

# 2 Thessalonians

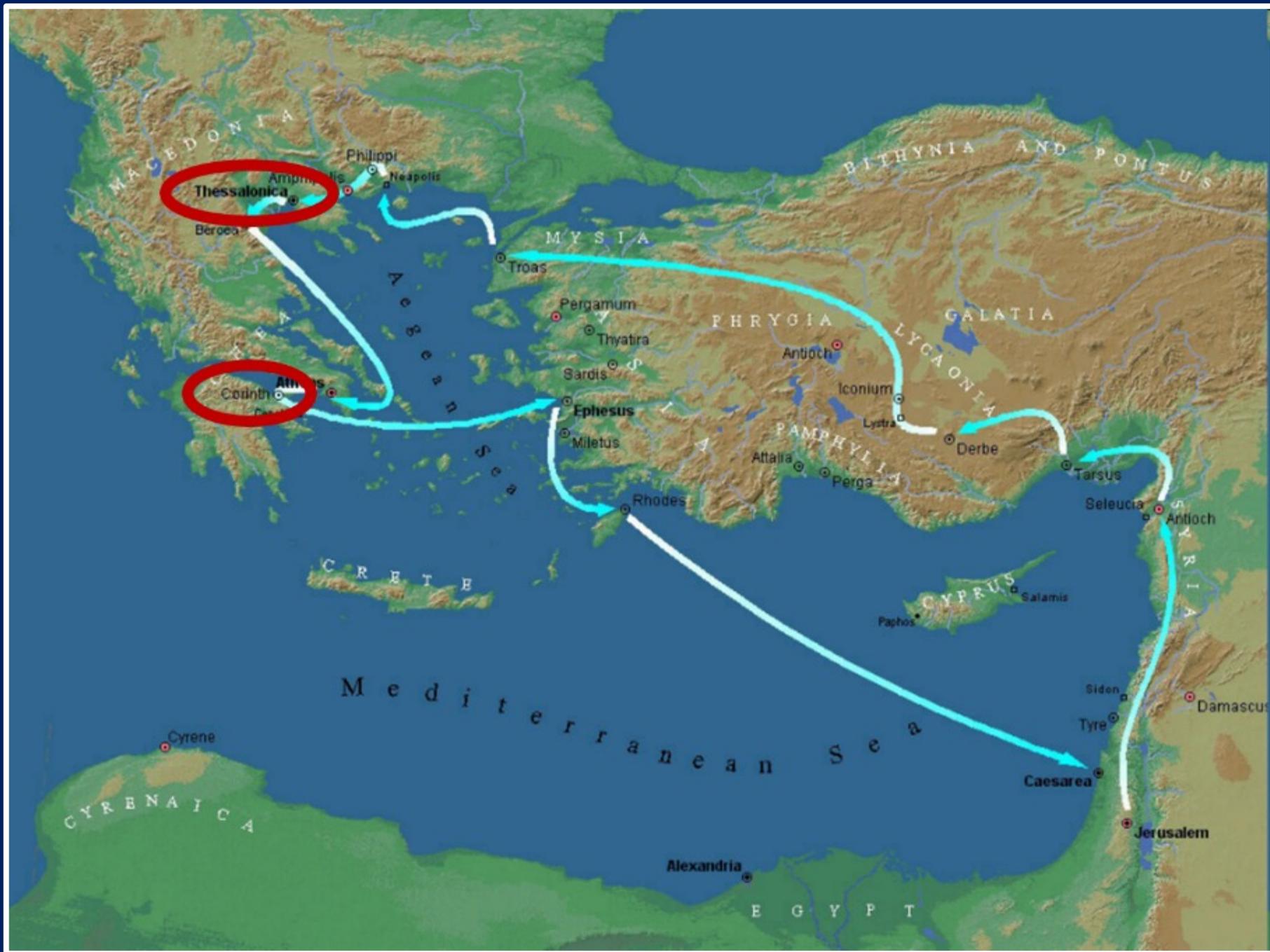
**BALANCE: WORKING & WAITING**



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Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary



## 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- **Problem (2:1-2)**
- Prerequisites for the Day of the Lord (2:3-12)
  - ◆ The departure (2:3a)
  - ◆ Advent of the lawless one (2:3b-4)
  - ◆ Removal of the restrainer (2:5-7)
  - ◆ Destruction of the lawless one (2:8-9)
  - ◆ Destruction of lawless one's followers (2:10-12)

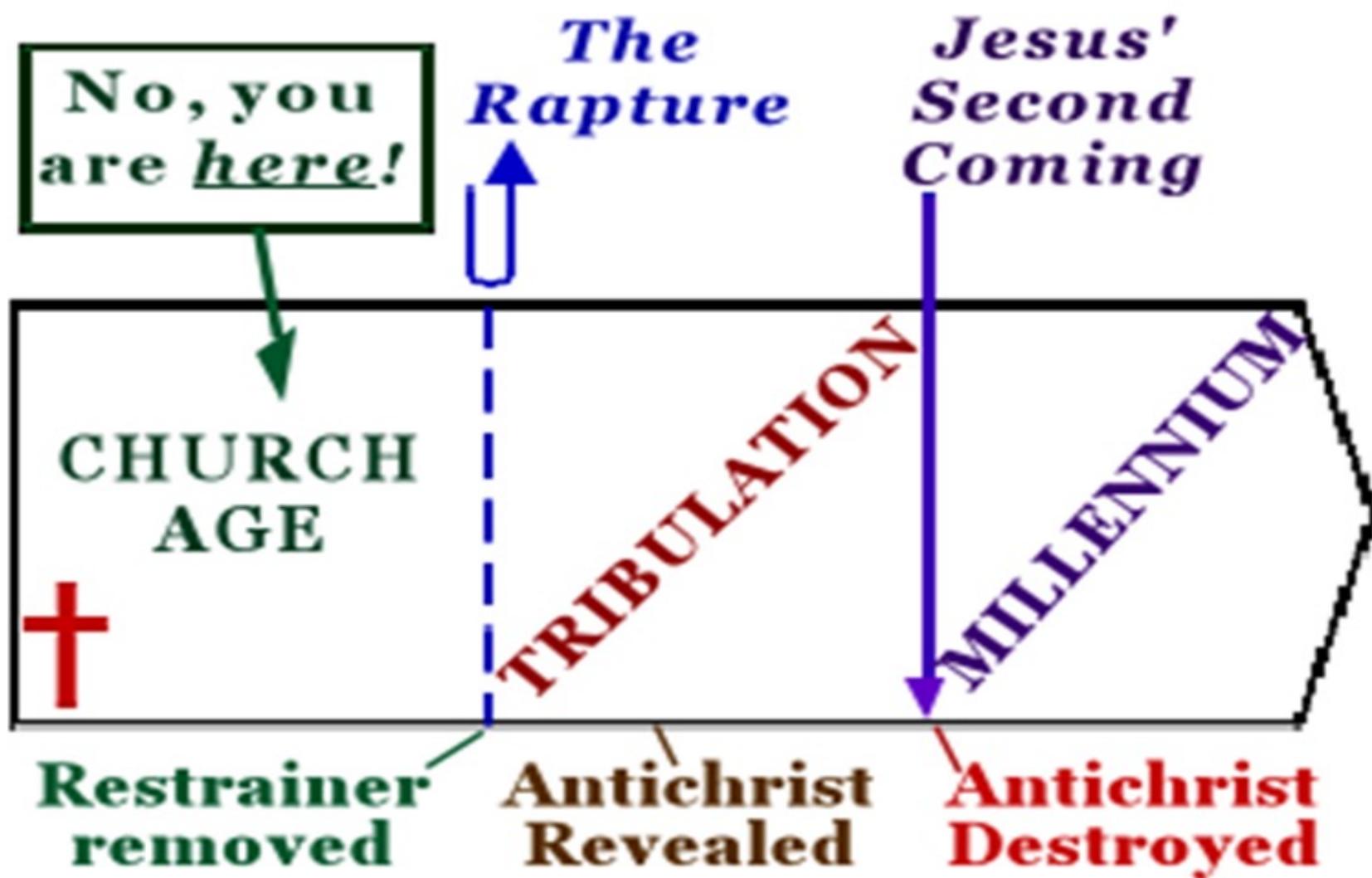


## 2 Thessalonians 2:2

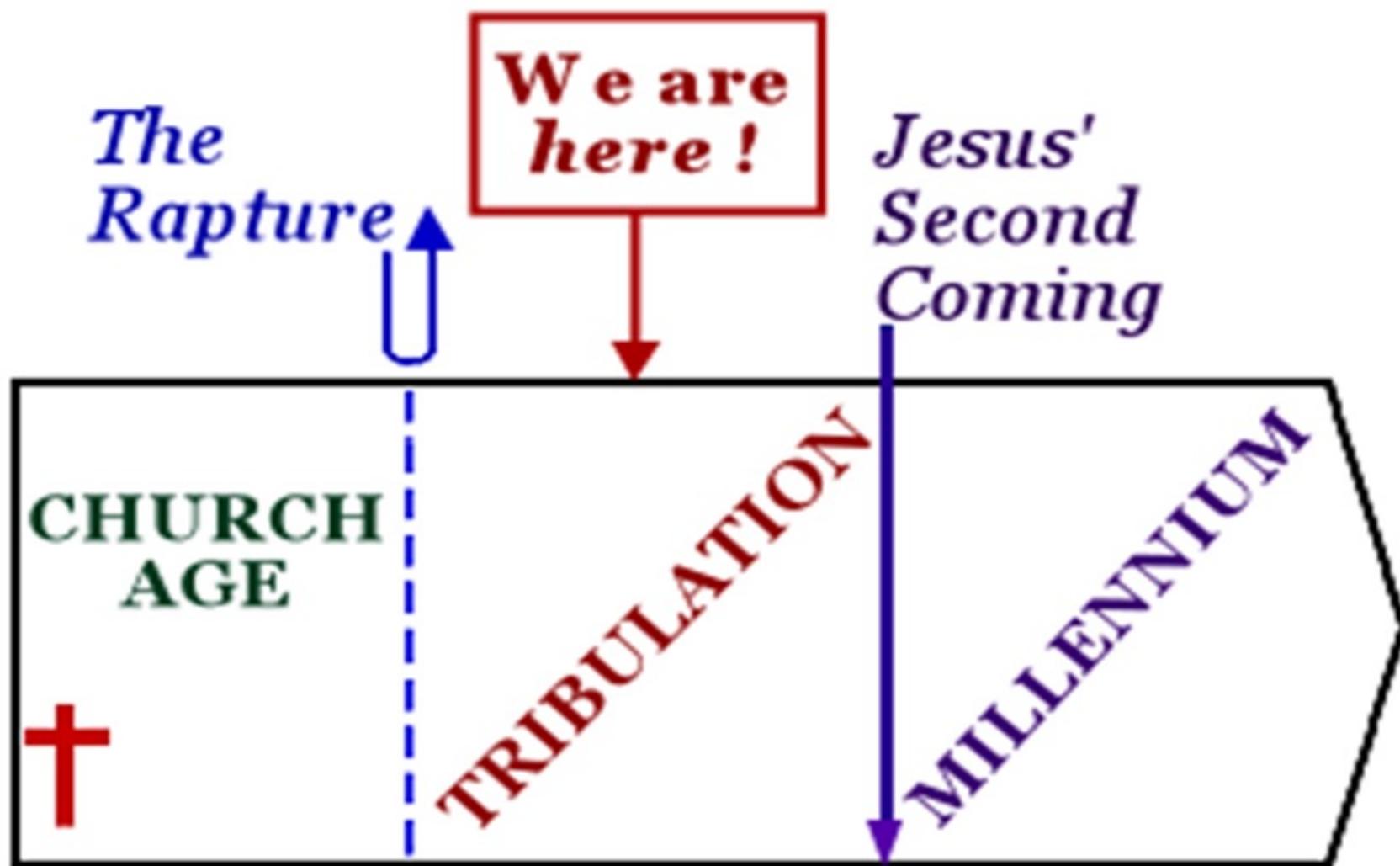
“that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord [the Tribulation] has come.”



# Paul's Correction of their Error



# The Thessalonians' False Idea



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# 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

## Destruction of the Lawless One's Followers

- I. The judgment's cause (10)
- II. The judgment itself (11)
- III. The judgment's purpose (12)



## Acts 17:30-31

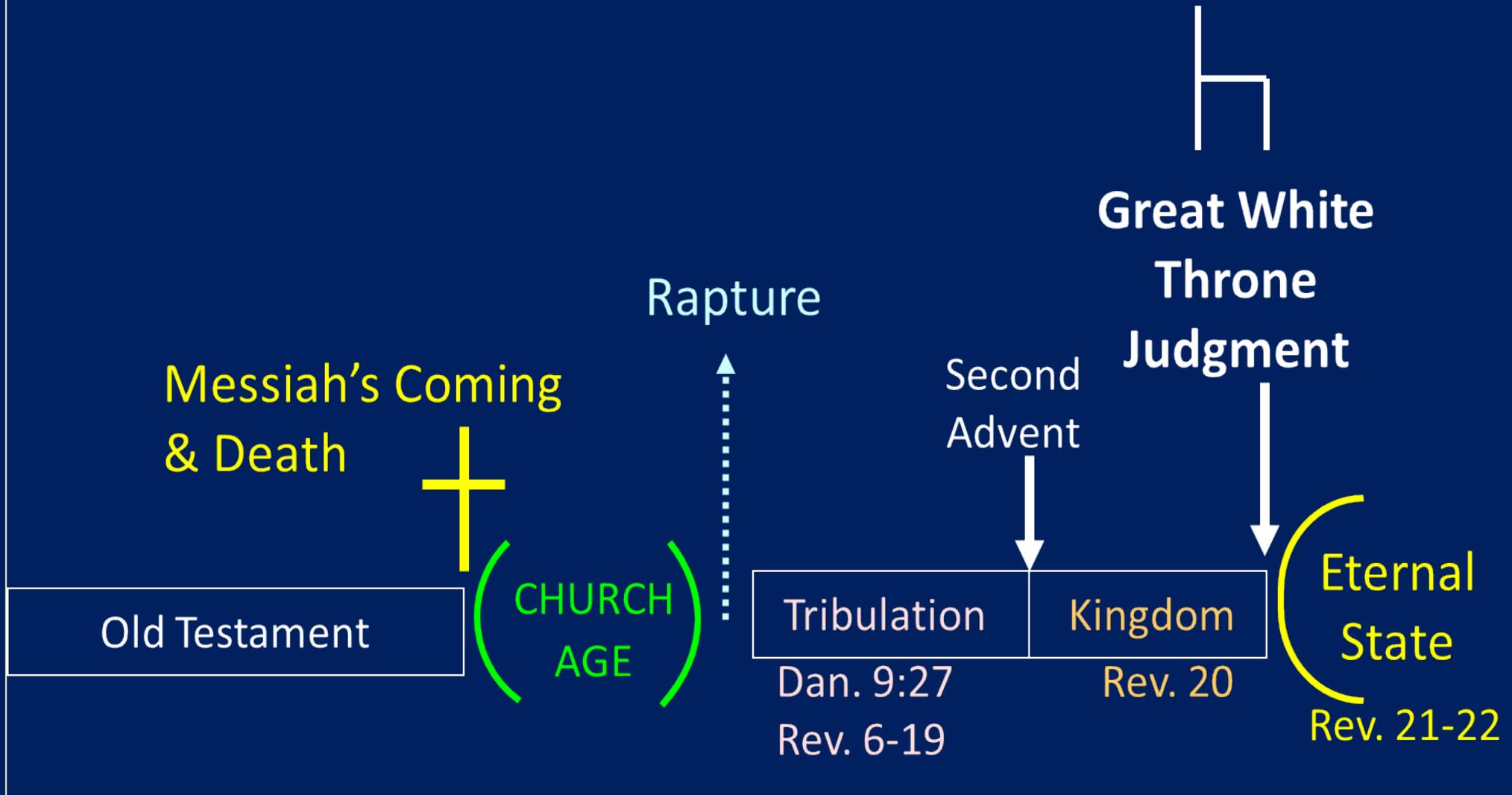
“<sup>30</sup> Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent [*metanoēō*], <sup>31</sup> because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”



# Scripture's Four Judgments

NAME	SHEEP AND GOAT	JUDGMENT OF THE JEWS	BEMA SEAT	GREAT WHITE THRONE
SCRIPTURE	Matt 25:31-46	Ezek 20:33-44	1 Cor 3:10-15	Rev 20:11-15
PLACE	Earth, Jerusalem	Earth, wilderness	Heaven	Earth
AUDIENCE	Gentile Tribulation survivors	Jewish Tribulation survivors	Church Age believers	All unsaved
WHEN	After Tribulation	After Tribulation	After rapture	After Millennium
PURPOSE	Saved Gentiles enter kingdom	Saved Jews enter kingdom	Reward believers	Degree of punishment in hell
EVALUATION	Treatment of Christ's brethren	Passing under shepherd's rod	Works taken through fire	Not in the book; judged by books

# Prophecy Panorama



## John 3:36

“The one who believes in the Son has eternal life; but the one who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”



# Belief – God’s One Condition for Justification



“...because upwards of 150 passages of Scripture condition salvation upon believing only (cf. John 3:16; Acts 16:31).”

Lewis Sperry Chafer, vol. 7, *Systematic Theology*  
(Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 265-66.

# Belief – God's One Condition for Justification

## Gen 15:6

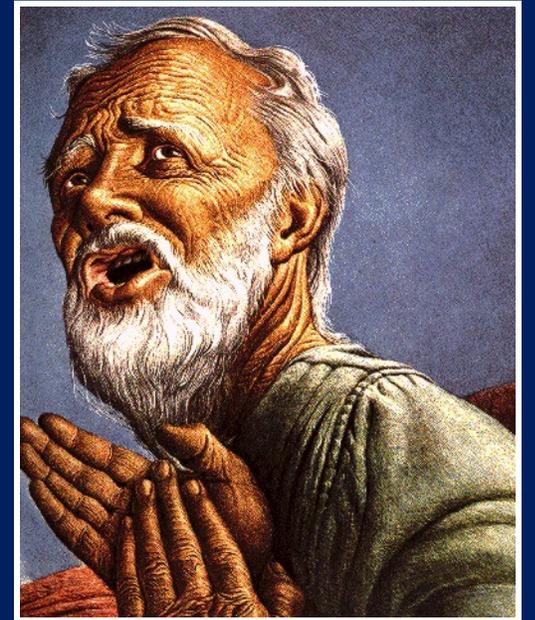
Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

## John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

## Acts 16:30-31

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."



## 2 Peter 1:5-7

<sup>5</sup> Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your **faith** supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, <sup>7</sup> and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.



# Thomas L. Constable

“Notes on 2 Peter,” online: [www.soniclight.com](http://www.soniclight.com),  
accessed 21 January 2020, 12.

“Unlike other New Testament ethical lists (except Rom. 5:3-5), Peter used a literary device called ‘sorites’ (also called ‘climax’ or *gradatio*). Sorites (from the Gr. *soros*, ‘a heap’) is a set of statements that proceed, step by step, to a climactic conclusion through the force of logic or reliance upon a series of indisputable facts. Each new statement picks up the last key word or phrase of the preceding one.”

# PORTRAIT OF GROWTH

1:5-7



**FAITH**

**GOODNESS**

**KNOWLEDGE**

**SELF CONTROL**

**PERSERVERENCE**

**GODLINESS**

**BROTHERLY KINDNESS**

**LOVE**

## John 1:12

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”

He gave us  
the right  
to be  
Children  
of God.  
JOHN 1:12

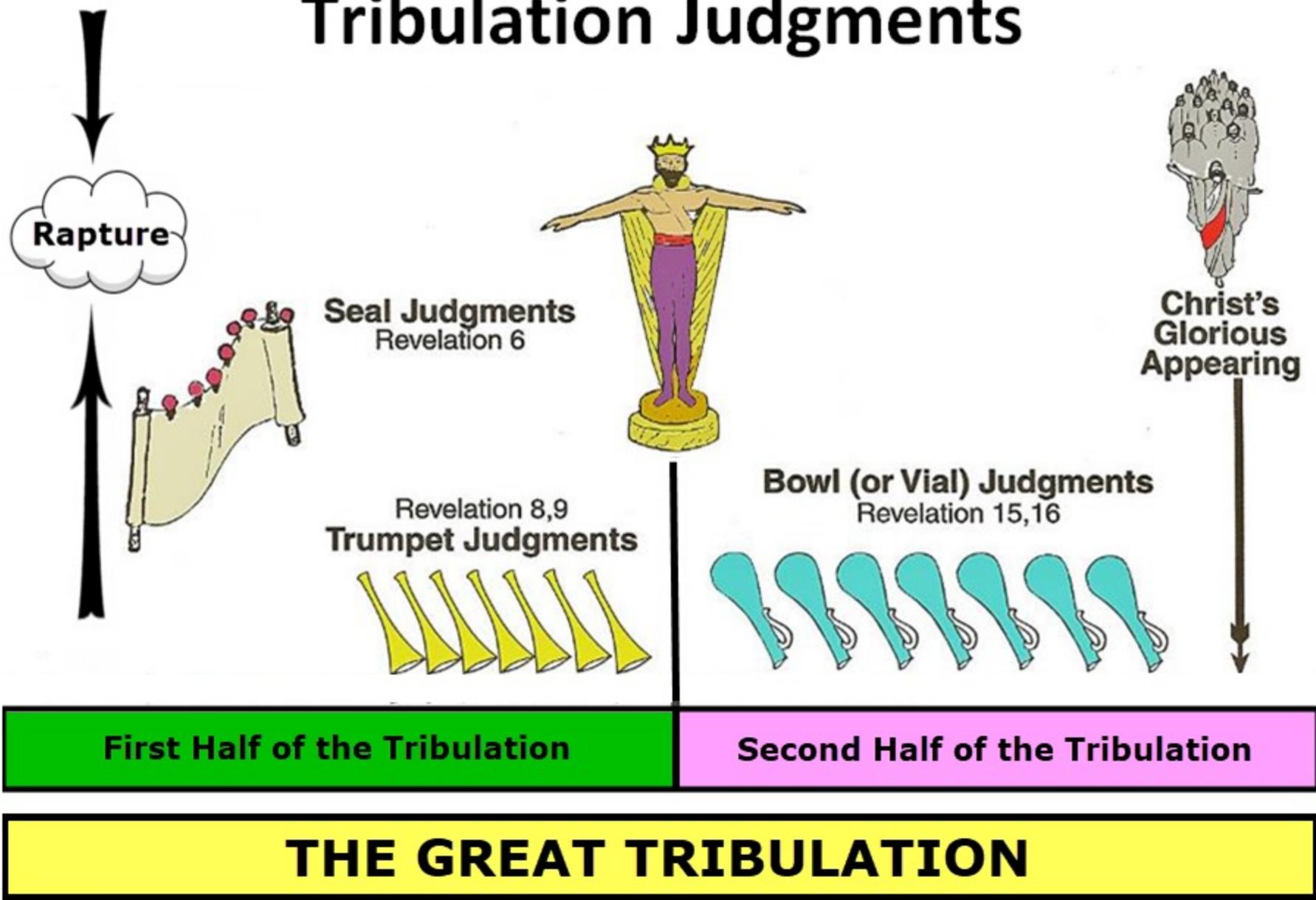


## Distinctions Between 144,000 & Multitude

<b>144,000</b>	<b>MULTITUDE</b>
<b>Revelation 7:1-8</b>	<b>Revelation 7:9-17</b>
<b>Numbered</b>	<b>Innumerable</b>
<b>Jews</b>	<b>All nations</b>
<b>Sealed</b>	<b>Slain</b>
<b>Sealed <u>before</u> the Tribulation</b>	<b>Converted <u>out of</u> the Tribulation</b>

Hitchcock and Ice, *The Truth Behind Left Behind*, 77

# Tribulation Judgments

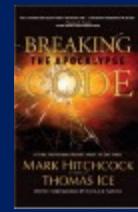


# MATT 24 / REV 6 PARALLELS

Prediction	<b>Birth pangs</b> (Matt 24)	<b>Seal judgments</b> (Rev 6)
<b>False Christ</b>	24:5	6:2
<b>War</b>	24:6	6:3-4
<b>Famine</b>	24:7	6:5-6
<b>Death</b>	24:6-7	6:7-8
<b>Martyrs</b>	24:9-13	6:9-11
<b>Earthquakes</b>	24:7	6:12-17
<b>Evangelism</b>	24:14	7:1-9

# Thomas Ice

“Salvation in the Tribulation,” online: [www.pre-trib.org](http://www.pre-trib.org), accessed 20 April 2024, 1.



“...the context of the entire passage relates to what will happen in the forthcoming Tribulation period. The context for when ‘they did not receive the love of the truth’ in verse 10 clearly will be taking place during the Tribulation. The 2nd Thessalonians 2 passage is talking about the response of unbelievers during the Tribulation. If the passage were referring to an unbelieving response prior to the Tribulation, with a result that such a decision would impact one’s destiny during the Tribulation, then the passage would have probably been worded differently in order to convey such a message. Since it is not so configured, then there is no support for the belief that a person’s rejection of the Gospel necessarily seals his fate if he . . .

# Thomas Ice

“Salvation in the Tribulation,” online: [www.pre-trib.org](http://www.pre-trib.org), accessed 20 April 2024, 1.



...enters the Tribulation. Specific support that verses 8–12 encompass events that will transpire in the Tribulation begins in verse 8, which says, ‘And then that lawless one will be revealed . . .’ In other words, ‘then’ denotes a shift from the current Church Age into a future era: the Tribulation. Nothing in verses 8—12 takes any part of that passage out of the context of the Tribulation. All, in my opinion, would agree that verses 8–9 refer to things the Antichrist will do during the Tribulation. Verse 10 is clearly related to its preceding context and speaks of something that will take place during the Tribulation.”

Conclusion

# 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

## Destruction of the Lawless One's Followers

- I. The judgment's cause (10)
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## 2 Thessalonians 2:2

“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 [the Tribulation] has come.”



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