

Apostasy or Rapture?

(2 Thessalonians 2:3A)



Dr. Andy Woods

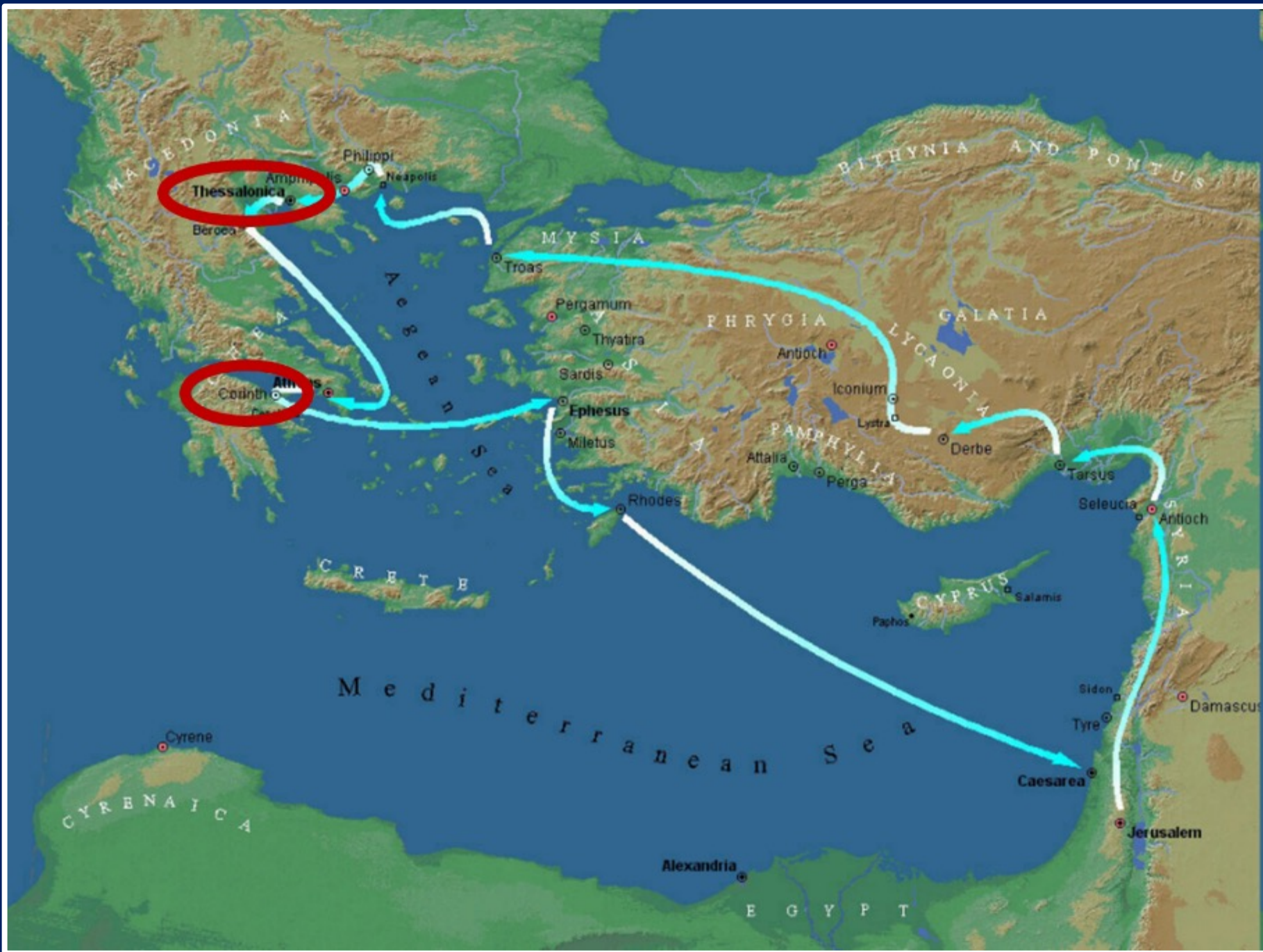
Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

2 Thessalonians 2:3

“Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless **the apostasy [apostasia; departure]** comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.”





2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- **Problem (2:1-2)**
- Prerequisites for the Day of the Lord (2:3-12)
 - ◆ The apostasy (2:3a)
 - ◆ Advent of the lawless one (2:3b-4)
 - ◆ Removal of the restrainer (2:5-7)
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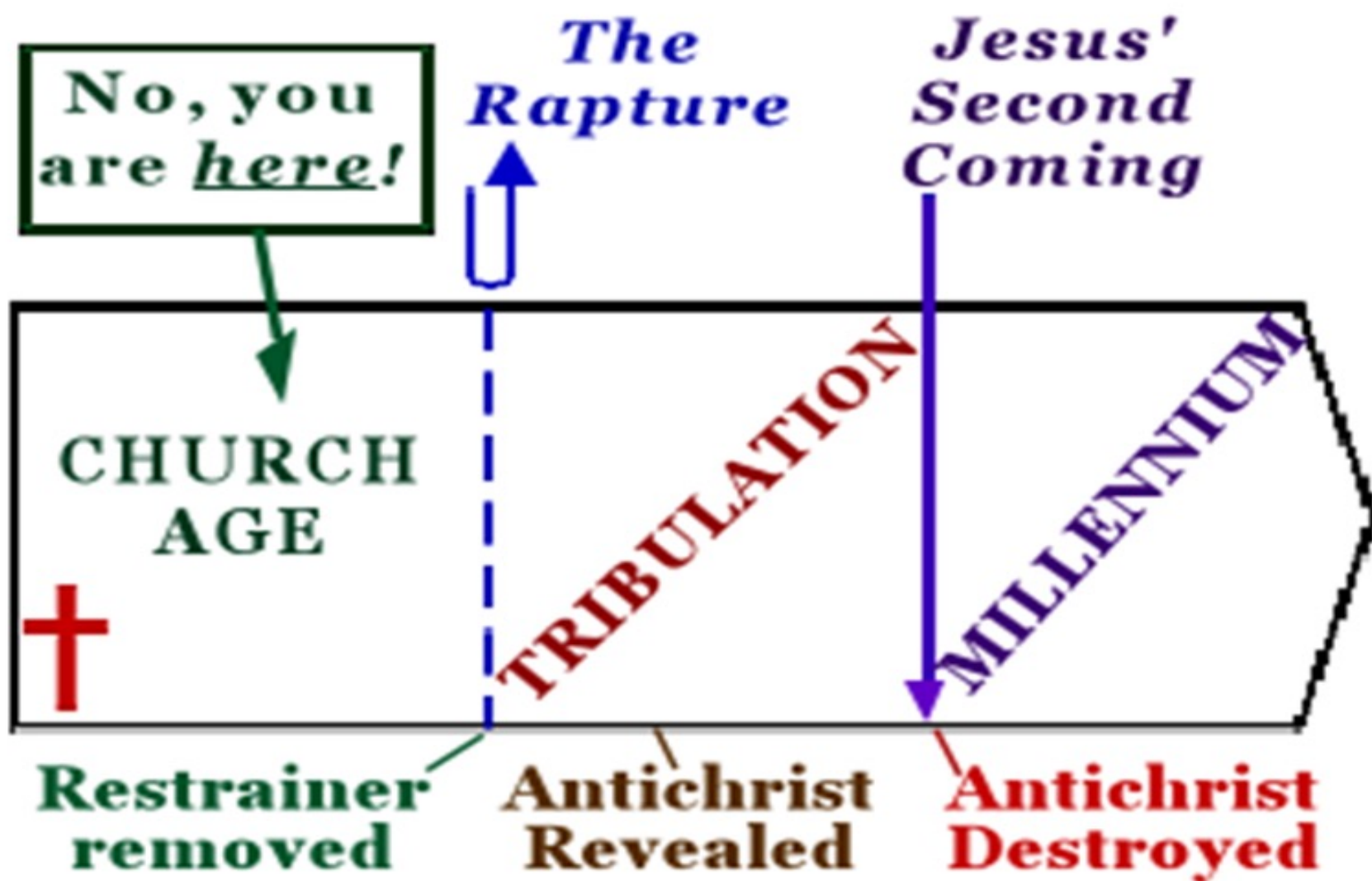


2 Thessalonians 2:2

“that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord [the Tribulation] has come.”



Paul's Correction of their Error



The Thessalonians' False Idea



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Apostasy? (2:3a)

- Spiritual departure (Acts 21:21) – Unbelieving world embracing the antichrist
- Physical departure (Acts 12:10; 2 Cor. 12:8) – Rapture



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Spiritual Departure Options

1. Apostasy of the Church (pre-rapture)
2. Apostasy of the World (post-rapture)
3. Apostasy of Israel (Dan. 9:27)



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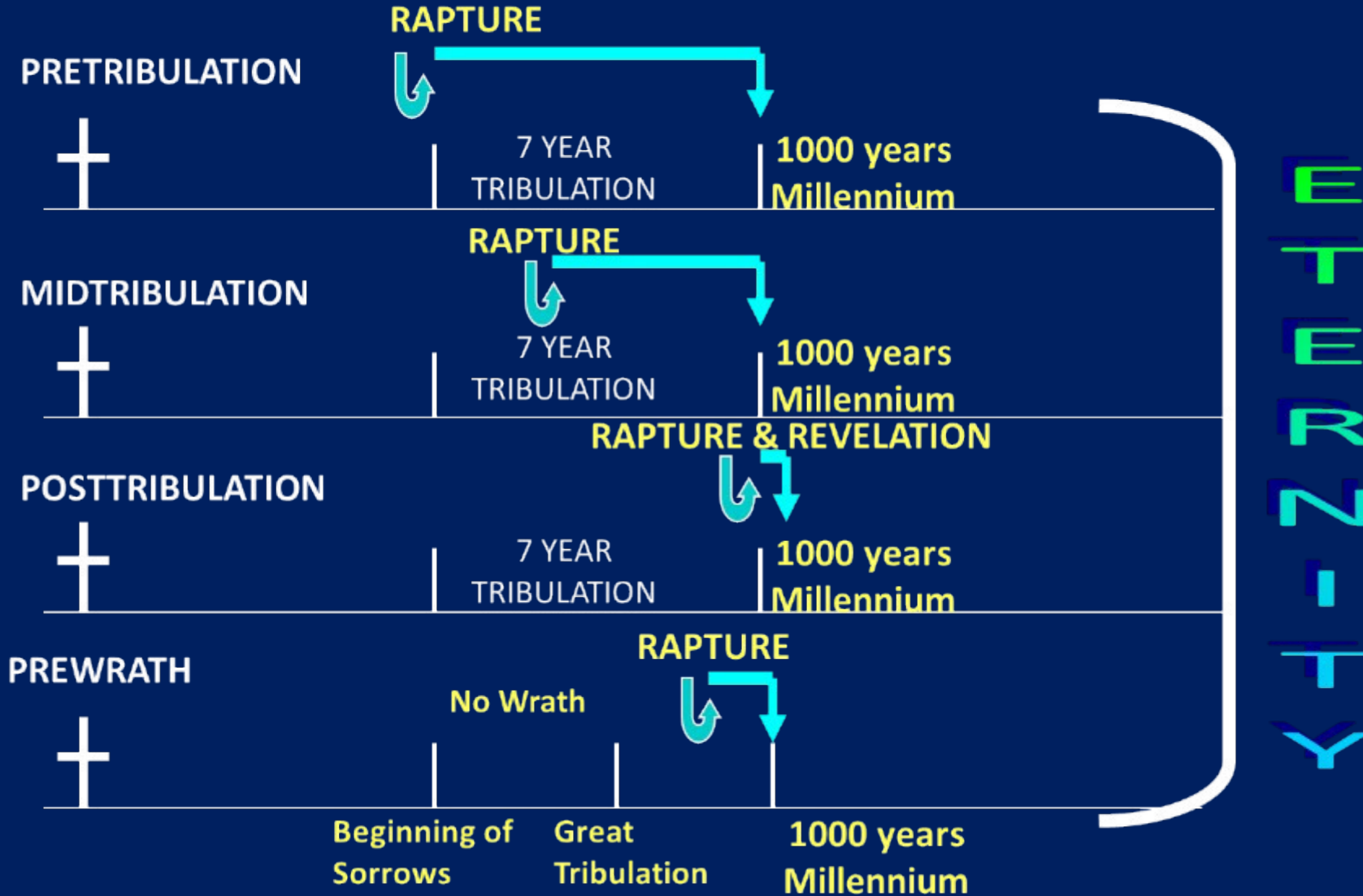


2 Thessalonians 2:3

“Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless **the apostasy [apostasia] comes first [prōton]**, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.”



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON





The
FALLING AWAY

SPIRITUAL DEPARTURE OR PHYSICAL RAPTURE?

A second look at 2 Thessalonians 2:3

Dr. Andy Woods



10 Cumulative Reasons Favoring Physical Departure

1. There have always been doctrinal departures
2. 2 Thess. was an early letter
3. The definite article before *apostasia*
4. Noun *apostasia* can refer to physical departure
5. Verb *aphistēmi* can refer to physical departure

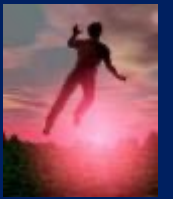


10 Cumulative Reasons Favoring Physical Departure

6. Extended context favors physical departure
7. Immediate context favors physical departure
8. 2 Thess. 2:2 is a review course
9. Early Bible translations favor physical departure
10. Physical departure is held by credible scholars

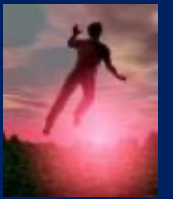


Answering Objections to the Physical Departure View



1. Greek from the *Koine* period?
2. Subtraction from the Last Days will be characterized by continual apostasy?
3. Rapture is passive and apostasy is active?
4. Incongruence with verse 1?
5. Paul is re-assuring the Thessalonians that they had not already missed the rapture; therefore, it would be incomprehensible to read, “the rapture cannot have happened unless the rapture happens first”

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2 Thessalonians 2:2-3 (NKJV)

“² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ [rapture] had come.³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [rapture] shall not come, except there come a falling away [rapture] first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition”



2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NASB)

“² that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord [the tribulation period] has come. ³ Let no one in any way deceive you, for it [the tribulation period] *will not come* unless the apostasy [apostasia] comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.”

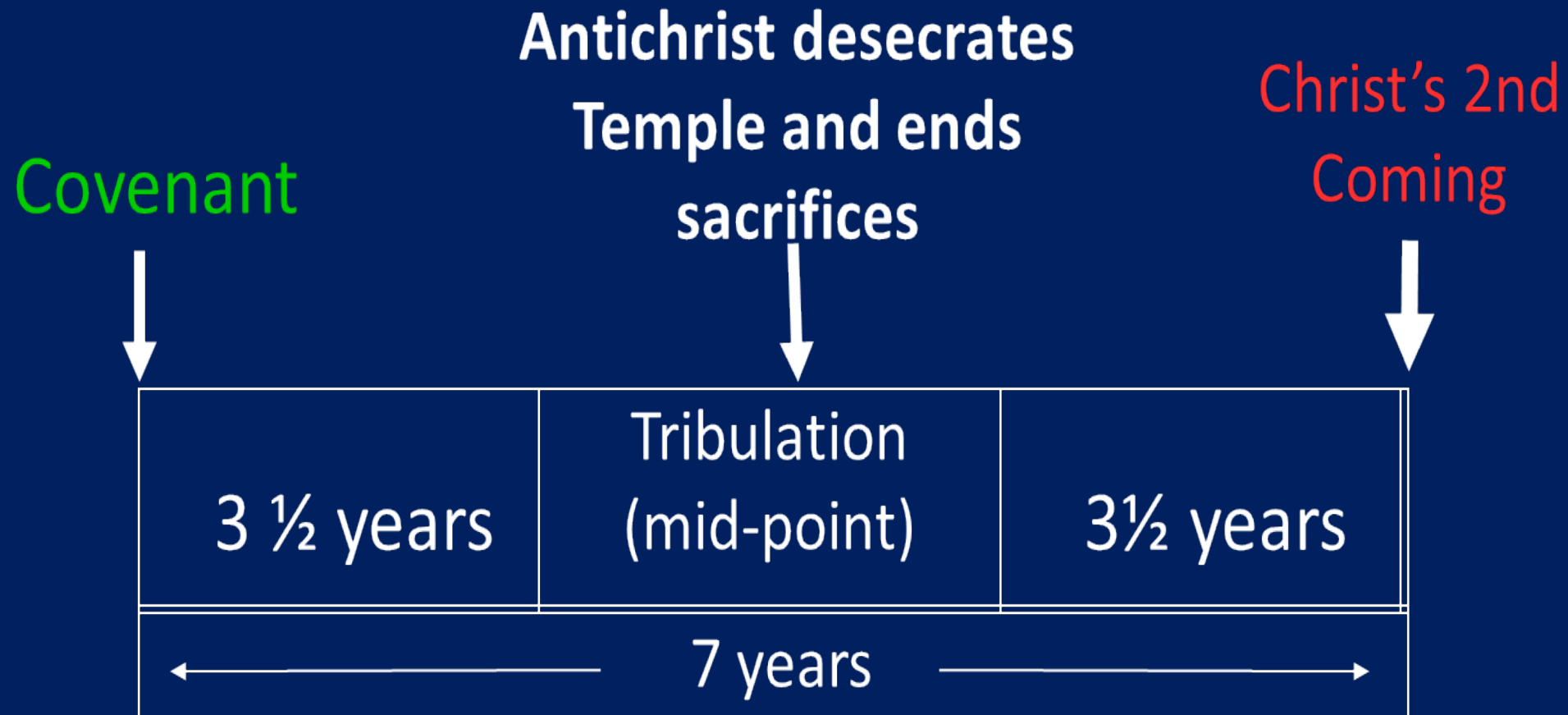


Genesis 1:5

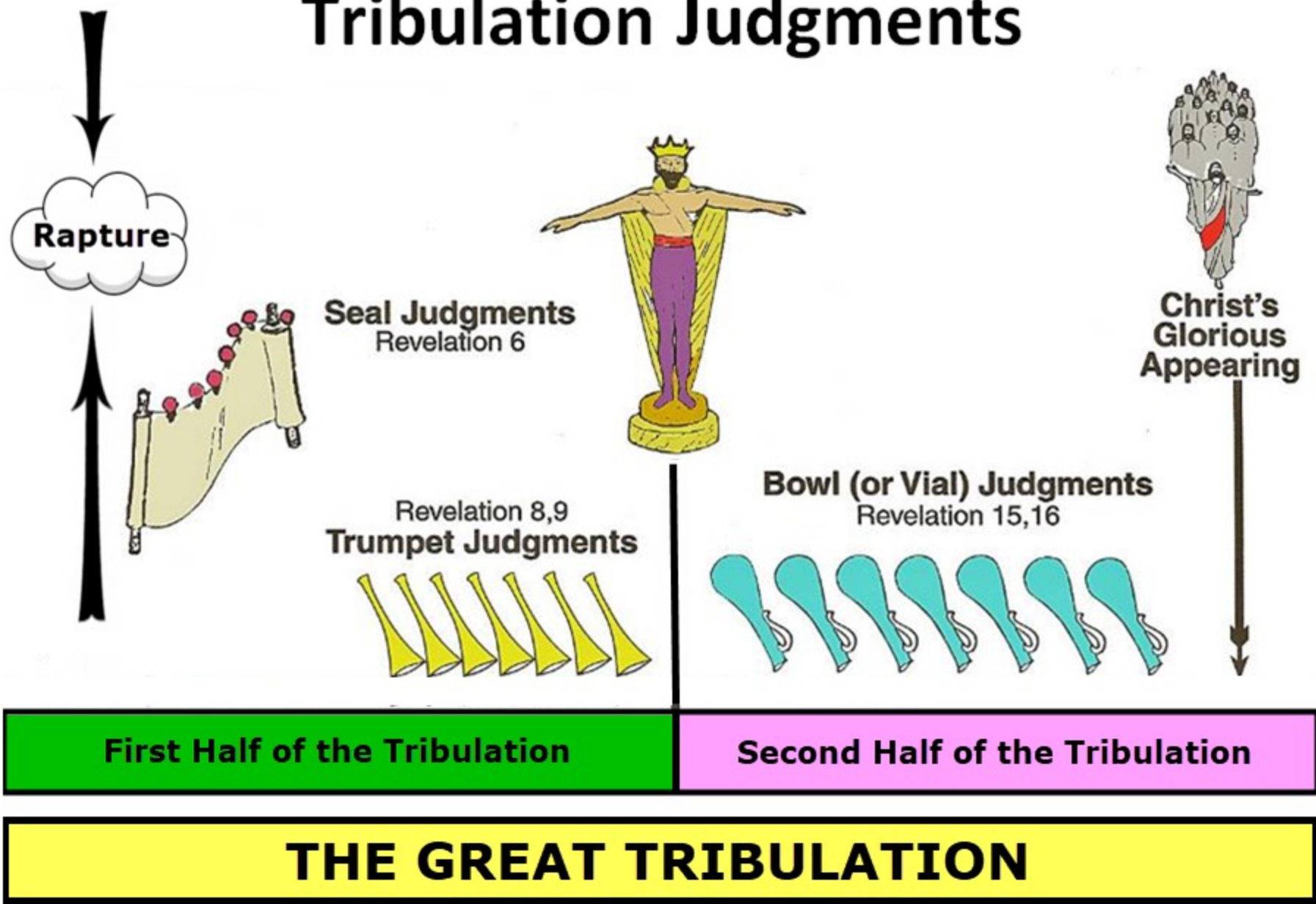
“God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.”



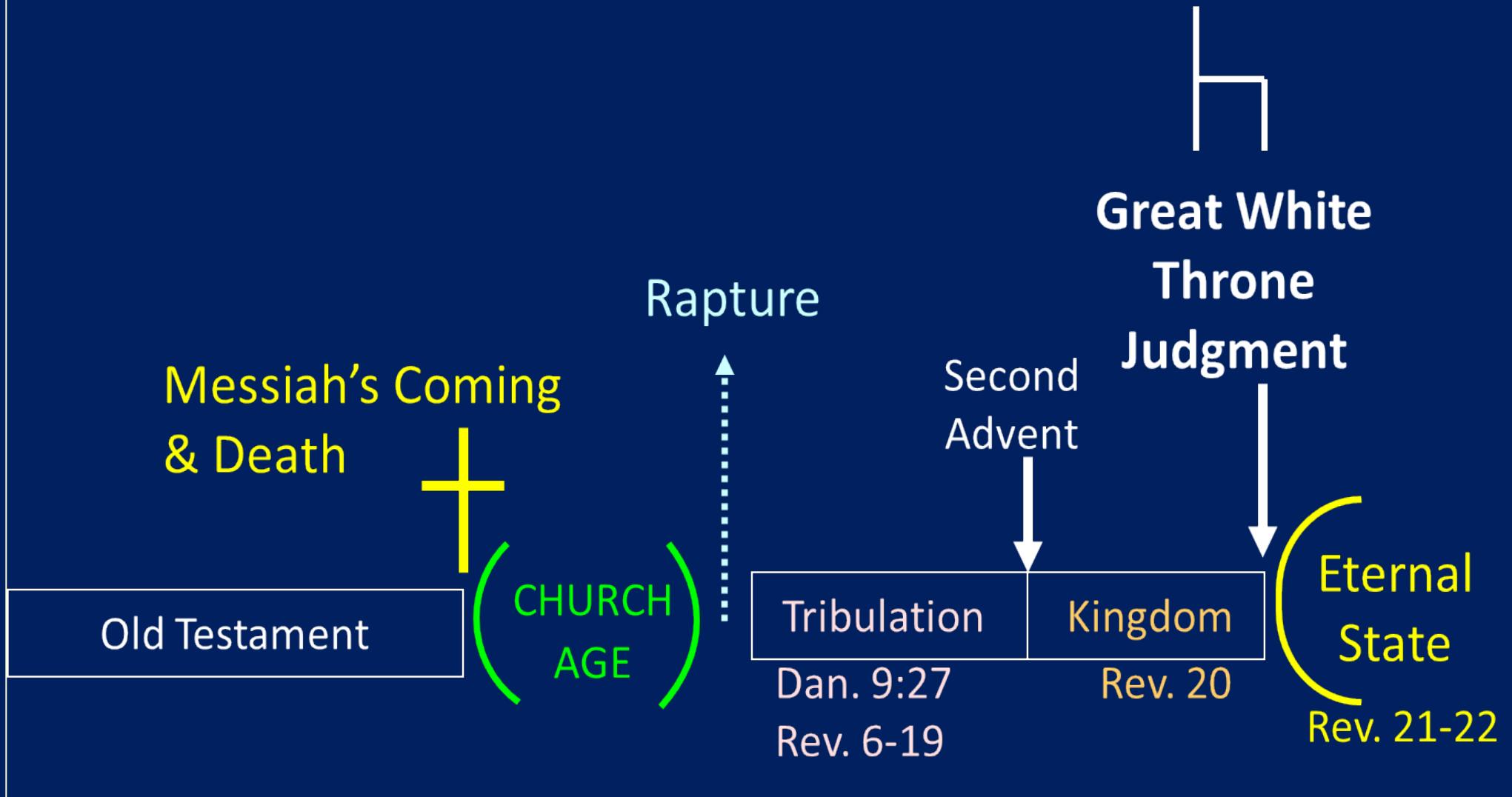
DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



Tribulation Judgments



Prophecy Panorama



1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 (NKJV)

“² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.”



2 Thessalonians 2:2

“that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord [the Tribulation] has come.”



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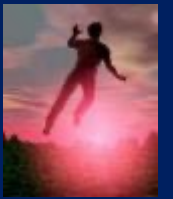


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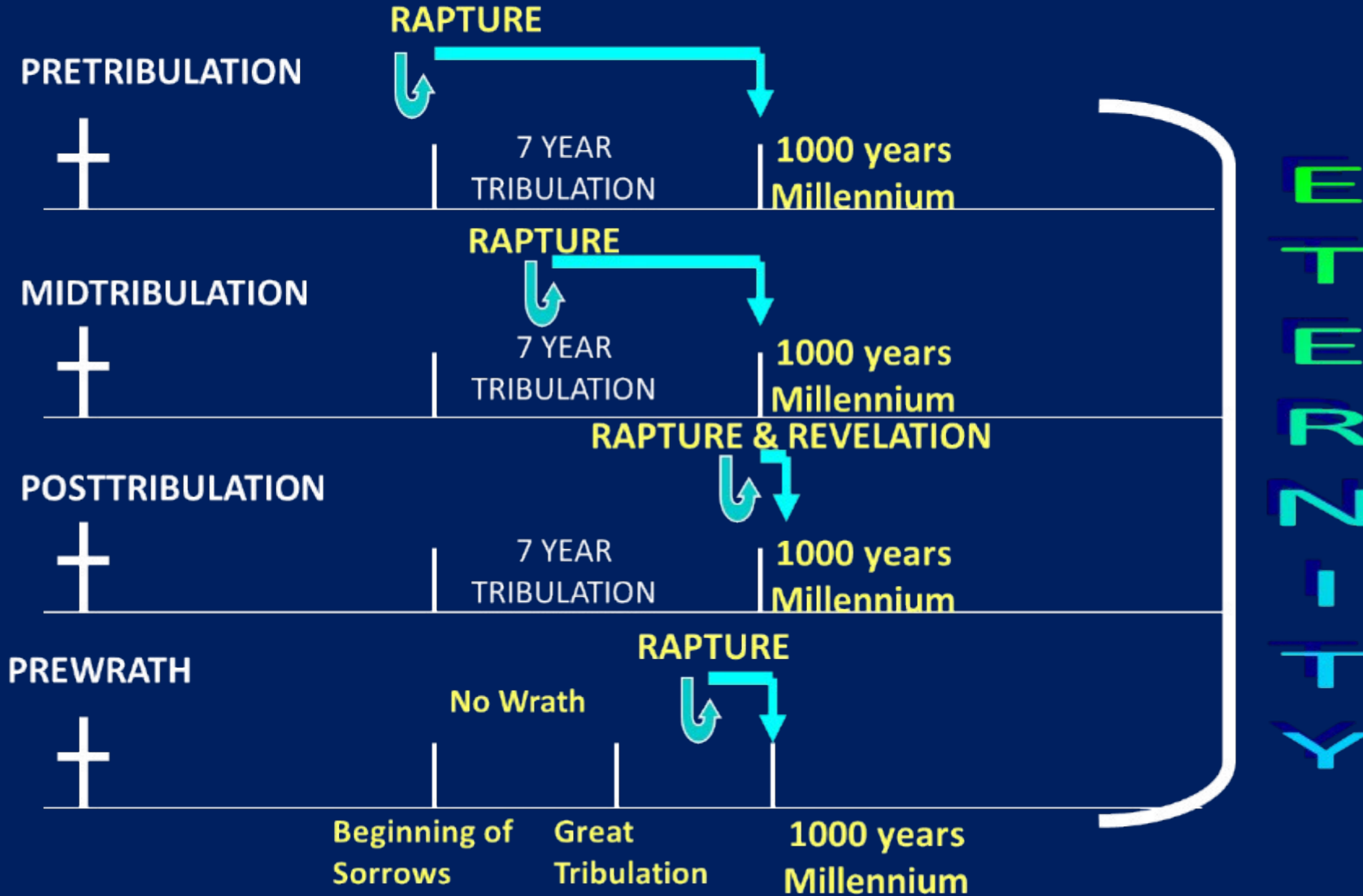
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“Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy [apostasia] comes first [prōton], and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.”



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Titus 2:13

“Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.”



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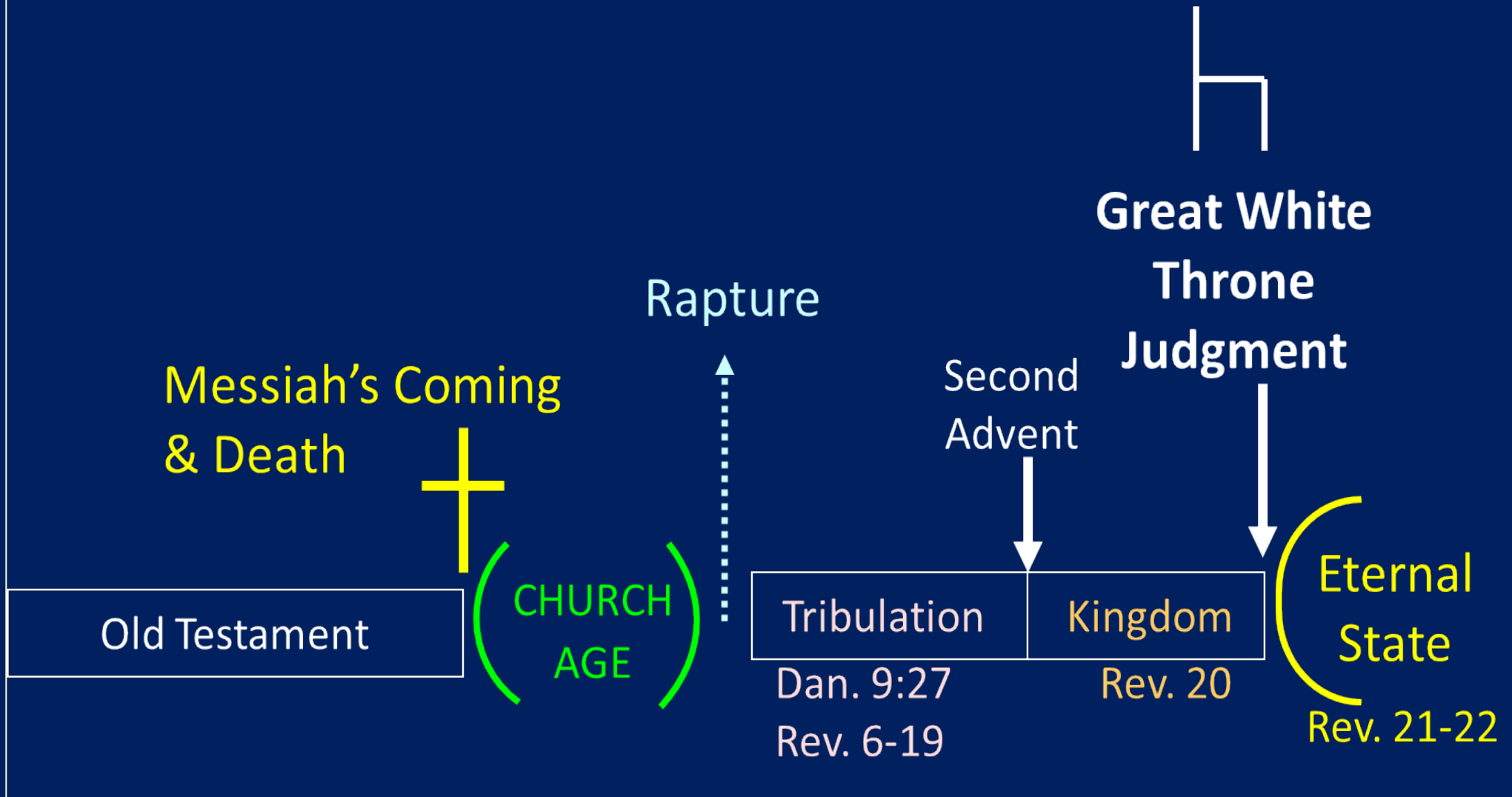
“Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy [*apostasia*] comes first [*prōton*], and the man [*anthrōpos*] of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.”



Revelation 13:16-18

¹⁶ And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, ¹⁷ and *he provides* that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, *either* the name of the beast or the number of his name. ¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man [anthrōpos]; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

Prophecy Panorama



Revelation 20:10

“And the devil 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 (aiōn) and ever (aiōn).”



Little Horn Slide



2 Thessalonians 2:3

“Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy [*apostasia*] comes first [*prōton*], and the man [*anthrōpos*] of lawlessness [*anomia*] is revealed, the son of destruction.”



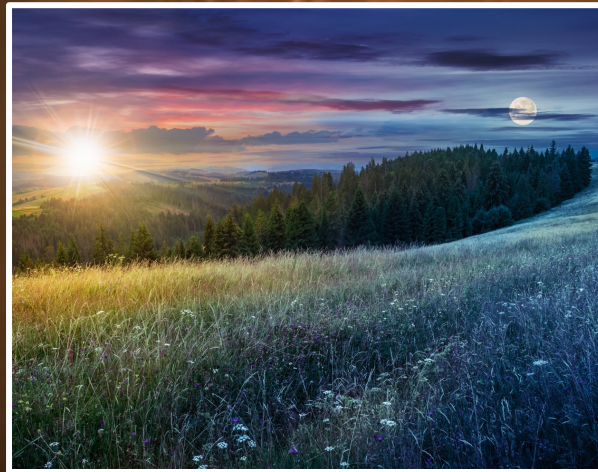
Daniel 7:25

“He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.”



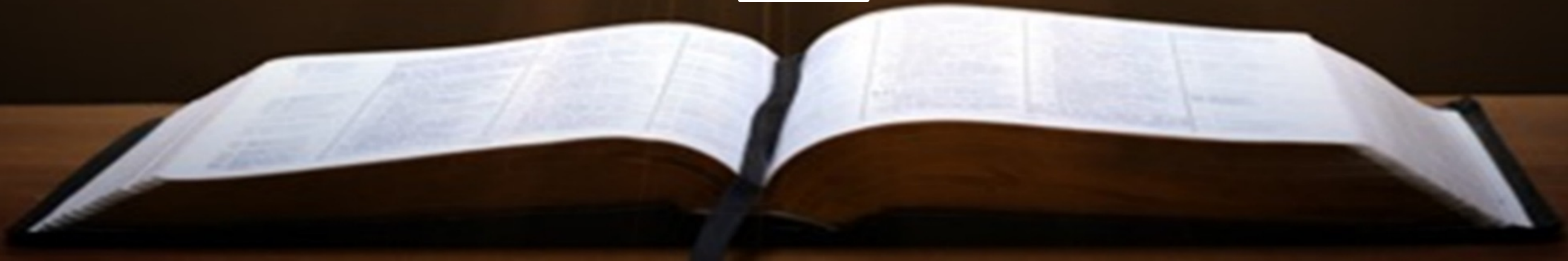
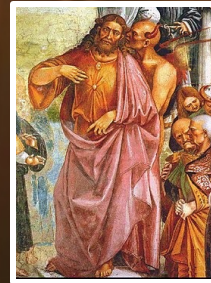
Genesis 1:14

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years.”



Daniel 11:36

“Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.”



2 Thessalonians 2:3

“Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy [*apostasia*] comes first [*prōton*], and the man [*anthrōpos*] of lawlessness [*anomia*] is revealed [*apokulypsis*], the son of destruction.”



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.”



2 Thessalonians 2:6-7

⁶And you know what restrains [*katechon; neuter*] him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains [*katechōn; masculine*] will do so until he is taken out of the way.

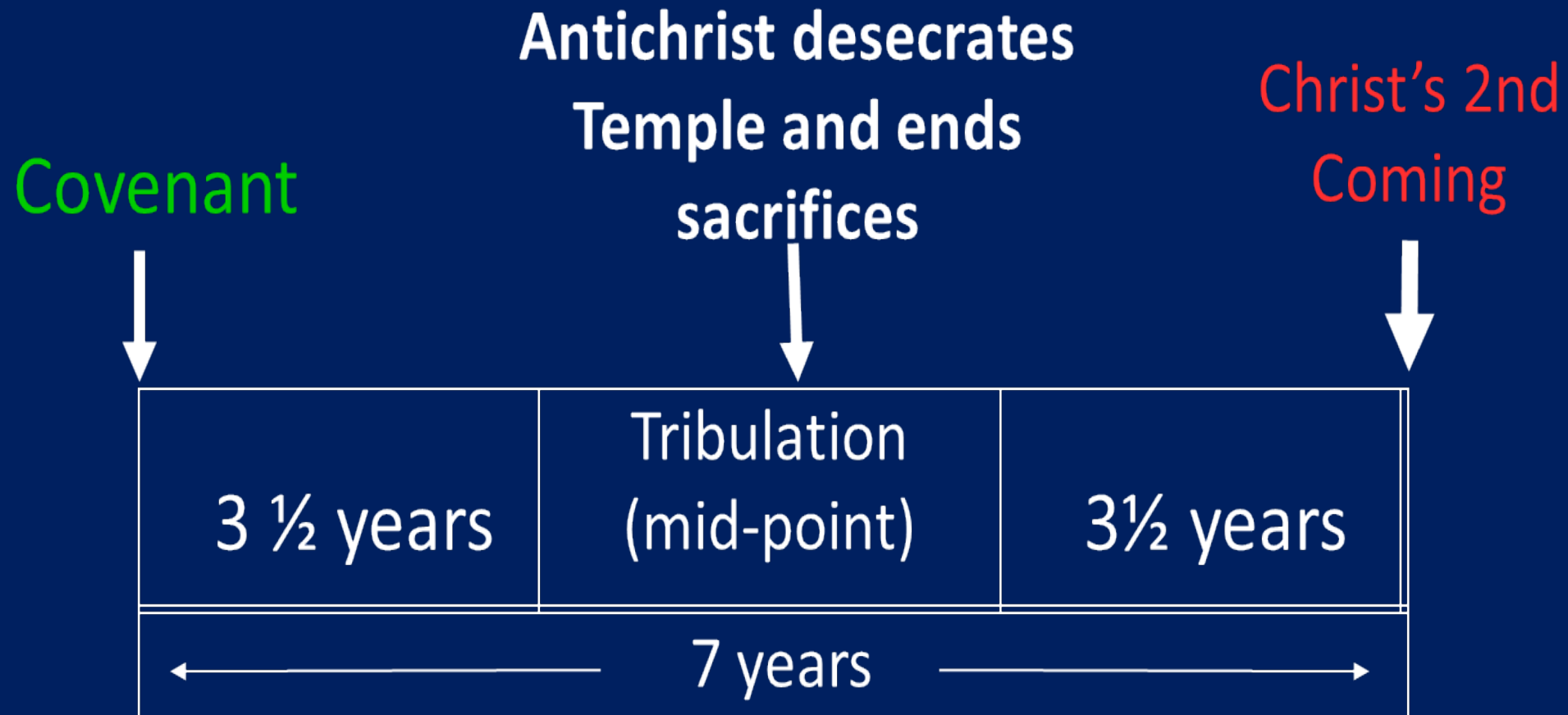


Daniel 9:27

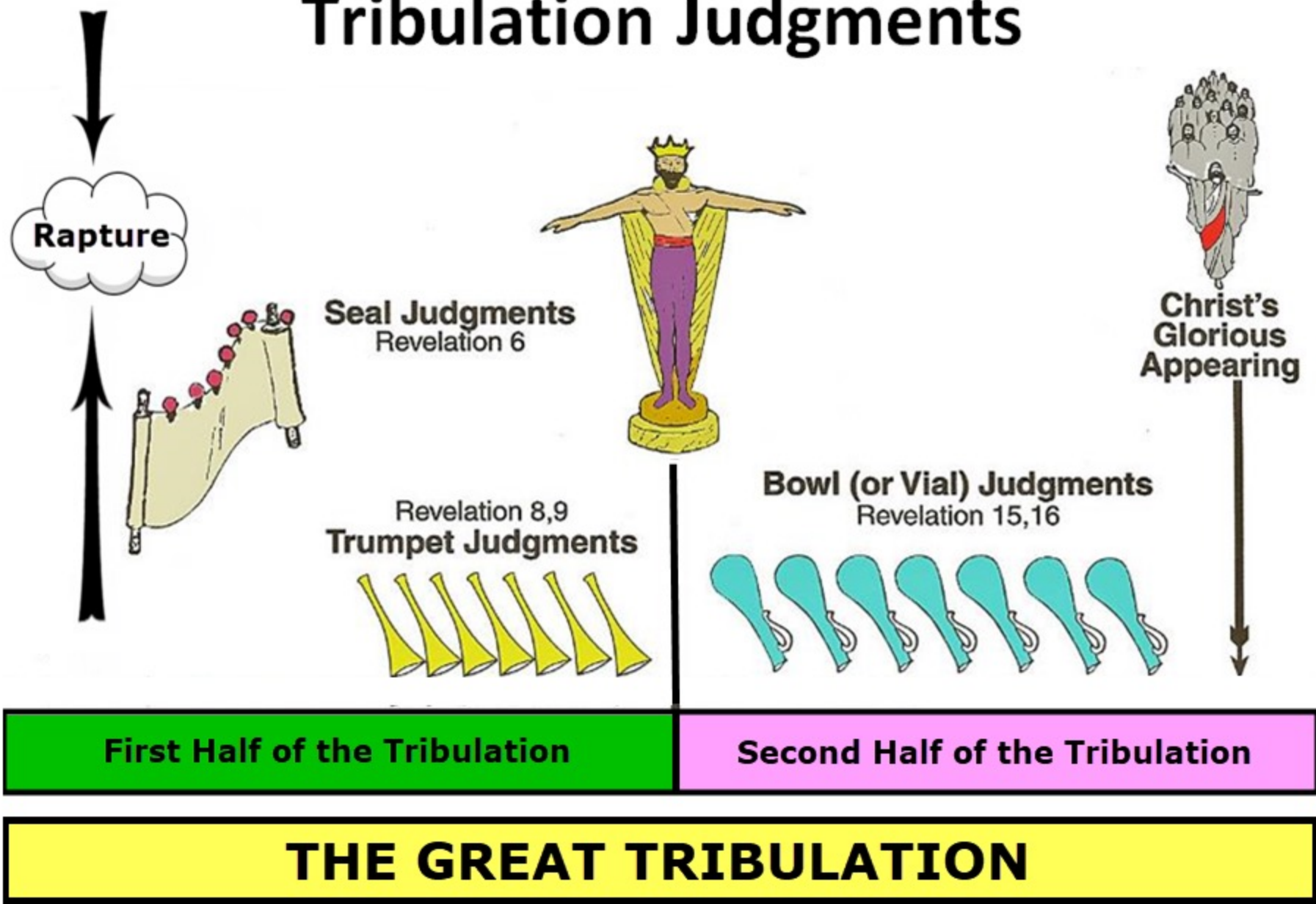
“And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”



DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



Tribulation Judgments



1st Six Seals (Revelation 6)

SEAL 1 – 6:1-2 – Advent of antichrist

SEAL 2 – 6:3-4 – War

SEAL 3 – 6:5-6 – Famine

SEAL 4 – 6:7-8 – Death

SEAL 5 – 6:9-11 – Martyrdoms

SEAL 6 – 6:12-17 – Cosmic disturbances



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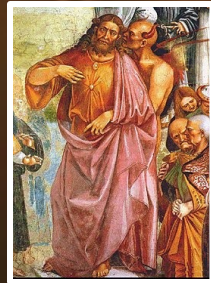
2 Thessalonians 2:9

“that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders.”

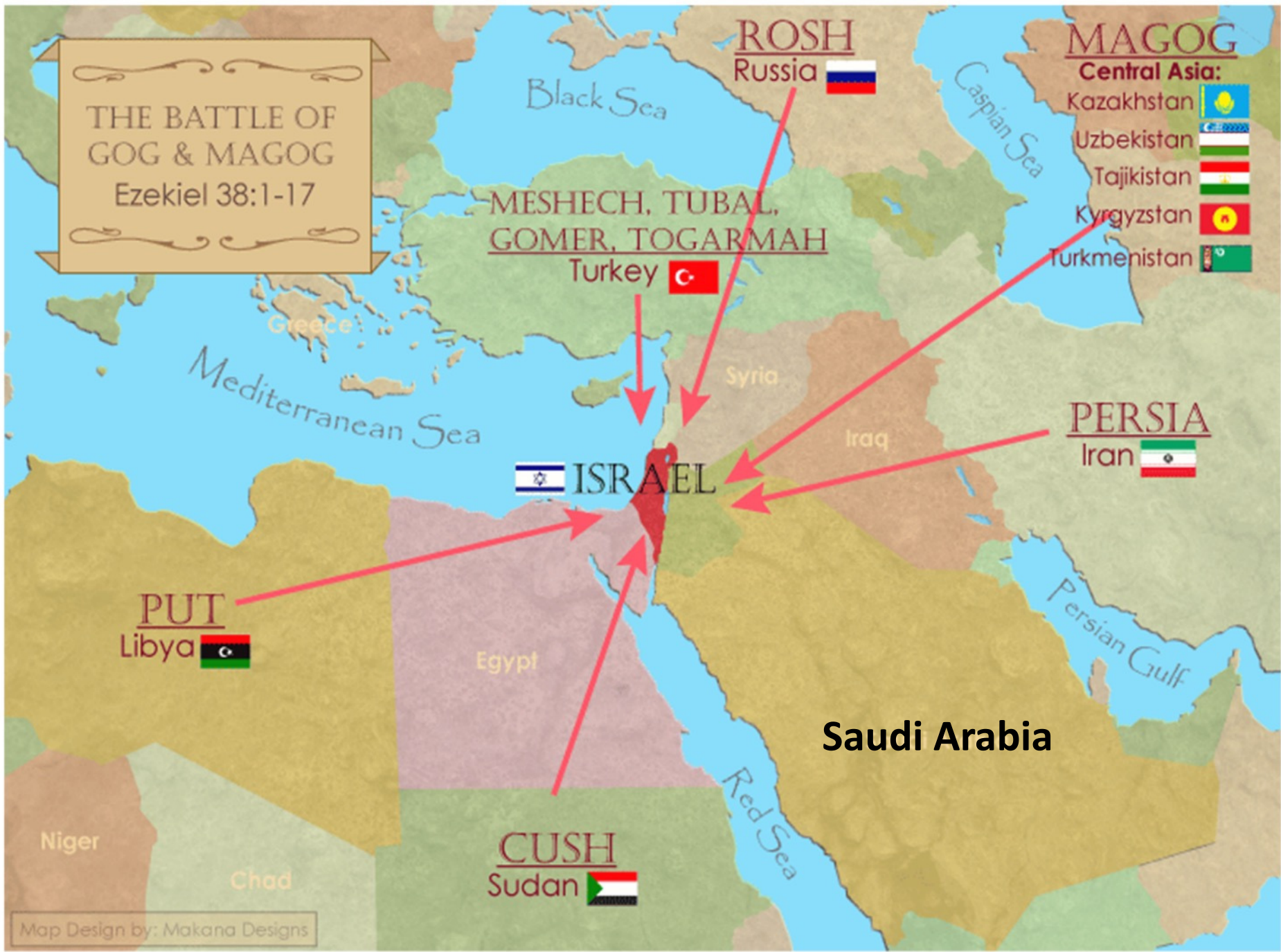


Daniel 11:36

“Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.”



THE BATTLE OF
GOG & MAGOG
Ezekiel 38:1-17



Daniel 9:27

“And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”



Daniel 9:26

“Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.”



Little Horn Slide

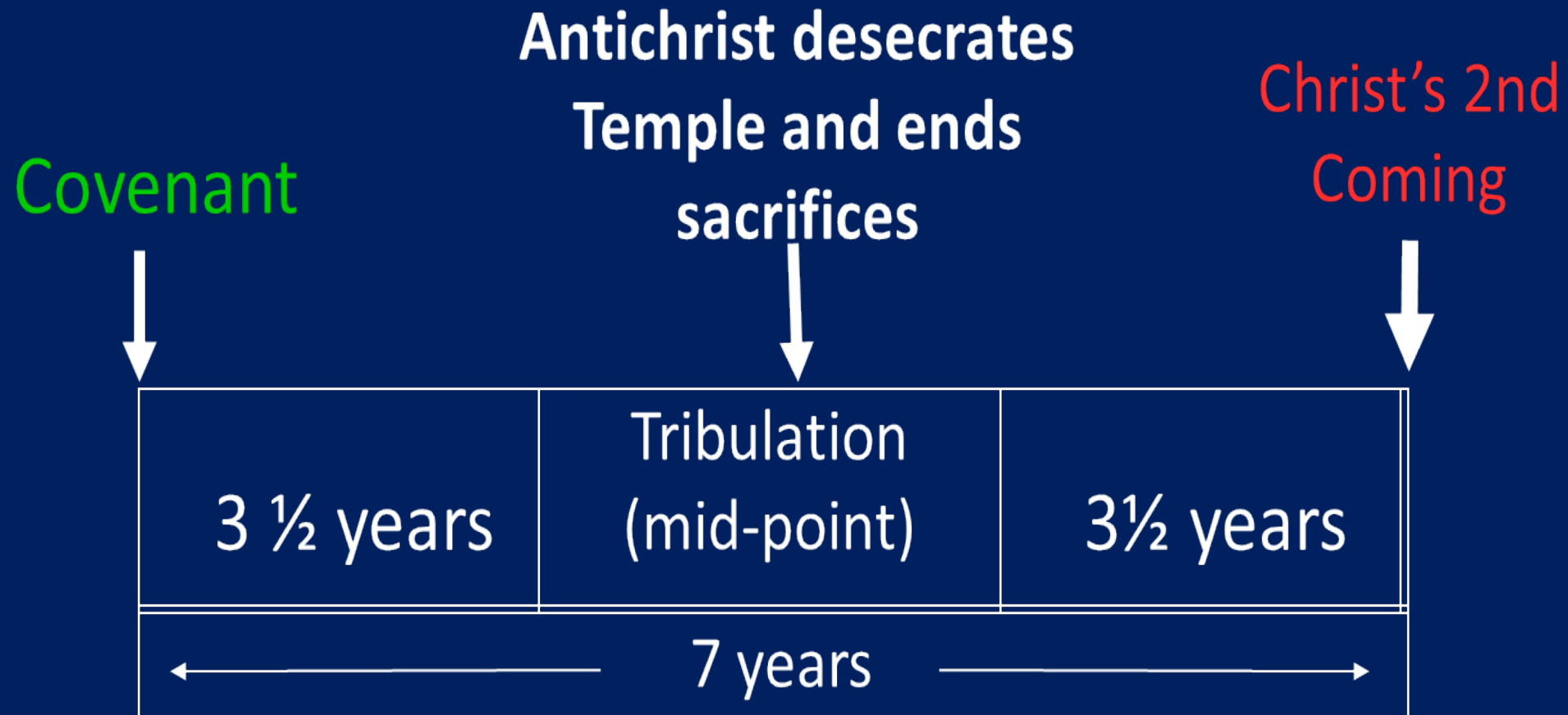


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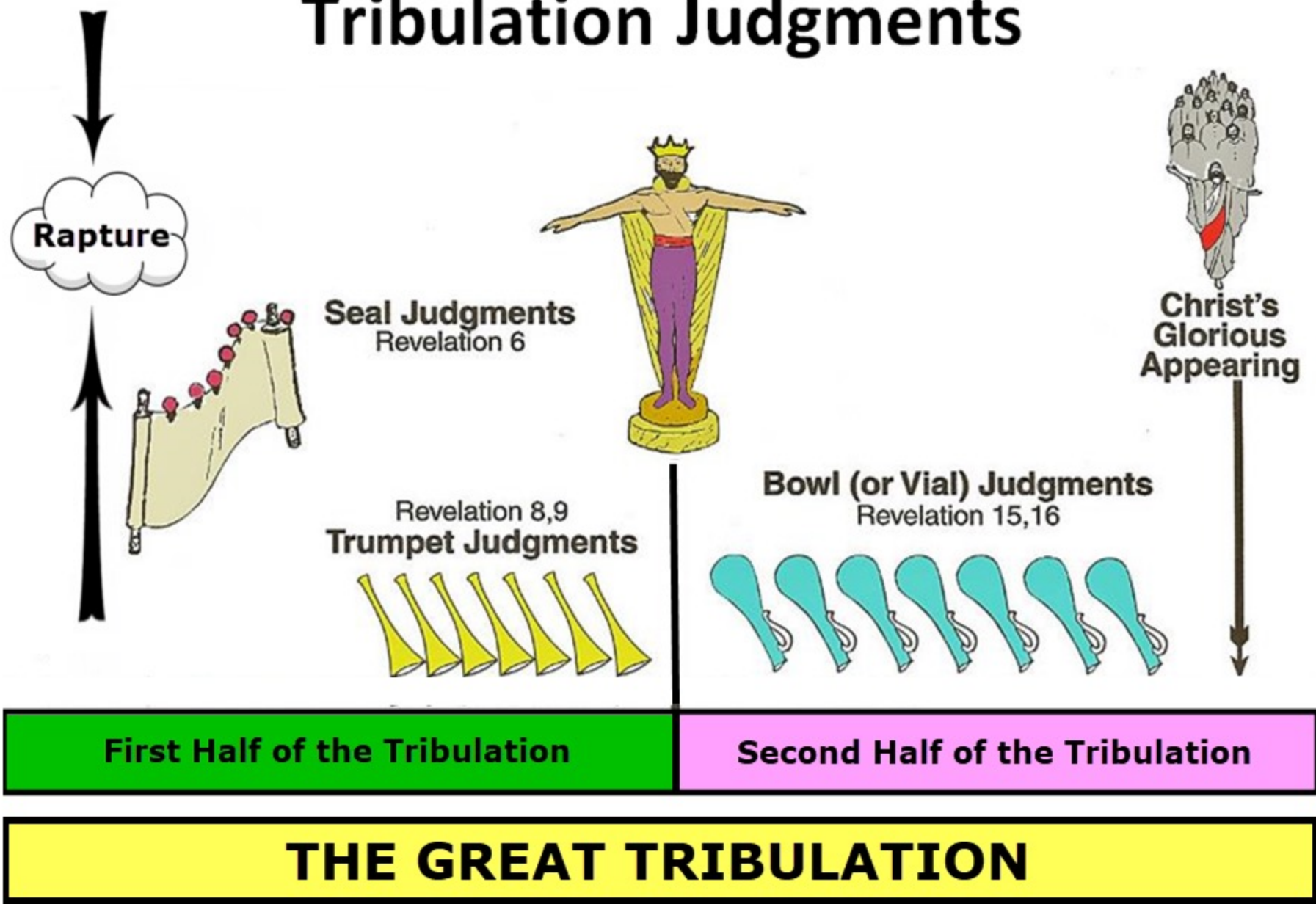
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DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD

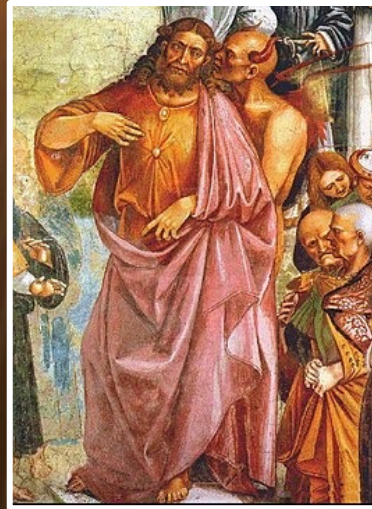


Tribulation Judgments

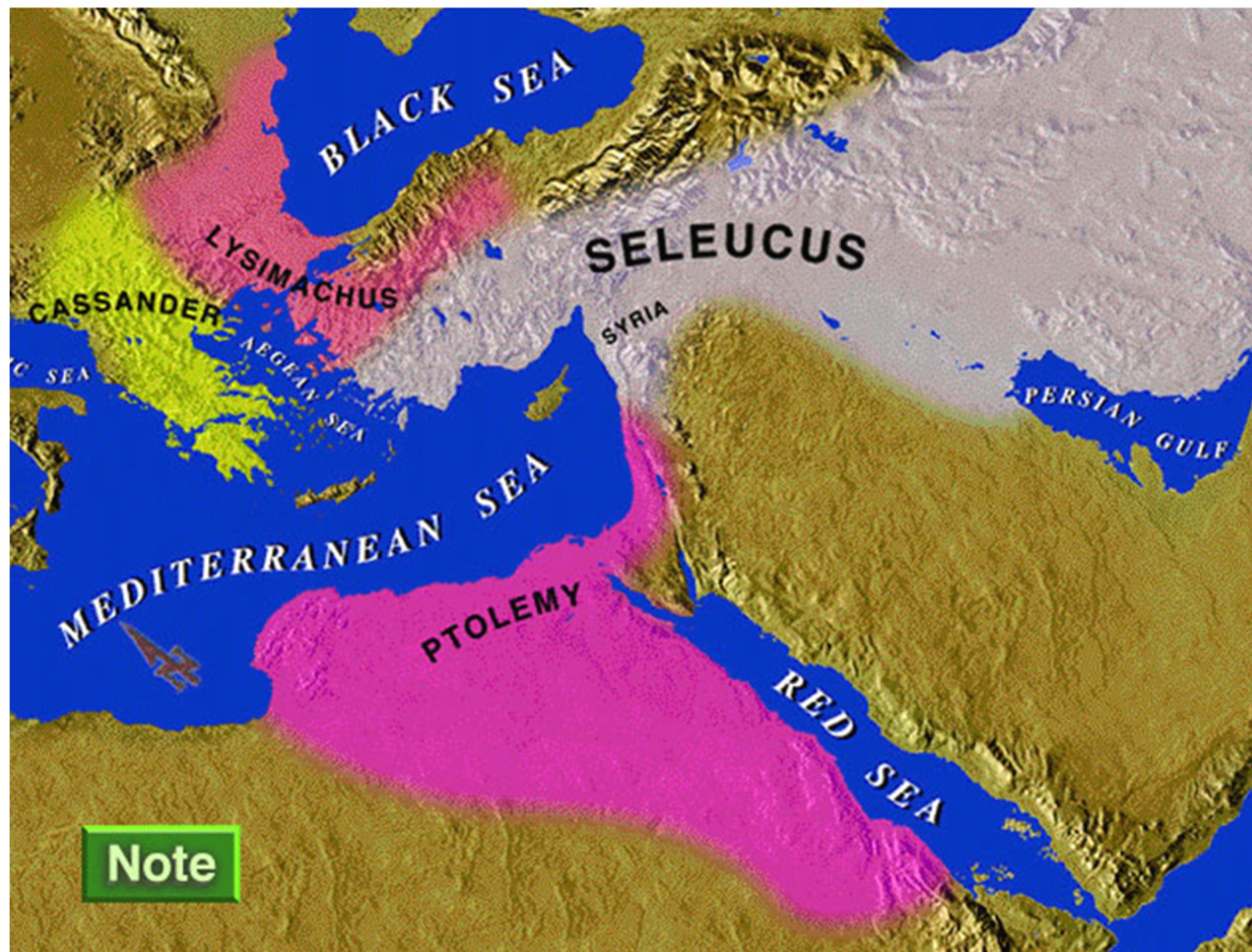


Daniel 11:31

“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.”



FOUR DYNASTIES AFTER ALEXANDER



Intertestamental Chronology (Dates BC)

SELEUCIDS

**Seleucus I
312-281**

**Antiochus I
281-261**

**Antiochus II
261-246**

**Seleucus II
246-226**

**Seleucus III
226-223**

**Antiochus III
223-187**

**Seleucus IV Philapator
187-175**

**Antiochus IV Epiphanes
175-163**

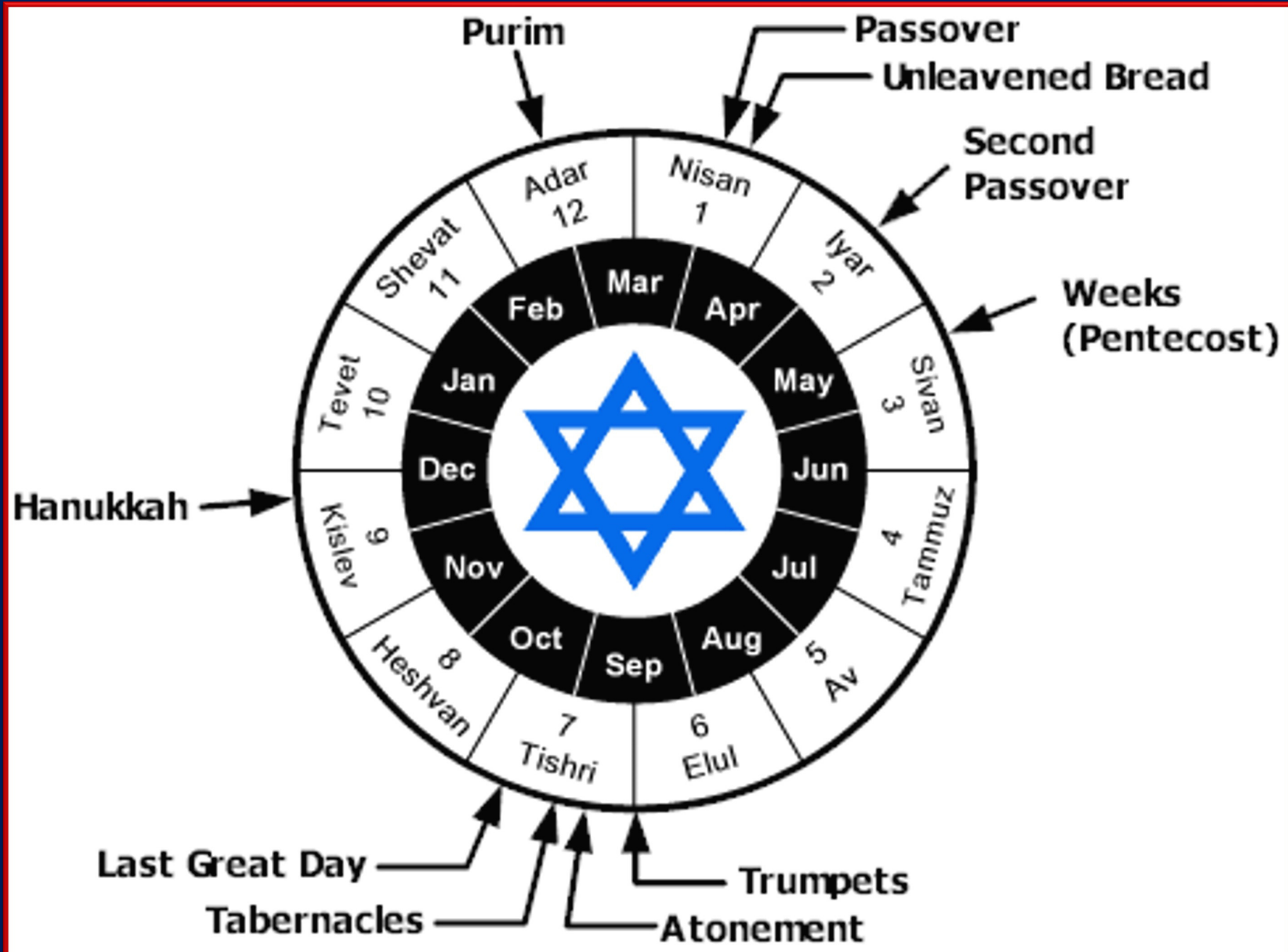
HANUKKAH

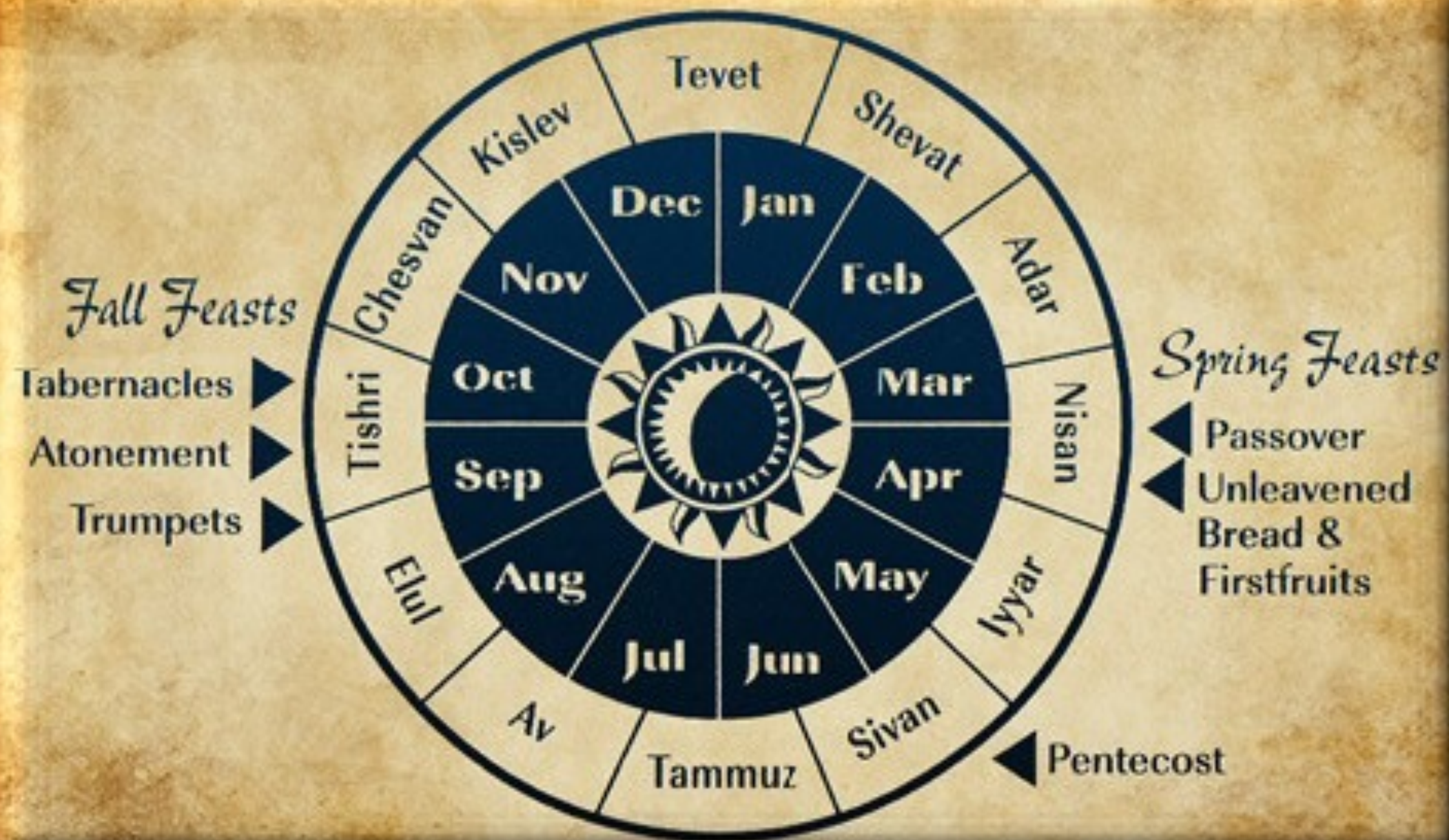
- The Maccabean revolt
- December 25th 164 BC : the temple is liberated and rededicated
- 1 & 2 Maccabees
- The miracle of the lamp oil
- Hanukkah “Feast of Dedication” (festival of lights).
- Christmas / Jewish Holiday
- John 10:22-24



Levitical Feasts (Lev. 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



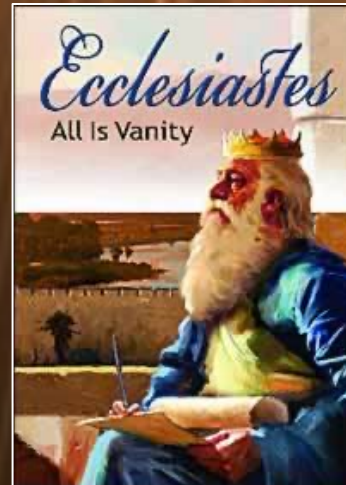


Little Horn Slide



Ecclesiastes 1:9

“That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun.”

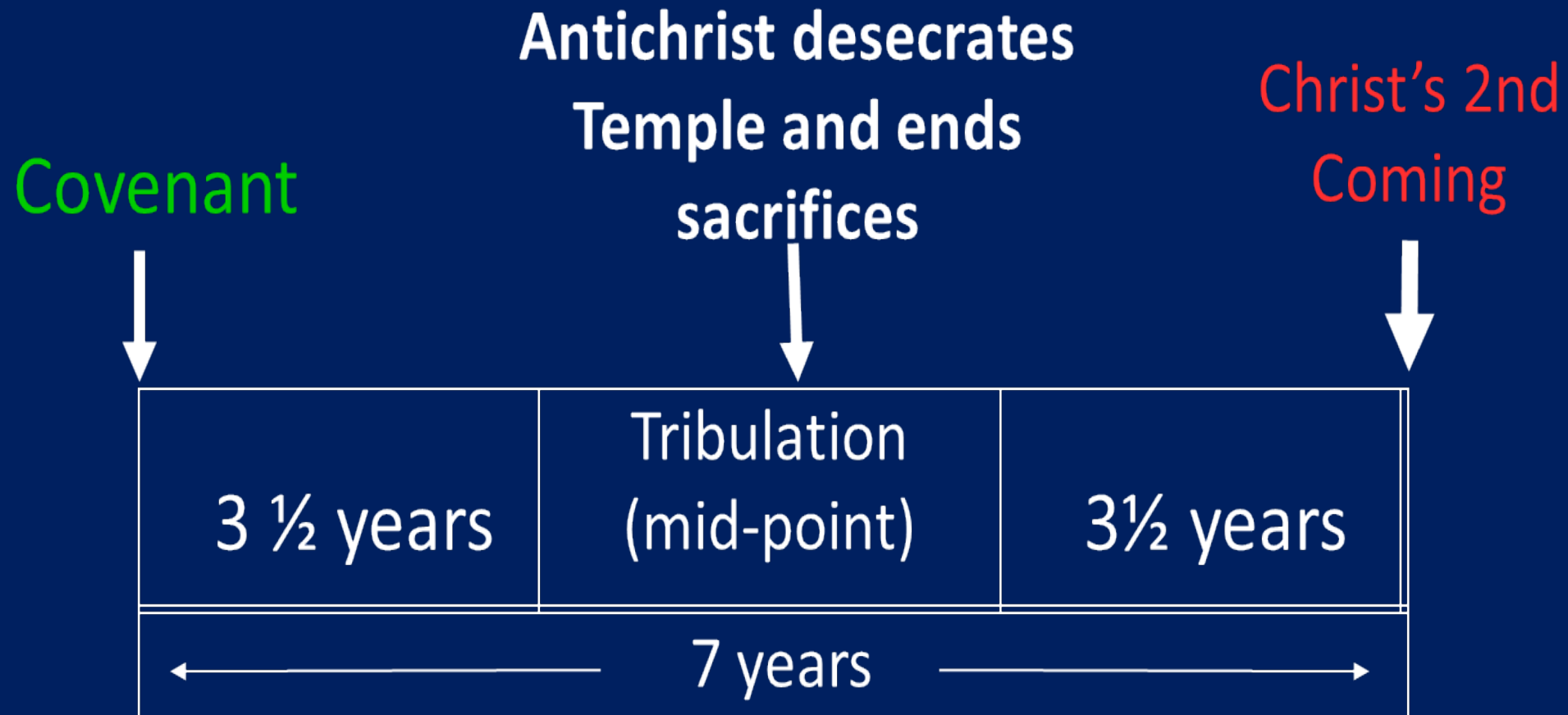


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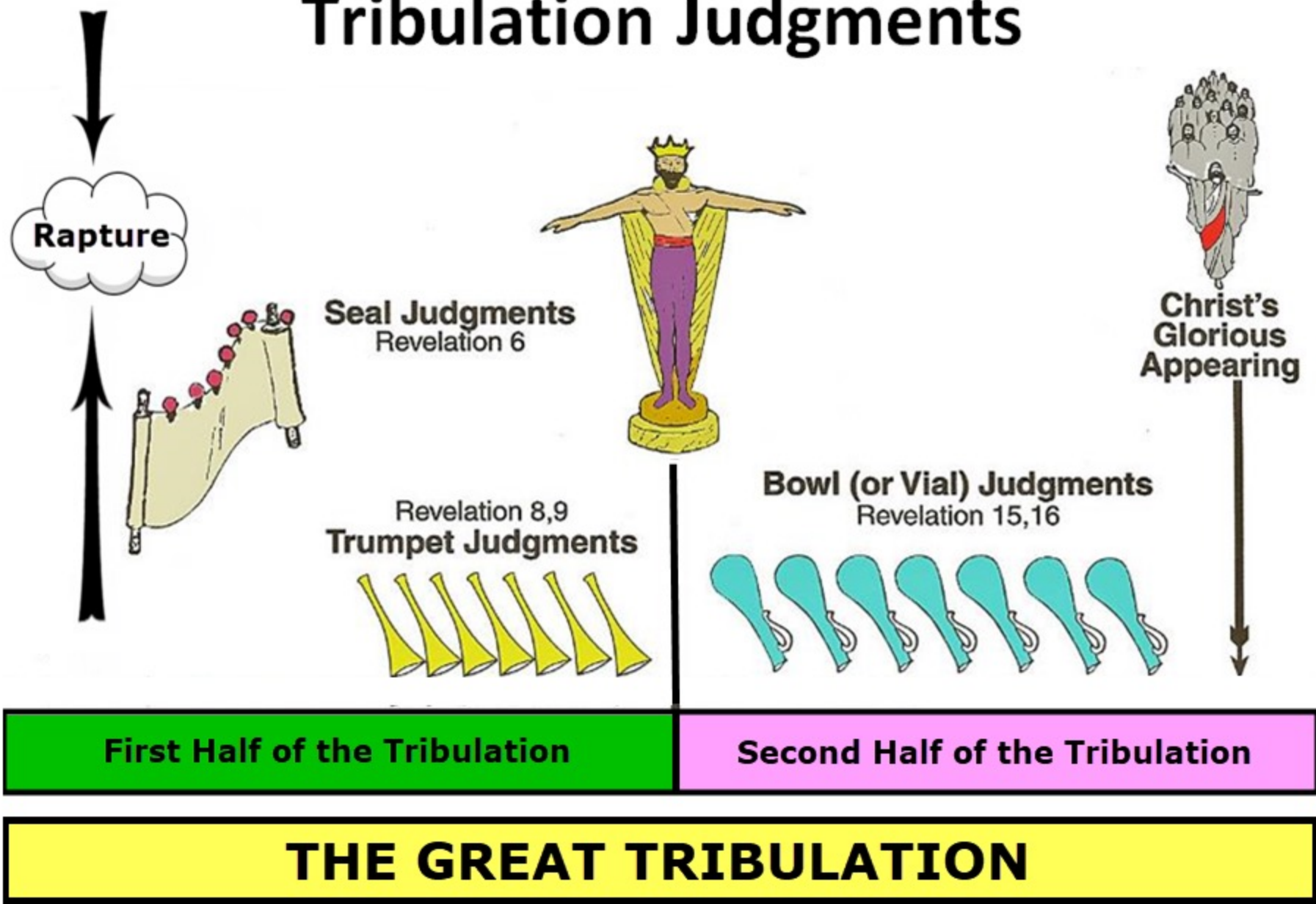
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DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



Tribulation Judgments



Daniel 12:7

“I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed.”



Zechariah 13:8-9

⁸“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.”
⁹“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.’ ”



Zechariah 12:10

“I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.”



Romans 11:25-26

“²⁵ For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;²⁶ and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, ‘The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.’”



Israel's Four Temples

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



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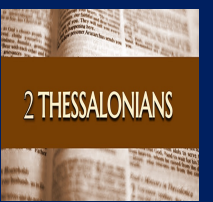


Matthew 24:15-16, 20

“¹⁵ 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) ¹⁶ then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains...²⁰ But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.”

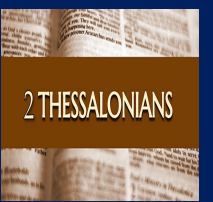


The Stage Is Being Set



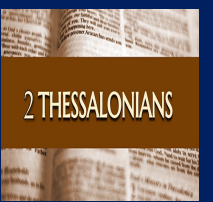
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- Israel's desire for peace
- Desire among some Jews to Rebuild 3rd Jewish temple and Restore the sacrificial system

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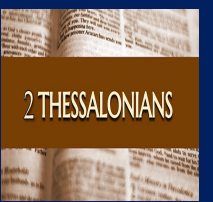
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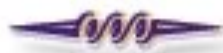
The Stage Is Being Set



- Rebirth of Israel in 1948
- Israel's desire for peace
- Desire among some Jews to Rebuild 3rd Jewish temple and Restore the sacrificial system



THE TEMPLE INSTITUTE







מנורת הזהב Golden Menorah
המנורה הראשונה שהתגלתה בירושלים
בשנת 1897, כפי שחוקרים חשבו
לראשונה, על פי הממצאים שנחשפו
במסגרת חפירת המזוזה בירושלים
בשנת 1897. המנורה הוקמה
במסגרת המחקר שנערך על ידי
המכון ללימודי בית המקדש
בירושלים. תורמת המנורה:
יאיר רבנוביץ



Temple Mount activists petition Ben Gvir to permit Passover sacrifice

This day shall be to you one of remembrance: you shall celebrate it as a festival to Hashem throughout the ages; you shall celebrate it as an institution for all time.



ADAM ELIYAHU BERKOWITZ BIBLICAL NEWS JANUARY 4, 2023



israel today

Jewish Visits to Temple Mount Break Modern Record, Expose Religious Divide

"We're fighting for Jews, Christians and people of all faiths to be able to visit and freely pray at the Temple Mount."

January 15, 2023

'Almost everything is ready for the Third Temple,' claims Israeli TV report about red heifers brought to Israel last year

Arrival of five red heifers continues to cause excitement and consternation in the Jewish state

All Israel News Staff | Published: August 8, 2023



Original State and First Sin (cont'd)

■ Isaiah 14:12-15

1. 5 “I will” statements

- a) Ascend to heaven (13)
- b) Raise my throne above the stars of God (13)
- c) Sit enthroned on the Mt. of the Assembly (13)
- d) Ascend above the tops of the clouds (14)
- e) Make myself like the Most High (14)



Original State and First Sin (cont'd)

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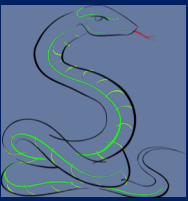
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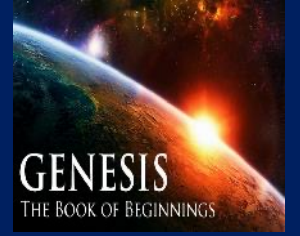
Isaiah 14:14

“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”





Satan's Tactics (2 Cor 2:11)



- Adds to God's Word (3:1; 2:16-17)
- Challenges God's goodness (3:1; 2:16-17)
- Subtracts from God's Word (3:4; 2:17)
- Offers wisdom without submission to God (3:5; Prov 1:7)

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- Problem (2:1-2)
- Prerequisites for the Day of the Lord (2:3-12)
 - ◆ The departure (2:3a)
 - ◆ Advent of the lawless one (2:3b-4)
 - ◆ Removal of the restrainer (2:5-7)
 - ◆ Destruction of the lawless one (2:8-9)
 - ◆ Destruction of lawless one's followers (2:10-12)



Paul's Various Rapture Terms

parousia

2 Thess. 2:1

episynagōgē

2 Thess. 2:1

apokalypsis

1 Cor. 1:7

epiphaneia

Titus 2:13

rhyomai

1 Thess. 1:10

harpazō

1 Thess. 4:17

apostasia

2 Thess. 2:3a



Conclusion

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- Problem (2:1-2)
- Prerequisites for the Day of the Lord (2:3-12)
 - ◆ The departure (2:3a)
 - ◆ Advent of the lawless one (2:3b-4)
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 - ◆ Destruction of lawless one's followers (2:10-12)

