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What's Coming on God's Agenda? And will Islam play a role?

Stephen J. Bramer, Ph.D.

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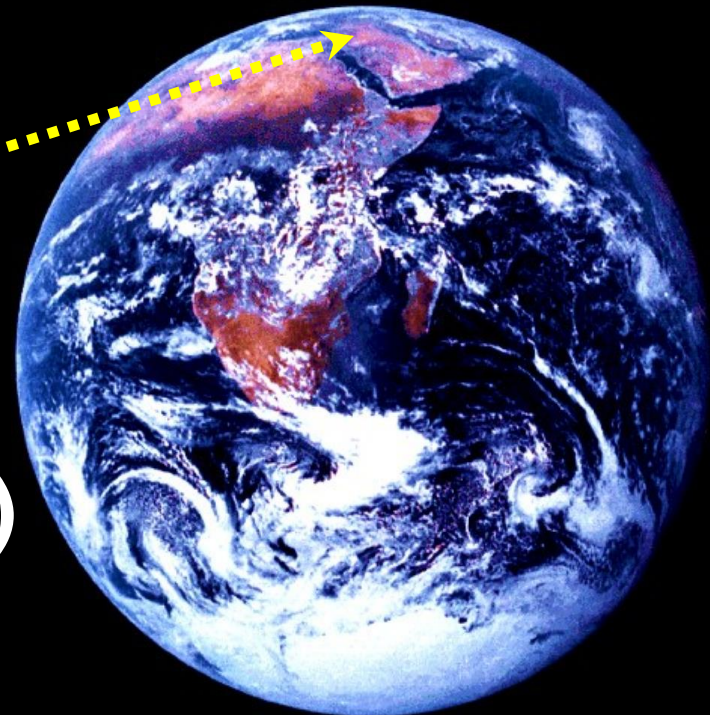
Jordan Ministry

Feb, 2013

From Dallas Theological
Seminary (DTS) in Dallas,
Texas USA

to

Jordan Evangelical
Theological Seminary (JETS)
in Amman, Jordan



JORDAN



- The modern state of Jordan is a 1923 creation of the British and in 1946 it became independent when Abdullah was proclaimed king.
- It is officially called the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and is a hereditary constitutional government.
- The country of Jordan is slightly smaller than the state of Indiana although 80% of Jordan is desert.
- It has very few natural resources and is trying to support a population quite large (6.5 million) for the country.

Jordan



- **Officially it has 15% unemployment although in reality it may be 30%**
- **Arabs make up 95% of the population with almost 60% of the population made up of Palestinians Arabs who fled during the wars of 1948, 1967, and the Gulf War of 1990-91.**
- **The two Gulf Wars have resulted in over 550,000 Palestinians and Iraqis coming to Jordan.**
- **The Syrian civil war has resulted in over 500,000 coming into Jordan as of May 6th.**

Jordan

- **Jordan is officially secular and freedom of religion is a statute right of the Jordanian constitution. But over 95% are Muslims and it can mean death for a Muslim to publicly convert to Christianity.**
- **Christians (e.g.. Greek Orthodox, Catholic, and a few Protestants) make up about 5% of the population.**
- **JETS (Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary) is forbidden by the government to admit as a student any Muslim who has converted to Christianity, they must be from a “Christian” background**
- **There are probably about 55 evangelical churches in Jordan with over 35 of these being pastored by a JETS grad**











أما أنا فبكرة
رحمتك

03



لِذَا اَعْتَبَكُ وَالْجَسَدِ اَعْتَبَلْ بِكَ
سَمْعِي
lidha ahtifu wa aSraxu
uhallelu bika sayyidi
-Therefore I shout and cry out
and rejoice in You, my Master-



وسط الصعاب فرحانين وفي يسوع
منتصرين

wasT aSS3aab farHaaniin

wa fii yasuu3 muntaSariin (2x)

<In the midst of difficulties, we are joyful
And in Jesus, we are victors>



IHna jaain layk 12



“I will build my church”

. . . Jesus Christ . . .

*“and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem . . .
. and to the ends of the earth”*









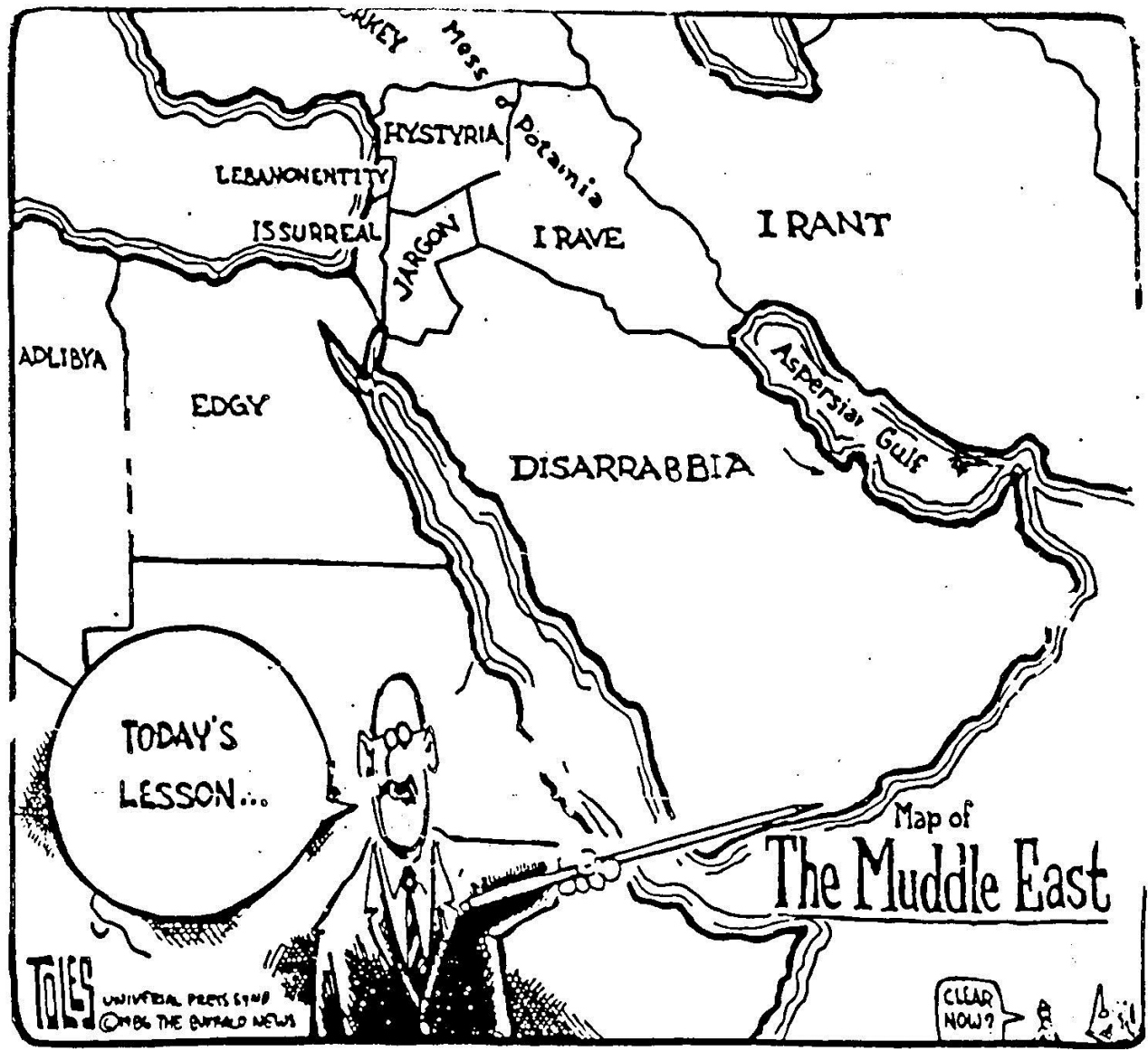


**STARBUCKS
COFFEE**

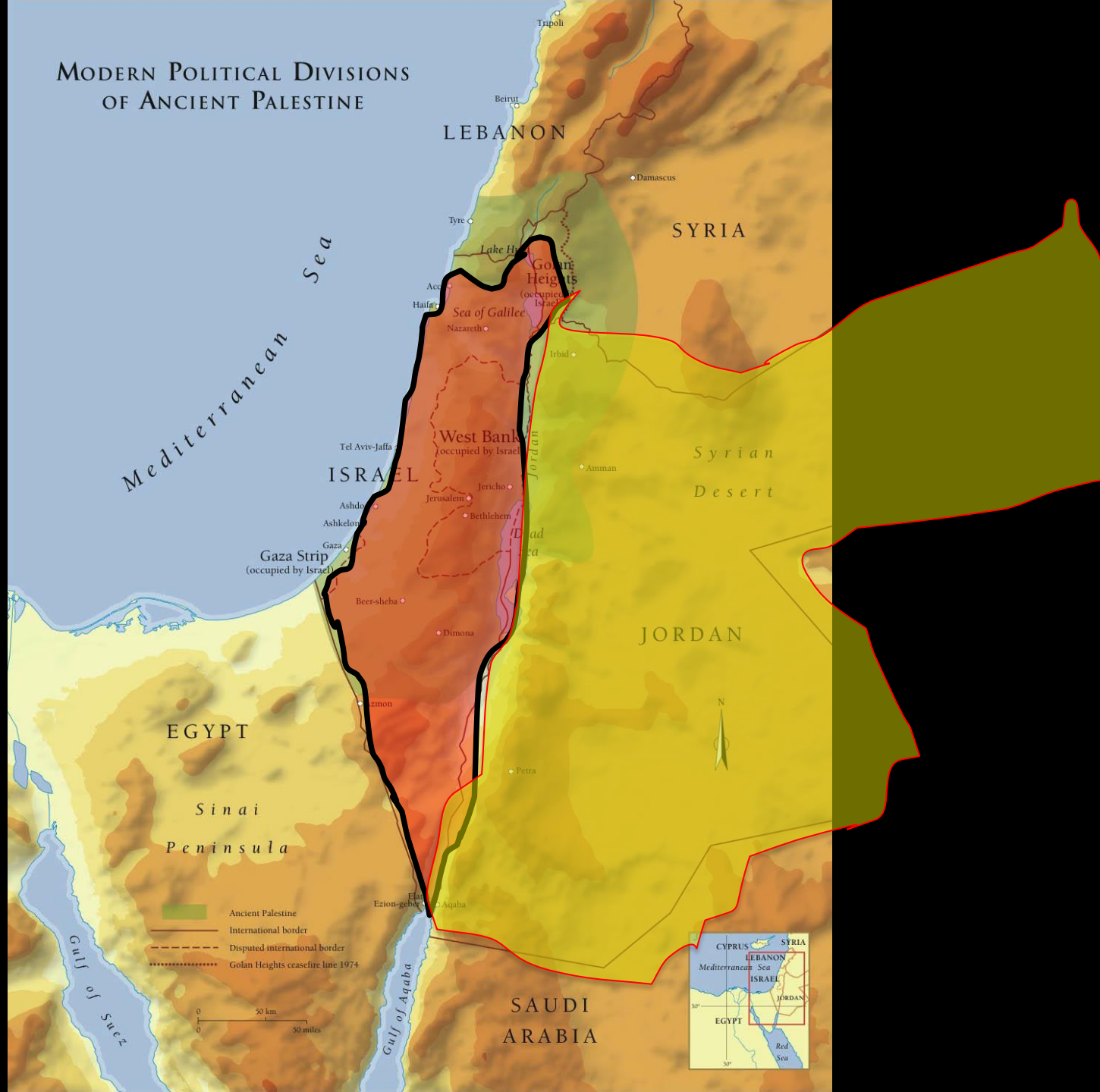
**ستار بيكس
كافيه**



Middle East Geography



MODERN POLITICAL DIVISIONS OF ANCIENT PALESTINE



Mediterranean Sea

LEBANON

SYRIA

ISRAEL

Syrian Desert

JORDAN

EGYPT

Sinai Peninsula

SAUDI ARABIA

- Ancient Palestine
- International border
- Disputed international border
- Golan Heights ceasefire line 1974

0 50 km 50 miles



Jordan—over 95% Sunni Muslim





**Israel in the midst of the *Arab* Nations
of the Middle East and Africa**



Israel surrounded by countries with Muslim majorities

The image features a large, glowing Earth in the center, showing the Americas. The Earth is surrounded by a fiery, orange-red glow at the bottom, with numerous small, floating numbers (0-9) scattered around it, suggesting a digital or data-driven theme. The background is dark, making the Earth and the fiery elements stand out.

**What's Coming on God's Agenda?
And will Islam play a role?**

This is where we are right now!
We are living in the Church Age
and Christ is building His
promised Church throughout
the world.

Christ's
Resurrection
& Ascension

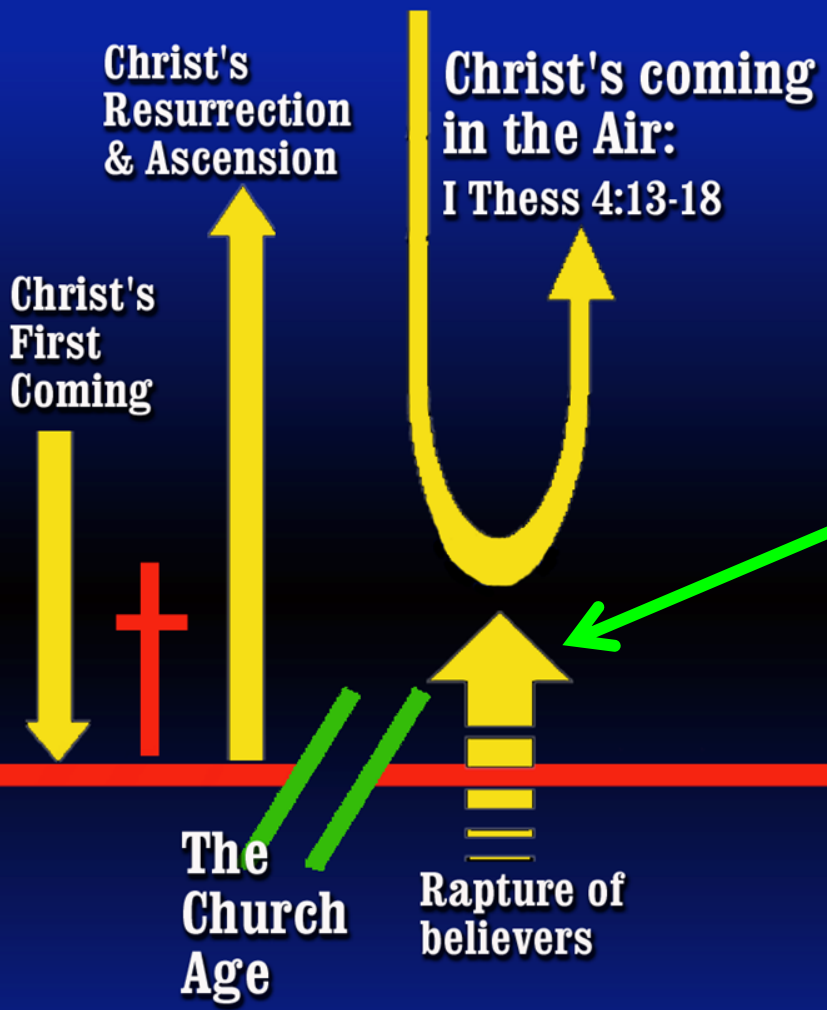


Christ's
First
Coming



The
Church
Age





The *next* great event on God's agenda is the rapture of His Church to Heaven



THE RAPTURE

Major Biblical passages:

- » **John 14:1-3**
- » **1 Thessalonians 4:13-17**
- » **1 Corinthians 15:51-58**



John 14:1-3

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.





1 Thessalonians 4:13-17



Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.



1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

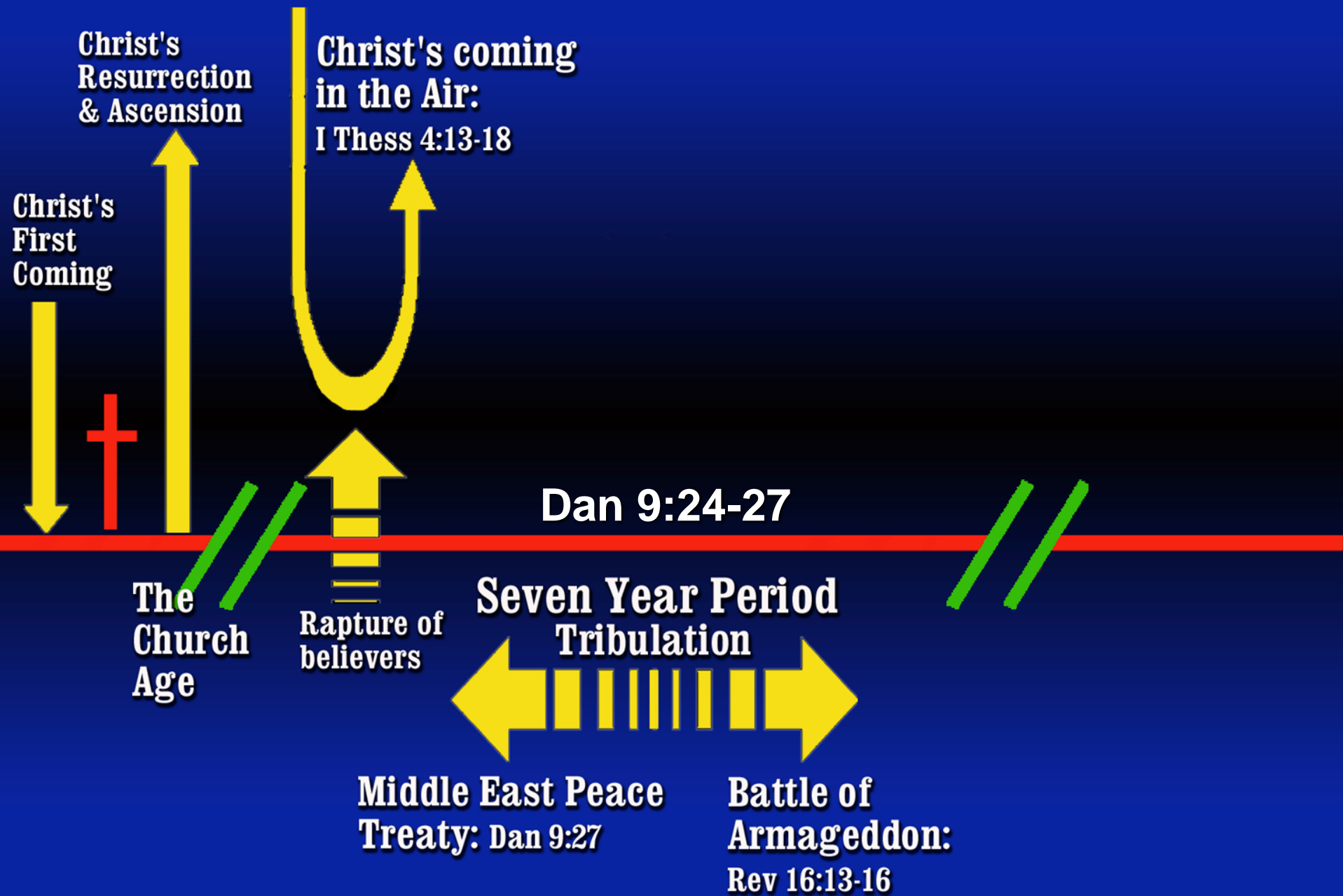
We tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.



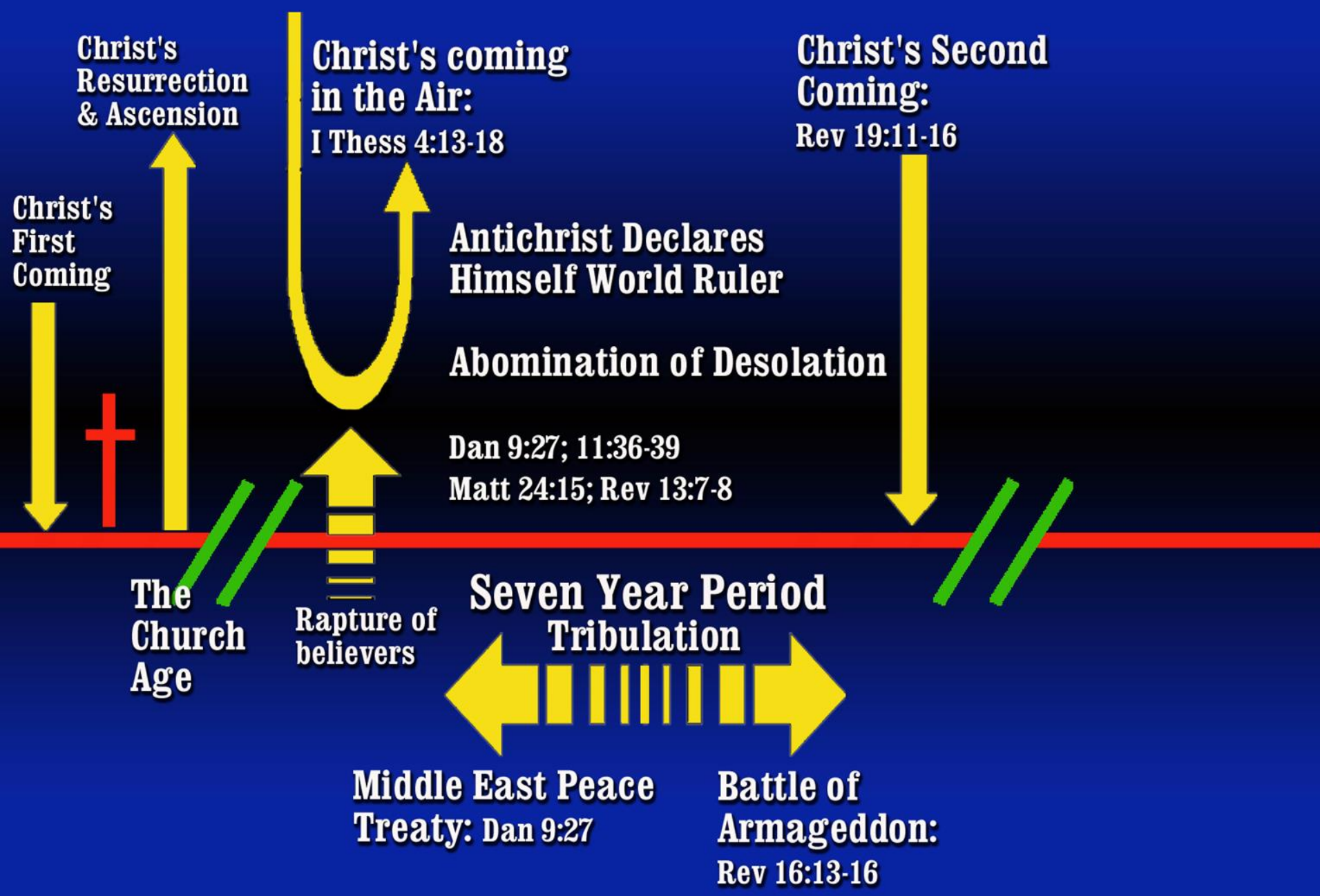
1 Corinthians 15:51-52

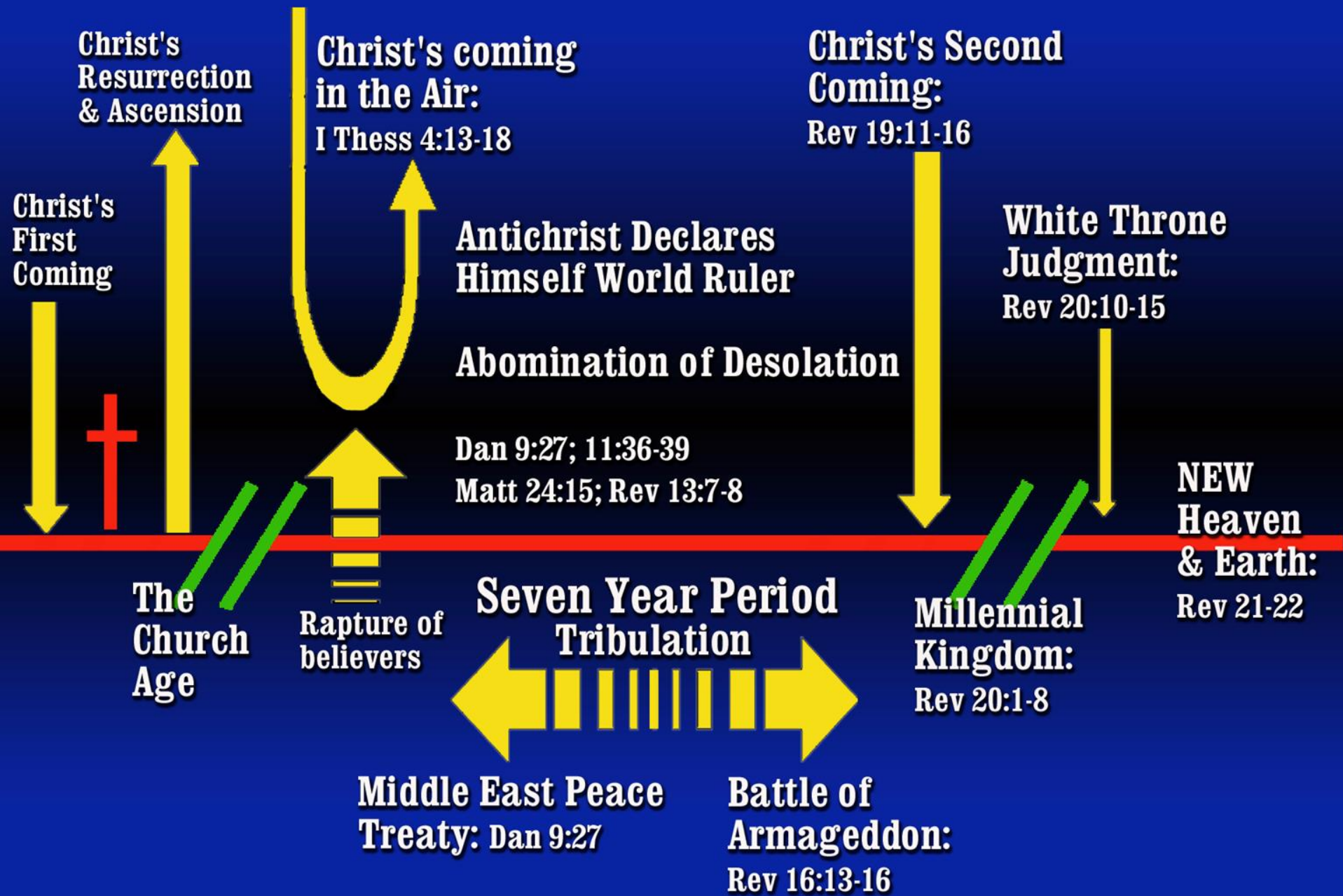


Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed. In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. . . .











Christ's Resurrection & Ascension

Christ's First Coming

Christ's coming in the Air:
I Thess 4:13-18

Antichrist Declares Himself World Ruler

Abomination of Desolation

Dan 9:27; 11:36-39
Matt 24:15; Rev 13:7-8

The Church Age

Rapture of believers

Seven Year Period Tribulation

Middle East Peace Treaty: Dan 9:27

Battle of Armageddon: Rev 16:13-16

Events of the Tribulation

- **Daniel's Seventieth Week (Dan 9:24-27)**
 - a peace treaty will establish this 7 year period but peace will be broken after 3 1/2 years
 - it fulfills God's "calendar" for the nation of Israel



Daniel 9:26-27

- 26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.
- 27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

Daniel 9:26-27

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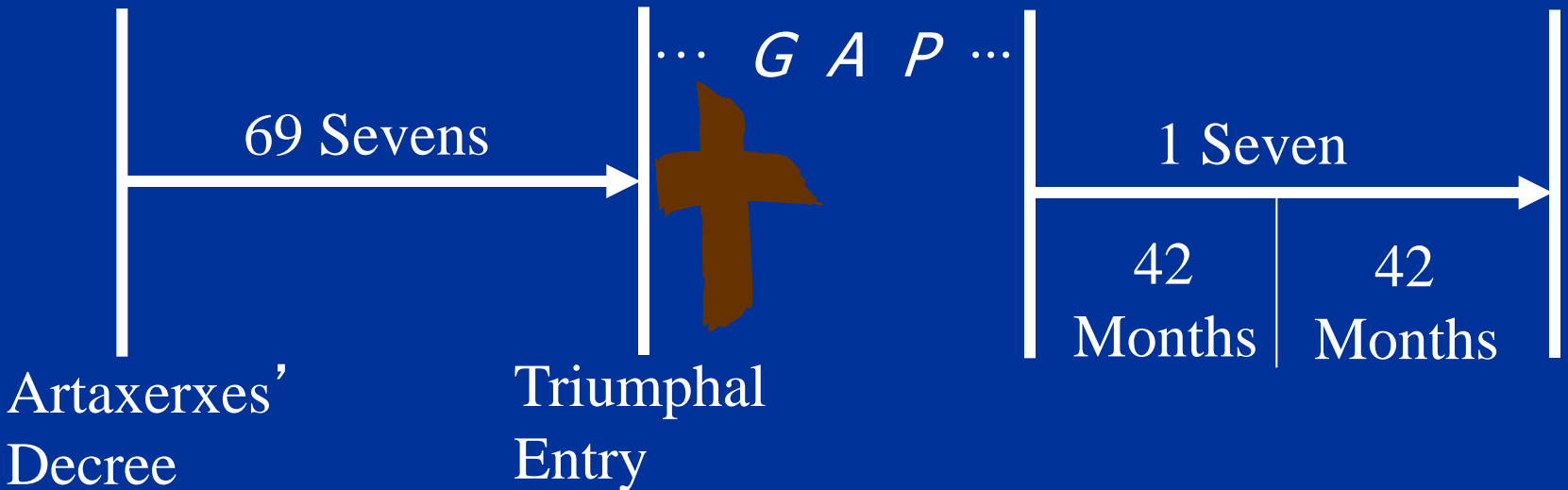
Daniel's 70 Sevens

The Decree
to Restore

Messiah
the Prince

The Coming
Ruler Antichrist

Messiah
Returns



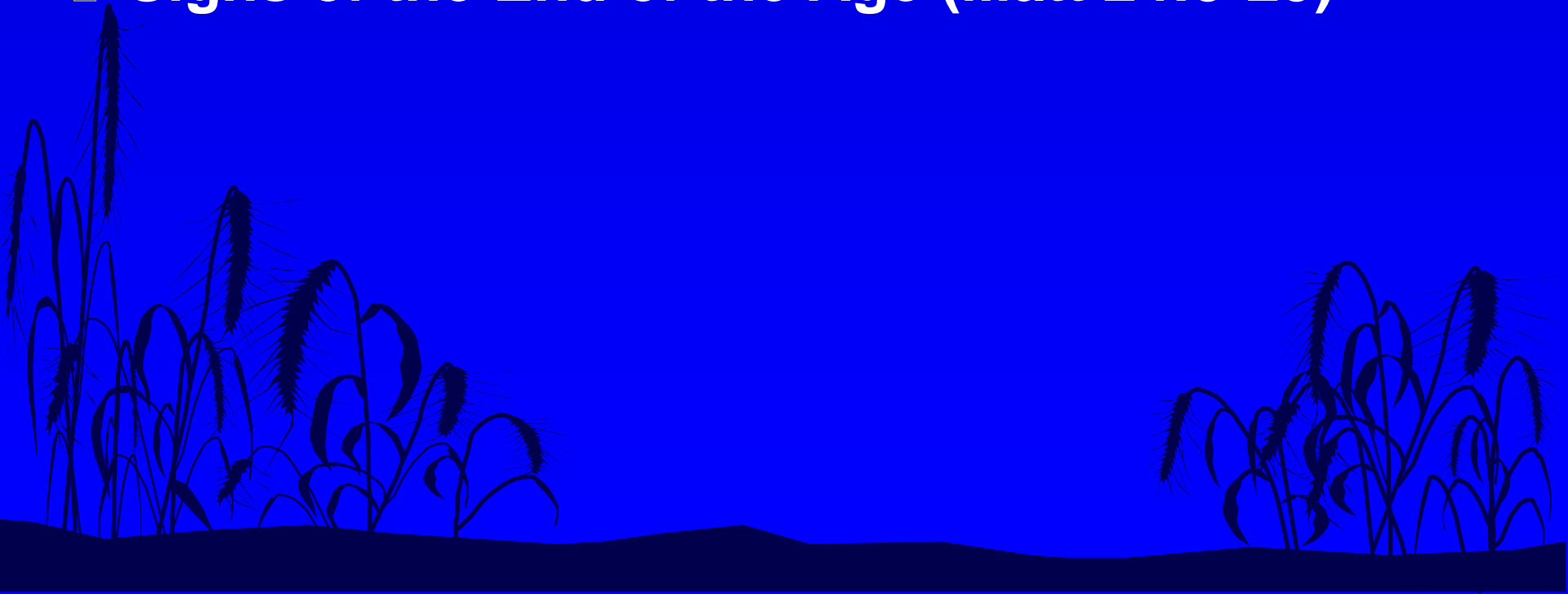
Events of the Tribulation

□ **Daniel's Seventieth Week (Dan 9:24-27)**

-a peace treaty will establish this 7 year period but peace will be broken after 3 1/2 years

-it fulfills God's "calendar" for the nation of Israel

□ **Signs of the End of the Age (Matt 24:3-25)**



Matthew 24:3-8

As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.

Present Signs of the Coming Tribulation

- **general conditions (Matt 24:3-25)**
 - false christs (24:5)
 - wars and rumors of wars (24:6)
 - famines (24:7)
 - pestilences (24:7)
 - earthquakes (24:7)
 - martyrs (24:11)
 - false prophets (24:11)
 - abounding iniquity and cooling love (24:11)

Present Signs of the Coming Tribulation

- **nation of Israel** (land [1900' s], nation [1948], temple [?])
- **revival of the Roman Empire** (Dan 2; 7) [not geographically but politically]
- **Population of the nations of the east** (Rev 9:11)
- **Power of the kings of the north and south** (Ezek 38–39)

Events of the Tribulation

- **Daniel's Seventieth Week (Dan 9:24-27)**

 - a peace treaty will establish this 7 year period but peace will be broken after 3 1/2 years

 - it fulfills God's "calendar" for the nation of Israel

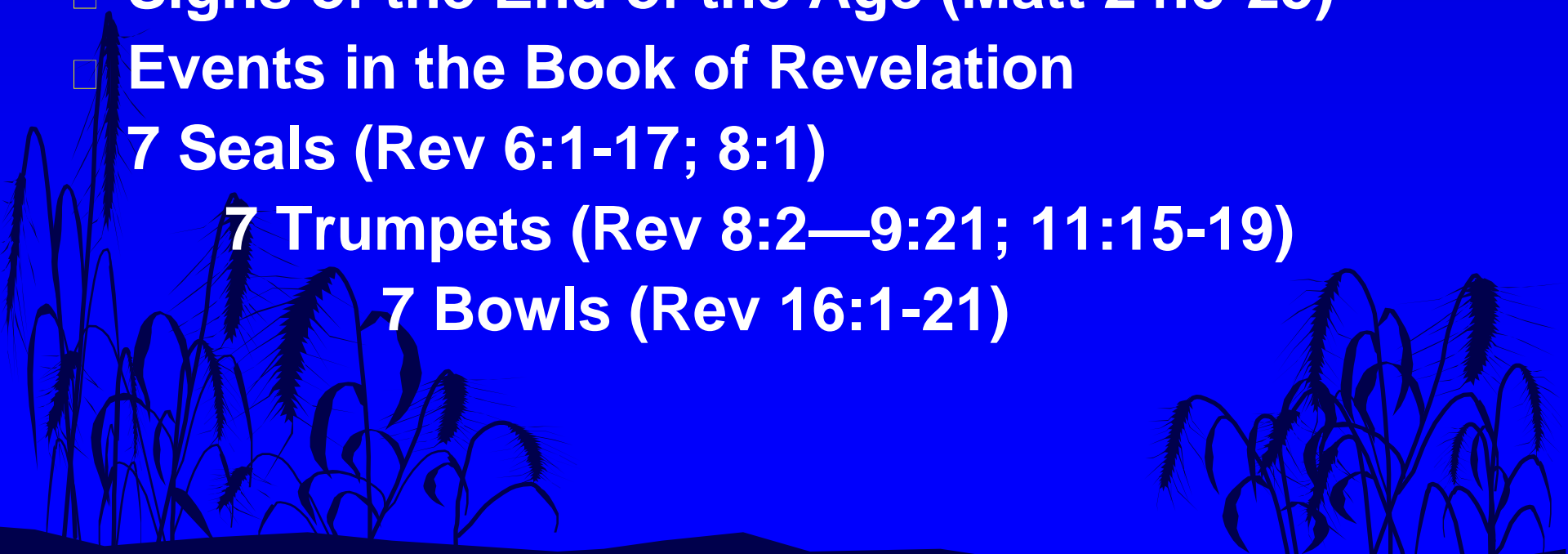
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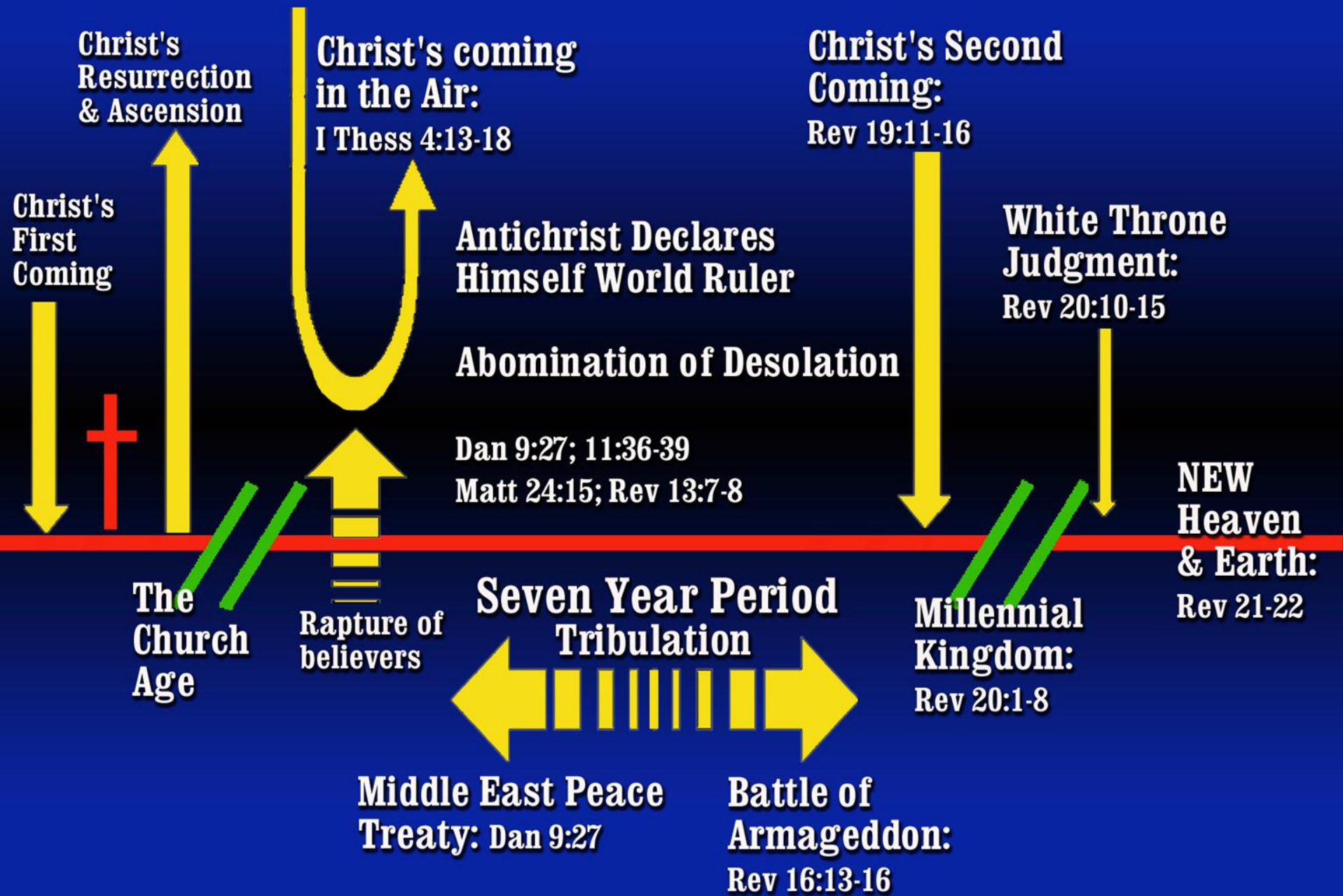
- **Events in the Book of Revelation**

 - 7 Seals (Rev 6:1-17; 8:1)**

 - 7 Trumpets (Rev 8:2—9:21; 11:15-19)**

 - 7 Bowls (Rev 16:1-21)**





Where might Islam fit into God's Agenda?

4 Possibilities:

- #1 Could Islam/Muslims create the conditions the church will experience just before Christ returns for His Church?
- #2 Could Islam be the World-wide religion in the Tribulation that the Antichrist uses before He demands to be worshiped?
- #3 Could the Antichrist be a Muslim leader?
- #4 Could one of the armies from the North or South in Ezekiel 38-39 be a Muslim army?

Arabs, Islam and the Bible

- There is specific material about the Arabs in Bible prophecy, but the Bible is silent about Islam. This may seem to be a strange statement to some because many people identify the Arabs with Islam.

Arabs and the Bible

- The Arabs in Prophecy
- Concerning the Arabs, the Bible tells us that they will come against Israel in the end times and try to take its land. God will respond by rendering the Arab lands desolate (Ezekiel 35:6-7, 15).
- But the future for the Arabs is not all bleak. Like the Jews, a remnant of the Arabs will emerge from the Tribulation with their hearts turned to the one and only true God, Yahweh (Jeremiah 12:14-17).

Arabs and the Bible

- The most remarkable prophecy concerning the future salvation of an Arab remnant is contained in Isaiah 19:16-25. Isaiah says that when the Lord strikes Egypt and Assyria, they will turn to Him and He will have compassion on them and "heal them." Isaiah then presents an incredible picture of Egypt, Assyria, and Israel living together in peace, worshiping the same God!

Arabs and Islam

- It is true that most Arabs are Muslims, but not all. There are, for example, Christian Arabs. But the *Arab world* (approximately 300 million people) constitutes a *minority* of the 1.4 billion people in the Muslim world.
- The largest Muslim country in the world is Indonesia (242 million). Other large non-Arab Muslim countries include Pakistan (162 million) and Bangladesh (144 million).
- Countries in the Middle East that are Muslim but not Arab include Turkey (70 million) and Iran (68 million).

Where might Islam fit into God's Agenda?

#1 Could Islam/Muslims create the conditions the church will experience just before Christ returns for His Church?

-the conditions of the "last days" (not of the Tribulation) are described in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 12-13; Matthew 24:3-8; Luke 21:11

2 Timothy 3:1-5, 12-13

#1 Could Islam/Muslims create the conditions the church will experience just before Christ returns for His Church?

“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.”

2 Timothy 3:1-5, 12-13

#1 Could Islam/Muslims create the conditions the church will experience just before Christ returns for His Church?

“Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

Matthew 24:3-8

#1 Could Islam/Muslims create the conditions the church will experience just before Christ returns for His Church?

“As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

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Luke 21:11

#1 Could Islam/Muslims create the conditions the church will experience just before Christ returns for His Church?

“and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.”



Where might Islam fit into God's Agenda?

#2 Could Islam be the World-wide religion in the Tribulation that the Antichrist uses before He demands to be worshiped?

Islam or Catholicism?

Traditionally has been asserted that the Bible teaches that the initial religion that the Antichrist will use is Catholicism. This is based on the teaching of Revelation 17 where the religion of the end times is represented by a whore who is "drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus" (Rev 17:6). She is pictured as being seated on "seven mountains" (Rev 17:9). This is imagery which, in the apostle John's time, many believe could only be referring to Rome.

The Bible further indicates that at some point in the Tribulation, possibly at its mid-point, the Antichrist will turn against the religious system he has used and destroy it, probably because it becomes a threat to his absolute power (Rev 17:16). He and his False Prophet will then create a new religion that will mandate the worship of the Antichrist as god on earth (Revelation 13:11-17).

Where might Islam fit into God's Agenda?

- #2 Could Islam be the World-wide religion in the Tribulation that the Antichrist uses before He demands to be worshiped?
- some Muslims (esp Shiite) believe in a “Mahdi” (Muslim Messiah) – that is, a future political, military and religious leader that will emerge soon – this “sets them up for the Antichrist”
 - they believe that Muslim Jesus will come back to support the Mahdi – this “sets them up for the false prophet who will support the Antichrist”

Where might Islam fit into God's Agenda?

#2 Could Islam be the World-wide religion in the Tribulation that the Antichrist uses before He demands to be worshiped?

- Muslims believe this Mahdi and Muslim Jesus will have a powerful army that will attempt to control the world and murder those who will not submit to Islam
- Muslims believe their Mahdi will establish a new world order, institute laws for the whole earth, change to Friday and eliminate the Gregorian calendar, etc

Where might Islam fit into God's Agenda?

#2 Could Islam be the World-wide religion in the Tribulation that the Antichrist uses before He demands to be worshiped?

-When the Antichrist emerges, a system will already exist poised to receive him as a savior and to give allegiance to him.

Islam is already the second largest religion and combined with Christianity constitutes over half of the world's population. The Catholic church (and many Christian churches) believe that the Muslims will be saved just like Christians will be, and believe that they worship the same God as Christianity. It's a very short step to convert to Islam if that is believed to be the truth.

When is the end of the world?

www.khilafatworld.com



"People ask you about (the exact time and date of) the hour (of Judgment).
Say, "In fact, the knowledge about that is with Allah (alone). You do not realize!
That hour might just have drawn very close!"

[Quran 33:63]

Where might Islam fit into God's Agenda?

#3 Could the Antichrist be a Muslim leader?

Dan 9:26 speaks of “the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.” Since it was the Romans who destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD it appears that the Antichrist must be Roman, or at least from the countries or ethnicity that made up the Roman empire.

But . . .

Where might Islam fit into God's Agenda?

#3 Could the Antichrist be a Muslim leader?

- From the Bible and history we learn that the final Antichrist empire will be a revived version of the empire that succeeds the Roman Empire (the iron mingled with clay of Daniel 2).
- The empire that succeeded the Roman Empire was the assimilated Holy Roman Empire under the leadership of the Islamic Empire
- could there be a mingling of the Roman Catholic church into Islam (led by the false prophet) and a leader emerge (the Antichrist) that would be acceptable to both?

Where might Islam fit into God's Agenda?

#3 Could the Antichrist be a Muslim leader?

-it is interesting that the Antichrist rules for a time from Babylon, in the center of Iraq today (Rev 17–18) Babylon in Scripture is both the location of the world-wide religion (Rev 17) and the world-wide economic center (Rev 18).

Revelation 13:1-5

A “one world” Political ruler

“... I saw a beast coming out of the sea... ...The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?” The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.”

Revelation 13:8

A “one world” spiritual ruler

“All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast — all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.”



Where might Islam fit into God's Agenda?

#4 Could one of the armies from the North or South in Ezekiel be a Muslim army?

The Armies of Ezekiel 38–39

With regard to Islam in general, the only prophecy about it in the Scriptures seems to do with the end time invasion of Israel that will be led by “Russia” (Ezekiel 38 and 39). The Bible states that Russia will be accompanied by certain specified allies (Ezekiel 38:1-6). The allies include Persia (modern day Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan), Ethiopia, Put (Libya), Gomer (Western Turkey), and Beth-togarmah (Eastern Turkey). As you can see, all of these are countries with a Muslim majority.

Ezekiel 39 reveals that these forces will be destroyed supernaturally by God upon the hills of Israel (Ezekiel 38:18-23 and 39:3-6). Even the Jewish people will realize that the forces were destroyed by God (Ezekiel 38:23 and 39:7).



End of The World

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