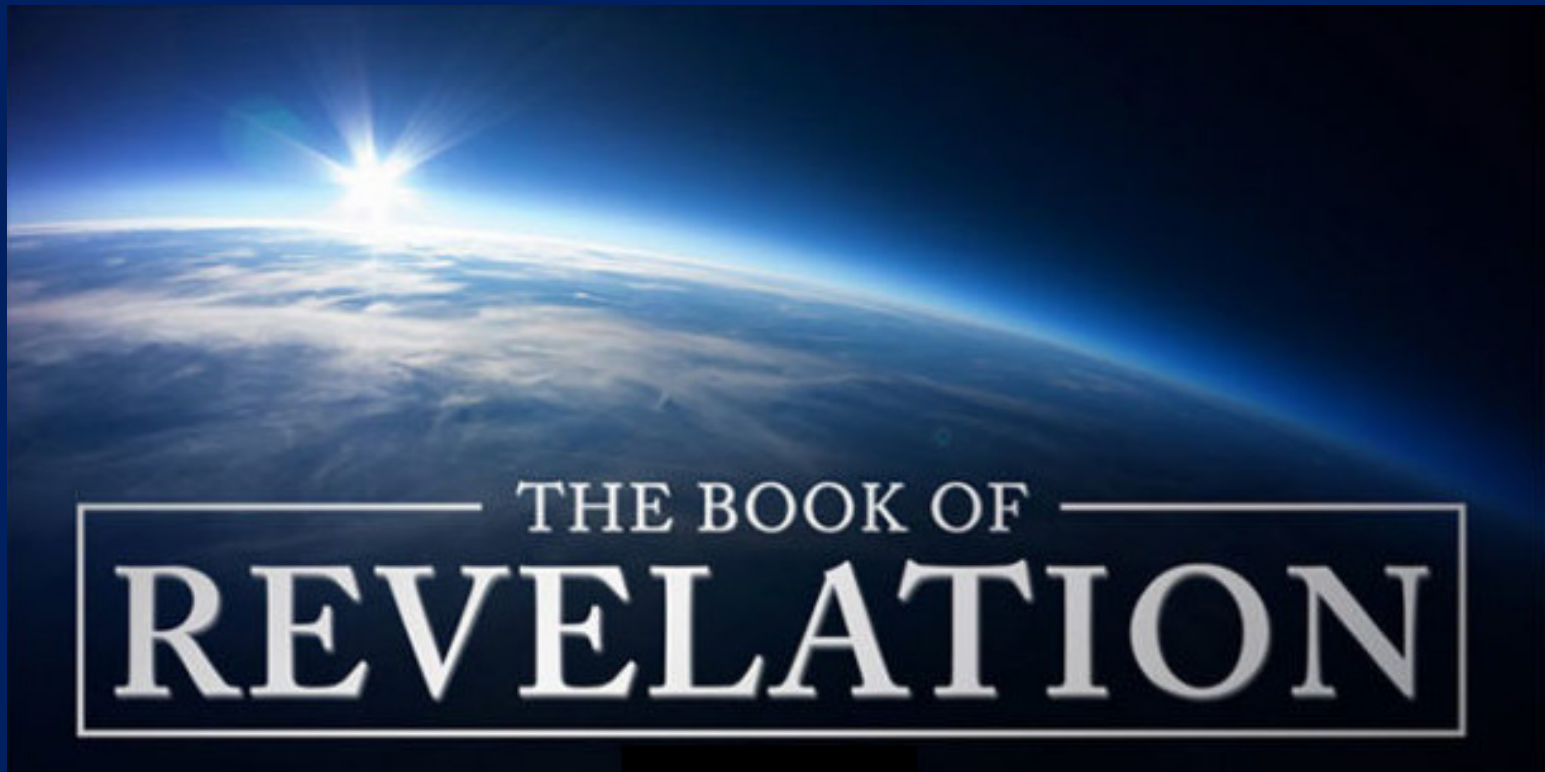


# REVELATION INTRODUCTION



Dr. Andy Woods

# Answering Ten Questions

- 1) What is the book's title?
- 2) Who wrote it?
- 3) From where was it written?
- 4) To whom was it written?
- 5) When was it written?



# Answering Ten Questions

- 6) How is the book organized?
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# 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.”





# Henry 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...”



# Martin Luther

Preface to the New Testament, 1522.

***"I miss more than one thing in this book, and this makes me hold it to be neither apostolic nor prophetic...I think of it almost as I do of the Fourth Book of Esdras, and can in no way detect that the Holy Spirit produced it...It is just the same as if we did not have it, and there are many far better books for us to keep. Finally, let everyone think of it [Revelation] as his own spirit gives him to. My spirit cannot fit itself into this book. There is one sufficient reason for me not to think highly of it — Christ is not taught or known in it; but to teach Christ is the thing which an apostle is bound, above all else, to do, as He says in Acts 1, 'Ye shall be my witnesses.' Therefore I stick to the books which give me Christ, clearly and purely."*** In 1545, Luther printed the Book of Revelation with Hebrews, James and Jude as an appendix to the New Testament.

# Revelation 1:1

“The Revelation 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

- The Revelation of Jesus Christ
- Not John's Revelation
- Unveils the final phase of Christ's redemptive program
- Single vision



## Revelation 19:10

“Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, ‘Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’”



# 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.”



# BOOK OF DANIEL

**CHAP. & VERSE**

**CHRONOLOGICAL DATE**

**BIBLICAL DATE**

**1:1**

**605**

**3<sup>rd</sup> year of Jehoiakim**

**2:1**

**603**

**2<sup>nd</sup> year of  
Nebuchadnezzar**

**5**

**Sat. night 10/12/539  
(Hoehner)**

**7:1**

**553**

**1<sup>st</sup> year of Belshazzar**

**8:1**

**551**

**3<sup>rd</sup> year of Belshazzar**

**9:1**

**538**

**1<sup>st</sup> year of Darius**

**10:1**

**536**

**3<sup>rd</sup> year of Cyrus**

# Daniel's Age

CHAP.	EVENTS	AGE
1	Taken to Babylonian captivity	15
2	Interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's 1 <sup>st</sup> dream (huge image)	17
3	Daniel's 3 friends cast into the fiery furnace	19 or 20
4	Interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd dream (huge tree)	45-50
5	Interpreting handwriting of the wall at Belshazzar's feast	Early 80's
6	Delivered from the den of lions	c.83
7-8	Daniel's visions and dreams	Mid-60's
9	Daniel's seventy "sevens" prophecy	Early-80's
10-12	Final dreams and visions	Mid-80's

# Answering Ten Questions

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# Revelation 1:1

“The Revelation 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.”



# Johannine Authorship

- Named 5x
- Revelation 1:1, 4, 9; 21:2; 22:8
- Wrote five New Testament books





# Answering Ten Questions

- 1) What is the book's title?
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# Revelation 1:9

“I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”



# The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



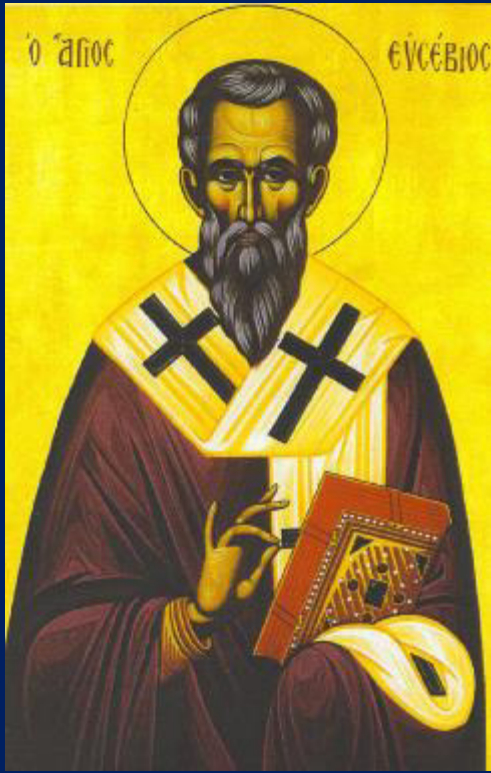
# The Seven Churches of Asia

Rev. 2 & 3



# Eusebius

Ecclesiastical History, 3.18.4

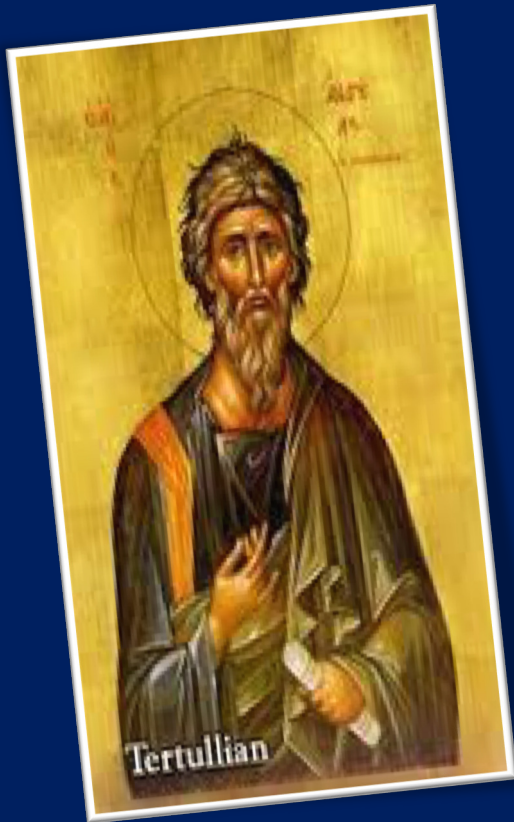


“...and they even indicated the time accurately, relating that in the fifteenth year of Domitian, Flavia Domitilla, who was the niece of Flavius Clemens, one of the many consuls at Rome at that time, was banished with many others to the island of Pontia as testimony to Christ.”

# Tertullian

Prescription Against Heretics, 36

“...where the Apostle John was first plunged, unhurt, into boiling oil, and thence remitted to his island-exile!”



# Answering Ten Questions

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# Revelation 1:11

“saying, ‘Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.’”



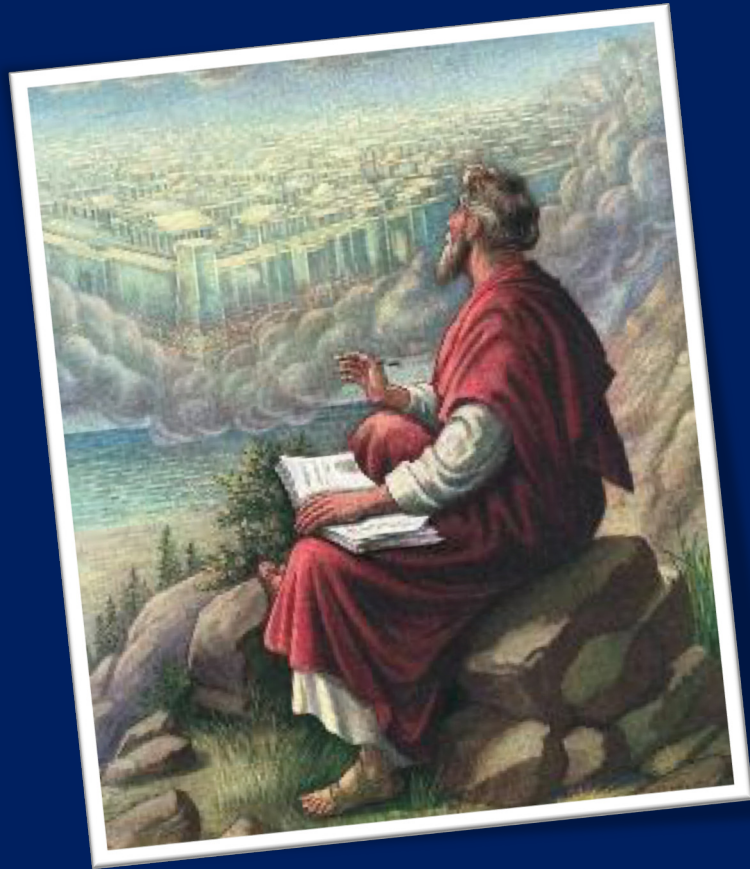


# The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



# John 20:30-31



“Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

# Revelation 1:9

“I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”



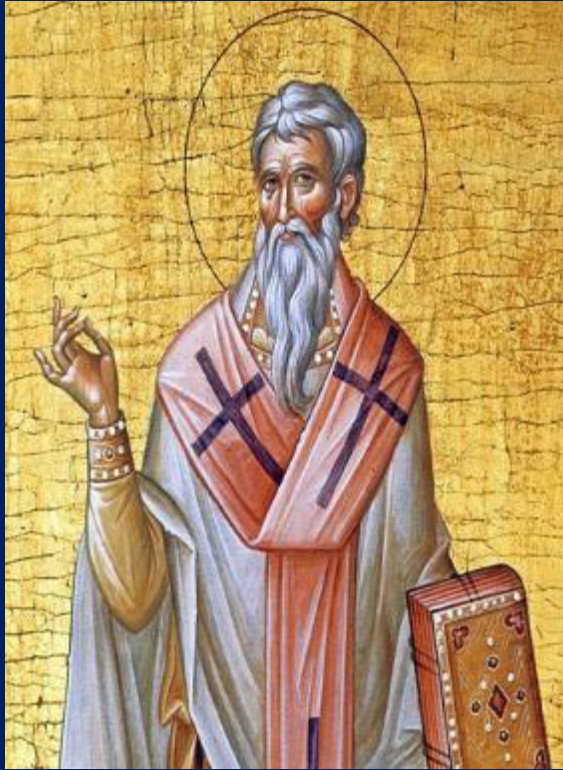
# Answering Ten Questions

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# Late Date (A.D. 95)

Irenaeus *Against Heresies* 5.30.3



“But if it had been necessary to announce his name plainly at the present time, it would have been spoken by him who saw the apocalypse. For it was not seen long ago, but almost in our own time, at the end of the reign of Domitian.”

## Late Date (A.D. 95)

- Internal evidence

- Ephesus is different (Revelation 2:4, 6)
- Laodicean earthquake (Revelation 3:17)



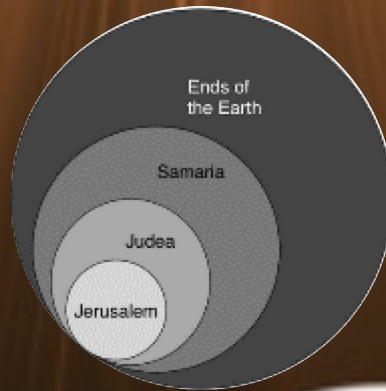
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# Acts 1:8

“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.”





# 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)



# Revelation 4:1

“After these things [meta tauta] I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things [meta tauta].’”



# Answering Ten Questions

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## Revelation 1:1, 11; 2:1

“<sup>1</sup> The Revelation 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, ...<sup>11</sup>saying, ‘Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.’ ...<sup>1</sup>To the angel of the church in Ephesus.”



# Method of Communication

- From the Father
- to Christ the Son
- to an angel
- to John
- to a book
- to a reader or preacher
- to a listener or the seven churches



# Answering Ten Questions

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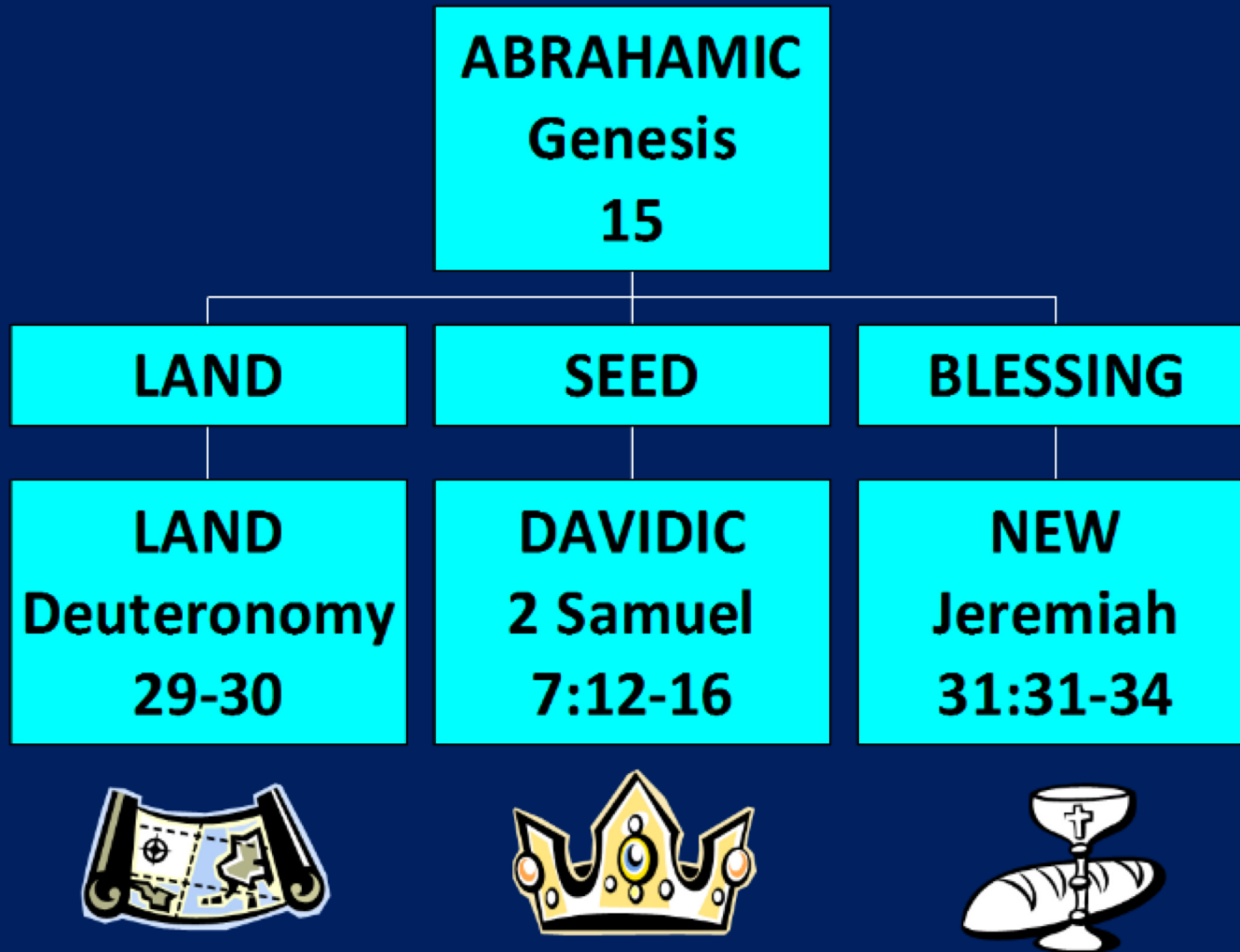
## Message

Christ's ultimate victory over evil provides comfort to Christians of all ages as well as a stimulus for holy living because when God fulfills His covenants with Israel He will gain victory over evil as well as punish it.





# Abrahamic Covenant



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



## Evidence of Abrahamic Covenant's Unconditional Nature

- ANE covenant ratification ceremony (Gen 15)
- Lack of stated conditions for Israel's obedience (Gen 15)
- Covenant's eternality (Gen 17:7, 13, 19; Ps. 90:2)
- Covenant's immutability (Heb 6:13-18; Mal. 3:6)
- Trans-generational reaffirmation despite perpetual national disobedience (Jer 31:35-37)



## Land Promises Fulfilled in the Time of Joshua (Josh. 11:23; 21:43-45) or Solomon (1 Kgs. 4:21)?

- Extended context (Josh 13:1-7; Judges 1:19, 21, 27, 29, 30-36)
- Land gained in conquest was only a fraction of what was promised (1 Kgs. 4:25)
- Jerusalem not conquered in Joshua's day (Josh 15:63; 2 Sam 5)
- Solomon's reign extended to the border of Egypt (1 Kgs. 4:21) and not the River of Egypt (Gen. 15:18)
- Solomon's reign was tributary only (1 Kgs. 4:21)
- Forever? (Gen 17:7-8, 13, 19)
- Reaffirmation of land promises long after Joshua and Solomon's time (Amos 9:11-15)

## Jeremiah 31:35-37

<sup>35</sup> “Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day And the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name: <sup>36</sup> “If this fixed order departs From before Me,” declares the LORD, “Then the offspring of Israel also will cease From being a nation before Me forever.” <sup>37</sup> Thus says the LORD, “If the heavens above can be measured And the foundations of the earth searched out below, Then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel For all that they have done,” declares the LORD.”



# God's Work Through Israel

- Revelation 7-144,000 Jews
- Revelation 11-Two Jewish witnesses
- Revelation 12-Israel flees
- Revelation 20:9-Jerusalem in the kingdom
- Revelation 21:12-13-Gates of the eternal city



# Answering Ten Questions

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## Purpose

To comfort the oppressed churches of Asia Minor and stimulate them to practical holiness through a future reminder of God's conquest and punishment of evil.



# The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11





# Answering Ten Questions

- 6) How is the book organized?
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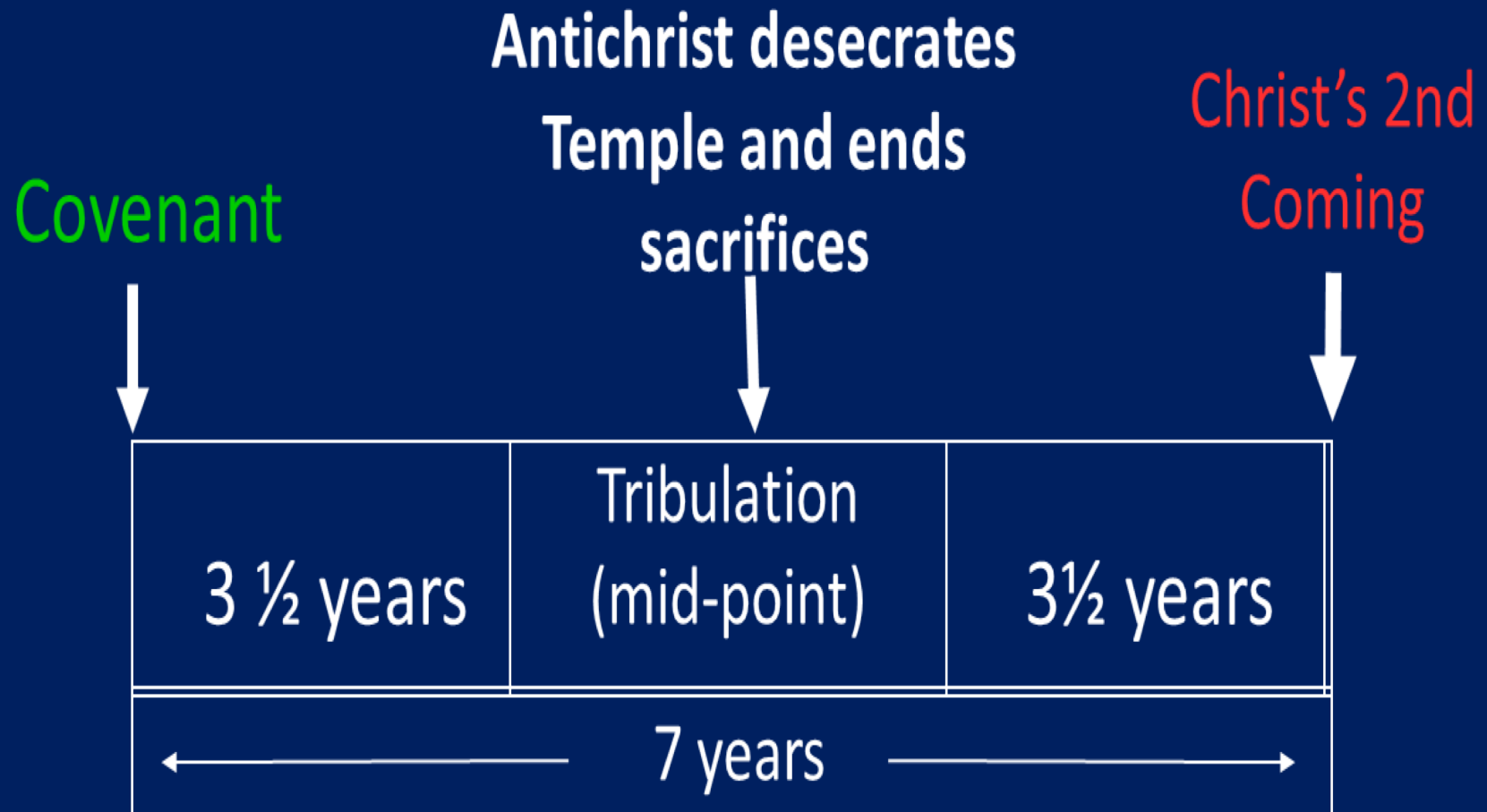


# Unique Characteristics

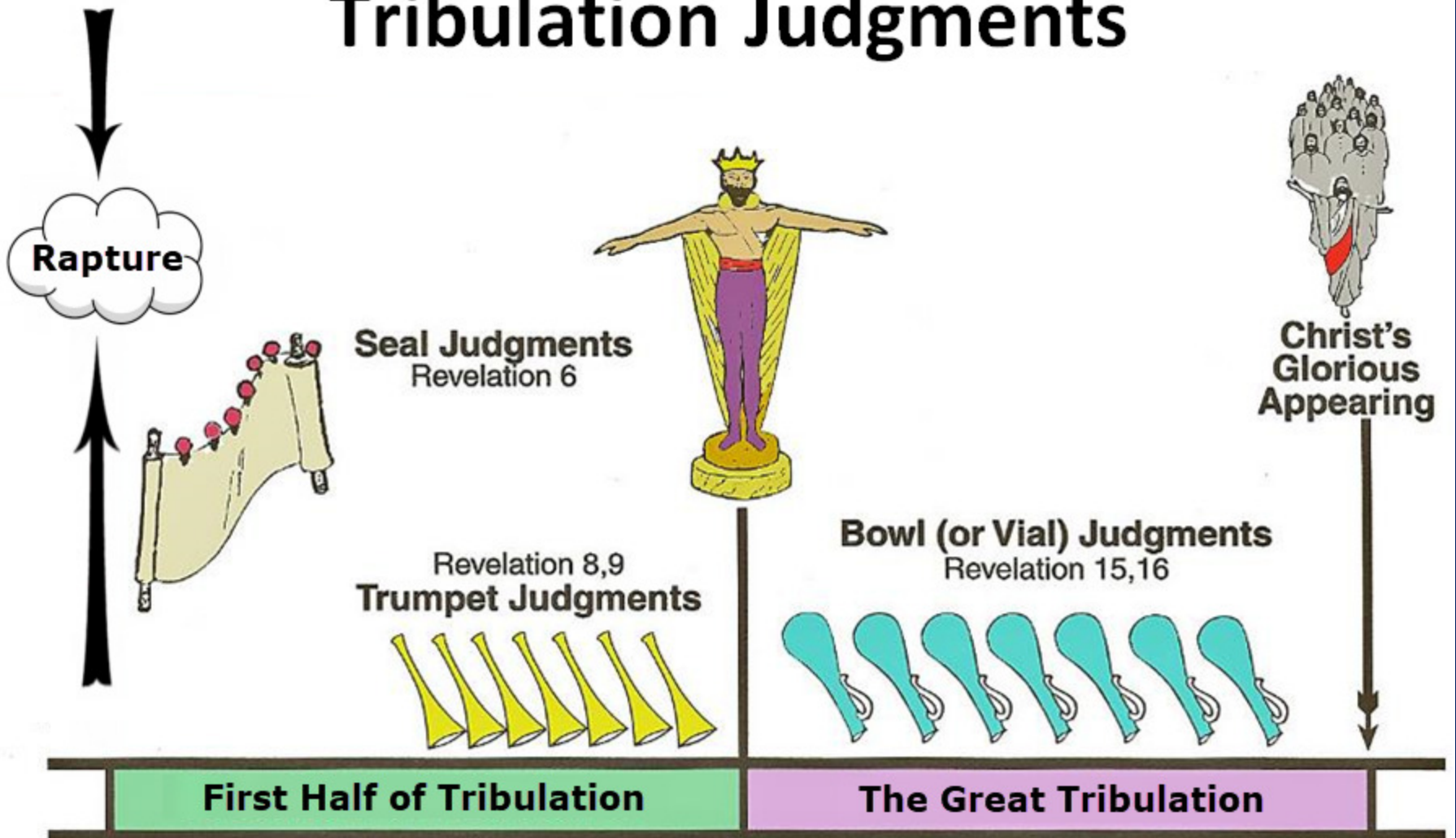
- Blessing to hearers and heeders (1:3; 22:7)
- Curse to subtractors (22:18-19)
- OT allusions
- Recurring numbers
- God's vindication
- Lamb and lion
- Praises to God (4:2-5; 7:9-12; 15:2-8; 19:1-7)
- Symbols, visions, imagery
- Chronological organization
- Interconnected with other biblical material



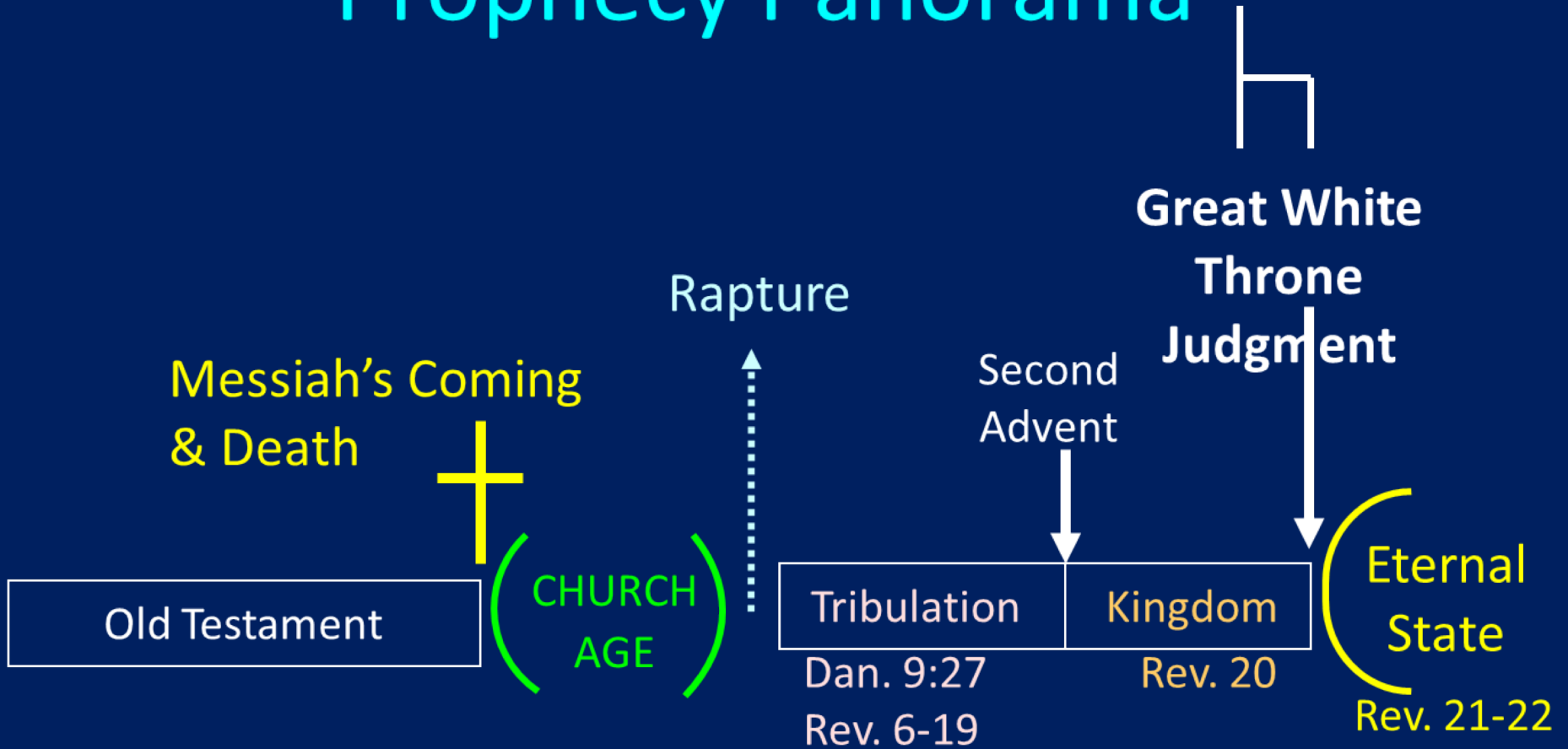
# DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



# Tribulation Judgments



# Prophecy Panorama



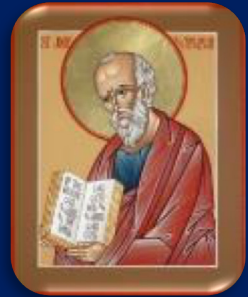
# Revelation 11:15

<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.’”



Conclusion

# Answering Ten Questions



- 1) What is the title – Revelation of Jesus Christ
- 2) Who wrote it? – John
- 3) Where was it written from? – Patmos
- 4) To Whom was it written? – The Seven Churches
- 5) When was it written? – A.D. 95
- 6) How is it organized (outline)? – 3 part outline
- 7) How was it delivered – Seven steps
- 8) Why was it written? – Encouragement and holiness
- 9) What is it about? – Jesus' final victory
- 10) What makes the book different? – OT relationship





“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (NIV)