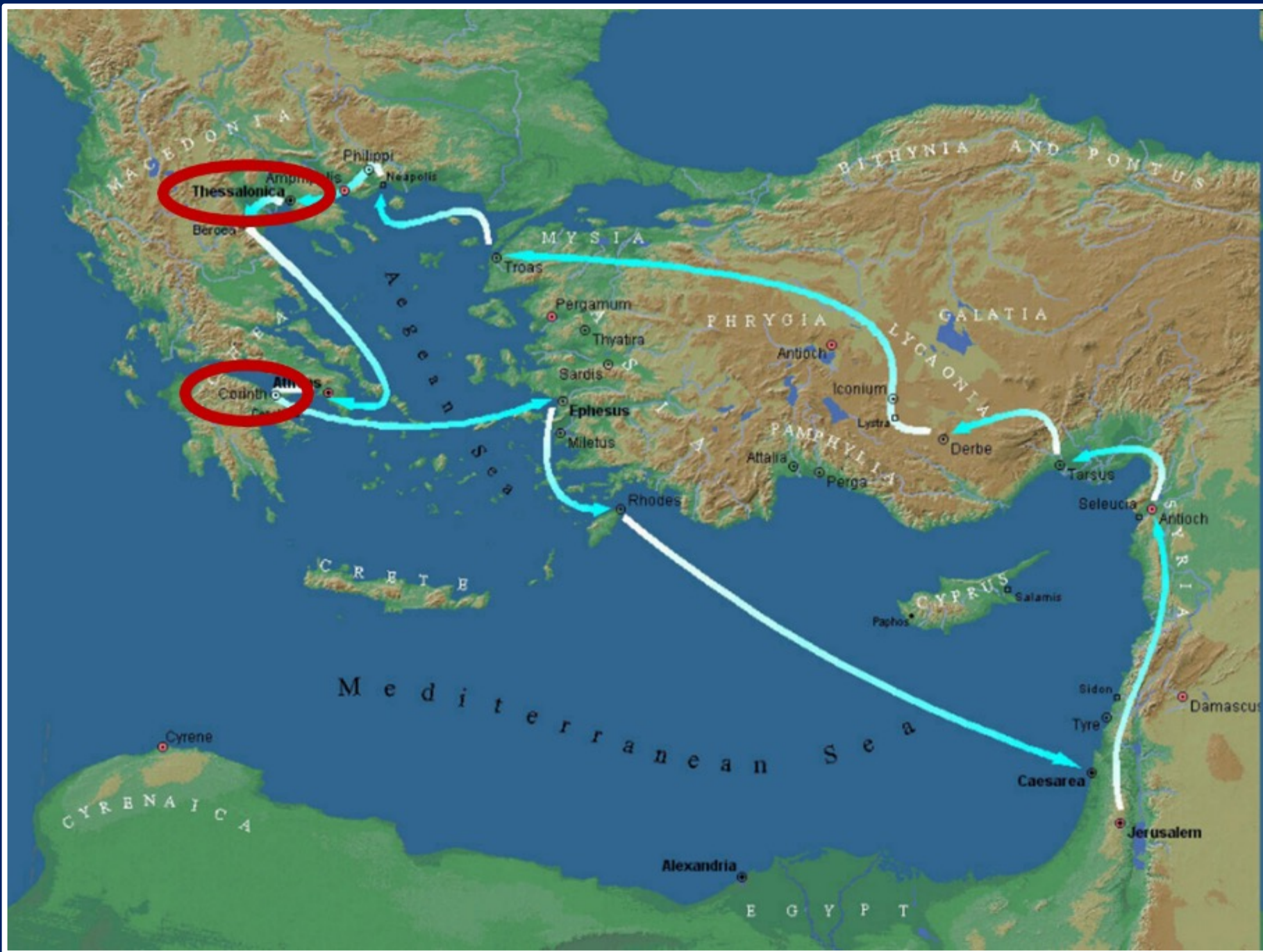


Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church
President – Chafer Theological Seminary



2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

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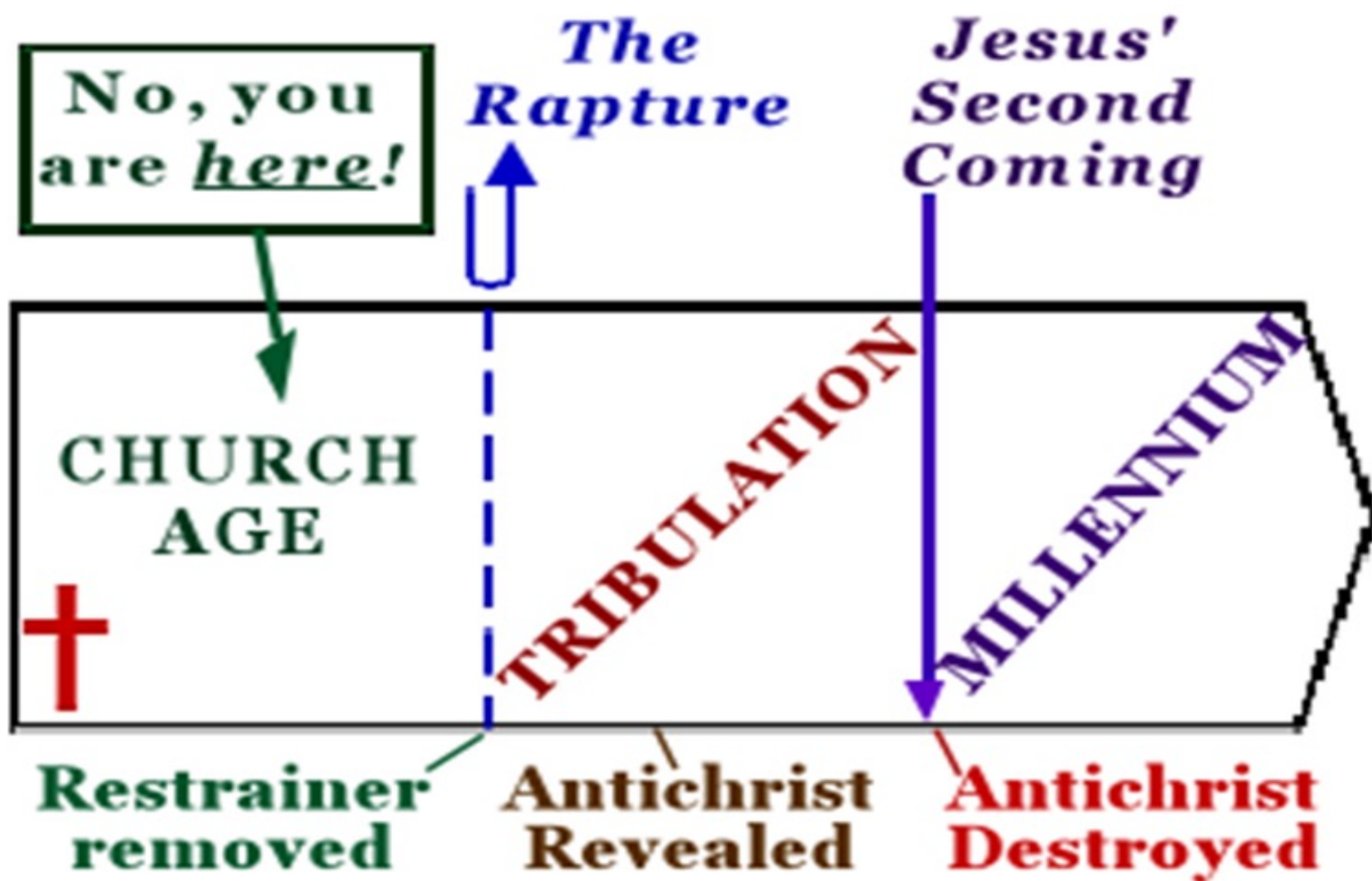


2 Thessalonians 2:2

“that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord [the Tribulation] has come.”



Paul's Correction of their Error



The Thessalonians' False Idea



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2 Thessalonians 2:6-7

⁶And you know what restrains [τὸ κατέχον; neuter] him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains [ὁ κατέχων; masculine] will do so until he is taken out of the way.



Restrainer? (2:6-7)

- Rome?
- Satan?
- Government?
- Michael?
- Spirit?



Trinity

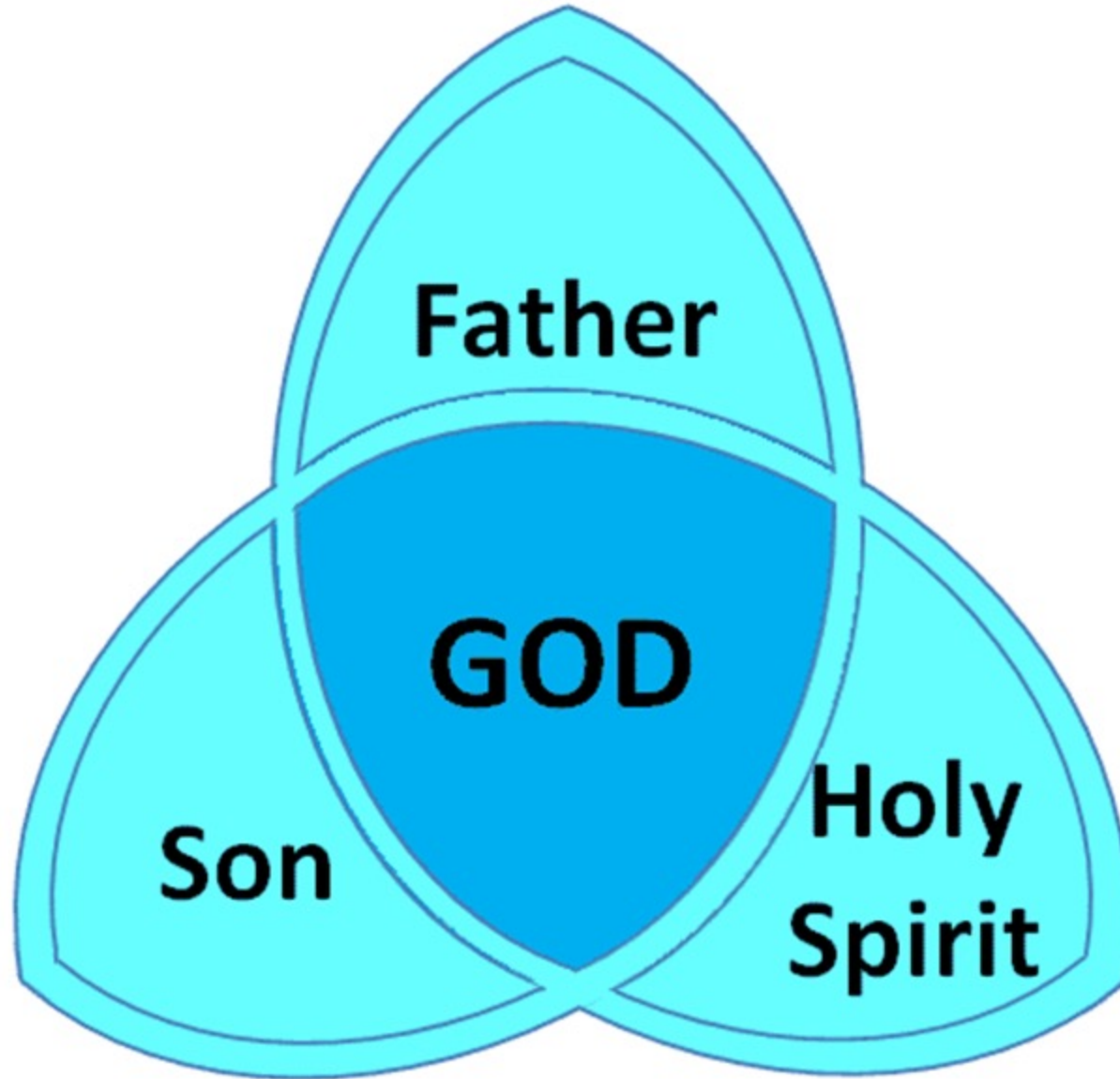
Father

Son

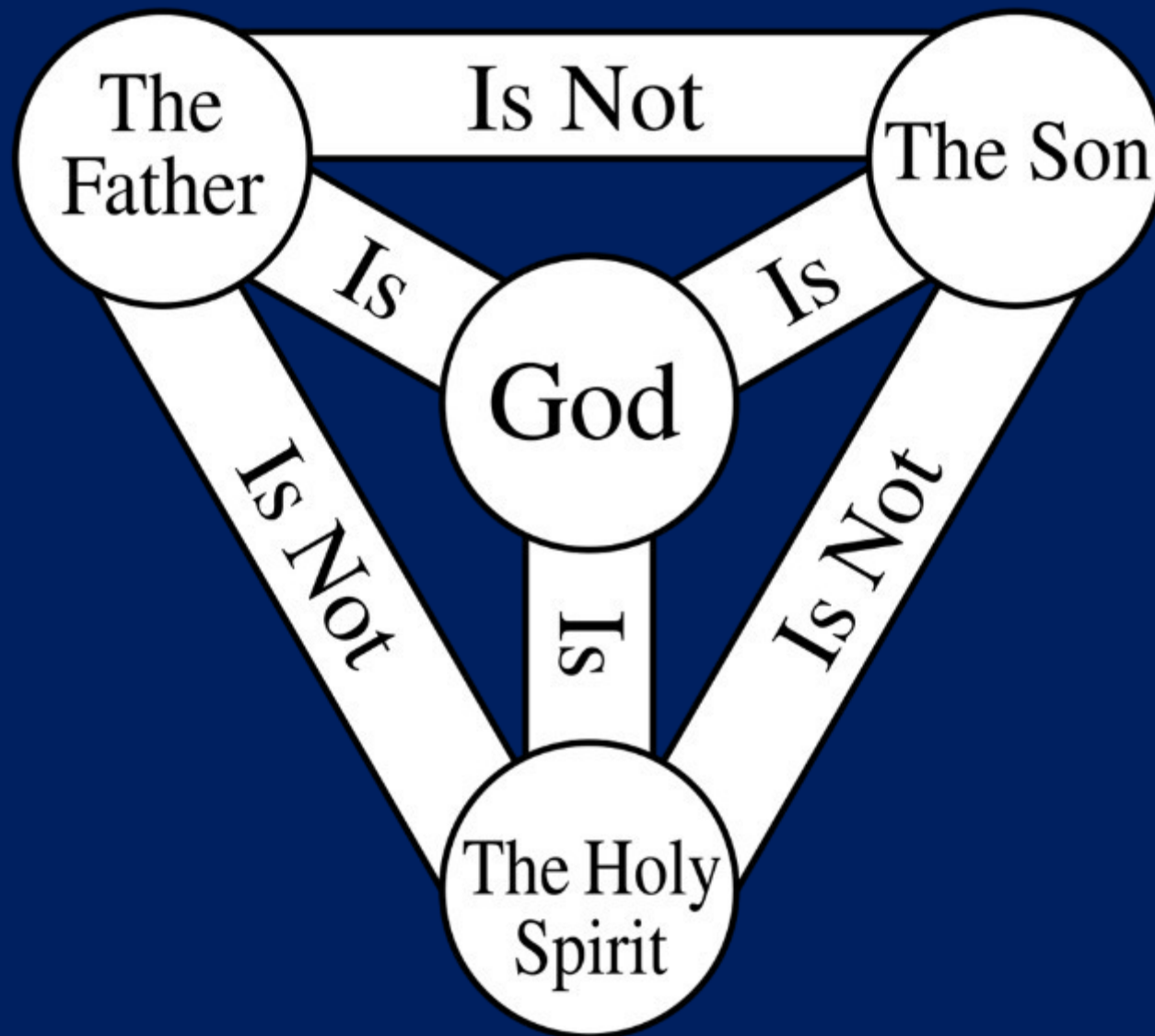
Holy
Spirit



TRINITY



Trinity



3 Reasons Why the Restrainer is the Holy Spirit

(2 Thessalonians 2:6-7)

- The Holy Spirit is omnipotent (2 Thess. 2:9)
- The Holy Spirit is active in the world (Gen. 6:3; John 16:7-11)
- The Holy Spirit view handles well the switch in gender from the neuter (vs. 6) to the masculine (vs. 7)



Romans 8:5-6

⁵ “For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.”



2 Thessalonians 2:5

“Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?”



Restrainer Must First be Removed

- Restrainer holds back the Antichrist (2 Thess 2:6-7)
- Restrainer = the omnipotent Holy Spirit (2 Thess 2:9)
- Holy Spirit permanently indwells all Christians (John 14:16; Rom 8:9)
- Spirit indwelt Christians must first be removed prior to the Antichrist's advent



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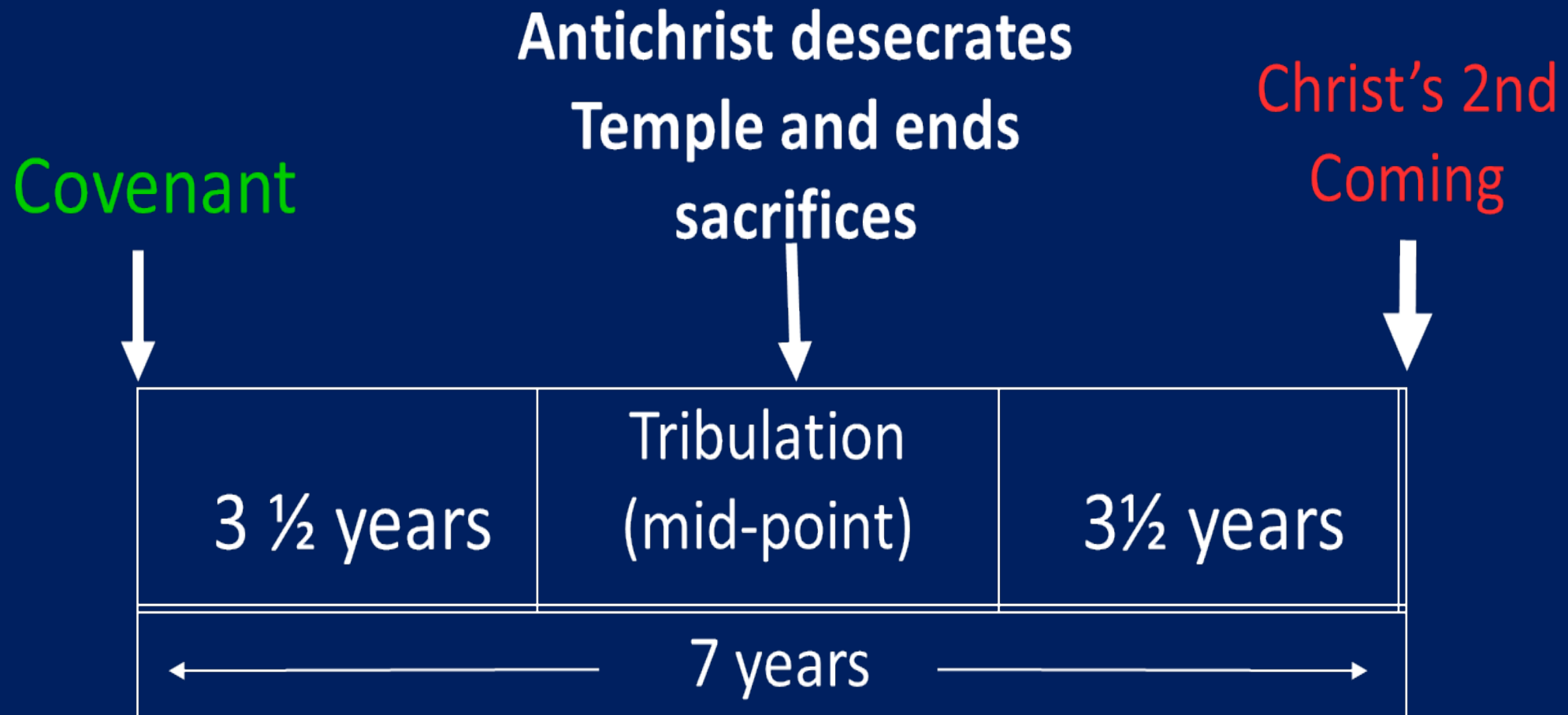


Daniel 9:27

And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.



DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



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WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN THE OT

	OT/GOSPELS/ACTS 1	ACTS 2/TODAY
External vs. Internal	Upon (1 Sam. 16:13)	Within (John 14:17)
Reception of all of the Spirit at the moment of salvation?	Subsequent to salvation (Exod 31:3)	At moment of salvation (Rom 8:9)
How long is the indwelling?	Temporary indwelling (1 Sam 16:14; Ps 51:11)	Permanent indwelling (John 14:16)
Who is indwelt?	Selective indwelling (Joel 2:28)	Universal indwelling (1 Cor 12:13)

1 Samuel 16:13-14

“¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah. ¹⁴ Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him.”



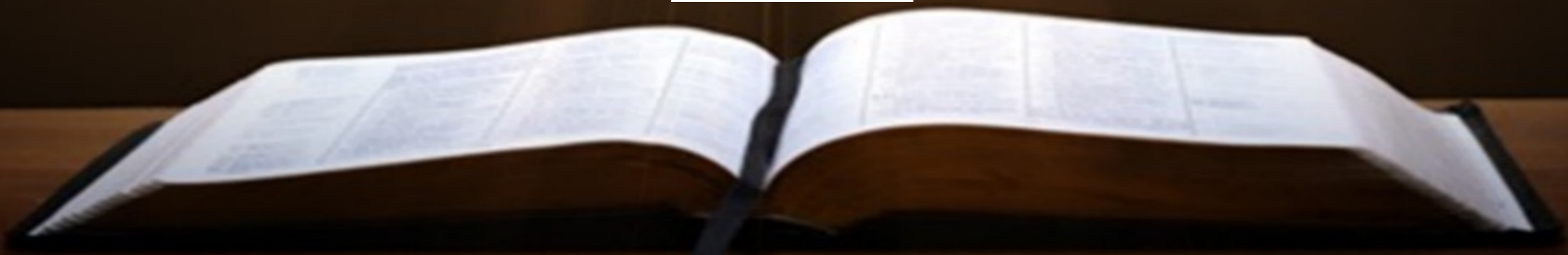
John 14:16-17

¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.



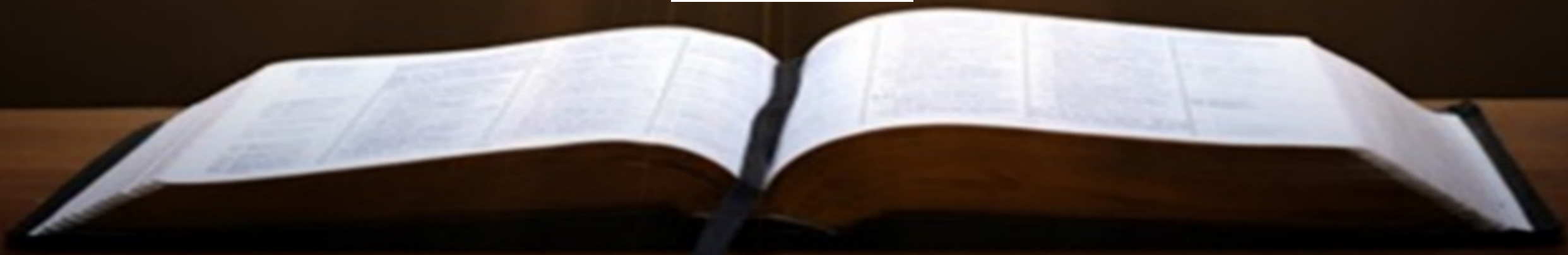
1 Corinthians 6:19

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”



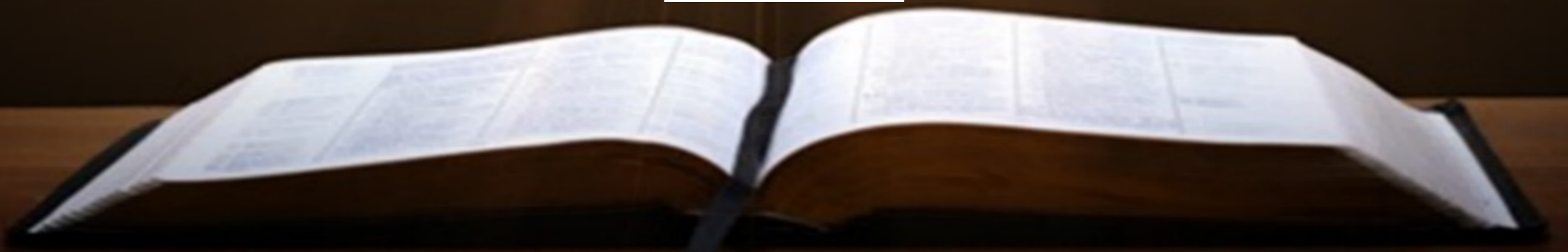
Romans 8:9

“However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”



Ephesians 4:30

“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

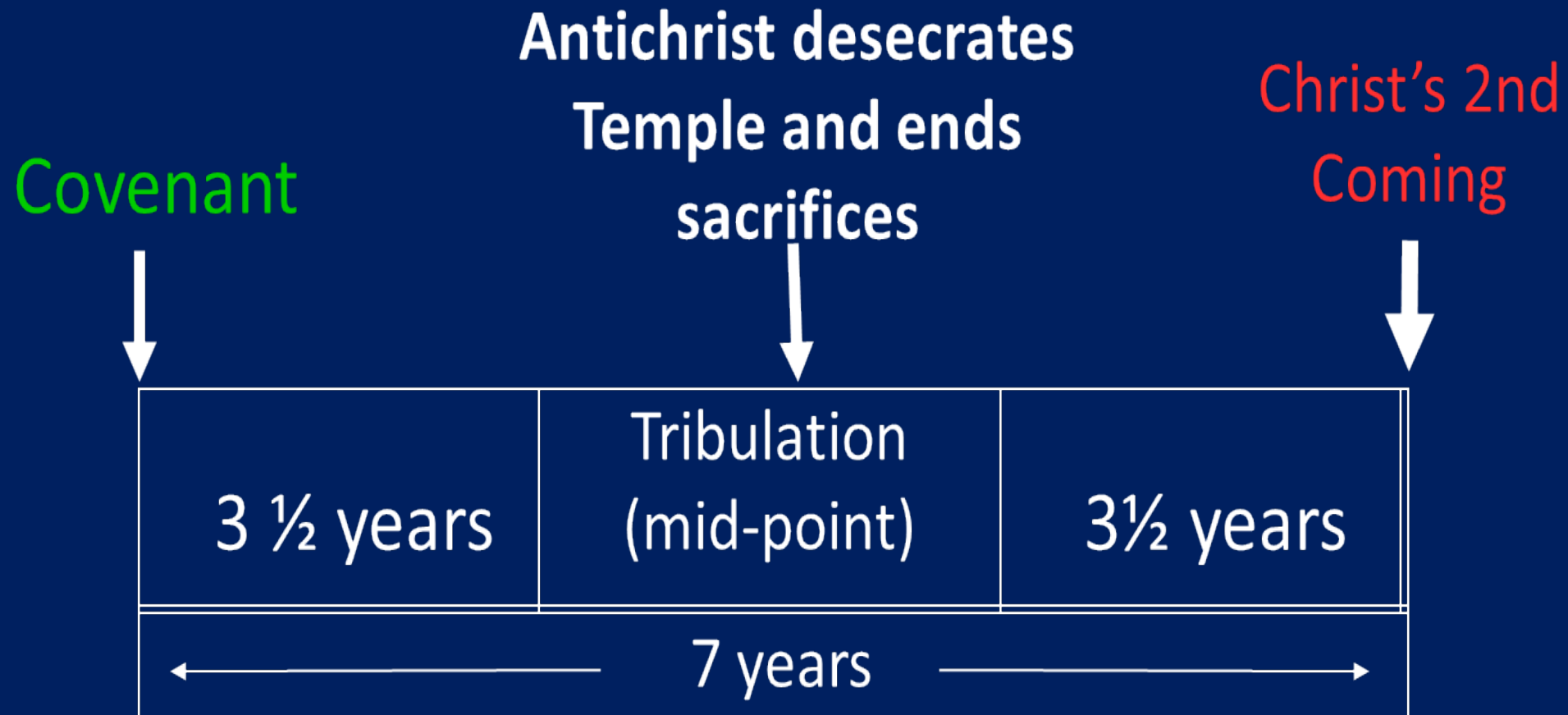


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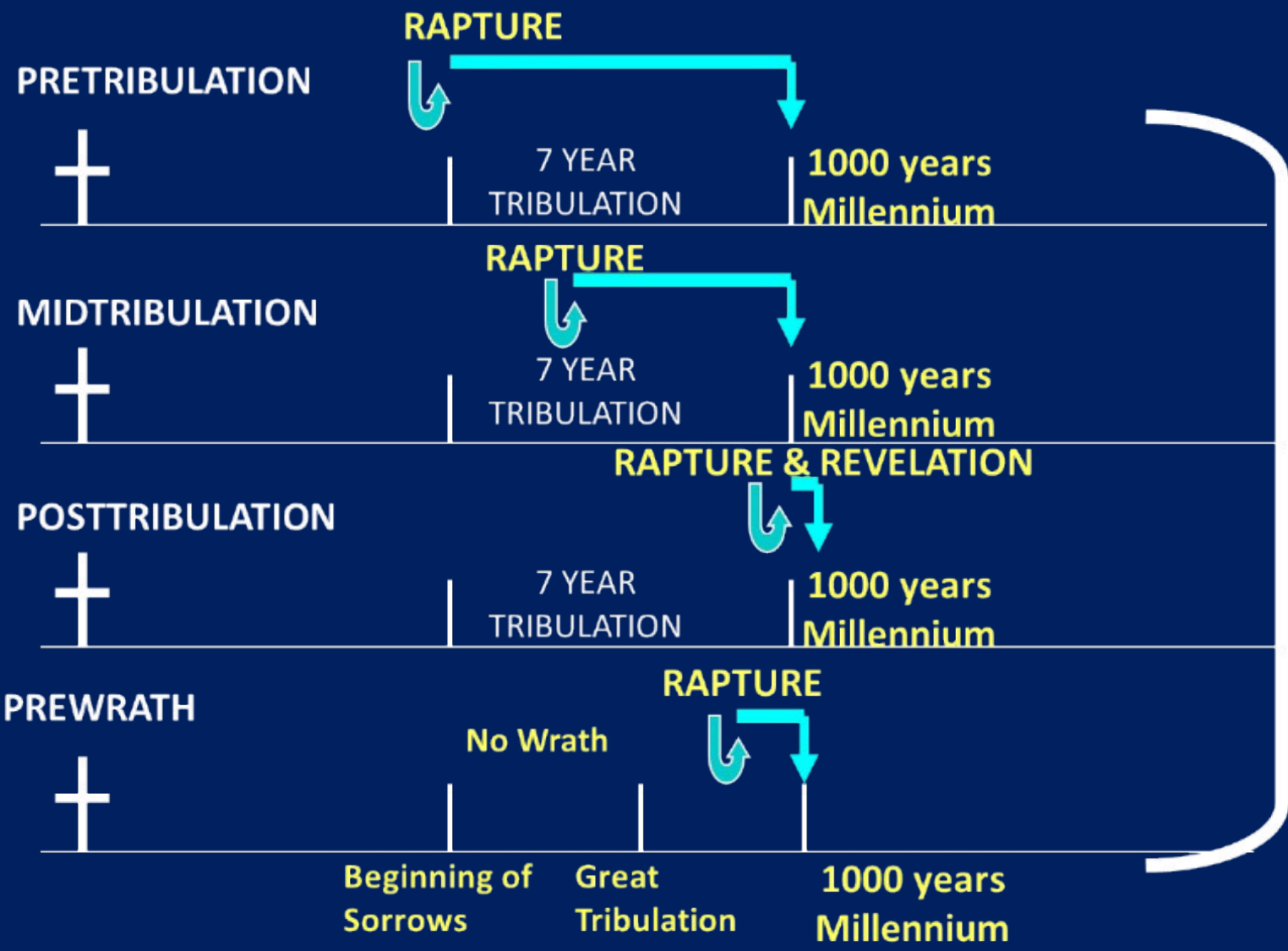
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DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Y
H
Z
R
E
H
E

Remaining Questions

- Will the Holy Spirit be active during the Tribulation period? NO
- Should believers be politically active today? YES
- Can we identify the Antichrist today? NO
- Has Satan selected an Antichrist for every generation? YES
- Will an Antichrist one day arise? YES



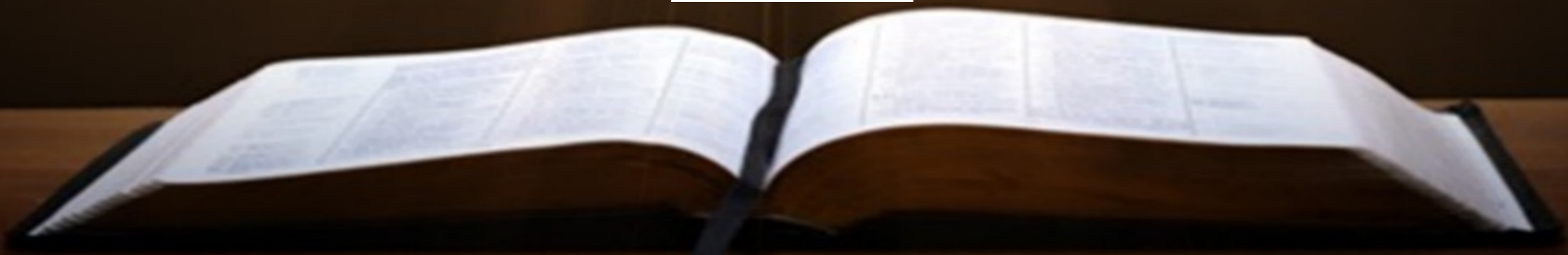
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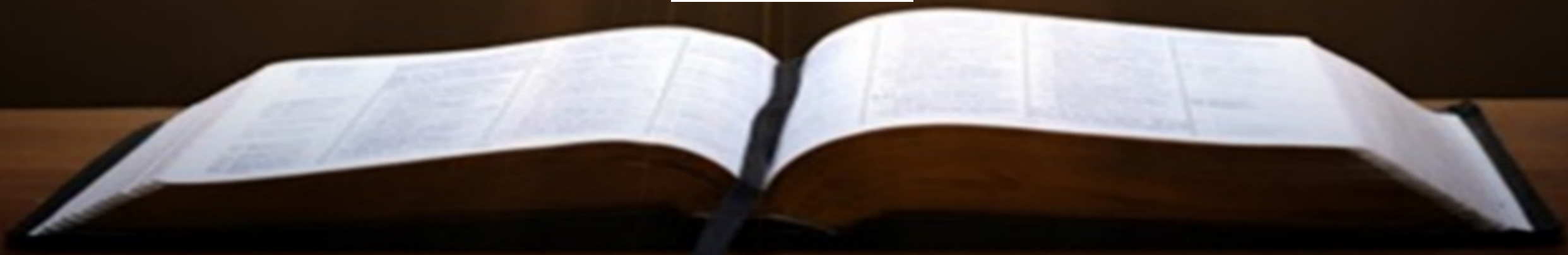
Psalm 139:7-8

“⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there..”



Mark 13:11

“¹¹ When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.”



Distinctions Between 144,000 & Multitude

144,000	MULTITUDE
Revelation 7:1-8	Revelation 7:9-17
Numbered	Innumerable
Jews	All nations
Sealed	Slain
Sealed <u>before</u> the Tribulation	Converted <u>out of</u> the Tribulation

Hitchcock and Ice, *The Truth Behind Left Behind*, 77

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American Thinker



January 21, 2024

The Rapture Doesn't Mean No Politics

By [Susan D. Harris](#)

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Guessing the Identity of the Antichrist?

Irenaeus Against Heresies 5.30.3

“We will not, however, incur the risk of pronouncing positively as to the name of Antichrist. But if it had been necessary to announce his name plainly at the present time, it would have been spoken by him who saw the apocalypse. For it was not seen long ago, but almost in our own time, at the end of the reign of Domitian (96 A.D.).”



Remaining Questions

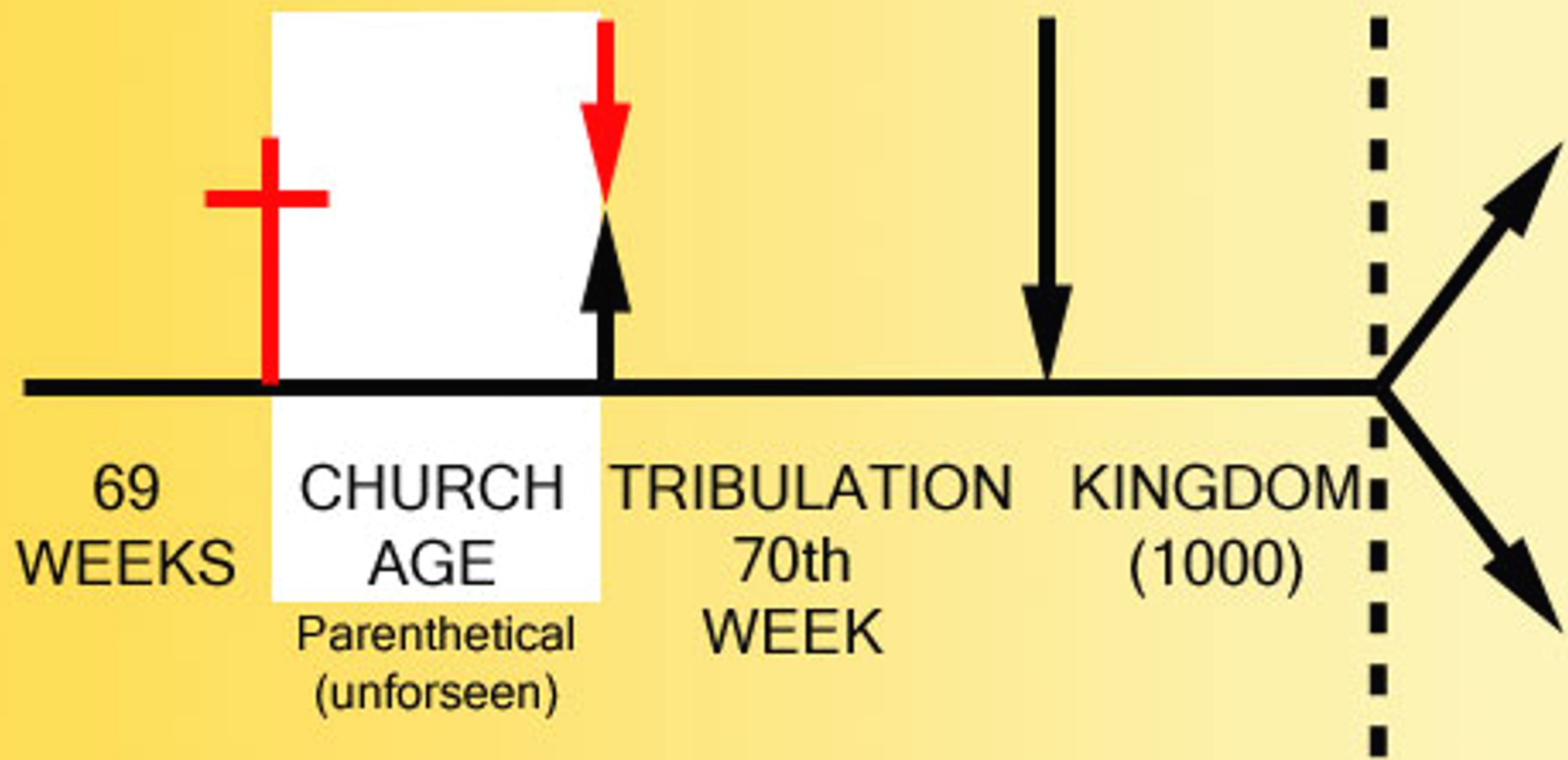
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Ezekiel 28:13–15

¹³ “You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were **created** They were prepared....¹⁵ “You were blameless in your ways From the day you were **created** Until unrighteousness was found in you.





2 Thessalonians 2:3, 7

“...the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction...For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way.”



1 John 4:3

“and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit of the antichrist*, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.”



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Revelation 13:16-18

¹⁶ And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, ¹⁷ and *he provides* that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, *either* the name of the beast or the number of his name. ¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.



TABLE OF ALPHABETIC NOTATION OF NUMERALS

	Hebrew	Greek		Hebrew	Greek
1	א	α	50	ה	ν
2	ב	β	60	ו	ξ
3	ג	γ	70	ז	ο
4	ד	δ	80	ח	π
5	ה	ε	90	ט	φ
6	ו	ς	100	י	ρ
7	ז	σ	200	כ	ρ
8	ח	τ	300	ל	σ
9	ט	θ	400	מ	τ
10	י	ι	500	נ	υ
20	כ	κ	600	ס	φ
30	ל	λ	700	ע	χ
40	מ	μ	800	פ	ψ
				צ	ω

Conclusion

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