation 11:1–2, John is told to measure the temple and altar (but not the outer court) because the nations will trample the holy city for 42 months. This suggests that the temple is set apart, under the jurisdiction of God and hence could not be trampled upon and defiled for 42 months. Therefore, the setup of the abomination of desolation could not be at the midpoint of the tribulation.

If the abomination of desolation is not set up in the middle of the tribulation then when?

4. The Abomination of Desolation: 30 Days After the Seventh Trumpet

According to Daniel 12:11, there are two events and one time period of 1,290 days. What is the relationship among them?

Daniel 12:11 states “From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.” The traditional reading is that both the abolishment of sacrifice and the setting up of the abomination happen simultaneously – at the midpoint of the seven years. The 1,290 days are then treated as the duration from that midpoint to an unspecified endpoint, 30 days after the return of Christ.

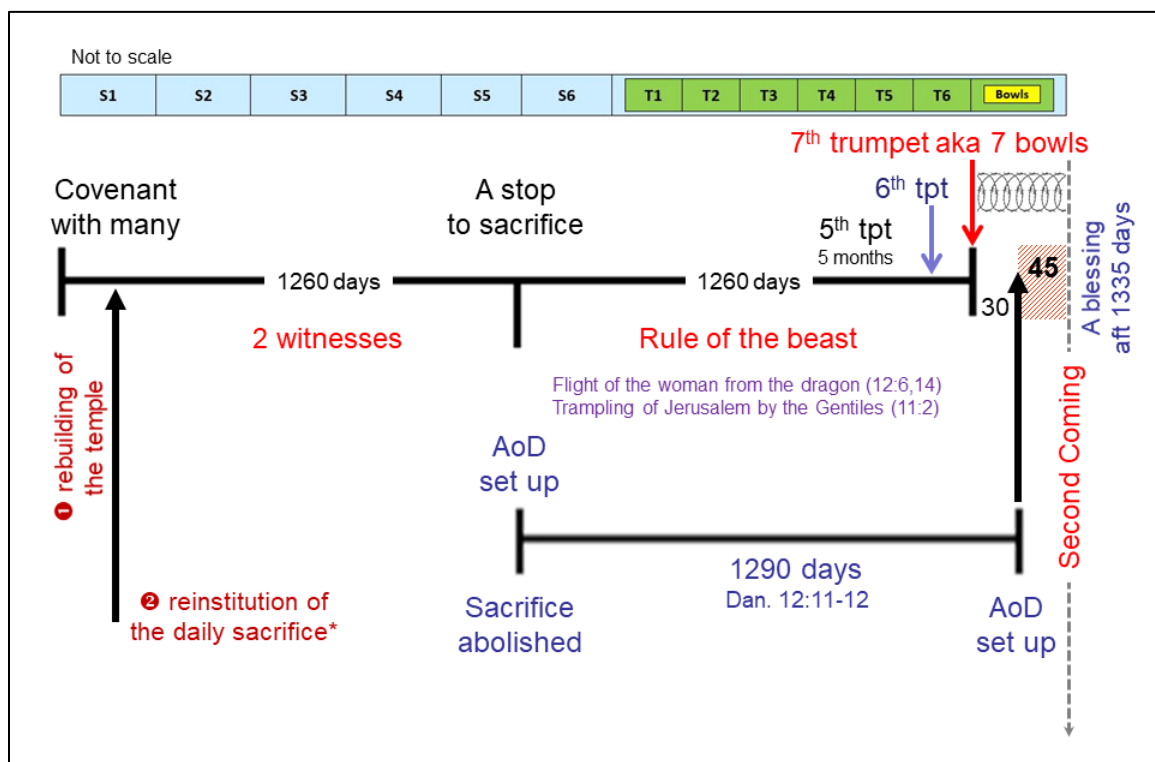
However, the syntax of Daniel 12:11 presents two discrete actions ('is abolished' and 'is set up') joined by a coordinating conjunction, followed by a single time span. This structure naturally implies a 'from A to B' progression rather than simultaneous events. The syntax supports a sequential interpretation. Rather than collapsing the two events into one, this interpretation recognizes them as distinct events separated by a duration of 1,290 days. That is, the abolishment of the regular sacrifice marks the starting point, and the setting up of the abomination of desolation marks the endpoint of the 1,290-day

period. This view is reinforced by literal translations such as Young's Literal Translation and the Jubilee Bible 2000, which preserve the sequential nature of the two events.

Thus:

- Day 0 (midpoint): Sacrifice ends, Antichrist's 1260-day rule begins.
- Day 1260: Seventh trumpet sounds—Christ's reign declared.
- Day 1290: Abomination of desolation is set up—a final defiance of Christ's proclaimed kingdom.

You may object: How can the Antichrist set up the abomination if his rule of 42 months is over? The seventh trumpet signals Christ has taken power and have begun to rule ... ending the formal authority of the Antichrist (Rev. 11:15-17). But the Antichrist remains alive and active (much like how Satan is defeated at the Cross but still active until the Second Coming). The loss of his formal authority provokes an irrational last act of defiance – the setting up of the abomination, 30 days after the blowing of the seventh trumpet



To summarize:

- The daily sacrifice is abolished at the midpoint of the 7-year tribulation.
- The Antichrist's 42-month (1260-day) reign begins at that midpoint.
- The 7th trumpet (Rev. 11:15) is sounded at the end of those 1260 days, declaring Christ's kingdom.
- Then, 30 days later (Day 1290), the abomination of desolation is set up—as a direct challenge to Christ's announced reign.

5. The Two Witnesses: First Half of the Tribulation

The traditional view places the ministry of the two witnesses during the second half of the tribulation, coinciding with the rise of the beast.

However, the two witnesses are killed after finishing their ministry (of 1260 days) by the beast that comes up from the abyss (Rev. 11:3,7). While alive, the two witnesses can strike the earth with every plague, shut up the sky and call down fire (Rev. 11:5-6). Their power makes it unlikely that they would be freely opposed by the beast throughout their ministry. Therefore, it makes more sense that they minister in the first half of the tribulation, before the beast rises to power.

6. The Bowl Judgments: Dismantling the Antichrist's Kingdom

Revelation 16's bowl judgments directly target the beast's domain:

- Bowl 1 (Rev. 16:2): Sores on those with the mark of the beast.
- Bowl 5 (Rev. 16:10–11): Poured on the throne of the beast—his kingdom is darkened.
- Bowl 6 (Rev. 16:12–16): Prepares the way for Armageddon.
- Bowl 7 (Rev. 16:17–21): “It is done!”—global upheaval and final judgment.

The bowl judgments occur after the beast's authority ends (Day 1260) and systematically dismantle his kingdom.

7. Daniel 12:12 – The Blessed 1335th Day

Daniel 12:12 pronounces a blessing on those who reach 1335 days. If the 1290th day marks the abomination of desolation, then the following 45 days represent the 'Greatest Tribulation' (Matt. 24:15–21, where Jesus identifies the abomination of desolation as the catalyst for unparalleled tribulation). Surviving to Day 1335 likely means witnessing Christ's visible return, the defeat of the Antichrist, and possibly entry into the Millennial Kingdom.

8. Summary Timeline

- Day 0: Midpoint of the tribulation, daily sacrifices abolished, Antichrist's rule begins.
- Day 1260: Seventh trumpet sounds, Antichrist's reign legally ends, Christ's kingdom proclaimed. Start of bowl judgments.
- Day 1290: Abomination of desolation set up—a final act of rebellion.
- Day 1290–1335: The remaining bowl judgments poured out—the Greatest Tribulation.
- Day 1335: The blessed hope—Christ's visible return and the establishment of His reign.

Conclusion

I seek to provide a coherent synthesis of Daniel and Revelation, accounting for prophetic timelines and the progressive intensification of divine judgment. By distinguishing between the end of the Antichrist's God-given authority (1260 days) and his final blasphemy (1,290 days), the framework respects the literal text while illuminating the purpose and placement of the bowl judgments as the dismantling of a doomed kingdom. The blessed 1335th day marks hope, restoration, and the fulfillment of God's kingdom on earth.

While the model presented outlines a sequential and time-specific structure for the final 3.5 years, it does not contradict Matthew 24:36. That verse speaks to the present age, before the onset of Daniel's 70th week. Once the tribulation begins, the prophetic calendar unfolds with clarity. Even so, the exact hour of Christ's visible return remains unrevealed, preserving the need for vigilance (Matt. 24:42–44).

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