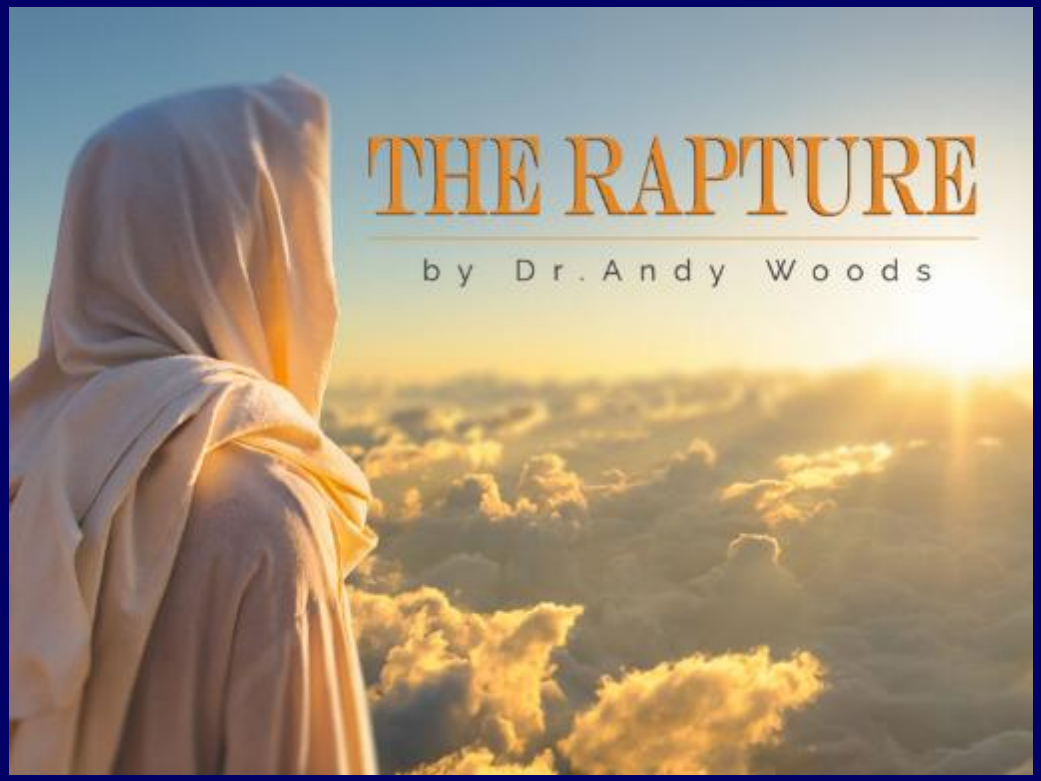
THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 5





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

What is the Rapture?



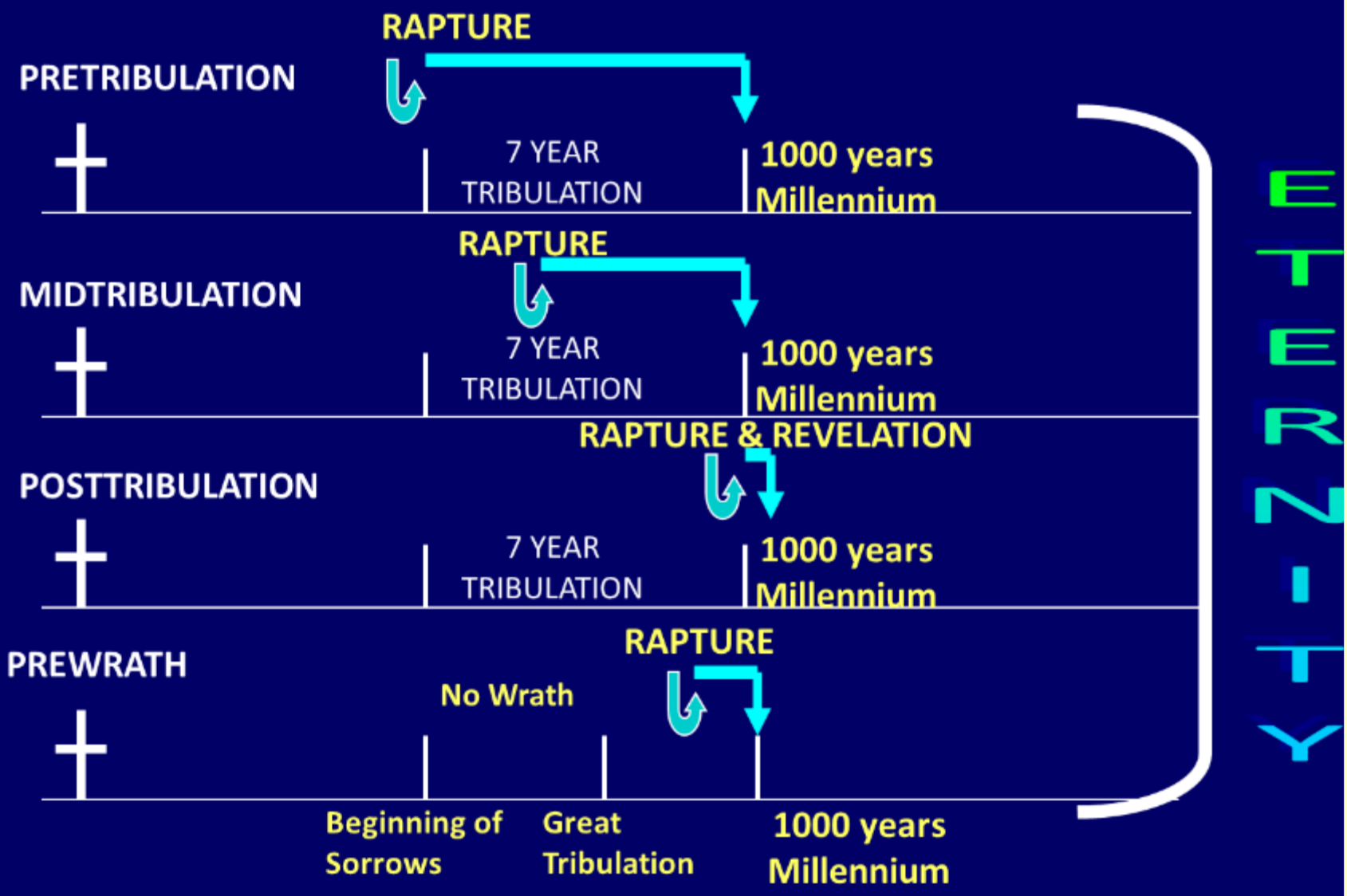
1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
9. Imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 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)
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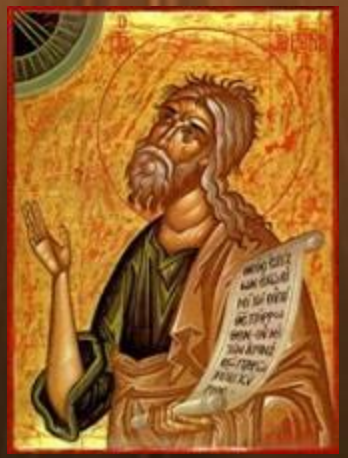
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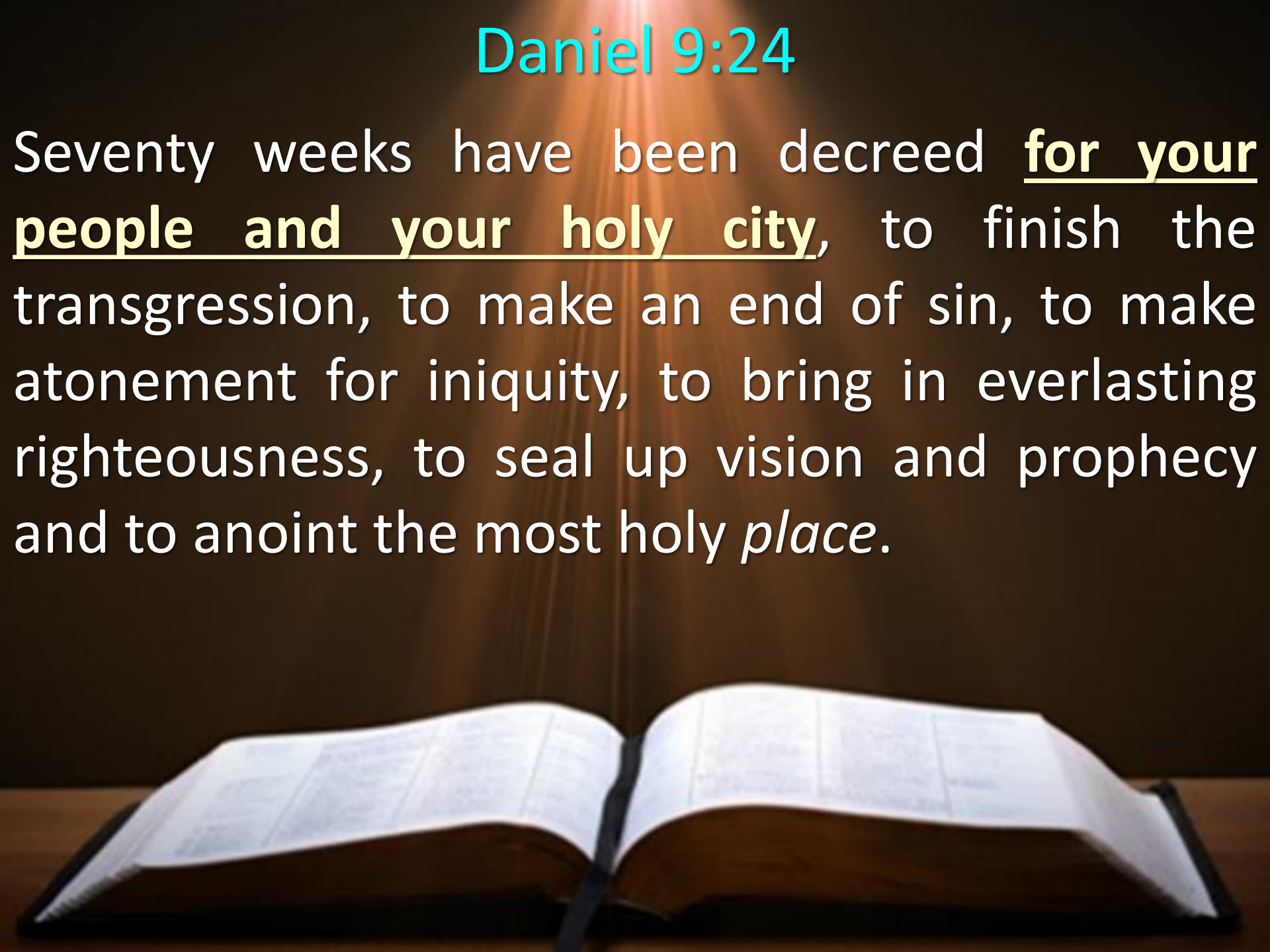
Jeremiah 30:7

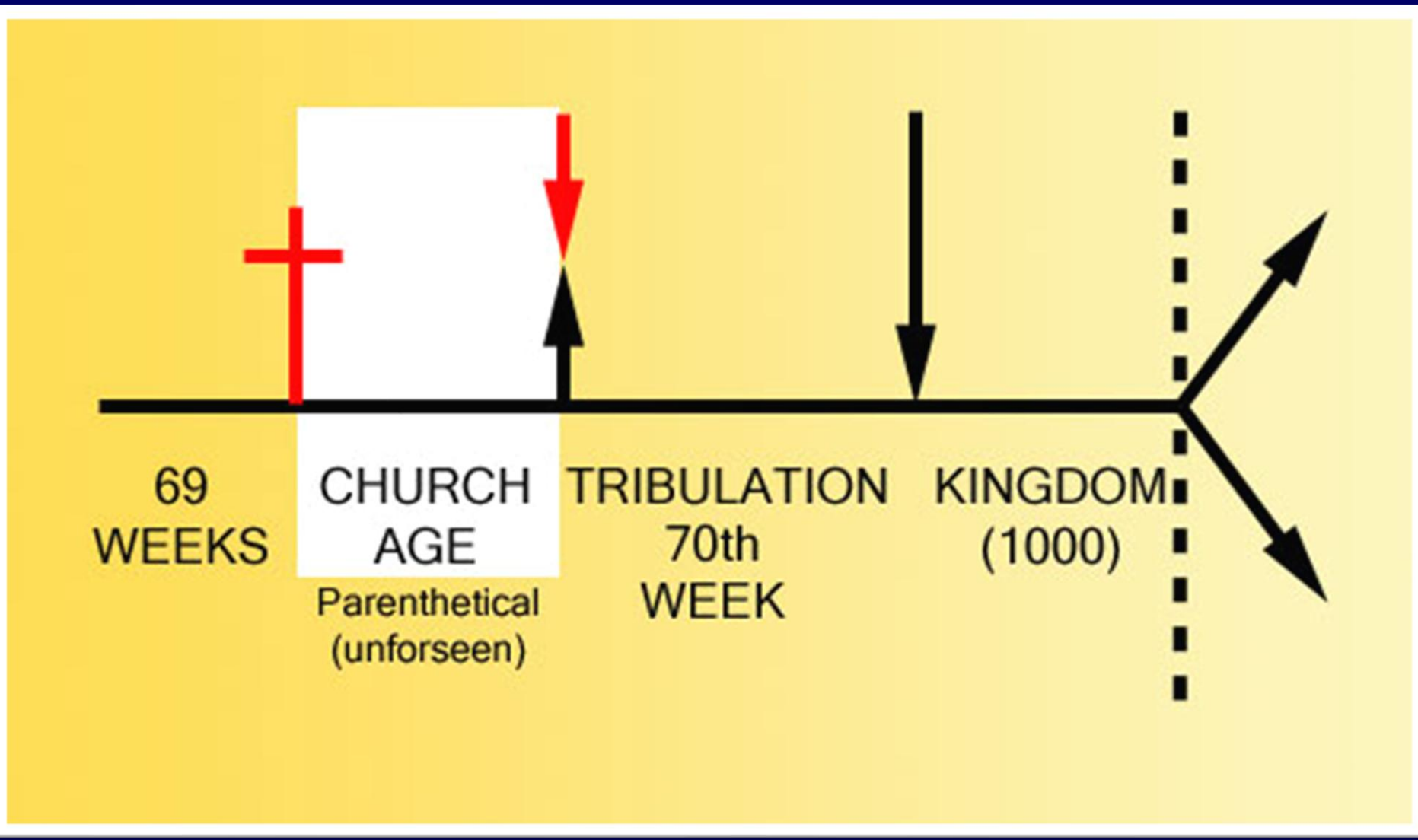
"Alas! for that day is great, There is none like it; And it is the time of **Jacob's distress** (Gen. 32:8; 35:10), But he will be **saved** from it."



Daniel 9:24

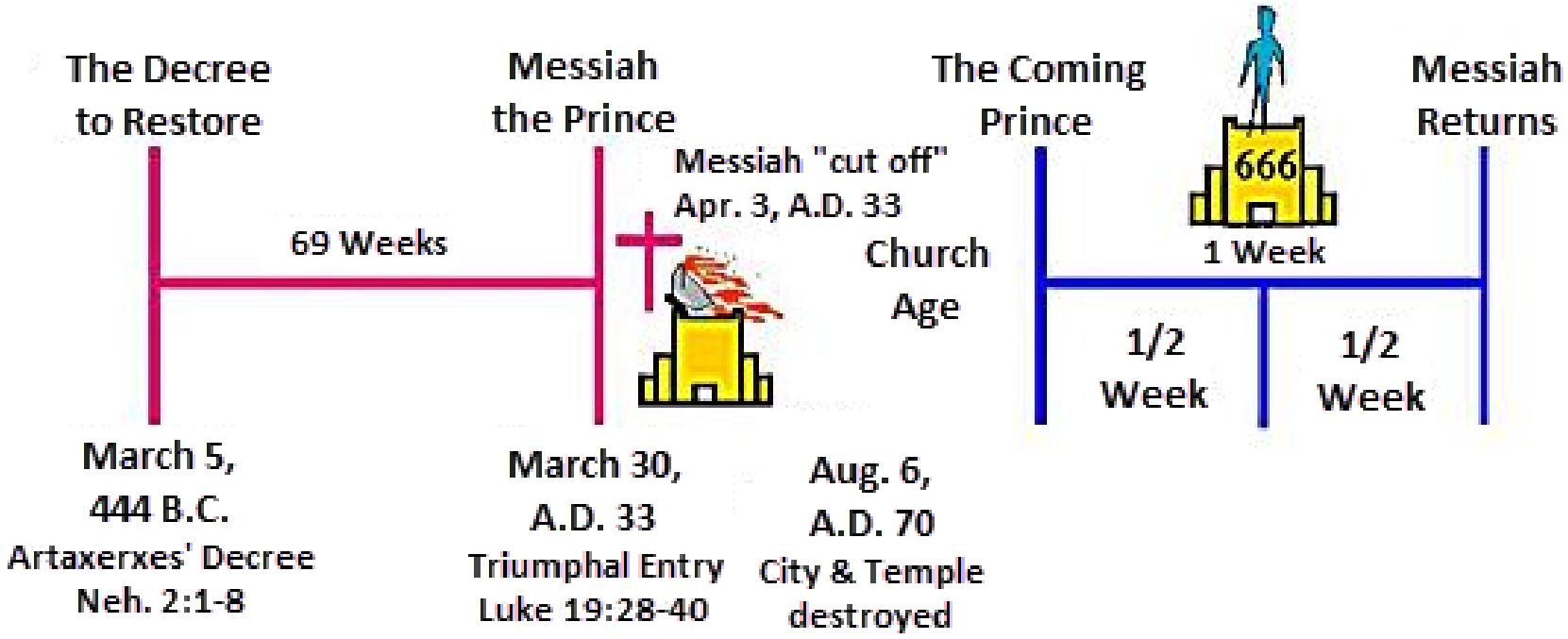
Seventy weeks have been decreed **for your people and your holy city**, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*.




69
WEEKS
CHURCH
AGE
Parenthetical
(unforseen)
TRIBULATION
70th
WEEK
KINGDOM
(1000)

Daniel's Seventy Weeks

(Daniel 9:24-27)



GAP BETWEEN 483rd AND 484th YEAR

A. Prophecy runs successively for 483 years

B. Gap between 483rd and 484th year

69 weeks
483 years

(GAP)

70th week
7 years

“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.

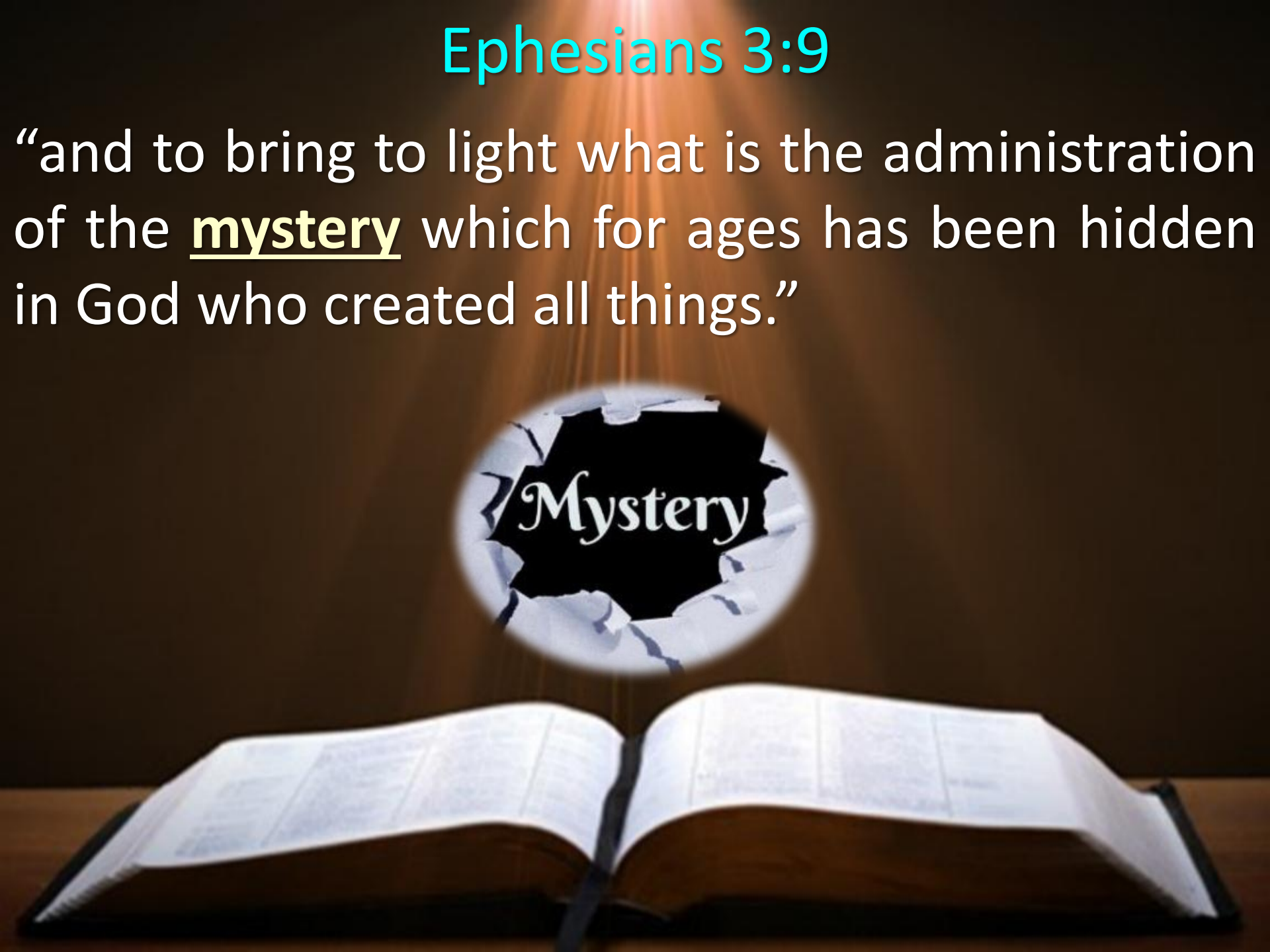
Ephesians 3:3-6

"[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".



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."



The Tribulation's Concerns Israel



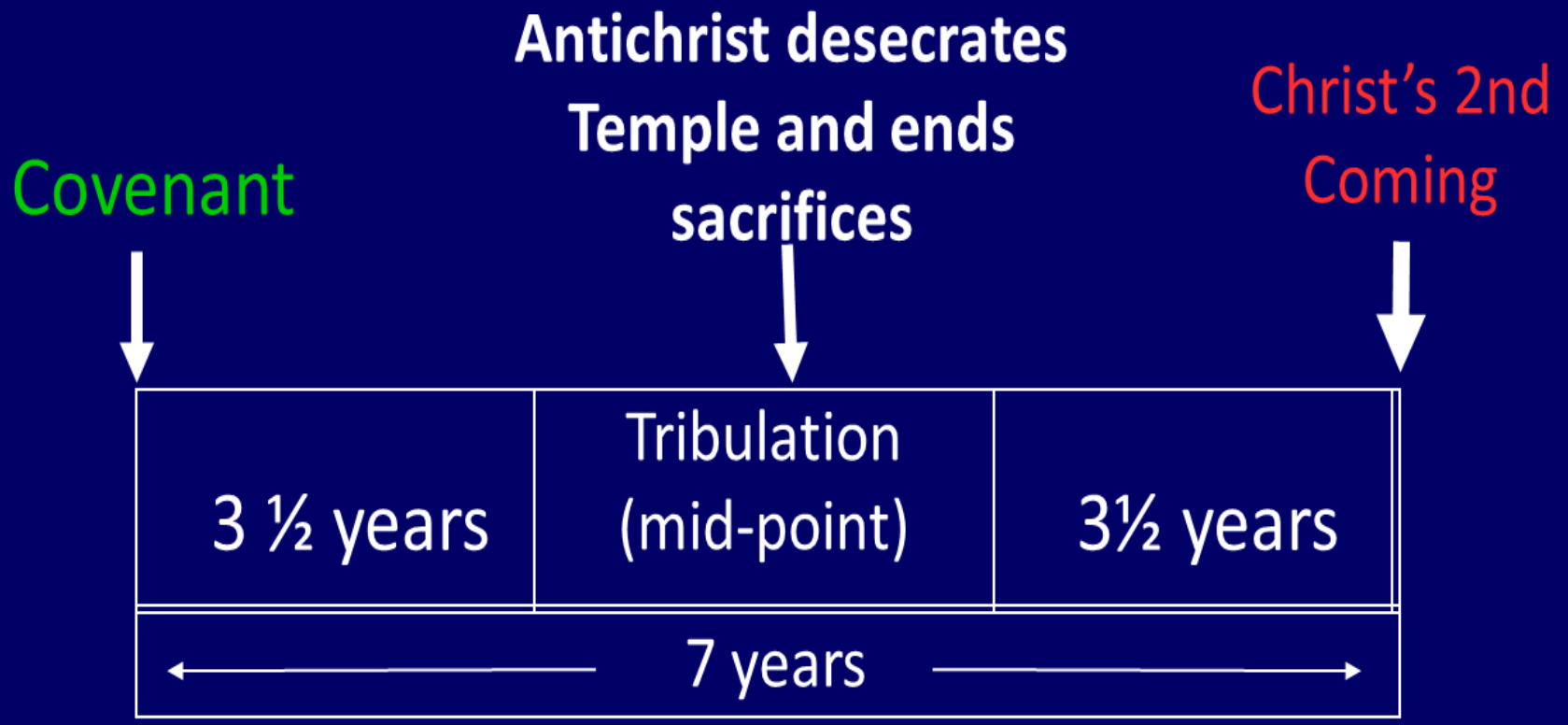
- Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24
- God uses Israel and the church on a mutually exclusive basis

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.



DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



When is the Rapture?

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7. Symbolic parallels (2 Peter 2:5-9)

Revelation 1:19

"Therefore write the things which you have **seen**, and the things which **are**, and the things which will take place **after these things [*meta tauta*]**."



Revelation 1:19

- Seen (1)
- Are (2–3)
- After these things (4–22)



Revelation 1:19

- **Seen (1)**
- Are (2–3)
- After these things (4–22)




KINAH
Nov 2001

Revelation 1:19

- Seen (1)
- **Are (2–3)**
- After these things (4–22)




The 7 Churches in Revelation
Rev. 1: 11
BLACK SEA
BITHYNIA
MYSIA
AEGEAN SEA
ASIA
Pergamum
Thyatira
Smyrna
Sardis
Philadelphia
PHRYGIA
Ephesus
Laodicea
Patmos
CARIA
LYCIA
By: Gabriel Morris

Revelation 1:19

- Seen (1)
- Are (2–3)
- **<u>After these things (4–22)</u>**



Revelation 1:19

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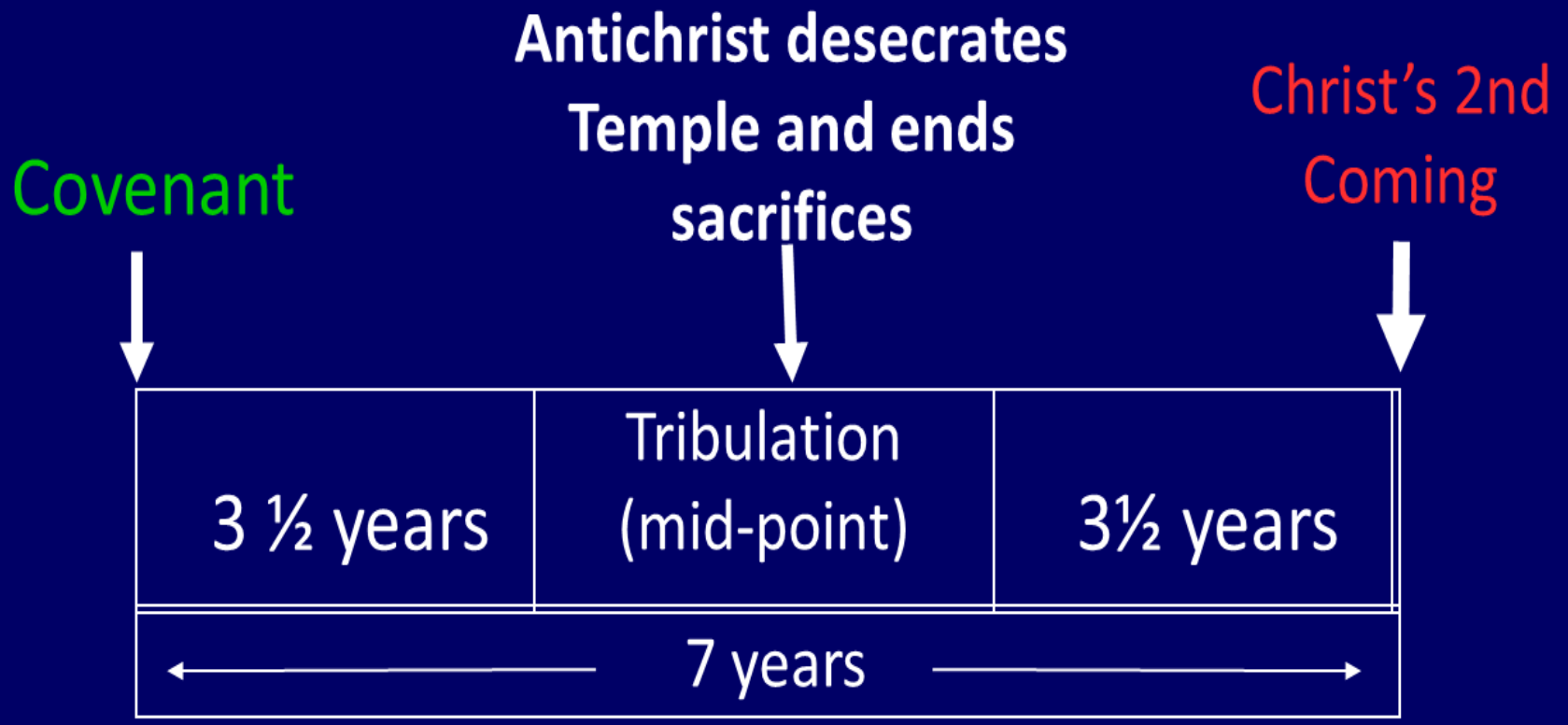


Revelation 4:1

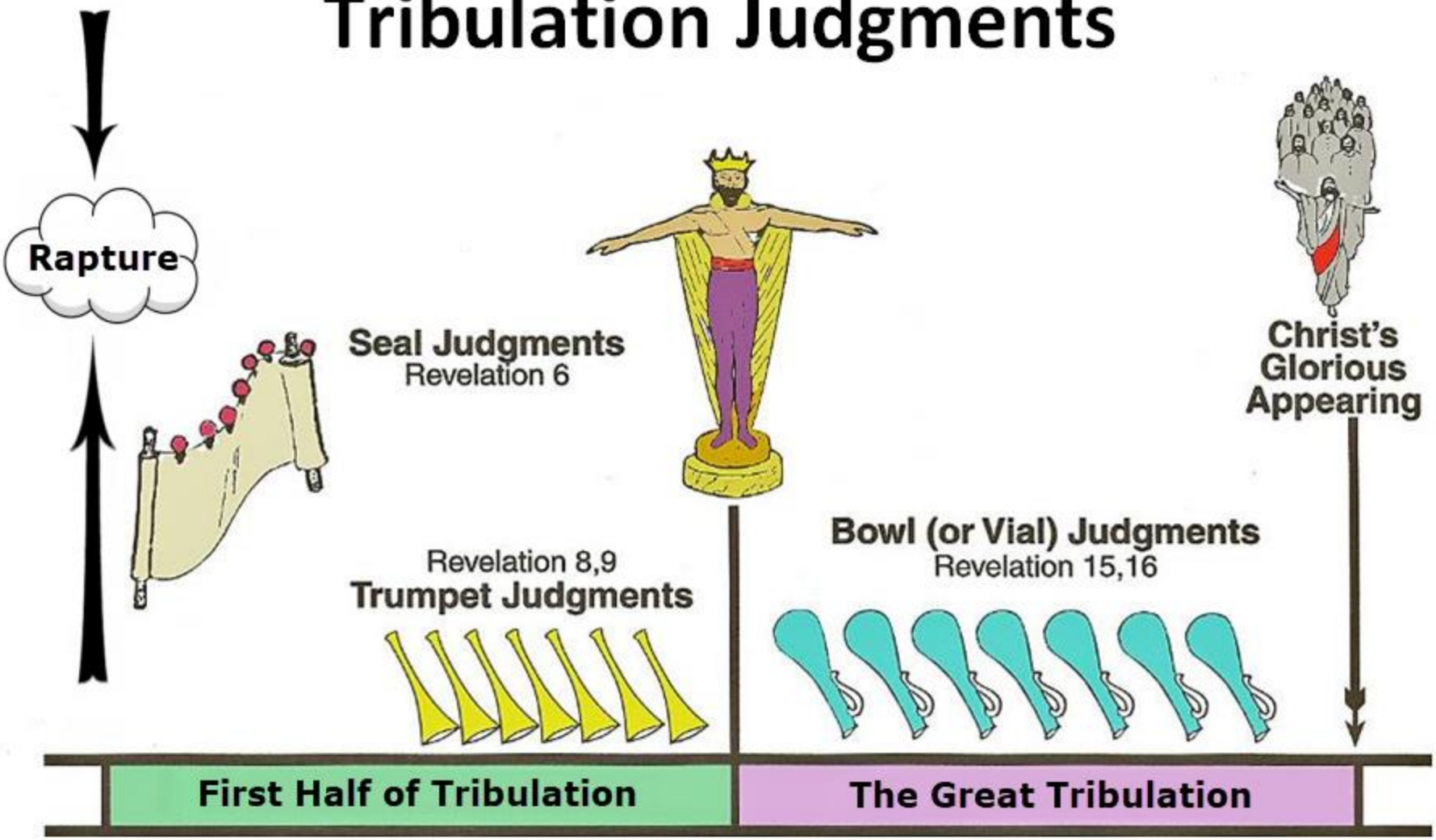
"After these things [***meta tauta***] I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things [***meta tauta***].'"



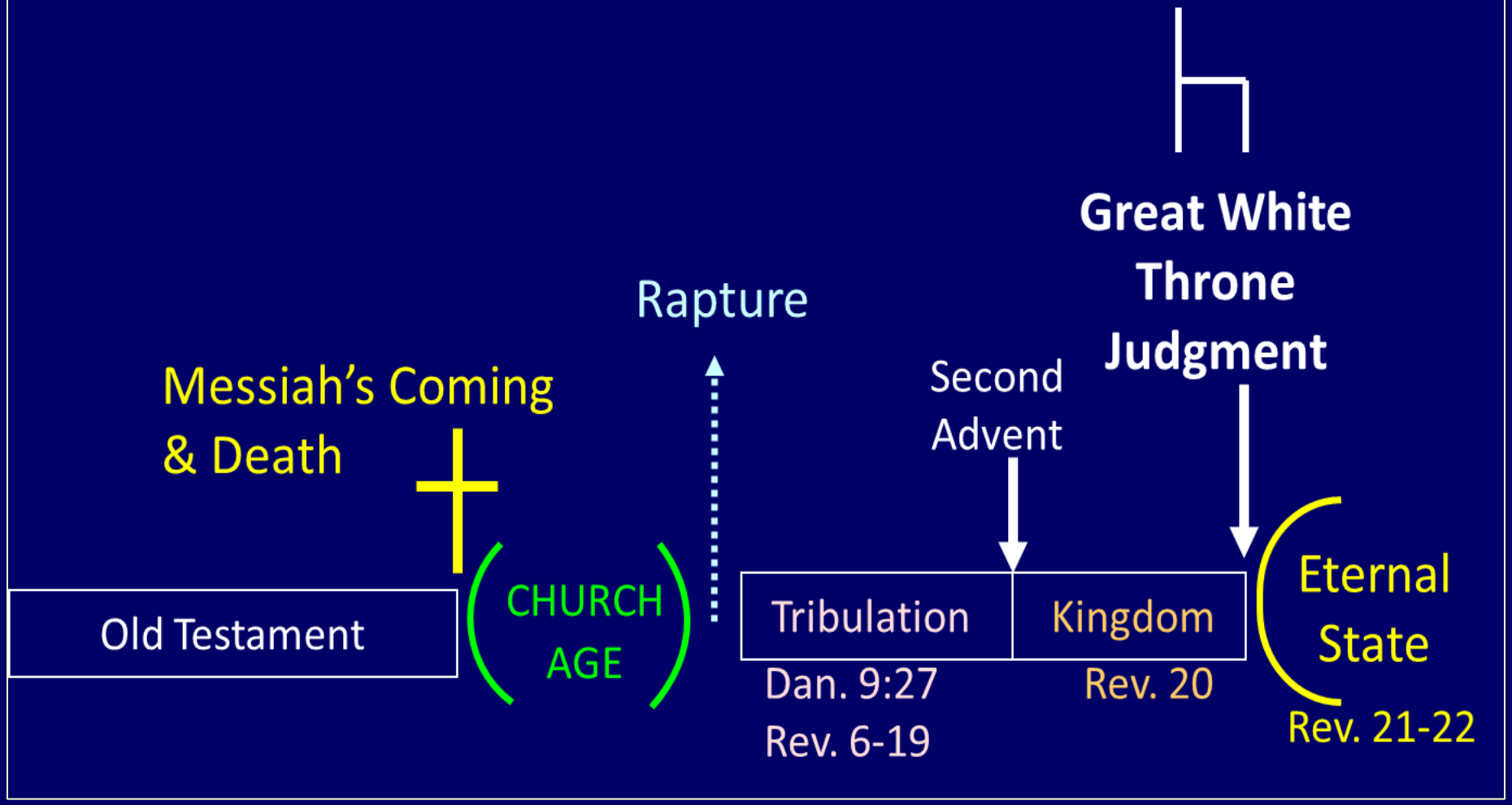
DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



Tribulation Judgments



Prophecy Panorama





"After These Things"

(Rev. 4–22)

A. Before the Tribulation (4–5)

B. During the Tribulation (6–19)

C. After the Tribulation (20–22)

1. Kingdom (20:1-10)
2. Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)
3. Destruction of the Earth (21:1)
4. New Heaven and New Earth (21–22)

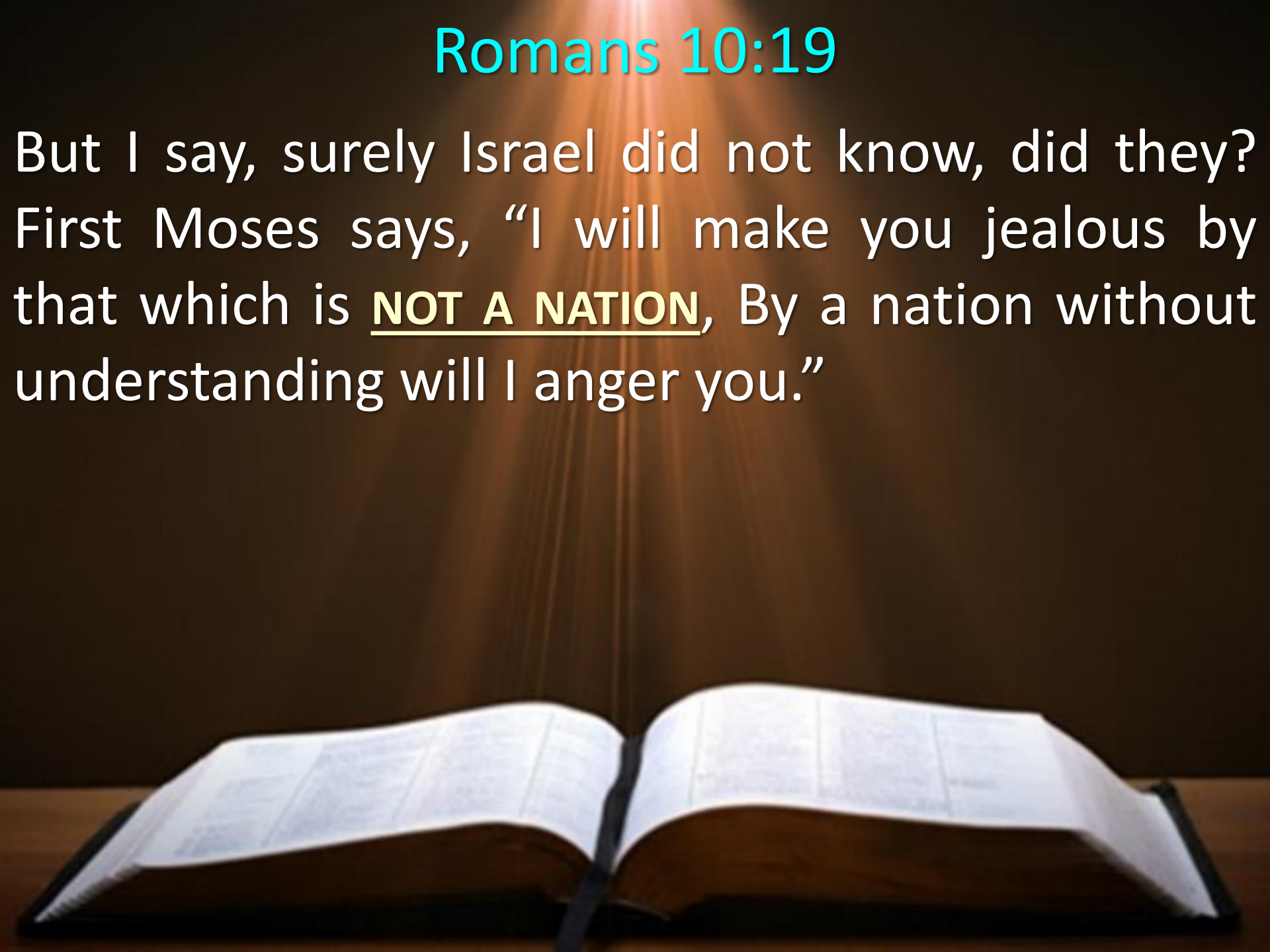
The Missing Church

- Rev 4-19
- Rev 13:9
- Revelation's Jewish nature



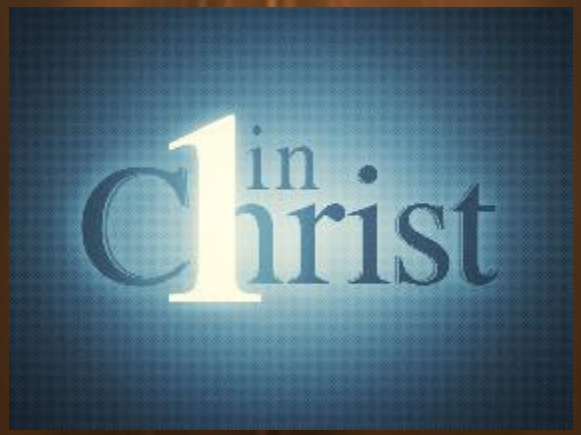
Romans 10:19

But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says, “I will make you jealous by that which is **NOT A NATION**, By a nation without understanding will I anger you.”



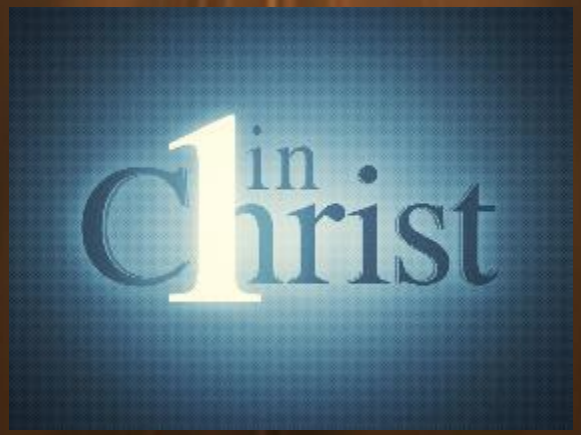
Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



Ephesians 2:14

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.



God's Work Through Israel

- Revelation 7-144,000 Jews
- Revelation 11-Two Jewish witnesses
- Revelation 12-Israel flees



Revelation 1:20

"As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and **the seven lampstands are the seven churches**."



Revelation 4:5

"Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were **seven lamps of fire burning before the throne**, which are the seven Spirits of God."



Revelation 4:4

"Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw **twenty-four elders** sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads."



Revelation 5:8-10

“[8] When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the **twenty-four elders** fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. [9] And **they sang a new song**, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. [10] You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.’”



Twenty-Four Elders

(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

NOT

1. Israel
2. Redeemed of all ages
3. Angels



Twenty-Four Elders

(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

NOT

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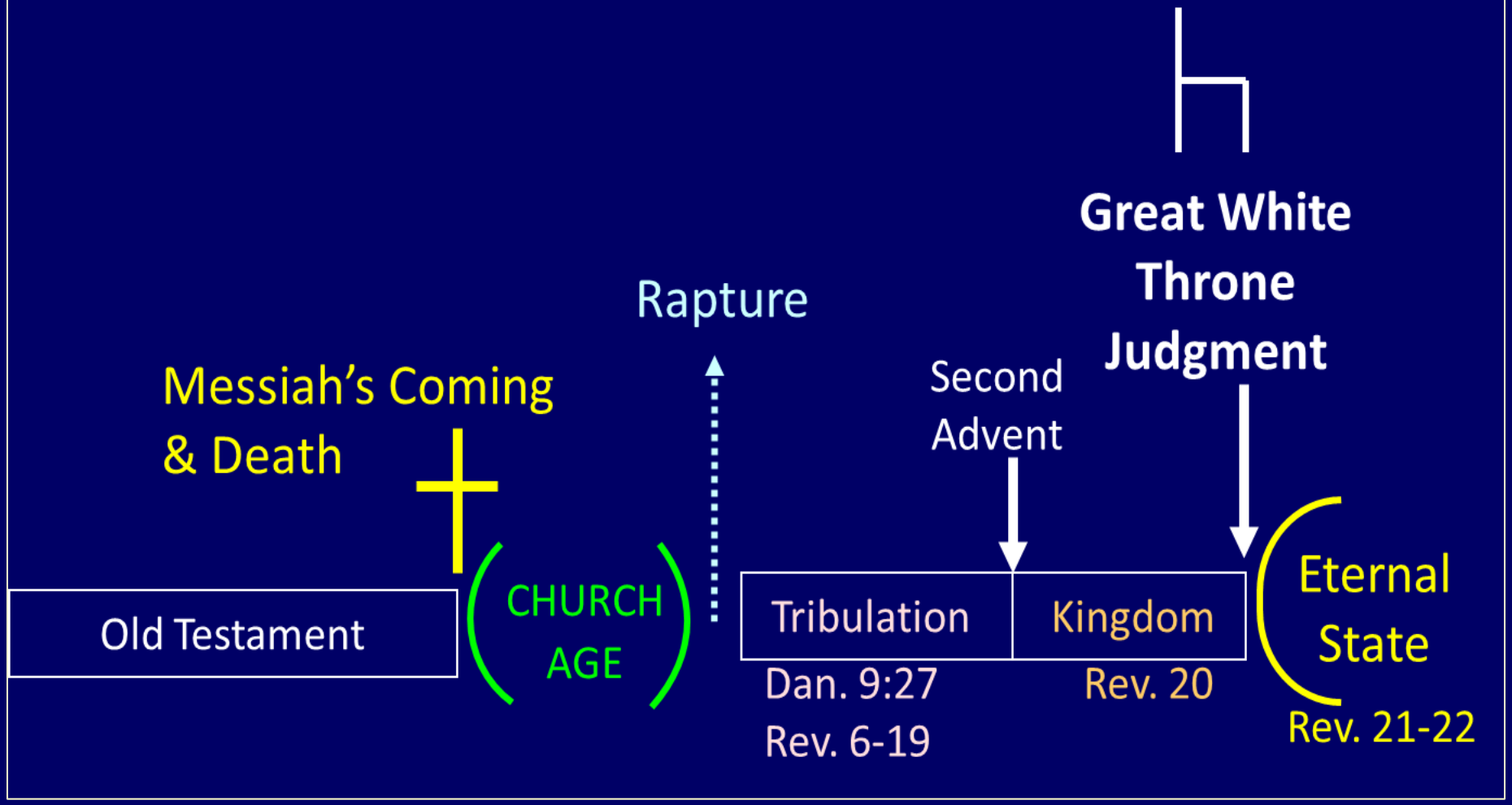


Revelation 4:4

"Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden **crowns on their heads**."



Prophecy Panorama



Twenty-Four Elders

(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

NOT

1. Israel
2. **Redeemed of all ages**
3. Angels

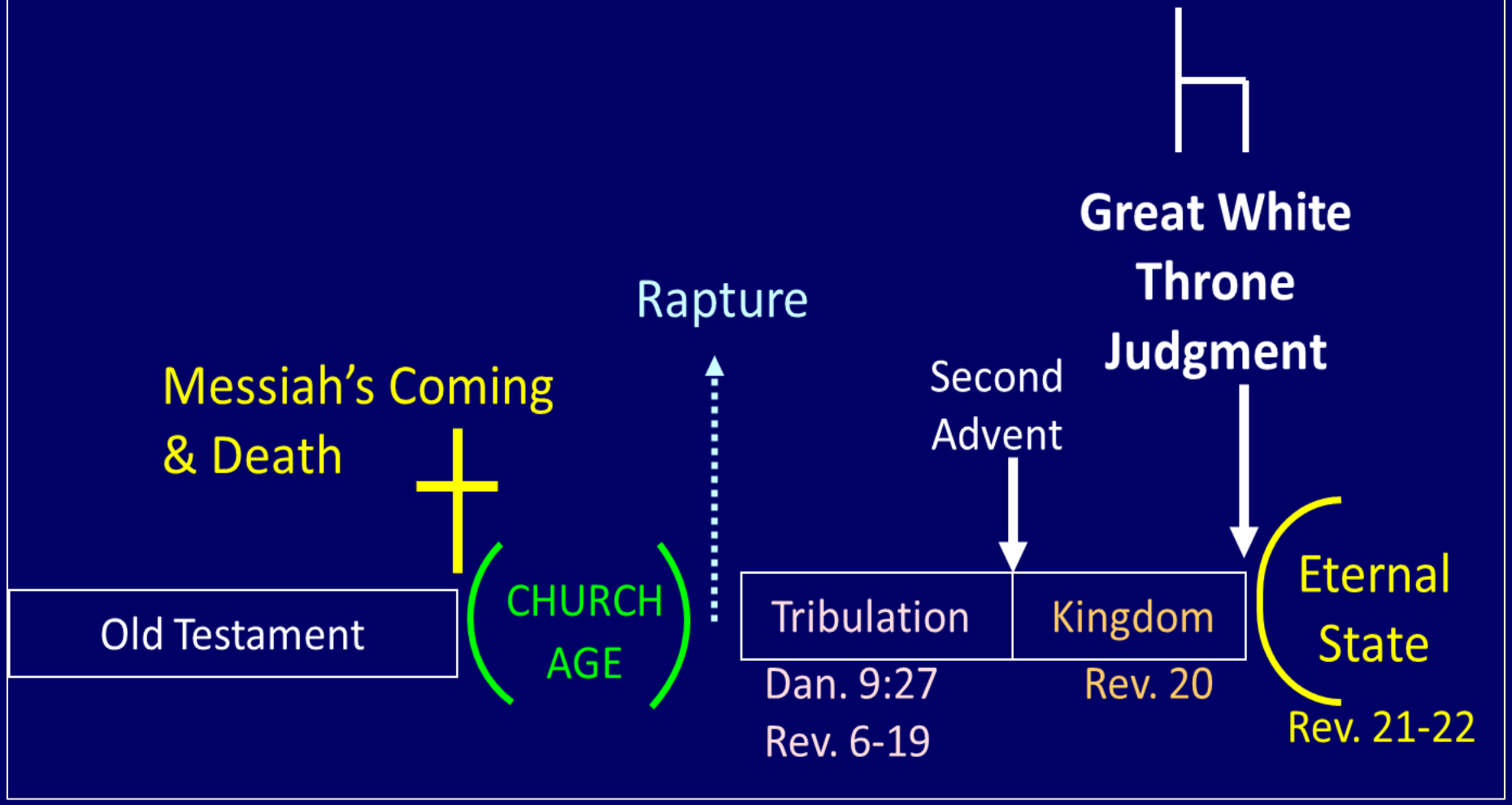


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Prophecy Panorama



Twenty-Four Elders

(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

NOT

1. Israel
2. Redeemed of all ages
3. **Angels**



Revelation 4:4

"Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders **sitting**, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads."



Revelation 5:11

"Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many **angels** around the throne and the living creatures and the **elders**; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands."



Revelation 7:11

"And all the **angels** were standing around the throne and around the **elders** and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God."




The 7 Churches in Revelation
Rev. 1:11
BLACK SEA
BITHYNIA
MYSIA
AEGEAN SEA
ASIA
Pergamum
Thyatira
Smyrna
Sardis
Philadelphia
PHRYGIA
Ephesus
Laodicea
Patmos
CARIA
LYCIA
By: Gabriel Morris

DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Revelation 2–3

CHURCH	SCRIPTURE	DESCRIPTION
Ephesus	2:1-7	Loveless
Smyrna	2:8-11	Persecuted
Pergamum	2:12-17	Compromised
Thyatira	2:18-29	Corrupt
Sardis	3:1-6	Dead
Philadelphia	3:7-13	Missionary
Laodicea	3:14-22	Man-centered

Twenty-Four Elders

(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

CHURCH

1. Crowned (Rev. 2:10; 3:11)
2. Resurrected (Rev. 4:4)
3. Clothed in White (Rev. 3:5)
4. Redeemed (Rev. 5:8-10)
5. Global (Rev. 5:9; Matt. 28:19)
6. Enthroned (Rev. 3:21)
7. Elders (Rev. 1 Tim. 3:1-7)
8. Kingdom of Priests (Rev. 1:6)
9. Twenty-four (Rev. 1:6)



Twenty-Four Elders

(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

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Revelation 4:4

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Scripture's Five Crowns
(Rev 4:10: 3:11; 2 John 8)

SCRIPTURE	CROWN	PURPOSE
1 Cor. 9:24-27	**Incorruptible**	Gaining mastery over the flesh
1 Thess. 2:19-20	**Rejoicing**	Soul winning
Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10	**Life**	Enduring trials
1 Pet. 5:2-4	**Glory**	Shepherding God's people
2 Tim. 4:8	**Righteousness**	Longing for His appearing



Twenty-Four Elders

(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

CHURCH

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Twenty-Four Elders

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Twenty-Four Elders

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CHURCH

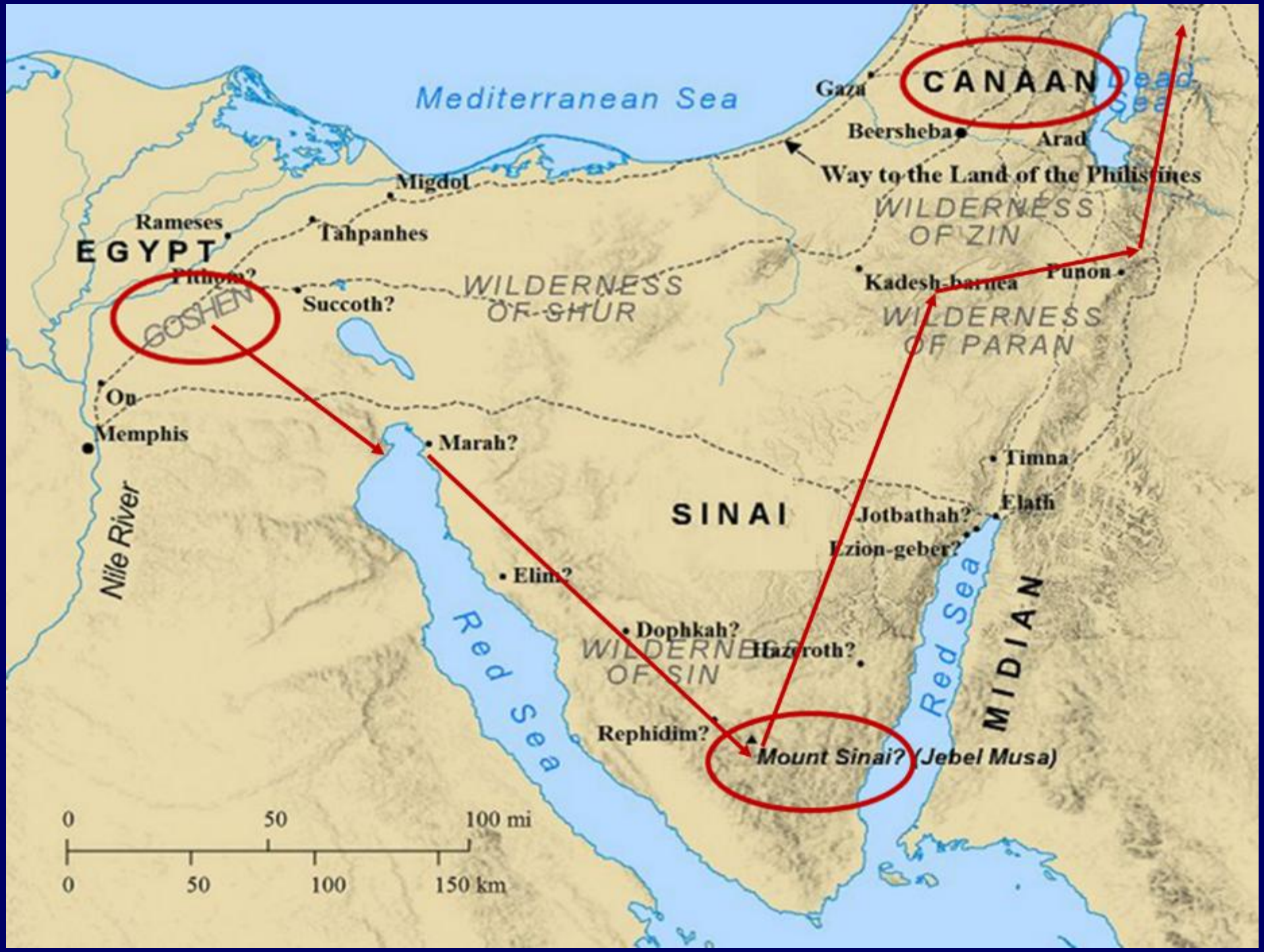
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Revelation 5:9-10

“ [9] And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and **purchased** for God with Your blood **men** from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. [10] You have made **them** to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and **they** will reign upon the earth.’”




Mediterranean Sea
CANAAN
Gaza
Beersheba
Arad
Dead Sea
Way to the Land of the Philistines
Migdol
Rameses
EGYPT
Tahpanhes
WILDERNESS OF ZIN
Pithom?
GOSHEN
Succoth?
WILDERNESS OF SHUR
Kadesh-barnea
Punon
WILDERNESS OF PARAN
On
Memphis
Marah?
Timna
Elath
SINAI
Jotbathah?
Ezion-geber?
Nile River
Elim?
Red Sea
Dophkah?
WILDERNESS OF SIN
Hazeroth?
MIDIAN
Red Sea
Rephidim?
Mount Sinai? (Jebel Musa)
0
50
100 mi
0
50
100
150 km

Exodus 15:13, 17

13 “In Your lovingkindness You have led **the people** whom You have redeemed; In Your strength You have guided **them** to Your holy habitation…17 You will bring **them** and plant **them** in the mountain of Your inheritance, The place, O Lord, which You have made for Your dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established.”



Revelation 5:9-10 (NKJV)

9 “And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy
to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were
slain, And have redeemed **us** to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
10 And have made **us** kings and priests to our God;
And **we** shall reign on the earth.’”



Manuscript Evidence for Ancient Writings

Author	Written	Earliest Fragment/copy	Time Span in Years	Number of Manuscripts
Caesar	100 to 44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,000	10
Plato	427 to 347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,200	7
Thucydides	460 to 400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,300	8
Tacitus	A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1,000	20
Suetonius	A.D. 75 to 160	A.D.950	800	8
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500	643
New Testament	A.D. 40 to 100	A.D. 125	25 to 50	24,000

Information in this chart can be found in various sources. This chart was adapted from: *Christian Apologetics*, by Norman Geisler, 1976, p. 307; and *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, by Josh McDowell, 1979, pp. 42,43.

Author	Date Written	Earliest MSS	Time Span	No. MSS
Caesar	100–44 BC	AD 900	1,000 yrs	10
Plato	427–347 BC	900 AD	1,200 yrs	7
Thucydides	460–400 BC	AD 900	1,300 yrs	8
Tacitus	AD 100	AD 1100	1,000 yrs	20
Suetonius	AD 75–160	AD 950	800 yrs	8
Homer (*Iliad*)	900 BC	400 BC	500 yrs	643
New Testament	AD 40–100	AD 125	25–50 yrs	>24,000!

http://creationrevolution.com/2012/05/should-we-trust-the-bible/



J.A. Seiss

Seiss, J. A. (1901). The Apocalypse: A Series of Special Lectures on the Revelation of Jesus Christ with Revised Text (Eighth Edition, Vol. 1). New York: Charles C. Cook.

“Ηγὸρασας ἡμᾶς. Some critics and expositors have rejected this ἡμᾶς (us), for the reason that it is omitted in the Codex Alexandrinus, and in the Ethiopic verson; though the latter is not much more than a loose paraphrase. The **Codex Sinaiticus**, however, which was discovered in 1860, and which is of equal antiquity and authority with the Codex Alexandrinus, contains it. The **Codex Basilianus**, in the Vatican, contains it. The **Latin, Coptic or Memphitic, and Arminian**, which are of great value, contain it.”



J.A. Seiss

Seiss, J. A. (1901). The Apocalypse: A Series of Special Lectures on the Revelation of Jesus Christ with Revised Text (Eighth Edition, Vol. 1). New York: Charles C. Cook.

"And so do **all other MSS. and versions**. And to discredit it, simply and only because it does not appear in that one single Codex of Alexandria, is most unreasonable and unjust to the weight of authority for its retention. Dr. Tregelles, on full examination, was firmly convinced of its right to a place in the text, before the **Codex Sinaiticus** appeared; and the presence of this ἡμᾶς in that MS., ought to settle the question of its genuineness forever. The evidences from the context, also argue powerfully for a construction which necessarily embraces it, whether expressed or not. **We regard it as indubitably genuine**."

David Hocking

David Hocking, *The Book of Revelation: Understanding the Future* (Tustin, CA: Hope For Today Publications, 2014), 271.



"The Greek manuscripts (that we have today) of the passage in Revelation 5:9 are 24 in number, and 23 of them read "US" – only Codex Alexandrinus differs in this regard."



David Hocking

David Hocking, *The Book of Revelation: Understanding the Future* (Tustin, CA: Hope For Today Publications, 2014), 271.

"You maybe asking – 'what difference does it make, and why go to all the trouble that is listed above?' The answer is quite important: The King James reading of the text clearly teaches that church-age believers (represented by the 24 elders in heaven) are singing a song about their own redemption, and since the 24 elders are in heaven all during the tribulation – the correct view of Bible prophecy as to the rapture of the church-age believers (Jew and Gentile) is that they are removed BEFORE the tribulation begins! Our response is simple – PRAISE THE LORD!"

Twenty-Four Elders

(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

CHURCH

1. Crowned (Rev. 2:10; 3:11)
2. Resurrected (Rev. 4:4)
3. Clothed in White (Rev. 3:5)
4. Redeemed (Rev. 5:8-10)
5. **Global (Rev. 5:9; Matt. 28:19)**
6. Enthroned (Rev. 3:21)
7. Elders (Rev. 1 Tim. 3:1-7)
8. Kingdom of Priests (Rev. 1:6)
9. Twenty-four (Rev. 1:6)



Revelation 5:8-10

“[8] When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. [9] And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from **every tribe and tongue and people and nation**. [10] You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.’”



Twenty-Four Elders

(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

CHURCH

1. Crowned (Rev. 2:10; 3:11)
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Revelation 4:4

"Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and **upon the thrones** I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads."



Rev 3:21

Promise to the Overcomers

"He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with **Me on My throne**, as I also overcame and sat down with **My Father on His throne**."



Twenty-Four Elders

(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

CHURCH

1. Crowned (Rev. 2:10; 3:11)
2. Resurrected (Rev. 4:4)
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Revelation 4:4

"Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four **elders** sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads."



1 Peter 5:1, 5

"Therefore, I exhort the **elders** among you, as your fellow **elder** and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed…You younger men, likewise, be subject to your **elders**; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."



Twenty-Four Elders

(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

CHURCH

1. Crowned (Rev. 2:10; 3:11)
2. Resurrected (Rev. 4:4)
3. Clothed in White (Rev. 3:5)
4. Redeemed (Rev. 5:8-10)
5. Global (Rev. 5:9; Matt. 28:19)
6. Enthroned (Rev. 3:21)
7. Elders (Rev. 1 Tim. 3:1-7)
8. **Kingdom of Priests (Rev. 1:6)**
9. Twenty-four (Rev. 1:6)



Revelation 5:10

"You have made them to be a **kingdom and priests** to our God; and **they will reign** [***basileuō***] upon **the earth** [***gē***]."



Revelation 1:6

"and He has made us to be a **kingdom, priests** to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."



Twenty-Four Elders

(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

CHURCH

1. Crowned (Rev. 2:10; 3:11)
2. Resurrected (Rev. 4:4)
3. Clothed in White (Rev. 3:5)
4. Redeemed (Rev. 5:8-10)
5. Global (Rev. 5:9; Matt. 28:19)
6. Enthroned (Rev. 3:21)
7. Elders (Rev. 1 Tim. 3:1-7)
8. Kingdom of Priests (Rev. 1:6)
9. **Twenty-four (Rev. 1:6)**



Revelation 4:4

"Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw **twenty-four elders** sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads."



Revelation 1:6

"and He has made us to be a **kingdom, priests** to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."





Twenty-Four Elders (Church)

(Rev. 4:4; 5:8-10)

DESCRIPTION	SCRIPTURE
1. Crowned	(2:10)
2. Resurrected	(4:4)
3. Clothed in White	(3:5)
4. Redeemed	(5:8-10)
5. Global	(5:9; Matt. 28:19)
6. Enthroned	(3:21)
7. Elders	(1 Tim. 3:1-7; 1 Pet. 5:1, 5)
8. Kingdom of Priests	(Rev. 1:6)
9. Twenty-four	(Rev. 1:6)

Psalm 50:5 (NKJV)

"Gather My **saints** together to Me, Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice."



Psalm 149:1 (NKJV)

"Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song,
And His praise in the assembly of **saints**."



Matthew 16:18

"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock **I will build [*oikodomeō*]** My church; and the gates of Hades WILL NOT overpower it."



Conclusion

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)