

THE COMING KINGDOM



What Is the Kingdom and
How Is Kingdom Now Theology
Changing the Focus of the Church?

Andrew M. Woods

Foreword by Thomas Ice

The Coming Kingdom

Chapter 13



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President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Kingdom Study Outline



1. What does the Bible Say About the Kingdom?
2. The Main Problem with Kingdom Now NT interpretations
3. Why do some believe that we are in the kingdom now?
4. Why does it matter?



1. Kingdom Throughout the Bible

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Eden | 6. Old Testament Prophets |
| 2. Abrahamic Covenant | 7. Post exile |
| 3. Mosaic Covenant | 8. Offer of the King / Kingdom |
| 4. Divided Kingdom | 9. Rejection of the Offer |
| 5. Times of the Gentiles | 10. Interim Age |



1. Kingdom Throughout the Bible

11. Kingdom Mysteries

12. Church

13. Israel's Discipline & Restoration

14. Re-offer of the King/Kingdom

15. Transfer of Kingdom Authority

16. Kingdom Establishment

17. Eternal State

18. Testimony of Early Church History



The Coming of the Kingdom

1. Re-offer of the kingdom
2. Transfer of earthly authority
3. Establishment of the kingdom
4. Duration of the kingdom



The Coming of the Kingdom

- 1. Re-offer of the kingdom**
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Messengers of the Kingdom In Matthew



- John the Baptist – 3:2
- Jesus Christ – 4:17
- 12 Apostles – 10:5-7
- Seventy – Luke 10:1, 9

Toussaint, *Behold the King*, 18-20

Matthew 12:24

“But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, “This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.”



Matthew 24:14

“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”



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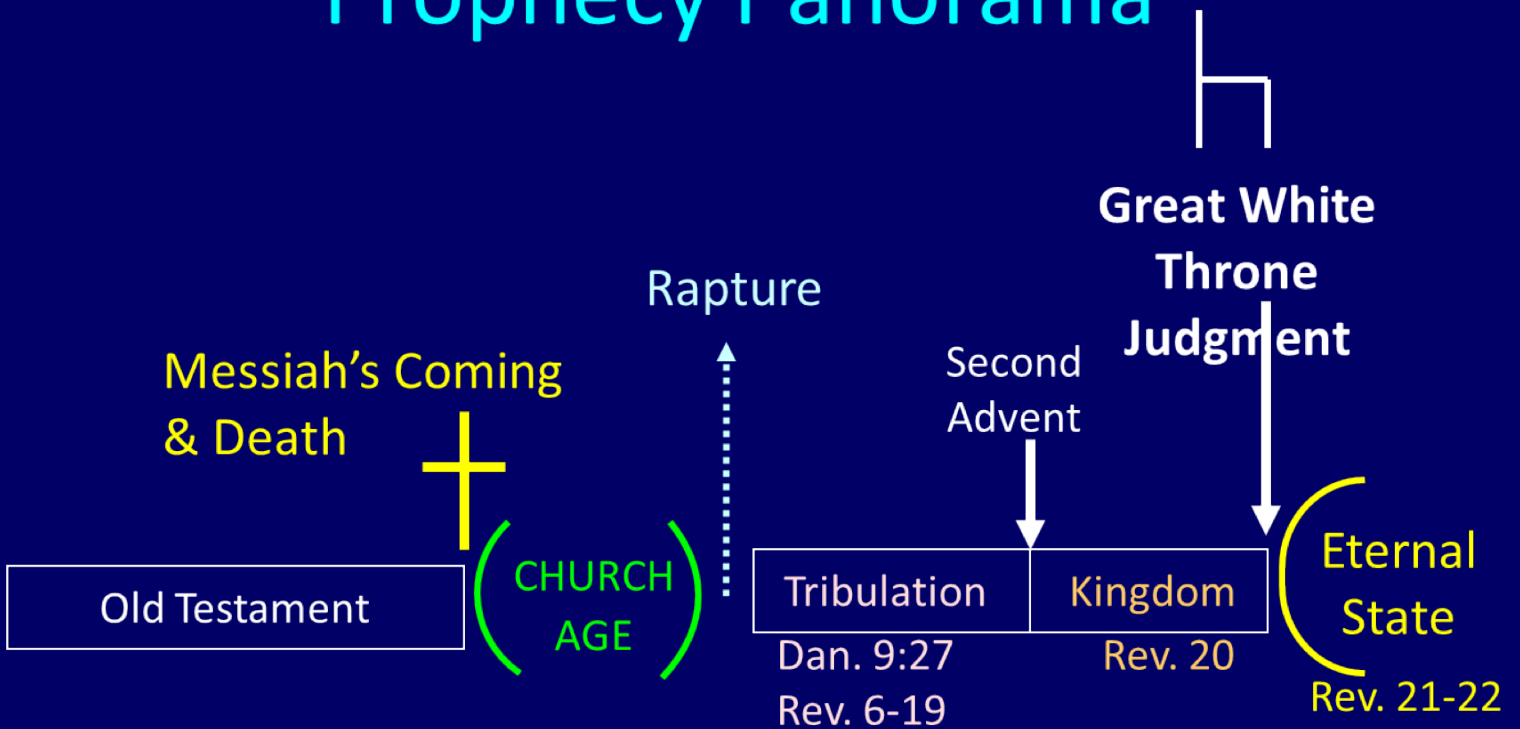


Revelation 11:15

“Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.’”



Prophecy Panorama



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Theocratic Administrator

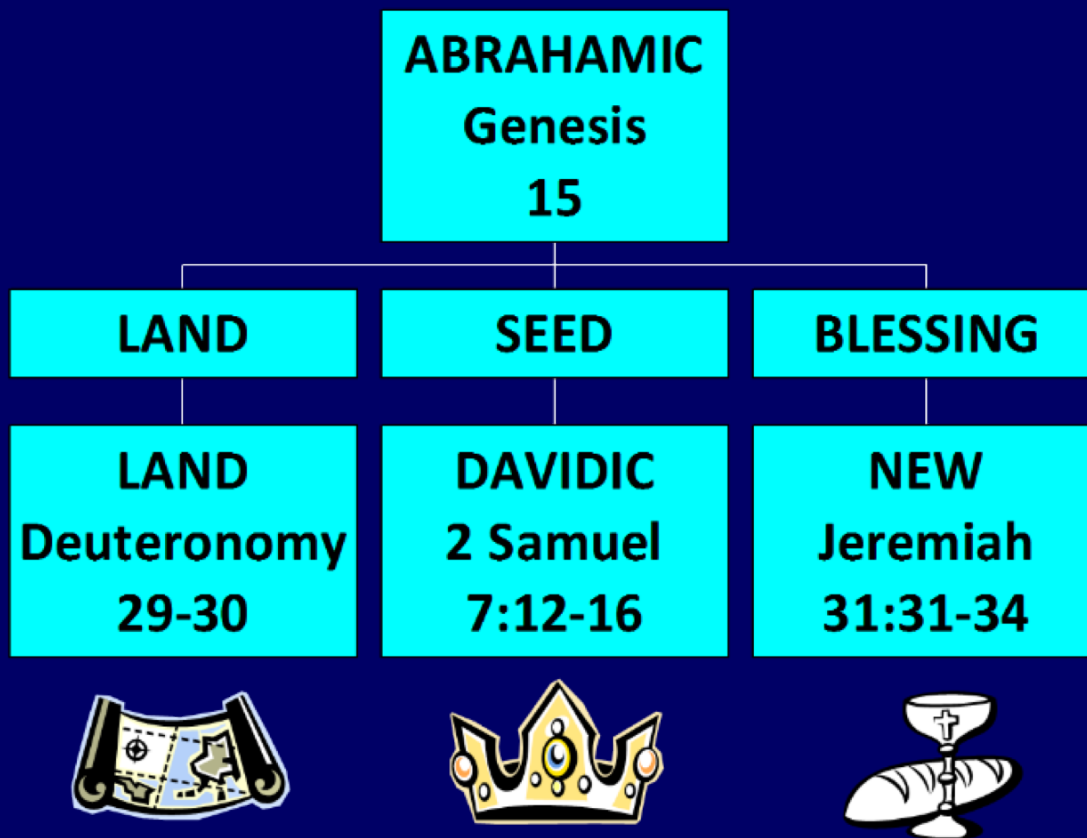


GOD

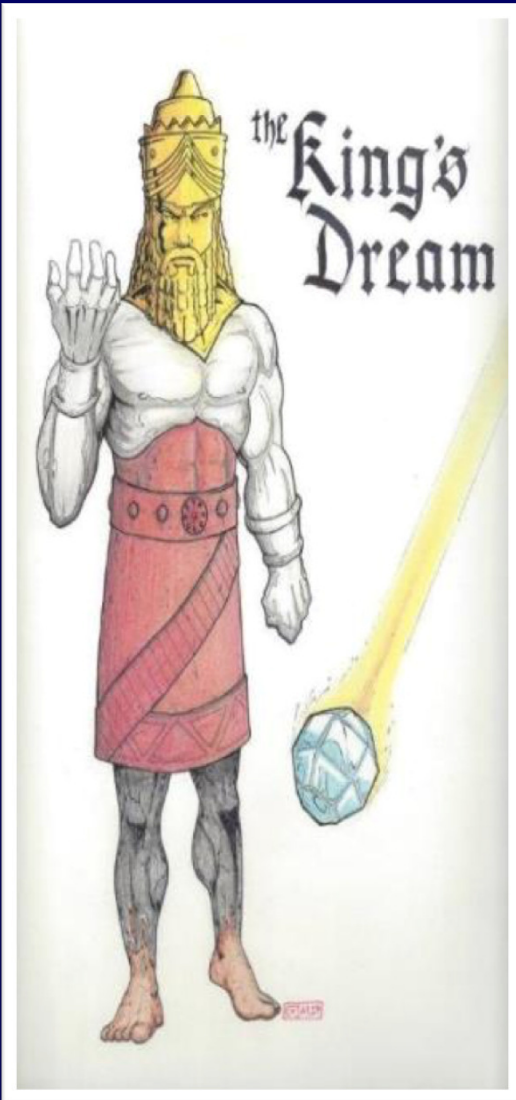
Man & Woman

Creation

Abrahamic Covenant



Unconditional covenant with a conditional blessing (Deut. 28; Lev. 26)



Statue & Stone

2. A Statue and a Stone



Statue is destroyed by a great stone, which represents Jesus Christ



HEAD
GOLD
WORLD POWER
BABYLON
608-539

CHEST AND ARMS
SILVER
WORLD POWER
PERSIA
539-331

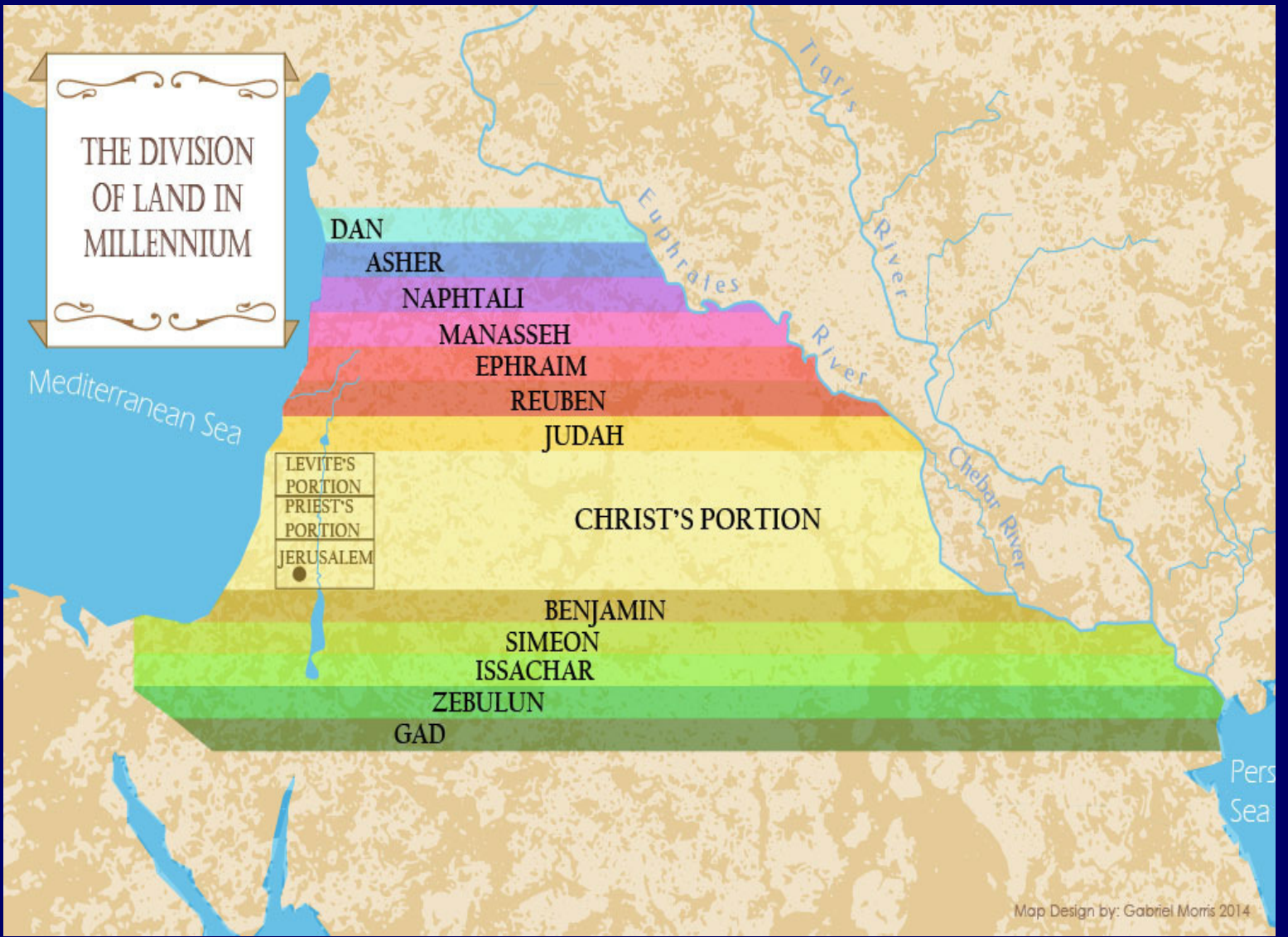
STOMACH AND THIGHS
BRASS
WORLD POWER
GREECE
331-323

LEGS AND FEET
IRON & CLAY
WORLD POWER
ROME
322 B.C. - A.D. 476
FUTURE

OT Prophets Describe the Kingdom

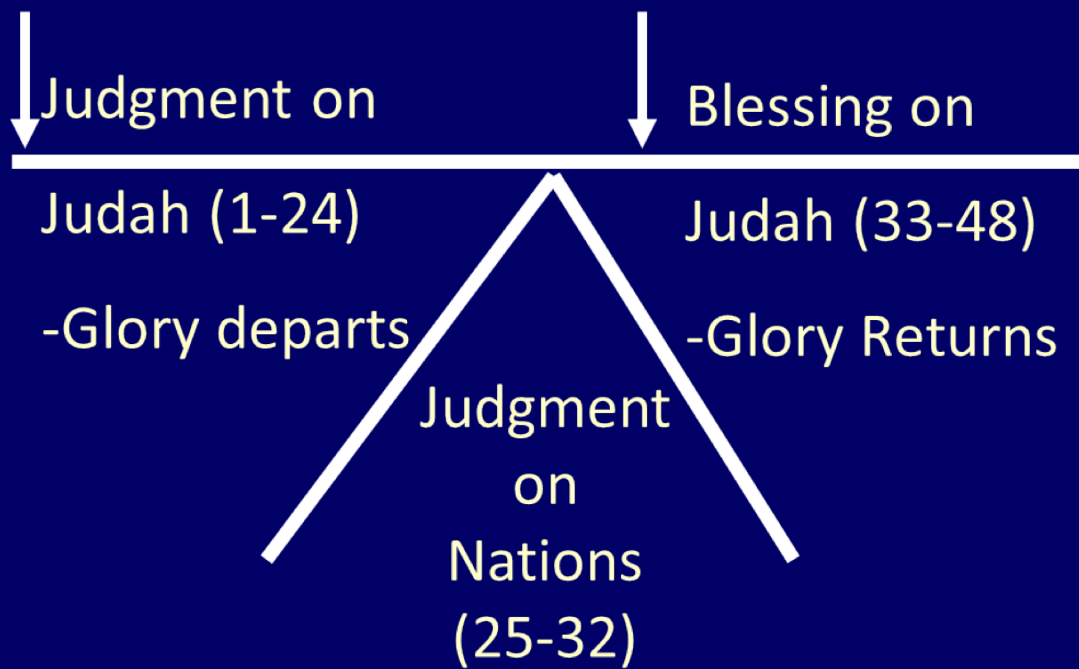
- Established by God (Dan. 2:44)
- Eternal (Dan. 7:27)
- Christ's direct rule (Zech. 9:9-10)
- Earthly (Zech. 14:9)
- Land promises realized (Gen. 15:18-21)
- Israel's preeminence (Isa. 49:22-23)
- Immediate answered prayers (Isa. 65:24)
- Millennial Temple (Ezek. 40-46)
- Millennial David (Jer. 30:9)
- Righteousness (Isa. 9:6-7)
- Curse curtailed (Isa. 65:20, 22)
- Peace (Isa. 2:4)
- Prosperity (Amos 9:13-14; Isa 65:22)
- Topographical changes (Ezek. 47:1-12)

THE DIVISION
OF LAND IN
MILLENNIUM



Ezekiel
Commissioned
(1-3) mouth closed

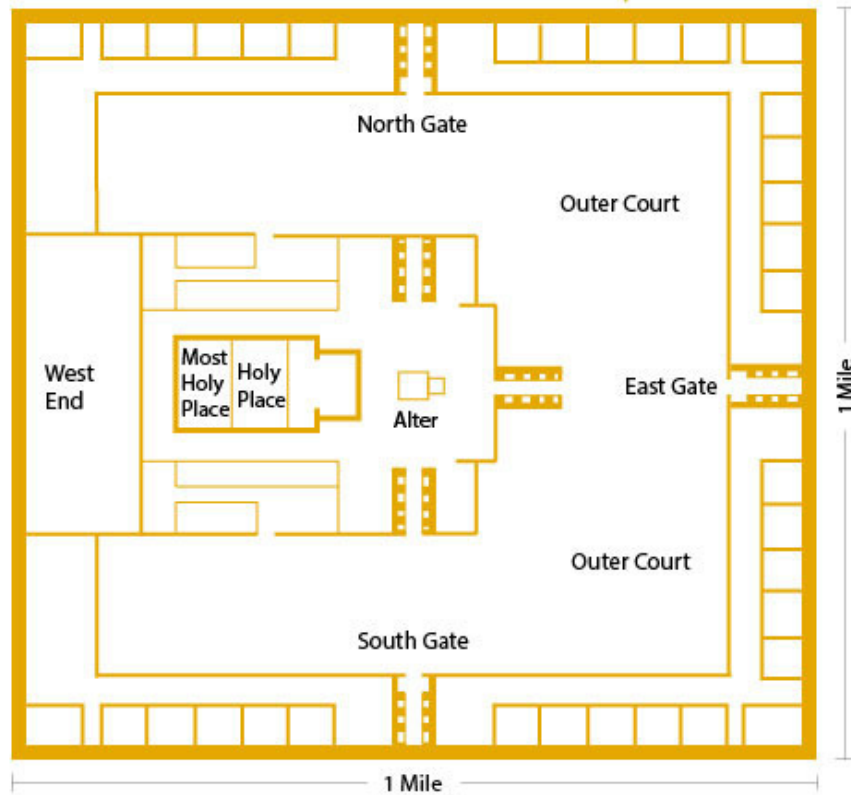
Ezekiel
Recommissioned
(33) mouth opened



Source: Charles Dyer, *Notes on Ezekiel*

The Millennium Temple

THE MILLENNIUM TEMPLE 500 x 500 CUBITS | 750 x 750 FT



Design by Gabriel Morris | Adapted from Logos Bible Software Infographics

The Dead Sea



The Dead Sea

The Dead Sea





Satan's Progressive Defeat

1. Initial eviction from heaven (Isa 14:12-15; Ezek 28:12-17)
2. Eden (Gen 3:15)
3. Pre-diluvian world (1 Pet 3:19-20)
4. Cross (John 12:31; 16:11; Col 2:15; Heb 2:14; 1 John 3:8)
5. Mid point of the Tribulation (Rev 12:9)
6. **Beginning of millennium (Rev 20:2-3)**
7. End of millennium (Rev 20:10)



Acts 1:6-8

“⁶ So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’ ⁷ He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.’”



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Revelation 20:1-3

¹“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ²And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.”



Revelation 20:4-6

“⁴ Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for **a thousand years**. ⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until **the thousand years** were completed....



Revelation 20:4-6

...This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”



Revelation 20:7-10

“⁷ When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. ⁹ And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ And the devil...



Revelation 20:7-10

...who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”



Kenneth L. Gentry

He Shall Have Dominion: A Post Millennial Eschatology (Tyler, Texas: Institute for Christian economics, 1992), page 335.



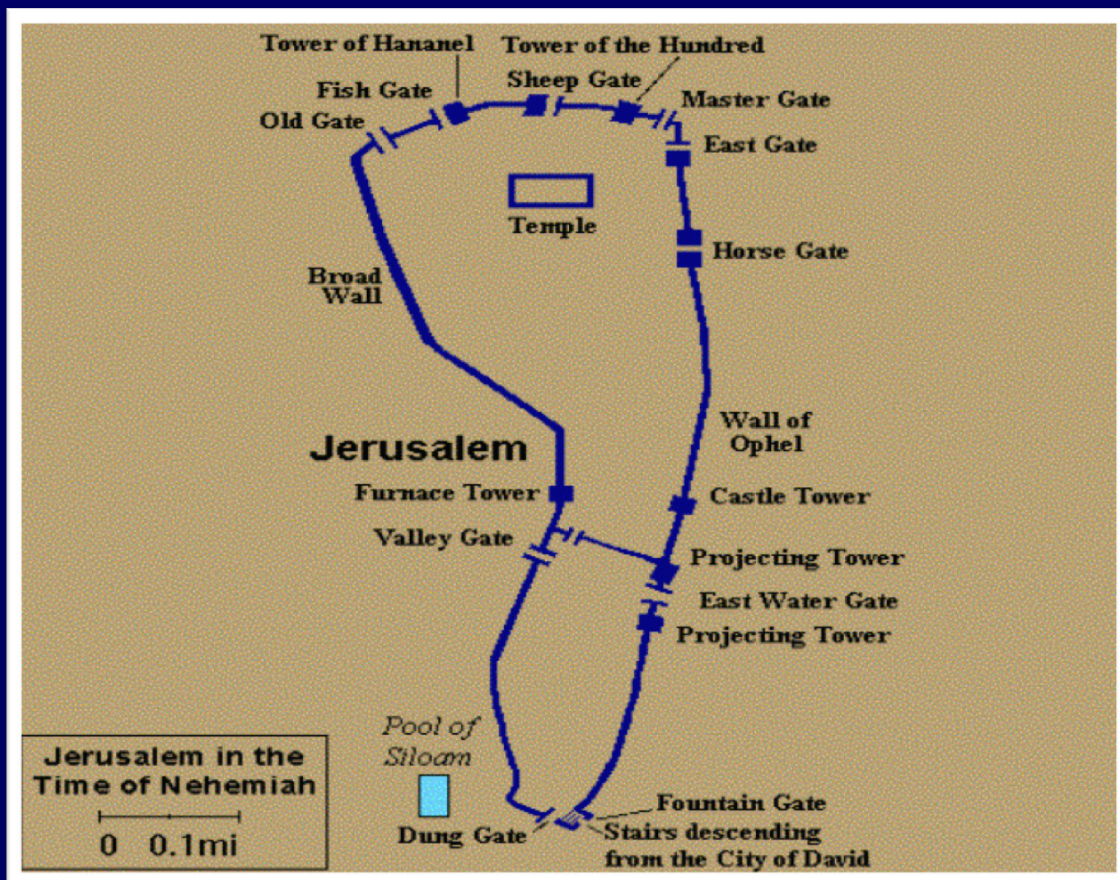
“The proper understanding of the thousand-year time frame in Revelation 20 is that it is representative of a long and glorious era and is not limited to a literal 365,000 days. The figure represents a perfect cube of 10, which is the number of quantitative perfection.”



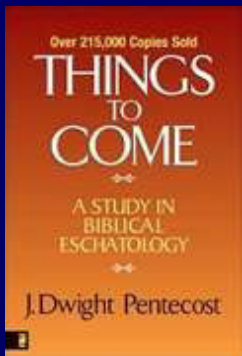
Dangers of Allegorization – Philo



Dangers of Allegorization Gates of Nehemiah



Dangers of Allegorization

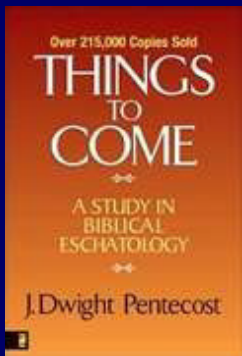


- Text is not being interpreted
- Authority is transferred from text to interpreter
- There is no way to test the interpreter
- No mechanism for controlling the interpreter's imagination



Pentecost, *Things to Come*, pps. 4-5

Dangers of Allegorization



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Pentecost, *Things to Come*, pps. 4-5

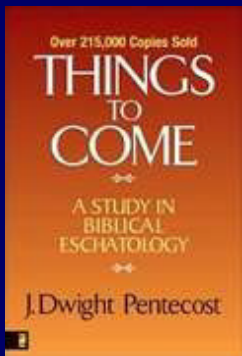
Milton S. Terry

Biblical Hermeneutics (NY: Philips and Hunt, 1883), 224.

“...it will be noticed at once that its habit is to disregard the common signification of words and give wing to all manner of fanciful speculation. It does not draw out the legitimate meaning of an author’s language, but foists into it whatever the whim or fancy of an interpreter may desire.”

“He (or she) who spiritualizes
tells spiritual lies.”

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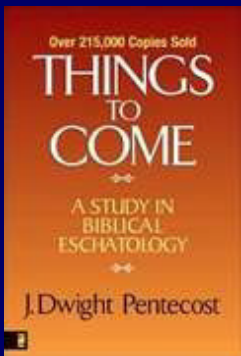
Jerome

Quoted by F.W. Farrar, *History of interpretation* (NY: E.P. Dutton and Company, 1886), 238-39.



“...once we start with the rule that whole passages and books of scripture say one thing when they mean another, the reader is delivered bound hand and foot to the caprice of the interpreter.”

Dangers of Allegorization

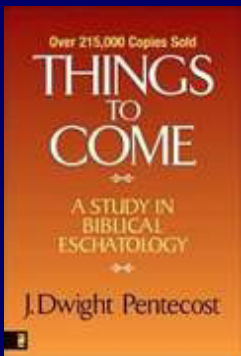


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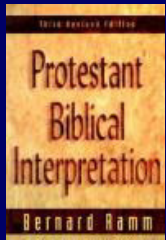
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Pentecost, *Things to Come*, pps. 4-5



Bernard Ramm

Protestant Biblical Interpretation, 3d ed. (Boston: W.A. Wilde, 1956; reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979), 65.

“...to state that the principal meaning of the Bible is a second-sense meaning, and that the principle method of interpretation is ‘spiritualizing,’ is to open the door to almost uncontrolled speculation and imagination. For this reason we have insisted that the control in interpretation is the literal method.”

Reasons for Understanding 1000 Literally

- John's use of indefinite concepts elsewhere
 - ◆ Revelation 20:8, 20:3
- Exception to the “# of years” examples?
- Other numbers are taken literally
 - ◆ Two witnesses (11:3), 7000 people (11:13), 4 Angels (7:1) 7 Angels (8:6), 144,000 Jews (7:4), 42 months (11:2), 1260 days (11:3)
- Not always a symbolic interpretation
 - ◆ (Rev. 17:18)

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Matthew 25:19

“Now after a long time [polus chronos] the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.”



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Genesis 1:8

“God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day...”



Joshua 6:3

“You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days.”



Esther 4:16

“Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for **three days**, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish..”



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The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



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Literal Interpretation



One Meaning

Plain Literal

The literal interpretation is the explicit **assertion** of the words—DENOTATIVE

Figurative Literal

The literal interpretation is the specific **intention** of the figure—CONOTATIVE

Chart by Earl Radmacher

Revelation's Symbols and Figures of Speech

- “Spiritually” (11:8)
- “Sign” (12:1)
- “Like” or “as” (8:8)
- OT correspondence (Rev 13:2; Dan 7)
- Contextual interpretations (17:18)
- Absurdity (12:1)



Assigning Meaning to Revelation's Symbols and Figures of Speech

- Context (Rev 12:3, 9)
- Old Testament (Rev 12:1; Gen 37:9-10)
- Comparison (Rev 8:8)

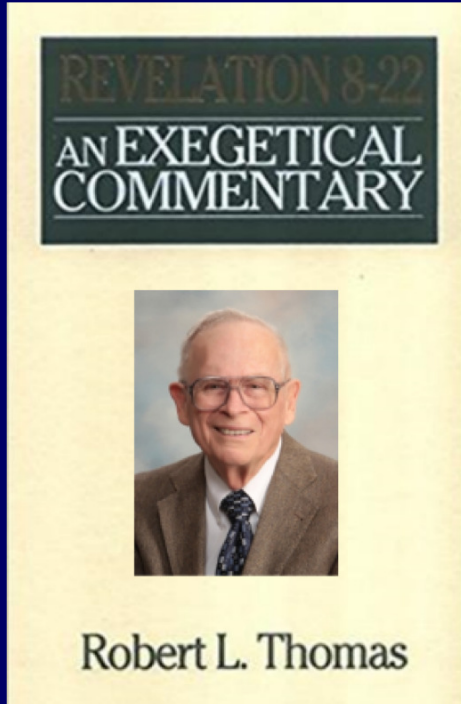


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Robert Thomas

Revelation 8 to 22: An Exegetical Commentary
(Chicago: Moody Press, 1992), 408.



Robert Thomas observes that, "no number in Revelation is verifiably a symbolic number."

Psalm 50:10

“For every beast of the forest is Mine,
The cattle on a thousand hills.”



Revelation 20:4-6

“⁴ Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life [zaō] and reigned with Christ for a thousand years....



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...⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life [zaō] until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection [anastasis and not palingenesia].

⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection [anastasis and not palingenesia]; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”



Conclusion

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