



# Interpreting Revelation

# 4 Interpretive Principles

## ***Principle #1:***

Follow the normal sense unless it's nonsense

- 144,000 witnesses of Israel (7:4)
- 1000 years of saints' reign (20:4)
- 1260 days of prophesying (11:3)
- 3½ days of death (11:9)
- Euphrates dries up (16:12)

# What happens when the normal use of language is not followed?



**200 million  
soldiers!**



## Revelation 9:13-16

<sup>13</sup>Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice speaking from the four horns of the gold altar that stands in the presence of God. <sup>14</sup>And the voice said to the sixth angel who held the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great Euphrates River." <sup>15</sup>Then the four angels who had been prepared for this hour and day and month and year were turned loose to **kill one-third of all the people on earth.** <sup>16</sup>I heard the size of their army, which was **200 million mounted troops.**

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- Euphrates dries up (16:12)
- Weights (Rev. 16:21)

# 75-Pound Hailstones

Revelation 16:21 (Bowl #7)

There was a terrible hailstorm, and **hailstones weighing seventy-five pounds fell** from the sky onto the people below. They cursed God because of the terrible plague of the hailstorm.



The largest single hailstone ever recorded in the United States was 7" in diameter, 18.75" around, and weighed in at just under 1 pound. Imagine a large cantaloupe falling from the sky at nearly 100 miles per hour! That hailstone fell during a storm in Aurora, Nebraska. The heaviest hailstone in the U.S. was 1.67 pounds and fell in Coffeyville, Kansas in 1970.



# 4 Interpretive Principles

127

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- Euphrates dries up (16:12)
- Weights (16:21) and lengths (21:16)
- The Number 7 (1:4, 12, 16, etc.)

# The Number of Completion

- **Creation** Gen. 2:2
- **Rain** Gen. 7:4
- **Sabbath** Ex. 20:10
- **Jericho** Josh. 6:4
- **Sons** Job 1:2; Ruth 4:15
- **Prophecy** Dan. 9:24
- **Forgive** Matt. 18:21



# Revelation

## Completion

- Churches 1:4a
- Spirits 1:4b
- Lampstands 1:12
- Stars 1:16
- Seals 5:1
- Eyes 5:6
- Angels 8:2



# Revelation

## Completion

- Trumpets 8:2
- Peals 10:3
- 7000 killed 11:13
- Heads 12:3a
- Diadems 12:3b
- Plagues 15:1
- Bowls 15:7



# Revelation Completion

- Mountains 17:9
- Kings 17:10
- Beatitudes 1:3;  
14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6;  
22:7, 14



# Four Views on Revelation 6–18

Revelation 6–18 depicts which era?



Preterist

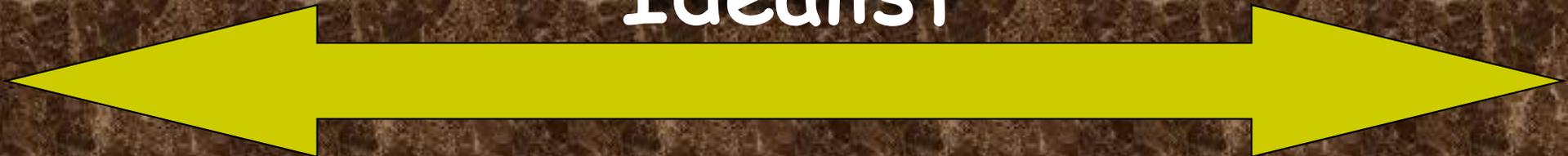
Book  
Written  
AD 95

Historicist

Book  
Read  
Today

Futurist

Idealist



# Revelation 11

## A Test Case in Hermeneutics

I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."



# Revelation 11

<b>Term or Expression</b>	<b>Beale</b> <i>Symbolic</i>	<b>Osborne</b> <i>Symbolic-Literal</i>	<b>Thomas</b> <i>Literal</i>
<p>1 "measure" (11:1)</p>  A close-up photograph of a person's hand touching a vertical golden measuring rod. The rod has some faint markings and text on it, including the number '1' and the word 'The rod'. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.	<p>"the infallible promise of God's future presence"; "the protection of God's eschatological community"; "until the parousia"</p>	<p>"preservation of the saints spiritually in the coming great persecution"; "a prophetic anticipation of the final victory of the church"</p>	<p>"a mark of God's favor"</p>

# Revelation 11

<b>Term or Expression</b>	<b>Beale</b> <i>Symbolic</i>	<b>Osborne</b> <i>Symbolic-Literal</i>	<b>Thomas</b> <i>Literal</i>
2 "the temple ( <i>naon</i> )" (11:1) 	"the temple of the church"; "Christians"; "the whole covenant community"; "...believers undergoing persecution yet protected by God"	heavenly temple depicting "the church, primarily the saints of this final period but secondarily the church of all ages"	"a future temple in Jerusalem during the period just before Christ returns"

# Revelation 11

<b>Term or Expression</b>	<b>Beale</b> <i>Symbolic</i>	<b>Osborne</b> <i>Symbolic-Literal</i>	<b>Thomas</b> <i>Literal</i>
3 "the altar" (11:1)	"the suffering covenant community"	the [heavenly] altar of incense"	"the brazen altar of sacrifice in the court outside the sanctuary"





# Revelation 11



<b>Term or Expression</b>	<b>Beale</b> <i>Symbolic</i>	<b>Osborne</b> <i>Symbolic-Literal</i>	<b>Thomas</b> <i>Literal</i>
8 "the Gentiles" (11:2)	"the Gentiles and Jews"	"the church handed over to the Gentiles/nations for a time"	"a group [of non-Jews] in rebellion against God who will oppress the Jewish remnant"

# Revelation 11

129

Term or Expression	Beale <i>Symbolic</i>	Osborne	Thomas
10 "the holy city" (11:2)	"the initial form of the heavenly city, part of which is identified with believers living on earth"		

# Revelation 11

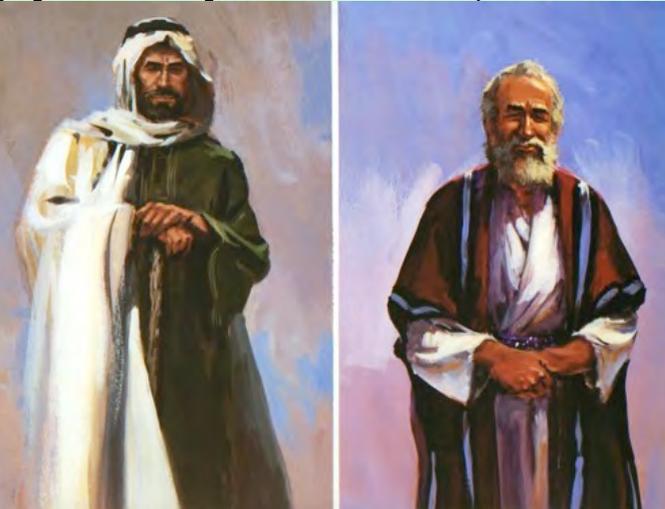
<b>Term or Expression</b>	<b>Beale</b> <i>Symbolic</i>	<b>Osborne</b> <i>Symbolic-Literal</i>	<b>Thomas</b> <i>Literal</i>
<b>11</b> <b>"forty-two months"</b> <b>(11:2)</b>	<b>"figurative for the eschatological period of tribulation";</b> <b>"attack on the community of faith throughout the church age"</b>	<b>"the great tribulation at the end of history"</b>	<b>"the last half of Daniel's seventieth week"</b>



# The Two Olive Trees (11:4)

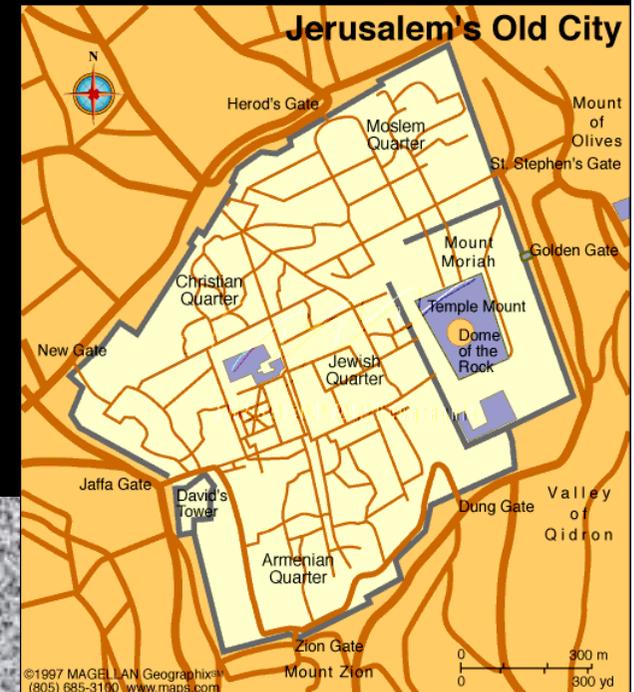


# Revelation 11

<b>Term or Expression</b>	<b>Beale</b> <i>Symbolic</i>	<b>Osborne</b> <i>Symbolic-Literal</i>	<b>Thomas</b> <i>Literal</i>
<b>12</b> <b>"the two witnesses"</b> <b>(11:3)</b>	<b>the church;</b> <b>"the whole community of faith"</b>	<b>"two major eschatological figures... as a symbol for the witnessing church"</b>	<b>two future prophets, probably Moses and Elijah</b>
			

# Revelation 11

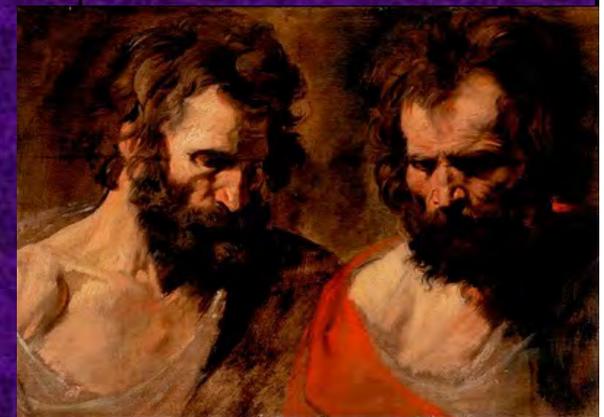
<b>Term or Expression</b>	<b>Beale</b> <i>Symbolic</i>	<b>Osborne</b> <i>Symbolic-Literal</i>	<b>Thomas</b> <i>Literal</i>
<b>13</b> <b>"the great city"</b> <b>(11:8)</b>	<b>"Babylon"</b> <b>= "Rome"</b> <b>= "the ungodly world"</b>	<b>Jerusalem</b> <b>and Rome;</b> <b>secondarily</b> <b>, all cities</b> <b>that oppose</b> <b>God</b>	<b>Jerusalem</b>



# Revelation 11

130

Term or Expression	Beale <i>Symbolic</i>	Osborne <i>Symbolic-Literal</i>	Thomas <i>Literal</i>
14 the resurrection and ascension of the two witnesses (11:11-12)	"divine legitimization of a prophetic call"	"A proleptic anticipation of the 'rapture' of the church"	the resurrection of the two witnesses



Let's now put each  
view into paragraph  
form like the passage

# Revelation 11 - Beale (Symbolic)

130

<sup>1</sup> I was given a reed symbolizing the infallible promise of God's future presence and was told, "Go and protect God's eschatological community (which is the temple of the church) until the parousia and protect the suffering covenant community and count the believers worshiping together in the temple community. <sup>2</sup> But exclude God's true people, including Gentiles; do not protect this suffering covenant community of Gentiles and Jews because they are not protected from various forms of earthly harm (physical, economic, social, etc.). They will attack and persecute the whole community of faith throughout the church age which is the initial form of the heavenly city, part of which is identified with believers living on earth for the eschatological period of tribulation. <sup>3</sup> And I will give power to the church, and this whole community of faith will prophesy for the eschatological period of tribulation... [but after being killed] <sup>8</sup> their bodies will lie in the street of Babylon or Rome which means the ungodly world [then they will receive] <sup>11-</sup>  
<sup>12</sup> divine legitimization of a prophetic call.

# Revelation 11 - Osborne (Symbolic-Literal)

130

<sup>1</sup>I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and preserve the saints spiritually in the coming great persecution (but secondarily the church of all ages) in anticipation of their final victory and measure (preserve?) the [heavenly] altar of incense, and count the individual believers in the church or at the altar. <sup>2</sup>But exclude the saints who are persecuted... because they have not been protected from Gentiles/nations as God delivers his followers into the hands of sinners for a time. The saints will suffer incredibly in a physical sense in the people of God for the 'great tribulation' at the end of history. <sup>3</sup>And I will give power to my witnessing church, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth... [but after being killed] <sup>8</sup>their bodies will lie in the street of Jerusalem and Rome which secondarily refer to all cities that oppose God [then they will receive] <sup>11-12</sup> a proleptic anticipation of the 'rapture' of the church.

# Revelation 11 - Thomas (Literal)

130

<sup>1</sup> I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure as a mark of God's favor the future temple in Jerusalem during the period just before Christ returns and the brazen altar of sacrifice in the court outside the sanctuary, and count the future godly remnant in Israel in the rebuilt temple. <sup>2</sup> But do not measure as a mark of God's favor the wicked without God... because they have been excluded from God's favor [and are] a group [of non-Jews] in rebellion against God who will oppress the Jewish remnant. They will trample <sup>3</sup> on Jerusalem for the last half of Daniel's seventieth week. <sup>3</sup> And I will give power to my two future prophets (probably Moses and Elijah), and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth... [but after being killed] <sup>8</sup> their bodies will lie in the street of Jerusalem [then three and a half days later will] <sup>11-12</sup> be resurrected.

# 4 Interpretative Principles

## ***Principle #2:***

Be consistent with Daniel's parallel prophecy



# Daniel

- Ten-horned Beast
- 7-year covenant
- 1290/1260-day trial



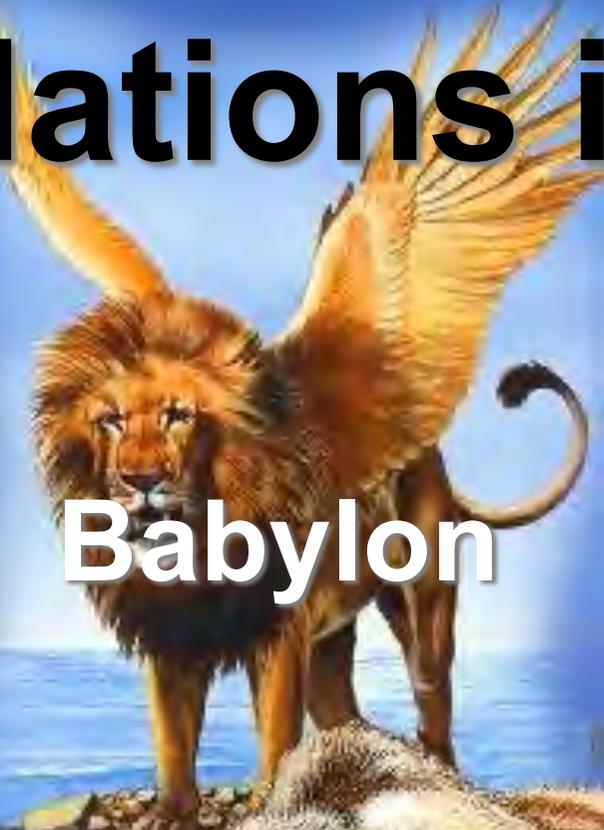
# Outline of Daniel

131

## UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGNTY IN TIMES OF THE GENTILES

<b>Sovereignty over Daniel</b>			<b>Sovereignty over Gentiles</b>						<b>Sovereignty over Jews</b>		
<b>Chapter 1</b>			<b>Chapters 2–7</b>						<b>Chapters 8–12</b>		
<b>Narrative</b>			<b>Visions in Narrative</b>						<b>Vision</b>		
<b>Hebrew</b>			<b>Aramaic</b>						<b>Hebrew</b>		
<b>Gentile Names for God</b>			<b>Gentile Names for God</b>						<b>Jewish Names for God</b>		
<b>Third person ("Daniel")</b>			<b>Third person ("Daniel")</b>						<b>First person ("I")</b>		
<b>Daniel's Example</b>			<b>Daniel Interprets King's Dreams</b>						<b>Angel Interprets Daniel's Dreams</b>		
<b>The Man Daniel</b>			<b>Images</b>		<b>Kings</b>				<b>Israel's Future</b>		
<b>Exile</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Exalted</b>	<b>Varied</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Neb.</b>	<b>Bel.</b>	<b>Dar.</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Medo-Persia To Greece</b>	<b>Return to Seventy "7s"</b>	<b>Intertestament Period to Tribulation</b>
			2	3	4	5	6	7			
1:1-7	1:8-16	1:17-21	Promoted	Furnace	Exile	Party	Lions	Beasts	8	9	10-12
<b>Babylon</b>											
<b>605-536 BC</b>											

# Nations in Daniel 7



Babylon

A golden winged lion with a large, flowing mane, standing on a rocky outcrop. Its wings are spread wide, and it has a human-like face. The background is a blue sky and sea.



Greece

A golden winged leopard with a spotted coat, standing on a rocky outcrop. It has four wings and a human-like face. The background is a blue sky and sea.



Medo-Persia

A large brown bear with thick fur, standing in shallow water. It has its mouth open, showing its teeth and tongue. The background is a blue sky and sea.



Rome

A green dragon with a long tail and a crown of spikes on its head. It is standing on a rocky outcrop, holding a small object in its mouth. The background is a blue sky and sea.

# Beast 1: Winged Lion (Babylon) <sup>131</sup>



# Beast 2: Bear (Medo-Persia)

131



# Beast 3: Leopard (Greece)

131



# Beast 4: Terrifying (Rome)

131



**Daniel 7:7**

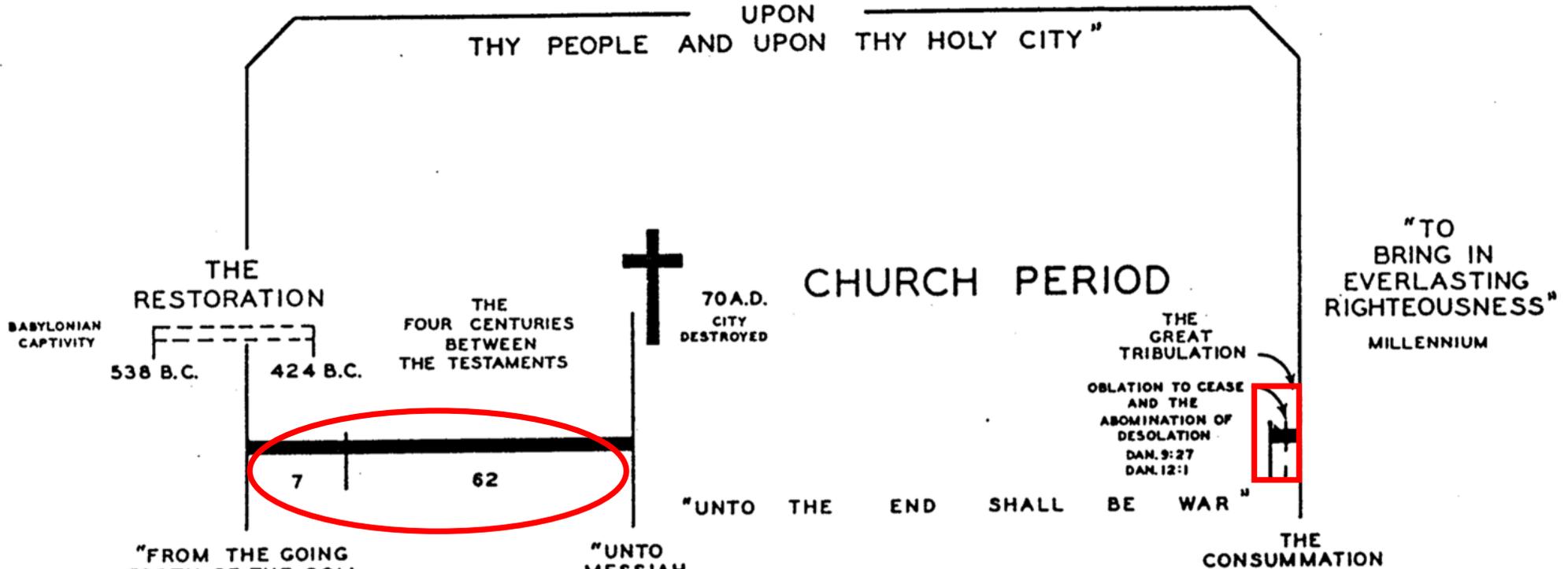
# Little Horn on Beast 4 (Antichrist)



**Daniel 7:8**

# Daniel's 70 Weeks (Dan. 9:24-27)

"SEVENTY WEEKS ARE DETERMINED  
UPON  
THY PEOPLE AND UPON THY HOLY CITY"



"FROM THE GOING FORTH OF THE COMMANDMENT TO RESTORE AND TO BUILD JERUSALEM"

NEHEMIAH 2:1-8  
444 B.C.

69 Weeks

444 BC



"UNTO MESSIAH THE PRINCE"  
ZECH. 9:9  
LUKE 19:28-29  
33 A.D.

MESSIAH CUT OFF  
"AFTER" 69TH WEEK  
AD 33

THE SEVENTY WEEKS  
— OF —

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET DANIEL  
CHAPTER 9:24-27

# Dating Daniel's Seventy Weeks

**March 5, 444 B.C.**  
 Nisan 1 of Artaxerxes' 20th Year  
 Nehemiah 2:1-8

**March 30, A.D. 33**  
 Triumphal Entry on Nisan 10 A.D. 33  
 Luke 19:28-40

**69 WEEKS**

**\* CHURCH  
 AGE**

**70th WEEK**

1/2 Week

1/2 Week

$69 \times 7 \times 360 = 173,880$  days  
 March 5, 444 B.C. + 173,880 days = March 30, A.D. 33

## Verification

444 B.C. to A.D. 33 = 476 years

476 years  $\times$  365.24219879 days = 173,855 days  
 + days between March 5 & March 30 = 25 days  
 173,880 days

\*Messiah cut off after 69 weeks—April 3, A.D. 33.

## Rationale for 360-Day Years

1/2 week—Dan. 9:27

Time, times, 1/2 time—Dan. 7:25, 12:7;  
 Rev. 12:14

1,260 days—Rev. 12:6, 11:3

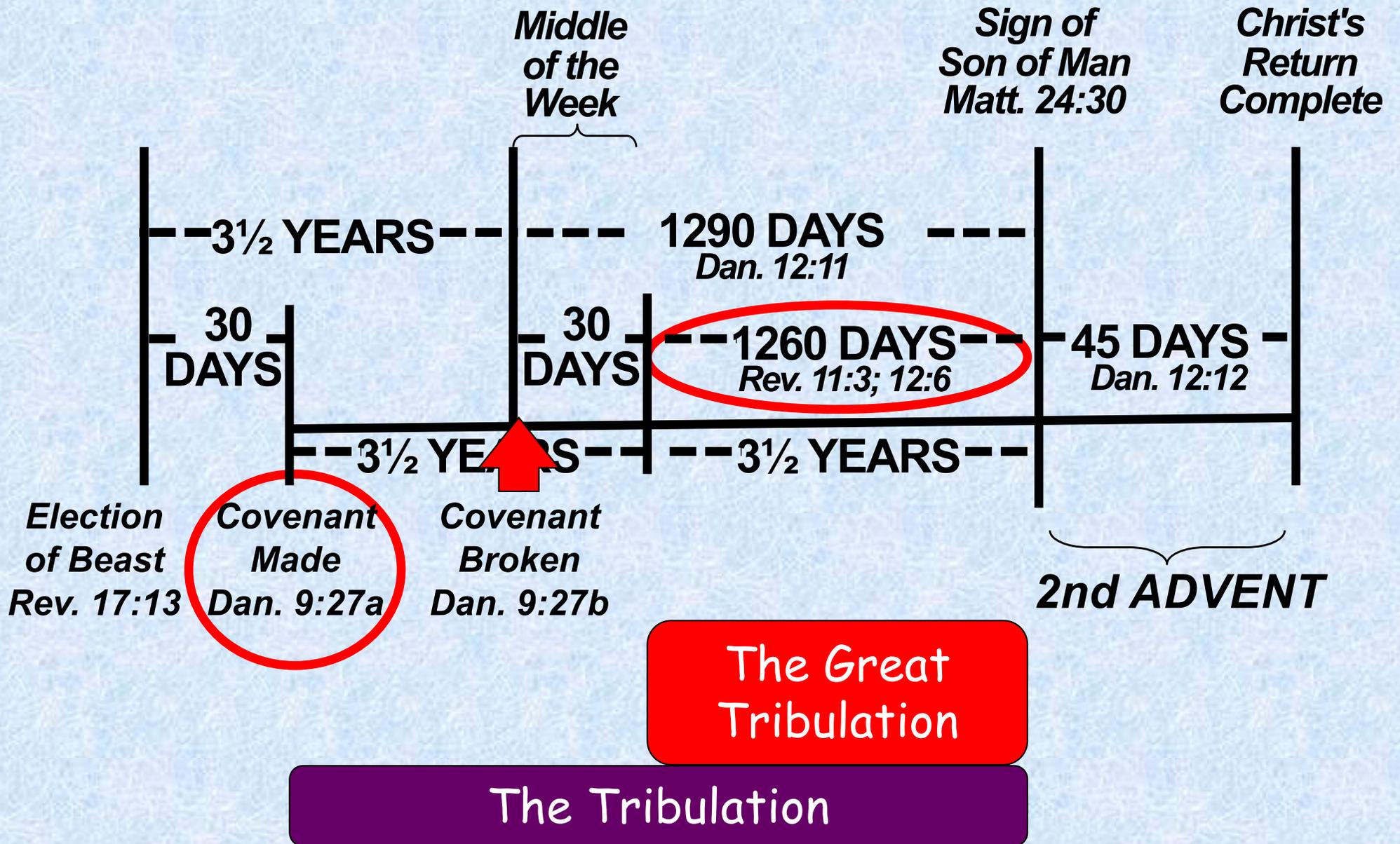
42 months—Rev. 11:2, 13:5

Thus: 42 months = 1,260 days = time,  
 times, 1/2 time = 1/2 week

Therefore: month = 30 days; year = 360 days

# Chronology of the 70<sup>th</sup> "Week"

Adapted from J. Dwight Pentecost, Dallas Theological Seminary, 1988



# 4 Interpretative Principles

## *Principle #3:*

Assume a chronological order

Revelation 1:17-19 <sup>17</sup>When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. <sup>19</sup>Therefore write the things which you **have seen**, and the things which **are**, and the things which **will take place** after these things" (NAU).

**have seen**  **are**  **will take place**

# + The Recapitulation Approach

135

Christ in the Midst of the Seven Lamp Stands (1-3)

The Vision of Heaven and the Seven Seals (4-7)

The Seven Trumpets (8-11)

The Persecuting Dragon (12-14)

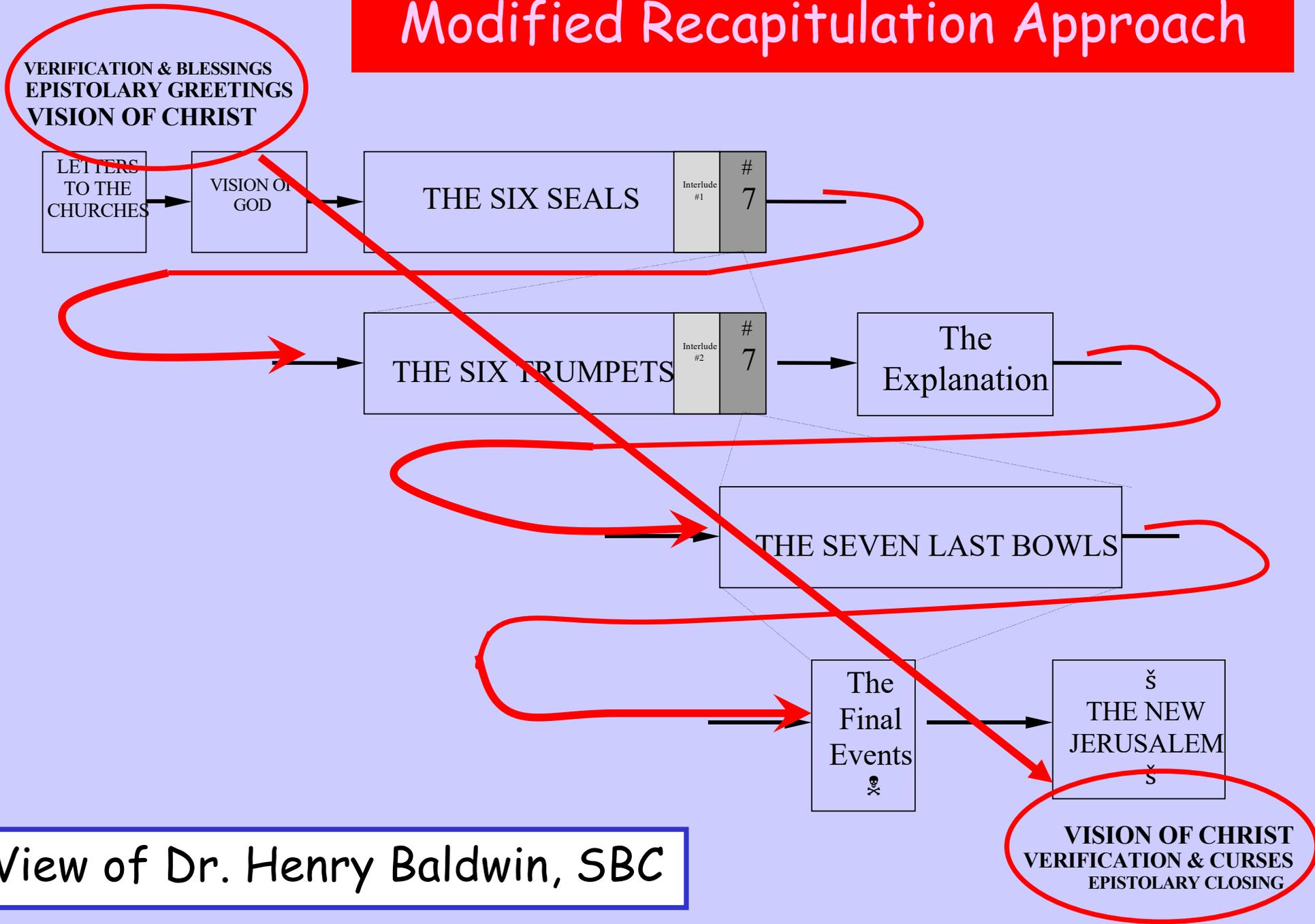
The Seven Bowls (15-16)

The Fall of Babylon (17-19)

The Great Consummation (20-22)

The present age (20:1-6) is not a literal 1000 years, comes *before* chapter 19, and is followed by a general judgment and eternity

# Modified Recapitulation Approach



View of Dr. Henry Baldwin, SBC

# Problems with Recapitulation

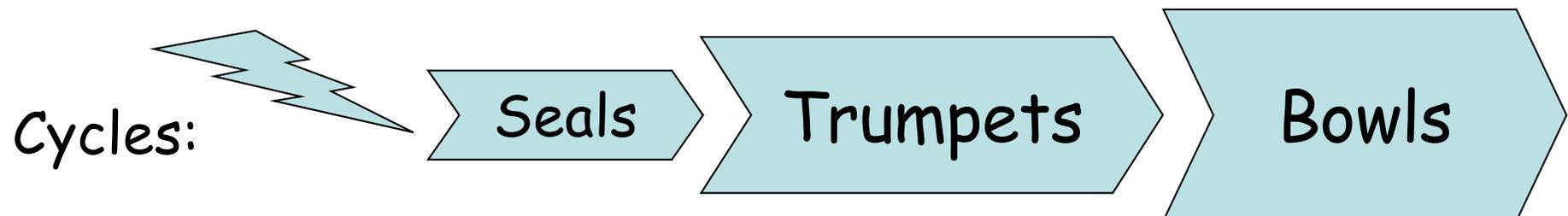
135-  
137

1. See rebuttals to the right of the Recapitulation diagram.
2. Does Christ's return really appear repeatedly in the book?

"The strongest argument for the recapitulation view is the observation of repeated combined scenes of **consummative judgment and salvation** found in **various sections** throughout the book"

--G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation*, GIGTC (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999), 121

3. Judgments increasingly **progress** and **intensify**.



# Recapitulation Critiqued

136

But 16:18-20  
earthquake is even  
worse

Actually a meteor  
shower as not all  
the stars fall

But sky not  
replaced until 21:1

But 6:16 still has  
some mountains (cf.  
16:20 "every island  
& mountain fled")

"I watched as the Lamb broke the sixth seal, and there was a great **earthquake**. The sun became as dark as black cloth, and the moon became as red as blood. <sup>13</sup>Then the **stars** of the sky fell to the earth like green figs falling from a tree shaken by a strong wind. <sup>14</sup>The **sky** was rolled up like a scroll, and all of the **mountains and islands** were moved from their places" (6:12-14 NLT).

Do chapters 4–22 refer to the present age?

- a) When did 25% of the world die (6:8)?
- b) When was there an army of 200 million (9:16; 16:12-14)?
- c) When has man witnessed 75-pound hail (16:21)?

# Content of the Judgments

	SEALS	TRUMPETS	BOWLS
1	<b>White: conqueror</b>	Hail & fire: 1/3 vegetation	Sores
2	<b>Red: war</b>	Fire: 1/3 sea creatures	Sea to blood
3	<b>Black: famine</b>	Star: 1/3 fresh water	Fresh water to blood
4	<b>Pale: death</b>	Dark: 1/3 sun, moon, stars	Sun burns men
		(Trumpets 5-7 are woes)	
5	Martyrs reassured	Woe #1: locusts	Beast's kingdom dark
6	Wrath: earthquake, signs	Woe #2: Euphrates prep	Euphrates dries up
	(144,000 sealed)	(Trump #7 = mystery)	
7	1/2 hour silence	Woe #3: victory imminent	Earthquake & hail

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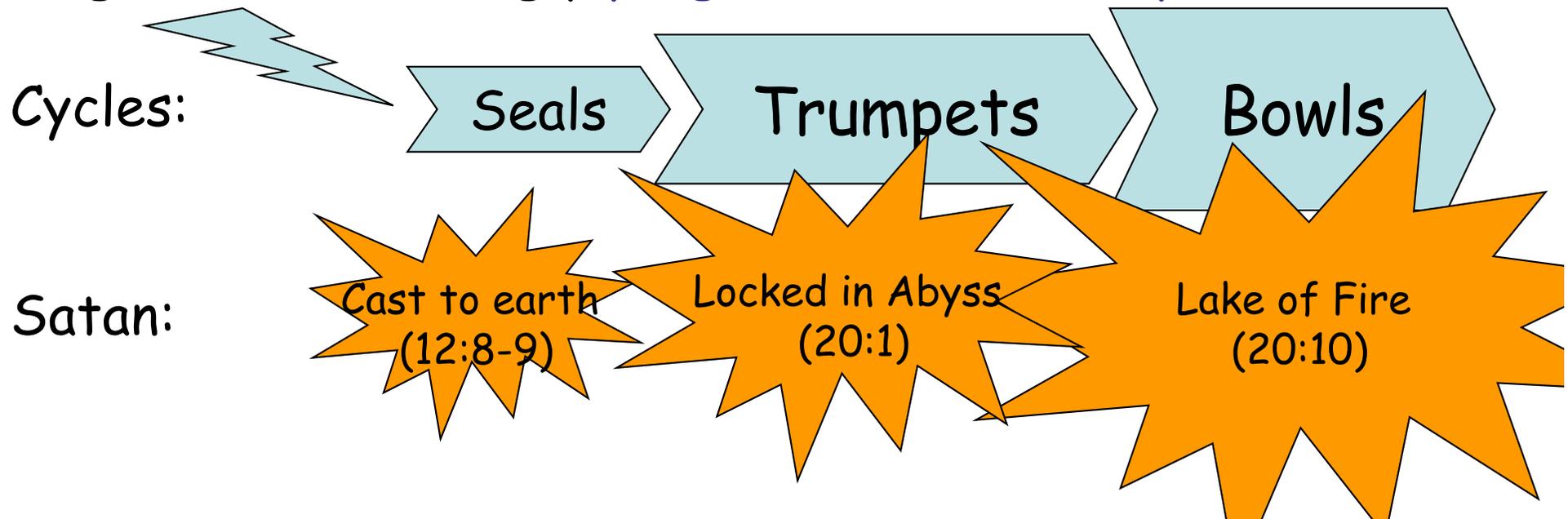
# Problems with Recapitulation

"The strongest argument for the recapitulation view is the observation of repeated combined scenes of **consummative judgment and salvation** found in **various sections** throughout the book"

**BUT...**

--G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation*, GIGTC (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999), 121

3. Judgments increasingly **progress** and **intensify**.



# 4 Interpretative Principles

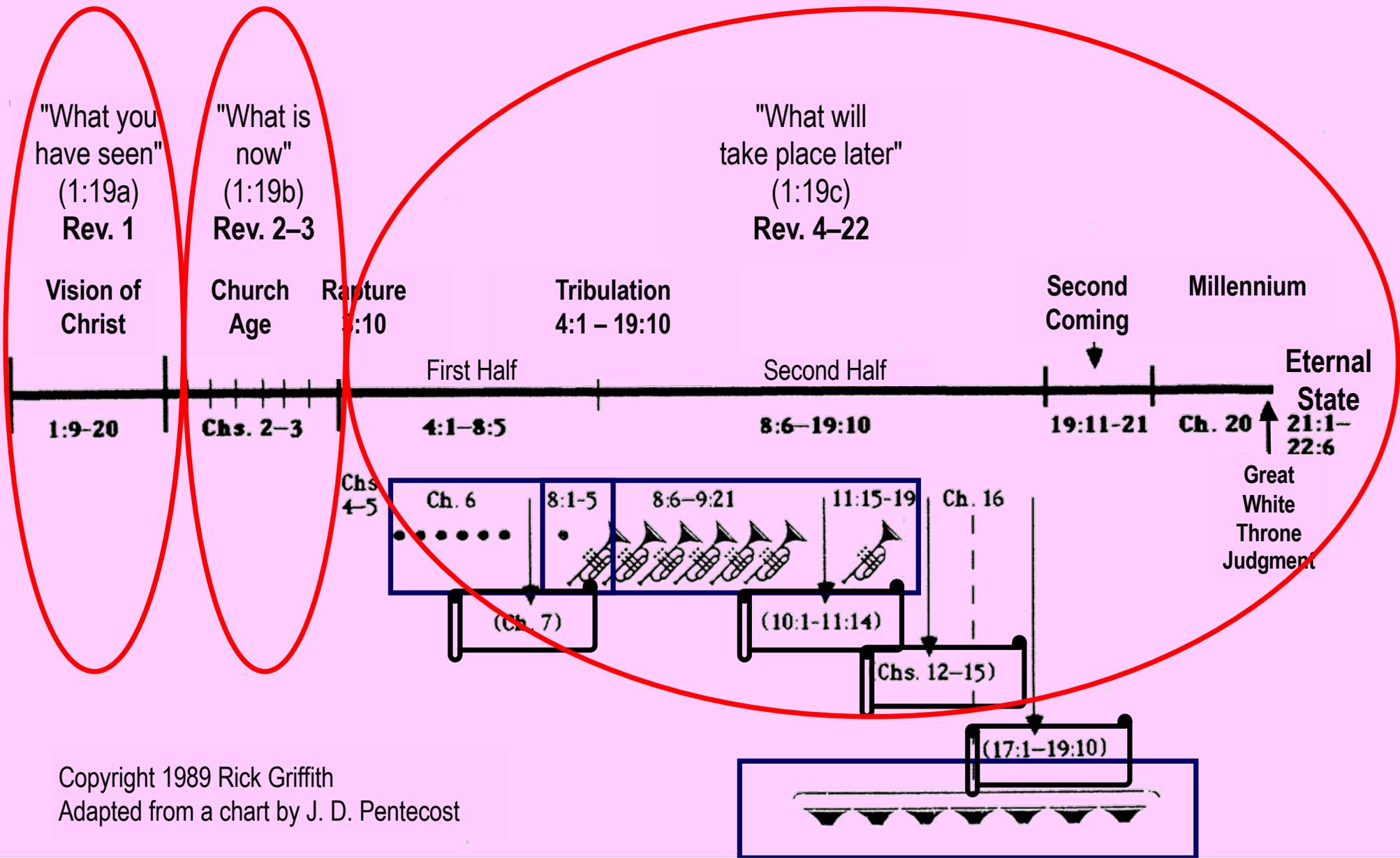
## *Principle #4:*

Use Revelation's inspired outline

Revelation 1:17-19 <sup>17</sup>When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. <sup>19</sup>Therefore write the things which you **have seen**, and the things which **are**, and the things which **will take place** after these things" (NAU).

**have seen**  **are**  **will take place**

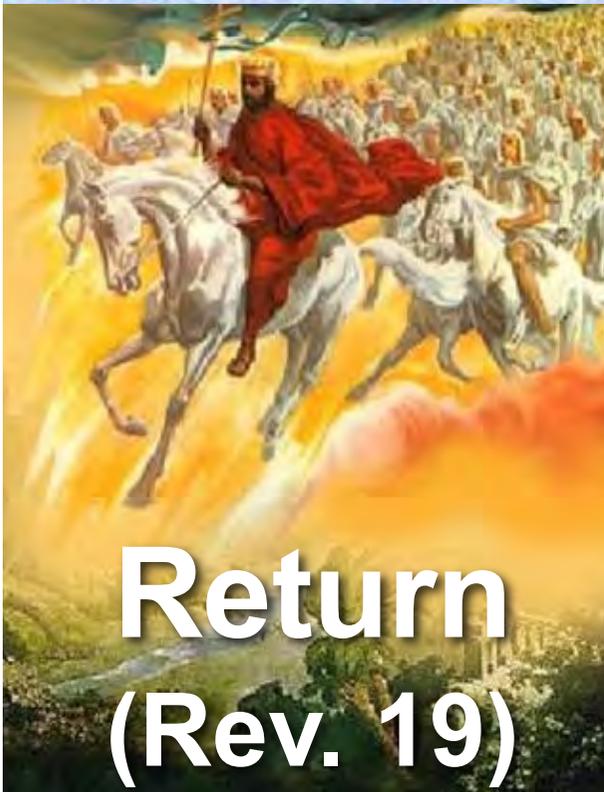
# Chronology of Revelation



Copyright 1989 Rick Griffith  
 Adapted from a chart by J. D. Pentecost

# Future Benefits

(Rev. 19–22)





**The Angel  
with the  
Great Chain  
(20:1)**

## Binding of Satan (20:2-3a NLT)

**"He seized the dragon... and bound him for 1000 years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the 1000 years were ended..."**





**Is Satan bound now?**

**Amillennialists** say **Satan is bound now** from preventing the extension of the church.

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True, but this text is not talking about preventing the spread of the gospel. It says **he will not deceive nations.**

# Does Satan deceive nations now?

## Some say "No"

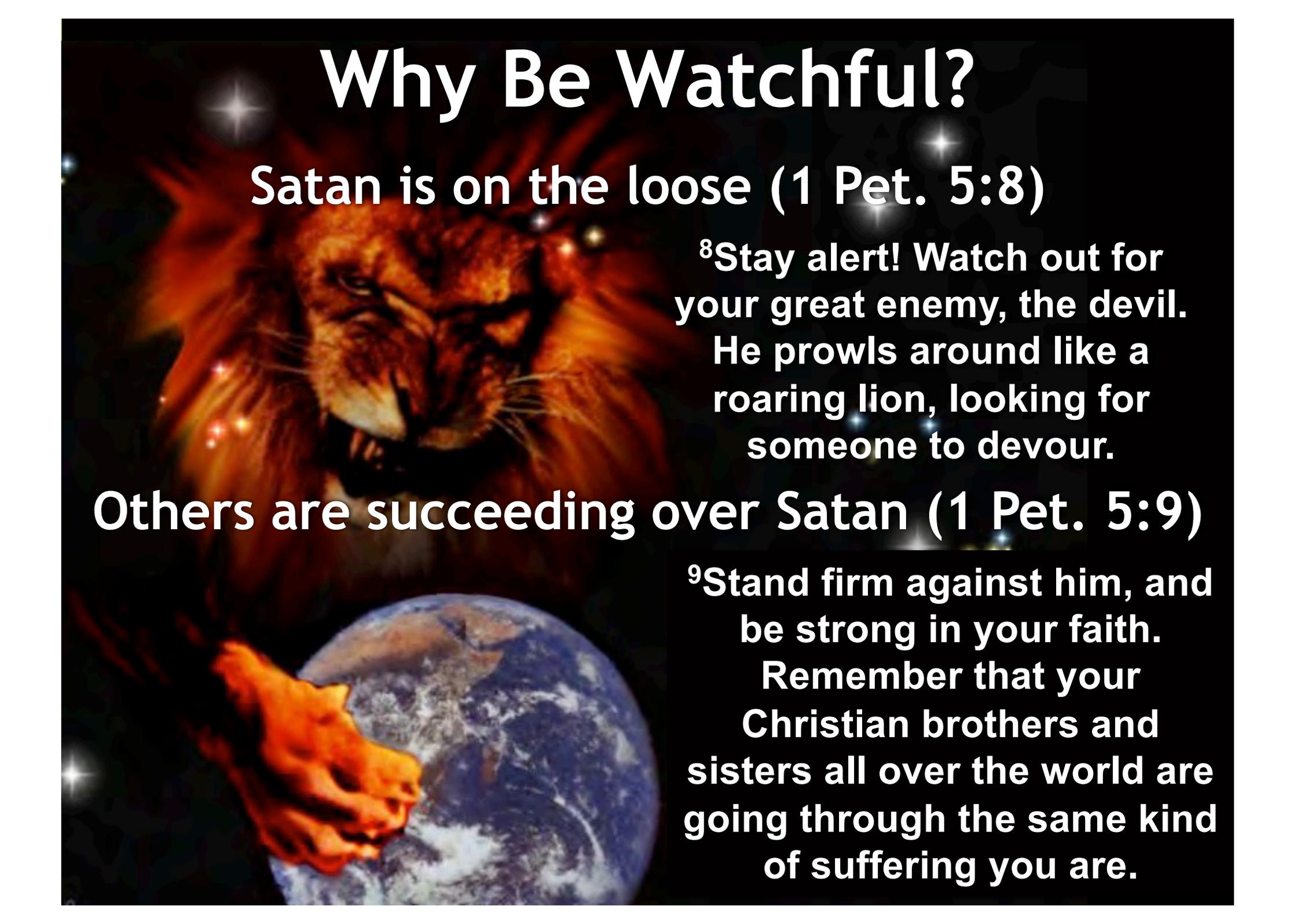
For who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man like Satan and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger—someone who could **tie him up** and then plunder his house  
(Matt. 12:29)

The time for judging this world has come, when **Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out**  
(John 12:31).

<sup>18</sup>[Jesus told the seventy-two disciples], "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! <sup>19</sup>Look, **I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy**, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you" (Luke 10:17-18)

In this way, **[Christ] disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross**  
(Col. 2:15).

# Why Be Watchful?

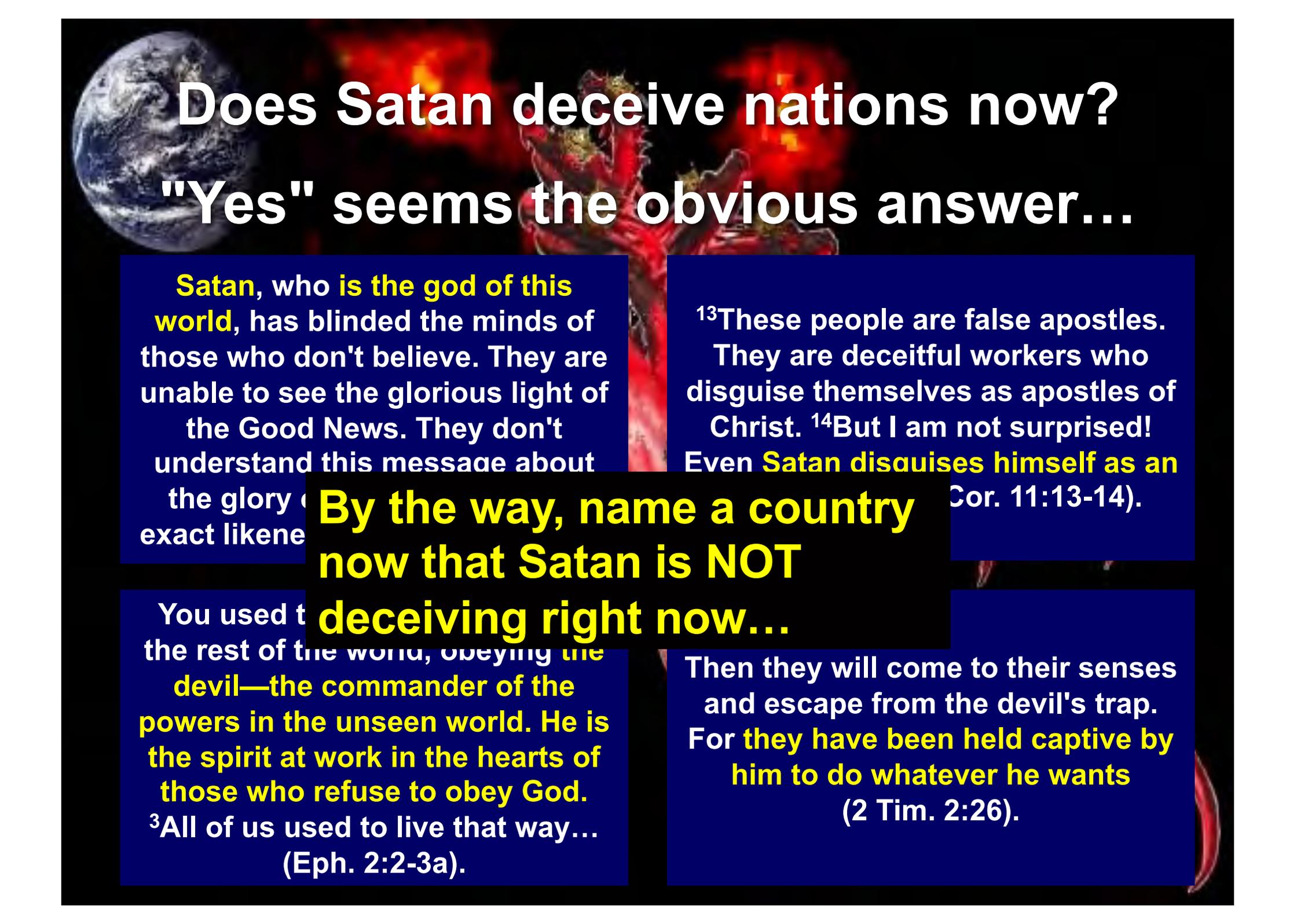
A dramatic image of a lion roaring, with its right paw resting on the Earth. The lion is depicted in a fiery, orange-red glow, set against a dark background with scattered star-like light effects. The Earth is shown in the lower-left quadrant, partially obscured by the lion's paw.

**Satan is on the loose (1 Pet. 5:8)**

**<sup>8</sup>Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.**

**Others are succeeding over Satan (1 Pet. 5:9)**

**<sup>9</sup>Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.**



# Does Satan deceive nations now?

## "Yes" seems the obvious answer...

**Satan**, who is the **god of this world**, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about

the glory of  
exact likeness

**By the way, name a country now that Satan is NOT deceiving right now...**

You used to be like the rest of the world, obeying the **devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.**

<sup>3</sup>All of us used to live that way...  
(Eph. 2:2-3a).

<sup>13</sup>These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup>But I am not surprised! Even **Satan disguises himself as an** (2 Cor. 11:13-14).

Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For **they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants** (2 Tim. 2:26).

## Revelation 20:1-3 (NAU)

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

## Revelation 20:4 (NAU)

**<sup>4</sup>Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

## Revelation 20:5-6 (NAU)

**<sup>5</sup>The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup>Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.**

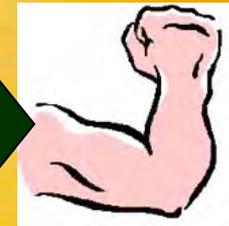
# Revelation 20:4-6 Diagrammed

4<sup>b</sup>and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a **thousand years**.



4<sup>a</sup>Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand...

1000 years



5<sup>b</sup>This is the **first resurrection**. 6<sup>a</sup>Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power...

6<sup>b</sup>but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a **thousand years**.

5<sup>a</sup>The rest of the dead did not come to life until the **thousand years** were completed.

# Purposes of the Millennium

- ① Judge angels
- ② Rule the earth
- ③ Restore world to pre-Flood era  
(long life of Isa. 65:20)
- ④ Show the human heart corrupt
- ⑤ Fulfill Abrahamic Covenant

# Kingdom & Covenants Timeline



## Kingdom Teaching...

Adam rules with God (Gen. 1:26, 28; 2:19) → Fall of Man (Gen. 3)

Satan rules as god of this world (Gen. 3:15; 2 Cor. 4:4)

God covenants with Abraham to reestablish man's rule via Israel as a "kingdom of priests" (Gen. 12:1-3; Exod. 19:6)

Israel's failure to witness to nations as a kingdom of priests is judged via exile under foreign rule

Israel rejects Messiah's offer of kingdom (Matt. 12:41-42; 23:37-39)

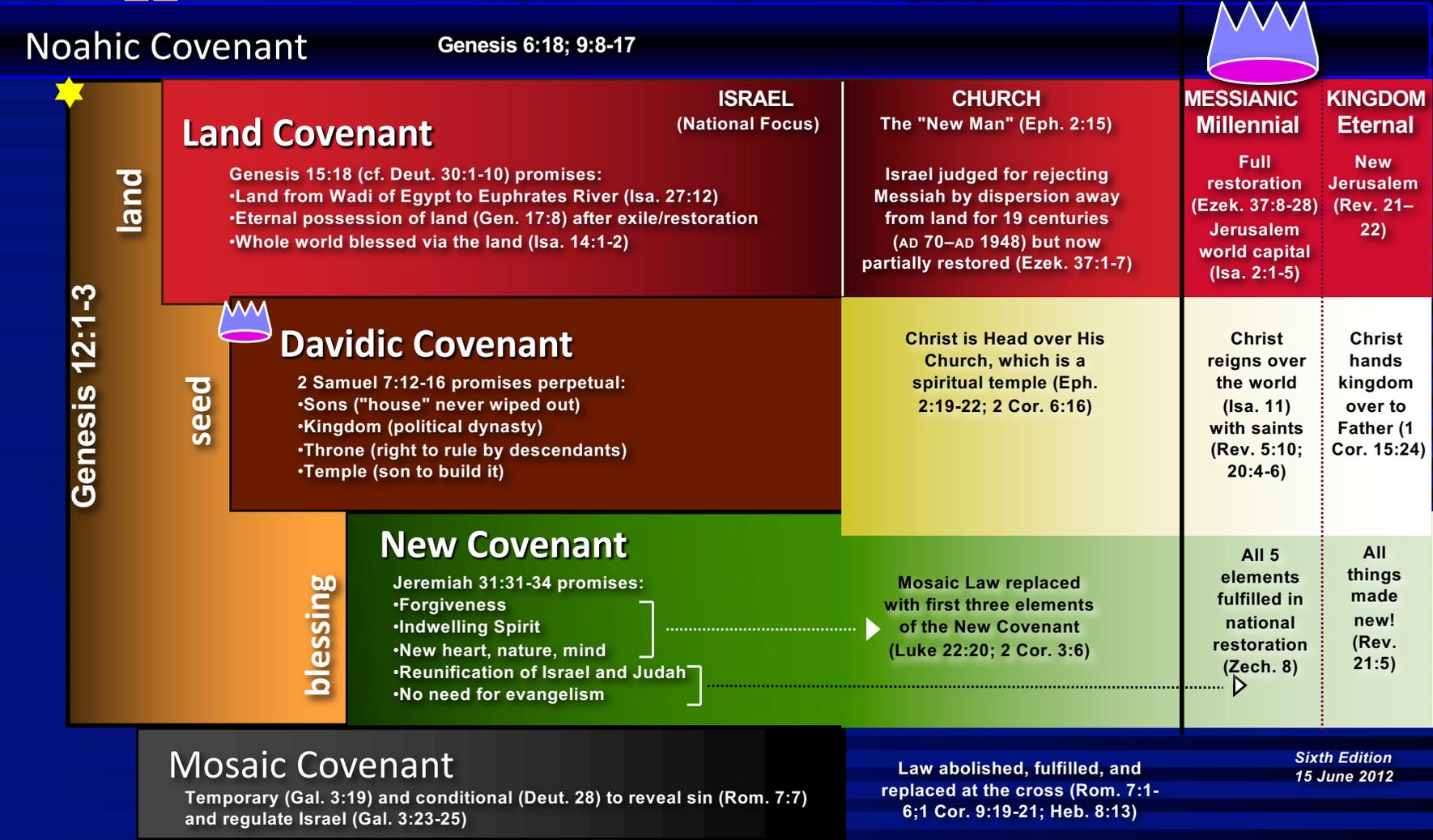
Jesus extends His kingdom in mystery form to the Church (Matt. 13)

Christ subdues Israel's enemies and nation believes (Rom. 11:26-27)

Christ rules over everything with saints (Eph. 1:9-10; Rev. 20:1-6; 22:5b)

## Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 12:1-3



Sixth Edition  
15 June 2012

Scripture has a dual kingdom-covenant emphasis. Israel's role from Abraham to Christ expands to include the Church (continuity) yet the Church never replaces the nation as the "new Israel" (discontinuity). Israel will again enjoy world prominence after trusting in Christ at His second coming.

# Does 1000 years mean 1000 years?

Beale

Response

There is  
consistent  
figura  
of num  
elsewh  
Revela  
995).

All literal

"The twelve apostles and the twelve tribes of Israel are literally twelve (21:12-14). The seven churches are in seven literal cities. Yet **confirmation of a single number in Revelation as symbolic is impossible.**"

Robert L. Thomas, Revelation 8-22,  
An Exegetical Commentary  
(Chicago: Moody, 1995), 408-9

v. 2-3)  
7:1)  
ers (9:16)  
(16:21)

# Does 1000 years mean 1000 years?

## Beale

The context has figures such as a chain, Abyss, dragon, serpent, locked, sealed, & beast.

## Response

The Abyss is a literal place (Luke 8:1) where demons are chained (2 Pet. 2:4) but can be unlocked (Rev. 9:1-2), so why can't they be *actually restrained* there?

Also, the designations at the left are literal *titles* for Satan and Antichrist.

# Does 1000 years mean 1000 years?

## Beale

The entire book has a predominantly figurative tone as in multiples of a thousand in the book (5:11; 7:4-9; 9:16; 14:1; 21:16; p. 973).

## Response

Each example cited is literal: “Thousands upon thousands” (5:11), 144,000 (7:4-9; 14:1), 200 million troops (9:16), and 12,000 stadia borders of the new Jerusalem (21:16). None are figurative! Rounding numbers does not mean they are figurative.

# Does 1000 years mean 1000 years?

## Beale

The OT contains figurative use of "1000" (p. 995).

## Response

"With the LORD, a day is as a thousand years" (Ps. 90:4) has a symbolic use of the word "day" but makes no sense unless "thousand" is understood literally.

# Does 1000 years mean 1000 years?

## Beale

Jews and early Christians used "1000" years as a figure for the eternal blessings of the redeemed (pp. 1018-21).

## Response

In actuality, the 6000-year idea of rabbis and early Christians assumed a *literal* 1000 years as a "Sabbath." It was the *amillennial Augustine* who taught that the "eighth" day signified eternity (*Sermons on the Liturgical Seasons* 259.2; *City of God* 20.7)

# Does 1000 years mean 1000 years?

## Beale

The first "came to life" is a "spiritual resurrection" (20:4) but the second is a physical one (20:5).

## Response

- Why see the same verb *differently* in same text?
- "Came to life" *never* denotes to a "spiritual resurrection" in the Bible.
- "Resurrection" always denotes *physical* bodies.
- Believers are spiritually alive *now*, so no need!

# Does 1000 years mean 1000 years?

## Beale

The number "1000" is for the "fullness of time" and thus symbolizes an indefinite era as in Psalm 50:10 and 2 Peter 3:8.

## Response

Psalm 50:10 ("For all the animals of the forest are mine, and I own the cattle on a thousand hills") has nothing to do with time!

2 Peter 3:8 ("A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day") shows Beale reads it as a literal 1000 years!

# Does 1000 years mean 1000 years?

All scholars before AD 300 were premillennial

Clement of Rome

Ignatius

Papias

*The Didache*

*The Epistle of Barnabas*

*The Shepherd of Hermas*

Justin Martyr

Melito of Sardis

Theophilus of Antioch

Apollinaris of Hierapolis

Irenaeus

Hippolytus

Clement of Alexandria

Tertullian

Julius Africanus

Cyprian

Nepos

Coracion

Commodian

Victorinus of Pettau

Methodius

Lactantius

After AD 300, the 1000 years began to be spiritualized by Augustine, Jerome, Theodoret and others

# Views on Revelation 20:1-6

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Amil</u>	<u>Premil</u>
Who	Hoekema	Mounce
Outline	Progressive	Futuristic
Rev 19-20	Non-chron	Chronological
1000 yrs	Indefinite	Literal

# Views on Revelation 20:1-6

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Amil</u>	<u>Premil</u>
Binder	Christ	Angel
Binding	Present	Millennium
Rule	Present	Future (13:15)
Place	Heaven	Earth (5:10)

# Views on Revelation 20:1-6

Issue

Amil

Premil

"Came to  
life" (4a)

Transition  
at death

Resurrection  
(5b-6a)

"Came to  
life" (5)

Resurrection Resurrection

Critique

Inconsistent

Consistent

# Views on Revelation 20:1-6

## Issue

## Amil

## Premil

**Resurrect  
whom?**

**Believer  
(4-5)**

**Unbeliever  
(12-13)**

**Resurrect  
when?**

**One general  
resurrection**

**Several  
resurrections**

**Persons  
judged**

**All people**

**Unbelievers  
only**

# ***Where*** do the saints rule (20:4)?

***Amils often say in heaven***

***But Revelation says it is on earth***

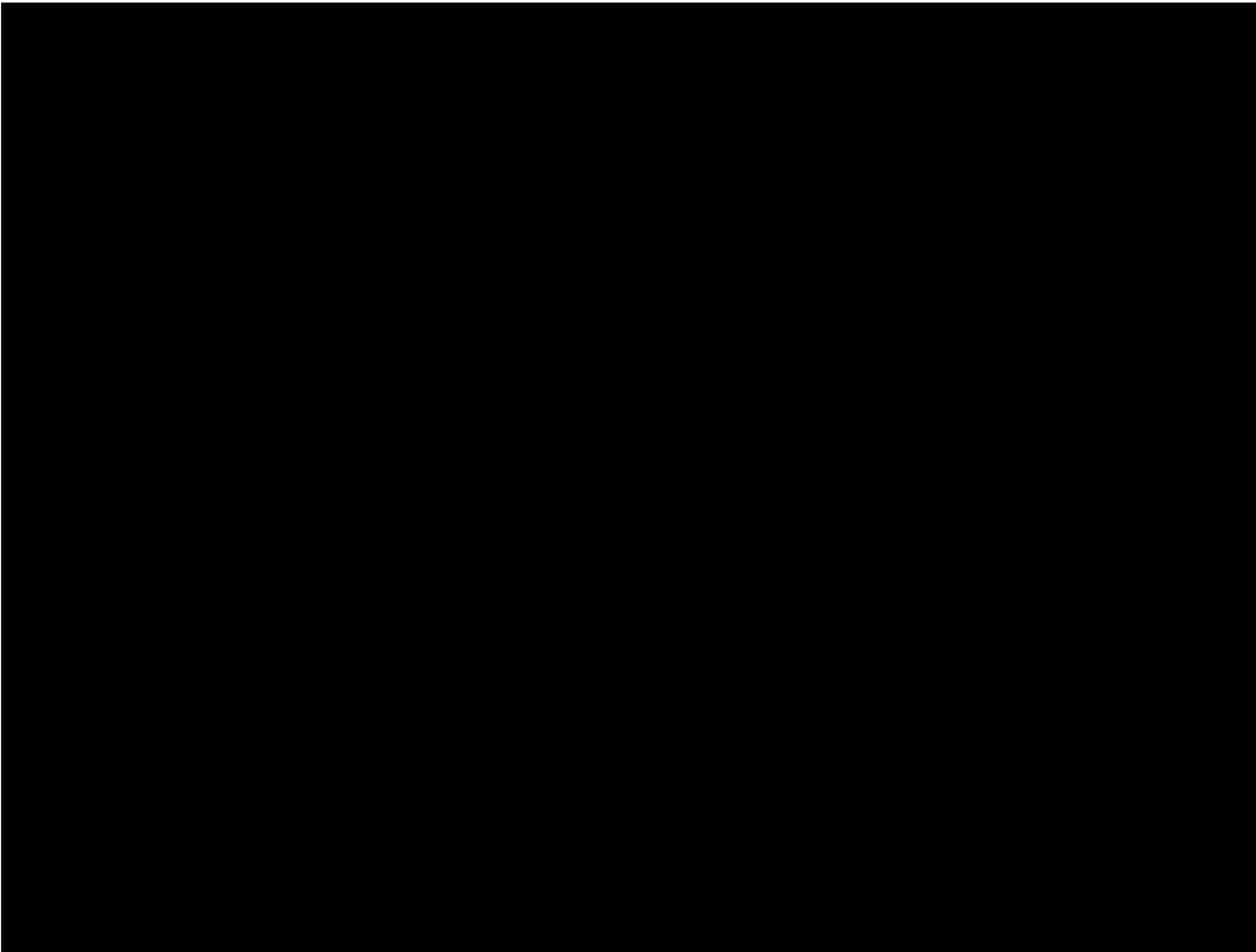
- "And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign **on the earth**" (5:10).
- No change of location is noted from verse 3 (on earth) to verse 4, so we should assume verses 4-6 also to be on earth.

# *When* do the saints rule (20:4)?

*Amils claim it is now*

*But Revelation says it is future*

- "And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they **will** reign on the earth" (5:10).
- "...they **will** be priests of God and of Christ and **will** reign with Him for a thousand years" (20:6).



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