

The Rebuttal Argument by the Defense: The Tribulation:

1. Post Rapture of the church, Satan begins his rebuttal argument with the only ordinance he has left to deploy which is violence.
2. This strategy is intensified throughout the Church Age. The presence of the Church, meaning those during the dispensation, have advanced to spiritual maturity. It is the unique power that is designed to counter the Dark Side's agenda.
3. The dispensation of the Church is unique in the sense that it is a mystery dispensation that was never mentioned prophetically anywhere in the dispensations of Gentiles or of Israel.
4. This coup d'état is the insertion into human history of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whose humanity was mentioned numerous times in the Old Testament. Among the first is the passage below in which Messiah is referred to as Shiloh in:

Genesis 49:10 The scepter [symbol of rulership] will not depart from Judah [Jewish leaders during the dispensations of Israel and Tribulation], nor the ruler's staff from between his feet [the genetic bloodline within the Davidic dynasty] until Shiloh [שִׁלֹה (Shiloh): "to whom it belongs," i.e., Messiah's reign] comes [millennial kingdom]; the nations will obey Him. (NET)

5. The Messiah entered human history in B.C. 2 in Bethlehem, Judea, in hypostatic union. Over the next 33 years Jesus' public ministry revealed to mankind the personality that prophesy identifies as Shiloh, or the Messiah.
6. The Church Age that followed in Acts 2 introduced the dispensation of the Royal Family of God. This mystery dispensation caught Lucifer by surprise and inspired him to intensify his efforts to diminish the impact of its power.
7. The Catholic Church was the first assault on doctrine, but there were those who spun off from the dominance of Rome and began the process of uncovering truth from Scripture.
8. Among the reformers was a German, Martin Luther, who among other scholars inspired the Protestant Reformation. Luther's focus on grace occurred when he began to concentrate on Paul's statement in:

Romans 1:17 It is by the righteousness [δικαιοσύνη (*dikaíosúnē*): integrity] belonging to God that is revealed from faith response to doctrinal acquisition; as it is written in the past with the result that it remains forever, “But the righteous shall live by means of doctrine [**Habakkuk 2:4b**].”

9. From this realization emerged the Latin phrase, *sola fide*: “faith alone.” Faith alone applies to the doctrine of salvation as well as one’s response to the word of God.
10. These rebuttal arguments by the Prosecution are concluded by the sudden withdrawal of the body of Christ at the Rapture of the church, documented in 1 Thessalonians 4:14–17 and 1 Corinthians 15: 51–57.
11. It is this event that introduces Daniel’s Seventieth Week into world history which is referred to as the dispensation of the Tribulation.
12. We will not engage an in-depth study of this dispensation but will give it a respectful salute with an expanded translation from Daniel, chapter 9.
13. There is a term in this passage that can be confusing for some who do not understand Daniel’s use of the term “weeks.” It is simply the word for the unit of “seven.” Yet, it has several applications. It is the masculine noun, שְׁבִיעַ (*shavua’*): “seven.”
14. This unit can refer to the week of seven days or a unit of seven years which is also referred to in Greek as the cardinal number, ἑπτὰ (*heptá*): “seven.” The English spelling is, “heptad.”
15. As we move into the context of Daniel 9, this word will be an important part of its expanded translation.

The Expanded Translation of Daniel 9:24–27

Daniel 9:24a Seventy *shavua’*, *hepta*, or heptads of weeks [therefore 70 times 7 heptads of years i.e., 490 lunar years] have been decreed for your people and upon your holy city of Jerusalem.

NOTE: The time factor on this prophesy begins when the restoration of the city of Jerusalem in completed in 445 B.C.

Daniel 9:24b ... to finish the transgression [2d Advent terminates the fifth cycle of discipline], to make an end to sins [baptism of fire: all unbelievers removed prior to the Millennium], to make propitiatory covering over iniquity [the regathering of the Jews], and to bring in everlasting righteousness and to seal up the vision and prophecy [fulfillments of the unconditional promises to Israel, and to dedicate the Holy of Holies [the millennial temple] .

v. 25 You must know and understand by applying doctrine to experience that from the issuing of the decrees to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince [1st Advent up to His death in A.D. 33] will be 7 heptads [49 years] and 62 heptads [+ 434 years = 69 heptads times 7 = 483 years], the streets of Jerusalem will be built again and the walls shall be built again, even in times of distress.

Daniel 9:26 Then after the 62-week period has passed, Messiah will be cut off but not for Himself [to die for the sins of the world] and the people of the prince who will come [dictator of the Revived Roman Empire of the Tribulation] will destroy the city and the temple and the end of the dispensation of Israel will come like a flood [in A.D. 70] .

16. The second rebuttal argument of the Prosecution is terminated by the Rapture of the Church. The royal family is transferred to heaven where we, as human believers in resurrection bodies, become superior to angels.
17. This status is achievable in the Church Age. As witnesses for the prosecution, believers become experientially superior to angels because of their union with Christ.
18. In addition, those who live in the sophisticated spiritual life of wisdom are experientially superior to angels while functioning inside the bubble.
19. These are the invisible heroes, the **πρόμαχοι (prómachoi)**: “front rankers,” in the Lord’s phalanx, doing battle in the hostile environment of the devil’s world by laying waste to the lie because of their consistent application of doctrine.
20. These are the invisible heroes who, with doctrine, are empowered to function above the fray of *cosmos diabolicus*. While the heathen rage, mature believers lay waste to the cosmic lie undeterred by the machinations of Lucifer’s purveyors of propaganda.

21. Yet, these agents provocateurs remain willing and motivated to promote the lie which they are convinced will ultimately suppress the truth and win the showdown in the angelic conflict.

The Rebuttal Argument of the Defense: Daniel's Seventieth Week

1. The Rapture of the church occurs in two extremely short periods of time:

1 Thessalonians 4:15 We keep on saying to you for your advantage that we which are live and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who are asleep [**physically dead**].

v. 16 For the Lord will descend from heaven with a command, with the command of the archangel [**commanding officer, seraph rank**] and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first [**ascend upward within the first heaven**].

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up [**predictive future passive indicative of ἀρπάζω (harpázō): Paul believed the Rapture would occur in his lifetime.**] together with them in clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

2. There are possibly those, with an extensive mathematical background, who reject the possibility that such events could occur based on the attributes of gravity. Here is a rebuttal to this otherwise irrefutable claim:

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESURRECTION BODY

“We know that when He appears, we will be like Him.” (1 John 3:2)

1. It does not appear unusual, Luke 24:13–32; John 20:11–16
2. It can vanish from sight, Luke 24:31
3. It can move through barriers, Matt 27:65–66 cf. 28:5–6; John 20:19, 26
4. It retains stigmata, Luke 24:39–40; John 20:20, 27 (at least for Jesus)
5. It is made of flesh and bones, Luke 24:39