

2 Thessalonians

Tribulation Corrections

Tribulation

2 Thessalonians

Theme

Tribulation Corrections

2 Thessalonians

Key Verse

"Do not become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction"
(2:2-3).

2 Thessalonians

Summary Statement

The author corrects the persecuted church's misconception that the *day of the Lord* (Tribulation) had already begun to exhort perseverance among the disheartened and industry among the idle to help them stand firm in correct doctrine despite *false teachers*.

Application

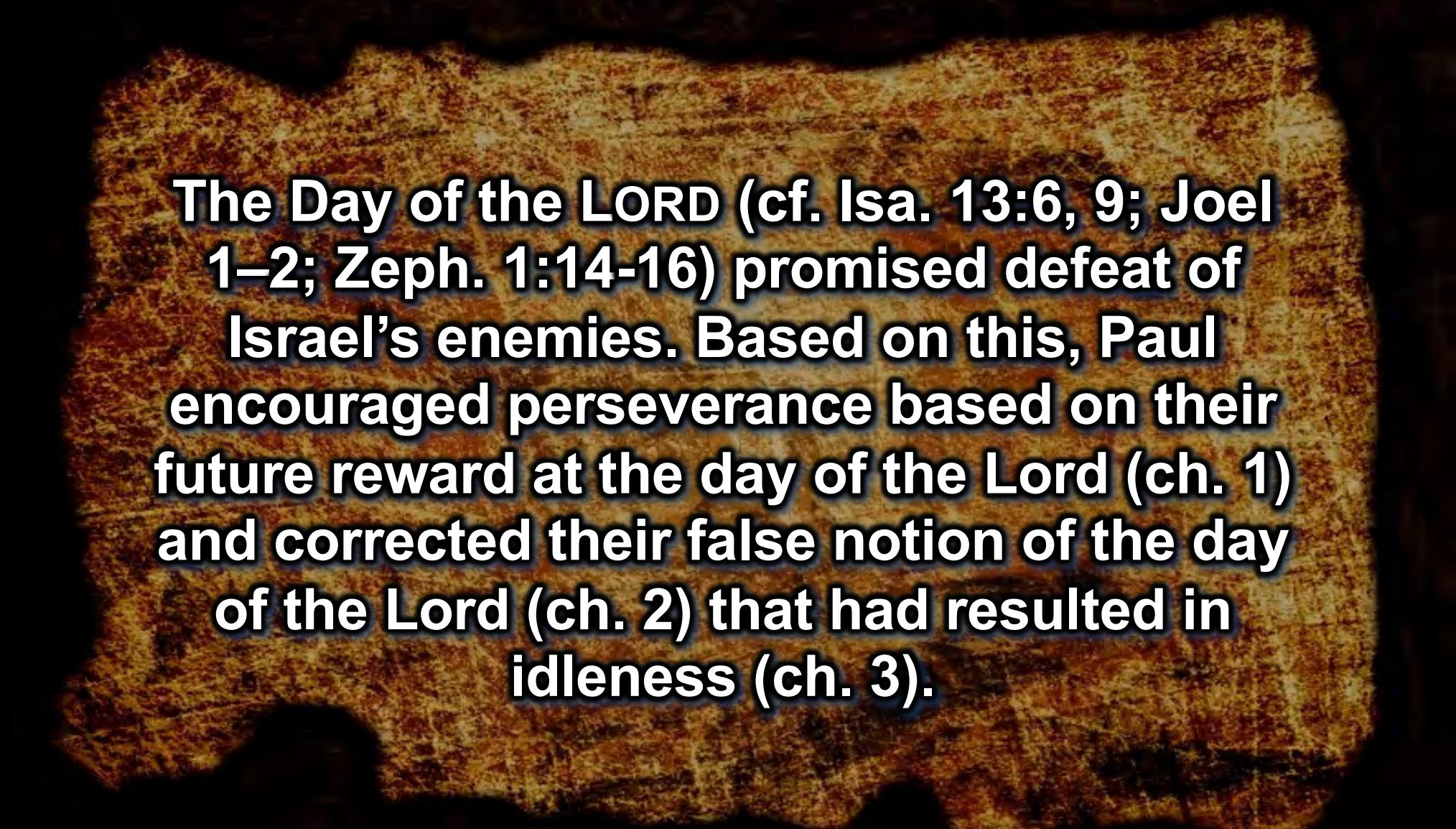
Do you study eschatology, believing that it affects your behavior as a Christian?

Kingdom Statement

Describing Satan's kingdom to oppose Jesus, Paul's clearest description of the Antichrist has three signs (the apostasy, the revelation of the Antichrist, and the removal of the restrainer) that will take place before the tribulation, which could happen days, weeks, or months after the Rapture (2:3-7).

2 Thessalonians

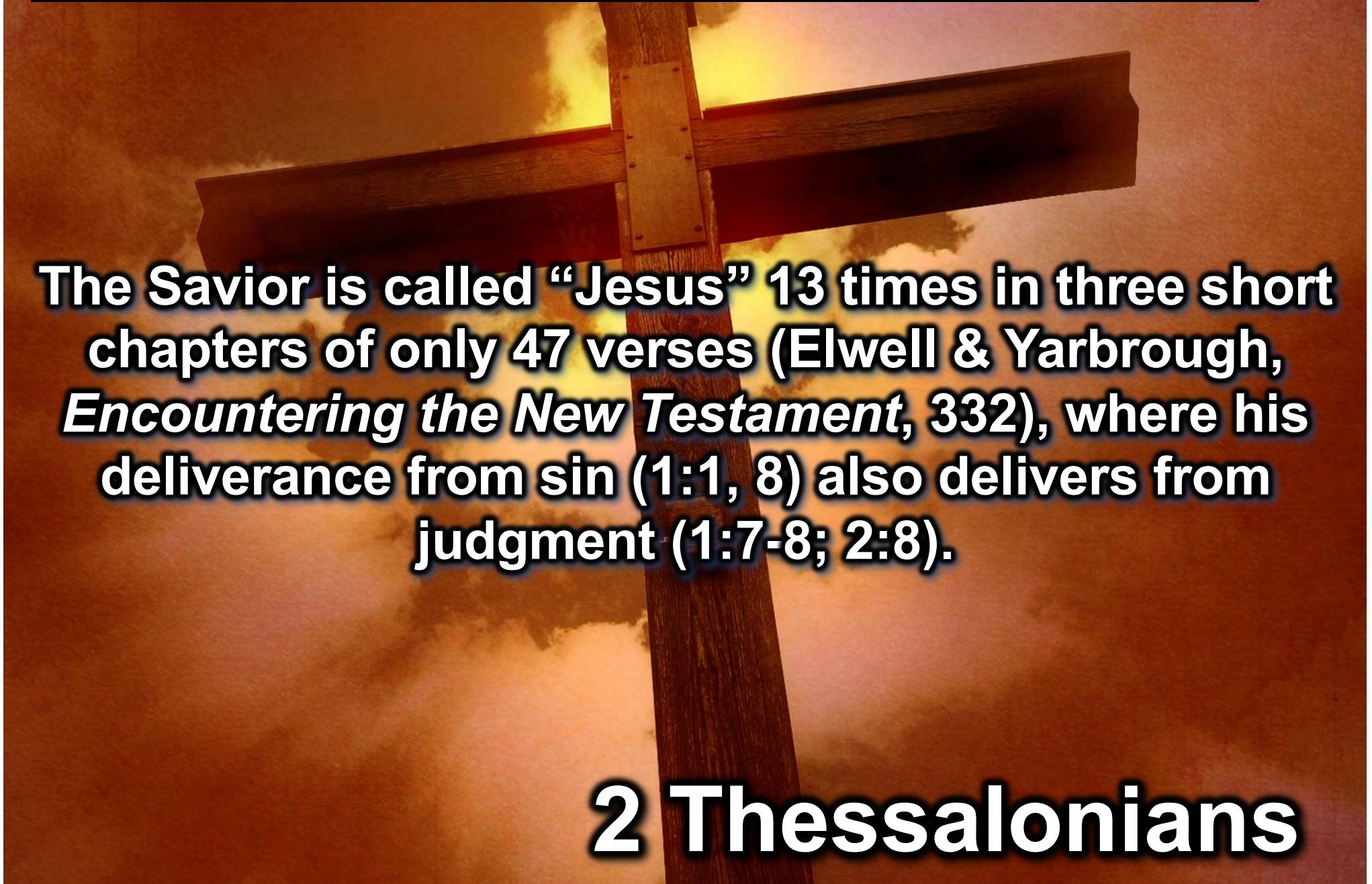
Covenant



The Day of the LORD (cf. Isa. 13:6, 9; Joel 1–2; Zeph. 1:14-16) promised defeat of Israel's enemies. Based on this, Paul encouraged perseverance based on their future reward at the day of the Lord (ch. 1) and corrected their false notion of the day of the Lord (ch. 2) that had resulted in idleness (ch. 3).

2 Thessalonians

Redemption



The Savior is called “Jesus” 13 times in three short chapters of only 47 verses (Elwell & Yarbrough, *Encountering the New Testament*, 332), where his deliverance from sin (1:1, 8) also delivers from judgment (1:7-8; 2:8).

2 Thessalonians

Prophecy (Lord, Deity)

Our Master is called “Lord” 22 times in three short chapters of only 47 verses (Elwell & Yarbrough, *Encountering the New Testament*, 332), emphasizing his authority/power (1:7; 2:8) and deity as he is equal with the Father (1:12).

2 Thessalonians

- 1 Description of Thessalonians' faith
- 2 Apostasy in last days
- 3 Yield fruit through work

SECOND THESSALONIANS



Be Affirmed



2 *Thessalonians*

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Is self affirmation enough?

2 Thessalonians

**WHO IS THE MOST
AWESOME
PERSON TODAY?**



**I LOVE MYSELF
UNCONDITIONALLY**

How does God **affirm** us when we face tough times?

3 ways...



2 Thessalonians

1 Emotions → 2 Theology → 3 Practice

God affirms **holistically**
(Main Idea of 2 Thessalonians)

I. Emotionally: God gives **perseverance** to bring maturity (2 Thess 1).



How does God affirm us during difficulty?

II. Theologically: God gives us **truth** to bring stability (2 Thess 2).



How does God affirm us during difficulty?

III. Practically: God cultivates **discipline** in us to build responsibility (2 Thess 3).

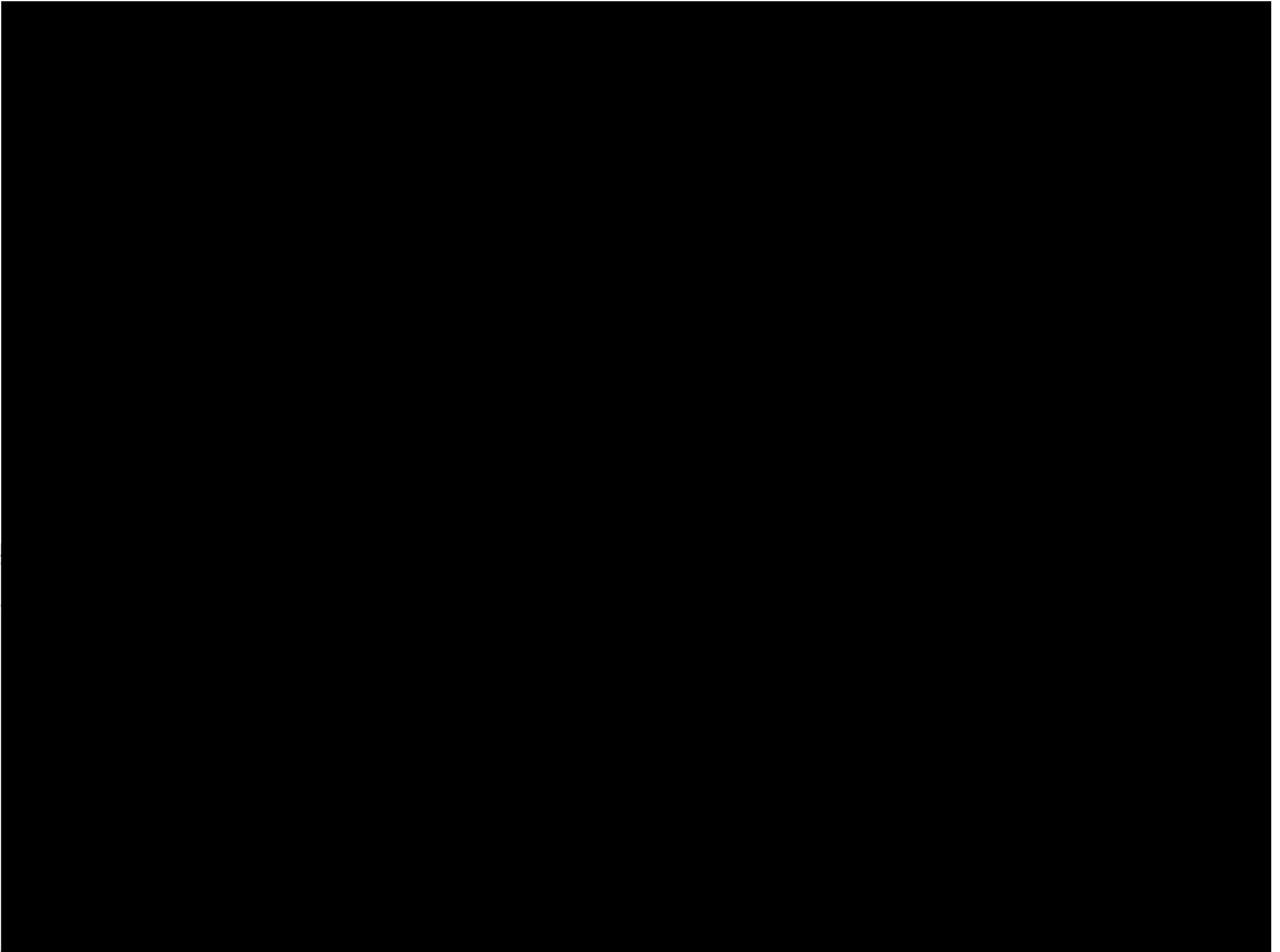


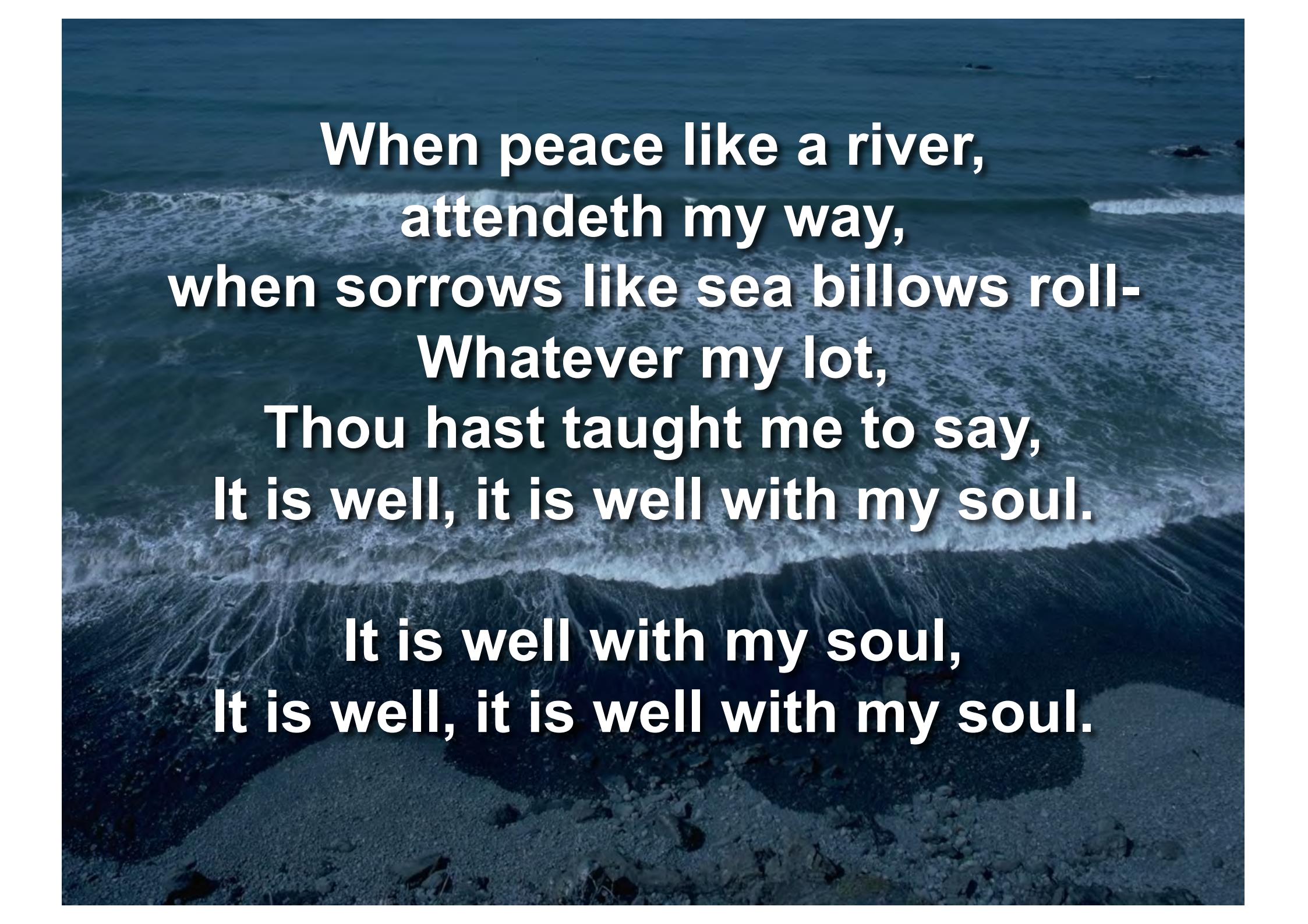
How does God affirm us during difficulty?

How are you doing in affirming others?



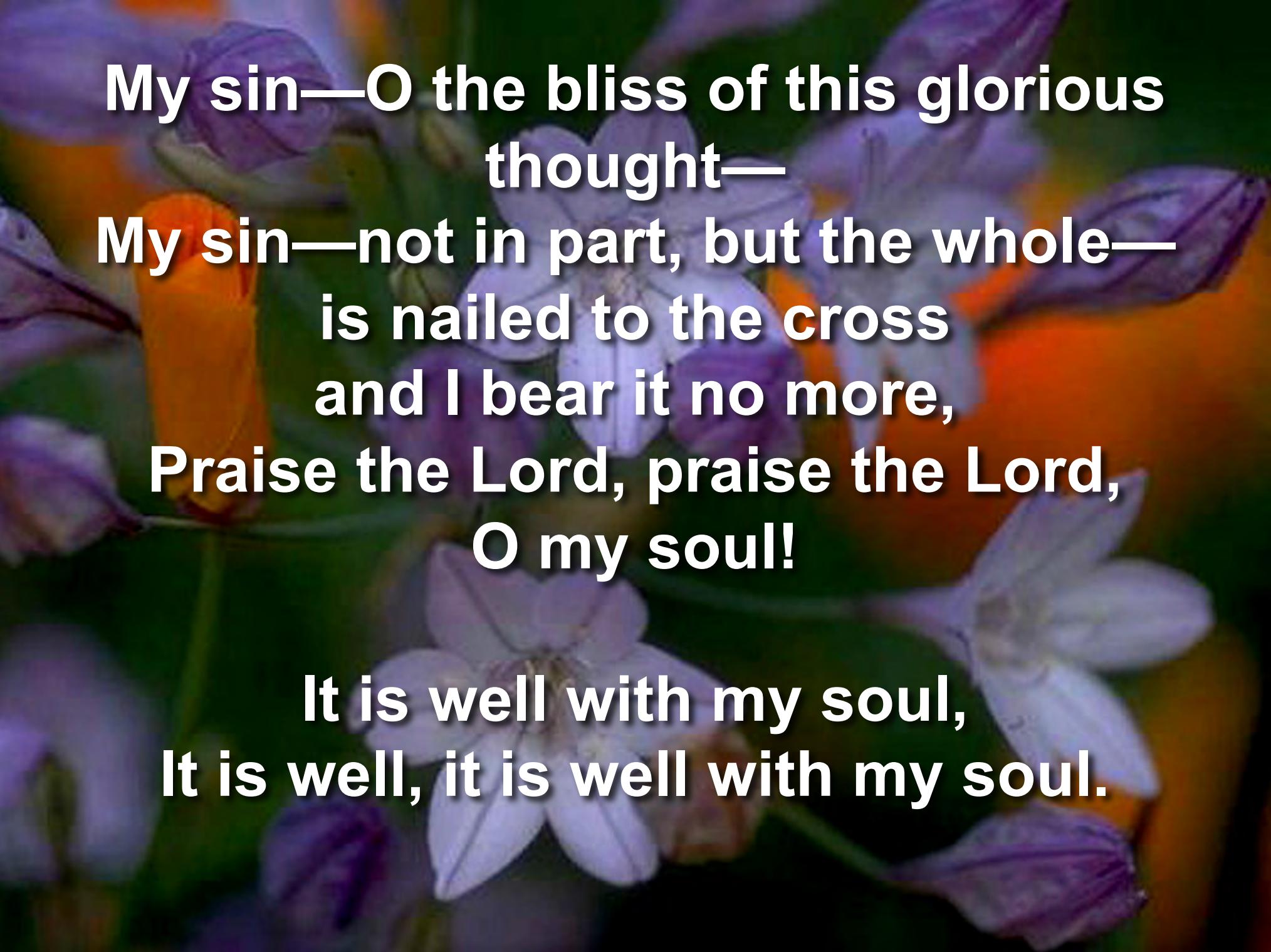
2 Thessalonians





When peace like a river,
attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll-
 Whatever my lot,
 Thou hast taught me to say,
 It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

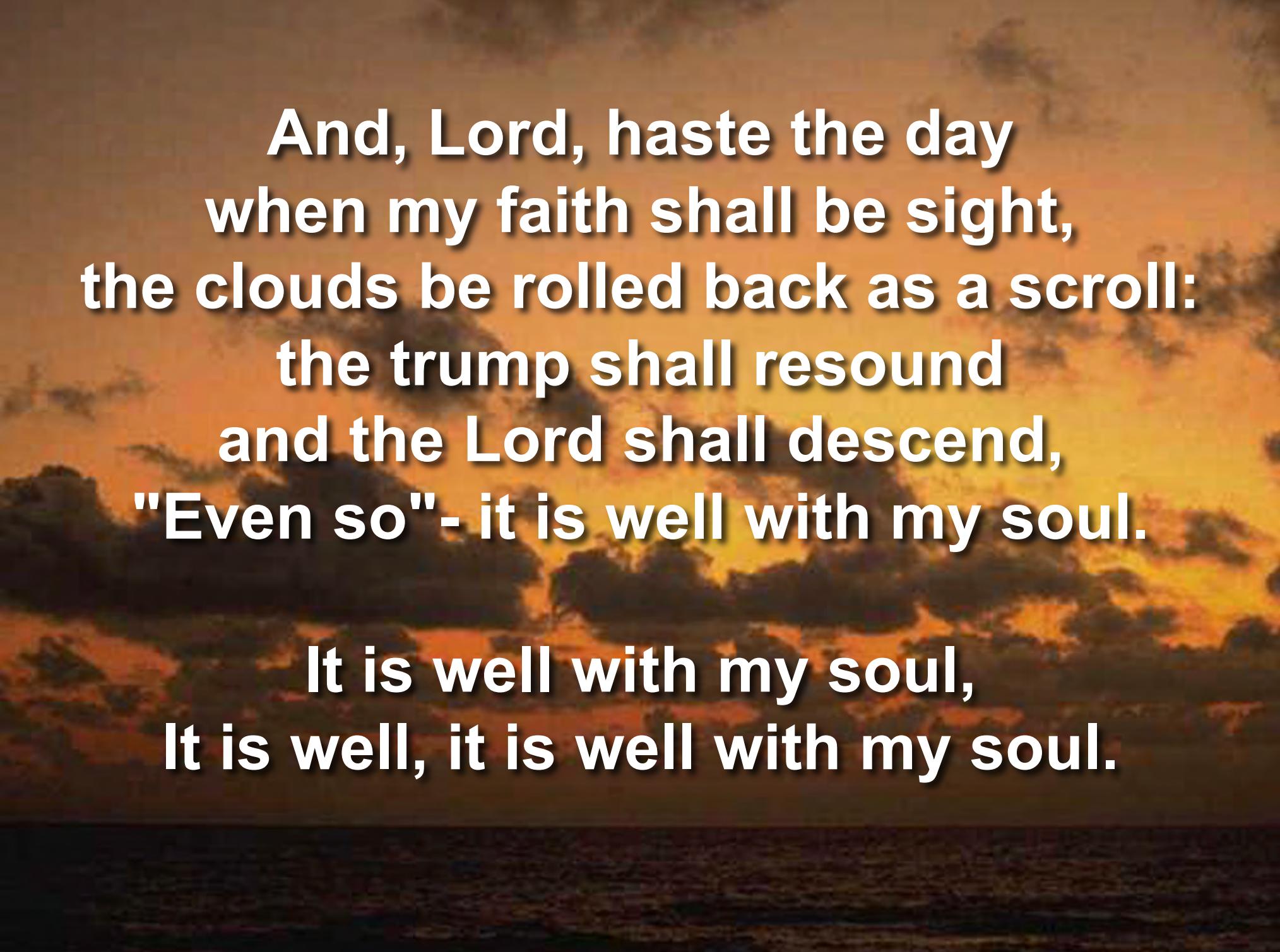


My sin—O the bliss of this glorious
thought—

My sin—not in part, but the whole—
is nailed to the cross
and I bear it no more,

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
O my soul!

It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.



And, Lord, haste the day
when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll:
the trumpet shall resound
and the Lord shall descend,
"Even so"- it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

NT Book Key Words

24

Date	Book	Key Word	Paul's Life	Key Doctrine
40s	Matthew	Kingdom		Ecclesiology
44-47	James	Works		Soteriology
49	Galatians	Justification	1st journey	Soteriology
51	1 Thessalonians	Rapture	2nd journey	Eschatology
51	2 Thessalonians	Tribulation	2nd journey	Eschatology
56	1 Corinthians	Sanctification	3rd journey	Ecclesiology
56	2 Corinthians	Apostleship	3rd journey	Ecclesiology
56-57	Romans	Righteousness	3rd journey	Soteriology
57-59	Luke	Sovereignty I		Missiology

Paul's First & Second Missionary Journeys

138-39



Paul's Advice to Troubled Thessalonians: Focus on God!

Total Verses	"God"	"Jesus"	"Lord"	"Christ"	Total
1 Thess. (89)	36	16	24	10	86
2 Thess. (47)	18	13	22	10	63
Total (136)	54	29	46	20	149

Number of Greek occurrences from Elwell & Yarbrough,
Encountering the New Testament, 332

Theological Themes

The Day of YHWH

Concept that appears in every prophetic writing in the OT

In Zephaniah:

- The Day of YHWH is noted 23 times in 3 chapters
- Variations: "The Day of YHWH," "Day," etc.

"The Day" is

- a. Imminent (1:14)
- b. Day of terror (1:15)
- c. Judgment for sins (1:17)
- d. Universal judgment (1:2-3, 2:4-15; 3:8)
- e. Great convulsion of nature (1:15)
- f. Remnant redeemed (3:16-17)

External Evidence

Support for Pauline authorship has been upheld "very probably" since Polycarp and possibly earlier with Ignatius. To this is added the Marcion Canon and Muratorian Canon, as well as the testimony of the early Church Fathers and ancient versions.

Internal Evidence supports Paul:

1. It claims to be by Paul (1:1; 3:17).
2. The premature ending (3:1-5) suits Paul more than a conscious imitator.
3. Similarities to 1 Thessalonians cited by some critics against Paul's authorship actually support it.
4. Critics claim discrepancies between the eschatologies of 2 Thess 2:1-12 and 1 Thess 4:13–5:11, but these differences point to two different phases of the parousia.

External Evidence

Support for Pauline authorship has been upheld "very probably" since Polycarp and possibly Ignatius adduced Canaanite Murabba'at well as the testimony of the early Church Fathers and ancient versions. The attacks upon the authorship have been soundly refuted by scholars, despite the efforts of a minority of the early Church Fathers and ancient versions.

Internal Evidence supports Paul:

The attacks upon Pauline
scholars, despite their cri-
believe that Paul pen-
as. **Conclusion**

Date

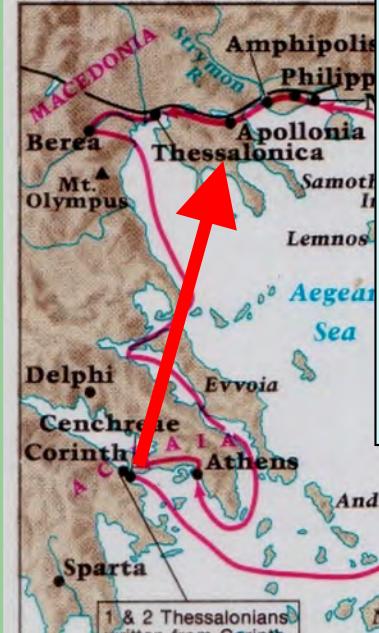
Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians in the summer AD 51 (a few months after his first letter). The following supports this:

1. **Paul, Silas, and Timothy (1:1) are not known to have been together again after their stay in Corinth.**
2. **The same general conditions exist in the church as in 1 Thessalonians (cf. 1 Thess. 4:11-12; 2 Thess. 3:6-15).**
3. **These men apparently stayed in Corinth another year.**

At the very latest, the second letter precedes Paul's visit to them five years later.

Recipients

To the Thessalonian
believers north of him in
the province of Macedonia



Origin

Paul wrote from Corinth

- city
- ☒ mountain pass
- ▲ mountain peak

LYCIA Roman provincial name

- First Missionary Journey: Paul & Barnabas
- John Mark separates from Paul & Barnabas and returns to Jerusalem
- Second Missionary Journey: Paul & Silas (Timothy joins them at Derbe)
- Barnabas & Mark sail to Cyprus



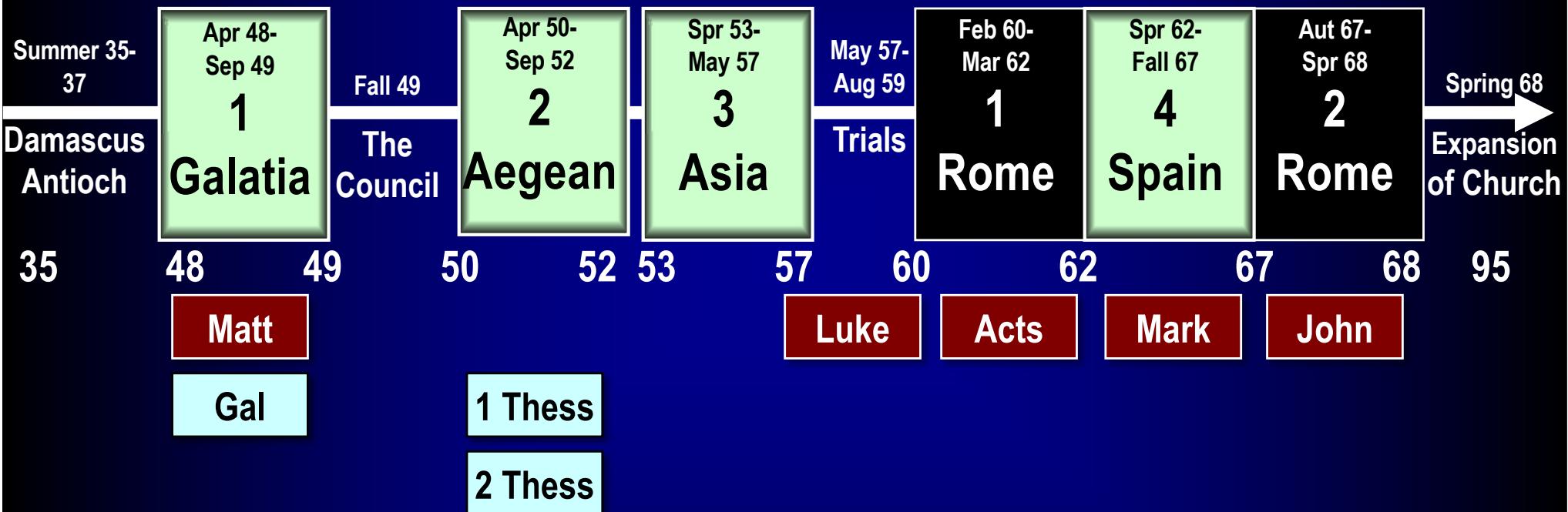
From Where to Where?

NT Overview (Paul's Letters)

38
124
39-41

"To the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



Gospels & Acts

Pauline Epistles

1234

Journeys

Rome

Imprisonments

Pauline

1 Emotionally: Persevere in persecution

2 Theologically: Day still future

3 Practically: Discipline the idle

Outline

214-215

I. (Ch. 1) Paul encourages the Thessalonian believers to **continue to persevere** in light of their persecutors' judgment at the day of the Lord to demonstrate his deep concern for the disheartened among them.

II. (Ch. 2) Paul corrects the Thessalonians' misconception from false teachers **that the day of the Lord had already occurred** by teaching that the Antichrist must be revealed first to enable the church to stand firm in correct doctrine.

III. (Ch. 3) Paul warns the church to **discipline idle** believers who live off other's work as they "wait for the rapture" to shame them into responsible behavior which is evident in Paul and his companions.



The Rapture
gives hope and
encouragement
that he will
come for **you**.

Main Idea of
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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Premillennialism

Second Coming = Second Advent

Church Age

Tribulation

Millennium

Eternal Kingdom

Judgment

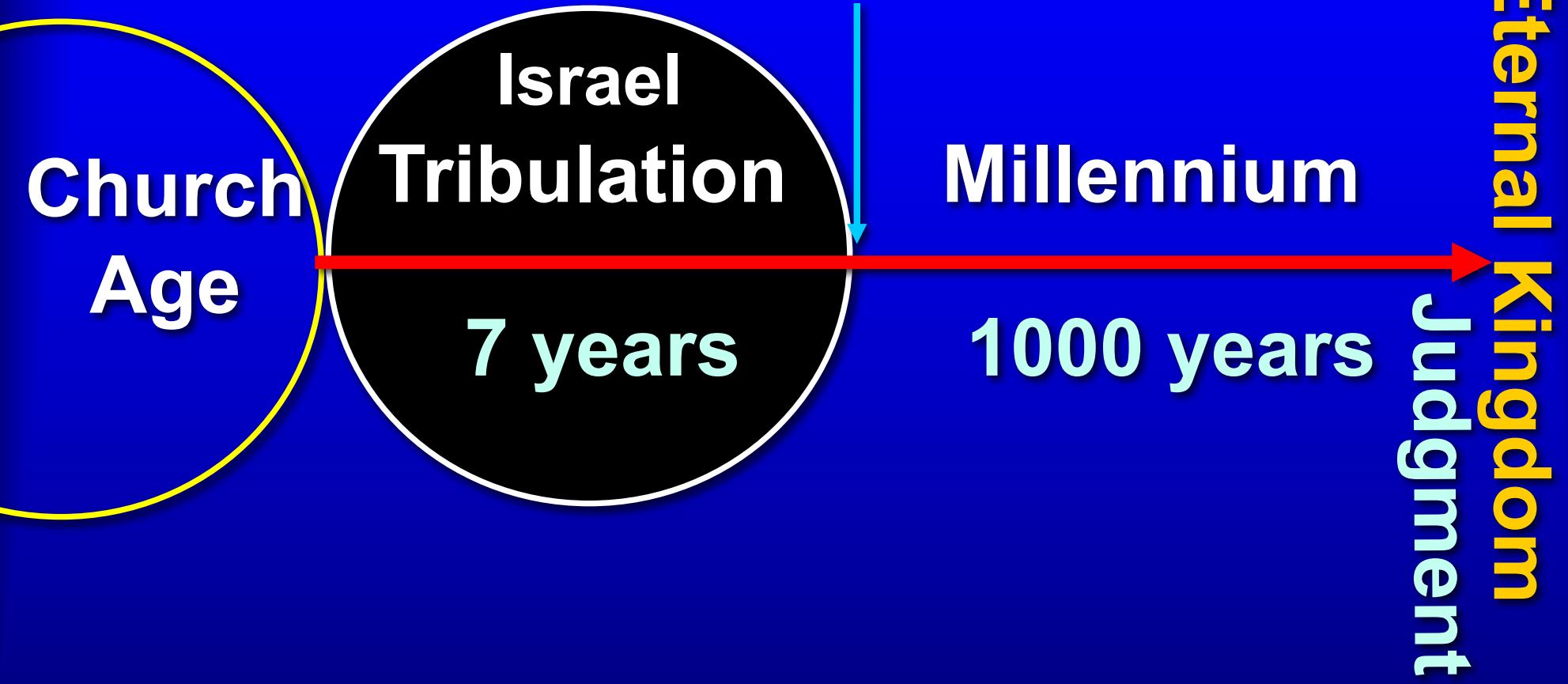
7 years

1000 years

ALL 5 RAPTURE
VIEWS ARE
PREMILLENNIAL

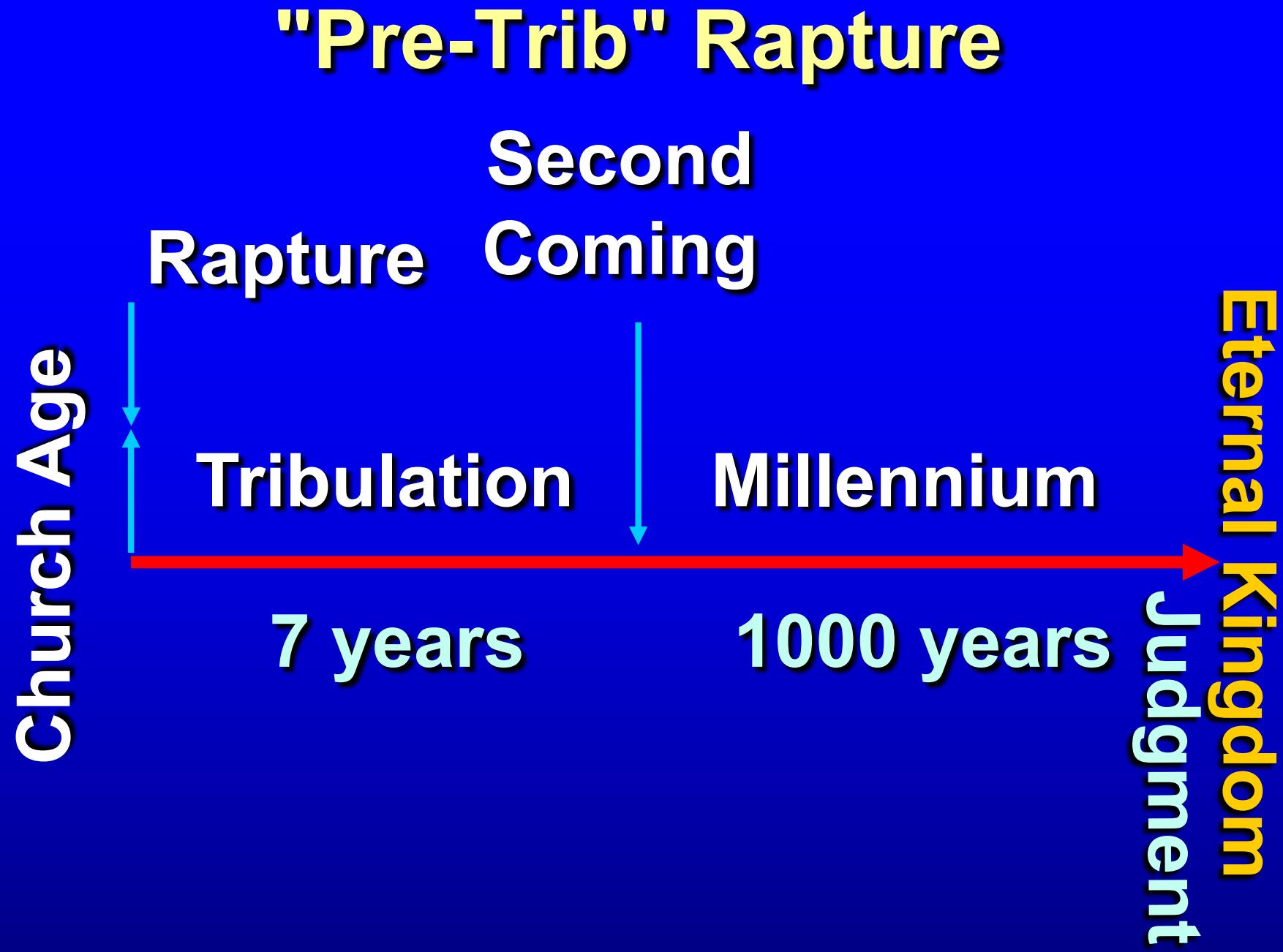
Dispensationalism

Second
Coming



When will the Rapture occur?

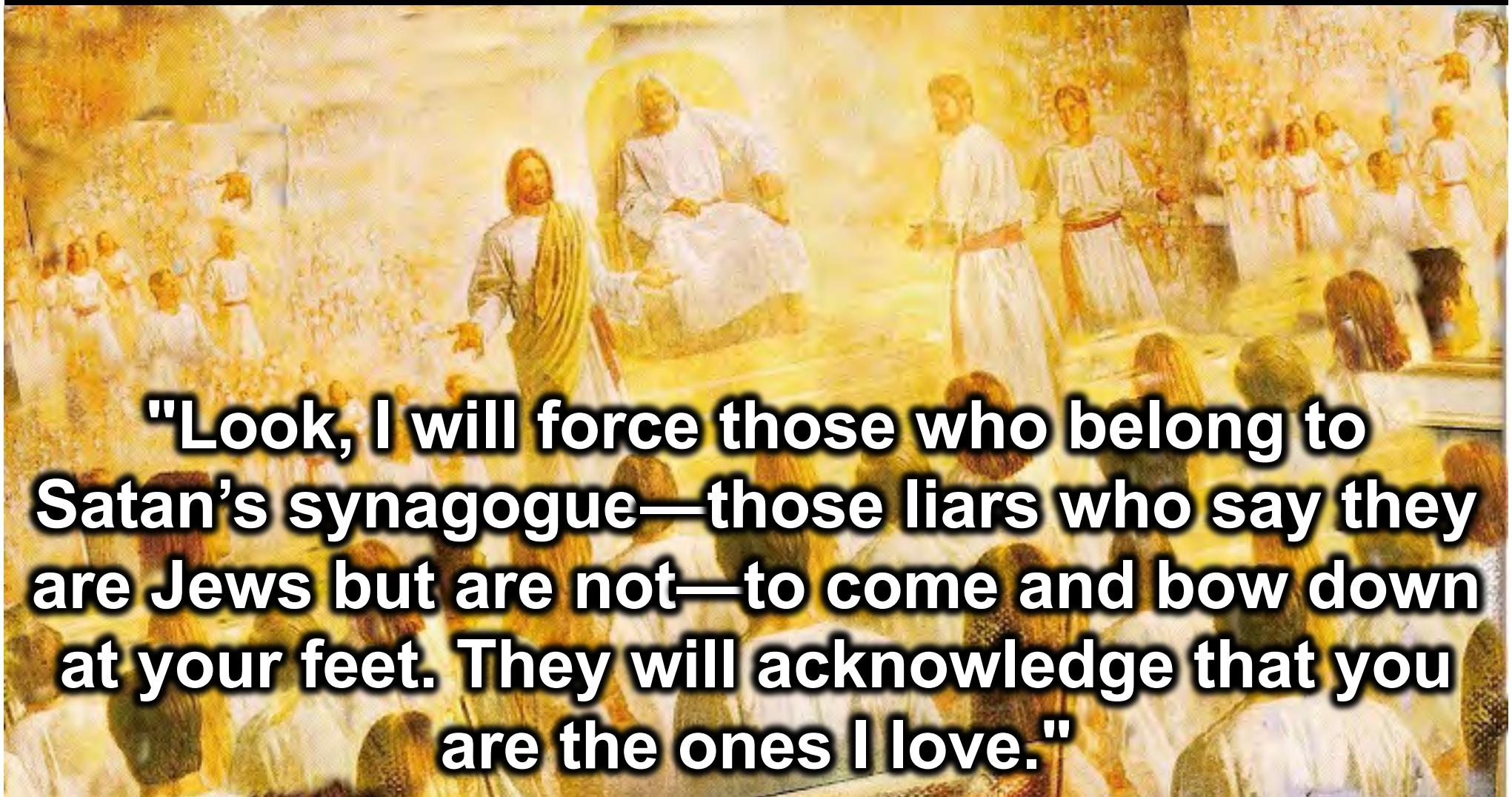




Why Am I Pretrib?

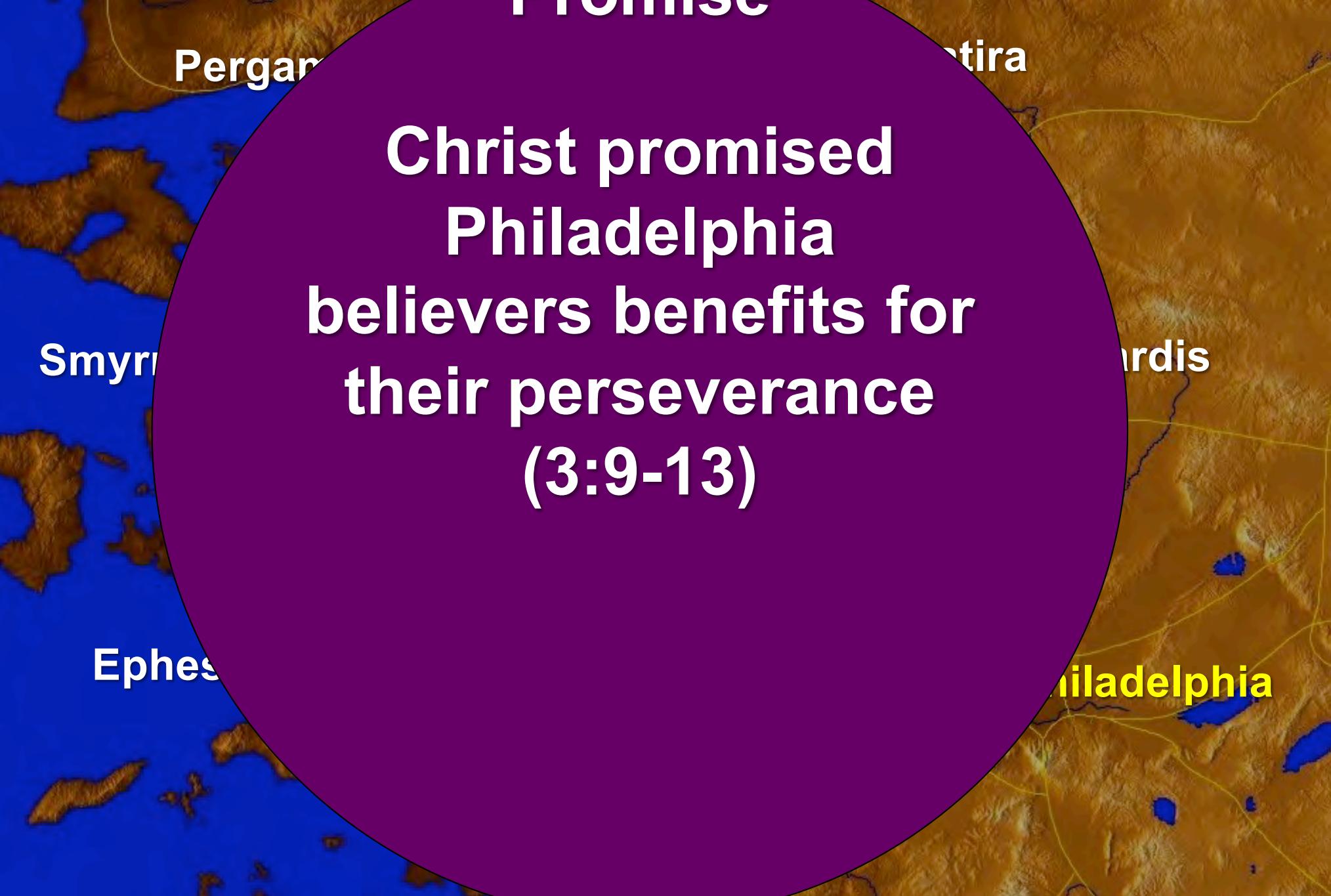
1. Believers will be kept from ($\epsilon\kappa$) this "hour," or time period (Rev. 3:10)

Christ promises honor before enemies (Rev 3:9).



**"Look, I will force those who belong to
Satan's synagogue—those liars who say they
are Jews but are not—to come and bow down
at your feet. They will acknowledge that you
are the ones I love."**

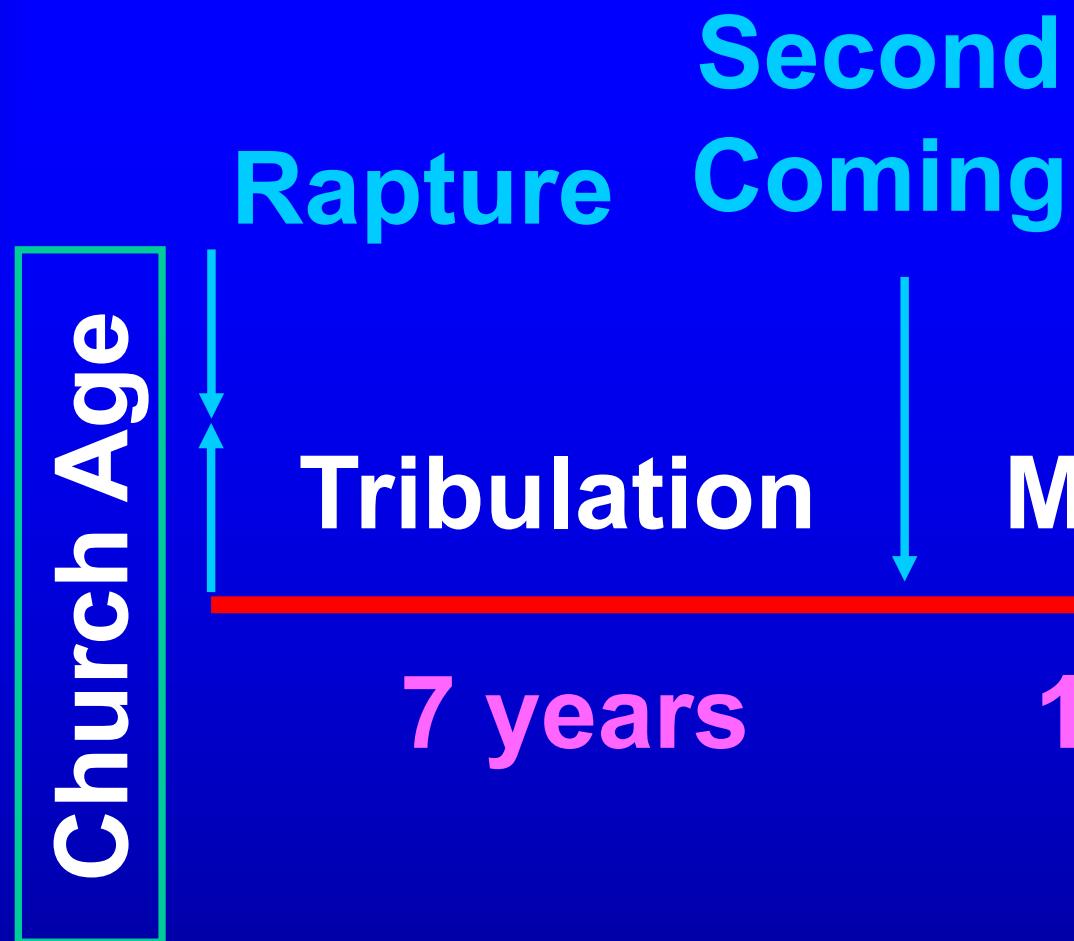
Promise



A map of the Seven Churches of Revelation, showing the locations of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Philadelphia, Sardis, and Laodicea. The city of Philadelphia is highlighted in yellow. The map is set against a background of a coastal town with a church tower.

Christ promised
Philadelphia
believers benefits for
their perseverance
(3:9-13)

"Pre-Trib" Rapture



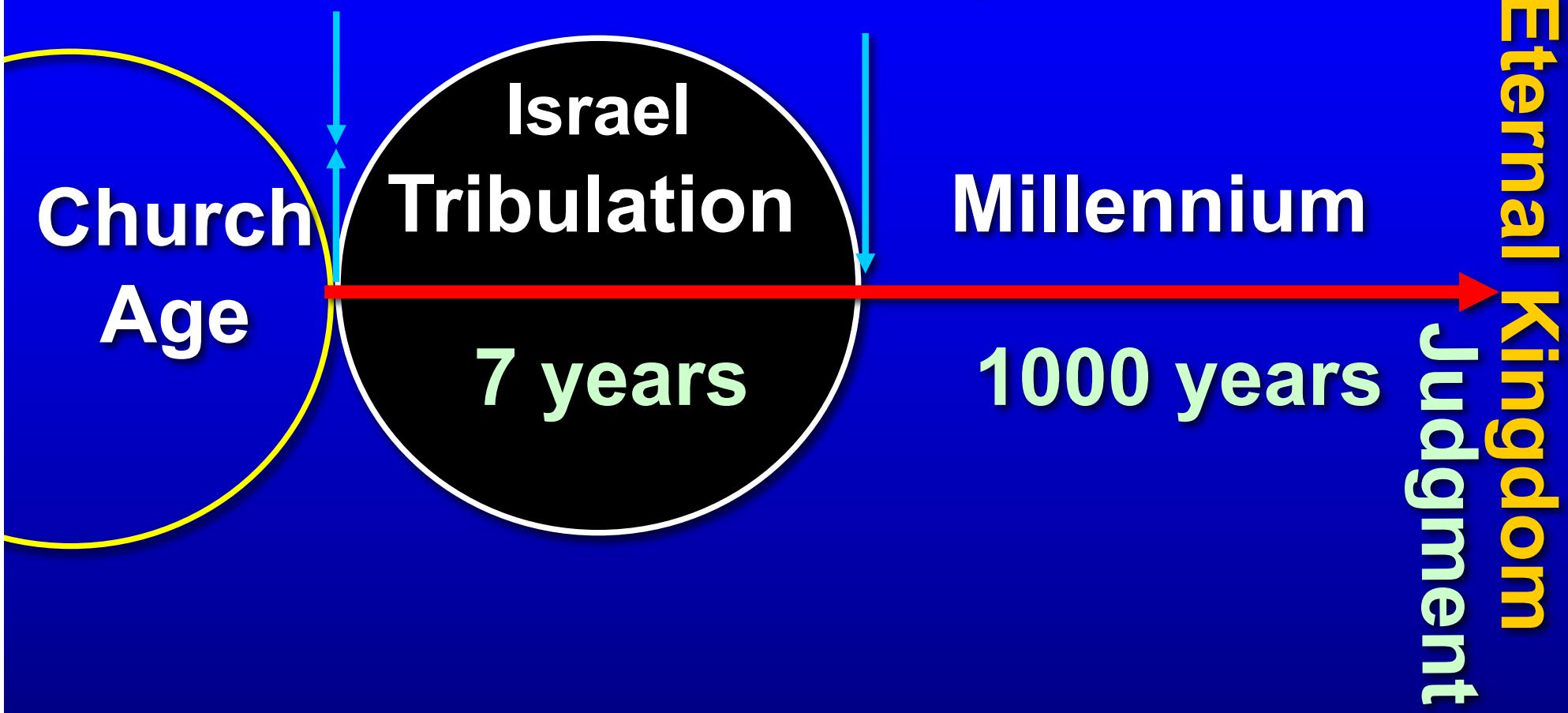
1. "I will keep you from (ἐκ) the hour of testing that will come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth"

(Rev. 3:10)

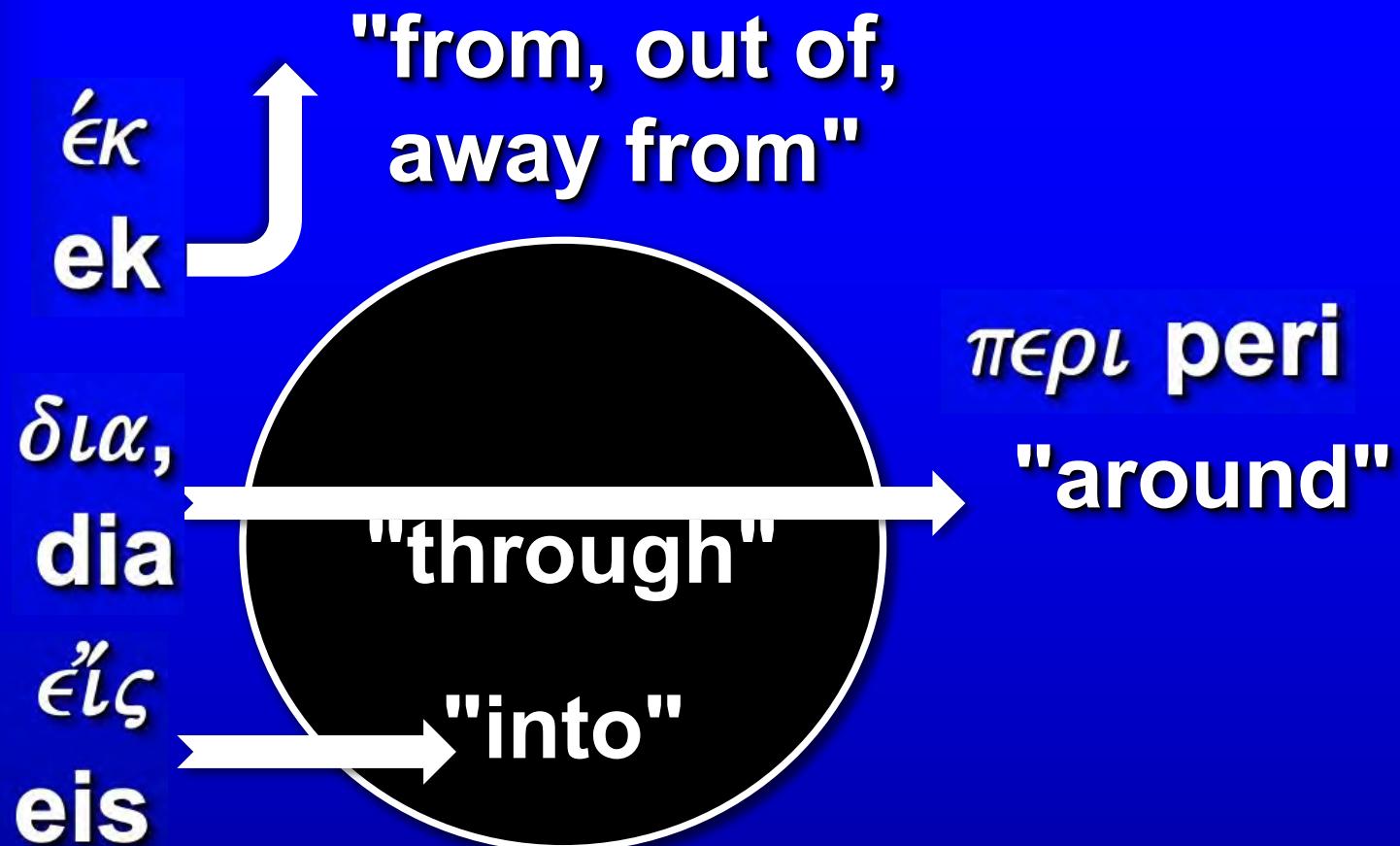


Deliverance from the Tribulation

Second
Coming



Greek Prepositions



"Pre-Trib" Rapture



1. "I will keep you from (έκ) the hour of testing that will come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth"

(Rev. 3:10)

The Only Other NT Occurrence of "Keep From" ($\tauηρέω \acute{e}k$) 209

The idea of being taken out of the world relates to being removed from the world

sphere of
"the evil
one"

$\acute{e}k$
ek

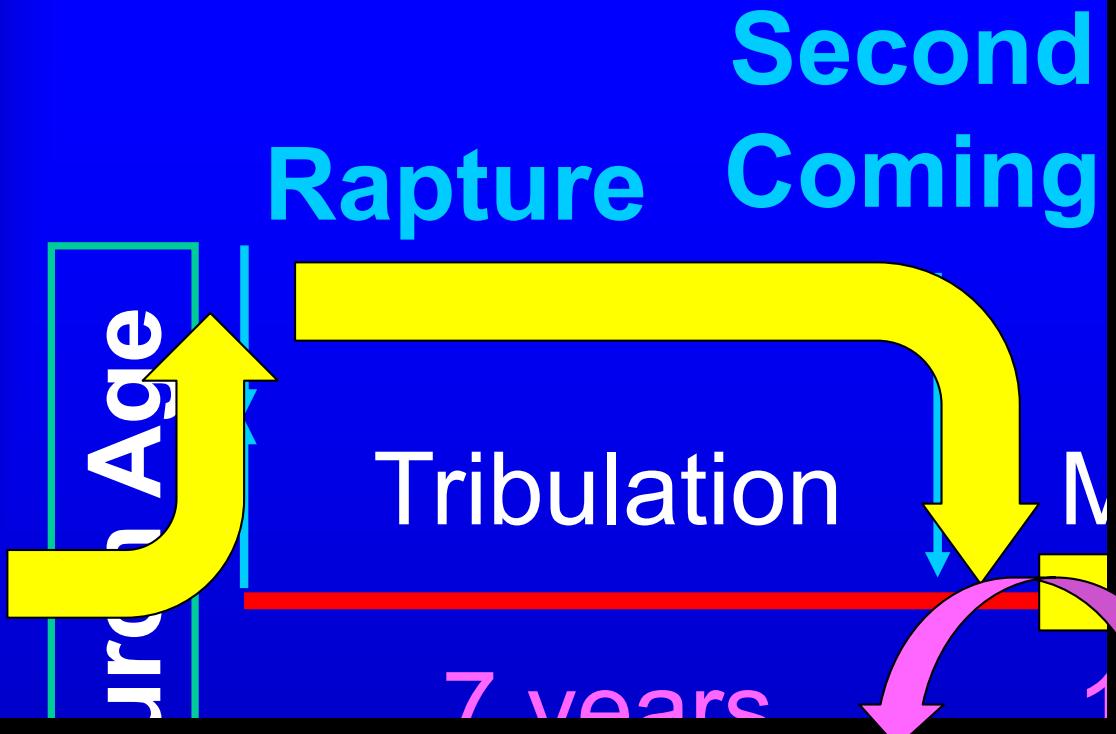


"from, out of,
away from"

1. "I do not ask you to take them out of ($\acute{e}k$) the world, but to keep them from ($\acute{e}k$) the evil one"
(John 17:15)

Not kept in Satan's sphere
parallels
not kept in Tribulation Period

"Pre-Trib" Rapture



Each time this "phrase occurs... **the enemies** of the church are always in mind"

—Mounce, 120

2. "I will keep you from (ἐκ) the hour of testing that will come upon the whole world, **to test those who dwell upon the earth**"

(Rev. 3:10)



Why Am I Pretrib?

1. Believers will be kept from ($\epsilon\kappa$) this "hour," or time period (Rev. 3:10)
2. The Tribulation tests unbelievers (3:10) under God's wrath (6:16-17)
3. The Holy Spirit's work of restraining evil will be absent (2 Thess. 2:6-7).

$\tauὸ\ \kappa\alpha\tauέ\chi\omega\nu$ ("what restrains" = neuter, 2:6 = gospel preaching)

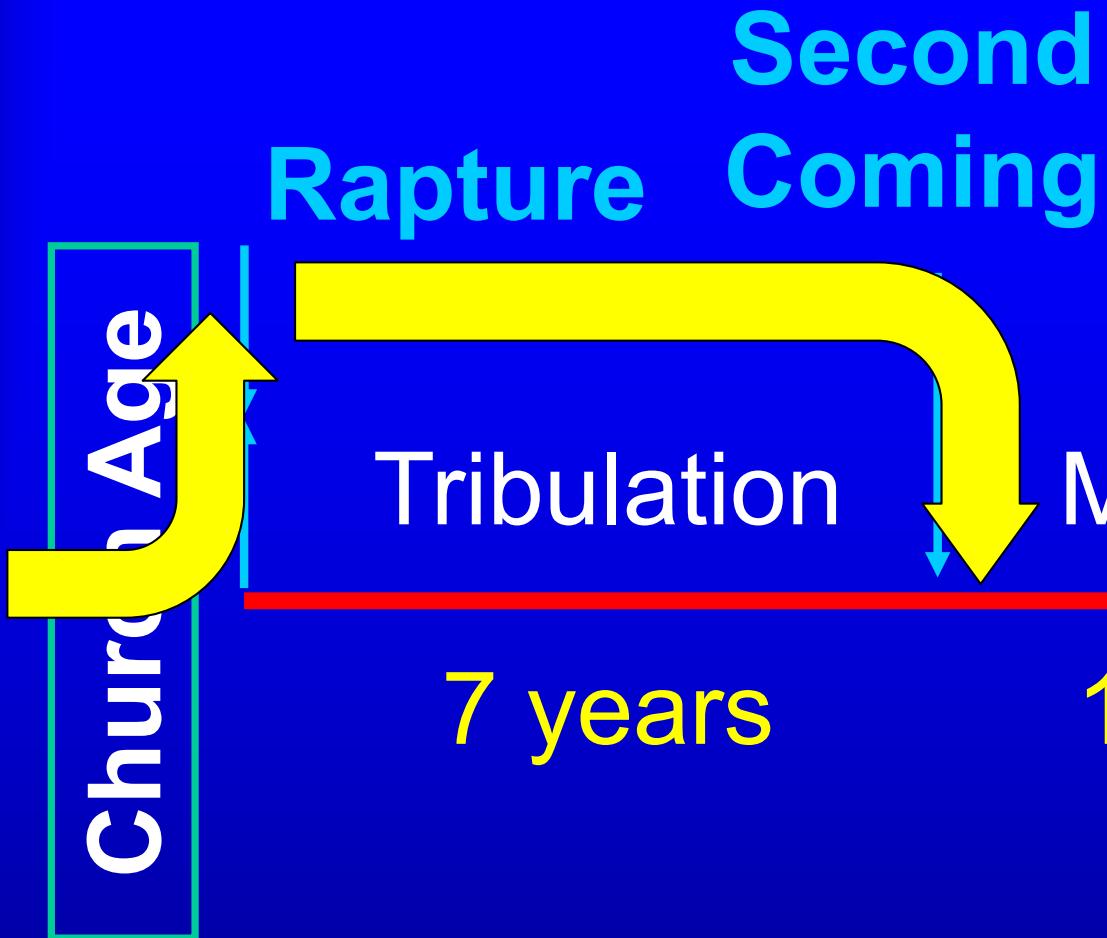
$\delta\ \kappa\alpha\tauέ\chi\omega\nu$ ("he who restrains" = masculine, 2:7 = a person)

$\pi\nu\nu\epsilon\mu\alpha$ ("Spirit" = neuter noun but used of a person)

Why Am I Pretrib?

4. The church is never mentioned in the Tribulation chapters (Rev. 4-19) except as the "tabernacle of God" in heaven (13:6; cf. Eph. 2:21-22)
5. The Church will never come under God's wrath (John 5:24, Rom. 5:9; 8:1; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9). Persecution and wrath are completely different!

"Pre-Trib" Rapture



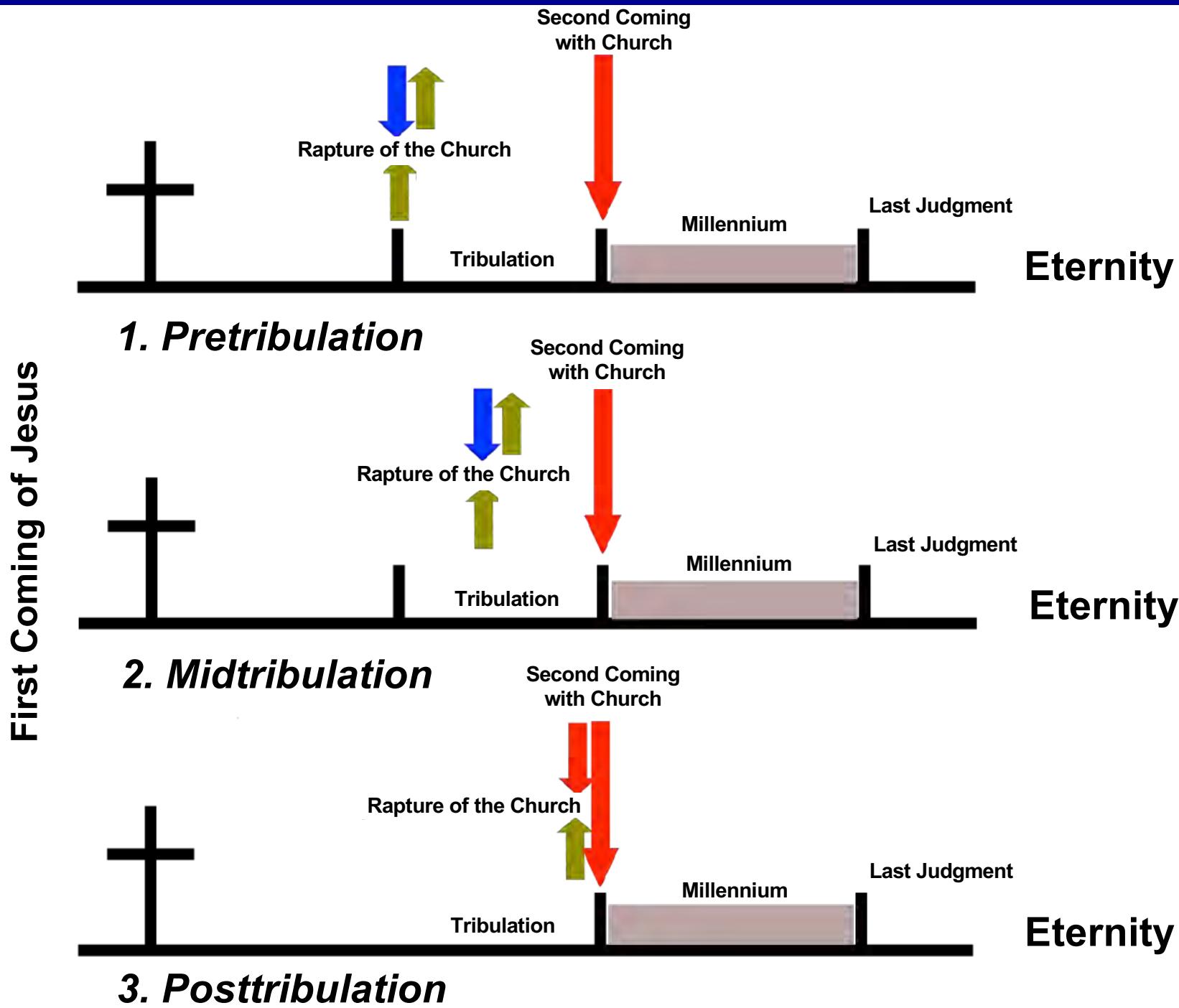
5. The Church will never come under God's wrath:

- John 5:24
- Rom. 5:9; 8:1
- 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9
- Rev. 6:15-17
- Rev. 11:18
- Rev. 14:10, 19

Why Am I Pretrib?

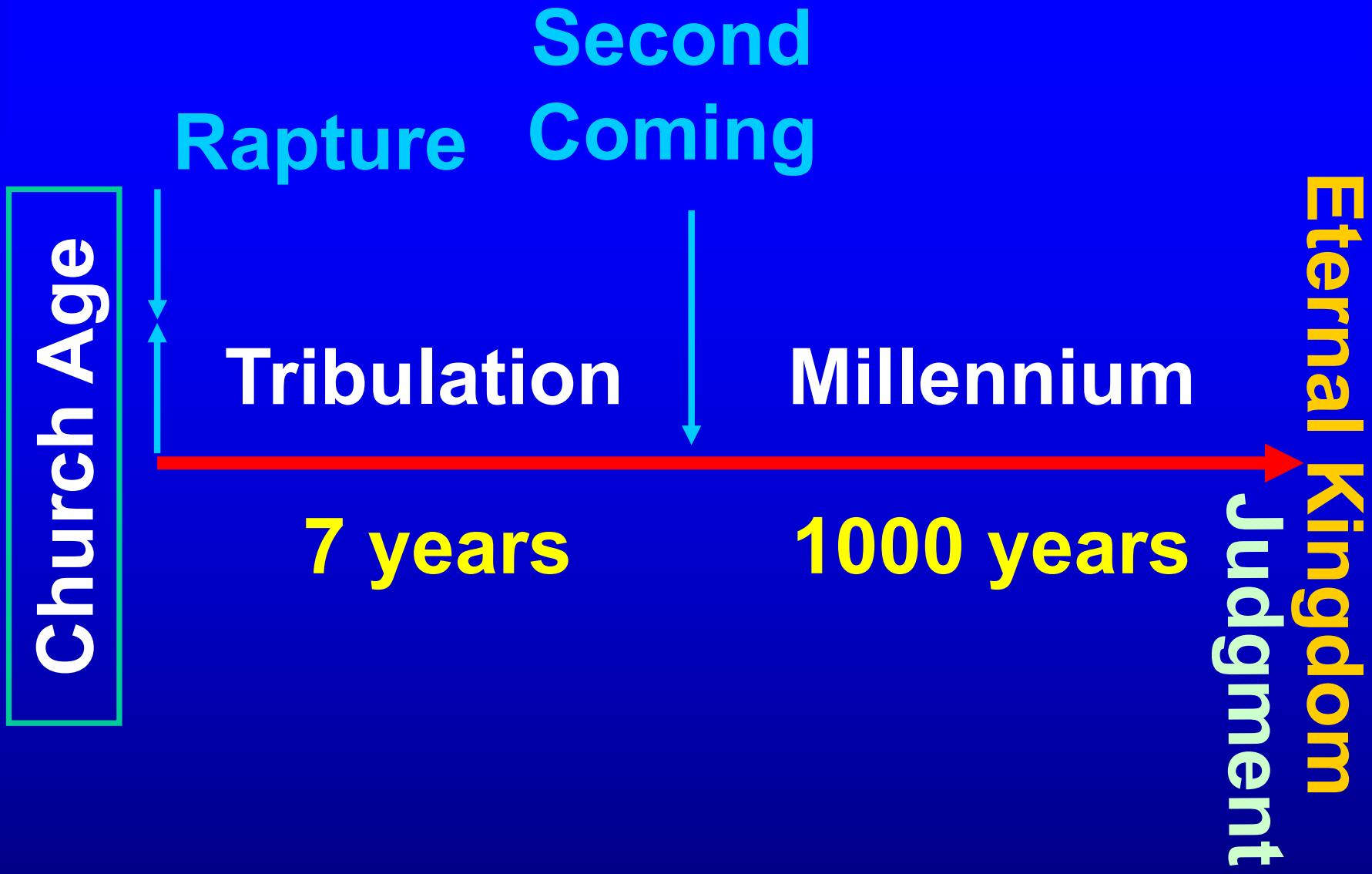
6. The Rapture is imminent ("can happen at any time"), so it must also be pretribulational:
 - a. "...the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:2)
 - b. "I will come back and take you to be with me" (John 14:3) = "I am coming" in immediate future without signs
 - c. James 5:8-9; Tit. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 Pet. 1:6-7; 1 John 2:28; 3:2-3; Rev. 22:10, 12

The Main Tribulation Views



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"Pre-Trib" Rapture



Stages of the Second Coming

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The Rapture	The Revelation
1 <u>Pretribulational</u> (Rev. 3:10)	<u>Posttribulational</u> (Rev. 19:11-21)
2 Christ will <u>come in the air</u> (1 Thess. 4:16)	Christ will <u>come to the earth</u> , His feet touching the Mt. of Olives (Zech 14:4)
3 A coming <u>for</u> the saints (John 14:1-2; 1 Thess. 4:15-17)	A coming <u>with</u> the saints (Matt. 25:31; 1 Thess. 3:13; Rev. 19:14)
4 <u>Saints</u> (dead and alive) will be <u>caught up</u> ("raptured") from the earth to meet the Lord in the air and taken to heaven (1 Thess. 4:16-17)	<u>Saints</u> already on earth will <u>remain on the earth</u> (no Rapture) to be ushered into the Millennium (Acts 15:16; Rev. 5:10; cf. Matt. 4:10; chap. 24)
5 Produces <u>comfort and hope</u> (1 Thess. 4:18)	Produces <u>fear and judgment</u> (Matt. 24:27-31; Luke 21:20-28; Rev. 4:15-17)

Stages of the Second Coming

210

The Rapture	The Revelation
6 <u>Mystery</u> truth revealed only in the New Testament age (1 Cor. 15:51)	<u>Central</u> in OT prophecy but clarified in the NT (Jer. 30:7; Zech 14:1-3; Matt. 24:30; Col. 3:4)
7 <u>Bodies of church saints glorified</u> (1 Cor. 15:51-58; Phil. 3:20-21) and brought to heaven for seven years (1 Thess. 4:17)	<u>Bodies of tribulation saints left in mortal state to continue to live on the earth in the millennium</u> (Matt. 25:31-34)
8 <u>Imminent</u> , no signs needed (1 Thess. 4:16)	<u>Not imminent</u> but preceded by spectacular signs in the heavens and on the earth (Matt. 24:29-31; Luke 21:25-28; Acts 2:19-21; Rev. 1:7; chs. 6-19)
9 Primary purpose is <u>deliverance</u> of the saints from this world (1 Thess. 1:10)	Primary purpose is <u>judgment</u> of unbelieving (Matt. 25:31-46)

Stages of the Second Coming

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The Rapture	The Revelation
10 Invisible and private as only believers see Christ and since God sends a powerful delusion through the Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:11)	Visible and public since "every eye shall see Him" (Rev. 1:7)
11 Fulfills a promise to the <u>Church</u> where Jew-Gentile distinctions do not exist (1 Thess. 4:15; cf. John 14:1-3; Eph. 2:11-16)	Fulfills promises to <u>Israel</u> of covenants made in the Old Testament (Gen. 12:1-3; Ps. 89; Isa. 11:11-14; cf. Rom. 11:26-27)
12 Evil begins to <u>increase</u> (2 Thess. 2:1-12)	Evil is <u>suppressed</u> (2 Thess. 1:7; Ps. 37:9-10)
13 <u>Church</u> removed (1 Thess. 4:13-18)	<u>Satan</u> removed (Rev. 20:1-3)

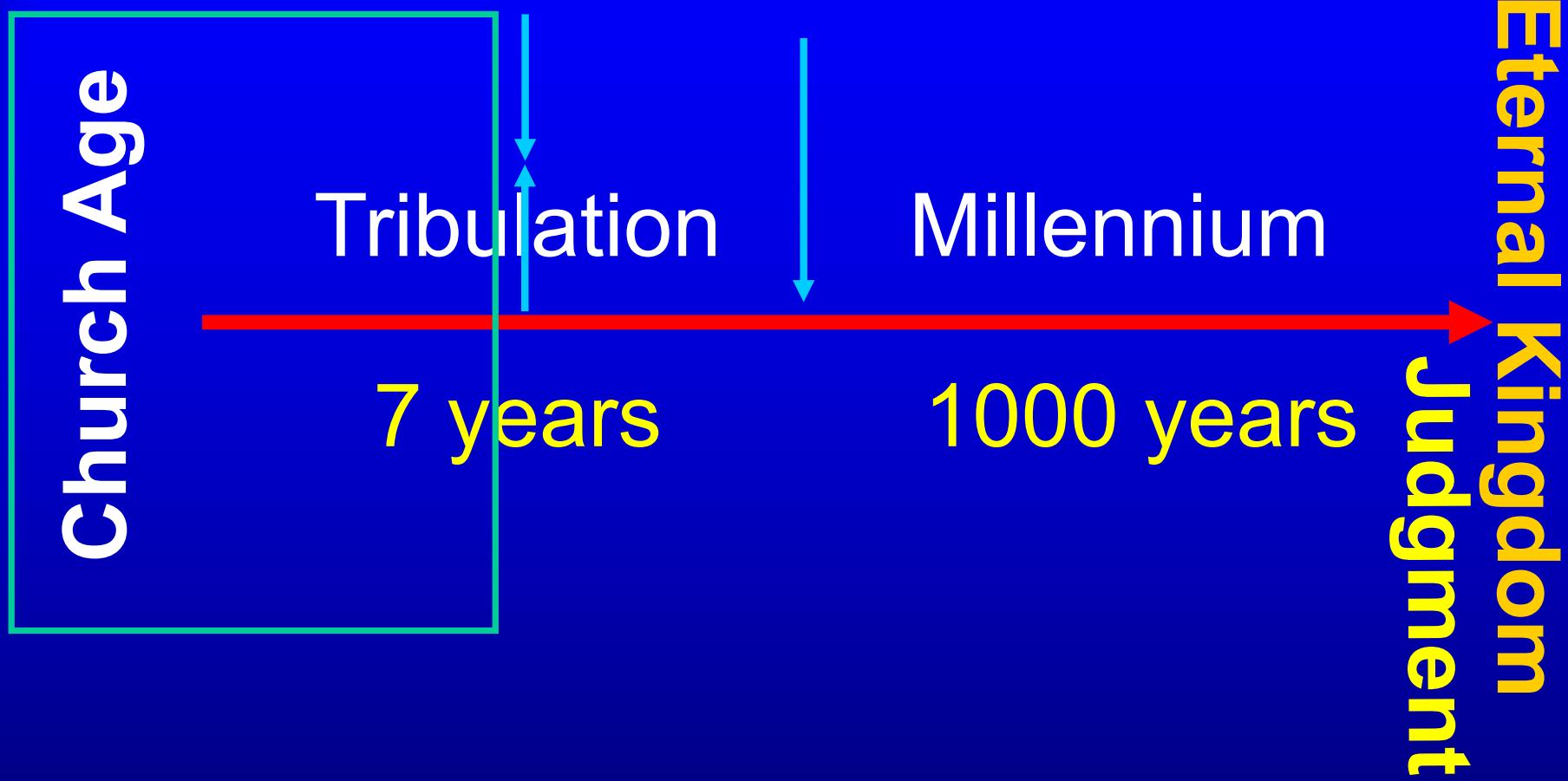
Stages of the Second Coming

210

The Rapture	The Revelation
14 Christ shown as <u>Head</u> of the Church and all things (Eph. 1:10, 22; 4:15; Col. 1:18; 2:10)	Christ vindicated as <u>Messiah</u> to Israel (Zech. 14:3-4; cf. Acts 1:6 with v. 11)
15 Judgment seat of Christ for <u>believers</u> (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:13)	Judgment of <u>Israel and Gentiles</u> (Ezek. 20:34-38; Matt. 25; Zech. 14:4; cf. p. 160)
16 The <u>Lord</u> is at hand (Phil. 4:5)	The <u>kingdom</u> is at hand (Matt. 24:14)
17 Nature subsequently <u>ruined</u> (Rev. 6-16)	Nature subsequently <u>restored</u> (Rom. 8:19-22; Isa. 11:6-9; 35:9; 65:25)

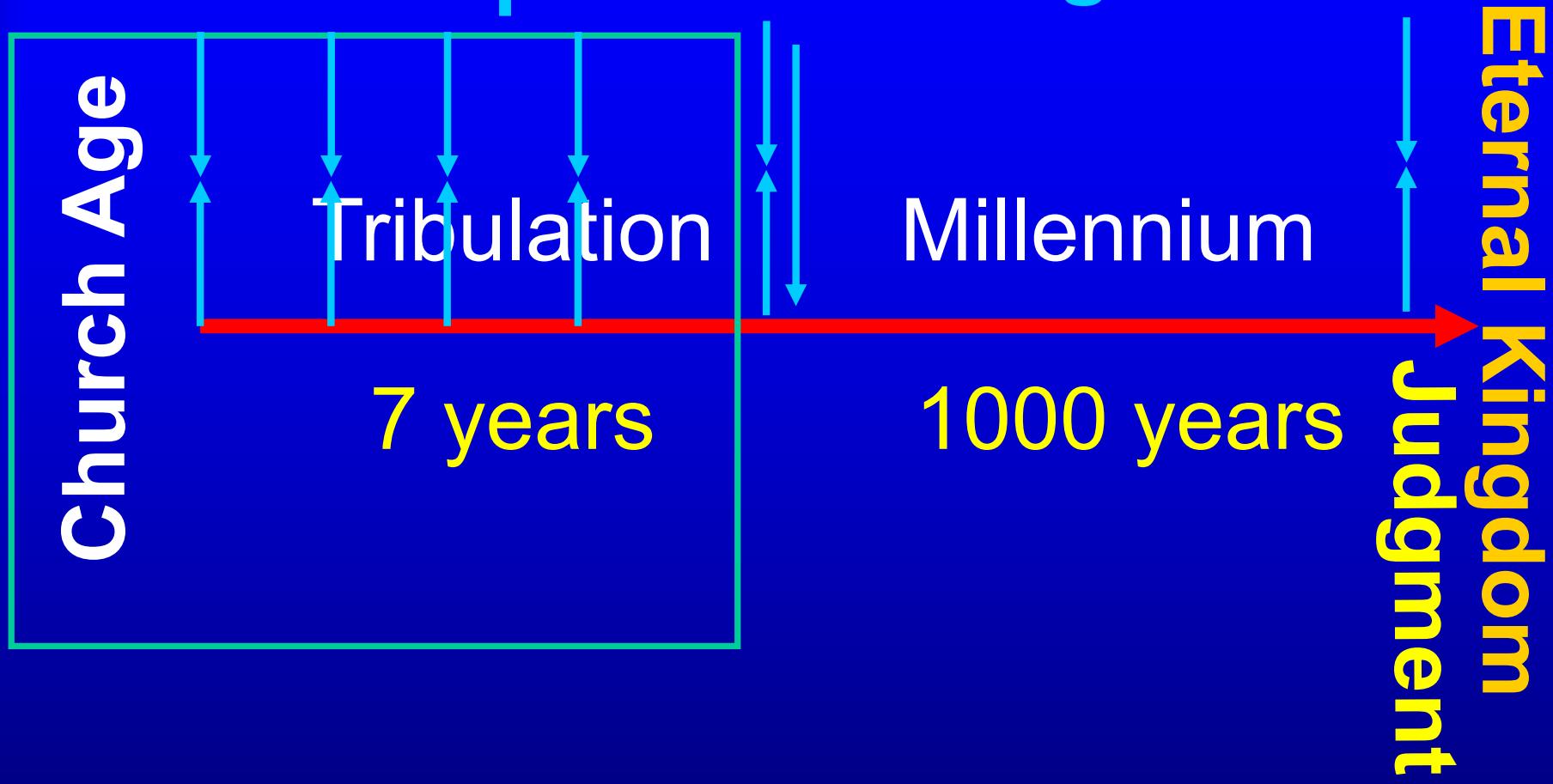
"Mid-Trib" Rapture

Second
Rapture Coming



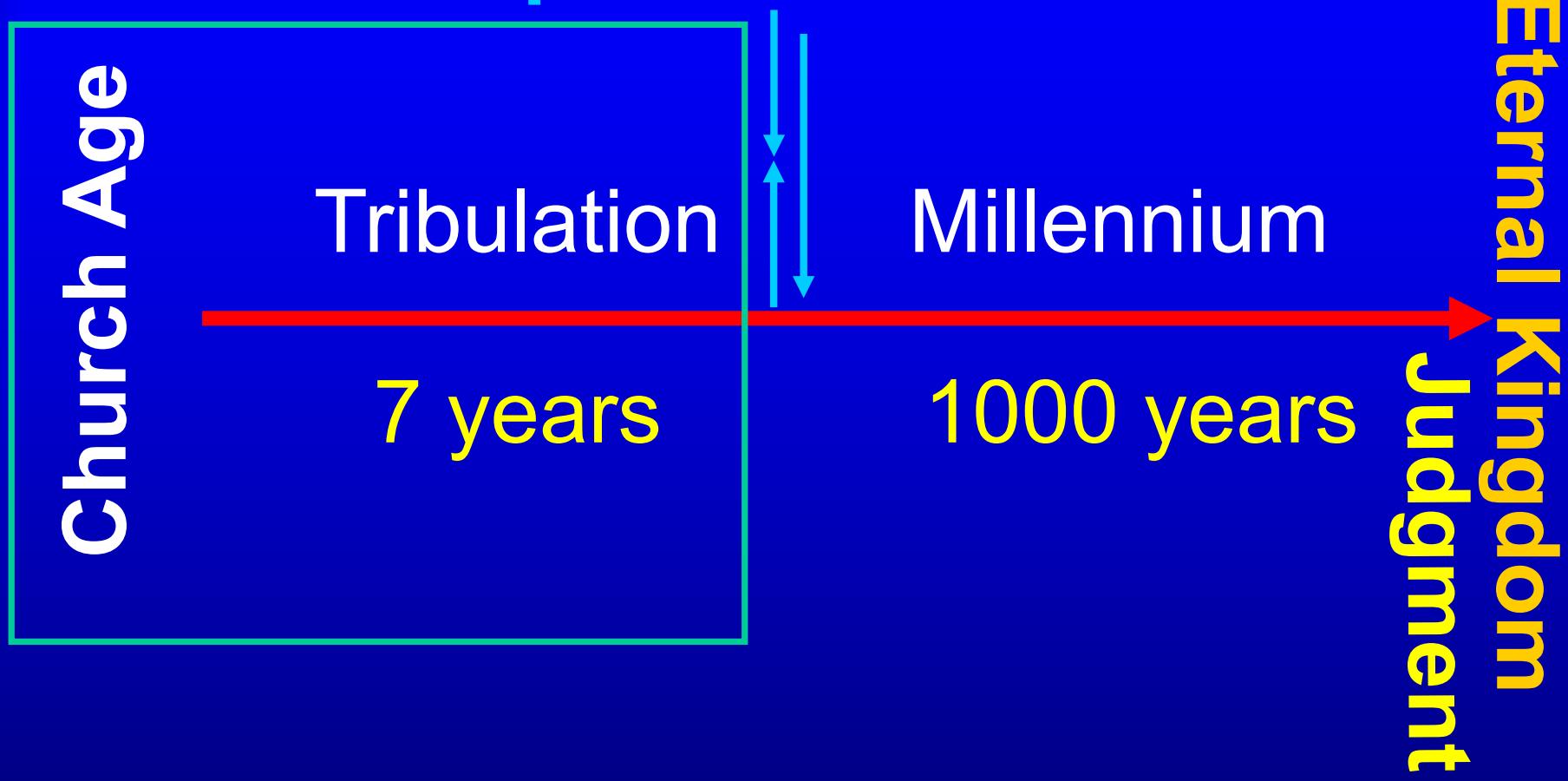
"Partial" Rapture

Second Raptures Coming



"Post-Trib" Rapture

Second Rapture Coming

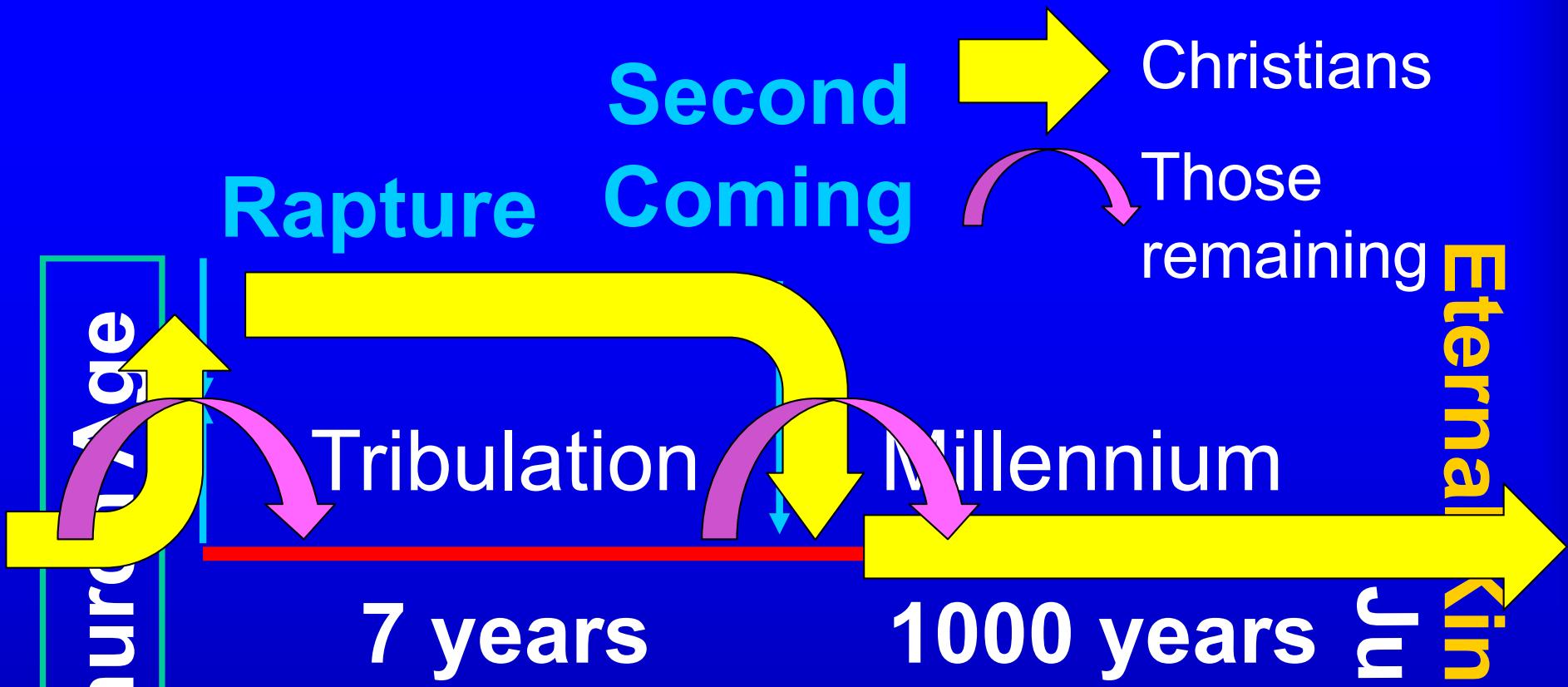


Why Am I Not Posttrib?

8. If posttrib, then sheep would already be separated from goats (Matt. 25:31-46).
9. Some people in the millennium will die (Isa. 65:20), but a posttrib rapture gives a glorified body to *all* believers; therefore, some people must trust Christ in the Tribulation and enter the Millennium in their mortal bodies.

A "Pre-Trib" Rapture explains how the Millennium will have both babies & death

435

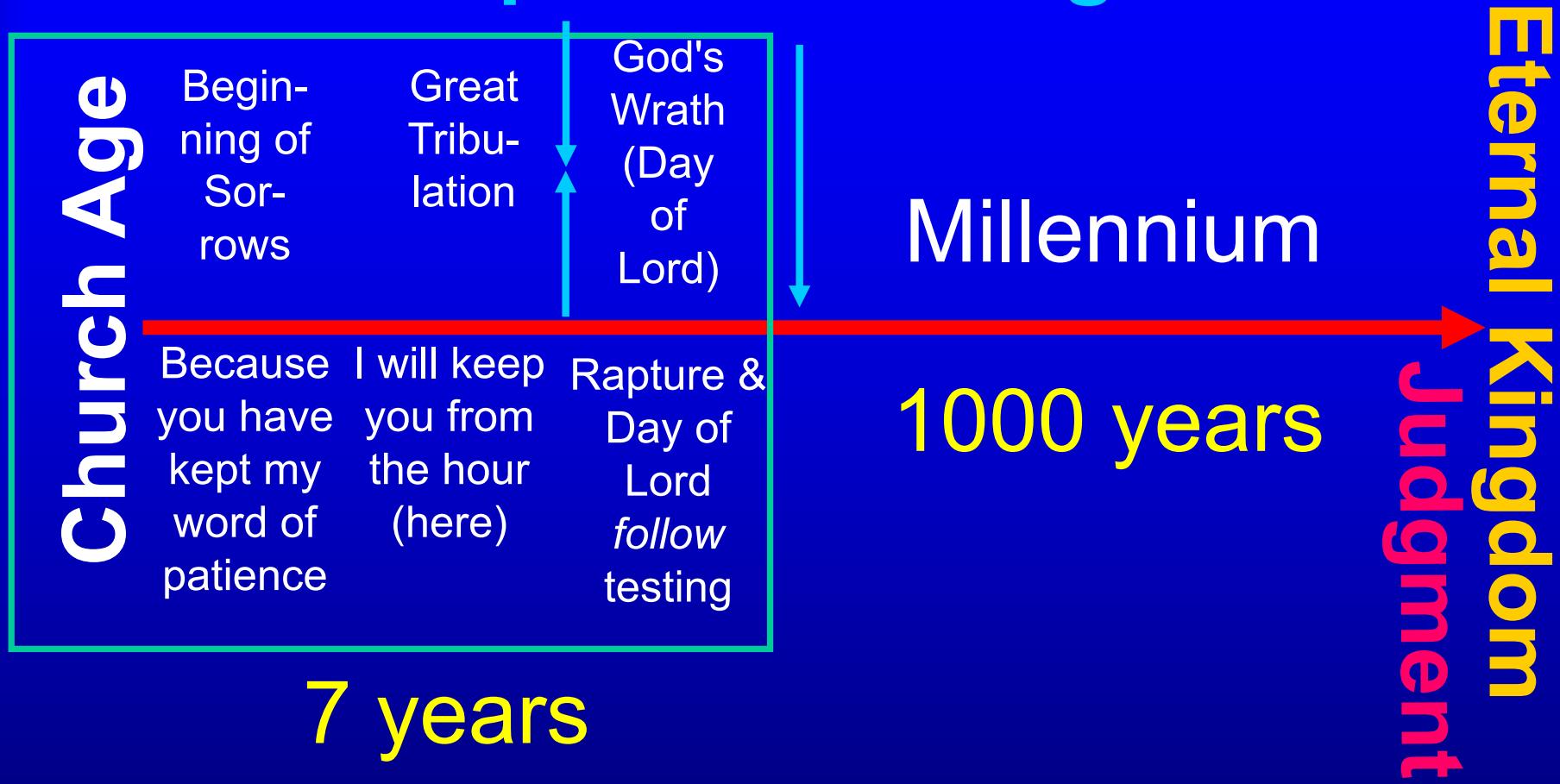


At the Rapture, believers will go to heaven and unbelievers remain on earth—the Tribulation will start 0% Christian.

After the Tribulation, believers on earth will enter the Millennium in their mortal bodies—the Millennium will start 100% Christian.

"Prewrath" Rapture

Pre-Wrath Second Rapture Coming



Be Affirmed

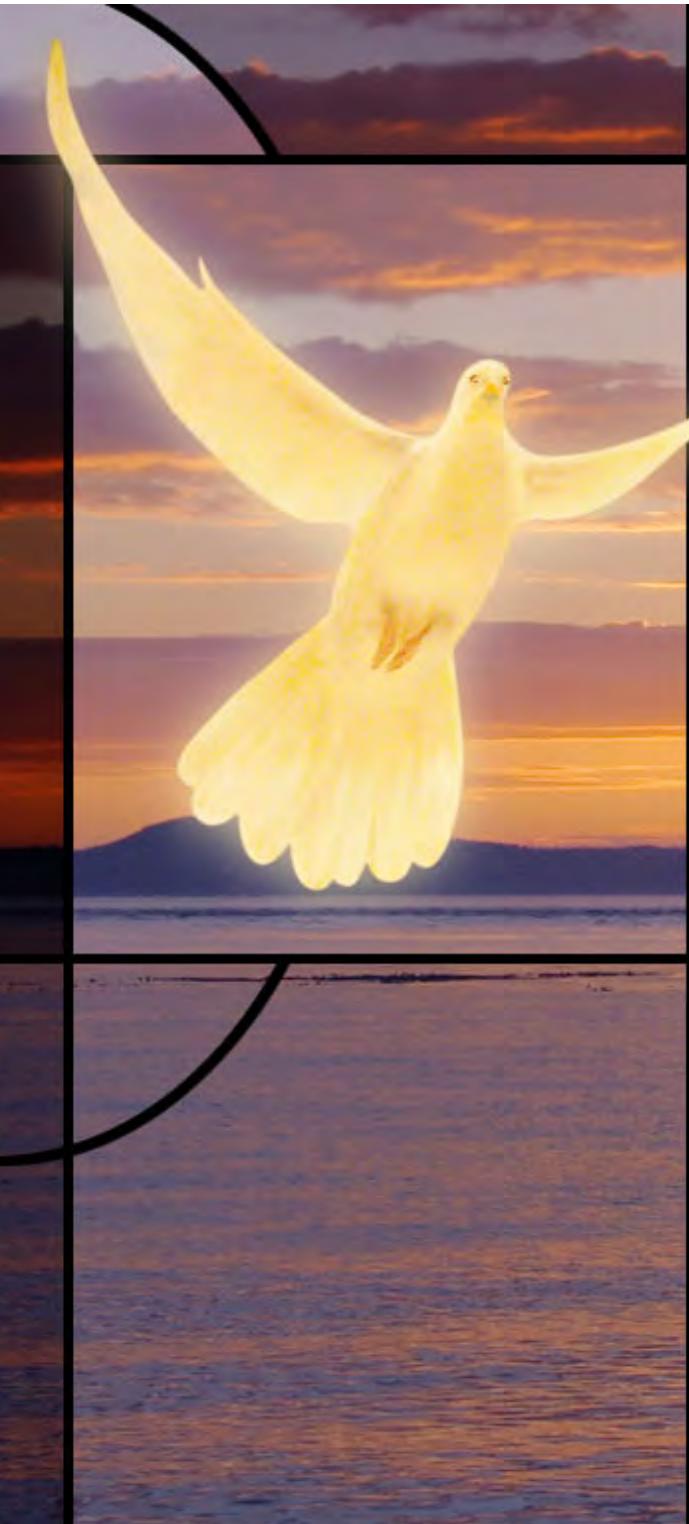


2 *Thessalonians*

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Affirmation

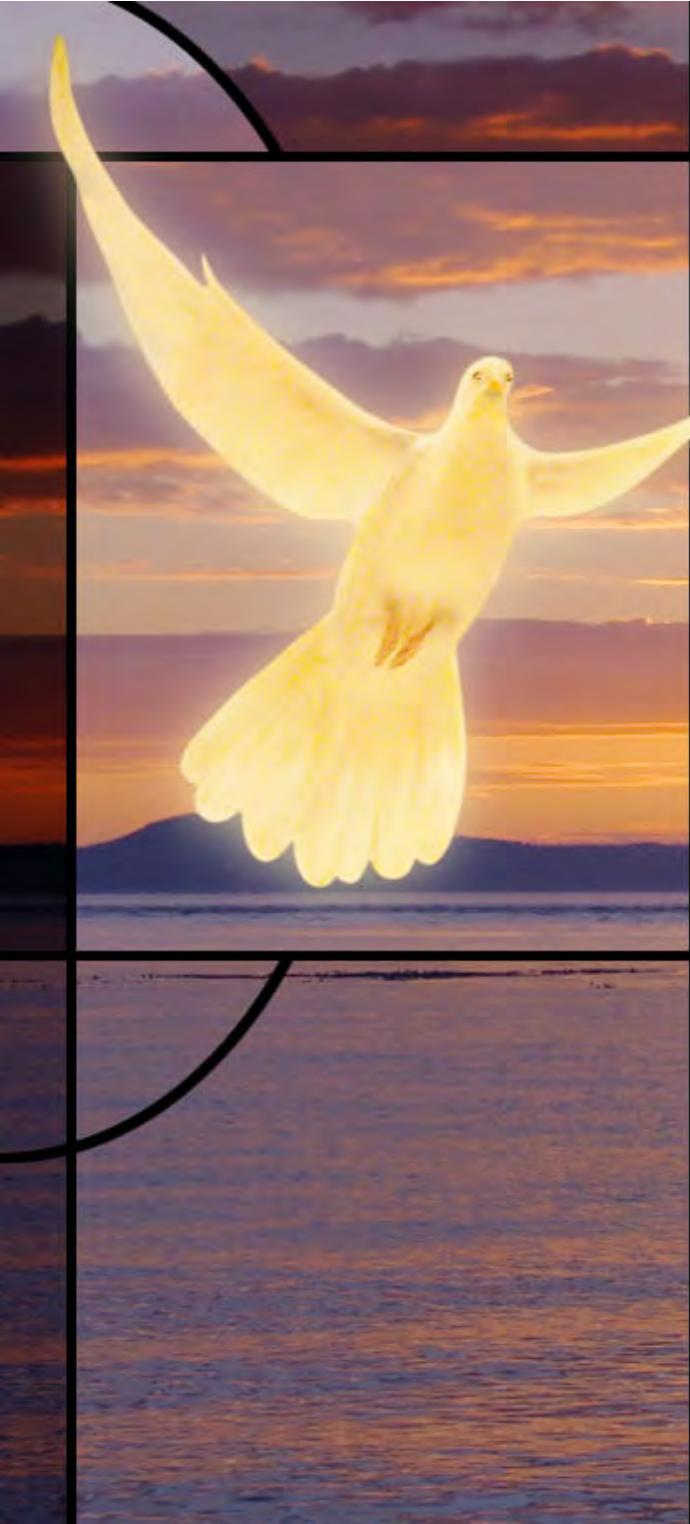




Our Mission



The mission of Crossroads is to reach the nations by reaching internationals residing in Singapore



Our Vision

The vision of Crossroads is to lead internationals into a vital relationship with Jesus Christ as disciples who can transform their unique spheres of influence (2 Tim. 2:2). In particular, Crossroads focuses primarily, but not exclusively, on reaching the English-speaking community

Our Priorities

Love the Nations

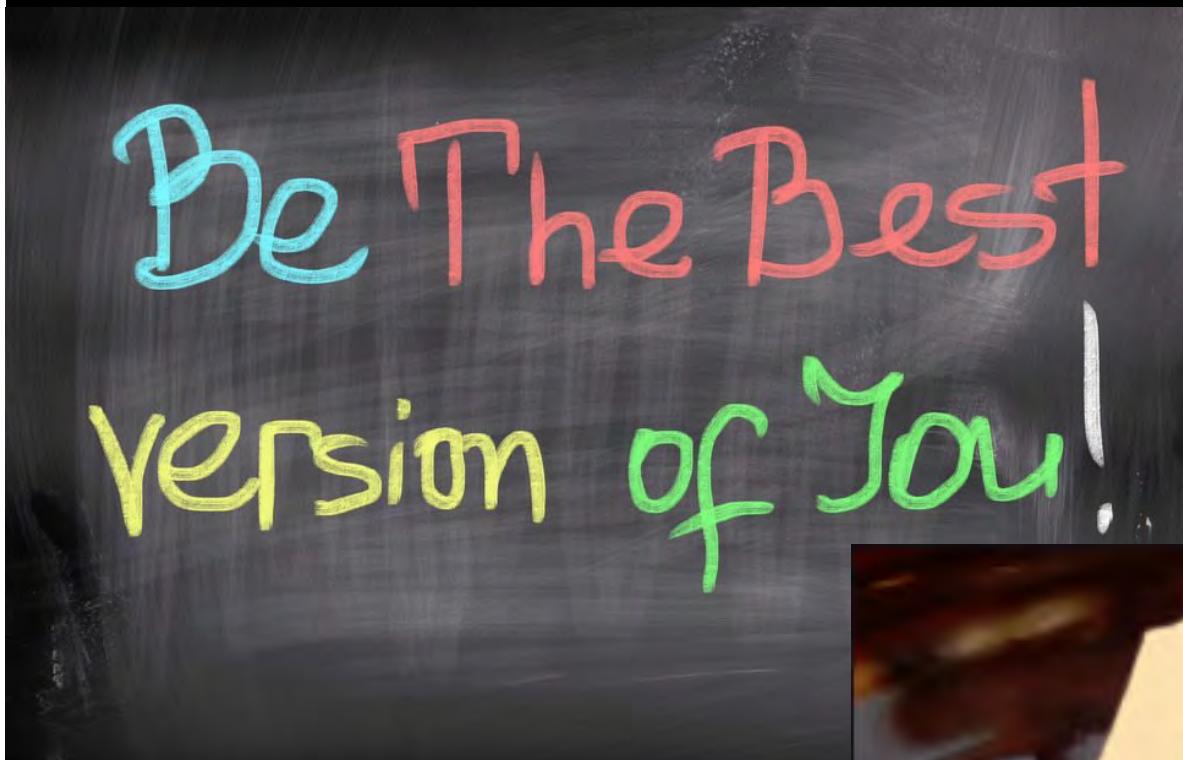
Love the Church

Love
God

Words can affirm

wonderful • special • handsome
pretty • loving • world • love
encouraging • empowering • you
powerful • heart • glorious • fantastic
tender • caring • kind • beautiful

Self Affirmation



Self Affirmation

1,000
Self Confidence
Affirmations

youtube.com/GrowingForever

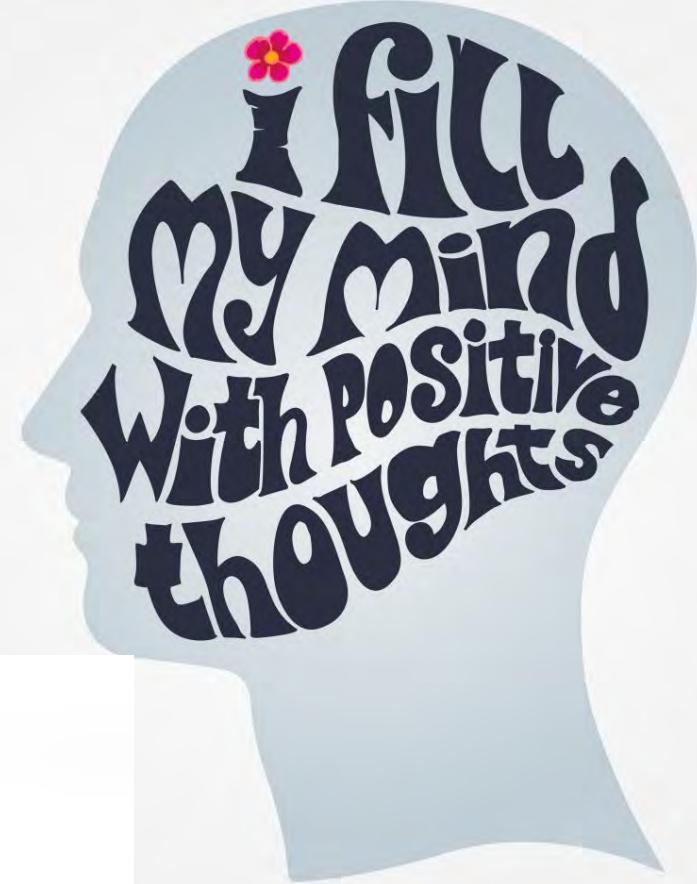
Self Affirmation



Self Affirmation

iam
ENOUGH

I AM
more
THAN ENOUGH



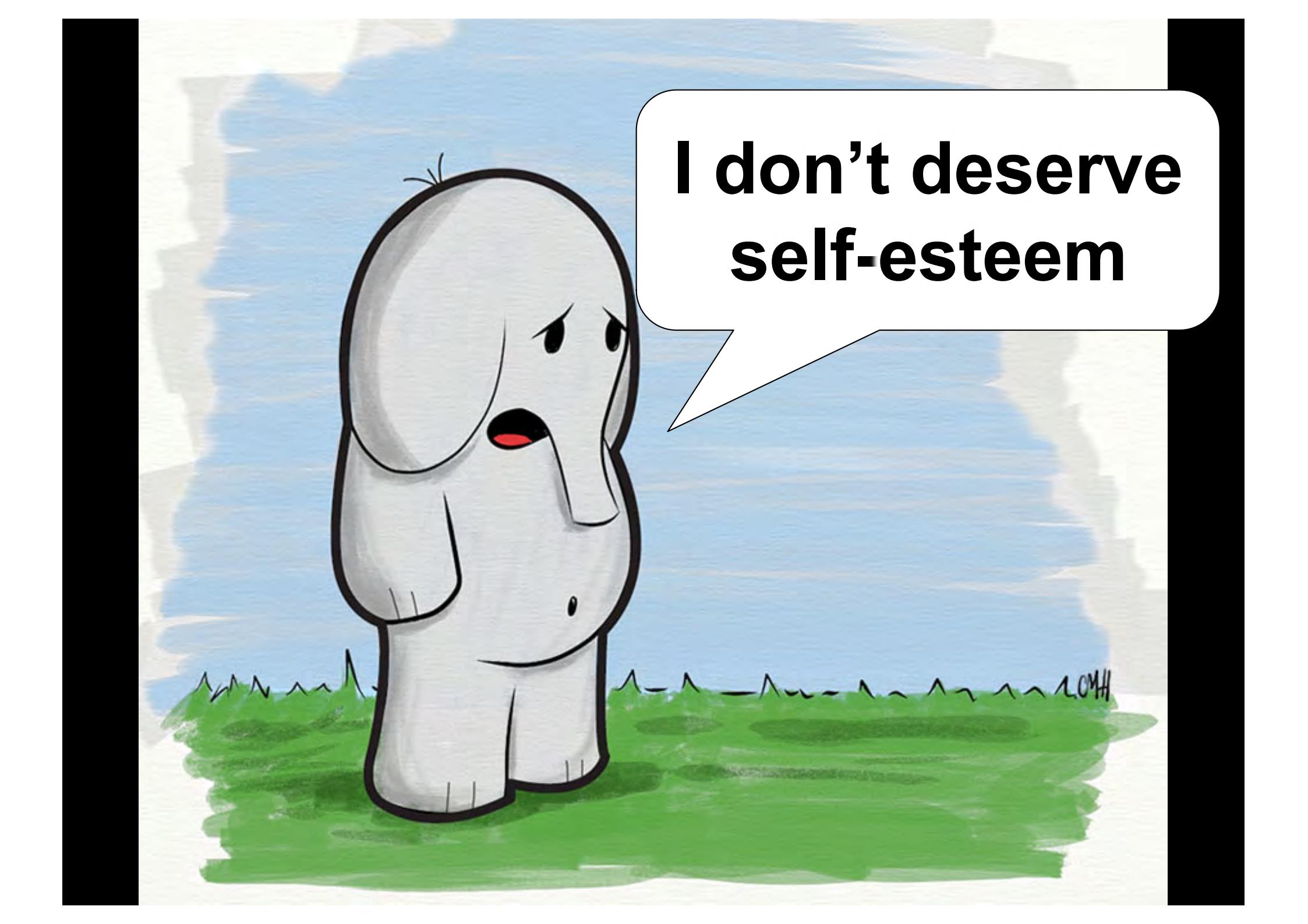
Is self affirmation enough?

2 Thessalonians

**WHO IS THE MOST
AWESOME
PERSON TODAY?**



**I LOVE MYSELF
UNCONDITIONALLY**



**I don't deserve
self-esteem**

**I'm not sure how many
problems I have
because math is
one of them.**





How many
of us notice
when others
are caught
in a spiral?

How can you
help those going
through tough
times?



How does God **affirm** us when we face tough times?



3 ways...

Background to 2 Thessalonians

Thessalonica

(now called Salonica or Thessaloniki)



- Founded by the Macedonian General Cassander in 315 BC
- Named after his wife, Thessalonike, daughter of Philip II and half sister of Alexander the Great
- In 167 BC, it became capital of one of the 4 districts of Macedonia
- In 146 BC, it was made a province and became the seat of provincial administration
- From 42 BC, it was declared a free city, governed by its own politarchs

A model of ancient Thessalonica



- Port city at the Thermaic Gulf



- Port city at the Thermaic Gulf
- Knitted together 26 villages
- Main seaport and naval base of Macedonia
- The Egnatian Way (Via Egnatia) ran through the city





What to do?...

This epistle was written in AD 51



• Three ways we can encourage others...

Written in Corinth after hearing Tim's report

The historical and chronological scenario for Paul's ministry at Thessalonica on his second missionary journey probably looks like this:

1. Paul plants the Thessalonian church November 50-January 51

2. Paul's ministry in Berea, Athens, and Corinth February-March 51

3. Silas and Timothy report to Paul in Corinth April/May 51

4. Paul writes 1 Thessalonians and sends it from Corinth Early Summer 51

5. The carrier of 1 Thessalonians reports back to Paul Mid Summer 51

6. Paul writes 2 Thessalonians from Corinth Late Summer 51

7. Paul departs Corinth first of September 52

Occasion

212-213

The historical and chronological scenario for Paul's ministry at Thessalonica on his second missionary journey probably looks like this:

1. Paul plants the Thessalonian church November 50- January 51
2. Paul's ministry in Berea, Athens, and Thessalonica January 51
3. Silas and Timothy join Paul in Thessalonica January 51
4. Paul writes 1 Thessalonians from Corinth Early Summer 51
5. The Thessalonians reports back to Paul Mid Summer 51
6. Paul writes 2 Thessalonians from Corinth Late Summer 51
7. Paul departs Corinth first of September 52

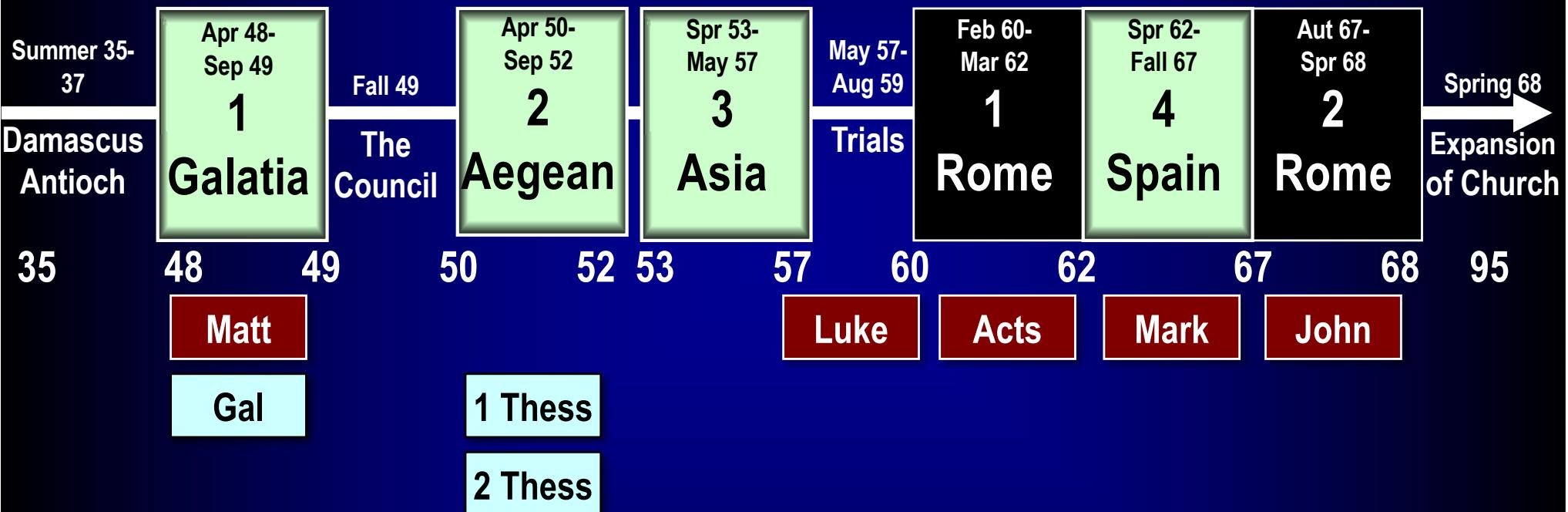
Within only a few months after writing 1 Thessalonians, Paul received news of problems unresolved by his first letter. Therefore, Paul decided to write the church again to help the believers handle these difficulties.

NT Overview (Paul's Letters)

38
124
39-41

"To the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



Gospels & Acts

Pauline Epistles

1234

Journeys

Rome

Imprisonments

Pauline

Be Prepared



1 Thessalonians

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
BibleStudyDownloads.org

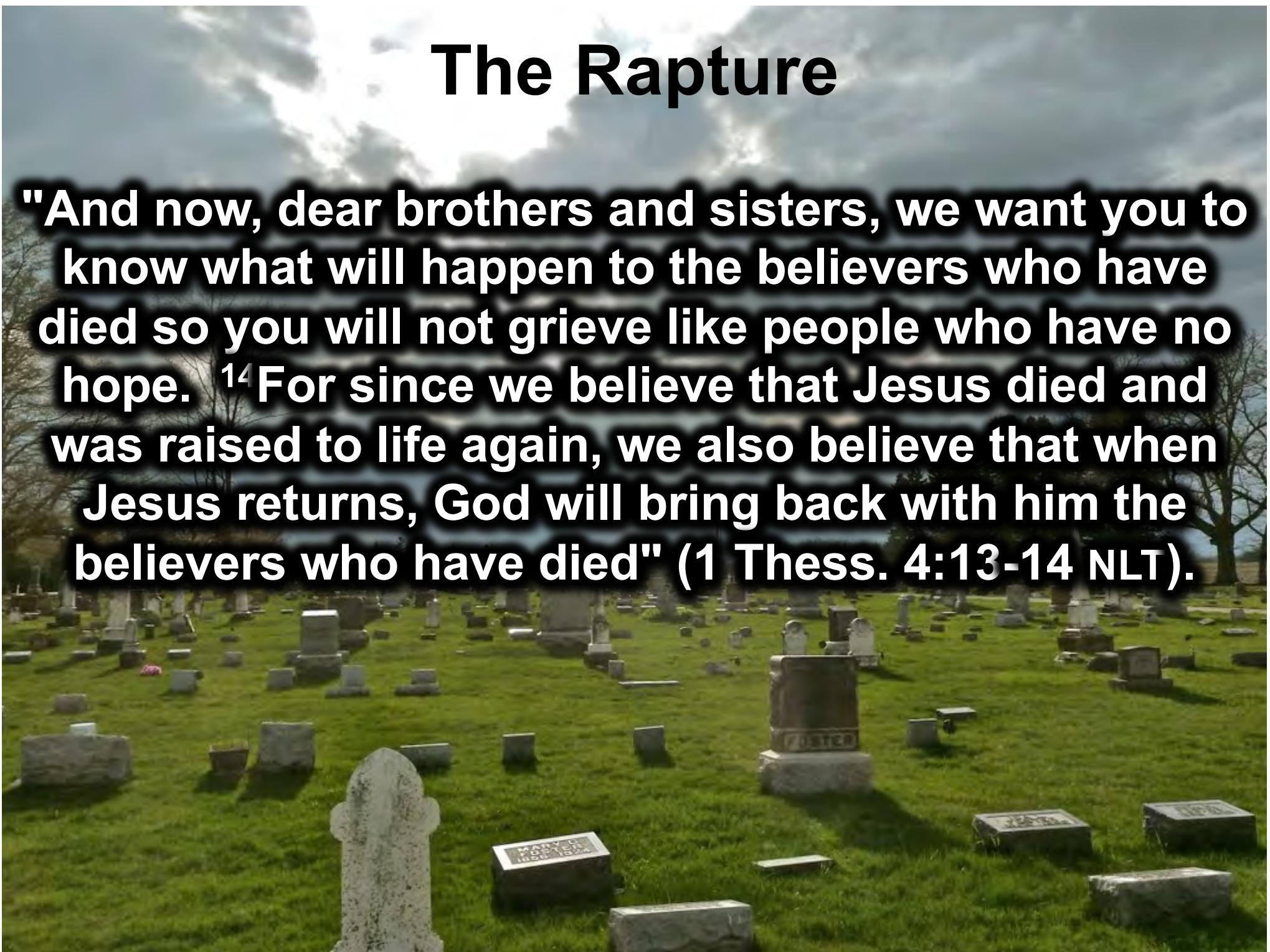


1 Thessalonians

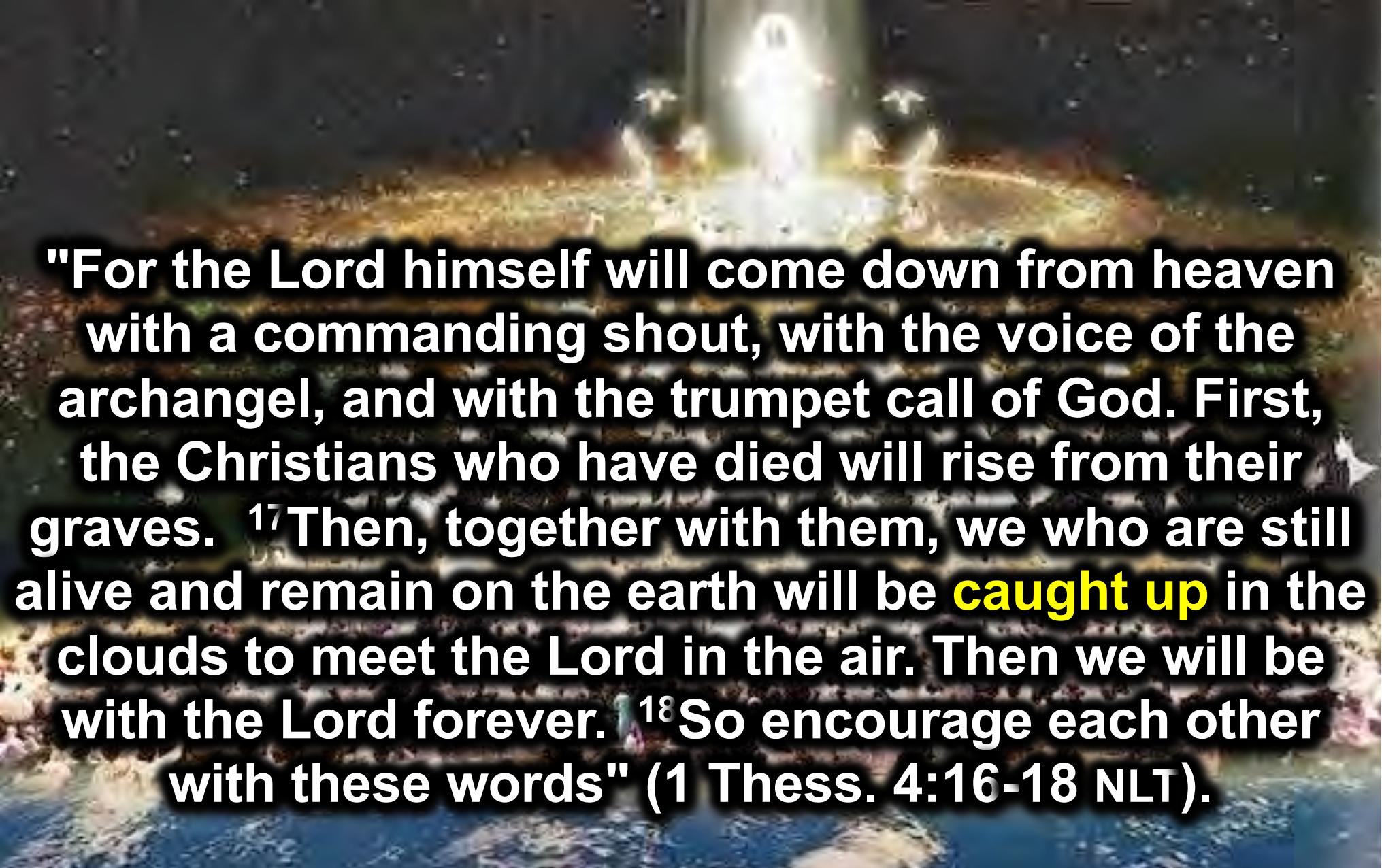


The Rapture

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died" (1 Thess. 4:13-14 NLT).



The Rapture



"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. ¹⁷Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be **caught up** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸So encourage each other with these words" (1 Thess. 4:16-18 NLT).



**How can you be prepared
for the Rapture?**

2 ways...

1 Thessalonians

I. Serve Jesus without **greed** (Chapters 1–3).

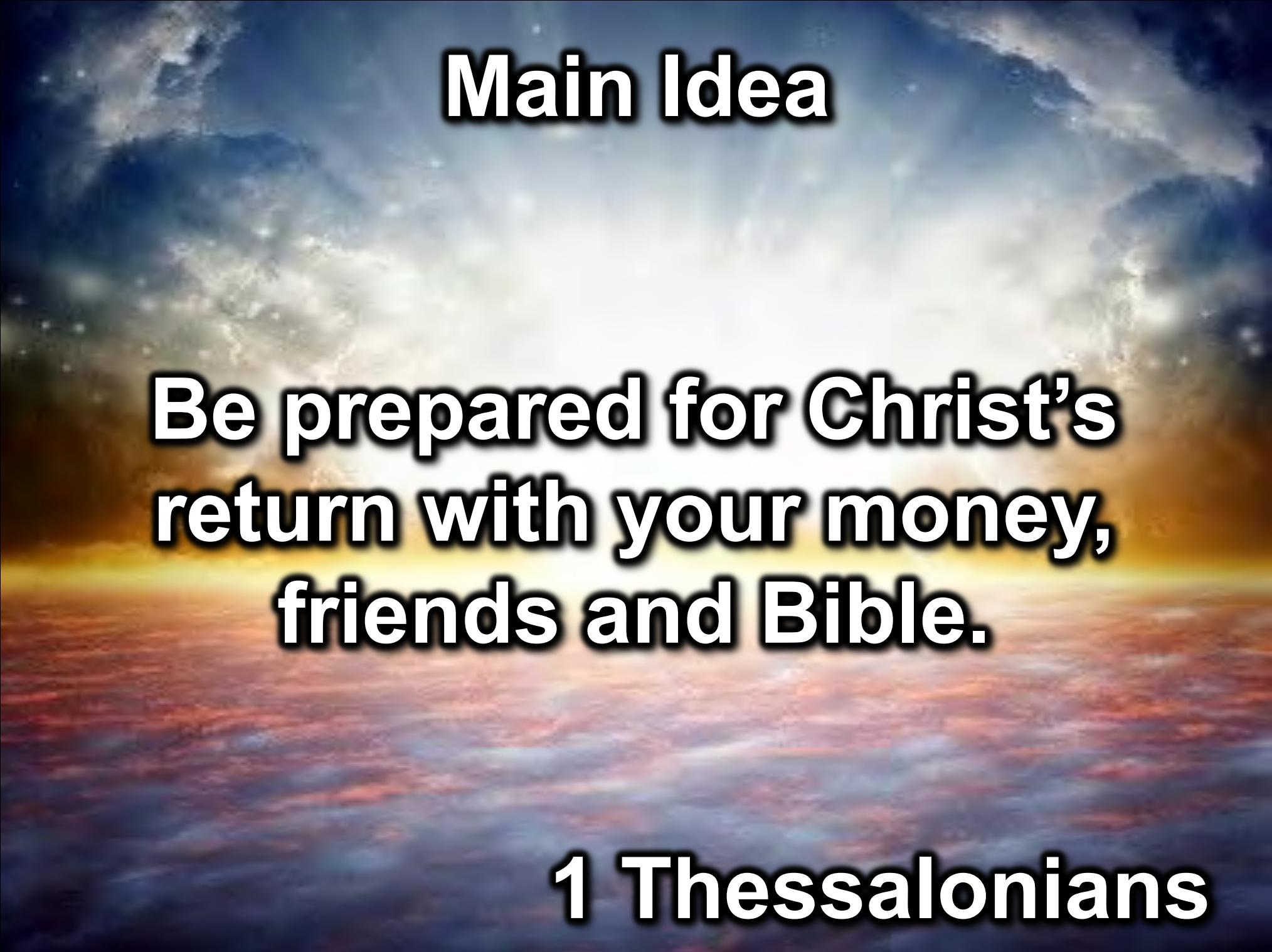


1 Thessalonians

II. Care about both **people** and **theology** (Chapters 4–5).



1 Thessalonians



Main Idea

**Be prepared for Christ's
return with your money,
friends and Bible.**

1 Thessalonians

We will all give an account



1 Thessalonians

"like a thief in the night"



1 Thessalonians 5:2



Macedonia

Thessalonica

Corinth

1-2 Thessalonians

Argument

Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians to help the believers handle **three difficulties** facing the church:

1. Increased **persecution** (1:3-10),
2. **False teaching** that the day of the Lord had already come (2:1-12), and
3. Idleness in some **lazy** Thessalonian Christians who were "waiting for the rapture" (3:6-15).

Paul wrote to **encourage** perseverance based upon their future reward at the day of the Lord (ch. 1) and to **correct** their false notion of the day of the Lord (ch. 2) so he **exhorted** discipline instead of idleness (ch. 3). The key theme is the day of the Lord and its implications on behavior.

How does God **affirm** us when we face tough times?



3 ways...

2 Thessalonians 1

How God affirms...

Emotions
1

Outline of 2 Thessalonians

*I. Emotionally: God gives **perseverance** to bring maturity (2 Thess 1).*



Paul's Advice to Troubled Thessalonians: Focus on God!

Focus on God in the Thessalonian Epistles

Total Verses	"God"	"Lord"	"Jesus"	"Christ"	Total
1 Thess. (89)	36	24	16	10	86
2 Thess. (47)	18	22	13	10	63
Total (136)	54	46	29	20	149

Number of Greek occurrences from Elwell & Yarbrough,
Encountering the New Testament, 332

MAIN IDEA OF MATTHEW

Serve the Lord Jesus Christ

GOD

Lord

Jesus

SAVIOR

KING

Christ

A Worthy Name to Repeat

2 Thess 1

2 Thess 2

2 Thess 3

**Lord Jesus Christ
(1:1)**

**Lord Jesus Christ
(2:1)**

**Lord Jesus Christ
(3:6)**

**Lord Jesus Christ
(1:2)**

**Lord Jesus Christ
(2:14)**

**Lord Jesus Christ
(3:12)**

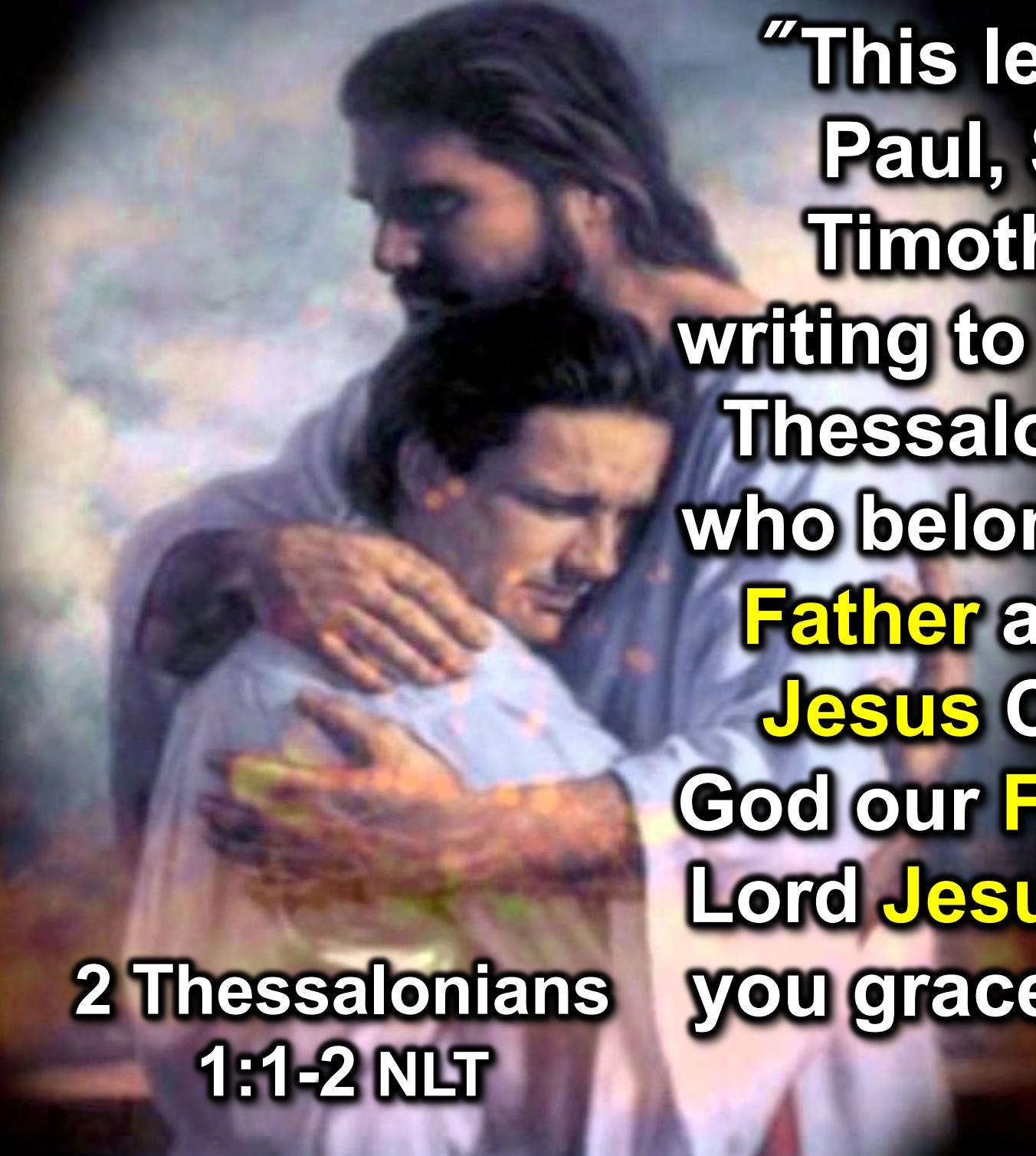
**Lord Jesus Christ
(1:12)**

**Lord Jesus Christ
(2:16)**

**Lord Jesus Christ
(3:18)**

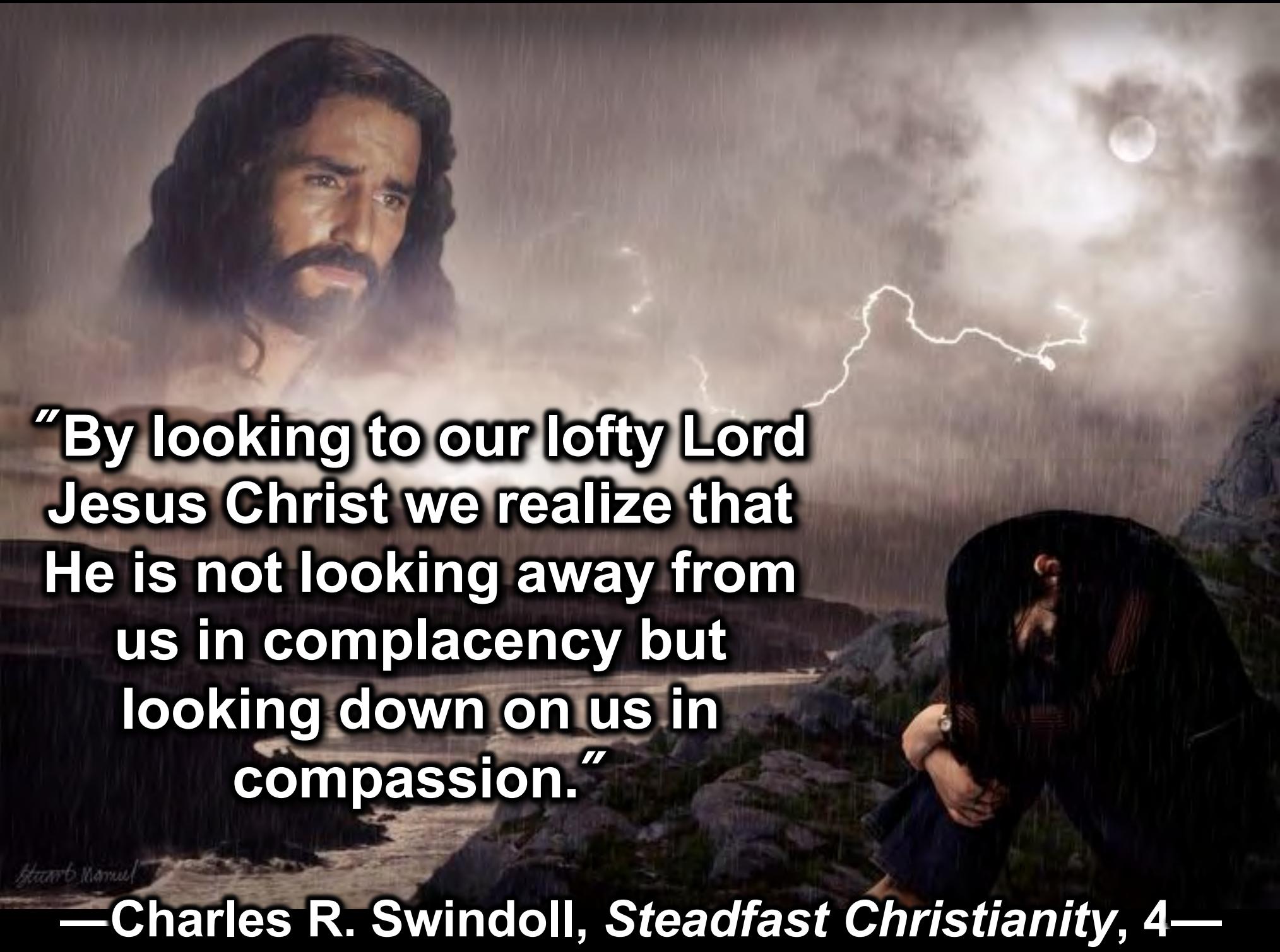
See **God's** perspective
on trials (1:1-2).





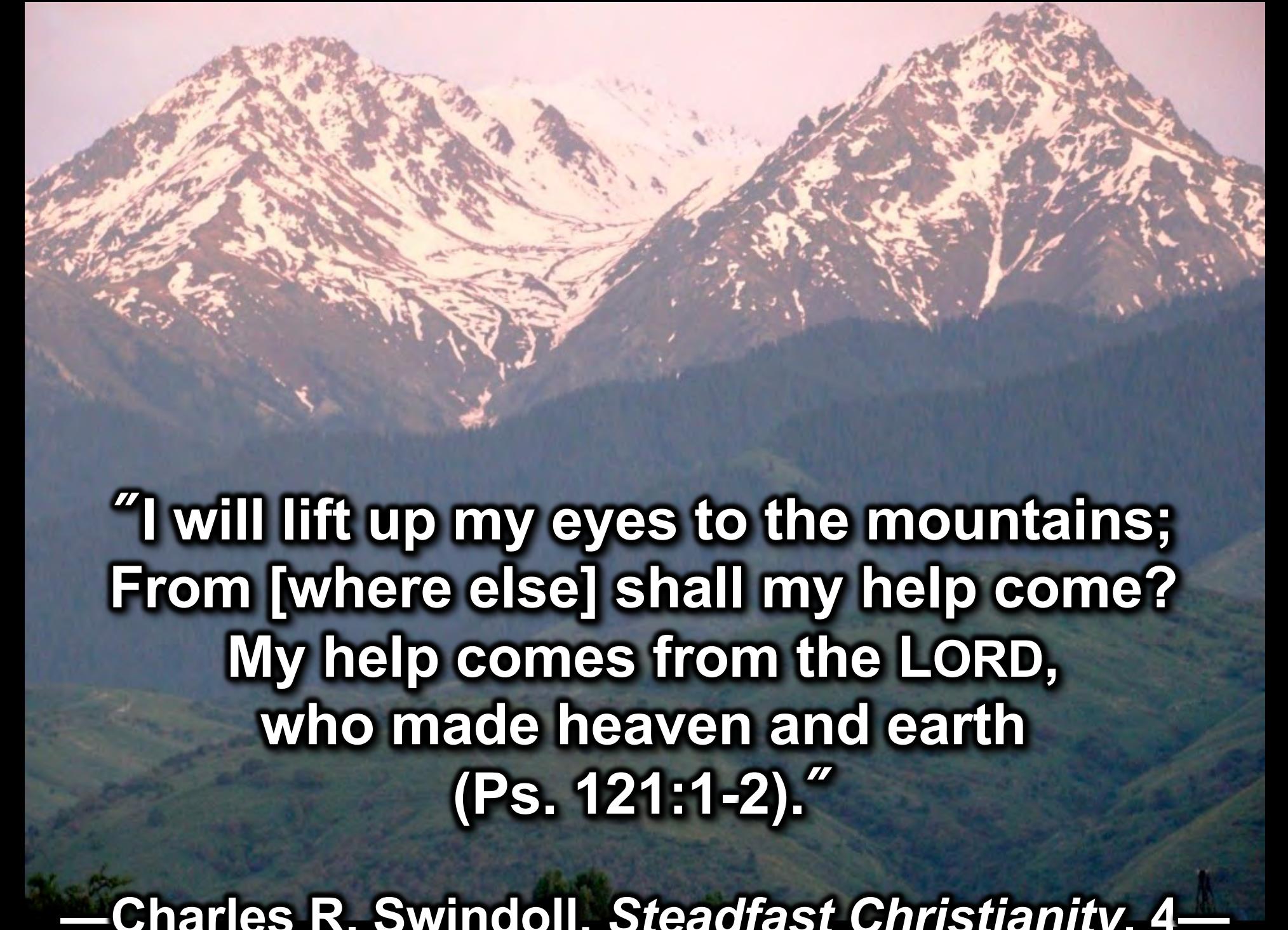
**“This letter is from
Paul, Silas, and
Timothy. We are
writing to the church in
Thessalonica, to you
who belong to God our
Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ. ²May
God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ give
you grace and peace.”**

**2 Thessalonians
1:1-2 NLT**



**"By looking to our lofty Lord
Jesus Christ we realize that
He is not looking away from
us in complacency but
looking down on us in
compassion."**

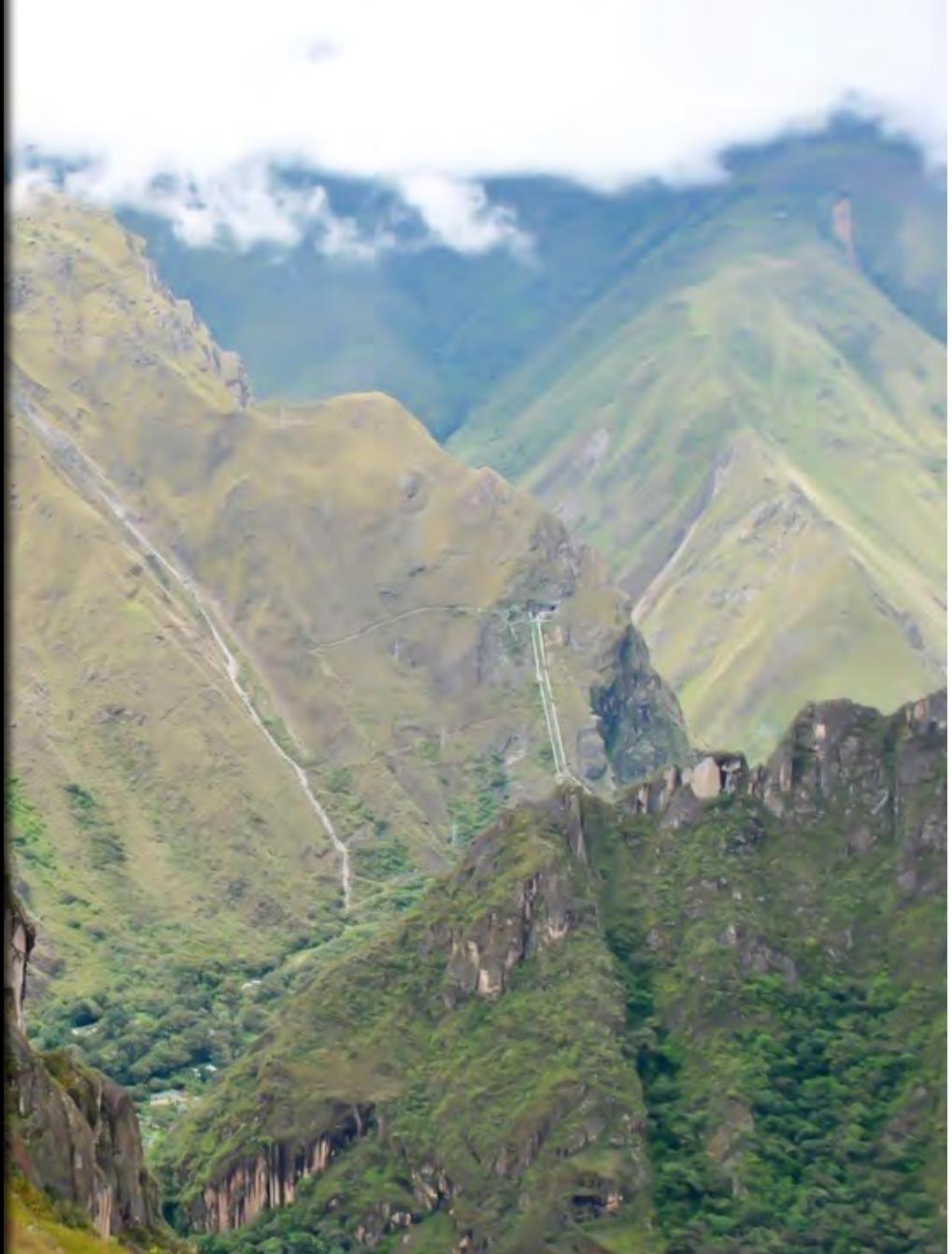
—Charles R. Swindoll, *Steadfast Christianity*, 4—



**“I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;
From [where else] shall my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth
(Ps. 121:1-2).”**

—Charles R. Swindoll, *Steadfast Christianity*, 4—

“Do you look to the peaks when you’re in the valleys? Or are you so rutted in the valleys that you’ve forgotten the mountains are even there? People who fail to affirm usually do so because they fail to see the Lord in the midst of it all.”



—Charles R. Swindoll, *Steadfast Christianity*, 4—

“When we look up, we are reminded that God is not removed... not absent... not out of touch. And then we get a glimpse of the divine perspective on our circumstances—which can only be seen from the peaks, not in the valleys.”



—Charles R. Swindoll, *Steadfast Christianity*, 4—



SEEING LIFE FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

*Your life's experiences can be different
when viewed from God's perspective.*



How many
of us notice
when others
are caught
in a spiral?

How to Affirm Others

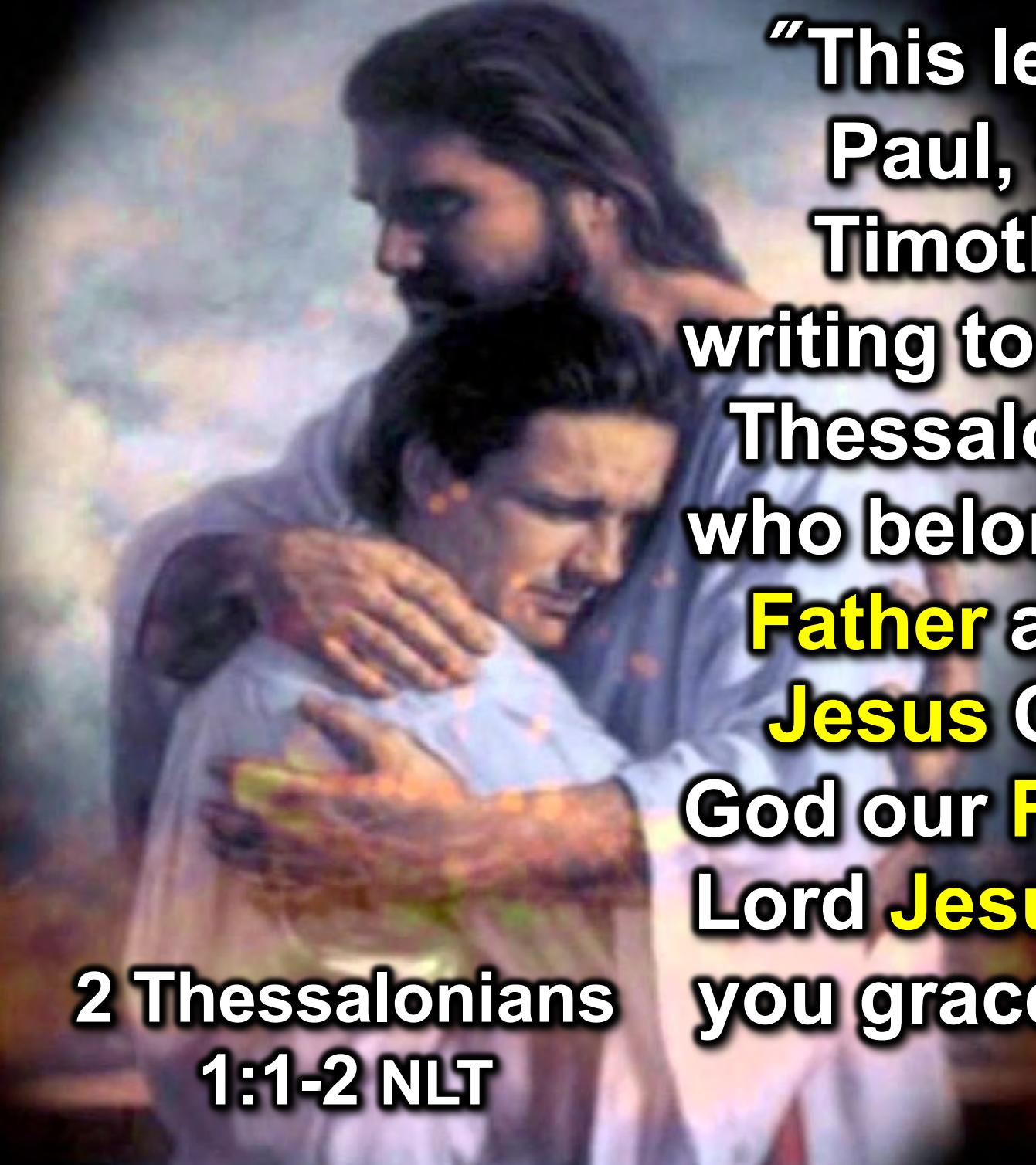
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4



• Three ways we can affirm others...

I. See **God's** perspective on trials (1:1-2).





**“This letter is from
Paul, Silas, and
Timothy. We are
writing to the church in
Thessalonica, to you
who belong to God our
Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ. ²May
God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ give
you grace and peace.”**

**2 Thessalonians
1:1-2 NLT**

Paul's Advice to Troubled Thessalonians: Focus on God!

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Number of Greek occurrences from Elwell & Yarbrough,
Encountering the New Testament, 332

**We also need to help others focus
on the Lord in their difficulty**





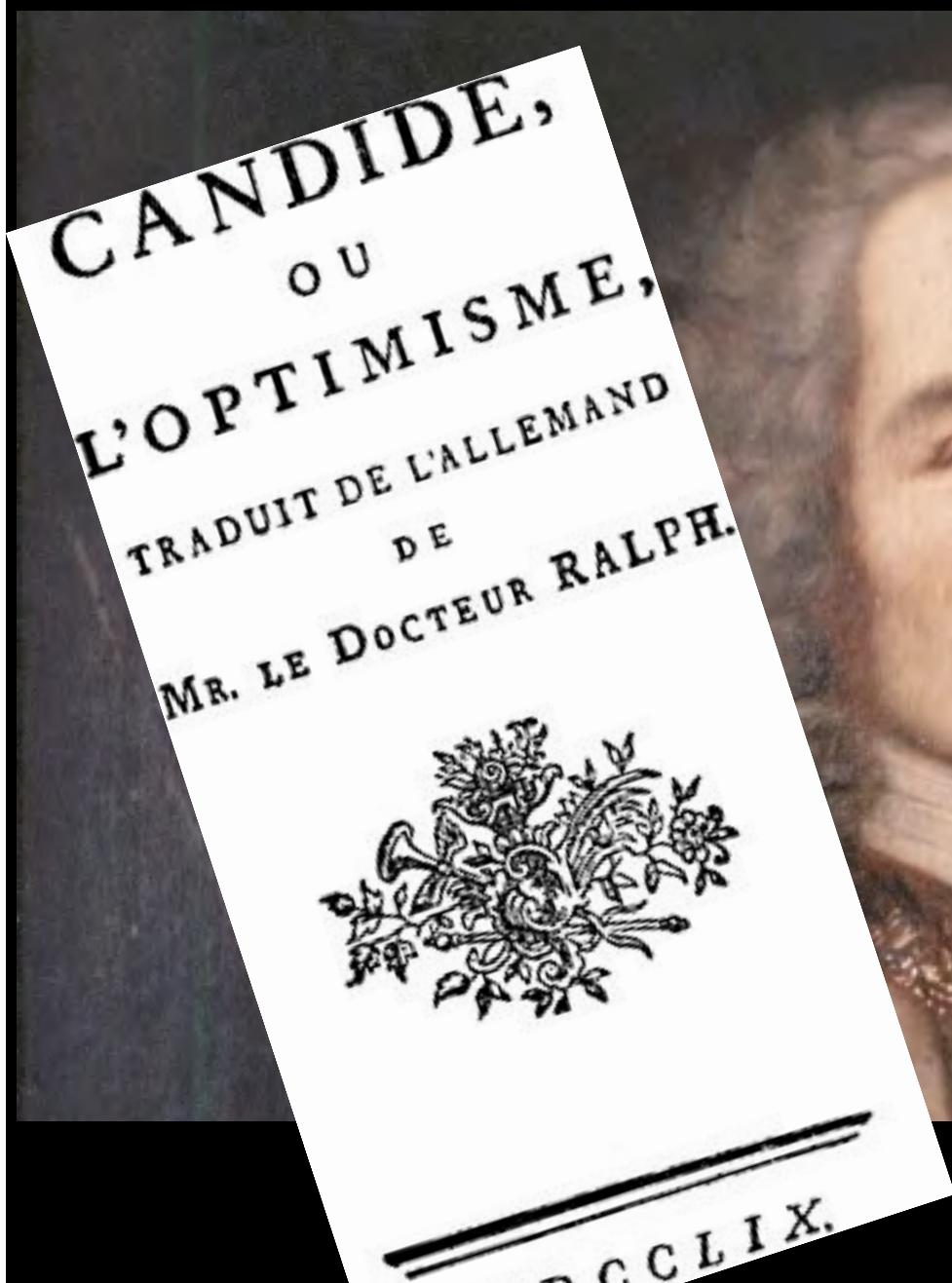
And we know that for those who love God

**ALL THINGS WORK
TOGETHER FOR GOOD,**

for those who are called according to his purpose.

ROMANS 8:28

Voltaire (1694-1778)



Dr. Pangloss



*"Well, all
things work
for good!"*

Pangloss



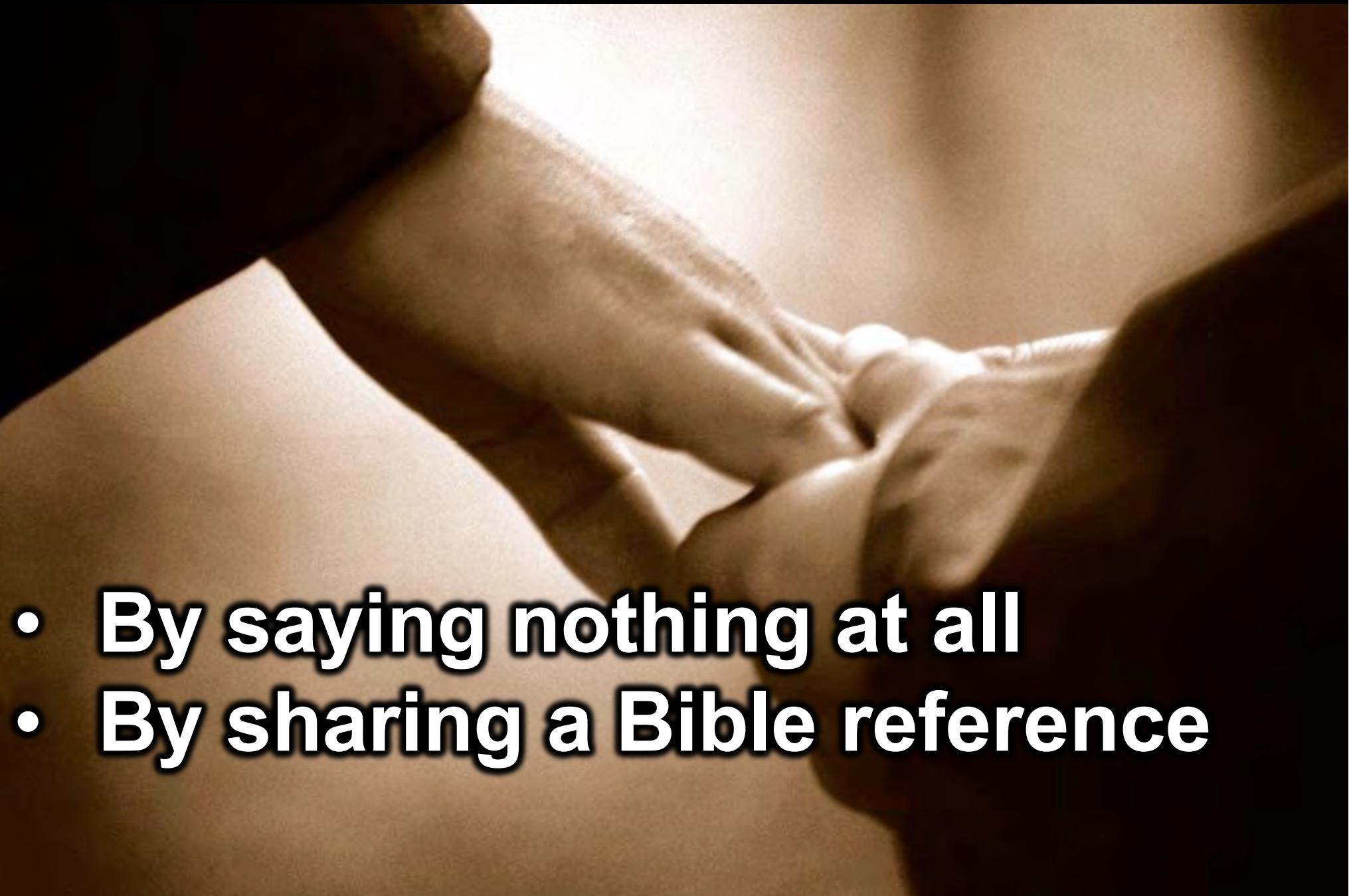
All things
work together for
good to those who
love GOD.

ROMANS 8:28

Romans 8:28 NIV

“And we know that in all things
God works for the good
of those who **love** him,
who have been called
according to his purpose.”

Turn others to the Lord



- **By saying nothing at all**
- **By sharing a Bible reference**

Seattle Special Olympics



Seattle Special Olympics



Seattle Special Olympics



Seattle Special Olympics



Seattle Special Olympics



“A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.”



—James Keller

Thank God for others' growth (1:3).



“Dear brothers and sisters, we can’t help but thank God for you, because your **faith** is flourishing and your **love** for one another is growing”
(2 Thessalonians 1:3 NLT).



**He affirmed them that their love for
one another kept increasing—so we
see Paul affirming their affirmation!**



What kind of glasses do you wear?



Mercy Glasses



Prayer Affirms



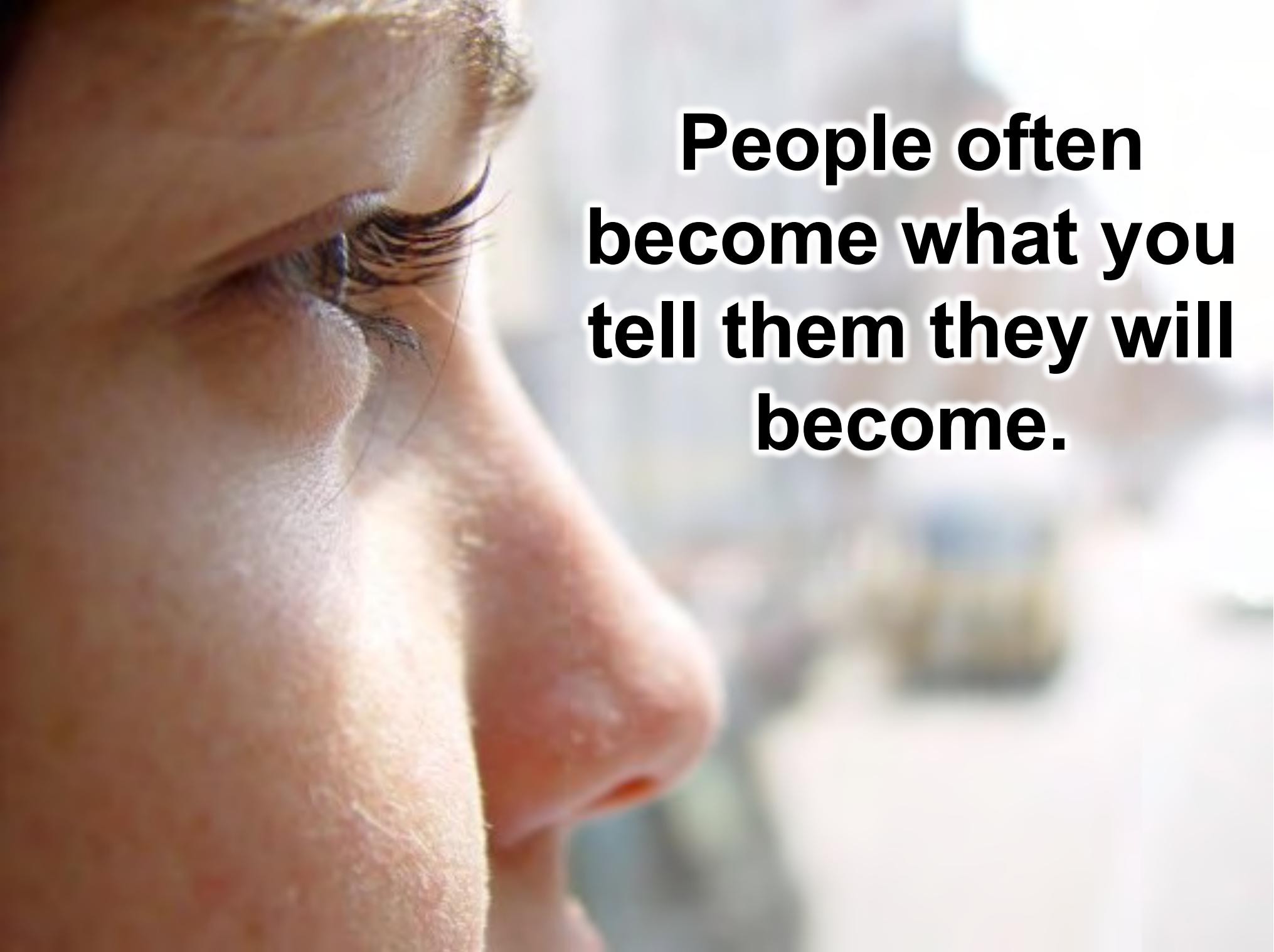
Publicly **brag** about
others' spiritual growth
(1:4).



**“We proudly tell
God’s other
churches about
your endurance
and faithfulness
in all the
persecutions
and hardships
you are
suffering.”**



**2 Thessalonians 1:4
NLT**



**People often
become what you
tell them they will
become.**

Jim Sundberg



"How many of you had parents that told you that you would end up in prison one day?"



Bill Glass
**BEHIND THE
WALLS**

**Affirm
the afflicted to help
them mature in Christ.**



Main Idea of 2 Thess 1:1-4

"And God will use this persecution to show his justice and to make you worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering. ⁶In his justice he will pay back those who persecute you"
(2 Thess 1:5-6 NLT).

"And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with his mighty angels, ⁸in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus"
(2 Thess 1:7-8 NLT).

"They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power. ¹⁰When he comes on that day, he will receive glory from his holy people—praise from all who believe. And this includes you, for you believed what we told you about him" (2 Thess 1:9-10 NLT).

"So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do."

2 Thessalonians 1:11

"Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be honored along with him. This is all made possible because of the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ."

2 Thessalonians 1:12



Persevering through
affliction develops maturity

Charles R. Swindoll, *Steadfast Christianity*, 3

Marbles or Grapes?



My Defensiveness



How does God **affirm** us when we face tough times?

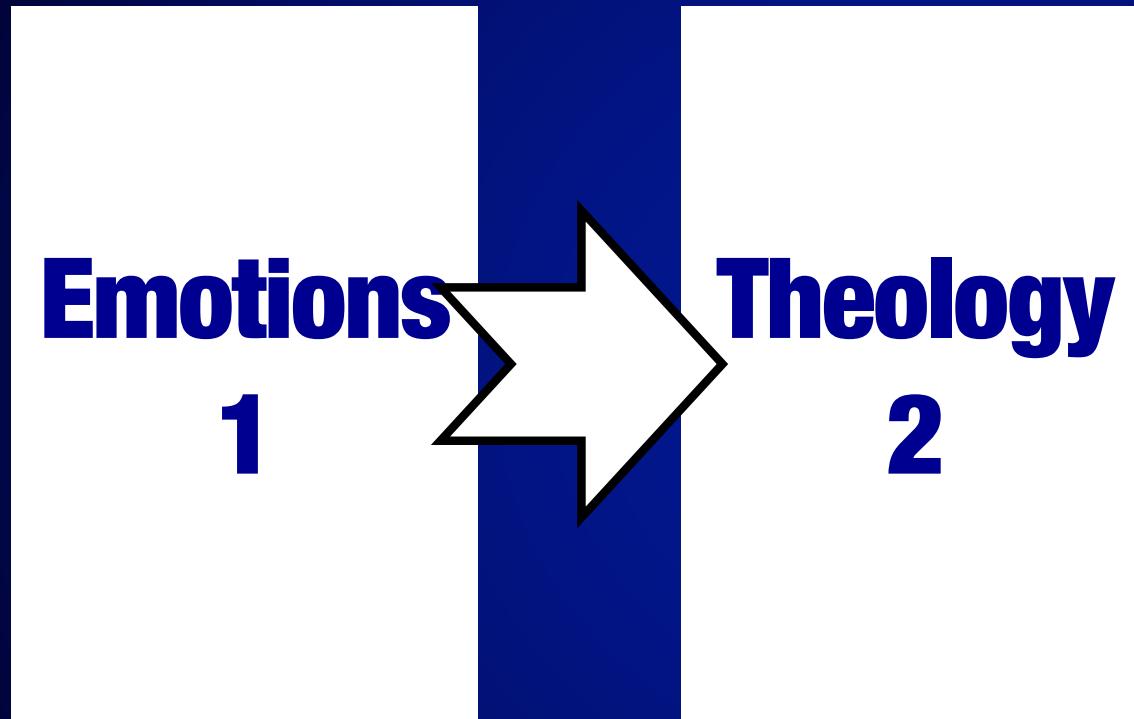


*I. Emotionally: God gives **perseverance** to bring maturity (2 Thess 1).*



2 Thessalonians 2

How God affirms...



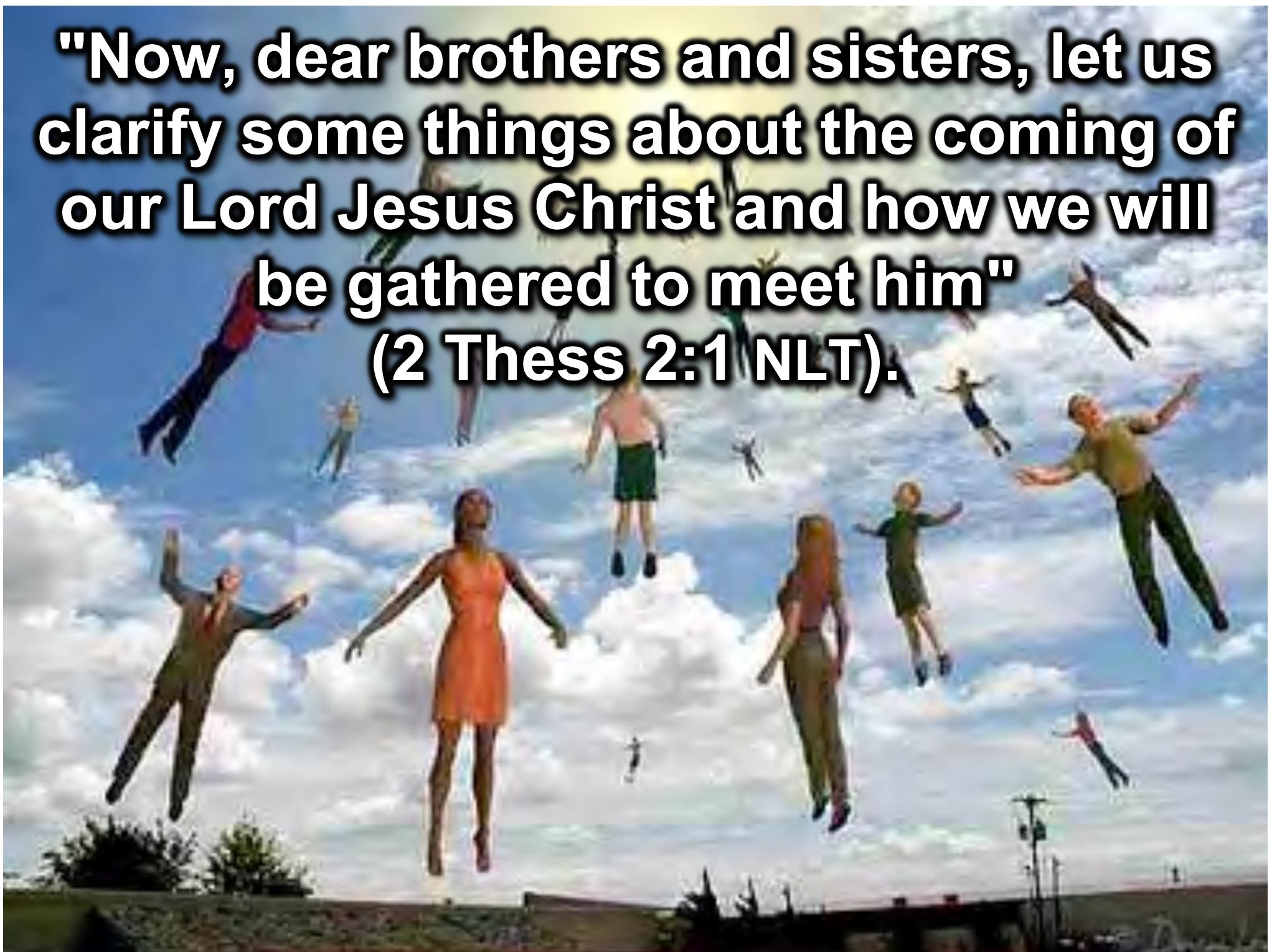
Outline of 2 Thessalonians

II. Theologically: God gives us **truth to bring stability (2 Thess 2).**



"Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him"

(2 Thess 2:1 NLT).



Key Verse

"Do not become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction"
(2:2-3).

2 Thessalonians



Judgment!

followed by...

A photograph of a lush green pasture. In the middle ground, a large flock of sheep is scattered across the grass. The sheep are mostly white with dark, irregular patches of wool. The pasture slopes gently upwards towards the horizon. In the background, a dark, rocky outcrop or cliff face is visible. The overall scene is pastoral and peaceful.

Blessing!



The Day of the LORD
Judgment +

Tribulation

Rev. 6–19

7 years



Blessing

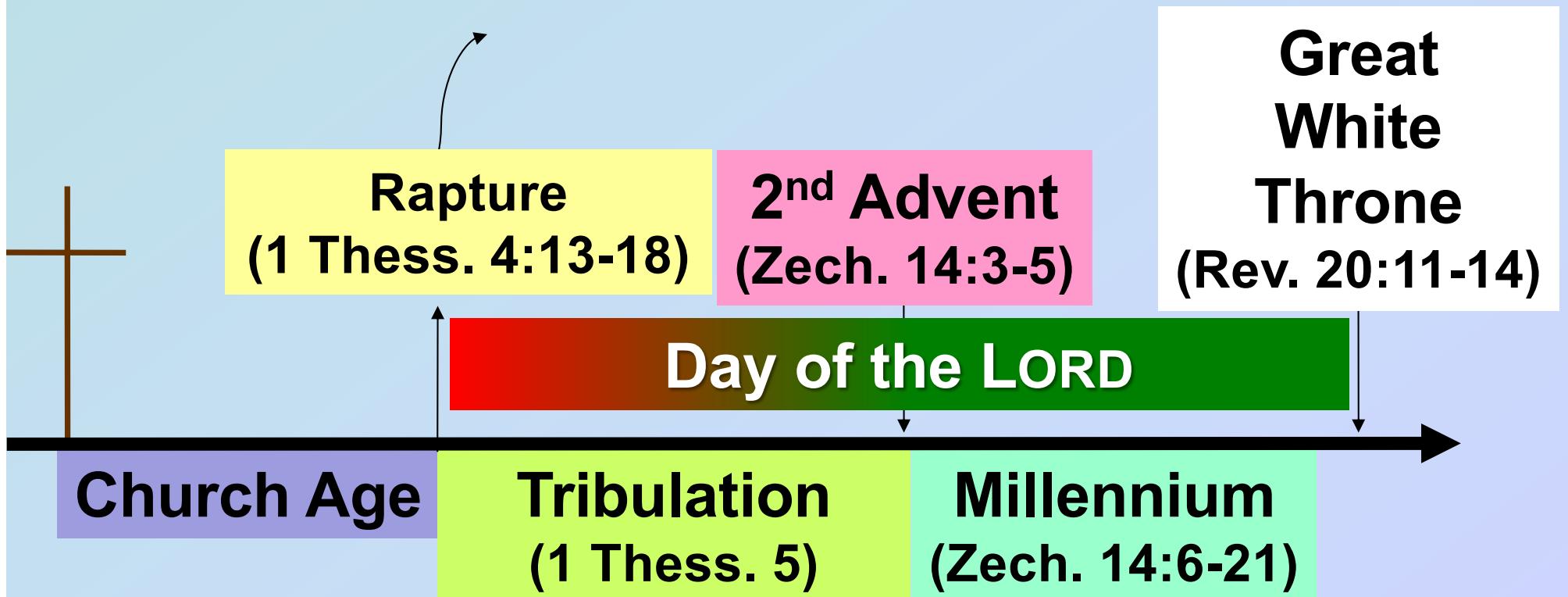
Millennium

Rev. 20

1000 years

A Dispensational Timeline

437



Antichrist Sets Up Image for Worship (2 Thess. 2:3-4 NLT)



"Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a **great rebellion** against God and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed—the one who brings destruction. ⁴He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God."

"That day will not come until..." (2:3a)

1. "the rebellion (**apostasy**) occurs" (3b)
= *Christendom is completely apostate*
2. "the **man** of lawlessness is revealed" (3c)
= *Antichrist signs covenant with Israel*
(Dan. 9:27)
3. "the one who now holds [lawlessness]
back will be **taken out** of the way" (7b)
= *restraining influence of the Holy Spirit in*
the Church is taken to heaven

"Don't you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you? ⁶And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. ⁷For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way. ⁸Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will kill him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming" (2 Thess 2:5-8 NLT).

The Restrainer

The Spirit's restraining evil through the Church will be absent (2 Thess. 2:6-7):

⁶And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way (NIV).

τὸ κατέχον ("what restrains" = neuter, 2:6 = gospel preaching)

ὁ κατέχων ("he who restrains" = masculine, 2:7 = a person)

πνεῦμα ("Spirit" = neuter noun but used of a person)

- 1 Restrainer (2:7b)
- 2 Apostasy (2:3b)
- 3 Antichrist (2:3c)

Judgment Seat in Heaven

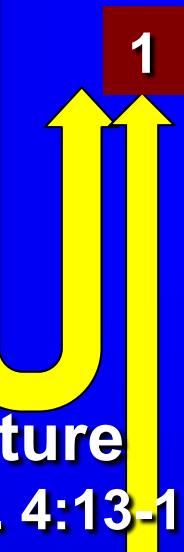
2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:10-15

The Day of the Lord

Second Coming
Rev. 19:11-21

Rapture

1 Thess. 4:13-18



Tribulation

3

Millennium

1000 yrs.

Eternal State

69 Weeks
(Dan. 9:24-27)

Church Age

Matt. 16:18
Acts 2:1-4

Matt. 27:50

3½

3½

Rev. 20:4-6

(Timeless)

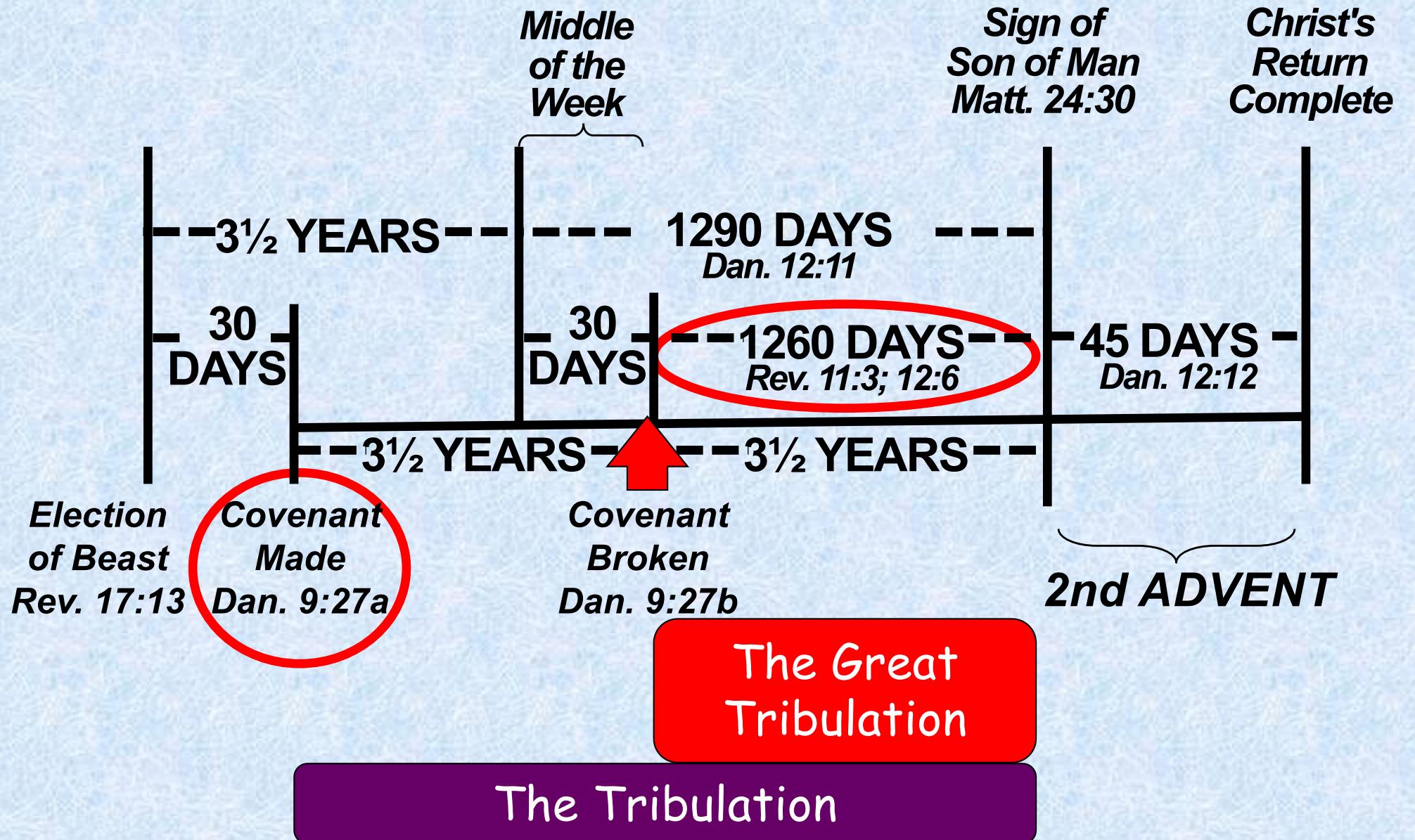
7 yrs.
(Daniel's 70th Week)
Matt. 24:21

Short Period of Preparation;
Rise of the Antichrist
(length of time unknown)

"Prophecy" (Dallas
Seminary video
series, 1980s)

Chronology of the 70th "Week"

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



Why Am I Pretrib?

1. Believers will be kept from (*εκ*) this "hour," or time period (Rev. 3:10)
2. The Tribulation tests unbelievers (3:10) under God's wrath (6:16-17)
3. The Spirit's restraining evil through the church will be absent (2 Thess. 2:6-7).

τὸ κατέχον ("what restrains" = neuter, 2:6 = gospel preaching)

ὁ κατέχων ("he who restrains" = masculine, 2:7 = a person)

πνεῦμα ("Spirit" = neuter noun but used of a person)

"This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. ¹⁰He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. ¹¹So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. ¹²Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth" (2 Thess 2:9-12 NLT).



2 Thessalonians

Keys

Key Word:
Tribulation

Key Verse

Do not "become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction"
(2 Thessalonians 2:2-3).

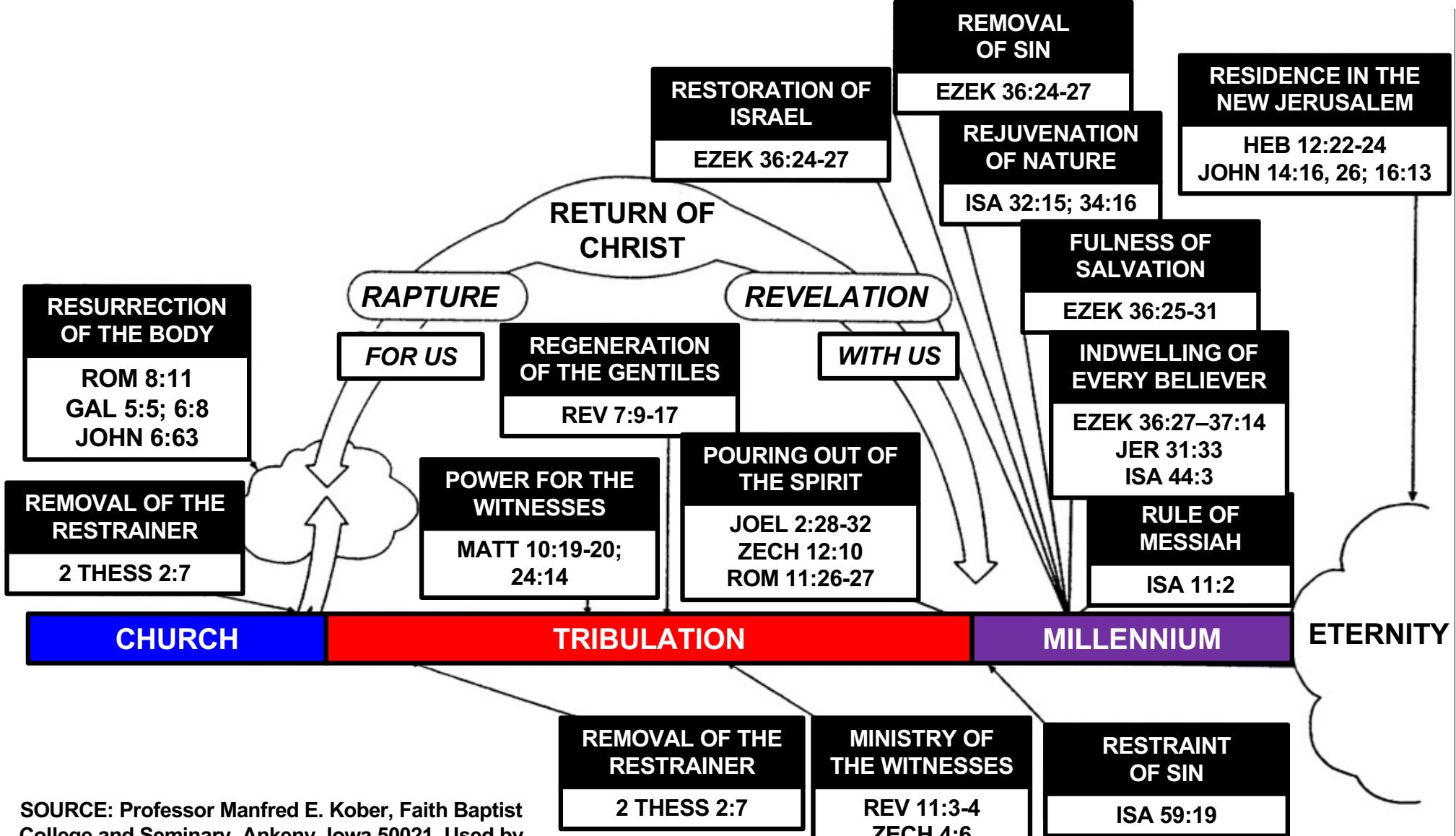
Summary Statement

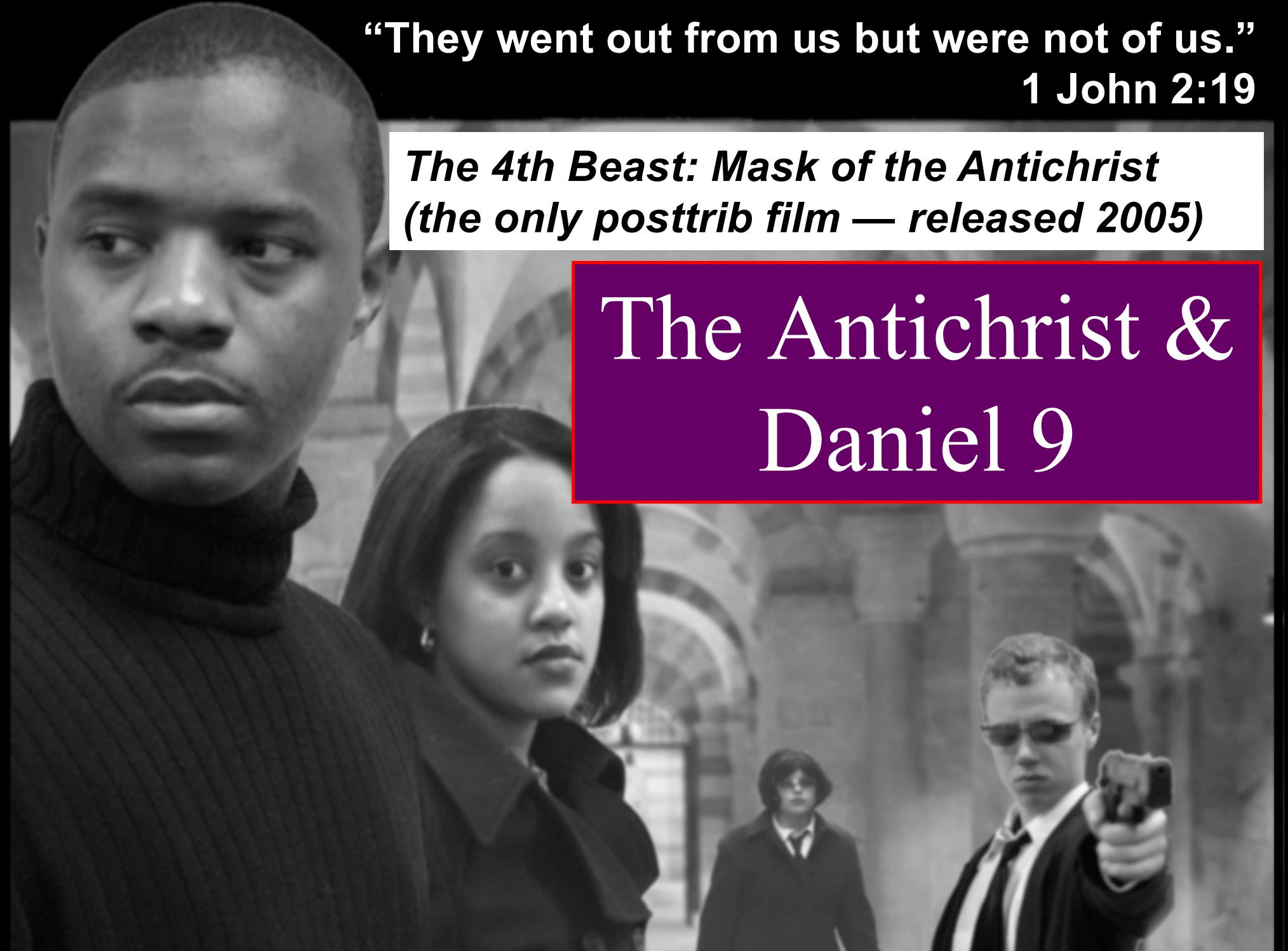
Paul corrects the persecuted Thessalonians' misconception that the *day of the Lord* (Tribulation) had already begun to exhort perseverance among the disheartened and industry among the idle to help them stand firm in correct doctrine despite *false teachers*.

Application

Do you study eschatology, believing that it affect your behavior as a Christian?

The Future Ministries of the Holy Spirit





“They went out from us but were not of us.”
1 John 2:19

***The 4th Beast: Mask of the Antichrist
(the only posttrib film — released 2005)***

The Antichrist &
Daniel 9

A Huge Leadership Vacuum



**Difficult times always set
the stage for dictators to
rise to the occasion.**

Names for the Antichrist

Bloody & Deceitful Man (Ps 56)

Little Horn (Dan. 7:8)

Beast from the Sea (Rev. 13:1)

**Man of Sin
(2 Thess. 2:3)**

One Causing Desolation (Dan. 9:27)

The Activity of the Antichrist

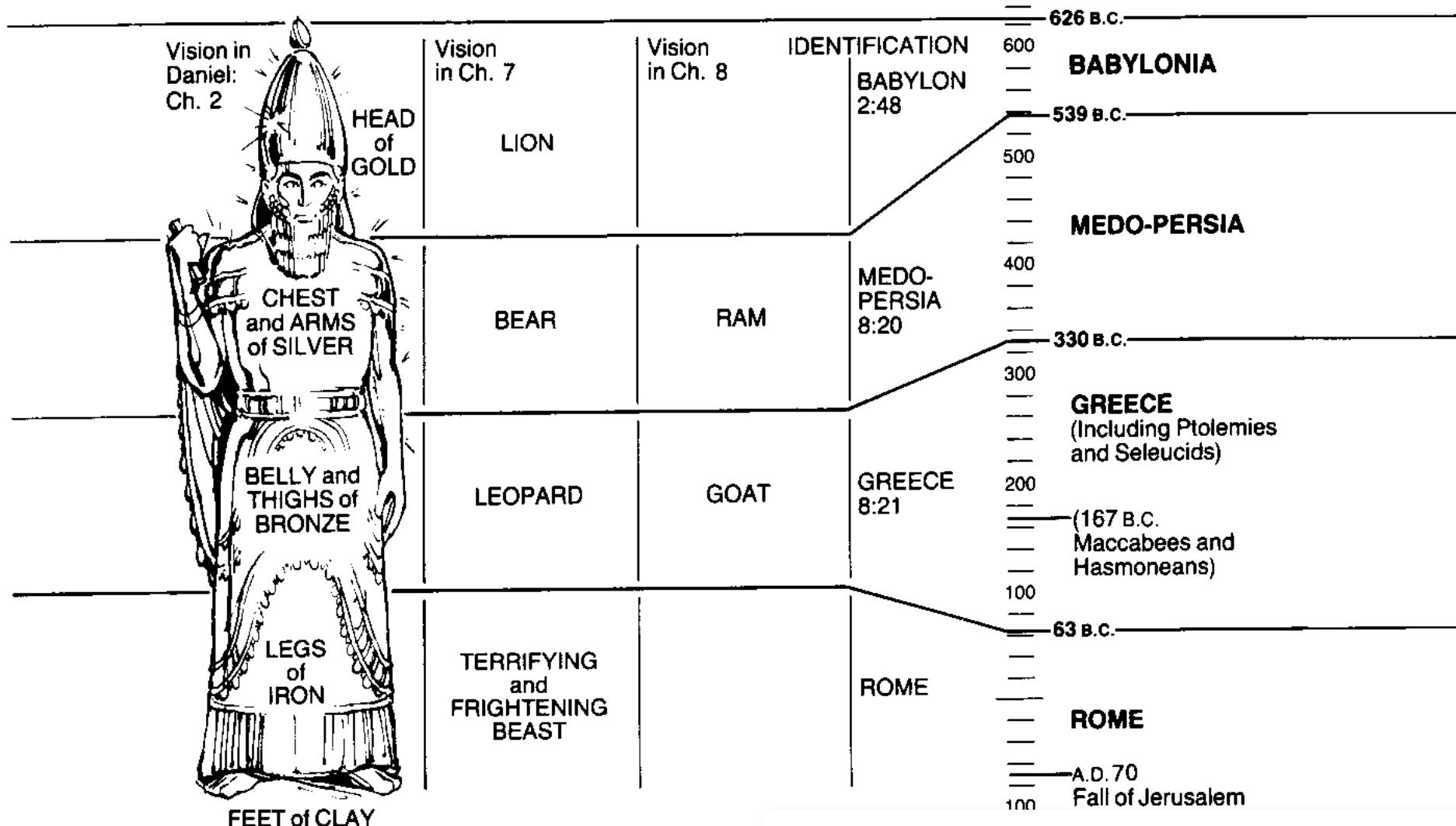
The Image of Daniel 2



World Empires in Daniel

Identification of the Four Kingdoms

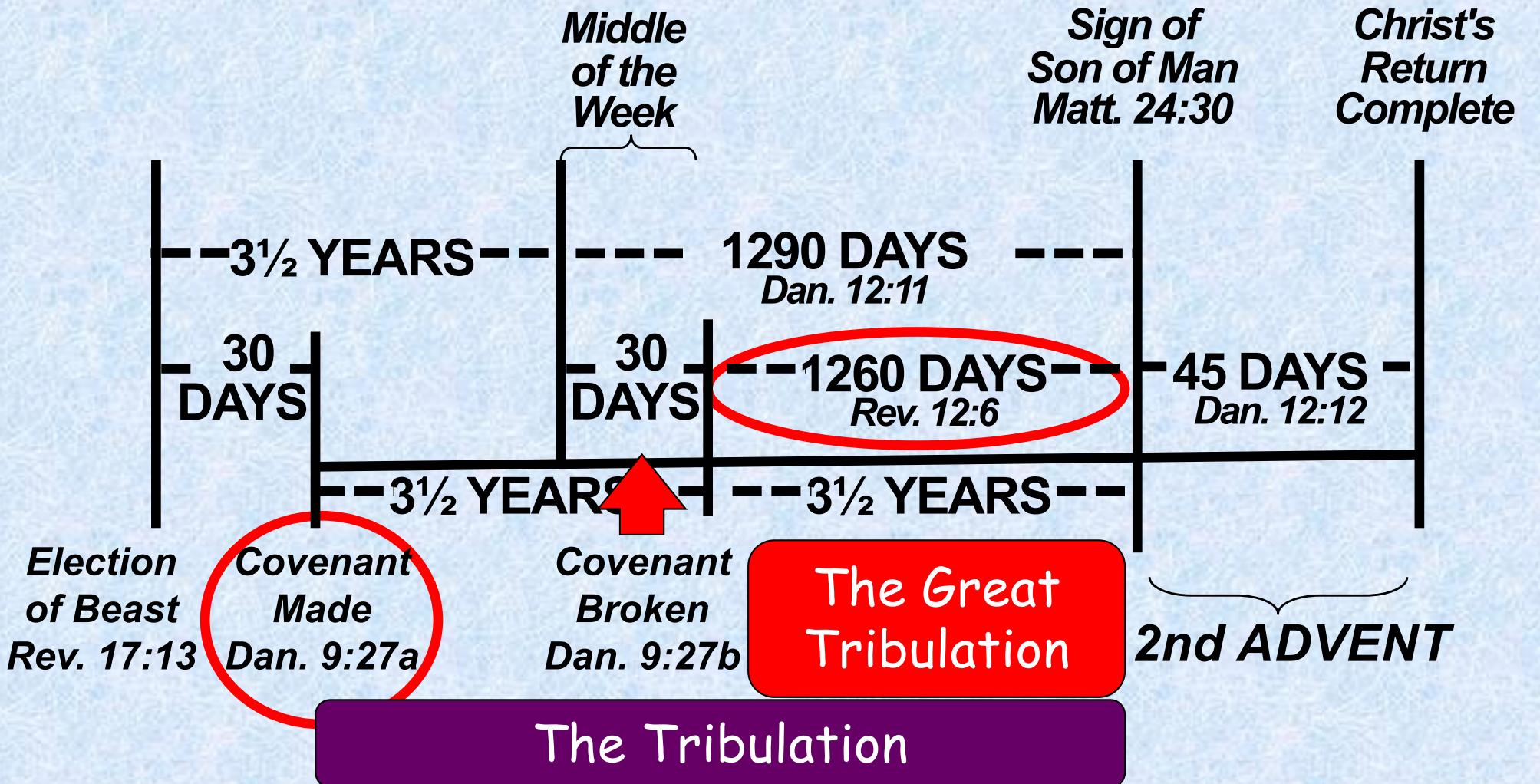
Chronology of Major Empires in Daniel



Chronology of the 70th "Week"

556

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



"He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him" (Daniel 9:27 NIV).



Daniel 11:40

■ Israel's
enemies will
invade her
land

Daniel 11:40-45

- Even ships in the Mediterranean will join the battle



West Meets East (Dan. 11:44)



Beasts of Rev. 13

387



Dragon =
Satan

Sea Beast =
Antichrist

Land Beast =
False Prophet

Used with permission

A Satanic "Trinity":

387

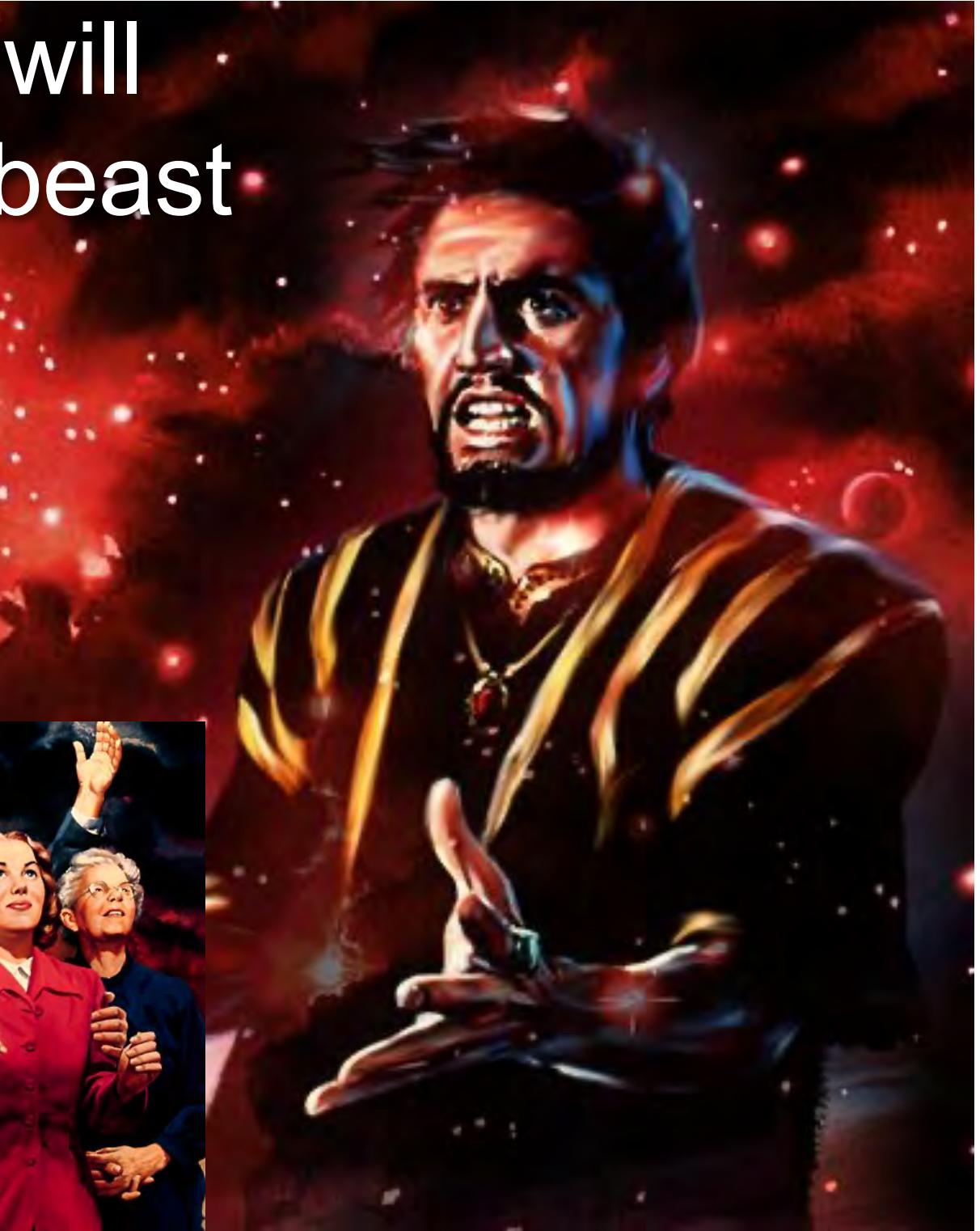


**"Father" =
Satan**

**"Son" =
Antichrist**

**"Spirit" =
False Prophet**

The world will worship the beast





He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Revelation 13:16-17

The Mark
in the
Right Hand

He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Revelation 13:16-17



The Mark
in the
Right Hand

Who is the Antichrist?





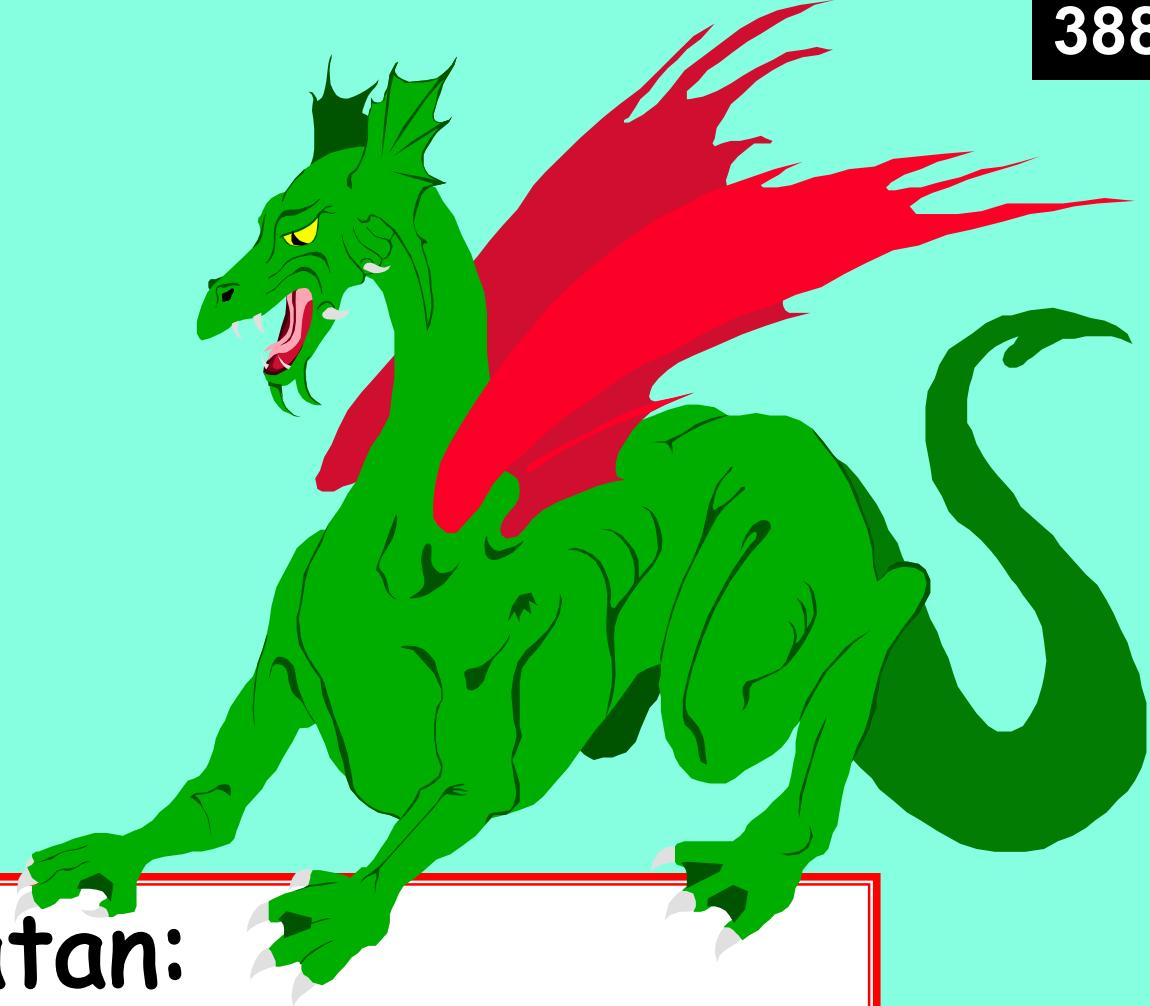
The
Counterfeit
& False



666

The following slides show how
some spiritualize "beast"...

The Dragon!



Satan:

The arch-enemy of God; the one who hates all truth, all goodness, all of God's creatures; the one who would make himself God, if he could!

The Beast:

The World's political systems. They demand and achieve worship and obedience from all but those who belong to the Lamb. The effect is to take the world into Satan's power.

The Beast Spiritualized



The False Prophet:
Every Ideology, Religion and/or Technology which leads mankind astray by highly plausible (but false) principles, miracles or works. His goal is to cause humanity to worship the Beast.



**The False
Prophet
Spiritualized**

**But he is referred to as a person and
the number of his name is 666
(Revelation 13:18)**



Gematria in Greek

Hebrew, Greek and Latin used letters as numbers

Letter	Name	Value	Letter	Name	Value	Letter	Name	Value
a	alpha	1	i	iota	10	r	ro	100
b	beta	2	k	kappa	20	s	sigma	200
g	gamma	3	l	lamda	30	t	tau	300
d	delta	4	m	mu	40	u	upsilon	400
e	epsilon	5	n	nu	50	f	phi	500
z	zeta	7	x	xi	60	c	chi	600
h	eta	8	o	omicron	70	y	psi	700
q	theta	9	p	pi	80	w	omega	800



**Nero =
666?**

Hebrew Gematria

English	Greek	Hebrew	Value
A	Alpha	Aleph	1
B	Beta	Beth	2
C	Gamma	Gimmel	3
D	Delta	Daleth	4
E	Epsilon	He	5
F		Waw	6
G		Zahy	
H	Eta	Heth	

WWWW = 666

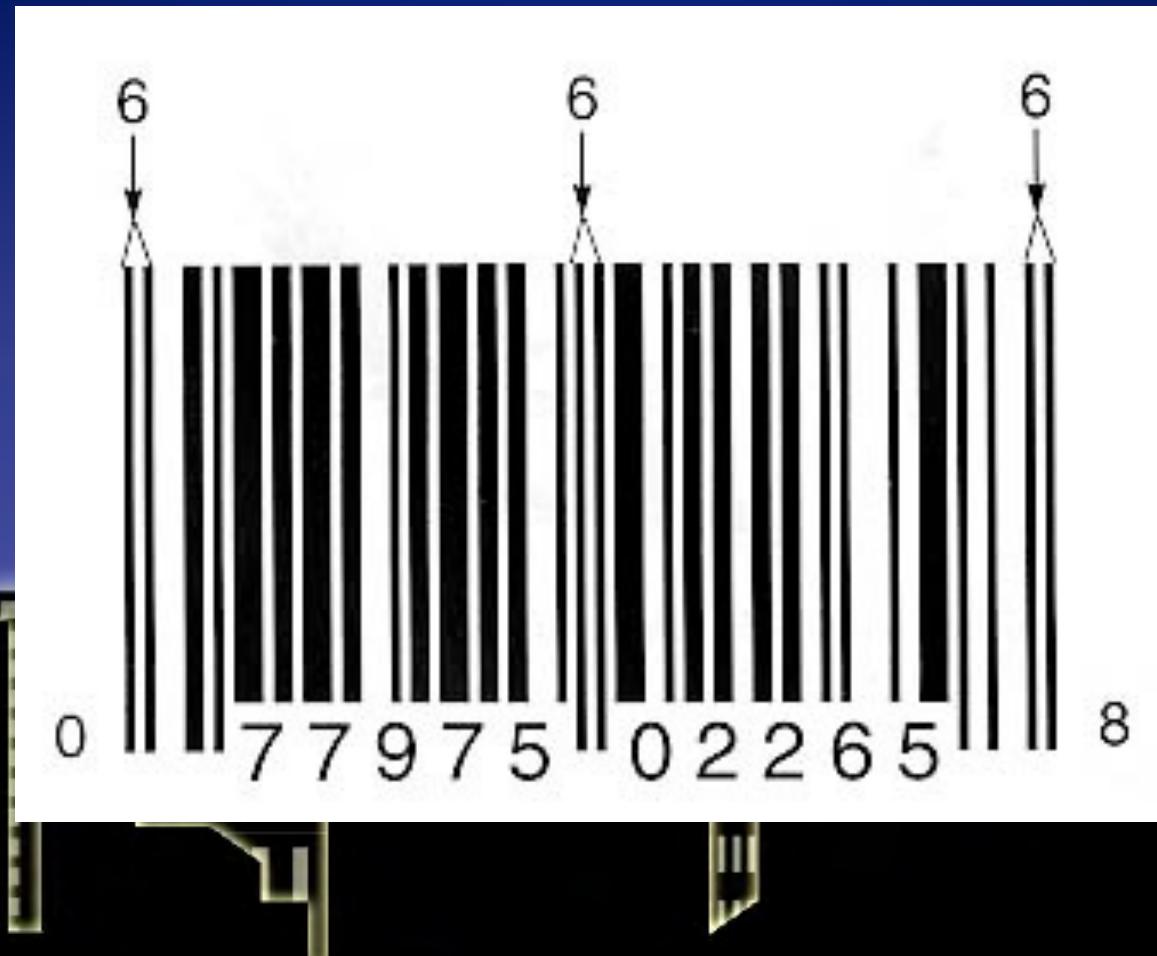
English Gematria

A	6	I	54	Q	102
B	12	J	60	R	108
C	18	K	66	S	114
D	24	L	72	T	120
E	30	M	78	U	126
F	36	N	84	V	132
G	42	O	90	W	138
H	48	P	96	X	144

K	66
I	54
S	114
S	114
I	54
N	84
G	42
E	30
R	<u>108</u>
	666

Kissinger = Antichrist!

THE UPC BAR CODE



***BUT WOULD THE JEWS IN THE NEXT VERSE
(REV. 14:1) ALSO HAVE AN INVISIBLE CODE?***

Mark of the Beast Microchip



MARK OF THE BEAST COMPONENTS OF THE BIOCHIP





Hebrew Alphabet Values

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט ב י נ ש צ ח ב ש

Aleph -	1
Beth -	2
Gimel -	3
Daleth -	4
Heh -	5
Vav -	6
Zain -	7
Cheth -	8
Teth -	9
Yod -	10
Kaph -	20



ל מ נ ס ש מ א ח ב ש

Lamed -	30
Mem -	40
Nun -	50
Samekh -	60
Ayin -	70
Peh -	80
Tzaddi -	90
Qoph -	100
Resh -	200
Shin -	300
Tau -	400

Monster Energy Drink =
666

The Sky's the Limit

A large, stylized number '666' is rendered with a fiery, orange-red glow and black smoke or flames at the base, set against a black background.

Computations using different systems make each of these total 666: Kissinger, van den broek, lustiger, hitler, deutschland, himmler, new york, us of america, santa claus, kennedy, al gore... Holy Bible, SS number, witchcraft, lustful, monetary, live, son of sin, mark of beast, evil, bullet... internet, billgates+3 (the III), computer, terminal, binary, windows98, teletext, calculation



George W. Bush?!



"He will
judge the
nations"

The East Gate



UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGNTY IN TIMES OF THE GENTILES

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

Daniel

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



Revelation

Daniel 9

- Daniel's prayer (9:1-19)
- God's reply - Seventy x seven (9:20-27)

The interpretation of these seventy weeks is divided into 4 major views. But let's first see the text itself and ask who the "bad guys" are: "the Anointed One" or the "ruler who will arise"?

Daniel 9:24-27 (NLT)

²⁵ Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the **Anointed One**—comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.

²⁶ "After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the **Anointed One** will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. ²⁷ The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."

Views on the Meaning of 70 x 7

Summary of four major Views on Daniel 9:24-27

	Jeroprophesy 605/ 586 BC	Cyrus Decree 538 BC	Art. 2 nd Decree. 444 BC	Jesus km rebuilt	Murder of Onias 171 BC	Antioch has Desecra- tion 167	Temple rede- diolated 164 BC	Christ Death 33 AD	Titus destroy Jerusa- lem 70AD	Church age	7 yrs tribu- -tion	Millen- nium king- dom
Critical	7 wks		62 wks				1 wk					
Symbolic		7 wks					62 wks			1 wk		
Messianic		7 wks			62 wks			1 wk				
Premillennial			7 wks			62 wks				1 wk		

Dan 9:27 The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him" (NLT).

1. Critical View

- 7 wks. From the Jeremiah prophecy to Cyrus
- 62 wks. From Cyrus to Onias
- 1 wk. From Onias to restoration of the temple

Critique of the Critical View

- Near fulfillment in Antiochus but...
- *Not all fulfilled in Antiochus IV (e.g., he made no seven-year covenant with the Jews)*
- *Prophecy is viewed as "imaginative prediction" written after the event*

2. Messianic/Historic View

- 7 wks starts from Cyrus decree
- 62 wks ends at Christ's first advent (9:26 occurs after this)
- Final week – Death of Christ abolished sacrifice
- Destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70

Critique of the Messianic View

- Rejects the gap noted by "after" and "from that time to the end" in Dan. 9:26
- The final prince not seen as the Anti-Christ but as Christ
- Sees Matt 24:15 as fulfilled in AD 70 (then Matthew wrote about it)
- Interpretation of covenant (Heb 8:13) and desolation (Heb 9:25, 26).
- Does not account for Antichrist in Rev 13:5 who will rule 42 months.
- 2 Thess. 2:4 says Antichrist (not Christ) will claim deity in temple
- However, Young does see 11:40-44 as referring to Antichrist (Young, 248, 251)

3. Amillennial Symbolic View

- 70 as indefinite period – for leading people to salvation
- Seven as a mark of divine work, symbolizing completion
 - First 7 years begins with the Cyrus decree (538 BC)
 - The 62 weeks = the gospel is preached
 - The final week = antichrist rule, Christ lost influence
 - 70 years end in Christ second coming

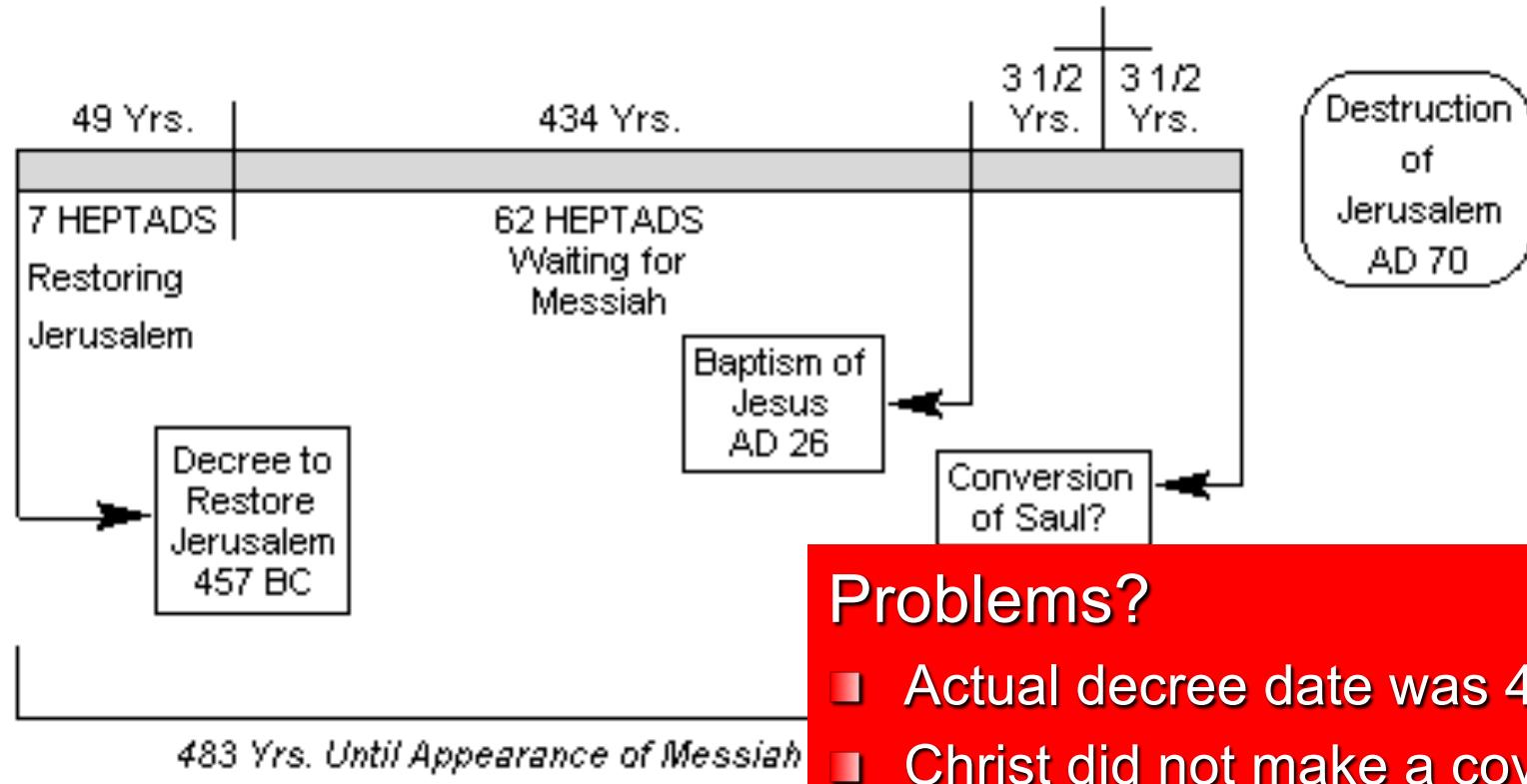
Comments on Symbolic View

- 70x7 are for all people, not exclusive to Israel
- Glosses over details of prophetic elements
- Cyrus's decree - Closest to the time Daniel's prayer

Messianic View of James E. Smith

DANIEL'S SEVENTY HEPTADS

Dan 9:24-27



Problems?

- Actual decree date was 444 BC
- Christ did not make a covenant with Israel at His baptism (cf. Dan 9:27)
- The one who stops the sacrifice (Dan. 9:27) also desecrates the temple (cf. 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:5)

The Major Prophets (Joplin, MO:
College Press, 1995), LOGOS
electronic version chart 22

4. Premillennial View

- 7 weeks start from 444 BC at the Artaxerxes decree to Nehemiah
- 62 weeks end with Christ's Triumphal Entry
- Gap = the church age = times of Gentiles
(Note Jesus' prophecy in Luke 21:24)
- The final week = 7 years of tribulation

The Seventy "Weeks" of Daniel 9

Decree



69 sevens = 483 years



7 sevens

444 BC

to 395 BC

Anointed

One



1 seven
= 7 years

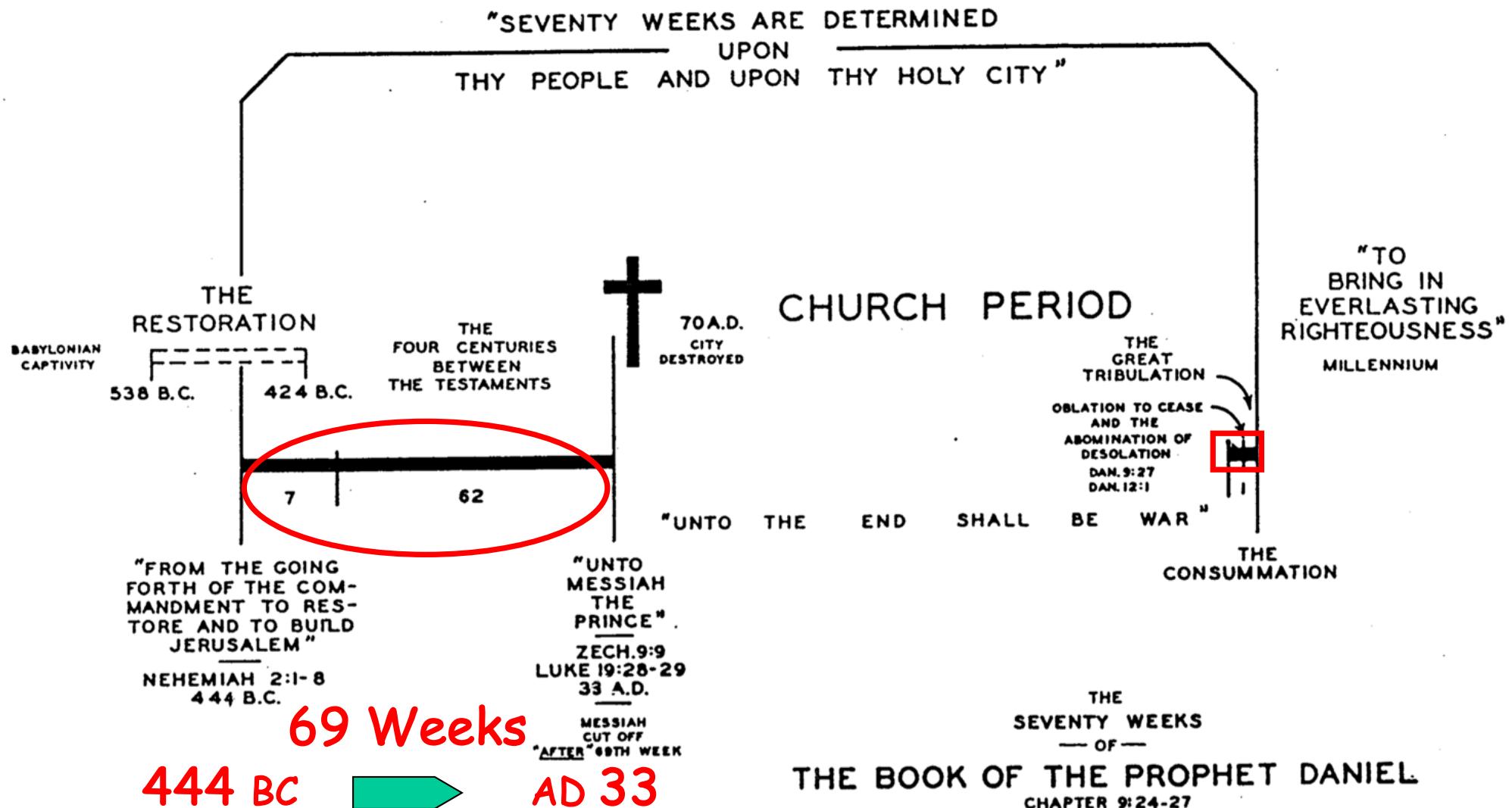
62 sevens

395 BC

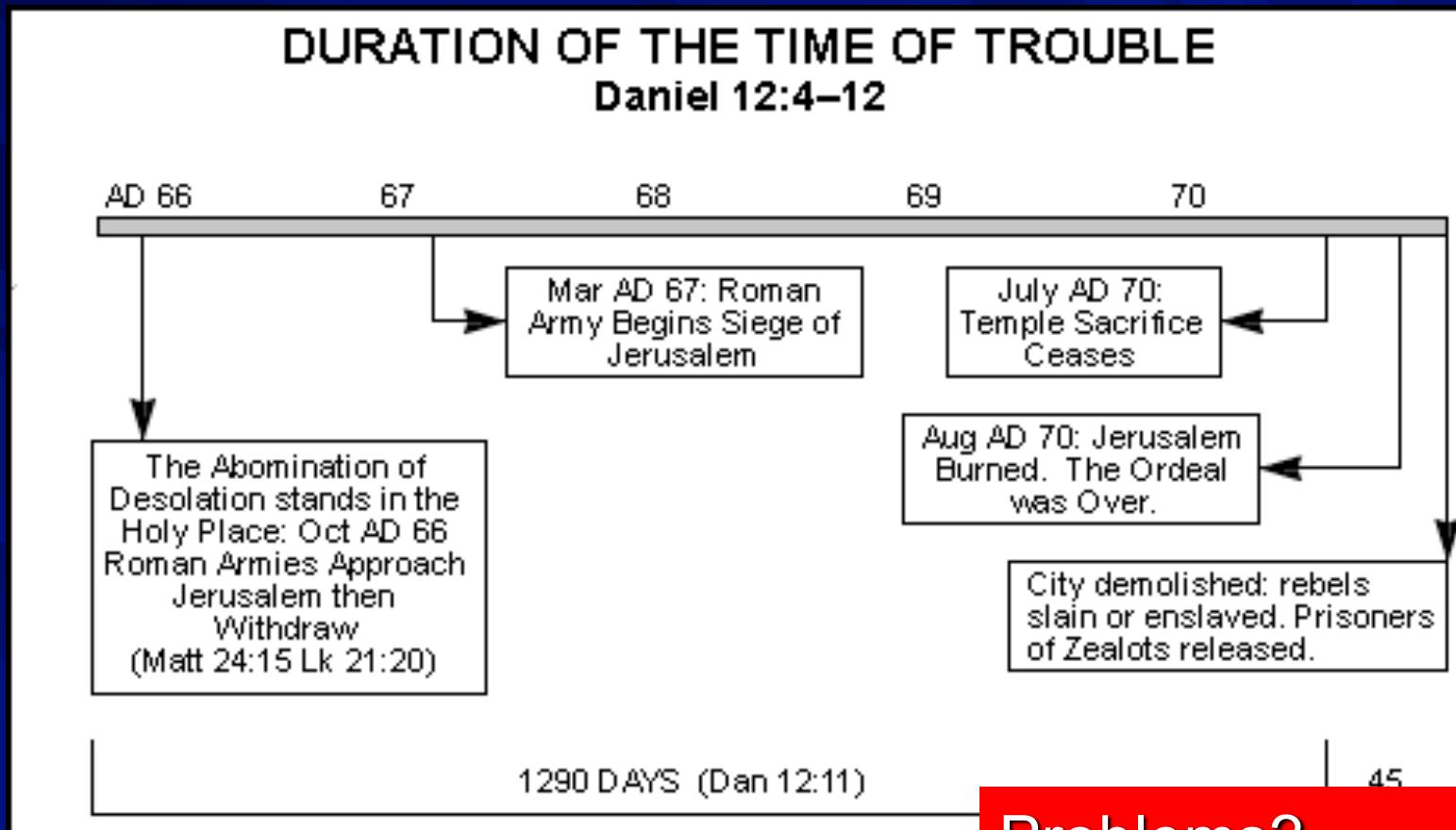
to AD 33

Daniel's 70 Weeks

(Dan. 9:24-27)



Messianic View of James E. Smith



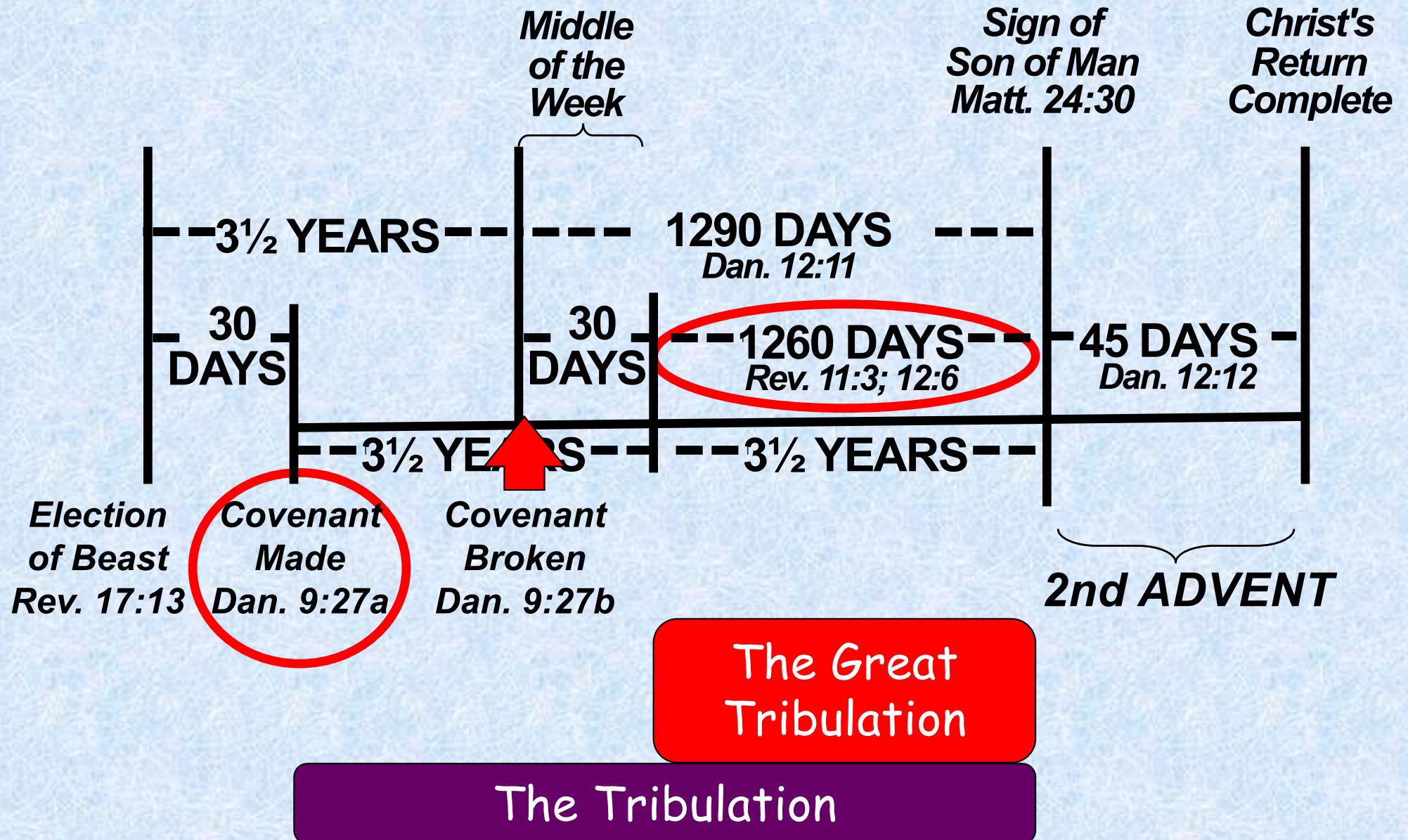
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Problems?

- **Travel and knowledge did not vastly increase in AD 60s (Dan. 12:4)**
- **No abomination stood in the temple in AD 66**

Chronology of the 70th "Week"

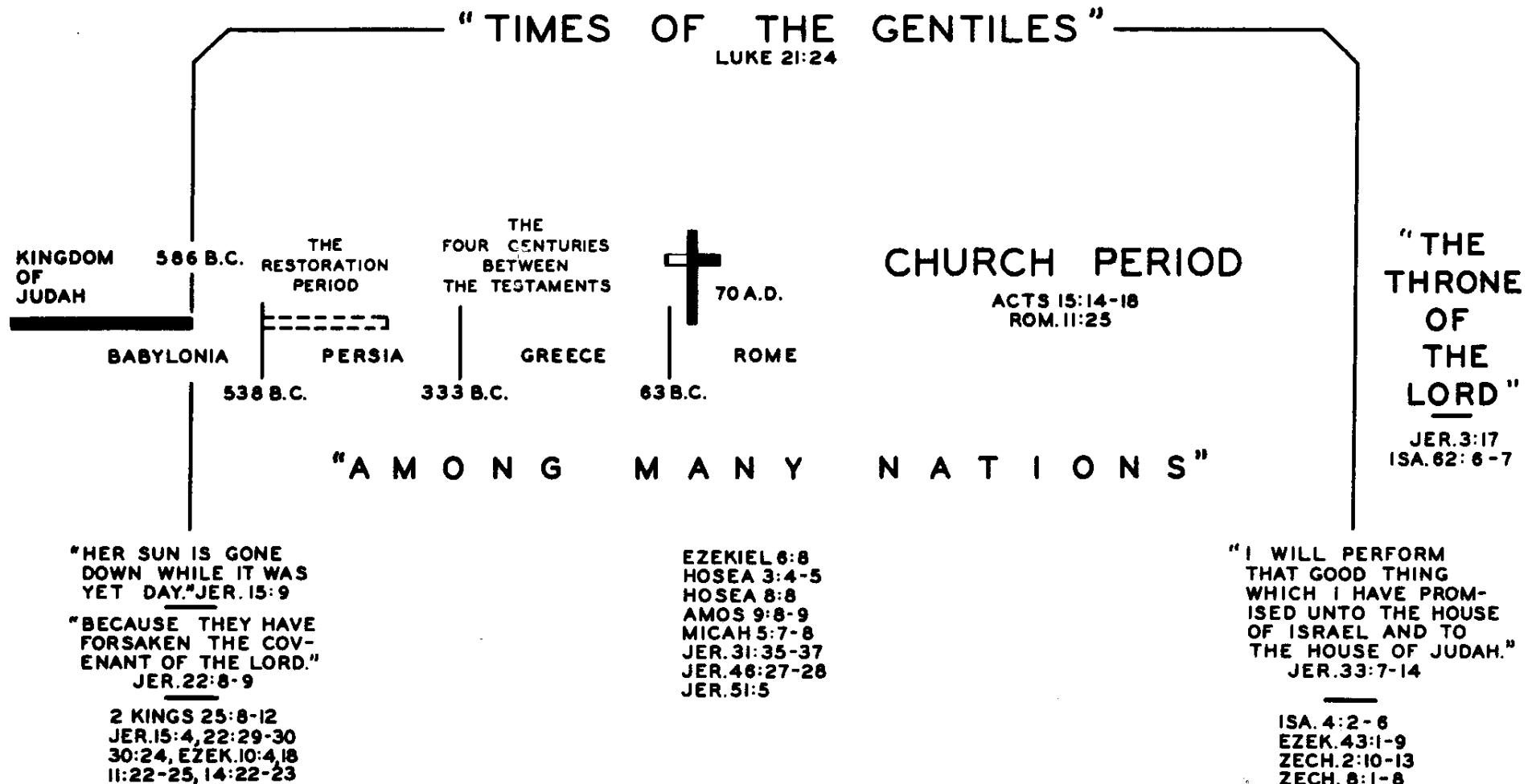
Adapted from J. Dwight Pentecost, Dallas Theological Seminary, 1988



Comments on the Premillennial View

- Which decree is the decree of 9:25?
 - (1) Cyrus decree to rebuild the temple (2 Chron. 36: 22-23; Ezra 1:1-4; 6:1-5);
 - (2) Darius decree confirming the decree of Cyrus (Ezra 6:6-12);
 - (3) Artaxerxes decree #1 (Ezra 7:11-26);
 - (4) Artaxerxes decree #2 given to Nehemiah authorizing the rebuilding of the city (Neh. 2:1-8).
- Why do we hold that the decree is Artaxerxes #2 in his 20th year (444 BC)? This is because Neh. 2:12-17 pictures Jerusalem in ruins at this time.

Luke 21:24 Times of the Gentiles



The Jewish Calendar

- 360 days per year
- 69 weeks of 483 years = 476 solar years
- Issue of the decree on 5 March 444 BC to the time that the Messiah is cut off works out to 3 April AD 33. This makes Christ's Triumphal Entry on 30 March AD 33.
- Compare 9:27 with Rev 13:5, 14-15

Determinations of the 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

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

*** CHURCH
AGE**

70th WEEK

1/2 Week 1/2 Week

Verification

$$444 \text{ B.C. to A.D. 33} = 476 \text{ years}$$

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

*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

Determinations of the Seventy Weeks

The 483 Years in the Jewish and Gregorian Calendars

Jewish Calendar
(360 days per year*)

$$(7 \times 7) + (62 \times 7) \text{ years} = 483 \text{ years}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 483 \text{ years} \\ \times 360 \text{ days} \\ \hline 173,880 \text{ days} \end{array}$$

Gregorian Calendar
(365 days a year)

$$444 \text{ B.C. to A.D. 33} = 476 \text{ years}†$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 476 \text{ years} \\ \times 365 \text{ days} \\ \hline 173,740 \text{ days} \\ + 116 \text{ days in leap years‡} \\ + 24 \text{ days (March 5–March 30)} \\ \hline 173,880 \text{ days} \end{array}$$

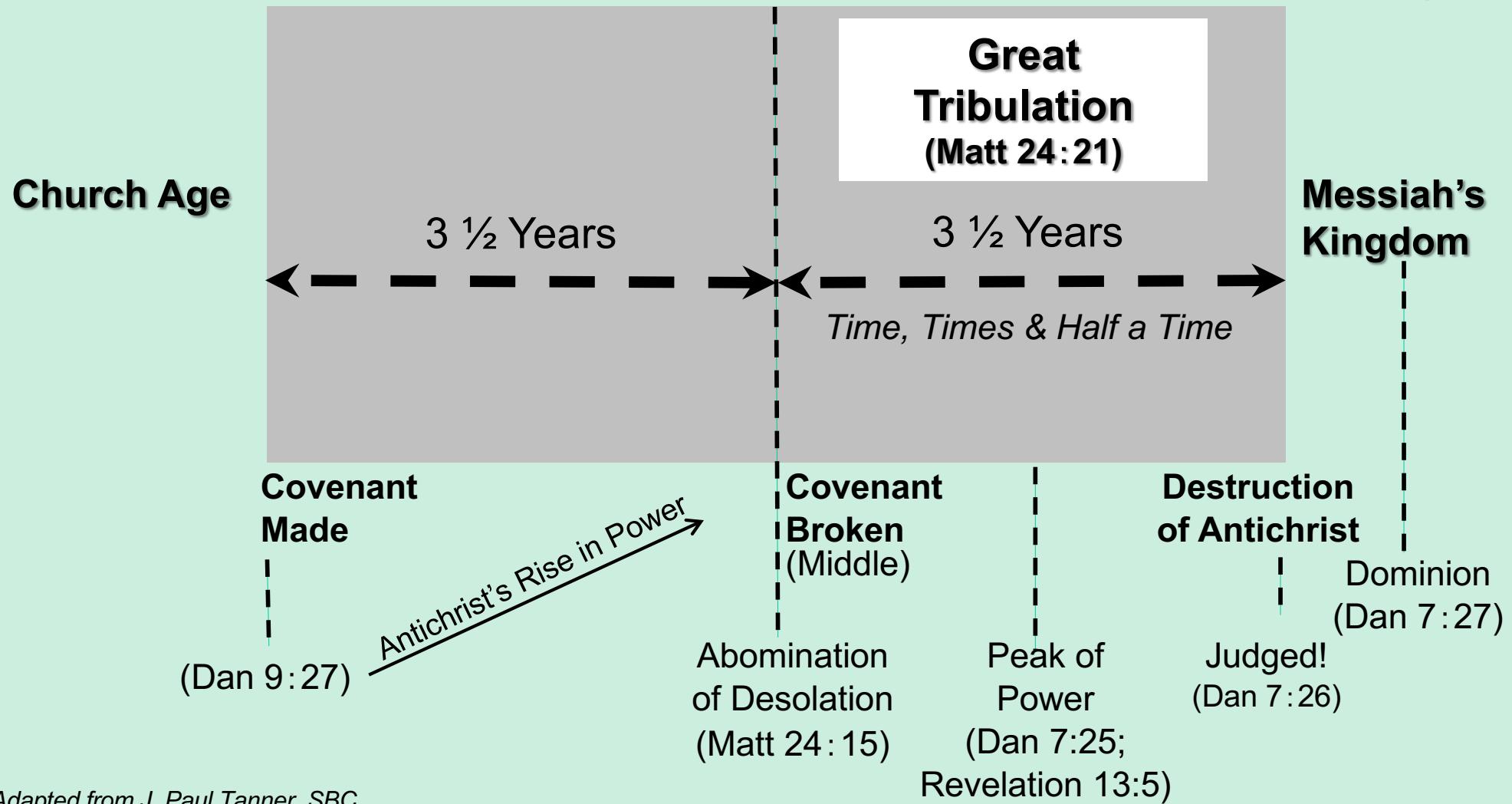
*See comments on Daniel 9:27b for confirmation of this 360-day year.

†Since only one year expired between 1 B.C. and A.D. 1, the total is 476, not 477.

‡A total of 476 years divided by four (a leap year every four years) gives 119 additional days. But three days must be subtracted from 119 because centennial years are not leap years, though every 400th year is a leap year.

Daniel's 70th Week

Daniel 9:27



"As for us, we can't help but thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation—a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth. 14He called you to salvation when we told you the Good News; now you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess 2:13-14 NLT).

"With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep a strong grip on the teaching we passed on to you both in person and by letter. ¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope, ¹⁷comfort you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say" (2 Thess 2:15-17 NLT).



**Trusting amidst confusion
produces stability**

Charles R. Swindoll, *Steadfast Christianity*, 3

How does God **affirm** us when we face tough times?



*I. Emotionally: God gives **perseverance** to bring maturity (2 Thess 1).*



II. Theologically: God gives us **truth to bring stability (2 Thess 2).**



2 Thessalonians 3

How God affirms...



Outline of 2 Thessalonians

III. Practically: God cultivates **discipline** in us to build responsibility (2 Thess 3).



"Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you. ²Pray, too, that we will be rescued from wicked and evil people, for not everyone is a believer" (2 Thess 3:1-2 NLT).

"But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. ⁴And we are confident in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we commanded you. ⁵May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ"

(2 Thess 3:3-5 NLT).

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stay away from all believers who live idle lives and don't follow the tradition they received from us. ⁷For you know that you ought to imitate us. We were not idle when we were with you"

(2 Thess 3:6-7 NLT).

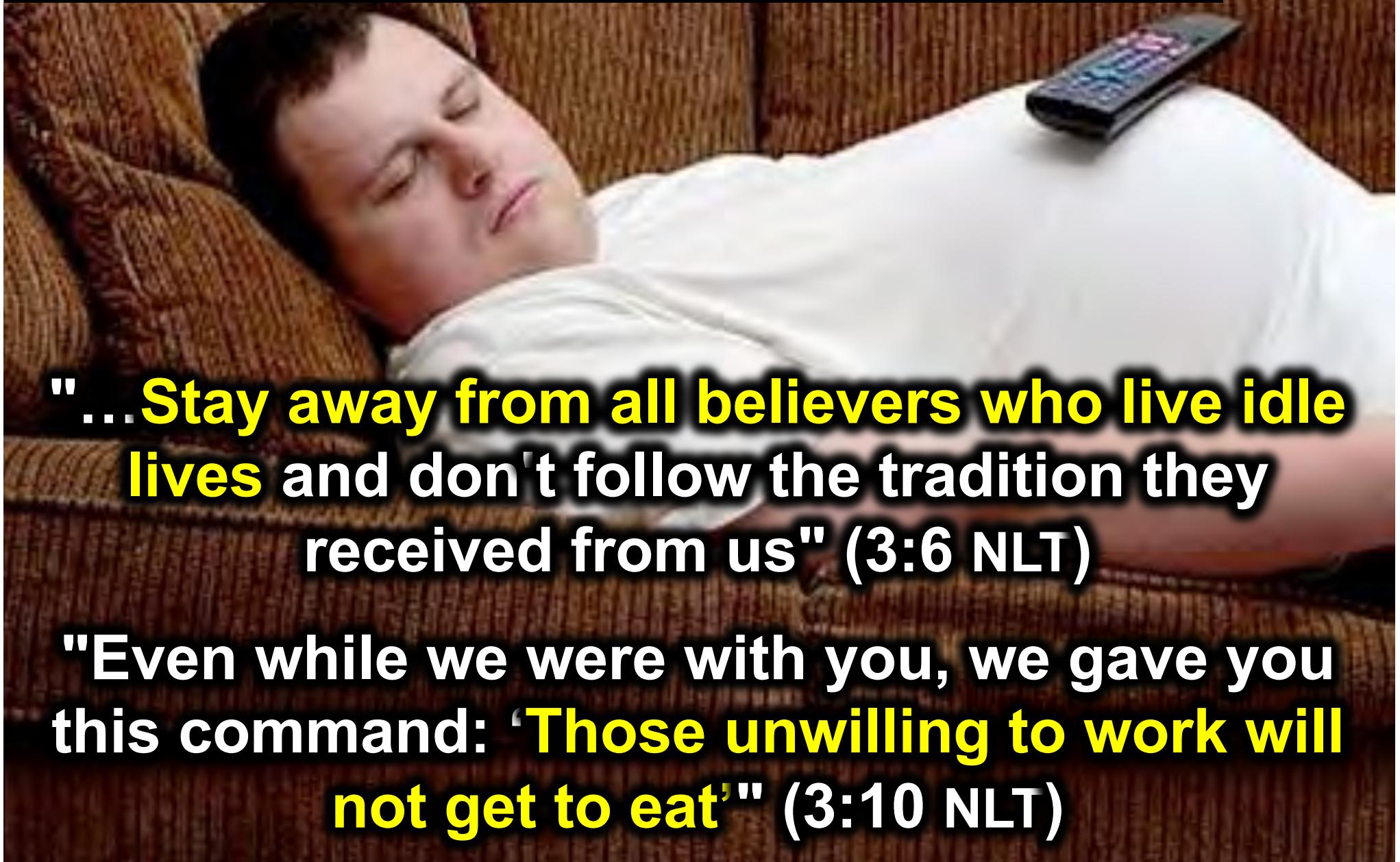
Discipline the Idle (3:6-15)



"...Stay away from all believers who live idle lives and don't follow the tradition they received from us" (3:6 NLT)

"We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night so we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹We certainly had the right to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to give you an example to follow" (2 Thess 3:8-9 NLT).

Discipline the Idle (3:6-15)



"...Stay away from all believers who live idle lives and don't follow the tradition they received from us" (3:6 NLT)

"Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: 'Those unwilling to work will not get to eat'" (3:10 NLT)

"Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people's business. ¹²We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living. ¹³As for the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good" (2 Thess 3:11-13 NLT).

"We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies"
(2 Thess 3:11 NIV).

"Take note of those who refuse to obey what we say in this letter. Stay away from them so they will be ashamed. ¹⁵Don't think of them as enemies, but warn them as you would a brother or sister" (2 Thess 3:14-15 NLT).

Benediction

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation. The Lord be with you all.

2 Thess 3:16 (NLT)

**"HERE IS MY GREETING IN MY OWN
HANDWRITING: PAUL. I DO THIS IN ALL MY
LETTERS TO PROVE THEY ARE FROM ME.**

**18May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be
with you all" (2 Thess 3:17-18 NLT).**



**Waiting with discipline
cultivates responsibility**

Charles R. Swindoll, *Steadfast Christianity*, 3

How does God **affirm** us when we face tough times?





God affirms holistically
(Main Idea of 2 Thessalonians)

*I. Emotionally: God gives **perseverance** to bring maturity (2 Thess 1).*



II. Theologically: God gives us **truth to bring stability (2 Thess 2).**



III. Practically: God cultivates **discipline** in us to build responsibility (2 Thess 3).



Sister Mrosla's Third Grade Class

St. Mary's School in Morris, Minnesota



Helen P. Mrosla



Mark Eklund



Mark Eklund



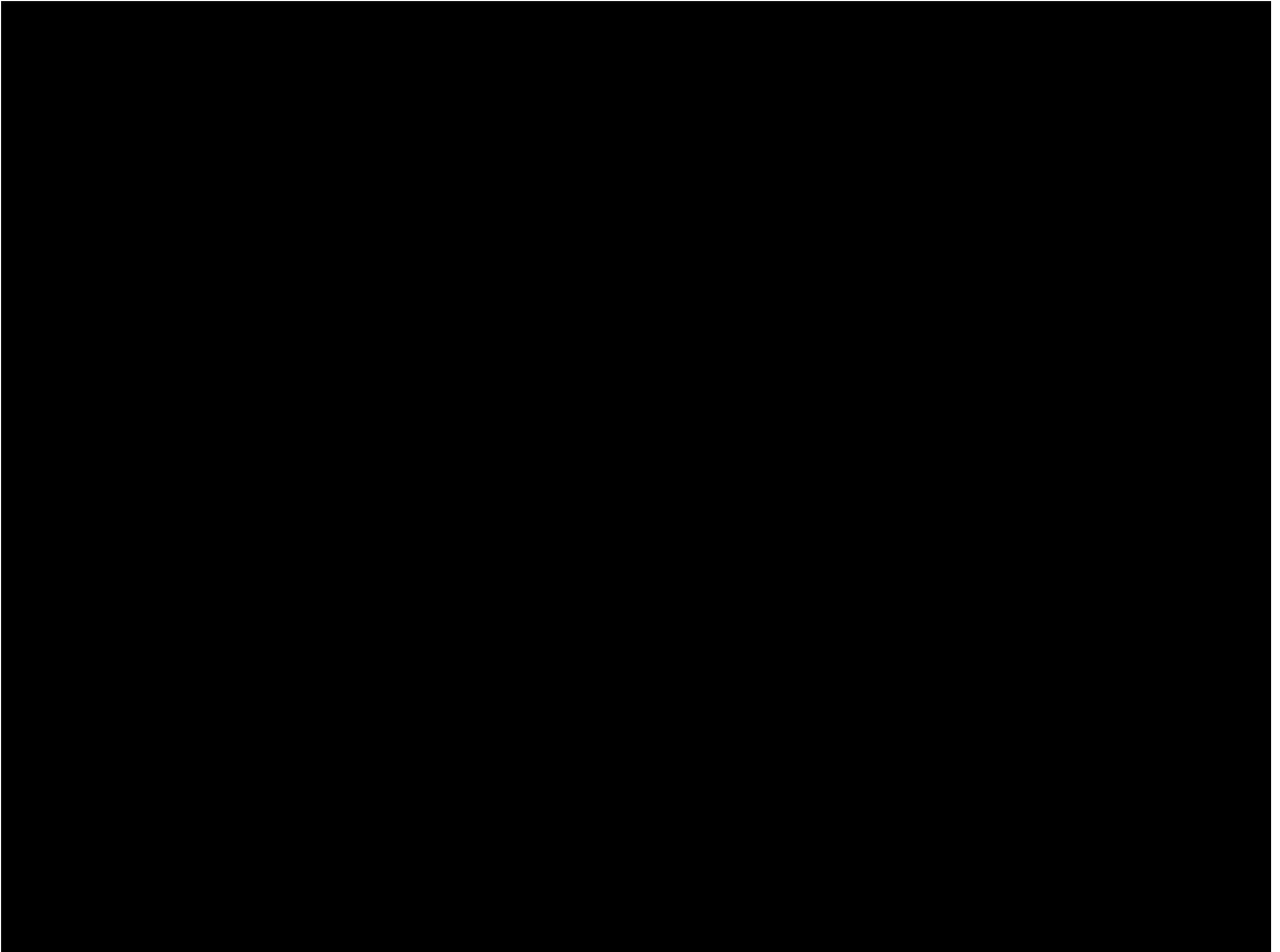
How 'bout you?

How are you doing in affirming others?



Words of Affirmation





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**We will never recognize the true
value of our own lives until we
affirm the value in the life of others.**

—Ronald Reagan—

izquotes.com



How to Live

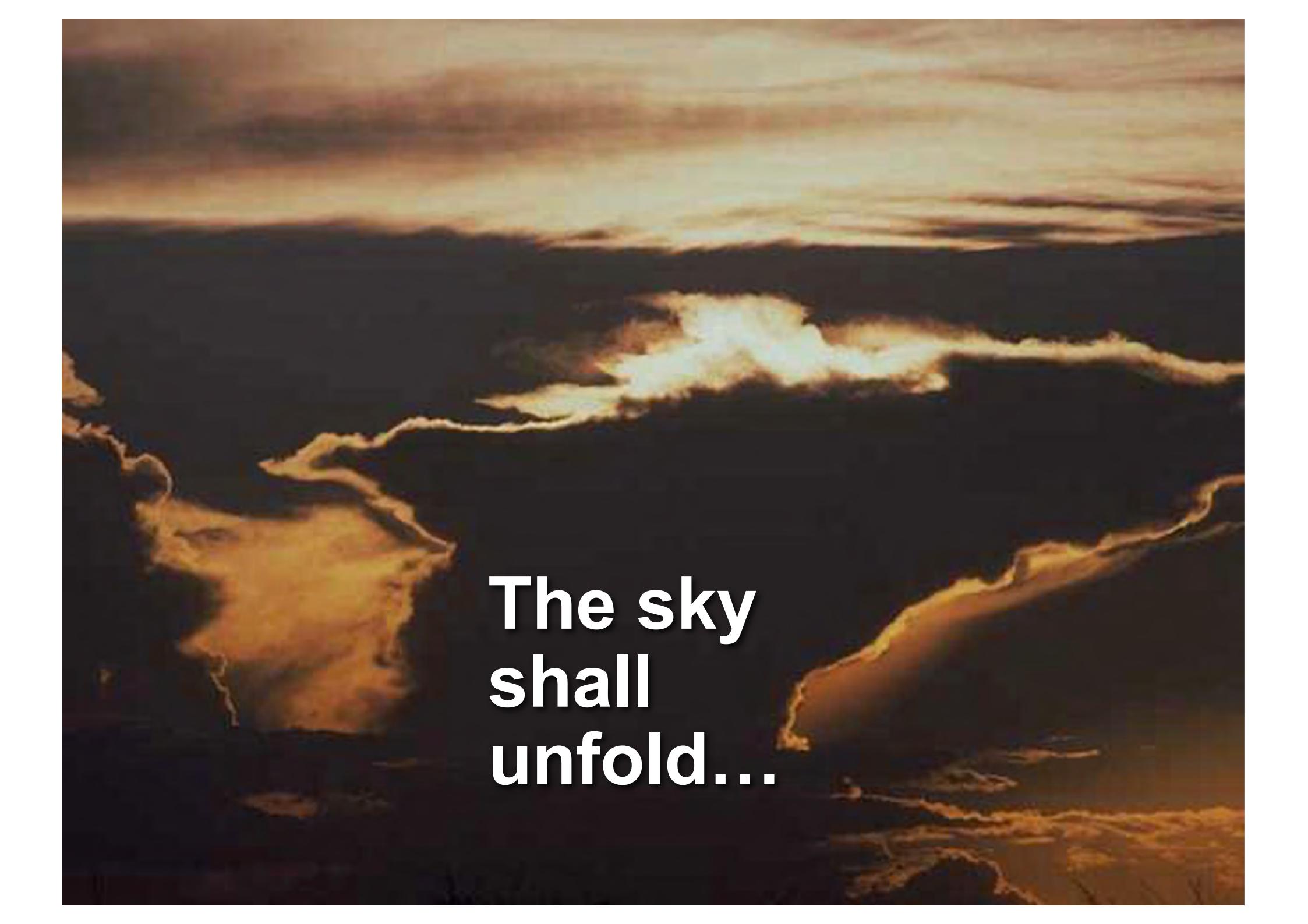
**"Live as though Christ was
crucified yesterday,
risen today and
coming tomorrow."**

—Martin Luther

"We Shall Behold Him"



Sung by Sandi Patti



The sky
shall
unfold...

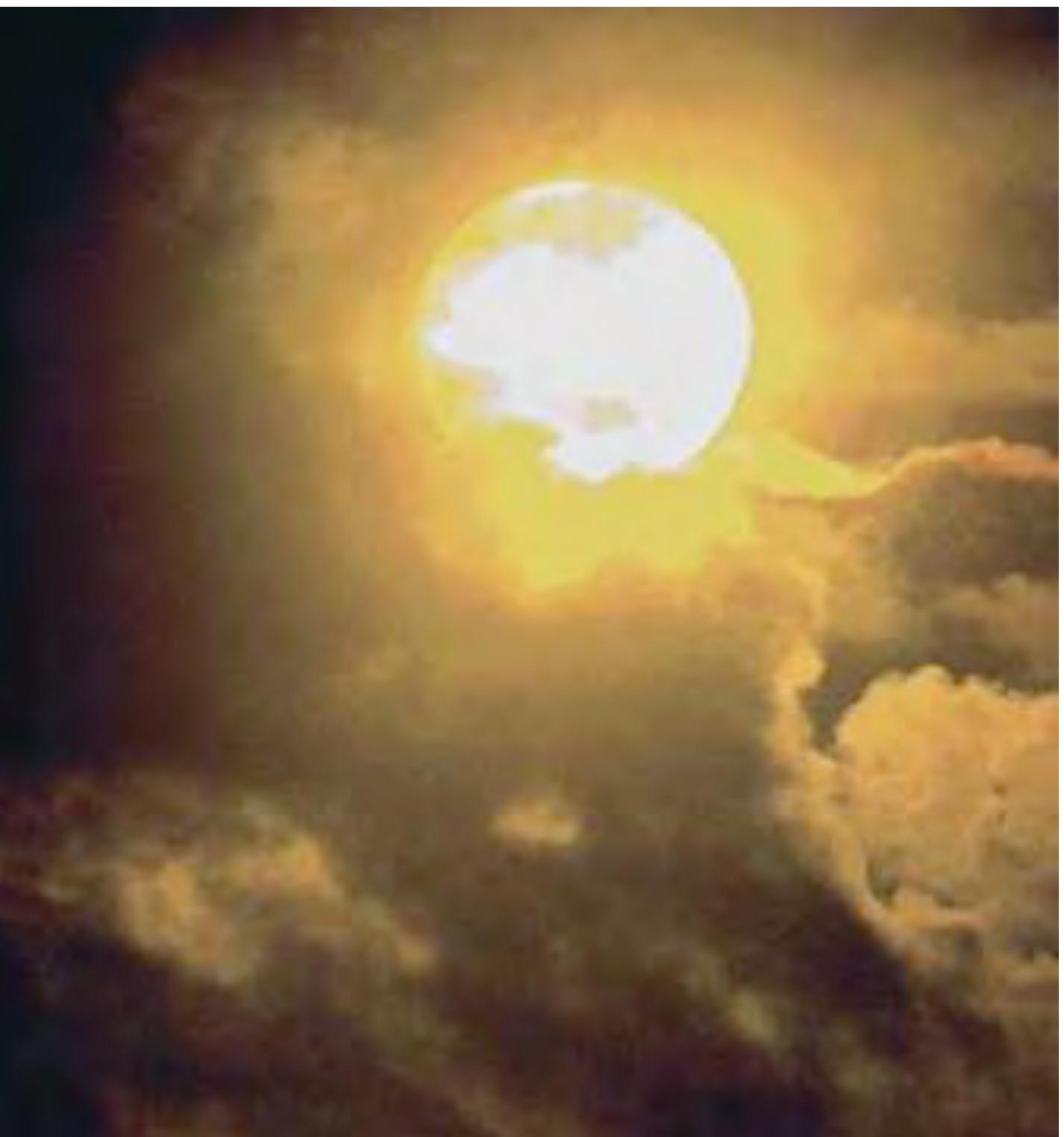


...preparing His entrance



The stars
shall
applaud Him
with
thunders of
praise

The
sweet
light in
His eyes
shall
enhance
those
awaiting

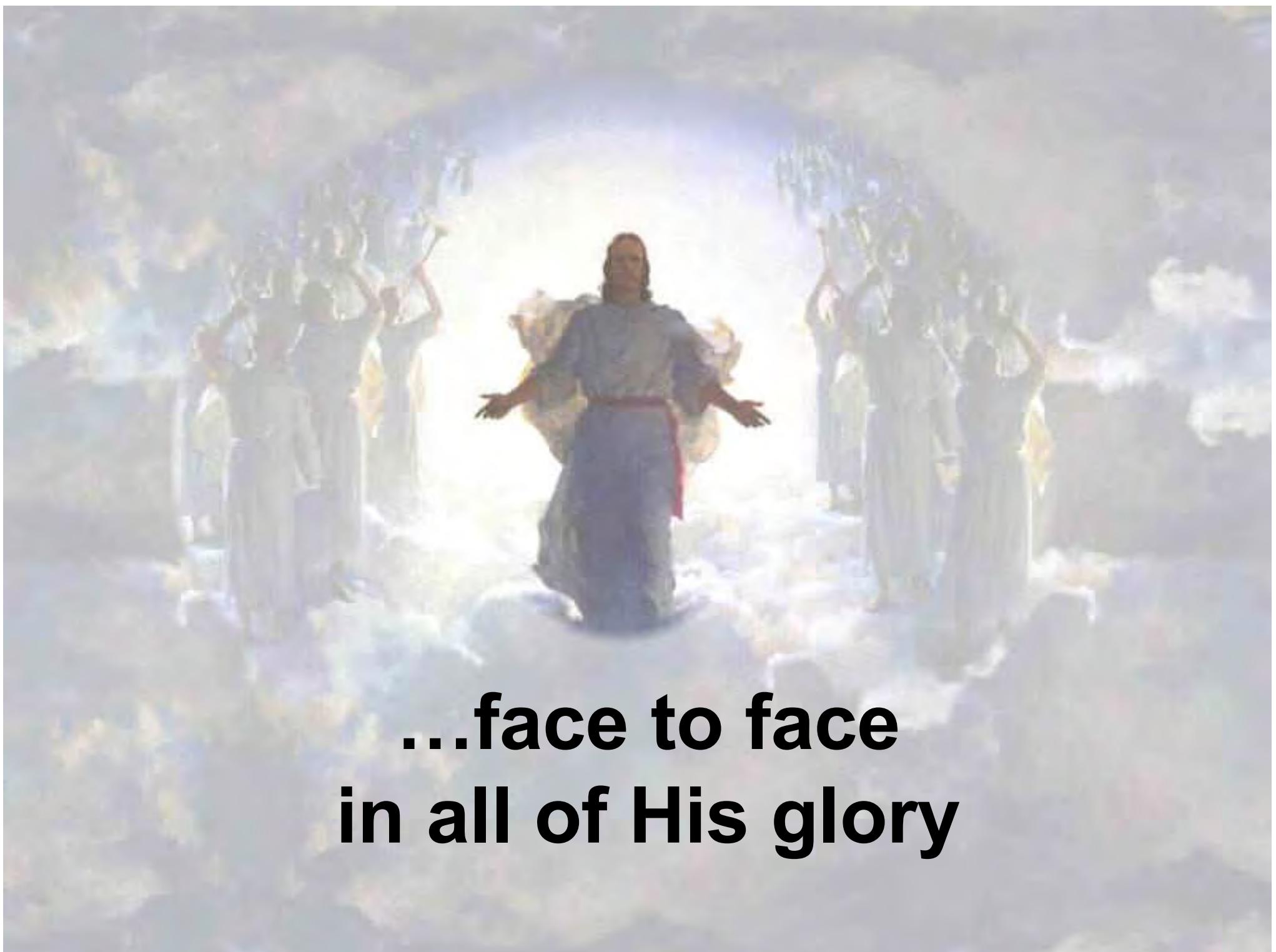


And we shall behold Him
then face to face





**We shall behold Him
We shall behold Him**



**...face to face
in all of His glory**



**We shall
behold Him**

**We shall
behold Him**



...face to face,
our Savior and Lord



**The angels shall sound the
shout of His coming**

The sleeping shall rise from
their slumbering place



**And those who remain shall
be changed in a moment**



**And we shall behold Him
then face to face**





**We shall behold Him
We shall behold Him**

**...face to face
in all of His glory**





We shall behold Him
We shall behold Him

...face to face,
our Savior and Lord

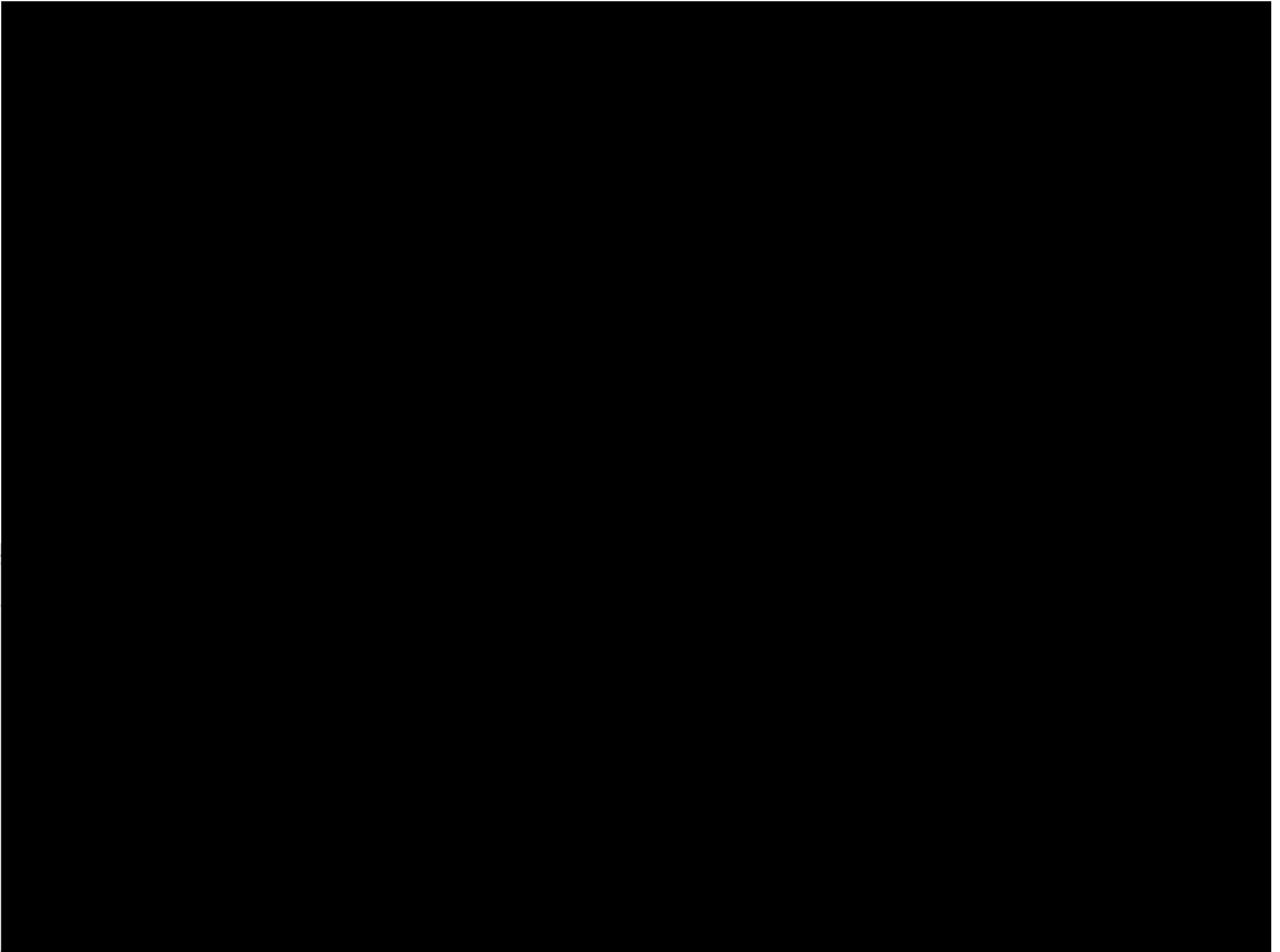




**We shall behold Him,
our Savior and Lord!**



...our Savior and Lord!



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