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GRACE**

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**Times, Times
and
Half a Time
42 Months
and
1260 Days**

(2020)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Times, Times and Half a Time, 42 Months, and 1260 Days.

Topics.

- The word day and time.
- Introduction to time, times, and half a time.
- The first mention of time, times, and half a time.
- The second mention of time, times, and half a time.
- The third mention of time, times, and half a time.
- One day is as a thousand years theory.
- 1290 and 1335 days.
- Principals of interpreting time periods of prophecy.
- A thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday.

THE WORD DAY AND TIME

Understanding the different applications of the word day, can help in understanding the expression, 'a time, times, and half a time.'

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The word day: can refer to the following:

- The time space between dawn and dark.
- The whole twenty-four hours.
- Figuratively an age or period (always defined by the context).

The word Time: can refer to the following:

- A fixed time or season.
- Conventionally a year.
- A set or appointed time.

There are verses in which the word 'time' means one year, but this does not mean every time the word 'time' is used it has to mean one year. In the ancient Jewish world, 'a period of time' represented a, 'Season of time,' which means the word 'time' could apply to a season, or period of time, or one year, the context it is used in will determine if it means one year, or a season, or period of time.

INTRODUCTION TO TIME, TIMES, AND HALF A TIME

The Hebrew language is full of idioms, the expression, 'time, times, and half-a-time,' is one of these Hebrew idioms. The following Scriptures support this statement:

- **Job 33:14:** For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it.
- **Job 40:5:** I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further.”
- **Psalm 62:11:** Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,

In the above Scriptures, once is one, likewise, twice is only one more, giving a total of two. A singular one followed by a plural twice is only two, in the same way, a singular time followed by a plural, times is only two, the words are different, but the idiomatic form or principal is the same.

If we apply this principal to the expression: time, times, and half a time, we see:

- Time = one time.
- Times = one more time.
- Giving a total of two times.
- Add a half a time and we have two and a half times.
- Meaning two and a half periods of time.

A time, times, and half a time (the dividing of time in KJV), is literally interpreted as:

- One year, two years, and half a year, (i.e., 3½ years) (of 30-day months).
- 1260 days (i.e., 3½ years) (Rev. 12:6, 14).
- Forty-two months in (i.e., 3½ years) (Re 11:2-3).
- 1290 days (i.e., 3½ years) (with the extra 30-day month in a leap year added).
- 360 days + 720 days + 180 days for a total of 1260 days or 3½ years.

Time's time and half a time is reckoned by interpreters to be 3½ and counted as 3½ literal years of 360 days. If 3½ years is multiplied by 360 days it = 1260 literal days which if a day prophetically is taken to be a 1000 then 3½ literal years = 1260 prophetic years

Following is a complete list of verses in Scriptural order that deal with the same period:

- A time, times, and a half a time (3½) (Dan. 7:25).
- A time, times, and a half a time (3½) (Dan. 12:7).
- Forty and two months (3½) (Rev. 11:2).
- 1260 days/years (3½) (Rev. 11:3).
- 1260 days/years (3½) (Rev. 12:6).
- A time, and times, and half a time (3½) (Rev. 12:14).
- Forty and two months (3½) (Rev. 13:5).

The following list is in group order:

- 3½ Times: (Rev. 12:14) (Dan. 7:25) (Dan. 12:7).

- 1260 days: (Rev. 11:3) (Rev. 12:6).
- 42 Months: (Rev. 11:2) (Rev. 13:5).

World history, and the worlds future are represented as 1260 days, or a time, times and half a time, in years.

The three-and a-half symbol: the expression, 'a time, times, and half a time' appears twice in Daniel (Dan. 7:25) (Dan. 12:7) and once in Revelation (Rev. 12:14). Most interpreters take the expression, 'a time, times, and half a time' to mean 'one time, two times, and half a time' or three-and-a-half times altogether.

Three-and-a-half days: the three-and-a-half symbol occurs in vision and prophecy as three-and-a-half days (Rev. 11:9, 11). In the famous seventy weeks prophecy of Daniel chapter nine, the 70th week has events occurring, 'in the middle of the week' suggesting that this final symbolic week is divided into two parts of three-and-a-half days each. (Dan 9:27).

Two examples of estimating the 1260 days (i.e., three-and-a-half years) to literal days:

1. In the numbers of days at the end of Daniel (Dan. 12:7-23), the three-and-a-half symbol is found as three-and-a-half months combined with three-and-a-half years. Using the symbolic calendar with 360 days in a year, and taking the 1260 days (three-and-a-half years), from the 1290 days leaves us with 30 days, (one month), and if we take 1260 days from the 1335 days, we are left with 75 days (two-and-a-half months), now if we add the 30 days to the 75 days, we get 105 days, then divide this by 30 we get three-and-a-half months.
2. Dividing the 1260 days by 360 yields three-and-a-half symbolic years, the same is true when 42 symbolic months is divided by 12, it become three-and-a-half symbolic years. (Rev 12:5). However, it should be kept in mind, these formulas are only formulas, and may not produce a literal and exact answer.

THE FIRST MENTION OF TIME, TIMES, AND HALF A TIME

- **Daniel 7:25:** he (a little horn) shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time (a time and times and the dividing of time, in KJV).

There are only three verses that mention a time, times and half a time. This verse is the first mention, it is in the context of Daniel's vision of four great beasts coming up out of the sea.

1. The first beast was like a lion: symbolizes a great king (Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon).
2. The second beast like a bear: symbolizes a great king (Cyrus king of Media Persia).
3. The third beast, like a leopard: symbolizes a great king (the king of Greece).
4. The fourth beast: exceedingly strong with great iron teeth, symbolizes another kingdom, that will devour the whole earth (this fourth kingdom was Rome). Out of Rome Daniel saw ten horns arising, symbolizing ten latter day kings and their kingdoms or rulers, and their empires, and out of these ten horns a little little-horn arises speaking great things

against God and His people for a time, times, and half a time, until One like the Son of man comes in the clouds of heaven and God pours out His judgment upon the little horn, and his empire and the kingdoms of the world are given to the people of God, after which all peoples and nations will serve him forever. (Daniel 7:3-28).

Here a time, times, and half a time, refers to a space of time in the latter days when a final world leader with tremendous authority, power and influence over the nations will arise speaking great things against God and His people.

THE SECOND MENTION OF TIME, TIMES, AND HALF A TIME

- **Daniel 12:7:** I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.

Here we are told, a king out of the ten kings will arise, and during the time covered by the expression 'a time, times, and half a time' he will wear out the saints by his speech and by changing times and laws until he is destroyed and the saints inherit an everlasting Kingdom. The power (authority) of the saints will be dashed to pieces until the entire length of time covered by the expression, 'time, times, and half a time' comes to an end and the resurrection takes place. This could simply mean that the wicked will be dominating until the resurrection).

- **Daniel 12:1-3:** "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.
- **Daniel 12:7-10:** And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.⁸ I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?"⁹ He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.¹⁰ Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.

This could simply mean that the wicked will be dominating until the resurrection). This verse is in the context of the time of the end when Michael, the great prince who has charge over God's people stands up during a time of trouble on earth as there has never been, out of which everyone whose name is found written in the book will be delivered, and those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Daniel asks, "When will the end of these wonders be?" He is told they will be for a time, times, and half a time, and when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end and all these things would be finished. The expression, "The shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end," means when the hostile antichristian persecution of God's people come to an end, and all God's plans for this world as we know it comes to an end. (Daniel 12:1-13). This means that the expression, "A time, times, and half a time," refers to a space of time in the latter days during which God completes his judgments and the kingdoms of the world become the Kingdoms of God

THE THIRD MENTION OF TIME, TIMES, AND HALF A TIME

- **Revelation 12:14:** The woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.

This is in the context of the Virgin Mary giving birth to Christ who will rule all the nations with a rod of iron, and him being resurrected to God and to his throne, and the salvation, the power and the kingdom of God, and the authority of Christ coming, and God's great wrath being poured out.

SUMMARY OF TIME, TIMES, AND HALF A TIME

Each verse that uses this expression refers to a space of time in the latter days that embraces:

- A time of great trouble, and of a final world leader with tremendous authority, power, and influence over the nation's speaking great things against God and His people
- A time when all whose name is found written in the Book of Life will be delivered and those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
- A time when God completes his judgments of wrath and the kingdoms of the world become the Kingdoms of God.

Conclusion: the forty-two months, 1.260 days, times, time and half a time all refer to a space of time in the latter days, and show that this space of time will be limited. It should be noted here that it is difficult to know with absolute certainty, exactly what these time periods refers to, so this conclusion is by no means dogmatic, however, the general idea is that these events will occur during the same space of time and that the length of time will be limited.

ONE DAY IS AS A THOUSAND YEARS THEORY

- **2 Peter 3:8:** But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Based on this verse there have been numerous theories written, based on the words, 'one day equals a thousand years,' regarding the prophetic time period covered by the Jewish idiom, 'time, times and half a time.' But it must be remembered that this verse is not a doctrinal verse teaching that a day equals a literal thousand years, Peter is simply making the point that what appears to us to be a long time is but a short time to the LORD. Peter is comforting his listeners (who may be getting impatient for the Lord's return) by telling them, time to the LORD is not the same as it is to us, what may seem like forever to us, is but only a moment to the Lord.

Therefore, to dogmatically say that one day equals a literal 1000 years, and then use it as a formula to work out futuristic periods of time maybe reading into the verse far more than Peter intended. Interpreters are not agreed on the meaning of the expression, 'time, times, and half a time,' some say the historical time period it covers has all taken place, while

others claim it refers to future events yet to come. If the phrase is Googled it will be found that there are many well thought out interpretations, with some interpreters claiming that their interpretation is the only proven one. I cannot prove either interpreter to be wrong and neither is that my aim, since prophecies sometimes have many fulfilments, I am willing to give Scripture its full latitude (in this as in many other controversies), and to accept that the words, 'time, times, and half a time,' in some contexts relates to past historic events, while in others it refers to events yet to happen in the future. My hope is that the information that I have gained will give the reader greater insight and aid them in expounding the meaning of the words 'time, times, and half a time,' even further than I have been able to. As we approach the end of this world as we know it today, the visions concerning events to take place in the latter days will become clearer as they unfold

1290 AND 1335 DAYS

- **Daniel 12:11-12:** And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. ¹² Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.

1290 Days: From the time the Jewish sacrifices finish and the abomination of desolation is set up it seems there will be 1,290 days until Michael stands up for Israel and then 1,335 days to the resurrection. Whoever waits until the 1,335 days will be blessed, it appears that from the time that the Jewish sacrifices finish and the abomination of desolation is set up there will be 1,290 days until Michael stands up for Israel and then another 45 days (i.e., 1,335 days) to the resurrection. (See Dan 12:1-3 above). Though there are various theories concerning the 1,290 and 1,335 days, which we will look at later, what is important, is to be found standing in faith when the 1,335 days are fulfilled.

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- **Daniel 12:12:** Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.

42 months and 1260 days: in the book of Revelation we are told, the nations will trouble the area outside the Temple in Jerusalem for "forty-two months" during which time God protects those who worship at the altar, and that God's two witnesses will torment the nations until the kingdom of this world becomes the Kingdom of the LORD Jesus Christ.

- **Revelation 11:15:** Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."
- **Revelation 11:2-3:** but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. ³ And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

God's two witnesses, who are tormenting the nations, prophesy for 1,260 days until the kingdom of this world becomes the Kingdom of the LORD and of his Christ.

1260 days and a woman.

- **Revelation 12:6:** and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

Here we are told, Israel (the woman) is protected and nourished in the wilderness by God for 1,260 days while the Dragon/Serpent goes after her offspring (the church).

A time, and times, and half a time and a woman.

- **Revelation 12:14:** But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.

Here we are told, Israel (the woman) is protected by the earth for "a time, and times, and half a time" while the Dragon/Serpent goes after her offspring (the Church) (see Rev 12:17)

42 months and a beast.

- **Revelation 13:5:** And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

Here we are told, a beast who all the world will worship is given authority for forty-two months to speak against God, make war on the saints and force everyone to receive a mark of 666. During this forty-two months' time period, the saints are called to endure to the end, when the Lord stands on Mount Zion (see Rev 13:5-18) and (Rev 14:1-5). Following are the five most common theories concerning the 1290 and 1335 days.

SENERIO ONE: supposing all the time idioms cover the same period, the events would unfold in the following order:

1. The period begins with the abomination of desolation and the end of Jewish sacrifices. (Some believe the Islamic shrine, the Dome of the Rock, built on the Temple Mount is the old city of Jerusalem is the abomination of desolation).
2. Jerusalem is troubled, but kept by God while the dragon/serpent goes after her offspring (the church).
3. God's two witnesses are protected.
4. A great leader with the gift of oratory arises and wears out the saints by his speech.
5. The populations are forced to receive the mark 666.
6. During this period the saints are called to endure until the Lord stands on Mount Zion and the resurrection takes place.
7. The kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of the LORD and of his Christ

SENERIO TWO: the words, 'time, times,' signifies a doubling or prolonging of intensity, struggle, danger, and trouble. Likewise, the words, 'half a time,' signifies a limiting or cutting short of whatever the time period represents.

SENERIO THREE: Belshazzar to Israel becoming a new nation:

Daniel's vision was given in the 1st year of Belshazzar (552 BC) and Israel was declared an independent nation in (1948 AD), so if 552 is subtracted from 1948 it equals 2500 years, which means from the time of Belshazzar to Israel becoming an independent nation was 2500 years. Based on this, and taking 'time' in this context to be 1000 years, it is reasoned, 'time times and half a time' would be 2500 years (552 + 1948 = 2500).

SENERIO FOUR: Cyrus to Jerusalem being freed from Gentile control:

in the 3rd year of Cyrus (533 BC) the LORD told Daniel that the Holy land of the Jews would be under Gentile controlled powers for two and a half times, if 'time' is taken to be 1000 years (based on the 1260

days being 1260 years) then 533BC subtracted from 2500 years = 1967AD (i.e., the six-day war), which was when Jerusalem was freed from Gentile control. (Dan. 12:7, 11) (Dan. 10:1).

SENERIO FIVE: The Dome of the Rock to the year Israel became a nation: if time is 1000 years, and there are four seasons, then a season would be $\frac{1}{4}$ of a time, or 250 years. $1000+250=1250$ (almost 1260 years), if it is considered that a season is not an exact number and could fluctuate a little either way, this "season and time" *can be seen to* cover the period spanning from the time the Dome of the Rock was built (688 AD) to the year Israel became a nation (1948) (688 subtracted from 1948 = 1260 years).

SNAPSHOT: following are the supposed time periods when the expressions, times, times and half a time, and the 1260 Days, and the 42 months were fulfilled.

- in 688 A.D. by the construction of the Moslem Dome of the Rock.
- in 1948 A.D. by the Jewish people returning to their homeland, and Israel becoming an independent nation.
- in 1967 A.D. by the freeing of Jerusalem from Gentile control.

PRINCIPALS OF INTERPRETING TIME PERIODS OF PROPHECY

Years, months, weeks, and days, when spoken of in prophecy are sometimes based on an ideal year of 360 days (i.e., twelve months each of 30 days). For example, divide 1260 days by 30 days and you get 42 months, which means the 1260 days of (Rev. 12:6) is the same as the 42 months of (Rev. 13:5). The calendar of exactly 360 days, (twelve exact 30-day months to a year), is very suitable to use for interpreting prophetic prophecies. However, such a calendar would not work in practice, unless a gap of some extra days were allowed between each year to keep the calendar synchronised with the seasons, because there are not exactly 52 weeks in a year so calendar weeks do not fit exactly into months and years. Even the symbolic calendar mentioned above does not fit an exact number of weeks because 360 does not divide evenly by seven so years and weeks never exactly fit mathematically to actual times.

This is why attempts to use the symbolic periods as a code for some real number of years, months, weeks, and days, often leads to confusion, when they are turned into numbers of real historic years or to actual dates. Due to this dilemma, it should be recognised, symbolic times do not signify the exact date or exact duration of actual times, but rather that the period is within the knowledge and authority of God whenever it may be. It is possible in certain cases, prophetic days, weeks, months, and years are not to be used as a code from which scholars and theologians are to calculate real time periods, but rather a symbol to stand in place of real time periods, which are not for us to know in advance.

Following is an example: a symbolic period such as the 1335 days (Dan. 12:12) indicates that this is a time or season 'which the Father has fixed by his own authority' and it is not for us to know the exact time. Jesus said:

- **Acts 1:7:** He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- **Psalm 90: 4-6:** For a **thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday** when it is past, or as a watch in the night. ⁵ You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: ⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.
- **2 Peter 3:5-9:** For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. ⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that **with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.** ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

The expression, "a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday," carry the following ideas:

- The eternal time of God compared to man's fleeting time is endless.
- In contrast to man's finiteness, the LORD is not subject to time.
- God regards a thousand years the way mortal humans think of a day.
- In contrast to fleeting human life which is passing away, a thousand years are as nothing to God and eternity:
- All the events of a thousand years, are more present to God's Eternal Mind, than the events of one day is to our mind.
- Human life is a short and quickly-passing
- A thousand years seem long to us, but to the LORD they are as a single day (i.e., a blink of the eye).
- Even if our days were a thousand years, it would be as moment in God's sight.
- Those who think a thousand years to be long, is but a moment in comparison to the endless duration of eternity.
- Time has no relation to God; it does not exist for him, He cannot be affected by time as mortal man is.
- Those in Christ should not lose heart because God seems slow at fulfilling His promises because He is patient, and not bound by time as we are.
- No matter how long we may think a time period is, it is but a twinkling of an eye from God's eternal perspective.
- The words express the disproportion there is between how mortal man views time and how the eternal God views time.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
