

# THE RAPTURE

## Question and Answer – Part 11



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# The Rapture

## Course Overview



- I. What is the Rapture?
- II. When is the Rapture?
- III. Strengthening the Pre-Tribulational case
- IV. The opposing views
- V. One second after the Rapture
- VI. Questions & Answers

# MAIL BAG

1. Church in Rev. 11:3-13?
2. Referring to the Tribulation?



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1. Church in Rev. 11:3-13?
2. Referring to the Tribulation?



## Revelation 1:19

“Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things [*meta tauta*].”



# Revelation 1:19

- Seen (1)
- Are (2–3)
- After these things (4–22)



## Distinctions Between 144,000 & Multitude

**144,000**

**MULTITUDE**

**Revelation 7:1-8**

**Revelation 7:9-17**

**Numbered**

**Innumerable**

**Jews**

**All nations**

**Sealed**

**Slain**

**Sealed before the Tribulation**

**Converted out of the Tribulation**

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

# God's Work Through Israel

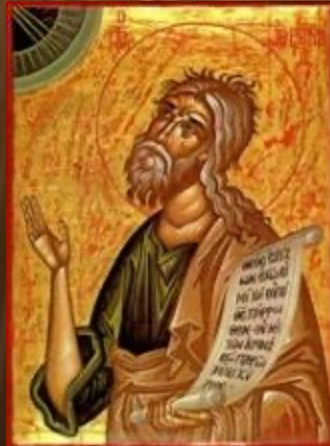
- Revelation 7 – 144,000 Jews
- Revelation 11 – Two Jewish witnesses
- Revelation 12 – Israel flees





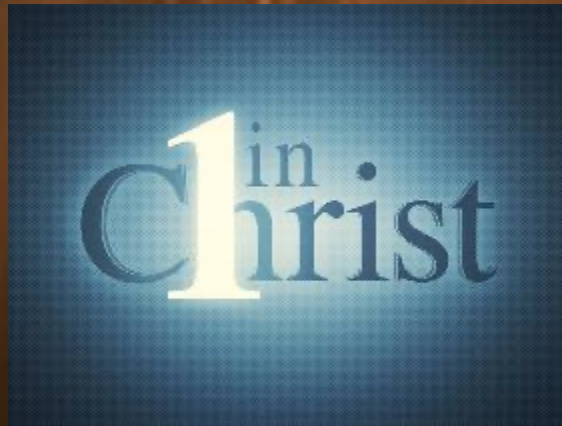
## Jeremiah 30:7

“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.”



## Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



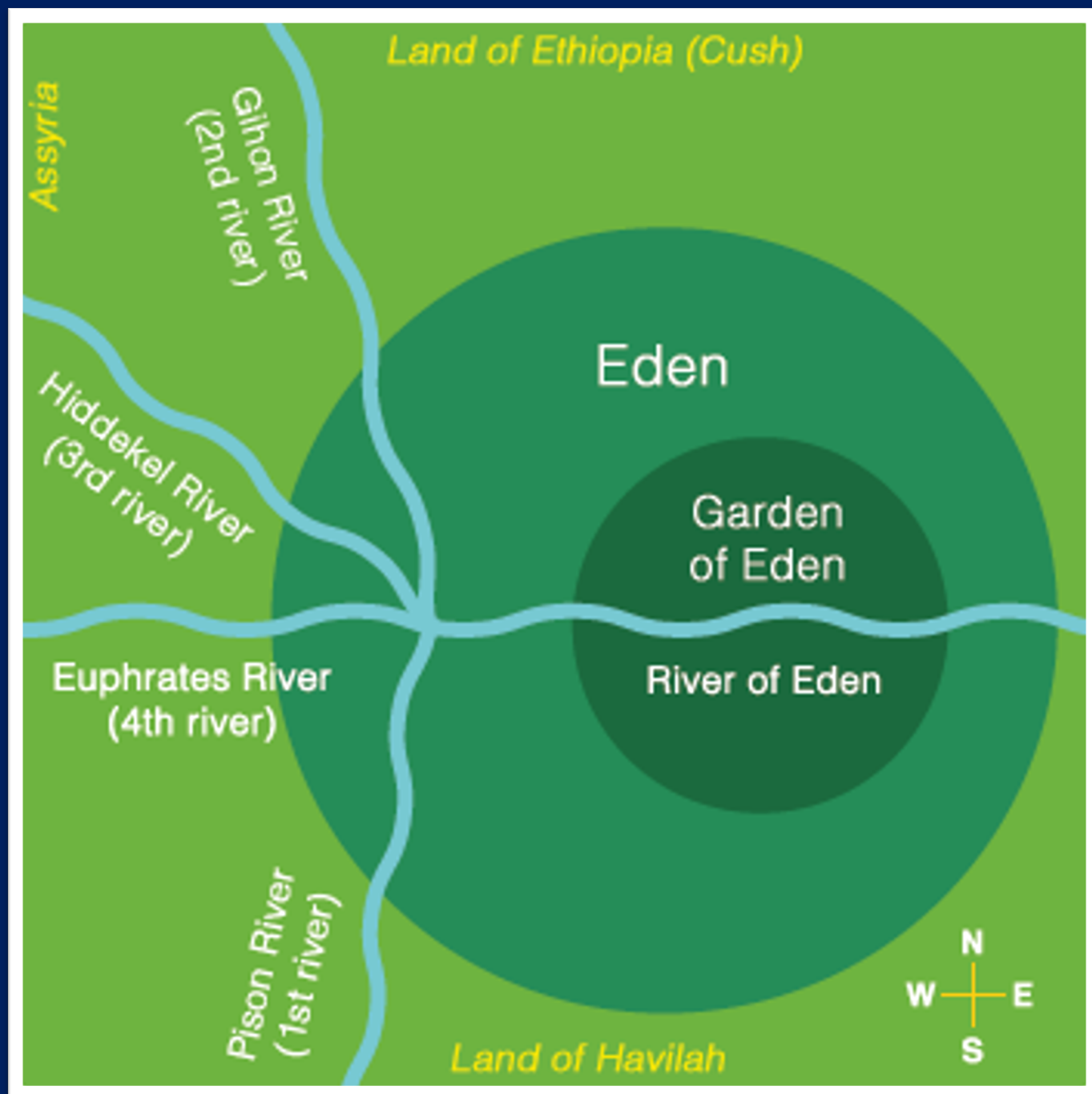
## Ephesians 2:14

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.



1<sup>in</sup>  
Christ





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



# ISRAEL'S FOUR TEMPLES

1. Solomon's pre-exilic temple (Kings and Chronicles)
2. Zerubbabel's post exilic temple (Ezra 1-6; John 2:20)
3. Antichrist's temple (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 11:1-2)
4. Millennial temple (Ezek. 40-48)

# 483 YEARS ELAPSE BETWEEN THE DECREE AND THE MESSIAH'S 1<sup>ST</sup> COMING

$$\begin{array}{r} 7 \text{ weeks /} \\ 49 \text{ years} \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} 62 \text{ weeks /} \\ 434 \text{ years} \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} 69 \text{ weeks /} \\ 483 \text{ years} \end{array}$$

**483 years (360 days) = 173,880 days**

# BIBLICAL MATHEMATICS

444 B.C. – (*Artaxerxes decree of Nehemiah 2*)

+33 A.D. – (*Triumphal entry of Luke 19:28-44*)

**= 477 years**

-1 – (*1 B.C. to A.D. 1 = 1 year, not 2 years*)

**= 476 years**

x 365 days

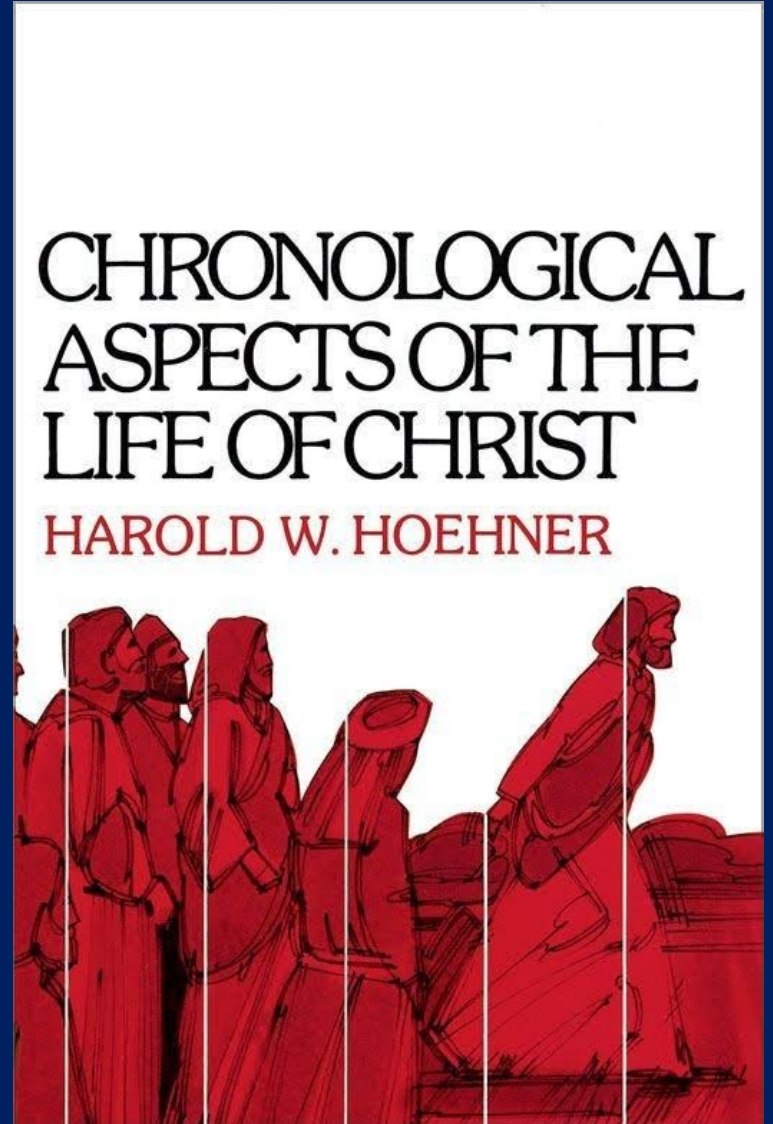
**= 173, 740 days**

+ 25 days – (*March 5 to March 30*)

**= 173, 765 days**

+115 days – (*leap years*)

**= 173, 880 days**





MESSIAH MUST PRESENT HIMSELF  
TO ISRAEL ON MARCH 30, A.D. 33  
(Daniel 9:25)

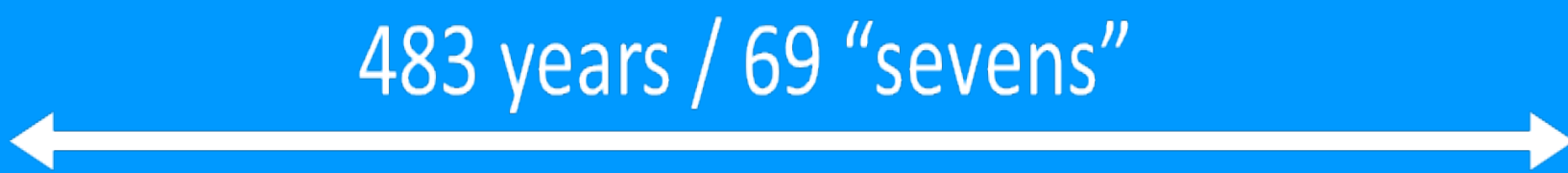
March 5, 444 B.C.

March 30, A.D. 33

483 years / 69 "sevens"

Nehemiah 2  
decree

Palm Sunday



## Luke 19:42, 44

<sup>42</sup> saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes... <sup>44</sup> and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

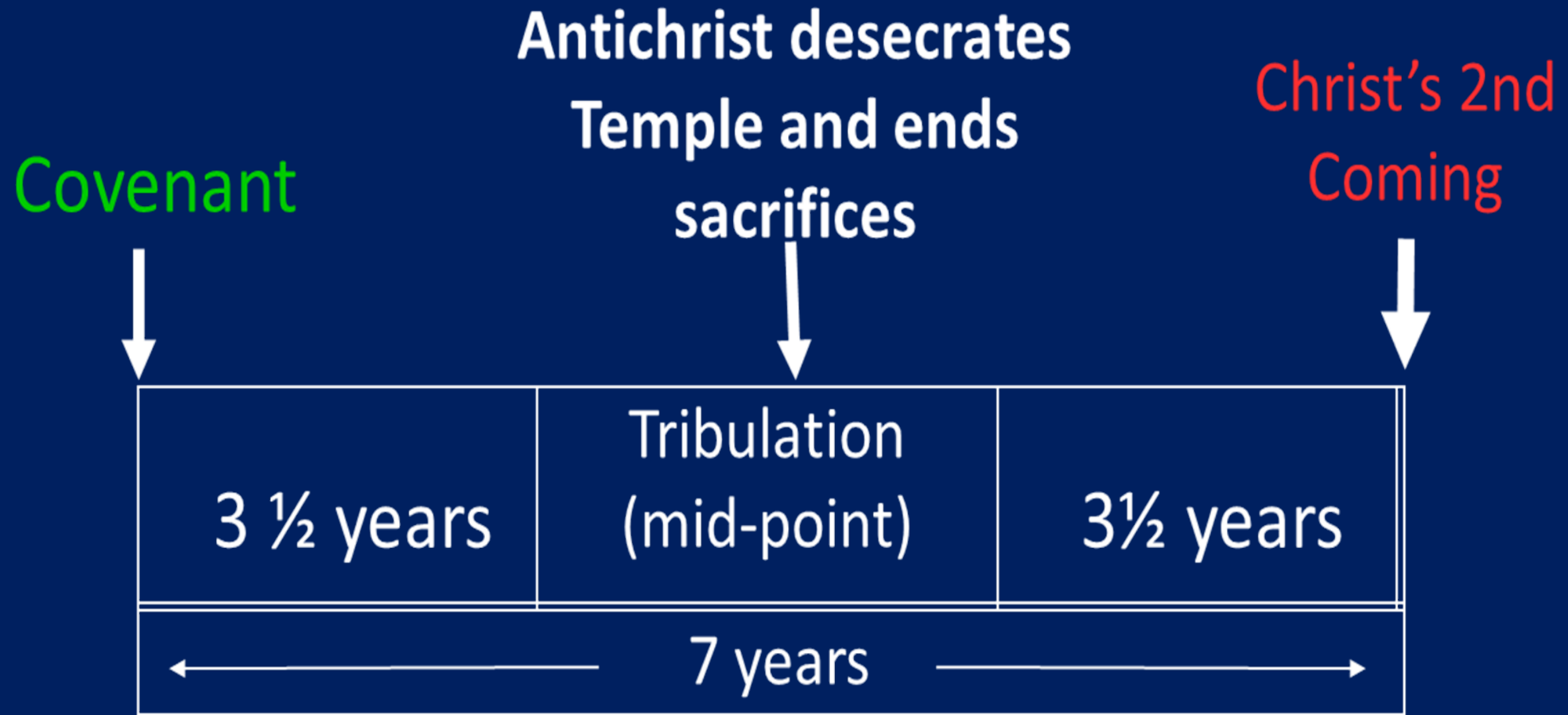


## Daniel 9:27

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



# Zechariah 4



[www.trackingbibleprophecy.org](http://www.trackingbibleprophecy.org)

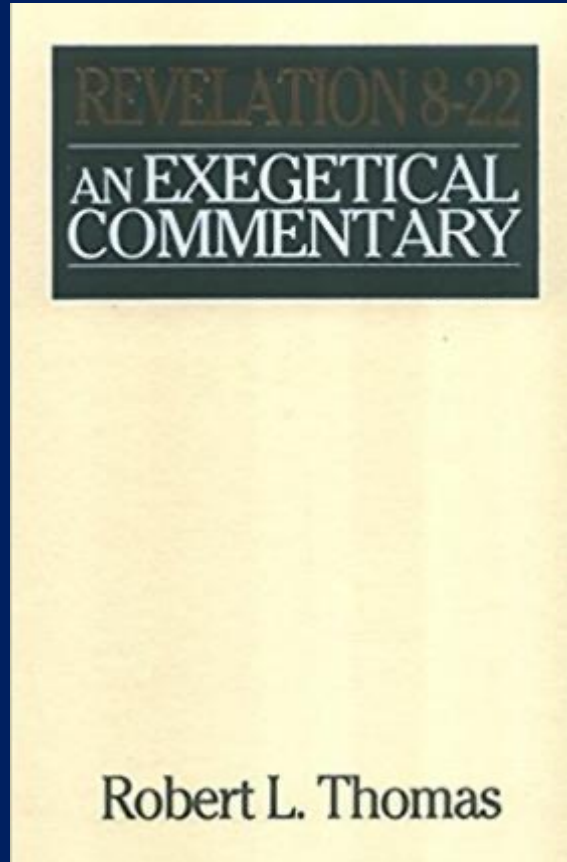
## Revelation 11:8

“And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.”



# 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."

# Literal Interpretation

```
graph TD; A[Literal Interpretation] --> B[Plain Literal]; A --> C[Figurative Literal]; B --> D[One Meaning]; C --> D;
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**One Meaning**

Plain Literal

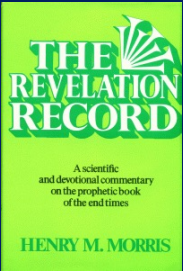
The literal interpretation is the explicit assertion of the words—DENOTATIVE

Figurative Literal

The literal interpretation is the specific intention of the figure—CONNOTATIVE

Chart by Earl Radmacher





# Morris

*The Revelation Record, 323*

“At the very least, it would be confusing to John’s first century readers, as well as to later generations, for him to write so much about Babylon when he really meant Rome (Paul was not afraid to speak directly against Rome in his writings, so why should John be?) or ‘the false church’ (all the apostles , including John, wrote plainly and scathingly about false teachers and false doctrines in the church and would not hide their teachings by symbols). **It must be stressed that Revelation means ‘unveiling,’ not ‘veiling.’** In the absence of any statement in the text to the contrary, therefore, we must assume that the term Babylon applies to the real city of Babylon...”

# Revelation 1:1

“The Revelation [apokalypsis] of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John.”



# 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)



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## Revelation 12:1-5

And a great sign (sēmeion) appeared in heaven: a woman clothed in the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars; <sup>2</sup>and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor pain to give birth. <sup>3</sup>And another sign (sēmeion) was seen in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his heads seven diadems...



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# Identification of the Four Kingdoms



Vision in Daniel: Ch. 2

Vision in Ch. 7

Vision in Ch. 8

IDENTIFICATION

BABYLON 2:48

HEAD of GOLD

LION

CHEST and ARMS of SILVER

BEAR

RAM

MEDO-PERSIA 8:20

BELLY and THIGHS of BRONZE

LEOPARD

GOAT

GREECE 8:21

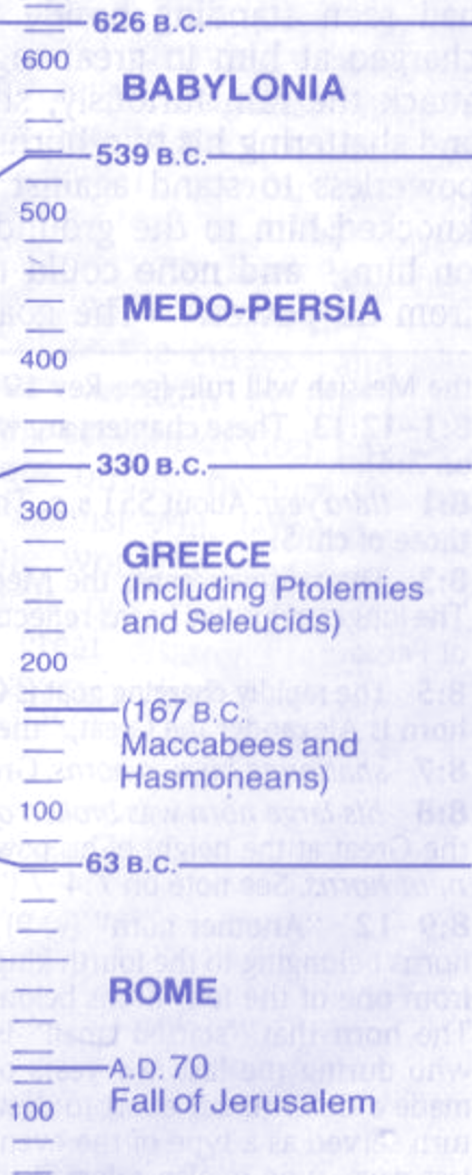
LEGS of IRON

TERRIFYING and FRIGHTENING BEAST

ROME

FEET of CLAY

# Chronology of Major Empires in Daniel



# Revelation's Symbols and Figures of Speech

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www.patmarvenkosmith.com

## Revelation 17:18

“The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.



# Revelation's Symbols and Figures of Speech

- “Spiritually” (11:8)
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- **Absurdity (12:1)**



## Revelation 12:1-5

<sup>1</sup>And a great sign (*sēmeion*) appeared in heaven: a woman clothed in the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars; <sup>2</sup>and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor pain to give birth. <sup>3</sup>And another sign (*sēmeion*) was seen in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his heads seven diadems. . . .



# Assigning Meaning to Revelation's Symbols and Figures of Speech

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



Artwork by Pat Marverdo Smith ©1982, 1992  
www.revelationillustrated.com





# Two Rules of Interpretation

- Search the immediate context
  - ◆ Walvoord: 26X
- Search the remote context
  - ◆ Old Testament
  - ◆ Thomas: 278 / 404 verses

## Revelation 12:1-5

<sup>1</sup>And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed in the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars; <sup>2</sup>and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor pain to give birth. <sup>3</sup>And another sign was seen in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his heads seven diadems <sup>4</sup>And his tail swept a third part of . . .

.



## Revelation 12:1-5 (cont'd)

. . . the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman that is about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he may devour her child. <sup>5</sup>And she gave birth to a son, a man child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.



# CAST OF 3 CHARACTERS

Revelation 12:1-5

1. SON (v.5)
2. DRAGON (v. 3)
3. WOMAN (v.1)



# CAST OF 3 CHARACTERS

Revelation 12:1-5

## 1. SON = MESSIAH

– *Ps. 2:9; Acts 1:9*

## 2. DRAGON = SATAN

– *Rev. 12:9; 20:2*

## 3. WOMAN = ISRAEL

– *Gen. 37:9-10*



Artwork by Pat Marvanko Smith ©1982, 1989  
www.revelationillustrated.com

## Genesis 37:9


Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, "Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.



## Genesis 37:10

He related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?”





Sun = Jacob

Moon = Leah

11 Stars = Joseph's brothers

12th Star = Joseph

12 Stars = Israel's twelve tribes

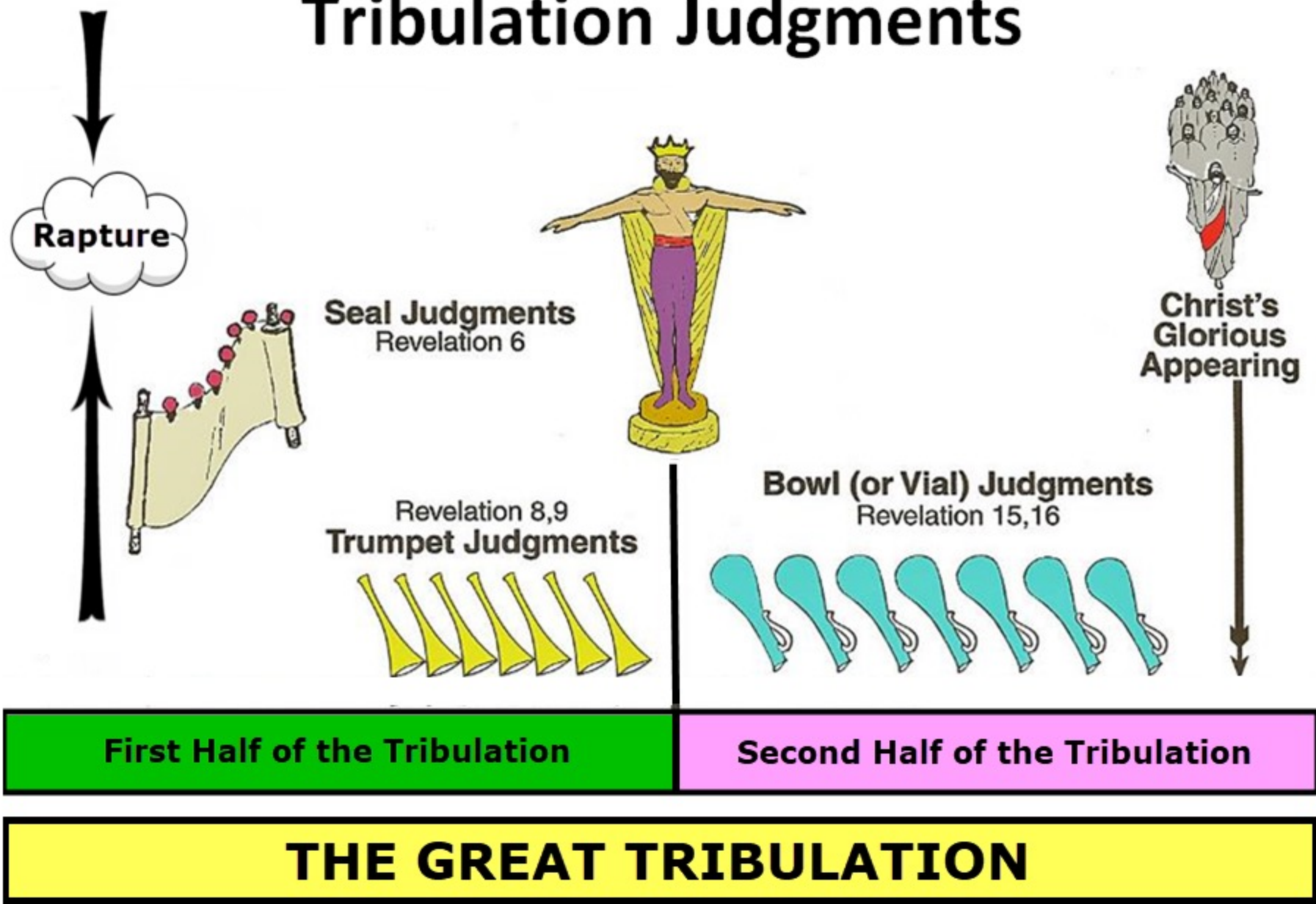


# MAIL BAG

1. Church in Rev. 11:3-13?
2. Referring to the Tribulation?



# Tribulation Judgments



# 1<sup>st</sup> Six Seals (Revelation 6)

**SEAL 1** – 6:1-2 – Advent of antichrist

**SEAL 2** – 6:3-4 – War

**SEAL 3** – 6:5-6 – Famine

**SEAL 4** – 6:7-8 – Death

**SEAL 5** – 6:9-11 – Martyrdoms

**SEAL 6** – 6:12-17 – Cosmic disturbances



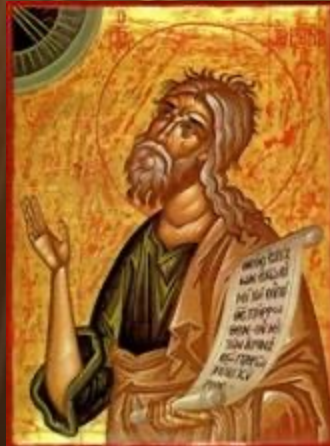
## Revelation 7:14

“I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great **tribulation** [*thlípsis*], and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”



## 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.”



## Isaiah 28:15

Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we have made a pact. The gushing flood will not reach us when it passes by, Because we have made falsehood our refuge and we have concealed ourselves with deception.”



## Isaiah 28:18

“Your covenant with death will be canceled, And your pact with Sheol will not stand; When the gushing flood passes through, Then you will become its trampling ground.



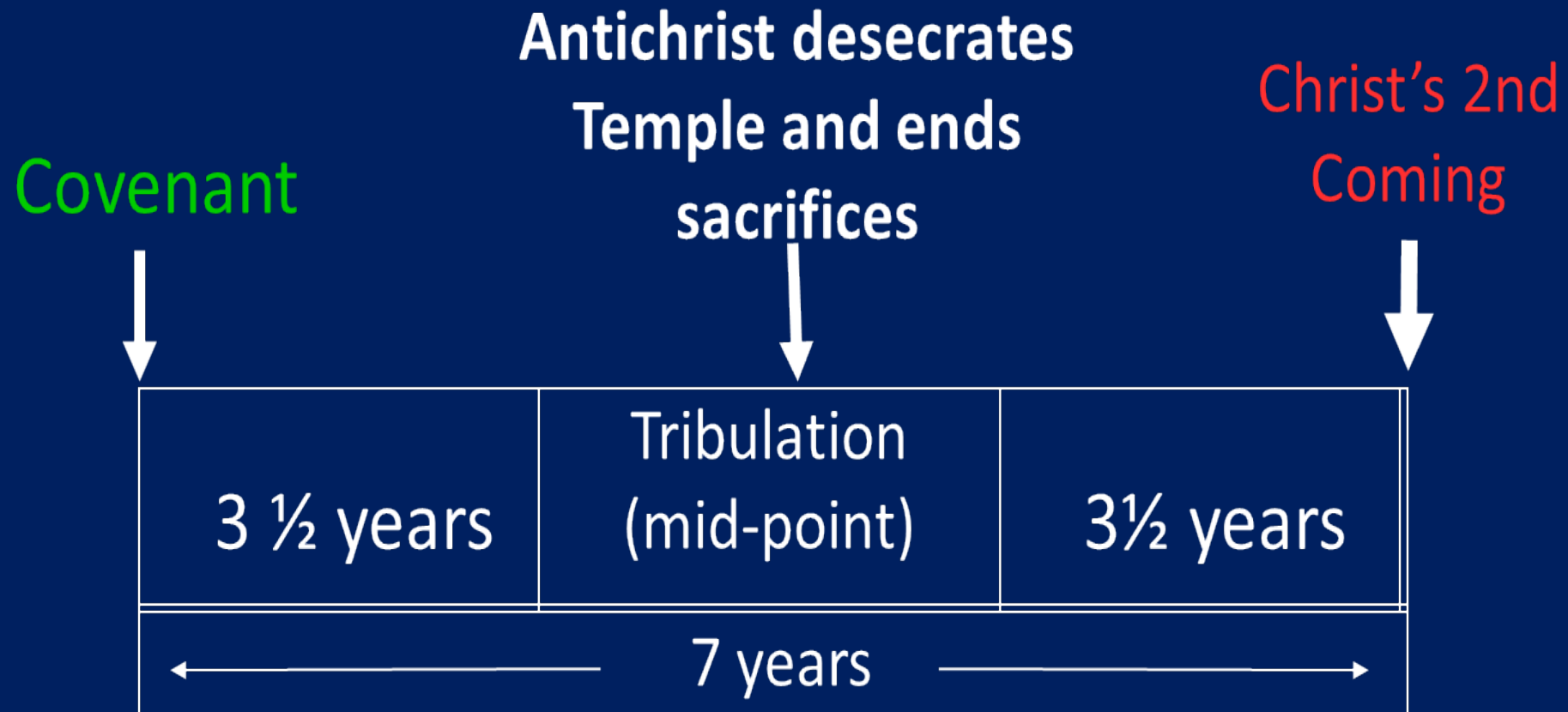
## Daniel 9:27

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



## Matthew 24:15-16

“<sup>15</sup> Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand) <sup>16</sup> then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.”



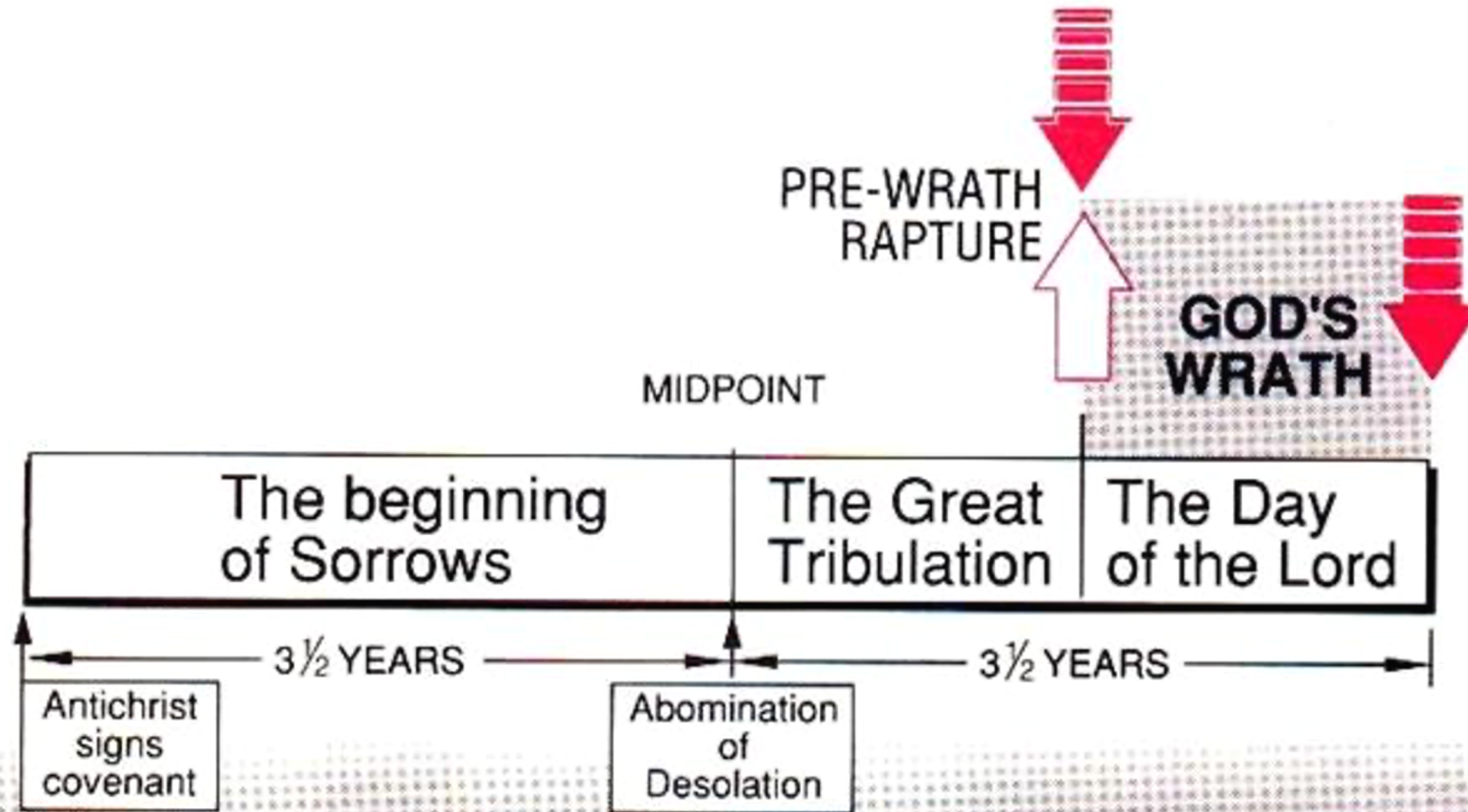
## Matthew 24:21-22

“<sup>21</sup> For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. <sup>22</sup> 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.”



# PRE-WRATH RAPTURE

*Daniel's 70th Week*



Marvin J. Rosenthal, *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church: A New Understanding of the Tribulation, and the Second Coming* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1990), 112.

## Zephaniah 1:14-15

<sup>14</sup> The great day of the Lord is near, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the Lord! In it the warrior cries out bitterly. <sup>15</sup> That day is a day of anger, A day of trouble (LXX: thlipis) and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness.



CONCLUSION

# MAIL BAG

1. Church in Rev. 11:3-13?
2. Referring to the Tribulation?

