

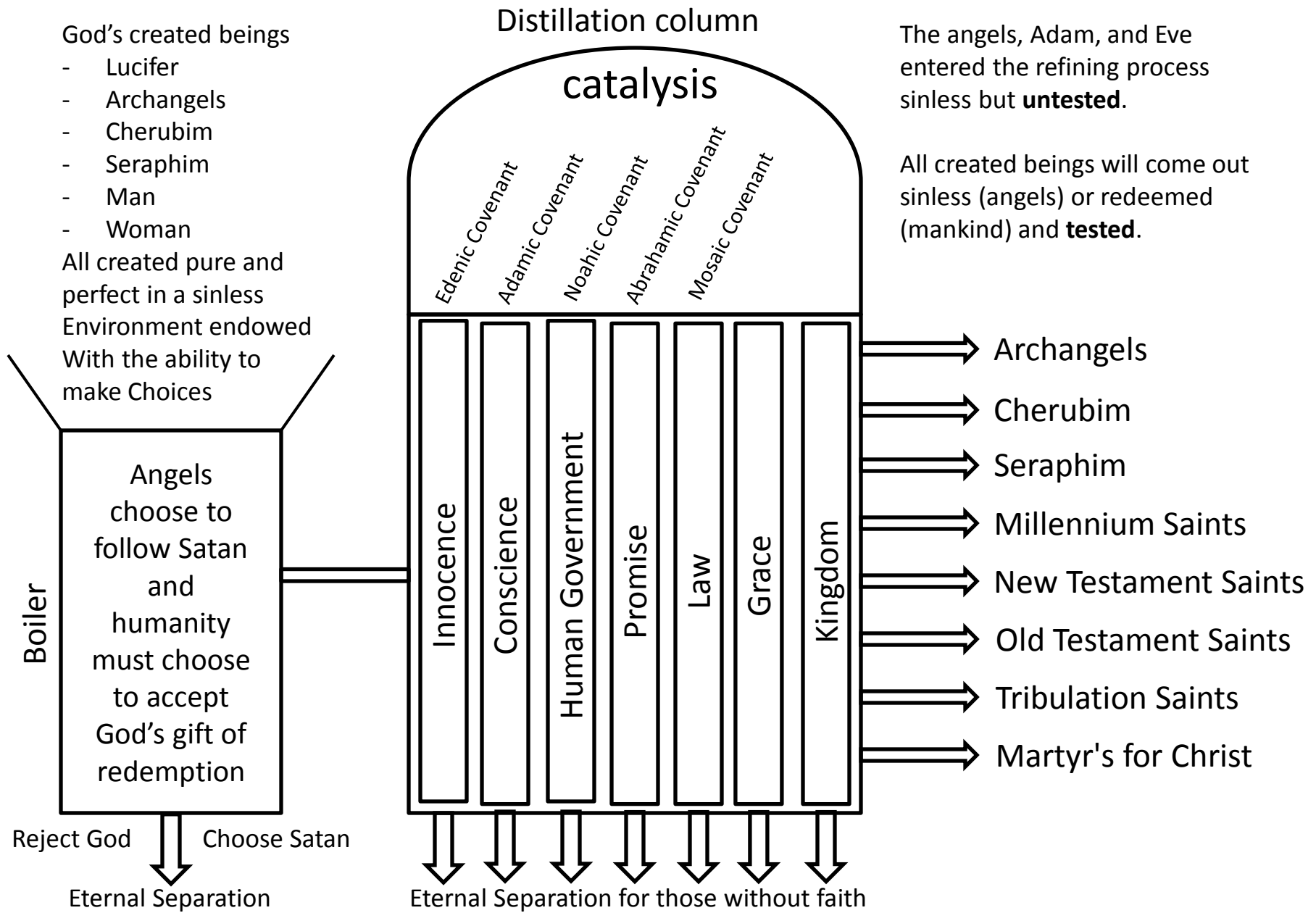
Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Revealed Plan of God from Eternity Past to Eternity Future



www.RefiningaCreation.org

God's Refining Process for His Created Beings



Refining a Creation for Eternity

God's Economies for Mankind

Overview



Edenic



Adamic

Innocence



Noahic

Human Government



Abrahamic

Promise



Mosaic

Law



Postponed

Grace

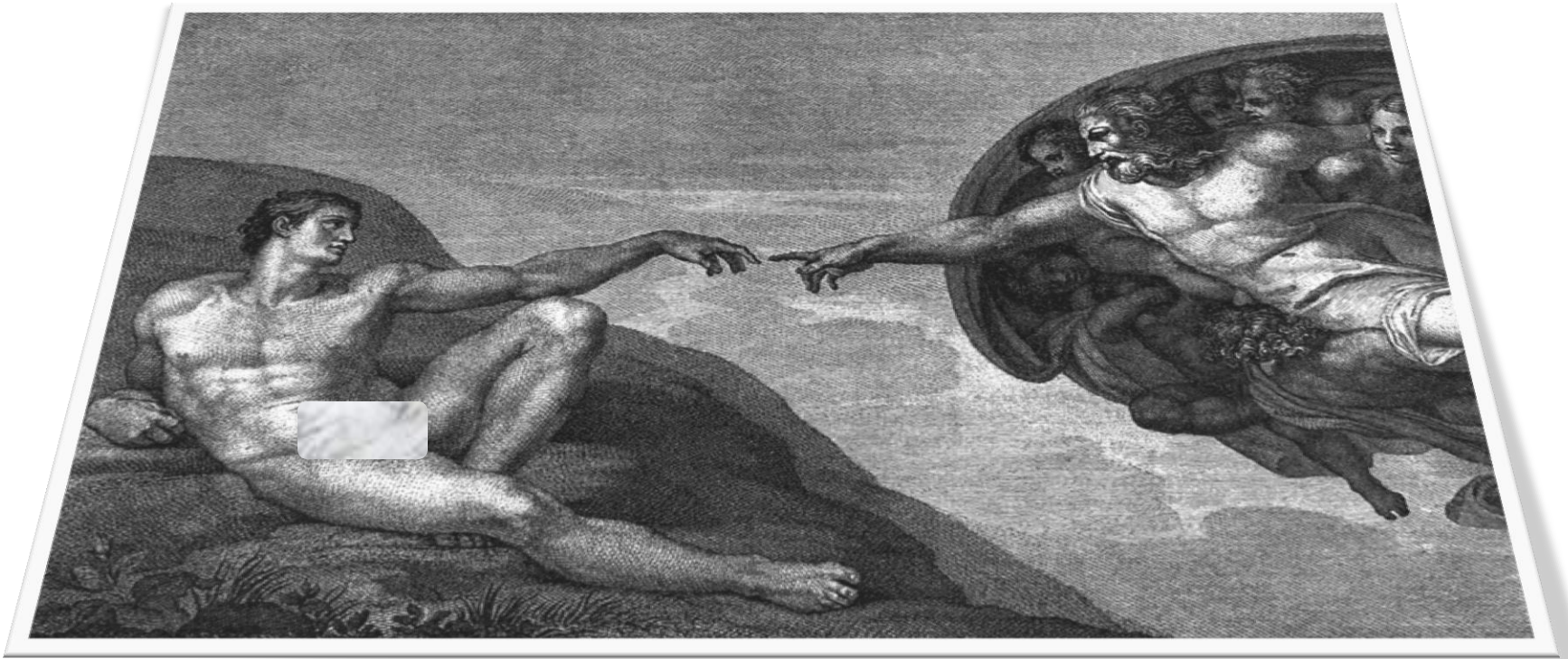


Fulfillment

Kingdom

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The First Economy



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Edenic Covenant (Gen 1:28-30; 2:15-17; Hos 6:7)

Parties to the Covenant

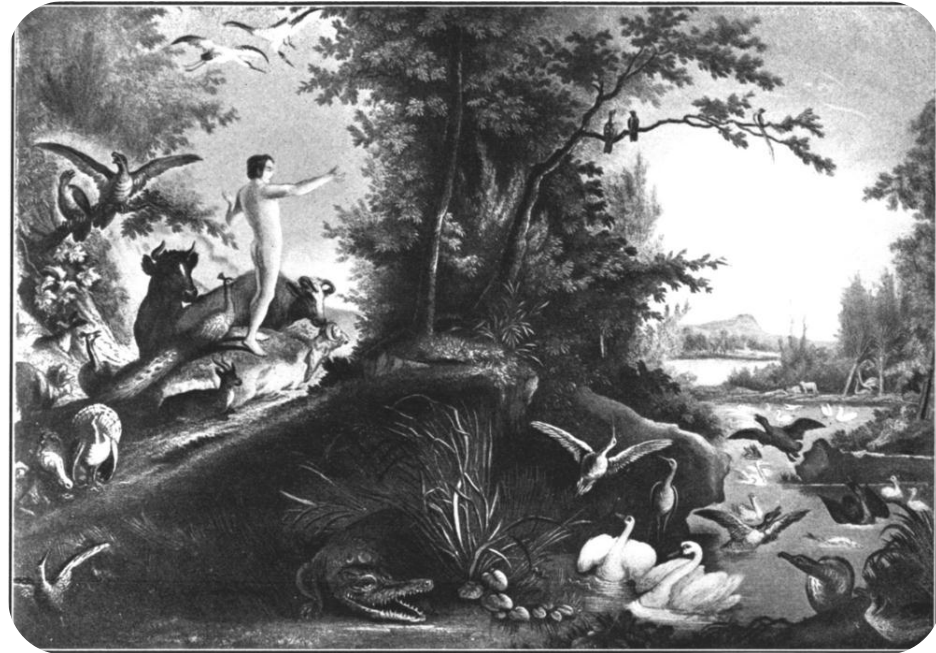
- God and Adam

Conditions of the Covenant

- Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth
- Subdue the Earth
- Rule over the animal kingdom
- Plants are for food (vegetarian)
- Defined roles
- Guard the garden
- Not eat from one tree
- Penalty for violating the commands is death

Token of the Covenant

- Tree of Life



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Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Innocence

Man's Responsibilities

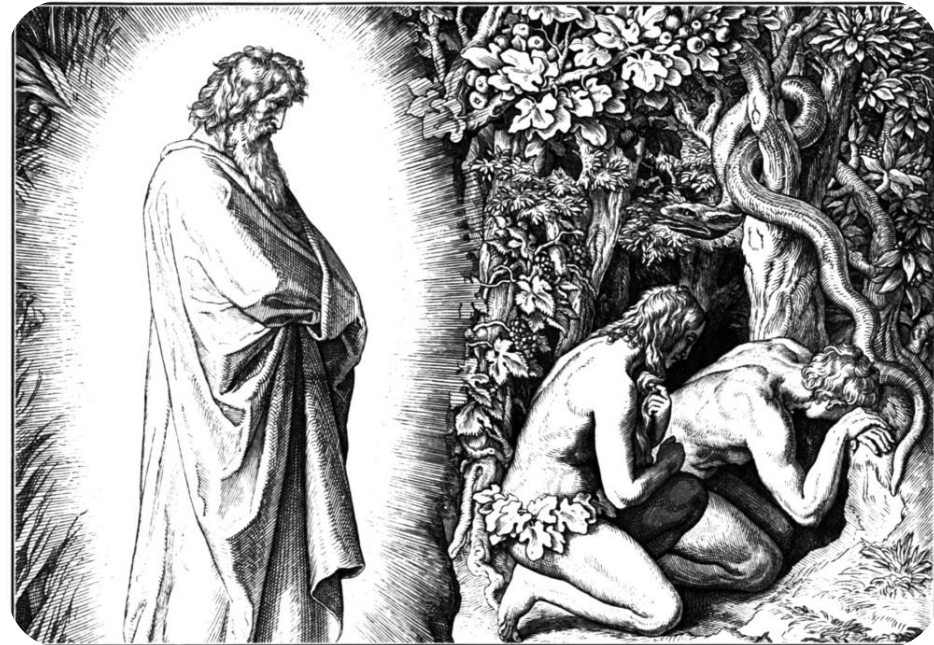
- Man's responsibilities in the garden were to fulfill the Edenic Covenant, essentially to multiply and fill the Earth and subdue it. Mankind was forbidden to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Man's Failures

- Man's failure was to eat of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. It is important to note that while the woman was deceived, the man made a conscious decision to disobey God.

The Resulting Judgment

- Pain in childbirth, Authority struggle, Earth antagonistic to man, Man irresponsible to animals, Plants of the field for food, Expelled from Eden, Spiritual and physical death



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Approaching God in the Dispensation of Innocence

God walked with man

- Genesis 2:15 - Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.
- Genesis 3:8 - They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day,

God spoke to man

- Genesis 2:16 - The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

God had fellowship with man

- Genesis 2:19 - Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.



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The Second Economy



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Review of past lessons

Adamic Covenant (Gen 3:14 – 3:21)

Parties to the Covenant

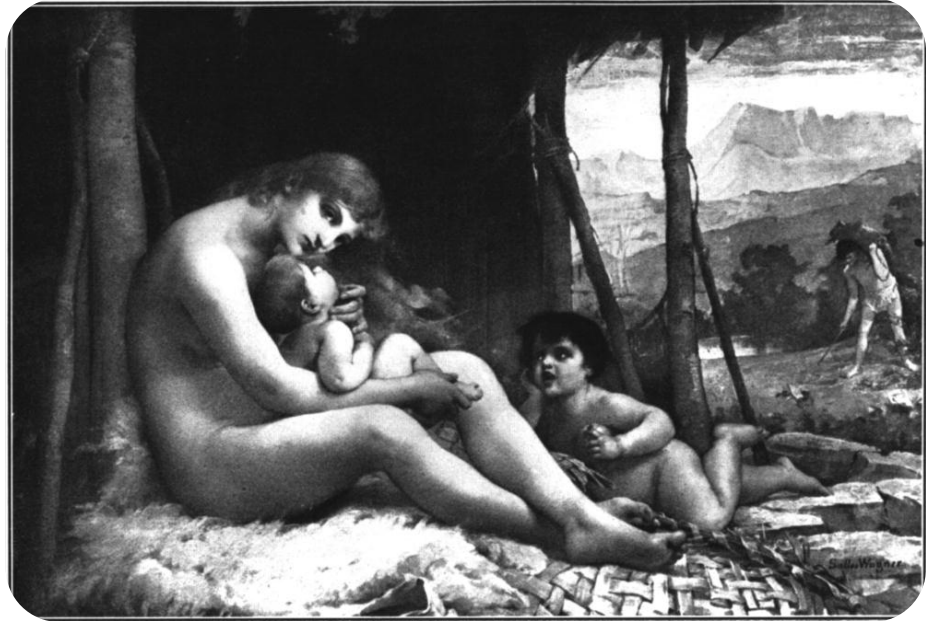
- God and Adam as the representative for mankind

Conditions of the Covenant

- Transformation of the animal kingdom
- Protevangelium (first gospel) and promise of Satan's defeat
- Woman cursed in area of assigned duties
- Man cursed in area of assigned duties
- Physical death (return to ground)
- Man remains a vegetarian

Token of the Covenant

- Spiritual death



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Conscience (Gen 3:9 to Gen 8:14)

Man's Responsibilities

- Man's responsibilities, having been ejected from the garden, was to fulfill the Adamic Covenant, essentially to multiply and fill the Earth. Mankind was to respond to God through the prompting of his conscience and as evidence of his faith in the promised seed, to bring an acceptable blood sacrifice as God had instructed them to do.

Man's Failures

- Mankind, having been given the ability, through their conscience, to desire a relationship with God and the provision, through blood sacrifices, to approach God, failed to do so and instead followed after their own evil lusts. The wickedness and evil became so great and widespread, God decided to let mankind start anew.

The Resulting Judgment

- God, being true to His word, spared the only faithful humans and a small remnant of air breathing creatures and started over in order to fulfill his promise of redemption



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Approaching God in the Dispensation of Conscience

Approach God by Faith

- Hebrews 11:4 - By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

Blood sacrifice as example of faith

- The test then becomes “with a conscience, guided by that conscience, will man choose to do good and approach God by means of sacrifice as the example of the sacrifice that God indicated”.
- Leviticus 17:11 - ‘For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.’



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Review of past lessons

At The End Of The Second Economy

Promise of Redemption Maintained - Genesis 6:8-9, 18; 7:1

- But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.
- “But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.
- Then the LORD said to Noah, “Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time.

Angelic Conflict - 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6

- For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;
- And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

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The Third Economy



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Review of past lessons

Noahic Covenant (Genesis 8:20 – 9:17)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and Noah as the representative for mankind

Conditions of the Covenant

- Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth
- Man to be feared by animals
- Mankind allowed to eat meat
- Mankind not to eat or drink blood
- Institution of capital punishment
- Never again a universal flood

Token of the Covenant

- Rainbow



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Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Human Government (Genesis 9:1 to 11:32)

Man's Responsibilities

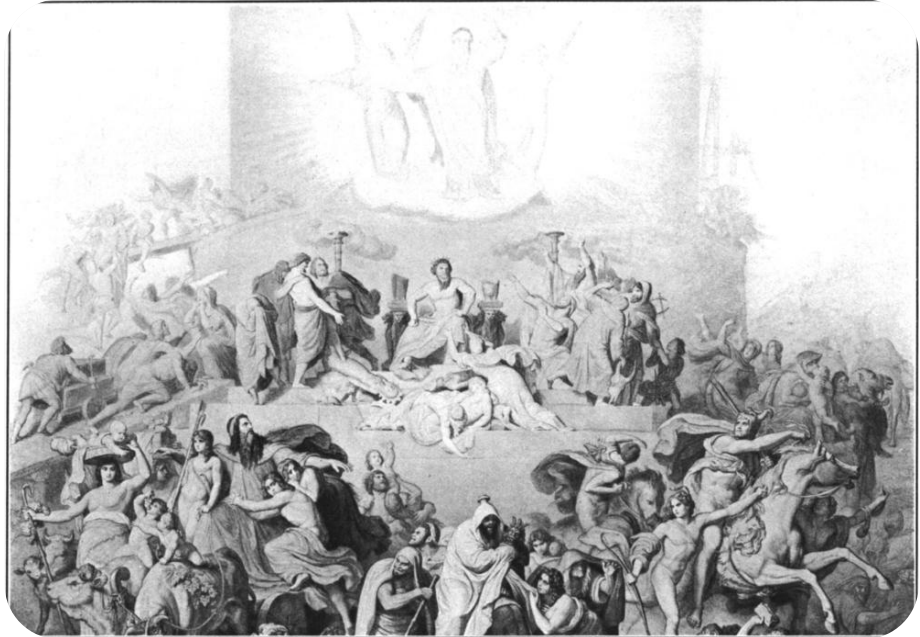
- Man's responsibilities were to fulfill the Noachic covenant. Mankind was to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. Mankind was to govern itself with the full authority of capital punishment.

Man's Failures

- Failure to govern successfully appeared on the scene almost immediately, for Noah became drunk and incapable of ruling. The people, instead of obeying God's command to scatter and fill the earth, conceived the idea of staying together and building the tower of Babel to help achieve their aim. Fellowship with man replaced fellowship with God.

The Resulting Judgment

- As a result, God sent the judgment of the tower of Babel and the confusion of languages. He also graciously intervened in that He did not utterly destroy the nations but chose to deal graciously with Abraham and his descendants.



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Review of past lessons

Small Remnant of Righteous – The Example of Job’s Theology

God’s sovereignty – Job 1:21

- He said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked I shall return there. **The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away.** Blessed be the name of the LORD.”

God’s justice – Job 13:15–16

- “Though He slay me, **I will hope in Him.** Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him. **“This also will be my salvation,** For a godless man may not come before His presence.

God’s promise of salvation – Job 19:25

- “As for me, I know that **my Redeemer lives,** And at the last **He will take His stand on the earth.**



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Review of past lessons

At The End Of The Third Economy

Promise of Redemption Maintained - Genesis 12:1-3

- Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Angelic Conflict - Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7

- God allows Satan to persecute the faithful that He knows are mature enough to endure the trials. This strengthens the faithful and allows God to show His grace, mercy, and love. God also demonstrates that His righteousness and justice are compatible with His love.

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The Fourth Economy



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Review of past lessons

Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and Abram as the father of the Jewish race

Conditions of the Covenant

- Fourteen provisions including the token of circumcision

Token of the Covenant

- Circumcision



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Promises made to Abraham

Father of great nation (Israel)

Possess the Promised Land

Father of other nations

Many descendants became kings

Receive personal blessings

Be a blessing to others

Name to become great

Promises made to Israel

Become a great nation

Become innumerable

Possess the Promised Land

Victory over enemies

Promises to Gentiles

Blessings for blessing Israel

Cursing's for cursing Israel

Spiritual blessings through the seed of Abraham – The Messiah

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Promise (Genesis 11:10 to Exodus 18:27)

Man's Responsibilities

- The responsibility of the patriarchs was simply to believe and serve God, and God gave them every material and spiritual provision to encourage them to do this. The Promised Land was theirs, and blessing was theirs as long as they remained in the land. The people of the promise; Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the children of Jacob (Israel) were to stay separate from the nations around them.

Man's Failures

- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his twelve sons continued to intermingle with the Canaanites and surrounding nations.

The Resulting Judgment

- God sent the family down to Egypt where the surrounding Egyptians would not associate with them. Soon after they would be enslaved.



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Approaching God in the Dispensation of Promise

Approach God by Faith

- Genesis 15:5–7 And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. And He said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it.”

Blood sacrifice as example of faith

- Genesis 31:54 Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain, and called his kinsmen to the meal; and they ate the meal and spent the night on the mountain.



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Review of past lessons

At The End Of The Fourth Economy

Promise of Redemption Maintained - Exodus 15:18–19

- “The LORD shall reign forever and ever.” For the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea on them, but the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea.

Angelic Conflict - Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7

- Paganism continued to spread throughout the world. The populations were coming together as powerful nations were formed. God’s chosen, the Israelites, were in the protective womb of Egypt yet Satan influenced the first cycle of young Jewish boys to be put to death in an attempt to block the birth of the Messiah.

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The Fifth Economy



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 20:1 – Deuteronomy 28:68)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and Israel with Moses acting as a representative

Conditions of the Covenant

- Law of Moses which contained a total 613 commandments. Being a conditional covenant, it provided blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience. (Ex. 15:26) The key element of the entire Mosaic Law was the blood sacrifice. (Lev. 17:11)

Token of the Covenant

- Sabbath

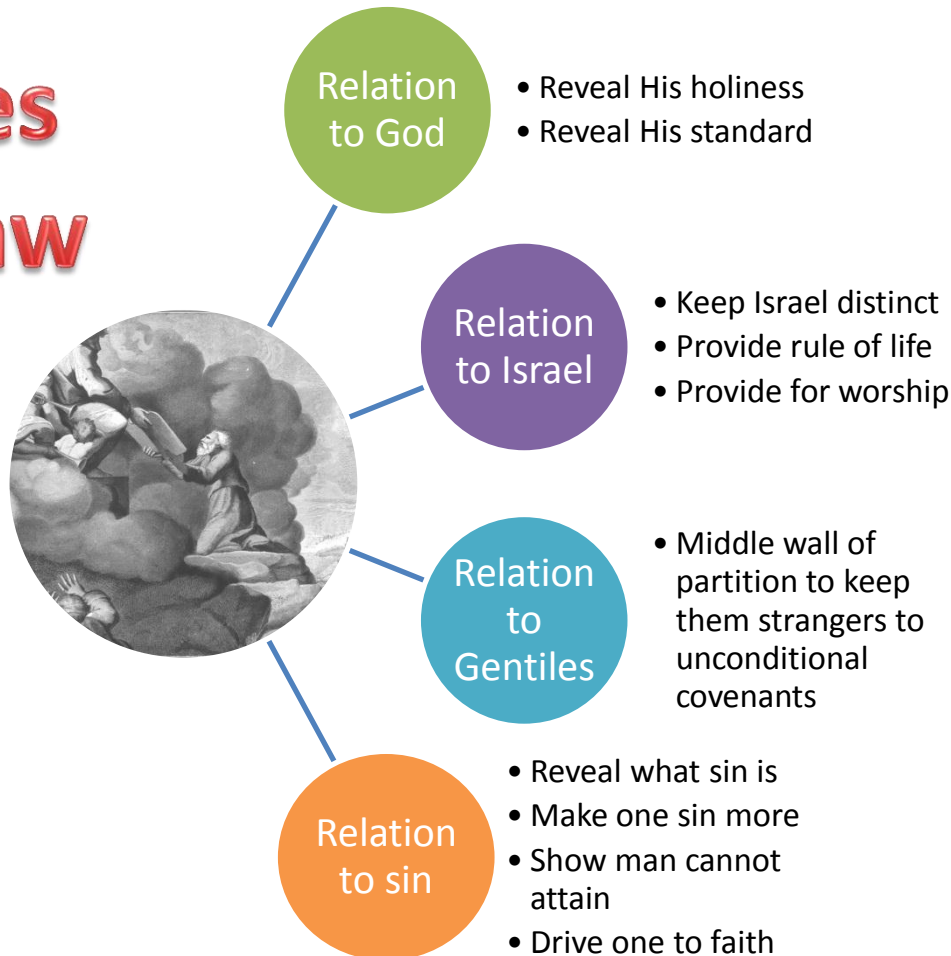


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The Fifth Economy

Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 20:1 – Deuteronomy 28:68)

Purposes of the Law

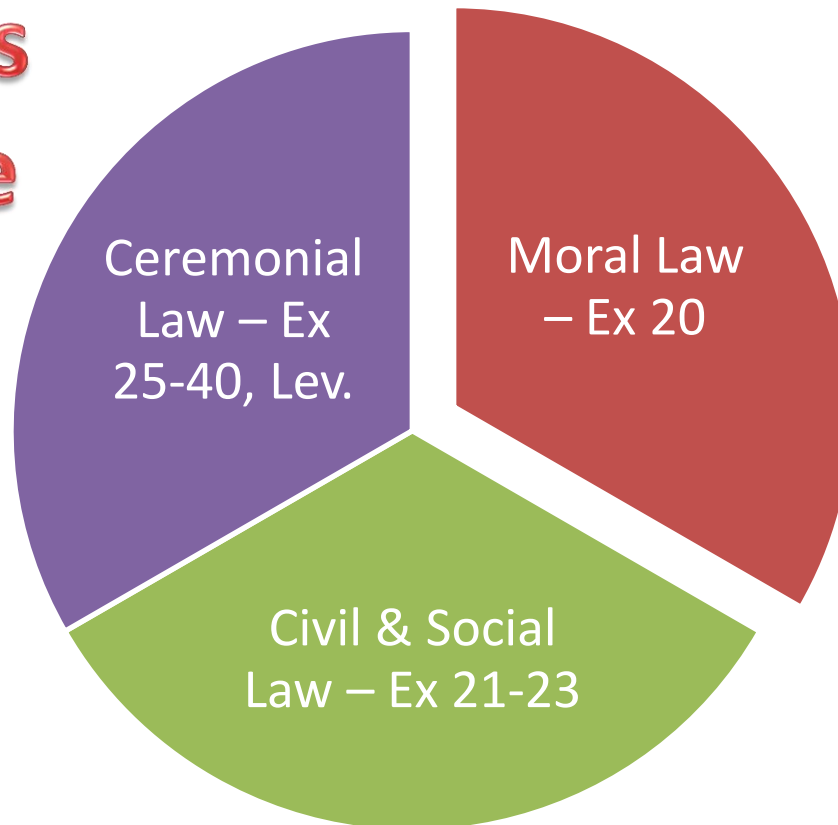


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The Fifth Economy

Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 20:1 – Deuteronomy 28:68)

**The Law is
the Entire
Pie!**



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Law (Exodus 19:1 – Acts 1:26)

Man's Responsibilities

- The responsibility of the Nation of Israel along with Gentile proselytes was to keep the Mosaic Law.

Man's Failures

- The Nation of Israel was continually disobedient and God continued to bring them back through discipline. They continued to reject the ordinances of God. (2nd Kings 17:7-23)

The Resulting Judgment

- As a result, there were many judgments throughout this long period. The ten tribes were carried into Assyrian captivity; the two tribes were carried into Babylonian captivity; and later, because of their rejection of Jesus of Nazareth, the people were dispersed into all the world (Matt. 23:37–39).



Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Abrahamic Covenant



Land

- Real Estate Covenant
- Deut. 29:1-30:20

Seed

- Davidic Covenant
- 2nd Sam. 7:11b-17
- 1st Chron. 17:10b-15

Blessing

- The New Covenant
- Jer. 31:31-34

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Review of past lessons

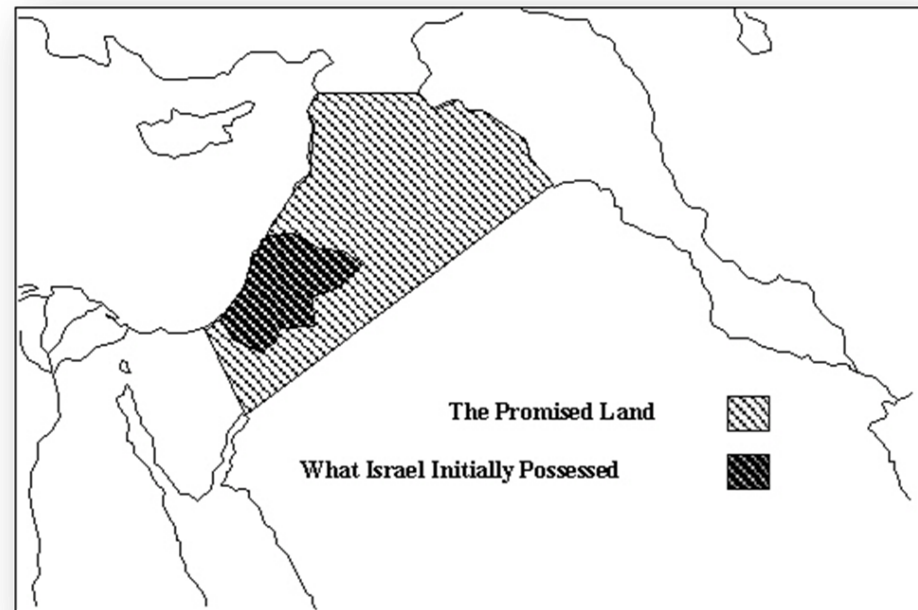
Land Covenant (Deuteronomy 29:1 – 30:20)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and Moses as the representative of National Israel

Conditions of the Covenant

- The nation will be plucked off the land for its unfaithfulness (Deut. 30:1-3)
- There will be a future repentance of Israel (Deut. 30:1-3)
- The Messiah will return (Deut. 30:3-6)
- Israel will be restored to the land (Deut. 30:5)
- Israel will be converted as a nation (Deut. 30:4-8)
- Israel's enemies will be judged (Deut. 30:7)
- The nation will then receive her full blessing. (Deut. 30:9)



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Review of past lessons

Seed (Davidic) Covenant (2 Sam. 7:10-14)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and David as the representative for the House of Israel

Conditions of the Covenant

- David's child, yet to be born, shall succeed him and establish his kingdom.
- This son, Solomon, shall build the temple instead of David.
- The throne of his kingdom shall be established forever.
- The throne will not be taken away from him (Solomon).
- David's house, throne, and kingdom shall be established forever.



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Blessing (New) Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and the houses of Israel and Judah

Conditions of the Covenant

- The new covenant is an unconditional, grace covenant resting on the “I will” of God.
- The new covenant is an everlasting covenant.
- The new covenant also promises the impartation of a renewed mind and heart which we may call regeneration.
- The new covenant provides for restoration to the favor and blessing of God.
- Forgiveness of sin is also included in the covenant.
- The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is also included.
- The teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit will be manifested, and the will of God will be known by obedient hearts.
- As is always the case when Israel is in the land, she will be blessed materially in accordance with the provisions of the new covenant.
- The sanctuary will be rebuilt in Jerusalem.
- War shall cease and peace shall reign according to Hosea 2:18.
- The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation of all the blessings of the new covenant.

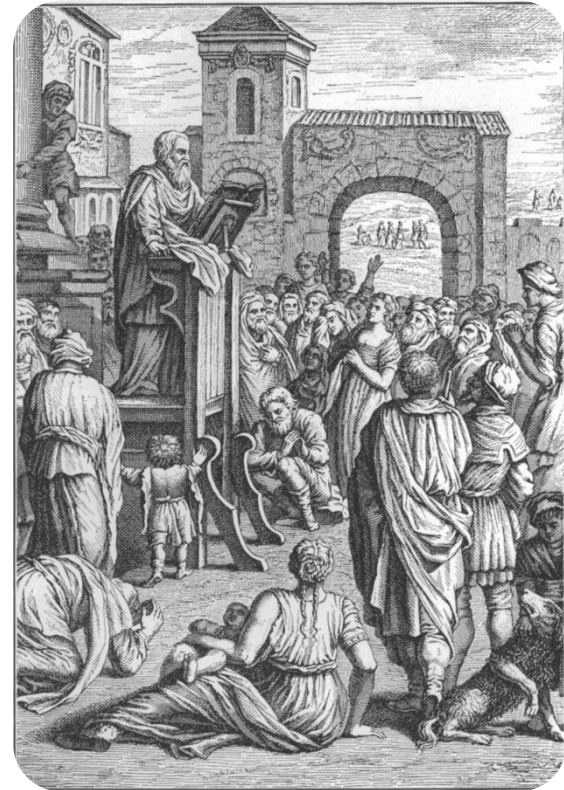
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Review of past lessons

Approaching God in the Dispensation of Law

Approach God by Faith (Heb. 11:30–34)

- By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace. And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

At The End Of The Fifth Economy

Promise of Redemption Maintained

- By rejecting Jesus as the Messiah, the Nation of Israel opened the door for God to display the supreme demonstration of His grace. This unique demonstration, never previously revealed, is the elimination of the Jew/Gentile distinction in Christ. Further, God indwelling His people is also never known in history.

Angelic Conflict

- “Satan suffered a specific judgment at the time that the Messiah died. Satan knew it was coming, and that is why he tried to do everything he could to keep the Messiah from the cross. He constantly tried to have Yeshua killed either prematurely or in the wrong manner; such as, by sword or by stoning. But all such attempts failed because: his hour was not yet come. When His hour finally did come, and when Yeshua was dying on the cross, Satan was no longer in control; rather, the Messiah was in total control. The cross, which brought salvation to humanity, brought judgment upon Satan.”

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Sixth Economy



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Grace (Acts 2:1 to Revelation 19:21)

Man's Responsibilities

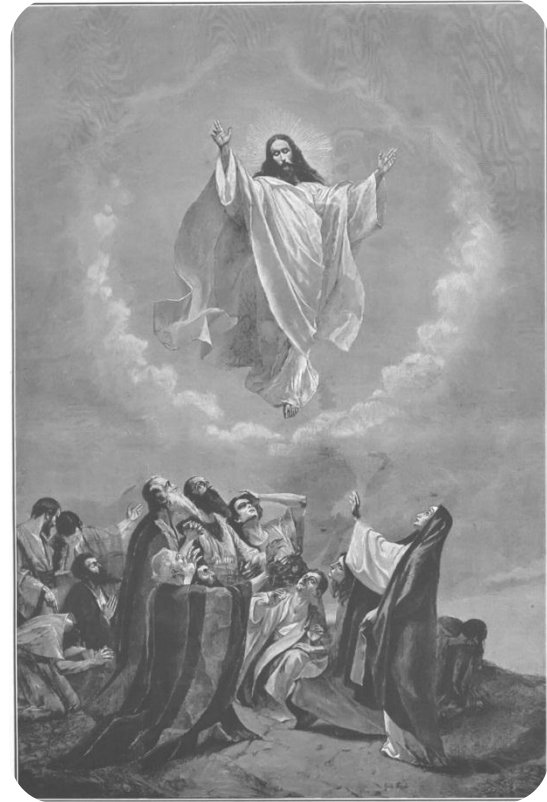
- Under Grace the responsibility on man is to accept the gift of righteousness that God freely offers to all (Rom. 5:15–18). There are two aspects of the grace of God in this economy: (1) the blessing is entirely of grace and (2) that grace is for all.

Man's Failures

- The vast majority have rejected Him and as a result will be judged. The dispensation will end at the second coming of Christ since, as suggested, the tribulation period itself is not a separate dispensation but is the judgment on those living persons who are Christ rejecters at the end of this present dispensation.

The Resulting Judgment

- The judgment to non-believers is death. The judgment to believers for not walking with Christ is a loss of rewards. The earth, which was to be controlled by Adam and handed over to Satan, will be ruled by the Lord Jesus Christ.



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

At The End Of The Sixth Economy

Promise of Redemption Maintained

- Redemption is available to all who believe in Christ but there is a future redemption for the Nation of Israel in fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant. Before Christ left this earth, He told the Nation of Israel that they will not see Him until they say “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” (Matt 23:39). Christ will return as King in power and glory to reign for 1,000 years and He will establish Israel in the land promised to Abraham. By the end of the Tribulation, Israel will cry out to Jesus.

Angelic Conflict

- The first epistle of Peter was written to believers who were scattered and undergoing persecution for their faith. It was not Satan personally attacking them but an indirect assault through the cosmic system: the culture, the ideas, and the unbelievers around them whose thinking was dominated by those false, human viewpoint ideas, which are also termed demonic in James 3:15. The context of 1 Peter strongly suggests indirect attacks of Satan through the cosmic system and not direct engagements with Satan and demons.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Tribulation



4000 years after creation

4030

Dispensation of Law

Dispensation of Grace

Population increasing

First Coming of Messiah

Death and Resurrection of Messiah

Postponement of Messiah's second coming and Kingdom

Beginning of the church

Mosaic Covenant

Abrahamic Covenant (Land, Seed, & Blessing) promised to Nation of Israel

Noahic Covenant (Gentiles)

4 BC

30 AD

Dispensation of Grace

Population increasing



Nation of Israel in unbelief

Postponement of Messiah's second coming and Kingdom

the church of God awaiting glorification and marriage to the Lamb

Abrahamic Covenant (Land, Seed, & Blessing) promised to Nation of Israel

Noahic Covenant (Gentiles)

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Dispensation of Grace

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- First Seal – White Horse (Conquering Power)
- Second Seal – Red Horse (War and Bloodshed)
- Third Seal – Black Horse (Famine)
- Forth Seal – Pale Horse (Pestilence and Death)
- Fifth Seal – Souls under the Altar (Martyrs)
- Sixth Seal – Great Earthquake
- Seventh Seal – Silence, Golden Censer

Nation of Israel in unbelief

Postponement of Messiah's second coming and Kingdom

Tribulation believers

Start of Tribulation
 Israel signs peace treaty with the Anti-christ

144,000 Jews converted
 and sealed

- First Trumpet – Hail, Fire, Blood
- Second Trumpet – Burning Mountain
- Third Trumpet – Star Wormwood
- Forth Trumpet – Sun Diminished
- Fifth Trumpet – Plague of Locusts (First Woe)
- Sixth Trumpet – Plague of Horsemen (Second Woe)
- Seventh Trumpet – Christ Rules

The Two Witnesses Revealed

Abrahamic Covenant (Land, Seed, & Blessing) promised to Nation of Israel

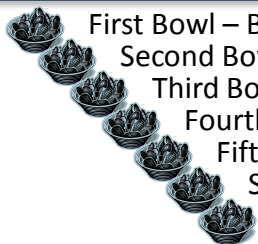
Noahic Covenant (Gentiles)

T + 3 ½ years (42 months)

T + 7 years

Dispensation of Grace

Dispensation of the Kingdom



First Bowl – Boils

Second Bowl – Sea to Blood

Third Bowl – Rivers to Blood

Fourth Bowl – Great Heat

Fifth Bowl – Darkness

Sixth Bowl – Euphrates Dried Up

Seventh Bowl – Hail

Nation of Israel in unbelief

Israel in belief

Postponement of Messiah's second coming and Kingdom

The Messiah reigns from Jerusalem

Tribulation believers

The Abomination of Desolation

Assembling of Antichrist Armies

National Regeneration of Israel

Destruction of Babylon

Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Fall of Jerusalem

Battle from Bozrah to the Valley of Jehoshaphat

Antichrist Armies at Bozrah

Victory ascent upon the Mount of Olives

Abrahamic Covenant (Land, Seed, & Blessing)

Abrahamic Covenant fulfilled

Noahic Covenant (Gentiles)

Earth's curses rolled back

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Sixth Economy

Tribulation

The Greek for tribulation—*θλίψις*—is used forty-two times in the New Testament. It has been translated by the words tribulation (21 times), affliction (17 times), anguish (1 time), burden (1 time), and trouble (3 times). There are two common meanings for the term: (1) trial of any kind and (2) the (great) tribulation. The tribulation indeed is one of the major highways of prophecy, which may be traced through Scripture as follows:

Deuteronomy 4:29–30; Jeremiah 30:4–7; Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:9–26;
2 Thessalonians 2:1–12; Revelation 3:10; 6:1–19:6.

See also Psalm 2:5; Isaiah 2:10–22; 13:9–16; 24:21–23; 26:20–21; 34:1–17; 43:1–6;
49:15–24; Jeremiah 25:29–38; Ezekiel 30:3; Amos 5:18–20; Obadiah 1:15–21;
Zephaniah 1:7–18; Zechariah 12:1–14; 14:1–4; Malachi 4:1–4.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Sixth Economy

Tribulation

The great tribulation is the period known as Daniel's seventieth week (Dan. 9:24–27), the order of events being the same in Daniel as in Matthew 24 and in 2 Thessalonians 2. The final week or heptad is seven years in duration, which is proved by the fact that it was exactly 69×7 years between the order to rebuild Jerusalem and the cutting off of Messiah. This remaining seventieth "week" of years belongs to Israel's age and will be characterized by the same general conditions as obtained in the past Jewish age. The time is to be shortened a little (Matt. 24:22). It is known as "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:4–7) out of which Israel will be saved.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Sixth Economy

Tribulation

The great tribulation is the time of God's unavoidable judgments on a Christ-rejecting world (Ps. 2:5). It is characterized by:

1. The removal of the Holy Spirit together with the Church from the earth (2 Thess. 2:7).
2. The casting of Satan into, thus restricting him to, the earth (Rev. 12:9–12).
3. The development of sin which was hitherto restrained (2 Thess. 2:11).
4. The rule of the man of sin (John 5:43).
5. Termination by the second coming of Christ, the battle of Armageddon, and the smiting stone of Daniel 2.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Sixth Economy

Tribulation – Old Testament References

The Time of Jacob's Trouble—Jeremiah 30:7

The Seventieth Week (a seven) of Daniel—Daniel 9:27

Jehovah's Strange Work—Isaiah 28:21

Jehovah's Strange Act—Isaiah 28:21

The Day of Israel's Calamity—Deuteronomy 32:35; Obadiah 12–14

The Tribulation—Deuteronomy 4:30

The Indignation—Isaiah 26:20; Daniel 11:36

The Overflowing Scourge—Isaiah 28:15, 18

The Day of Vengeance—Isaiah 34:8; 35:4; 61:2

The Year of Recompense—Isaiah 34:8

The Time of Trouble—Daniel 12:1; Zephaniah 1:15

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Sixth Economy

Tribulation – Old Testament References (cont.)

The Day of Wrath—Zephaniah 1:15

The Day of Distress—Zephaniah 1:15

The Day of Wasteness—Zephaniah 1:15

The Day of Desolation—Zephaniah 1:15

The Day of Darkness—Zephaniah 1:15; Amos 5:18, 20; Joel 2:2

The Day of Gloominess—Zephaniah 1:15; Joel 2:2

The Day of Clouds—Zephaniah 1:15; Joel 2:2

The Day of Thick Darkness—Zephaniah 1:15; Joel 2:2

The Day of the Trumpet—Zephaniah 1:16

The Day of Alarm—Zephaniah 1:16

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Sixth Economy

Tribulation – New Testament References

The Day of the Lord—I Thessalonians 5:2

The Wrath of God—Revelation 15:1, 7; 14:10, 19; 16:1

The Hour of Trial—Revelation 3:10

The Great Day of the Wrath of the Lamb of God—Revelation 6:16–17

The Wrath to Come—I Thessalonians 1:10

The Wrath—I Thessalonians 5:9; Revelation 11:18

The Great Tribulation—Matthew 24:21; Revelation 2:22; 7:14

The Tribulation—Matthew 24:29

The Hour of Judgment—Revelation 14:7

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Sixth Economy

Purposes of the Tribulation

1. To Make an End of Wickedness and Wicked Ones

The first of these purposes is to make an end of wickedness and wicked ones. There are two key passages that express this purpose. The first is found in Isaiah 13:9: This passage uses the term the Day of Jehovah as a reference to the Great Tribulation and gives its goal in the phrase, to destroy the sinners thereof out of it. The purpose, then, is to destroy wicked ones out of the land.

This is further described in Isaiah 24:19–20: The closing words of this verse state that the basic reason for the judgments of the Tribulation is that the transgression worldwide shall fall and not rise again. Its purpose is to make an end of wickedness.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Sixth Economy

Purposes of the Tribulation

2. To Bring About a Worldwide Revival

The second purpose of the Tribulation is to bring about a worldwide revival. This purpose is given and fulfilled in Revelation 7:1–17. In verses 1–8, John describes the means by which God will bring about this worldwide revival, while verses 9–17 portray the results of the revival.

Some time after the Rapture of the Church, the Lord will save 144,000 Jews from the Twelve Tribes and from around the world. These Jews will already speak the languages needed. They will already have a basic knowledge of the Old Testament text. All they will need will be a little time spent in learning the content of the New Testament. So, they could begin to preach the gospel in a very short period of time.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Sixth Economy

Purposes of the Tribulation

2. To Bring About a Worldwide Revival (cont.)

During the first half of the Tribulation, God will evangelize the world by means of the 144,000 Jews and thus fulfill the prophecy found in Matthew 24:14. Following the vision of the 144,000 Jews in the first part of Revelation seven, John saw the results of the ministry of these Jewish evangelists in verses 9–17. After the vision of the 144,000 Jews, John saw myriads and myriads of Gentiles, as well as other Jews who have come to a saving knowledge of the Savior during the Tribulation. The connecting link, after these things, is chronological and also shows a cause and effect relationship between the first and the second parts of Revelation seven. Thus, by means of the 144,000 Jews, God will accomplish the second purpose of the Great Tribulation, that of bringing about a worldwide revival.

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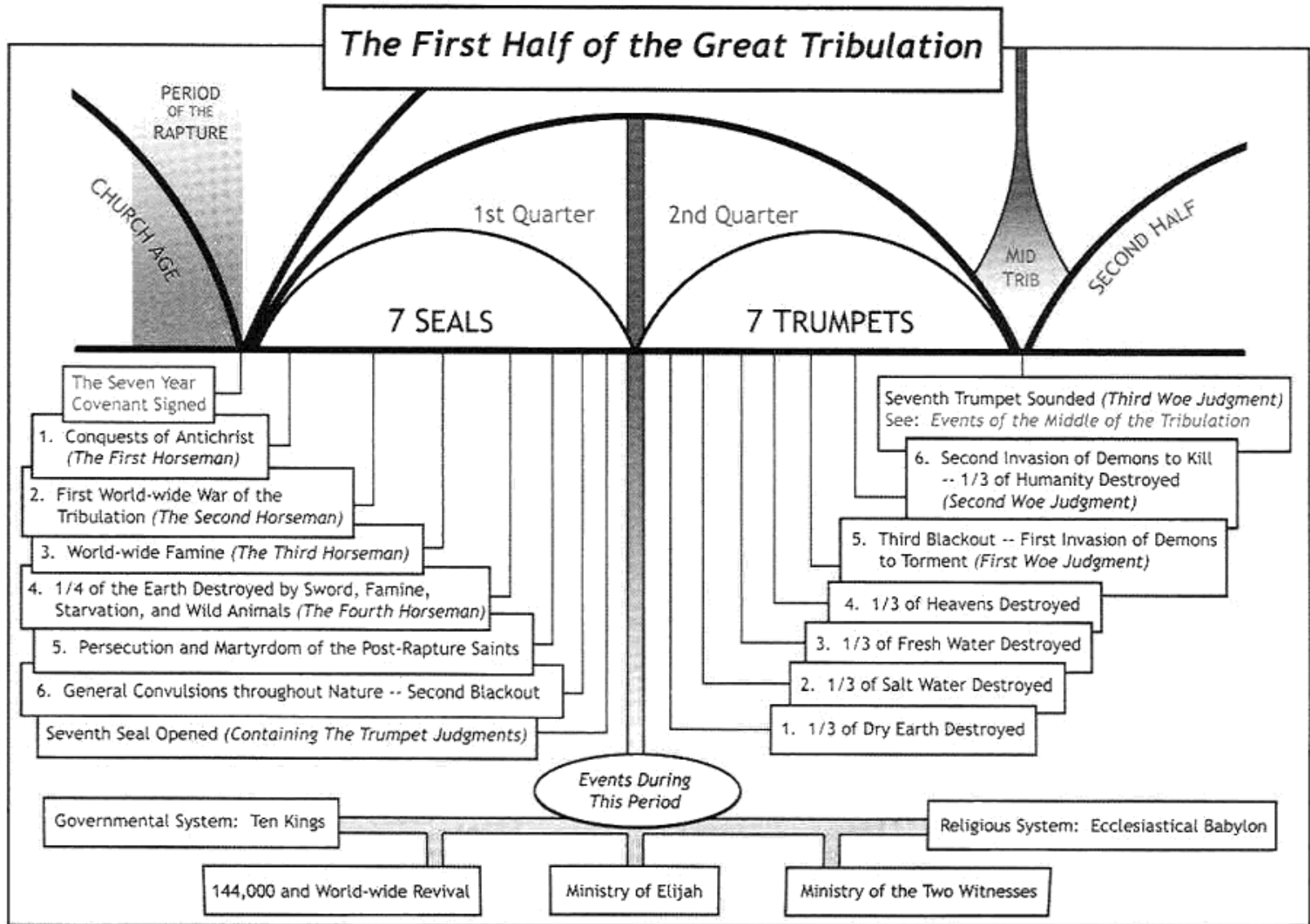
The Sixth Economy

Purposes of the Tribulation

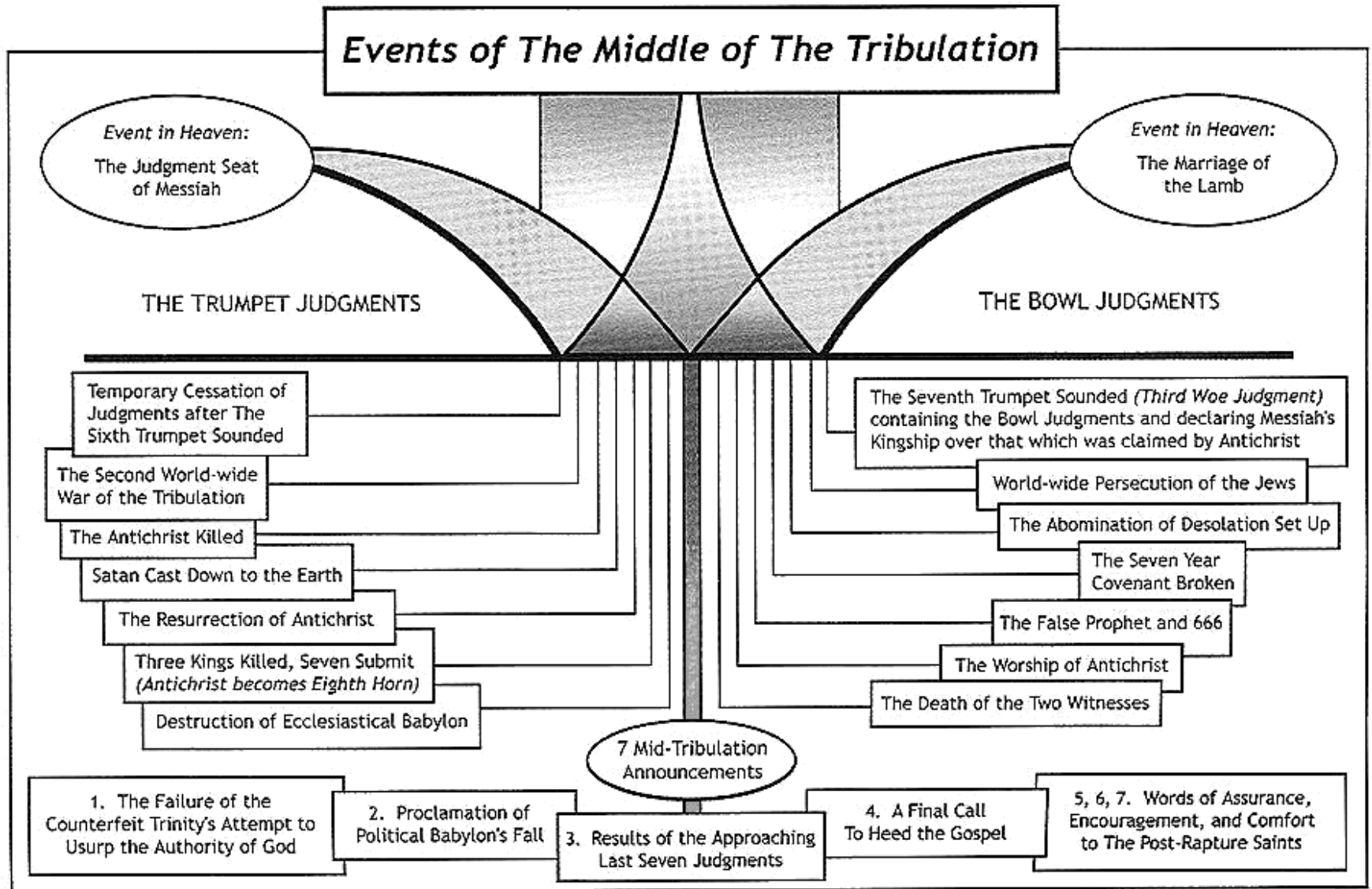
3. To Break the Power of the Holy People

The third purpose of the Tribulation is to break the power or the stubborn will of the Jewish nation. In Daniel 11–12, the prophet was given a vision of what conditions will be like for his people (Israel) during the Tribulation. Then, in Daniel 12:5–7, a question is raised as to how long this period will be allowed to continue. This passage provides a third goal of the Tribulation. It is to break the power or the stubborn will of the Jewish nation. The Tribulation will continue and will not end until this happens. So from this, the third purpose of the Tribulation can be deduced: God intends to break the power of the holy people in order to bring about a national regeneration.

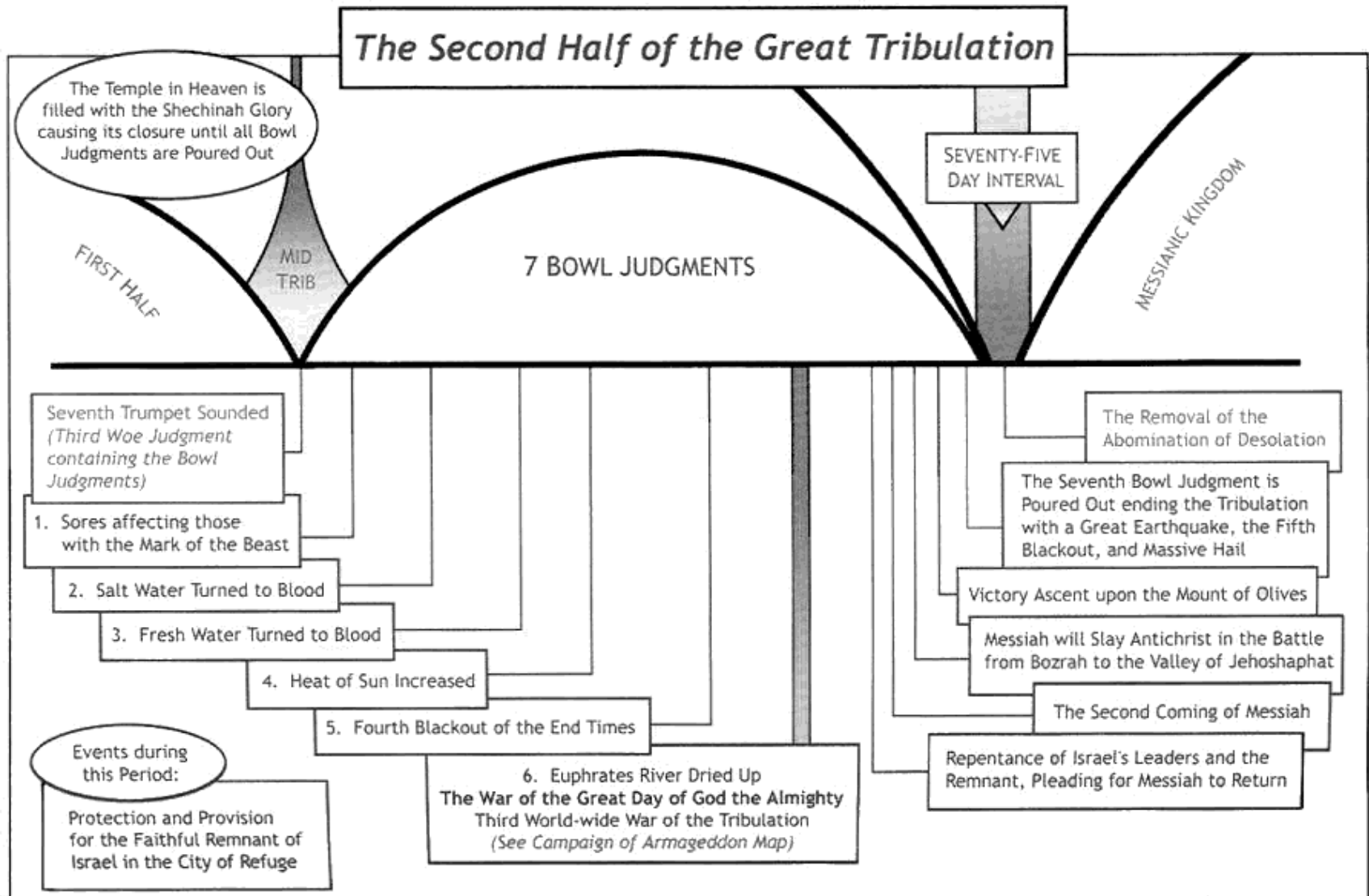
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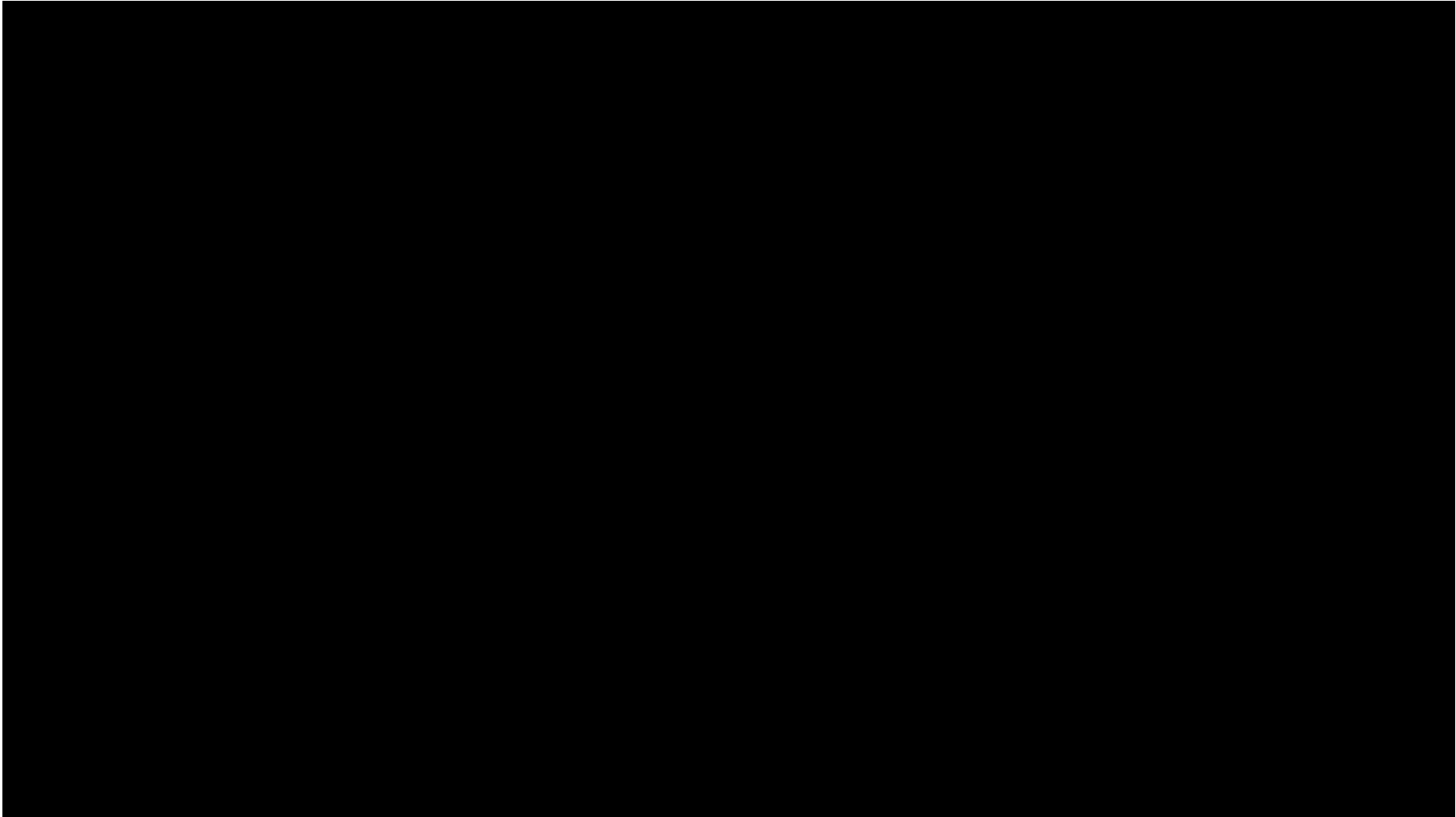
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Matthew 24:15–21

“Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), **then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.** “Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. “Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. “But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! “But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. “For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

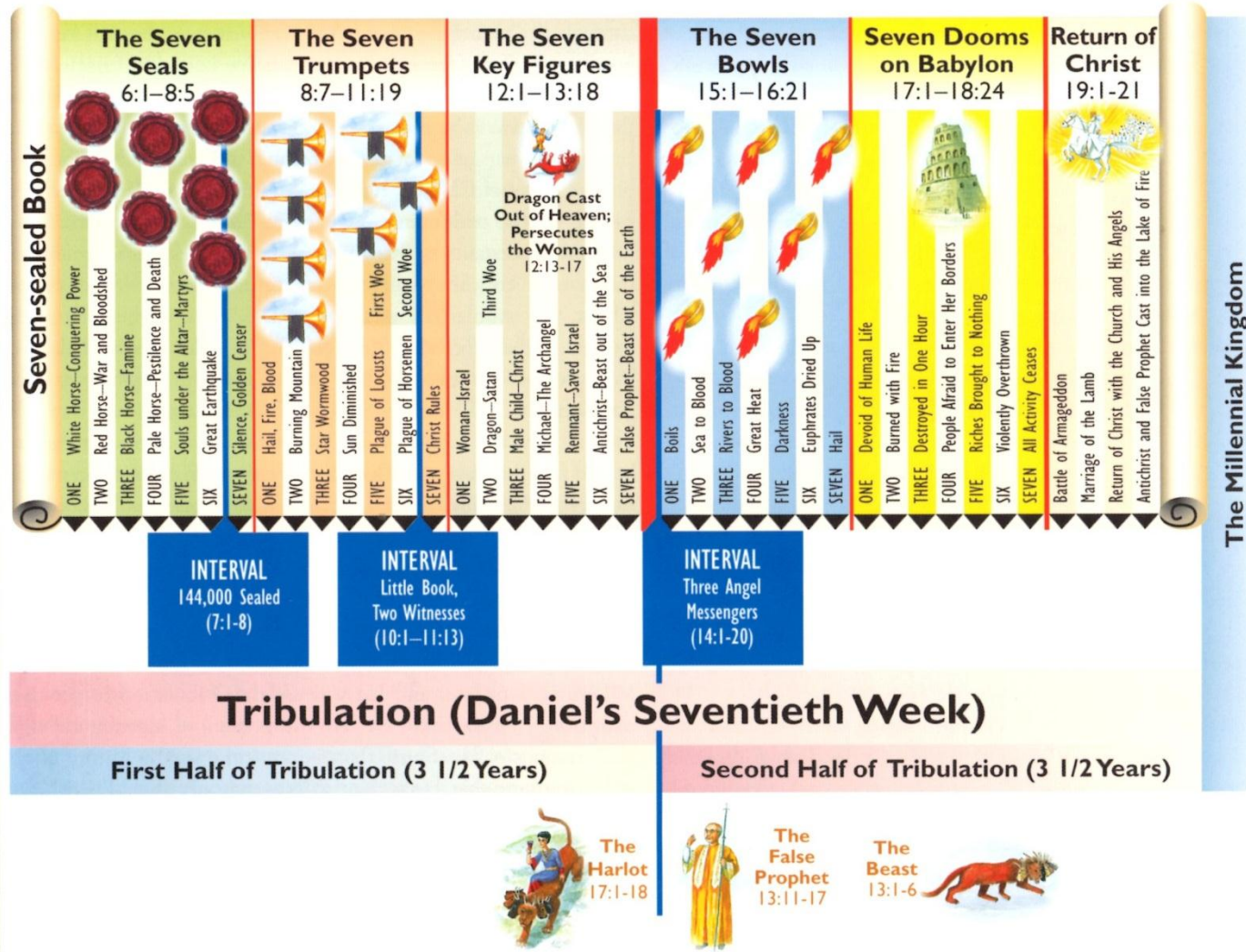


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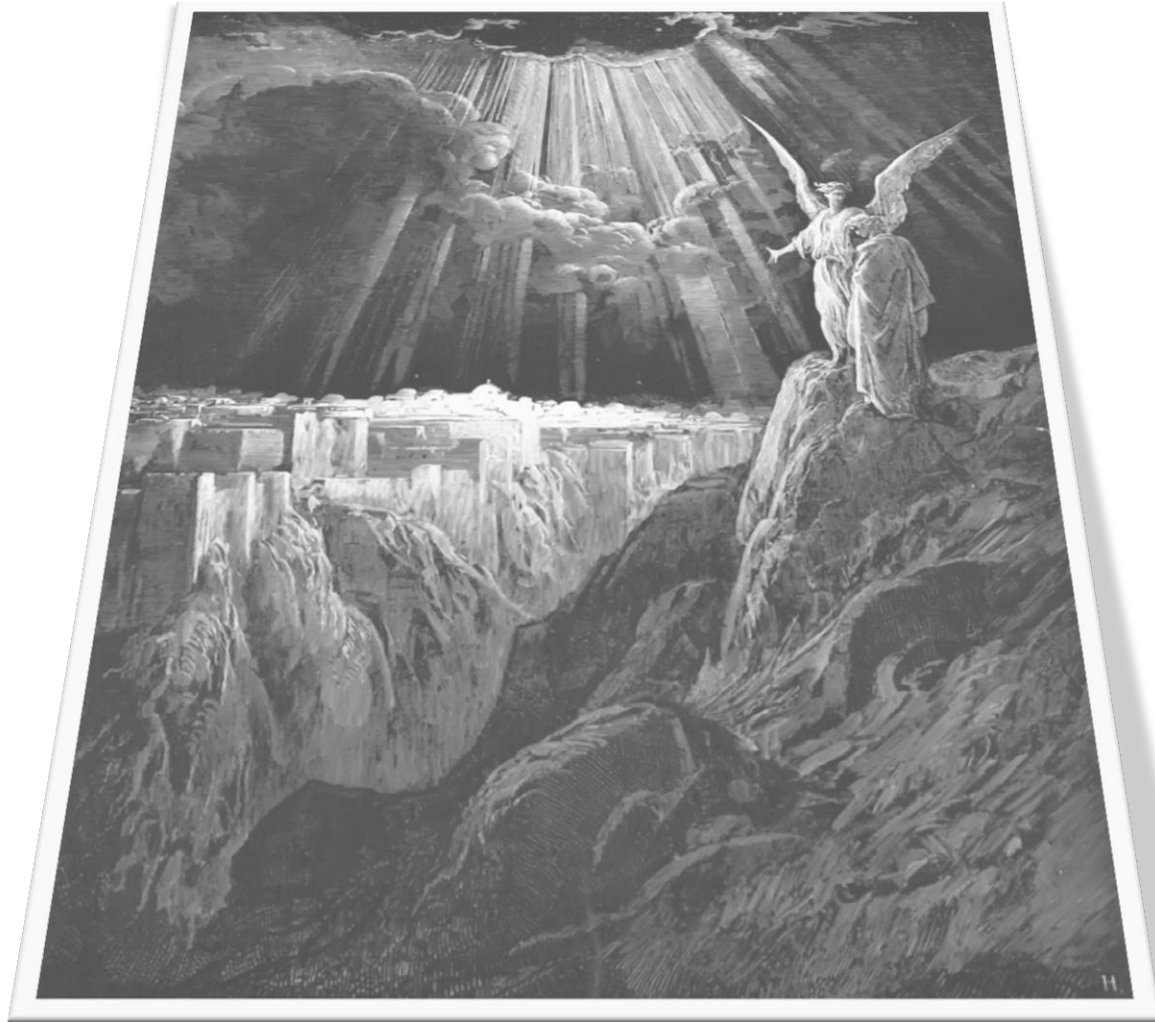
Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Tribulation



Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy



Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Dispensation of the Kingdom (Revelation 20:1-15)

Man's Responsibilities

Man will be responsible for obedience to the King and His laws. Satan will be bound, Christ will be ruling, righteousness will prevail, overt disobedience will be quickly punished.

Revelation 20:4–6

Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Dispensation of the Kingdom (Revelation 20:1-15)

Man's Failures

At the end of the period enough rebels will be found to make a formidable army that will dare to attack the seat of government (Rev. 20:7–9). The revolt will be unsuccessful, and the rebels will be cast into everlasting punishment.

Revelation 20:7–9

When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Dispensation of the Kingdom (Revelation 20:1-15)

The Resulting Judgment

The Great White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:11–15

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

The Millennium Will Begin With the Second Coming

There is no kingdom of God without God the King; there is no literal kingdom without a literal King's presence. It is Messiah's return that will inaugurate the messianic kingdom:

Immediately after the distress of those days "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. (Matt. 24:29–30)

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Christ Will Judge the Nations and Separate the Sheep (Saved) From the Goats (Lost)

So only saved people will enter the Millennium, namely, the remnant of the 144,000 Jews who are saved, plus the multitude they win to Christ (see Rev. 7:4–9).

I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it.... Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives. (Zech. 14:2–4)

Also see Matt. 25:31–41

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Some Children Born During the Millennium Will Not Believe

Saved parents can have unsaved children; of those born during the Millennium, some will accept Christ as their Savior, and others will not. Of those who do not, some will go along with His reign outwardly, while others will overtly rebel against it. The latter will be judged and die prematurely (Isa. 65:20) under the rod of iron (Rev. 12:5) with which Christ will crush all opposition. At the end of the Millennium, the false believers who only followed outwardly will rebel, at the instigation of the devil's release from his prison, only to be destroyed by Christ:

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth.... They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. (Rev. 20:7–9)