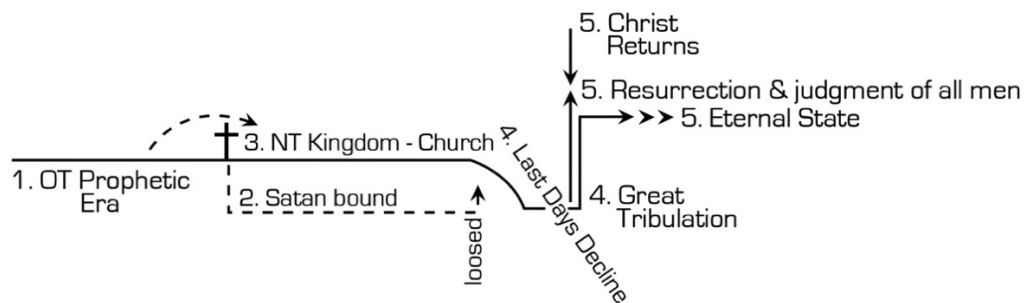


### AMILLENNIALISM



*We believe that Jesus is currently reigning in heaven and on earth, through the church. The 1000 years are symbolic of a long, undefined time which began when Jesus rose from the dead, bound Satan, and the church was unleashed. Because he is bound and demonic attacks can be thwarted, Satan cannot stop the church from expanding into the whole world. This reign will last until just before the end, when Satan is unleashed – there will be growing wickedness and tribulation in the world. Jesus' return will save his followers from annihilation at the hands of evil forces. His second coming will usher in the final judgment and then the full consummation of his kingdom.*

### Focus of Class Today

- Disciples of Jesus will live through persecution in the end-times (not be 'raptured' and avoid them).
- Satan inspires an evil empire/leader who persecutes God's people ('Little Horn,' 'Beast,' Anti-Christ').
- There will be famines, earthquakes, growing wickedness, false teachers, and the love of most will grow cold.
- \*- We need to prepare for persecutions and the tribulations now.**
  - we could be moving into the times of the end?
  - at a minimum, we are moving into increasingly difficult times for true disciples in North America

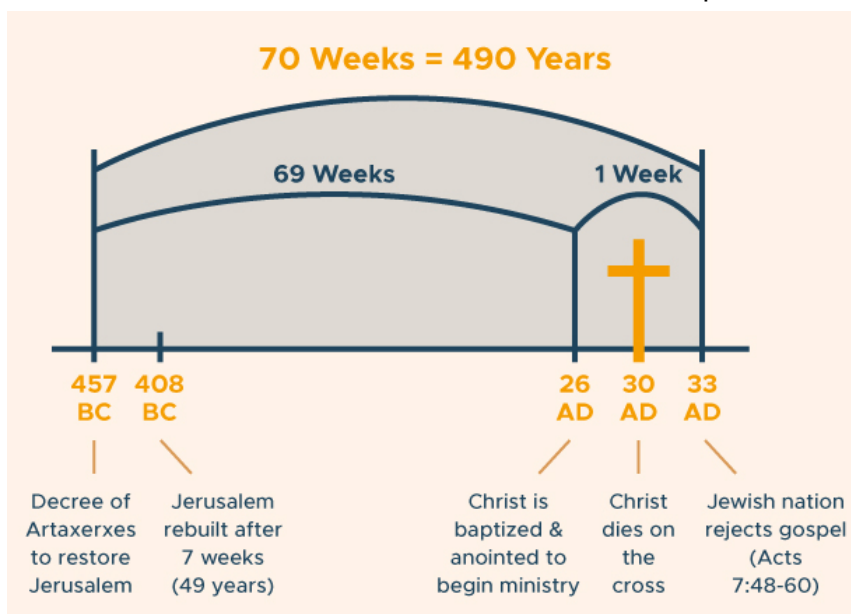
**Daniel 9:** <sup>20</sup> While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill— <sup>21</sup> while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. <sup>22</sup> He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. <sup>23</sup> As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision:

<sup>24</sup> "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place."

### 70 Weeks ...

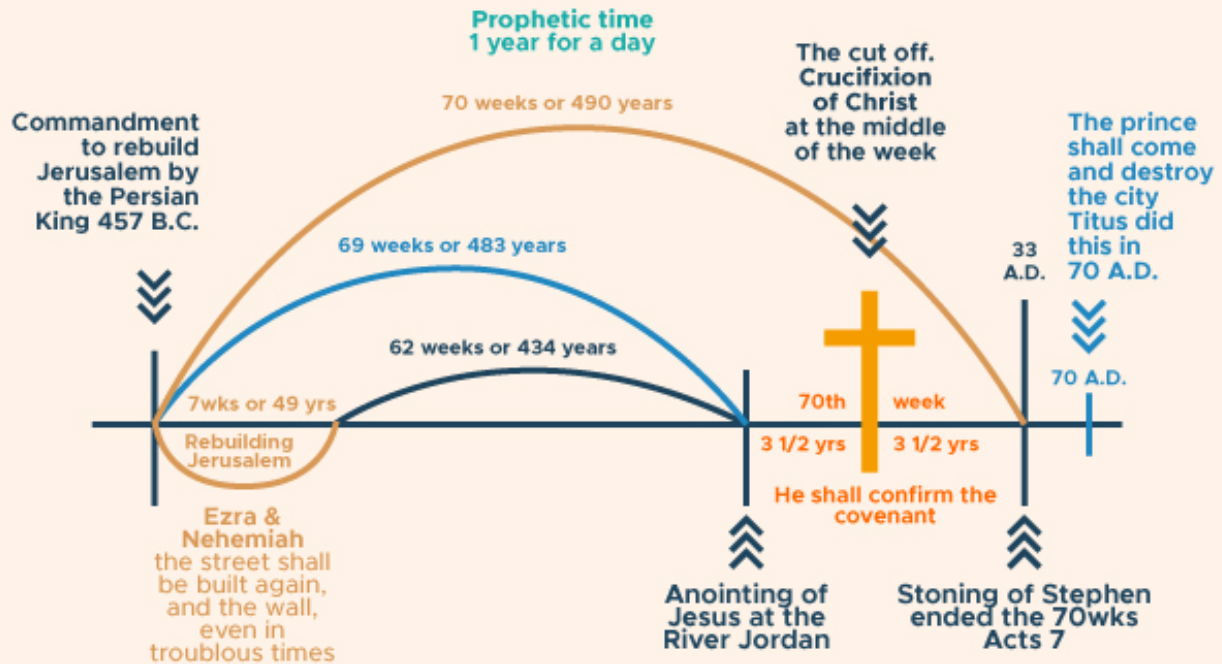
1. To finish transgression.
2. To put an end to sin.
3. To atone for wickedness.
4. To bring everlasting righteousness.
5. To seal up vision and prophecy.
6. To anoint the Most Holy Place.

<sup>25</sup> "Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. <sup>26</sup> After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. <sup>27</sup> He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."



# 70 Weeks of Daniel

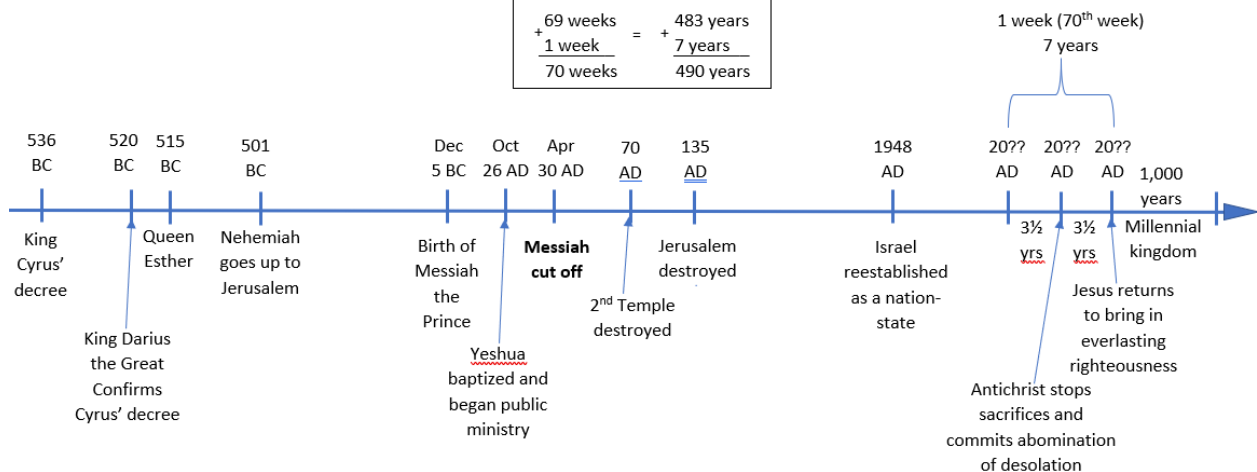
Daniel 9:24-27  
490 Years



## Not This One (New Interpretation in the 1800s)

### Daniel 9:24-27 – 70 weeks Prophecy:

7 weeks	=	49 years
+ 62 weeks	=	434 years
69 weeks	=	483 years
69 weeks	=	483 years
+ 1 week	=	7 years
70 weeks	=	490 years



## The Rapture?

The concept of *the rapture* (caught up with Jesus when he returns) is taught by the Word of God. But a secret rapture of Christians seven years before everyone else sees the return of Jesus is not taught in the Word of God.

### Reject the Two-Part Return of Christ (Pre-Tribulation Rapture).

1. The view itself does not naturally “spring out” of any scripture, including Daniel 9.
2. It requires us to believe that the second coming *will be in two parts* – one secret and the other universal. Scripture indicates that there will be one return (see Matthew 24; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-13; and Revelation 19-20 below).
3. This view is a required part of the system of Biblical interpretation called “Dispensational Pre-millennialism,” which has received little support from serious Biblical scholarship (just by those from denominations and seminaries that require it; even then it is being modified to become “Progressive Dispensationalism”).
4. This view was not believed by anybody for the first seventeen hundred years of Biblical scholarship (it has only been believed since the 1800’s). Why was it not believed by – those disciplined by the apostles, those in the churches established by the apostles, and those who knew the original language and culture of the New Testament (and Daniel)?

### 3 Key Passages – A Single Second Coming—After The Tribulation (Post-Tribulation Rapture)

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** - And now, brothers and sisters, I want you to know what will happen to the Christians who have died so you will not be full of sorrow like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus comes, God will bring back with Jesus all the Christians who have died. I can tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not rise to meet him ahead of those who are in their graves. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, all the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and remain with him forever. So comfort and encourage each other with these words.

**Matthew 24:23-31** - "Then if anyone tells you, 'Look, here is the Messiah,' or 'There he is,' don't pay any attention. For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great miraculous signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones. See, I have warned you. "So if someone tells you, 'Look, the Messiah is out in the desert,' don't bother to go and look. Or 'Look, he is hiding here,' don't believe it! For as the lightning lights up the entire sky, so it will be when the Son of Man comes. "Immediately after those horrible days end, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then at last, the sign of the coming of the Son of Man will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the nations of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man arrive on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send forth his angels with the sound of a mighty trumpet blast, and they will gather together his chosen ones from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-12** - And now, brothers and sisters, let us tell you about the coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered together to meet him. . . For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed--the one who brings destruction. . . And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way. Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will consume with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. This evil man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. . .

## Matthew 24 and the Return of Jesus

Matthew 24 records Jesus' answer to three related questions by the disciples. It is likely that in the minds of the disciples the three questions involve one complex question. They probably thought that the (1) destruction of the temple would also involve (2) the coming of Jesus the Messiah, and (3) the end of the age. Thus, they telescoped what we now know are distinct events into one event. This makes the best sense of the parallel material in all the gospels (Mark 13 and Luke 21). This also explains why the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, the second coming, and the end of the age are all mixed together by Jesus. This also explains why it is difficult for us to know what events are being referred to in several verses. When it is pushed together, a telescope looks like a single unit; yet when it is fully extended, it is obvious that there are distinct components - - some which are separated by numerous intermediate links. Like a compressed telescope, we must try to figure out which verses refer to which parts of the extended history. We must confess that when these events are finally extended before us in history it will be much easier to make sense of them than at present when they are still partially compressed. Nevertheless, like observant telescope operators, we can look at the compressed history and propose good suggestions on the parts of history to which each verse points.

**Matthew 24:1** Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. <sup>2</sup>“Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” <sup>3</sup> As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

*Look closely at the recent picture below to see if you can locate the retaining walls of the ancient Temple Mount. They frame the area where Muslims erected the Dome of the Rock (the gold dome in the middle) in the late 600s. The lower part of the retaining walls and the area up top (the Temple Mount) maintain the basic structure and appearance from ancient times. The large white space in the picture below is the area of the ancient temple.*

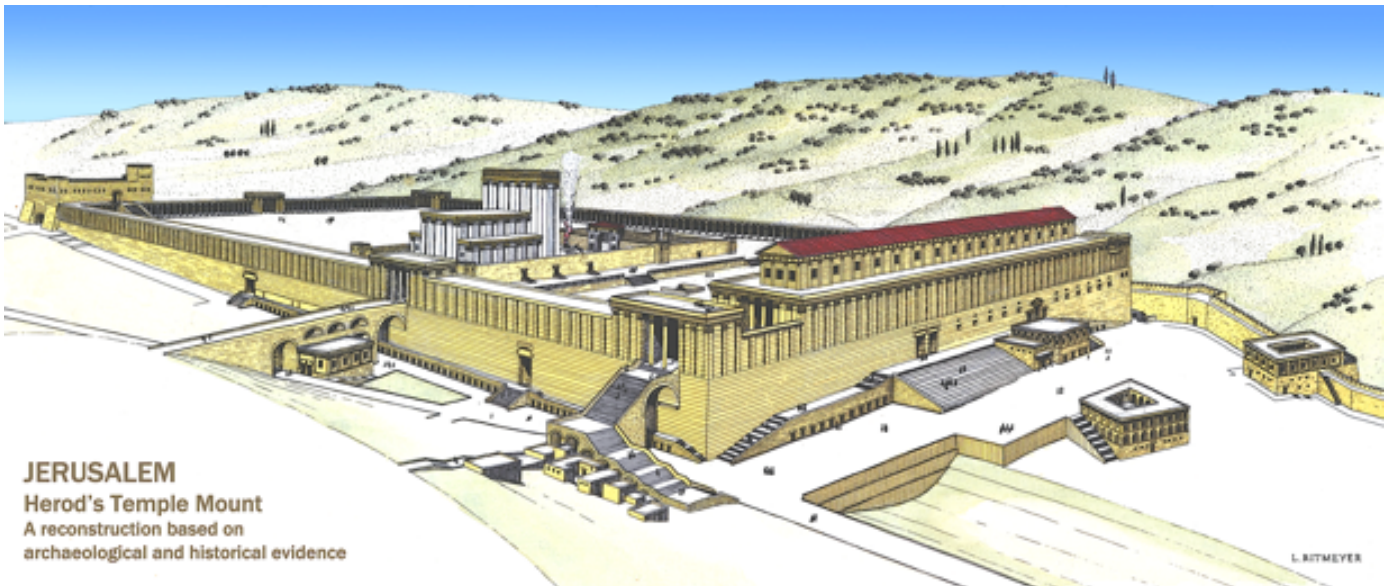


The remnants of the temple and temple courts





First century archaeological reconstruction of Jerusalem and Temple



Recent rendering of the temple from Jesus' time



The Huldah Gate from the first-century temple

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. <sup>6</sup> You will hear of wars and rumors of wars but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. <sup>7</sup> Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of birth pains.”

<sup>9</sup> “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. <sup>10</sup> At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, <sup>11</sup> and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. <sup>12</sup> Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, <sup>13</sup> but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

<sup>15</sup> “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— <sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. <sup>18</sup> Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. <sup>19</sup> How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! <sup>20</sup> Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.” <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.



The stones from the temple knocked down by the Romans in 70 CE.



## Crucial Interpretive Matters

(1) The days that are cut short in 24:22 (as in Mark 13:20) refer not to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. as did verses 15-21, but to days of distress just before the second coming. This surprising twist in Jesus' discussion is supported by the following facts.

- a. The days are cut short so that all flesh (*Pasa Sarx* - Greek) will survive - this does not fit the destruction of Jerusalem.
- b. The days are also cut short for the sake of Christians (the elect) - this does not fit the destruction of Jerusalem.
- c. Verse 21 makes a suitable ending to 24:15-20.
- d. The verses that follow (24:23ff) pick up on themes that seem to apply to the period just before the end.
- e. The idea that there will be a period of intense distress just before the end is implied by the reference to birth pains (24:8) and the injunction to stand firm to the end (24:13) because many will turn away "at that time" (24:10).
- f. The change in verb tenses between verse 21 and 22 *may* be significant. Verse 21 - "there will be great distress" (future indicative active) - to verse 22 - "if those days had not been cut short" (aorist indicative passive) and "those days will be shortened" (future indicative passive).

<sup>22</sup> "If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. <sup>23</sup> At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. <sup>24</sup> For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup> See, I have told you ahead of time."

(2) Increased distress just before the second coming is also taught elsewhere in the Bible.

- a. 2 Tim. 3:1-5 - General Godlessness and lovelessness in the last days? (Matt. 24:12).
- b. 2 Thess. 2:1-10 - The Lawless one who performs false signs and wonders but is destroyed by Jesus' appearance.
- c. Persecution by the "Little Horn" in Daniel 7.
- d. References in the book of Revelation (16:1-21; 19:19-21; 20:7-9; etc.).

<sup>26</sup> "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the wilderness,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. <sup>27</sup> For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather." <sup>29</sup> "Immediately after the distress of those days 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'"

<sup>30</sup> "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

<sup>31</sup> And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other." <sup>32</sup> "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup> Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. <sup>34</sup> Truly I tell you this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

## Matthew 24 Summary

(1) General characteristics of the period from Jesus' time up until the end - *things that will precede the end and that might arouse false expectations that the end has arrived* (24:6-14):

- False Messiahs (24:5)
- Wars, Rumors of Wars and National conflicts (24:6,7)
- Famines and Earthquakes (24:7)

(2) Further general characteristics that may or may not expand just before the end.

- Persecution and hatred by the nations (24:9)
- Apostasy and false teaching (24:10,11)
- Increase in wickedness and lovelessness (24:12)
- Gospel preached to all nations (24:14)

(3) The Abomination of Desolation -- an important preliminary to the end - introduced by the transitional phrase "So" (*oun* in Greek).

- The destruction of Temple/Jerusalem in 68-70 A.D (24:15-21).
- Greatest distress up until then and never will be equaled in history that would come afterward
- The accent is on the awful terror for the people and decimation involved, not on the number.

(4) Intensification of the distress as birth pains are intensified just before the end (24:22ff).

- God will cut the days of distress short - things will become so bad with wars, famines, persecution, etc., that if God did not intervene no one would survive (24:22).
- False Messiahs and teachers - some even do miracles (24:24,25).
- Alleged secret appearances of Jesus that must be discounted (24:26-28).
- All flesh and the elect will be involved (24:22, 31).

(5) After the period of distress - the Second Coming (24:29).

- Signs in the heavens which may be either symbolic or real? (24:29) .
- The return of Jesus Christ which causes the nations to mourn (24:30).
- Angels gather all the Christians (24:31).

(6) Warning to the disciples that (a) the fall of Jerusalem and (b) preliminaries to the end [distress, persecution, earthquakes, etc.,] will occur during their lifetime [up to 70 A.D.]. (24:32-35).

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(7) The end is 'near' after A.D. 70, in that we are in the final lap of the end times, but how long that lap will last is not specified - No one knows the date when Jesus will return (36-51).

- No one knows the time (24:36)
- Life will go on as it always has (24:38-40)
- Be diligent at all times so that you will not be found unfaithful (24:41-51)