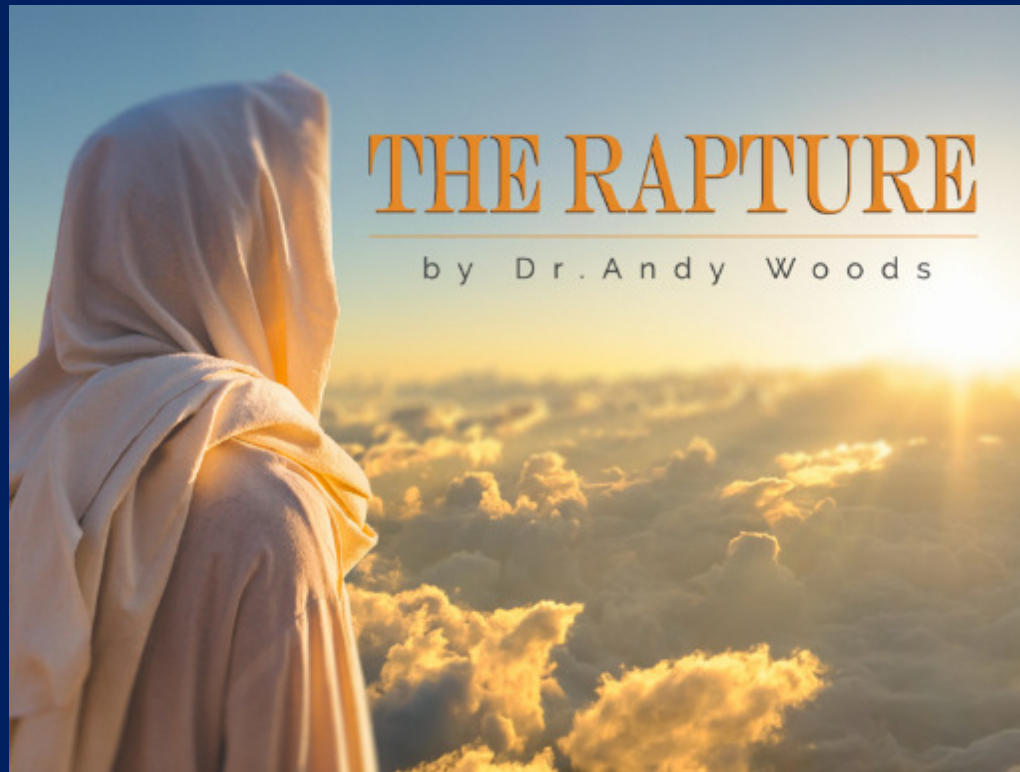


THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 30



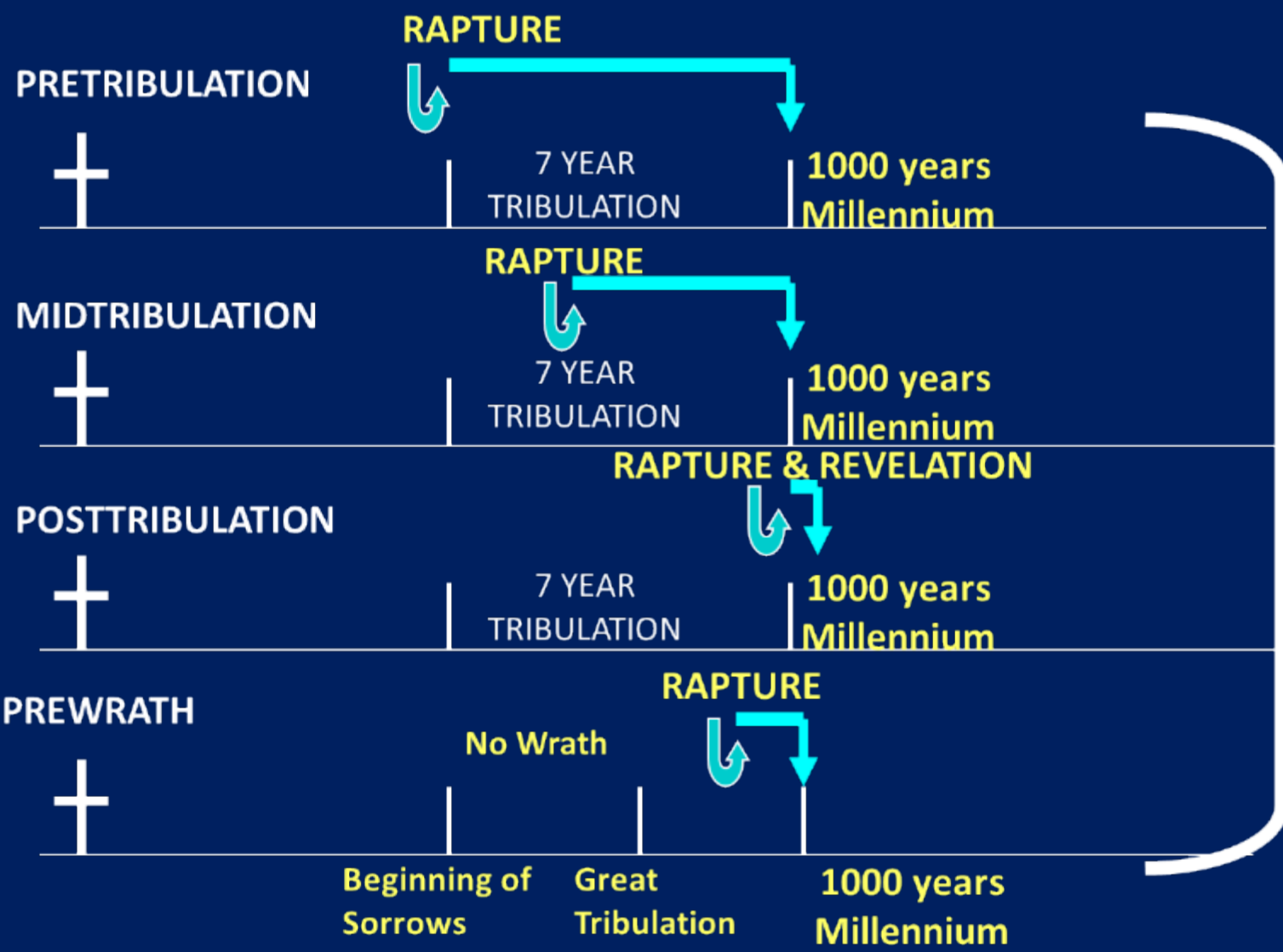
Andrew Marshall Woods, Th.M., J.D., Ph.D.
Sr. Pastor, Sugar Land Bible Church

What is the Rapture?



1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
9. Imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
10. Traditional doctrine now being recovered

RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



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Strengthening the Pre-Tribulation Case

1. John 14:1-4
2. Revelation 3:10
3. First Thessalonians 4–5
4. Second Thessalonians 2:3a
5. Matthew 24–25



Preview of Matthew 24–25

- I. The problem
- II. The larger context
- III. The immediate context (23:37-39)
- IV. The Disciples' questions (24:1-3)
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THE RAPTURE IN MATTHEW 24

Note the order of events:

29 There are days of tribulation

30 The whole world sees Jesus return

31 The elect are gathered to Him

40-41 The rapture reiterated

How do Pre-Tribulation theorists explain the Rapture occurring before the apocalypse and before the Second Coming? Jesus says exactly the opposite in simple, unmistakable language.

Are there two Raptures - one before this that Jesus mysteriously didn't describe and then this one, which He did? Why would He leave one out? Or is there only one, but when he discusses it He jumbles up the order of events? Why would He do that?



John F. Walvoord

"Christ's Olivet Discourse on the End of the Age - Part I,"
Bibliotheca Sacra 128/#510 (April 1971), p. 116..

“In Matthew 24–Matthew 25 the expositor should, therefore, understand that the program of God for the end of the age has in view the period ending with the second coming of Christ to the earth and the establishment of His earthly Kingdom, **not the church age specifically ending with the rapture**. Both the questions of the disciples and the answers of Christ are therefore, keyed to the **Jewish expectation based on Old Testament prophecy**, and the program of God for the earth in general **rather than the church as the body of Christ.**”

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Matthew's Purposes

- To explain that Jesus in whom they had believed was the long-awaited Jewish Messiah
- To explain why the kingdom had been postponed despite the fact that the king had arrived
- To explain the interim program of God during the kingdom's absence

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Matthew 23:37-39

³⁷ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather [episynagō] your children together, the way a hen gathers [episynagō] her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. ³⁸ Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! ³⁹ For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’”



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Matthew 24:3

“³ As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’”



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Matt 24 / Rev 6 Parallels

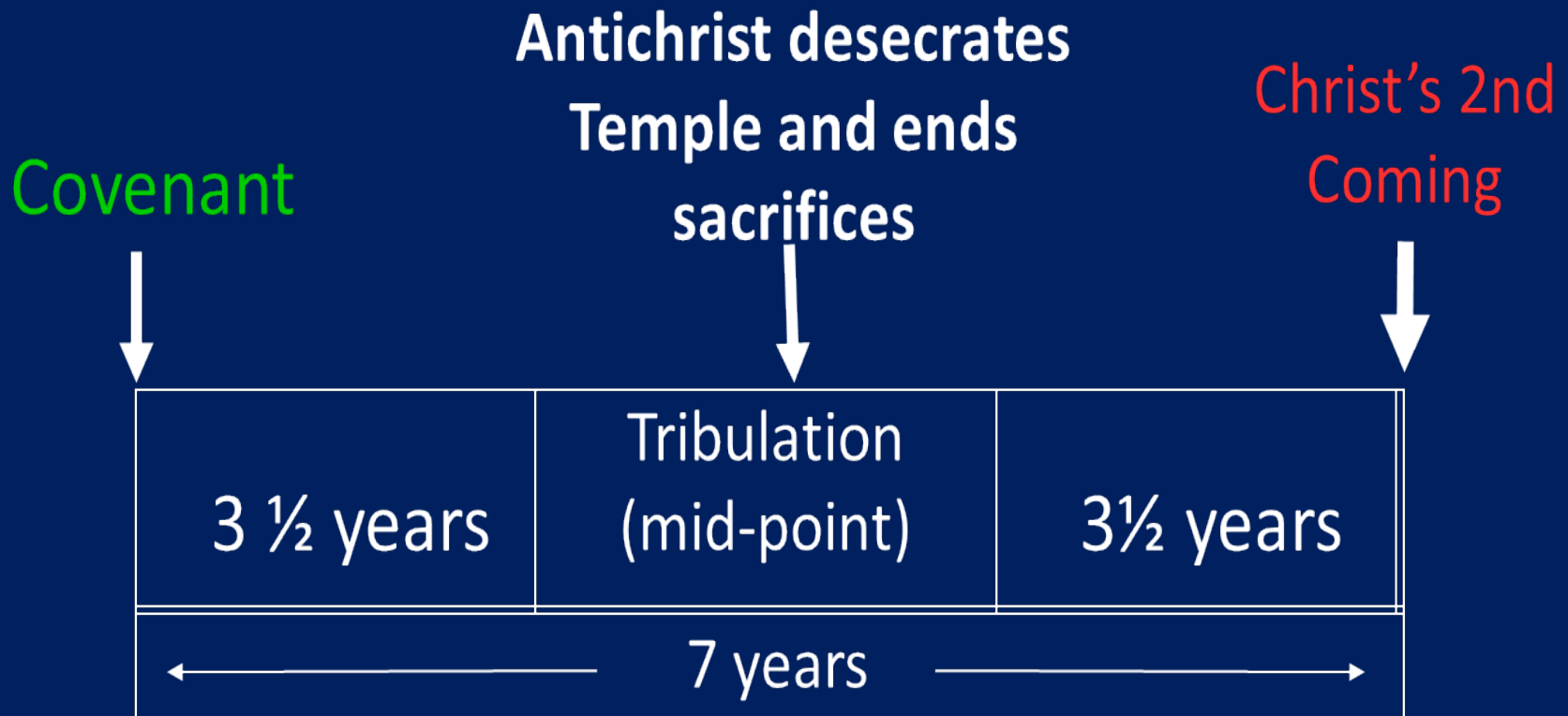
Prediction	Birth pangs (Matt 24)	Seal judgments (Rev 6)
1. False Christ	24:5	6:2
2. War	24:6	6:3-4
3. Famine	24:7	6:5-6
4. Death	24:6-7	6:7-8
5. Martyrs	24:9-13	6:9-11
6. Earthquakes	24:7	6:12-17
7. Evangelism	24:14	7:1-9

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DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



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“²¹ For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. ²² Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.”

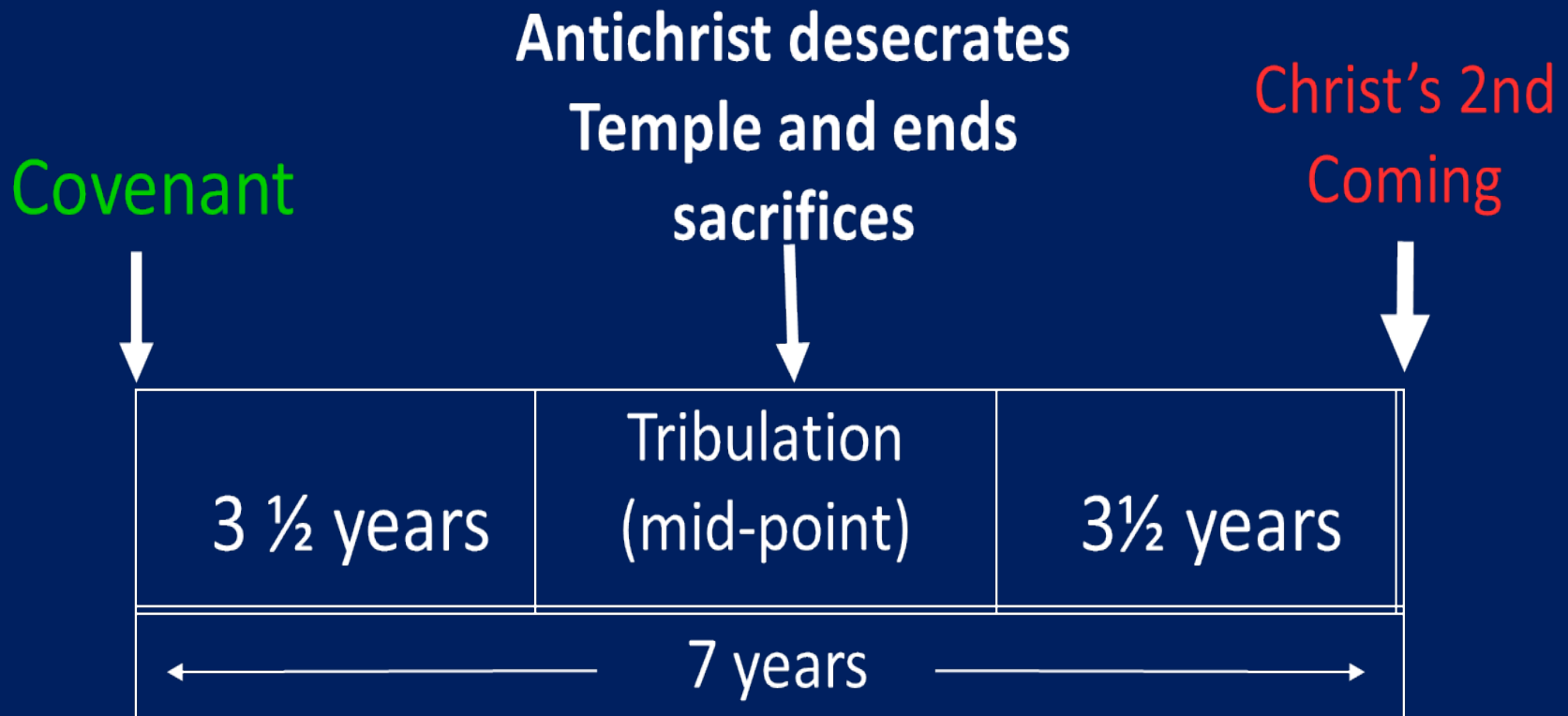


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DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



Matthew 24:31

“And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER [*episynagō*] HIS ELECT FROM THE FOUR WINDS, FROM ONE END OF THE SKY TO THE OTHER.”



Matthew 16:1–3

¹ The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. ² But He replied to them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘*It will be* fair weather, for the sky is red.’ ³ “And in the morning, ‘*There will be* a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot *discern* the signs of the times?



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National
Israel

The
Believing
Remnant

Zechariah 13:8-9

⁸“It will come about in all the land,” Declares the LORD,
“That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But
the third will be left in it.” ⁹“And I will bring the third
part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined,
And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My
name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My
people,’ And they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’ ”



VIII. Eight Parabolic Exhortations

(Matthew 24:32–25:46)

- A. The fig tree (24:32-35)
- B. The days of Noah (24:36-39)
- C. The comparison of two men & women (24:40-41)
- D. The householder (24:42-44)
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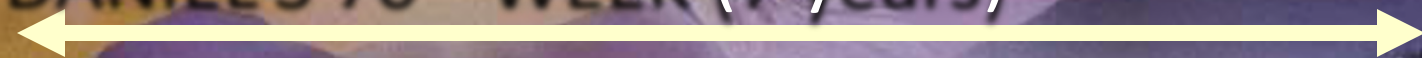
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CONNECTING REV 12 & ANTI-SEMITISM

DANIEL'S 70th WEEK (7 years)



Israel flees



3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years

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Matthew 24:36-39

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. ³⁷ For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they did not understand until **the flood came and took them all away**; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.”



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C. The Comparison of Two Men and Women

Matthew 24:40-41

1. No rapture reasons

- a. Preceding context
- b. Days of Noah chronology
- c. Son of Man
- d. Other Matthean judgments
- e. Lukan parallel passage



C. The Comparison of Two Men and Women

Matthew 24:40-41

2. Pro-rapture reasons

- a. From *airō* to *paralambanō*
- b. Day or hour can be known in the Tribulation
- c. Normal life activities at the end of the Tribulation
- d. Peri De (“Now Concerning”) construction



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F. Partial Rapture of the Church?

(Matthew 25:1-13)

1. Chapter division & preceding context
2. Demoted from bride to maidens
3. Bride? Body? In Christ?
4. Translation? Resurrection?
5. Bridegroom comes to the earth



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Divisions of Five in Matthew



“...and when Jesus had finished saying these things” (7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1)

1. Sermon on the Mount (5-7)

2. Missions Discourse (10)

3. Kingdom Parables (13)

4. Humility Discourse (18)

5. Olivet Discourse (24-25)

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1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up [*harpazō*] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words."



Catching Away of All Living Believers

(1 Thess 4:17)



- *Harpazo* = seized or caught up by force
- *Harpazo* (Greek) = *rapere* (Latin) = rapture (English)

1 Corinthians 15:50-51

“⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed.”



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1 Corinthians 12:13

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”



1 Corinthians 15:50-51

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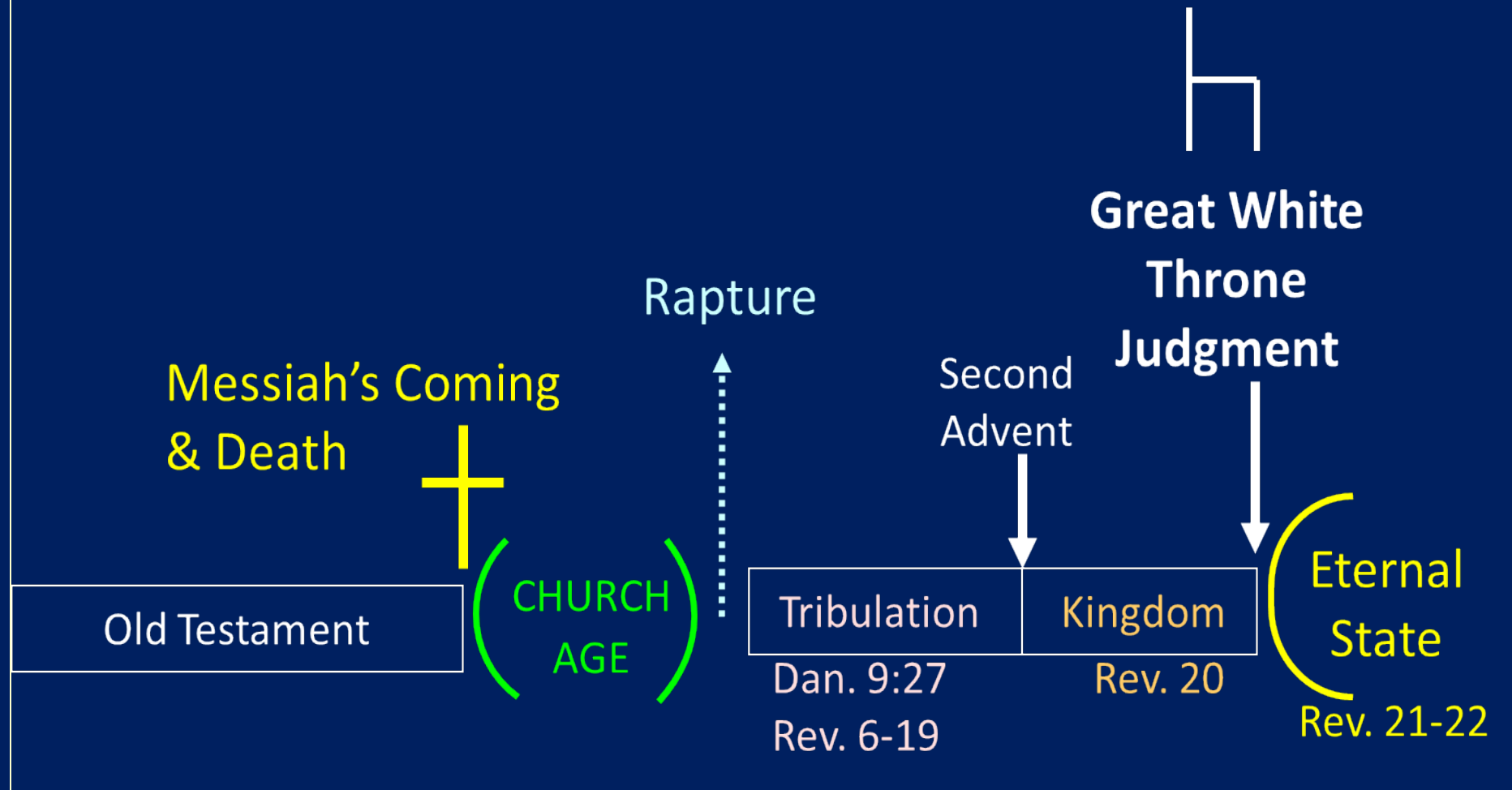
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Prophecy Panorama



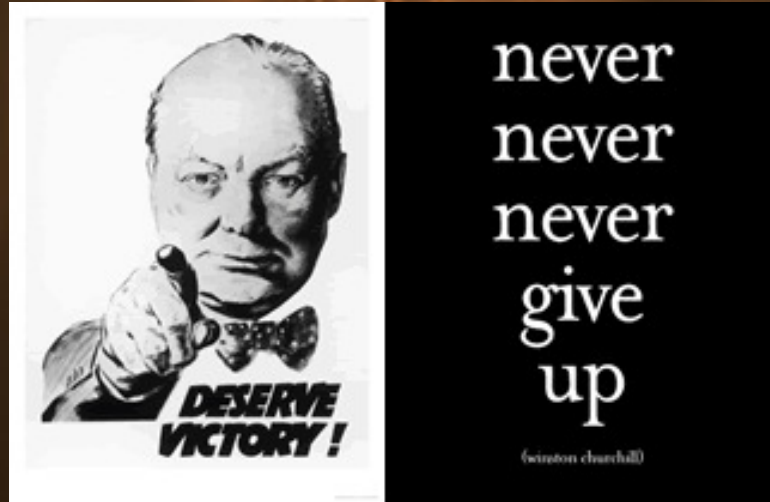
Matthew 24:3

“³ As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’”



Matthew 24:13

“But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.”



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.”



Matthew 24:31

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Matthew 23:37-39

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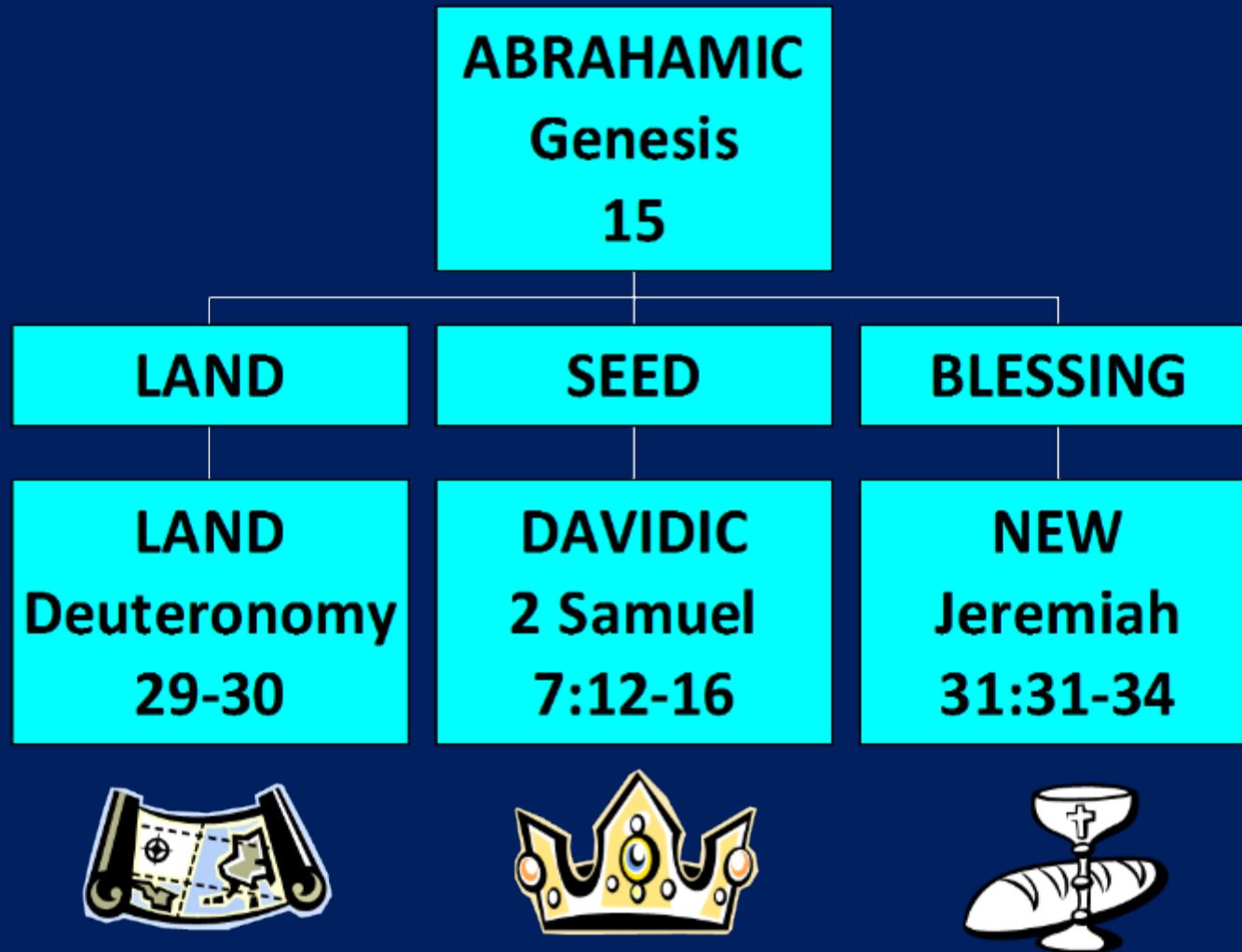


Jeremiah 30:7

“Alas! for that day is great, There is none like it; And it is the time of Jacob’s distress (Gen. 32:8; 35:10), But he will be saved from it.”



Abrahamic Covenant



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

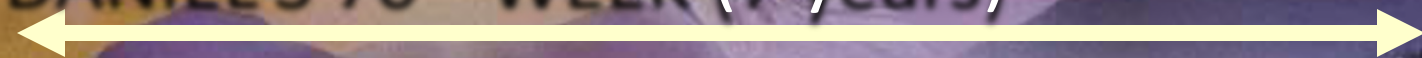
Matthew 24:21-22

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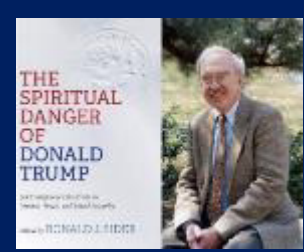
1260 days



Kevin DeYoung

“Seven Passages on Social Justice (4),” The Gospel Coalition, 13 April 2010 (italics original).

“Matthew 25 is about social justice in the sense that it is about caring for the needy. But the needy in view are fellow Christians, especially those dependent on our hospitality and generosity for their ministry...*Jesus says if we are too embarrassed, too lazy, or too cowardly to support our fellow Christians who depend on our assistance and are suffering for the sake of the gospel, we will go to hell. We should not make this passage say anything more or less than this.*”



Ronald J. Sider

“Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger, Sixth Edition (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2015), 64.

“Jesus expressed it even more pointedly. To those who do not feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit the prisoners, he will speak a terrifying word at the final judgment: “Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41). The meaning is clear. Jesus intends that his disciples imitate his own concern for the poor and needy. Those who disobey will experience eternal damnation.”



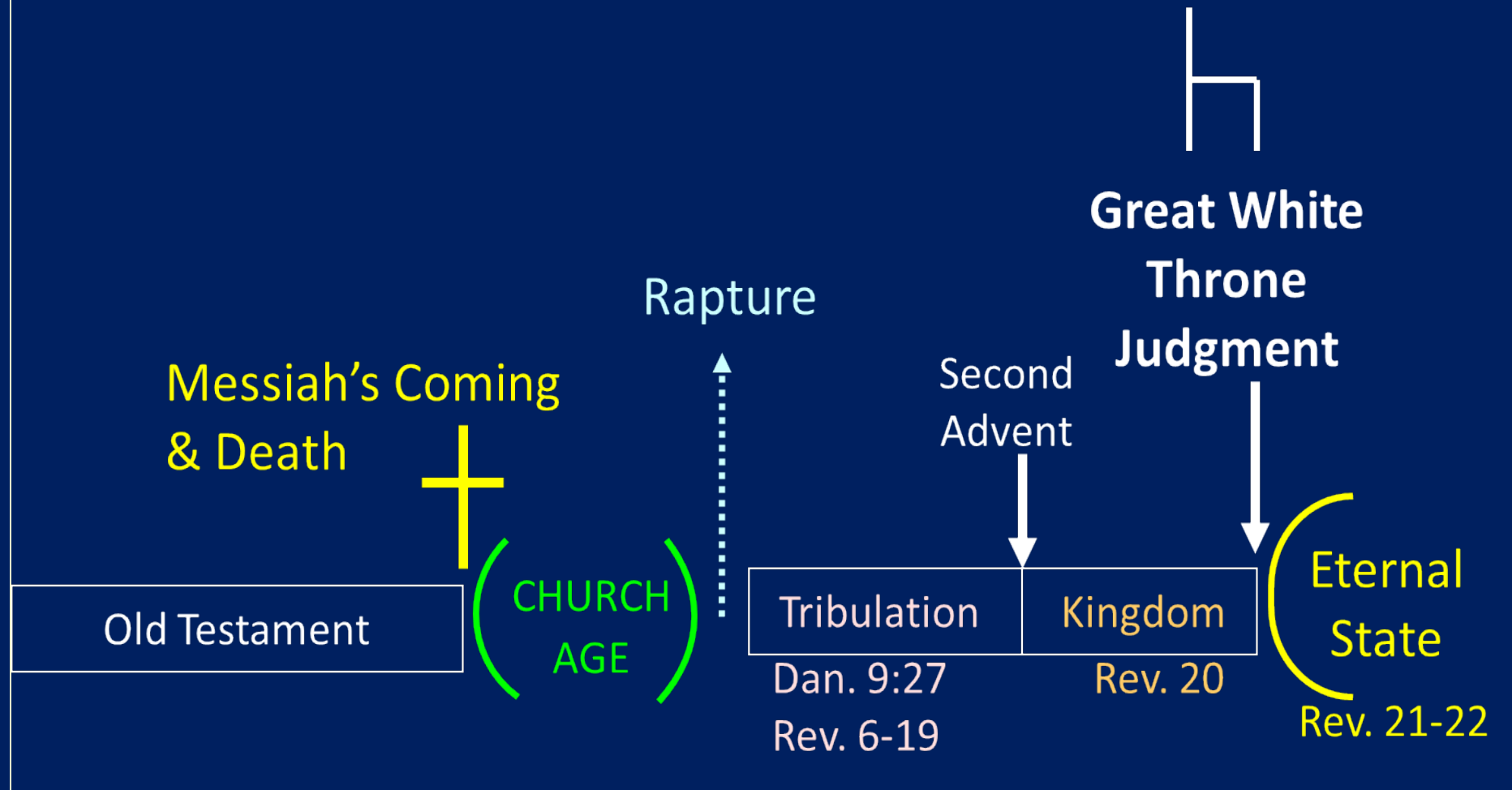
Joe Scarborough

“Morning Joe,” MSNBC, 26 June 2018.



“[In Matthew 25] Jesus actually is asked by [His] disciples who is going to be able to sit on your right hand and who is going to be cast away. And Jesus goes through the list and He talks about anyone that does this for the least among us is doing it to Me. They will be with the sheep. Those who don’t will be tossed out—will be with the goats. . . . It is one of the few times . . . Jesus says, “This is what you have to do to get to heaven; and if you don’t do it, you will not get to heaven”—one of the times He says, “This is it: giving a cup of water in the Master’s name, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting those in prison, and, again, helping the least among us.”

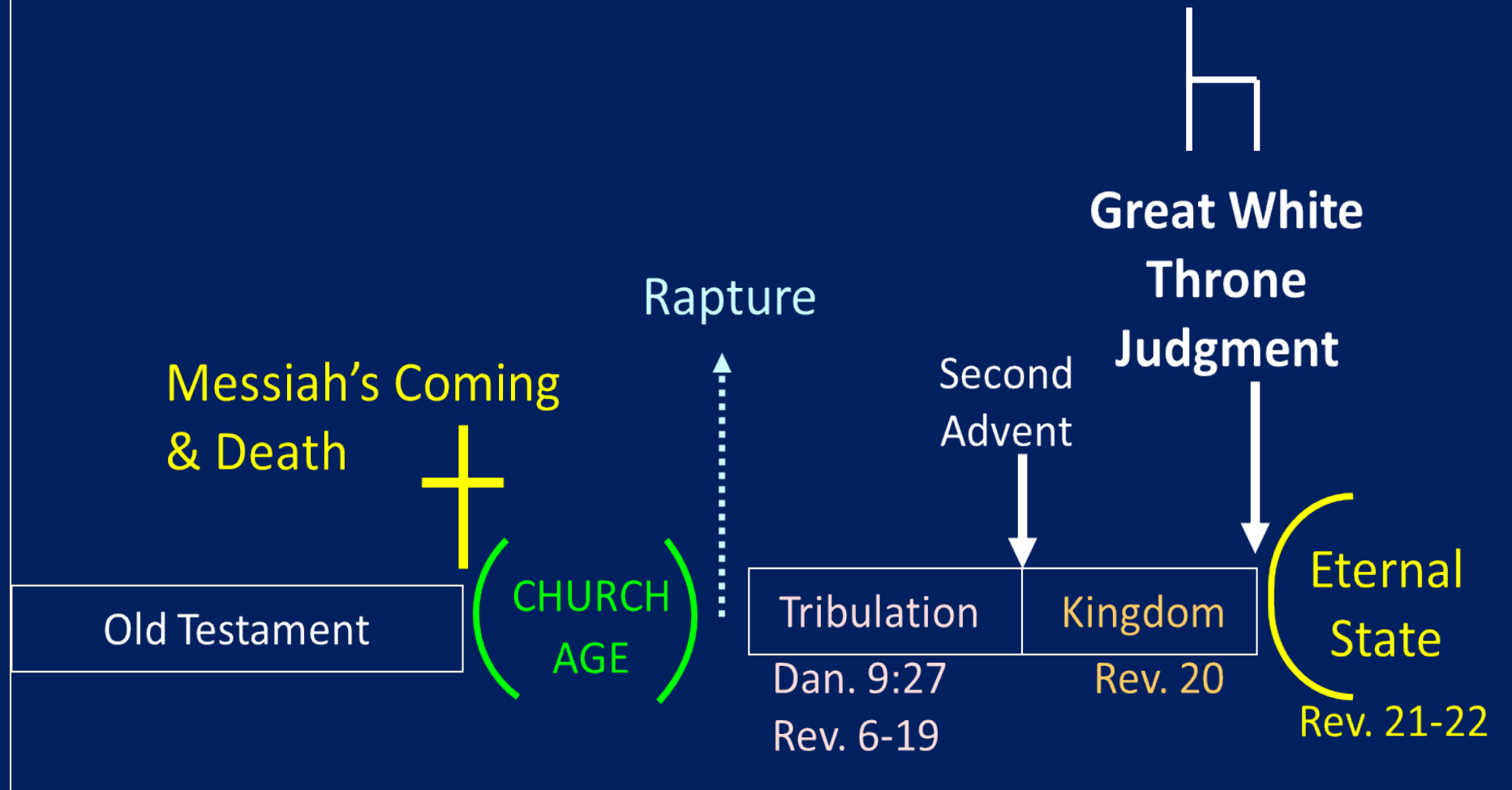
Prophecy Panorama



Scripture's Four Judgments

Name	<u>Sheep and Goat</u>	Judgment of the Jews	Bema Seat	Great White Throne
Scripture	<u>Matt 25:31-46</u>	Ezek 20:33-44	1 Cor 3:10-15	Rev 20:11-15
Place	<u>Earth, Jerusalem</u>	Earth, wilderness	Heaven	Earth
Audience	<u>Gentile Tribulation survivors</u>	Jewish Tribulation survivors	Church Age believers	All unsaved
When	<u>After Tribulation</u>	After Tribulation	After rapture	After Millennium
Purpose	<u>Saved Gentiles enter kingdom</u>	Saved Jews enter kingdom	Reward believers	Degree of punishment in hell
Evaluation	<u>Treatment of Christ's brethren</u>	Passing under shepherd's rod	Works taken through fire	Not in the book; judged by books

Prophecy Panorama



SHEEP & GOAT VS GREAT WHITE THRONE

MATT. 25:31-46

REV. 20:11-15

Post Second Advent

Post Millennium

Living Nations

Dead

Believers & Unbelievers

Unbelievers Only

Angels, Sheep, Goats, Brethren

Unbelievers Only

David's Throne

Great White Throne

Earthly

Non-earthly

Pentecost, *Things To Come*, 425-26

SHEEP & GOAT VS GREAT WHITE THRONE

MATT. 25:31-46

REV. 20:11-15

**After Poverty, Imprisonment,
Sickness**

After Utopia

Entrance into Kingdom & Hades

Entrance into Lake of Fire Only

Basis: Treatment of Brethren

Basis: Book of Life and Books

Not After Resurrection

After Resurrection

Subjects: Tribulation Survivors

Subjects: Unbelievers of All Ages

After Regathering of the Elect

After the Second Resurrection

Pentecost, *Things To Come*, 425-26

Conclusion

VIII. Eight Parabolic Exhortations

(Matthew 24:32–25:46)

- A. The fig tree (24:32-35)
- B. The days of Noah (24:36-39)
- C. The comparison of two men & women (24:40-41)
- D. The householder (24:42-44)
- E. The wise servant (24:45-51)
- F. The wise virgins (25:1-13)
- G. The talents (25:14-30)
- H. The sheep & goat judgment (25:31-46)



Preview of Matthew 24–25

- I. The problem
- II. The larger context
- III. The immediate context (23:37-39)
- IV. The Disciples' questions (24:1-3)
- V. The Tribulation's first half (24:4-14)
- VI. The Tribulation's mid-point (24:15-20)
- VII. The Tribulation's second half (24:21-22)
- VIII. The Second Advent (24:23-31)
- IX. Eight parabolic exhortations (24:32–25:46)

