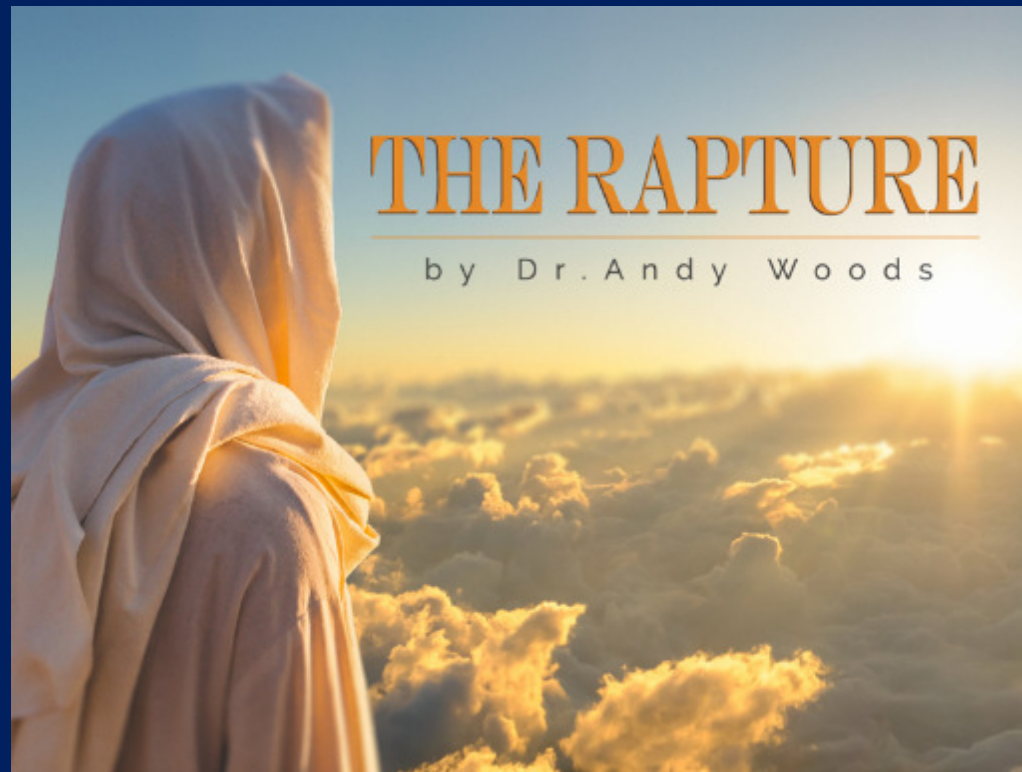


THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 26



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

What is the Rapture?



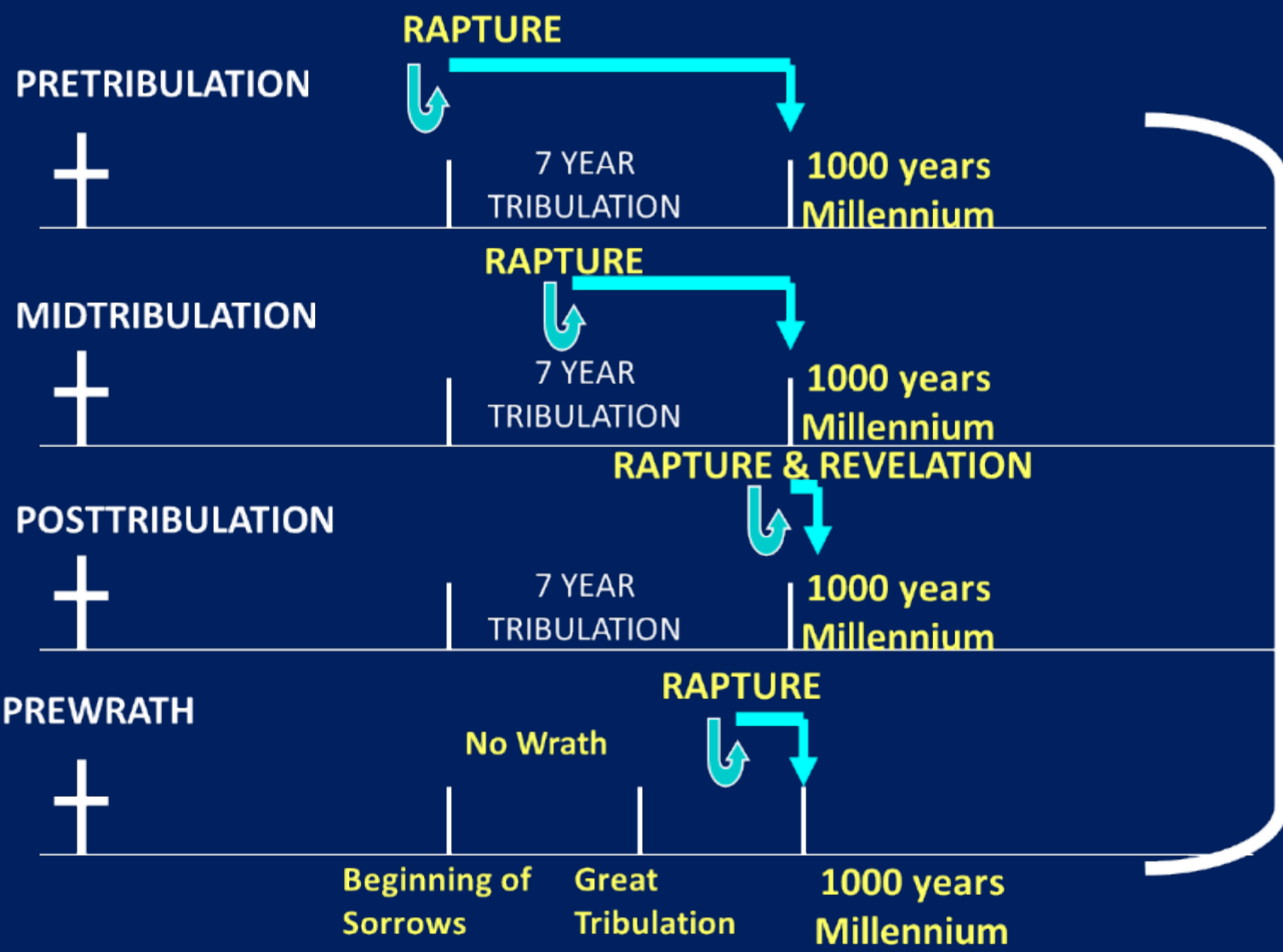
1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
9. Imminent (1 Cor 15:51;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



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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



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)
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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

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Matthew 23:37-39

³⁷ “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. 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!’”



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Matthew 24:3

“³ 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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Matt 24 / Rev 6 Parallels

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

Matthew 24:14

“This gospel of the kingdom (Israel’s national gospel) shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

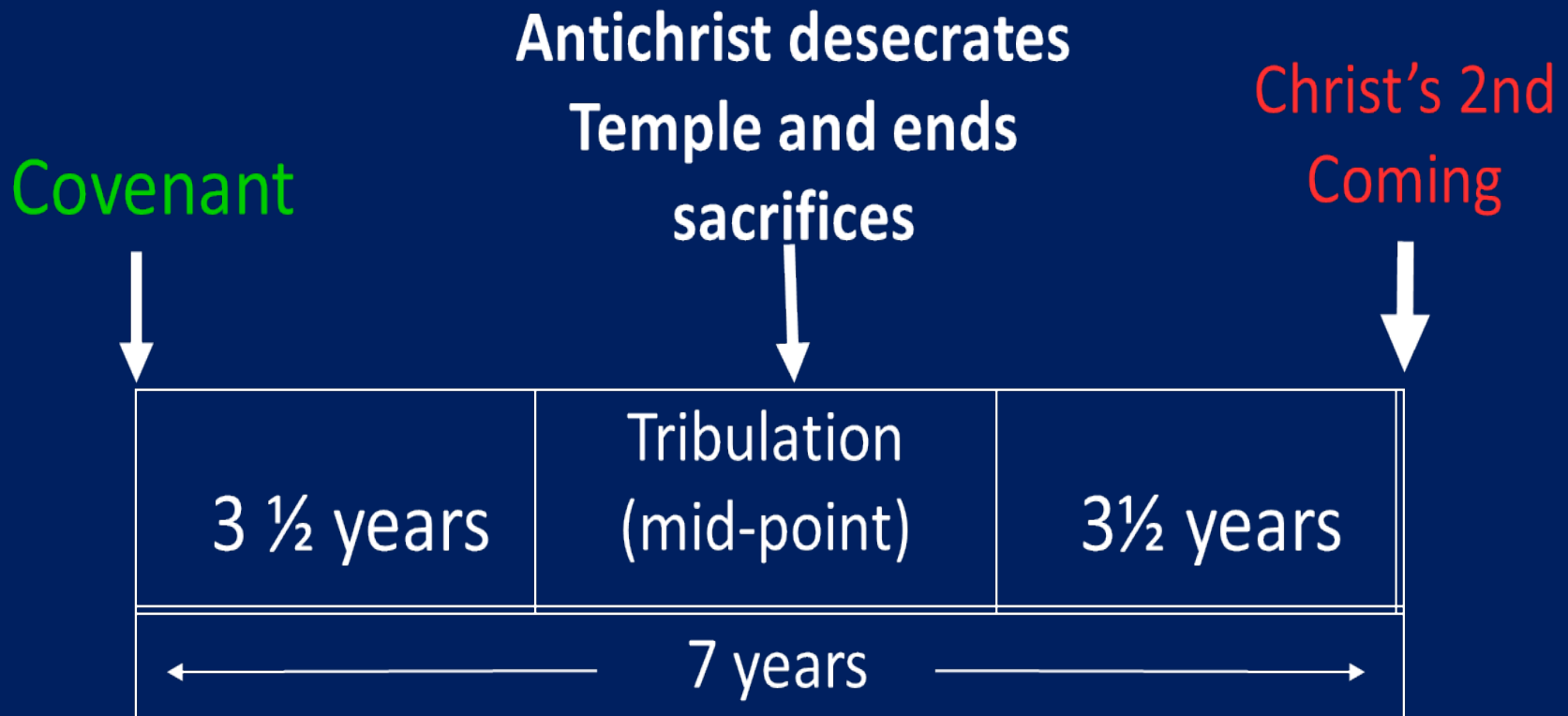


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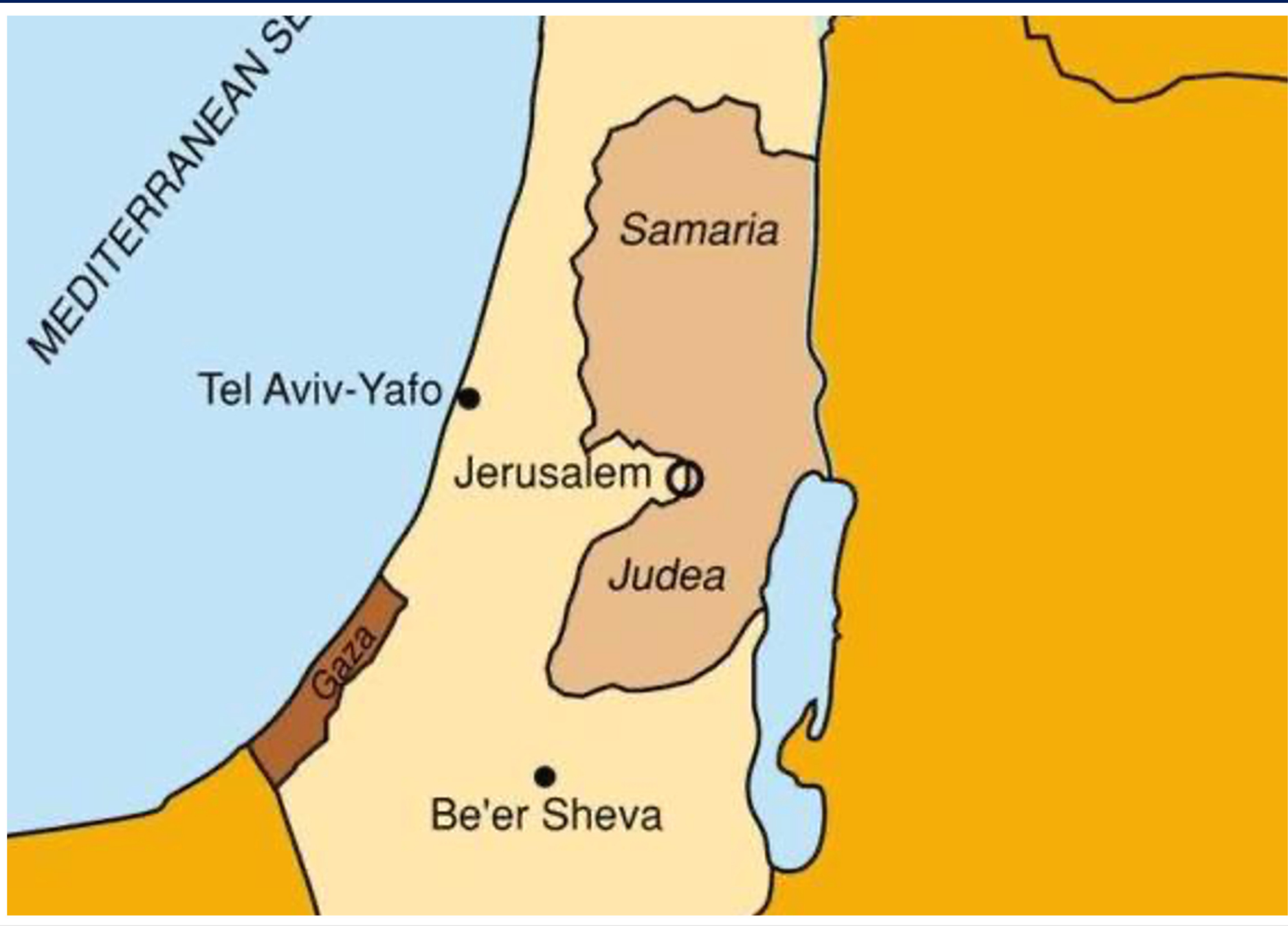
DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



HANUKKAH

- The Maccabean revolt
- December 25th 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





MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Samaria

Tel Aviv-Yafo

Jerusalem

Judea

Gaza

Be'er Sheva

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.”



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Matthew 24:21-22

“²¹ For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. ²² 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

⁷ “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.”

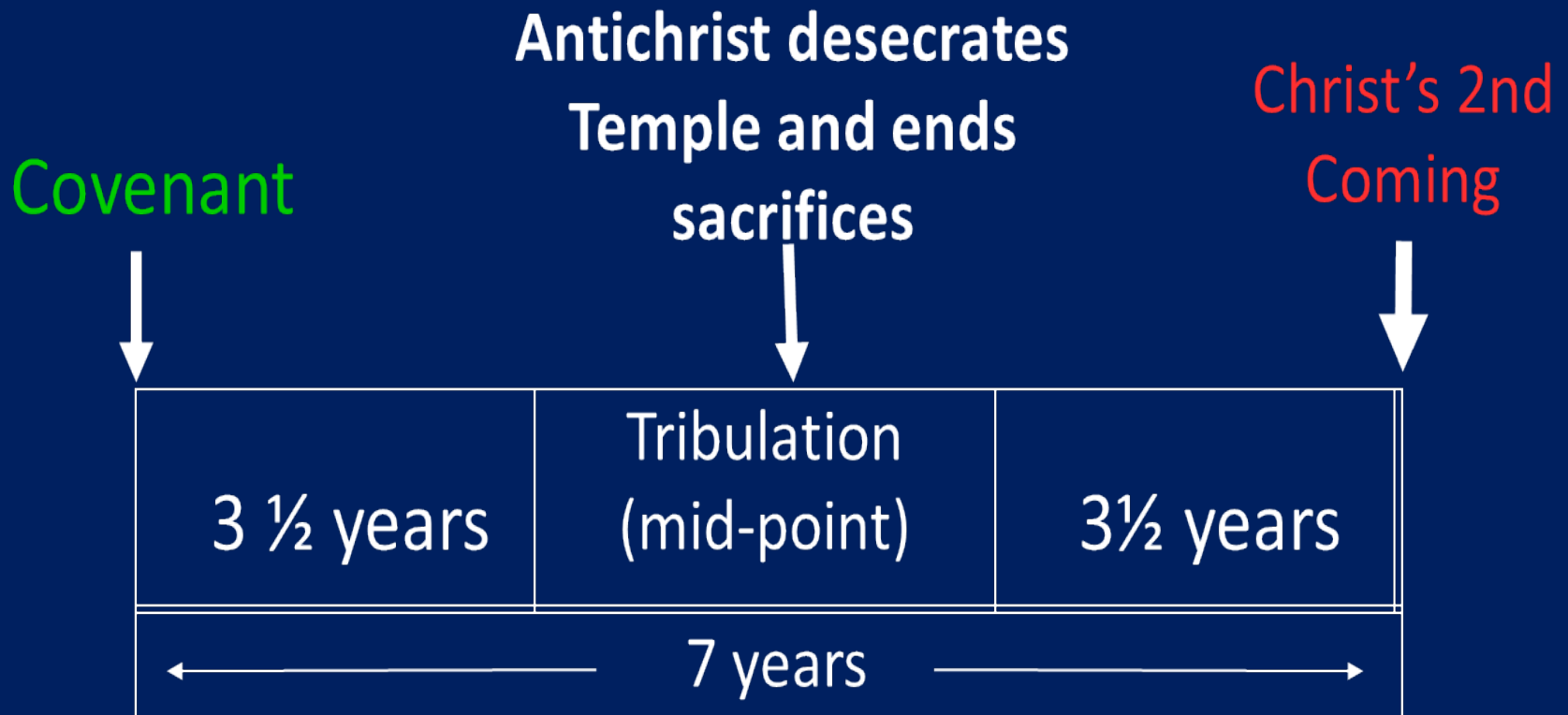


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DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



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)



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.”



1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the **trumpet** of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words."



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 16:1-3

The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. ² But He replied to them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘*It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.*’ ³ And in the morning, ‘*There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.*’ Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot *discern* the signs of the times?”



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National
Israel

The
Believing
Remnant

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.’ ”



Ezekiel 20:33-38

³³ “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. ³⁴ **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; ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ “I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; ³⁸ 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

“²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ 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

	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 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.”



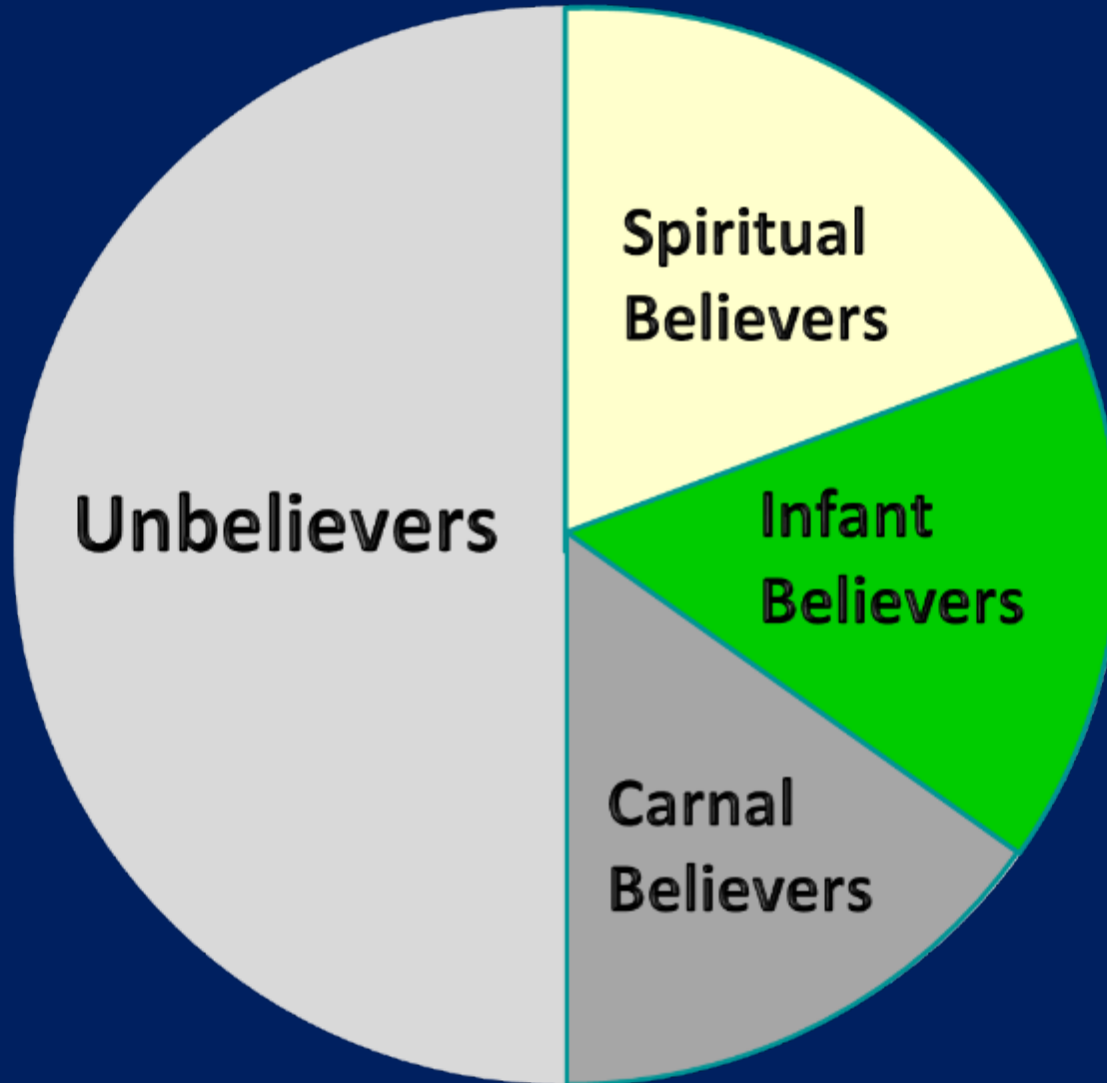
1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

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



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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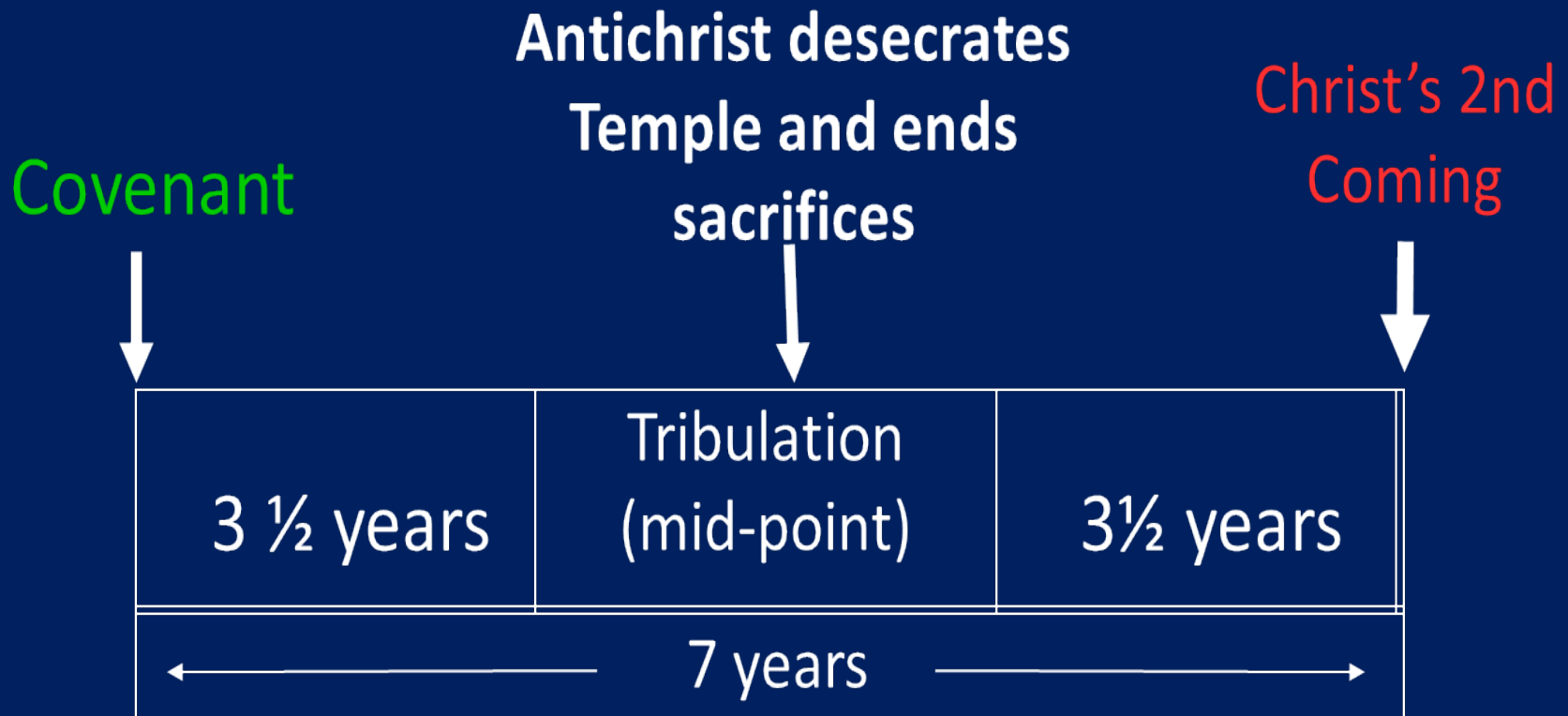
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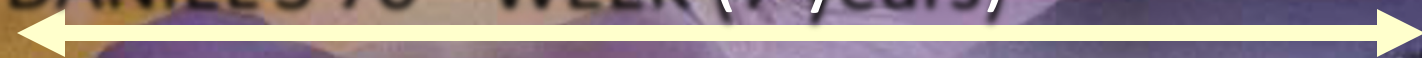


DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



CONNECTING REV 12 & ANTI-SEMITISM

DANIEL'S 70th WEEK (7 years)



Israel flees



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

1260 days

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Matthew 24:36-39

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. ³⁷ For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸ 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, ³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.”



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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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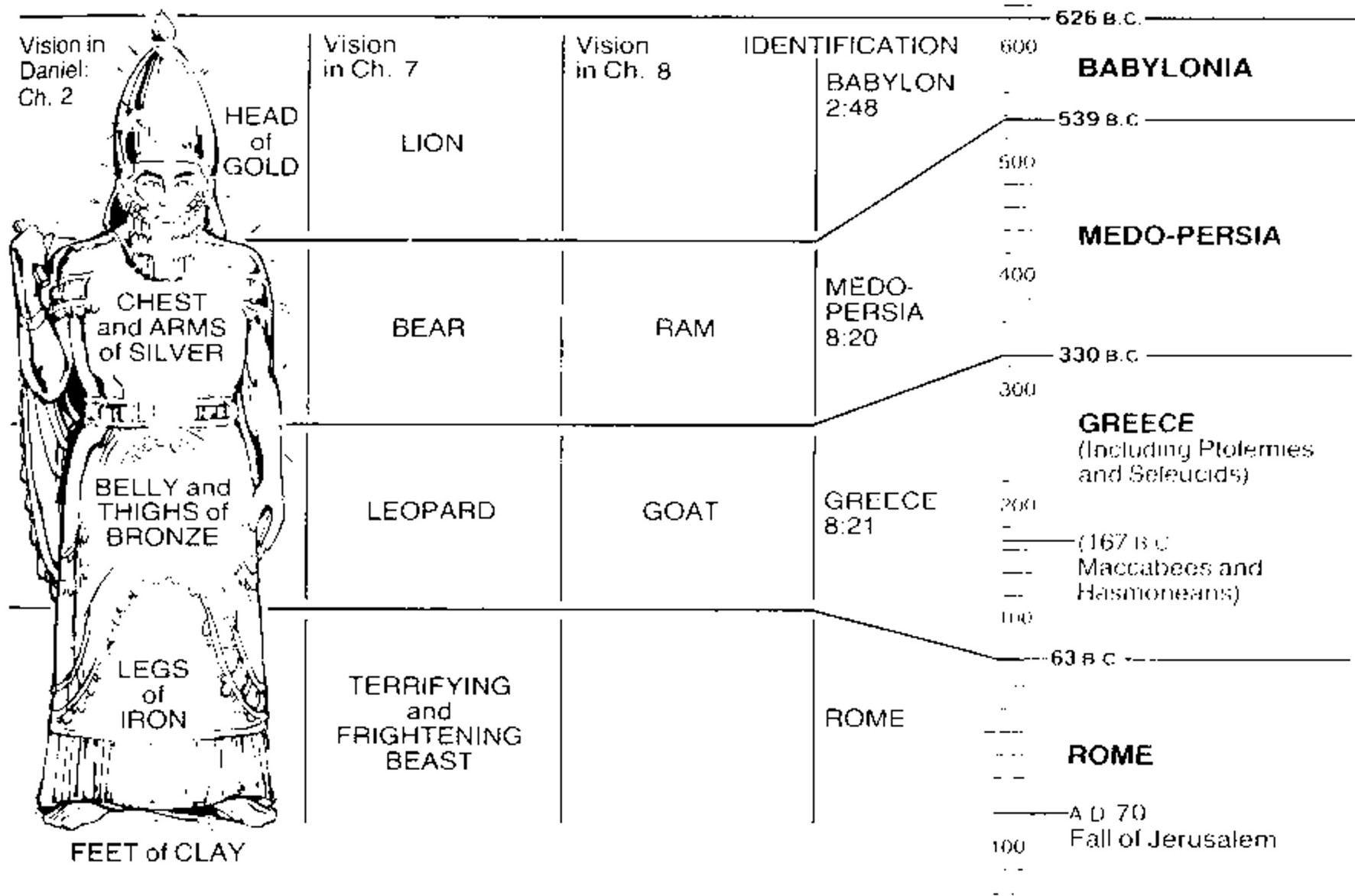
Matthew 24:30

“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.”



Identification of the Four Kingdoms

Chronology of Major Empires in Daniel



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
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- e. Lukan parallel passage



Matthew 13:30 (NASB)

“Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, ‘First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.’”



C. The Comparison of Two Men and Women

Matthew 24:40-41

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- a. Preceding context
- b. Days of Noah chronology
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Luke 17:34-37

³⁴ “I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left. ³⁵ “There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left. ³⁶ “Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.” ³⁷ 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



C. The Comparison of Two Men and Women

Matthew 24:40-41

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a. From *airō* to *paralambanō*

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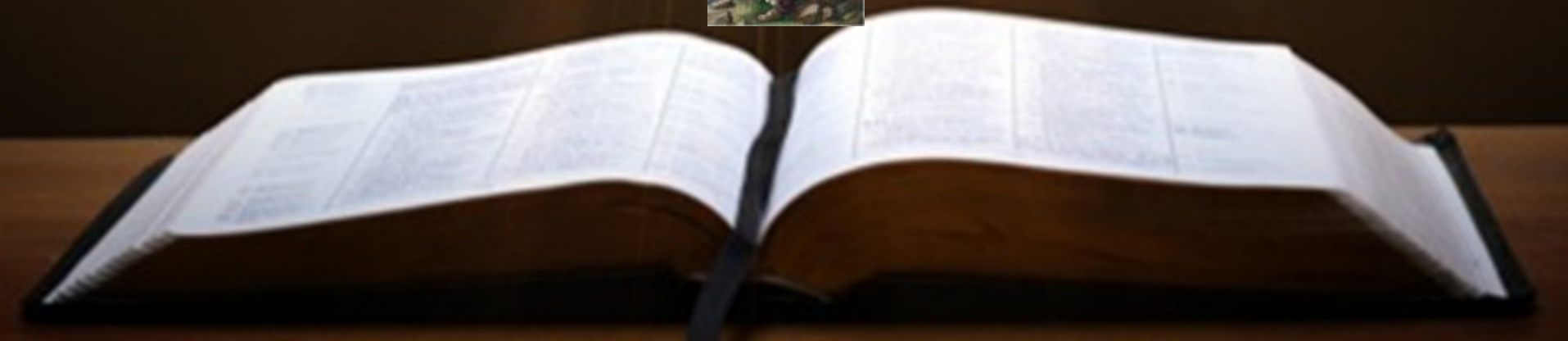
Matthew 24:36-41

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. ³⁷ For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸ 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, ³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and **took (airō)** them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰ Then there will be two men in the field; one will be **taken (paralambanō)** and one will be left. ⁴¹ “Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be **taken (paralambanō)** and one will be left.”



John 14:1-4

¹ “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² “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. ³ “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. ⁴ “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.”

Matthew 24:36-41

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. ³⁷ For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸ 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, ³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and **took (airō)** them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰ Then there will be two men in the field; one will be **taken (paralambanō)** and one will be left. ⁴¹ “Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be **taken (paralambanō)** and one will be left.”



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

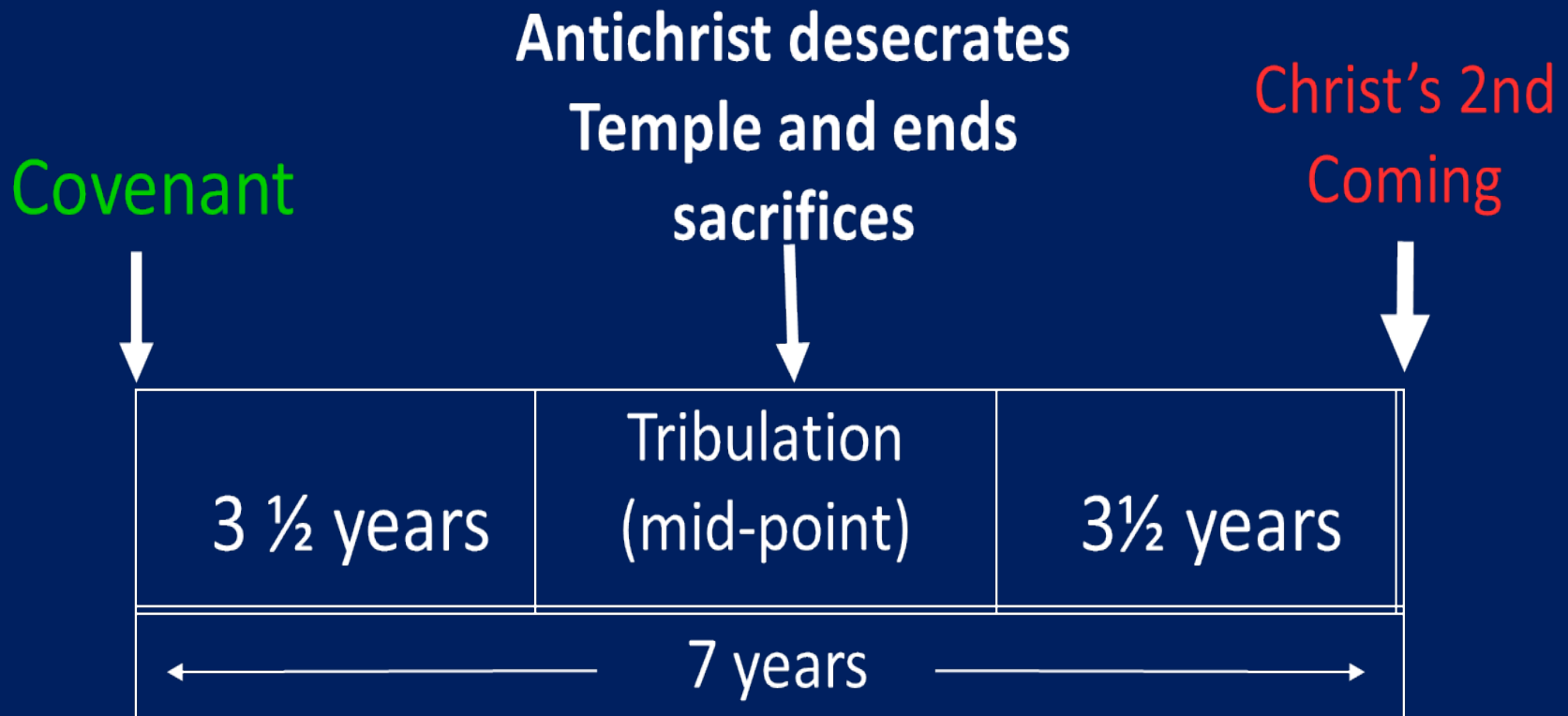


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DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



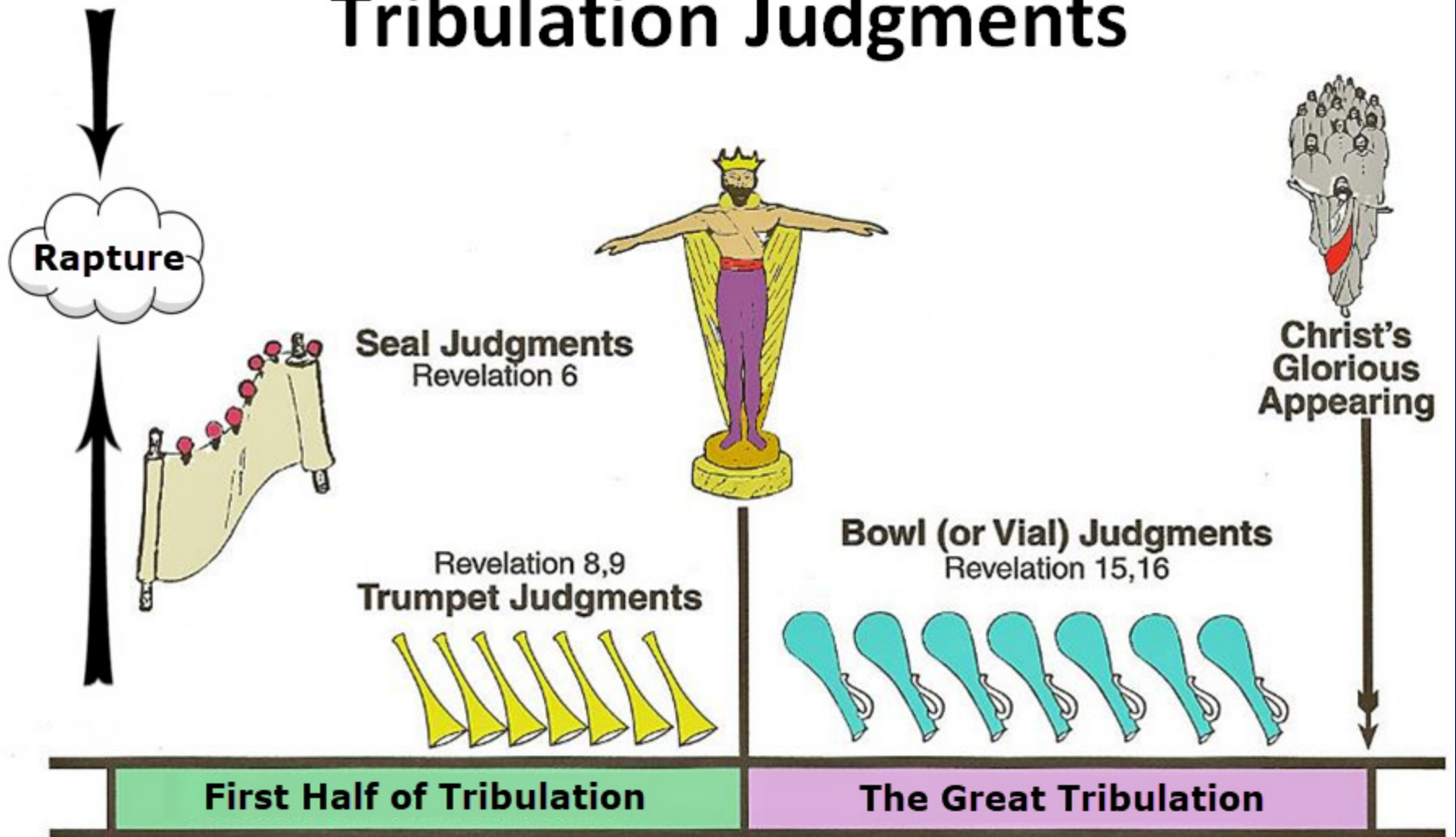


Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

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

“¹ Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. ³ 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

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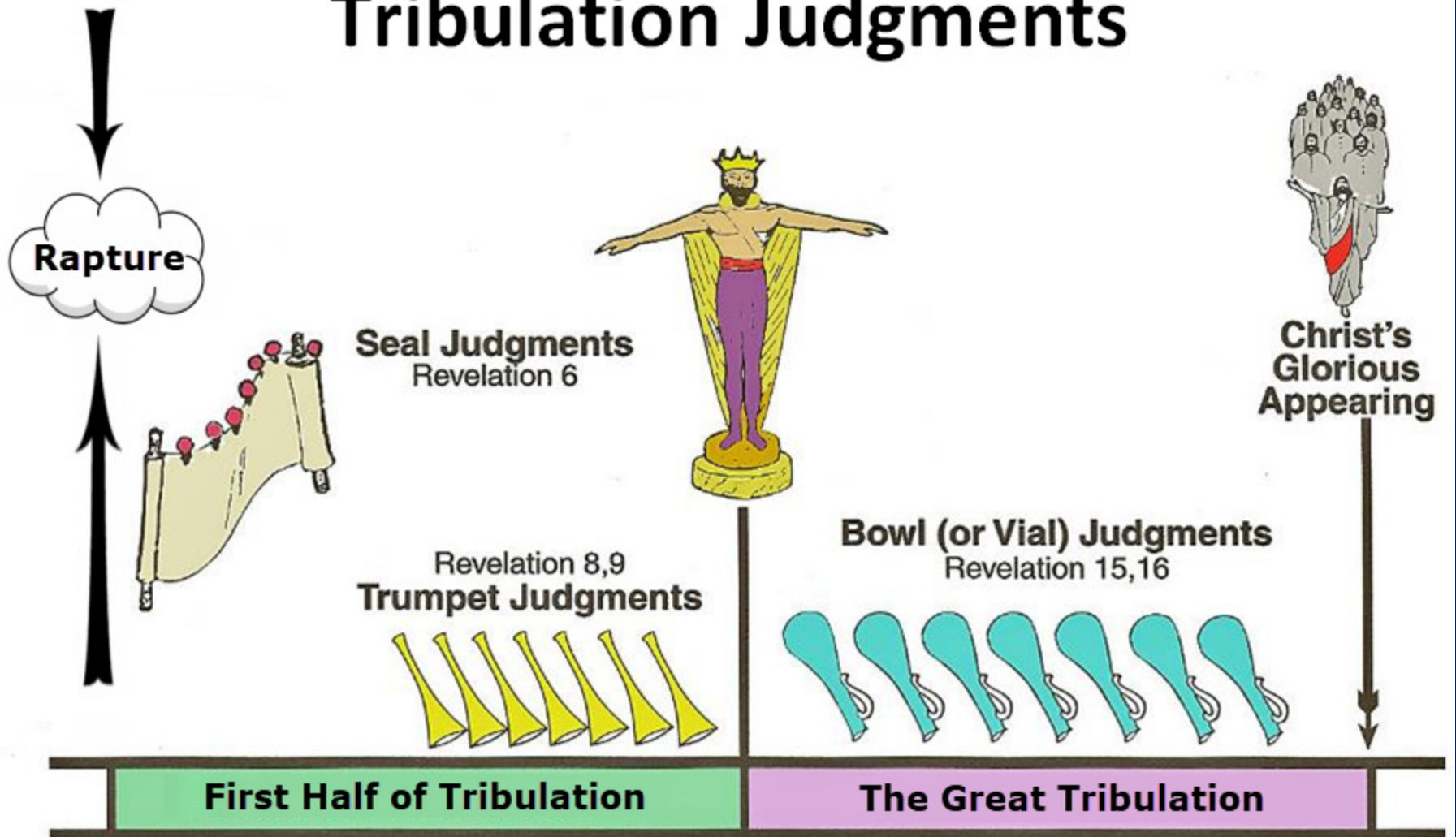


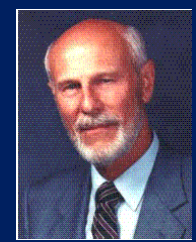
Luke 17:26-30

²⁶ “And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ “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; ²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ “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 . . .



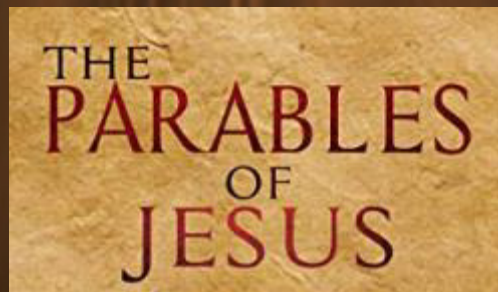
Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

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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

³² “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; ³³ 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

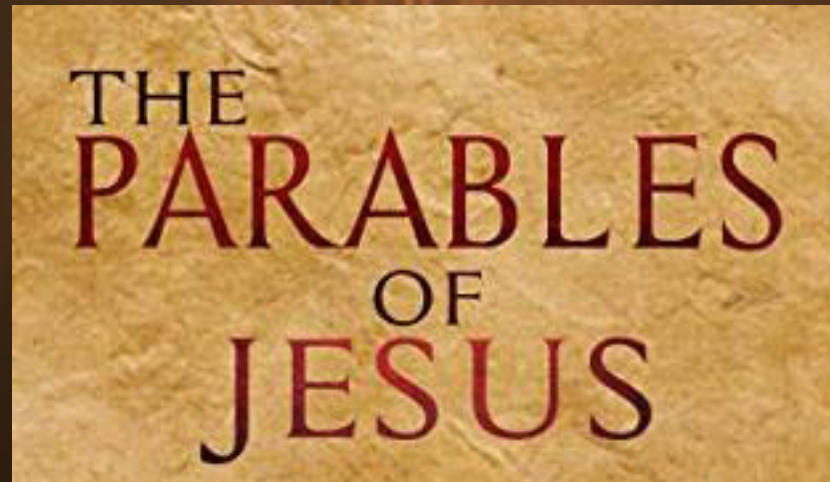
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Matthew 24:36

“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,
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“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)
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F. Partial Rapture of the Church?

(Matthew 25:1-13)

1. Chapter division & preceding context
2. Demoted from bride to maidens
3. Bride? Body? In Christ?
4. Translation? Resurrection?
5. Bridegroom comes to the earth



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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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10. Dispensationally misapplied passage



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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.”



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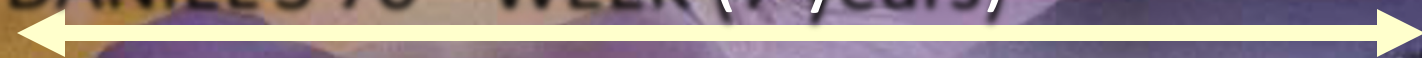
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CONNECTING REV 12 & ANTI-SEMITISM

DANIEL'S 70th 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)

