

# 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



Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

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

11. Kingdom Establishment

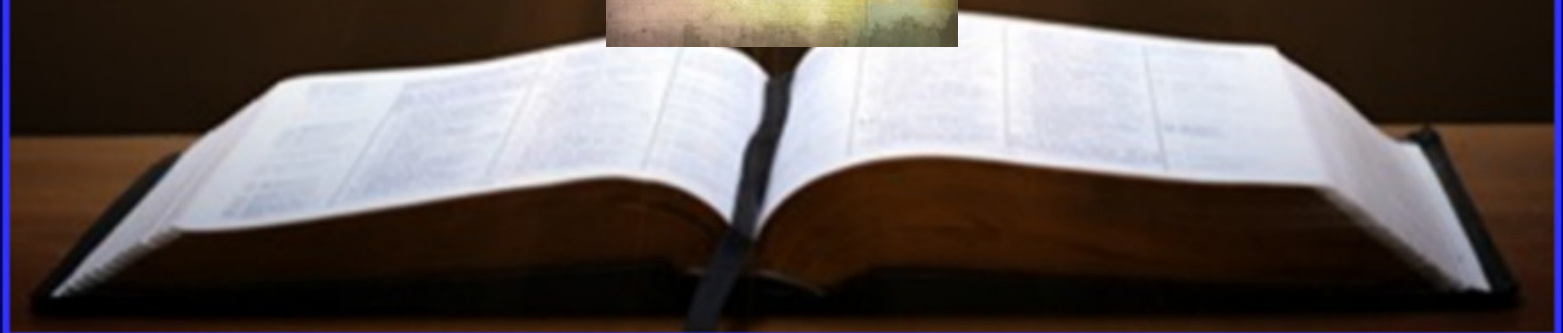
12. Eternal State

13. Testimony of Early Church History



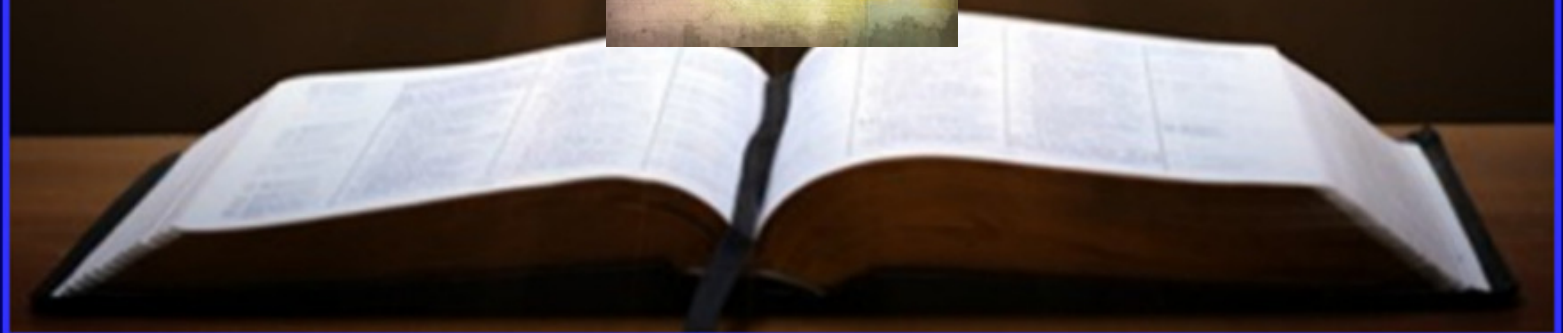
## Roman 11:25b

“For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”



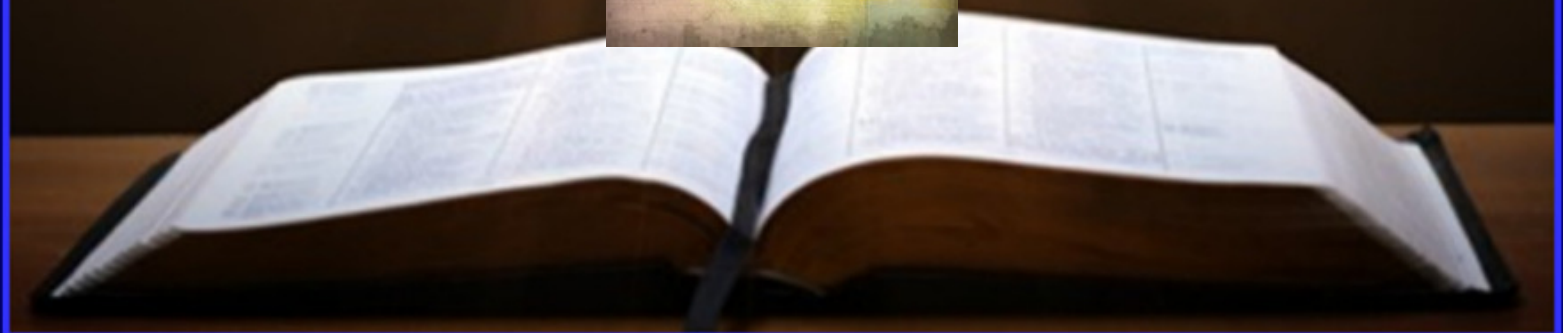
## Exodus 2:24

“So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”



## Ezek. 36:22

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.”



# 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



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# Messengers of the Kingdom In Matthew



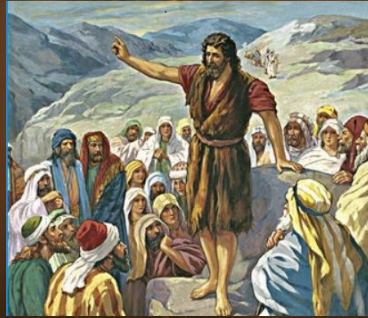
- John the Baptist – 3:2
- Jesus Christ – 4:17
- 12 Apostles – 10:5-7
- Seventy – Luke 10:1, 9

Toussaint, *Behold the King*, 18-20



## Matthew 3:1-2

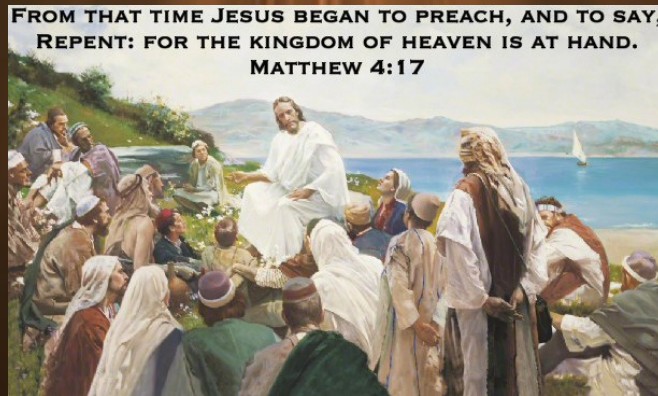
<sup>1</sup> “Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,  
<sup>2</sup> ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”





## Matthew 4:17

“From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”



## Matthew 10:5-7

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the* way of *the* Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans; <sup>6</sup> but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’



## Matthew 12:24

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



## Transition from Public to Private Ministry

	<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>
<b>Scripture</b>	Matt. 1–12	Matt. 13–28
<b>Focus</b>	Nation	Remnant
<b>Miracles</b>	Proof to nation	Training for remnant
<b>Offer</b>	Prominent	Disappears
<b>Teaching</b>	Discourse	Parabolic
<b>Interim program</b>	Not mentioned	Prominent
<b>Crucifixion; Resurrection</b>	Not mentioned (4:17)	Prominent (16:21)

# Matthew Outline

Pedigree of the king (1–2)

- ◆ Preparation of the king (3–4)

- ◆ Pedagogy of the king (5–7)

- Power of the king (8–9)

- Program of the king (10)

- Progressive rejection of the king (11–12)

- Preparation of the king's disciples (13–20)

- Presentation & rejection of the king (21–23)

- ◆ Prophecies of the king (24–25)

- ◆ Passion of the king (26–27)

Proof of the king (28)

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## Matthew 24:14

<sup>14</sup> “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.”







## Charles Ryrie

*So Great A Salvation,*  
Page 37

“So the kingdom did not arrive because the people would not prepare properly for it. But this did not mean that there would never be a Davidic, millennial kingdom. The Lord taught that it would not appear immediately (Luke 19:11), but he also predicted that the gospel, the good news of the kingdom, would be preached yet again in the future period of the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:14). And in that wicked time when Satan and the forces of evil will have almost total free reign, it will be very good news to know that the Messiah will soon rule on the earth.”

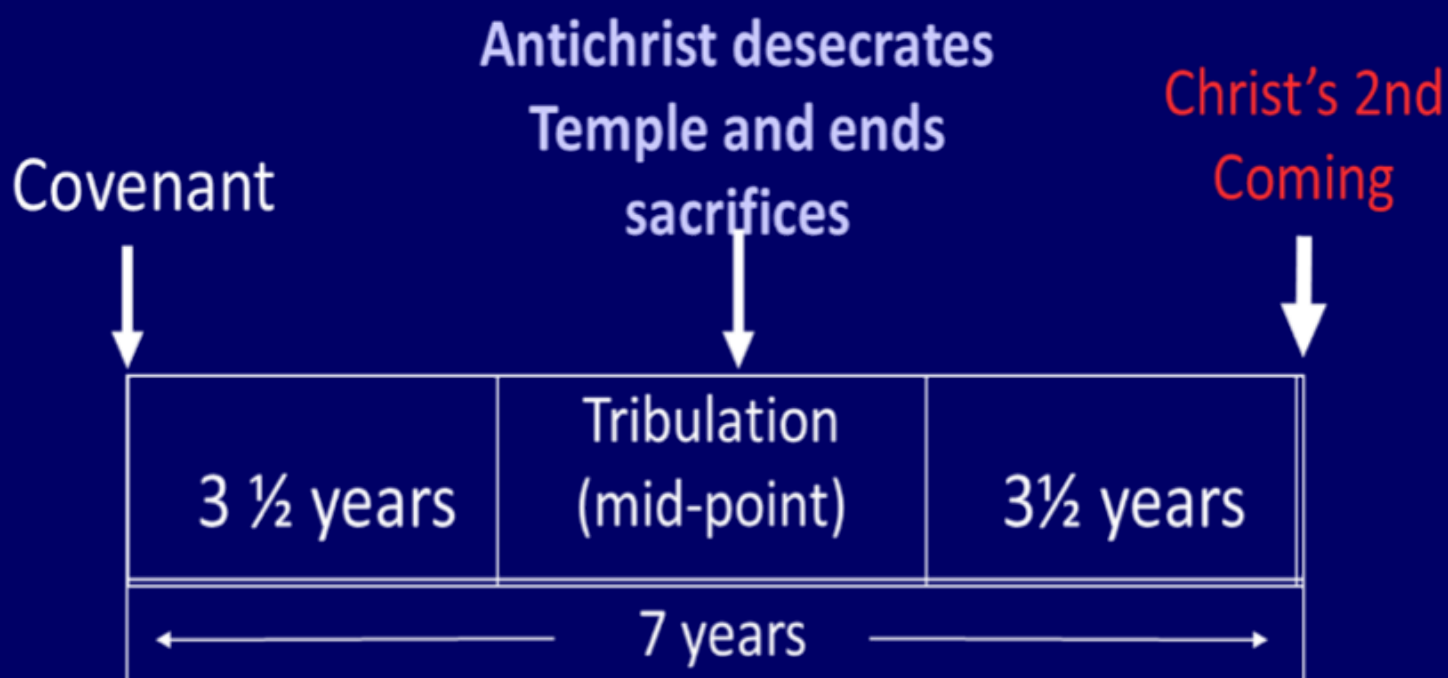


## Matthew 23:37-39

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. <sup>38</sup> Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! <sup>39</sup> 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!’”



## DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



## Acts 7-Stephen's Speech

1. 7:1-5 – Abraham's partial obedience
2. 7:6-38 – Israel's initial rejections and later acceptances
3. 7:39-41 – Israel's early rebellion against Moses
4. 7:42-45 – Israel reinterpreted Moses' teachings though a polytheistic framework
5. 7:46-50 – Neither the Tabernacle nor Temple were intended as permanent habitations of God
6. 7:51-53 – Current generation imitating these same rebellions

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2. Transfer of earthly authority
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## Names & Titles Demonstrating Satan's Post-Fall, Earthly Authority

(Job 1:7; 2:2; Luke 4:5-8; Rom. 8:19-22)



- Prince of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
- God of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)
- Prince and power of the air (Eph. 2:2)
- Who the believer wrestles with (Eph. 6:12)
- Roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8)
- Whole world lies in his power (1 John 5:19)





## Romans 8:19-22

<sup>19</sup> For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.





## God's Role in Redemption (Rev 5)

- Seven sealed scroll (5:1)
- John weeps (5:2-4)
- Christ is qualified to open the scroll (5:5-6)
- Christ takes the scroll (5:7)
- Christ praised by various entities (5:8-14)



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## Ultimate Exodus (Rev 11:15)

- **Sores**: 6<sup>th</sup> plague (Ex 9:8-12), 1<sup>st</sup> bowl (Rev 16:1-2)
- **Rivers to blood**: 1<sup>st</sup> plague (Ex 7:19-21), 3<sup>rd</sup> bowl (Rev 16:4-7)
- **Darkness**: 9<sup>th</sup> plague (Ex 10:21-23), 5<sup>th</sup> bowl (Rev 16:10-11)
- **Hail**: 7<sup>th</sup> plague (Ex 9:22-26), 7<sup>th</sup> bowl (Rev 16:17-21)

# Telescoping

7<sup>th</sup> judgment releases 1<sup>st</sup> in next series

Seals: 1 2 3 4 5 6 **7**

Trumpets: **1** 2 3 4 5 6 **7**

Bowls: **1** 2 3 4 5 6 7





## Revelation 5:10

<sup>10</sup> “You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

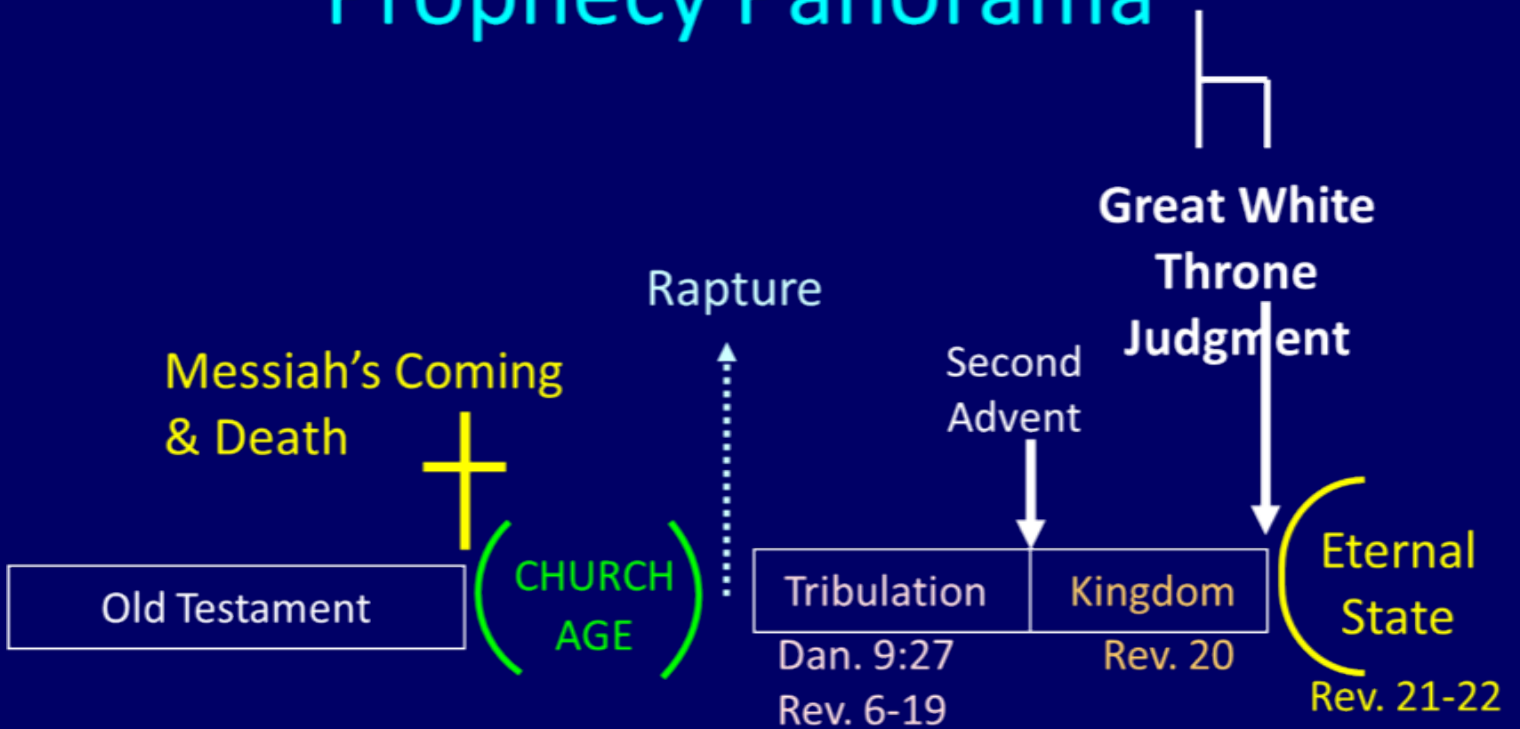


## Revelation 11:15

<sup>15</sup> “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



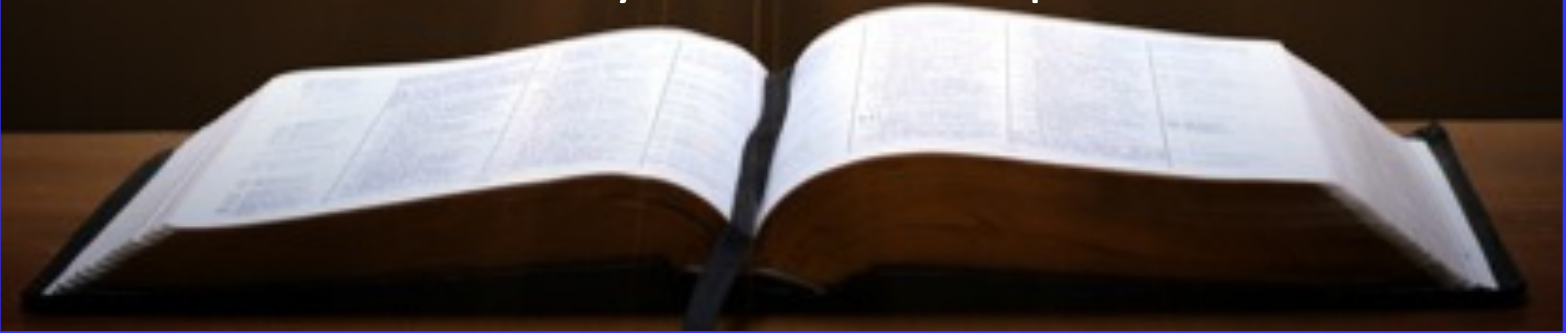
## Revelation 20:1-3

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup>And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup>and 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

“<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is . . .



## Revelation 20:4-6

... first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> 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

“<sup>7</sup> When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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...



## Revelation 20:7-10

...from heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> And the devil 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.”





## 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)



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## Genesis 12:3

“And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”



## Isaiah 42:6

“I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, **As a light to the nations.**”



## Isaiah 49:6

He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."



# Israel's Three Blessings to the World

(Gen 12:3b)

- 1) Scripture (Rom 3:2)
- 2) Savior (John 4:22)
- 3) Kingdom (Isa 2:2-3)







## How Israel Has Blessed the World

(Gen 12:3; Rom 9:4-5)



- |                                    |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Patriarchs                      | 6. Biblical writers        |
| 2. Law                             | 7. Early church            |
| 3. Prophets                        | 8. Early Christian martyrs |
| 4. Messiah (John 4:22;<br>Rom 9:5) | 9. Paul                    |
| 5. Apostles                        | 10. Future kingdom         |

## 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.





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

<sup>4</sup>And his tail swept a third part of 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.



## Revelation: 12 Symbols

- Son = Messiah (Rev 12:5; Ps. 2:9; Acts 1:9)
- Dragon = Satan (Rev 12:3, 9)
- Woman = Israel (Rev 12:1; Gen 37:9-10)

## 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?**”



## Genesis 37:9-10



Sun = Jacob

Moon = Leah

11 Stars = Joseph's brothers

12<sup>th</sup> Star = Joseph

12 Stars = Israel's twelve tribes



# Satan's Two Strategies

- Rev 12:1-5 - Past failed strategy
- Rev 12:6-17 - Present & future strategy



## Descriptions of Satanic Hatred (Revelation 12:12-17)

- Wrath 12:12
- Persecution 12:13
- Sweep away 12:15
- Enraged 12:17
- War 12:17



## Matthew 23:37-39

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. <sup>38</sup> Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! <sup>39</sup> 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!’”





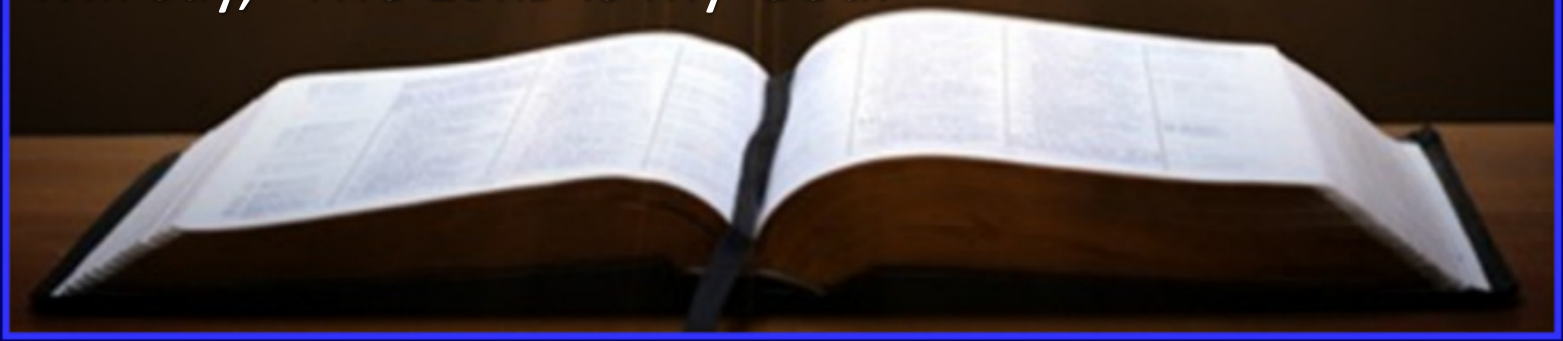
## 2 CYCLES OF SATANIC PERSECUTION (Revelation 12:13-16)



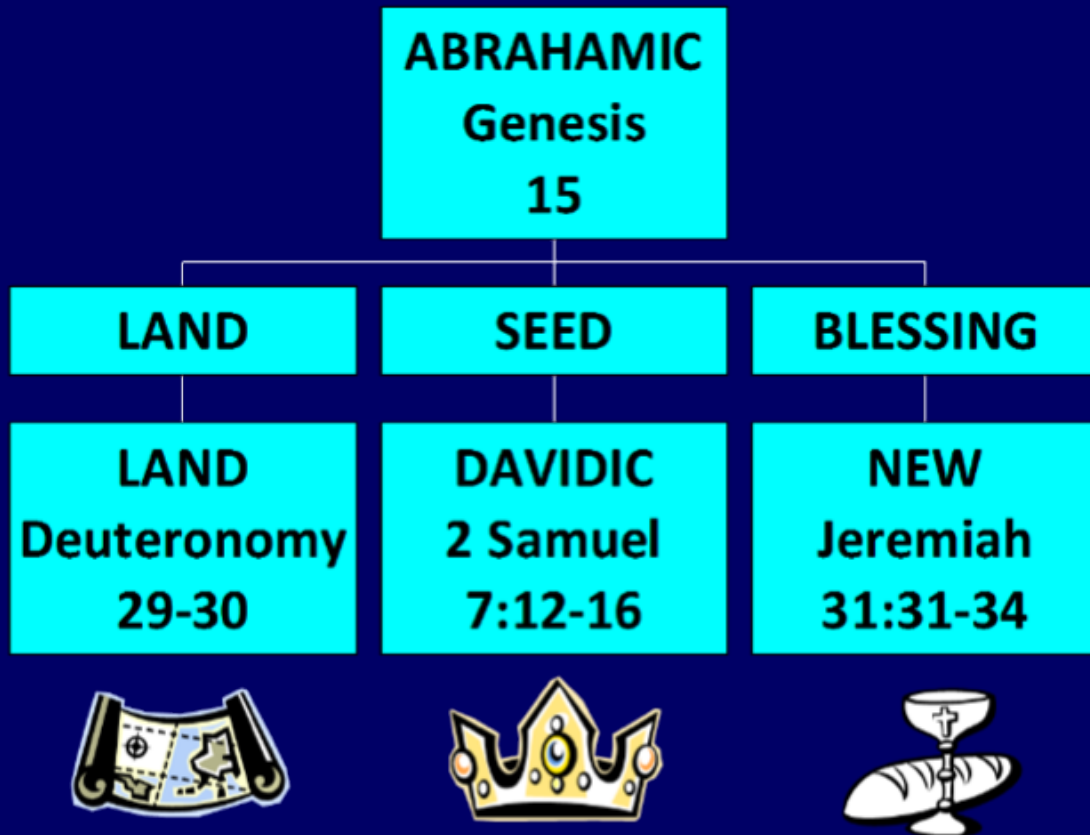
1. *“Pursues the woman”* = persecution of Israel 12:13-14
2. *“Flood from his mouth”* = tries to destroy Israel 12:15-16

## Zechariah 13:8-9

<sup>8</sup>“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.”** <sup>9</sup>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.’ ”



# Abrahamic Covenant



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

# The Coming of the Kingdom

1. Re-offer of the kingdom
2. Transfer of earthly authority
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## Genesis 1:26-28

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” <sup>27</sup>

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them; and God said to them, ...



## Genesis 1:26-28

...“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”



# Theocratic Administrator







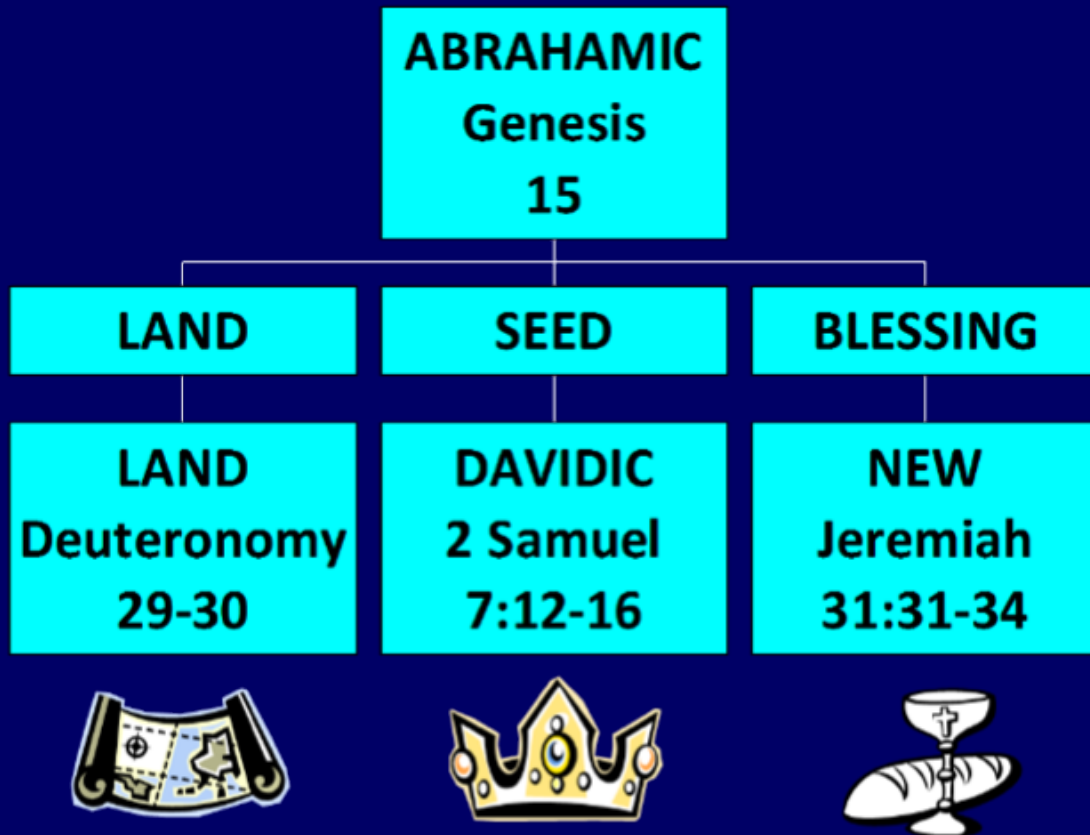
## Charles Ryrie

*Basic Theology, Page 511*

“Why is an earthly kingdom necessary? Did He not receive His inheritance when He was raised and exalted in heaven? **Is not His present rule His inheritance? Why does there need to be an earthly kingdom? Because He must be triumphant in the same arena where He was seemingly defeated. His rejection by the rulers of this world was on this earth (1Cor. 2:8). His exaltation must also be on this earth.** And so it shall be when He comes again to rule this world in righteousness. He has waited long for His inheritance; soon He shall receive it.”



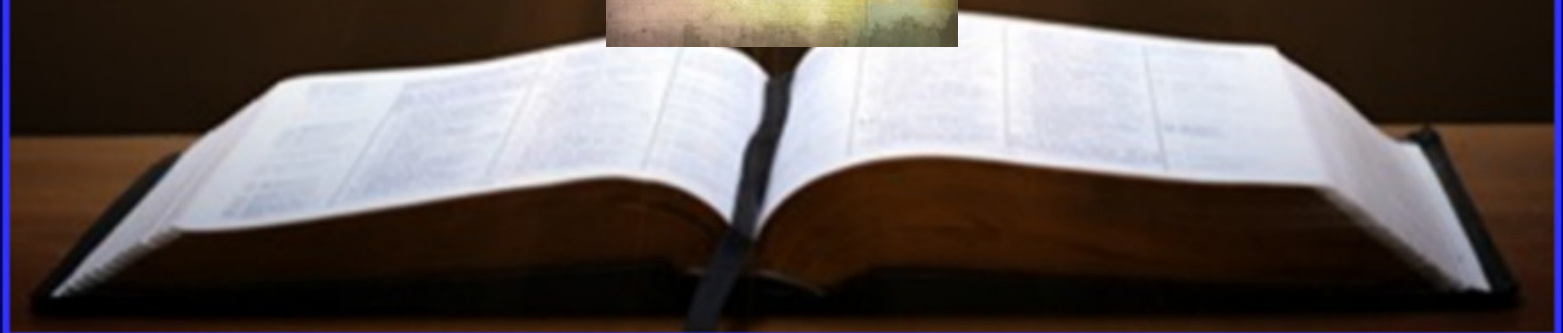
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**Unconditional** covenant with a conditional blessing (Deut. 28; Lev. 26)

## Exodus 19:5-6

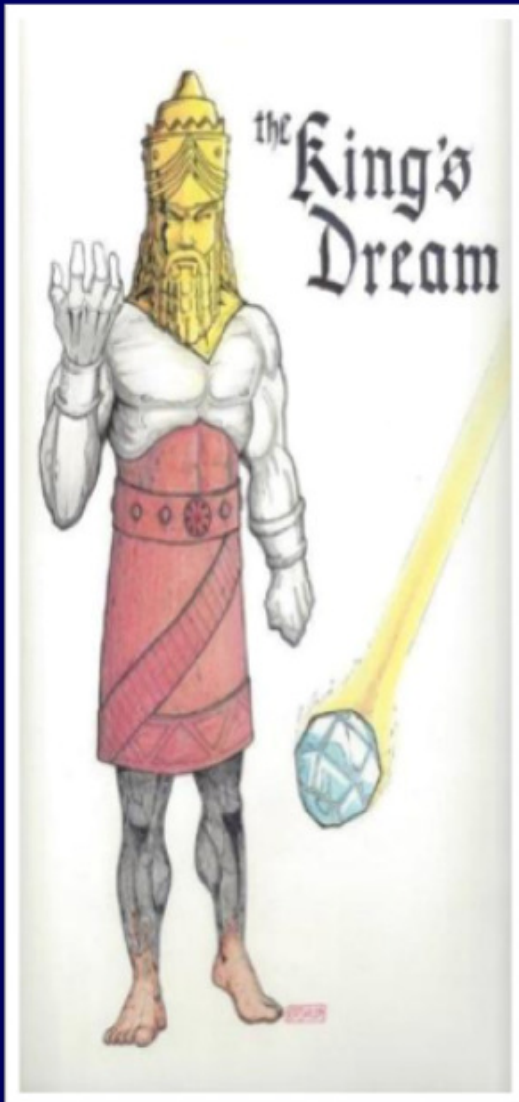
“Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”



## Matthew 23:37-39

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. <sup>38</sup> Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! <sup>39</sup> 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!’”





# Statue & Stone

2. A Statue and a Stone



HEAD  
GOLD  
WORLD POWER  
BABYLON  
606-539

---

CHEST AND ARMS  
SILVER  
WORLD POWER  
PERSIA  
539-331

---

STOMACH AND THIGHS  
BRASS  
WORLD POWER  
GREECE  
331-323

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

## 2 Peter 1:19

“So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.”





# OT PROPHETS DESCRIBE THE KINGDOM



- Kingdom Characteristics
- Is. 2:1-4; 11:6-9; 65:17-25
  - ◆ Jerusalem = center of world spiritual and political authority
  - ◆ Perfect justice
  - ◆ World peace
  - ◆ Peace in the animal kingdom
  - ◆ Universal spiritual knowledge.

## 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)
- 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)



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## OT PROPHETS DESCRIBE THE KINGDOM

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9. Righteousness (Isa. 9:6-7)
10. Curse curtailed (Isa. 65:20, 22)
11. Peace (Isa. 2:4)
12. Prosperity (Amos 9:13-14; Isa 65:22)
13. Topographical changes (Ezek. 47:1-12)
14. Immediate answers to prayer (Isa. 65:24)



Ezekiel  
Commissioned  
(1-3) mouth closed

Ezekiel  
Recommissioned  
(33) mouth opened

↓ Judgment on

↓ Blessing on

Judah (1-24)

Judah (33-48)

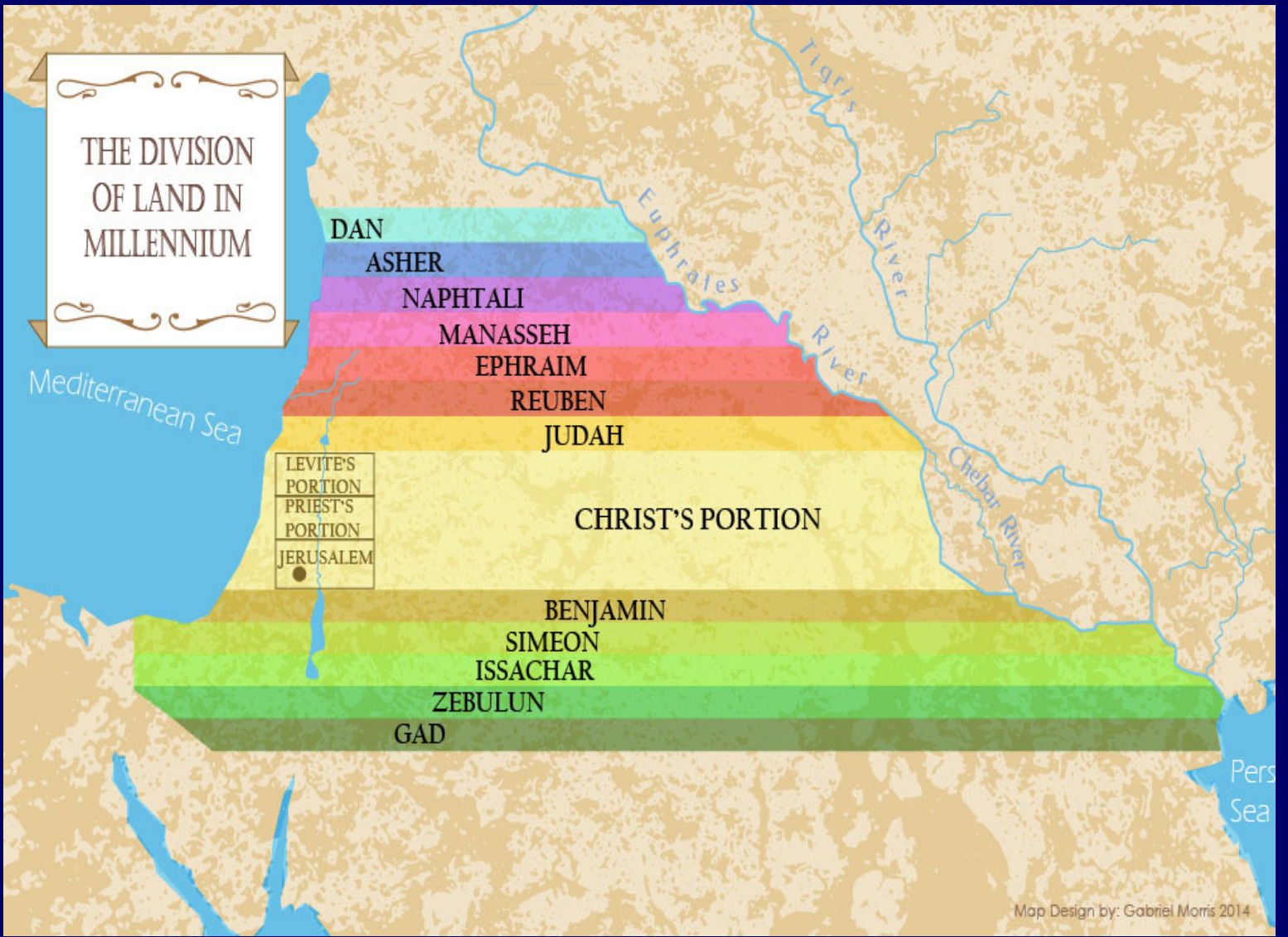
-Glory departs

-Glory Returns

Judgment  
on  
Nations  
(25-32)

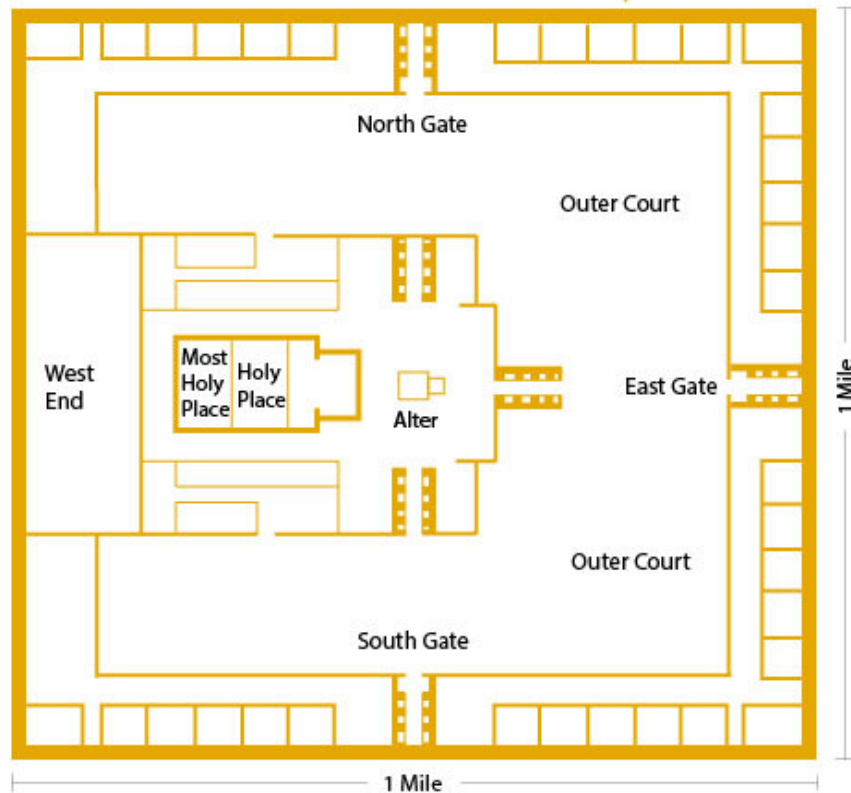
Source: Charles Dyer, *Notes on Ezekiel*

THE DIVISION  
OF LAND IN  
MILLENNIUM



# The Millennium Temple

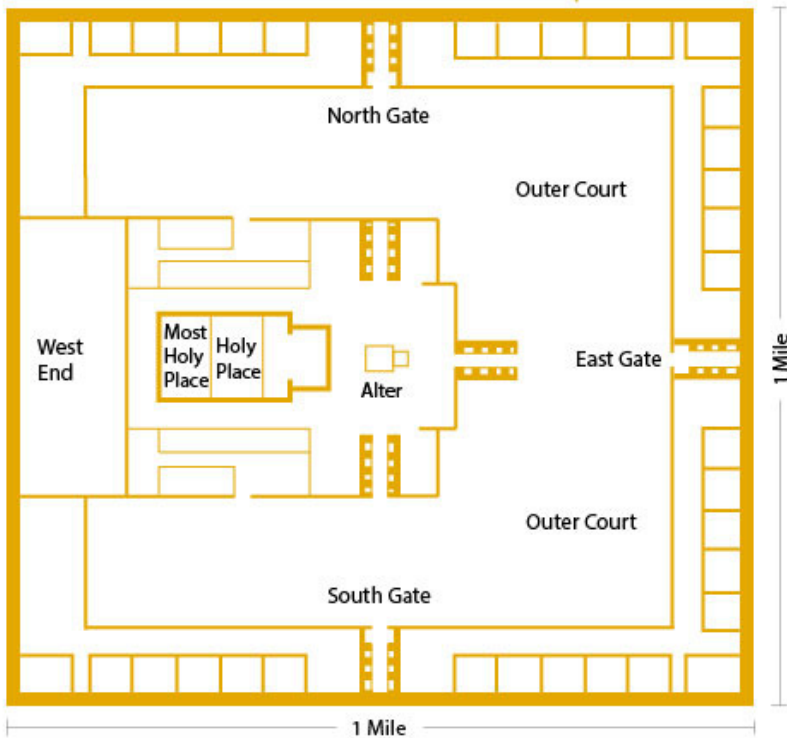
THE MILLENNIUM TEMPLE 500 x 500 CUBITS | 750 x 750 FT



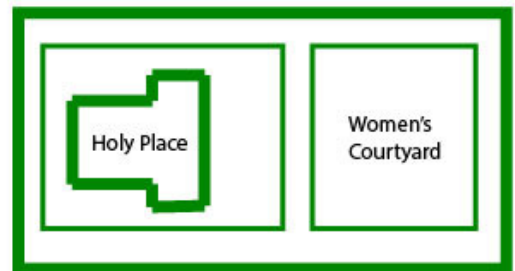
Design by Gabriel Morris | Adapted from Logos Bible Software Infographics

# TEMPLE COMPARISONS

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



**HEROD'S TEMPLE**

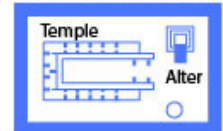


**TABERNACLE**



100x50 CUBITS | 150x75 FT

**SOLOMON'S TEMPLE**



**FOOTBALL FIELD**



100x50 YARDS | 300x150 FT



# The Dead Sea





# The Dead Sea



# The Dead Sea





## Romans 8:19-22

<sup>19</sup> For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.



## Names & Titles Demonstrating Satan's Post-Fall, Earthly Authority

(Job 1:7; 2:2; Luke 4:5-8; Rom. 8:19-22)



- Prince of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
- God of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)
- Prince and power of the air (Eph. 2:2)
- Who the believer wrestles with (Eph. 6:12)
- Roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8)
- Whole world lies in his power (1 John 5:19)



## 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)



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## Matthew 23:37-39

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. <sup>38</sup> Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! <sup>39</sup> 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!’”



## Acts 1:6-8

“<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’ <sup>7</sup> He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; <sup>8</sup> 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.’”



# 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



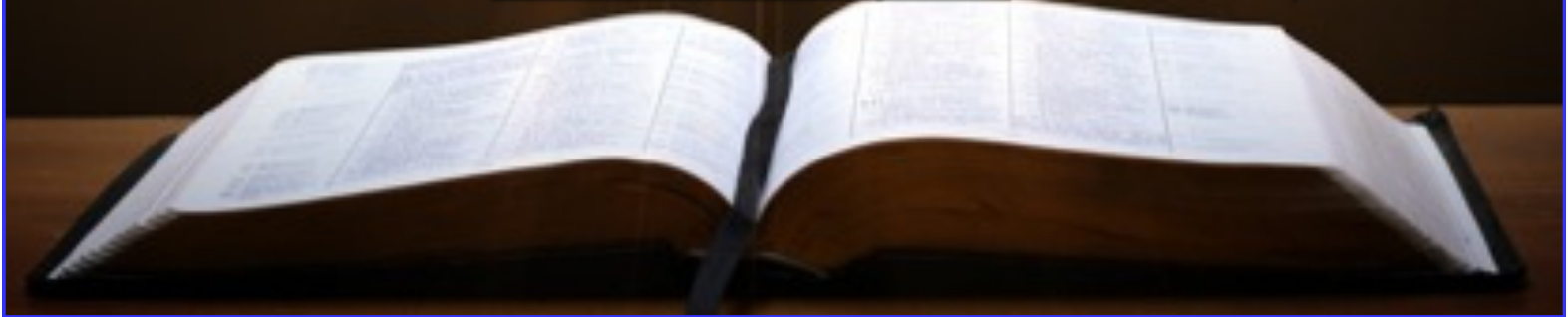
## Revelation 20:1-3

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> and 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

“<sup>4</sup> 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**. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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

“<sup>7</sup> When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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.”

## 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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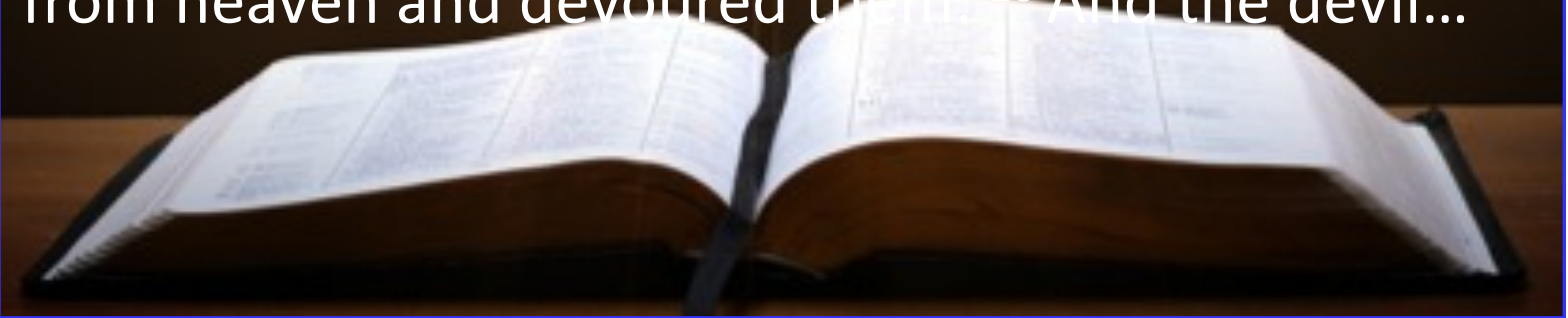
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## Matthew 25:19

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





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# 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)

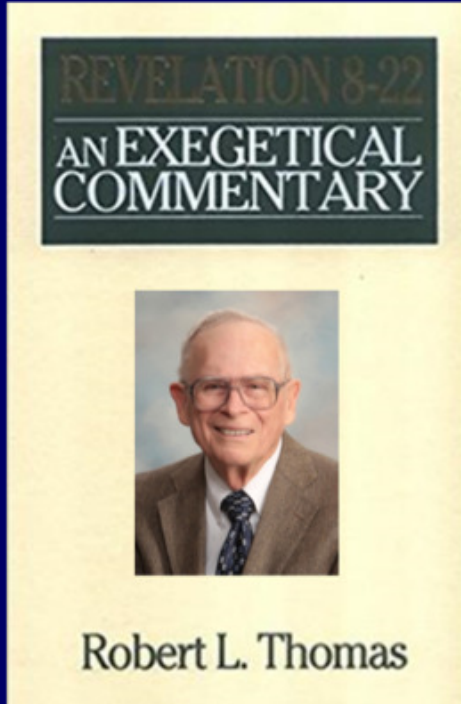


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## Robert Thomas

*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

“<sup>4</sup> 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....



## Revelation 20:4-6

...<sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life [zaō] until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection [anastasis]. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection [anastasis]; 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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1. Re-offer of the kingdom
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