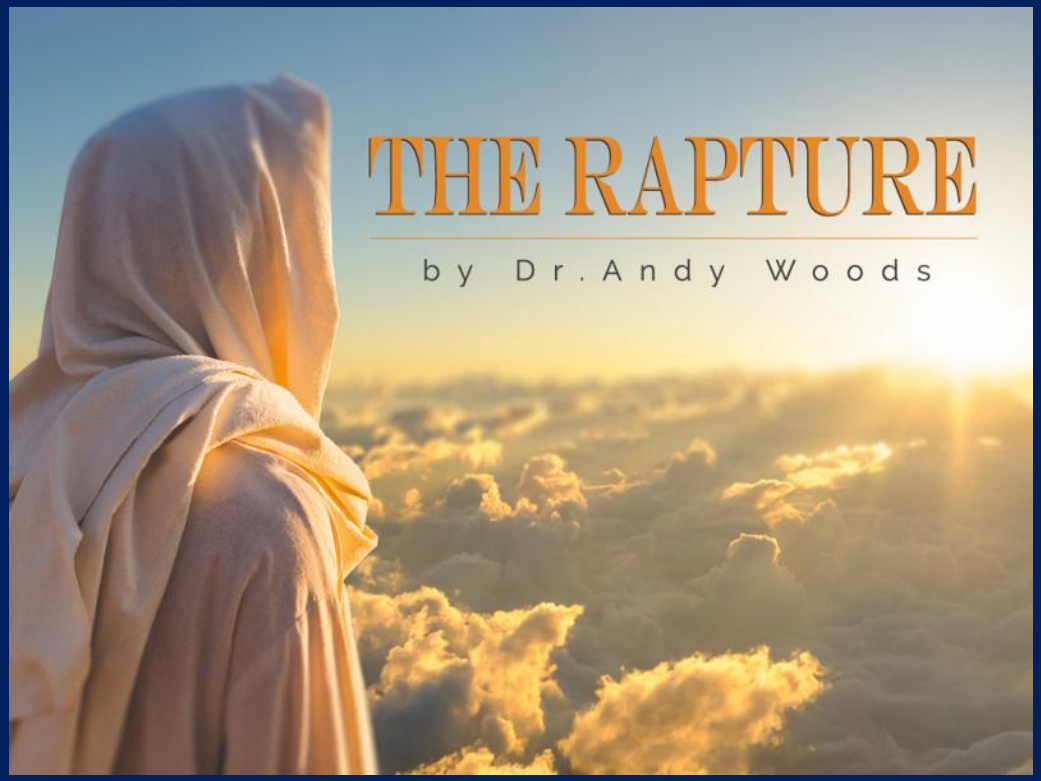
THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 1





Dr. Andy Woods
Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church
President – Chafer Theological Seminary

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)
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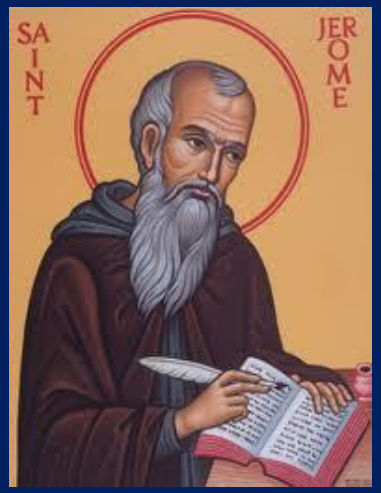
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1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

. . . have fallen asleep. [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 [*harpazō*]** 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."



Latin Vulgate Translation
(1 Thess. 4:17)



"Deinde nos, qui vivimus, qui relinquimur, simul **rapiemur** cum illis in nubibus obviam Christo in aëra, et sic semper cum Domino erimus."

Andrew Curtis and Isaiah Hoogendyk, *The Lexham Latin-English Interlinear Vulgate* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016), 1 Th 4:17.

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1 Corinthians 15:50-51

“50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed.”



Resurrection
(1 Cor 15:50-52)

- Resurrection definition
- Resurrection importance (1 Cor 15:50, 53-54)
- Resurrection of living believers (1 Cor 15:51)
- Resurrection of deceased believers (1 Cor 15:52)



Romans 8:19-23

19 “For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know **that the whole creation groans** and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even **we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body**.”



1 Corinthians 15:50-51

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Exemption from Death
(1 Cor 15:54-56)

- Enoch (Gen 5)
- Elijah (2 Kings 2)
- Christ (Acts 1:11; Rev 12:5)
- Philip (Acts 8:39)
- Paul (2 Cor 12:2, 4)
- John (Rev 4:1-2)
- Two witnesses (Rev 11)



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1 Corinthians 15:52

“in a moment, in the **twinkling of an eye**, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”



1 Corinthians 15:52

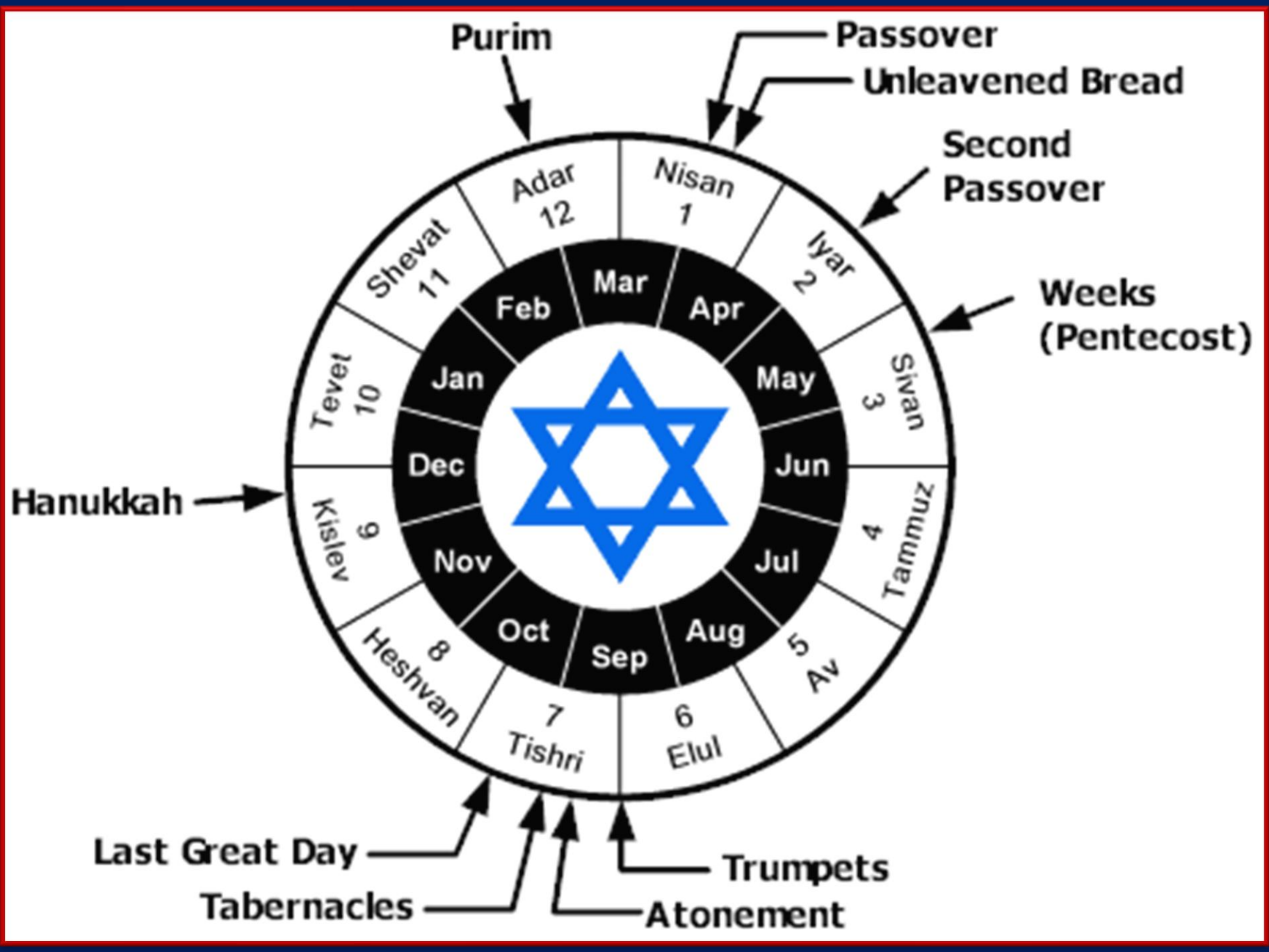
"in **a moment [*atomos*]**, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."



Instantaneous
(1 Cor 15:52)

- Twinkling of an eye
- Flash or moment
- Split second
- *Atomos* (Greek) = atom (English)




Purim
Passover
Unleavened Bread
Second Passover
Weeks (Pentecost)
Hanukkah
Last Great Day
Tabernacles
Atonement
Trumpets
Adar 12
Nisan 1
Iyar 2
Sivan 3
Tammuz 4
Av 5
Elul 6
Tishri 7
Heshvan 8
Kislev 9
Tevet 10
Shevat 11
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
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Jan

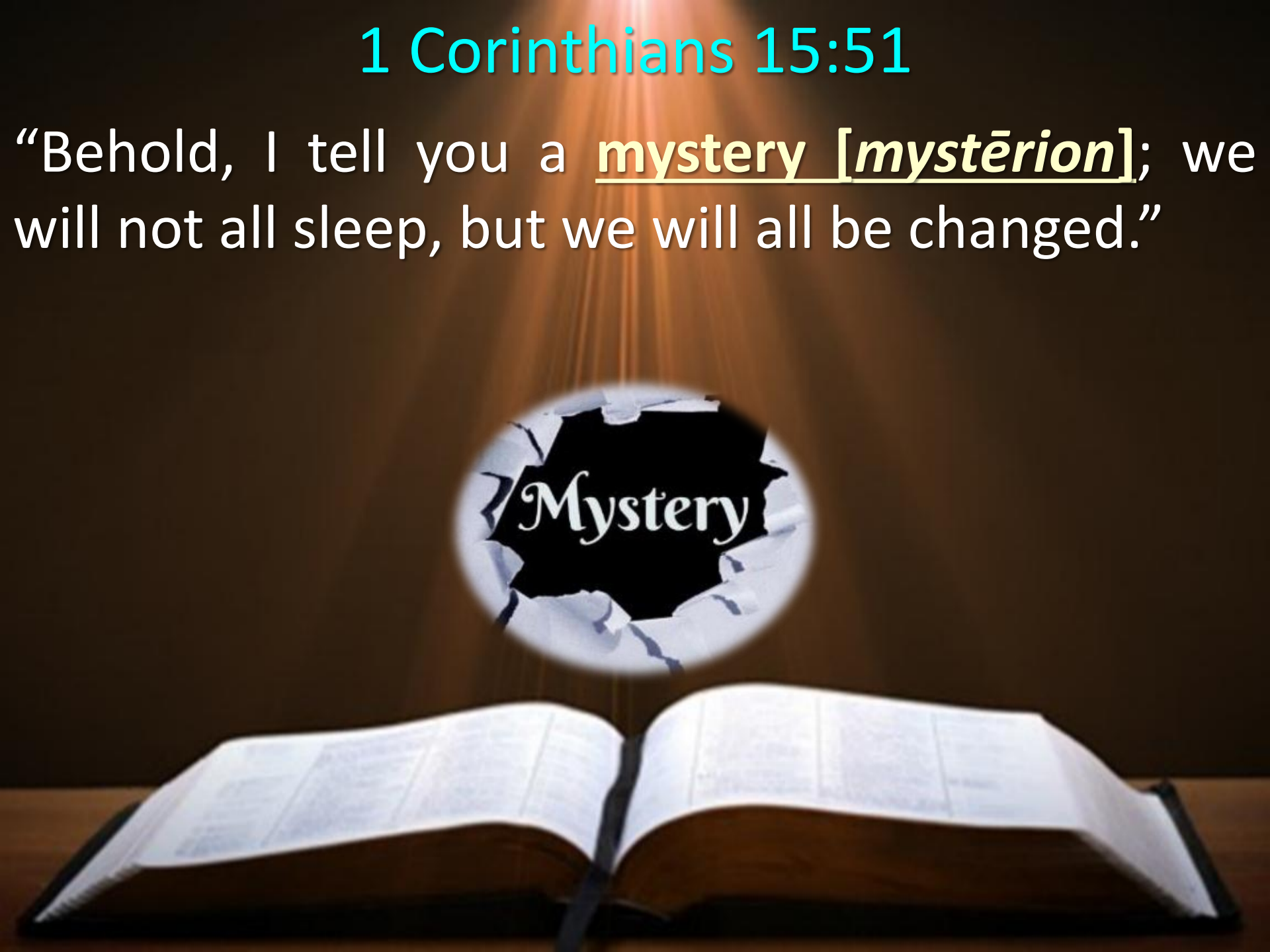
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1 Corinthians 15:51

"Behold, I tell you a **mystery [*mystērion*]**; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed."



Mystery
(1 Cor 15:51)

- Mystery definition
- Paul's assignment
- How church age will end



- Second coming taught in both the Old and New Testaments
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“Mystery” Defined

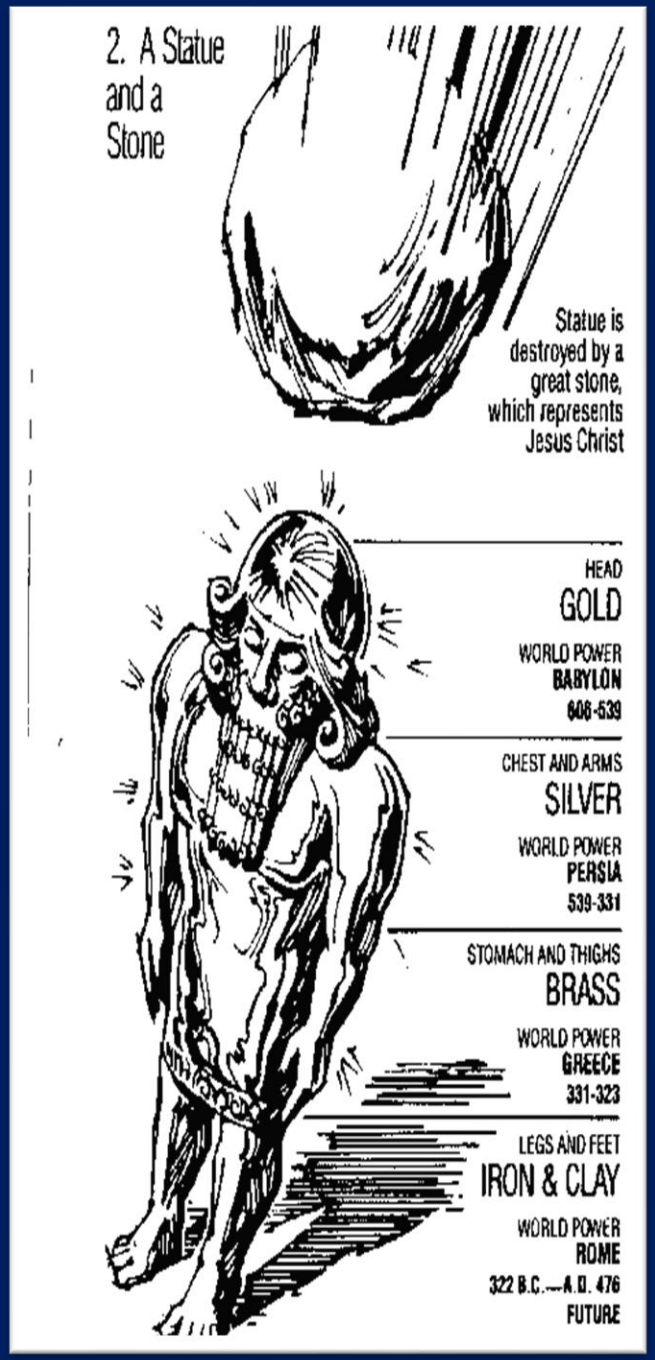
“In the N.T, it [*mystērion*] denotes, not the mysterious (as with the Eng. word), but that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by Divine revelation, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those who are illumined by His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



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



Statue & Stone



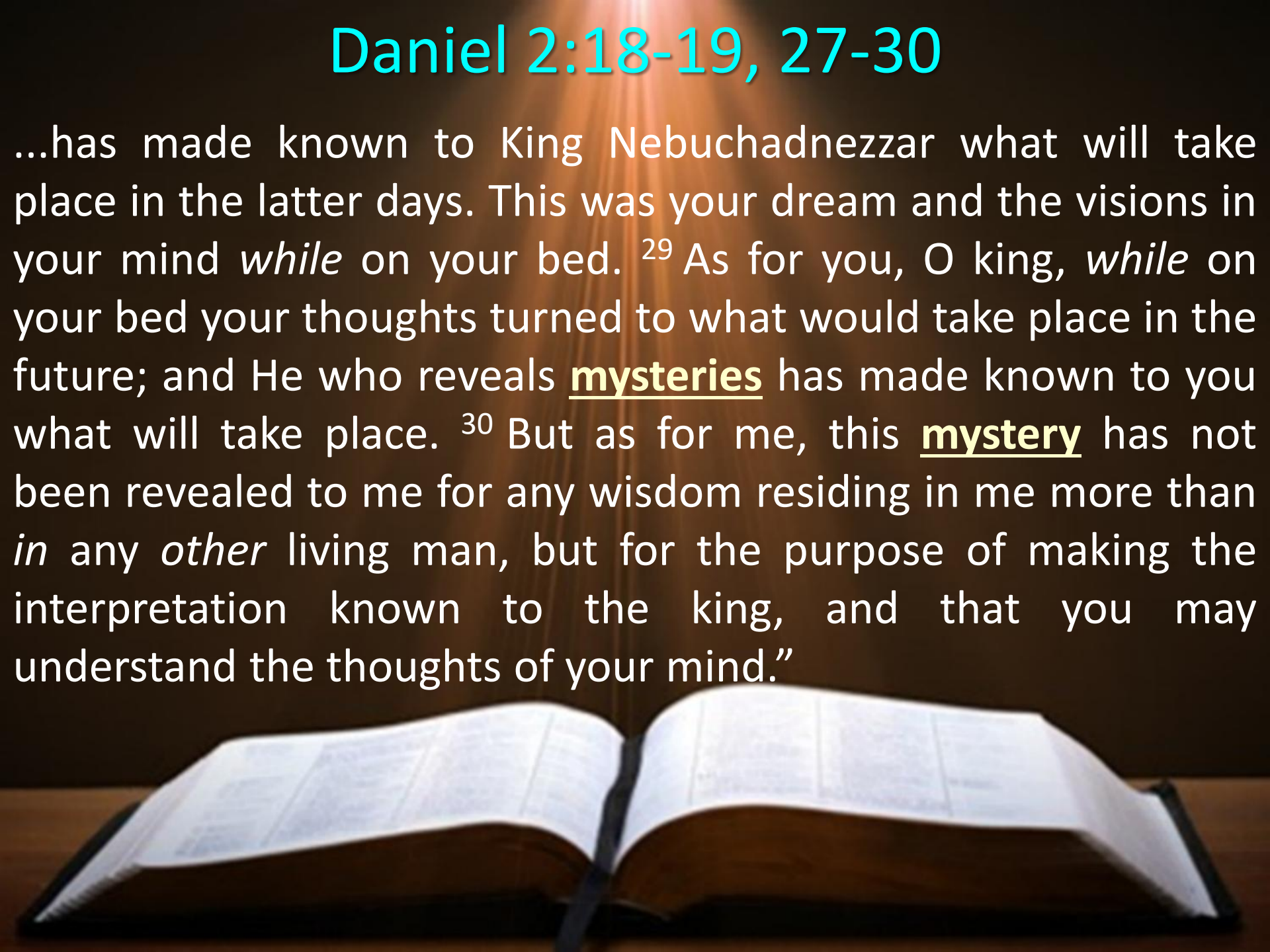
Daniel 2:18-19, 27-30

"[18] so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this **mystery**, so that Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. [19] Then the **mystery** was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven;…[27] Daniel answered before the king and said, "As for the **mystery** about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians *nor* diviners are able to declare *it* to the king. [28] However, there is a God in heaven who **mysteries**, and He...



Daniel 2:18-19, 27-30

...has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind *while* on your bed. [29] As for you, O king, *while* on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals **mysteries** has made known to you what will take place. [30] But as for me, this **mystery** has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than *in* any *other* living man, but for the purpose of making the interpretation known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind."



Colossians 1:26

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



Mystery
(1 Cor 15:51)

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Ephesians 2:14-16

14 “For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.”



Ephesians 3:3-6

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



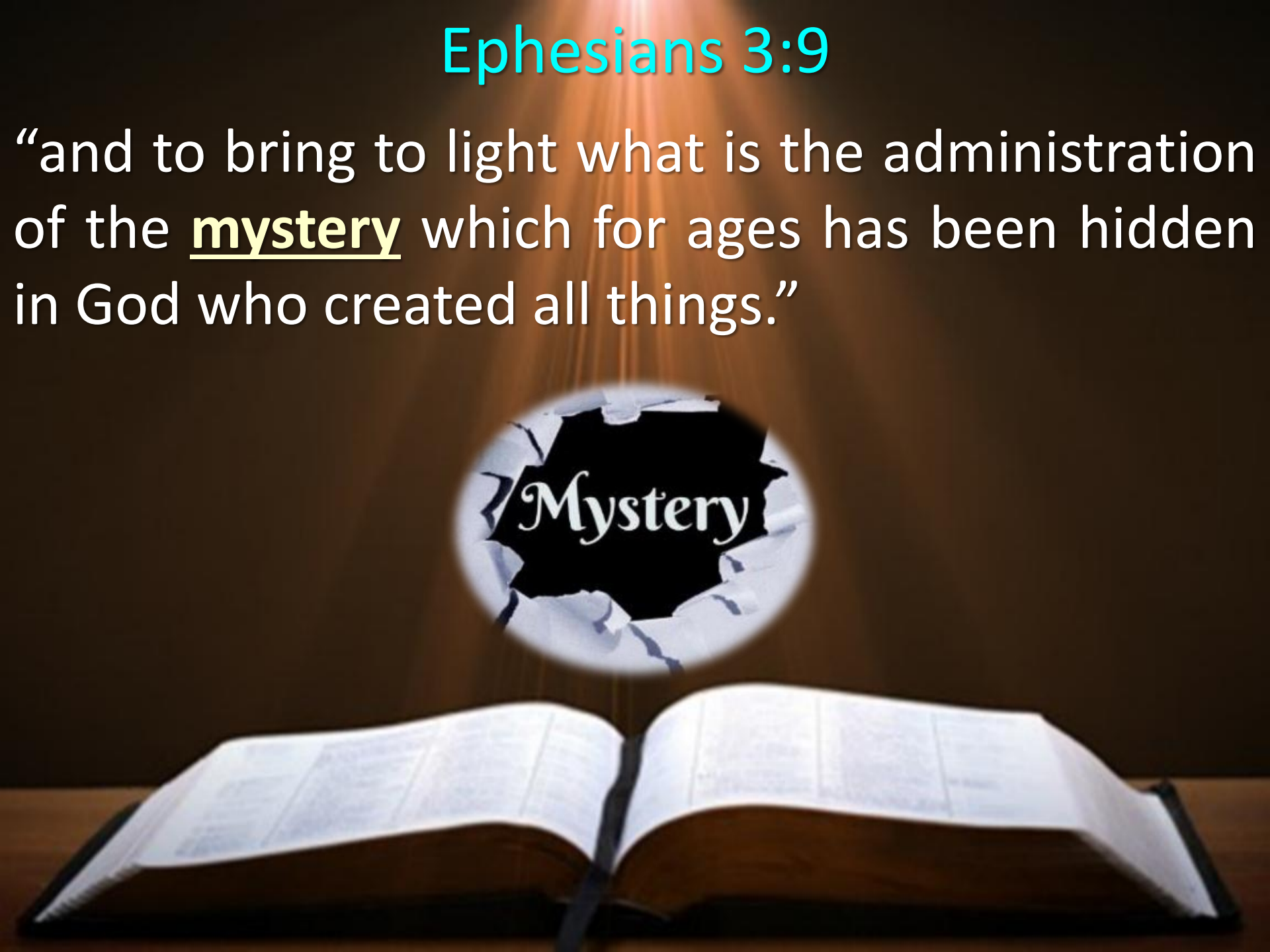
Ruth 1:16

“But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you *or* turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. **Your people *shall be* my people, and your God, my God**.”



Ephesians 3:9

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



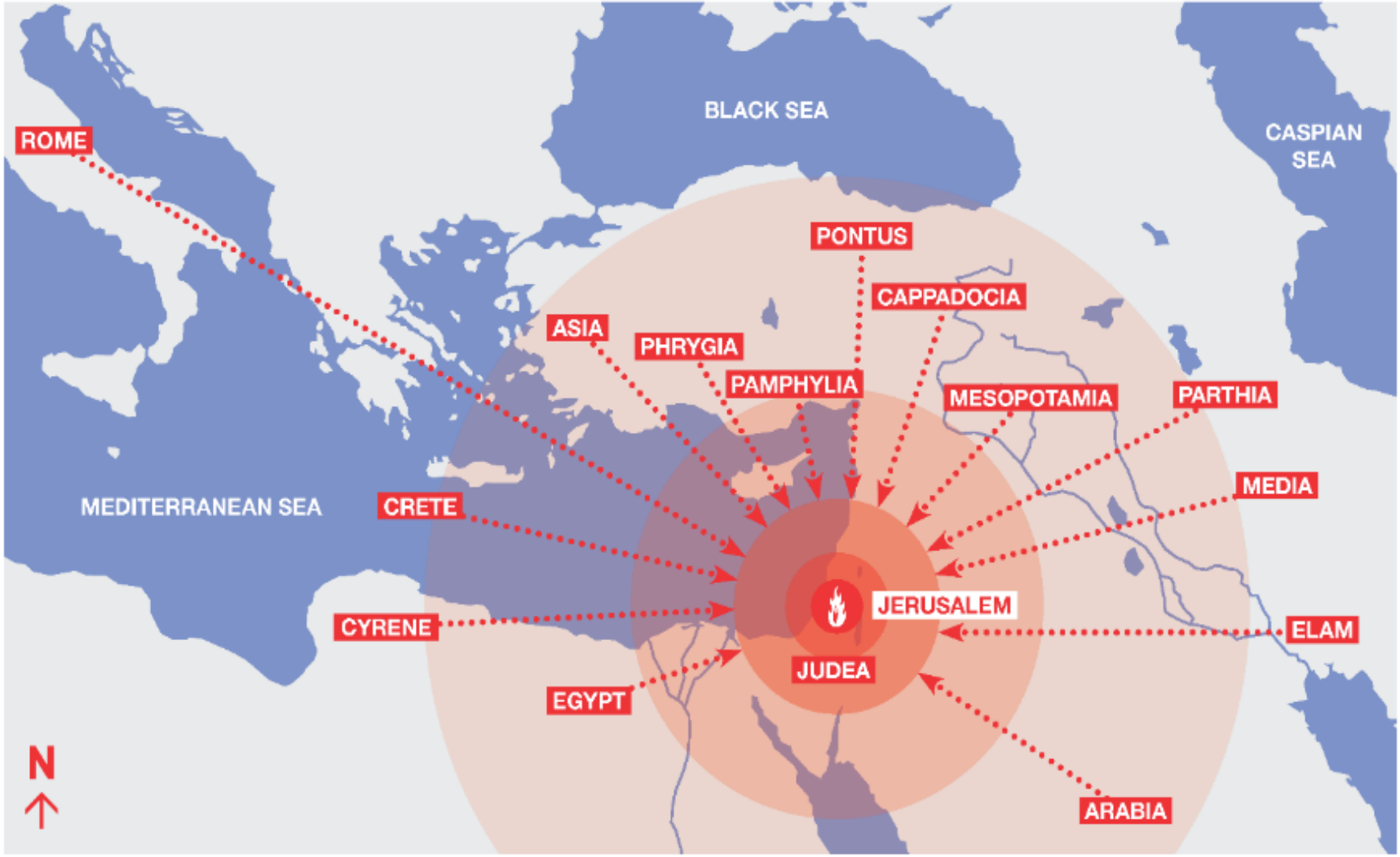
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THE NATIONS OF PENTECOST ACTS 2:9-11

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- How church age will end
- **Part of Inter-Advent Age**
- Second coming taught in both the Old and New Testaments
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Matthew 13 Parables

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

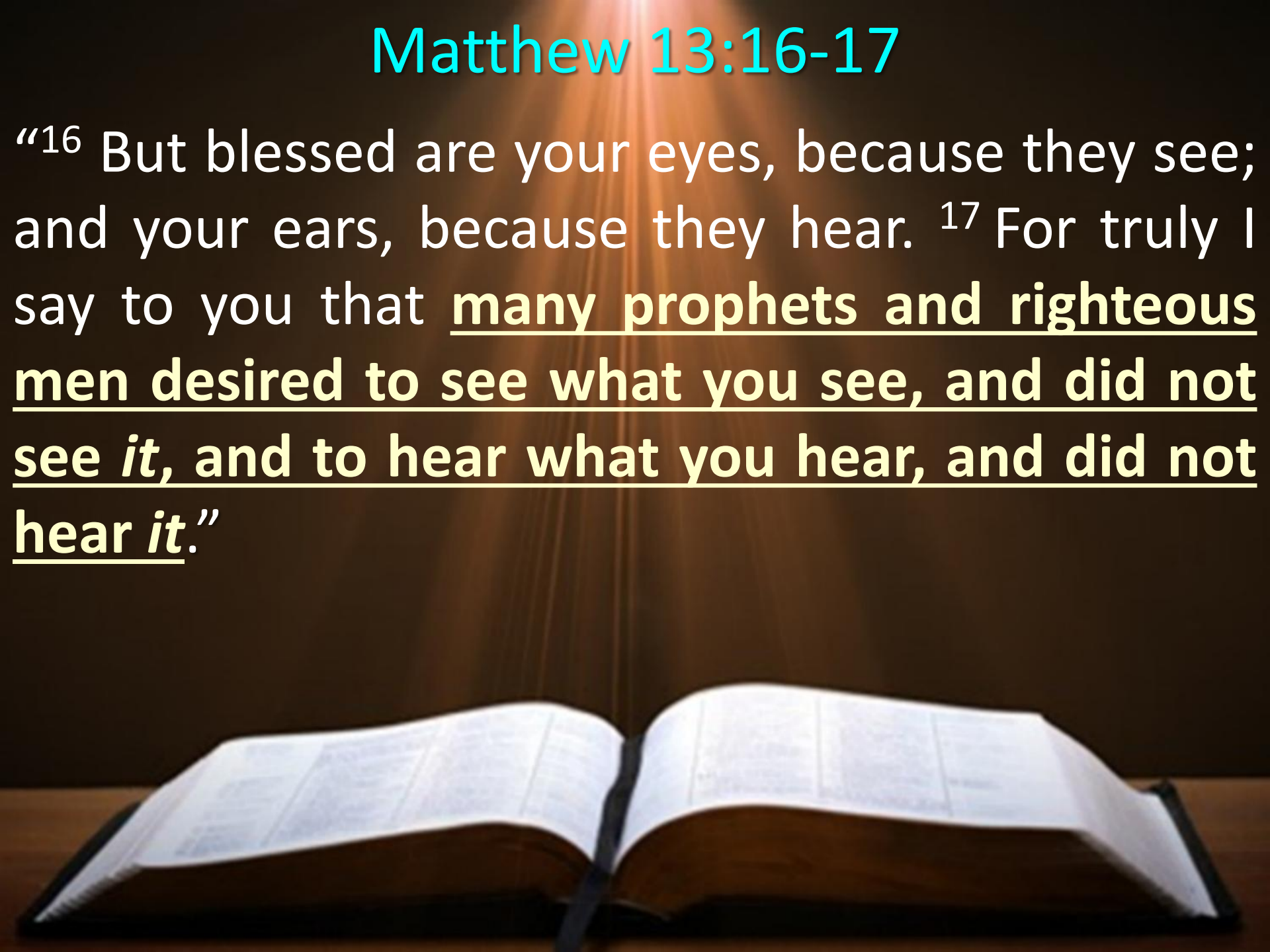
Matthew 13:11

Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the **mysteries** of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.”



Matthew 13:16-17

“16 But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. 17 For truly I say to you that **many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it***.”



Matthew 13:35

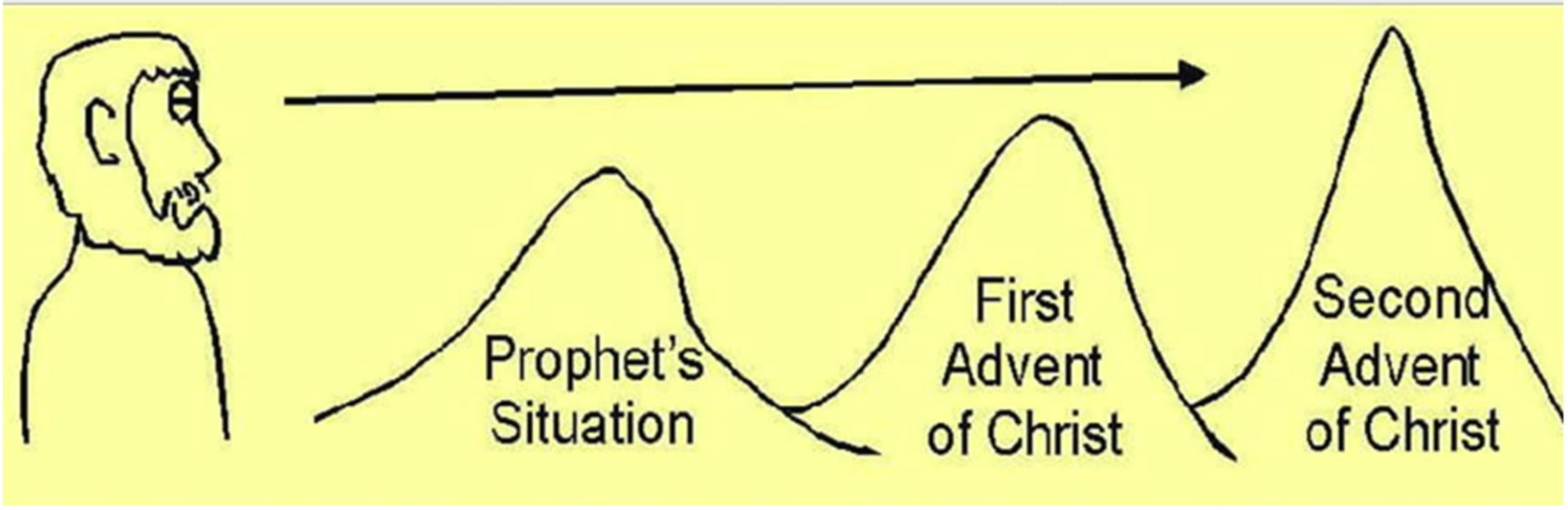
"*This was* to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: 'I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; **I will utter things hidden since the foundation of the world**.'"



Mountain Peaks of Prophecy

Multiple fulfilments in one prophecy





Zechariah 9:9-10

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph,
O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to
you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble,
and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a
donkey. 10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the
horse from Jerusalem; And the bow of war will be cut
off. And He will speak peace to the nations; And His
dominion will be from sea to sea, And from the River to
the ends of the earth.



Isaiah 9:6-7

6 **For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;**
And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His
name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 **There will be no end to**
the increase of His government or of peace, On the
throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it
and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From
then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts
will accomplish this.



1 Peter 1:10-11

10 As to this salvation, **the prophets** who prophesied of the grace that would come to you **made careful searches and inquiries**, 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as **He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow**.

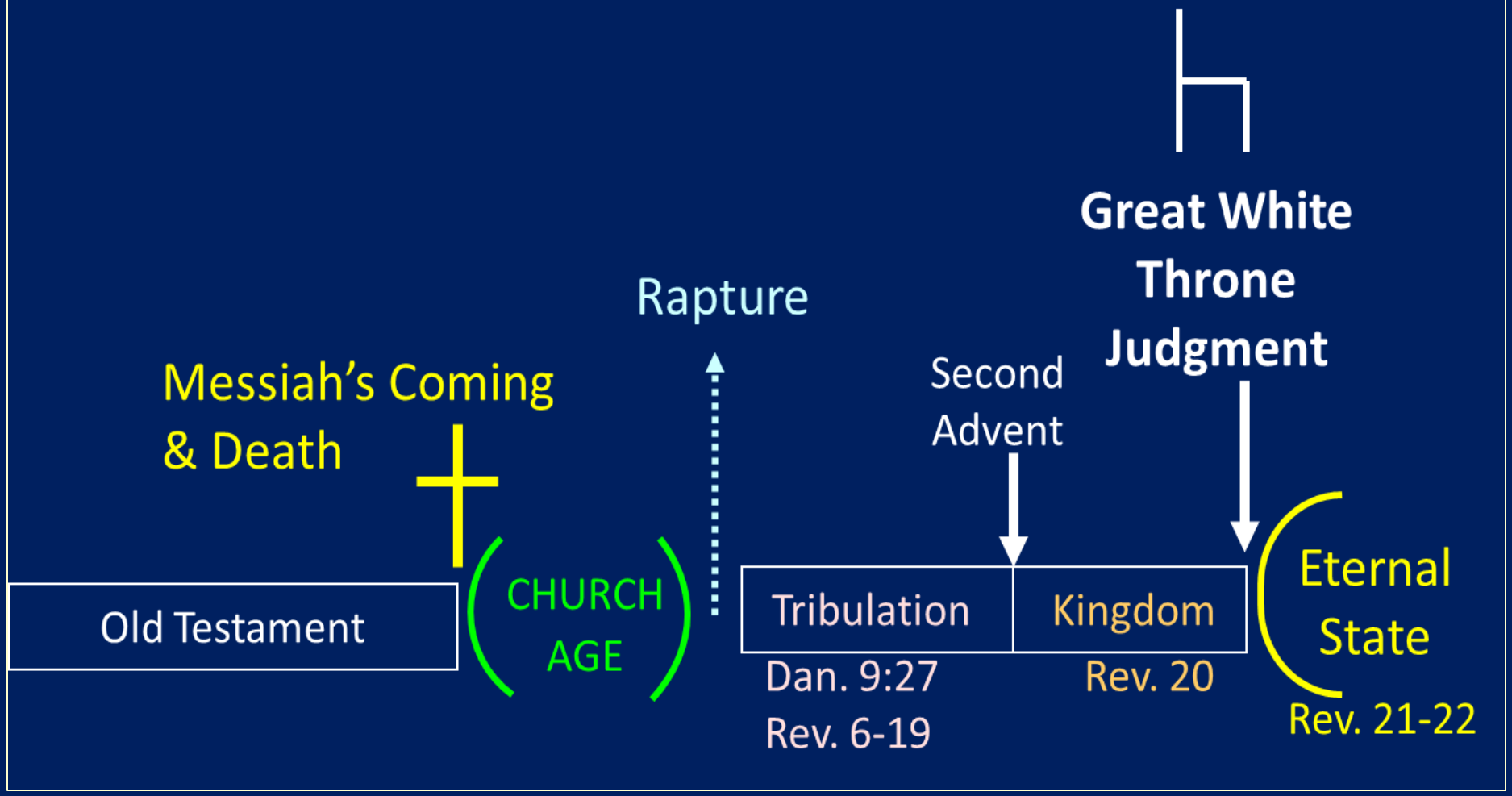


Isaiah 26:19-20

“19 Your dead will live; Their corpses will rise.
You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy,
For your dew is as the dew of the dawn, And
the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.
20 Come, my people, enter into your rooms And
close your doors behind you; Hide for a
little while Until indignation runs its course.”



Prophecy Panorama



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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 to Myself, that where I am,
there you may be also. 4 “And you know the way
where I am going.”





New Mystery Truth

"But here in John 14 the Lord gives a new and unique revelation; **He speaks of something which no prophet had promised, or even could promise**. Where is it written that this Messiah would come and instead of gathering His saints into an earthly Jerusalem, would take them to the Father's house, to the very place where He is? It is something new."



Arno C. Gaebelein, *The Gospel of John*, 268.

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1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord**, will not precede those who . . .



1 Corinthians 15:51

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Wayne Brindle

"Biblical Evidence for the Imminence of the Rapture,"
Bibliotheca Sacra 158, no. 630 (April-June 2001): 138-51.

"Four criteria may be suggested, any one of which indicates imminence: (1) The passage speaks of Christ's return as at any moment. (2) The passage speaks of Christ's return as 'near,' without stating any signs that must precede His coming. (3) The passage speaks of Christ's return as something that gives believers hope and encouragement, without indicating that these believers will suffer tribulation. (4) The passage speaks of Christ's return as giving hope without relating it to God's judgment of unbelievers."



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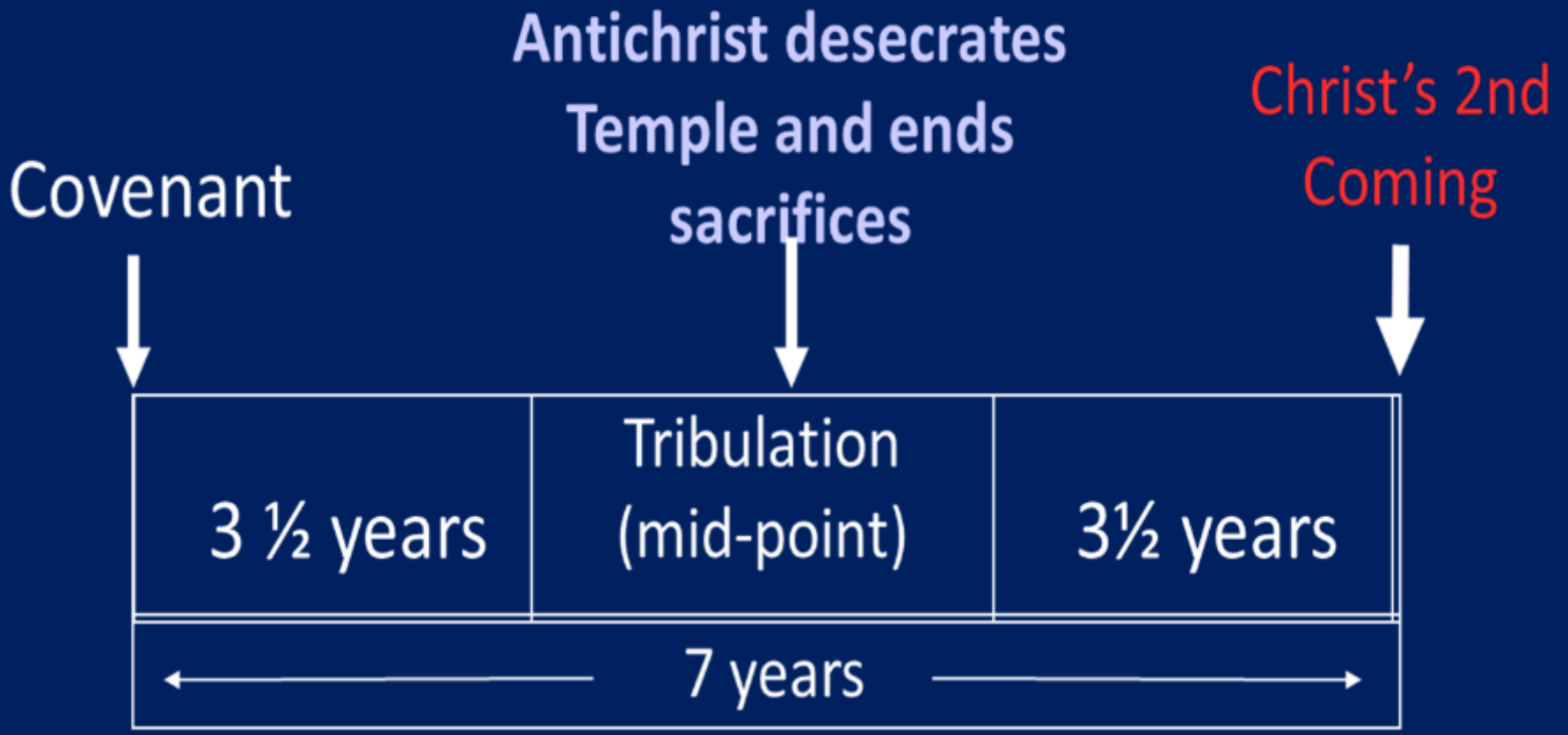


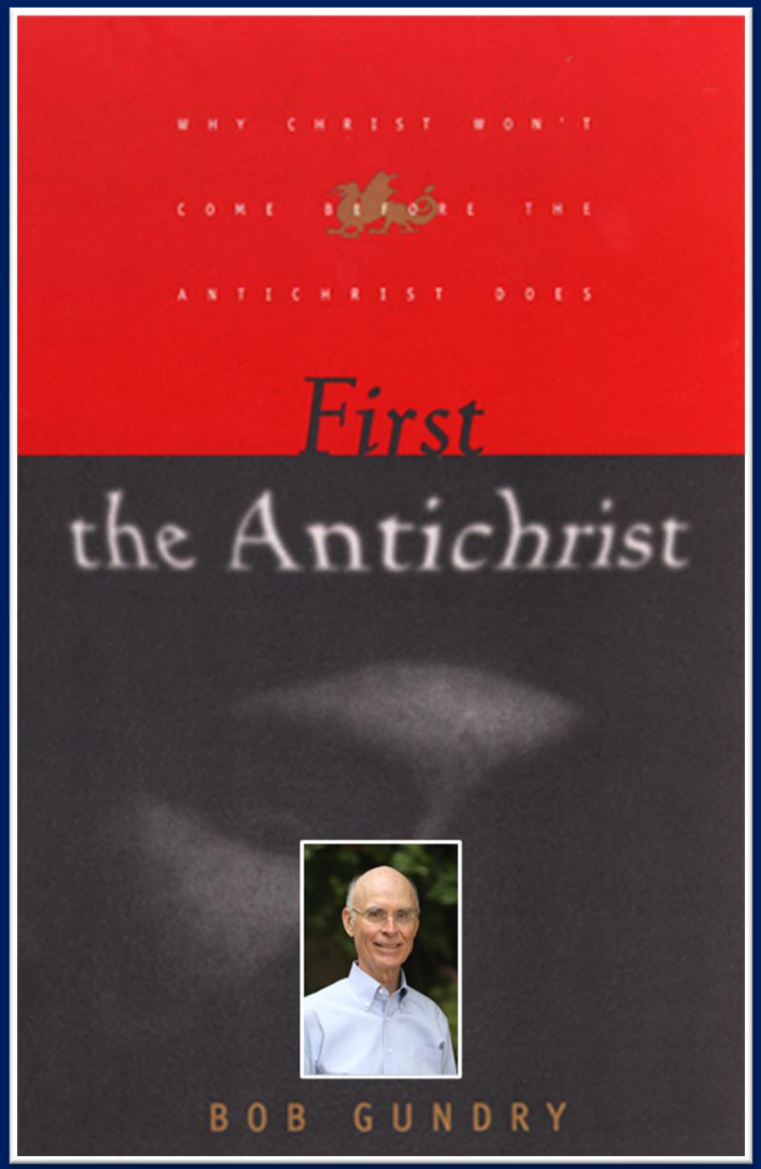
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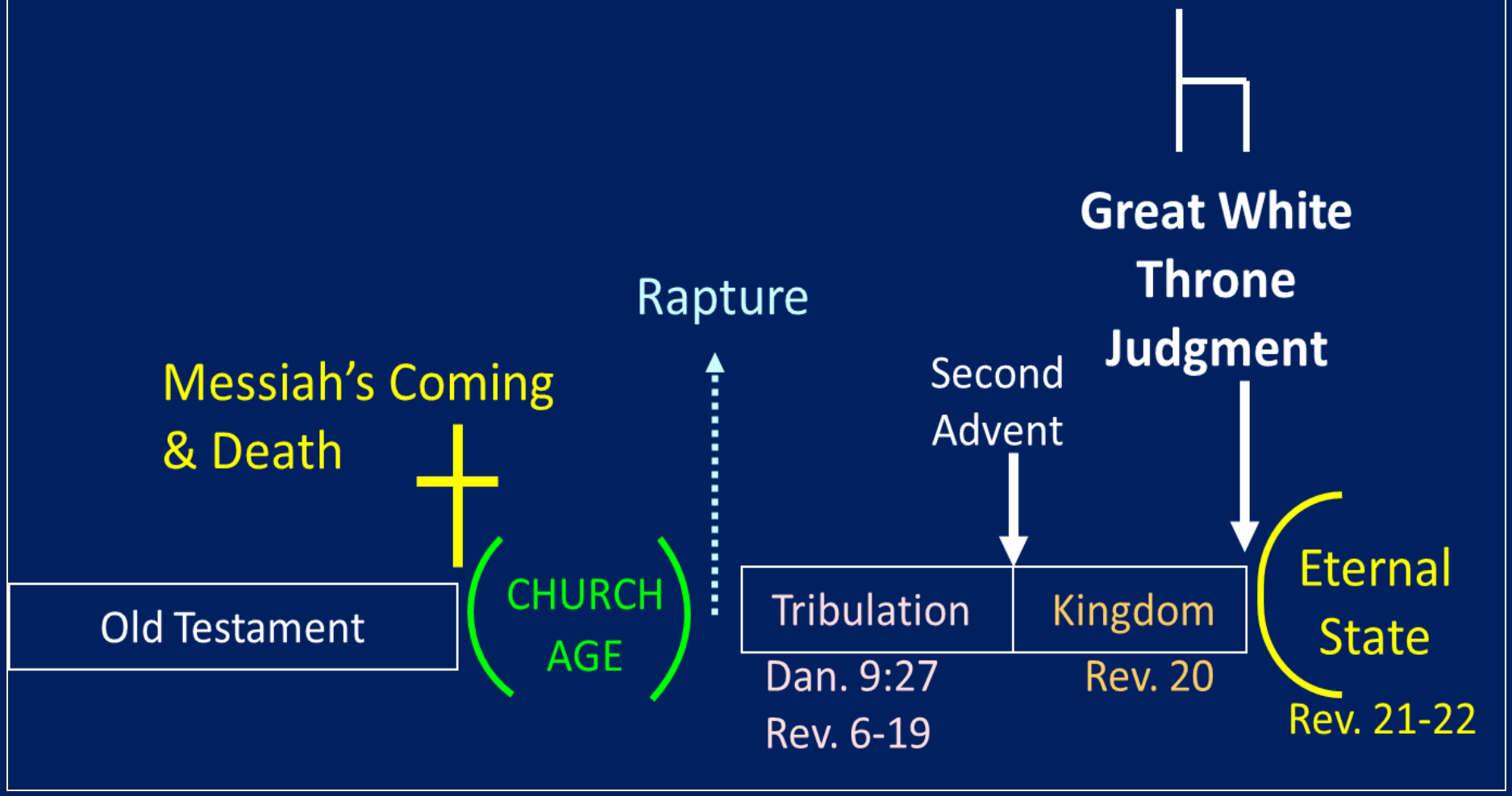
DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD





Robert H. Gundry, *The Church and the Tribulation: Why Christ Won't Come Before the Antichrist Does* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973).

Prophecy Panorama







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“The Rapture” is a New Doctrine?
Three Logical Fallacies

1. Recency fallacy
2. Ad-populum fallacy
3. Genetic fallacy



"The Rapture" a Traditional Doctrine Now Being Recovered

- *Sola scriptura*
- Negative influence of Augustine and Origen
- Pseudo Ephraem (4th-6th century A.D.)
- Progressive illumination



"The Rapture" a Traditional Doctrine Now Being Recovered

- ***Sola scriptura***
- Negative influence of Augustine and Origen
- Pseudo Ephraem (4th-6th century A.D.)
- Progressive illumination



Acts 20:29-31

29 “I know that after my departure savage wolves ***will come in among you***, not sparing the flock; 30 ***and from among your own selves*** men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 “Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.



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Ravenna
ADRIATIC SEA
ITALY
Rome
Puteoli
Pompeii
TYRRHENIAN SEA
SICILY
Syracuse
IONIAN SEA
Danube River
MACEDONIA
THRACE
BLACK SEA
Sinope
Heraclea
Byzantium
Philippi
Thessalonica
Berea
GREECE
AEGEAN SEA
BITHYNIA
PONTUS
Adramyttium
Ancyra
ASIA
PHRYGIA
GALATIA
CAPPADOCIA
Pergamum
Delphi
Sardis
Antioch in Pisidia
Caesarea Mazaca
Smyrna
Athens
Iconium
COMMAGENE
Corinth
Ephesus
Laodicea
Lystra
Derbe
Miletus
Tios
PAMPHYLIA
Tarsus
Sparta
Side
Antioch
Seleucia
Seleucia Pieria
Tracheotis
Apamea
Salamis
Arvadus
CRETE
Gortyna
CYPRUS
Paphos
Tripoli
Palm
Beirut
Sidon
Tyre
Damascus
Ptolemais
Caesarea
Joppa
Jerusalem
Cyrene
Apollonia
Ptolemais
Leptis Magna
CYRENAICA
Alexandria
Pelusium
JUDEA
LIBYA
Bubastis
Memphis
EGYPT
ARABIA
Heracleopolis
N
MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Ante-Nicene Fathers: “Heavenly and Eschatological" Interpretation of John 14:1-4

- Papias (AD 110)
- Irenaeus (AD 130-202)
- Tertullian (AD 196-212)
- Origen (AD 182-251)
- Cyprian (AD 258)



George Gunn, “John 14:1-3: The Father's House: Are We There Yet?,” 7-11

Ante-Nicene Fathers: “Heavenly and Eschatological" Interpretation of John 14:1-4

“Interestingly, references to John 14:1-3 virtually disappear when perusing the writings of the Nicene and Post-Nicene fathers. This is a bit surprising, given the abundance of material in these later writers when compared with the Ante-Nicenes. I would assume that with the rise of Augustinian amillennialism and its optimistic interpretation regarding the present arrival of the Kingdom of God, the kind of hope held out in John 14:1-3 ceased to hold relevance.”

George Gunn, “John 14:1-3: The Father's House: Are We There Yet?,” 30, n. 24.

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Pseudo Ephraem

(4th-6th century A.D.)

"Why therefore do we not reject every care of earthly actions and prepare ourselves for the meeting of the Lord Christ, so that he may draw us from the confusion, which overwhelms all the world…For all the saints and the **elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation** that is to come, and are taken to the Lord lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins."

Jesse Forest Silver

The Lord's Return: Seen in History and in Scripture as Premillennial and Imminent (NY: Revell, 1914), 62-64.

Silver says of the apostolic fathers that "**they expected the return of the Lord in their day**...They believed the time was imminent because the Lord had taught them to live in a watchful attitude." Concerning the ante Nicene fathers, he says: "by tradition they knew the faith of the apostles. **They taught the doctrine of the imminent and pre-millennial return of the Lord**."

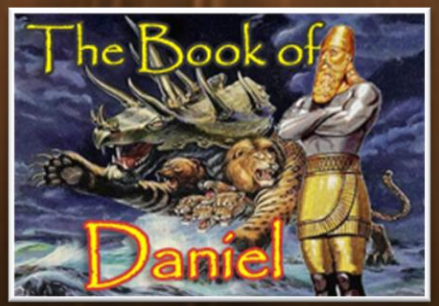
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Daniel 12:4, 9

"[4] But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and **knowledge will increase**...[9] Go *your way*, Daniel, for *these* words are concealed and sealed up **until the end time**."

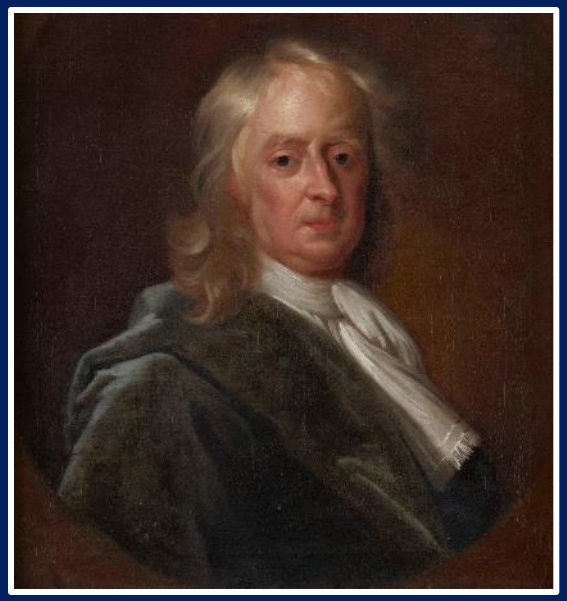


Amos 8:12

"People will stagger from sea to sea And from the north even to the east; They will go **to and fro to seek the word of the LORD**, But they will not find *it*."



Sir Isaac Newton (1642–1727)



"About the time of the end, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the Prophecies, and insist upon their literal interpretation, in the midst of much clamor and opposition."

Isaac Newton cited in Nathaniel West, *The Thousand Years in Both Testaments*, 462.

History of Doctrine

- Canon (A.D. 180)
- Christology (A.D. 500)
- Atonement (A.D. 1100)
- Salvation (A.D. 1500)
- Eschatology (A.D. 1800)

James Orr

The Progress of Dogma (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952), 21-31.

Orr outlines the progress of Christian dogma in a similar way. “The second century was the age of Apologetics. The doctrine of God and especially the Trinity then took center stage in the third and fourth centuries as the Church dealt with the Monarchian, Arian, and Macedonian controversies. Anthropology then became the Church's focus in the early fifth century during the Augustinian and Pelagian controversies...The late fifth and then sixth and seventh centuries were characterized by an ecclesiastical interest in Christological (Nestorian, Eutychian, Monphysite, Monothelite) matters. In the . . .

James Orr

The Progress of Dogma (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952), 21-31.

". . .sixteenth century the reformers focused upon salvific or Soteriological concerns. Finally, the Church gave itself to correcting a Mythical and Mediaeval pre-reformation Eschatology." Thus, Eschatology was the last of the branches of theology to be systematized since it was not designed to be progressively unsealed or illuminated by the Holy Spirit until just before the fulfillment of the predicted events (Dan. 12:4, 8-9).

Conclusion

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