

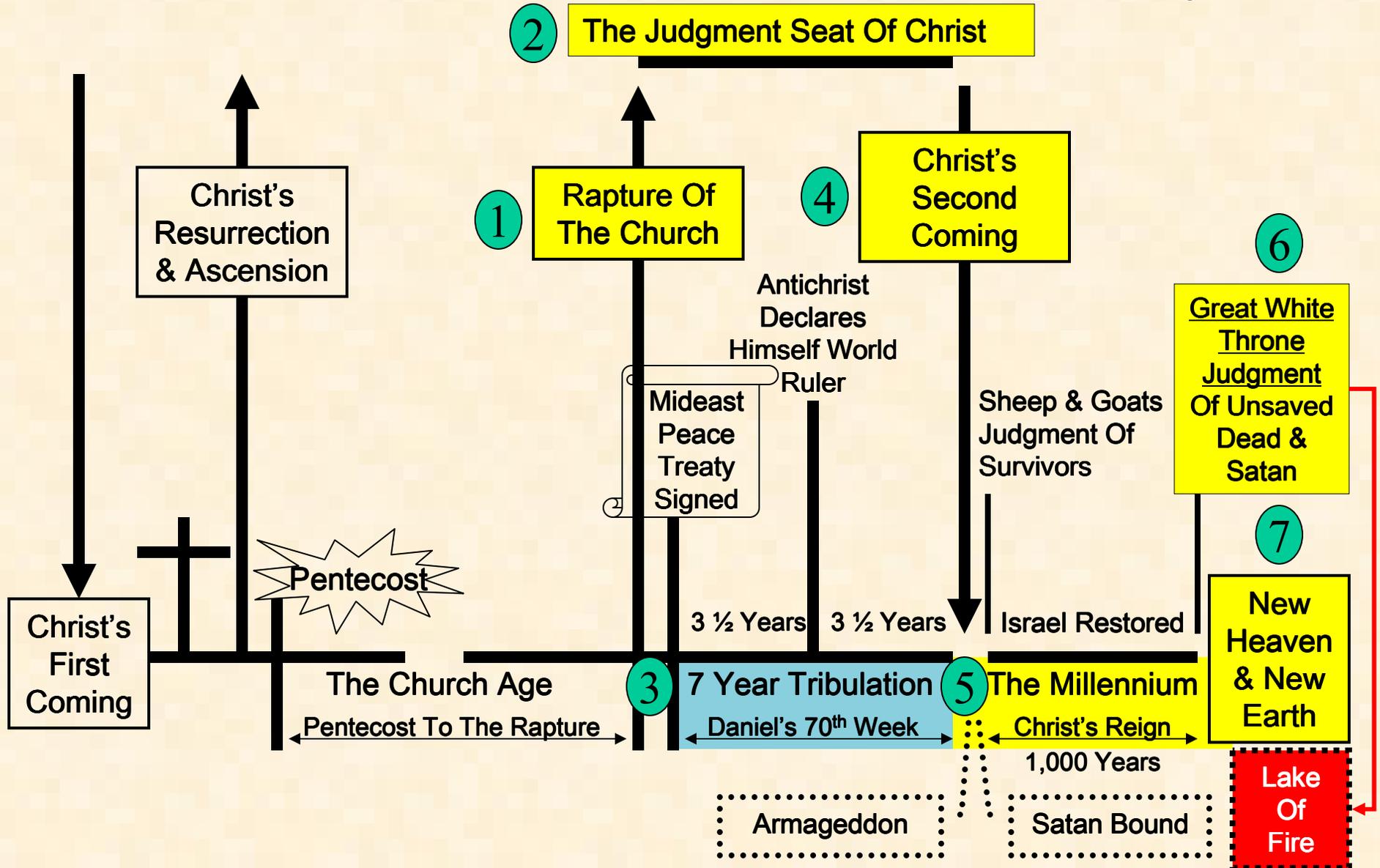
# The Tribulation Period

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## INTRODUCTION

- Quite often, the last few minutes (or seconds) of a game can be so crucial and so unique.
- So it is with those final moments of man's rule and existence on this earth. After thousands of years of human history, it is the final seven that are so crucial and so unique.
- Unlike a sporting event, there is no question about the outcome of this spiritual contest between the Lord and Satan. **THE LORD JESUS WINS!**
- It is the events of those seven years leading up to His triumphal return that we will now investigate.

# Order Of Events In Bible Prophecy



# The Tribulation Period

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## INTRODUCTION

- Throughout the Scriptures a great deal of information can be found about this period. Because of the sheer amount of information we will not be doing an exhaustive study.
- There are differing opinions on a number of details. However, there are many aspects of the tribulation period that are very clear.
- The Scriptures employ several terms when referring to the seven years prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ. These terms reveal something of the nature of this period of time. Let's begin our study of The Tribulation Period by looking at these terms.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE TERMINOLOGY OF THE TRIBULATION

- 1. The Day of the Lord*
- 2. The Tribulation and the Great Tribulation*
- 3. The Time of Jacob's Trouble*
- 4. The Wrath of God*
- 5. Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week*

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE TERMINOLOGY OF THE TRIBULATION

- **1. *The Day of the Lord*** – This phrase is used in the Bible to emphasize special interventions of God in human history. His victory over His enemies and His sovereignty over the universe are emphasized.
- With regards to the future it is used to describe a time when the Lord will intervene in human history to judge the nations, discipline Israel and establish His rule in the Messianic kingdom.
- The future Day of the Lord includes **darkness** (judgment during the tribulation period) and **light** (blessing in the Messianic kingdom).

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE TERMINOLOGY OF THE TRIBULATION

- The judgment aspect is seen in **Zephaniah 1:14-16 (NKJV)**

**The great day of the Lord** is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of **the day of the Lord** is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE TERMINOLOGY OF THE TRIBULATION

- Judgment and blessing aspects are found in **Zechariah 14:1-2 (NKJV)** **Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. . . . Zechariah 14:8-9 (NKJV) And in that day it shall be— That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea And half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur. And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be “The Lord is one,” And His name one.**

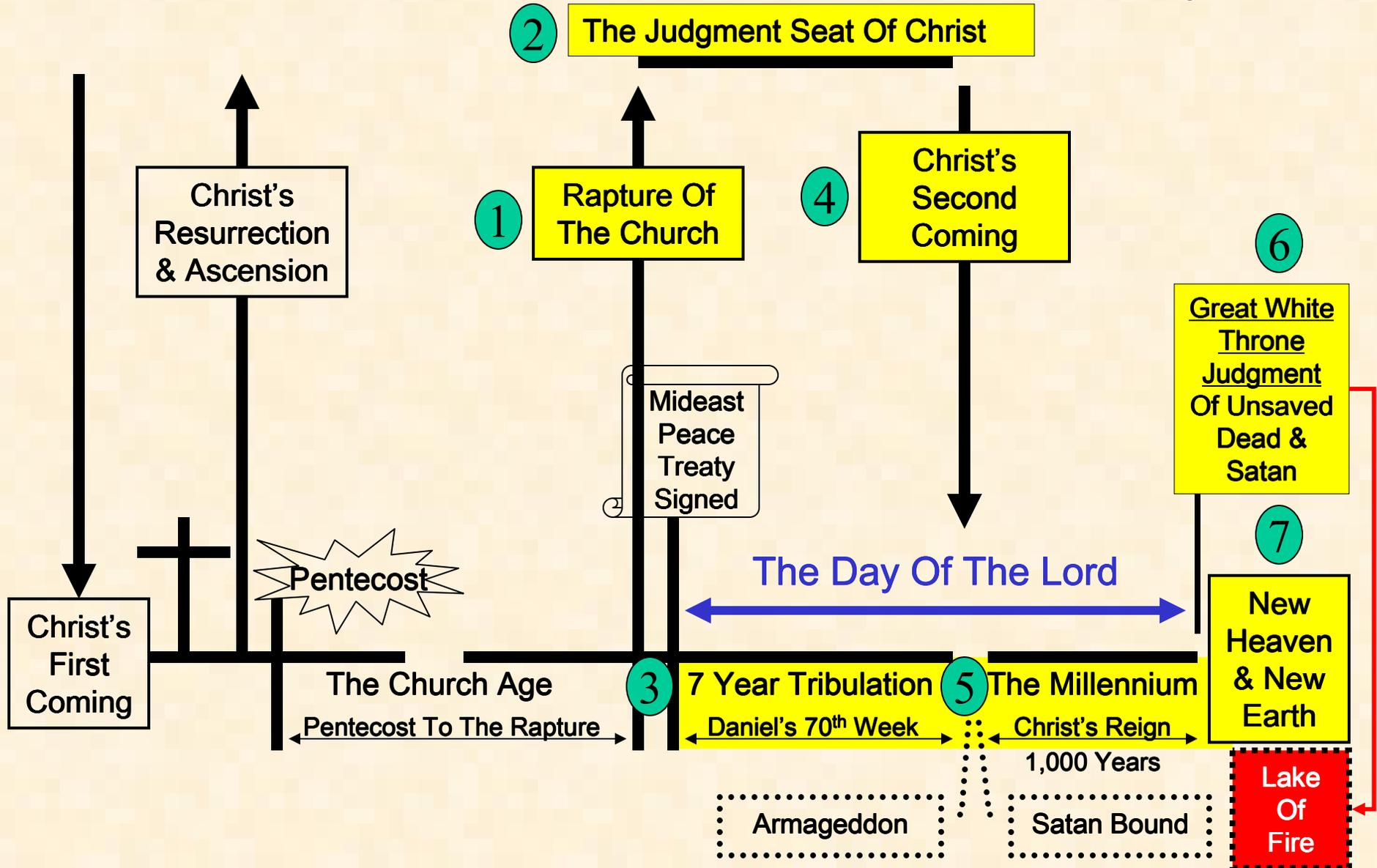
# The Tribulation Period

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## THE TERMINOLOGY OF THE TRIBULATION

- The New Testament speaks of the Day of the Lord coming as a thief in the night.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:2 (NKJV)** For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.
- From 2 Peter 3:10 we learn that the Day of the Lord includes the future destruction of the present heavens and earth at the end of the Messianic Kingdom.
- **2 Peter 3:10 (NKJV)** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

# Order Of Events In Bible Prophecy



# The Tribulation Period

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## THE TERMINOLOGY OF THE TRIBULATION

- **2. *The Tribulation and the Great Tribulation*** – These terms refer to that future time of unique suffering and trouble that will be experienced by Israel and the Gentile world.
- **Matthew 24:9 (NKJV)** “Then they will deliver you up to **tribulation** and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.
- **Matthew 24:21 (NKJV)** For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.
- **Matthew 24:29 (NKJV)** “Immediately after **the tribulation** of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE TERMINOLOGY OF THE TRIBULATION

- The term **Tribulation** generally refers to the entire 7-year period. However, the term **Great Tribulation** specifically refers to the second half of the 7-year period.
- ***3. The Time of Jacob's Trouble*** – This phrase is used by the prophet Jeremiah and focuses on the unparalleled time of trouble and suffering that will be experienced by the nation of Israel.
- **Jeremiah 30:7 (NKJV)** *Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.*
- The “time of Jacob’s trouble” has the same characteristics as the Day of the Lord.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE TERMINOLOGY OF THE TRIBULATION

- **4. *The Wrath of God*** – This phrase is used to refer to the entire tribulation period.
- Satan's wrath and man's wrath may be terrible, but they cannot compare to the wrath of God.
- **Zephaniah 1:14-15 (NKJV)** **The great day of the Lord is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness,**
- Scripture indicates that Church age believers will be delivered from this wrath of God.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE TERMINOLOGY OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Revelation 15:1 (NKJV)** Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.
- **Revelation 16:1 (NKJV)** Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.”
- **1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NKJV)** and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV)** For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE TERMINOLOGY OF THE TRIBULATION

- **5. *Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week*** – This term is based on **Daniel 9:24-27**, where Daniel was informed that God was going to have seventy weeks (490 years) of special dealings with Israel in order to accomplish six great purposes.
- There are perhaps several dozen other designations for this final seven years, all of which emphasize it as a time of great trouble and distress, particularly for the nation of Israel.
- The beginning and length of the Tribulation (seven years) is **based on Daniel 9:24-27, which is a CENTRAL passage.**

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- Daniel 9 records the prayer of Daniel, who was greatly concerned about the future of the people of Israel and the city of Jerusalem.
- At the time of this prayer, the nation had been in Babylonian captivity for almost seventy years, and Daniel knew from Jeremiah's prophecies that the captivity was supposed to last only seventy years. Daniel pleaded with God to fulfill His commitment to restore Israel.
- As Daniel prayed for his people and his city, the angel Gabriel was sent to inform him that God was going to have 490 years (seventy "weeks") of special dealings with Israel. When the 490 years had run their course, God would have accomplished *six great goals* related to Israel. Let's look at the passage.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Daniel 9:24-27 (NKJV)** “Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy. “Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. “And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Daniel 9:24 (NKJV)** “Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, (1) To finish the transgression, (2) To make an end of sins, (3) To make reconciliation for iniquity, (4) To bring in everlasting righteousness, (5) To seal up vision and prophecy, (6) And to anoint the Most Holy.
- Note that these goals relate to Daniel’s people and city.
- (1) God will **finish the transgression** of Israel. “To finish” means “to bring something to an end.”
- (2) God will **make an end** (lit. seal up) **of Israel’s sins**.
- (3) God will also **make reconciliation for iniquity**. The verb “to make reconciliation” means “to cover or expiate.” The provision for these has already been made at the cross, but will not find complete fulfillment until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- (4) To bring in everlasting righteousness, (5) To seal up vision and prophecy, (6) And to anoint the Most Holy.
- (4) This goal relates to the end of the Tribulation and the inception of the Messianic Kingdom when everlasting righteousness will be experienced by the nation of Israel.
- (5) This goal looks at that time when the glorified Christ is present with His people, fulfilling all prophecies and making visions and prophecies unnecessary.
- (6) The sixth goal is to anoint the Most Holy. This may refer to the dedication of the Most Holy place in the millennial temple, described in Ezekiel 41-46. Or it may refer not to a holy place, but to the Holy One, Christ. If so, this speaks of the enthronement of Christ, “the Anointed One” (Dan. 7:25-27) as King of kings and Lord of lords in the Millennium.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Daniel 9:24 (NKJV)** “Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.
- “Seventy weeks” is literally “seventy sevens” or “seventy units of seven,” which because of the context is commonly understood to mean 70 x 7, or 490 years).
- Daniel was told that this 490 year period would be made up of three distinct divisions.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Daniel 9:25 (NKJV)** “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, **there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks**; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.
- The first unit of “seven sevens” ( $7 \times 7 = \underline{49 \text{ years}}$ ) is the period of time **to restore and build Jerusalem** (including the street and the wall). The word “wall” may be translated “moat.”
- The second unit of “sixty-two sevens” ( $62 \times 7 = \underline{434 \text{ years}}$ ) comprises the time from the rebuilding of Jerusalem to the coming of the Messiah (**until Messiah the Prince**).
- The first two units total sixty-nine sevens ( $69 \times 7 = \underline{483 \text{ years}}$ ), leaving one unit of seven ( $1 \times 7 = \underline{7 \text{ years}}$ ) yet to be discussed in Daniel 9:27. The remaining 7 years is Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Daniel 9:26 (NKJV) “And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.**
- According to verse 26, after the first two divisions of time (483 years) but before the final division of time (7 years) two key events will transpire:
  - 1) the death of the Messiah
  - 2) the destruction of the city of Jerusalem
- Placing these two events after 69 weeks but before the 70<sup>th</sup> week (yet to be discussed in verse 27) seems to indicate a gap of time, which allows for the Church Age. It helps to visualize these time periods.



# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Daniel 9:25** “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem ....”
- The 70 “sevens” would begin, Gabriel said, with the issuing of the decree **to restore and build Jerusalem**. This decree was issued by Artaxerxes Longimanus on March 5, 444 b.c. (Neh. 2:1-8). On that occasion Artaxerxes granted the Jews permission to rebuild Jerusalem’s city walls.
- **Daniel 9:25** ... there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks ... The first unit of 49 years may refer to the time it took to completely restore and build Jerusalem (444-395 b.c.). Though Nehemiah’s wall construction project took only 52 days, many years were needed to remove the city’s debris (after being desolate for many decades), to build adequate housing, and to fully rebuild the **streets and the wall (or moat/ditches)**.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- The **483 years** extend up to the introduction of the Messiah to the nation of Israel on the day of His Triumphal Entry just before He was **cut off** (i.e., crucified).
- Using our 365 day Gregorian based calendar this time period extends from **March 5, 444 b.c. to March 30, a.d. 33**.
- 444 b.c. to a.d. 33 does not equal **483 years**.
- **$444 + 33 = 477 - 1 = 476$**  1 b.c. & 1 a.d. count as 1 year
- Is there an error in this prophecy?
- **No! There is good explanation.**
- Daniel's prophecy is based on the Jewish Calendar of **360 day years** instead of **365 day years**. This is confirmed in Revelation 11:2-3, which will look at later in our study.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

Jewish Calendar (360 days per year)

$(7 \times 7) + (62 \times 7)$  years = 483

483 years

x 360 days

**173,880 days**

Gregorian Calendar (365 days per year)

444 b.c to a.d. 33 = 476 years

\* 476 years

x 365 days

173,740 days

+ (leap years) 116 days

+ (March 5 – March 30) 24 days

**173,880 days**

\* Since only one year expired between 1 b.c. and a.d. 1, the total is 476, not 477.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- Just as Gabriel predicted in Daniel 9:26, Jesus rode into Jerusalem **173,880 days** after the decree by Artaxerxes. After that He was **cut off** by crucifixion.
- Daniel 9:26 (NKJV) “**And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself . . .**”
- The word translated “**cut off**” is used of executing the death penalty on a criminal. Thus the prophecy clearly points to the crucifixion of Christ.
- “**But not for Himself**” is better translated “**but will have nothing.**” At His crucifixion Christ would “have nothing” in the sense that He would not inherit or institute His earthly kingdom at that time.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- Remember, Gabriel told Daniel that two key events would transpire after 483 years:
  - 1) the death of the Messiah (we saw that this was fulfilled)
  - 2) the destruction of the city of Jerusalem and the temple
- **Daniel 9:26 (NKJV) “And after the sixty-two weeks (1) Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; (2) and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.”**
- The second key event was also fulfilled after the second unit of weeks in a.d. 70 when the Romans overthrew and destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the sanctuary (i.e., the temple) under the leadership of Titus.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- Jesus surely had Daniel 9:26 in mind when He spoke these words during his Triumphal Entry:

**Luke 19:41-44 (NKJV)** Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

- Titus’ army did just as Jesus predicted. They did not leave one stone upon another in the temple in order to retrieve the gold that was in between the stones.

# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- *When will the time clock of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week begin ticking again?* We find the answer to this in Daniel 9:27.
- Daniel 9:27 (NKJV) **Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week . . .**
- The time clock will begin ticking again when “**he**” (the Antichrist) “**confirms a covenant with many**” (the nation of Israel) for seven years. “**The prince who is to come**” (Dan. 9:26) will be this covenant-maker, for that person is the antecedent of the word “**he**” in verse 27.
- The word “**confirm**” means “**to make strong**” or “**strengthen**” or “**make firm**” or “**cause to prevail.**”
- There have been many attempts to do this since Israel became a nation in 1948, but no one has succeeded YET.

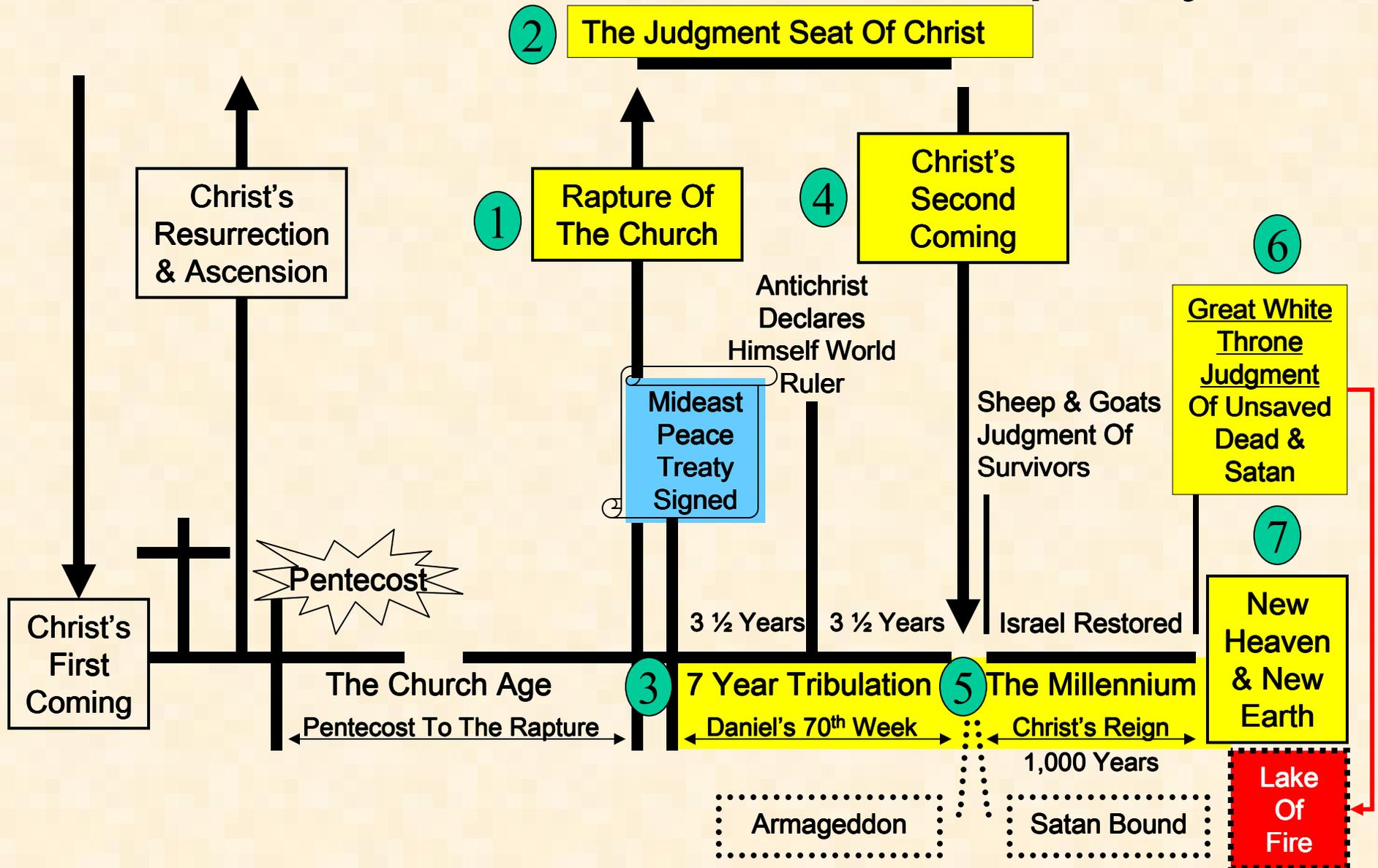
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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- The confirmation of the covenant with the nation of Israel for seven years will begin Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week. The removal of the church at the Rapture precedes the Tribulation, but there is no immediate connection between the two events.
- There will probably be a short period of time (of weeks or months?) between the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation.

# Order Of Events In Bible Prophecy



# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Daniel 9:26-27 (NKJV)** “And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. . . . Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. . . . .
- Half way through Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week (3 ½ years) the prince who is to come will “bring an end to sacrifice and offering.” This expression refers to the entire Levitical system, which suggests that Israel will have restored that system in the first half of the 70th “seven.” The temple will, therefore, need to be rebuilt. As we have said, Israel is ready to rebuild it NOW.

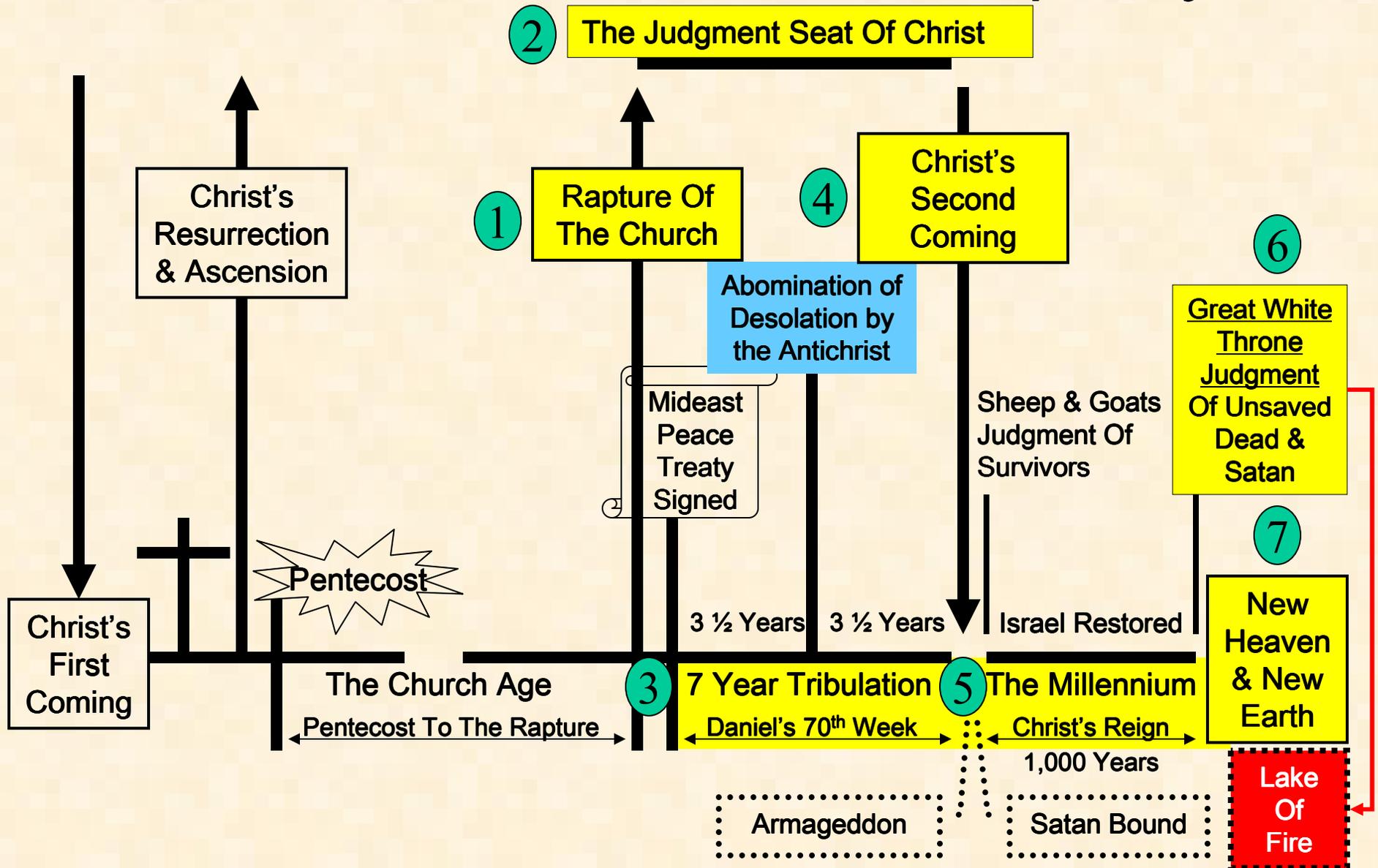
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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- We find confirmation that Daniel 9 is based on 360 years and that the Tribulation is broken into two 3 ½ year periods in Revelation 11:1-3.
- **Revelation 11:1-3 (NKJV)** Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”  
(1,260 days divided by 360 days = 3.5 years)

# Order Of Events In Bible Prophecy



# The Tribulation Period

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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)** Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”
- Christ referred to this incident in **Matthew 24:15-16 (NKJV)** “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.
- “Desolate” means “to cause horror.”

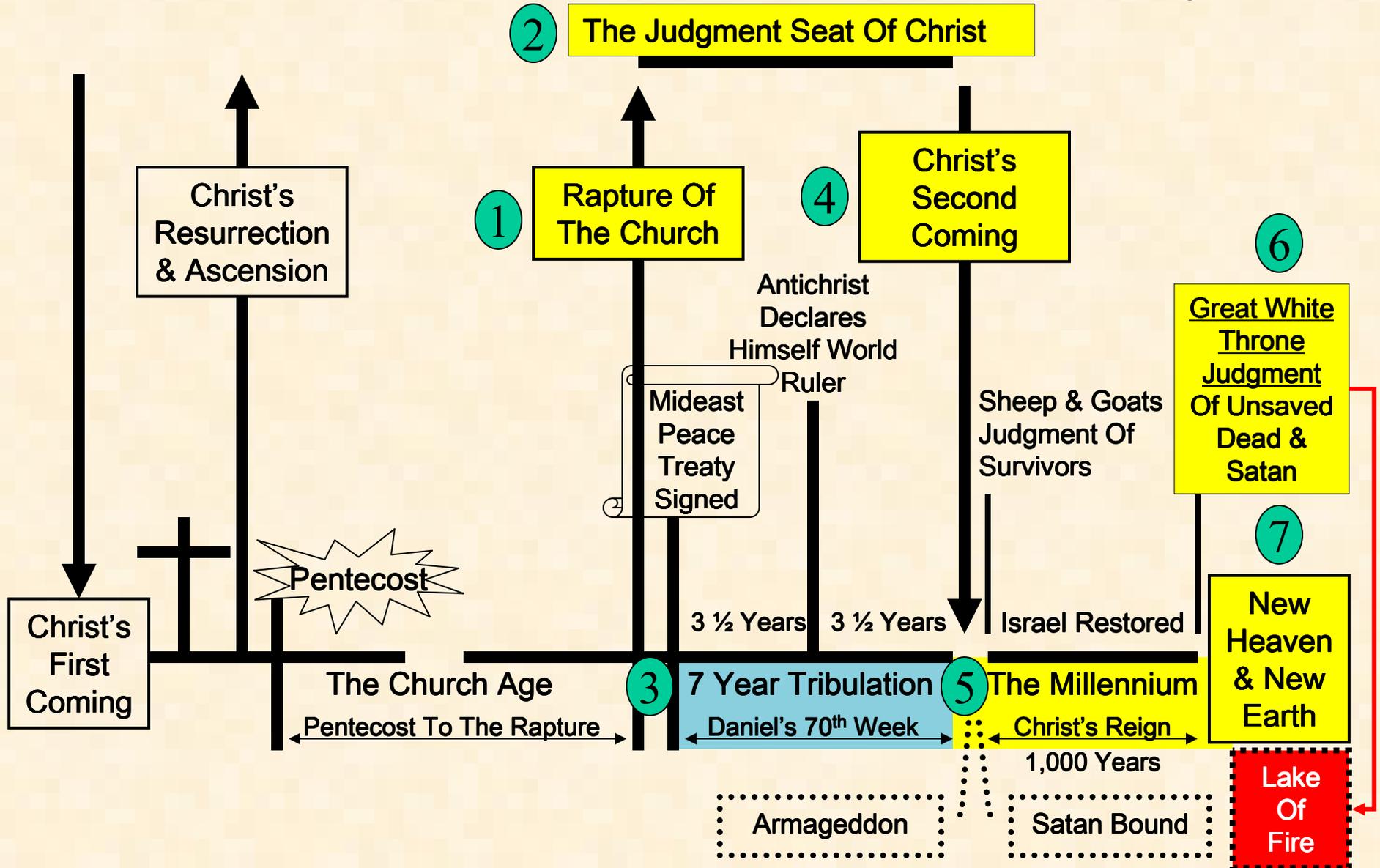
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## THE BEGINNING AND LENGTH OF THE TRIBULATION

- John wrote that the false prophet will set up an image to this ruler and that the world will be compelled to worship it (Rev. 13:14-15). This image will be set up in the temple.
- Paul wrote about a related activity of the Antichrist:  
**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NKJV)** *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

# Order Of Events In Bible Prophecy



# The Tribulation Period

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## APPLICATION

- We can be assured that Daniel 9:24-27 will be fulfilled in the future just as it has in the past. We can trust God's Word completely.
- We can thank the Lord that we will be delivered from the wrath to come. This should move us to love Him all the more.
- We need to tell people about their need for Christ.