

GRACE TO JEWS AND GENTILES

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A couple of Thursdays back we had a bible study and there was a question asked about whether there are foolish virgins who are Jews. I believe that question was meant as a group, if there is a group of Jews or even if there are Jews who are *foolish virgins*. [Matthew 25:1-13]

So we began to look into the different categories of groups which we know make up the First Resurrection [Revelation 20:4-6] but above all, the groups that have obtained Grace.

We know when we look in the Bible and we read about all those who have obtained Grace, in general it's broken down into two categories, not always but I will say: from Abraham's time on down, really we look at the *Jews* and the *Gentiles* separately.

Before Abraham, there really was *no distinction* because the Jews *had not been identified*. There really wasn't a person known as a *Jew* before Abraham, and even there, there is more to look at.

But the title this morning is: Grace to Jews and Gentiles. And really what we're looking at here is the work of the Lord Jesus Christ and God's plan of salvation and redemption for mankind through Jesus Christ.

We know there were those who lived their lives *before* Jesus Christ came but God still had a way that they could be *secure in Christ*. And also for the Jews who lived during this Gentile Age.

Brother Jackson mentioned how a sister had asked him whether he thought that *Jews during the Grace age* who didn't believe on the Lord Jesus Christ but who were *faithful* to what they had as far as the Torah and the prophets, if there was any way for them to be saved. The sister had asked him this during the time Brother Branham was ministering on the Seals.

And Brother Jackson had said: absolutely not. He said: it has to be by the Lord Jesus Christ.

I don't remember if it was the same day or maybe a couple days later. I kind of think it was the same day in the evening that Brother Branham read about the *fifth seal*. [Revelation 6:9] After he read that passage he said: those are the souls of the Jews who were martyred in the Holocaust or who were killed in the Holocaust.

Brother Jackson said he just felt like trying to crawl and hide under the rug because of what he had said so clearly and adamantly, and now Brother Branham was saying that those Jews *did have salvation*.

Really Brother Jackson was not entirely wrong: it's still by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The thing that is strange to us Gentiles is to think of the Jews coming to know the Lord Jesus Christ *after they die* because that's really not how it works with the Gentiles. Our time to know the Lord is *while we're alive*. Praise the Lord.

There is no such thing as Purgatory as the Catholics make it and there are many other ideas also in the Mormon religion. I'll say this morning: as Gentiles, we *don't* have an opportunity to know the Lord after we die. He gives us that opportunity *while we're here*.

You may say: well Brother, I don't think every single person on the face of the earth has had the gospel preached to them. But I'll say this morning: God knows the heart before we are born.

Someone could be born on the most remote island but if He knows that they have a heart that would receive the Word of God and apply the blood of Christ to their life, He will send somebody there and they're going to take the gospel to them.

That's why it says in Isaiah 52:7 and Paul himself mentioned it: *how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of them that bring good news and that publish peace*. [Romans 10:15] That's not just speaking of any good news, that's not: oh somebody is getting married or something like that. But that is specifically looking at the *good news of the Gospel*.

When we look at the *fifth seal* [Revelation 6:9] this is really not my subject this morning even though it's eventually going to be a part of it, but that *fifth seal* applies to *Jews who have lived throughout the Gentile age*.

We know Paul said in Romans 11 that *they were blinded*. God *Himself* allowed them to *be blinded*. [Romans 11:7]

So if it was the will of God to have the Jews blinded so the Gentiles could be brought in, then how could we say that *He is a just God* if He would judge them on the fact that they didn't see?

The wonderful thing is that it says: they were *blinded in part*. [Romans 11:25] They weren't completely blinded but they went back to their Law and their prophets.

Really if we look at the Jews today, they returned more to the Law than to the prophets. But whatever portion of the Word of God they have, if they are *sincere* and they *walk in the light of it*, and they *believe that Word*, God will honour it.

We have to remember: the Holy Ghost *inspired* that Word. It's the same Holy Ghost that overshadowed Mary and formed that cell of Life, the Lord Jesus Christ, in her womb and he became the Manifested Word. Praise the Lord. He was called *the Word of God*. [John 1:14] Praise the Lord.

As the thought was expressed in Moses' and the prophet's writings, Jesus Christ was the *manifestation* of what had been *foretold by the prophets*. As they believed on the Word, it was counted to them as though they would believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord.

We see that it refers to them as *the souls under the altar*. [Revelation 6:9] As they have died *throughout this Gentile age*, there is a place reserved for them in what we would call *the first heaven*.

They are not in contact with the bride or the other saints but it refers to them as *the souls under the altar*. Even after their death, we can say that they are *in a waiting place* but they still haven't yet come to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But as God already knows the heart and He saw that they walked in the light that they did have, He knows: once Christ is revealed to them, they will be able to believe on Christ. Praise the Lord. And the blood will be applied to them as well.

That is actually going to happen at the *same time* that Christ will be *revealed* to the Jews *down here on earth*. [Zechariah 13:6]

So in that *first half* of the 70th week, there will be a *revival of the Jews* in the land of Israel.

That's over here on the left side:

The 70th Week



Then in the *heavenly realm*, we read where it says that *they cried out*. [Revelation 6:10]

In fact let's go ahead and read it. Let's go to the book of Revelation.

It says:

Revelation 6:9

And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God,

Now this could be a little confusing to us if we try to just figure it out intellectually. In fact, mankind has never been able to decipher this intellectually.

In first place, when we read about the first *four seals* [Revelation 6:1-8] they cover the entire Grace age. That fourth seal ends the Grace age. So we could say: well where is this going?

But notice it says:

Revelation 6:9

that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

It does *not* say: for the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ, as we see written in so many other places in this same book of Revelation. So this is *not* speaking about what we would call *Christians* or people who have come to a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 6:10

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, doest thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

Here's something else that's a clue: they're asking for *judgement and vengeance*. [Revelation 6:10] Amen.

We know as Christians we are taught and the Holy Ghost teaches us throughout our life *not* to have, we can say, that desire for vengeance. Amen. But we are to have a *different Spirit* about us.

Now we know the Lord will still *judge* [2Timothy 4:1] but we don't come to Him asking for vengeance and judgement on our enemies. One of the first things the Lord taught is *love your enemies*, right? [Matthew 5:44]

But let's see what it says:

Revelation 6:11

And white robes were given unto every one of them,

Praise the Lord.

Those are men, women, young and old. These are *Jews* who have died, many of them have been in this realm for hundreds of years. But the ones who are in the *forefront* are those who were slain in the Holocaust.

As I've said before, we hear the term or the number: there were six million Jews killed in the Holocaust. We can hardly even comprehend how many that is, and that's just the Holocaust. That doesn't include all the others who were also persecuted and killed throughout the age of Grace.

But this does *not* mean that there are six million Jews represented under in this *fifth seal*. [Revelation 6:9] There may only be one million, I don't know what the number is. Please don't go and say: well Brother Jason said there's one million. That's just an example.

What I can definitely tell you is: not every Jew slain in the Holocaust is a part of this group. There were many who were just unbelieving worldly materialistic people just like us Gentiles, without really any desire to serve God. And as far as I can tell, it was probably even the majority who weren't really Jews in their hearts.

But those who *did believe* the Law and the prophets and who walked in the light that they did have and did their best to please Jehovah God, they are the ones who are referred to by this Seal. They are the ones who are in heaven.

Now it says:

Revelation 6:11

white robes were given

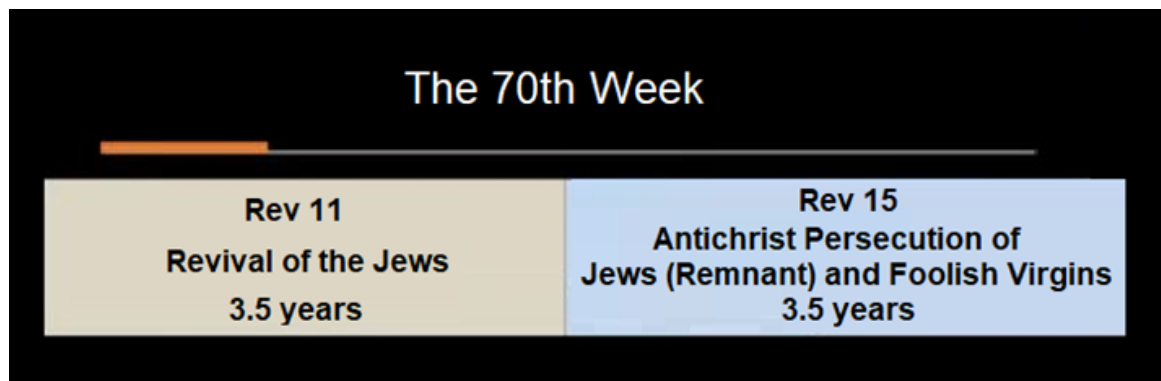
When we see the term *white robes*, it's always speaking of *eternal life* that we can only obtain by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bride also has *white robes*.

You may say: well I thought we had fine linen.

We do. But first we come into the kingdom of God by the blood of Jesus Christ. There is no other way. So we receive our *white robe* there, but later we also get our garment of *fine linen*.

So they will receive these *white robes*. [Revelation 6:11]



Just as the Lord Jesus Christ will *reveal himself to the Jews who are alive on the earth*, that will be under the ministry of the *two prophets* of Revelation 11, he will also *reveal himself* to the Jews who have died and whose souls are under that *fifth seal* or I should say *under the altar*. [Revelation 6:9] That's where they receive their *white robe*.

Where it says that they *receive white robes*, that's where they *come to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ*.

Now we could even ask: what or who exactly are the *Jews* and who are the *Gentiles*?

I remember one time when I was at work, somehow something came up about the Jews. These teachers who should know what it means *to be a Jew*, to my great surprise, many of them were certain that *being a Jew* meant those who follow the Judaistic religion. To them that's what made somebody a *Jew*.

In their mind, it didn't have anything to do with genetics or anything else. I was so surprised that they thought that because I knew: if they think that, there are many others who think that as well.

But if we go to the Bible, we see that God told Abraham: *I'm going to make of you and from your loins will come a great nation.* [Genesis 12:2] He said: *go out and look at the stars if you can count them, that's how your seed will be.* [Genesis 15:5]

He said: *they will be a special people for my name's sake. They will be my people.* [Deuteronomy 7:6]

That promise is given to us. Praise the Lord.

So the perfect will of God is that out of Abraham would come that *great nation* which we know is *Israel*.

Yes the *Jews* would be identified not just as: *we have Abraham to our father*, but there would be a *national identity* which we know there is. But also Abraham is *the father of the faith* and they would also be *identified by their faith*.

We know as time went on, even though they became a *great nation*, there came a point when they began to reject the Word of God. There came a point when they began to serve false gods.

That did not cause them to no longer be Jews but God said: *you are stiff-necked.* [Exodus 32:9] He said: *you're a backsliding people.* He even typed them as an *unfaithful wife* and He got to the point He said: *I've written you a letter of divorcement.* [Jeremiah 3:8]

But they were still *Jews*.

Even though He wrote them that *letter of divorcement*, He had the prophet Hosea take his wife Gomer [Hosea 1:2-3] and she became a *type* as she went out and was a harlot. But the time came when God said to Hosea: *okay go take her back now.* [Hosea 3:1] Praise the Lord. It was showing that the day would come when once again God would take His people back to Himself.

So as far as who the *Jews* are, well they could say: *we have Abraham to our father.* That's what the Pharisees said, right? [John 8:39]

But at the same time, not everybody who has *Abraham to their father* is a Jew because there was *Ishmael*. [Genesis 16:15] The *Ishmaelites* are part of the Arab world. We could say they are *brothers to the Jews* but they themselves are not Jews. They don't identify as Jews. They are Arabs.

We can go further: we know that *Isaac* was the promised son [Genesis 17:19] and he had two sons: *Jacob* and *Esau*. [Genesis 25:25-26]

Esau became the father of the *Edomites*. [Genesis 36:43] That lineage also is not the lineage of the Jews but they are called the Edomites.

So we have Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and we know Jacob's name was changed to *Israel*. [Genesis 35:10] By his wives and his mistresses, Jacob had *twelve sons*. [Genesis 35:22-26] I know there's an issue with the half tribe but for the most part, the simple way to see it is: he had twelve sons and they became *the Patriarchs, the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel*.

As we go on, those who can trace themselves back to one of those twelve *by a patriarchal lineage*, then we could make the argument that they are the *Jews*.

Now I know there is still the question: well what if they mixed with Gentiles? But I'll just leave it at this for now, that it's basically a *patriarchal line*.

It's very interesting to me, for over time even the Jews themselves have looked at that differently. Now they actually officially go by a matriarchal line but I don't see anything biblical about that. This happened later because it was always told *I'm the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob*, right? [Exodus 3:15] We don't read: I'm the God of Sarah, Rebekah and Rachel or whoever.

In fact, in our study when we were talking about the Gentile age and how maybe here or there God saves a Jew as an individual, we were saying that we don't really know: any one of us could be a Jew and we don't even know it. We have people here with the last name Matthias and Zebadua which as far as I'm concerned, that's the same thing as *Zebedee*. [Matthew 10:2]

There were Jews scattered in Europe. Spain was one of the major places to receive the Jews but there was also a representation of Jews throughout the other European countries. We all think of ourselves as *Gentiles* and we probably are but we don't really know.

We do know as far as how God has dealt with us *spiritually*, He's dealt with us as *Gentiles*.

So who are the *Gentiles*?

Well in the most general sense, the word *Gentiles* just means *peoples*. That would be *all peoples*.

In the strictest sense, that would even include the Jews but we know that there is a distinction made. In fact, Paul would sometimes talk about *the Jews and the Greeks*. [1Corinthians 1:24]

And it's not that everybody who was not a Jew was a Greek, but we can say that Greece had become somewhat of a leader at that time as far as intellect and as far as their outlook on life.

When we use the word *Gentile*, what we really mean is just *non-Jews*. As far as we know, it includes all of us and basically the majority of the world, anybody who is *not a Jew*.

So we had the question about the *foolish virgins*.

Let's go ahead to Matthew 25.



I am going to skip some things here because again the subject itself is not the foolish virgins but let's read at least the beginning.

It says here:

Matthew 25:1

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins,

Now there is already much written here.

This is Jesus speaking. He speaks of *the kingdom of heaven*. [Matthew 25:1]

When we hear *the kingdom of heaven* and especially the word *heaven*, it's very easy for us to think that we're not there yet and to either think of it in a future tense or of heaven itself.

But when he said *the kingdom of heaven*, remember when he was here on earth he said *the kingdom of heaven is at hand*. [Matthew 4:17] Amen. That was something just a little bit in front of *his* time here on earth. And he gave many parables about what would happen in *the kingdom of heaven* as it related to time. [Matthew 13]

We have to understand: we can read *kingdom of heaven* and we can think: oh heaven up there and the throne, but that's not the point. What he's really looking at is *the time frame of Grace* and really in the largest sense *as it applies to the Gentiles*.

In Matthew 24 he basically gives an overview of the entire age of Grace and brings us right up to the end of it. And now here in Matthew 25 he says *then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins*.

So we have to understand: this is bringing us to the end of the Grace age or more specifically to the *end of the Gentile age*. And he said *there would be five wise and five foolish*.

Let's read it:

Matthew 25:2

And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

Matthew 25:3

They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

What we have here is: we know the *oil* represents the *Holy Ghost*. Now when we read other translations we understand: it's not that the foolish had no oil at all, they had a little bit of oil in their lamps but they did not take *vessels of oil* with them. That was their problem.

So what this is looking at is: there is a different portion of the measure of the Holy Ghost given. And it's *not* that the Lord says: well I'll give these ones a fuller portion and less to these ones. But again, we have to understand: He knows the heart. He knows the pull we're going to have and these were *foolish*.

Now these are *not the tares* but these are *the foolish*. And it's something we tend to see even in nature.

I was in Canada once, I think it was in November. There was a lake and as the lake was freezing, if I remember right, it froze first around the edge and there was still kind of a circle of water in the middle.

There were some Canada geese in that lake and a sister told us that most of them had already gone south but she said: every year there are a few geese that end up frozen in the lake. They just don't leave on time. I guess they go to sleep one night in the water and they wake up the next morning stuck in the ice. Those are some foolish geese, right? But they are still geese.

What we have here [Matthew 25:3] are people who have come to a certain knowledge of truth because we all have to, even to be saved. We have to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

What we see that begins to distinguish them is this *midnight cry* [Matthew 25:6] which we know was the message of Brother Branham.

So up to that time there already was the *wise* and the *foolish* but there wasn't really any way to see the distinction. But *after* that message sounded, we begin to see a distinction. *The foolish say: our lamps are gone out.* [Matthew 25:8]

Now what do we see in the lives of actual people?

What we have to understand is: there are some who could see that there was a great anointing on Brother Branham's life. I think there's even a song: *There shall be Showers of Blessings*. There were *showers of blessings* like some of us probably can't imagine.

I spoke with a sister in Indiana who had been to some of Brother Branham's meetings. She said there were times it felt like it was raining but they were in a closed auditorium or venue. It wasn't raining but that was a manifestation of the Spirit that they felt as it were raindrops.

I mean, you can read the books. Of course there were healings but there were so many other manifestations: miracles, healings and blessings, I'll just say it like that. I think we all know what I mean by that. And that was an *attraction*.

That was an attraction to *the wise and the foolish*. But it was something that the *foolish* tended to be more attracted to. We can say: *their pull* is more toward the blessings and the manifestation of the Spirit.

Somebody will ask: well isn't the *tare* also encouraged by that? Absolutely. In fact I would say that to a certain extent we would probably find *most of the foolish* in the area where we see the *tares*.

So we would say: what's the difference between the *tare* and the *foolish*?

It's very simple: the foolish is *not* going to reject truth. The foolish is *not* going to speak against truth. But they won't have the pull that they should to walk in the light of truth.

During the time of Brother Branham, the foolish of that day *weren't* speaking against Brother Branham. How many can understand what I'm saying?

That doesn't mean they were on the edge of their seat at every meeting they could get to, just absorbing and walking in the light that God was giving. But what they *did hear* and what they *did understand*, they would either say: well yes I can see that, or even if they didn't see it, it wasn't something they would reject or speak against.

Their interest, *what pulled them more* was the move of the Spirit of God. They weren't as drawn to the deeper things of truth but they also weren't attacking it. They weren't the ones who were saying: Brother Branham is a devil.

When some of them got close to death, they said: I'm going where Brother Branham's at. They knew he was a man of God but they hadn't had the motivation or the pull to walk in the light of the deeper things that God had given.

It was the same with Brother Jackson. A *foolish virgin* who came to know of Brother Jackson's ministry *wasn't* speaking against it and saying: well that's false.

We hear so many today: oh, he's not in the message. That's *not* a foolish virgin talking like that. In fact, they might even say about some things: I see this, or they could recognize that God was using him. But still that pull and that desire *didn't go far enough* for them to want to walk in the full light of the truth that God was giving.

Again, *their pull* is more toward the manifestation of the Spirit and that's the limit of where they go in the Lord.

There may be some *foolish virgins* in the denominations, Brother Jackson had mentioned that. Now the denominations as a whole are very much against Brother Branham.

There may even be some who, we could say, are associated with the Message movement. Again, the Message movement as an example is very much against Brother Jackson.

The *foolish virgins* are *individuals* here or there. Remember: it's a *small group*.

The *five wise* is a small group, right? [Matthew 25:2] It's easier to identify because *that is the church*. They congregate together.

We're not really going to find a church: oh this is a church of foolish virgins. I hope we can see what I mean by that. But God has given them *a portion of His Spirit*. The *foolish virgins* have had a true experience with the Lord and they have salvation. Praise the Lord.

Now getting back to the question: first of all, no it's not a group of Jews. And there is no group of Jews that we say: these are foolish virgins.

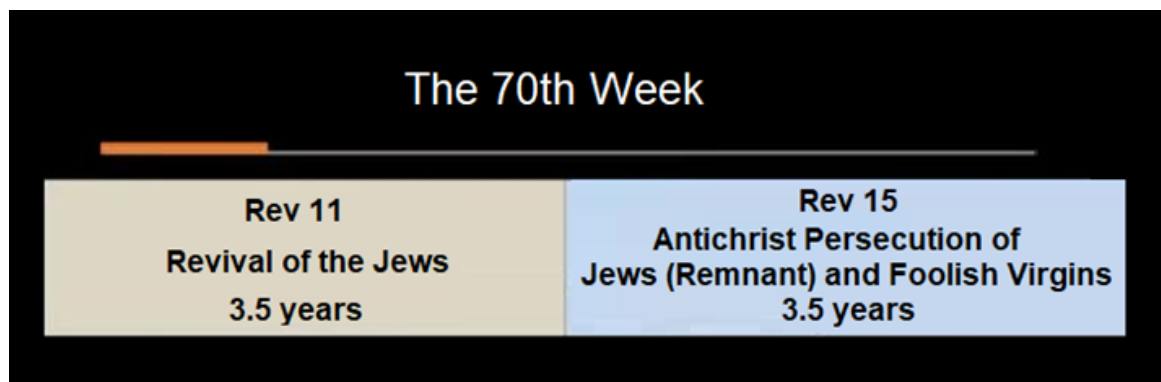
I wanted to get to Revelation 15 but I guess I'll have to wait on that. Let's go for now to Revelation 12.

I think we all know about the Woman of Revelation 12 and how that's *Israel*. Let's just read down toward the end.

Revelation 12:14

And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle,

Now that's speaking of the *prophetic message* that they will hear in the *first half* of the 70th week of Daniel.

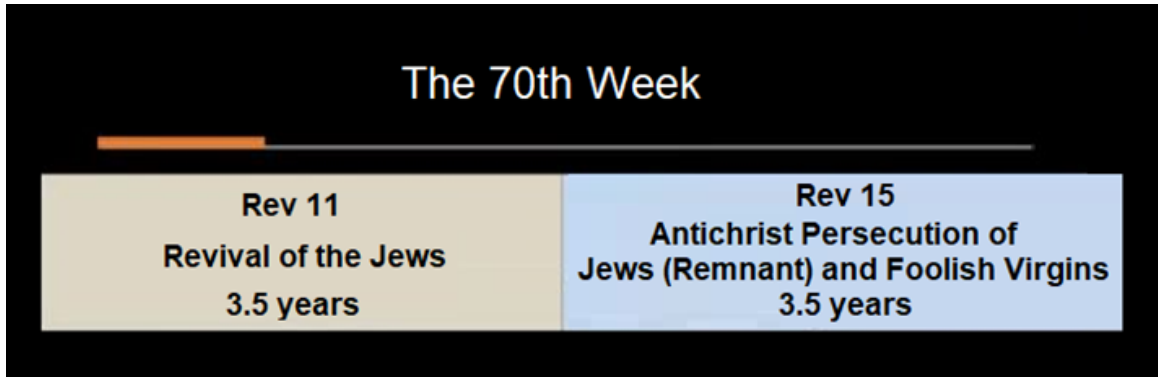


Remember: they will come to know the Lord Jesus Christ just as you and I.

What Peter preached on the day of Pentecost: *repent and be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost* [Acts 2:38] he actually preached that *to Jews*.

That message came over to us Gentiles, I thank God for that, but it's going to go *back to the Jews*.

They will receive that message during the *first half* of the Week but they will also receive *a warning* about how the antichrist is going to *persecute them* in that *second half* of that Week.



Let's go ahead and keep reading. It says:

Revelation 12:14
that she might fly into the wilderness,

Which we know now to be the *United States*.

Revelation 12:14
into her place,

There is no other nation on the face of the earth that has had such a strong bond with Israel. I know right now and for a time it's going to get to a point: *Israel will even be on their own during that Miracle War*. [Isaiah 63:5] There is a reason for that, so God can really show His power. Amen.

But overall, the United States is a friend and *the closest friend* of Israel.

So it says:

Revelation 12:14
into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time,

If you look at *time*, then at *times* as two, and then *half-a-time*, you get three-and-a-half, so that's looking at *three-and-a-half years*.

It says:

Revelation 12:14
from the face of the serpent.

Revelation 12:15
And the serpent cast out his out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

Now that's looking at Israel as a *whole*.

Not every Israeli is going to listen to those *two prophets* but there are going to be a few who will and they, of course, will heed the warning.

Let's keep reading.

Revelation 12:16
And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

Revelation 12:17
And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God,

Now under the *fifth seal* [Revelation 6:9] we read about those who had *the Word of God*, right?

But now notice it says:

Revelation 12:17
and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Praise the Lord.

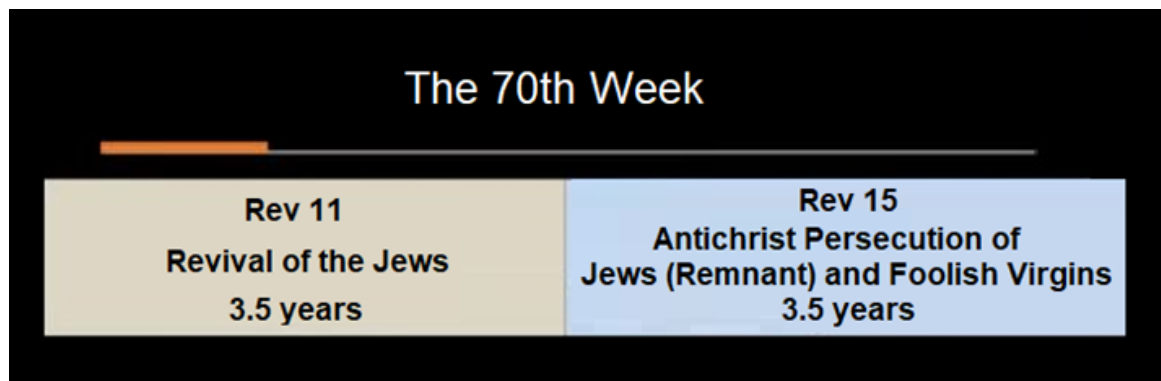
When we read in the *fifth seal*, I didn't get that far in my reading but it speaks of them *waiting until their fellow servants and their brethren should be killed as they were*. [Revelation 6:11]

So the ones who will take *flight to the wilderness*, which we know as the *United States*, they will be *protected*. [Revelation 12:14]

But there are some who will *stay behind*. It's not written *why*, but as far as I can see, they were simply slow to heed that warning. If that's the reason they stay behind, then there is a *foolish aspect* to them as well.

That *doesn't* make them the foolish virgins but there will be an *element of Jews* that *will not go* to the United States. They still heard the message, they still were saved. It says *they keep the commandments of God and the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ*, right? [Revelation 12:17] But now they will be *persecuted by the antichrist*.

Again, we didn't get to Revelation 15 but that's where we actually see *those who are slain in the second half of the Week*. [Revelation 15:2]



That's going to be happening for the most part in what we call the *prophetic world* where the *antichrist's rule* will reach. They are going to *refuse to take that mark*. Maybe we'll look at that a little more next time and actually read Revelation 15.

I'm going to go ahead and close this morning. Let's go ahead and pray.