

9. The humanity of Jesus Christ entered time as royalty: undiminished deity and true humanity in one Person forever— King of kings and Lord of lords.
10. However, as royalty in the hypostatic union, He did not have a royal family. This developed in the mystery dispensation of the Church in which a royal family of believers was formed.
11. During the Incarnation, the Lord grew to maturity from childhood to adulthood and in that process, He advanced to spiritual maturity. We do not learn from Scripture how these things developed from His age 12 to age 30.
12. However, the outcome is clearly revealed by this passage in Matthew 4:1–4, a passage which documents the Lord’s strategic victory through evidence testing accomplished by his debate with Lucifer.

Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up under the authority of the Holy Spirit into the desert to be tempted from the source of the devil.

1. In order to provide a royal family for our Lord, He had to be tested in order to become the prototype for the Church-Age believer. Jesus was impeccable and therefore not able to sin, nevertheless, the temptations were real.
2. The Holy Spirit led him into the desert where His volition was challenged in order to establish the prototype for the soon-to-become Church-Age believers.
3. Jesus had the filling of the Holy Spirit and was tested to follow the will of God while being tempted by the devil: [**διάβολος (diábolos): “accuser, slanderer, adversary, tempter”**; proper names: “**Lucifer, Satan**”].

Matthew 4:2 After He fasted [**νηστεύω (nēsteúō)**: privately for concentration on the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit] **forty days and forty nights, He was hungry.**

1. Fasting refers to the decision to avoid eating so as to focus attention on the study and retention of divine guidance.

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter [**devil, Lucifer, Satan**] came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, and you are, speak to these stones commanding them to become bread.”

1. Lucifer issued a first-class condition to command Jesus to speak to the stones. The structure of the sentence indicates that Lucifer knew Jesus is the Son of God.



2. And since He is the Son of God, then Lucifer commands Him to “speak to these stones by commanding them to become bread.”
3. Recognizing Jesus as deity does not indicate that Lucifer is saved by this comment. It means that he recognizes the fact, but continues and remains the lead witness for the defense before the Divine Court of Appeals.
4. Lucifer has been judged, found guilty, and sentenced to the lake of fire. The only reason his incarceration has not already taken place was his appeal to the court to allow his appeal.
5. In this scene, Lucifer is cross-examining Jesus in His true humanity to disqualify Him as a witness before the court.
6. If Jesus does what Lucifer commands, He will have discredited Himself as a witness by using His deity to perform the task.
7. It is the humanity of Christ that is under cross-examination, not His deity. Jesus’ task is to perform the duty of inculcating doctrine into his human soul in order to use Scripture to do battle in the angelic conflict.

Matthew 4:4 But He [Jesus] answered and said, “It was written in the past with results that stand forever, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that keeps on coming out of the mouth of God which is to our advantage.’” (EXT)

1. Jesus did not use the power of His deity in His response but did use the power of the Word of God to do so in:

Deuteronomy 8:3b “... man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.”

2. Victory in the angelic conflict is not accomplished solely by utilization of worldly provisions such as food, but by the study, retention, facilitation, and application of the Word of God.
3. Our relationship with God is through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Just having the general necessities of life is not really living. Having a relationship with God must come first and that is through the study of the Word of God.
4. Throughout this passage, Jesus successfully passed all the tests that Lucifer threw at Him which prepared Him to endure the cross while being judged for the sins of the entire world.

(End JAS4-42.Rev. See JAS4-43.Rev for the continuation of study at p. 421.)



5. His work on the cross provided eternal salvation for all mankind. This victory duplicated the decision of the elect angels in eternity past.
6. Thus, the First Advent was the time when Jesus was made lower than the angels, but His resurrection, ascension, and session was His strategic victory making Him higher than the angels:

Ephesians 1:22 And God has subordinated all angels under Jesus' footstool and appointed Him absolute Sovereign over and above all with reference to the church. (EXT)

The Church Age: The Tactical Victory:

1. This dispensation produced the tactical victory for the Prosecution. Jesus Christ has just ascended into heaven and within a few days the dispensation of the Church began the process of calling out the Royal Family of God.
2. Jesus Christ is royalty in resurrection body. He is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. However, the Lord is not only undiminished deity but also true humanity.
3. In His true humanity, there is no one to ultimately accompany Him in eternity. The dispensation of the church was inserted for the purpose of forming a royal family of God to accompany the Lord for all eternity.
4. Quite a number of titles for this royal family are mentioned in Scripture, characterized as figures of the Church: **(1)** The Shepherd and the Sheep [John 10: 1–15], **(2)** The Vine and the Branches [John 15:5], **(3)** The Cornerstone and the Stones of the Building [1 Peter 2:4–5], **(4)** The High Priest and the Kingdom of Priests [Hebrews 9:11–12], and **(5)** The Head and the Body of the church with Its Many Members (Ephesians 4:15–16).
5. It is from the Body of Christ, the church, that the Prosecution's rebuttal argument is executed. It is this body of mature believers that wins the victory over Luciferian propaganda that indoctrinates lost unbelievers and loser believers.
6. This argument in the appeal by the Prosecution continues until the dispensation of the Church is terminated by the Rapture.

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 [שִׁילֹה (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, שָׁבִיעַ (*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 is completed in 445 B.C.