

## Four Reasons Revelation 13 has a Dual (Future) Application

I have noticed there has been a misunderstanding of the forty-two months of Revelation 13:5. While we as a church have an interpretation that has assigned this time period to the dark ages (538 – 1798), there are some considerations that we must make in order to be HONEST with the text. While the dark ages are used to reference the time period of the forty-two months we must either assign this to be a dual prophecy or an incorrect allocation of the time period. Which one I will let you determine. Please consider the following;

1. These forty-two months happens AFTER the deadly wound is “healed” (Revelation 13:3). The papacy received its deadly wound in 1798. How can the 42 months of Revelation 13:5 be pointing to the dark ages when the papacy had not yet received its deadly wound? We have always taught that the Papacy received its deadly wound in 1798. You can’t heal from a wound unless it has first been inflicted. Therefore, these forty-two months must come AFTER 1798.

2. In addition, according to verse 8 this happens during the time of the judgement. Why? Because verse 8 highlights the outcome of those who worship beast, that they are in a condition of eternal condemnation because their names have been excluded from the Lamb’s book of life. Revelation 13:8 “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, **whose names are not written in the book of life** of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

We can realize this the time period of Revelation 13 by comparing scripture with scripture. The other scripture that helps us to identify this fact is found in Daniel 12:1. “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, **every one that shall be found written in the book.**” Clearly when Michael stands up probation has CLOSED. This suggests that these 42 months of Revelation 13:5 brings the judgment to a conclusion. This could not have been the dark ages JUDGMENT HAD NOT EVEN BEGUN THEN!!! Hence, the 42 months of Revelation 13:5 is referring to the last 3 ½ years of earth’s history, bringing about the final judgment of mankind – the close of probation for the world!

3. Furthermore, this happens during the time when Satan personates Christ. Revelation 13:4 “And they **worshipped the dragon** which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?” Here the Bible clearly reveals that the inhabitants of this world give homage to Satan. It is obvious that Satan poses himself as Christ and seduces the rest of the inhabitant of the world to worship him. This is substantiated by other verses of scripture. 2 Thessalonians 2:9 “...the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” It is Satan who imitates Christ and deceives many into observing and honoring a false Sabbath. He even performs miracle and cause fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men. (Rev. 13:13,14) (GC

553.2) This leads me to my next point. The use of the word “month” substantiates that the 42 months is the time of the National Sunday Law.

4. The very use of the word “month” (Rev. 13:5), reveals a time period that is relegated to the judgment of the living! Again, this can be confirmed by comparing scripture with scripture. Scholars often refer to a concept called the law or rule of “first mention.” This means that the way a concept or principle is first initiated in a book of the Bible determines its consistent use throughout scripture. Where is the first place in the book of Revelation that the word “month” is used in reference to prophetic time, Revelation 9:5. Revelation 9:1 introduces the fifth trumpet. In verse 5 we read that the Locust Beast have the authority to torment men for five months. These five months must be literal months for two reasons; `1. Since the trumpets are future and this is the fifth trumpet then it has to be literal time (I think we would all agree we don’t have another 150 years before Christ returns). Secondly, the previous verse (verse 4) tells us when this event of torment occurs; during the time of the sealing! Revelation 9:4 “And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; **but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.**”

5. The fifth and final reason is that Ellen White gives Revelation 13 a dual future application. Notice what Ellen White says, “The Sabbath question will be the issue in the great conflict in which all the world will act a part. [Revelation 13:4-10 quoted.] This entire chapter **is a revelation of what will surely take place.**” [Revelation 13:11, 15-17 quoted] (Manuscript 88, 1897). – {7BC 979.10}

I think by the weight of evidence provided in the above study we can safely presume that Revelation 13 has a dual interpretation.