

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



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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?



1. Kingdom Throughout the Bible

1. Eden

2. Abrahamic Covenant

3. Mosaic Covenant

4. Divided Kingdom

5. Times of the Gentiles

6. Old Testament Prophets

7. Post exile

8. Offer of the King / Kingdom

9. Rejection of the Offer

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

16. Kingdom Establishment

17. Eternal State

18. Testimony of Early Church History



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

Matthew 12:24

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



Matthew 24:14

“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.”



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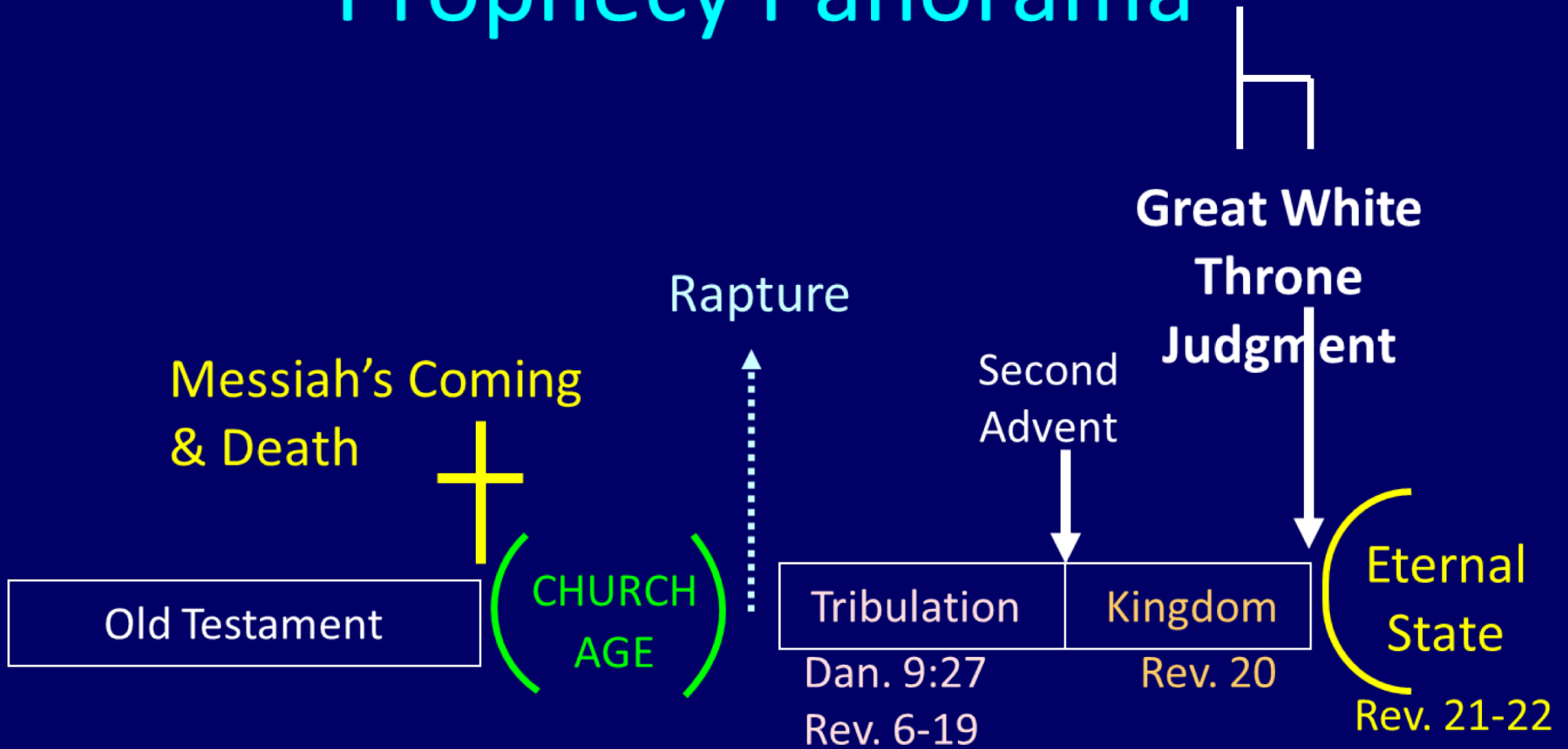


Revelation 11:15

“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



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



Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶ 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.” ²⁷

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



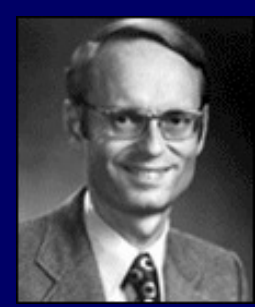
Genesis 1:26-28

...“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



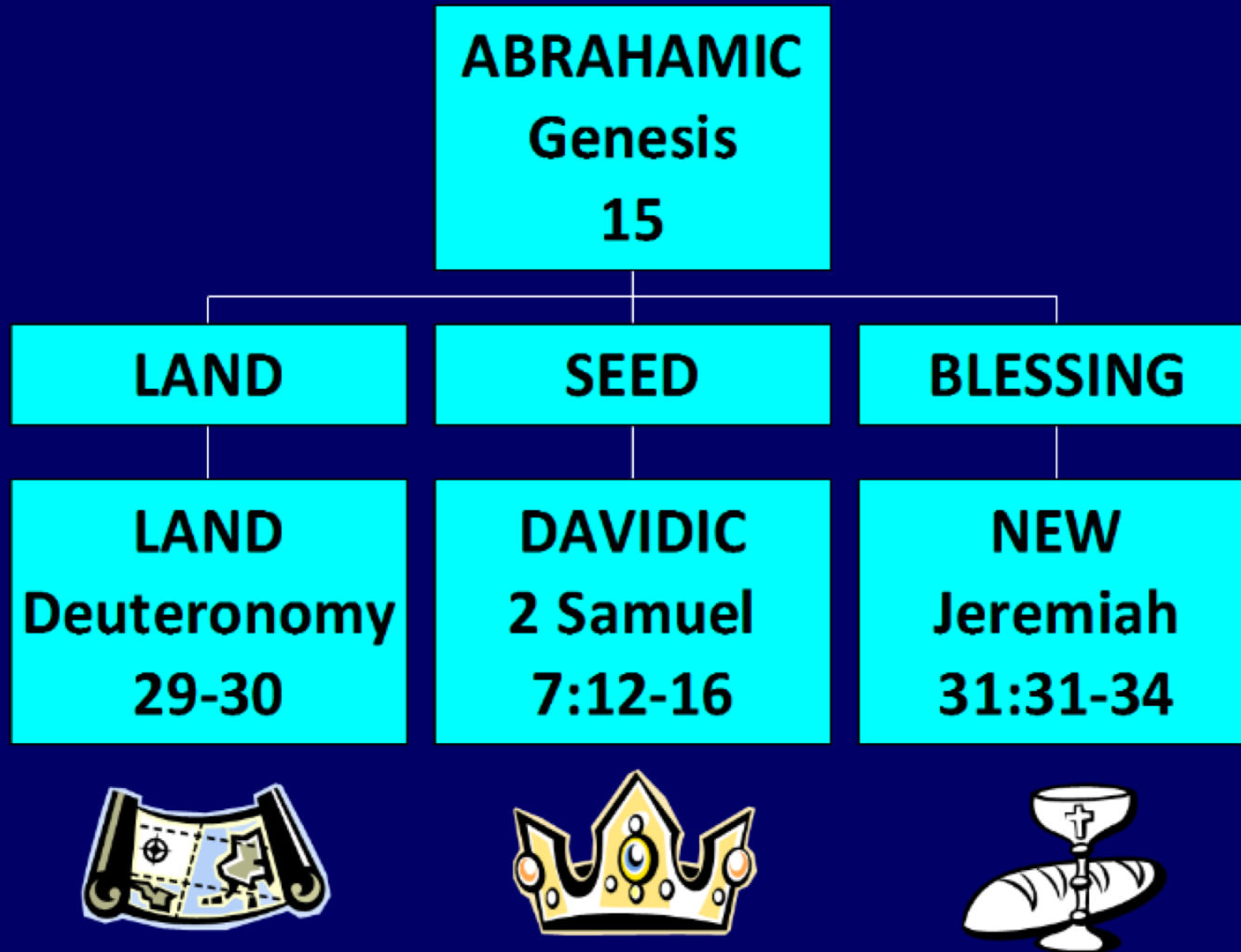


Charles Ryrie

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.”

Abrahamic Covenant



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

Matthew 25:31

“³¹ But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; ³³ and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”



Exodus 19:5-6

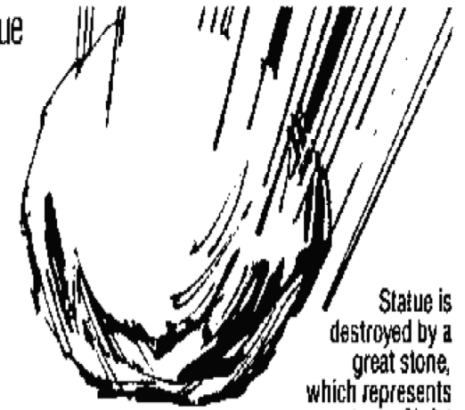
“Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”





Statue & Stone

2. A Statue
and a
Stone



Statue is
destroyed by a
great stone,
which represents
Jesus Christ



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

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)
- Immediate answered prayers (Isa. 65:24)
- 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)

THE DIVISION
OF LAND IN
MILLENNIUM

DAN

ASHER

NAPHTALI

MANASSEH

EPHRAIM

REUBEN

JUDAH

LEVITE'S
PORTION
PRIEST'S
PORTION
JERUSALEM

CHRIST'S PORTION

BENJAMIN

SIMEON

ISSACHAR

ZEBULUN

GAD

Mediterranean Sea

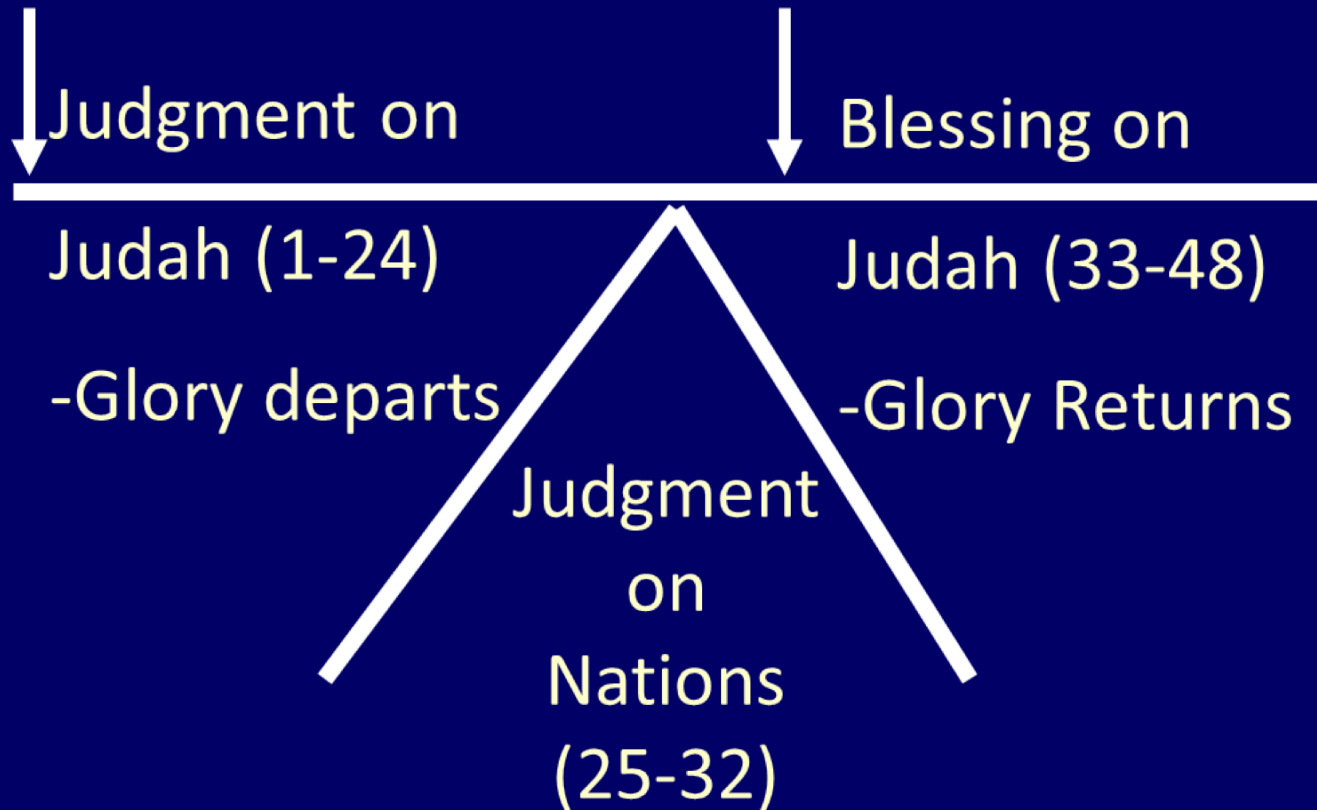
Tigris
River
Euphrates
River

Chebar
River

Pers
Sea

Ezekiel
Commissioned
(1-3) mouth closed

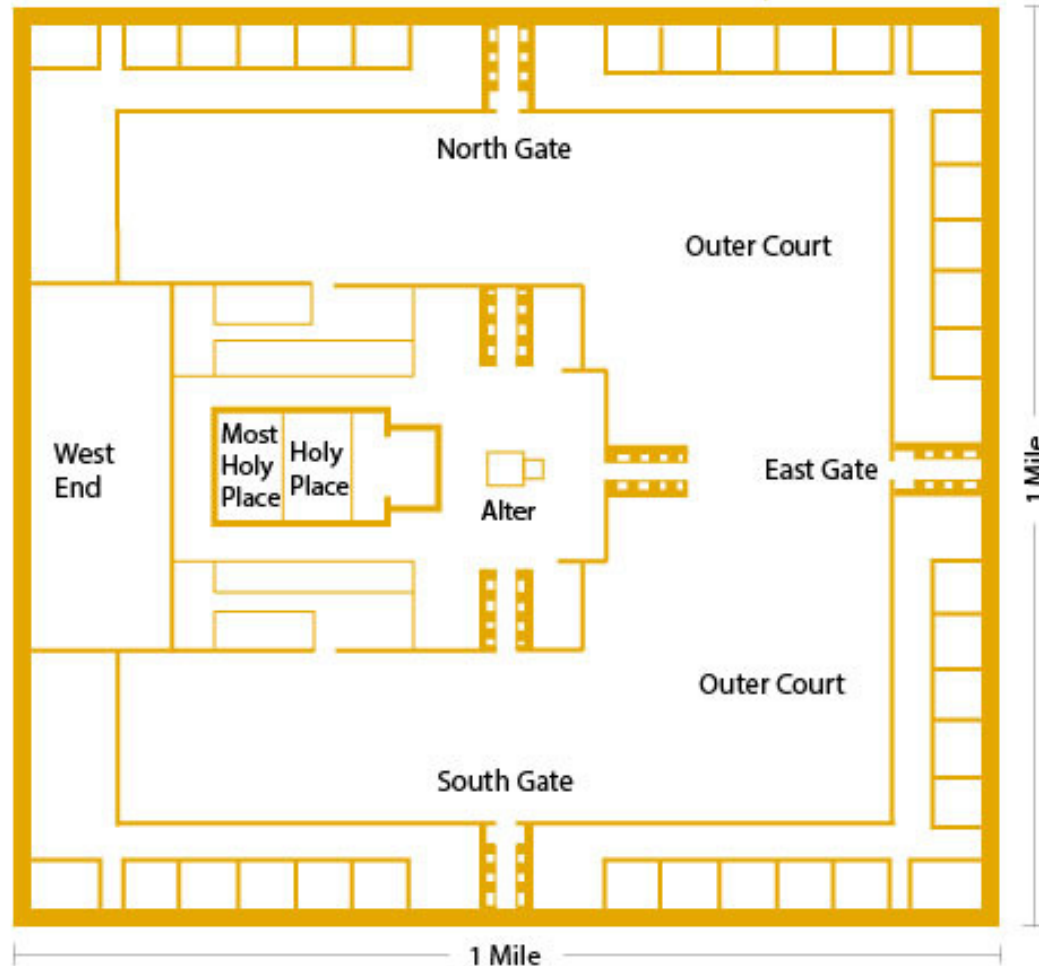
Ezekiel
Recommissioned
(33) mouth opened



Source: Charles Dyer, *Notes on Ezekiel*

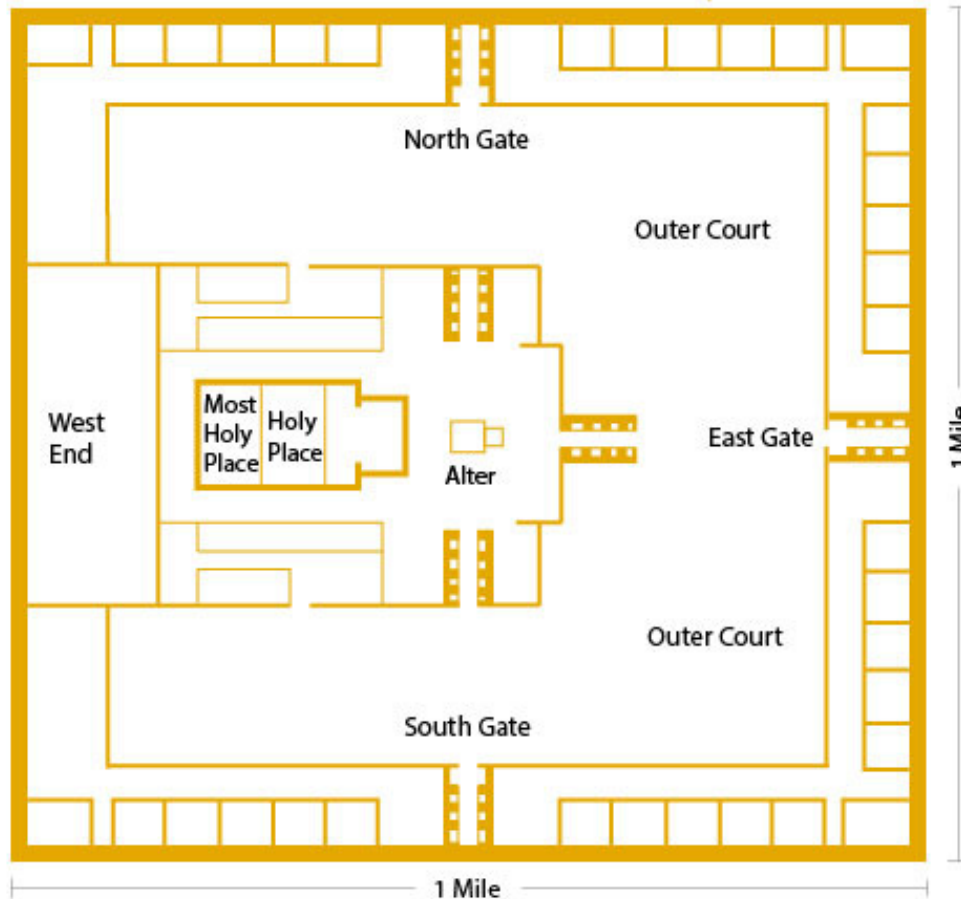
The Millennium Temple

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

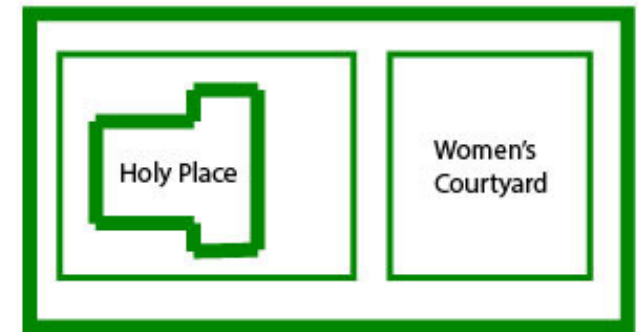


TEMPLE COMPARISONS

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



HEROD'S TEMPLE

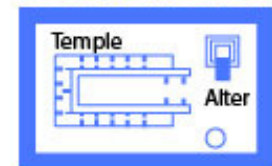


TABERNACLE



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

¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ 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. ²² 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. 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!’”



Acts 1:6-8

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



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Revelation 20:1-3

¹“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ²And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³and 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

“⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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

“⁷ When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And the devil...



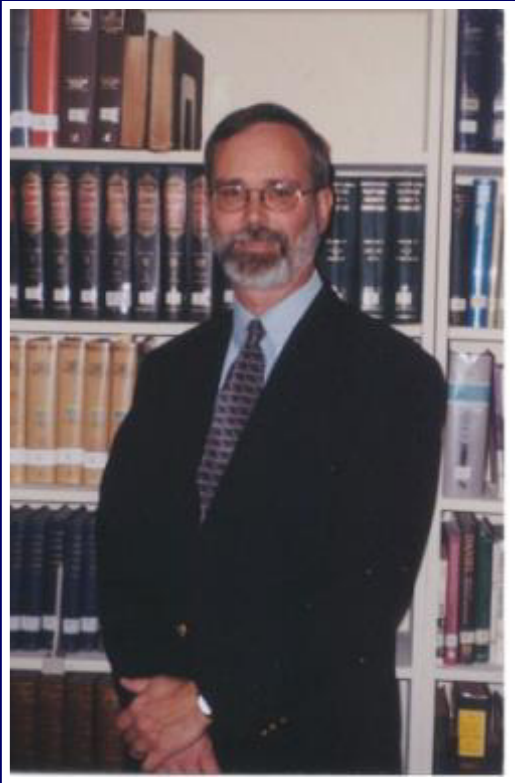
Revelation 20:7-10

...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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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)



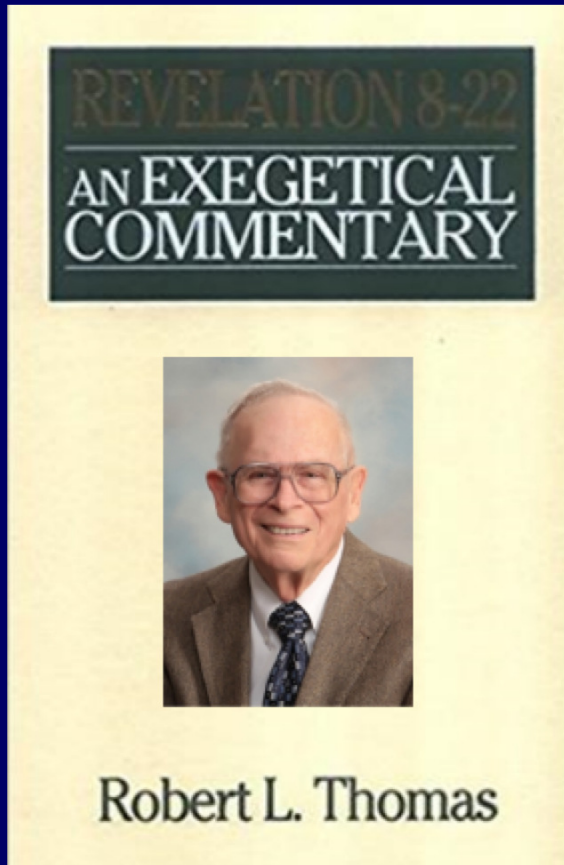
Artwork by Pat Marvick Smith ©1982, 1992
www.revelationillustrated.com

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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

“⁴ 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

...⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life [zaō] until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection [anastasis and not palingenesia].
⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection [anastasis and not palingenesia]; 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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