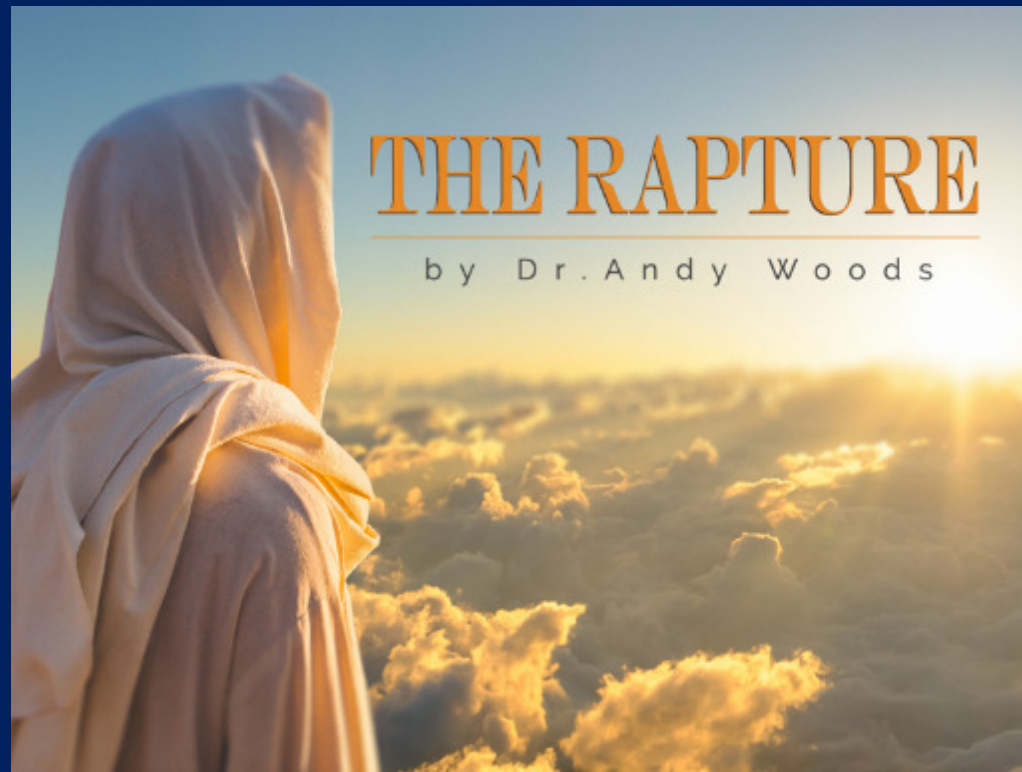


# THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 22



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

# What is the Rapture?



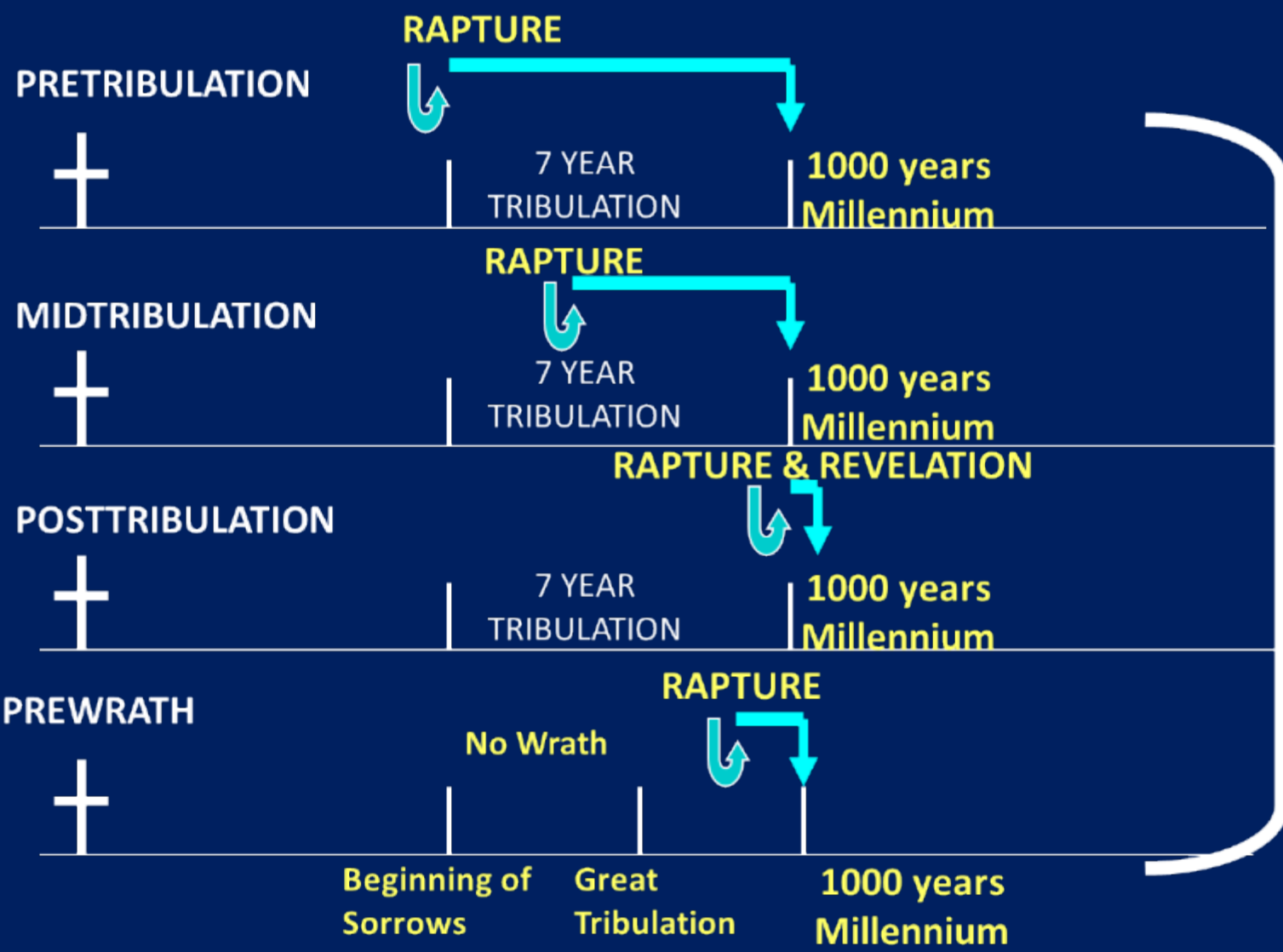
1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
9. Imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
10. Traditional doctrine now being recovered

# 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



# When is the Rapture?

## 7 Arguments Favoring the Pre-Tribulation View

1. Tribulation's purpose concerns Israel (Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24)
2. No biblical reference to the church on earth during the Tribulation period (Rev 4-22)
3. Church is promised an exemption from divine wrath (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10; 6:17)
4. Rapture is imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
5. Rapture is a comfort (1 Thess 4:18)
6. Antichrist cannot come to power until the restrainer is removed (2 Thess 2:6-7)
7. Symbolic parallels (2 Peter 2:5-9)

# 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



# The Olivet Discourse

## Is the Rapture in the Olivet Discourse?

### Matthew 24–25



Andy Woods, Th.M., J.D., PhD.  
Sr. Pastor, Sugar Land Bible Church  
President – Chafer Theological Seminary

# Preview of Matthew 24–25

- I. The problem
- II. The larger context
- III. The immediate context (23:37-39)
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# 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 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

# A Comparison of the Olivet and Upper Room Discourses

<b>Discourse</b>	Olivet	Upper Room
<b>Scripture</b>	Matt 24–25	John 13–17
<b>Location</b>	Mount of Olives	Upper Room
<b>Passion week</b>	Third day	Sixth day
<b>General focus</b>	Farewell: Israel	Hello: Church
<b>Specific focus</b>	Israel's future	Divine provisions
<b>Prompting</b>	Temple's destruction	Christ's imminent departure
<b>Explanations</b>	Written OT	Unwritten NT
<b>Apostles</b>	Israel (Matt. 19:28)	Church (Eph. 2:20)

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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 24:1-2

“<sup>1</sup> Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to **point out the temple buildings** to Him. <sup>2</sup> And He said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.”



## Luke 21:5-7

“<sup>5</sup> And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, <sup>6</sup> ‘As *for* these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down.’ <sup>7</sup> They questioned Him, saying, ‘Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what *will be* the sign when these things are about to take place?’”



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# 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)*



## Deuteronomy 28:49-50

“<sup>49</sup> The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand, <sup>50</sup> a nation of fierce countenance who will have no respect for the old, nor show favor to the young.”





# Israel's Judgments

- Division of the kingdom in 931 B.C. (1 Kgs. 12)
- Assyrian judgment in 722 B.C. (2 Kgs. 17)
- Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C. (2 Kgs. 25)
- Roman judgment in A.D. 70 (Luke 19:41-44)







## 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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## Luke 21:20-24

“<sup>20</sup> But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. <sup>21</sup> Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; <sup>22</sup> because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled. <sup>23</sup> Woe to those who are pregnant and to . . .



## Luke 21:20-24

. . . those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people;<sup>24</sup> and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”



## Matthew 24:3

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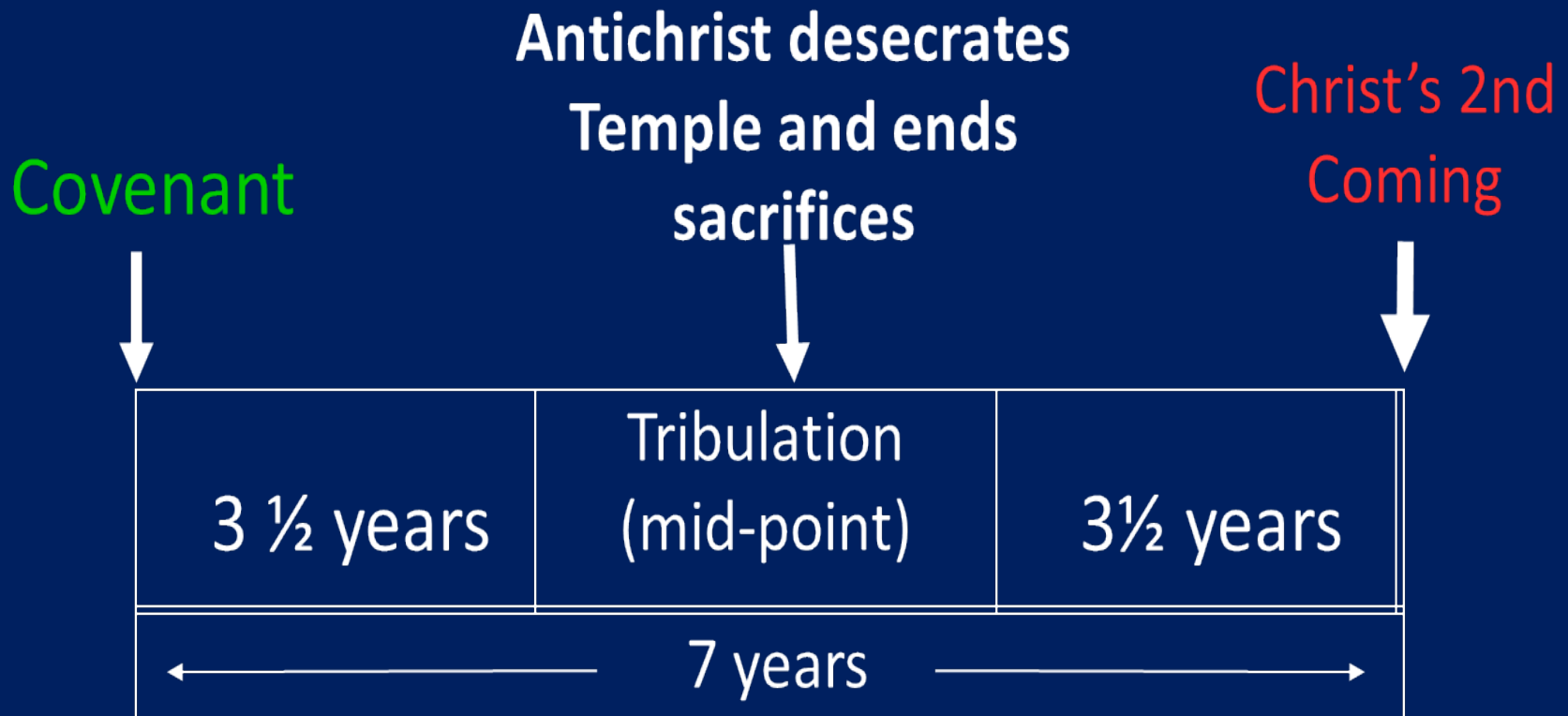


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# DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



## Jeremiah 30:6-7

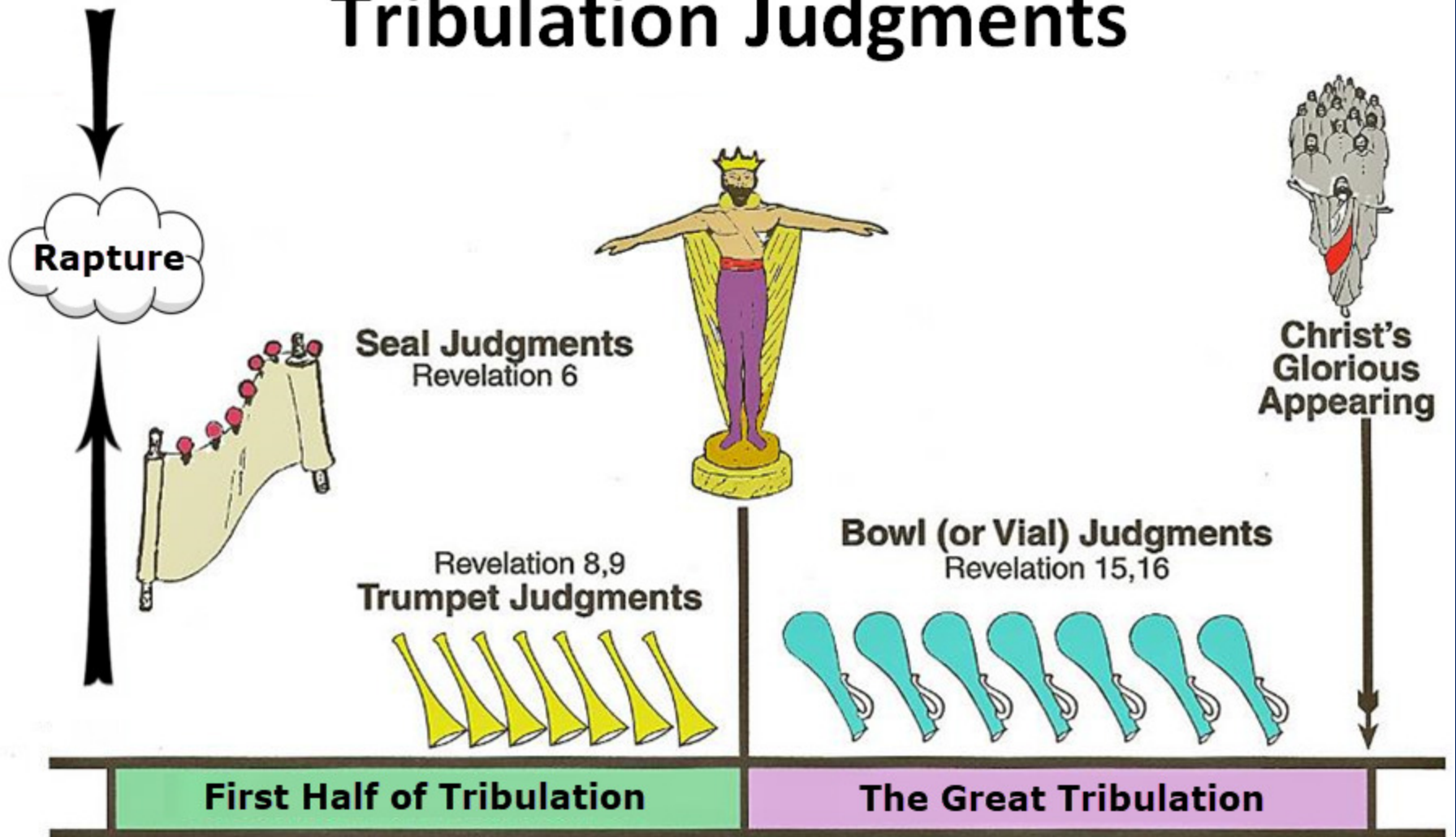
“<sup>6</sup> Ask now, and see If a male can give birth. Why do I see every man With his hands on his loins, as a woman in childbirth? And why have all faces turned pale? <sup>7</sup> Alas! for that day is great, There is none like it; And it is the time of Jacob’s distress (Gen. 32:8; 35:10), But he will be saved from it.”



# Matt 24 / Rev 6 Parallels

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

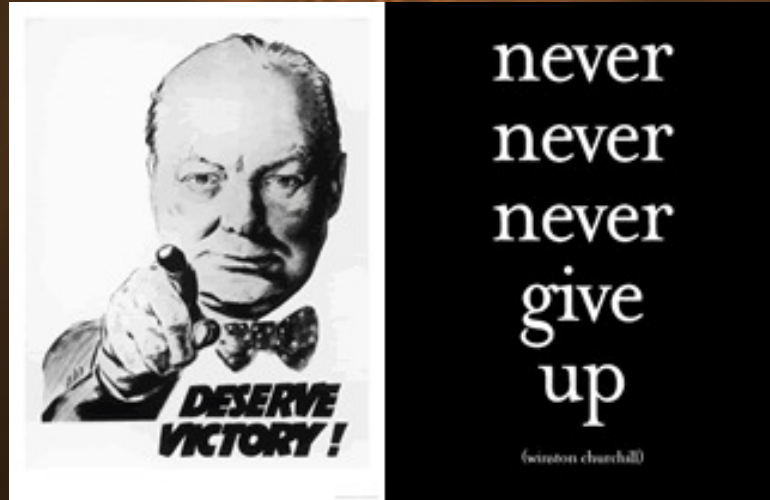
# Tribulation Judgments





# Matthew 24:13

“But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.”





# John MacArthur

*Matthew 24–25, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody, 1989), 28.*

**"But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved...his** endurance will be a Spirit-empowered product and proof of the reality that he is saved. Neither the high cost of discipleship nor the deception of false prophets nor the enticement of sin will cause true believers to renounce Christ, because He Himself will protect them from defection. Endurance is always a mark of salvation...The perseverance of the saints in faith is a very basic element of salvation teaching in the New Testament. It states that people who are genuinely saved do not depart from the faith (see John 8: 31; 1 Cor. 15: 1-2; Col. 1: 21-23; Heb. 2: 1-3; 3: 14; 4: 14; 6: 11-12; 10: 39; 12: 14; James 1: 2-4)...Endurance...does give evidence of the spiritual life that resides in the believer..."

# CONNECTING REV 12 & ANTI-SEMITISM



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

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



Israel flees

1260 days

## Matthew 24:31

<sup>31</sup> “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 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.”



## 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 3:1-2

“Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”



## Matthew 4:17

“From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”





## Matthew 10:5-7

“These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them:  
“Do not go in *the* way of *the* Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans; <sup>6</sup> but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”



## Luke 10:9

“Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come...and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”



# 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 Outline

Pedigree of the king (1–2)

- ◆ Preparation of the king (3–4)

- ◆ Pedagogy of the king (5–7)

- Power of the king (8–9)

- Program of the king (10)

- Progressive rejection of the king (11–12)

- Preparation of the king's disciples (13–20)

- Presentation & rejection of the king (21–23)

- ◆ Prophecies of the king (24–25)

- ◆ Passion of the king (26–27)

Proof of the king (28)

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Proof of the king (28)

# Kingdom Gospel vs. Personal Gospel

	<b>Kingdom Gospel</b>	<b>Personal Gospel</b>
Biblical example	Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 10:5-7	Acts 16:30-31
Target audience	National Israel (Matt. 10:5-7)	All nations (Matt. 28:18-20)
Type of salvation offered	National	Personal and individual
Portrayal of Christ	National savior and king	Personal savior
Kingdom expectancy	Imminent	Absent
Contribution to God's program	Appearing of the kingdom	Building of the church (Matt. 16:18; Rom. 11:25b)

# Kingdom Gospel vs. Personal Gospel

	<b>Kingdom Gospel</b>	<b>Personal Gospel</b>
Scriptural foundation	Mosaic Covenant (Exod. 19:5-6; Deut. 28:15-68)	Gen. 3:15; 15:6; John 3:16; Gal 3:16
When preached?	Early Gospels and Tribulation (Matt. 3:2; 24:14)	Church Age
Preached today?	No	Yes
Perpetual availability?	No	Yes
Which Gospels?	Synoptics	John
Cross, atonement, resurrection, Ascension, Holy Spirit, forgiveness of sins	No	Yes



## Acts 16:30-31

<sup>30</sup> and after he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup> They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

**WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?**



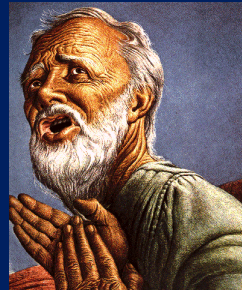
# Belief – God's One Condition for Justification

## Gen 15:6

Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

## John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.



## Acts 16:30-31

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."



ROME

Philippi

Corinth

EPHESUS

Antioch

Jerusalem

Black Sea

Mediterranean Sea

ASIA MINOR

Philippi

Map by Gabriel Morris



# Lewis Sperry Chafer

*Salvation: God's Marvelous Work of Grace* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1991), 49–50; idem, *Grace: The Glorious Theme* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1972), 132.

“Such insistence is too often based on Scripture which is addressed to the covenant people, Israel. They . . . being covenant people, are privileged to return to God on the grounds of their covenant by repentance. There is much Scripture both in the Old Testament and in the New that calls this one nation to its long-predicted repentance...The preaching of John the Baptist, of Jesus and the early message of the disciples, was, ‘repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’; but it was addressed only to Israel (Matt. 10:5, 6).”

“This good news to that nation was the ‘gospel of the kingdom,’ and should in no wise be confused with the Gospel of saving grace.”



# Charles Ryrie

*So Great A Salvation*, Pages 36-37

“Even the New Testament uses the word *gospel* to mean various types of good news, so one has to describe what good news is in view. . . . In the Gospel of Matthew, all but one time the word *gospel* is used concerning the good news of the gospel of the kingdom. This is the message of John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1–2), of our Lord (Matthew 4:17), and of the twelve disciples when they were first sent out by the Lord (Matthew 10:5–7). What was the good news about the kingdom? The correct answer lies in the concept and hope of the kingdom that the Jewish people had at the time of the first coming. . .



## Charles Ryrie

*So Great A Salvation, Pages 36-37*

“. . . of Christ. In fact, their hope was for the establishment of the promised rule of the Messiah in His kingdom on this earth, and in the kingdom that would exalt the Jewish people and free them from the rule of Rome under which they lived. But the rule of heaven did not arrive during Jesus' lifetime because the people refused to repent and meet the spiritual conditions for the kingdom. Most only wanted a political deliverance without having to meet any personal requirements for change of life. So the kingdom did not arrive because the people would not prepare properly for it.”

# Distinctions Between 144,000 & Multitude

**144,000**

**MULTITUDE**

**Revelation 7:1-8**

**Revelation 7:9-17**

**Numbered**

**Innumerable**

**Jews**

**All nations**

**Sealed**

**Slain**

**Sealed before the Tribulation**

**Converted out of the Tribulation**

## 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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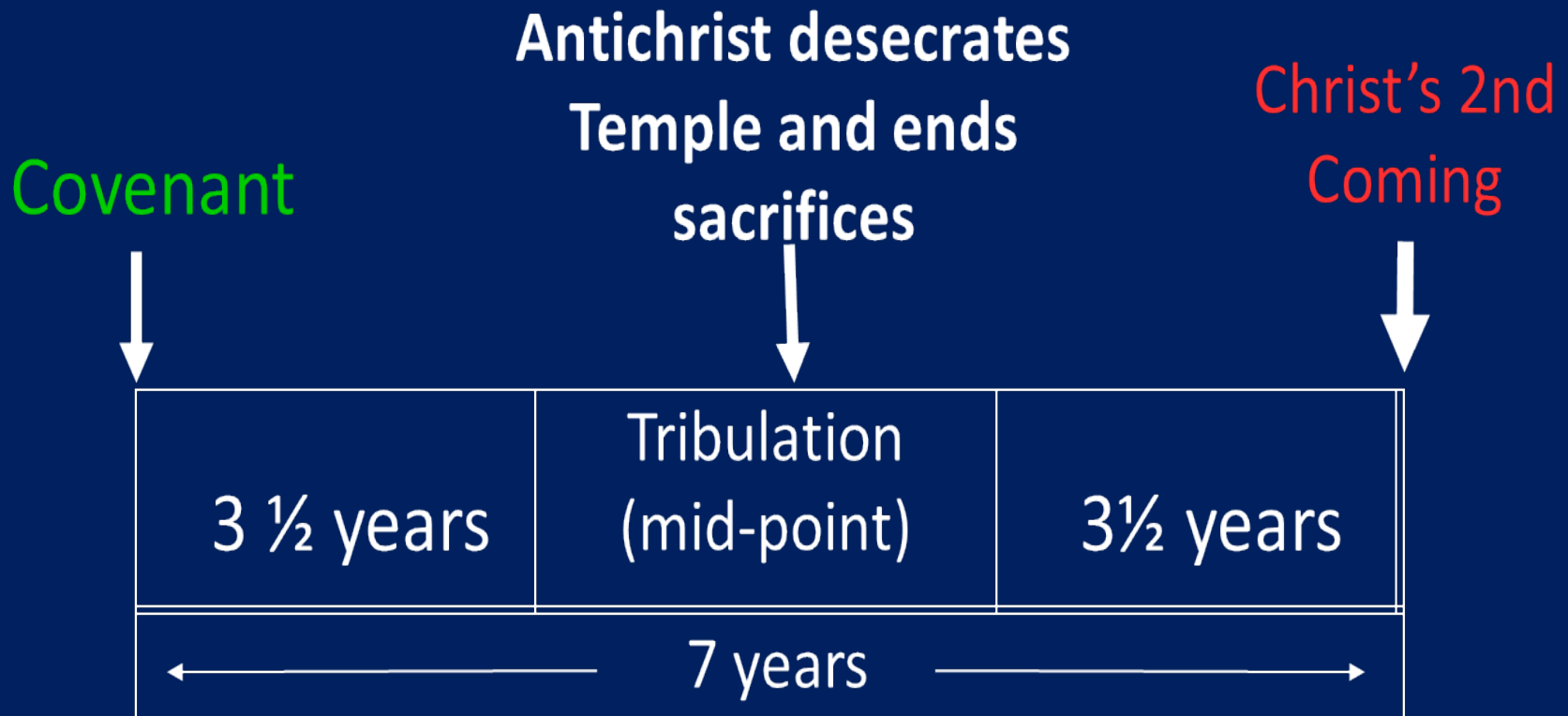


## Matthew 24:15-16, 20

**“<sup>15</sup> Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand) <sup>16</sup> then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains...<sup>20</sup> But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.”**



# DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



## Daniel 11:31

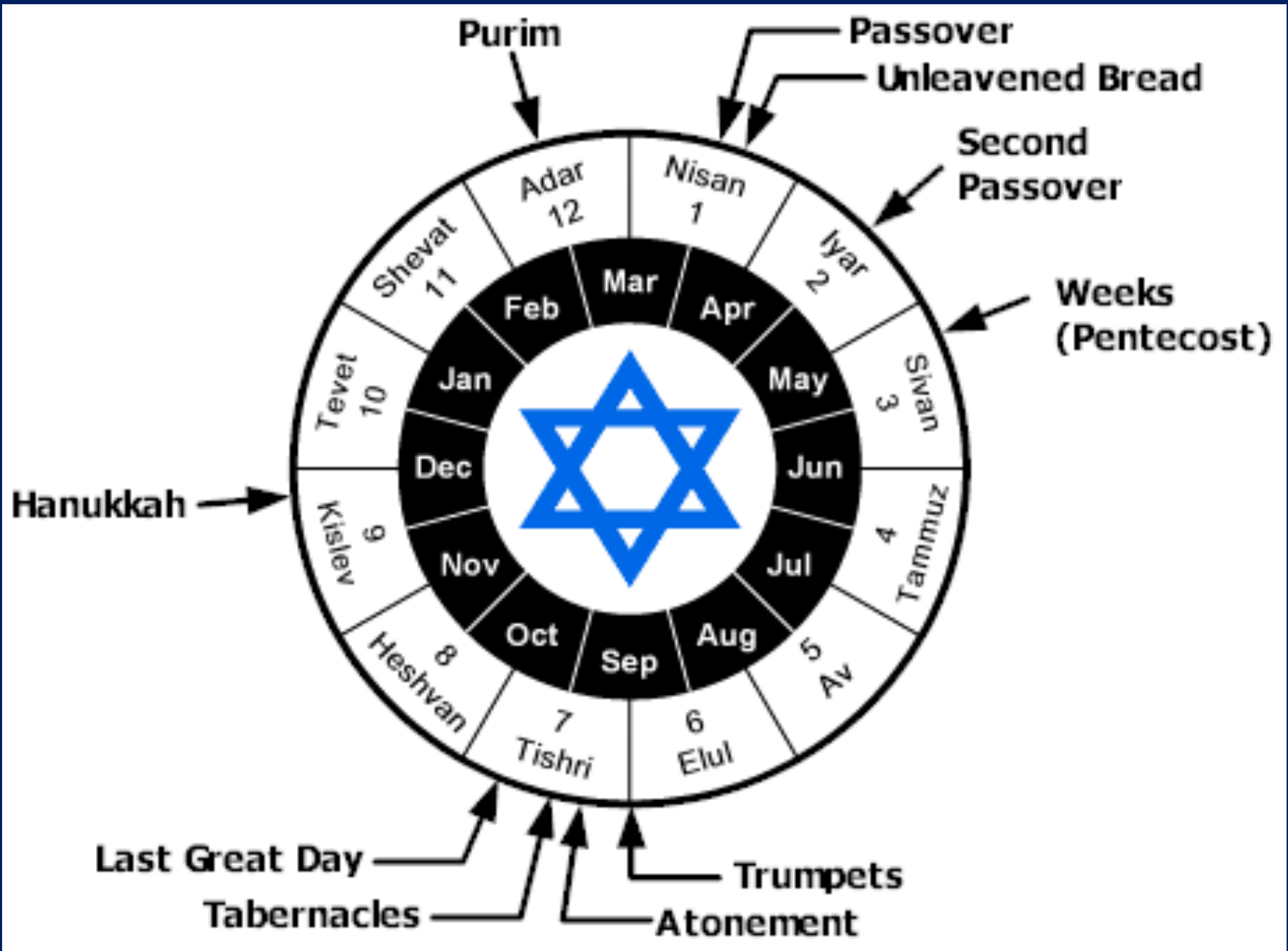
Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.



# HANUKKAH

- The Maccabean revolt
- December 25<sup>th</sup> 165 BC : the temple is liberated and rededicated
- 1 & 2 Maccabees
- The miracle of the lamp oil
- Hanukkah “Feast of Dedication” (festival of lights).
- Christmas / Jewish Holiday
- John 10:22-24





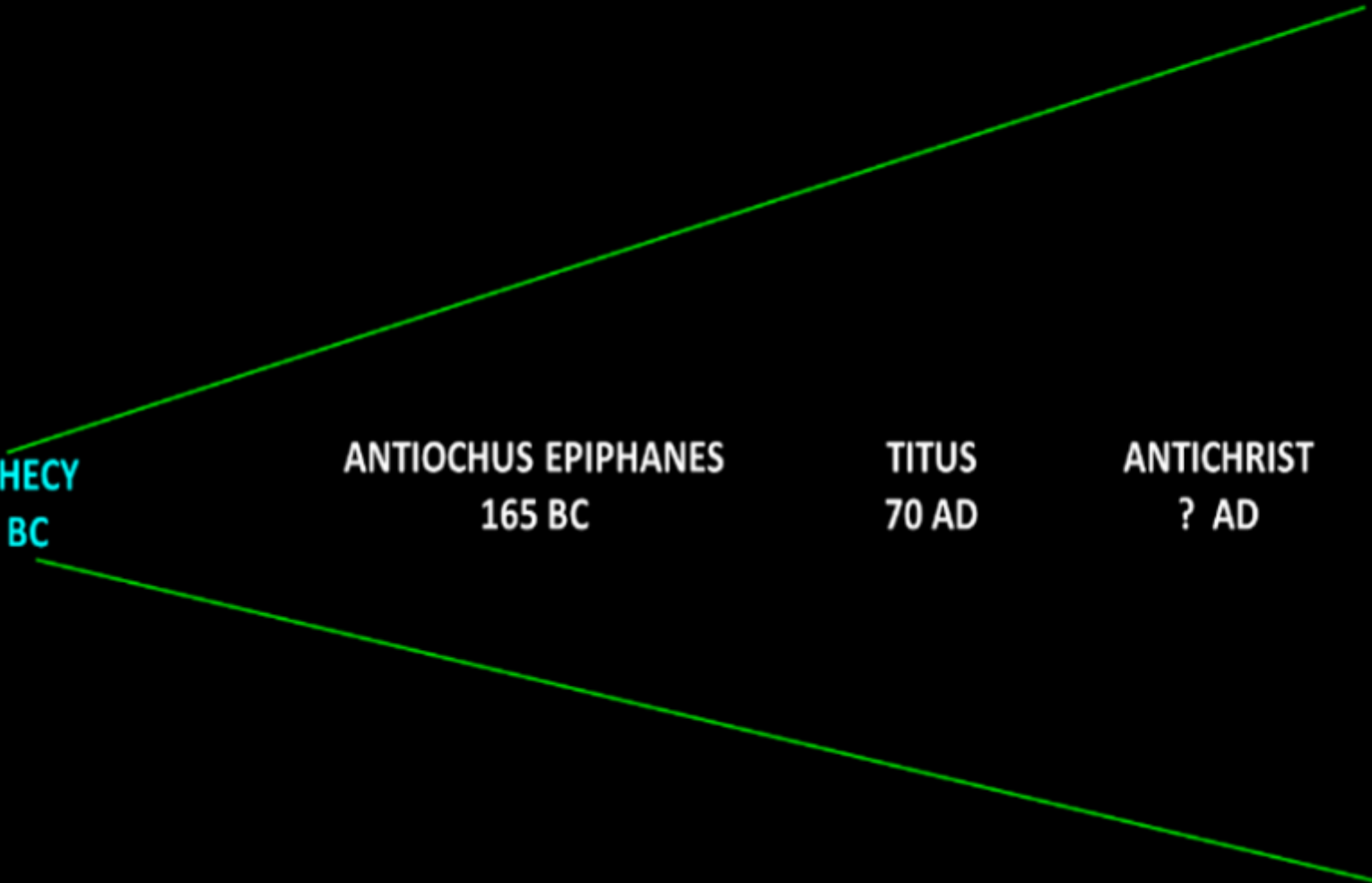
# Typology of Antichrist

PROPHECY  
550 BC

ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES  
165 BC

TITUS  
70 AD

ANTICHRIST  
? AD



## Daniel 9:24

Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*.





## Matthew 24:15-16, 20

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MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Tel Aviv-Yafo

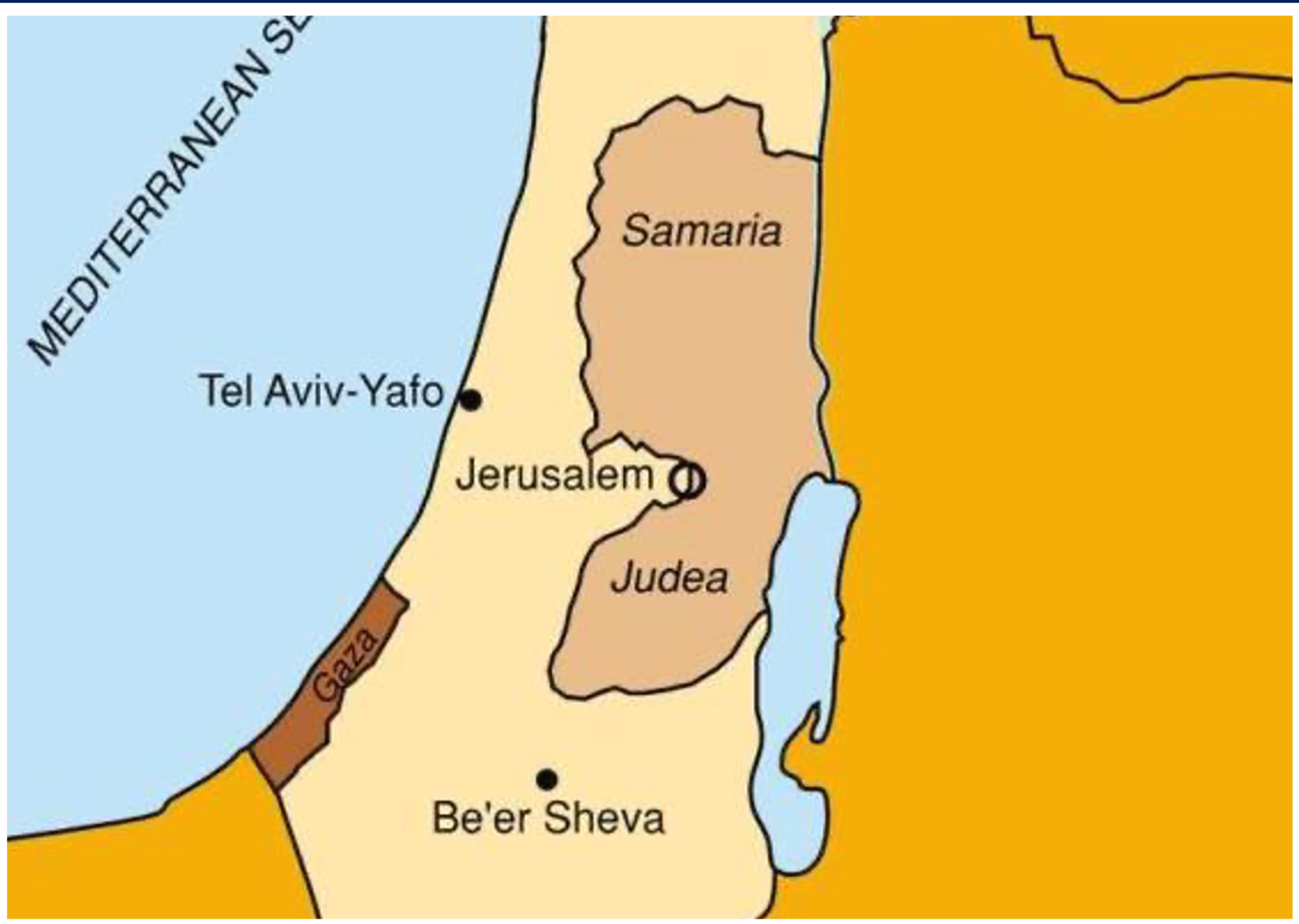
Jerusalem

Samaria

Judea

Gaza

Be'er Sheva



## Matthew 24:15-16, 20

“<sup>15</sup> Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand) <sup>16</sup> then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains...<sup>20</sup> But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.”





## Randall Price

“Historical Problems with a First-Century Fulfillment of the Olivet Discourse,” in *The End Times Controversy*, ed. Tim LaHaye and Thomas Ice (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2003), 394.

“...stormy weather comes with torrential rains that make crossing wadis in the Judean hills treacherous...concern about the possibility of travel on the Sabbath, where rabbinic law prohibited going more than a Sabbath day’s journey (i.e., beyond the immediate vicinity of the city)...”

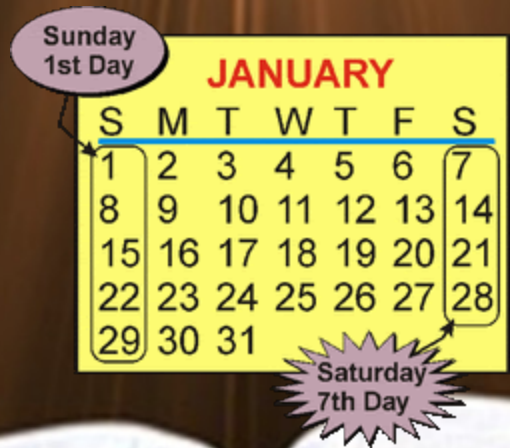
## Matthew 24:15-16, 20

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# Acts 20:7

“7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.”



# 1 Corinthians 16:2

“<sup>1</sup> Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. <sup>2</sup> On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.”

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				





## Exodus 20:8-11

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.”



## Exodus 31:15-17

<sup>15</sup> 'For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a sabbath of complete rest, holy to the LORD; whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall surely be put to death. <sup>16</sup> 'So the sons of Israel shall observe the sabbath, to celebrate the sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.' <sup>17</sup> "It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased *from labor*, and was refreshed."



# Preview of Matthew 24–25

- I. The problem
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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.”



## 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.”

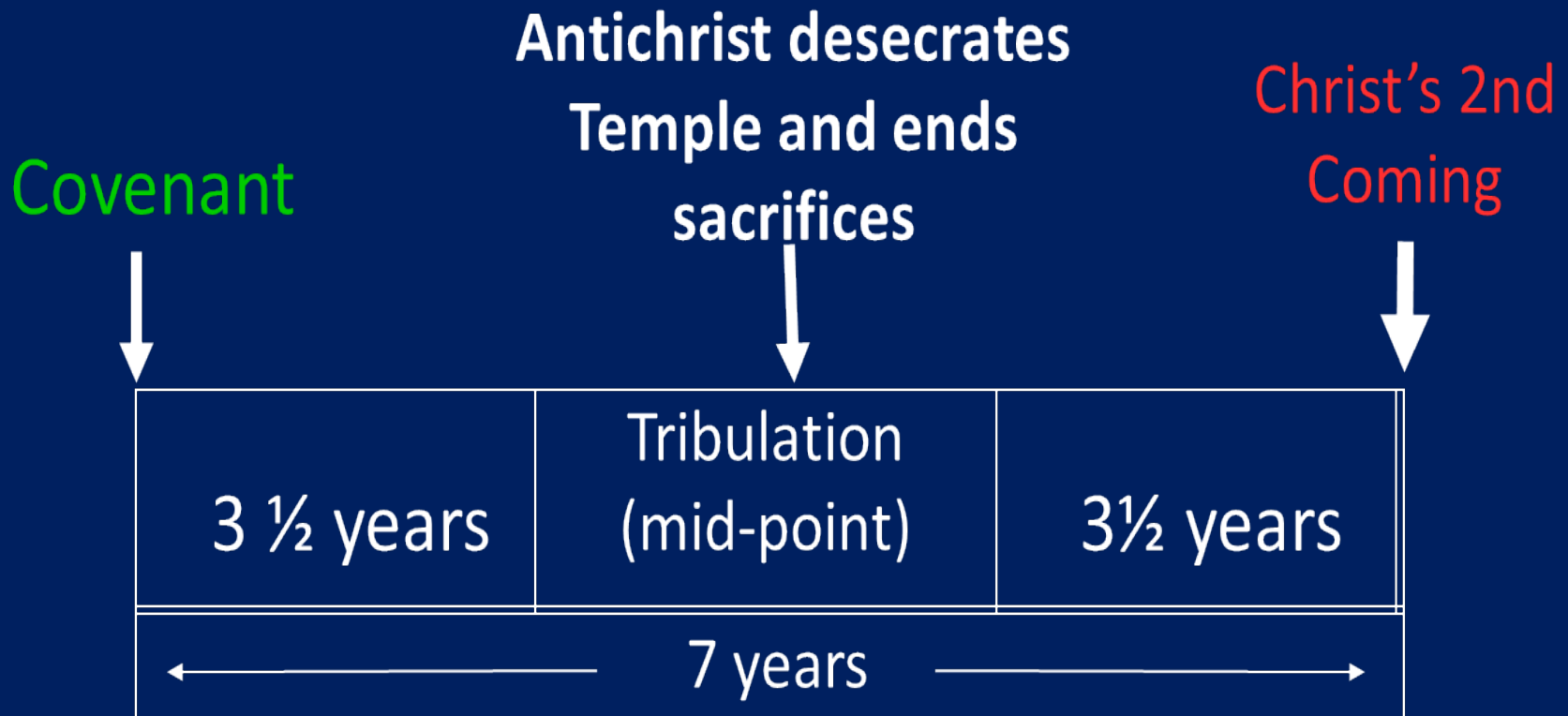


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# DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



# CONNECTING REV 12 & ANTI-SEMITISM



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

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



Israel flees

1260 days



## Matthew 24:21-22

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## Isaiah 13:12

“I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold and mankind than the gold of Ophir.”



## 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.”



## Deuteronomy 7:7

<sup>7</sup> “The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.”



## Isaiah 65:21-22

<sup>21</sup> “They will build houses and inhabit *them*; They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit.<sup>22</sup> They will not build and another inhabit, They will not plant and another eat; For as the lifetime of a tree, *so will be* the days of My people, And My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands.”



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# VII. The Second Advent

(Matthew 24:23-31)

- A. False returns of Christ (24:23-26)
- B. The true return of Christ (24:27-31)



# VII. The Second Advent (Matthew 24:23-31)

- A. False returns of Christ (24:23-26)
- B. The true return of Christ (24:27-31)





# Antichrist's Satanic Miracles

(2 Thessalonians 2:9)

**MIRACLE**

**GREEK**

**CHRIST'S MINISTRY**

**Powers**

*Dynamis*

**Matt. 11:20**

**Signs**

*Semēion*

**John 20:30**

**Wonders**

*Teras*

**Acts 2:22**

# Satanic/Demonic Miracles

- Exod. 7–8
- Deut. 13:1-3
- Matt. 7:21-23; 24:24
- Acts 8:9; 16:16
- Gal. 1:6-9
- 2 Thess. 2:9
- Rev. 13:3, 13, 15; 16:13-14



# VII. The Second Advent

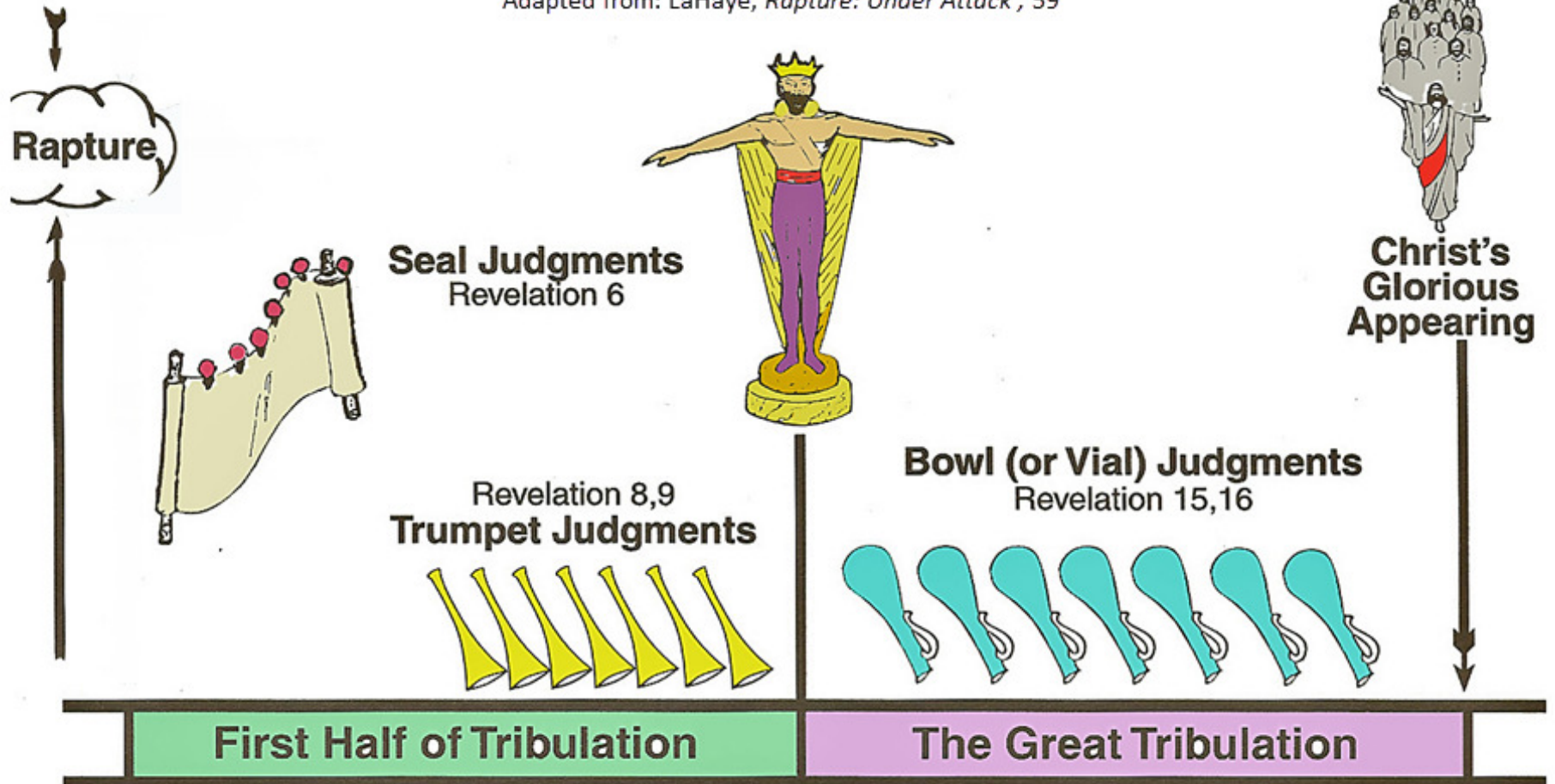
(Matthew 24:23-31)

- A. False returns of Christ (24:23-26)
- B. The true return of Christ (24:27-31)



# Tribulation Judgments

Adapted from: LaHaye, *Rapture: Under Attack*, 59





# Seven Bowls

(Revelation 16)



- 1<sup>st</sup> Bowl (16:1-2) – Boils
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bowl (16:3) – Sea becomes blood
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bowl (16:4-7) – Freshwater destroyed
- 4<sup>th</sup> Bowl (16:8-9) – Sun scorches man
- 5<sup>th</sup> Bowl (16:10-11) – Darkness
- 6<sup>th</sup> Bowl (16:13-16) – Euphrates dried
- 7<sup>th</sup> Bowl (16:17-21) – Greatest earthquake

# Isaiah 13/Matthew 24 Connection



■ **Isaiah 13:10; Matthew 24:29**

■ **Isaiah 13:12; Matthew 24:21-22**

## Matthew 24:30

“And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.”



## Matthew 24:30

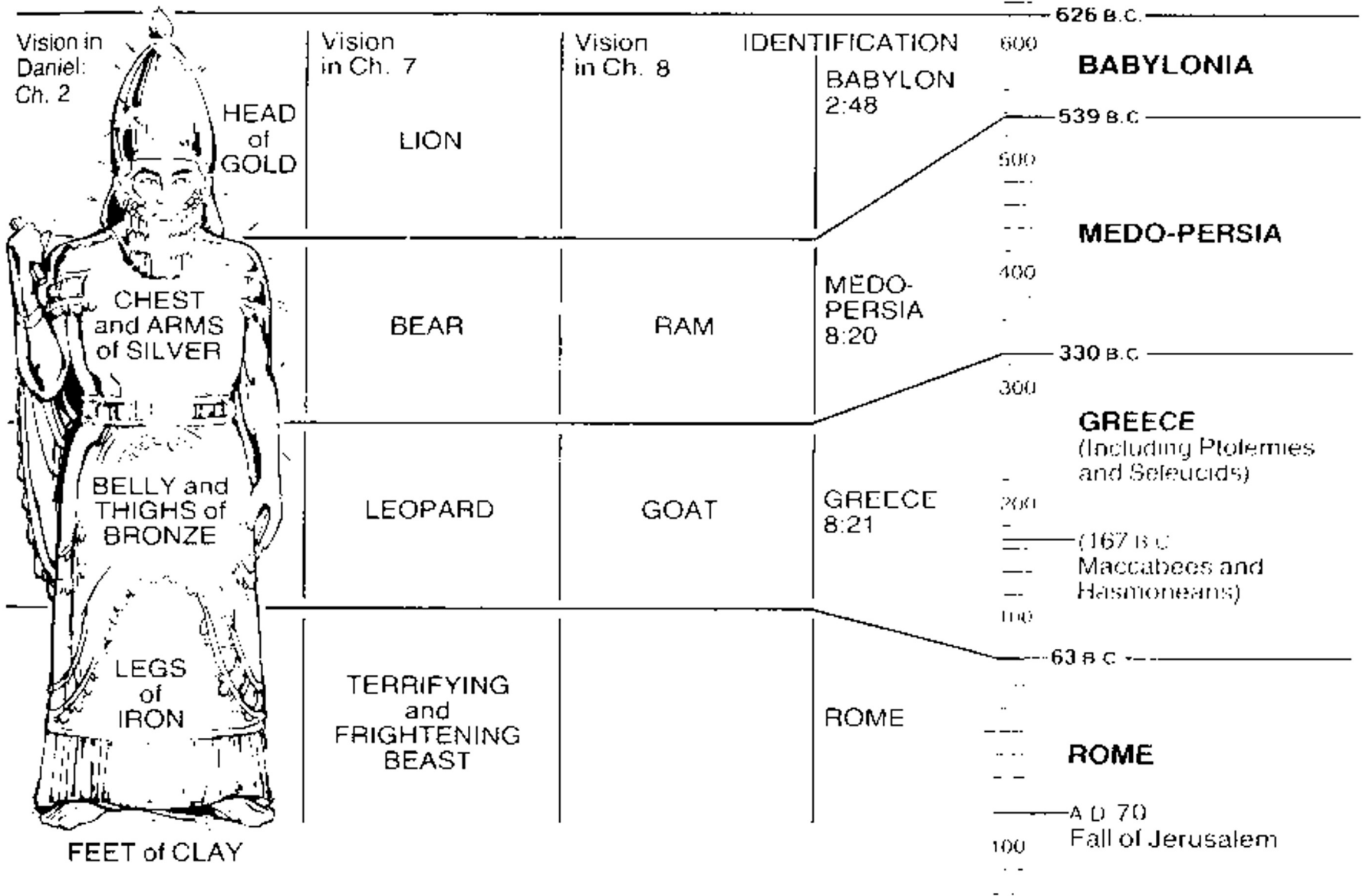
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# Identification of the Four Kingdoms

# Chronology of Major Empires in Daniel



## Matthew 24:30

“And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.”



## 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.”



# John A. Sproule

"An Exegetical Defense of Pretribulationism" (Th.D. diss., Grace Theological Seminary, 1981), 53.

“Where does Paul mention the darkening of the sun (Matt. 24:29), the moon not giving its light (Matt. 24:29), the stars falling from the sky (Matt. 24:29), the powers of the heavens being shaken (Matt. 24:29), all the tribes of the earth mourning (Matt. 24:30), all the world seeing the coming of the Son of Man (Matt. 24:30), or God sending forth angels (Matt.24:31)?”

# Paul D. Feinberg

"Response: Paul D. Feinberg," in *The Rapture: Pre-, Mid-, or Posttribulational*, ed. Richard R. Reiter (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984), 225.

“Notice what happens when you examine both passages carefully. In Matthew the Son of Man comes on the clouds, while in 1 Thessalonians 4 the ascending believers are in them. In Matthew the angels gather the elect; in 1 Thessalonians the Lord Himself (note the emphasis) gathers the believers. Thessalonians only speaks of the voice of the archangel. In the Olivet Discourse nothing is said about a resurrection, while in the latter text it is the central point. In the two passages the differences in what will take place prior to the appearance of Christ is striking. Moreover, the order of ascent is absent from Matthew in spite of the fact that it is the central part of the epistle.”

## Isaiah 27:13

“It will come about also in that day that a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were perishing in the land of Assyria and who were scattered in the land of Egypt will come and worship the LORD in the holy mountain at Jerusalem.”

RESTORATION  
IS COMING!



## 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.”



## Isaiah 11:11-12

Then it will happen on that day that the Lord Will again recover the second time with His hand The remnant of His people, who will remain, From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, And from the islands of the sea.<sup>12</sup> And He will lift up a standard for the nations And assemble the banished ones of Israel, And will gather the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.





## 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 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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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.’ ”



## 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 3:9

“and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.”





## Romans 2:28-29

“<sup>28</sup> For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. <sup>29</sup> But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.”



## Romans 9:6

“But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel.”

National  
Israel

The  
Believing  
Remnant



## Revelation 2:9

“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.”



# Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

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

## 1 Corinthians 12:13

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”



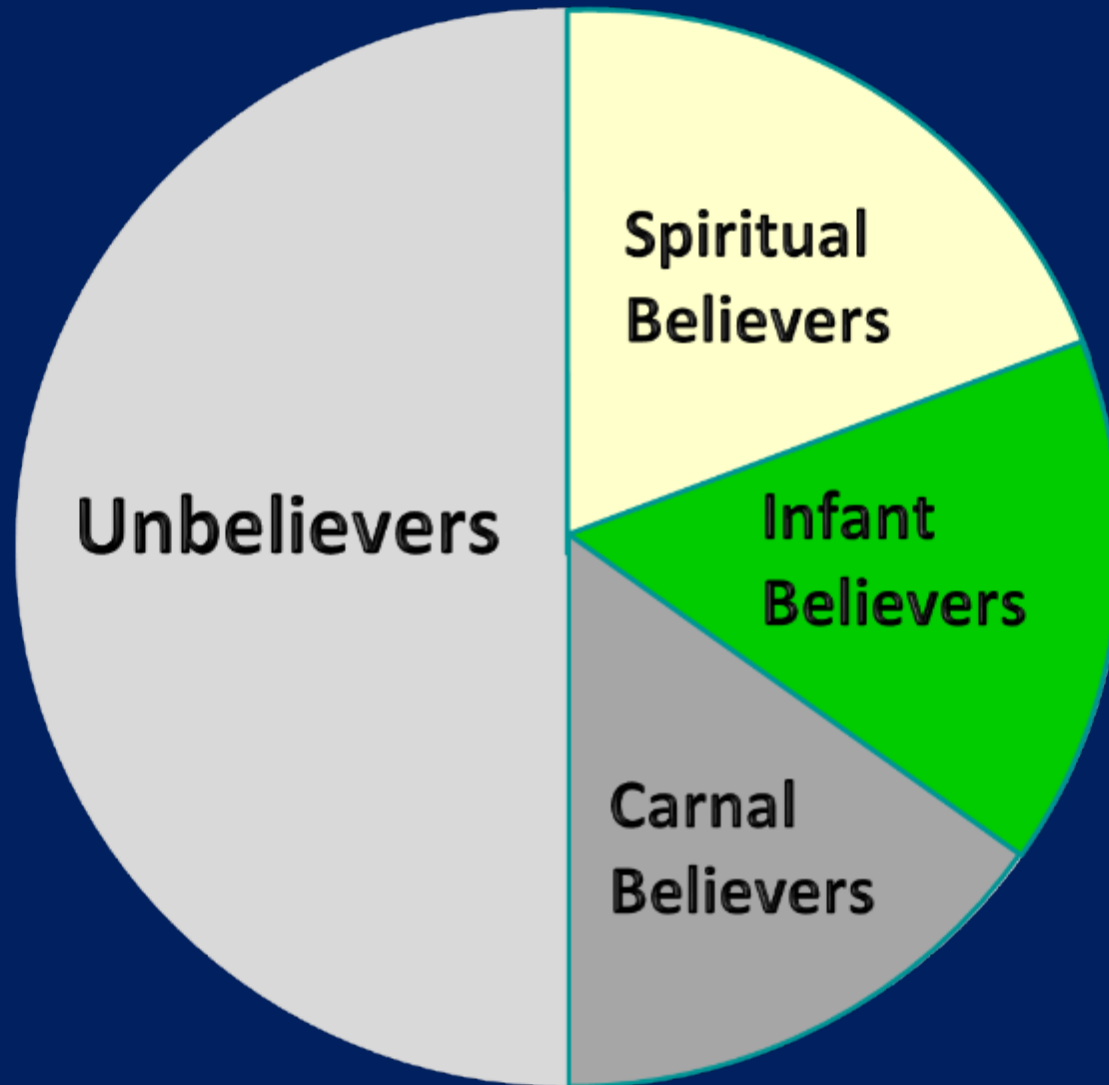
## 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual** *people* but as to **carnal**, as to **babes** in Christ.

<sup>2</sup> 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; <sup>3</sup> 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



# 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)
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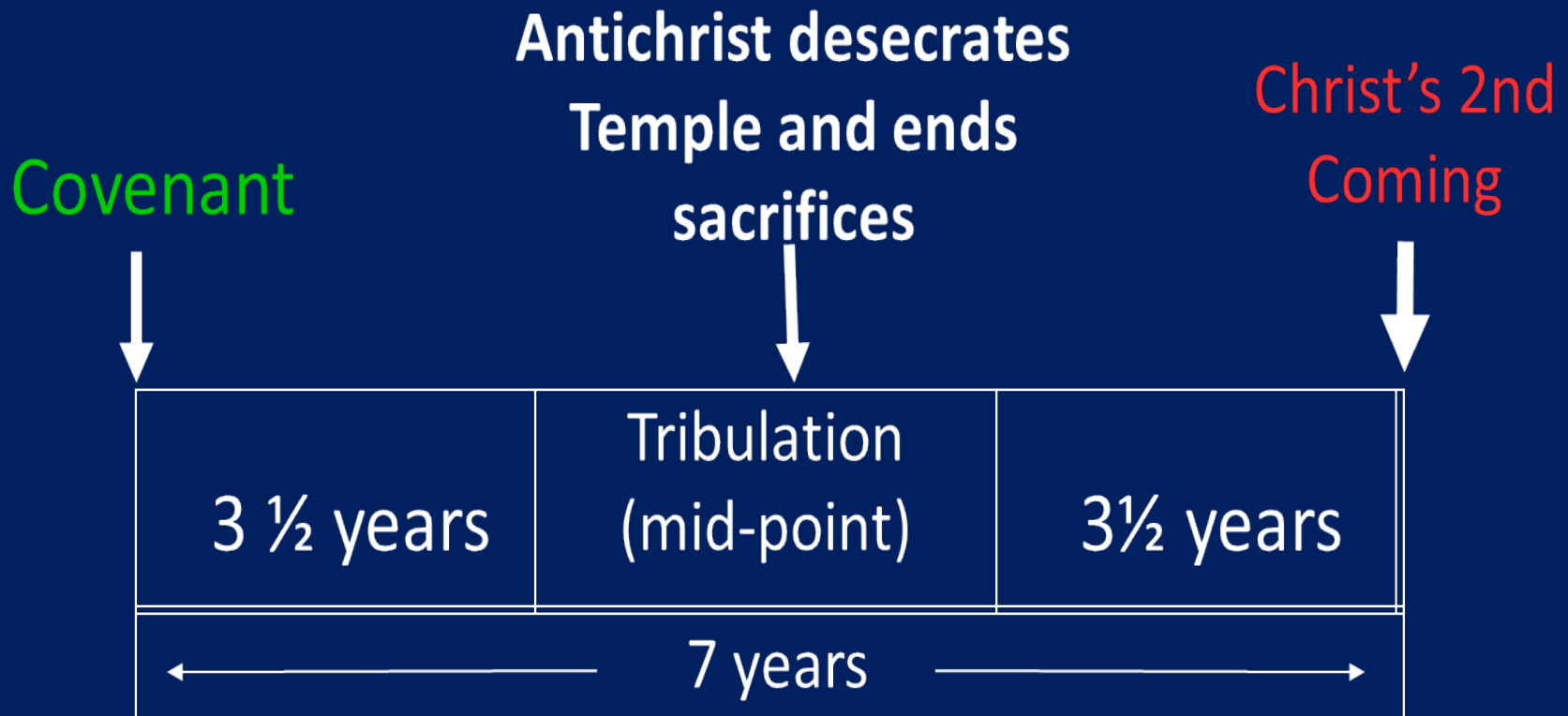
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## Matthew 24:36-41

<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. <sup>40</sup> Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.”



# 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



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## Dr. John Walvoord

*Matthew: Thy Kingdom Come* (Chicago: Moody, 1974), 193.

“According to Matthew 24:40-41, ‘Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.’ Because at the rapture, believers will be taken out of the world, some have confused this with the rapture of the church. Here, however, the situation is the reverse. The one who is left, is left to enter the kingdom; the one who is taken, is taken in judgment. This is in keeping with the illustration of the time of Noah when the ones taken away are the unbelievers.”

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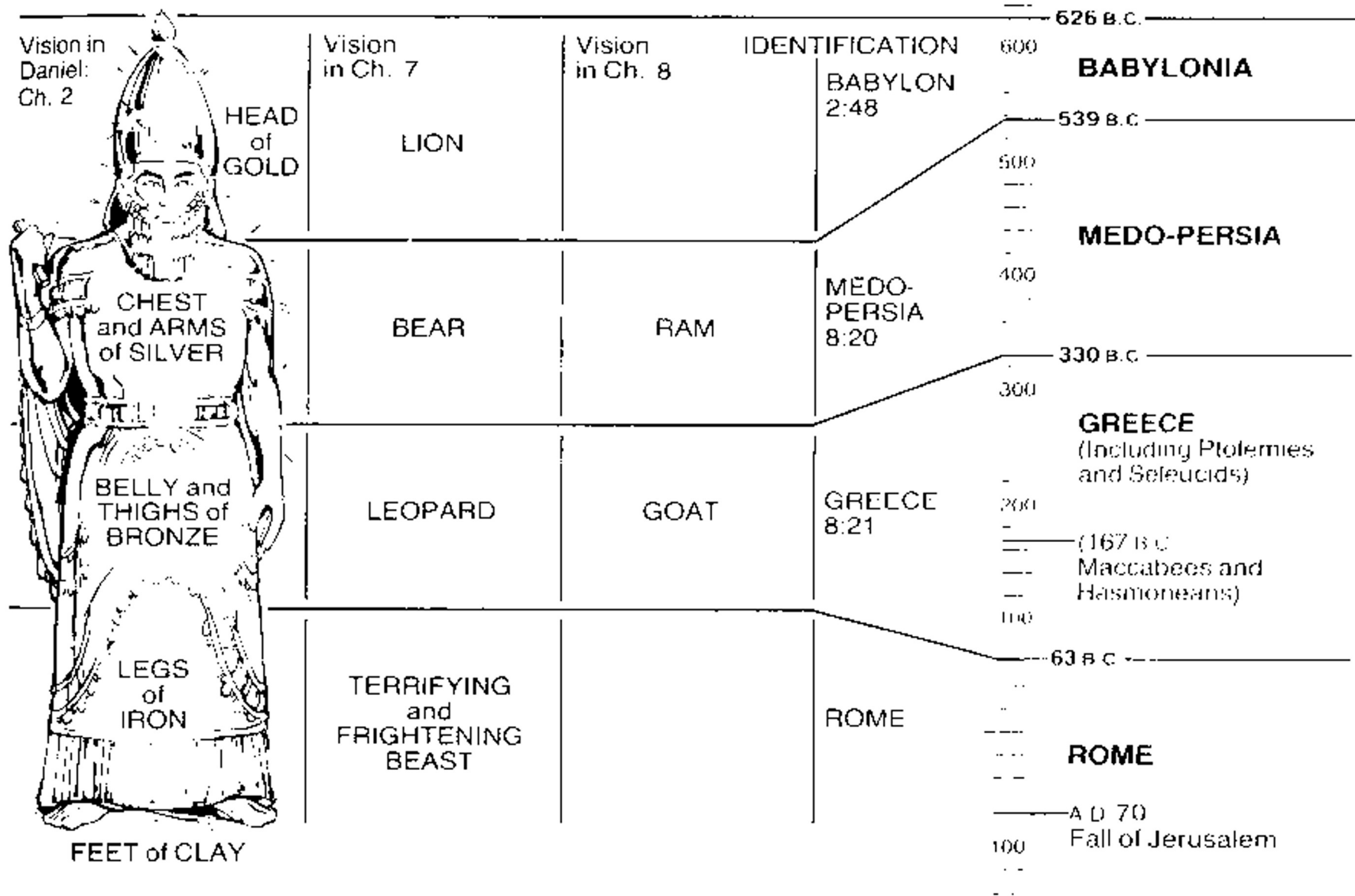
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## Luke 17:34-37

<sup>34</sup> “I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left. <sup>35</sup> “There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left. <sup>36</sup> “Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.” <sup>37</sup> And answering they said to Him, **“Where, Lord?”** And He said to them, **“Where the body is, there also the vultures will be gathered.”**



# 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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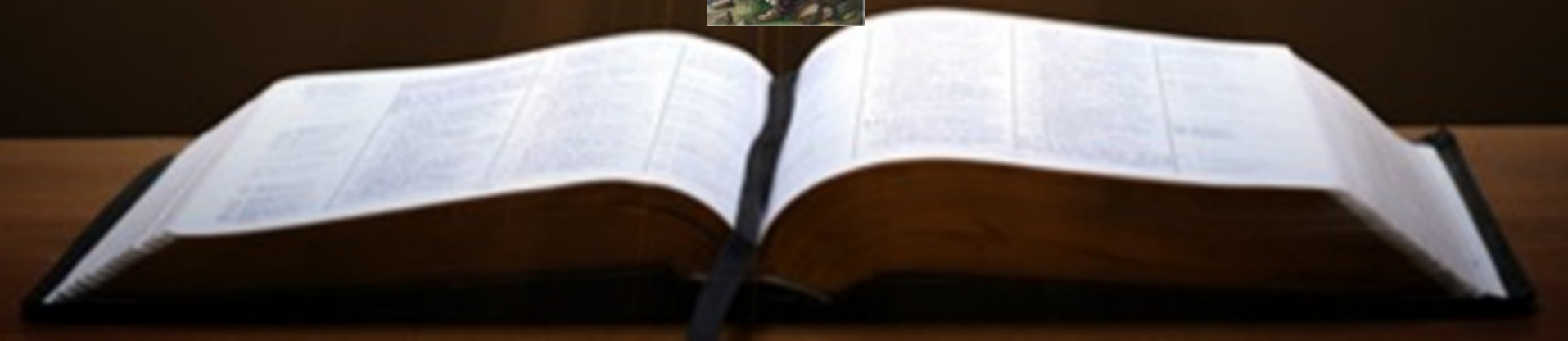
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## John 14:1-4

<sup>1</sup> “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you (paralambanō) to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. <sup>4</sup> “And you know the way where I am going.”





# Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

*Yeshua: The Life of Messiah from a Messianic Jewish Perspective*,  
4 vols., vol. 3 (San Antonio, TX: Ariel Ministries, 2017), 365.

“The phrase translated as taken away is not a technical term and could be used in more than one way in the same context. Furthermore, while the same word is used in the English translation, it is not in Greek. Verse 39 contains the verb *airō* (“to raise,” “take up,” “to lift”) and verse 40 the verb is *paralambanō* (“to receive from”), suggesting that the verses might be dealing with two separate concepts.”

# 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



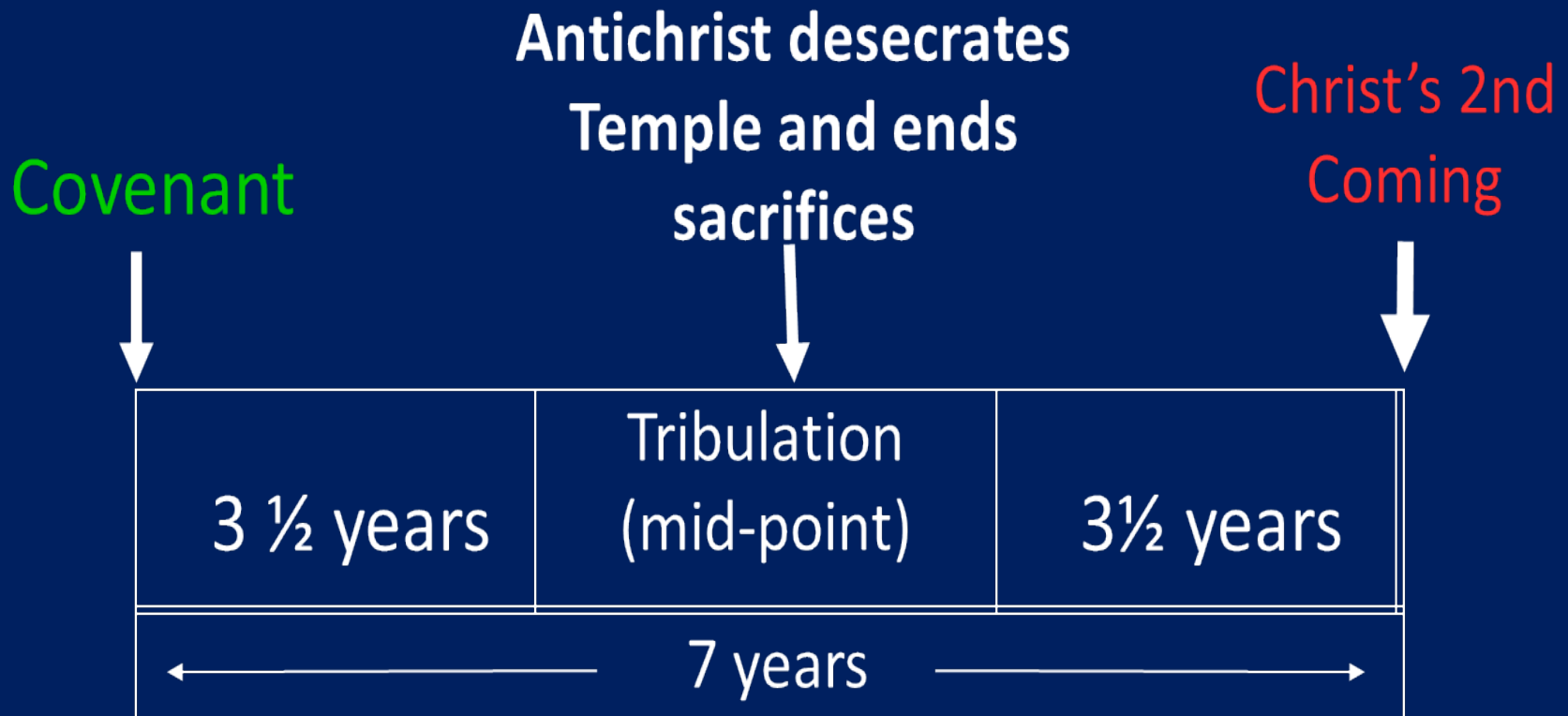
## Matthew 24:36-41

<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. <sup>40</sup> Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> “Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.”





# DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



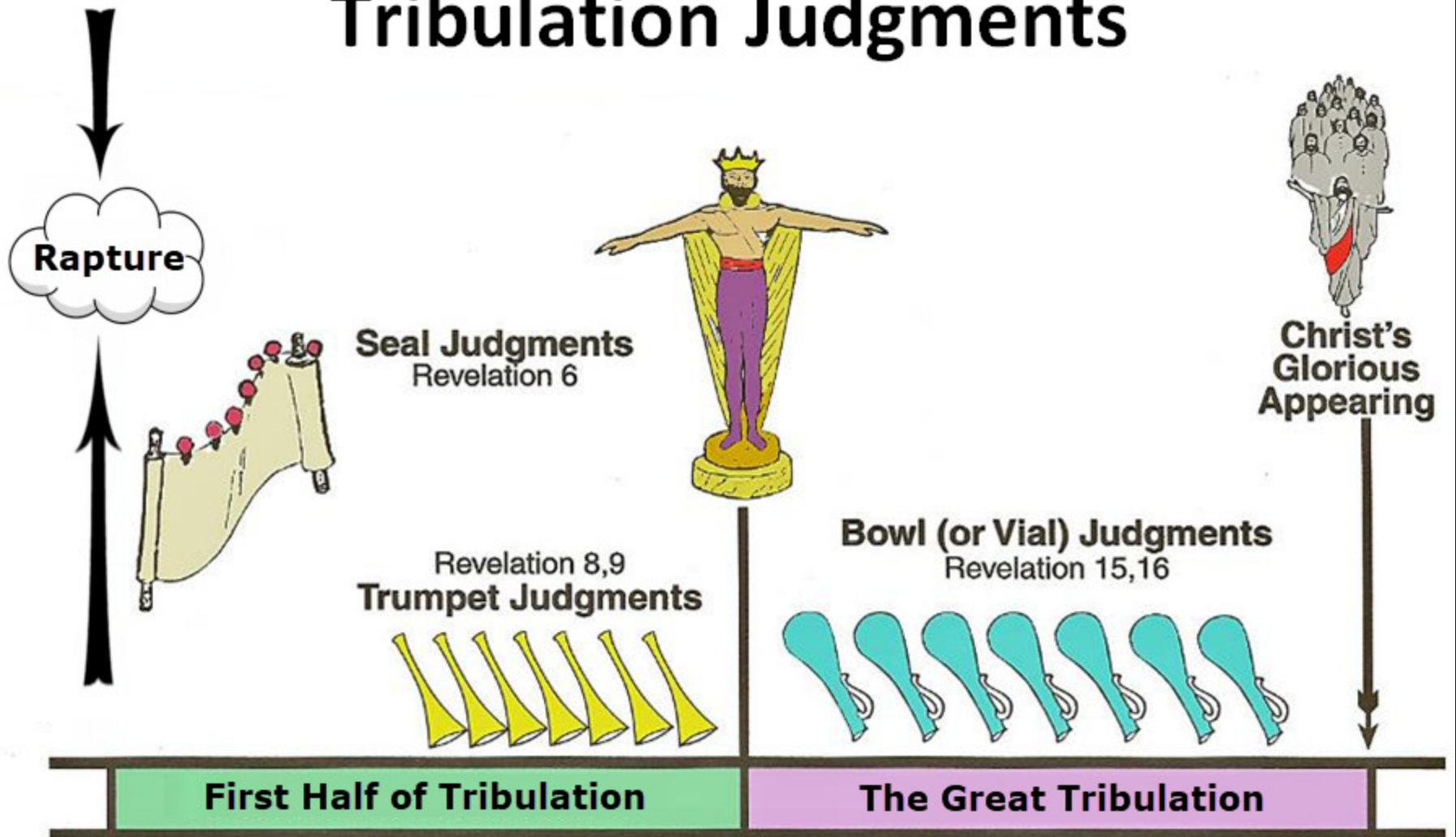


# Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

*Yeshua: The Life of Messiah from a Messianic Jewish Perspective*,  
4 vols., vol. 3 (San Antonio, TX: Ariel Ministries, 2017), 365-66.

“No one will ever know the timing of the rapture. Yeshua noted that the angels of heaven do not know when it will occur (Matt. 24:36). Not even the Son in His humanity knew the timing. Only God the father knows when the believers will be taken up to meet their Messiah in the air. This will always be true of the rapture. The second coming, on the other hand, will occur exactly seven years after the beginning of the seven-year covenant and 42 months, or 1260 days, after the abomination of desolation. **Once the tribulation begins**, the second coming can be accurately calculated, so the passage above must be dealing with the rapture and not the second coming.”

# Tribulation Judgments



## Genesis 6:1-4

“<sup>1</sup> Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup> that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. <sup>3</sup> Then the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.’ . . .



# C. The Comparison of Two Men and Women

Matthew 24:40-41

## 2. Pro-rapture reasons

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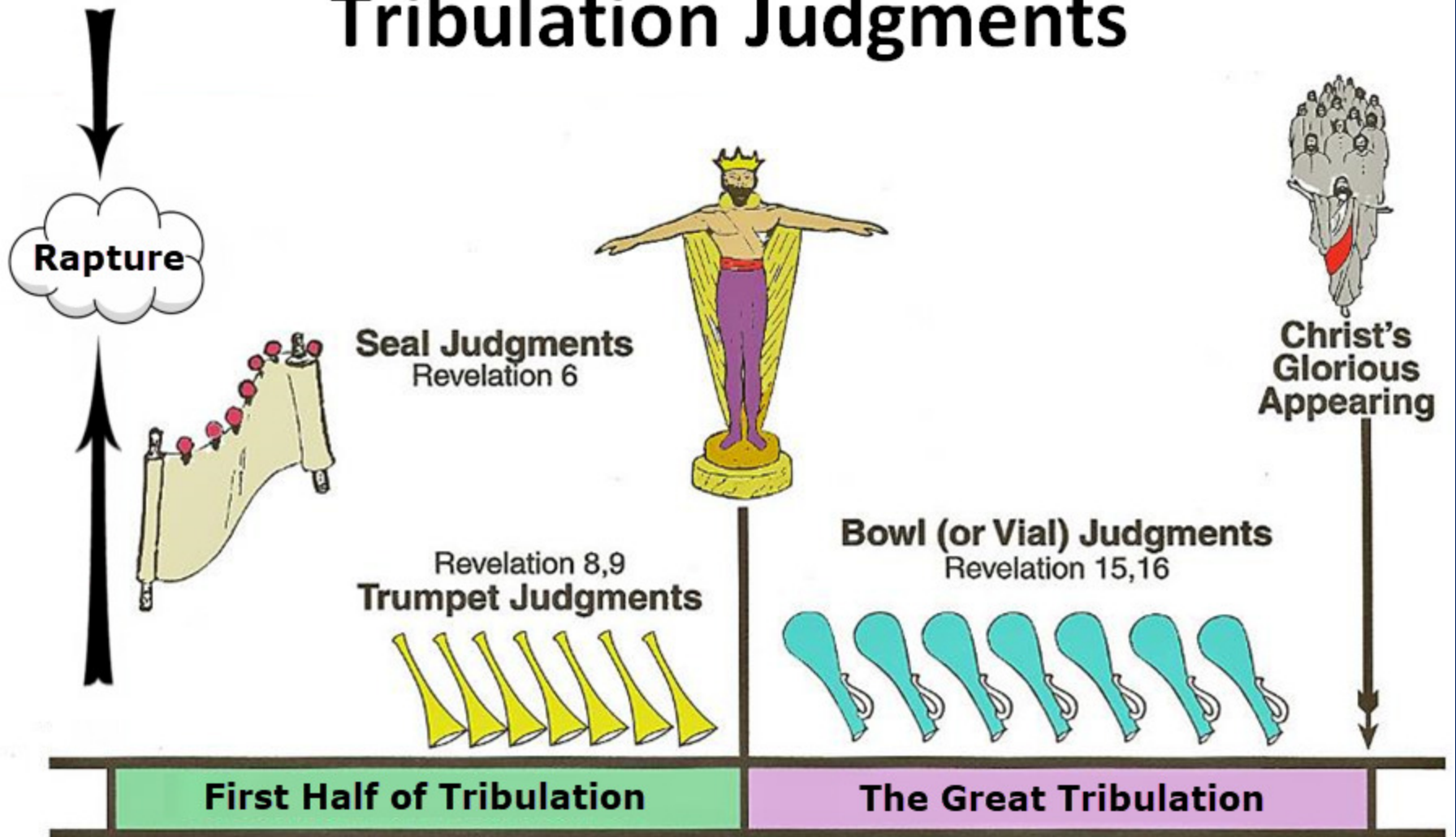


## Luke 17:26-30

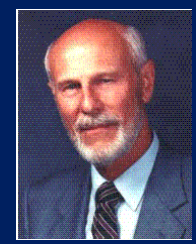
<sup>26</sup> “And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: <sup>27</sup> they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. <sup>28</sup> “It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; <sup>29</sup> but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. <sup>30</sup> “It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.”



# Tribulation Judgments







## Dave Hunt

Dave Hunt, *How Close Are We? Compelling Evidence for the Soon Return of Christ* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1993), 210-11.

“When Christ says, ‘As it was in the days of Noah and Lot,’ it is absolutely certain that He is not describing conditions that will prevail at the time of the Second Coming. Therefore, these must be the conditions which will prevail just prior to the Rapture at a different time—and, obviously, before the devastation of the tribulation period.”



# Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

*Yeshua: The Life of Messiah from a Messianic Jewish Perspective*,  
4 vols., vol. 3 (San Antonio, TX: Ariel Ministries, 2017), 366.

“The rapture will occur when conditions on earth are normal and people are eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage (Matt. 24:38). These are common activities in human society. Marrying and giving in marriage are necessary to propagate life; eating and drinking are essential to sustain it. During the time of Noah, life was normal when suddenly the flood came and took the people away. The rapture will occur in the same manner: *so shall be the coming of the Son of Man* (Matt. 24:39). Nothing spectacular will forewarn people that the believers are about to be taken up. However, things . . .



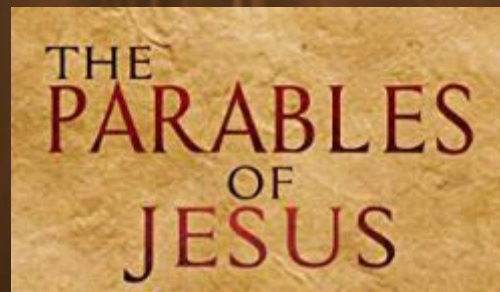
# Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

*Yeshua: The Life of Messiah from a Messianic Jewish Perspective*,  
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. . .will be abnormal at the time of the second coming. Nearly three-quarters of the earth will be destroyed in seven long years of tribulation. A blackness paired with tremendous tidal waves, anarchy, confusion, and perplexity will envelop the world. The Olivet Discourse shows that conditions will be abnormal at the time of the second coming, and so it is better to interpret this passage as referring to the rapture.”

## Matthew 24:32-33

<sup>32</sup> “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; <sup>33</sup> so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door.”





# Dr. Roy B. Zuck

*Basic Bible Interpretation*, p. 215-16.



“Usually a parable, like a sermon illustration, is teaching a single truth. When Jesus explained a number of His parables, He usually...stated one spiritual truth. For example when the man found his one lost sheep, he rejoiced, and Jesus said this illustrates the truth that there is rejoicing in heaven when a sinner repents (Luke 15:7)...He gave one simple spiritual lesson, and made no attempt to see any spiritual significance to the vineyard, the denarius, or the sixth hour, the ninth hour, or the eleventh hour, nor the vineyard foreman...To hunt for meanings in every detail in the parables is to turn them into allegories.”

# C. The Comparison of Two Men and Women

Matthew 24:40-41

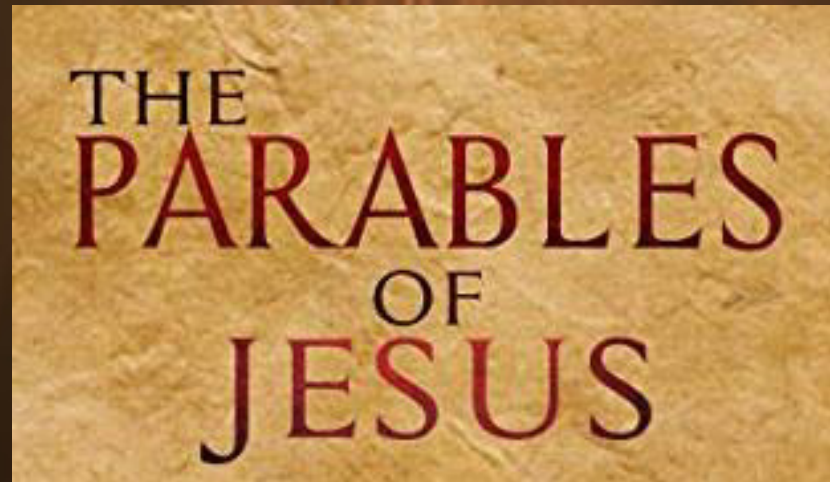
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- d. Peri De (“Now Concerning”) construction



## Matthew 24:36

“But (*peri de*) of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”





# Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

*Yeshua: The Life of Messiah from a Messianic Jewish Perspective*,  
4 vols., vol. 3 (San Antonio, TX: Ariel Ministries, 2017), 365.

“Matthew began the passage with the word *but* (Matt. 24:36). In the Greek language, there is more than one way of saying *but*. Here, the English word is a translation of two Greek words, *peri de*, meaning ‘now concerning.’ As Greek grammar books show, this construction denotes a contrast and often introduces a new subject. Paul uses the formula frequently in his writings when presenting a new topic (eg. 1 Cor. 7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1, 12; 1 Thess. 4:9; 5:1; etc.). In the context of Matthew 24, Yeshua had been talking about one topic (the second coming), then introduced a new subject (the rapture)...In the passage above, He introduced the new topic by using the *peri de* construction.”



# 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)



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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)

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# VIII. Eight Parabolic Exhortations

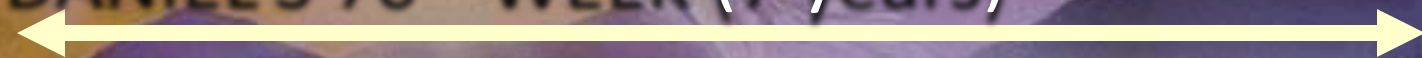
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# CONNECTING REV 12 & ANTI-SEMITISM

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



Israel flees



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

1260 days



# 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

Conclusion

# VIII. Eight Parabolic Exhortations

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# 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)

