



“The End of the Church Age”

Between Rev. 3 & 4

March 5, 2017

Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- 1 Ephesus
- 2 Smyrna
- 3 Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- 5 Sardis
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Laodicea

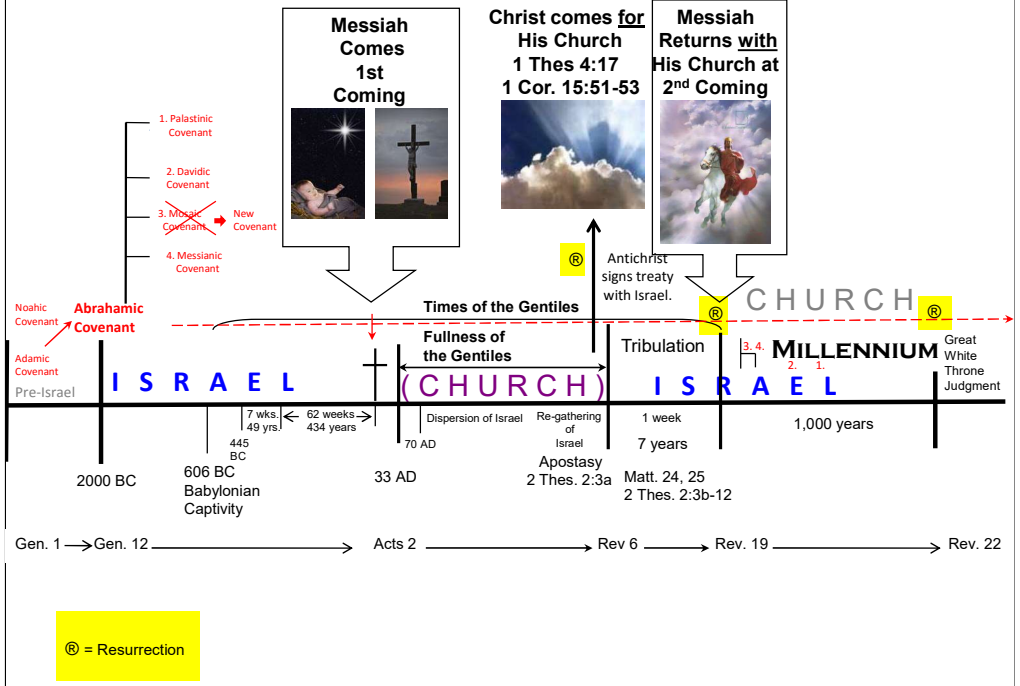
Island of Patmos: where John received the vision

Church	Represents	<u>5 Applications</u>	
EPHESUS	A church that is no longer driven by its love for Christ.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is easier to turn Ephesus than Laodicea. 2. Churches rarely are destroyed from without but rather from within. 3. Any church on the slippery slope is in a weakened state and is therefore vulnerable. 4. Church history tells us from these 5 churches that once on the slope, there is little hope. 5. Every believer must give account before Christ someday not only for their own life, but for the church they belonged to. 	
PERGAMUM	A church that compromises with false doctrine.		
THYATIRA	A church that tolerates sin and became corrupt.		
SARDIS	A church with programs but no life.		
LAODICEA	A church that became useless.		
SMYRNA	Faithful under persecution.		
PHILADELPHIA	Faithful without persecution.		

Purpose of the Book

To give believers, in advance, a view of how Jesus Christ judges the church, how He will judge the world, and how He becomes King, resulting in believers being called to holiness, godliness, and faithfulness.

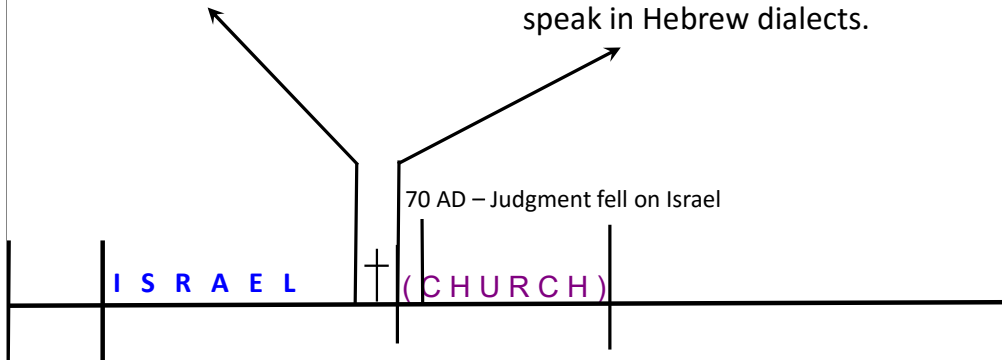
Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



2 Signs of Coming Judgment Given to Israel

#1 Matt. 13 – Jesus begins speaking in parables.

#2 Acts 2, I Cor. 14;20-22 Apostles and 1st century believers given ability to speak in Hebrew dialects.

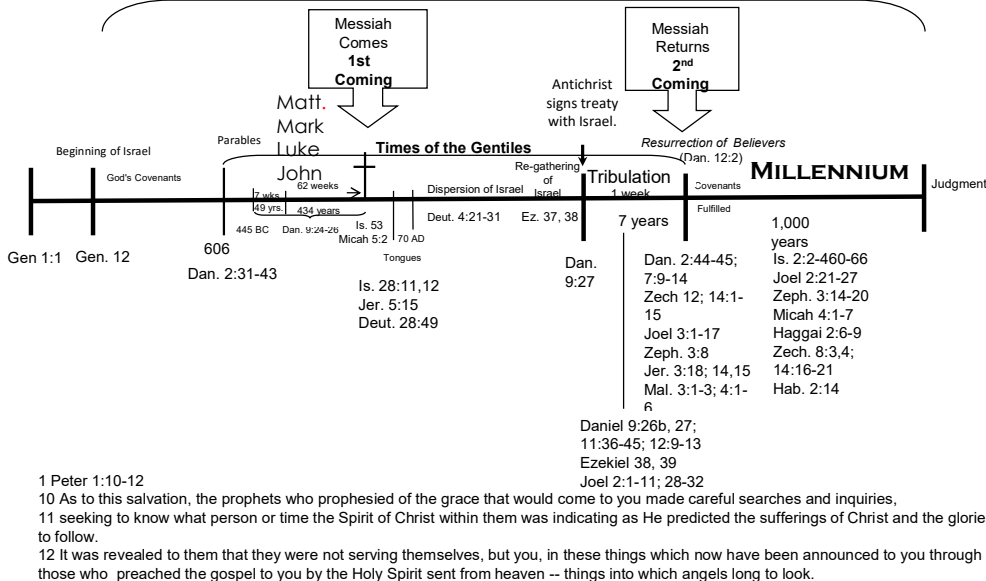


Matt 21:43

43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it."

Old Testament View of Future Prophetic Events

ISRAEL

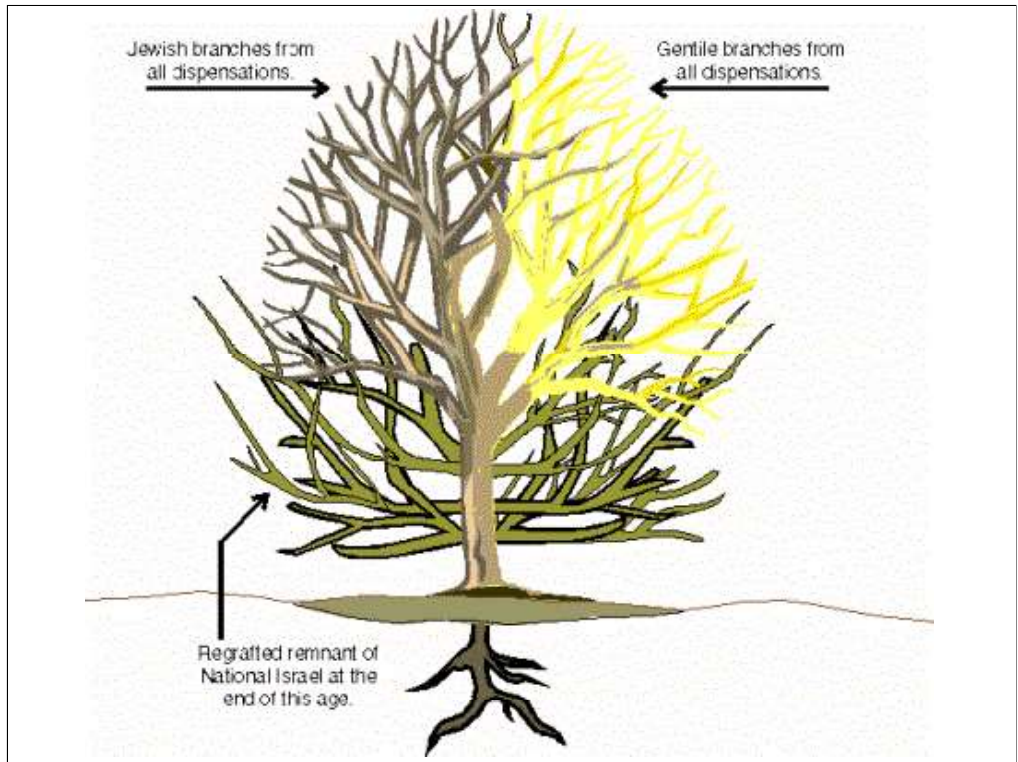
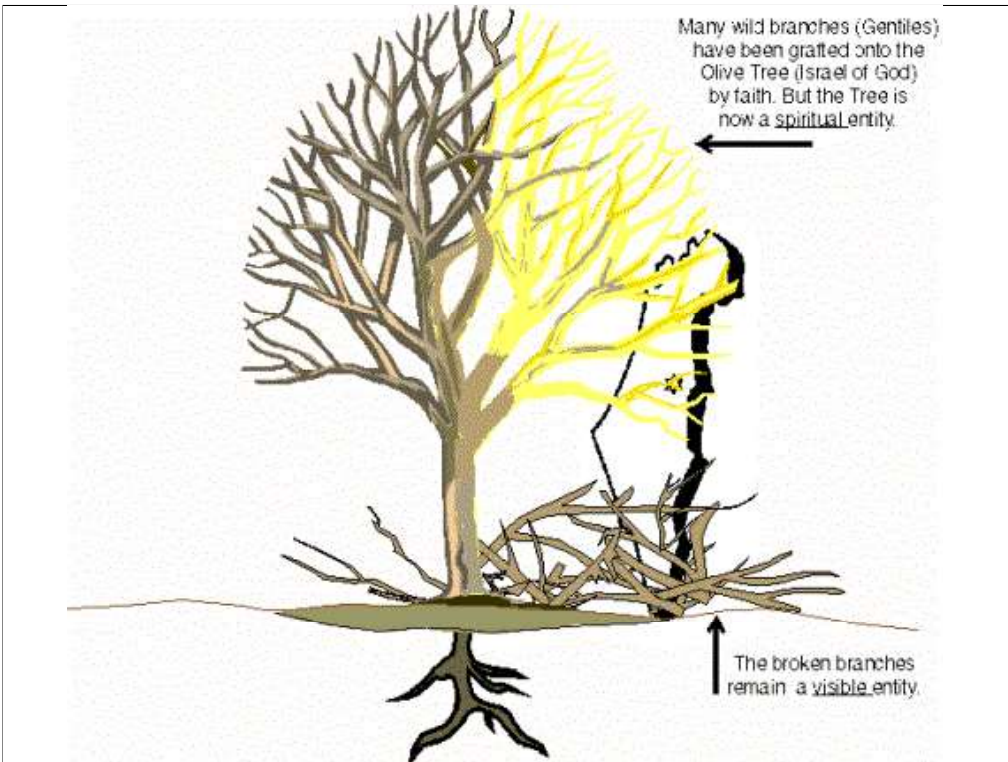


Rom 11:1-5, 11, 17-26

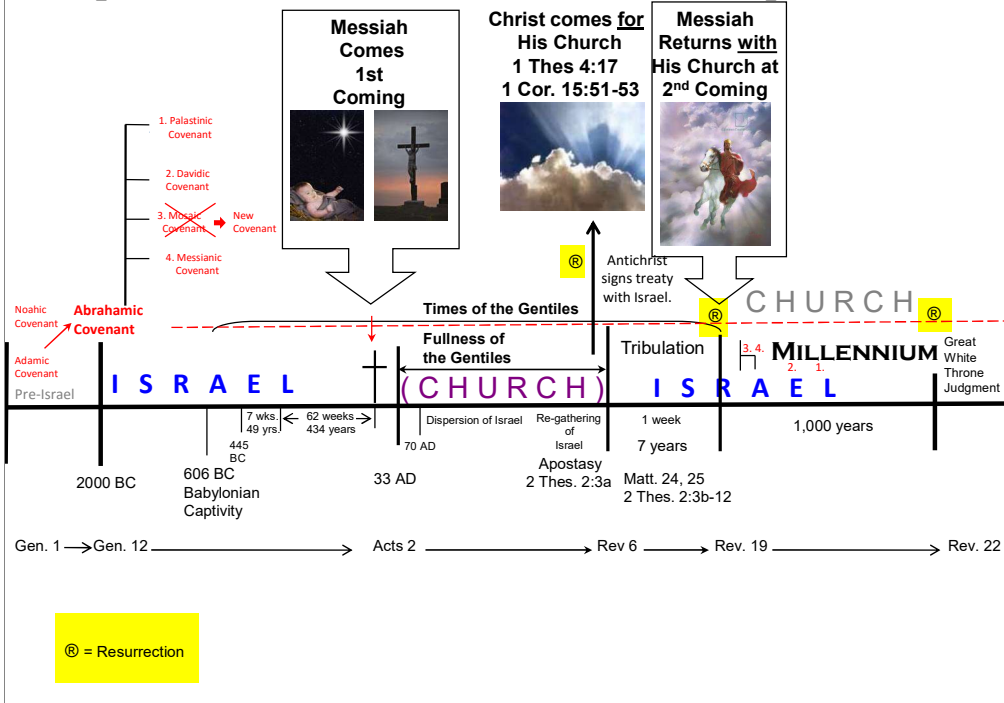
- 1 I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.
- 2 God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?
- 3 "Lord, THEY HAVE KILLED YOUR PROPHETS, THEY HAVE TORN DOWN YOUR ALTARS, AND I ALONE AM LEFT, AND THEY ARE SEEKING MY LIFE."
- 4 But what is the divine response to him? "I HAVE KEPT for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL."
- 5 In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice.

- 11 I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous.
- 17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree,
- 18 do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.
- 19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in."
- 20 Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear;
- 21 for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either.
- 22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.
- 23 And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.
- 24 For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?
- 25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery — so that you will not be wise in your own estimation — that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;
- 26 and so all Israel will be saved;





Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



If you are consistent and faithful in literally interpreting the Bible, then you will get Israel's covenants and promises right . . .

If you get Israel's covenants and promises right, you get Israel right . . .

If you get Israel right, then you get the Church right . . .

If you get the Church and Israel right, then you get prophecy right.

The Rapture

I. Definition

"The future event whereby believers living on the earth during that moment, will be "caught up" or "translated" into the presence of the Lord, in the clouds along with those who have fallen "asleep" and are resurrected."

II. 5 Views

1. Pre-tribulational Rapture View

The belief that the Church, the body of Christ, in its entirety, will, by resurrection and translation, be removed from the earth before any part of the seven year Tribulation begins.

2. Mid-tribulation Rapture View

The belief that the Church will remain on the earth for the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation and then be raptured at the midpoint.

3. Pre-Wrath Rapture View

The belief that the church will remain on the earth past the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation but will be raptured before the full fury of the wrath of God is poured out on the earth.

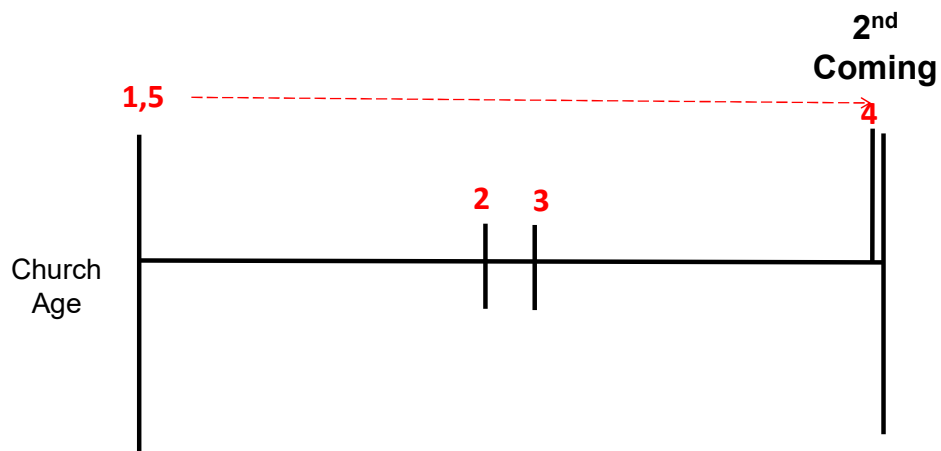
4. Post-tribulational Rapture View

The belief that the Church will go through the Tribulation on earth until the Second Coming at which time it will be raptured to meet the Lord in the clouds and then immediately return to the earth with Him in the Second Coming.

5. Partial Rapture View

The belief that the Church will be divided in the Rapture, and only those who are "watching", "waiting", and "loving" His return, will be raptured.

7 Year Tribulation



1 Thess 4:13-17

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Cor 15:51-52

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 Cor 4:1-2

1 Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.





2 Thess 2:7-12

- 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.
- 8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;
- 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,
- 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.
- 11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,
- 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

Mixed Reactions -

"Glad they're gone!"

"Shocked they're gone!"

"Sad they're gone"

7 Reasons for a Pre-Tribulation Rapture

I. The Nature of the Tribulation.

- *It will be a time for the wrath of God upon the earth.*

Rev 6:16-17

16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

- *It will be a time of God's dealing with Israel.*

Jer 30:3-7

3 'For behold, days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah.' The Lord says, 'I will also bring them back to the land that I gave to their forefathers and they shall possess it.'"

4 Now these are the words which the Lord spoke concerning Israel and concerning Judah:

5 "For thus says the Lord,
I have heard a sound of terror,
Of dread, and there is no peace.

6 'Ask now, and see
If a male can give birth.
Why do I see every man
With his hands on his loins, as a woman in childbirth?
And why have all faces turned pale?

7 'Alas! for that day is great,
There is none like it;
And it is the time of **Jacob's** distress,
But he will be saved from it.

II. The Nature of the Church.

- The Church is the object of God's grace, not His wrath.

1 Thess 5:9-11

9 For **God has not destined us for wrath**, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

1 Thess 1:10

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who **rescues us from the wrath to come**.

Rev 3:10

10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, **I also will keep you from the hour of testing**, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.