

Handout Chapter 11

In Elijah's three and a half year period of drought on Israel, the drought ends with Elijah's defeat of the priests of Baal on Mt. Carmel. Also see the passages in Daniel. A broken 7 (3 ½) yields death, destruction, and judgment (Daniel 9:24; 12:7; Revelation 12:6, 14; 13:5).

The 42 months are probably symbolic but there is a literal historic fulfillment in the three and a half years from the invasion of Vespasian's legions until the destruction of Jerusalem in the summer of 70AD. It is also worth noting that the periods of time in the Trumpets section of Revelation are arranged in a chiastic pattern that is another indication of the symbolic nature of this time period:

- A. 11:2 - 42 months
- B. 11:3 – 1, 260 days
- C. 11:9 – 3 ½ days
- C. 11:11 – 3 ½ days
- B. 12:6 – 1,260 days

- A. 13:5 – 42 months

You should understand that this kind of imagery is used throughout the Bible. In Matthew's Gospel (genealogy of Mt. 1:1-17), for example, he deliberately goes out of his way to draw our attention to the number 42 (see the Agape Bible Study chart on Matthew's Toledoth). He artfully arranges the list of Jesus' ancestors to add up to 42 generations in three lists of 14 generations each. But he has manipulated the list to come out to 42 by deleting three generations and by counting one name twice (Jechoniah; see Matthew 1:11-12). The symbolic importance of the 42 was more important than the accuracy of the list because then the number 42 becomes the number between promise and fulfillment and between bondage to redemption. The Matthew passage is clearly linked to Revelation where the message is now the Church does not need to wait 42 generations but only 42 months. The Church of the New Covenant will be saved through the coming Tribulation during which Judea and Jerusalem is to be destroyed by an invasion of Gentiles. The end of this period of Tribulation (which Jesus prophesied will mean the full establishment of the Kingdom of heaven on earth = The New Covenant, **universal** Church).

In each section of Revelation, John's figures harmonize with each other:	
How are the Seal judgments numbered?	In fourths
How are the Trumpet judgments numbered?	In thirds
How are the numbers in chapters 11-13 set?	The numbers correspond to three and a half (the 42 months and 1,260 days both equal three and a half years).