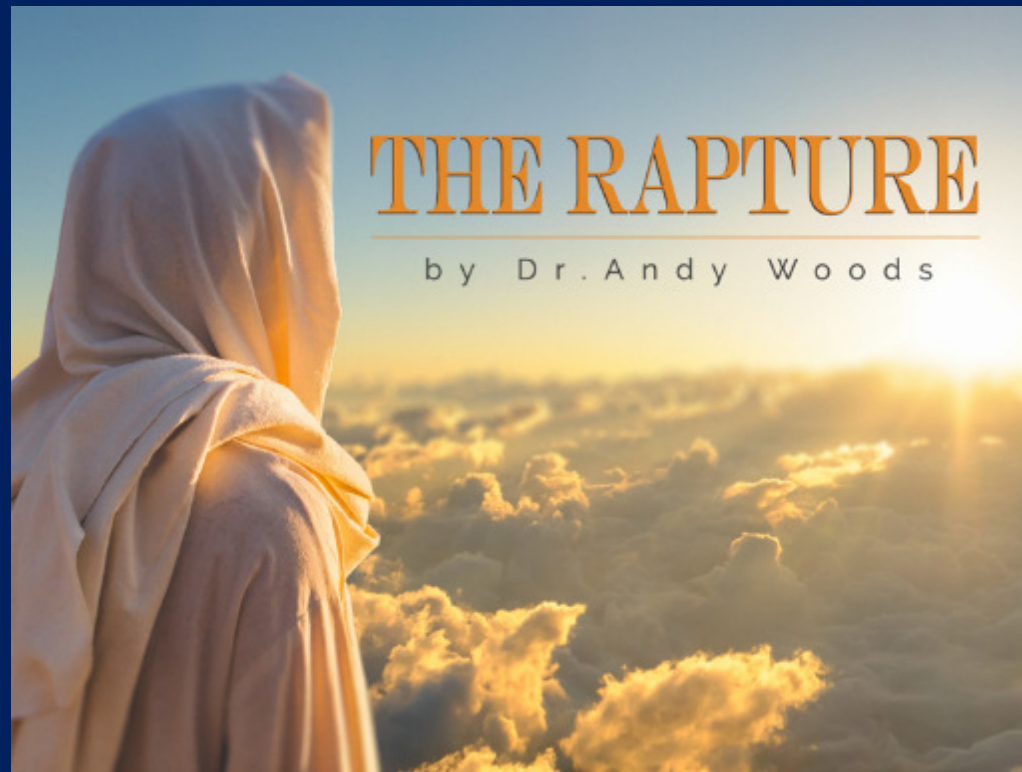


# THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 32



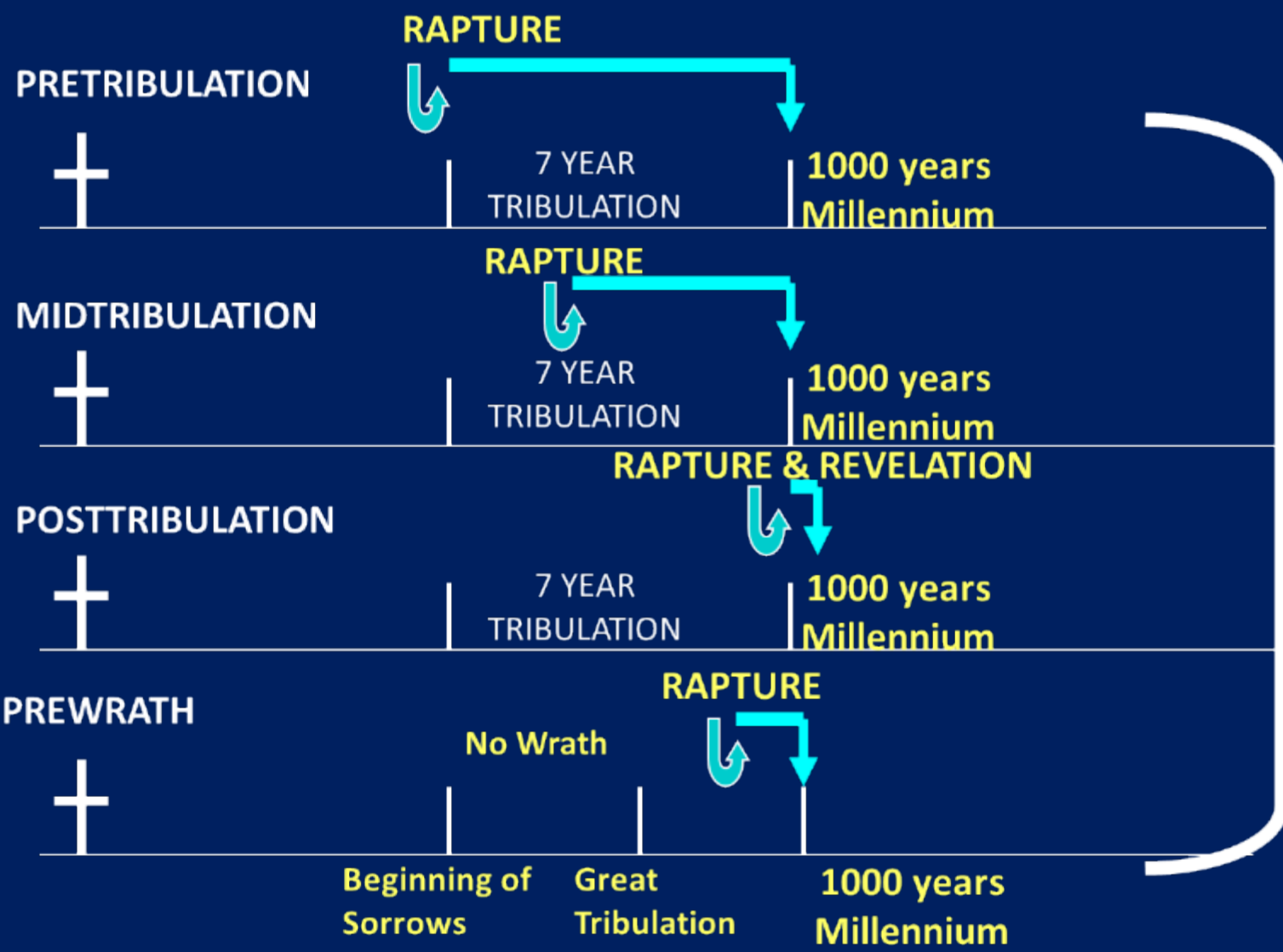
Andrew Marshall Woods, Th.M., J.D., Ph.D.  
Sr. Pastor, Sugar Land Bible Church

# 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
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- IX. Eight parabolic exhortations (24:32–25:46)



# 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 indeed 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

# Preview of Matthew 24–25

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## Matthew 23:37-39

<sup>37</sup> “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. <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!’”



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# Matthew 24:3

“<sup>3</sup> 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

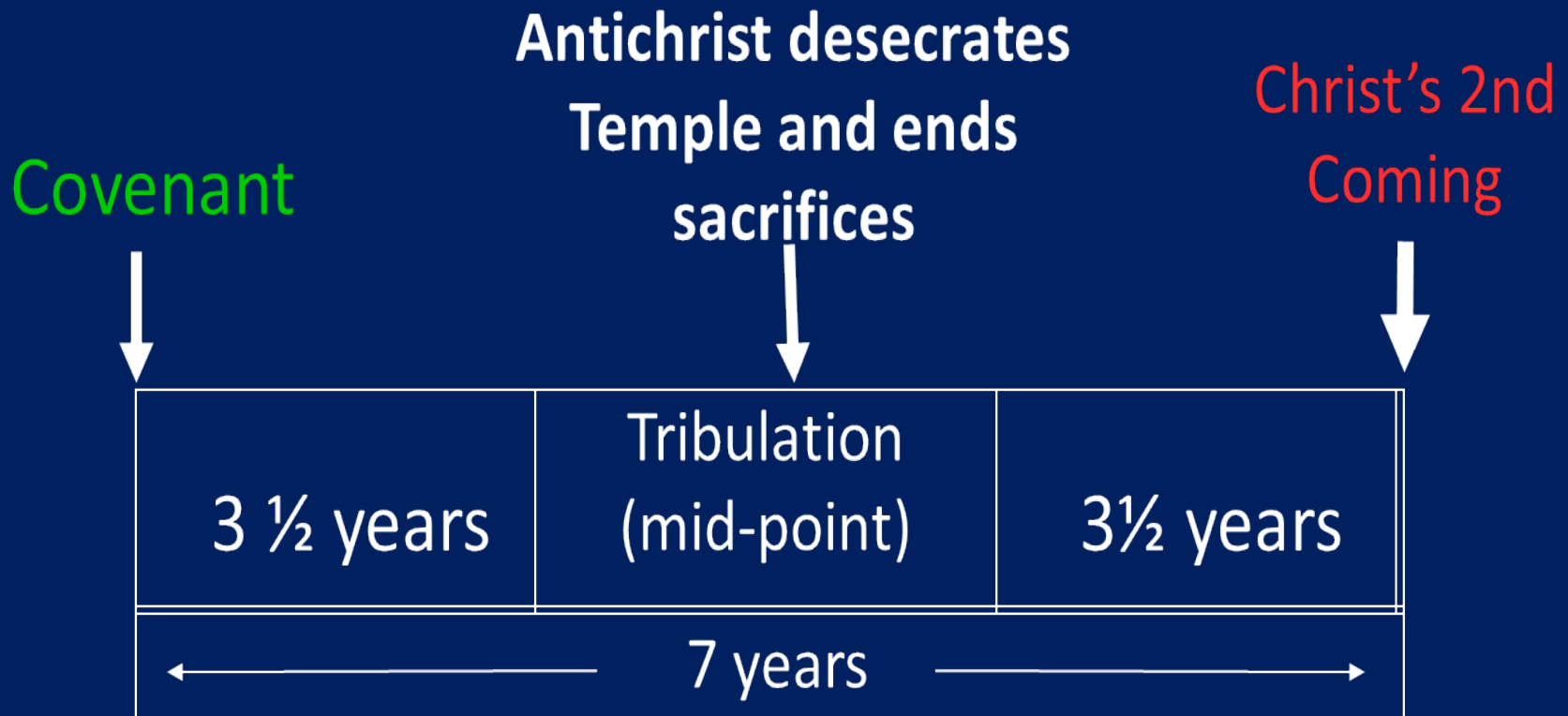
| <b>Prediction</b>      | <b>Birth pangs<br/>(Matt 24)</b> | <b>Seal judgments<br/>(Rev 6)</b> |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1. False Christ</b> | <b>24:5</b>                      | <b>6:2</b>                        |
| <b>2.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

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# DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



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# 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.”



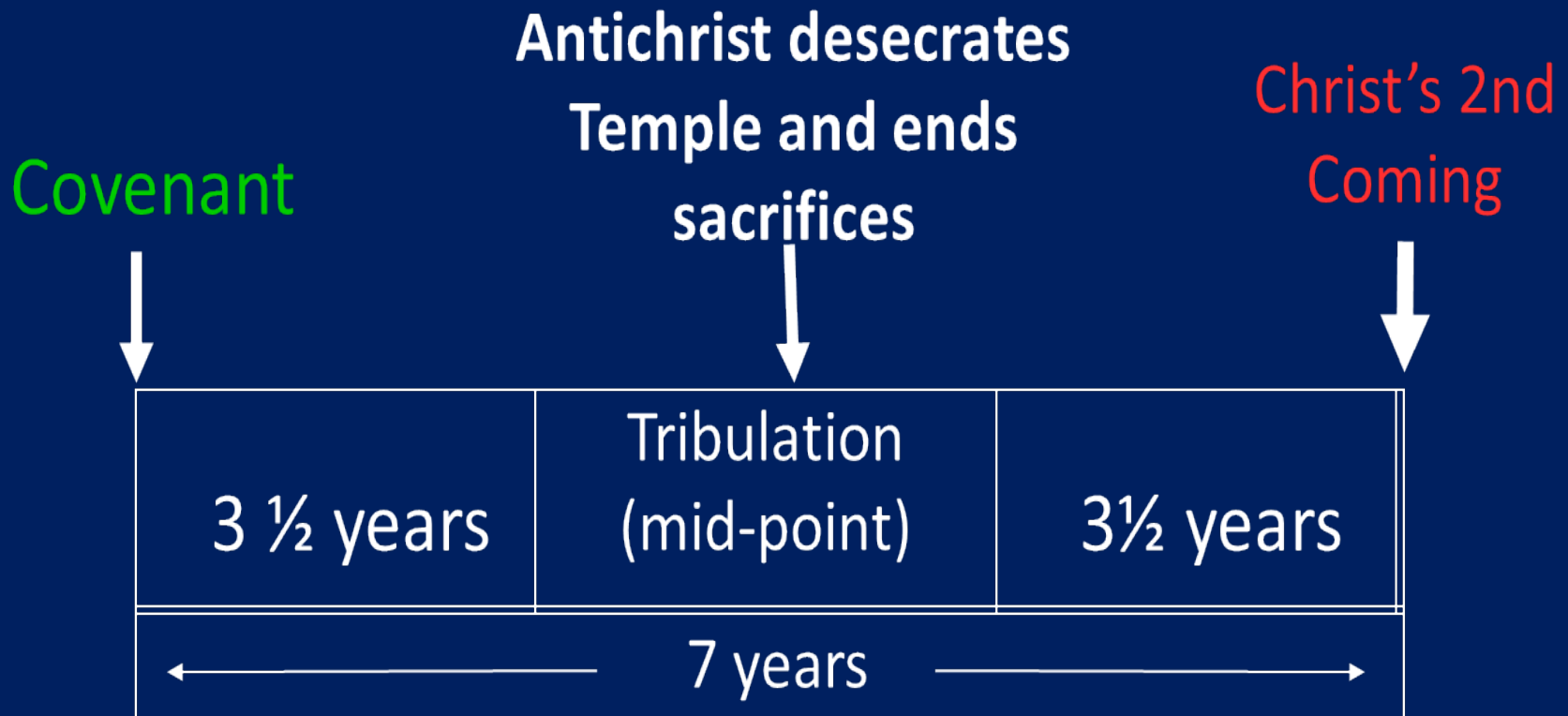
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# DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



# 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

<sup>1</sup> The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. <sup>2</sup> But He replied to them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘*It will be* fair weather, for the sky is red.’ <sup>3</sup> “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?





National  
Israel

The  
Believing  
Remnant

## 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.’ ”





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# 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)
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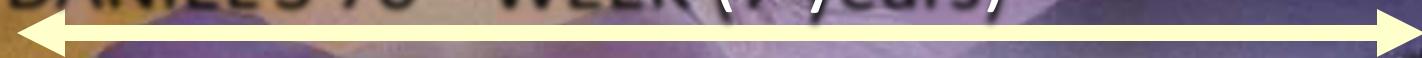
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# CONNECTING REV 12 & ANTI-SEMITISM

DANIEL'S 70<sup>th</sup> WEEK (7 years)



Israel flees



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

1260 days

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## Matthew 24:36-39

<sup>36</sup> “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. <sup>37</sup> For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. <sup>38</sup> 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, <sup>39</sup> and they did not understand until **the flood came and took them all away**; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.”





# VIII. Eight Parabolic Exhortations

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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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# 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)

# F. Partial Rapture of the Church?

(Matthew 25:1-13)

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



# F. Partial Rapture of the Church?

(Matthew 25:1-13)

6. All asleep (vs. 5)
7. Rapture for all Christians (1 Cor. 15:51)
8. End of the Inter-Advent Age
9. Consistency with the other Parables
10. Dispensationally misapplied passage





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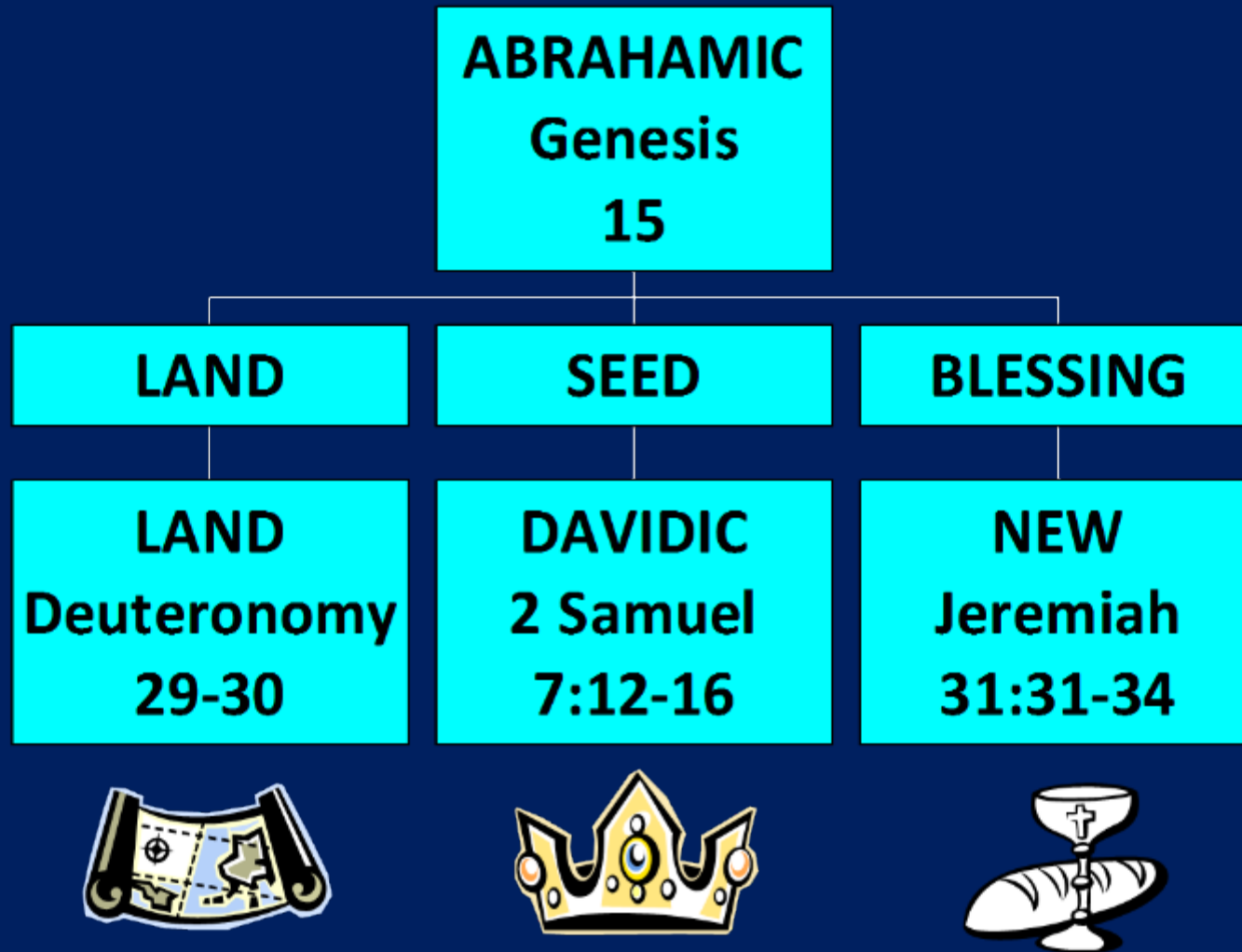
# Jeremiah 30:7

“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)

## Ezekiel 20:33-38

<sup>33</sup> “As I live,” declares the Lord GOD, “surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. <sup>34</sup> I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; <sup>35</sup> and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment . . .



## Ezekiel 20:33-38

...with you face to face. <sup>36</sup> As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you,” declares the Lord GOD. <sup>37</sup> “I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; <sup>38</sup> and I will purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.



# 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.”





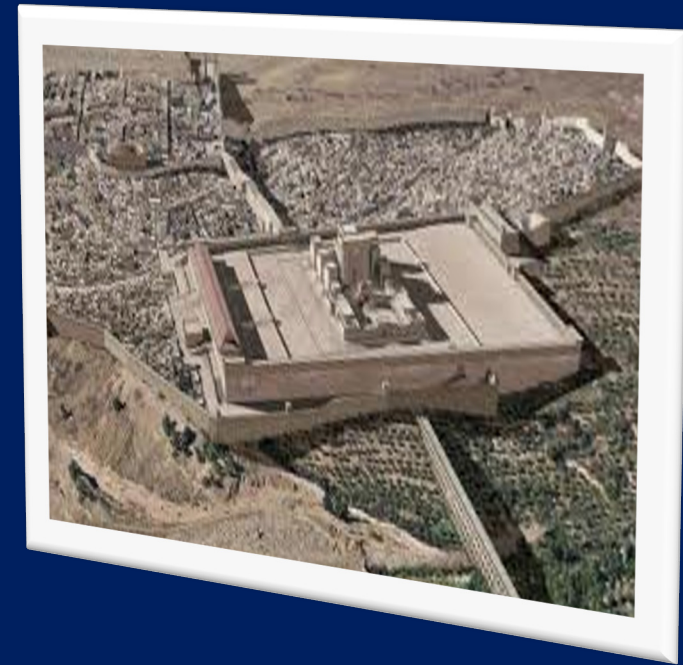
## Jesus Genealogy According to Matthew

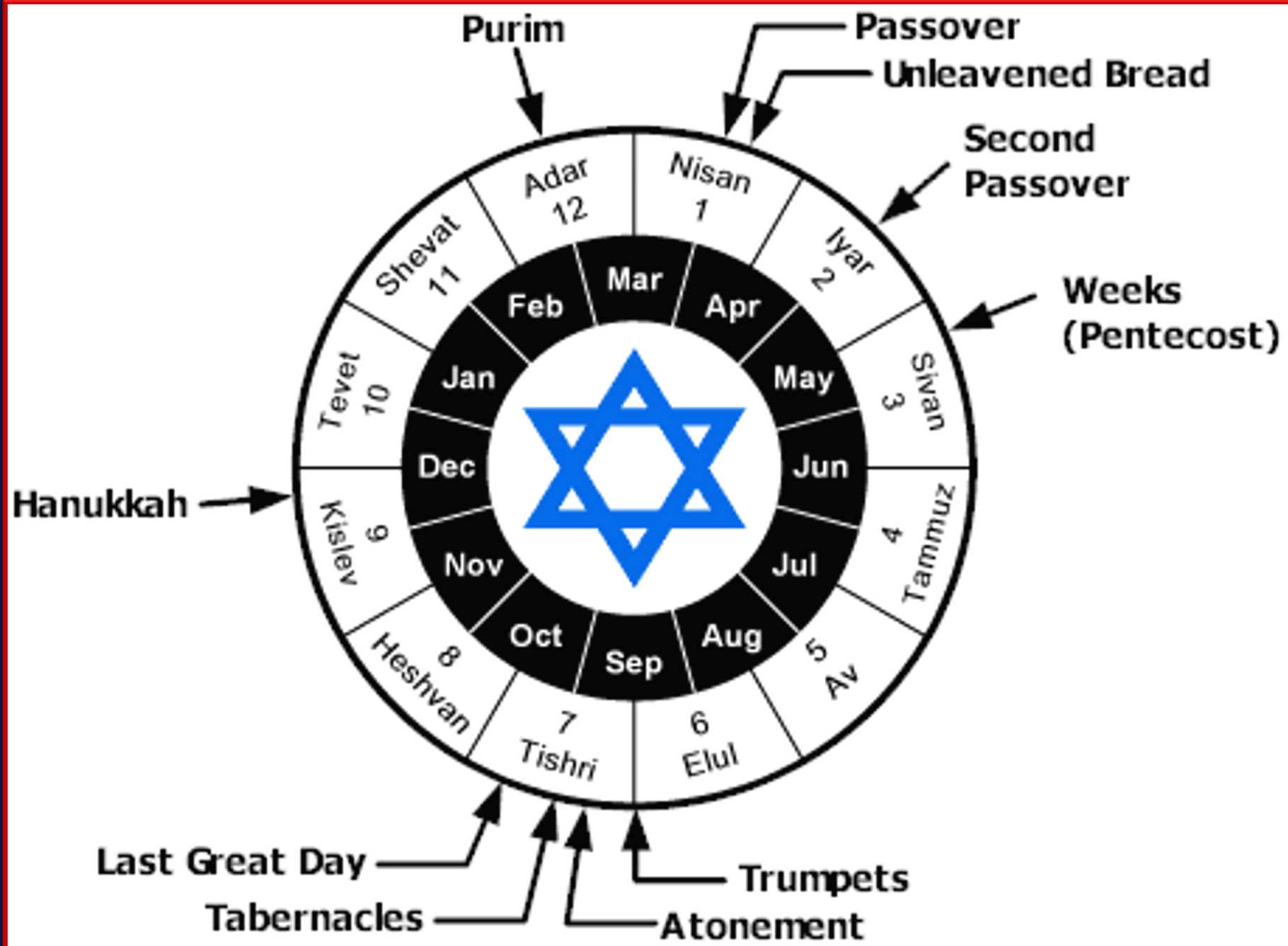
- |                  |                     |                   |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Abraham       | 15. Solomon         | 29. Shealtiel     |
| 2. Isaac         | 16. Rehoboam        | 30. Zerubbabel    |
| 3. Jacob         | 17. Abijah          | 31. Abiud         |
| 4. Judah         | 18. Asa             | 32. Eliakim       |
| 5. Perez         | 19. Jehosaphat      | 33. Azor          |
| 6. Hezron        | 20. Jehoram         | 34. Zadok         |
| 7. Ram           | 21. Uzziah          | 35. Achim         |
| 8. Amminadab     | 22. Jotham          | 36. Eliud         |
| 9. Nahshon       | 23. Ahaz            | 37. Eleazar       |
| 10. Salmon       | 24. Hezekiah.       | 38. Matthan       |
| 11. Boaz         | 25. Manasseh        | 39. Jacob         |
| 12. Obed         | 26. Amon            | 40. <b>Joseph</b> |
| 13. Jesse        | 27. Josiah          | 41. <b>Jesus</b>  |
| 14. <b>David</b> | 28. <b>Jeconiah</b> |                   |



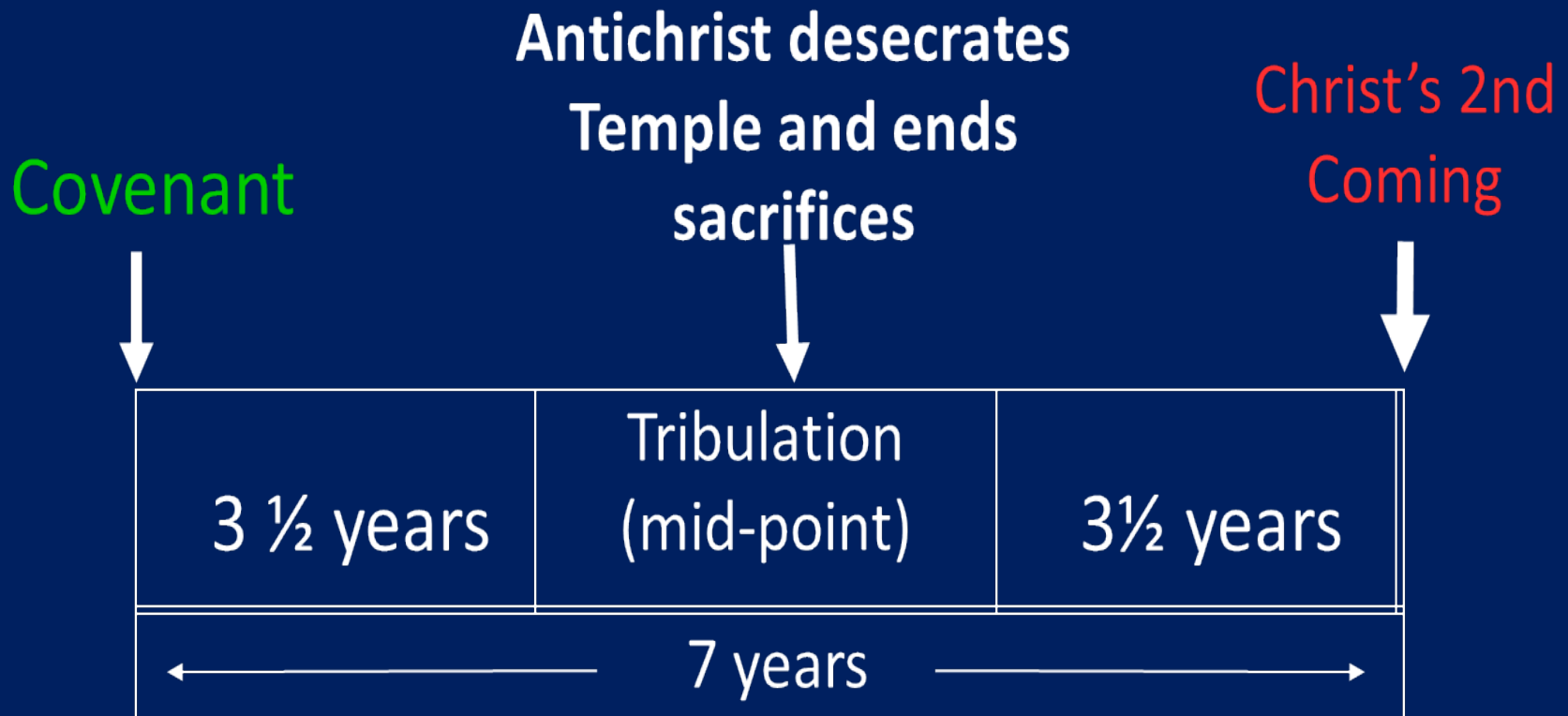
# Christ's Five Trips to Jerusalem

| Feast       | Verse      |
|-------------|------------|
| Passover    | John 2:23  |
| Unnamed     | John 5:1   |
| Tabernacles | John 7:2   |
| Dedication  | John 10:22 |
| Passover    | John 13:1  |



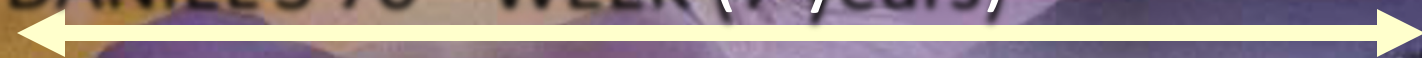


# DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



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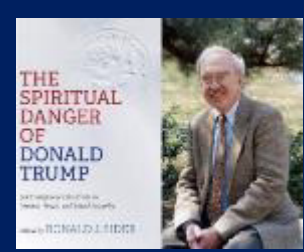




## Kevin DeYoung

*“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.”



# John Piper

Message preached at the 2015 Gospel Coalition National Conference.

Cited in Paul R. Wilkinson, *Israel Betrayed: Volume 2: The Rise of Christian Palestinianism* (San Antonio, TX: Ariel, 2018), 331.

“For two generations, perhaps, we have failed to study prophecy with anything like the rigor that it deserves. We have been so afraid of being viewed as one of those Zionist, right-wing, antichrist-sniffing, culture-denying, alarmist left-overs from the Scofield prophecy conference era that we give hardly any energy to putting the prophetic pieces together - at least not in public.”



## Jim Wallis

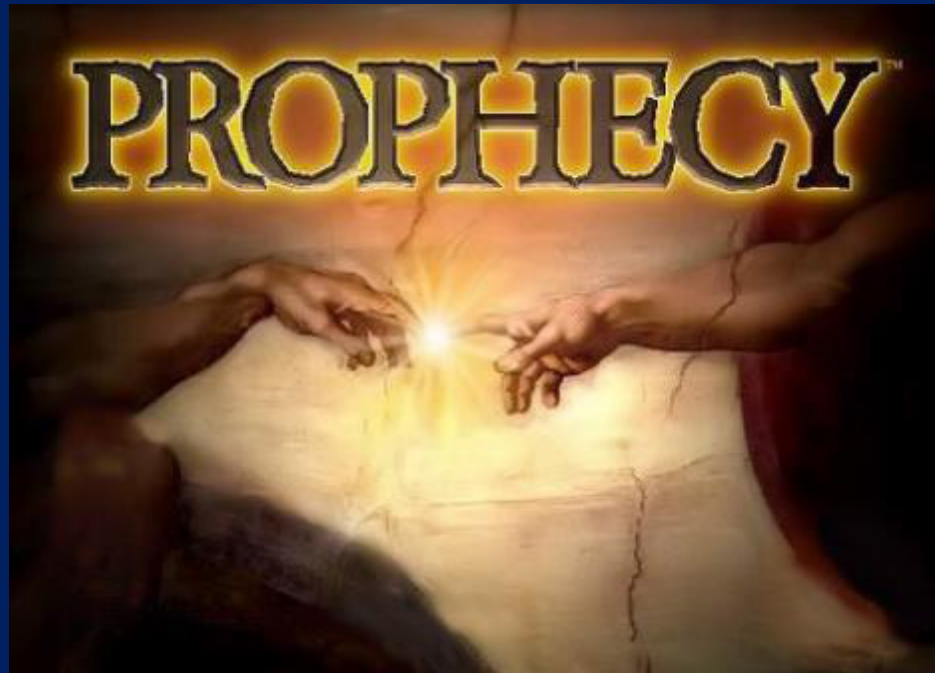
Cited in Mary Danielsen, *What You Need to Know About Jim Wallis and the Social-Justice "Gospel"* (Eureka, MT: Lighthouse Trails, 2014), 9.

“It’s all too easy to make fun of the extreme examples of prophecy belief that we encounter on bumper stickers and best-seller lists. When people talk breathlessly of the dangers of Universal Product Codes and automated teller machines as signs of the impending Tribulation, giggles and head-shaking are hard to repress... when we ridicule apocalyptic interpretations of bar codes and the European Common Market, we are... properly rejecting an interpretive method that (suggests a) correspondence between biblical events and symbols, and our own lives. Ought Revelation to be included within the family of Christian texts, or should it be thrown on the fire of apocalyptic excesses?”



# Biblical Prophecy: Importance

- 27% of Scripture was prophetic at the time it was written
- 2 Pet 1:19



# AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

2 Peter 1:19



- More sure than eyewitness testimony
- World is in the Dark, Scripture is the Light
- Morning Star = Jesus

**Rev. 2:28; 22:16**

## 2 Peter 3:3-4

“<sup>3</sup> Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”

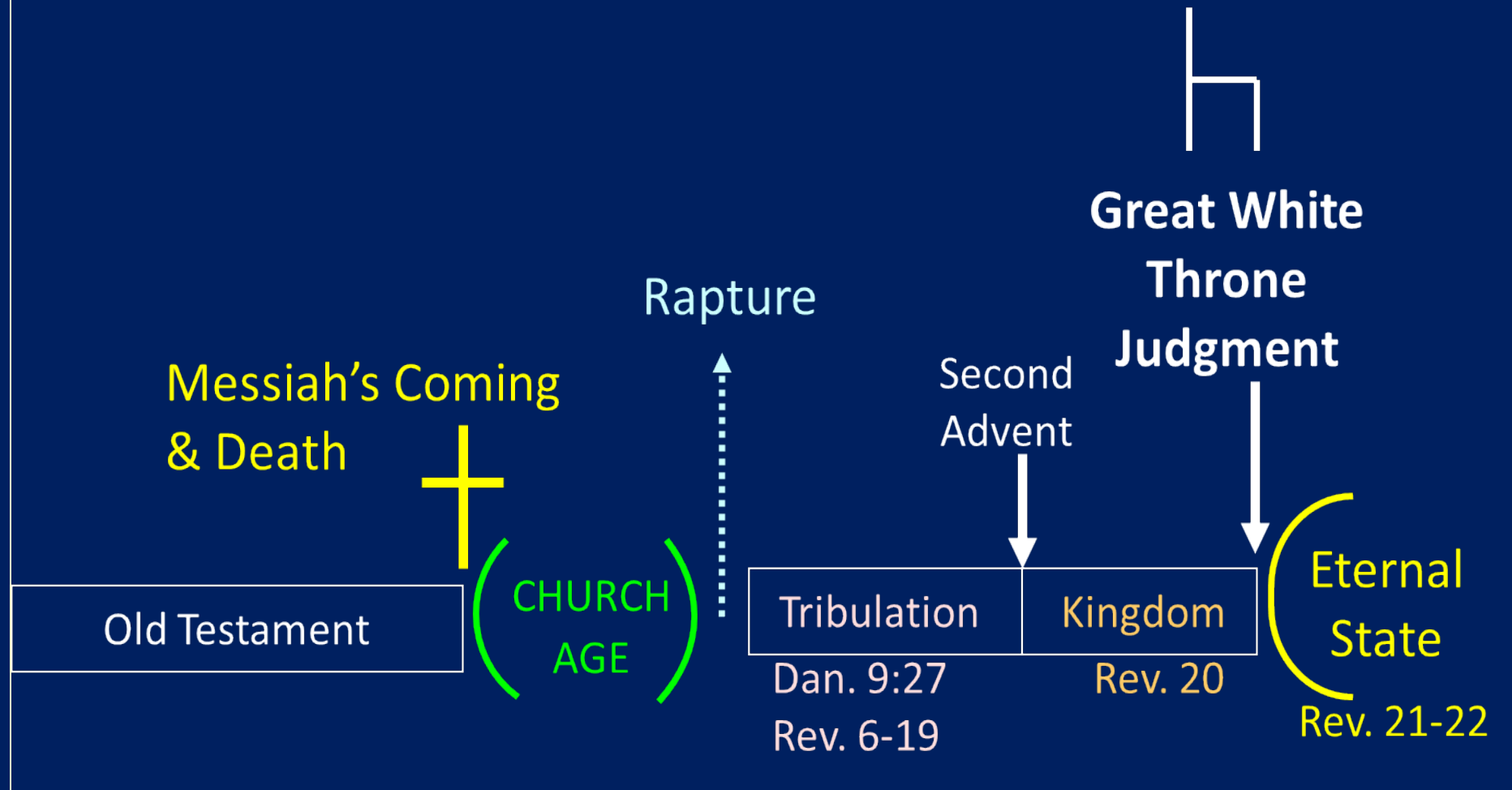


## Genesis 12:3

“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.”



# Prophecy Panorama

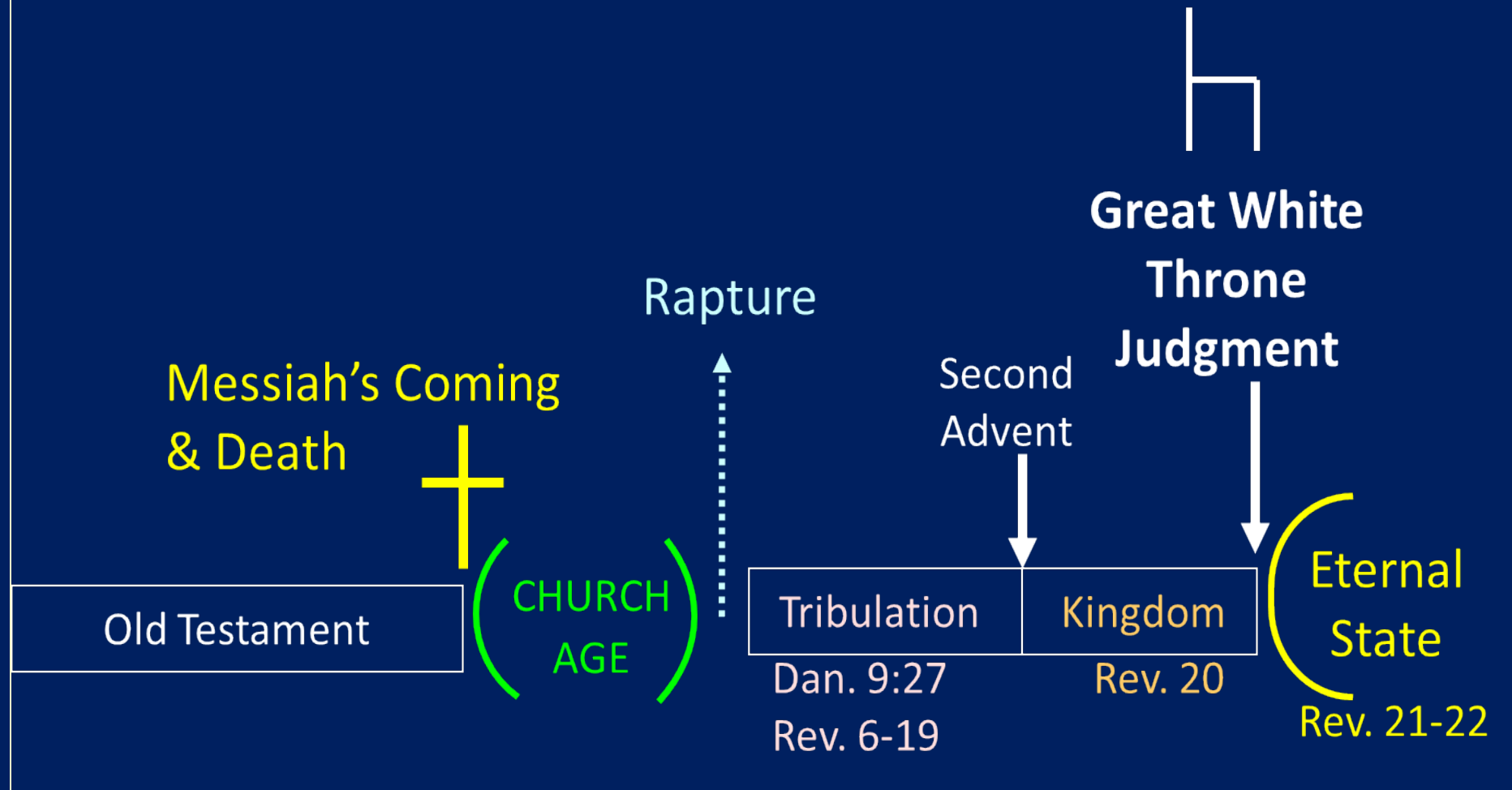




# Scripture's Four Judgments

|            |                                       |                              |                          |                                  |
|------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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**

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)

