

How Long are the Saints in Heaven?

Side Study

The 2 Witnesses prophesy 1260 days = 3½ years. Count back from the end of their witness and you reach Daniel 9:27, *'And he shall make firm a covenant with many for one week. And in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the offering to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations shall come one who makes desolate even until the consummation. And that which is decreed shall be poured out upon the desolator.'*

Then, some of God's people who have been carrying out God's witness from Jerusalem, (Jeremiah 31:6-7, *'For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, "Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the LORD our God." For thus says the LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel,'"*')

Proclaim, Isaiah 40:1-11,

*Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
A voice says, "Cry out."
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
"All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever."
You who bring good news to Zion,*

*go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.
He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young. NIV.*

.....flee Jerusalem to escape from the Beast at a **blood moon Passover**, Revelation 6:12, ‘When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood,’ just before the Great Tribulation, Matthew 24:21, ‘*For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*’

Revelation 6:17, ‘*For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to survive?*’ NLT.

This is preceded by "the Tribulation of those days", Matthew 24:29, the first 5 Seals – and is **half way** through the 7 years of Tribulation. “*Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*” Revelation 6:12-14, ‘*And when I saw the Lamb open the sixth seal, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black like sackcloth of goat hair, and the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth like unripe figs dropping from a tree shaken by a great wind. The sky receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place.*’ Note that the Heavenly Signs occur immediately after the tribulation of those days, the first 5 Seals.

This then is the 6th Seal, when those fleeing from Jerusalem are rescued, Revelation 12:15-16, ‘*The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth,*’ when Christ arrives in the clouds, **Revelation 6:16**, ‘*calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,”*’ **immediately following the Heavenly Signs**, Matthew 24:30, ‘*Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*’ Revelation 14:15, ‘*And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, “Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.”*’

and the 1st Resurrection occurs **at the half-way point in the 7 years**, Matthew 24:31, *'And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.'*

Think carefully about this. It does not allow any other time for the First Resurrection, or indeed a Pentecost resurrection as some believe!

Also, counting back 3½ years from Trumpets, while the Saints are nourished in Heaven, brings us to Wave Sheaf, not Pentecost, when **the Marriage** takes place in Heaven before God's Throne, Revelation 14:1-5,

Then I looked and saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of many waters and the loud rumbling of thunder. And the sound I heard was like harpists strumming their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. And no one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They have been redeemed from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.'

Hebrews 12:22, *'But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,*

When you think about it, the First Resurrection is pictured by the **Firstfruit barley** harvest in Israel, according to the pattern of God's Holy Days which portray God's Plan for mankind, not the Firstfruit **Wheat** harvest, which portrays those who repent *after* the resurrection, during the Great Tribulation, Revelation 7:14! *'I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'*

We have the answer then. They are in Heaven for 3½ years!

Revelation is not easy for anybody to understand and so we must stick closely to the scripture and make sure there are **no** contradictions in our assumptions, so please consider this carefully with me; we should all agree, in helping to prepare the way of the Lord.

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