

the book of

REVELATION

sermon series

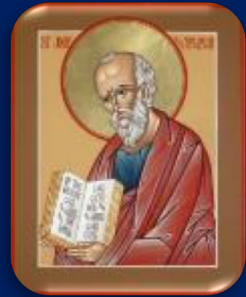


Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

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**

Prologue (Rev. 1:1-8)

- I. Title (1a)
- II. Chain of Communication (1b-2)
- III. Blessing (3)
- IV. Author (4a)
- V. Audience (4b)
- VI. Greeting (4c)
- VII. Source (4d-5a)
- VIII. Subject (5b-8)



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



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The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



Pattern of the Letters in Revelation 2–3

1. Destination
2. Description of Christ (Rev. 1)
3. Commendation
4. Rebuke
5. Exhortation to change
6. Consequence
7. Exhortation to listen
8. Promise to overcomers (Rev. 21–22)



DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Revelation 2–3

CHURCH	SCRIPTURE	DESCRIPTION
Ephesus	2:1-7	Loveless
Smyrna	2:8-11	Persecuted
Pergamum	2:12-17	Compromised
Thyatira	2:18-29	Corrupt
Sardis	3:1-6	Dead
Philadelphia	3:7-13	Missionary
Laodicea	3:14-22	Man-centered

Revelation 1:19

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



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 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].’”

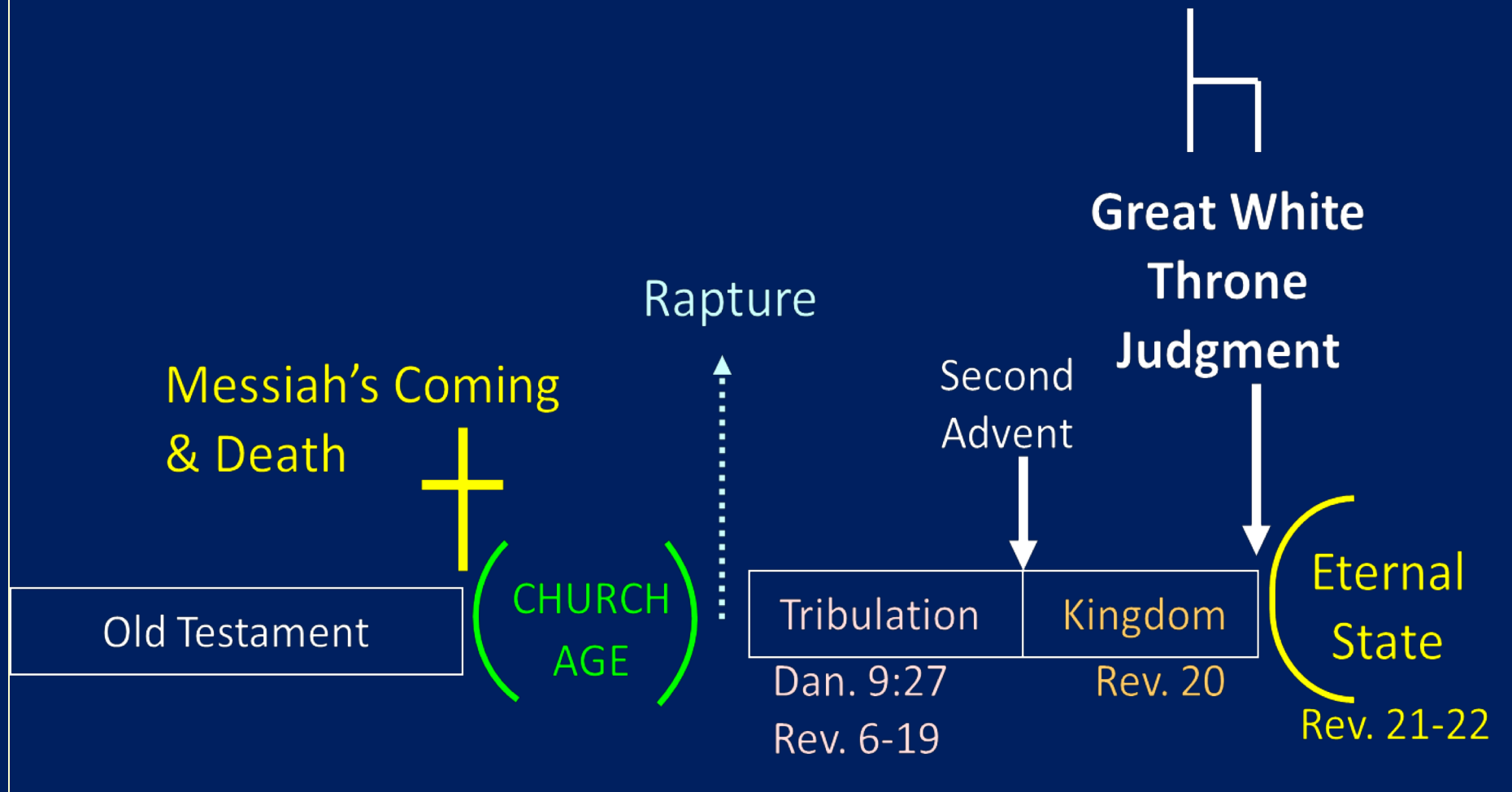


“After These Things” (Rev. 4–22)

- A. Before the Tribulation (4–5)
- B. During the Tribulation (6–19)
- C. After the Tribulation (20–22)
 - 1. Kingdom (20:1-10)
 - 2. Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)
 - 3. Destruction of the Earth (21:1)
 - 4. New Heaven and New Earth (21–22)



Prophecy Panorama



“After These Things” (Rev. 4–22)

A. Before the Tribulation (4–5)

B. During the Tribulation (6–19)

C. After the Tribulation (20–22)

1. Kingdom (20:1-10)

2. Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)

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7. Promise to the Overcomers

Rev 3:21

“He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

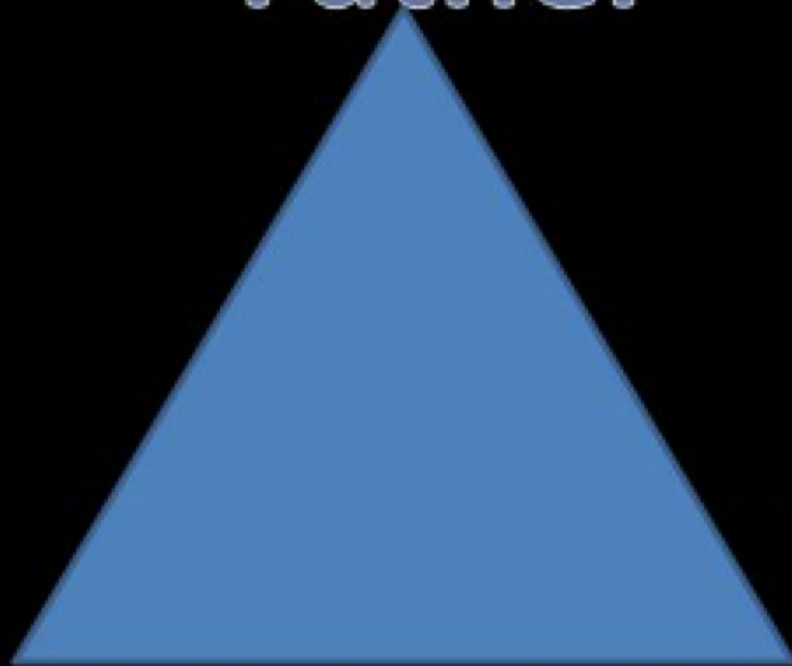


Trinity

Father

Son

Holy
Spirit



Comparing Revelation 4 & 5

Chapter	Revelation 4	Revelation 5
God-head Member	Father	Son
Role	Creator	Redeemer
Reason for Worship	Role in Creation (4:11)	Role in Redemption (5:9, 12)

Preview

(Rev. 4:1-11)

- I. Summons to Heaven (4:1)
- II. Sights in Heaven (4:2-8)
- III. Song of Heaven (4:9-11)



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I. Summons to Heaven (Rev. 4:1)

A. Vision (4:1a)

B. Voice (4:1b)



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Revelation 4:1

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A. Vision (4:1a)

B. Voice (4:1b)



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The Bible's Many Raptures

- Enoch (Gen 5)
- Elijah (2 Kings 2)
- Christ (Acts 1:11; Rev 12:5)
- Philip (Acts 8:39)
- Paul (2 Cor 12:2, 4)
- John (Rev 4:1-2)
- Two witnesses (Rev 11)



Preview

(Rev. 4:1-11)

- I. Summons to Heaven (4:1)
- II. Sights in Heaven (4:2-8)**
- III. Song of Heaven (4:9-11)



II. Sights in Heaven (Rev. 4:2-8)

A. Heavenly Throne (4:2-3, 5a, 6a)

1. On the Throne (2-3a)
2. Above the Throne (3b)
3. Out of the Throne (5a)
4. Before the Throne (6a)



B. Items Around the Throne (4:4, 5b, 6b-8)

1. 24 Elders (4)
2. 7 Lamps (5b)
3. 4 Living Creatures (6b-8)

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Instantaneous

(1 Cor 15:52)

- Twinkling of an eye
- Flash or moment
- Split second
- *Atomos* (Greek) = atom (English)



INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

2 Peter 1:20-21

- Men Wrote as they were inspired by Holy Spirit

“phero” = to carry

Acts 27:15,17

- Opposite of Knowledge of False Teachers

◆ *Which is their own imagination*

◆ *Jer. 23:16*



2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is inspired by God [*theopneustos*] and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”



7. Promise to the Overcomers

Rev 3:21

“He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”



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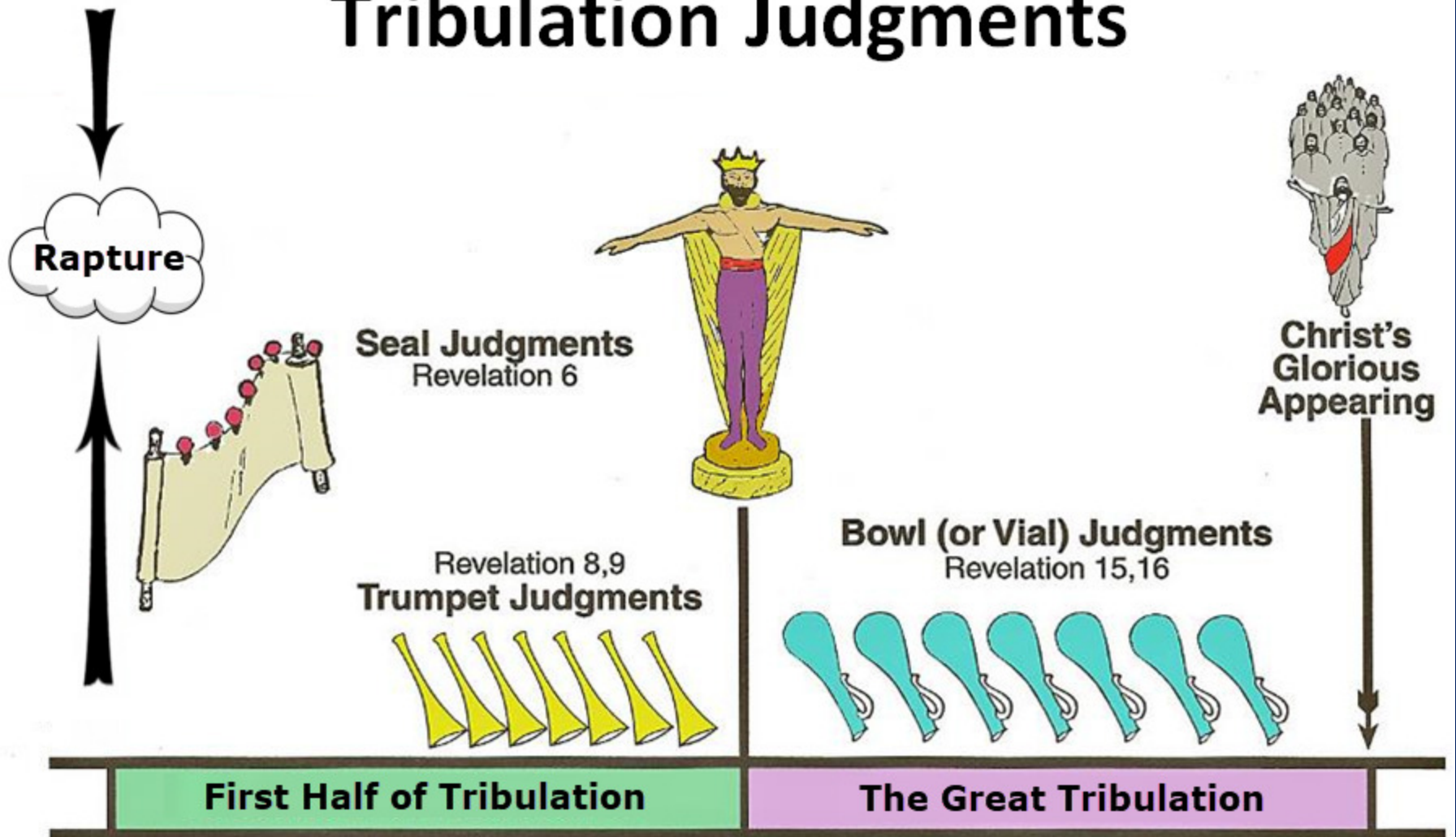
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Tribulation Judgments



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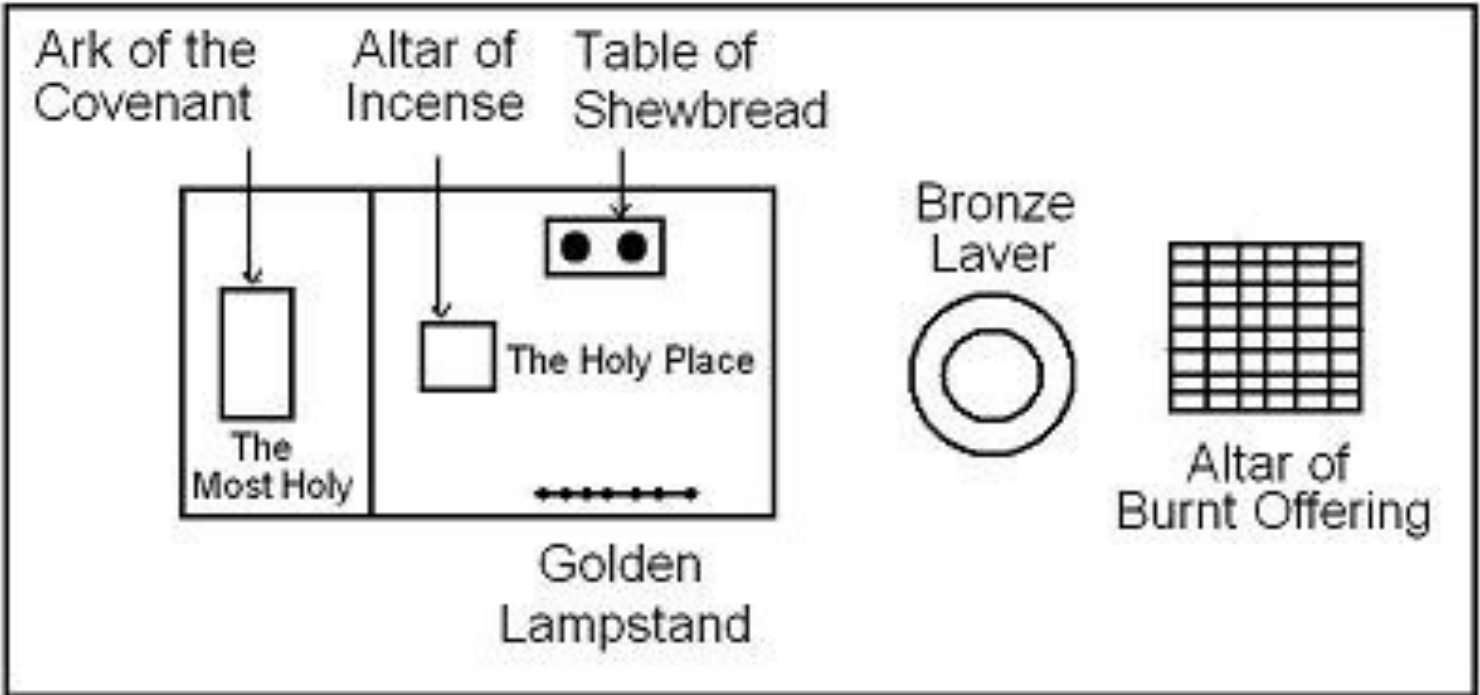
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1. Twenty-Four Elders

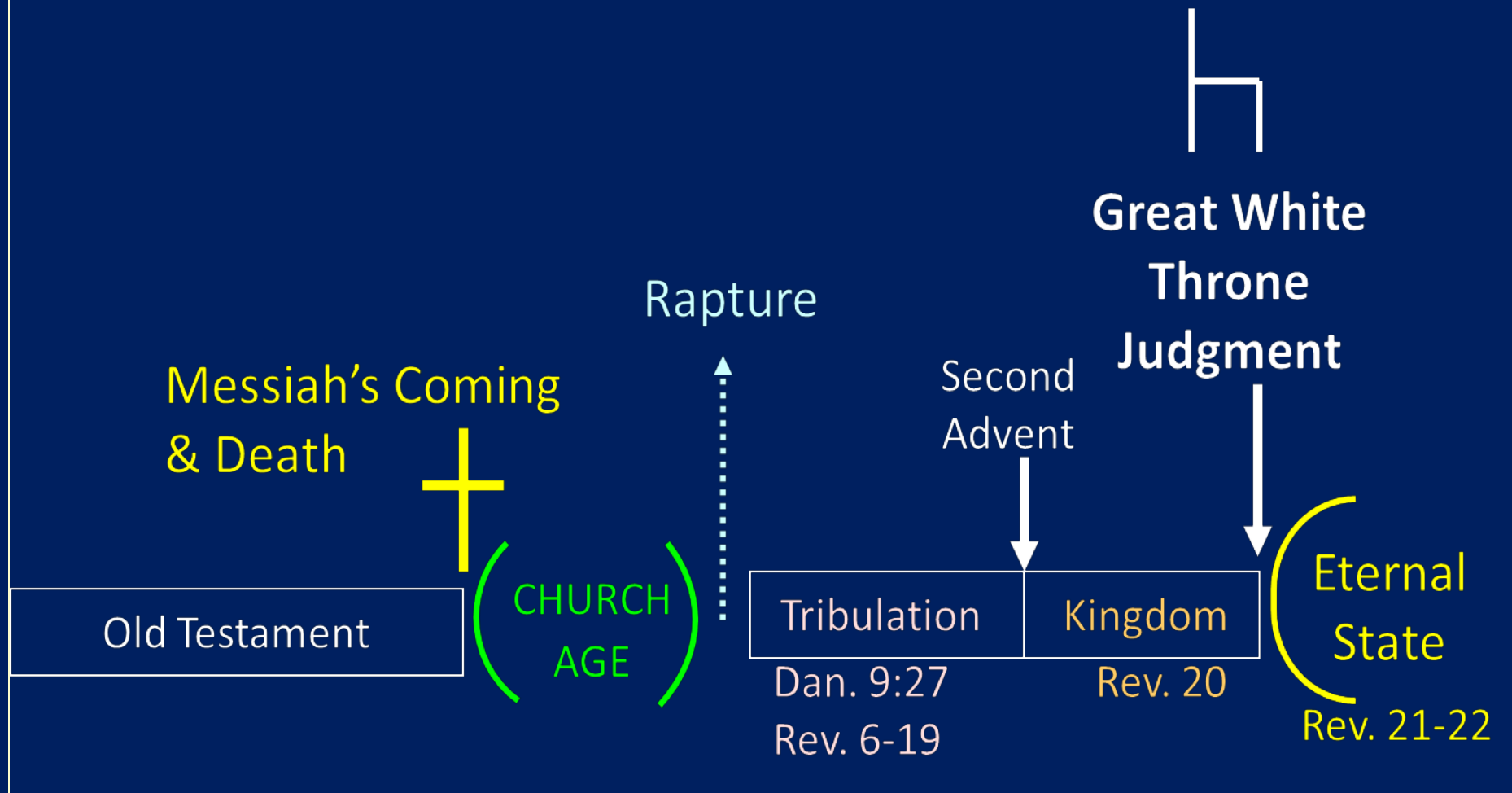
(Rev. 4:4)

A. Not

1. Israel
2. Redeemed of all ages
3. Angels



Prophecy Panorama



1. Twenty-Four Elders

(Rev. 4:4)

A. Church

1. Crowned (2:10)
2. Clothed in White (3:5)
3. Redeemed (5:8-10)
4. Enthroned (3:21)
5. Elders (1 Tim. 3:1-7)
6. Kingdom of Priests (Rev. 1:6)
7. Twenty-four (Rev. 1:6)



7. Promise to the Overcomers

Rev 3:21

“He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”



Revelation 5:10

“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign [basileuō] upon the earth [gē].”



Revelation 1:6

“and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

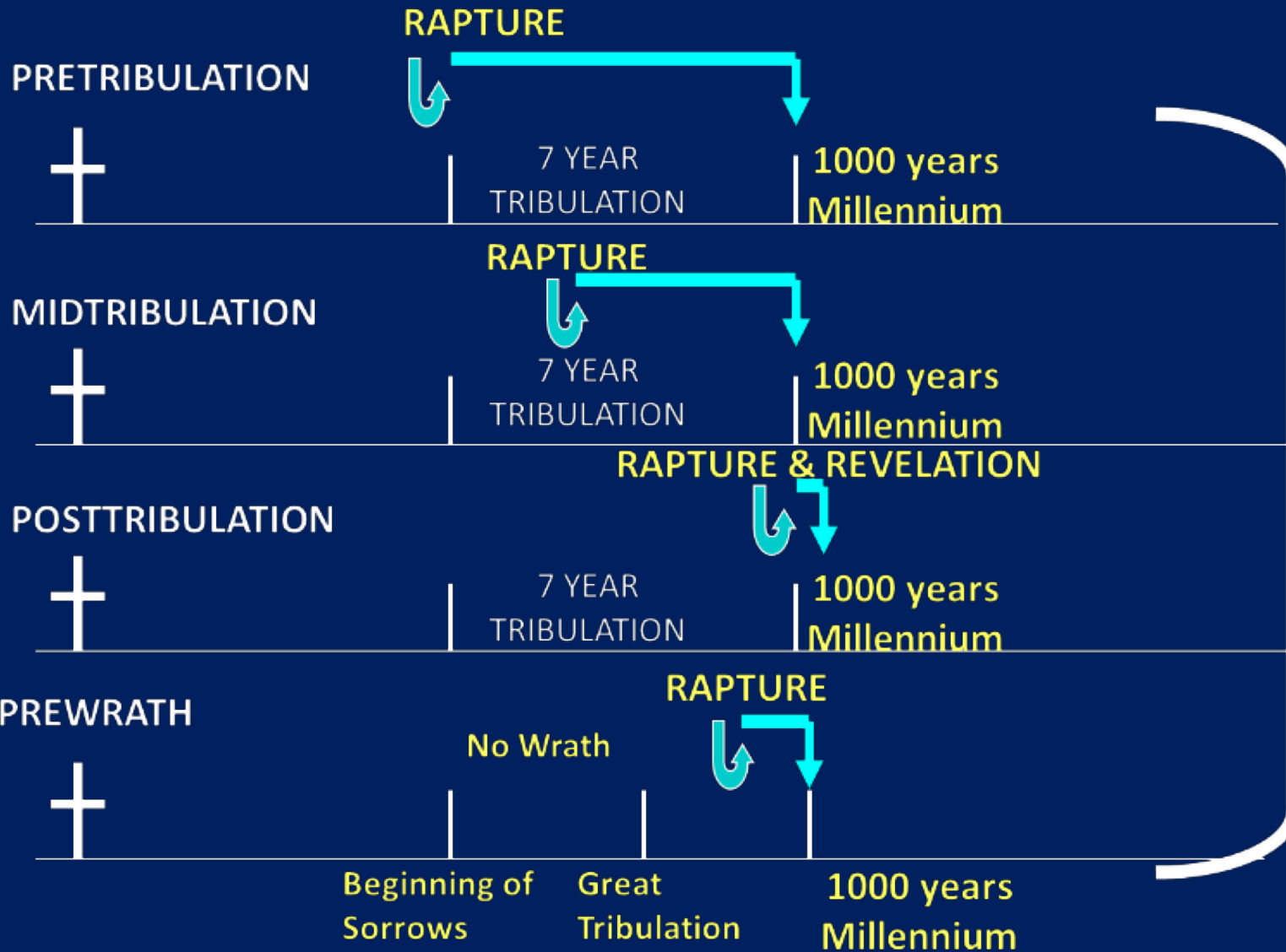


When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

- Pre-tribulation rapture theory
- Mid-tribulation rapture theory
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
- Partial rapture theory



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Y-H-Z-R-E

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B. Items Around the Throne (4:4, 5b, 6b-8)

1. 24 Elders (4)
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Isaiah 11:2

“The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”



Two Rules of Interpretation



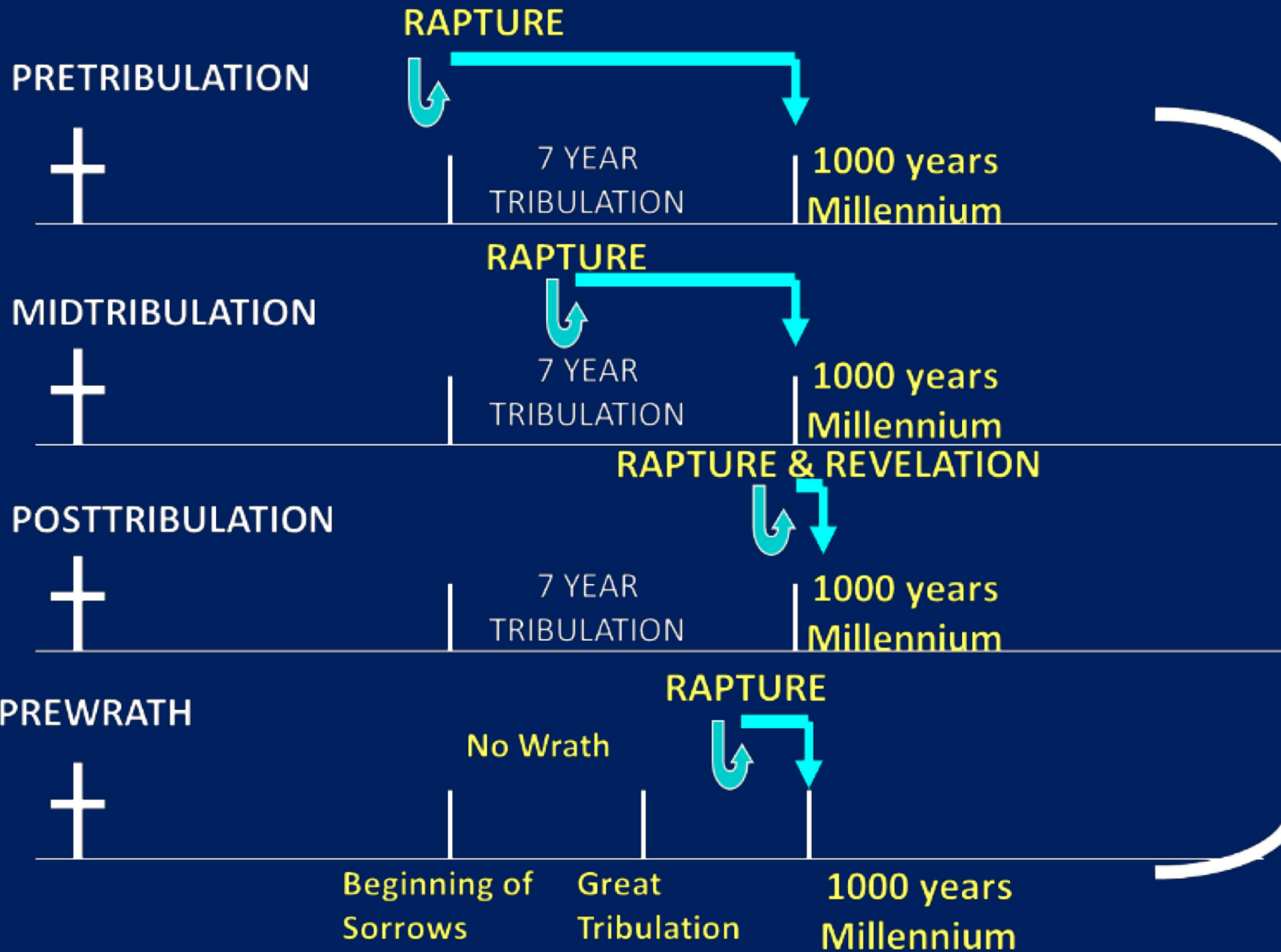
- Search the immediate context
 - ◆ Walvoord: 26X
- Search the remote context
 - ◆ Old Testament
 - ◆ Thomas: 278 / 404 verses

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Y-H-Z-R-E

STOPPED HERE

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3. Four Living Creatures

(Rev. 4:6b-8)

A. Description (6b-8a)

1. Identification (6b)

2. Eyes (6c)

3. Faces (7)

4. Wings (8a)

B. Duty (8b)



3. Four Living Creatures

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Preview

(Rev. 4:1-11)

- I. Summons to Heaven (4:1)
- II. Sights in Heaven (4:2-8)
- III. Song of Heaven (4:9-11)**



III. Song of Heaven

(Rev. 4:9-11)

A. Singers (4:9-10)

1. 4 Living Creatures (9)
2. 24 Elders (10)

B. Song (4:11)



III. Song of Heaven

(Rev. 4:9-11)

A. Singers (4:9-10)

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III. Song of Heaven

(Rev. 4:9-11)

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Scripture's Five Crowns

(Rev 4:10: 3:11; 2 John 8)

SCRIPTURE	CROWN	PURPOSE
1 Cor. 9:24-27	Incorruptible	Gaining mastery over the flesh
1 Thess. 2:19-20	Rejoicing	Soul winning
Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10	Life	Enduring trials
1 Pet. 5:2-4	Glory	Shepherding God's people
2 Tim. 4:8	Righteousness	Longing for His appearing



Revelation 3:11

“I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”



2 John 8

“Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.”



1 Corinthians 3:10-15

“¹⁴ If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”



1 Corinthians 9:24-27

“²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷ but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.”



III. Song of Heaven

(Rev. 4:9-11)

A. Singers (4:9-10)

1. 4 Living Creatures (9)
2. 24 Elders (10)

B. Song (4:11)

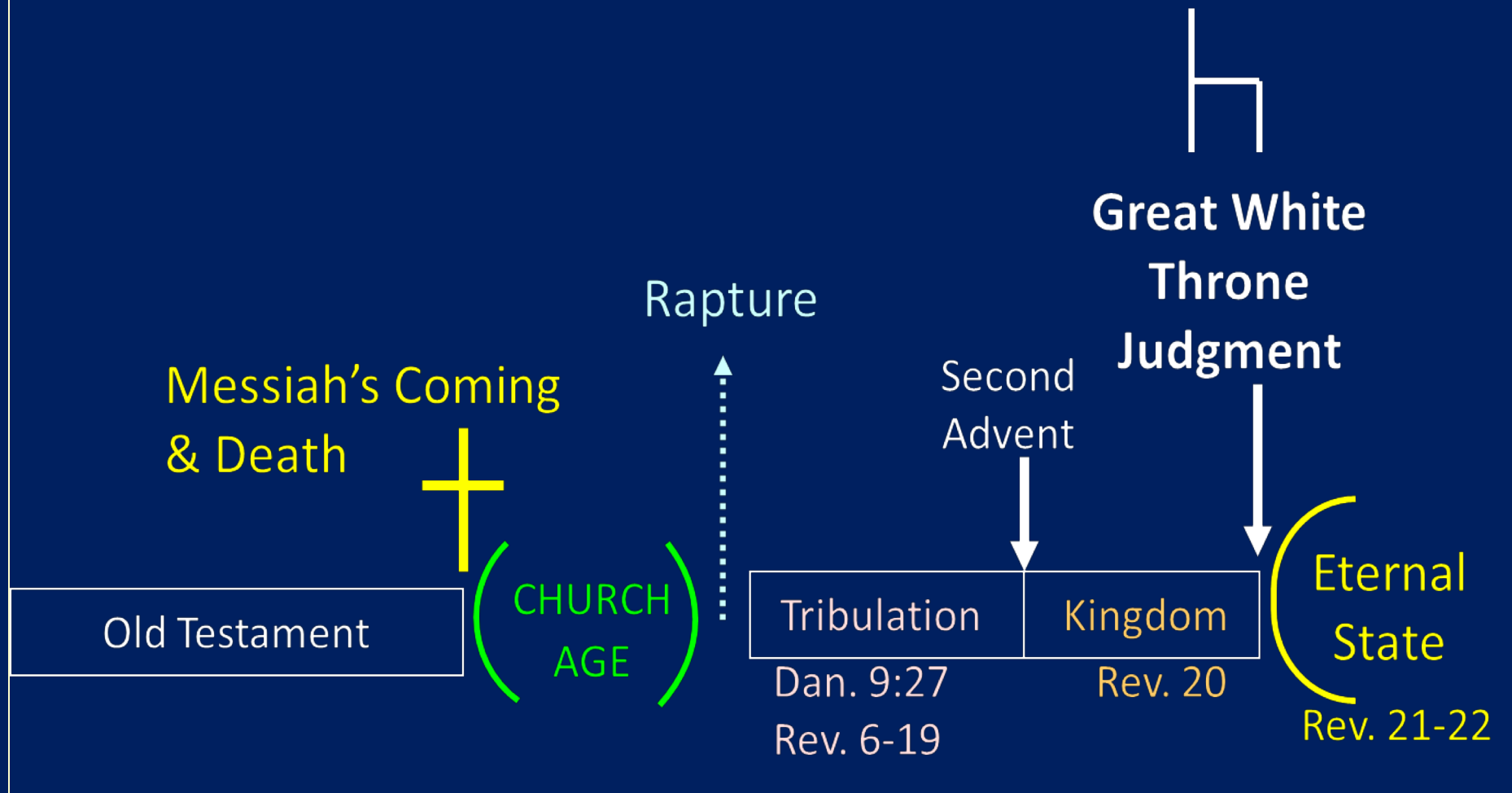


Revelation 11:15

¹⁵ “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



Conclusion

Preview

(Rev. 4:1-11)

- I. Summons to Heaven (4:1)
- II. Sights in Heaven (4:2-8)
- III. Song of Heaven (4:9-11)





“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)