

a moment to prepare to hear God's Word ...

The now is more important than the how it will all end

I am constantly amazed and saddened by the fixation of so many of my Christian brothers and sisters in Brookings who seem to look forward to the end of the world and even seem to celebrate it.

Millions of dollars have been spent on the "Left Behind" series of stories made up by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. And this doesn't even count the older books such as "The Late Great Planet Earth" written by Hal Lindsey in the 1960s. He laid out an exciting fantasy roughly based on the Book of Revelation. It scared the "bleep" out of a lot of people, but it never happened (Who said beware of false prophets?), but that didn't stop Lindsey from writing books and making money.

I wish people would spend this money on achieving the Kingdom of Heaven here and now, as Jesus wanted.

There are two ways of understanding the end, according to the Bible. One is the bloody end where a select few are jerked up into heaven and billions die who weren't fortunate enough to be born in a country where

Faith Forum

WILLIAM A. SMITH

Christianity was taught: Moslems, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, etc.

I cannot accept this ending because the God I believe in is a loving God and would not indiscriminately murder billions because they weren't Christians.

I like the end where all nations meet on Mt. Zion and have a banquet. You see I am a Christian optimist. The banquet theory is also in the Holy Bible. But it doesn't make as much money as the "Left Behind" series, which I have left behind.

My loving God also continues to give us revelations. He didn't stop giving revelations in the 17th century with the King James Bible.

God's revelations continue with new discoveries about the universe, quantum physics, how the brain works, curing diseases, new ways of using genetics to feed the hungry and many

others. Each new revelation replaces myths, which humans have devised to give answers to phenomena throughout the ages.

I can't understand why God would cease revealing his power to us because King James approved their release. I am very enthusiastic about the future of the world and wish I could be around to see it.

I cannot agree with James Watts, President Reagan's Secretary of Interior who said, "Why save the environment when God's going to destroy it anyway?"

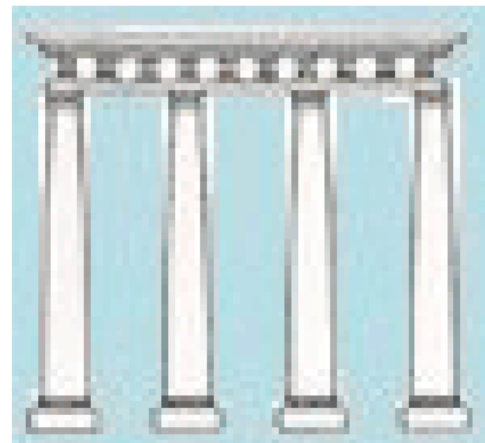
I hope my children and grandchildren, and on and on get to see the beauty and wonder that God has provided and more than I can imagine in the future.

Save me a seat at the banquet table with Isaiah, Paul, Jesus, Mohammed, Moses and Elijah. And save a glass of the red wine for me.

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# Bible Study rests on pillars



- **Grammar**
- **Rationality**
- **History**
- **Context**
- **Normal Use**

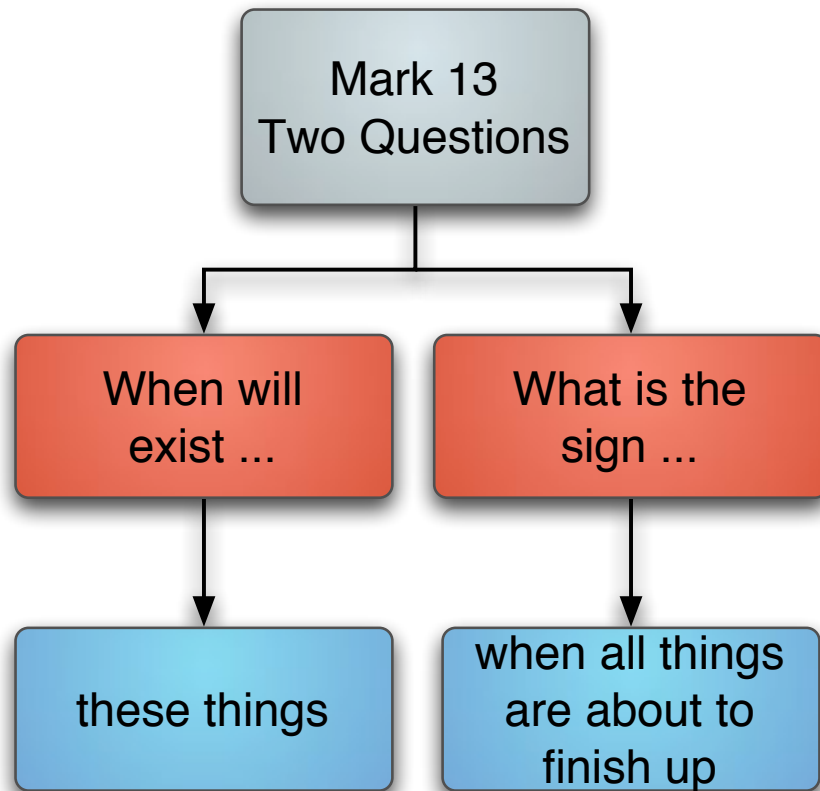
# **Prophecy Provides**

**Perception in Light of God's Words**

**Perspective in Light of Present Pressure/Tribulation**

**Preparation in Light of eternity**

Mt. Olives



**Jesus  
gives  
three  
signs  
or  
more!**



# OT Jewish Perspective on Prophecy



## Mark 13:14

.....“But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), .....

“Ὅταν δὲ ἴδητε

μ

μ

ἐσθήκότα ὅπου οὐ δεῖ, ὁ ἀναγινώσκων νοεῖτω,

the abomination of the desolation

Matt 24:15 “Therefore when you see the  
abomination of desolation which was spoken  
of through Daniel....

Dan 9:27; 11:31; 12:11;  
Matt 24:15; Mark 13:14

BDELYGMA - an odorous, despicable thing (image or idol) HEB: SHIQQUTS

Matt 24:15; Mark 13:14; Luke 16:15; Rom 2:22; Titus 1:16; Rev 17:4-5; 21:8, 27

Deut 29:16; 1 Kgs 11:5, 7; 2 Kgs 23:13, 24; Isa 66:3; Jer 4:1; 7:30; 13:27;  
16:18; 32:34; Ezek 5:11; 7:20; 11:18, 21; 20:7-8, 30; 37:23; Hos 9:10; Nah  
3:6; Zech 9:7; Dan 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; 2 Chr 15:8

desolation - wilderness, desert

**having stood**

Verb perf act part neut sing acc

## Two Parts:

Man of Sin Claims to be God \*2Th 2:3-10

False Prophet sets sentient idol Rev 13:11-15; Dan 12:11

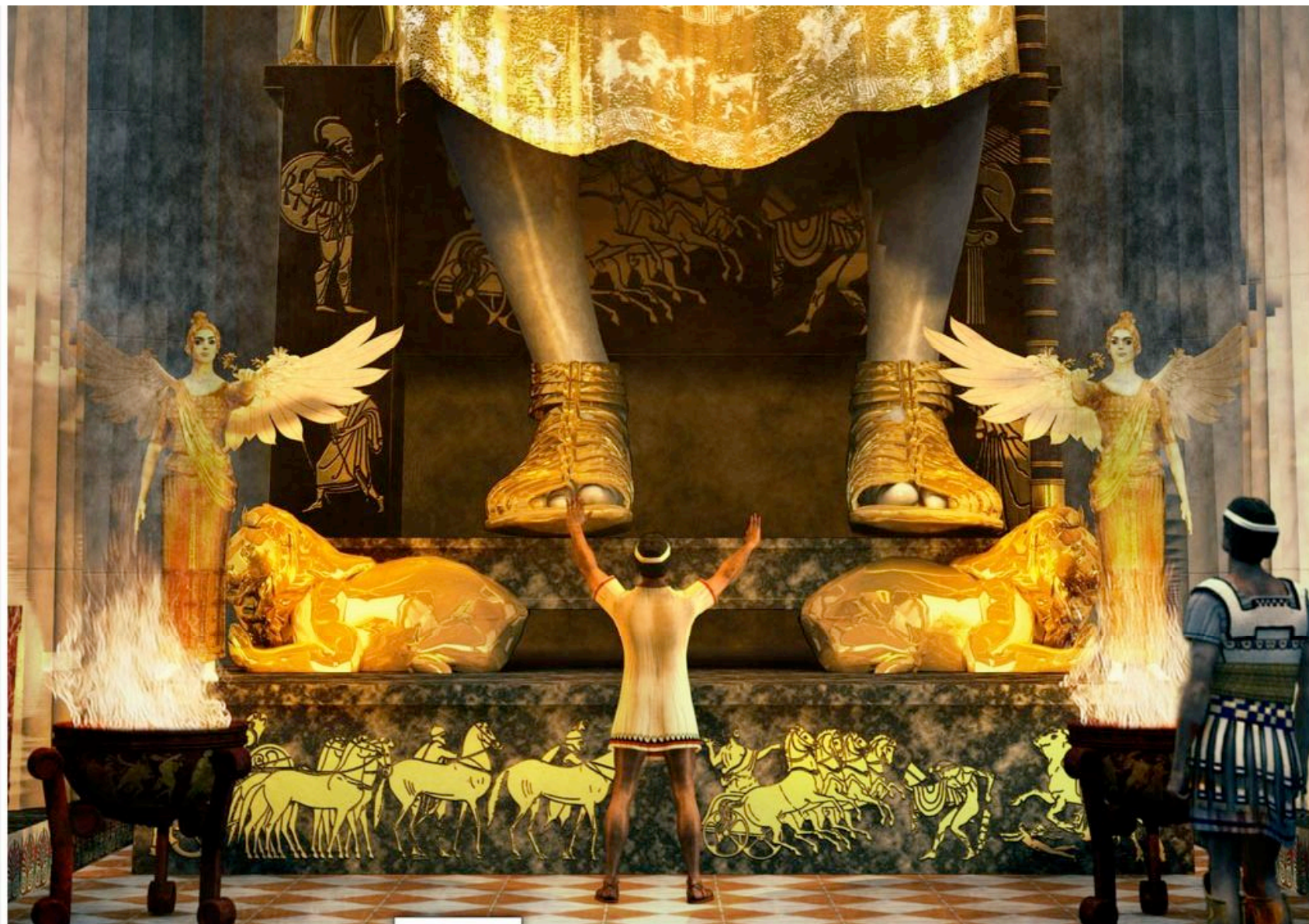
**it absolutely not exist**

DEI to be absolute necessity

(let the reader understand)

\*Mt 24:15

**Sign of Last  
Half of  
Tribulation**



d 19:1-8

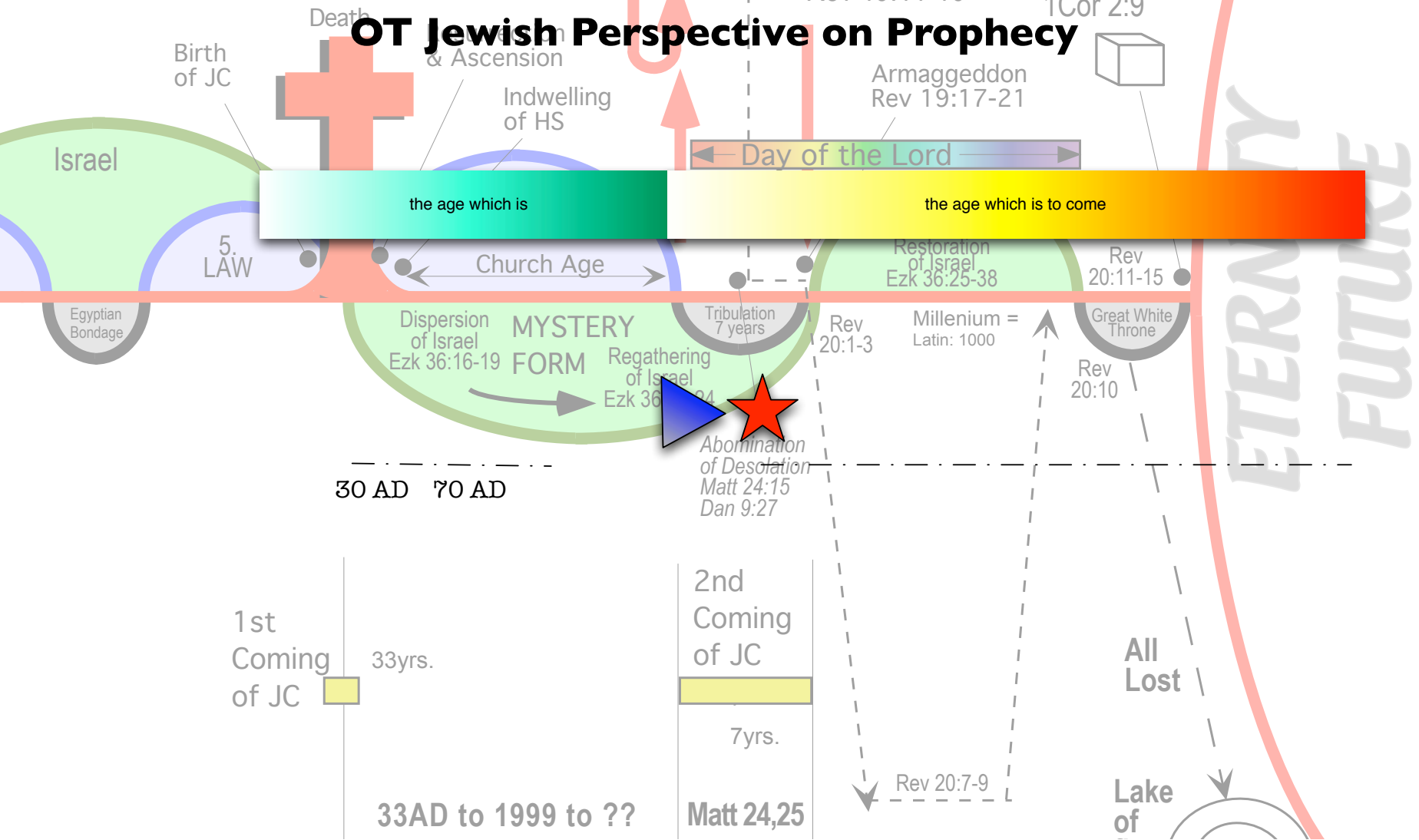
Matt 27:50,51

1Thess 4:16,17

Christ in  
Glory  
Rev 19:11-16

2Pet 3:10-13  
Rev 21:1  
1Cor 2:9

# OT Jewish Perspective on Prophecy



STP

Letter to the Hebrews

Sonship

Tabernacle

Priesthood

STB

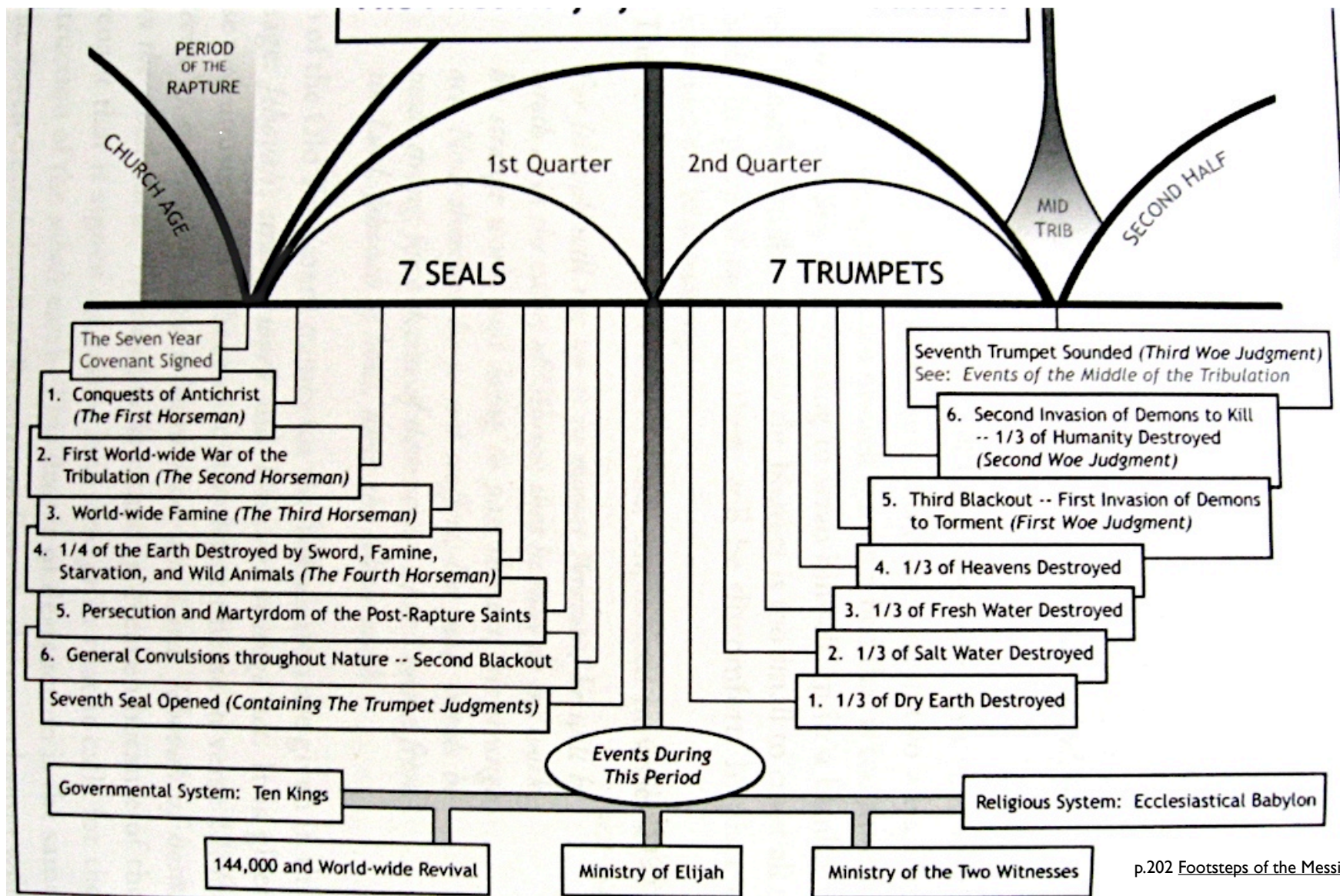
Revelation of Jesus Christ

Seals

Trumpets

Bowls





**Mark 13:15-18**

**..... then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. “The one who is on the housetop must not go down, or go in to get anything out of his house; and the one who is in the field must not turn back to get his coat. “But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! “But pray that it may not happen in the winter. ....**

**W A R N I N G !**

flee to the mountains

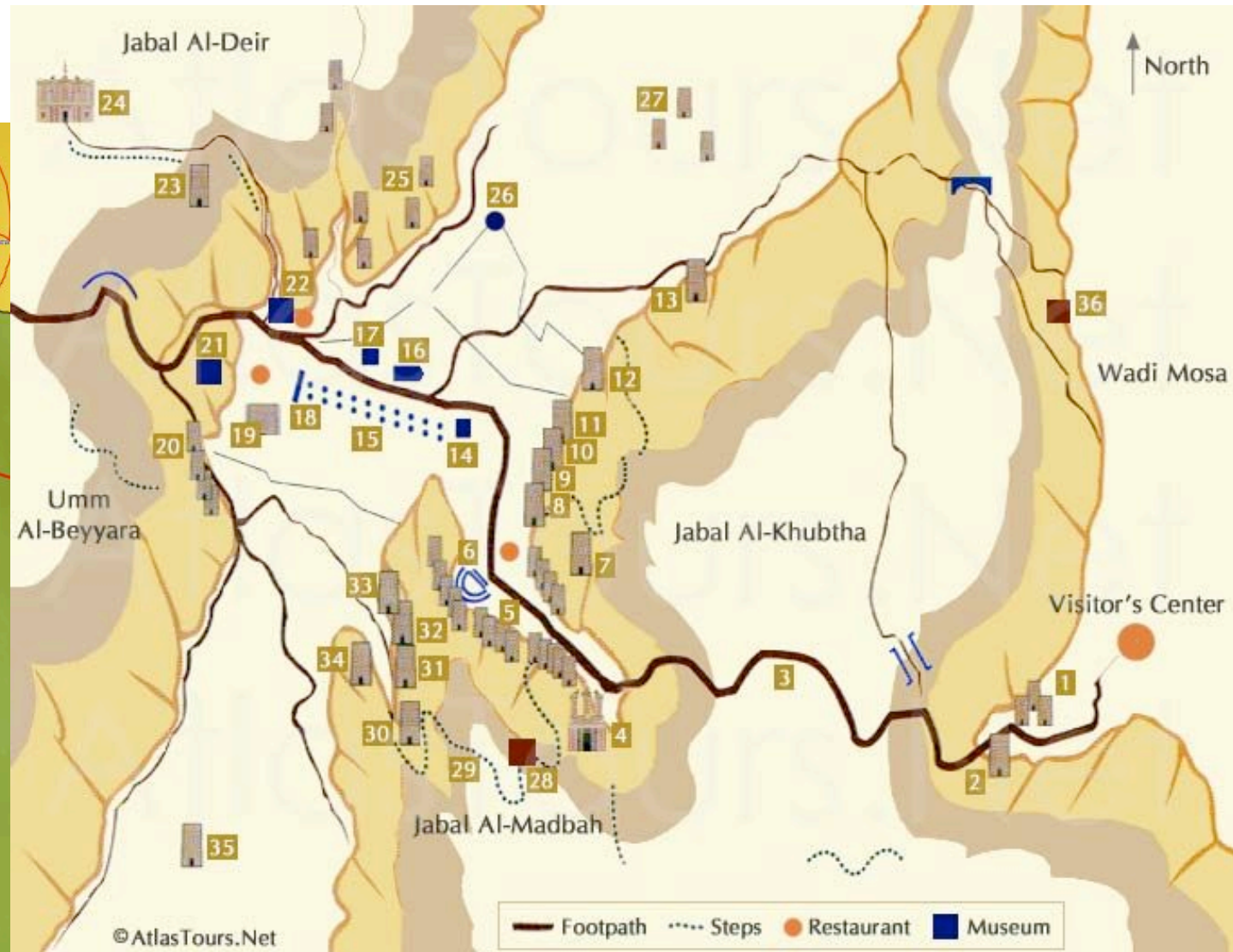
\*Rev 12:13-17, Micah 2:12, Bozrah (Petra)

that it might not happen in winter

pregnant/nursing



# Petra, Jordan













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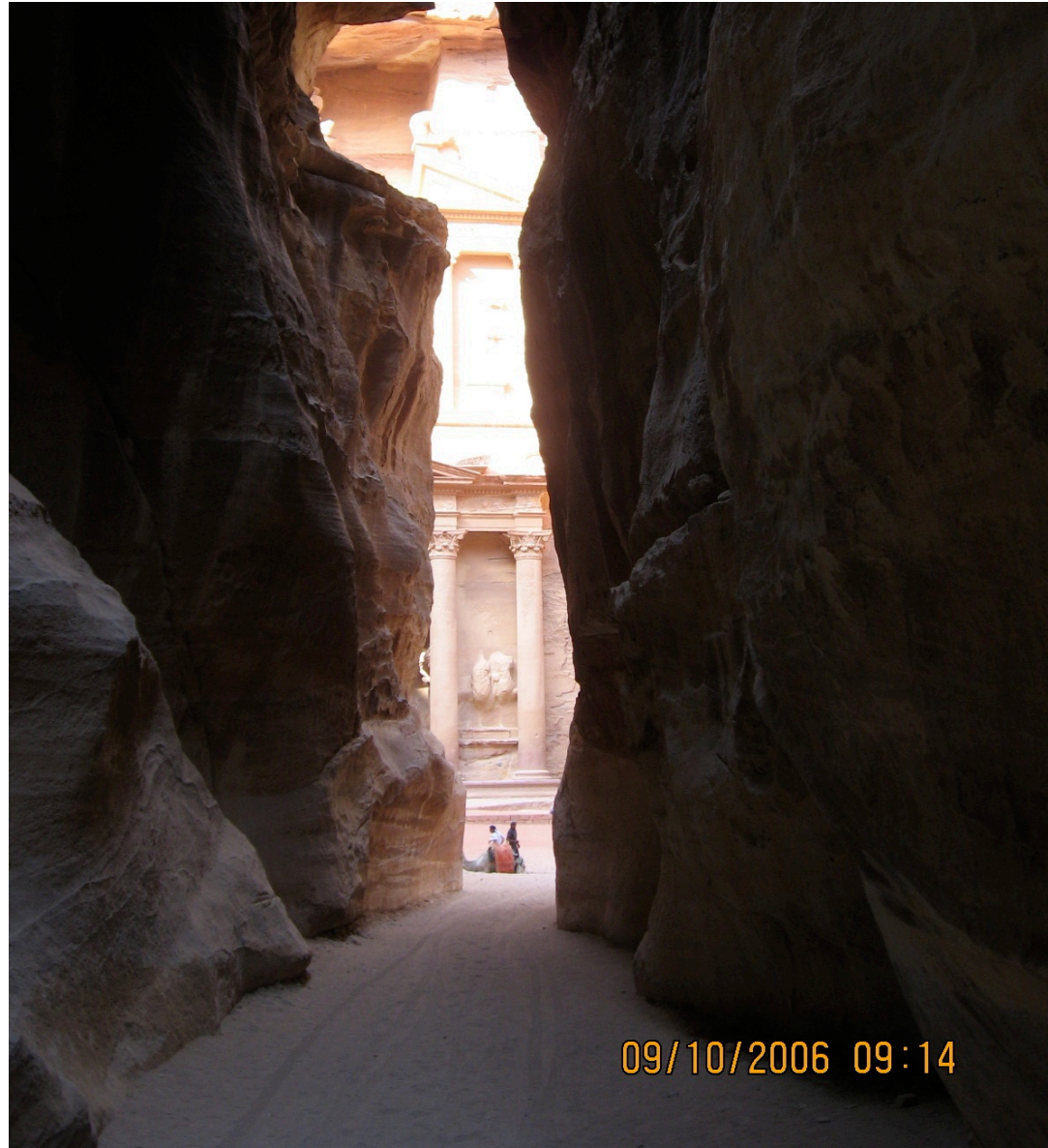




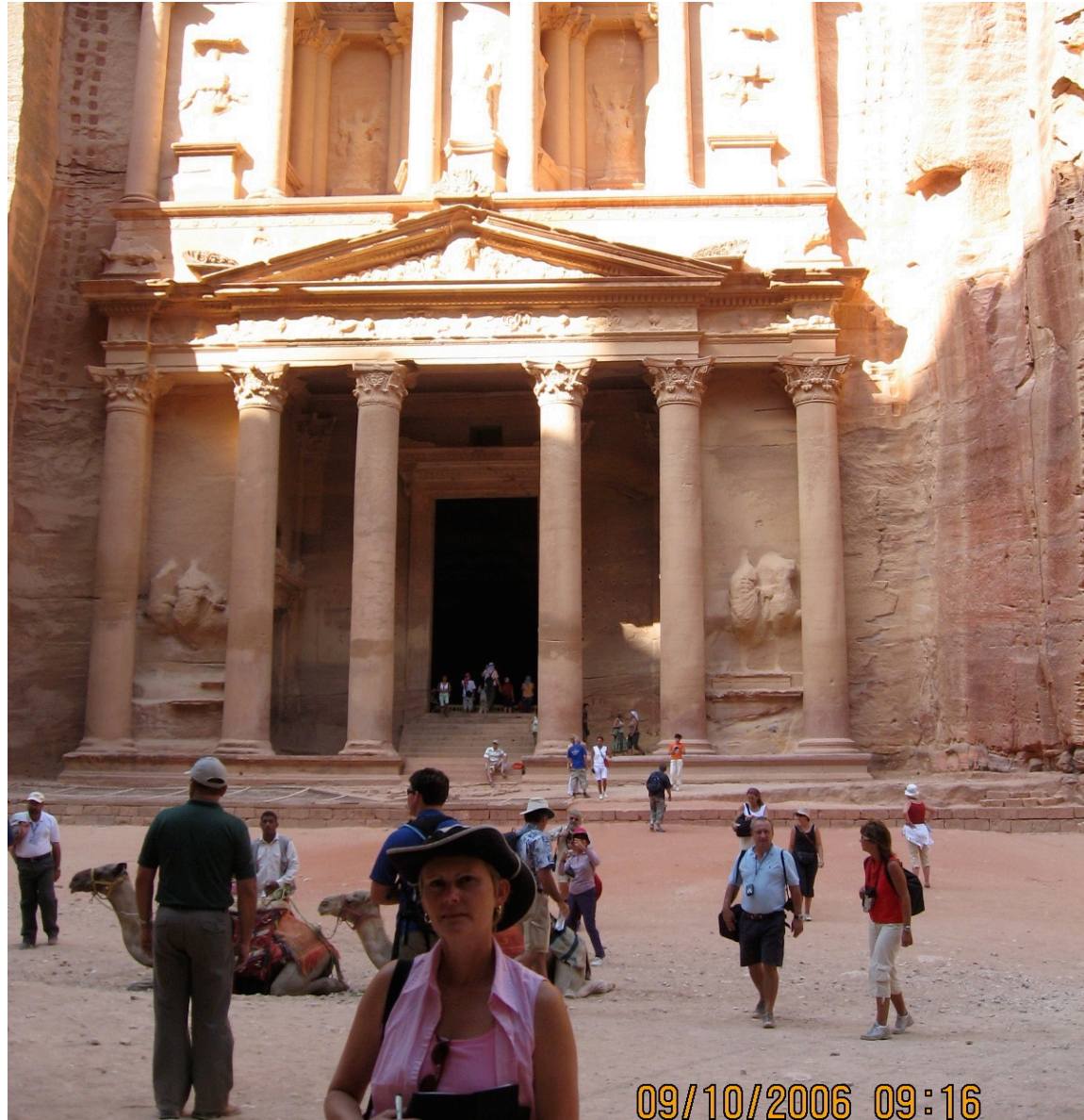
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Google Earth - Petra

## **Mark 13:19**

**.....“For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will. ....**

ἔσονται γὰρ αἱ ἡμέραι ἐκεῖναι θλίψεις οἷα οὐ γέγονεν τοιαύτη ἀπ’ ἀρχῆς κτίσεως ἣν ἔκτισεν ὁ θεὸς ἕως τοῦ νῦν καὶ οὐ μὴ γένηται.



**to explain further**

**those days**

**tribulation (greater than ever has been)**

greater than Holocaust,  
WWI, WWII, anytime

The Tribulation is the entire seven year period,  
however,  
the last half is also referred to as The Great Tribulation.

Mt 24:21, Jer 30:7; Dan 12:1

# The Second Half of the Great Tribulation

The Temple in Heaven is filled with the Shechinah Glory causing its closure until all Bowl Judgments are Poured Out

FIRST HALF

MID TRIB

7 BOWL JUDGMENTS

SEVENTY-FIVE DAY INTERVAL

MESSIANIC KINGDOM

Seventh Trumpet Sounded  
(Third Woe Judgment containing the Bowl Judgments)

1. Sores affecting those with the Mark of the Beast

2. Salt Water Turned to Blood

3. Fresh Water Turned to Blood

4. Heat of Sun Increased

5. Fourth Blackout of the End Times

6. Euphrates River Dried Up  
The War of the Great Day of God the Almighty  
Third World-wide War of the Tribulation  
(See Campaign of Armageddon Map)

The Removal of the Abomination of Desolation

The Seventh Bowl Judgment is Poured Out ending the Tribulation with a Great Earthquake, the Fifth Blackout, and Massive Hail

Victory Ascent upon the Mount of Olives

Messiah will Slay Antichrist in the Battle from Bozrah to the Valley of Jehoshaphat

The Second Coming of Messiah

Repentance of Israel's Leaders and the Remnant, Pleading for Messiah to Return

Events during this Period:

Protection and Provision for the Faithful Remnant of Israel in the City of Refuge

**Mark 13:20**

**.....“Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days. ....**

.....καὶ εἰ μὴ ἐκολόβωσεν κύριος τὰς ἡμέρας, οὐκ ἂν ἐσώθη πᾶσα σὰρξ·  
ἀλλὰ διὰ τοὺς ἐκλεκτοὺς οὗς ἐξελέξατο ἐκολόβωσεν τὰς ἡμέρας. ....

Bible is fixed about the length of the tribulation, 7 years, 3 1/2 yrs., 42 months, 1260 days.

**had shortened            KOLOBOO   to cut off            2 Sam 4:12**



### Mark 13:21-22

.....“And then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ’; or, ‘Behold, He is there’; do not believe him; for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect. ....

Mark 13:21 Καὶ τότε ἐάν τις ὑμῖν εἴπῃ· ἴδε ὧδε ὁ χριστός, ἴδε ἐκεῖ, μὴ πιστεύετε· <sup>22</sup> ἐγερθήσονται γὰρ ψευδόχριστοι καὶ ψευδοπροφῆται καὶ δώσουσιν σημεῖα καὶ τέρατα πρὸς τὸ ἀποπλανᾶν, εἰ δυνατόν, τοὺς ἐκλεκτούς.

**Behold**

ORAO to look, view

Look, see

**false Christs**

now false prophets, and doing signs and wonders (miracles)

**false prophets**

\*Mk 13.6; 2 Thess 2:8-10

**Mark 13:23**

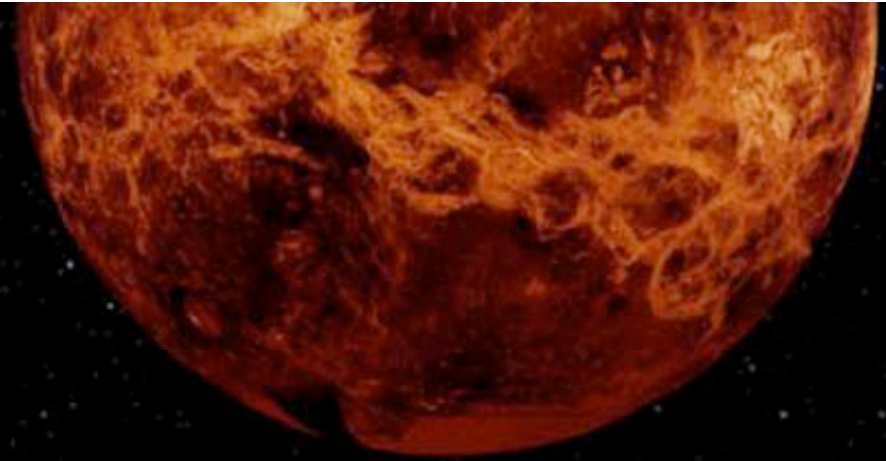
**.....“But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance. ....**

Mark 13:23 ὑμεῖς δὲ βλέπετε· προείρηκα ὑμῖν πάντα.

*reassurance in light of tribulation catastrophes*

**Mark 13:24-25**

**.....“But in those days, after that tribulation, THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. ....**



**Mark 13:26**  
.....“Then  
they will see  
**THE SON OF**  
**MAN COMING**  
**IN CLOUDS**  
with great  
power and  
glory. ....

Shechinah  
Glory of the  
Son will  
light the  
universe





**Mark 13:26**

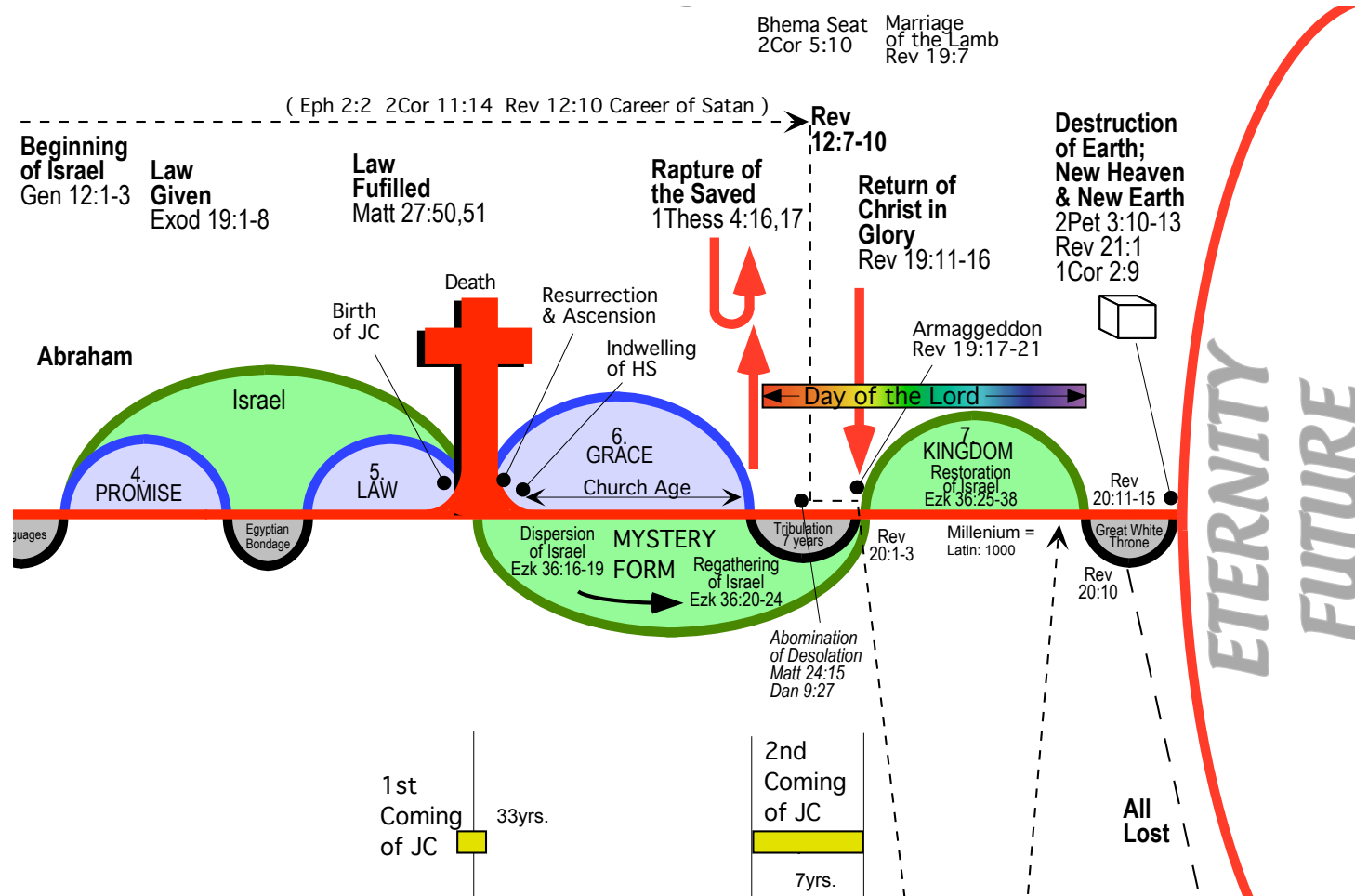
**.....“Then they  
will see THE  
SON OF MAN  
COMING IN  
CLOUDS with  
great power  
and glory. ....**





## Mark 13:27

.....“And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven. ....



**Deut 30:3,4**; Isa  
11:11-12; 43:5-7; Jer  
23:5-8; 31:7,8-14; Ezek  
11:16-21; 20:40-42;  
36:22-31

‘heaven’, connotes  
the resurrection  
of all dead of  
Israel



## Mark 13:28-30

.....“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. “Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door. “Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ....

*Purpose of a parable - to explain & conceal truth.*

**learn the parable**

**from the fig tree** not Israel \*Lk 21:29

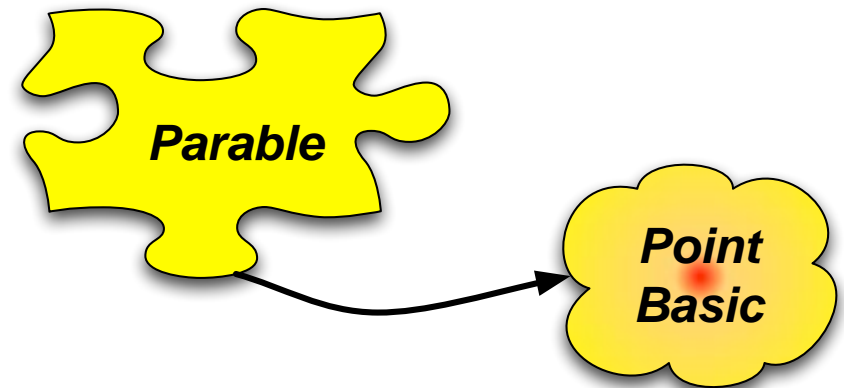
**when you see this (sg.)**

**(you will) recognize (nearness of summer)**

**this generation  
will not pass away**



**until all these things take place**



\* One of the most  
misunderstood passages of  
Bible prophecy



Mark 13:14 “But when **you see** the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION ....

Mark 13:28 (when **you see**) .....become tender and puts forth its leaves .....

Mark 13:28 .....you know that summer is near .....

Mark 13:29 “In same manner, you too, when **you see** these things happening .....

Mark 13:29-30 .....you (will know) recognize that He is near, right at the door.

Mark 13:29-30 .... **this generation will not pass away** until all these things take place. ....

**“this generation” that views the AOD**

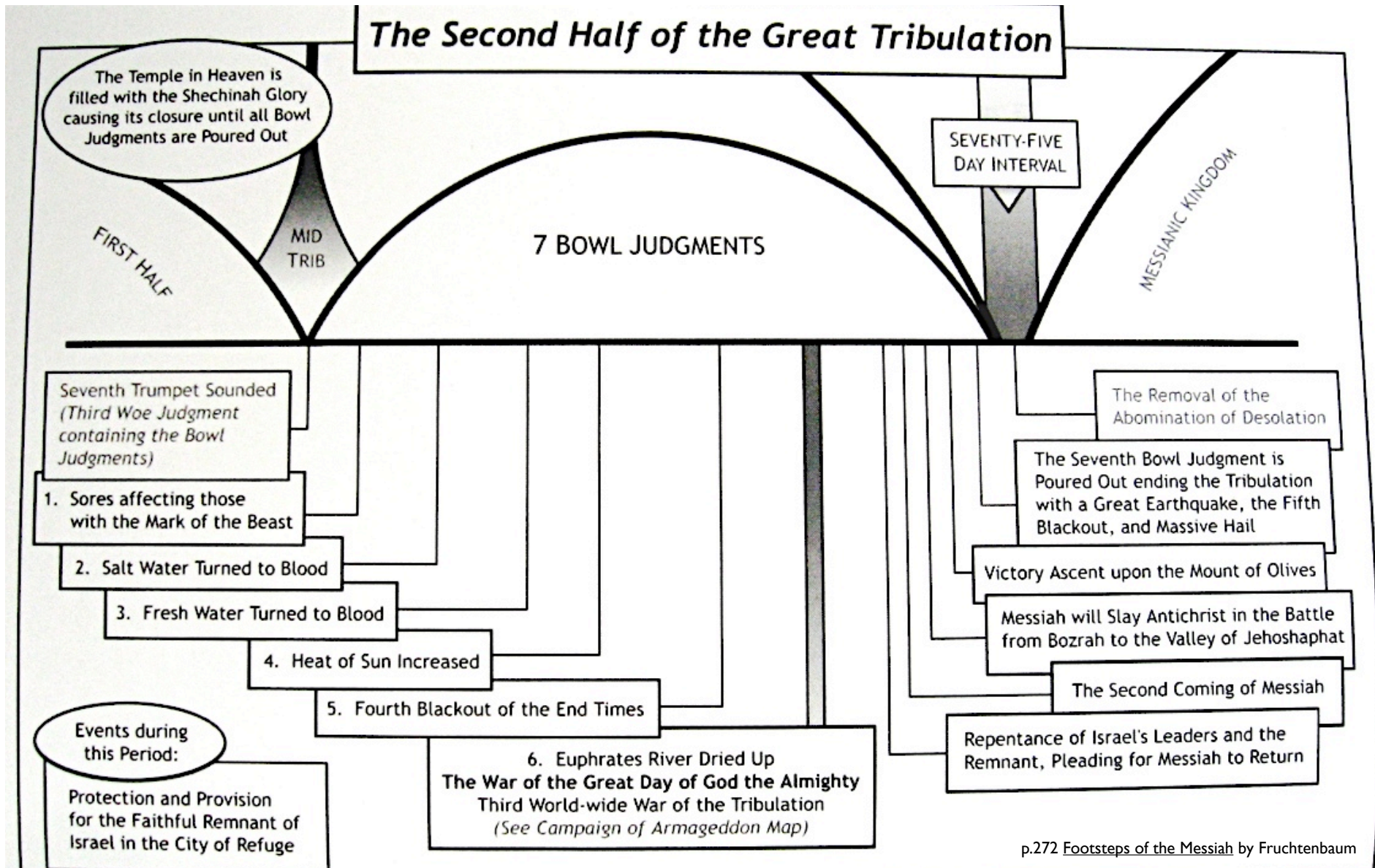
**Mark 13:30-31**

.....“Truly I say to you, **this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. ....**

Cannot be the  
generation of Jesus  
day \*Mk 8:12

*reassurance in light of tribulation catastrophes*

# The Second Half of the Great Tribulation



### Mark 13:32-37

.....“But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. “Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come. “It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. “Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. “What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’” .....

Περὶ δὲ τῆς ἡμέρας ἐκείνης ἢ τῆς ὥρας

marks topic \*I Cor 7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1, 12; I Thess 4:9; 5:1

no one knows ... nor the Son KENOSIS of the Son\*Phil 2:5-8

you do not know when the master(Lord) will come

normal daily life description  
does not match the tenor of the traumatic  
and catastrophic tribulation period

\*Mt 24: 37-41;  
Mk 13:35-36,  
Lk 21:34

we do know when  
2<sup>nd</sup> coming  
will take place

**One can escape  
the tribulation!**

Lk 21:35-36

Pre-trib rapture \*Lk 21:36,

Pretists believe, most or all of the prophetic events of Mark 13, are completed in 70AD.

We are now in the kingdom period.

Nearly all Protestant denominations and the Roman Church believe this. Christ's kingdom is here now.

Paradise has been restored in Christ (spiritually-speaking). We live in the Garden of Eden now (if we are in Christ), just as sure as we can know we have "eternal life."

List of leading contemporary Preterists:

Gary DeMar  
Hank Hanegraaff  
Gary North  
Ken Gentry  
David Chilton  
R.C. Sproul

"we are to lay hold on that kingdom which cannot be shaken; for the Lord shakes us for this end, that he may really and forever establish us in himself."

John Calvin On Hebrews 12

| Contemporary "Partial Preterist View" |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A.D.70                                | Still Future                    |
| A coming (parousia) of Christ         | The Coming (parousia) of Christ |
| A day of the Lord                     | The Day of the Lord             |
| A judgment                            | The Resurrection of the dead    |
| The end of the Jewish Age             | The Rapture of the living       |
|                                       | The (final) Judgment            |
|                                       | The end of history              |

(Source: [R.C. Sproul](#), Last Days)

Preterist Planet

How Text Treated:  
Spiritualize  
Mysticize  
Reads Into the Text  
Isolated Texts  
Pseudo-literal



# Daniel's "70 Weeks" and "Time of the End" Timeline

**THE END TIMES**  
 "The Last Days"  
 "The Fullness of Time"  
 The Eschaton  
 Days of the Messiah  
 Age-changing transition period

**"THE END"**  
 The Bible Proclaims

- A.D. 70
- #1 Destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem
- #2 Coming and Return of Jesus
- #3 End of the Age

Artaxerxes' Decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem

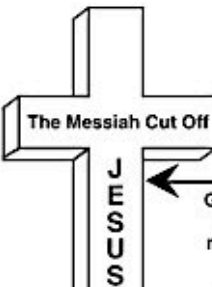
Jerusalem restored and rebuilt  
 408 B.C.

Birth of Jesus Christ  
 4 B.C.

Jesus "The Anointed One" is baptized and begins his public ministry

A.D. 27

A.D. 30



Gospel freed to go to non-Jews; Philip ministers in Samaria

A.D. 34

Jesus' "This generation" Matthew 24:34  
 40 year covental transition period - compares with time span as Israel's wandering in the wilderness

"The end of all things is at hand" 1 Peter 4:7

Roman/Jewish War  
 Four sieges of Jerusalem

Daily Sacrifice Abolished  
 A.D. 66

Matthew 24:6-13

And this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end (A.D. 70) will come." Matthew 24:14. See also: Col. 1:6, 23 Ro. 1:8; 10:18, 16:26 Ac. 1:8, 2:5 Lu. 2:1

Nero's persecution of the Christians

A.D. 64

A.D. 68

?

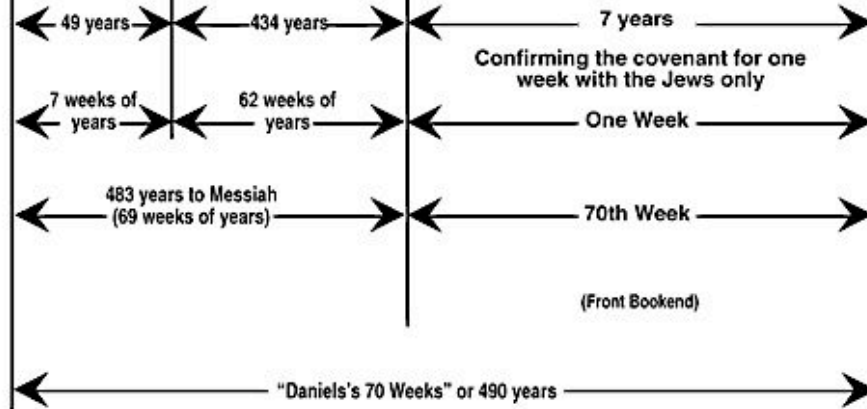
The Great Tribulation

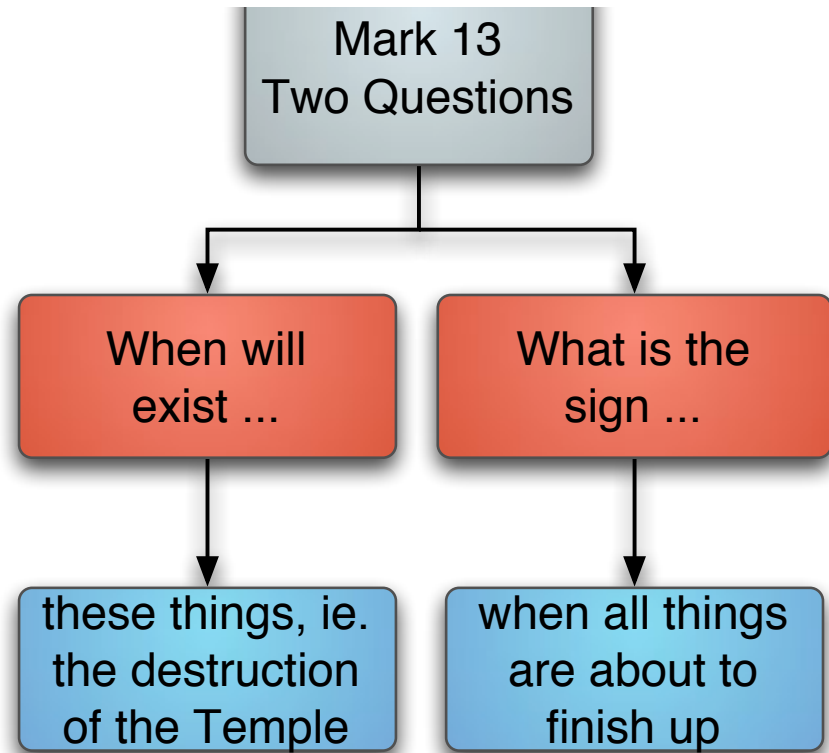
(Back Bookend)

Daniel's "Time of the End" 1,290-1,335 days

Fulfills Daniel's "70 Weeks"

Completes Habakkuk's "Appointed Time of the End" Hab. 2:3





**Jesus  
gives  
three  
signs  
or  
more!**

The **SIGN** of the destruction of Jerusalem Temple \*Lk 22:20

The **SIGN** of the Start of the End of the Age \*Mk 13:8

The **SIGN** of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ \*Mk 13:14

Lord, Come Soon!