

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 11



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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?



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1. Kingdom Throughout the Bible

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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 |



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THE INTERIM AGE

1. The Inter-advent Age (Matt. 13)
2. The Church Age (Matt. 16:18)



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Matthew 13 Parables

- Public parables (13:1-2)
 - Sower (13:1-9, 18-23)
 - Wheat and tares (13:24-30, 36-43)
 - Mustard seed (13:31-32)
 - Leaven (13:33)
- Private parables (13:36)
 - Earthen treasure (13:44)
 - Pearl of great price (13:45-46)
 - Dragnet (13:47-50)
 - Householder (13:51-52)



THE INTERIM AGE

1. The Inter-advent Age (Matt. 13)

2. The Church Age (Matt. 16:18)



The Church Age

1. The definition of the Church
2. The beginning of the Church
3. The purposes of the Church
4. The Church is not the Kingdom
5. The Church is not Israel



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1. The Definition of the Church

a. All (both Jew & Gentile) who have trusted in the very Messiah rejected by first-century national Israel (Gal. 3:28; Rom. 10:19; Eph. 2:14)

b. Intercalation

c. Does not fulfill Israel's purposes



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2. When Did the Church Begin?



- a. Christ referred to the Church in the future tense (Matt. 16:18)
- b. Paul referred to the Church as a “mystery” (Eph. 3:4-5, 9)
- c. The Church did not exist prior to Acts 1 since Christ became the head of the Church (Eph. 5:23) after His Ascension (Eph. 1:20-22)
- d. The Church did not exist prior to Acts 1 since spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:7; 14:26) only came into existence after His Ascension (Eph. 4:7-11)

2. When Did the Church Begin?



- e. The Church existed before Paul's conversion in Acts 9 (Acts 5:11; 8:1,3; Rom. 16:7)
- f. The Baptizing (*joining, uniting, identifying*) ministry of the Holy Spirit began in Acts 2
 - 1) 1 Cor. 12:13
 - 2) Acts 1:5
 - 3) Acts 11:15-16
 - 4) Acts 2:1-4, 37-41

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3. Purposes of the Local Church



- Glorify God (Eph 3:21)
- Edify the saints (Eph 4:11-16)
- Fulfill the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)

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4. Church ≠ Kingdom

1. Jesus Christ is never called the King of the Church
2. Jesus Christ's relationship to His Church is never depicted through the King-Kingdom metaphor
3. Prolonged Church Age carnality
4. Church Age Gospel = believe (Acts 16:30-31)
5. Kingdom's arrival is instantaneous (Dan. 2:44) while the Church's construction is gradual (Eph. 2:22)
6. Church = heir of the Kingdom (James 2:5)

4. Church ≠ Kingdom

7. Church suffers today (John 16:33)
8. Satanic influence on the Church (Ephes. 4:26-27)
9. The Times of the Gentiles continue
10. NT kingdom references predominantly future
11. Jesus Christ is never said to be ruling from David's Throne now
12. Kingdom miracles (Isa. 35:5-6) are absent today (2 Tim. 4:20)
13. Kingdom prosperity (Amos 9:11-15) is absent today (Acts 11:28)

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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.”



Deuteronomy 17:15

“you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman.”



Matthew 23:37-39 (NASB)

“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. ³⁸ Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! ³⁹ 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!’”



5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	ISRAEL	CHURCH
Marriage	Wife	Bride
Christ	Birthed Christ	Birthed by Christ
Return	2nd advent	Rapture
Leader	King	Head, Groom
Beginning	Gen 12	Acts 2
Scripture	4/5	1/5
Covenants	Parties	Beneficiaries
Nation	Political	Spiritual

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2 Cor. 11:2-3

Betrothal Period

“For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you *as* a pure virgin. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted by from the simplicity that is in Christ.”



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Matthew 16:18 (NASB)

I also say to you that you are Peter,
and upon this rock I will build
[oikodomeō] My church; and the
gates of Hades will not overpower it.



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Joshua 24:2-3

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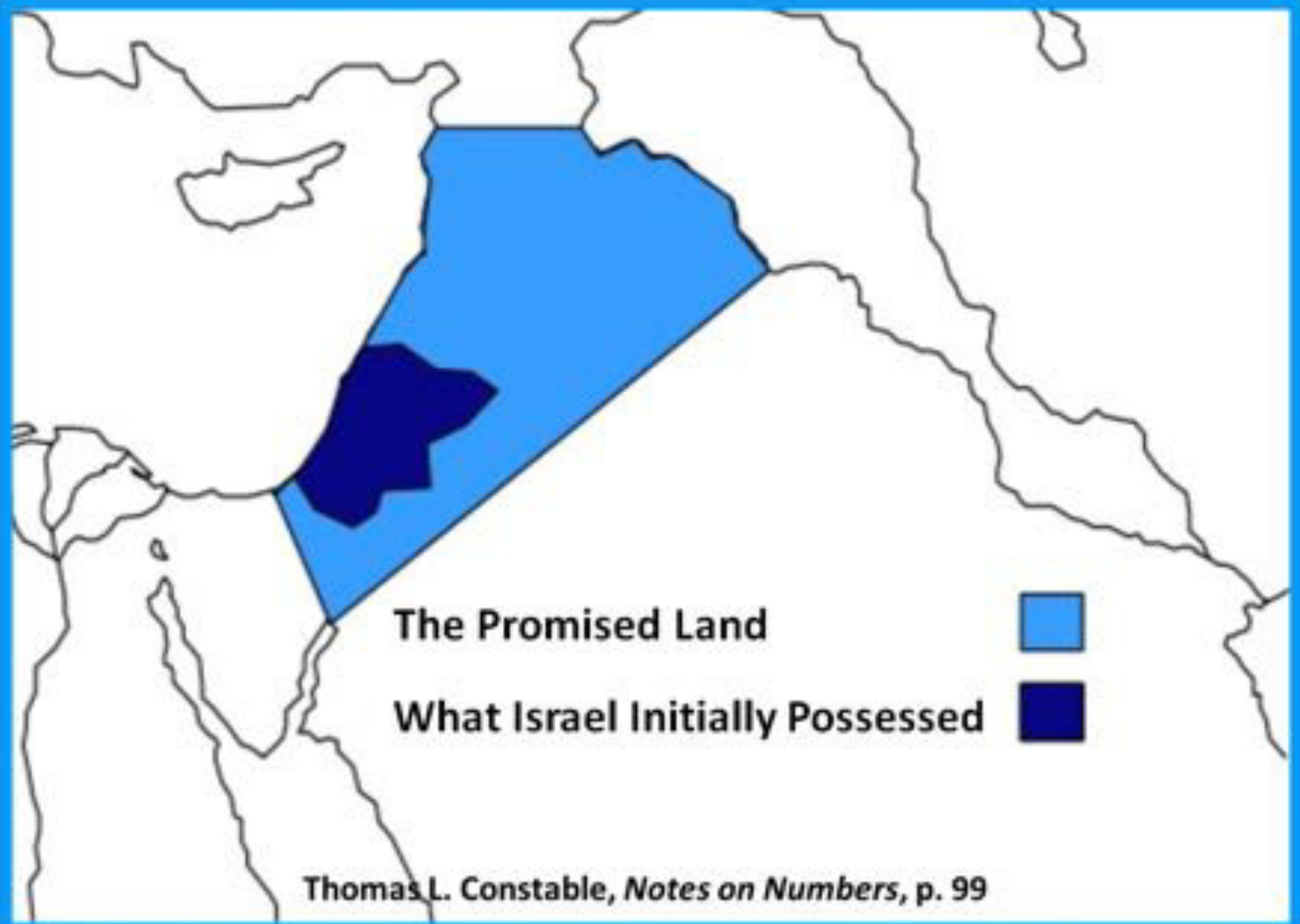
Abrahamic Covenant



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

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Divided Kingdom

Romans 10:19 (NASB)

But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they?
First Moses says, “I will make you jealous by
that which is NOT A NATION, By a nation
without understanding will I anger you.”



Galatians 3:28 (NASB)

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 (NASB)

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



5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	ISRAEL	CHURCH
Wars	Political	Spiritual
Timing	A quo / ad quem	No time indicators
Priesthood	Have a priesthood	Are a priesthood
Temple	Physical	Body
Resurrection	1st resurrection	Rapture
Judgment	Earthly (Ezek. 20:33-44)	Heavenly (Bema)
New Jerusalem	Gates	Foundations
Entrance	Physical birth	Spiritual birth

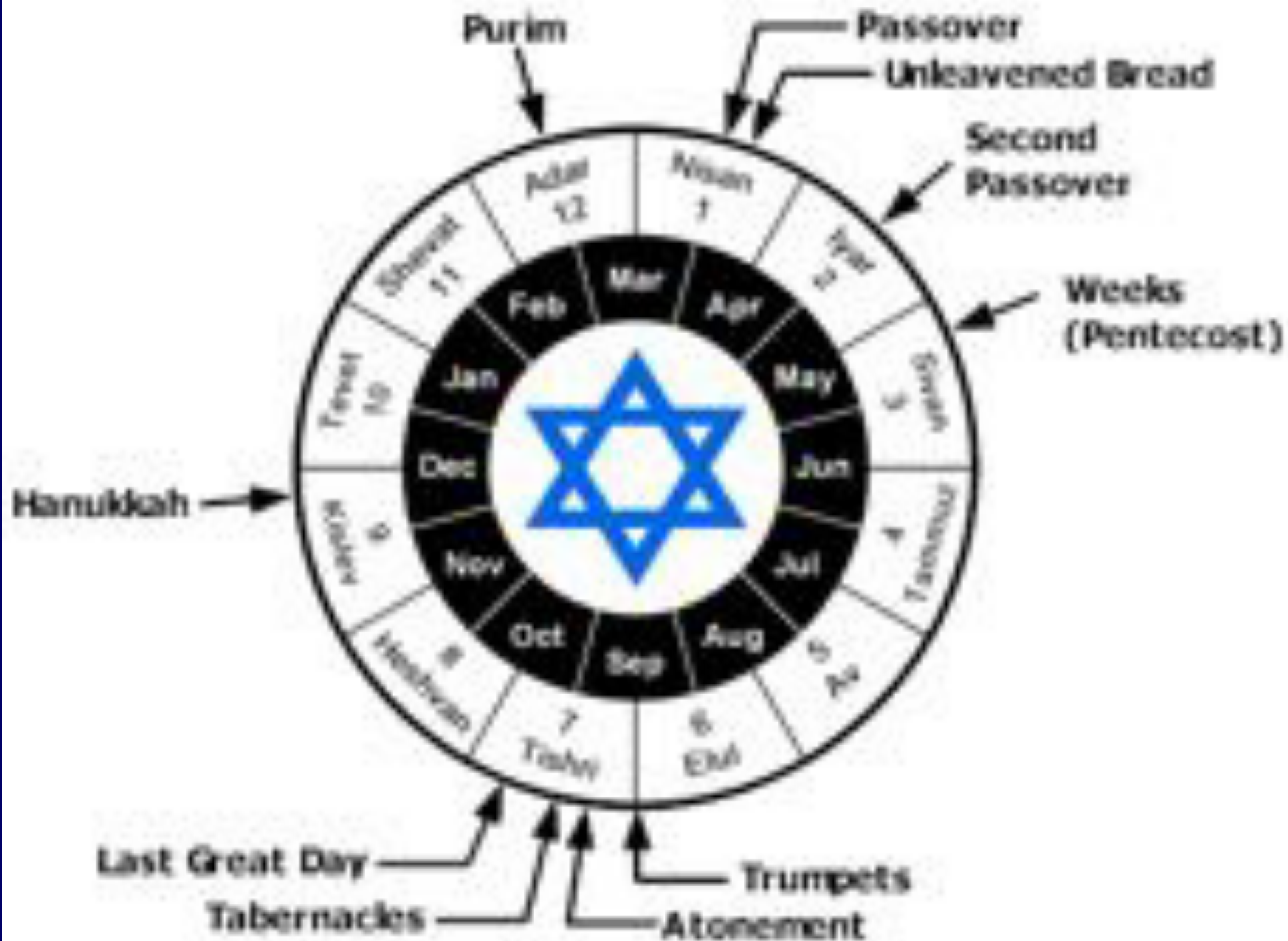
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Levitical Feasts (23)

Feast	Season	Purpose	Type
Passover	Spring	Redemption	1 Cor 5:7
Unleavened Bread	Spring	Separation	John 6:35
1st fruits	Spring	Praise	1 Cor 15:20
Pentecost	Spring	Praise	Acts 2:1-4
Trumpets	Fall	New Year	Matt 24:31
Atonement	Fall	Lev 16	Zech 12:10
Booths	Fall	Wilderness provision	Zech 14:16-18



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The Golden Garments (8th) of the Kohen Gadol Shemot 28:4:42



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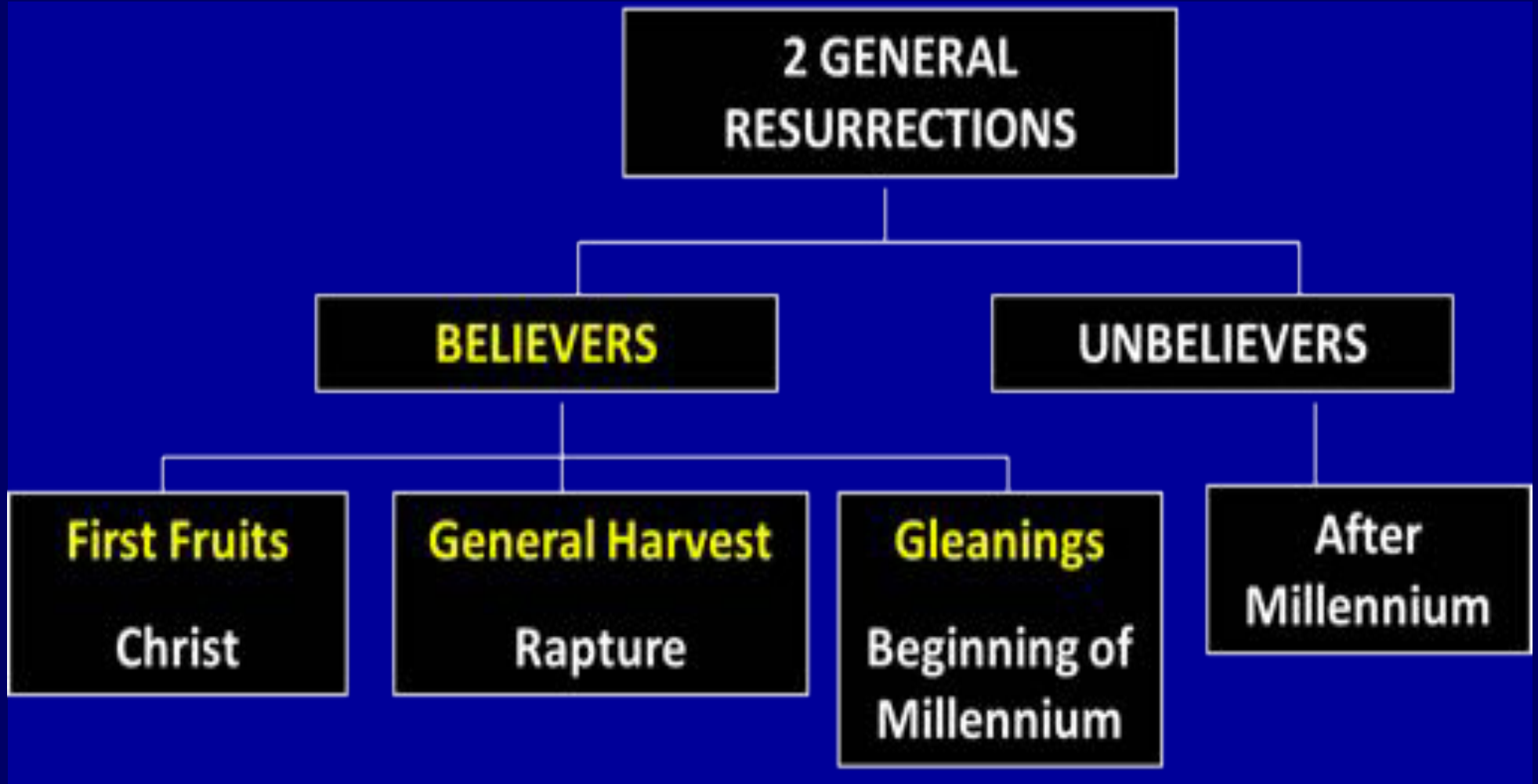
ISRAEL'S FOUR TEMPLES

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

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God's Resurrection Program



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1 Corinthians 4:5 (NASB)

“Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men’s* hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”

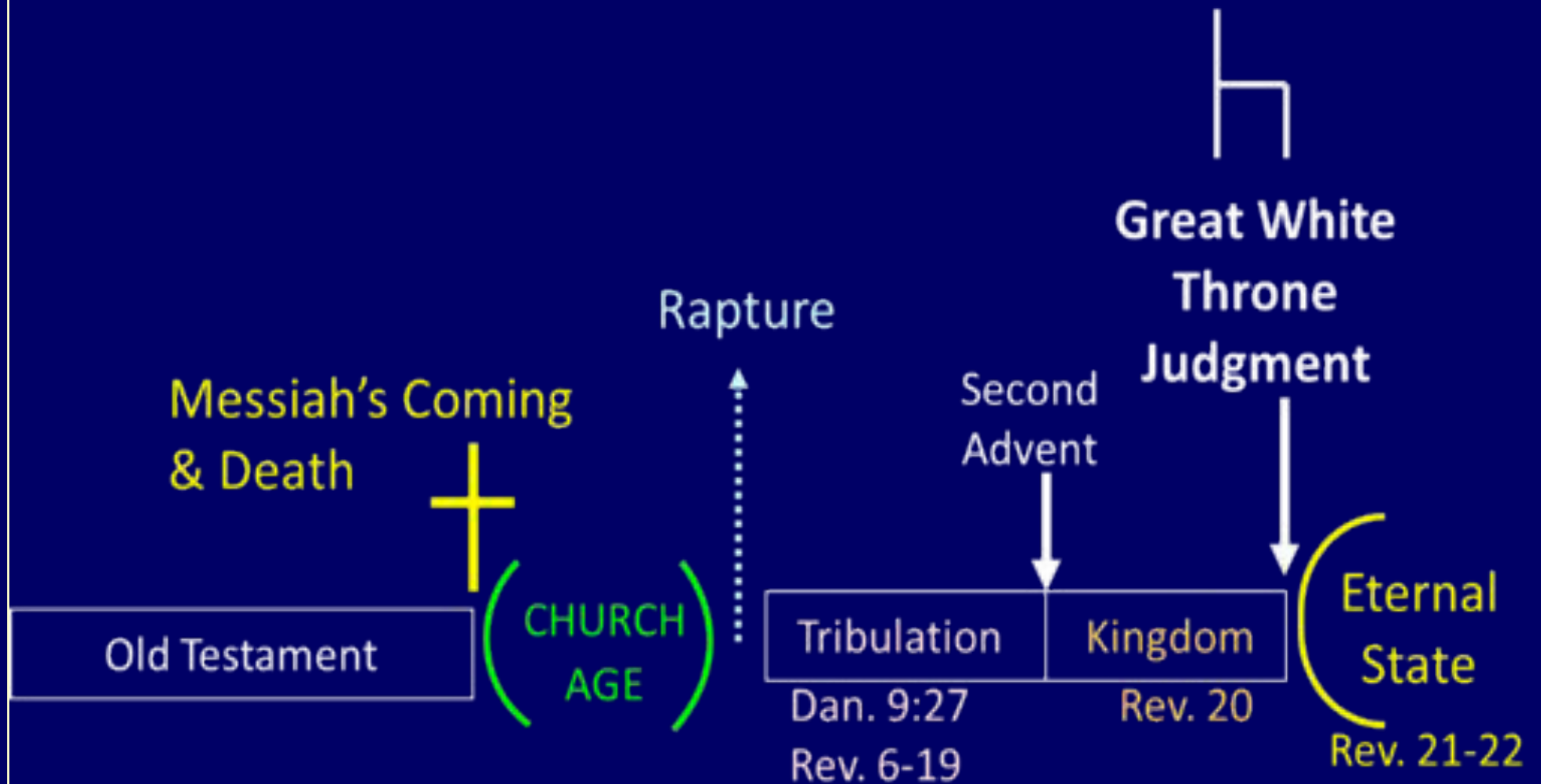


1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NASB)

“Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.”



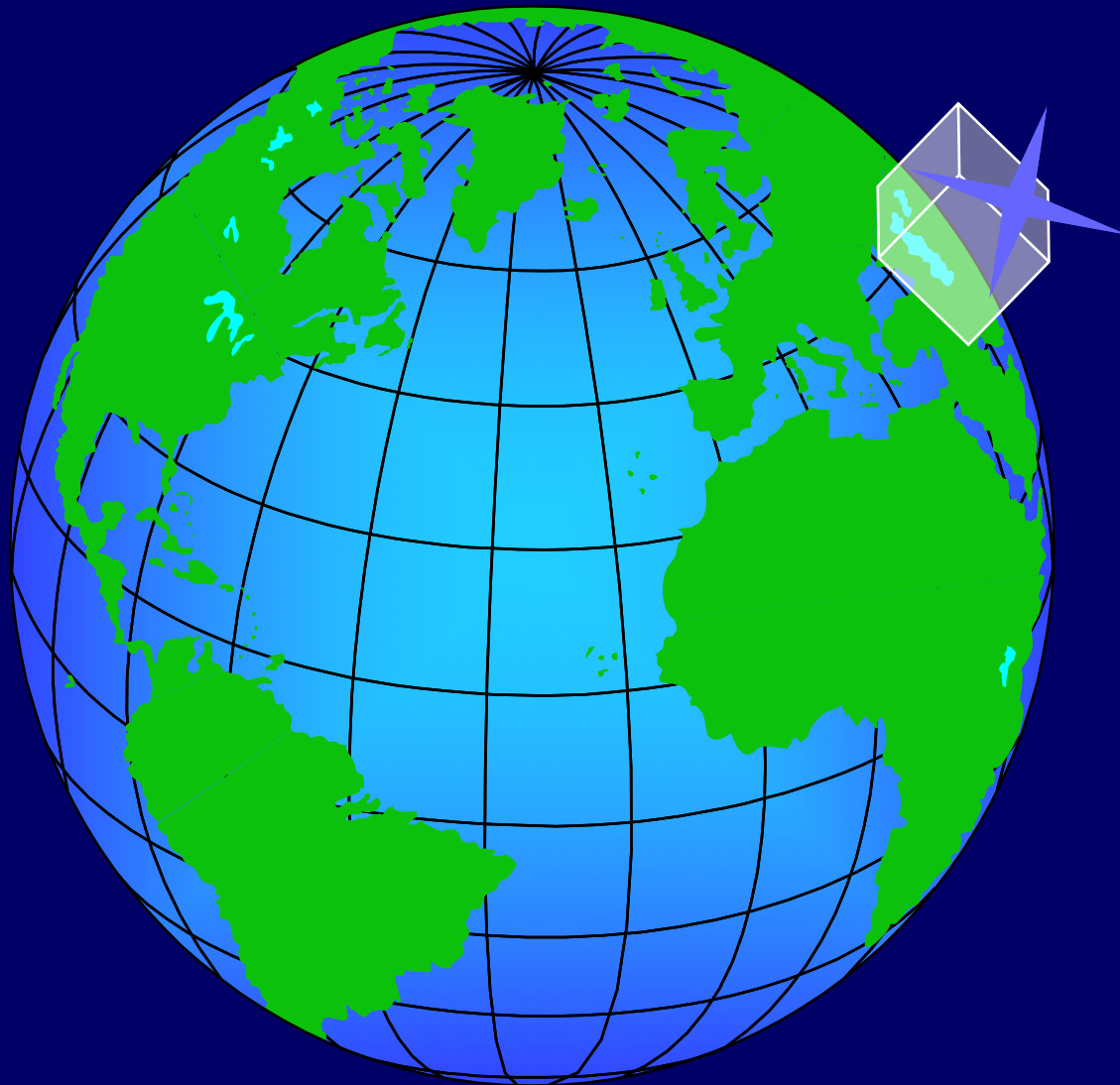
Prophecy Panorama



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Jerusalem Descending

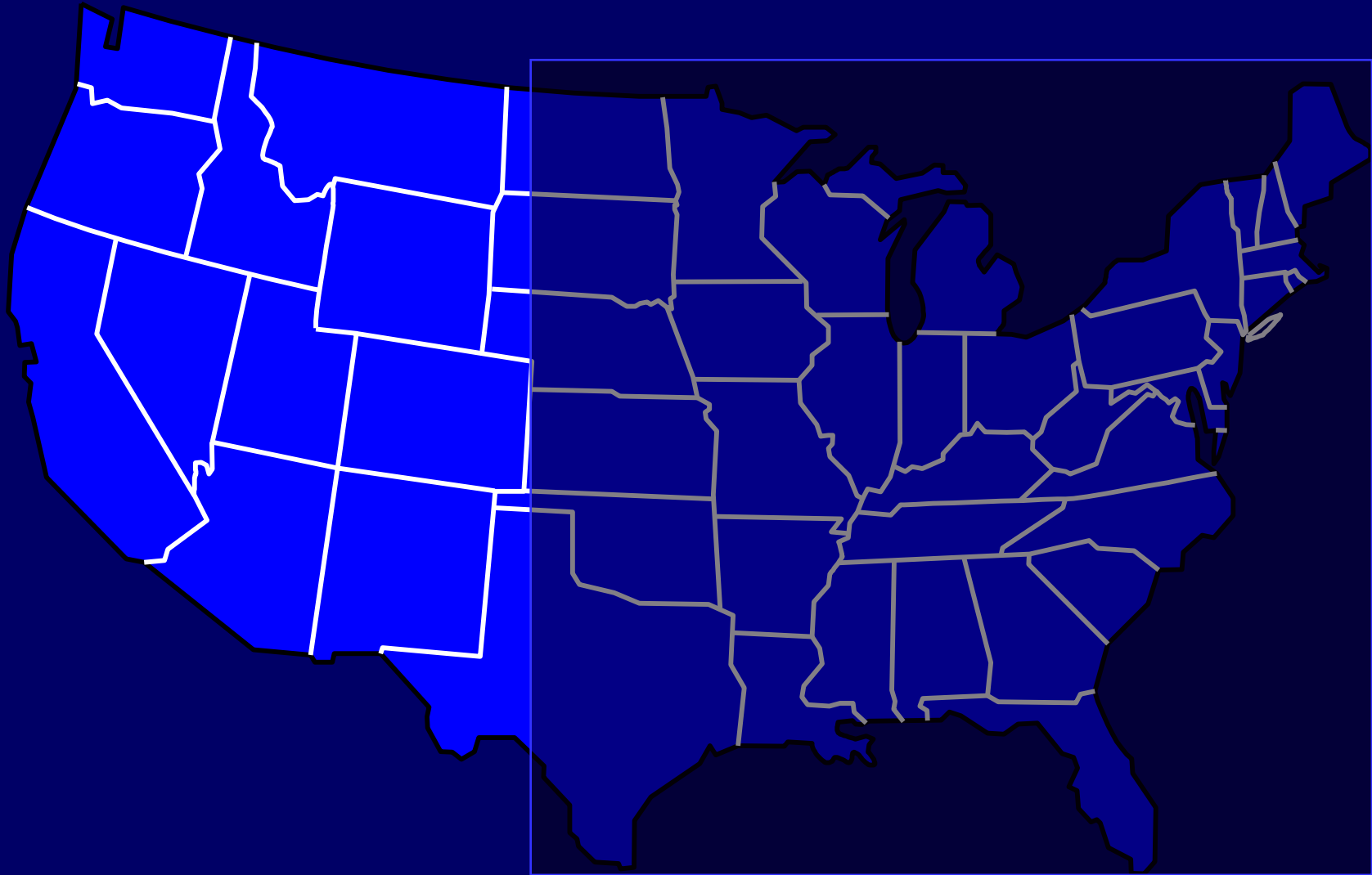


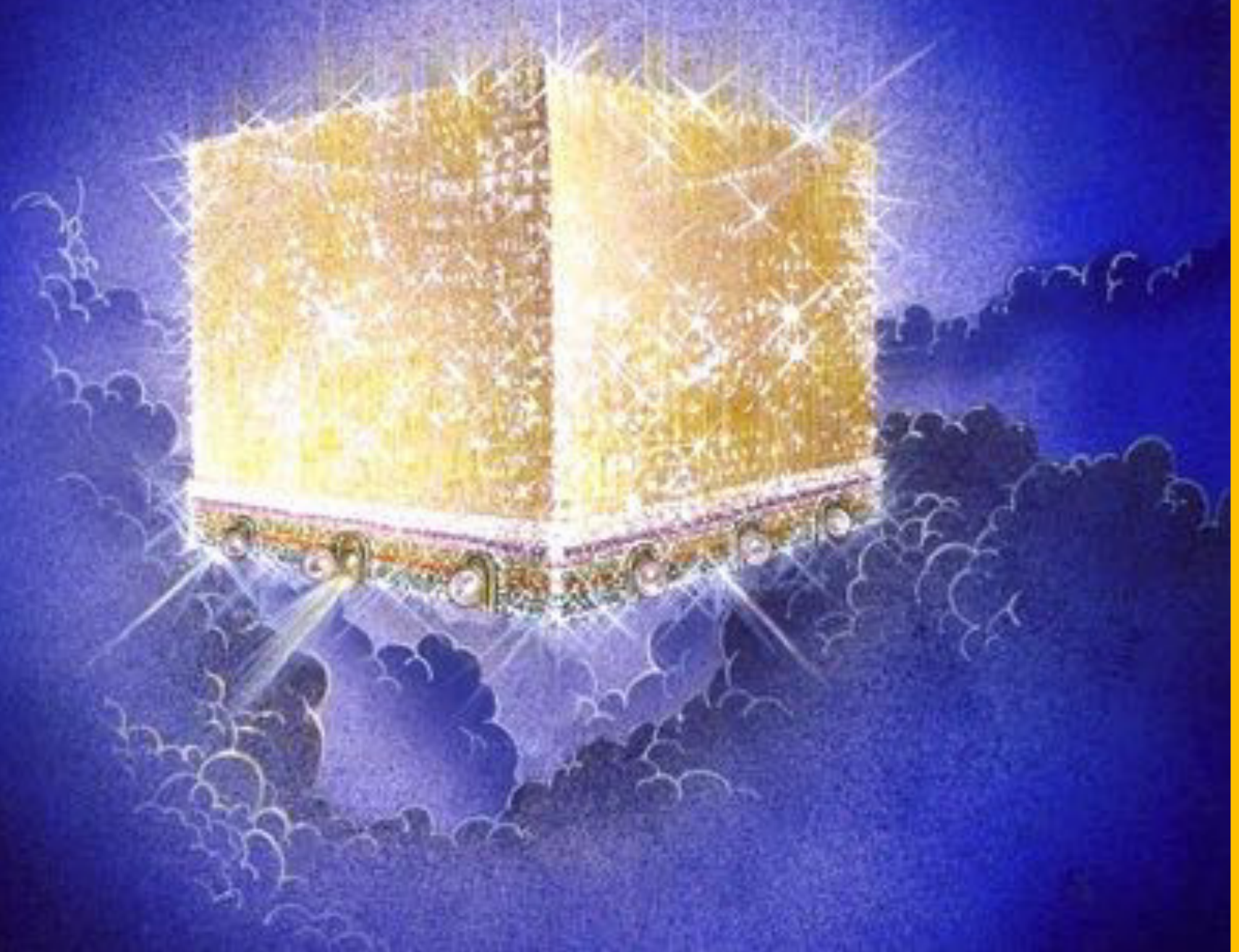
Revelation 21:16-17

¹⁶ The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be [*1500 miles*] in length, and as wide and high as it is long. ¹⁷ He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using.



The New Jerusalem







Ephesians 2:20 (NASB)

“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*.”



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Governing principle	Law	NT
Relation to HS	Selective, temporary, subsequent	Universal, permanent, at moment of salvation
Farewell address	Olivet Discourse	Upper Room Discourse
Designation	First Born Son	Bride of Christ
Revealed in OT	Yes	No
Evangelism	Come & See	Go & Proclaim
Blessings	Earthly	Heavenly
Composition	Believers & Unbelievers	Believers Only

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Psalm 147:19-20

“He declares His words to Jacob, His statutes and His ordinances to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any nation; And as for His ordinances, they have not known them. Praise the LORD!”



Six Parts of a Suzerain-Vassal Treaty in Deuteronomy

- Preamble (1:1-5)
- Prologue (1:6–4:40)
- Covenant obligations (5–26)
- Storage and reading instructions (27:2-3; 31:9, 24, 26)
- Witnesses (32:1)
- Blessings and curses (28)



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Work of the Spirit in the OT vs. Church Age

	OT/Gospels	Today
Reception of all of the Spirit at the moment of salvation?	Subsequent to salvation (Exod 31:3)	At moment of salvation (Rom 8:9)
How long is the indwelling?	Temporary indwelling (1 Sam 16:14; Ps 51:11)	Permanent indwelling (John 14:16)
Who is indwelt?	Selective indwelling (Joel 2:28)	Universal indwelling (1 Cor 12:13)

Work of the Spirit in the OT & Gospels

- Pattern of Holy Spirit's present work is not found in the OT or Gospels
 - ◆ John 7:37-39
 - ◆ John 14:16-17
 - ◆ Acts 1:5

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Discourse

	OLIVET	UPPER ROOM
SCRIPTURE	Matt 24–25	John 13–17
LOCATION	Mount of Olives	Upper Room
PASSION WEEK	Third day	Sixth day
GENERAL FOCUS	Farewell: Israel	Hello: Church
SPECIFIC FOCUS	Israel's future	Divine provisions
PROMPTING	Temple's destruction	Christ's imminent departure
EXPLANATIONS	Written OT	Unwritten NT

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Matthew 16:18 (NASB)

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Ephesians 3:3-6 (NASB)

“that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. ⁴ By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; ⁶ to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel”.



Ephesians 3:9 (NASB)

“and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things.”



“Mystery” Defined

“In the N.T, it [*mystērion*] denotes, not the mysterious (as with the Eng. word), but that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by Divine revelation, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those who are illumined by His Spirit.”

W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of the Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: Nelson, 1996), 424.

Colossians 1:26 (NASB)

“*that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His.”



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Matthew 13:3 (NASB)

“And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower went out to sow.”



The Prophetic Parables of Matthew Thirteen - A. W. Pink

“The words ‘*went forth to sow,*’ or as Mark’s Gospel puts it ‘*went out*’ were indicative of the **great dispensational change** which was soon to be introduced. There was no longer to be a planting of vines or fig-trees in Israel, but a going out of the mercy of God unto the Gentiles; therefore what we have here is the *broadcast* sowing of the Seed in the field at large, for as verse 38 tells us ‘the field is *the world.*’”

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Ephesians 1:3 (NASB)

“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”



Revelation 2:9 (NASB)

“I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”



5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	ISRAEL	CHURCH
Governing principle	Law	NT
Relation to HS	Selective, temporary, subsequent	Universal, permanent, at moment of salvation
Farewell address	Olivet Discourse	Upper Room Discourse
Designation	First Born Son	Bride of Christ
Revealed in OT	Yes	No
Evangelism	Come & See	Go & Proclaim
Blessings	Earthly	Heavenly
<u>Composition</u>	<u>Believers & Unbelievers</u>	<u>Believers Only</u>

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual** *people* but as to **carnal**, as to **babes** in Christ. ² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; ³ for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere* **men**?



4 Kinds of People from 1 Corinthians 3:1-3



Conclusion

5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	ISRAEL	CHURCH
Marriage	Wife	Bride
Christ	Birthed Christ	Birthed by Christ
Return	2nd advent	Rapture
Leader	King	Head, Groom
Beginning	Gen 12	Acts 2
Scripture	4/5	1/5
Covenants	Parties	Beneficiaries
Nation	Political	Spiritual

5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	ISRAEL	CHURCH
Wars	Political	Spiritual
Timing	A quo / ad quem	No time indicators
Priesthood	Have a priesthood	Are a priesthood
Temple	Physical	Body
Resurrection	1st resurrection	Rapture
Judgment	Earthly (Ezek. 20:33-44)	Heavenly (Bema)
New Jerusalem	Gates	Foundations
Entrance	Physical birth	Spiritual birth

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Ephesians 3:10 (NASB)

“so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.”



THE INTERIM AGE

1. The Inter-advent Age (Matt. 13)

2. The Church Age (Matt. 16:18)



The Church Age

1. The definition of the Church
2. The beginning of the Church
3. The purposes of the Church
4. The Church is not the Kingdom
5. The Church is not Israel

