

Welcome To Open Bible Hour

Thank you for joining us on this Lord's Day!

Our desire is that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pursue an in-depth study of the gospel of Matthew.

Please move to the center of the rows so that those who come after you can find seating at the end of the rows.

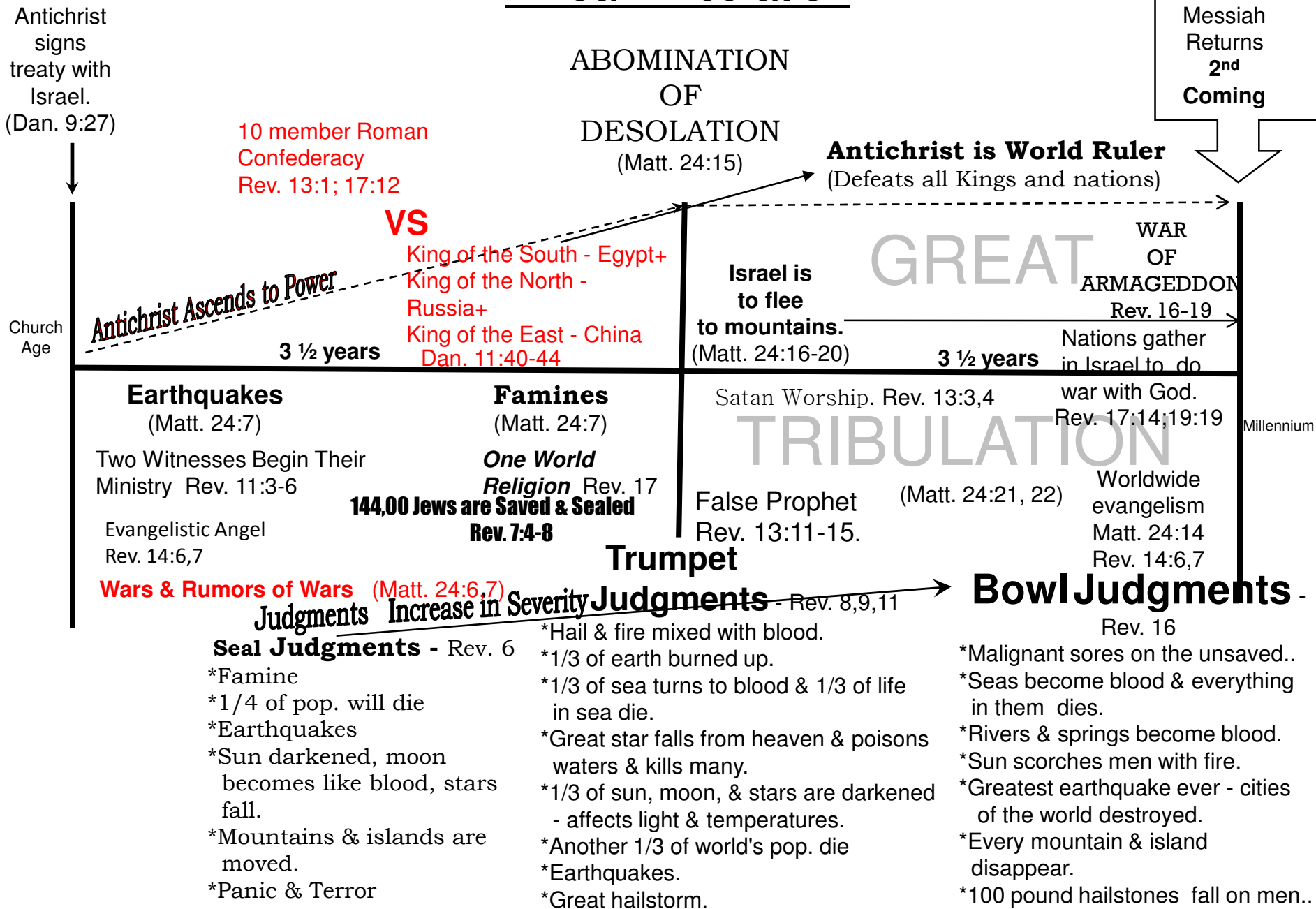
If you have a prayer request, for which you would like us to pray, please fill out a prayer sheet at the back table and give to Lyle.

“Many people...do not want absolutes in doctrine and ethics, simply because absolute truths and standards demand absolute acceptance and obedience.” - John MacArthur

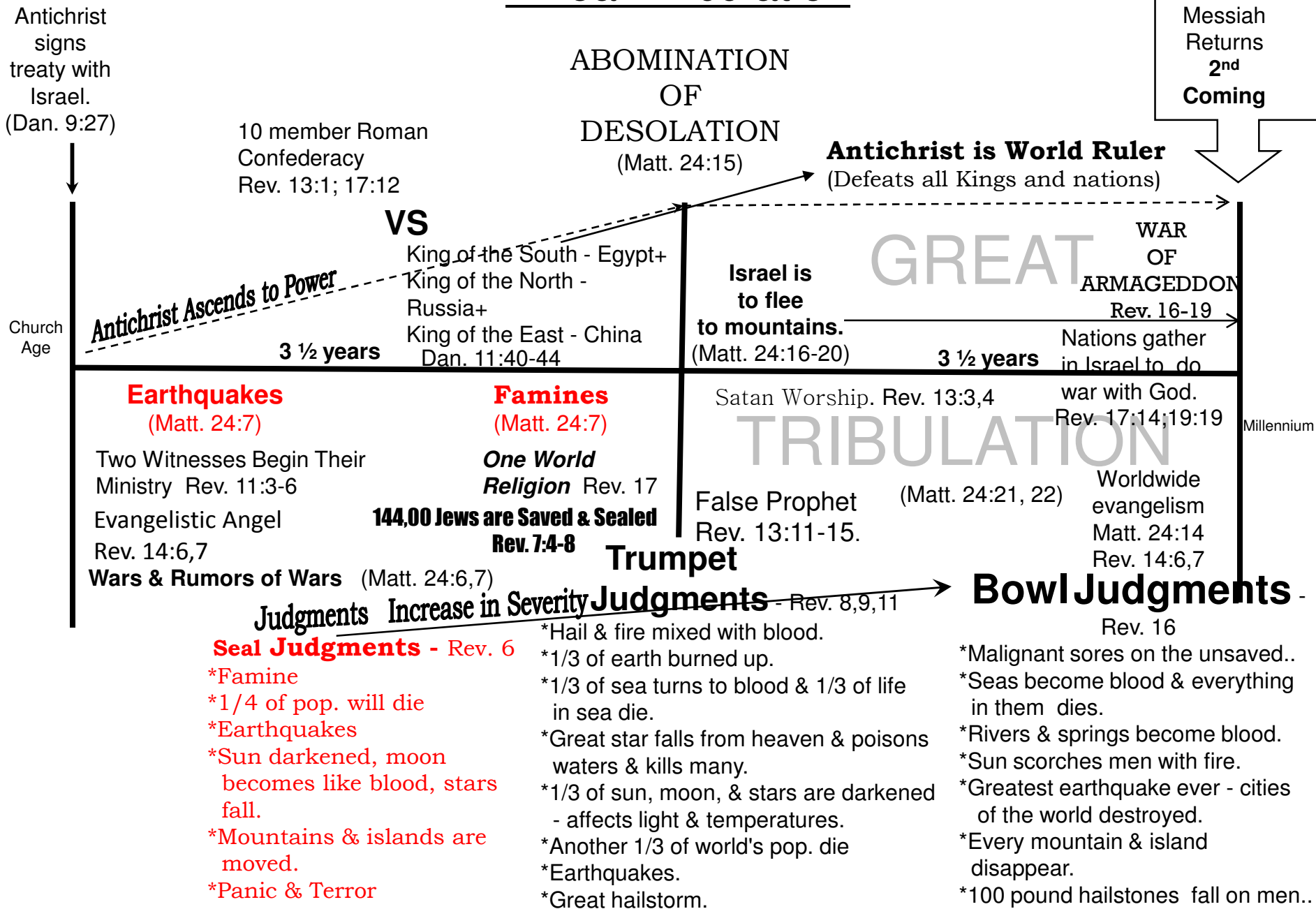
PERSECUTION, DEFECTION, AND EVANGELISM

Text: Matt. 24:9-14

7 Year Tribulation

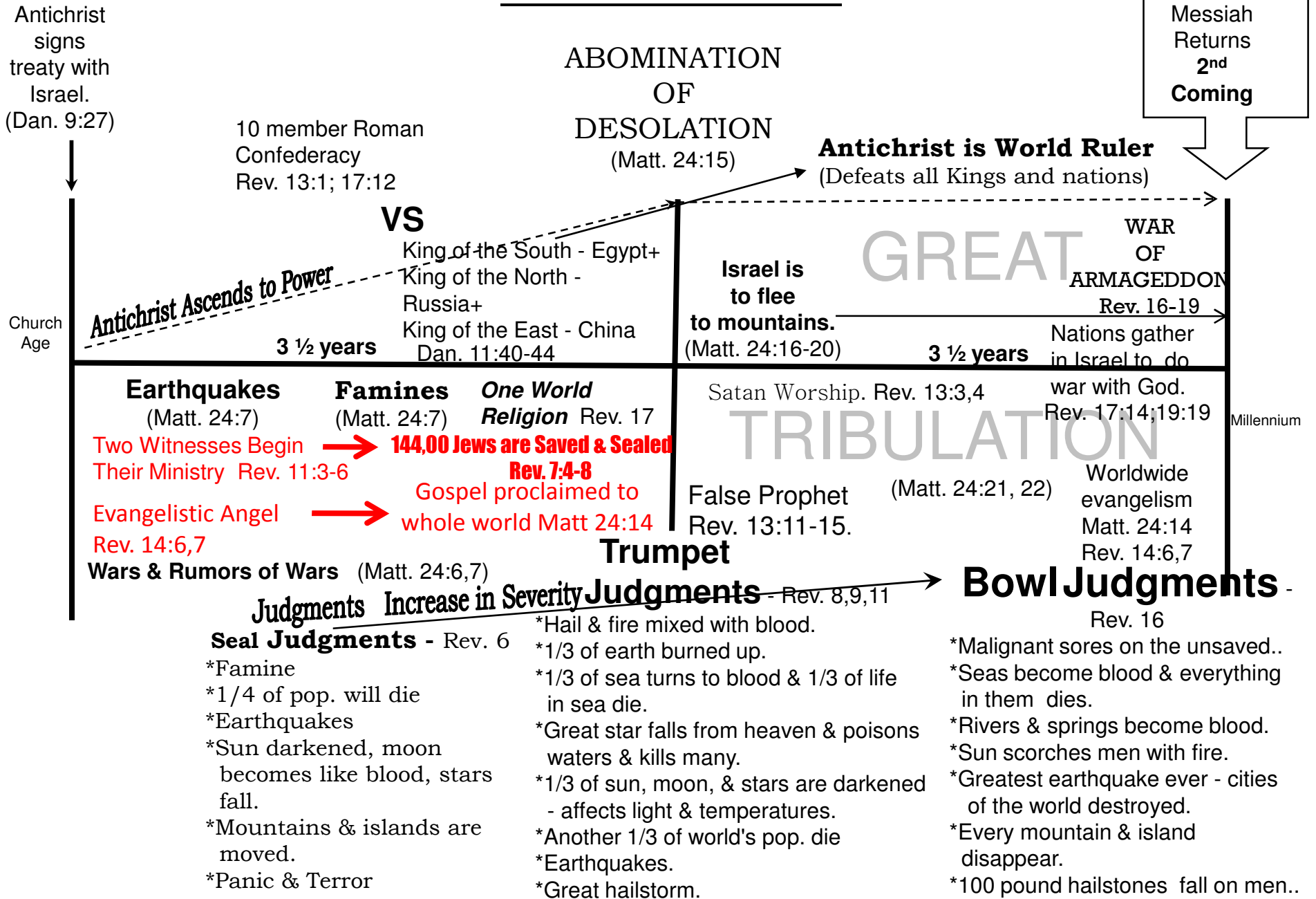


7 Year Tribulation





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Matt 24:9-14

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- 10 "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.
- 11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.
- 12 "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.
- 13 "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.
- 14 "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

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3 Groups Responsible for Evangelism During the Tribulation

Rev 7:9

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?"

14 I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

1. 2 Witnesses

Rev 11:3-10

- 3 "And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."
- 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.
- 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way.
- 6 These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.

- 7 When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them.
- 8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.
- 9 Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb.
- 10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

11 But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them.

12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them.

13 And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Luke 16:31

31 "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

2. The 144,000 Jews

Rev 7:1-8

- 1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.
- 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,
- 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

5 from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand,

6 from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,

7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand,

8 from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

3. Angel

Rev 14:6-7

6 And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people;

7 and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."

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8 I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;

10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.

12 I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;

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2 Thess 2:1-12

- 1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,
- 2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.
- 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of **lawlessness** is revealed, the son of destruction,
- 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.
- 5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?
- 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed.

- 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.
- **Lawlessness = violence, immorality, corruption, no self-control, selfishness, hate, brutality, total disregard for God's moral law.**

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Application:

1. Though God may pour out His wrath, He at the same time will be extending His grace.
2. When the heat is turned up, the false profession of faith will separate itself from the true possession of faith.
3. Those who are true believers will persevere until God delivers them to their eternal destiny – heaven.
4. The believer is sealed by God for God's purposes.

Eph 1:13-14

- 13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
- 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.
5. In times of great chaos, the gospel can be plainly heard.

