Annihilation vs. Eternal Torment



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

ANNIHILATION VS. ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT

I. **Introduction to the Controversy**

II. Biblical Arguments Against Annihilation

III. Theological Arguments Against Annihilation

IV. Answering Annihilationist Biblical Arguments

V. Answering Annihilationist Theological Arguments

VI. Examining Church History

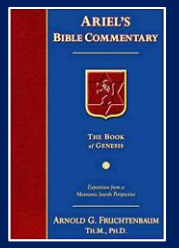
VII. Conclusion





Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

Footsteps of the Messiah, 707-8



"**Conditional immortality** means the soul is not inherently immortal; immortality is not part of the make-up of the soul. Rather, immortality is a gift for the saved only. So at death, the unbeliever simply becomes non-existent, and only the believer continues to exist…What **annihilationism** says is this: the unsaved soul is annihilated after a temporary period of punishment. These people do believe that the unsaved soul goes to Hell, but not for eternity, only temporarily. Eventually the unsaved soul is annihilated after suffering a duration of punishment."

PROTESTIA

Kirk Cameron Denies ‘Eternal Conscious Torment,’ Is Now An Annihilationist?

Staff Writer December 6, 2025



ANNIHILATION VS. ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT

I. Introduction to the Controversy

II. **Biblical Arguments Against Annihilation**

III. Theological Arguments Against Annihilation

IV. Answering Annihilationist Biblical Arguments

V. Answering Annihilationist Theological Arguments

VI. Examining Church History

VII. Conclusion



II. Anti-Annihilationist Texts

A. Dan. 12:2

B. Matt. 25:46

C. Mark 9:47-48

D. Matt. 8:12

E. Luke 16:19-31



F. 2 Thess. 1:9

G. Heb. 6:2

H. <u>Rev. 14:11</u>

I. Rev. 20:10

J. Rev. 19:20

Revelation 14:11

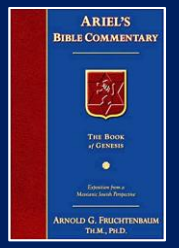
"And the smoke of their torment goes up **forever (*aiōn*)** and **ever (*aiōn*)**; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."





Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

Footsteps of the Messiah, 717-18

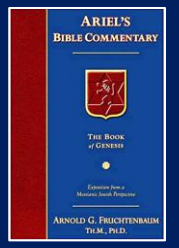


"The…argument against annihilationism is also based on the expression 'for ever and ever.' This expression is used a total of thirteen times in the Book of Revelation. Nine of those thirteen times, it is used of God, and they all agree that when it is used of God, it emphasizes eternality and immortality. Once it is used of the saints in Heaven, and they certainly believe that in the case of the saints in Heaven, these are the eternal, immortal beings. Then it is used once of Satan in the Lake of Fire and twice of the unbeliever in the Lake of Fire. But in these last three cases, they want to make it only temporary. If ten times they agree that it…



Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

Footsteps of the Messiah, 717-18



…means ‘eternal,’ they cannot then turn around and make these last three times mean something temporary. If it is true that it teaches the immortality of God and the saints in Heaven, it must also teach the immortality of Satan and the unbelievers in the Lake of Fire. Again, we must deduce our theology from the Scriptures, not interpret Scriptures by our preconceived theology or our emotional preferences.”

II. Anti-Annihilationist Texts

A. Dan. 12:2

B. Matt. 25:46

C. Mark 9:47-48

D. Matt. 8:12

E. Luke 16:19-31



F. 2 Thess. 1:9

G. Heb. 6:2

H. Rev. 14:11

I. <u>Rev. 20:10</u>

J. Rev. 19:20

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*)**."



II. Anti-Annihilationist Texts

A. Dan. 12:2

B. Matt. 25:46

C. Mark 9:47-48

D. Matt. 8:12

E. Luke 16:19-31



F. 2 Thess. 1:9

G. Heb. 6:2

H. Rev. 14:11

I. Rev. 20:10

J. **Rev. 19:20**

Revelation 19:20

“And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.”



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.”



2 Thessalonians 2:3

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



Revelation 20:1-3

“[1]Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. [2] And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a **thousand years**; [3] and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the **thousand years** were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.”



Revelation 20:4-6

“[4] Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a **thousand years**. [5] The rest of the dead did not come to life until the **thousand years** were completed. This. . .



Revelation 20:4-6

… is first resurrection. [6] Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a **thousand years**."



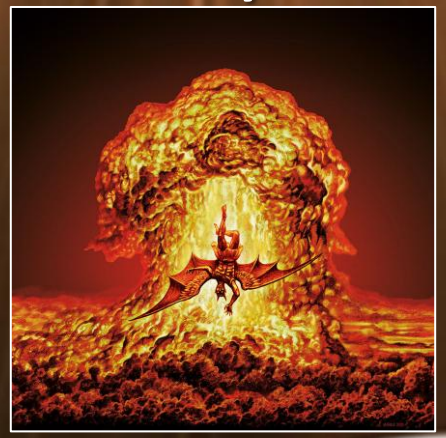
Revelation 20:7-10

“7 When the **thousand years** are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. 9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down…



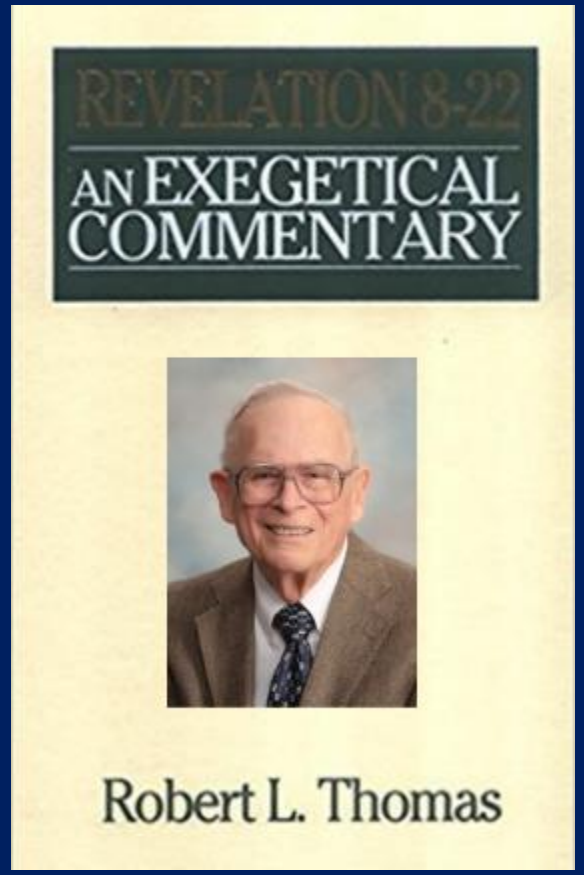
Revelation 20:7-10

…from heaven and devoured them. [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 and ever.”



Robert Thomas

Revelation 8 to 22: An Exegetical Commentary
(Chicago: Moody Press, 1992), 408.

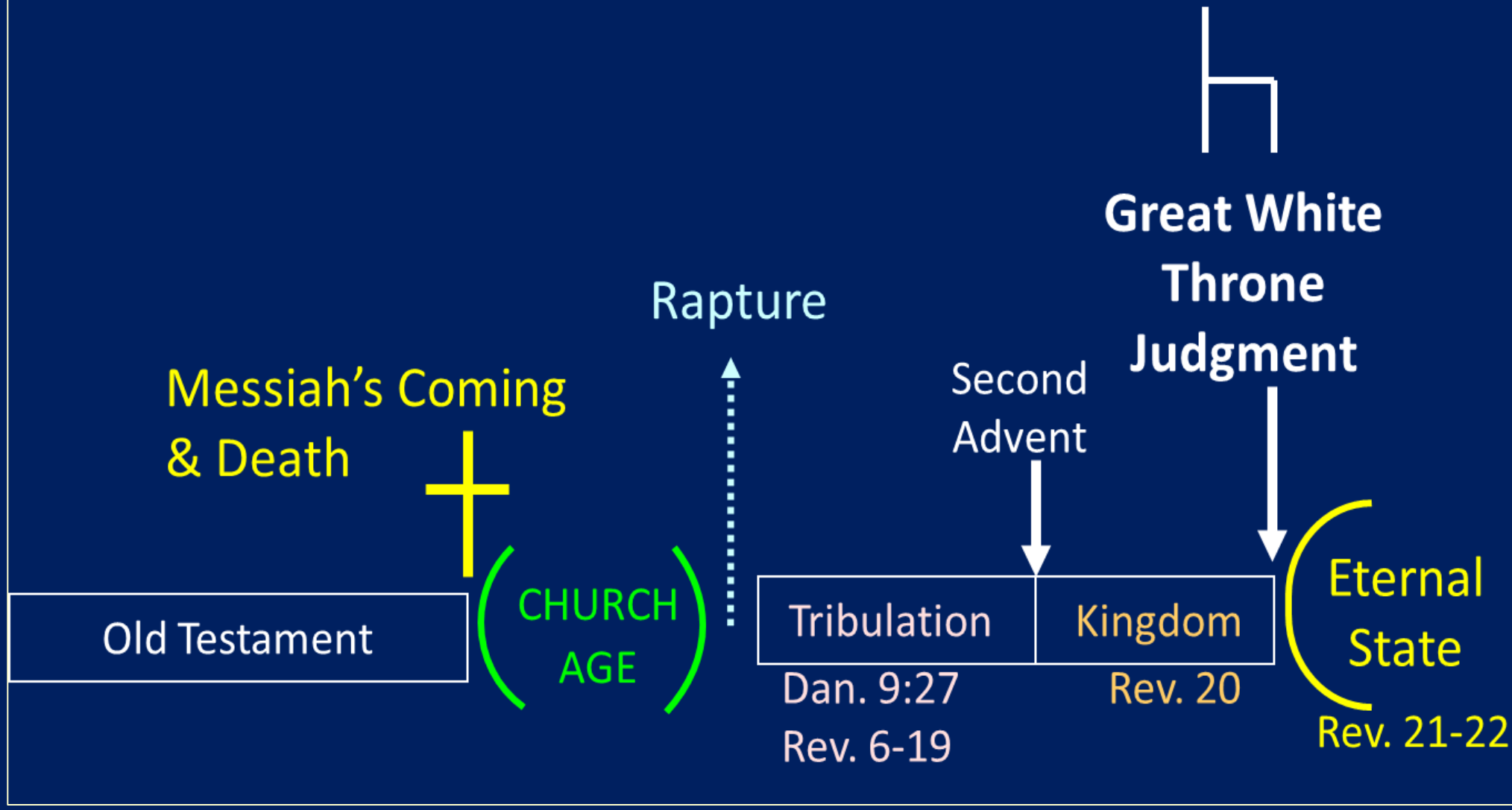


Robert Thomas observes that, "**no number in Revelation is verifiably a symbolic number.**"

Reasons for Understanding 1000 Literally

1. John's use of indefinite concepts elsewhere
   - Revelation 20:8, 20:3
2. Exception to the "# of years" examples?
3. Other numbers are taken literally
   - Two witnesses (11:3), 7000 people (11:13), 4 Angels (7:1) 7 Angels (8:6),144,000 Jews (7:4), 42 months (11:2), 1260 days (11:3)
4. Not always a symbolic interpretation
   - (Rev. 17:18)

Prophecy Panorama



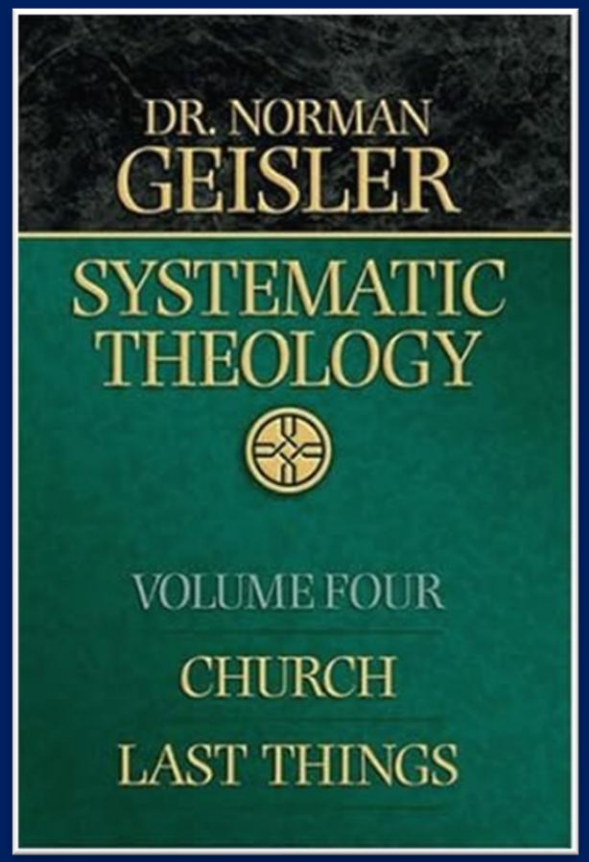
Revelation 20:10

"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*)."



Dr. Norman Geisler

Geisler, N. L. (2005). *Systematic theology, volume four: church, last things* (p. 408). Bethany House Publishers.



"There is a clear biblical example of still-conscious beings who have endured a thousand years of hell's torment. The beast and false prophet 'were thrown *alive* into the fiery lake of burning sulfur' (Rev. 19:20) before the 'thousand years' (20:2). Yet after this time the devil 'was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet [still] *are'* (v. 10 nkjv). Not only were they alive when they entered, but they were still alive after a thousand years of conscious torment. **This alone is a definitive argument against annihilationism**."

II. Anti-Annihilationist Texts

A. Dan. 12:2

B. Matt. 25:46

C. Mark 9:47-48

D. Matt. 8:12

E. Luke 16:19-31



F. 2 Thess. 1:9

G. Heb. 6:2

H. Rev. 14:11

I. Rev. 20:10

J. Rev. 19:20

ANNIHILATION VS. ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT

I. Introduction to the Controversy

II. Biblical Arguments Against Annihilation

III. <u>Theological Arguments Against Annihilation</u>

IV. Answering Annihilationist Biblical Arguments

V. Answering Annihilationist Theological Arguments

VI. Examining Church History

VII. Conclusion



III. Theological Arguments Against Annihilation

A. Underestimates sin's severity

B. Contradicts humanity's nature

C. Denies degrees of punishment

D. Seeks to escape sin's consequences



III. Theological Arguments Against Annihilation

A. **Underestimates sin's severity**

B. Contradicts humanity's nature

C. Denies degrees of punishment

D. Seeks to escape sin's consequences



III. Theological Arguments Against Annihilation

A. Underestimates sin's severity

B. **Contradicts humanity's nature**

C. Denies degrees of punishment

D. Seeks to escape sin's consequences



Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, “**Let Us make man in Our image**, according to
Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the
birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over
every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 **God created man
in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and
female He created them**. 28 God blessed them; and God said to
them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it;
and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and
over every living thing that moves on the earth.”



Genesis 9:6

"Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the **image of God** He made man."



Ecclesiastes 3:11

“He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity (***olam***) in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.”



III. Theological Arguments Against Annihilation

A. Underestimates sin's severity

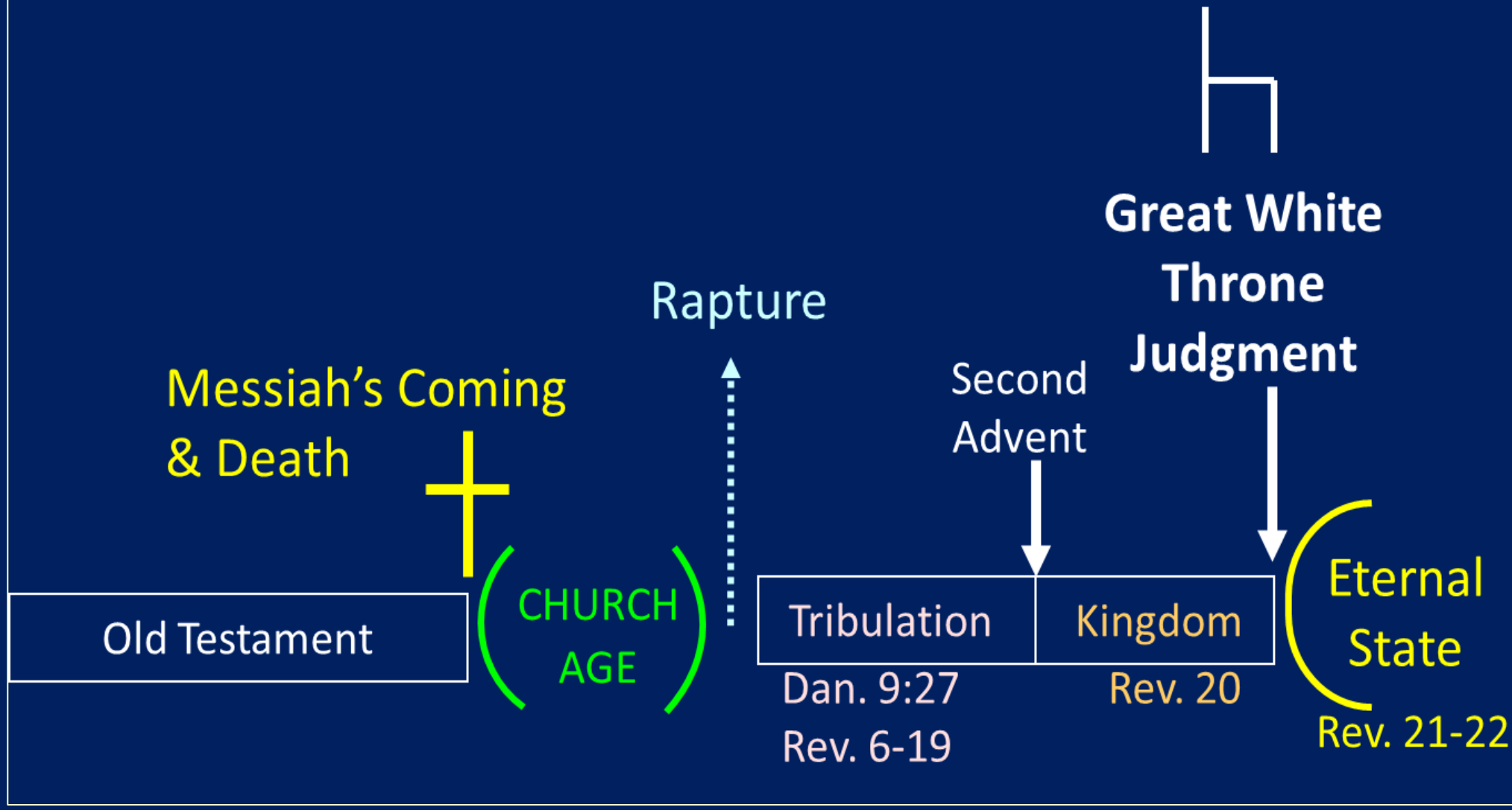
B. Contradicts humanity's nature

C. **Denies degrees of punishment**

D. Seeks to escape sin's consequences



Prophecy Panorama



III. Theological Arguments Against Annihilation

A. Underestimates sin's severity

B. Contradicts humanity's nature

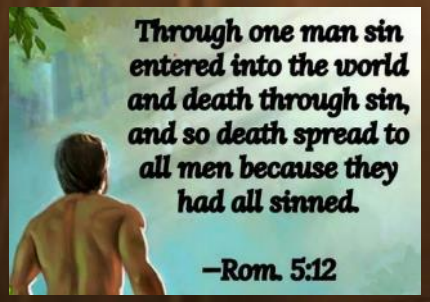
C. Denies degrees of punishment

D. **Seeks to escape sin's consequences**



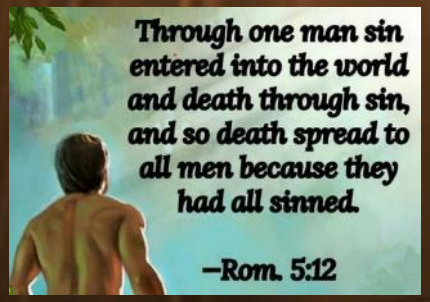
Genesis 2:16-17

“16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely **<u>die (*muwth*)</u>**.’”



Genesis 3:4-5

“4 The serpent said to the woman, ‘**You surely will not die**! 5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”



III. Theological Arguments Against Annihilation

A. Underestimates sin's severity

B. Contradicts humanity's nature

C. Denies degrees of punishment

D. Seeks to escape sin's consequences



ANNIHILATION VS. ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT

I. Introduction to the Controversy

II. Biblical Arguments Against Annihilation

III. Theological Arguments Against Annihilation

IV. Answering Annihilationist Biblical Arguments

V. Answering Annihilationist Theological Arguments

VI. Examining Church History

VII. Conclusion



ANNIHILATION VS. ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT

I. Introduction to the Controversy

II. Biblical Arguments Against Annihilation

III. Theological Arguments Against Annihilation

IV. Answering Annihilationist Biblical Arguments

V. <u>Answering Annihilationist Theological Arguments</u>

VI. Examining Church History

VII. Conclusion



ANNIHILATION VS. ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT

I. Introduction to the Controversy

II. Biblical Arguments Against Annihilation

III. Theological Arguments Against Annihilation

IV. Answering Annihilationist Biblical Arguments

V. Answering Annihilationist Theological Arguments

VI. Examining Church History

VII. Conclusion



ANNIHILATION VS. ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT

I. Introduction to the Controversy

II. Biblical Arguments Against Annihilation

III. Theological Arguments Against Annihilation

IV. Answering Annihilationist Biblical Arguments

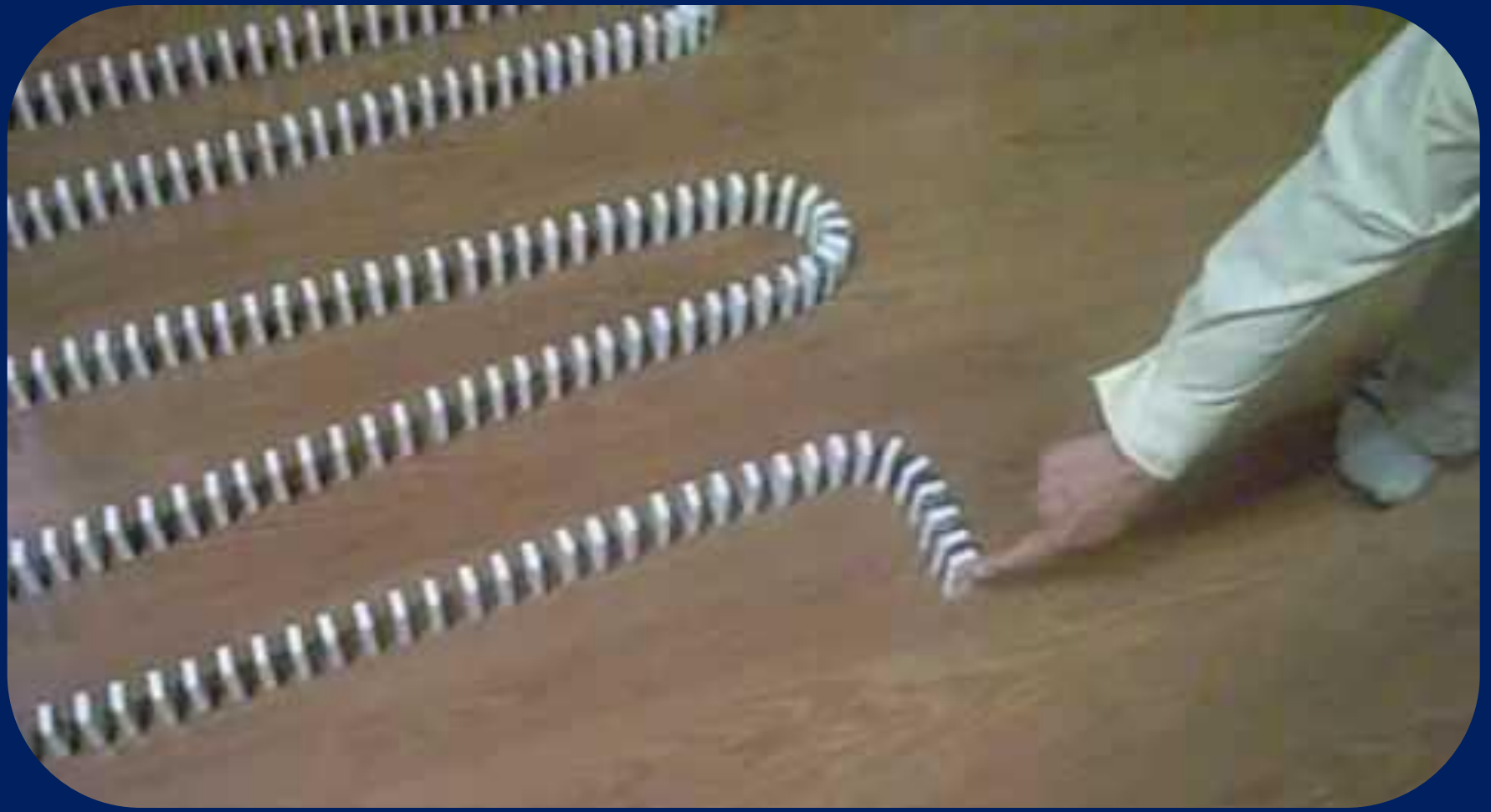
V. Answering Annihilationist Theological Arguments

VI. Examining Church History

VII. <u>Conclusion</u>



Dominoes in a Row



ANNIHILATION VS. ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT

I. Introduction to the Controversy

II. Biblical Arguments Against Annihilation

III. Theological Arguments Against Annihilation

IV. Answering Annihilationist Biblical Arguments

V. Answering Annihilationist Theological Arguments

VI. Examining Church History

VII. Conclusion

