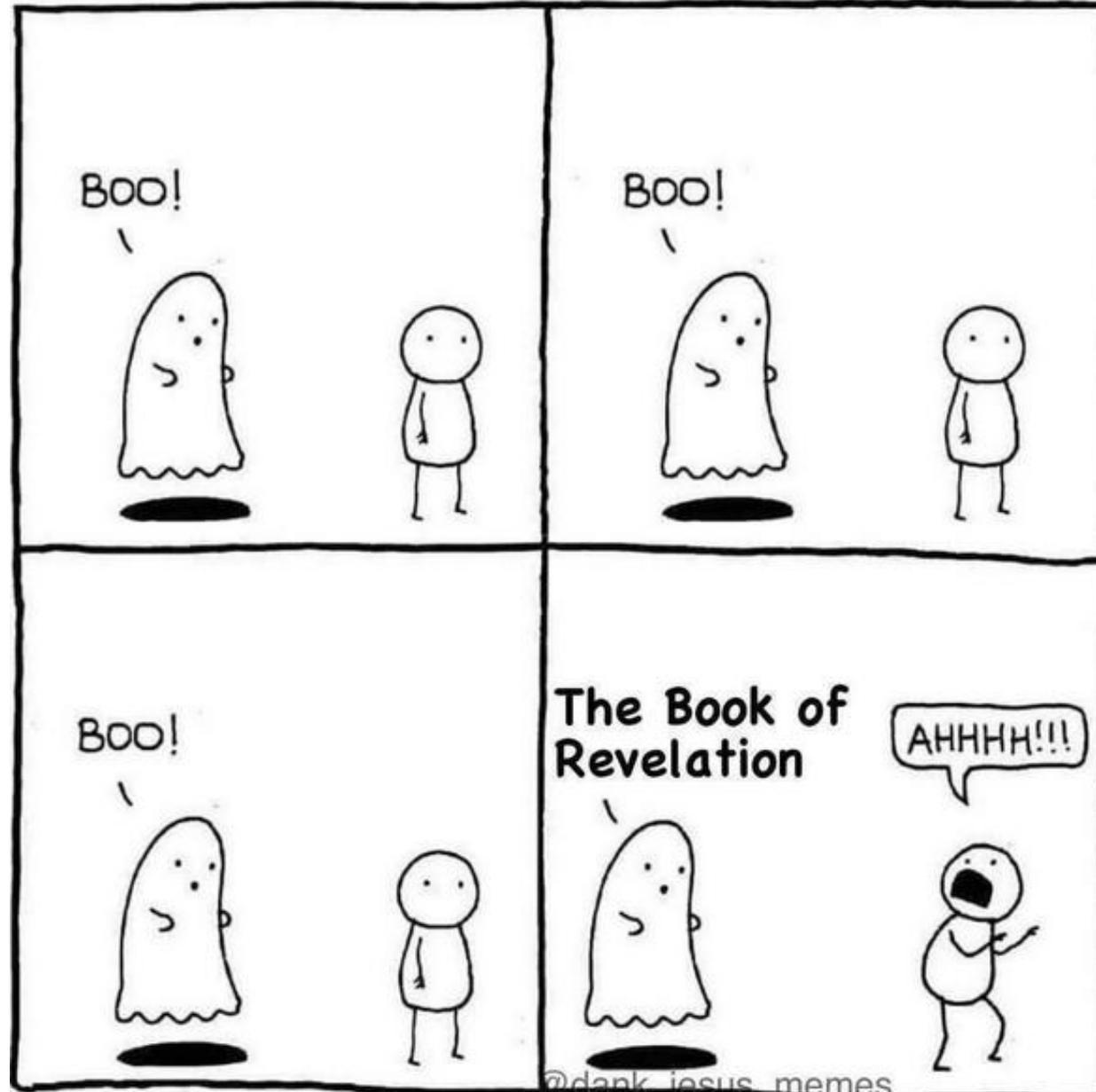


An Introduction to Revelation

Monday Night Bible Study

Every Christian ever:





“Reading Revelation”

This is an introduction...

If this were an *Exhaustive* Study, we'd deconstruct each verse.

- Rev 1:1 - "The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must **soon** take place."

"**Soon?**"

- 'A thousand years in your sight are like a day...' – Psalm 90:4
- Τάχει - [tachei](#) - Strong's word 5034.
 - Tachos - Speed, swiftness, quickness.
 - "Done as quickly (speedily) as is appropriate to the particular situation."

Goals of Study

- Read through The Book of Revelation
 - “Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it...” Rev 1:3
- Understand the symbolism and arguments for various interpretations
 - Is this history or prophecy i.e. Preterism, Futurism, Historicism, Idealism, or combination?
 - Is the Rapture pre, mid, or post-tribulation?
 - What is meant by 144,000?
 - Who is the Beast? Serpent? Babylon? Anti-Christ?
- Enjoy the weekly immersion into the Word of God

What we will NOT do...figure out the timing!

- Matthew 24:36 – “But concerning that day and hour **no one knows**, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”
- Matthew 24:42, 44 – “Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming... Therefore, you also **must be ready**, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”
- Mark 13:32–33 – “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, **keep awake**. For you do not know when the time will come.”
- Revelation 3:3 – “If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and **you will not know at what hour I will come against you.**”

Format of Weekly "Introductory study of Revelation"

- Assemble and Open in Prayer/Concerns looking backward
- Leader recaps / prior week of study
- Leader reads commentary (section by section)
- Team members take turns reading a portion of the scripture (by section)
- Team discusses content drawing from study guides, commentaries, etc... to dispel historic ignorance
- Close in prayer – Prayers/Concerns looking forward
- [Here is the link](#) to the commentary we'll reference each week.

BIBLE VERSION

ESV ▾

BOOK

Revelation ▾

CHAPTER

2 ▾

VERSE

- 1 2 3 4 5
- 6 7 8 9 10
- 11 12 13 14 15
- 16 17 18 19 20
- 21 22 23 24 25
- 26 27 28 29

Revelation

English Standard Version

3)Members Read Actual Scripture

1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

2 "'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. **3** I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name 's sake, and you have not grown weary.

4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. **5** Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. **6** Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. **7** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

What does Revelation chapter 2 mean?



1)Leader Reads Recap

In the first chapter of Revelation, John introduced his reason for writing the book: to reveal to the church the things which must soon take place. He was instructed to write to the seven churches, and to record them. Each church is given a message from Jesus, a command, and a promise. The messages are given specific praise—one is not. Five are given direct criticism—two are not. This chapter contains Christ's words to four of these seven: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, and Thyatira. Chapter 3 will complete this series of messages.

2)Leader Reads Commentary

The church in Ephesus is commended for hard work, and for weeding out false prophets, despite persecution. They are also praised for their love for the truth. A particular sect, the Nicolaitans, is mentioned as being particularly detestable to this group. Some scholars believe that the Nicolaitans were a group of amorality, others that they were a group of people who sought to "rule" over the laity. At the same time, the Ephesian church is criticized for being loveless. Their efforts are good, but they are slipping into coldness and religiosity, rather than Christian love ([Revelation 2:1-7](#)).

Smyrna's church suffered under especially brutal

Key Terminology

Revelation (Greek: *apokalypsis*)

- Literally means “*unveiling*” or “*disclosure*.” In context, it refers to God’s unveiling of hidden realities about the present age, the final judgment, and the ultimate triumph of Christ (Revelation 1:1).

Apocalyptic Literature

- A Jewish and Christian literary genre (200 B.C.–A.D. 200) that uses symbolic visions, cosmic imagery, and angelic mediation to reveal God’s plan for history and the end times. *Revelation* is the only full example in the New Testament.

Prophecy

- Not only foretelling the future but also *forth-telling* God’s truth. John identifies Revelation as both prophecy (Revelation 1:3; 22:7, 10) and apocalyptic, emphasizing warning, encouragement, and hope.

The Lamb

- A central Christological image in Revelation (Revelation 5:6). The slain yet victorious Lamb represents Jesus Christ, whose sacrificial death secures redemption and whose reign guarantees final victory.

The Beast

- A symbol of oppressive, anti-God political power (Revelation 13). Scholars often link it to Roman imperial rule in John’s time, but it can also function as a timeless image of worldly powers that demand idolatrous allegiance.

Key Terminology (cont)

The Dragon

- Identified explicitly as Satan (Revelation 12:9). The dragon energizes the beasts and deceives the nations, representing ultimate spiritual opposition to God and Christ.

Armageddon (Greek: *Har-Magedon*)

- Likely derived from “Mount of Megiddo” (Revelation 16:16). Symbolic of the climactic confrontation between the forces of evil and God’s kingdom, not necessarily a literal geographic battle site.

The Millennium

- The “thousand years” in Revelation 20:1–6. Interpreted in various ways (premillennial, postmillennial, amillennial), it represents Christ’s reign and the final defeat of Satan before the eternal state.

Judgment (Great White Throne)

- The final judgment of the dead before God (Revelation 20:11–15). Symbolizes ultimate accountability, separation of the righteous from the wicked, and the consummation of God’s justice.

The New Jerusalem

- The climactic vision of Revelation (Revelation 21–22). A symbolic, perfected city descending from heaven, representing the eternal dwelling of God with redeemed humanity in a renewed creation.

Before Revelation, there was disagreement interpreting the “Olivet Discourse” ([Matt 24](#))

- Jesus: “Not one stone here will be left on another...”
- Disciples: "When and what will be the sign?"
- Jesus: “Many will claim to be the chosen one...”
 - Wars, famines, quakes
 - Believers will be hated
 - Will see in the Holy Place the “abomination that causes desolation”
 - Unequaled distress - sun darkened, no moonlight, stars fall
 - Son of Man will come and send angels to gather elect.
 - This generation will not pass away until all these things have happened

Start with who wrote it, when, and to whom?

- Most agree it was written by Apostle John
- Disagreement over when it was written
 - Some believe before 70AD, before the destruction of Temple/fall of Jerusalem
 - Some believe written 90-96AD, after the destruction of Temple/fall of Jerusalem
- Written for believers who will be blessed simply by reading or hearing, and by “being ready”.

What Evidence for the Date it was written?

- **External** – Chief evidence is reference made by Church father Irenaeus references John and Emperor Domitian (who reigned 81-96AD) i.e. cited as proof it was written around 90AD)
 - But was John merely *alive* during Domitian's reign or did he *write it* during that reign?
- **Internal** – Reference within the scriptures or references to events known to occur on dates – no mention of temple destruction. i.e. had to be before this cataclysmic event.
 - Rev 17:9 References seven hills, seven kings, etc...
 - Could this be referring to Rome? If so, count the “kings/Caesars” and get Nero.

Four Interpretations of Revelation

- Preterist – Already fulfilled in the past
- Futurist – Blueprint for a series of events yet to come
- Historical – Focus on first century church transitioning to the future
- Idealist – Basically symbolical of events that will always occur over time



- ECO/Presbyterian/Reformed

What is the timing of the Tribulation?

“Preterist”

- The Great Tribulation already occurred (1st century)
- Those events marked the end of God's focus on and exaltation of Israel.
- Jesus' prophecies marked the beginning of the Christian era in God's plan.
- The Tribulation is God's judgment on Israel for rejecting the Messiah.
- The Tribulation judgments will be centered on local events surrounding ancient Jerusalem, and also somewhat affecting other portions of the former Roman Empire.
- The Tribulation judgments are governed by Jesus as the Christ to reflect his judgment against Israel, thus showing that he is in heaven controlling those events.

“Historist”

“Futurist”

- The Great Tribulation is still to come and is rapidly approaching prospect.
- Those events marked the beginning of God's focus on and exaltation of Israel.
- The prophecy says the Christian era will be concluded just after the church is taken from the world.
- Rather than being God's judgment on Israel, it is the preparation of Israel to receive her Messiah.
- The judgments involve catastrophes that literally will affect the stellar universe and impact the entire planet.
- The coming of Christ in the Tribulation requires his public, visible and physical presence to conclude those judgments.

Millennialism - different ways Christians interpret the “1,000 years” period mentioned in Revelation 20

- Premillennialism – Jesus will return before the 1,000 years to set up a kingdom on earth.
- Dispensational Premillennialism – A modern version of premillennialism that adds a secret rapture before a 7-year tribulation, and then Jesus’ 1,000-year reign on earth.
- Postmillennialism – The gospel will spread and bring a long period of peace and blessing (the “millennium”), and then Jesus will return after it.
- Amillennialism – The “1,000 years” reference is not a literal number, but a symbol for Christ reigning now, through His church, until He comes back just once at the end.

Premillennial vs Amillennial - Key Contrasts

Number of comings

- Dispensational: two stages (secret rapture + later visible return).
- Reformed: one Second Coming only.

Tribulation

- Dispensational: believers escape via rapture.
- Reformed: the church endures suffering/tribulation throughout the age; no special removal.

Millennium

- Dispensational: literal, future, earthly reign.
- Reformed: symbolic of the present gospel age.

THE FOUR VIEWS

PRE-MILLENNIAL-ISMS

"It's going to get **WORSE**.
But the church will **MISS** it."

"It's going to get **WORSE**.
But the church will **OVERCOME** it."

A-MILLENNIALISM

"It's **SIMPLE**:
Christ is Returning.
No raptures, road-maps
or much scary stuff."

POST-MILLENNIALISM

"The world will **ONLY GET BETTER**
through the
unstoppable Gospel."

DISPENSATIONAL

HISTORIC



THE
LITERAL
TWIN

I ❤️
LEFT
BEHIND

PRE
400 A.D.

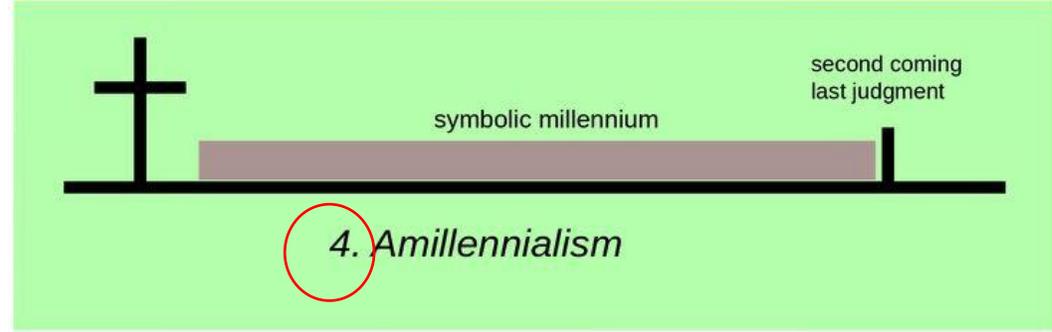
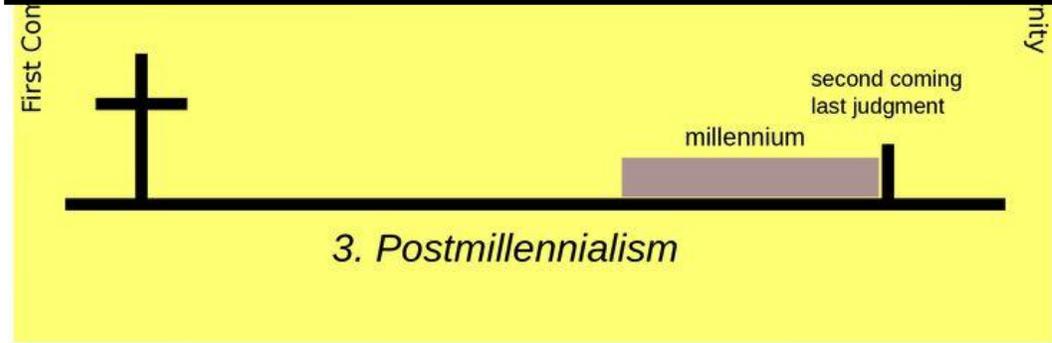
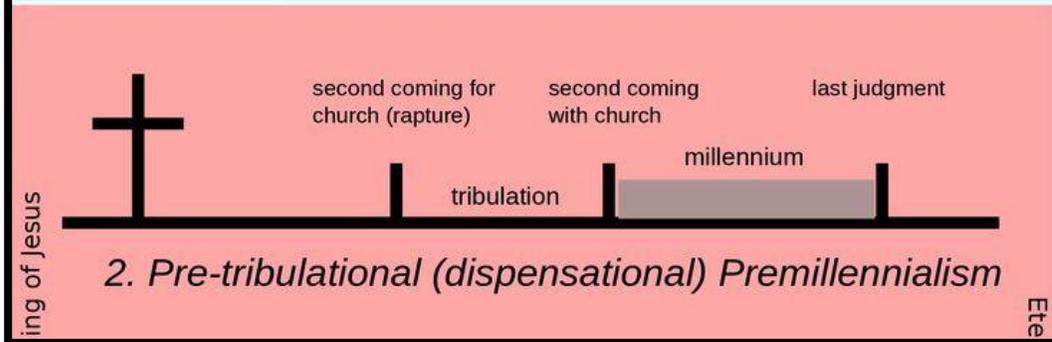
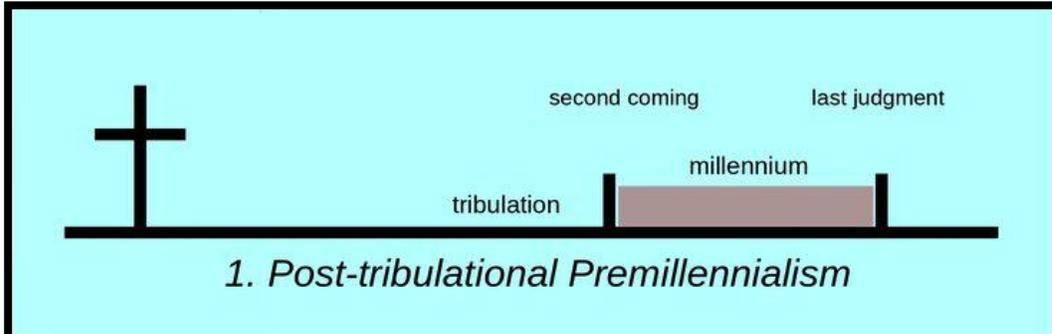


CHILL

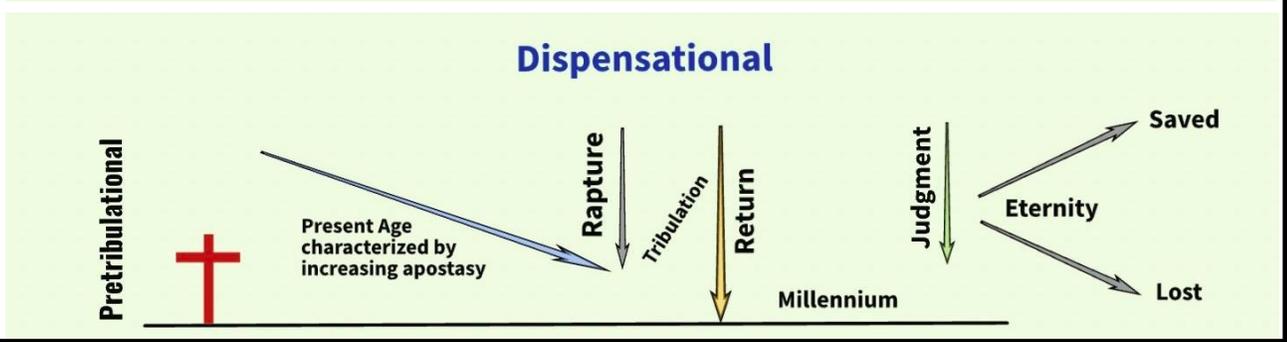
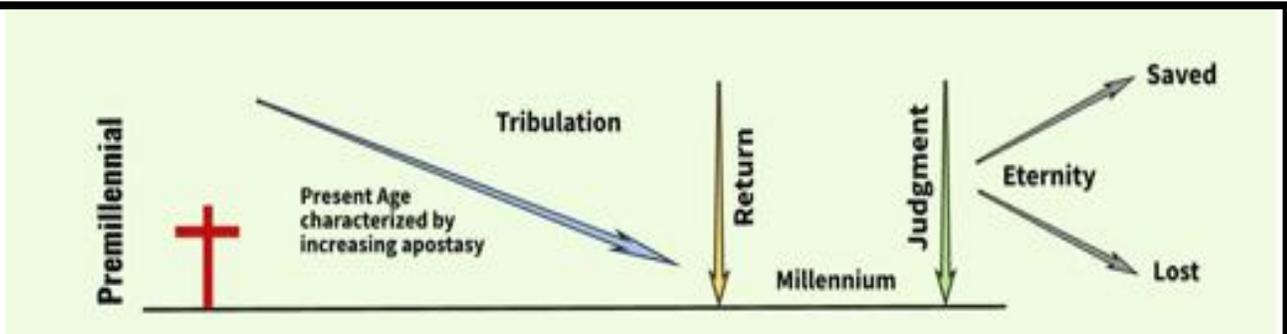
I ❤️
POSITIVITY

THE
SYMBOLIC
TWIN

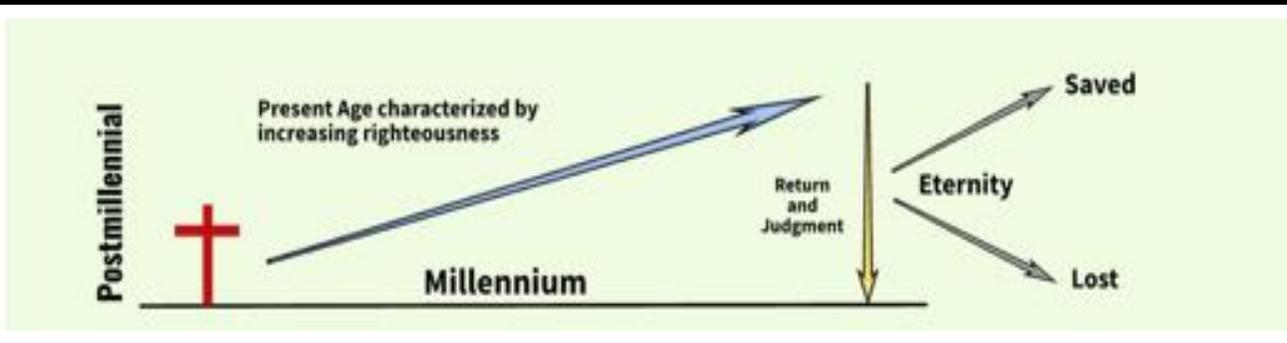
Comparison of Christian millennial teachings



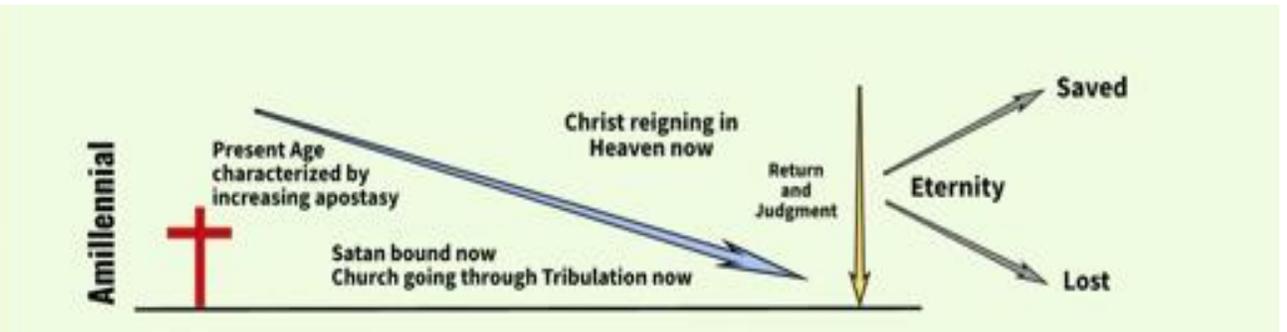
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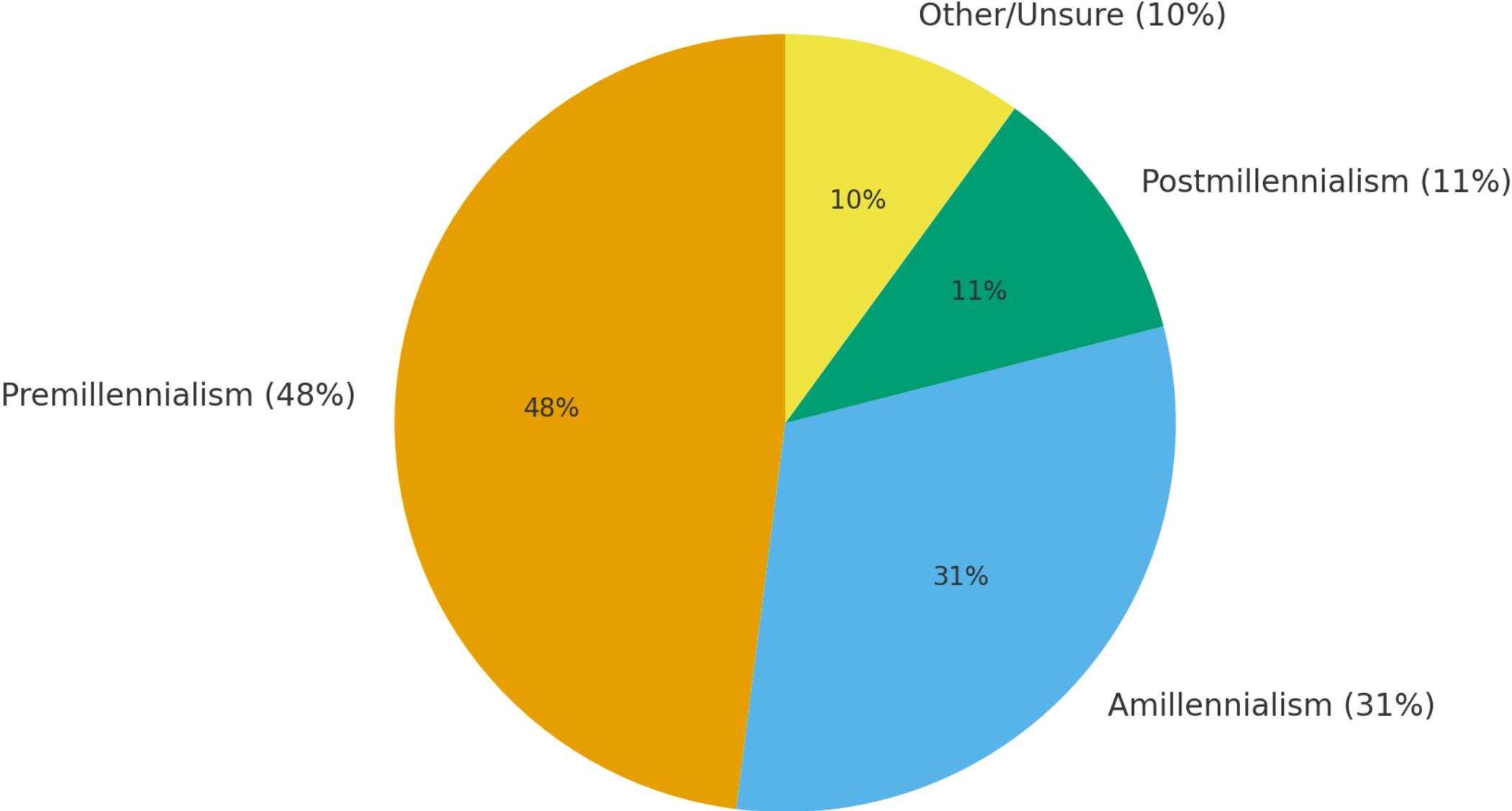
First Coming of Jesus

Eternity

If you believe “X”, you’re in good company...

- Dispensational Premillennialists: John MacArthur, David Jeremiah
- Historic Premillennialists: Charles Spurgeon, J.C. Ryle, John Piper (leans)
- Amillennialists: R.C. Sproul, Martin Luther, Augustine, Albert Mohler
- Postmillennial: Jonathan Edwards

Millennial Views — U.S. Protestant Pastors (Lifeway Research, 2016)



Wait, when is the Rapture again?

Pre-Tribulation Rapture – believers escape tribulation

- [1 Thessalonians 4:13–18](#) — “caught up... to meet the Lord in the air” taken as the Church being removed before God’s wrath.
- [1 Corinthians 15:50–58](#) — the “mystery” of instant transformation supports a sudden, imminent event.
- [John 14:1–3](#) — Jesus taking believers to the Father’s house fits removal before judgment.
- [Revelation 3:10](#) — “I will keep you from the hour of trial” read as protection by removal.
- [Revelation 4:1](#) — John’s call to “Come up here” seen as a type of the Church’s rapture, with the Church absent in Revelation 6–18.

Mid-Tribulation Rapture - believers endure the first 3½ years, but are removed before the worst judgments.

- Also uses 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15, but places fulfillment at the 7th trumpet ([Revelation 11:15](#)).
- [Revelation 11:12](#) — the two witnesses are “caught up” to heaven, interpreted as symbolic of the Church.

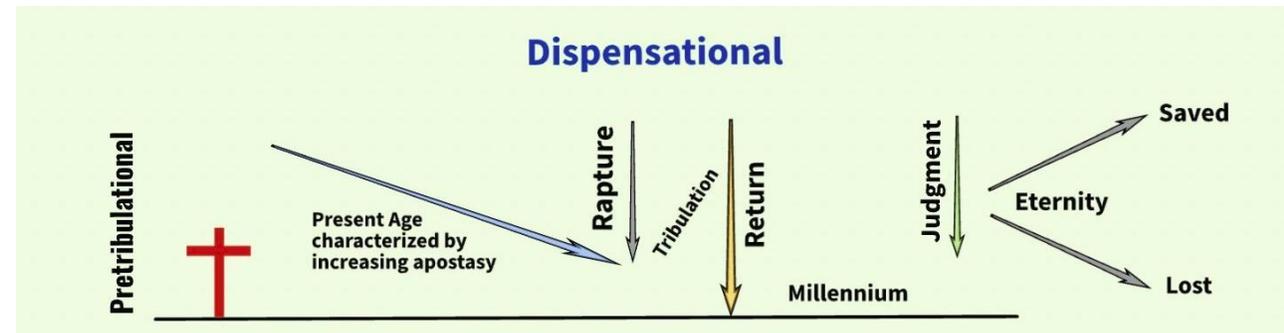
Post-Tribulation Rapture - the rapture and the Second Coming are a single event, not two phases.

- Also cites 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15, but aligns them with [Matthew 24:29–31](#) — the gathering of the elect “immediately” after the tribulation.
- [Revelation 20:4–6](#) — the “first resurrection” is seen as the rapture/resurrection happening at Christ’s visible return.

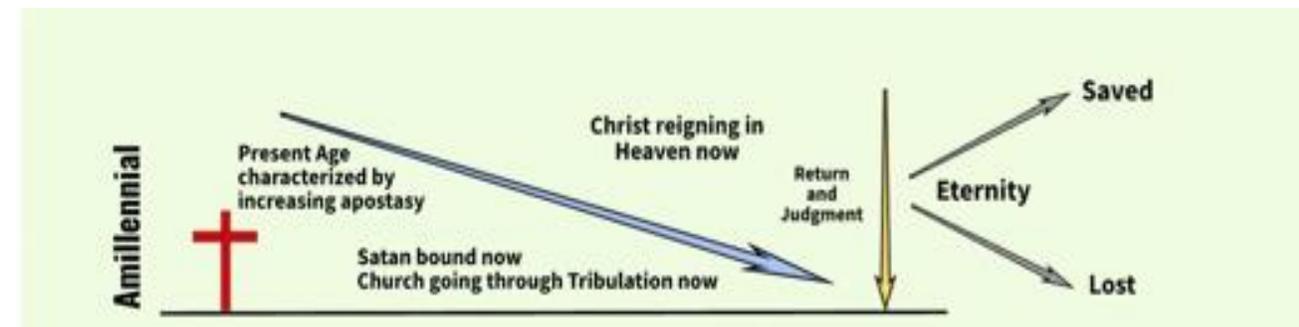
<u>Denomination / Tradition</u>	<u>Post-trib Premillennialism</u>	<u>Pre-trib Premillennialism</u>	<u>Postmillennialism</u>	<u>Amillennialism</u>
Roman Catholic	✗ Rare	✗ No	✗ Not historically	✓ Standard
Eastern Orthodox	✗ Rare	✗ No	✗ No	✓ Standard
Lutheran (ELCA, LCMS)	✗ Rare	✗ No	✗ Rare	✓ Confessional
Reformed / Presbyterian (PCA, OPC, CRC, ECO, etc.)	⚠ Some individuals	✗ No (dispensationalism rejected)	⚠ Historic Puritans; some modern theologians	✓ Confessional norm
Anglican / Episcopal	⚠ Some hold	✗ Rare	⚠ Some (esp. evangelical Anglicans)	✓ Officially broad but historically amillennial
Methodist / Wesleyan	⚠ Some historic roots	⚠ Some holiness & revivalist groups	⚠ Small groups	✓ Historically amillennial leaning
Baptist (general, SBC)	⚠ Some (esp. non-dispensational premil)	✓ Strong in dispensational groups)	⚠ Minority	⚠ Minority but present
Calvary Chapel	✗ No	✓ Standard	✗	✗
Pentecostal / Charismatic (Assemblies of God, etc.)	⚠ Some historic premil	✓ Very common (popularized by “Left Behind”)	✗ Rare	⚠ Minority (some Charismatic Reformed)
Seventh-Day Adventist	✓ Historic premil (post-trib, no secret rapture)	✗ Reject pre-trib	✗ Reject	✗ Reject
Jehovah’s Witnesses	⚠ Unique premil scheme	✗	✗	✗

Before we begin our study, do you lean...

- **Premillennialism** = Christ returns *before* a literal 1,000-year earthly reign. **Dispensational** adds a **rapture** (sometimes pre-tribulation, sometimes mid- or post-).



- **Amillennialism** = The "1,000 years" of Revelation 20 is symbolic of Christ's present reign from heaven. No distinct rapture; instead, one final return of Christ, resurrection, and judgment.



Take heart since the central message is...

Christ triumphs over all!

Evil and suffering will be irradiated!

All will be made brand new!



Jesus is our only hope!

Jesus is coming back!

Book of Revelation Chapter Overview



7 Letters to 7 Churches



7 Seals



7 Trumpets

2 1/2 Years

Revelation 1:1-9
Revelation 1:12
Revelation 2
Revelation 3
Revelation 4
Revelation 5
Revelation 6:1-11
Revelation 6:12-17
Revelation 7
Revelation 8:1-5
Revelation 8:6-12
Revelation 9:1-12
Revelation 9:13-20
Revelation 10
Revelation 11:1-14
Revelation 11:15-19

Introduction

Christ in the midst of 7 Lampstands / 7 Churches

Christ's Letters to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum & Thyatira

Christ's Letters to Sardis, Philadelphia & Loadicea

7 Seals opened from God's Throne

1st – 5th Seals

6th Seal

7 Trumpets opened from God's Throne

1st – 4th Trumpets

5th Trumpet

6th Trumpet { 4 Angels released to Kill 1/3rd

7 Thunders, Eat Scroll & Prophecy

2 Witnesses

7th Trumpet - Kingdom Begins!

572 Verses
Mentioned 5 Times
in Chs 11-13



God's Wrath 7 Bowls of Wrath

Wedding Feast of the Lamb!

1,000 Year Reign!

New Heavens & New Earth!



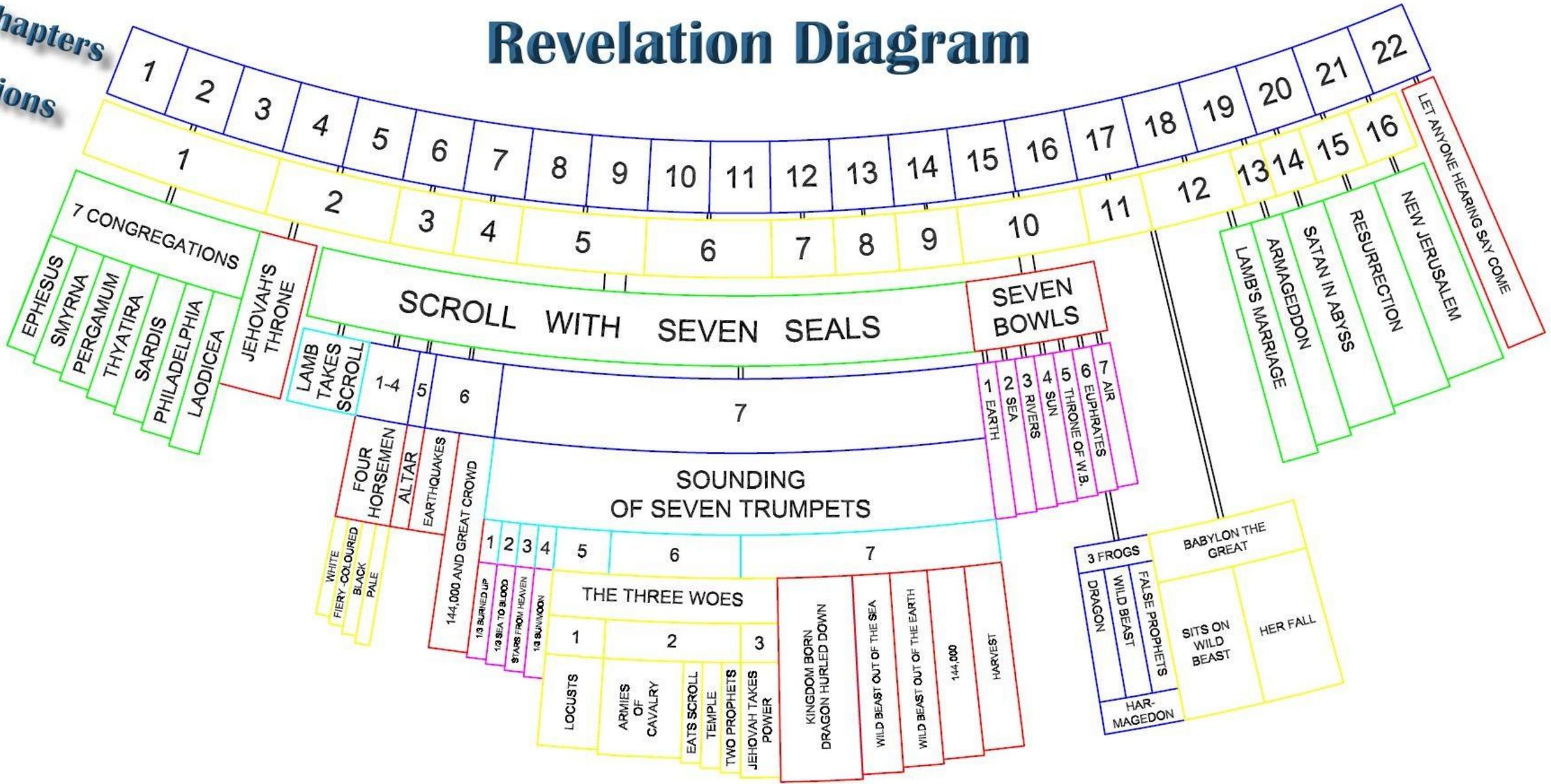
Revelation 12	Woman, Child, Dragon, War in heaven
Revelation 13	Beast, Image, Mark & False Prophet
Revelation 14:1-5	Lamb w/ 144,000 on Mt Zion
Revelation 14:6-13	Eternal Gospel
Revelation 14:14-20	Harvest / Wrath
Revelation 15	7 Bowls of Wrath opened from God's Throne
Revelation 16	1 st – 7 th Bowls of Wrath
Revelation 17	Judgment Whore (7 th Bowl of Wrath)
Revelation 18	
Revelation 19:1-5	Heavens Reaction to Whore's Judgment
Revelation 19:6-10	Wedding of the Lamb
Revelation 19:11-21	Armageddon – 6 th Bowl of Wrath
Revelation 20	1,000 Year Reign
Revelation 21	New Jerusalem, New Heavens & New Earth!
Revelation 22	Conclusion

The Book of Revelation

Focus	Jesus & Saints	God's Throne	Buying Earth	7th Seal	Parenthetical Overviews	7th Trump wrath of God	Eden Restored	Kingdom Come
Divisions	Letters to the 7 Assemblies 1 3	Heaven 4	Opening the 7 Seals 5 7	The 7 Trumpet Judgements 8 11	The 7 Signs in Heaven 12 15	The 7 Bowl Judgements 16 18	Return of the King Millennium Kingdom 19 20	New Heaven & Earth 21 22
Topics	Coming King Judging Saints	Price to Buy back Earth from Satan		Answering Saint's Prayers allowing Repentance	Events that Happened in 7 years	Rewarding Saints Punish wicked	Eden Restored in Jerusalem	Heaven on Earth Forever
Place	Island of Patmos	Heaven & Earth						

Chapters
Visions

Revelation Diagram



Key Upcoming Topics We'll Investigate

- Chapters 1-3 – Seven Churches
- Chapter 5 – Seven Seals
- Chapter 8 – Seven Trumpets
- Chapter 15 – Seven Bowls
- Chapter 20 – Eschatology – Sequence of End of Times



While both interpretations have merit, the evidence leans towards the lampstands in Revelation being **individual stands** rather than a **menorah**, reflecting the distinct identity of the seven churches and a distancing from Jewish tradition.

THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND

Exodus 25: 31-40

Dimensions not given.
Made from 1 talent of gold (appx 75 lbs/ 35 kg)
(Talent of gold may also include associated tools)
Lampstand is one piece, made solely of beaten gold.



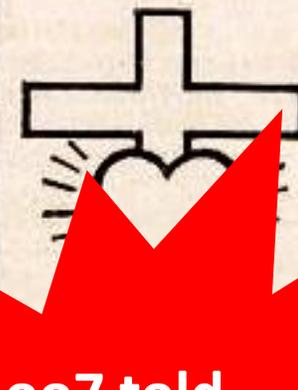
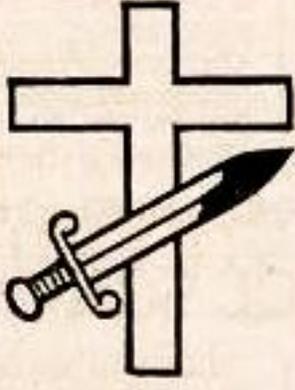
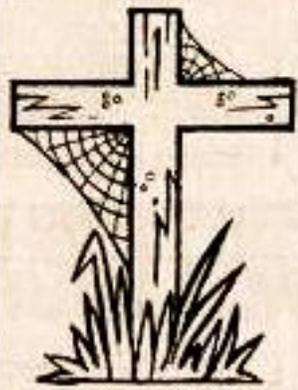


Ancient City	Modern Name	Current Status
Ephesus	Selçuk	Ruins exist; a popular archaeological site.
Smyrna	İzmir	A major city in Turkey, still thriving .
Pergamum	Bergama	Ruins exist; the site is an archaeological area.
Thyatira	Akhisar	The modern town of Akhisar is located nearby.
Sardis	Sart	Ruins exist; the site is an archaeological area.
Philadelphia	Alaşehir	A town exists, but it is not the same as the ancient city.
Laodicea	Denizli	Ruins exist; the site is an archaeological area.



Seven parts – Commonality of Letters

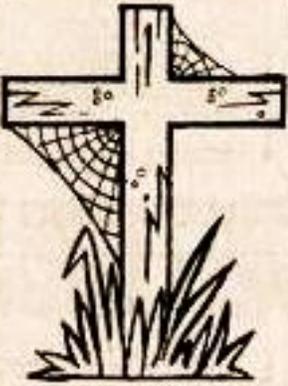
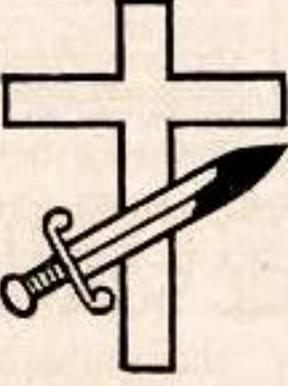
1. Address to particular congregation
2. Introduction of Jesus
3. Condition of the Church
4. Verdict from Jesus
5. Command from Jesus
6. Exhortation to all Christians
7. Promise of Reward



5007 told to REPENT!

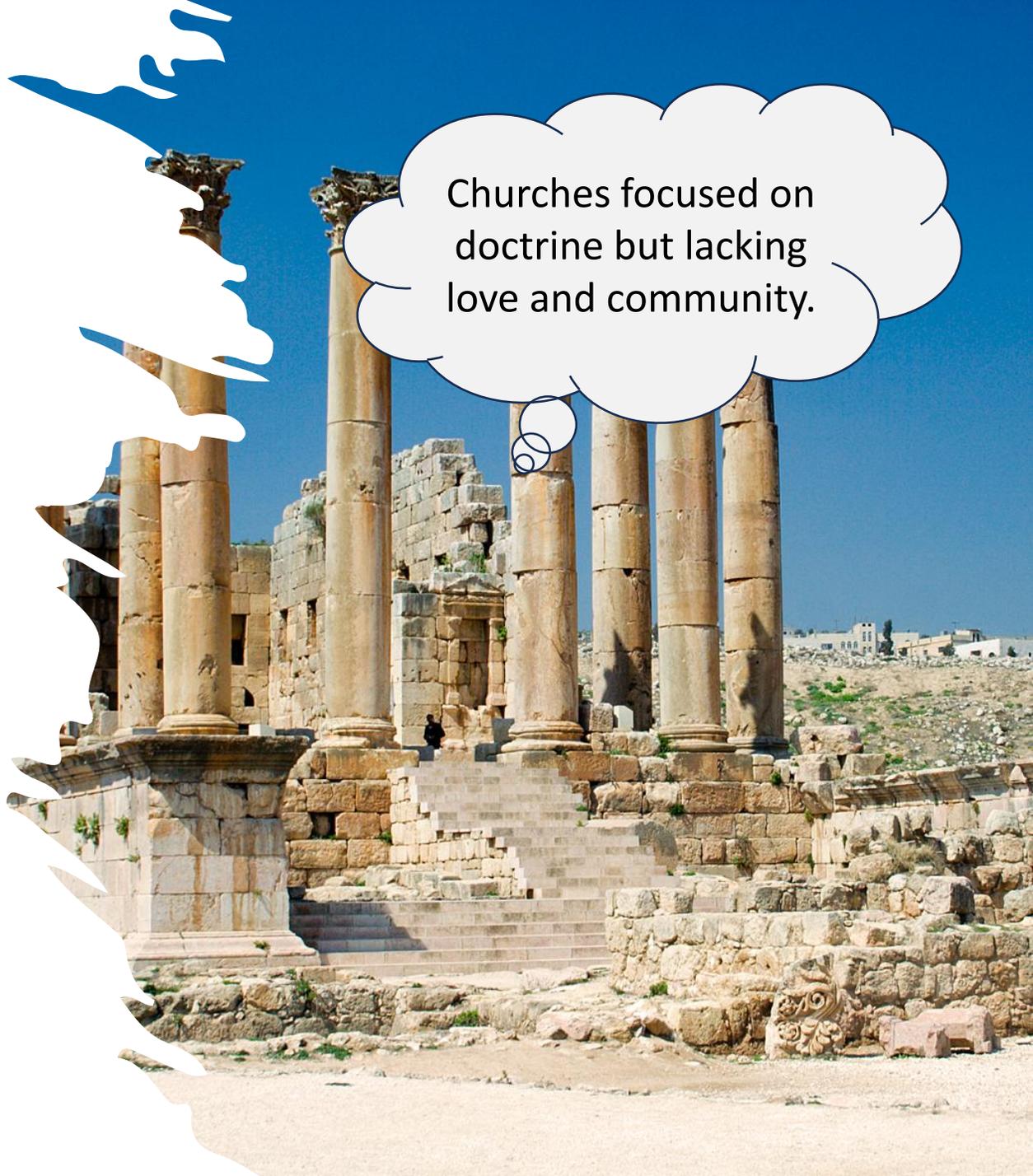
EPHESUS	SMYRNA	PERGAMOS	THYATIRA	SARDIS	PHILADELPHIA	LAODICEA
(Rev. 2: 1-7) ONCE ON FIRE FOR CHRIST, BUT NOW BECOMING INDIFFERENT.	(Rev. 2: 8-11) PERSECUTED, POOR, BUT EVER FAITHFUL AND RESOLUTE!	(Rev. 2: 12-17) PERMISSIVE, SHELTERING FALSE TEACHERS, FOLLOWING FALSE DOCTRINES.	(Rev. 2: 18-29) IDOLATROUS, SEDUCED INTO CORRUPT BELIEFS AND PAGAN RITUALS.	(Rev. 2: 20-23) A DEAD CHURCH IN NAME WITH NO REAL RESULTS. SPIRITLESS.	(Rev. 3: 1-6) A CHURCH BLESSED WITH HIS LOVE!	(Rev. 3: 14-22) SELF-INDULGENT, RICH, AND OSTENTATIOUS. FULL OF WORLDLY PRIDE.
A BACKSLIDING CHURCH	A STEADFAST CHURCH	A LICENTIOUS CHURCH	A LAX, PAGAN CHURCH	A DEAD CHURCH	A FAVOURED CHURCH	A LUKEWARM CHURCH
<p>CRITICISM: "Thou hast left thy first love...."</p> <p>COUNSEL: "Remember from whence thou art fallen, and <u>repent.</u>"</p>	<p>NO CRITICISM!</p> <p>COUNSEL: "Fear not! Be faithful unto death and I will give thee a Crown of Life!"</p>	<p>CRITICISM: "Thou hast them that hold the doctrines of Baalam and the Nicolaitans...."</p> <p>COUNSEL: "<u>Repent</u>, or I will come unto thee quickly!"</p>	<p>CRITICISM: "Thou sufferest that ...Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication..."</p> <p>COUNSEL: "Hold fast to what (little) ye have till I come."</p>	<p>CRITICISM: "Thou hast a <u>name</u> that thou livest and art dead. I have <u>not</u> found thy works perfect..."</p> <p>COUNSEL: "Strengthen what (little) remains. <u>Hold fast and repent.</u>"</p>	<p>NO CRITICISM!</p> <p>COUNSEL: "Hold that fast which thou hast, that <u>no</u> man take thy Crown."</p>	<p>CRITICISM: "I will spue thee out of my mouth.... Thou art wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked..."</p> <p>COUNSEL: "Buy <u>my</u> gold, and white raiment to clothe thee...and anoint thine eyes..."</p>

The First Four Letters

			
EPHESUS	SMYRNA	PERGAMOS	THYATIRA
(Rev. 2: 1-7) ONCE ON FIRE FOR CHRIST, BUT NOW BECOMING INDIFFERENT.	(Rev. 2: 8-11) PERSECUTED, POOR, BUT EVER FAITHFUL AND RESOLUTE!	(Rev. 2: 12-17) PERMISSIVE, SHELTERING FALSE TEACHERS, FOLLOWING FALSE DOCTRINES.	(Rev. 2: 18-29) IDOLATROUS, SEDUCED INTO CORRUPT BELIEFS AND PAGAN RITUALS.
A BACKSLIDING CHURCH	A STEADFAST CHURCH	A LICENTIOUS CHURCH	A LAX, PAGAN CHURCH
CRITICISM: "Thou hast left thy first love...."	NO CRITICISM!	CRITICISM: "Thou hast them that hold the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitans...."	CRITICISM: "Thou sufferest that ...Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication..."
COUNSEL: "Remember from whence thou art fallen, and repent."	COUNSEL: "Fear not! Be faithful unto death and I will give thee a Crown of Life!"	COUNSEL: "Repent, or I will come unto thee quickly!"	COUNSEL: "Hold fast to what (little) ye have till I come."

Ephesus – Rev 2:1

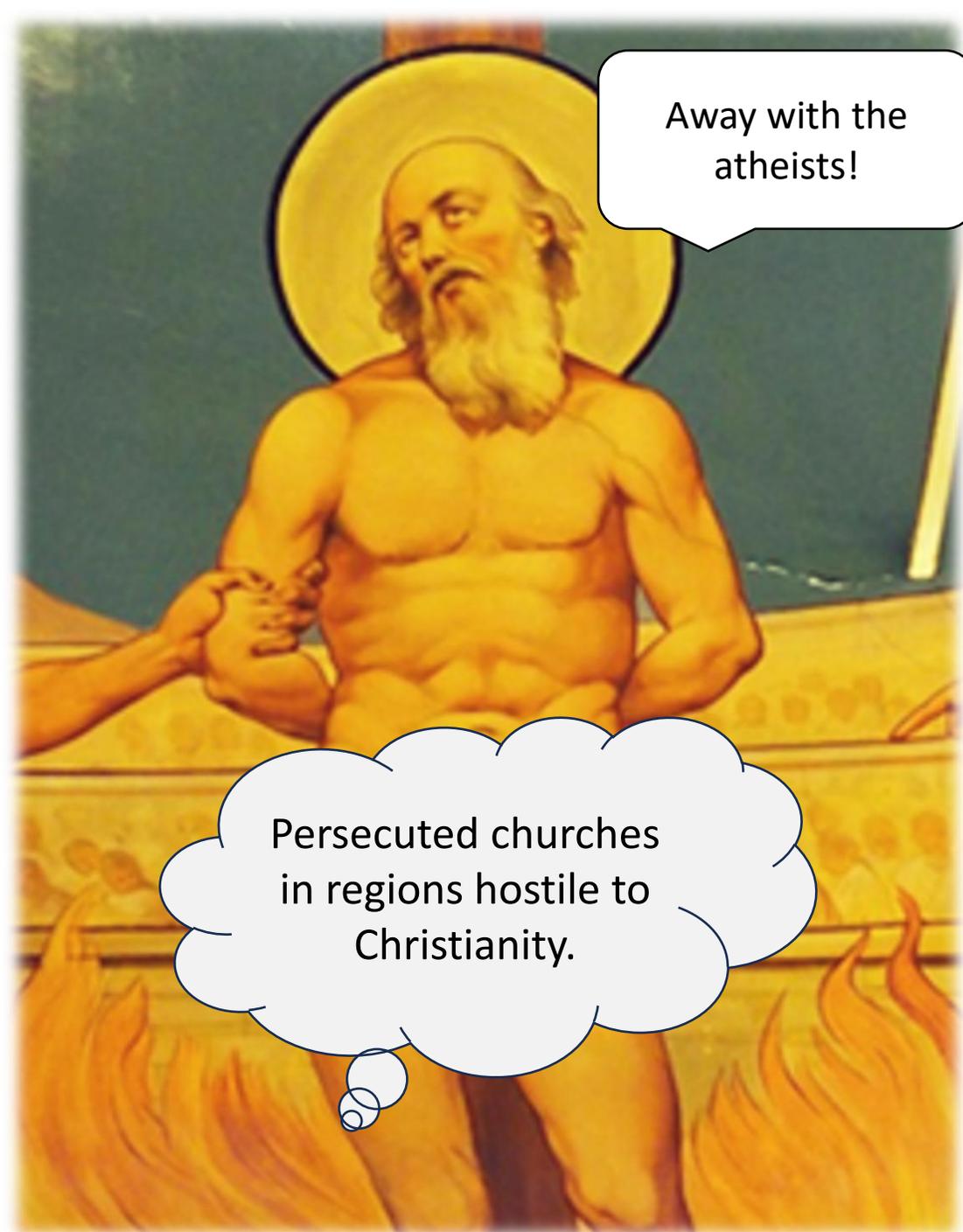
- Started by Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18), founded by Paul (Acts 19) over three years; later pastored by Timothy (1 Tim. 1:3). Got a letter from Paul.
- Name means “The Desired One”; Wealthy, major port city; Famous for 1 of the seven wonders of ancient world; the Temple of Artemis (Diana), amulets, charms.
- Letter Assertions: Commended for hard work and perseverance; rebuked for losing their first love.
- Commands: Remember, repent, and do the works you did at first.



Churches focused on doctrine but lacking love and community.

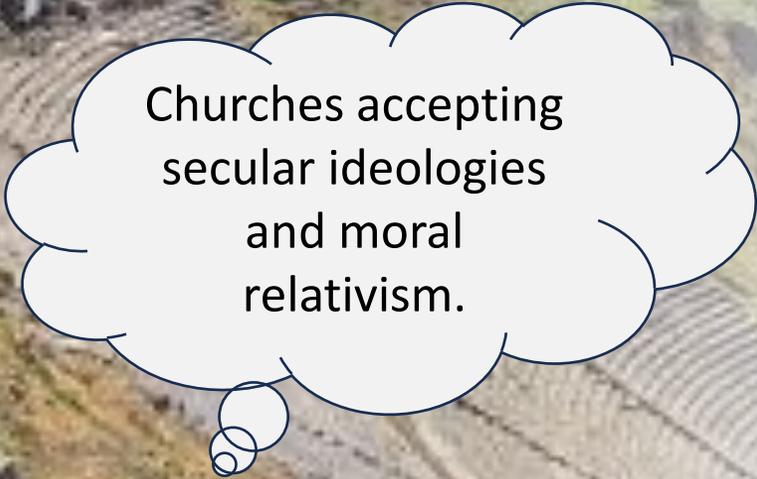
Smyrna – Rev 2:8

- Not otherwise mentioned in Scripture; early tradition links Polycarp, John's student, to Smyrna
- Wealthy trading hub;
- Known for emperor worship (kaiser kyrios - Emperor is Lord vs Iēsoûs Kýrios)
- Letter Assertions: Commended for spiritual riches amid poverty and persecution.
- Command: Be faithful unto death.



Pergamum – Rev 2:12

- Not mentioned elsewhere in Scripture.
- Capital of Roman Asia 3-400 years before Jesus; Center of pagan cults including Zeus and Asclepius (physicians' symbol)
- Letter Assertions: Commended for holding fast to Christ's name; rebuked for tolerating false teaching (Balaam/Nicolaitans).
- Command: Repent.



Churches accepting secular ideologies and moral relativism.

Thyatira – Rev 2:18

- Lydia, seller of purple, was from Thyatira (Acts 16:14).
- Small city, strong trade guilds; Famous for purple dye
- Letter Assertions: Commended for love, faith, service, and perseverance; rebuked for tolerating Jezebel's immorality and idolatry.
- Command: Hold fast until I come.



Format of Weekly "Introductory study of Revelation"

- Assemble and Open in Prayer/Concerns looking backward
- Leader recaps prior week of study
- Leader reads commentary (section by section)
- *Leader reads segment (to aid in understanding and flow)*
- Team members take turns reading a portion of the scripture (by section)
- Team discusses content drawing from study guides, commentaries, etc... to dispel historic ignorance
- Close in prayer – Prayers/Concerns looking forward
- [Here is the link](#) to the commentary we'll reference each week.

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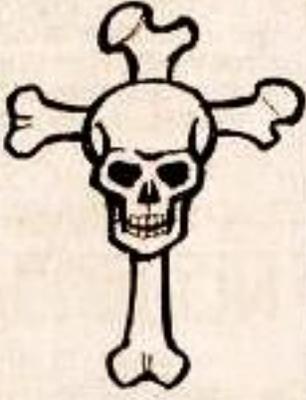
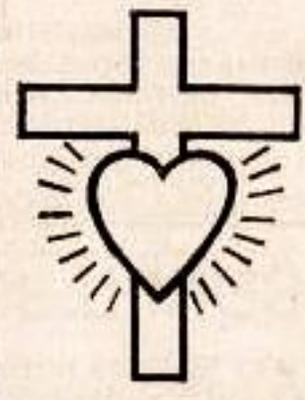
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Ancient City	Modern Name	Current Status
Ephesus	Selçuk	Ruins exist; a popular archaeological site.
Smyrna	İzmir	A major city in Turkey, still thriving.
Pergamum	Bergama	Ruins exist; the site is an archaeological area.
Thyatira	Akhisar	The modern town of Akhisar is located nearby.
Sardis	Sart	Ruins exist; the site is an archaeological area.
Philadelphia	Alaşehir	A town exists, but it is not the same as the ancient city.
Laodicea	Denizli	Ruins exist; the site is an archaeological area.



The Final Three Letters

		
SARDIS (Rev. 3: 1-6) A CHURCH IN NAME ONLY. WITHOUT RESULTS AND SPIRITLESS.	PHILADELPHIA (Rev. 3: 7-13) EXEMPLORY! FAITHFUL TO GOD'S WORD AND FILLED WITH HIS LOVE!	LAODICEA (Rev. 3: 14-22) SELF-INDULGENT, RICH, AND OSTENTATIOUS. FULL OF WORLDLY PRIDE.
A DEAD CHURCH	A FAVOURED CHURCH	A LUKEWARM CHURCH
CRITICISM: "Thou hast a <u>name</u> that thou livest and art dead. I have <u>not</u> found thy works perfect..." COUNSEL: "Strengthen what (little) remains. Hold fast and repent."	NO CRITICISM! COUNSEL: "Hold that fast which thou hast, that <u>no</u> man take thy Crown."	CRITICISM: "I will spue thee out of my mouth... Thou art wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked..." COUNSEL: "Buy <u>my</u> gold, and white raiment to clothe thee...and anoint thine eyes..."

Sardis – Rev 3:1

- Not otherwise mentioned in Scripture.
- Facts: Once a wealthy capital of Lydia; Strategically located but twice conquered due to negligence
- Letter Assertions: Rebuked for being spiritually dead despite reputation of being alive.
- Command: Wake up, strengthen what remains, remember, obey, and repent.



Philadelphia – Rev 3:7

- Not otherwise mentioned in Scripture.
- Facts: Known as 'Gateway to the East'; Prone to earthquakes;
- Letter Assertions: Commended for keeping Christ's word and not denying His name.
- Command: Endure, hold fast what you have.



Laodicea – Rev 3:14



- Mentioned in Paul’s letters (Colossians 2:1; 4:15–16).
- Facts: Banking center; Water from hot springs; Famous for black wool and medical eye salve
- Letter Assertions: Rebuked for being lukewarm, self-sufficient, and blind to true need.
- Command: Be zealous and repent; open the door to Christ.



	CHURCH	DATE (APPROX.)	MEANING OF NAME	COMPLAINT	COMPLIMENT	PROMISED REWARD
1	EPHESUS	A.D. 31–100	Desirable, Lovely	Lost first love	Hate deeds of Nicolaitans	Tree of Life
2	SMYRNA	A.D. 100–313	Sweet fragrance, Myrrh	None	Rich in good works	Crown of Life, Escape second death
3	PERGAMOS	A.D. 313–538	Height, Elevation, “By marriage”	Tolerance of Baalism, idolatry, and immorality	Not denied Christ’s name or faith	Hidden manna, White stone, New name
4	THYATIRA	A.D. 538–1500s	Perfume of labor, Sweet savor of sacrifice	Tolerance of “Jezebel,” idolatry, and immorality	Good works, love faith, and patience	Power over the nations
5	SARDIS	A.D. 1500s–1790s	Those escaping or remaining	Dead works	A few are not defiled	White raiment, Book of Life
6	PHILADELPHIA	A.D. 1790s–1840s	Brotherly love	Little strength	Kept Christ’s Word; Not denied Him	Kept from the hour of trial, Pillar in temple, Name of God
7	LAODICEA	A.D. 1840s– Second Coming	Judging of the people or a just people	Lukewarm experience, Spiritually poor, blind, and naked	None	Sit with Christ on His throne, Sup with Christ

How about you/your church/your nation?

- **Spiritual Condition**

- Maintain strong faith despite external pressures? (Ephesus)
- Facing persecution but remaining steadfast? (Smyrna)
- Struggle with false teachings or moral compromise? (Pergamum)
- Known for its good works but has lost its initial passion? (Thyatira)
- Have a reputation for being alive but is spiritually dead? (Sardis)
- Lukewarm, neither hot nor cold in its faith? (Laodicea)

- **Community Engagement**

- Engage with the local community? (Philadelphia)
- Prioritize outreach and evangelism, or is it more inward-focused?

- **Moral and Ethical Standards**

- Issues of immorality or idolatry? (Thyatira, Pergamum)
- Handle conflicts or moral dilemmas?

- **Response to Challenges**

- Respond to criticism or challenges? (Sardis, Laodicea)
- Is there a sense of urgency to address spiritual issues?

- **Vision and Mission**

- What is the primary mission? (Ephesus, Philadelphia)
- Have a clear vision that aligns with biblical teachings?

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Chapters 4&5

Transition from description of what “is”
(was to us) to “what will be”

You will no longer read the word “church”
from this point out – proof of rapture?

24 elders – 12 Tribes and 12 Apostles?

Symbolism of gems, creatures, eyes, horns,
scrolls, seals, and more

Other views of Heaven

Passage	Setting / Occasion	Imagery & Key Details
Isaiah 6 : 1-8	In the temple, the year King Uzziah died	Lord on a high throne; train of His robe fills the temple; seraphim with six wings cry “Holy, holy, holy”; smoke and shaking; Isaiah’s lips cleansed with a coal
Ezekiel 1 and 10	Exile by the Kebar River	Storm, fire, wheels within wheels, four living creatures with four faces; expanse like crystal; throne of sapphire; radiance like a rainbow
Daniel 7 : 9-14	Night vision of empires judged	“Ancient of Days” on a fiery throne; thousands ministering; books opened; “one like a son of man” given everlasting dominion
Exodus 24 : 9-11	Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and 70 elders ascend Sinai	They see the God of Israel; pavement of sapphire under His feet; they eat and drink in His presence
1 Kings 22 : 19-23	Prophet Micaiah’s vision before King Ahab	“The Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him”; a spirit volunteers to entice Ahab
Job 1–2	Prologue in the divine council	“The sons of God” present themselves before the Lord; Satan permitted to test Job
Acts 7 : 55-56	Stephen’s martyrdom in Jerusalem	“Full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God”

Rev 4:1-4



Symbology of Gems

Gem	Description	Symbolism	Attribute of Christ
Jasper	Clear or diamond-like stone encircling the throne	Purity and holiness; reflects God's glory in radiance and perfection (cf. Rev 21:11)	Jesus as the sinless, radiant image of God (Heb 1:3)
Carnelian (Sardius)	Deep red stone	Judgment, sacrifice, and redemption —the color of blood	Jesus as Redeemer through His sacrificial blood (Rev 5:9)
Rainbow of Emerald	Green hue encircling the throne	Mercy and faithfulness in covenant (echoing Genesis 9:13)	Jesus as Mediator of a new covenant , combining justice and mercy (Heb 8:6)

Rev 4:6



VideoBible.com



Ezekiel



Revelation

Symbology of Creatures

Creature	Represents	Attribute of Jesus	Scriptural Parallels
Lion	Strength, majesty, kingship	Jesus as the Lion of Judah (Rev 5:5)	Gen 49:9; Rev 5:5
Calf (Ox)	Servitude, endurance, sacrificial nature	Jesus as the Servant and sacrificial offering	Phil 2:7–8; Isa 53:7
Man	Intelligence, compassion, and humanity	Jesus as the Son of Man , fully human and empathetic	John 1:14; Heb 4:15
Eagle	Sovereignty, swiftness, heavenly perspective	Jesus as the exalted, divine Son who ascends and reigns	John 3:13; Isa 40:31

Pair of Wings	Purpose	Meaning
Two covered the face	Reverence before the unapproachable glory of God. Even sinless beings veil themselves.	Awe and humility — no creature can fully behold God's infinite holiness.
Two covered the feet	Modesty and recognition of creaturely lowliness (feet often symbolize human frailty or creaturely ground).	Reverent submission — hiding that which is unworthy before divine perfection.
Two used for flying	Active service — the readiness to move swiftly at God's command.	Obedience and service — perpetual availability to carry out God's will.



Rev 4:8

Isaiah 6's Seraphim

Rev 5:6



VideoBible.com

Lamb – Slain but Alive
Horns – Strength/Kingship
Seven – “complete”
Eyes – Knowledge/Insight



Element	Symbolic Meaning	Key Parallel
Scroll	God's comprehensive plan for judgment and redemption	Ezekiel's scroll (2:9–10)
Writing on both sides	Nothing omitted or overlooked; divine completeness	Exodus 32:15 (tablets written both sides)
Seven seals	Perfect security and authority; only Christ can open	Roman legal sealing practice; Isaiah 29:11 ("the words of a sealed book")
Opening process	Sequential revelation of God's decrees	Revelation 6–8 sequence

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THE SEVEN SEALS OF REVELATION

FIRST SEAL	SECOND SEAL	THIRD SEAL	FOURTH SEAL	FIFTH SEAL	SIXTH SEAL	SEVENTH SEAL
WHITE HORSE	RED HORSE	BLACK HORSE	PALE HORSE	MARTYRS CRY OUT	CELESTIAL SIGNS	RAPTURE
						
Rev 6: 2 Had a Bow Given a Crown Went out Conquering	Rev 6:4 Peace Removed Violence breaks out Has Sword	Rev 6:5-6 Balance Scales Huge Inflation Oil & Wine Spared	Rev 6:8 Death has Hades with him 1/4th earth Killed with sword, famine, death & beasts	Rev 6:9-11 Martyrs cry out How long? Not until number of brethren to be killed is complete	Rev 6:12-17 Earth quakes Sun darkens moon turns red Stars fall Sky Recedes like a scroll	Rev 8:1 Heaven silent about half hour Rev 11:12 Come up Here!

Each seal is introduced by one of the four living creatures, linking earthly turmoil to heavenly worship and authority—
 "divine permission, not chaos without control"



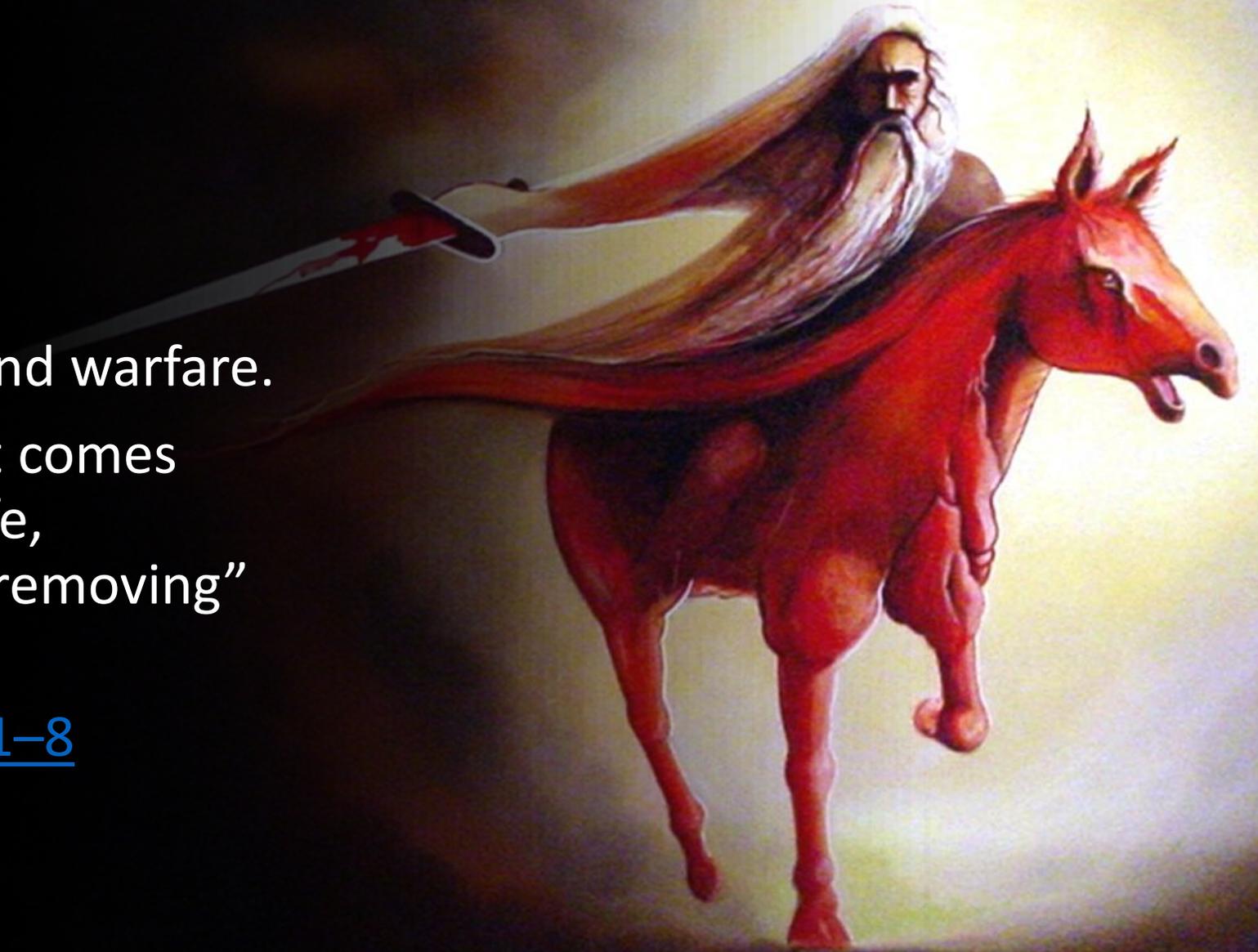
Stephanos

Seal 1 - White Horse

- Symbolism: Conquest, often linked to false peace or deceptive victory.
- Interpretations:
 - Political/military conquest — the rise of empire or domination.
 - Religious deception — imitation of Christ's purity and authority, perhaps the Antichrist.
 - Christ Himself (minor view) — the gospel going forth victoriously (cf. [Rev 19:11](#)).
- Meaning: The beginning of world turmoil under a conquering power or ideology. Military domination masquerading as righteousness.

Seal 2 - Red Horse

- Symbolism: Bloodshed and warfare.
- Meaning: After conquest comes open conflict — civil strife, rebellion, and violence “removing” peace from the earth.
- [Zechariah 1:8–10](#) and [6:1–8](#)



Seal 3 - Black Horse

- Symbolism: Economic exploitation, collapse, and famine.
- Imagery: Scales for ration; measure out food — bread by weight, not justice.
- Meaning: Scarcity and inflation; daily survival becomes costly while luxury goods (“oil and wine”) remain untouched — injustice and class disparity in society. [Amos 8:5-6](#)



Seal 4 - Pale Horse

- Symbolism: Rot of death personified, accompanied by Hades.
- Meaning: Mass mortality through war, famine, plague, and wild beasts — the culmination of human and natural destruction.
([Matt 24:21](#))



Seal 5 – Cry of the Martyrs

- Symbolism: The souls of the faithful slain for their witness. ([Lev 4:7](#))
- Meaning: The persecuted Church appeals for justice; they are told to rest until the full number of martyrs is complete — divine justice is certain but delayed.



Seal 6 – Cosmic Upheaval

- Symbolism: Earthquakes, darkened sun, falling stars — apocalyptic language (cf. [Isa 13:10](#), [Joel 2:31](#)).
- Meaning: The universe reacts to divine wrath; kings and commoners (seven-fold) alike hide in terror — a preview of final judgment. John deliberately interrupts the crescendo—divine mercy stays the hand of judgment, echoing Noah's ark and Exodus motifs.



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Chapter 6 ends with the terrified question,
“Who can stand?”

Chapter 7 answers:
those whom God has sealed.

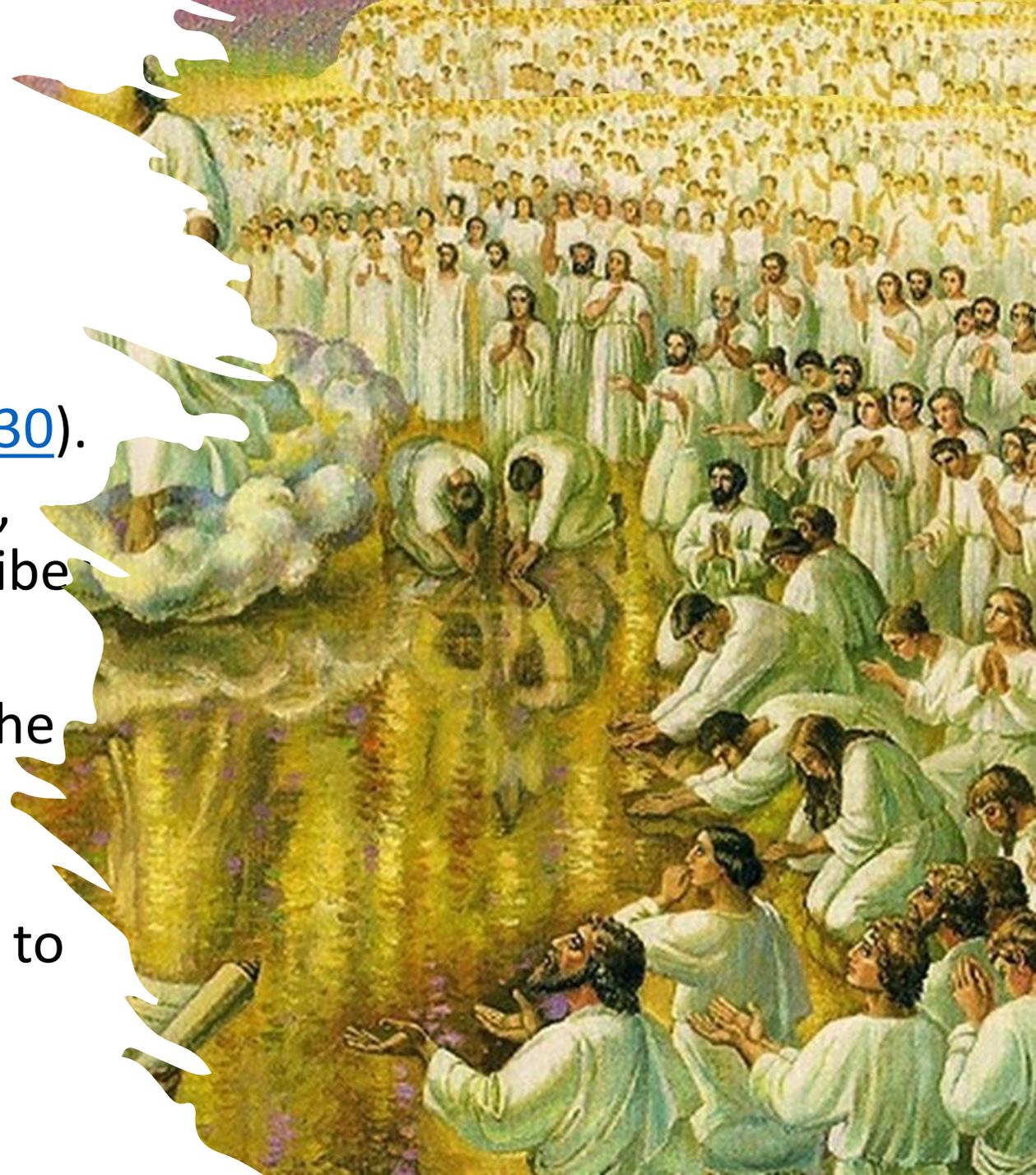


Four Angels and Four Winds

- The four winds symbolize chaotic forces of judgment.
- Angels hold back destruction until the servants of God are sealed.
- The “seal” (sphragis) denotes ownership, authenticity, and protection. In Roman society, seals marked slaves or official documents—John redeems that imagery to portray God’s counter-mark against the beast’s mark (later in Revelation 13).
- Spiritually, it represents the indwelling Holy Spirit, the guarantee of belonging before judgment falls.

The 144,000 (Evangelists)

- The twelve tribes listed are unusual:
 - Judah is placed first (the Messiah's tribe).
 - Dan is omitted—possibly due to its association with idolatry ([Judges 18:30](#)).
 - Joseph appears alongside Manasseh, blending patriarchal and northern tribe
- The form resembles military census language ([Num 1](#)), evoking an army of the Lamb, not of violence but of witness.
- The number $144,000 = 12 \times 12 \times 1000$ → symbolic completeness? Representatives to lead the lost fulfilling the role of God's covenant people.





The Great Multitude

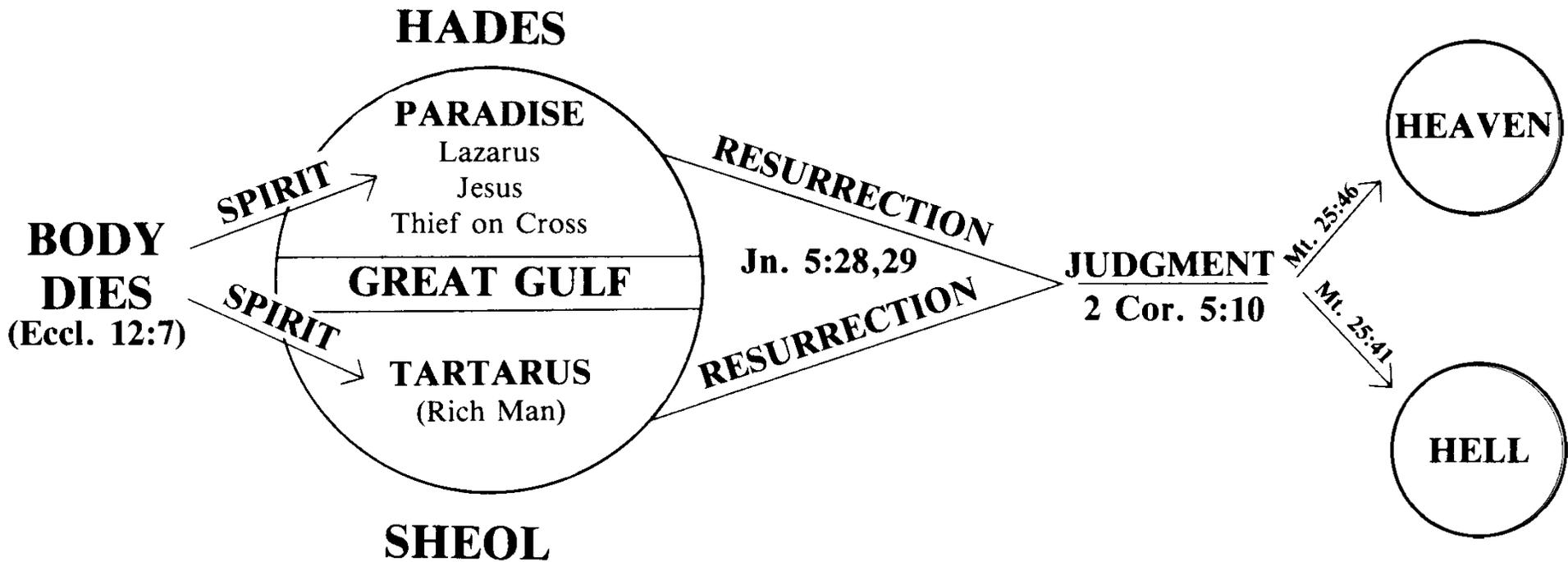
(far more than 144,000 are saved!)

- “A great multitude that no one could count, from every nation...”
- Where the first vision is *numbered and tribal*, the second is *innumerable and global*.
- They wear *white robes* (purity, victory) and hold *palm branches* (festival joy, cf. [John 12:13](#)—Triumphal Entry).
- Their worship (“Salvation belongs to our God”) contrasts the despair of the kings in Rev 6:15–17—the humble are the ones who stand.

The Elder's Explanation

- “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation.”
- The phrase doesn't necessarily mean one brief end-time crisis—it can denote the cumulative suffering of faithful witnesses throughout history (ECO)
- “Washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” — paradoxical purity; the stain becomes cleansing, echoing Isaiah 1:18.
- The imagery merges temple and pastoral metaphors:
 - *Temple*: “serve Him day and night in His temple.”
 - *Shepherd*: “The Lamb will be their shepherd... and lead them to living fountains of waters.”
- The Lamb as Shepherd completes the paradox: He who was slain now guides and protects His flock eternally.
- Tribulation Trouble (no mark?, no service!)
- Living water, wipe every tear...





Revelation
Elders – Are
they in Body
or Symbolic
or ?

- Most orthodox traditions (Reformed, Catholic, and early writers) teach:
 - The intermediate state = disembodied souls consciously with Christ ([Philippians 1:23](#)).
 - The final state = bodily resurrection and glorified existence after the “new heaven and new earth” (Revelation 21).
- The elders in Revelation, therefore, might represent either:
 - Symbolic figures (representative of the redeemed church), or
 - Souls given visible form for John’s vision — not proof of permanent bodies yet.

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The Seven Seals of Revelation

“nonlinear narrative”

First Seal	Second Seal	Third Seal	Fourth Seal	Fifth Seal	Sixth Seal	Seventh Seal
White Horse: Deception  Revelation 6:1-2	Red Horse: War  Revelation 6:3-4	Black Horse: Famine  Revelation 6:5-6	Pale Horse: Pestilence  Revelation 6:7-8	Martyrdom and Great Tribulation  Revelation 6:9-11	Heavenly Signs  Revelation 6:12-17	Silence in Heaven Rev. 8:1-6
						Seven Trumpet Plagues Revelation 8:2

Seven Trumpets: The Day of the Lord

First Trumpet	Second Trumpet	Third Trumpet	Fourth Trumpet	Fifth Trumpet	Sixth Trumpet	Seventh Trumpet
Green grass and one-third of the trees are burned up. Revelation 8:7	One-third of sea becomes blood; one-third of ships and sea life are destroyed by fire. Revelation 8:8-9	One-third of waters turn bitter. Revelation 8:10-11	One-third of sun, moon and stars do not shine. Revelation 8:12	“Locusts” wield the Beast’s military power. Revelation 9:1-12	200 million-man army gathers. Revelation 9:13-21	The Kingdom is proclaimed. Second Coming Revelation 11:15-19

Seven Last Plagues

First Plague	Second Plague	Third Plague	Fourth Plague	Fifth Plague	Sixth Plague	Seventh Plague
Sores afflict those who accepted the mark of the Beast. Revelation 16:2	Sea turns to blood; all sea creatures die. Revelation 16:3	Rivers turn to blood. Revelation 16:4-7	Mankind, scorched by the sun, blasphemes God. Revelation 16:8-9	The Beast’s seat of government is afflicted. Revelation 16:10-11	The Euphrates is dried up; world armies gather to Armageddon. Revelation 16:12-16	The earth is utterly shaken. Revelation 16:17-21

	Interadvental Period				Final Judgment			
God's Messages	Heavenly Scene	Transition of Cov	This Age Distinctions	Spiritual History	Judgment Picture	Over World	Over Satan	Victory & Restoration
1:9 – 3:22	4:1 – 4:11	5:1 – 8:1	8:2 – 11:19	12:1 – 14:20	15:1 – 16:21	17:1 – 19:21	20:1 – 21:8	21:9 – 22:5
Love in Relationship	Come Up	Seal 1: Apost. Msg	Trumpet 1: Hail and Fire	Woman and Dragon	Bowl 1: Sores	Prostitute	Satan Bound	Great High Mountain
Endure Trials fr/ Without	Throne & Stones	Seal 2: War/ Violence	Trumpet 2: Burning Mtn	First Beast	Bowl 2: Sea - Blood	Beast	Reign of Saved	New Jerusalem
Keep Pure Within	Emerald Rainbow	Seal 3: Famine	Trumpet 3: Wormwood	Second Beast	Bowl 3: Water-Blood	Waters - Nations	Satan Released	Temple is God & Lamb
Don't Tolerate Heresy	24 Elders	Seal 4: Death	Trumpet 4: Darkness	144,000	Bowl 4: Sun Scorch	Beast/Whore Conflict	Gather for Battle	Light is God & Lamb
Live for God	Crystal Sea	Seal 5: Martyrs	Trumpet 5: Locusts	Angel Messages	Bowl 5: Darkness	Babylon's Fall	Satan into Lake of Fire	River of Life; Tree of Life
Belong to God	Cherubim & Elders Praise	Seal 6: Desolation	Trumpet 6: Death Army	Call for Endurance	Bowl 6: Armies	Marriage Supper	Great White Throne	God, Lamb, Servants
		Interlude: Israel of God	Interlude: 2 Witnesses		Interlude: Blessing			
Certainty of Reward	"By your will..."	Seal 7: Silence	Seal 7: Kingdom	Harvest & Wrath	Seal 7: It is done	Christ on White Horse	New Heaven New Earth	God is Light; Reign Forever

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS



Green grass and 1/3 of the trees are burned up.
Rev. 8:7



1/3 of sea becomes blood; 1/3 of ships and sea life destroyed.
Rev. 8:8-9



1/3 of waters turn bitter.
Rev. 8:11



1/3 of sun, moon, and stars do not shine.
Rev. 8:12



"Locusts" wield the Beast's military power.
Rev. 9:1-12



200-million-man army; a third of mankind killed.
Rev. 9:13-21



The Kingdom of God is declared.
Rev. 11:15-19

THE SEVEN TRUMPET



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Rev. 8:8-9



1/3 of waters turn bitter.

Rev. 8:1-11



1/3 of sun, moon, and stars do not shine.

Rev. 8:12

Silence in Heaven (8:1) — The Sacred Pause

- The opening of the seventh seal in initiates all the horrific events described in Revelation 8:7—19:10.
- “About half an hour” of silence evokes the stillness in the Temple when incense was offered (cf. [Ps 62:1](#), [Hab 2:20](#)).
- The pause answers the martyrs’ cry (6:10): heaven waits as prayers rise before the next phase of divine action.
- In ancient apocalyptic idiom, silence precedes revelation—a pregnant hush before the storm of justice.



Incense and Fire on the Altar (8:3-5) — Prayer as Catalyst

- An angel mixes incense with “the prayers of the saints,” then casts fire to earth.
- This symbolizes divine response to intercession—judgment emerging from prayer itself.
- The thunder, lightning, and earthquake mirror Sinai ([Ex 19:16-19](#)): revelation is never detached from worship.



Trumpet Sequence and “One-Third” Judgments

- Trumpets announce both warning and war ([Num 10:9-10](#), [Joel 2:1](#)).
- The repeated fraction one-third signals limited, partial judgment—a restraint on total destruction. God warns before He annihilates.
- The pattern echoes [Ezekiel 5:12](#) – covenant chastisement measured, not final.



Revelation 8-11

First Trumpet (8:7) — *Earth and Grass Burned*

- Hail and fire mixed with blood recall Exodus 9, yet here “a third of the earth... trees... all green grass” are burned.
- In the Greco-Roman world, green grass signified prosperity and stability; its destruction implies the collapse of civilization’s normal rhythms.
- The blood in the storm shows judgment turning fertility into death—a moral reversal of creation (Genesis 1’s “let the earth bring forth”).



Second Trumpet (8:8-9) — *Sea and Ships Destroyed*

- “Something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea.”
 - Mountain = kingdom or empire in prophetic literature ([Jer 51:25](#) about Babylon).
 - Thus this may signify the fall of a proud imperial power collapsing into chaos.
- The sea turning to blood evokes the first plague of Egypt ([Ex 7:20-21](#)).
- “A third of the ships destroyed” points to economic collapse—maritime commerce ruined. In John’s day, Roman wealth flowed through the Mediterranean, this would sound like a judgment on global trade.



Third Trumpet (8:10-11) — *Waters Made Bitter: Wormwood*

- “A great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch... the name of the star is Wormwood.”
- Wormwood (Greek *apsinthos*) is an intensely bitter plant; in the Old Testament ([Jer 9:15](#), [23:15](#)) it symbolizes divine punishment for idolatry, turning refreshment into poison.
- The “falling star” is not an asteroid but likely a fallen angelic being—a spiritual corruption infiltrating the sources of life (doctrine, truth, or moral order).
- “Many men died from the waters” → the spiritual ecosystem of humanity becomes toxic.



Fourth Trumpet (8:12) — *Sun, Moon, and Stars Darkened by a Third*

- Celestial bodies in Scripture represent governing lights ([Gen 1:16](#)) and, symbolically, authorities and order.
- Their darkening by one-third depicts partial cosmic disorder—not annihilation but loss of orientation.
- This reverses the first act of creation (“Let there be light”) and hints that humanity’s moral and intellectual light is dimming.
- The fraction one-third again shows mercy within judgment—the world totters but is not yet destroyed.



The Eagle's Cry (8:13) — Prelude to the “Three Woes”

- A lone messenger/eagle (an ancient omen of judgment) flies through mid-heaven crying, “Woe, woe, woe.”
- In apocalyptic literature, birds of carrion herald death (cf. [Ezek 39:17-20](#)).
- The triple “woe” signals escalation: the next trumpets are worse! (Chapters 9–11)
Move from environmental to spiritual and demonic plagues.



Theological Pattern — Creation in Reverse

God is not merely punishing; He's de-creating a corrupt world—peeling back creation's order to expose moral chaos. Yet, by limiting each to one-third, He preserves room for repentance.

Trumpet	Judged Element	Corresponding Creation Day	Symbolic Reversal
1st	Earth & vegetation (trees, grass)	Day 3 — God made land and plants	Fertility → fire & blood; productivity scorched
2nd	Sea & marine life	Day 5 — Fish created	Life-giving seas → death and blood
3rd	Rivers & springs (wormwood)	Day 2 — Waters divided and made fresh	Waters turn bitter and deadly
4th	Sun, moon, stars	Day 4 — Heavenly lights placed	Light & order → darkness & confusion

Revelation made Simple

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Chapter 12	Chapter 13	Chapter 14	Chapter 15	Chapter 16	Chapter 17	Chapter 18	Chapter 19	Chapter 20	Chapter 21	Chapter 22
Woman with man child Red Dragon Woman in Wilderness Time, Times and half a Time	7 Headed Beast AC govt. 42 Months Lamb/ Dragon False Prophet	3 Angels Christ reaps the harvest	7 Vials Given to 7 Angels Victorious Saints Song of Moses	7 Vials of Wrath Full Judgments Sores Seas Rivers Sun Darkness Armageddon Earthquake & Hail	Mystery Babylon The Great	Babylon is Fallen!	Marriage Supper of the Lamb War Armageddon	Millennium Satan bound 1,000 yrs Battle of Gog & Magog Lake of Fire White Throne Judgment	New Jerusalem New Heaven New Earth	New Jerusalem Eternity with Christ

“non-sequential narrative”

The Seven Seals of Revelation

First Seal	Second Seal	Third Seal	Fourth Seal	Fifth Seal	Sixth Seal		Seventh Seal
<p>White Horse: Deception</p> <p>✓</p> <p>Revelation 6:1-2</p>	<p>Red Horse: War</p> <p>✓</p> <p>Revelation 6:3-4</p>	<p>Black Horse: Famine</p> <p>✓</p> <p>Revelation 6:5-6</p>	<p>Pale Horse: Pestilence</p> <p>✓</p> <p>Revelation 6:7-8</p>	<p>Martyrdom and Great Tribulation</p> <p>✓</p> <p>Revelation 6:9-11</p>	<p>Heavenly Signs</p> <p>✓</p> <p>Revelation 6:12-17</p>	<p>Silence in Heaven Rev. 8:1-6</p>	<p>Seven Trumpet Plagues</p> <p>✓</p> <p>Revelation 8:2</p>

Seven Trumpets: The Day of the Lord

First Trumpet	Second Trumpet	Third Trumpet	Fourth Trumpet	Fifth Trumpet	Sixth Trumpet	Seventh Trumpet
<p>Green grass and one-third of the trees are burned up.</p> <p>✓</p> <p>Revelation 8:7</p>	<p>One-third of sea becomes blood; one-third of ships and sea life are destroyed by fire.</p> <p>✓</p> <p>Revelation 8:8-9</p>	<p>One-third of waters turn bitter.</p> <p>✓</p> <p>Revelation 8:10-11</p>	<p>One-third of sun, moon and stars do not shine.</p> <p>✓</p> <p>Revelation 8:12</p>	<p>“Locusts” wield the Beast’s military power.</p> <p>Revelation 9:1-12</p>	<p>200 million-man army gathers.</p> <p>Revelation 9:13-21</p>	<p>The Kingdom is proclaimed.</p> <p>Second Coming</p> <p>Revelation 11:15-19</p>

Seven Last Plagues

First Plague	Second Plague	Third Plague	Fourth Plague	Fifth Plague	Sixth Plague	Seventh Plague
<p>Sores afflict those who accepted the mark of the Beast.</p> <p>Revelation 16:2</p>	<p>Sea turns to blood; all sea creatures die.</p> <p>Revelation 16:3</p>	<p>Rivers turn to blood.</p> <p>Revelation 16:4-7</p>	<p>Mankind, scorched by the sun, blasphemes God.</p> <p>Revelation 16:8-9</p>	<p>The Beast’s seat of government is afflicted.</p> <p>Revelation 16:10-11</p>	<p>The Euphrates is dried up; world armies gather to Armageddon.</p> <p>Revelation 16:12-16</p>	<p>The earth is utterly shaken.</p> <p>Revelation 16:17-21</p>

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS



Green grass and 1/3 of the trees are burned up.

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1/3 of waters turn bitter.

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200-million-man army; a third of mankind killed.

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God's Messages	Heavenly Scene	Transition of Cov	This Age Distinctions	Spiritual History	Judgment Picture	Over World	Over Satan	Victory & Restoration
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Love in Relationship ✓	Come Up ✓	Seal 1: Apost. Msg ✓	Trumpet 1: Hail and Fire ✓	Woman and Dragon	Bowl 1: Sores	Prostitute	Satan Bound	Great High Mountain
Endure Trials fr/ ✓ Without	Throne & Stones ✓	Seal 2: War/ Violence ✓	Trumpet 2: Burning Mtn ✓	First Beast	Bowl 2: Sea - Blood	Beast	Reign of Saved	New Jerusalem
Keep Pure Within ✓	Emerald Rainbow ✓	Seal 3: Famine ✓	Trumpet 3: Wornwood ✓	Second Beast	Bowl 3: Water-Blood	Waters - Nations	Satan Released	Temple is God & Lamb
Don't Tolerate Heresy ✓	24 Elders ✓	Seal 4: Death ✓	Trumpet 4: Darkness ✓	144,000	Bowl 4: Sun Scorch	Beast/Whore Conflict	Gather for Battle	Light is God & Lamb
Live for God ✓	Crystal Sea ✓	Seal 5: Martyrs ✓	Trumpet 5: Locusts ✓	Angel Messages	Bowl 5: Darkness	Babylon's Fall	Satan into Lake of Fire	River of Life; Tree of Life
Belong to God ✓	Cherubim & Elders Praise ✓	Seal 6: Desolation ✓	Trumpet 6: Death Army ✓	Call for Endurance	Bowl 6: Armies	Marriage Supper	Great White Throne	God, Lamb, Servants
		Interlude: Israel of God ✓	Interlude: 2 Witnesses		Interlude: Blessing			
Certainty of Reward	"By your will..."	Seal 7: Silence ✓	Seal 7: Kingdom	Harvest & Wrath	Seal 7: It is done	Christ on White Horse	New Heaven New Earth	God is Light; Reign Forever

Wait, when is the Rapture again?

Pre-Tribulation Rapture – believers escape tribulation

- [1 Thessalonians 4:13–18](#) — “caught up... to meet the Lord in the air” taken as the Church being removed before God’s wrath.
- [1 Corinthians 15:50–58](#) — the “mystery” of instant transformation supports a sudden, imminent event.
- [John 14:1–3](#) — Jesus taking believers to the Father’s house fits removal before judgment.
- [Revelation 3:10](#) — “I will keep you from the hour of trial” read as protection by removal.
- [Revelation 4:1](#) — John’s call to “Come up here” seen as a type of the Church’s rapture, **with the Church absent in Revelation 6–18.**

Mid-Tribulation Rapture - believers endure the first 3½ years, but are removed before the worst judgments.

- Also uses 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15, but places fulfillment at the 7th trumpet ([Revelation 11:15](#)).
- [Revelation 11:12](#) — the two witnesses are “caught up” to heaven, interpreted as symbolic of the Church.

Post-Tribulation Rapture - the rapture and the Second Coming are a single event, not two phases.

- Also cites 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15 but aligns them with [Matthew 24:29–31](#) — the gathering of the elect “immediately” after the tribulation.
- [Revelation 20:4–6](#) — the “first resurrection” is seen as the rapture/resurrection happening at Christ’s visible return.

Woe! Woe! Woe!

- This first woe exposes the spiritual dimension of evil—when restraint is lifted, *demonic forces torment* those who reject God. It's a picture of judgment through *spiritual darkness and despair*.
- The second woe intensifies *from torment to death*, revealing human hard-heartedness. Even catastrophic judgment doesn't produce repentance when hearts are fixed against God.

Woe	Trumpet	Nature of Judgment	Effect	Purpose
First Woe	5th Trumpet	Demonic torment (no death)	5 months of agony	To expose spiritual darkness and urge repentance
Second Woe	6th Trumpet	Demonic warfare (mass death)	1/3 of humanity killed	To warn of God's coming wrath and reveal persistent unbelief

Fifth Angel – Star “fallen” from heaven

- [Isaiah 14:12](#) – Satan’s fall from heaven prior to human history
- Abyss – Prison of fallen angels
- Luke 8:31 – Legion/pigs and “do not command us into the Abyss”
- A key is “given”, i.e. God *permits* this temporary release of the worst of the worst



First Woe – The Fifth Trumpet (Revelation 9:3-12)

- The locusts are not insects but demonic beings, described with terrifying imagery—human faces, crowns, iron breastplates, and scorpion tails.
- Their leader is an angel from the bottomless pit, Abaddon/Apollyon (“Destroyer”), a title suggesting Satanic destruction.
- Purpose: to bring torment, not death, revealing both divine restraint and human refusal to repent.
- Duration: five months—matching the natural life cycle of locusts, symbolizing *limited* judgment.





Second Woe – The Sixth Trumpet (Revelation 9:13-21)

- The four angels represent restrained forces of judgment—likely demonic, not holy, given their destructive purpose.
- The Euphrates has long been the border between Israel and historical powers of oppression (Assyria, Babylon, Persia); it represents the direction from which danger comes.
- The army may be literal or symbolic of overwhelming destructive power—either way, it shows a vast, divinely permitted calamity.
- Outcome: despite immense death, “the rest of mankind... did not repent of the works of their hands” (vv. 20-21).



“Twice 10k x 10k” = 200 Million?

View	Description
Literal military	Actual 200-million-man army from the East (possibly China/Asia?)
Symbolic / Demonic	Countless demonic forces bringing death and deception
Hybrid	Symbolic of demonic power expressed through human conflict

Revelation made Simple

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The Mighty Angel (vv. 1–4)

- John sees “another mighty angel” descending from heaven, clothed with a cloud, crowned with a rainbow, face shining like the sun, and feet like pillars of fire.
- This figure’s grandeur recalls descriptions of Christ (cf. Revelation 1:15–16), but most scholars interpret him **as a high-ranking angelic messenger** representing divine authority rather than Christ Himself.
- The angel holds a “little scroll” (or “small book”)—likely distinct from the seven-sealed scroll in Revelation 5. This smaller scroll seems to represent a specific message—John’s next prophetic task.
- The angel plants one foot on the sea and one on the land, symbolizing **global authority over creation**.
- He cries out like a roaring lion, and seven thunders respond—but John is told **not to write** what they said. This shows God’s sovereignty over revelation—some mysteries remain sealed until the end.



The Oath and Declaration (vv. 5–7)

- The angel raises his hand to heaven and **swears** by the eternal Creator that “there will be no more delay.”
- This signals the nearing completion of God’s plan—the seventh trumpet will bring it to fulfillment.
- Verse 7: “In the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished.”
- This “mystery” refers to God’s redemptive purpose being revealed and completed—the culmination of His justice and salvation.



The Little Scroll (vv. 8–11)

- John is commanded to take the little scroll and eat it.
- This echoes Ezekiel 2–3, where the prophet eats a scroll filled with lamentations and woe.
- The scroll tastes sweet as honey in John’s mouth but turns bitter in his stomach.
- The sweetness reflects the joy of receiving God’s Word; the bitterness reflects the painful reality of its message; **judgment and suffering**.
- John is told: “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.”
- This recommissions John to continue declaring God’s message to all humanity; the focus of chapters 11–20.



Measuring the Temple (Chapter 11 vv. 1–2)

- John is given a measuring rod and told to measure:
 - The temple of God,
 - The altar,
 - And those who worship there.
- But he must **exclude** the outer court, because it is given to the Gentiles, who will trample the holy city for 42 months.
- Measuring symbolizes preservation and ownership. God knows and protects His faithful worshipers (cf. [Zech. 2:1–5](#); [Ezek. 40–42](#)).
- The outer court represents those outside true faith or the world’s hostility toward the Church.
- “42 months” (also described elsewhere as 1,260 days or 3½ years) represents a **limited** period of persecution—a symbolic span of tribulation (see [Daniel 7:25](#); [12:7](#)).



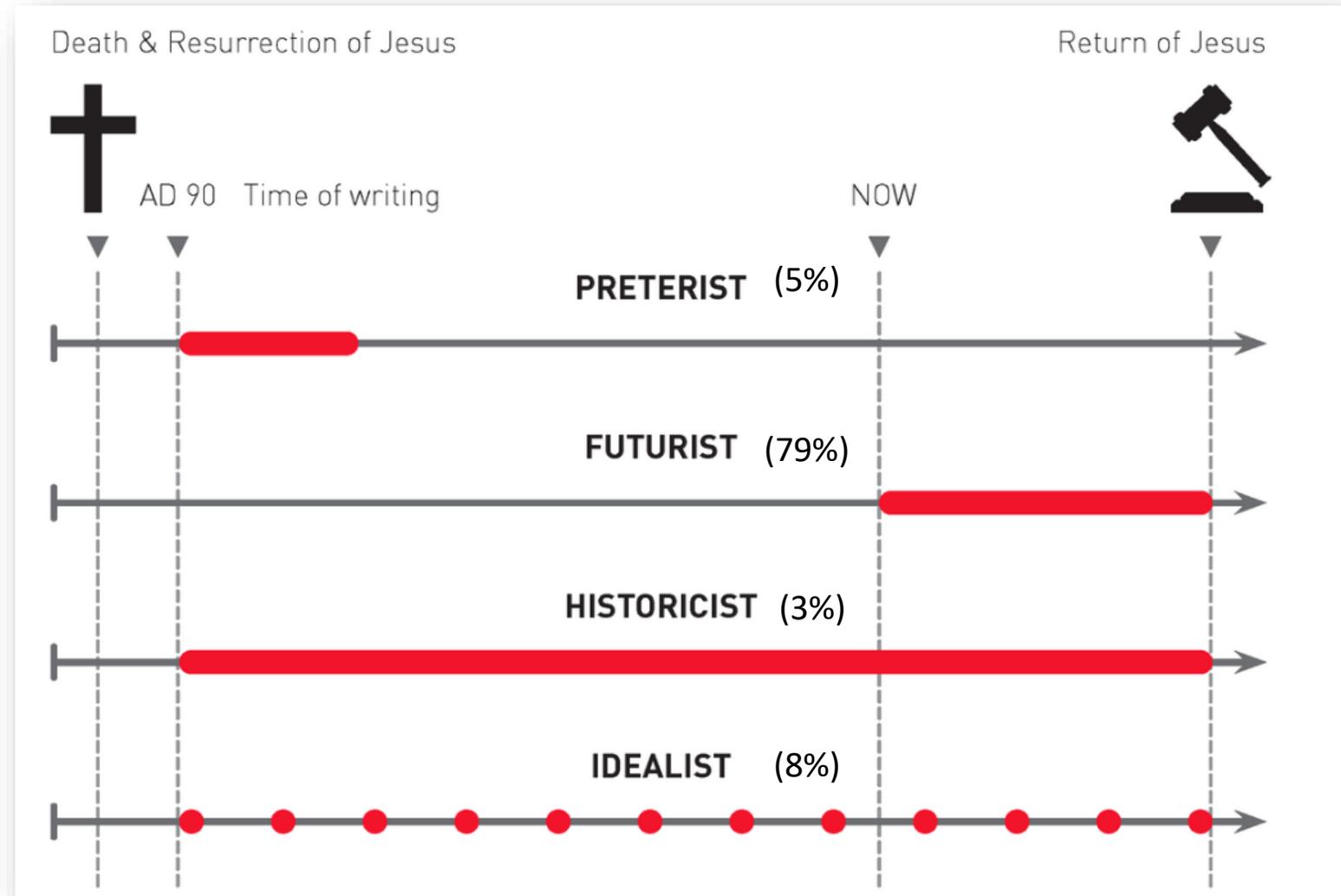
The Two Witnesses (vv. 3–13)

- God appoints two witnesses to prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth (sign of repentance).
- They are called the two olive trees and two lampstands (echoing Zechariah 4), representing spirit-empowered testimony.
- Their ministry:
 - Proclaim God’s message in a hostile world.
 - Have power to shut the sky (like Elijah), turn water to blood (like Moses), and strike the earth with plagues—symbols of divine authority.
- Their death:
 - The beast from the abyss (first mention of this coming world power) kills them.
 - Their bodies lie in the great city, spiritually called Sodom and Egypt, “where also their Lord was crucified” — a symbol of the world’s rebellion against God (Jerusalem as prototype). The world rejoices over their death—“celebrating” their silencing.
- Their vindication:
 - After three and a half days, God raises them from the dead, and they ascend to heaven in a cloud.
 - A great earthquake follows, destroying part of the city and causing many to give glory to God—a rare moment of repentance in Revelation.



Interpretive Views of the Two Witnesses (Rev 11:3-13)

- Preterist: They depict events around the fall of Jerusalem (70 AD) or the persecution of early Christians under Rome.
- Futurist: They are literal prophets in Jerusalem during the end times.
- Historicist: The witnesses represent the faithful Church or prophetic voices throughout Church history.
- Idealist: They symbolize the Church's prophetic mission empowered by the Spirit in every age.



Time periods quoted in Revelation

Reference	Duration	Context / Meaning
Revelation 8:1	About half an hour	Silence in heaven before judgments resume — symbolic pause of solemnity and awe.
Revelation 9:5, 10	Five months	Torment period by the locust-like beings from the abyss — limited and temporary suffering.
Revelation 11:2	Forty-two months (3½ years)	Gentiles trample the holy city; often interpreted as a period of oppression.
Revelation 11:3	1,260 days (3½ years)	The two witnesses prophesy — same length as 42 months.
Revelation 12:6	1,260 days	The woman (representing Israel or the faithful) is protected in the wilderness - parallel or overlapping 3½-year periods
Revelation 12:14	“A time, times, and half a time” (3½ years)	Echo of Daniel 7:25 and 12:7 — persecution period of the faithful.
Revelation 13:5	Forty-two months	The beast exercises authority — parallel to the earlier 3½-year spans.
Revelation 20:2–7	1,000 years	Satan bound; Christ’s millennial reign — duration of the “Millennium.”

Everybody knows “Tribulation lasts 7 years” – Who says?

- The *seven-year* concept originates in [Daniel 9:24–27](#), known as the “*Seventy Weeks*” prophecy.
 - Sequential View (Futurist/Dispensational)
 - First 3½ years: relative peace, witness, covenant confirmed (Rev 11:3).
 - Last 3½ years: persecution and wrath (“great tribulation,” Rev 12:6, 13:5).
 - Total = 7 years, matching Daniel 9:27’s “one week.”
 - Parallel View (Historicist or Idealist)
 - Both 3½-year spans depict the same general era of conflict between God’s people and evil powers.
 - The numbers symbolize a limited, divinely controlled time rather than literal years.
- The angel Gabriel tells Daniel that 70 “sevens” (weeks) are decreed for Israel and Jerusalem. Each “week” is understood as 7 years → $70 \times 7 = 490$ years.
- “He will make a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week, he will put an end to sacrifice and offering...” - the final week (7 years) is often seen as the Tribulation. The “midpoint” where the covenant is broken corresponds to the 3½-year divisions used in Revelation.

The Seventh Trumpet (vv. 15–19)

- When the seventh angel sounds his trumpet, voices in heaven declare: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.”
- The 24 elders worship, praising God for taking up His great power and reigning.
- The nations rage, but God’s wrath comes, bringing:
 - Reward for His servants (prophets and saints),
 - Judgment for those who destroy the earth.
- Finally, God’s temple in heaven is opened, revealing the ark of His covenant, followed by lightning, thunder, an earthquake, and hail—signs of divine presence and justice.



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Seven Characters/"Signs" Introduced in Ch 12-14

1. Woman
2. Dragon
3. Man child
4. Archangel
5. Offspring of the Woman
6. Beast out of Sea
7. Beast out of Earth



Book of Revelation Chapter Overview



7 Letters to 7 Churches



7 Seals



7 Trumpets

2 1/2 Years

Revelation 1:1-9
Revelation 1:12
Revelation 2
Revelation 3
Revelation 4
Revelation 5
Revelation 6:1-11
Revelation 6:12-17
Revelation 7
Revelation 8:1-5
Revelation 8:6-12
Revelation 9:1-12
Revelation 9:13-20
Revelation 10
Revelation 11:1-14
Revelation 11:15-19

Introduction

Christ in the midst of 7 Lampstands / 7 Churches

Christ's Letters to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum & Thyatira

Christ's Letters to Sardis, Philadelphia & Loadicea

7 Seals opened from God's Throne

1st – 5th Seals

6th Seal

7 Trumpets opened from God's Throne

1st – 4th Trumpets

5th Trumpet

6th Trumpet { 4 Angels released to Kill 1/3rd

{ 7 Thunders, Eat Scroll & Prophecy

{ 2 Witnesses

7th Trumpet - Kingdom Begins!

3 ½ Years
Mentioned 5 Times
in Chs 11-13



God's Wrath
7 Bowls of Wrath

Wedding Feast of the Lamb!

1,000 Year Reign!

New Heavens & New Earth!



Revelation 11:15-19
Revelation 12
Revelation 13
Revelation 14:1-5
Revelation 14:6-13
Revelation 14:14-20
Revelation 15
Revelation 16
Revelation 17
Revelation 18
Revelation 19:1-5
Revelation 19:6-10
Revelation 19:11-21
Revelation 20
Revelation 21
Revelation 22

Woman, Child, Dragon, War in heaven

Beast, Image, Mark & False Prophet

Lamb w/ 144,000 on Mt Zion

Eternal Gospel

Harvest / Wrath

7 Bowls of Wrath opened from God's Throne

1st – 7th Bowls of Wrath

Judgment Whore (7th Bowl of Wrath)

Heavens Reaction to Whore's Judgment

Wedding of the Lamb

Armageddon – 6th Bowl of Wrath

1,000 Year Reign

New Jerusalem, New Heavens & New Earth!

Conclusion

	Interadvental Period				Final Judgment			
God's Messages	Heavenly Scene	Transition of Cov	This Age Distinctions	Spiritual History	Judgment Picture	Over World	Over Satan	Victory & Restoration
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Keep Pure Within ✓	Emerald Rainbow ✓	Seal 3: Famine ✓	Trumpet 3: Wormwood ✓	Second Beast	Bowl 3: Water-Blood	Waters - Nations	Satan Released	Temple is God & Lamb
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		Interlude: Israel of God ✓	Interlude: 2 Witnesses ✓		Interlude: Blessing			
Certainty of Reward	"By your will..."	Seal 7: Silence ✓	Seal 7: Kingdom ✓	Harvest & Wrath	Seal 7: It is done	Christ on White Horse	New Heaven New Earth	God is Light; Reign Forever

Tribulation

Parts of Ch 12 and 13 are History Rewound!

- Revelation 12:1–5
 - 12:1–2 – Symbolic portrayal of Israel anticipating the coming Messiah
 - 12:3–4 – Satan’s past rebellion and ongoing opposition
 - 12:5 – Birth, ascension of Christ
- Revelation 12:7–9
 - Heavenly battle referring to an earlier conflict, Satan’s expulsion from his original position
 - This section does not advance the chronological flow from chapter 11.
- Revelation 12:10–12
 - Theological commentary. A proclamation of salvation and the accuser’s defeat; it functions as explanatory background, not a timeline marker.
- Revelation 13:1–4
 - Origin and rise of the Beast. Viewed as background explaining who the Beast is and how he gains authority.
- Revelation 13:11–14
 - Rise of the False Prophet. Also, background, showing his nature and role.



The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon (vv. 1–6) (History)



- The woman, clothed with the sun, moon, and twelve stars, represents Israel, echoing Joseph’s dream in [Genesis 37:9–10](#).
- The male child destined to “rule all nations with a rod of iron” is Christ ([Psalm 2:9](#)).
- 1/3 of the stars/angels swept down to earth (fall) (v4)
- The dragon, explicitly identified later as Satan, tries to destroy the child at birth, recalling Herod’s attempt to kill Jesus (and Pharaoh’s attempt on Moses)
- The child is “caught up to God and His throne” (Christ’s ascension).
- The woman flees into the wilderness for 1,260 days (3½ years) — symbolizing Israel’s preservation during the Great Tribulation.

War in Heaven (vv. 7–12)

(Future)

- Michael and his angels fight against the dragon; Satan and his angels are cast out of heaven to earth (2nd of 4 “falls” – See Ch 20)
- This marks a decisive shift: Satan no longer accuses believers before God’s throne (as described in [Job 1:6](#)).
- Heaven rejoices, but a warning goes out: “Woe to the earth... for the devil has come down... knowing that his time is short.”



The Dragon's Persecution on Earth (vv. 13–17)

- Satan turns his fury against the woman (Israel). God miraculously protects her—symbolized by “two wings of a great eagle.”
- The dragon then directs his wrath against “the rest of her offspring” i.e. believers who keep God’s commands and hold to the testimony of Jesus (Tribulation believers inspired by the 144,000).
- The beast (Chapter 13) will emerge from this site.



Foreshadowed in Daniel and Matthew

Theme / Event	Revelation 12	Daniel 7–12	Matthew 24	Connection / Explanation
God's People (Israel)	Woman clothed with sun, moon, 12 stars (v. 1)	Daniel's "holy people" (7:25; 12:7)	"Those in Judea" told to flee (v. 16)	Symbolic of Israel's central role in end-time events.
Christ the Messiah	Male child to rule nations (v. 5)	"Anointed One" cut off (9:26)	"False christs" contrasted with true Messiah (vv. 23-27)	The promised ruler comes through Israel; His rejection and return frame the timeline.
Satan / Antichrist's Power	Dragon seeks to devour child; persecutes woman (vv. 4, 13-17)	"Little horn" speaks against Most High (7:8, 25); "King who exalts himself" (11:36)	"Abomination of desolation" (v. 15)	Satan empowers a final world ruler opposing God and Israel.
Heavenly Conflict	War in heaven—Michael vs. dragon (vv. 7-9)	Michael stands up for Israel (12:1)	—	The same archangel defends Israel when Satan's access to heaven ends.
Time of Great Distress	Woman protected 1,260 days / "time, times, and half a time" (vv. 6, 14)	Saints given into the beast's hand for "time, times, and half a time" (7:25; 12:7)	"Great tribulation" unequalled in history (v. 21)	All describe the final 3½-year period of intense persecution.
Divine Deliverance	Woman preserved in wilderness (v. 14)	"Your people shall be delivered" (12:1)	"For the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (v. 22)	God limits the tribulation and ensures survival of a faithful remnant.
End / Christ's Return	Implied victory over dragon (sets up Rev 19)	Son of Man's eternal dominion (7:13-14)	"They will see the Son of Man coming in clouds" (v. 30)	The heavenly deliverer appears, defeating evil and establishing His kingdom.

Revelation made Simple

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Certainty of Reward	"By your will..."	Seal 7: Silence ✓	Seal 7: Kingdom ✓	Harvest & Wrath	Seal 7: It is done	Christ on White Horse	New Heaven New Earth	God is Light; Reign Forever

Revelation 13

- Portrays the political, spiritual, and economic system of the Antichrist, a counterfeit trinity:
- Satan (the dragon) — imitates God the Father.
- The Beast from the Sea (Antichrist) — imitates Christ's rule and resurrection.
- The Beast from the Earth (False Prophet) — imitates the Holy Spirit's role by directing worship toward the Antichrist.
- This chapter shows the apex of human rebellion before Christ's return (in chapter 19.)



The Beast from the Sea (vv. 1–10)



- A beast rises from the sea with seven heads and ten horns, resembling a combination of the beasts in Daniel 7 — a leopard, bear, and lion.
- The ten horns represent ten kings or political powers.
- The seven heads suggest successive world empires (often linked to Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and a revived form of Rome).
- Wounded and healed - One head appears to have a fatal wound that is healed, astonishing the world. Many see this as symbolizing either the revival of an empire or a personal counterfeit resurrection by the Antichrist.
- Empowered by the Dragon: The dragon (Satan, from chapter 12) gives this beast his power, throne, and authority, making it a political and religious world leader.
- Worship: The world worships both the dragon and the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast?” (v. 4).
- Blasphemy and persecution: The beast speaks arrogant blasphemies and wars against the saints for 42 months (3½ years) — the second half of the Tribulation.
- Endurance call: Believers are urged to remain faithful despite captivity or death.

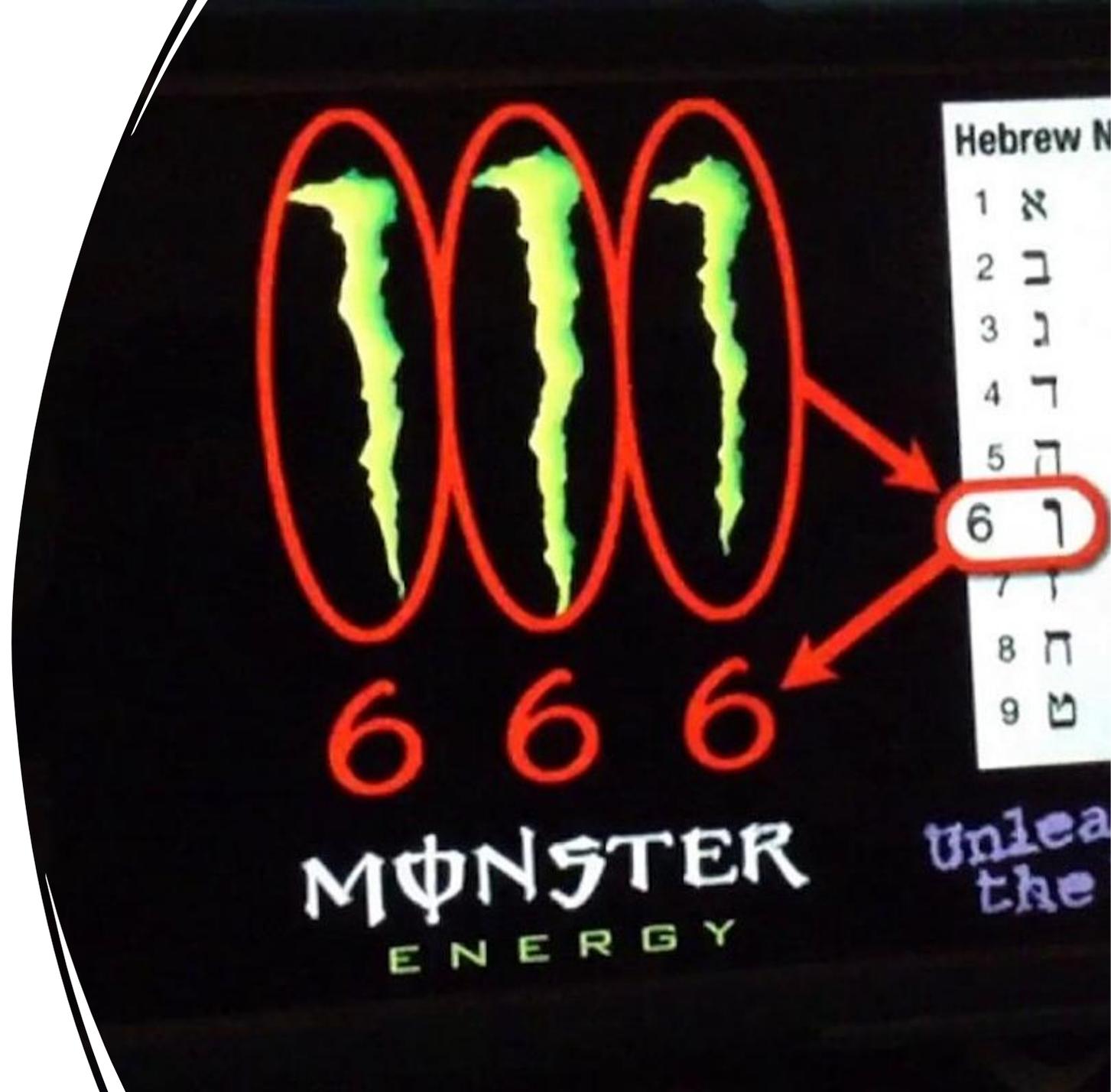
The Beast from the Earth (vv. 11–18)



- Also called the False Prophet (see Revelation 16:13; 19:20).
- Description: Appears as a lamb (gentle, religious) but speaks like a dragon (satanic deception).
- Role: Performs miraculous signs, even calling fire from heaven, to deceive people into worshiping the first beast.
- Image of the Beast: Orders humanity to make an image of the beast and gives it breath to speak — a powerful act of deception, possibly involving supernatural or technological imitation of life.
- Mark of the Beast: Enforces a mark on the right hand or forehead — “the name of the beast or the number of his name.”
 - No one can buy or sell without it.
 - The number is 666, symbolizing humanity’s imperfection falling short of divine completeness (number 7).

666?

- Roman numerals?
I,V,X,L,C,D
- 1-36!, 36 times “Beast”
appears
- 1 Kings 10:14 – 666
talents of gold
- Fall short, short, short



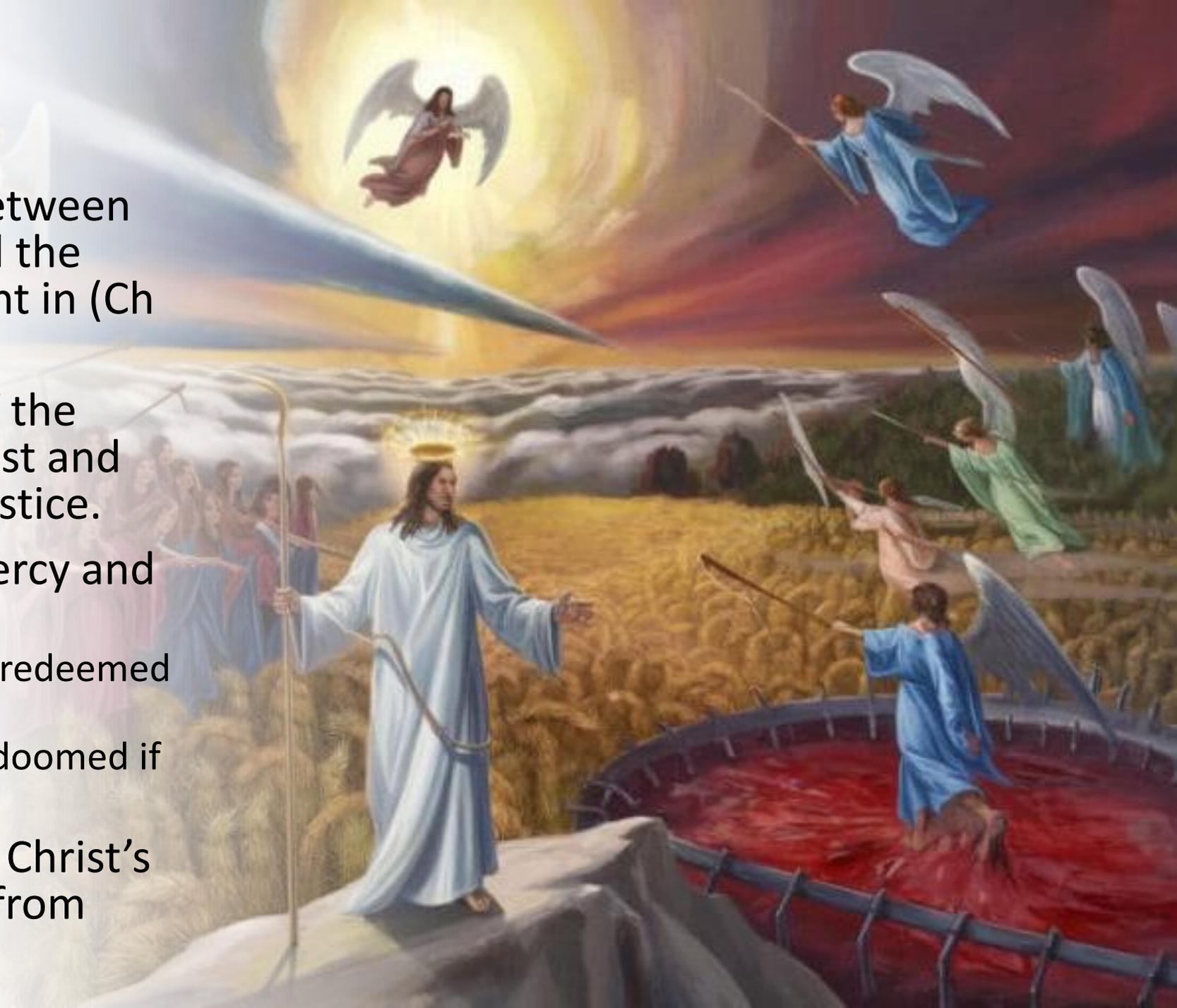
Revelation made Simple

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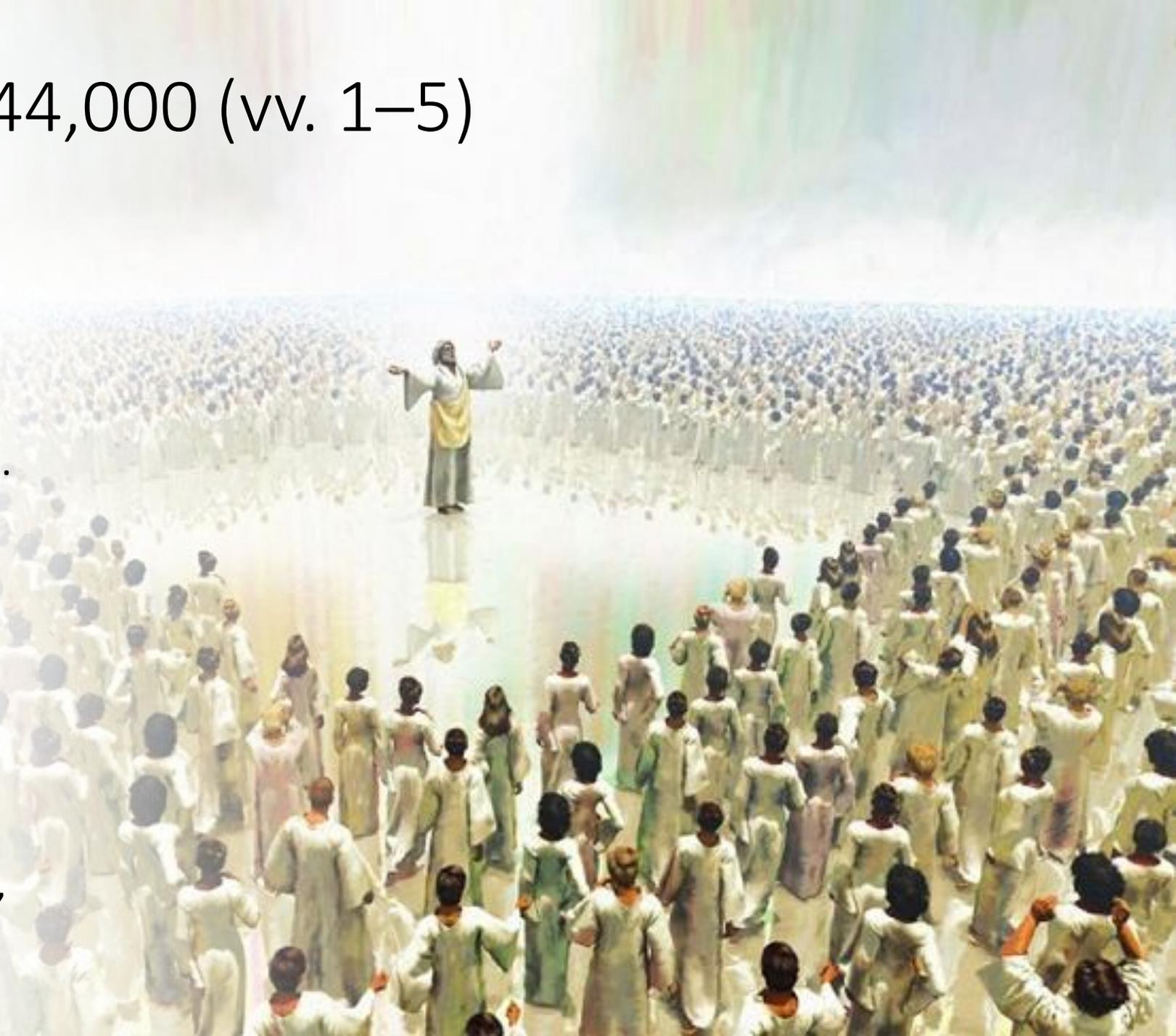
Chapter 14

- Serves as a turning point between the reign of evil (Ch 13) and the outpouring of final judgment in (Ch 15).
- It contrasts the followers of the Lamb with those of the Beast and announces God's coming justice.
- Offers a preview of both mercy and judgment:
 - The faithful are marked and redeemed by the Lamb.
 - The wicked are warned but doomed if they persist in rebellion.
- God's justice is certain, and Christ's harvest will separate truth from deception.



The Lamb and the 144,000 (vv. 1–5)

- The vision shifts from earth's turmoil to Mount Zion, where the Lamb (Christ) stands with 144,000 faithful ones — likely the same sealed servants from Revelation Ch7, representing redeemed Israel.
- Their seal: They bear the name of the Father on their foreheads — the opposite of the beast's brand.
- Their song: They sing a new song that only they can learn, symbolizing unique redemption and victory.
- Their character: Described as pure, truthful, and wholly devoted — “first fruits” to God and the Lamb.



Three Angelic Proclamations (vv. 6–13)

- Three angels deliver global messages showing God’s mercy before judgment falls:
- First Angel (vv. 6–7): Proclaims the eternal gospel calling all nations to fear God and give Him glory, for the hour of judgment has come. → A final, universal call to repentance, removing all excuses, even at the end.
- Second Angel (v. 8): Declares “Babylon the Great is fallen” the corrupt world system of idolatry and immorality will soon collapse. → This anticipates the detailed fall of man/Babylon in chapters 17–18.
- Third Angel (vv. 9–11): Warns that **anyone who worships the beast and receives his mark** will face God’s full wrath **eternal** torment apart from rest. → A stark contrast to the peace promised to the faithful.
- Encouragement (v. 12–13): “Here is a call for endurance of the saints.” Believers are urged to endure. Those who die in the Lord are blessed, they rest from their labors, and their works follow them.



The Harvest of the Earth (vv. 14–20)

- Two harvest scenes and three angels portray the final judgment:
- The Grain Harvest (vv. 14–16): Christ, seated on a cloud with a golden crown and sharp sickle, reaps the earth. → Often seen as a harvest of the righteous or the separation of believers.
- The Grape Harvest (vv. 17–20): Another angel gathers “the grapes of wrath”, the wicked, and throws them into the great winepress of God’s wrath, producing blood flowing for 1,600 stadia (about 150 miles). → Symbolizes the coming devastation at Armageddon (fulfilled in Revelation 19).



Scorecard of Angels

Figure	Verse	Description	Job	Counted?
“Son of Man”	14	Seated on cloud; crowned; sickle	Performs first harvest	Not an angel
Angel #1	15	From temple	Commands Son of Man to reap	✓
Angel #2	17	From temple (has sickle)	Executes second harvest	✓
Angel #3	18	From altar; authority over fire	Commands Angel #2 to reap grapes	✓

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Revelation 15

- Functions as a heavenly interlude between visions (just twice before)
- It honors the faithful who stood firm under persecution,
- It reveals God's holiness and justice,
- And it prepares for the final outpouring of wrath (Chapter 16)
- Mercy's door closes, and judgment begins — but only after heaven acknowledges that God's ways are righteous and true.





Prelude to the Final Judgments (v. 1)

- John sees “another sign in heaven” — seven angels holding seven last plagues, completing God’s wrath.
- This signals that the Tribulation is reaching its final stage.
- The word “last” indicates finality — these judgments will bring human rebellion to an end before Christ’s return.

The Victorious Saints by the Sea of Glass

(vv. 2–4)

- John sees a “sea of glass mixed with fire,” symbolizing purity through judgment.
- Standing beside it are those who “overcame the beast” — **believers** who refused to worship the Antichrist or receive his mark, many of whom were **martyred**.
- They hold harps of God and sing “the song of Moses” and “the song of the Lamb.”
- The song of Moses recalls deliverance from Egypt (Exodus 15). The song of the Lamb celebrates ultimate deliverance through Christ.
- Their praise declares God’s justice, truth, and universal sovereignty: “All nations shall come and worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed.”



The Heavenly Temple Opens (vv. 5–8)

- The temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven (The **tablets** of the Law, explicitly called the testimony, are placed inside the ark (Exod. 25:16; 31:18). is opened.
- The seven angels come out, dressed in pure linen and girded with golden sashes — representing divine purity and authority.
- One of the four living creatures gives them seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives forever.
- The temple is filled with smoke from God's glory and power, so that no one can enter until the plagues are completed — a sign that judgment is now inevitable and irreversible.



Revelation 16

- The seven bowls of God's wrath are poured out, bringing escalating judgments: painful sores, seas and rivers turning to blood, scorching heat, darkness, and widespread devastation.
- Humanity largely refuses to repent, instead cursing God despite the severity of the judgments—highlighting hardened rebellion at the end of the age.
- The final conflict is set in motion, as demonic spirits gather the kings of the earth to Armageddon, and the last bowl brings a global earthquake and collapse of earthly power in preparation for the end.



THE SEVEN BOWLS

1st



Sores afflict those who accepted the mark of the Beast.
Rev. 16:2

2nd



Sea turns to blood; all sea creatures die.
Rev. 16:3

3rd



Rivers turn to blood.
Rev. 16:4-7

4th



Mankind scorched by the sun, blasphemes God.
Rev. 16:8-9

5th



The Beast's seat of government is afflicted.
Rev. 16:10-11

6th



The Euphrates is dried up; world armies gather to Armageddon.
Rev. 16:12-16

7th



The earth is utterly shaken.
Rev. 16:17-21



Comparison Chart



Seven Trumpets

Revelation 8:6-9:21; 11:14-19

Seven Bowls

Revelation 16:1-21

1st Trumpet	Hail, fire mixed w/ blood; 1/3 of earth burned	↔	Painful sores for beast worshipers	1st Bowl
2nd Trumpet	Burning mountain thrown into sea, 1/3 sea creatures & ships destroyed	↔	Everything in the sea dies	2nd Bowl
3rd Trumpet	Burning star from heaven (wormwood), 1/3 of waters & springs bitter & deadly	↔	Springs & rivers become blood	3rd Bowl
4th Trumpet	1/3 of sun, moon, & stars smitten; 1/3 light reduced	↔	Sun scorches people with fierce heat	4th Bowl

5th Trumpet
(1st Woe)

Torment of locusts from pit like sting of scorpion



Beast's kingdom darkened; people in excruciating pain from sores

5th Bowl

6th Trumpet
(2nd Woe)

4 angels at Euphrates release 200 million demon horsemen; Fire, smoke & brimstone from their mouths kill 1/3 of man



Euphrates dries up; Out of mouths of Dragon, Beast, & False Prophet come demon spirits performing signs; Kings gather at Armageddon

6th Bowl



6th Seal

Great earthquake; sun black, moon like blood; stars fell to earth, sky rolled back, every mountain & island removed from its place (Rev 6:12-14)



It is done! Lightning, thunder, mighty earthquake, Babylon split, islands flee, mountains disappear, 100 lb hailstones fall

7th Bowl

The Days of the Voice of the Seventh Angel

Just before trumpet sounds (Rev. 10:7)



All of the Above Bowls (3rd Woe)

Mystery of God finished (Rev. 10:7)

7th Trumpet

Announcement of Christ's Kingdom

The First Five Bowls: Direct Judgments (vv. 1–11)



- **First Bowl:** Painful sores strike all who bear the beast's mark — a direct judgment on those loyal to Antichrist.
- **Second and Third Bowls:** The sea, rivers, and springs turn to blood, killing life in the waters; the angel declares this righteous vengeance for the blood of the saints.
- **Fourth Bowl:** The sun's heat scorches humanity, yet people blaspheme instead of repenting.
- **Fifth Bowl:** Darkness covers the beast's kingdom, causing agony and confusion, tongue gnawing, but still no repentance.

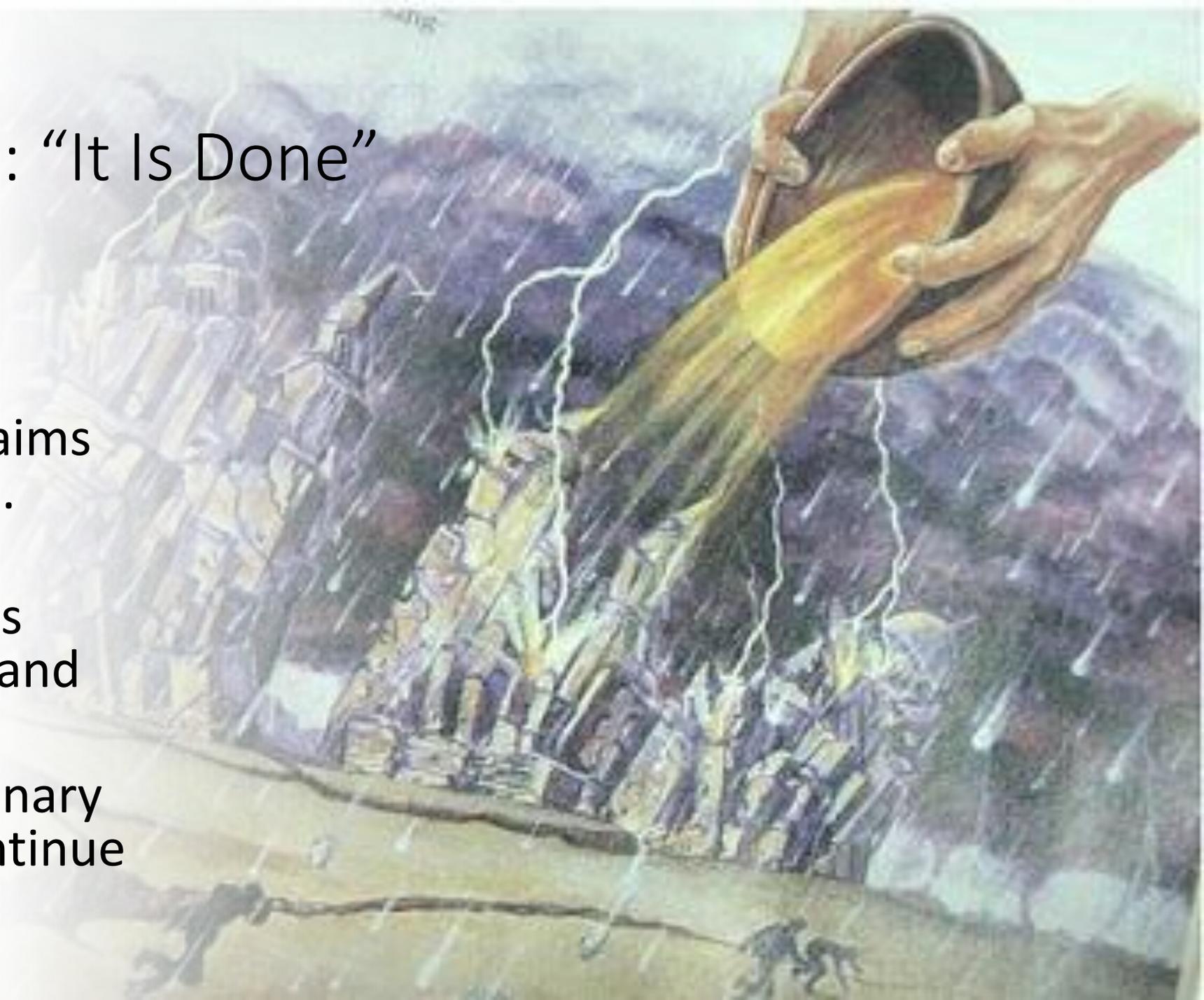
The Sixth Bowl: The Way to Armageddon (vv. 12–16)

- The Euphrates River dries up, opening a path for “the kings from the East.”
- Demonic spirits from the dragon, beast, and false prophet perform miracles to gather the world’s rulers for war.
- This leads to the assembly of armies at Armageddon — the plain of Megiddo — for the final confrontation against God.



The Seventh Bowl: “It Is Done” (vv. 17–21)

- **A loud voice** from the heavenly temple proclaims the end of God’s wrath.
- **A massive earthquake** shatters cities and splits Babylon apart; islands and mountains vanish.
- **Hailstones** of extraordinary size fall, yet people continue to curse God.



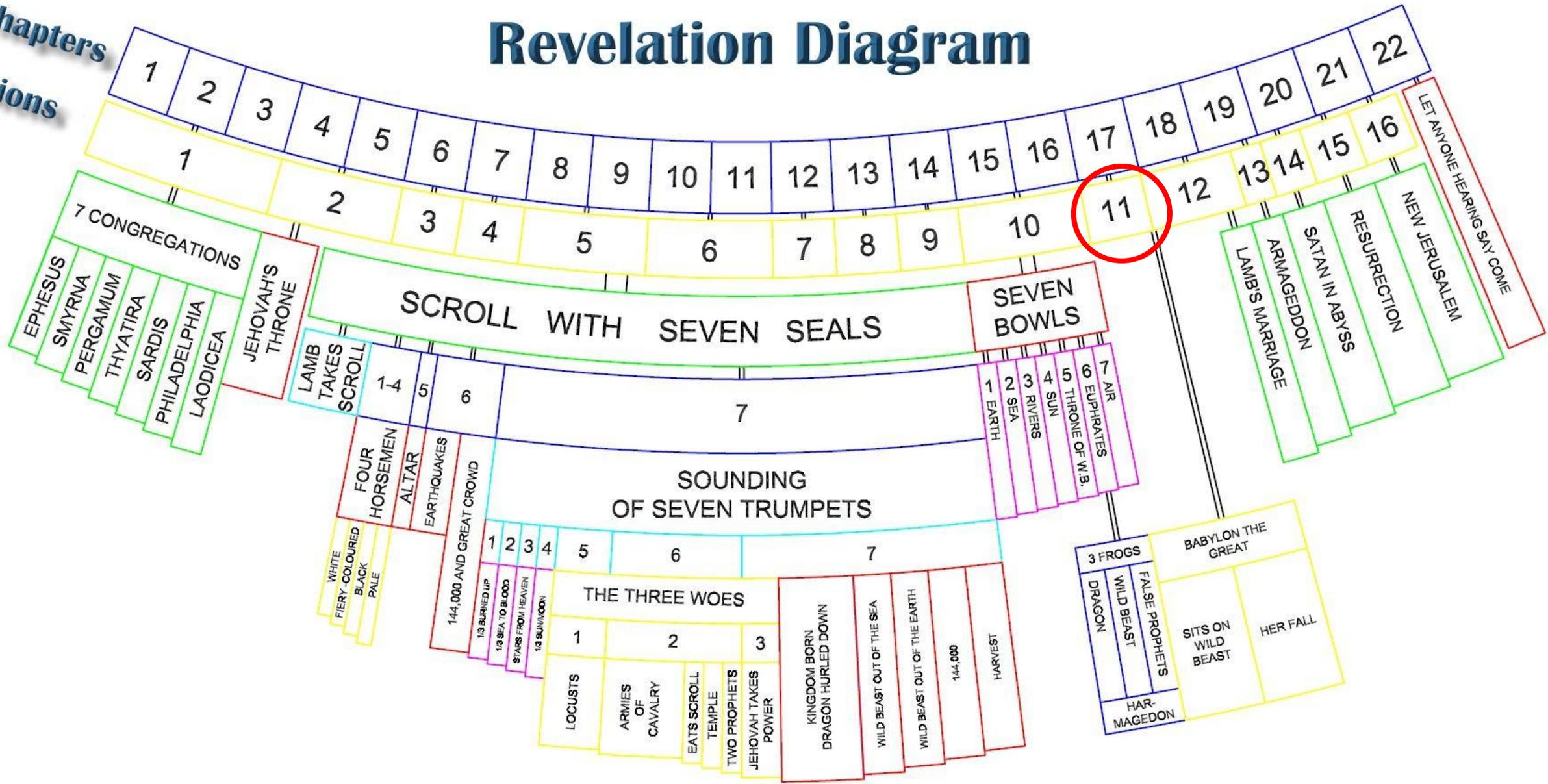
Revelation made Simple

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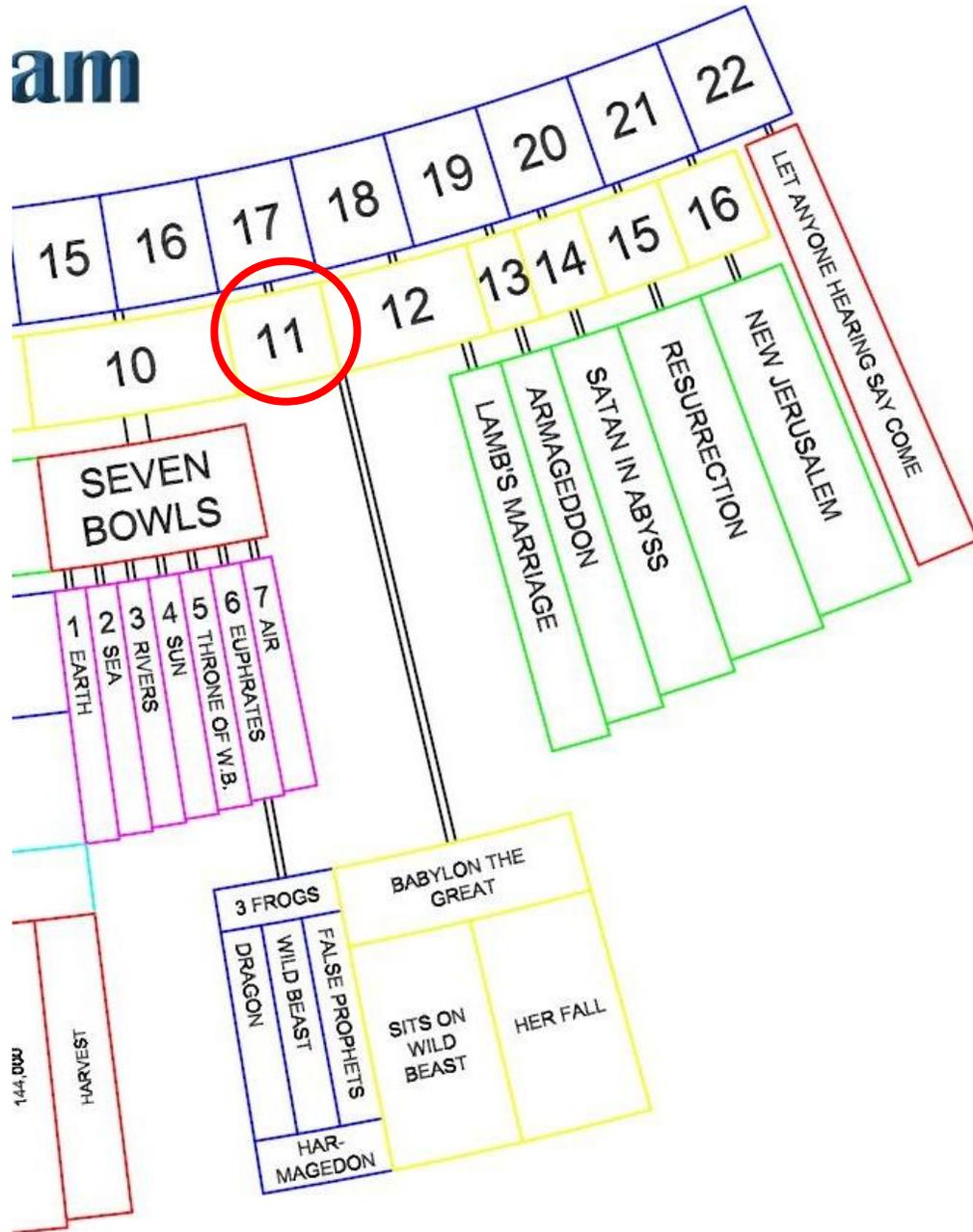
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Revelation Diagram

Chapters
Visions



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Revelation 16 showed **judgment happening.**

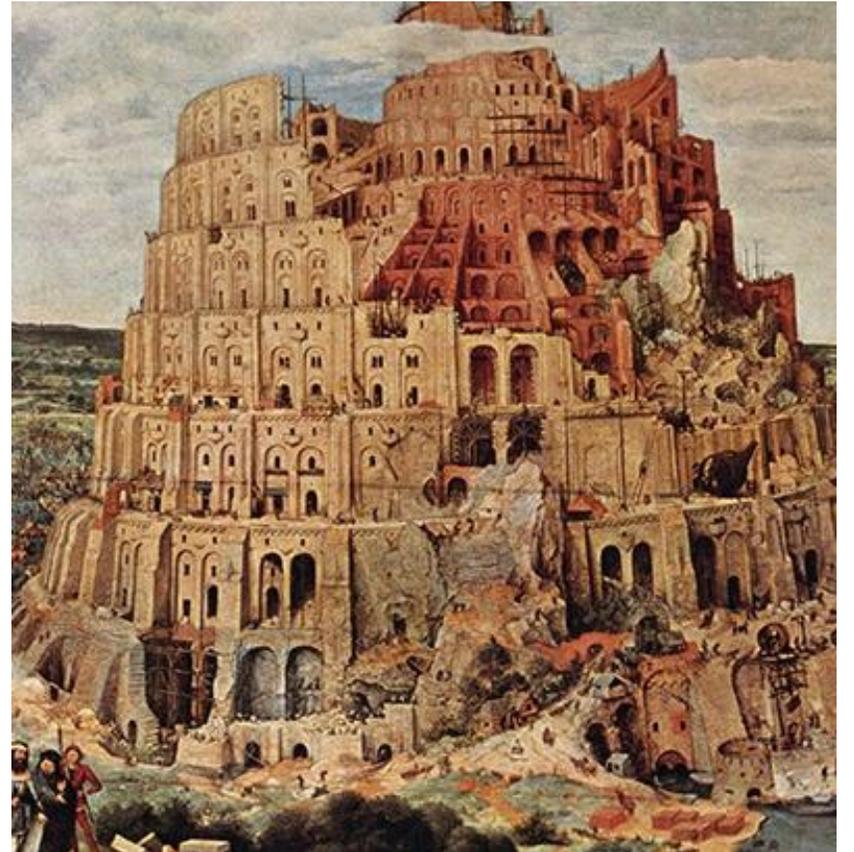
Revelation 17 shows **why judgment is justified (religious Babylon)**

Revelation 18 shows **why judgment is justified (commercial Babylon)**

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What was Babylon?

- Literal city (Babel) in ancient times (ruins are in Iraq ~50 mi from Bagdad)
- Is mentioned 287 times in scriptures (2nd only to Jerusalem)
 - Founded by wife of Nimrod (Noah's great grandson)
 - Tower built in defiance to God ([Genesis](#) 11:1-9)
- Associated with blasphemy, persecution of the faithful, false gods



Revelation 17

- **A concurrent, explanatory vision** describing the power structure, character, and spiritual adultery of Babylon during the same end-time period covered by the bowls.
- Reveals the **spiritual and religious deception** behind Antichrist's empire:
- A seductive global faith unites the world in rebellion against God.
- Its alliance with political power collapses when those same rulers destroy it.
- Christ's ultimate triumph is assured — He alone is sovereign over all kings and kingdoms.



The Woman and the Scarlet Beast (vv. 1–6)

- John is shown “**the great prostitute**” who sits on many waters — symbolizing a **worldwide corrupt religious system** influencing nations and kings.
- She rides a **scarlet beast** full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns — representing **Antichrist’s empire** empowered by Satan (dragon).
- She is **clothed in purple and scarlet**, adorned with gold and jewels, holding a **golden cup** filled with abominations — outward splendor masking spiritual corruption.
- Her title: “*Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and of Earth’s Abominations.*”
- She is **drunk with the blood of the saints**, showing her history of persecuting true godly believers.
- John is amazed and needs guidance.



The Mystery Explained (vv. 7–14)

- The **beast** she rides once was, now is not, and will rise from the abyss — pointing to a **revived world power** or resurrected form of past empire.
- * The **seven heads** represent **seven mountains** (possibly Rome or seven empires), and also **seven kings** — five fallen (Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Medo-Persia, Greece?), one current (Rome), one yet to come (today/tomorrow?).
- The **ten horns** are **ten future kings** (EEC?) who will receive authority for “one hour” with the beast and **unite against the Lamb**.
- But the Lamb (Christ) will **overcome them**, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and His faithful followers share His victory.



The Fall of the Harlot (vv. 15–18)

- The “many waters” signify peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages — the global reach of her influence.
- The ten kings and the beast **will turn against the woman**, destroying her and burning her with fire — her political allies become her executioners.
- God allows this to fulfill His purpose: the collapse of the false religious system that united the world against Him.
- The woman represents the **great city (Rome? New York? Washington? Hollywood?) ruling over the kings of the earth** — often understood as the religious Babylon, distinct from the commercial Babylon of Chapter 18.

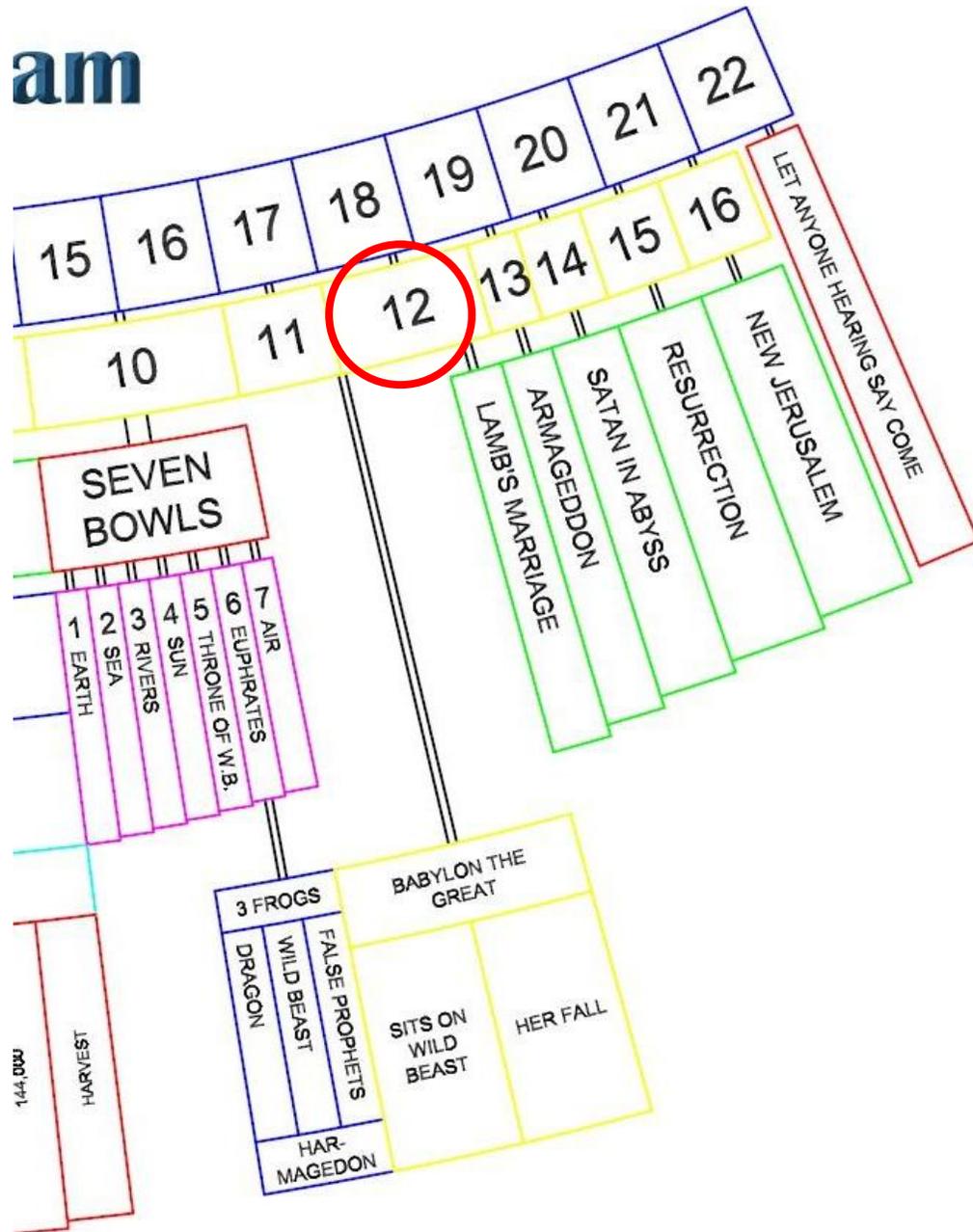


Revelation made Simple

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Revelation 18

- Portrays the collapse of the world's economic and materialistic system — the “commercial Babylon.”
- Earth mourns; heaven rejoices.
- God's judgment falls on a world that glorified wealth, power, and pleasure over righteousness.
- It prepares the way for Christ's return (Chapter 19), when the true King replaces Babylon's counterfeit kingdom with His own righteous rule.



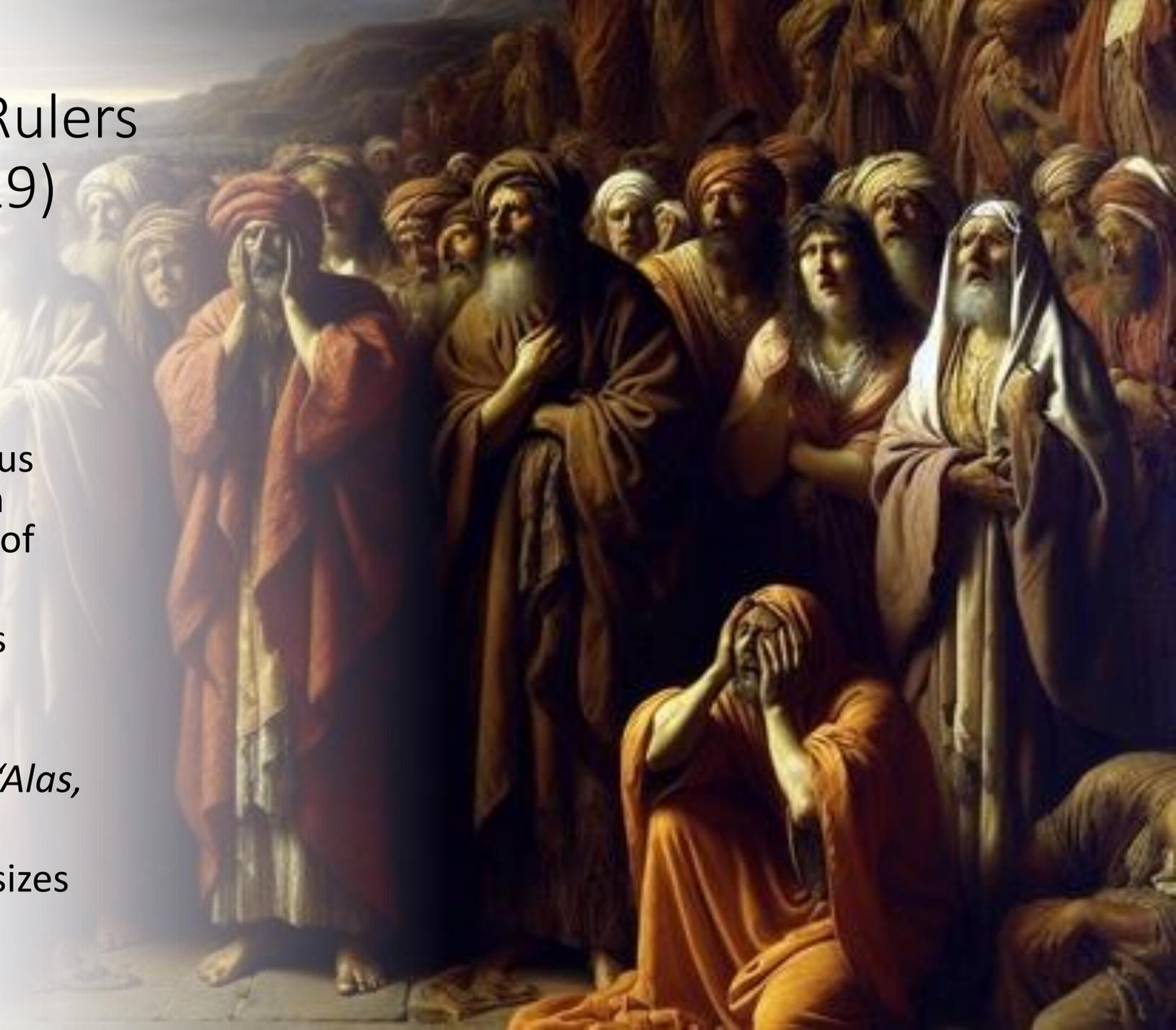
The Fall of Babylon Announced (vv. 1–8)

- An angel of great authority descends from heaven, illuminating the earth and declaring, *“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great!”*
- This Babylon represents the world’s corrupt commercial empire — wealthy, arrogant, and idolatrous.
- She is called a dwelling place of demons and a haunt for every unclean spirit, symbolizing deep moral decay.
- Another voice from heaven warns God’s people, *“Come out of her, my people,”* urging separation from her sins and coming plagues.
- Her destruction is swift — *“in one day her plagues will come”* — as judgment for her pride, luxury, and persecution of the saints.



The Lament of Earth's Rulers and Merchants (vv. 9–19)

- Kings of the earth mourn her fall because their political power and luxury were tied to her influence.
- Merchants weep as their trade collapses; a detailed list of precious goods (gold, silk, spices, and even “human souls”) shows the depth of her greed and exploitation.
- Shipmasters and sailors cry out as global commerce grinds to a halt.
- Each laments from a distance, terrified by her torment, saying, *“Alas, alas, that great city!”*
- The refrain “in one hour” emphasizes the suddenness and totality of Babylon’s fall.



Heaven's Response and Final Judgment (vv. 20–24)

- Heaven rejoices over Babylon's downfall: *"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets!"* — her destruction vindicates God's justice.
- A mighty angel casts a millstone into the sea, saying, *"So will Babylon the great city be thrown down, never to be found again."*
- All music, commerce, and daily life cease — a total, permanent ruin.
- Her sins are summed up: deception, luxury, sorcery, and the blood of prophets and saints.



Does Luxury mean good?

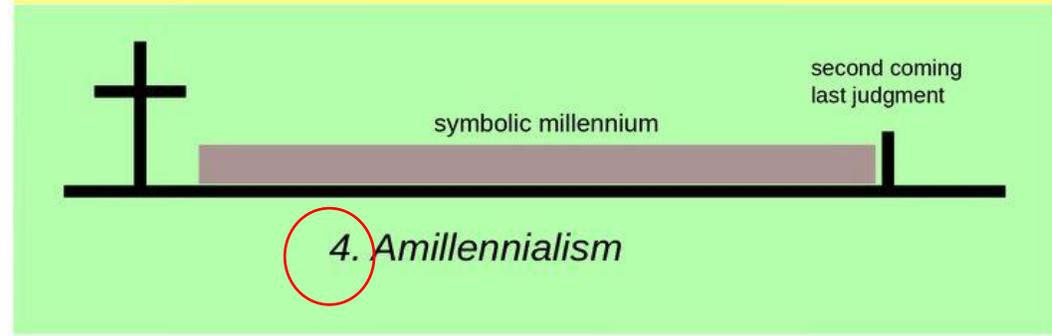
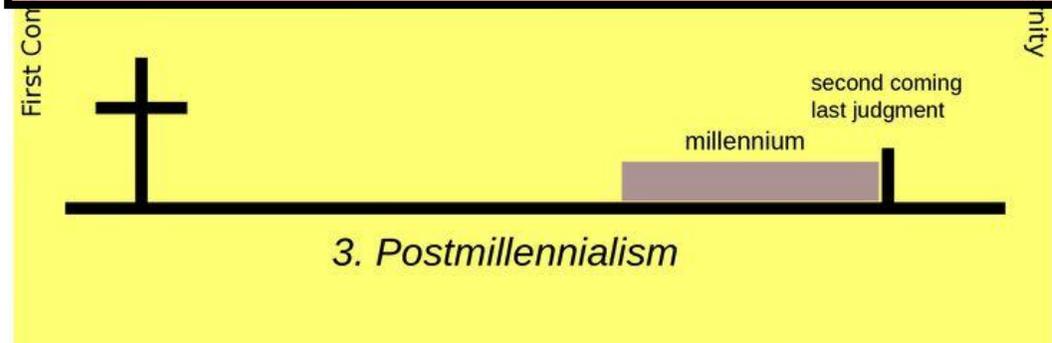
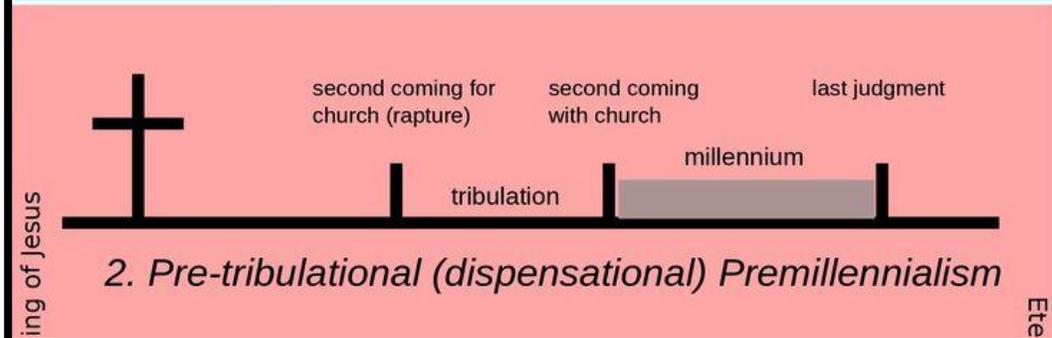
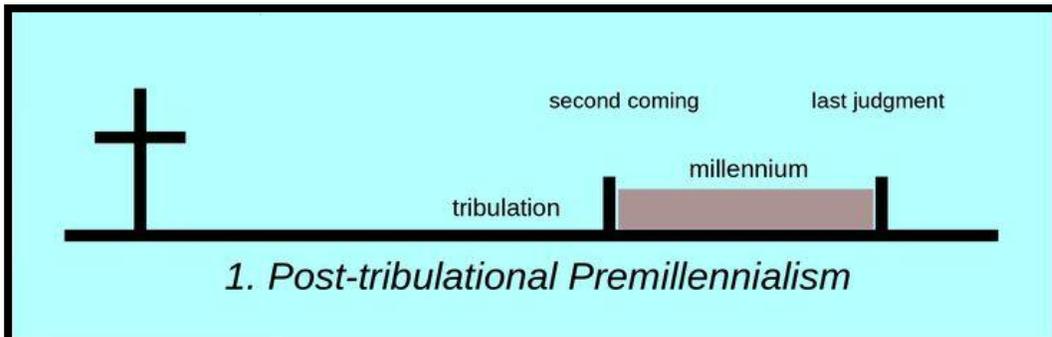
- **Luxury comes from Latin luxuria and luxus, meaning *excess, extravagance, or overindulgence.***
- **Originally, the word carried a moral warning, often linked to vice, sensuality, or lack of restraint.**
- **Only later, especially in early modern Europe, did it shift toward today's more neutral or positive sense of refined comfort and high-quality pleasure.**
- **Ezekiel 16:49 “Pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease... but did not aid the poor and needy.”**
- **Amos 6:4–6 “Beds of ivory... bowls of wine... but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph.”**
- **Isaiah 47:8 “You who live in pleasure, who sit securely...”**
- **Luke 16:19 “Clothed in purple and fine linen and feasted sumptuously every day.”**
- **James 5:5 “You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence.”**
- **1 Timothy 5:6 “She who lives in pleasure is dead even while she lives.”**
- **Revelation 18:7 “As she glorified herself and lived in luxury, so give her torment and mourning.”**

Revelation made Simple

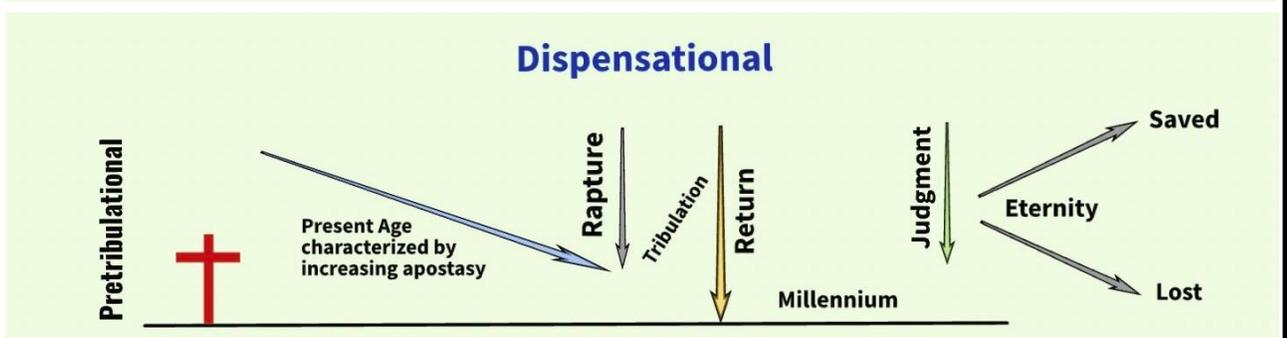
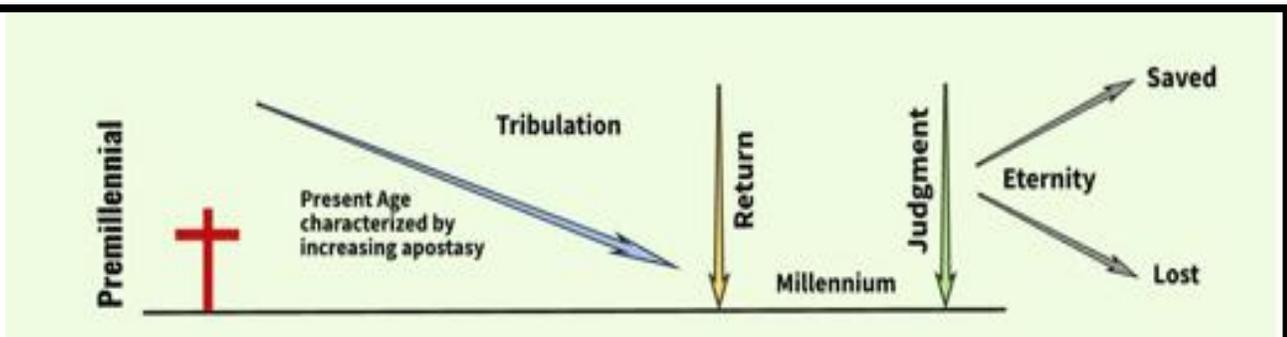
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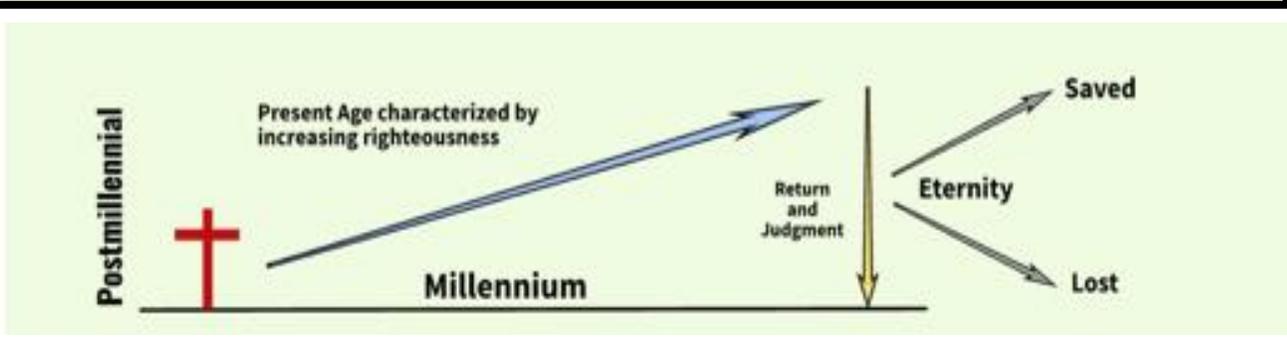
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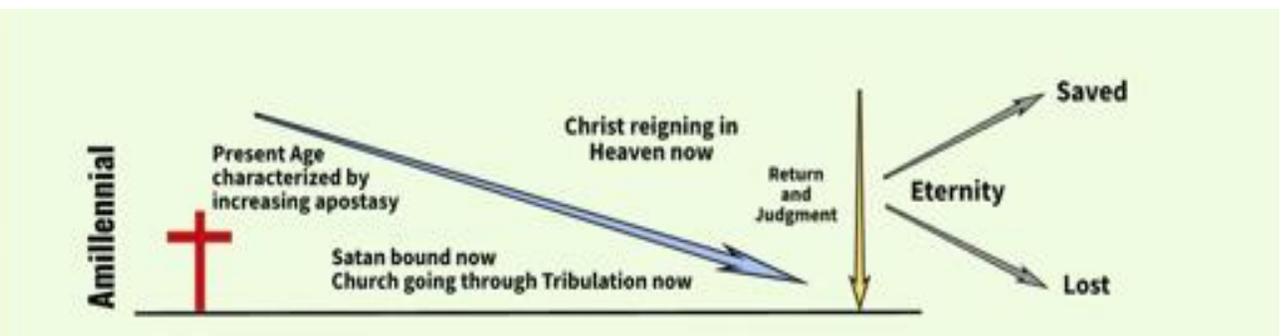
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Revelation 19

- Reveals the climax of human history:
- Heaven rejoices “praise the Lord” over the end of evil.
- The Church celebrates eternal union with Christ.
- Jesus returns visibly and triumphantly, destroying Antichrist and his forces.
- The long-awaited reign of the true King begins.



Heaven Rejoices Over Babylon's Fall (vv. 1–6)

- A great multitude in heaven praises God, crying “*Hallelujah!*” for His righteous judgment on Babylon, the corrupt world system.
- The smoke of her destruction rises forever, symbolizing complete and irreversible judgment.
- The 24 elders and four living creatures worship God, affirming His sovereignty.
- Voices like thunder proclaim, “*The Lord God omnipotent reigns!*” — heaven celebrates that evil's power has ended.



The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (vv. 7–10)

- Heaven announces the marriage of the Lamb (Christ) and His bride (the Church, redeemed believers).
- The bride is clothed in fine linen, bright and clean — representing the righteous deeds of the saints.
- Blessed are those invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb, symbolizing the joy and unity of the redeemed in God's presence.
- John falls to worship the angel, but is told, *“Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”*



The Second Coming of Christ (vv. 11–16)

- Heaven opens, and Christ appears on a white horse, called Faithful and True, coming to judge and make war in righteousness.
- His eyes are like fire; on His head are many crowns; His robe is dipped in blood; His name: The Word of God.
- The armies of heaven, clothed in white linen, follow Him — likely glorified believers and angels.
- From His mouth comes a sharp sword to strike the nations; He rules them with a rod of iron and treads the winepress of God's wrath.
- On His robe and thigh is written: *“King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”*



The Defeat of Earth's Armies (vv. 17–21)

- An angel summons the birds to feast on the flesh of kings, generals, and warriors — the aftermath of divine judgment.
- The beast (Antichrist) and false prophet gather their armies to fight Christ but are captured alive and thrown into the lake of fire.
- The rest are slain by the sword from Christ's mouth — a decisive and total victory.



Revelation made Simple

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Revelation 20

- Describes the Millennial Kingdom, final rebellion, and eternal judgment.
- Christ reigns for 1,000 years while Satan is bound. Is then briefly released.
- Humanity faces its final test, and all the dead non-believers stand before God's Great White Throne for judgment leading to the lake of fire.



Satan Bound for 1,000 Years (vv. 1–3)

- An “generic” angel descends from heaven, seizing the dragon (Satan) and binding him for a thousand years in the abyss, so he can no longer deceive the nations.
- After the Millennium, he will be released for a short time — a final test of human allegiance.



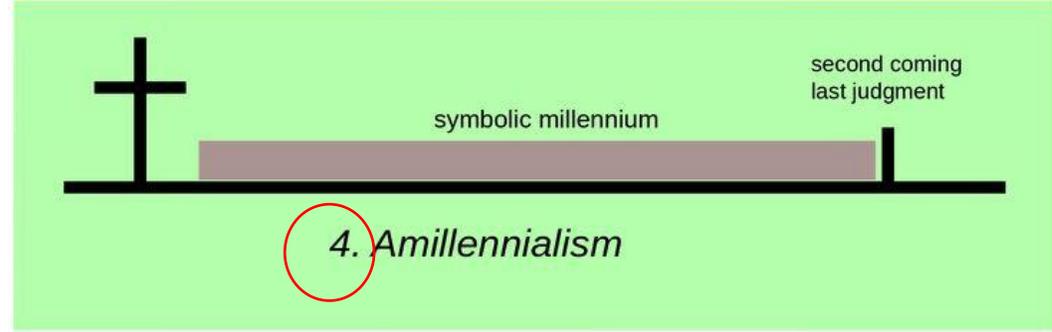
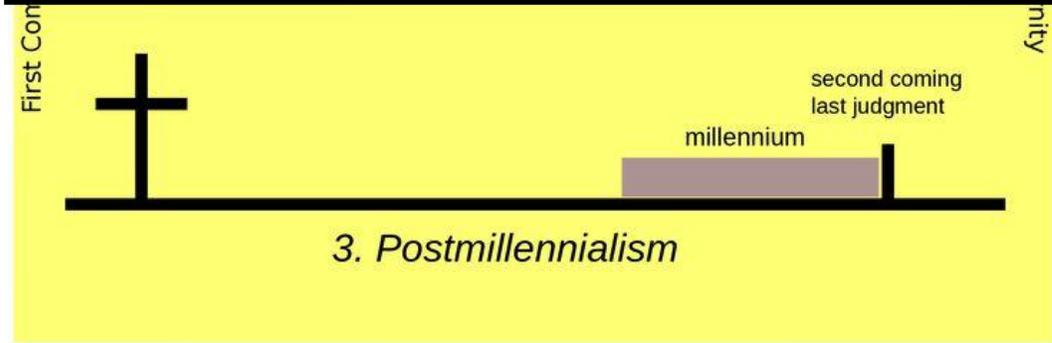
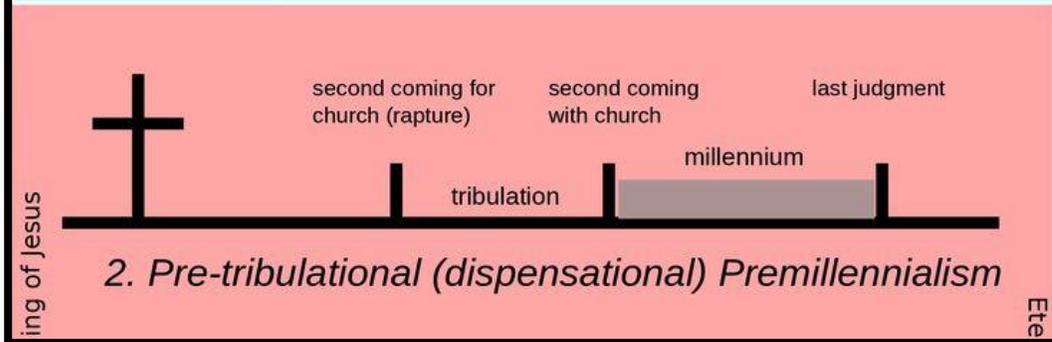
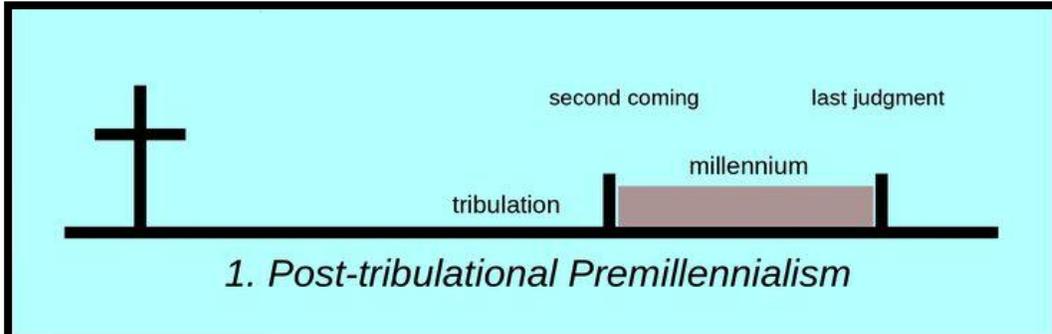
The Reign of Christ and His Saints

(vv. 4–6)

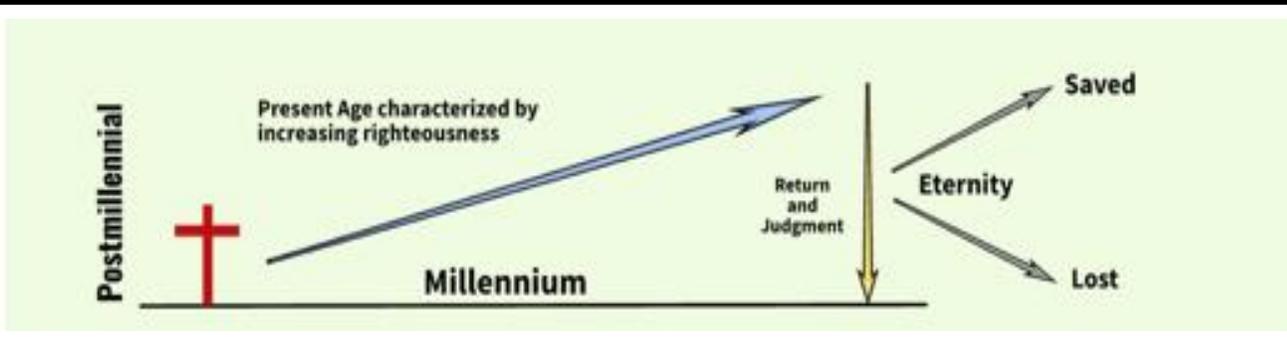
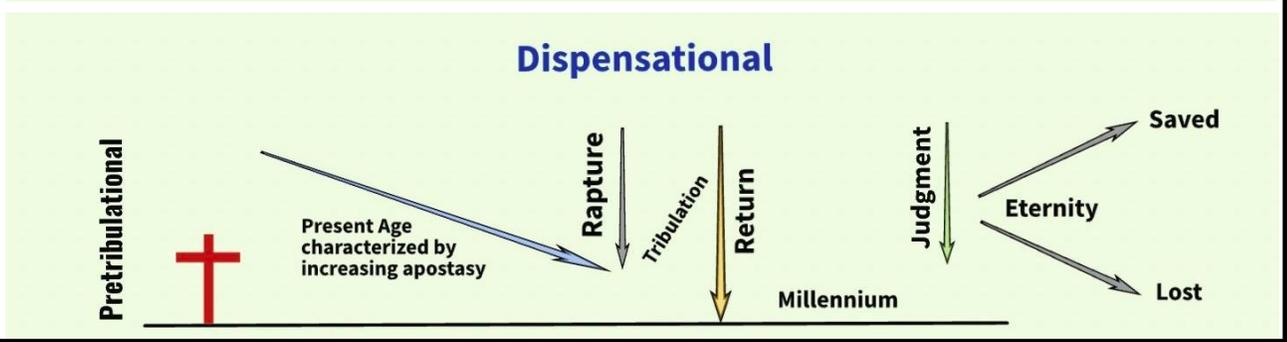
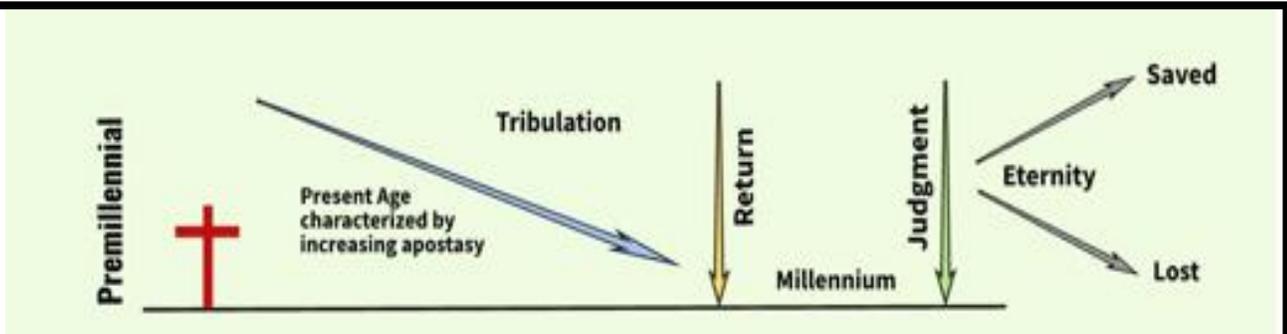
- John sees thrones and those who reign with Christ (raptured, OT saints?) — including martyrs who refused the beast’s mark.
- They live and reign with Christ for 1,000 years — the Millennial Kingdom, a time of peace and righteousness on earth.
- The “first resurrection” includes believers only; the rest of the dead (unbelievers) await judgment after the Millennium.
- “Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection” — they will never face the second death.



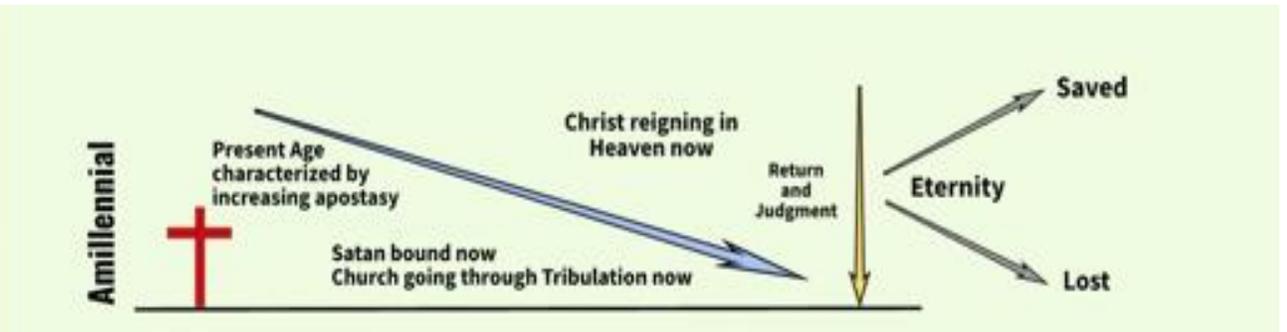
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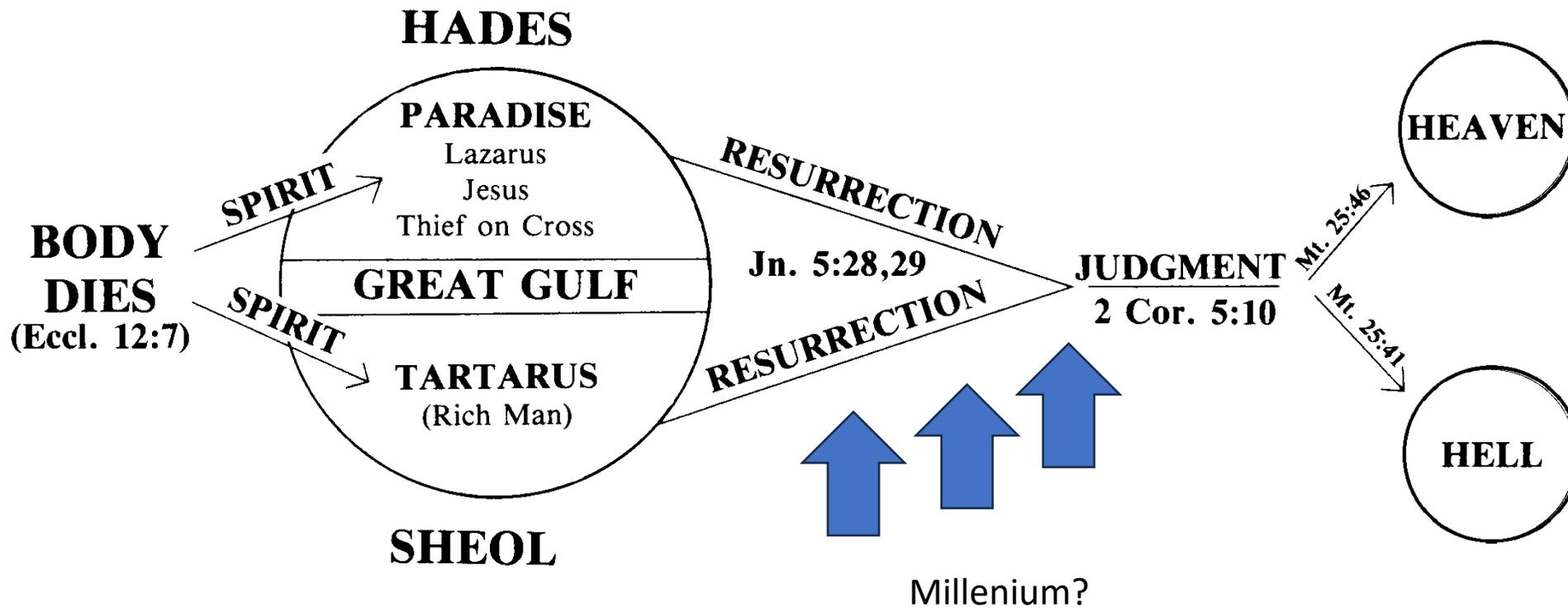
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First Coming of Jesus

Eternity



- What happens when we die?
- Most orthodox traditions (Reformed, Catholic, and early writers) teach:
 - The intermediate state = disembodied souls consciously with Christ ([Philippians 1:23](#)).
 - The final state = bodily resurrection and glorified existence after the “new heaven and new earth” (Revelation 21).
 - BUT, some read Rev 20:4&6 (and [2 Tim 2:12](#), [Rev 2:26-27](#)) that we’ll reign and embody glorified bodies during the millennium! And be joined by OT Saints ! ([Dan 12:1-3](#))

Are we involved in the 1000 Year Reign?

Question	Premillennial	Amillennialism
Do martyred, raptured saints return?	Yes, to reign with Christ for 1000 years.	No. saints reign with Christ now, from heaven. The bodily return occurs once, at the end (Chapter 21)
Will they have glorified bodies?	Yes!	No. The reign of Rev 20 references “souls”, not resurrected bodies. Glorified bodies come at the final resurrection only.
Are all millennial inhabitants saved?	No, they are born bound by Adam’s sin	Not applicable. No earthly millennial population distinct from the church age (No rapture).
Can people still be saved during this time?	Yes, through faith in Jesus	Yes. Salvation continues throughout the present age until Christ returns (New Heaven/Earth)
Can people still fall away during this time?	Mortals yes, Glorified Saints no!	Yes. Apostasy remains possible in the present age, though the elect persevere/are preserved.
What is the Lesson/Purpose?	Final test shows perfect environment does not cure sin.	Shows Christ’s present victory, the vindication of martyrs, and the certainty of final judgment.

Satan's Final Rebellion

(vv. 7–10)

- When the thousand years end, Satan is released and deceives the nations, called Gog and Magog, to gather for one last battle against God's people.
- Fire comes down from heaven and devours them *instantly*.
- Satan is thrown into the lake of fire, joining the beast and false prophet, and is tormented forever, evil's final defeat!



The Great White Throne Judgment

(vv. 11–15)

- John sees a great white throne and Him who sits upon it , heaven and earth flee from His presence.
- The dead, great and small, “stand” (a sentencing, not a trial) before God, and the books are opened, including the Book of Life.
- Each person is judged according to their deeds.
- Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire, the second death.
- Anyone not found written in the Book of Life is also cast into the lake of fire.



Are we in the “end of times?”

- The timing of Christ’s return remains unknowable in advance ([Matt 24:36-44](#))
- BUT, it is considered possible to **recognize** the start of the Tribulation once it begins (7 years until Armageddon – Chapter 19)
- Surest signs
 - Beginning – a covenant involving Israel (drawn primarily from [Daniel 9:27](#))
 - Middle - Abomination of Desolation (Matt 24:15, 2 Thes 2:3-4)
 - Something “abominable” placed where it does not belong
 - Something that renders worship impossible or illegitimate
 - A figure exalts himself, places himself in God’s sphere
 - Receives or demands what belongs to God alone

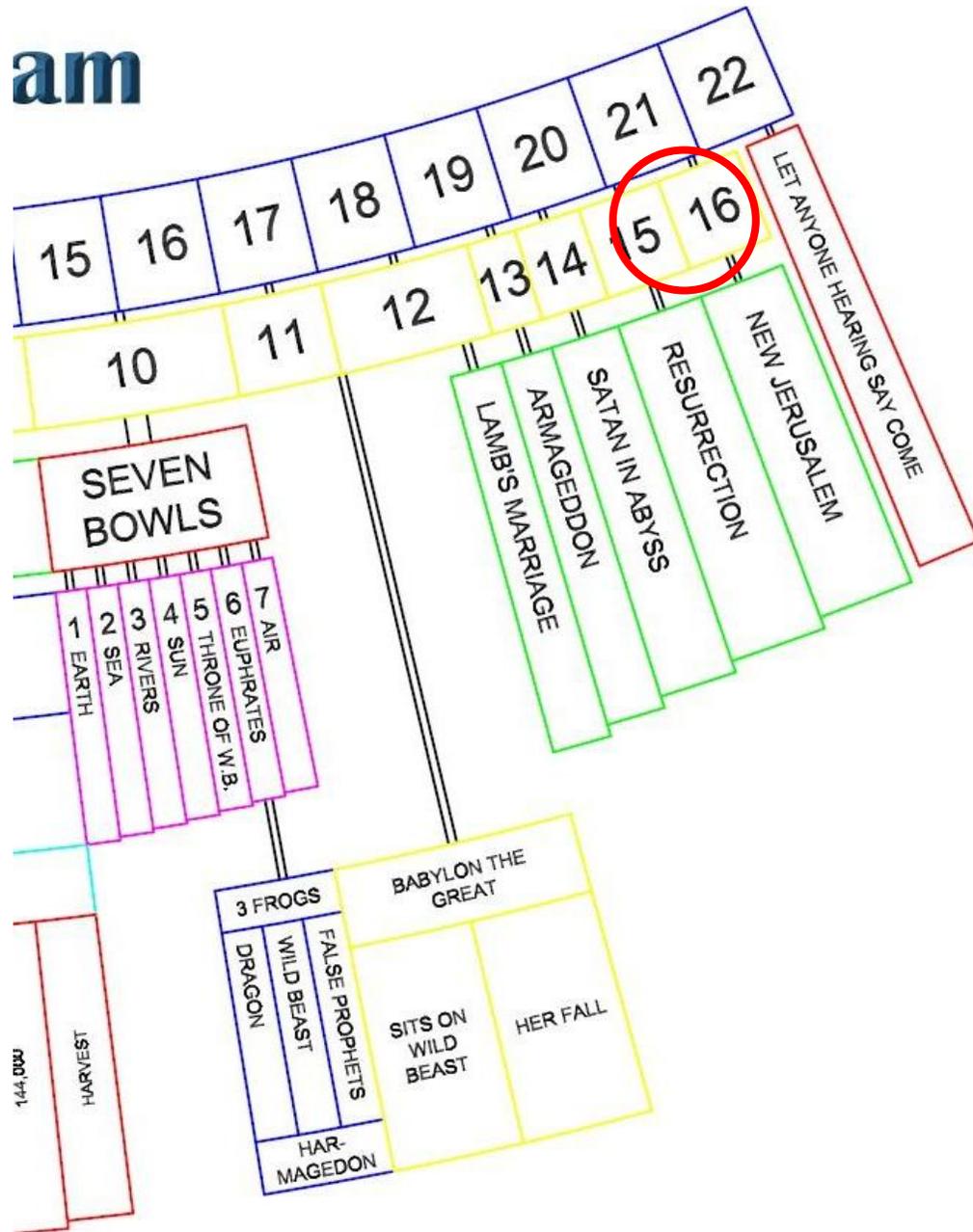


Revelation made Simple

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5	Chapter 6	Chapter 7	Chapter 8	Chapter 9	Chapter 10	Chapter 11		
John on Patmos Vision of Christ in Glory	Letters to the 7 Churches Ephesus Smyrna Pergamos Thyatira		Sardis Philadelphia Laodicea	Vision of God's Throne	Seven Seal Book opened by the Slain Lamb	6 Seals Opened 6 Seals 4 Horsemen White, Red, Black, Pale Souls under the altar Wrath of God (preview)	Sealing of the 144,000. Great multitude of Tribulation Saints	Tribulation Trumpets 7th Seal opened 4 Trumpets 1/3 Judgments Grass Sea Waters (Wormwood) Sun Moon Stars		2 Trumpets (2 Woes) Locusts 200 million man army 1/3 mankind killed	The Mighty Angel with the Little Book 7 Thunders	2 Tribulation Witnesses 42 Months 1260 Days (3rd Woe) 7th Trumpet

Chapter 12	Chapter 13	Chapter 14	Chapter 15	Chapter 16	Chapter 17	Chapter 18	Chapter 19	Chapter 20	Chapter 21	Chapter 22
Woman with man child Red Dragon Woman in Wilderness Time, Times and half a Time	7 Headed Beast AC govt. 42 Months Lamb/Dragon False Prophet	3 Angels Christ reaps the harvest	7 Vials Given to 7 Angels Victorious Saints Song of Moses	7 Vials of Wrath Full Judgments Sores Seas Rivers Sun Darkness Armageddon Earthquake & Hall	Mystery Babylon The Great	Babylon is Fallen!	Marriage Supper of the Lamb War Armageddon	Millennium Satan bound 1,000 yrs Battle of Gog & Magog Lake of Fire White Throne Judgment	New Jerusalem New Heaven New Earth Eternity with Christ	

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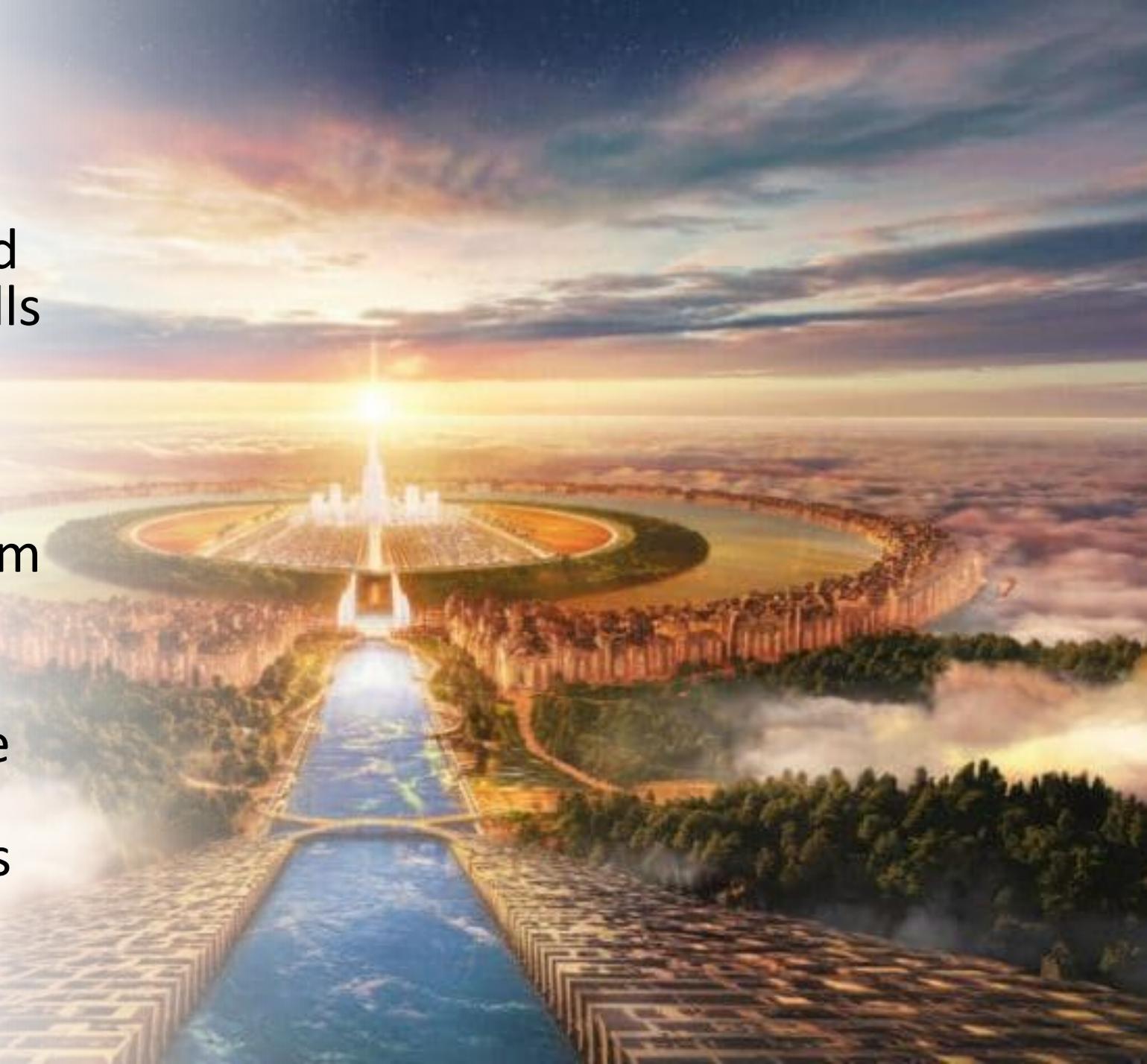


- ✓ Revelation 21 – Two visions in one chapter.
- ✓ The first time since Genesis 3 the earth is free from sin!

	Interadvental Period				Final Judgment			
God's Messages	Heavenly Scene	Transition of Cov	This Age Distinctions	Spiritual History	Judgment Picture	Over World	Over Satan	Victory & Restoration
1:9 – 3:22	4:1 – 4:11	5:1 – 8:1	8:2 – 11:19	12:1 – 14:20	15:1 – 16:21	17:1 – 19:21	20:1 – 21:8	21:9 – 22:5
Love in Relationship ✓	Come Up ✓	Seal 1: Apost. Msg ✓	Trumpet 1: Hail and Fire ✓	Woman and Dragon ✓	Bowl 1: Sores ✓	Prostitute ✓	Satan Bound ✓	Great High Mountain
Endure Trials fr/ Without ✓	Throne & Stones ✓	Seal 2: War/ Violence ✓	Trumpet 2: Burning Mtn ✓	First Beast ✓	Bowl 2: Sea - Blood ✓	Beast ✓	Reign of Saved ✓	New Jerusalem
Keep Pure Within ✓	Emerald Rainbow ✓	Seal 3: Famine ✓	Trumpet 3: Wormwood ✓	Second Beast ✓	Bowl 3: Water - Blood ✓	Waters - Nations ✓	Satan Released ✓	Temple is God & Lamb
Don't Tolerate Heresy ✓	24 Elders ✓	Seal 4: Death ✓	Trumpet 4: Darkness ✓	144,000 ✓	Bowl 4: Sun Scorch ✓	Beast/Whore Conflict ✓	Gather for Battle ✓	Light is God & Lamb
Live for God ✓	Crystal Sea ✓	Seal 5: Martyrs ✓	Trumpet 5: Locusts ✓	Angel Messages ✓	Bowl 5: Darkness ✓	Babylon's Fall ✓	Satan into Lake of Fire ✓	River of Life; Tree of Life
Belong to God ✓	Cherubim & Elders Praise ✓	Seal 6: Desolation ✓	Trumpet 6: Death Army ✓	Call for Endurance ✓	Bowl 6: Armies ✓	Marriage Supper ✓	Great White Throne ✓	God, Lamb, Servants
		Interlude: Israel of God ✓	Interlude: 2 Witnesses ✓		Interlude: Blessing ✓			
Certainty of Reward	"By your will..."	Seal 7: Silence ✓	Seal 7: Kingdom ✓	Harvest & Wrath ✓	Seal 7: It is done ✓	Christ on White Horse ✓	New Heaven New Earth	God is Light; Reign Forever

Revelation 21

- Unveils the New Heaven and New Earth, where God dwells forever with His redeemed people.
- The old creation has passed away, and the New Jerusalem descends from heaven — radiant as a bride.
- There is no temple, no more death, sorrow, or pain, for God Himself lives among His people in perfect fellowship and glory.



THE THIRD HEAVEN

God's Dwelling Place

THE SECOND HEAVEN

Outer Space and the
Celestial Realm

THE FIRST HEAVEN

The Atmosphere
Above the Earth

“The Heavens”

- The “new” heaven will include levels one and two.
- **Annihilation? Destroyed. Did God abandon what he originally called “very good”?** 2 Peter 3:7 – “By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.”
- **Renovation? Purified, healed, transformed. Did God finish what he began?** Genesis 6-9 “I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.” (Greek is kainos, not neos ala neonatal)

The New Creation (vv. 1–4)

- John sees a new heaven and a new earth, for the first have passed away; there is no more sea — symbolizing the end of chaos and separation.
- The New Jerusalem, like a bride adorned for her husband, comes down from God.
- A loud voice declares: “God’s dwelling is now with humanity.” (back to Eden)
- He wipes away every tear — no more death, mourning, crying, or pain — for the old order is gone.



God's Eternal Promise (vv. 5–8)

- The One on the throne proclaims, “Behold, I make all things new,” affirming His words as trustworthy and true.
- He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.
- Those who overcome inherit all things and become His children (greater to be redeemed than innocent).
- But the cowardly, liars, unbelieving...etc their portion is the second death — the lake of fire.



The Vision of the New Jerusalem (vv. 9–18)

- One of the seven angels shows John the Bride, the Lamb's wife — the radiant New Jerusalem.
- The city shines with the glory of God, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.
- It has 12 gates (each named for Israel's tribes) and 12 foundations (each for the apostles).
- The city's measured (also Rev 11 temple, shows ownership) a perfect cube shape (12,000 stadia each side) symbolizes God's perfection and completeness. (1500 sq miles! Mirrors shape of the Holy Place of the Tabernacle)
- The streets are pure gold, and each gate is made of a single pearl — the “pearly gates.”



Jewel Symbolism (vv. 18–21)

Priestly and covenantal continuity

- The twelve foundation stones echo the jeweled high **priest's breast piece** (Exod 28:17–20 representing the twelve tribes. In Revelation, the stones are no longer worn by a priest but embedded permanently in God's city.

Holiness and perfection

- Gems signify purity, value, and divine splendor, moral and spiritual perfection of the redeemed order. The **city reflects God's own holiness** rather than generating its own glory (Rev 21:11).

Cosmic reversal and abundance

- What was once rare and elite becomes structural and common. Streets of gold and jeweled foundations communicate **superabundance and security**. Scarcity and corruption are gone.

Ordered diversity within unity

- The stones are **distinct yet harmonized**. This fits Revelation's consistent theme of **unity without uniformity** among God's redeemed people.



God's Glory as the Light (vv. 22–27)

- There is no (need for a) temple since God and the Lamb are its temple.
- The city needs no sun or moon, because the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.
- The nations walk by its light, and nothing impure will ever enter, only those written in the Lamb's Book of Life.



Key Sorting Beliefs

Topic	Scripture Reference Cited	My Findings/Feelings
Is there a Rapture?	Rev 3:10 - Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.	
(Do we get glorified bodies and) reign with Christ during the Millennium?	1 Corinthians 15:49 (ESV) - And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. 52 - "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet... the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed." Revelation 20:4 (ESV) - "They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."	
A tribulation of two, 3 1/2-year periods is in the future.	Rev 11:3 (ESV) - "I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." Rev 13:5 (ESV) - "The beast was given authority to act for forty-two months."	
"I believe..."		

Weekly Study Intros

Revelation made Simple

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5	Chapter 6	Chapter 7	Chapter 8	Chapter 9	Chapter 10	Chapter 11		
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	Interadvental Period				Final Judgment			
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Keep Pure Within ✓	Emerald Rainbow ✓	Seal 3: Famine ✓	Trumpet 3: Wornwood ✓	Second Beast ✓	Bowl 3: Water - Blood ✓	Waters - Nations ✓	Satan Released ✓	Temple is God & Lamb ✓
Don't Tolerate Heresy ✓	24 Elders ✓	Seal 4: Death ✓	Trumpet 4: Darkness ✓	144,000 ✓	Bowl 4: Sun Scorch ✓	Beast/Whore Conflict ✓	Gather for Battle ✓	Light is God & Lamb ✓
Live for God ✓	Crystal Sea ✓	Seal 5: Martyrs ✓	Trumpet 5: Locusts ✓	Angel Messages ✓	Bowl 5: Darkness ✓	Babylon's Fall ✓	Satan into Lake of Fire ✓	River of Life; Tree of Life ✓
Belong to God ✓	Cherubim & Elders Praise ✓	Seal 6: Desolation ✓	Trumpet 6: Death Army ✓	Call for Endurance ✓	Bowl 6: Armies ✓	Marriage Supper ✓	Great White Throne ✓	God, Lamb, Servants ✓
		Interlude: Israel of God ✓	Interlude: 2 Witnesses ✓		Interlude: Blessing ✓			
Certainty of Reward	"By your will..."	Seal 7: Silence ✓	Seal 7: Kingdom ✓	Harvest & Wrath ✓	Seal 7: It is done ✓	Christ on White Horse ✓	New Heaven New Earth ✓	God is Light; Reign Forever ✓

Revelation 22

- Completes the vision of eternity — the River and Tree of Life, the eternal presence of God and the Lamb, and Christ’s final declaration: “I am coming soon.”
- It closes the Book of Revelation — and the entire Bible — with the assurance of eternal life, unbroken fellowship, and a final invitation to all who thirst.



The River and Tree of Life (vv. 1–5)

- The angel shows John a pure river of the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.
- On both sides of the river grows the Tree of Life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit — one for each month — and its leaves bring healing (health) to the nations.
- There will be no more curse; God's servants will see His face, bear His name, and reign with Him forever and ever.
- Night will be no more, for the Lord God Himself is their light.



Assurance of the Vision's Truth

(vv. 6–11)

- The angel affirms that these words are faithful and true, spoken by the Lord, who sent His angel to show His servants what must soon take place.
- Jesus declares, “Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of this prophecy.”
- John, overwhelmed, falls to worship the angel but is told, “Worship God!” — a second reminder that all glory belongs only to Him.
- The prophecy remains unsealed, for the time is near; moral choices are fixed, the righteous remain righteous, the wicked remain wicked.



The Final Promises and Warnings (vv. 12–19)

- Jesus repeats: “Behold, I am coming soon, and My reward is with Me.”
- He is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last.
- Those who wash their robes may enter the city and eat (!) from the Tree of Life.
- Outside are those who love falsehood and wickedness.
- Jesus testifies as “the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star.”
- An open invitation precedes a final warning forbidding anyone from adding to or taking away from the words of this prophecy.



The Final Invitation and Benediction (vv. 20–21)

- The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come!”, an open call to all who thirst to receive the water of life freely.
- The book closes with Jesus’ words: “Surely I am coming soon.”
- John responds, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”
- The final reused verse blesses all: “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.”

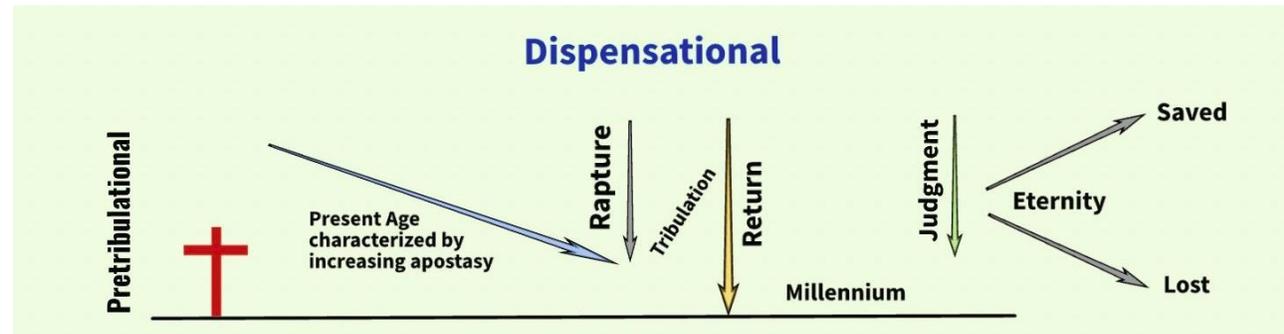


Now, at the finish
of our study,
where do you
stand (or sit) with
Revelation?

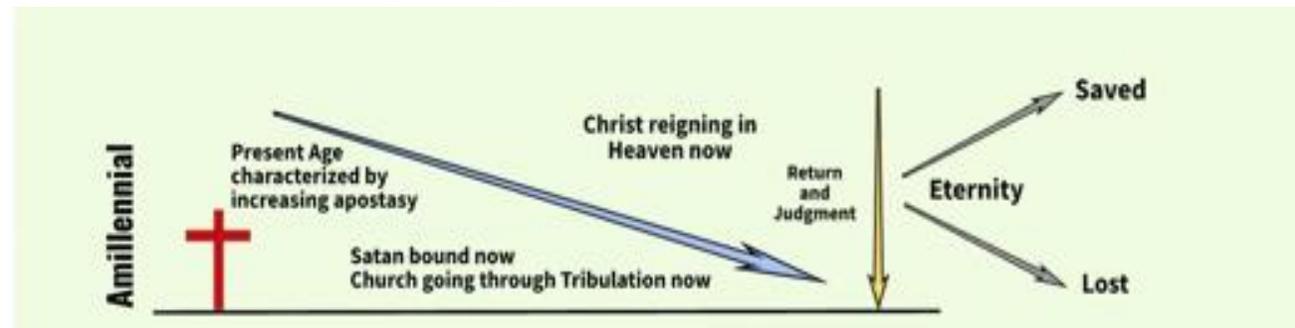


Before we began our study, did you lean...

- **Premillennialism** = Christ returns *before* a literal 1,000-year earthly reign. **Dispensationalists** add a **rapture**.



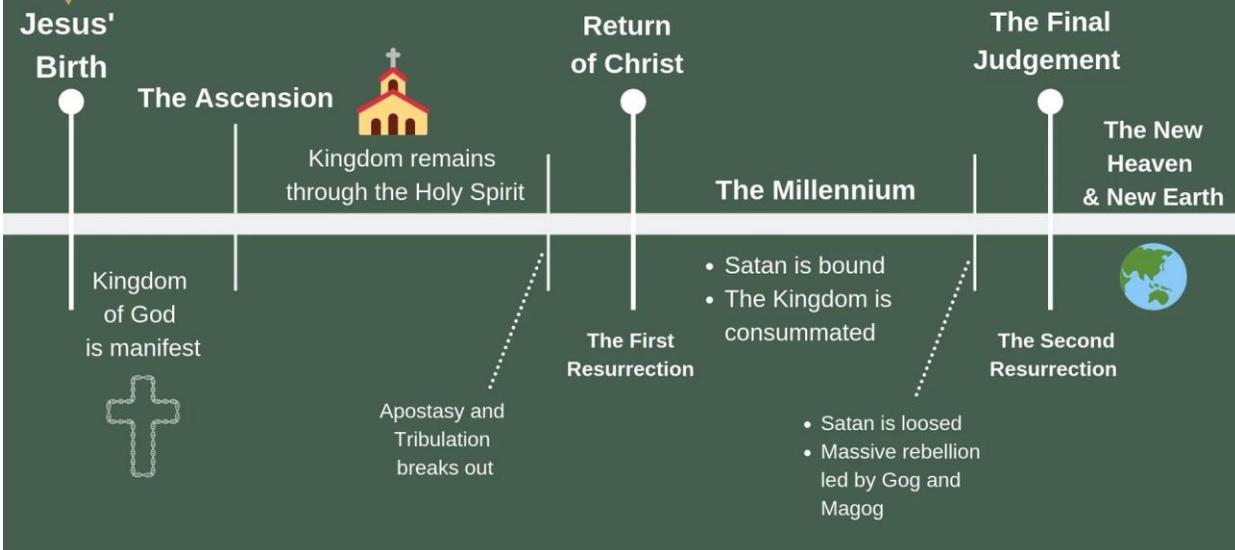
- **Amillennialism** = The “1,000 years” of Revelation 20 is symbolic of Christ’s present reign from heaven. No distinct rapture; instead, one final return of Christ, resurrection, and judgment.



Historic Premillennialism

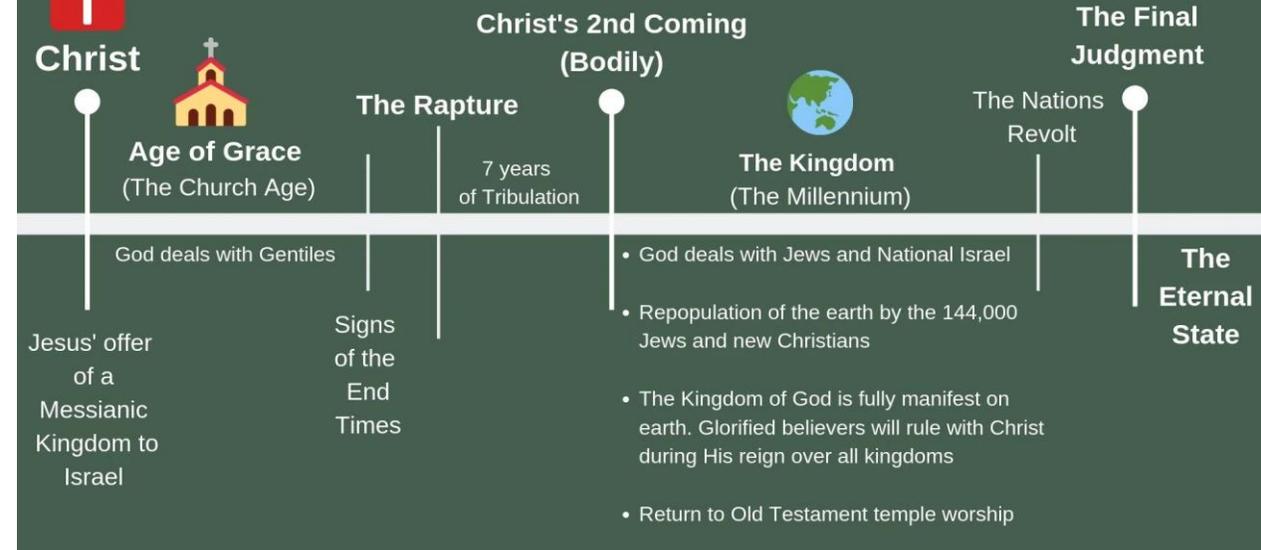
(Chronological Reading)

(48-60%)



Dispensationalism

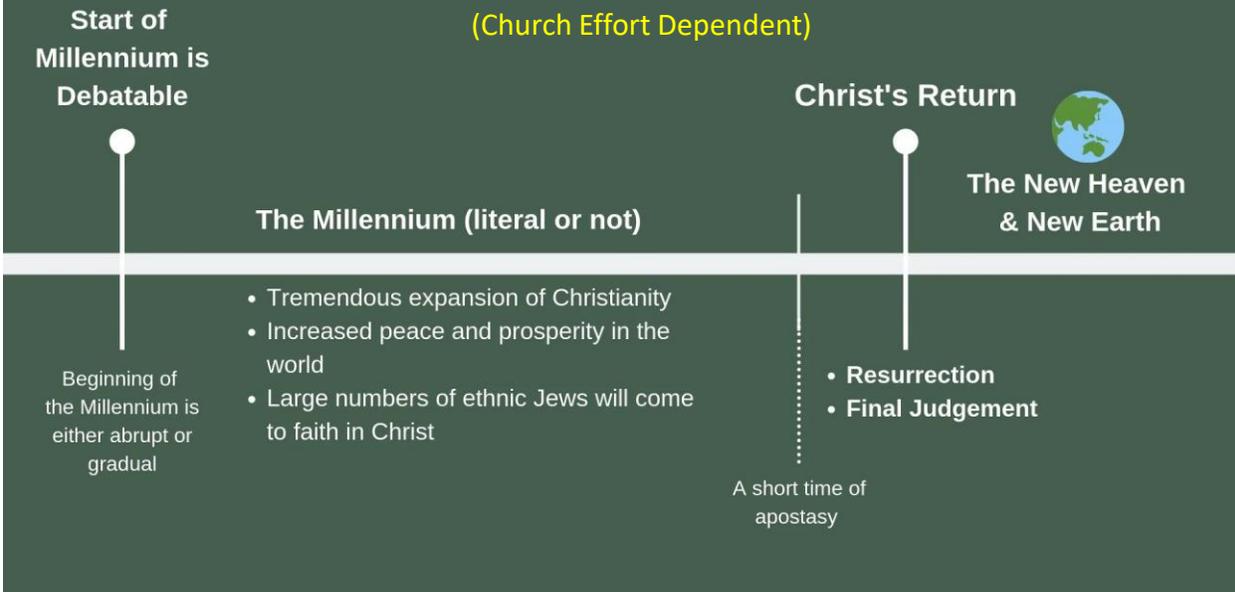
(Straight-Forward Reading)



Postmillennialism

(Church Effort Dependent)

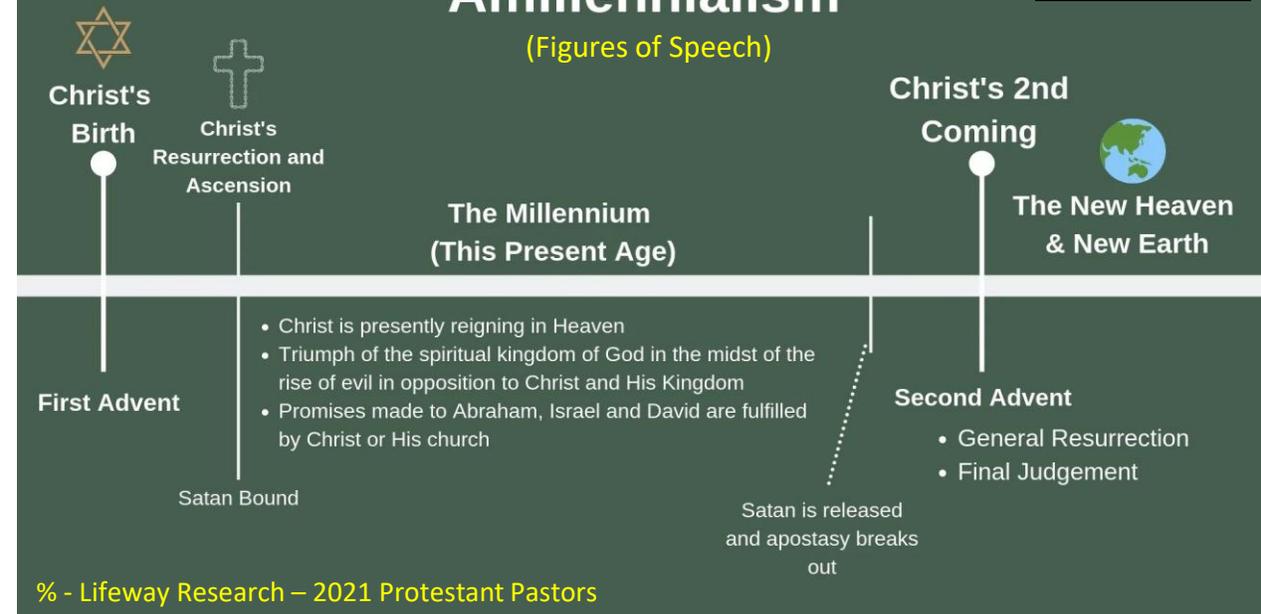
(9-11%)



Amillennialism

(Figures of Speech)

(21-31%)



Key Sorting Beliefs

Topic	Scripture Reference Cited	Frank's Findings/Feelings
Is there a Rapture?	Rev 3:10 - Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.	Yes. If the church were destined to be kept through the tribulation, the Greek word dia, meaning "through," could have been used.
(Do we get glorified bodies and) reign with Christ during the Millennium?	1 Corinthians 15:49 (ESV) - And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. 52 - "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet... the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed." Revelation 20:4 (ESV) - "They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."	Yes, and Perhaps. Paul resolves a resurrection question assuring we undergo a necessary transformation to inherit the Kingdom. Whether 1000 or "long time", put me in coach!
A tribulation of two, 3 1/2-year periods is in the future.	Rev 11:3 (ESV) - "I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." Rev 13:5 (ESV) - "The beast was given authority to act for forty-two months."	Yes. Revelation consistently emphasizes a bounded 3½-year period, using multiple synonymous time expressions.
"I believe the dead are raised, the living are transformed, judgment is rendered, and God's reign is openly manifested."		

I affirm a pre-tribulational rapture, a future tribulation, and a future reign of Christ, (ie dispensational premillennial framework)

- rapture
- openness on symbolic vs literal elements
- bounded tribulation

Take heart since the central message is...

Christ triumphs over all!

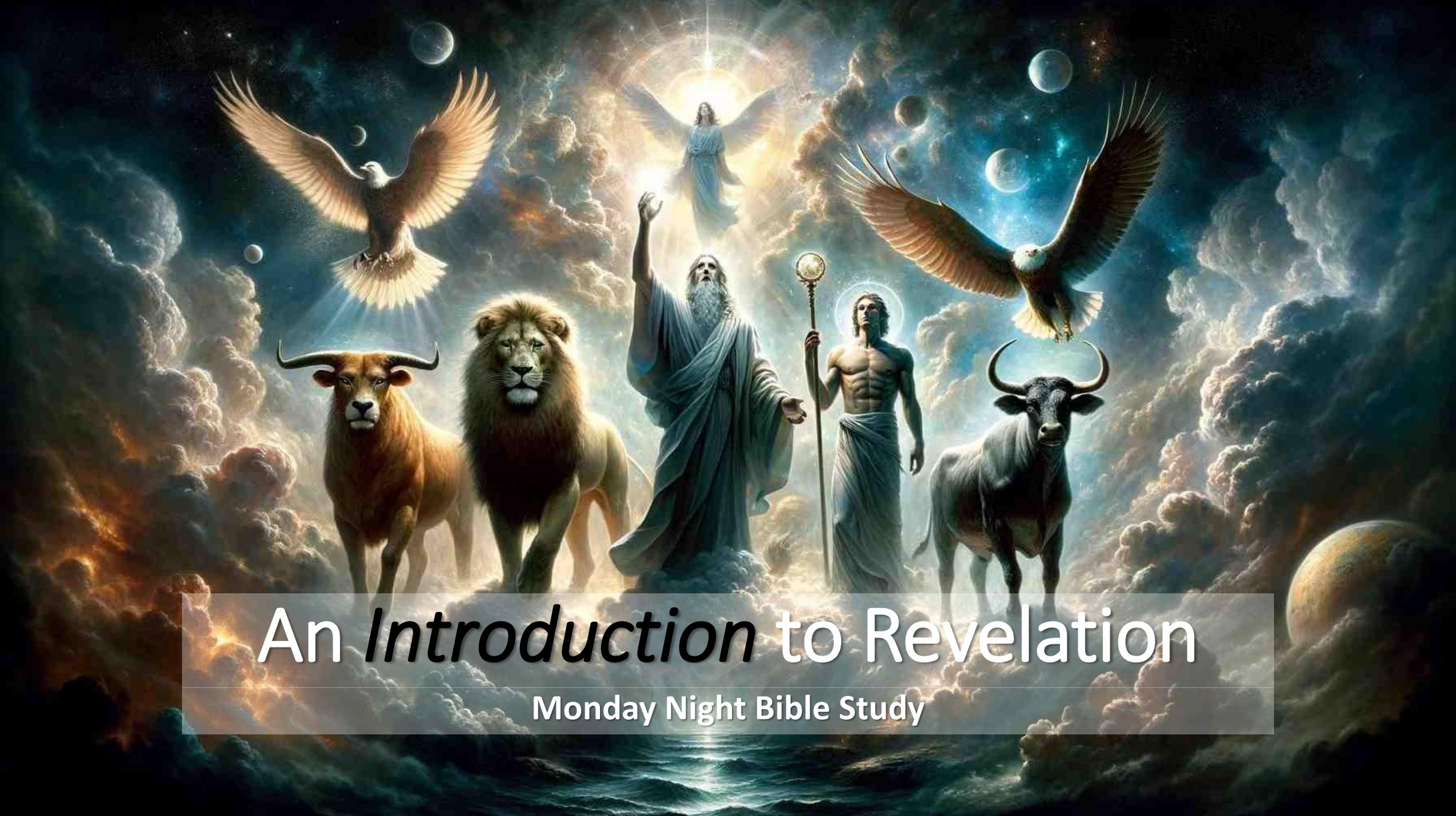
Evil and suffering will be irradiated!

All will be made brand new!



Jesus is our only hope!

Jesus is coming back!



An *Introduction* to Revelation

Monday Night Bible Study

Our next study will be....

Vote Results...

Topic	Frank	Douglas Driver <dlijkd	Hal Swanson <halmsv	Larry Caminiti <camde	Paul Esser <pkesser@	David Caldwell <caldw	Scott Sawyer <dirtyd	Chandler Eason <char	Bill Smith <da190@ac	Ed Meyer <ed.meyer2	Rod Helms <helmsfan	Kaveh Gooyandeh <k	Lyle Bowman <lylebo	Tom Cayton <tomclar	Paul Mansfield <man:	Ron Glaum <ronglaun	Dan Ashton <danbar	Reid Napoleon <rvnaf	Brian Esser <Sixtyeigh	Erik Norton	Gary Allen	george lazar	Rank	
James - A letter telling Christians to live in ways that dem								2	2			1							1				5	
Judges - Israel enters a cycle of turning from God, falling c					1	1							2			2							5	
Daniel - Daniel becomes a high-ranking wise man in the B	1				2	1			1			2				1							7	
Job - Satan attacks a righteous man named Job, and Job a	2						2																3	
Ruth - Two widows lose everything, and find hope in Israe						2													2				3	
Jonah - A disobedient prophetic runs from God, is swallowe																							1	
Isaiah - God sends the prophet Isaiah to warn Israel of fut													1										2	
Ester - Someone hatches a genocidal plot to bring about l																							1	
Paul's Letters (in chronological order) 74 Chapters total																							1	
Other? - Suggest something...								Roma Acts															1	
Votes Cast Count	2	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	23	10

Book of Daniel !

- 12 Chapters
- Written by Daniel, a Jewish exile in Babylon around the events occurring circa. 605–536 BC
- Purpose:
 - Encourage faithfulness under persecution.
 - Affirm God's sovereignty over pagan kingdoms.
 - Provide hope through divine deliverance and future vindication.



Our Next Study is February 16th

Appendix

Eschatology – Biblical “End of Times” Literature

Old Testament

- Daniel: Contains prophecies about future kingdoms and the end times, including visions of the "end of days."
- Ezekiel: Discusses the restoration of Israel and prophecies related to the end times.
- Joel: Speaks of the "Day of the Lord," a significant theme in end times prophecy.
- Zechariah: Contains prophecies about the coming of the Lord and the final battle.
- Isaiah: Includes visions of the new heaven and new earth, relevant to eschatological themes.

New Testament

- Matthew: Includes Jesus' teachings on the signs of the end times, particularly in chapters 24 and 25.
- Mark: Similar to Matthew, it discusses the end times in chapter 13.
- Luke: Also addresses the end times, particularly in chapter 21.
- 1 Thessalonians: Contains teachings about the return of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead.
- 2 Timothy: Warns about the difficult times in the last days and the behaviors to expect.
- Hebrews: Mentions the finality of God's revelation in Christ, hinting at the end times.
- Book of Revelation: The most prominent book discussing the end times, featuring apocalyptic visions and prophecies about the Second Coming of Christ.

Summary of their Best Arguments!

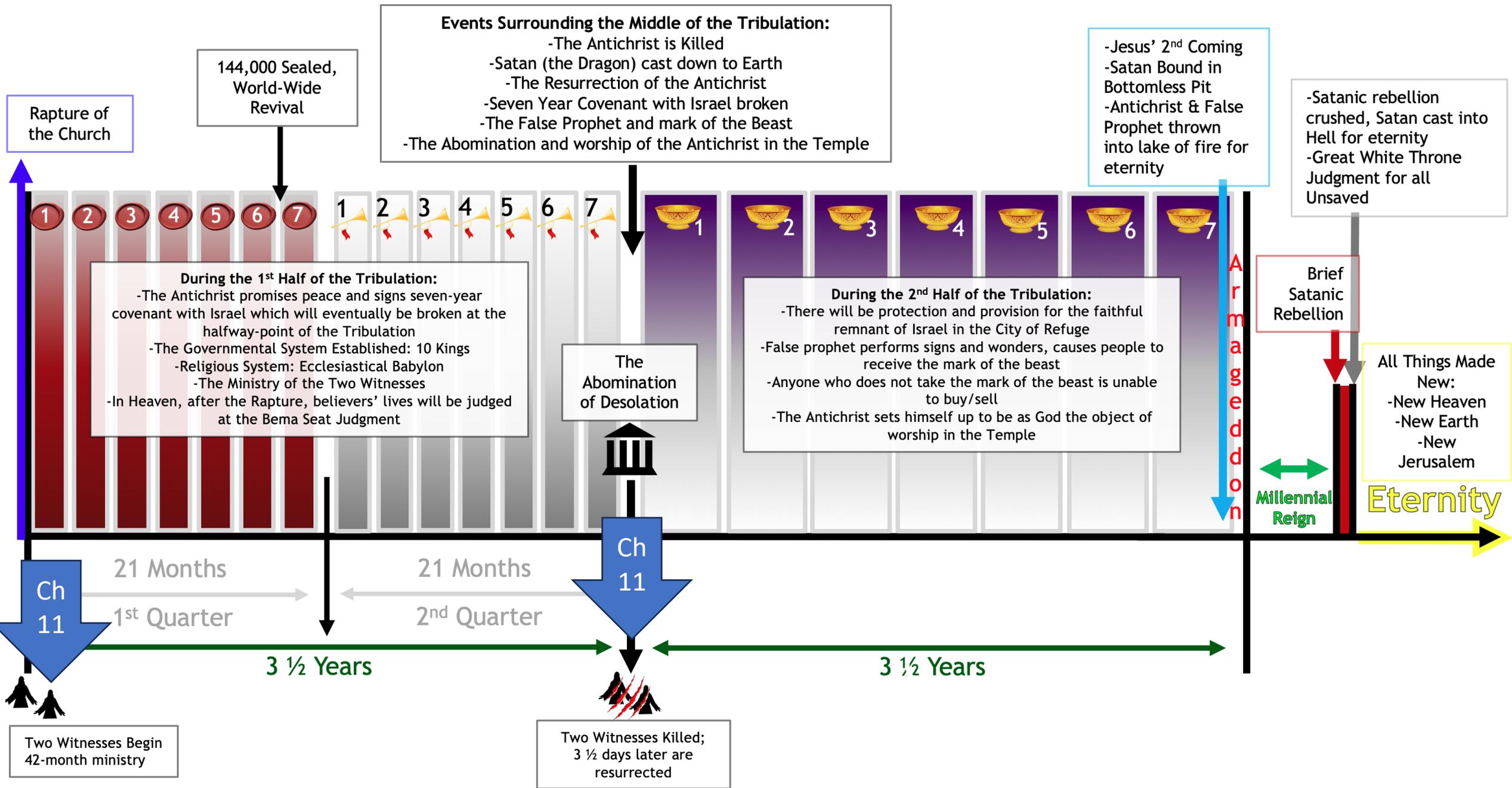
THEME	DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENNIALISM (RAPTURE)	AMILLENNIALISM (NO DISTINCT RAPTURE)
Christ's Return	Two stages: (1) Rapture of church, (2) Visible return with church to rule (Rev. 19–20).	One climactic return of Christ—no gap (John 6:39–40; 2 Thess. 1:7–10).
1 Thessalonians 4:16–17	Believers “caught up” = distinct rapture before tribulation.	The word is “meet” (apantēsis) = greeting Christ and escorting Him to earth immediately.
1 Corinthians 15:51–52	Instant transformation of believers fits the rapture event.	Transformation happens at Christ's final coming, same time as judgment.
John 14:2–3	Christ takes believers away to heaven (rapture promise).	Jesus' promise is ultimate fellowship in new creation, not a secret removal.
Revelation 3:10	Christ promises to keep believers from (ek – out of) the “hour of trial” (rapture protection).	“Keep from” = preserve through tribulation, not remove from earth (cf. John 17:15).
Daniel 9:24–27	A future 7-year tribulation, with Israel and church distinct.	Fulfilled in Christ; no future 7-year gap.
Resurrection	First resurrection (Rev. 20:4–5) = physical, before millennium. Second resurrection = after millennium.	Only one general resurrection on “the last day” (John 6:40; Acts 24:15).
Millennium (Rev. 20:1–6)	Literal 1,000-year earthly reign of Christ after His return.	Symbolic: Christ reigns now in heaven; “first resurrection” = spiritual/new birth or martyrs' souls.
Judgment	Two stages: judgment for believers (reward) and later judgment for unbelievers.	One final judgment for all at Christ's return (Matt. 13:39–43; 25:31–46).
God's Wrath	Believers removed before tribulation (1 Thess. 1:10).	Believers endure tribulation but are spiritually kept safe (Rev. 7:14).

Additional Study Resources

The symbolism and imagery is so complex, it may help to see some additional visuals and interpretations.

- <https://revelationstudyguide.org/>
- https://cdn.ttb.org/literature/bible_companions/TTB_Revelation+Bible+Companion.pdf
- https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/revelation/revelation-1.cfm
- [Graphical Overview Part One](#) (11:48)
- [Graphical Overview Part Two](#) (11:50)
- [This 2 1/2-hour AI generated movie](#) remains faithful to the Word, and while it does make a few image errors and quotes extra-biblical info, it is worth watching. (I watched at 1.5 speed). (Note I have not previewed nor do I endorse all of their other videos)
- [view this brief commentary](#) of Revelation, or even download [a free PDF of the entire bible commentary](#))
- Review this [one paragraph summary](#) of each chapter
- Or this [brief chapter by chapter](#) summary
- [Listen to a Millennialism Comparison](#) (rev 20:1-10) (38:46) – (Amillennial leaning)
- Listen to [a complete chapter by chapter sermon series on the Book of Revelation](#) by David Guzik (premillennialist)
- Watch reformer RC Sproul who offers [this video on Revelation](#) (26:23). And also, [this 12-message series](#) titled "The Last Days According to Jesus". (Amillennialistic)

Timeline is not to scale



Summaries for Video Posts

- Revelation 12 – A cosmic conflict unfolds between the woman, the male child, and the dragon who wages war on the faithful.
- Revelation 13 – Two beasts arise to enforce global deception, persecution, and false worship.
- Revelation 14 – Final warnings are issued as the Lamb gathers His own and God’s harvest judgment begins.
- Revelation 15 – Heaven prepares for the final bowl judgments, celebrating God’s righteous works.
- Revelation 16 – Seven bowls of wrath complete God’s judgments and darken the kingdom of the beast.
- Revelation 17 – The mystery of Babylon the Great and her alliance with the world’s powers is unveiled.
- Revelation 18 – Babylon’s sudden fall is lamented by the nations while heaven rejoices at God’s justice.
- Revelation 19 – Christ returns in glory, judging His enemies and celebrating the marriage supper of the Lamb.
- Revelation 20 – Satan is bound, the saints reign with Christ, final judgment occurs, and evil is destroyed forever.
- Revelation 21 – God unveils the new heaven, new earth, and the New Jerusalem where He dwells with His people.
- Revelation 22 – The vision concludes with the promise of Christ’s imminent return and a final call to come.