

Understanding Today in Light of Biblical Prophecy

REMEMBER

1. Don't check your brain at the door
2. Allow literal understanding to be your guide
 - Daniel has proven that
3. Use common sense
 - numbers
 - after these things - sequences
4. Don't make it difficult/complicated
 - simple men writing to simple men
 - help understand their Creator
 - God's desire is for you to know Him
 - Not confused
 - Not feel like you'll never understand any of this
 - Satan is all about confusion, deception, frustration, chaos
 - God is a God of order and peace
5. Relax and allow God to speak



Daniel 9 Is Pivotal

- gives a picture of history
 - begins with the issuing of a decree
 - Goes until God takes control out of Satan's hands and establishes His everlasting kingdom
- gives us vision of 70 weeks
- There is 1 week - 7 years that are still out there
- Gap of time between 70 AD and the 70th week
- Daniel is told to seal up the book until the end time (12:4, 9)
 - A different age - Law
 - God was dealing with His people Israel
 - John is going to write from the age of grace
 - God is dealing with the church
 - BUT God isn't done with Israel YET

Dispensationalist = Literal interpretation of the Bible, Israel and the church are separate identities

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Before Leaving Daniel

Would you agree

- Daniel gave incredible prophecy
- Minutest detail
- Statue has been fulfilled to feet and toes (2)
- Beasts have been fulfilled to horn (7)
- 70 weeks have been fulfilled to the 70th week (9)
- Kings have been fulfilled to the last king (11)

If that happened then this will happen too

- Feet and toes, little horn, 70th week, last king
- Every detail will be fulfilled exactly - literally

Revelation Overview

Revelation 1 - Purpose & Structure of Book (19)

Write . . .

1. Things which you have seen
2. Things which are
3. Things that will take place after these things



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Things You Have Seen

God - eternal - past (who was), present (who is), and future (who is to come)

Holy Spirit - 7 (completeness or fullness of HS)

- 7-fold ministry (Is 11:2)
- Lampstand with 7 lamps (Zech 4:1-10)

Jesus - faithful witness, firstborn of dead, ruler of kings, loved us and released us from sins by His blood (12-16, 20)

Things Which Are - Chapter 2 - 3

7 literal churches = golden lamp stands = 7 churches throughout Asia

Letters to the churches

- Description
- Commendation (none to Sardis/Laodicea)
- Reproof (none to Smyrna/Philadelphia)
- Instruction
- Reward

Word church used 18 times in chapt 1-3

- Not used again until 22
- Church seen again
 - 19:7-10 - marriage of the Lamb (church is the bride of Christ)
 - 19:11-16 - coming of Christ



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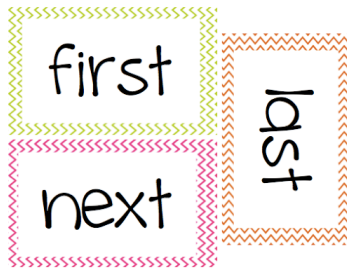
Church	Meaning	Church Period	Dates
Ephesus	Desirable One	Apostolic (grew legalistic)	30-95 AD
Smyrna	Myrrh/Death/ Suffering	Persecuted (by Rome)	95-312 AD
Pergamum	Marriage (to the World)	State church (integrated pagan practices)	312-590 AD
Thyatira	Perpetual Sacrifice	Medieval (papacy/occultic/ corrupt)	590-1517 AD
Sardis	Remnant	Denominational (post Reformation)	1517-1750 AD
Philadelphia	Brotherly Love	Evangelistic missionary church	1750-1925 AD
Laodicea	People Rule/Laity Rule	Apostate/postmodern	1925-today

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Things Which Will Take Place After These Things

Key phrase in Revelation (used 9 times)

- 4:1 (twice)
- 7:1, 9
- 9:12
- 15:5
- 18:1
- 19:1
- 20:3



Chapter 4 - Big Transition

After these things (4:1)

- John wrote about what he had seen (chapter 1)
- He wrote about the things which are at the time of writing - 7 churches (chapter 2 & 3)
- This begins the third part of the book - what takes place after these things
- After what things?
 - Let common sense rule!
 - Churches



John was called up to heaven - the throne room

- 24 elders on 24 thrones (4)
 - White garments with crowns
 - Rev 3:4,5; 6:11; 7:9-14; 19:8, 14 - righteous acts of saints
 - Earn crowns that we can cast at His feet
 - Represent the redeemed?
 - Not Israel - she hasn't repented
 - The church?

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- 12 patriarchs (tribes) and 12 apostles - Jew and Gentile - the mystery, the church? (Eph 2:13-22)
- Priests were in 24 orders - the church is called priests
- Seems to keep going back to the church

Consider Revelation 4:5

7 lamps of burning fire before the throne (5)

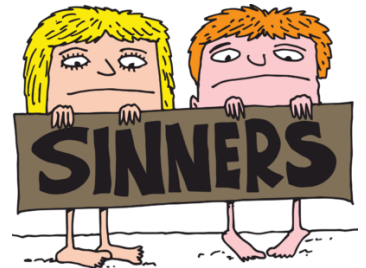
- Church was called lamp stands
- The Spirit indwells the church
- Could it represent the church?
- The Spirit filled believers that are praising God
- If the church (and John) are before the throne in heaven, how did they get there?



Revelation 5

Back to the beginning - Genesis

- God created the world
- God created man
- Gave man dominion over earth
- Man lost dominion to Satan when he chose to listen to Satan rather than God
- Man was put under the curse of sin but so was the world (Ro 8:22)



Creation - Fall - Redemption

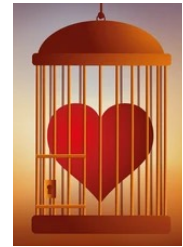
- Genesis 1-2 - tells of Creation
- Gen 3 - tells of the fall
- Gen 4 - Rev 22 - tells of the redemptive plan
- After man's sin - earth fell under rule of Satan
- Prince of power of air (Eph 2:2)
- God of this age (II Cor 4:4)
- Jesus' temptation - Satan offers Him the kingdoms of earth - he had legitimate right to make that offer



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How Much Power Does Satan Have?

- On a leash
 - Length determined by a sovereign God
 - He allows evil to exist for a time and a purpose
- Allowance of evil - linked to free will
 - Free will is necessary to demonstrate love
 - People need to choose whom they will love/serve
 - Love can only be demonstrated by permitting free will
 - Forced love is no love



What Happened to Satan?

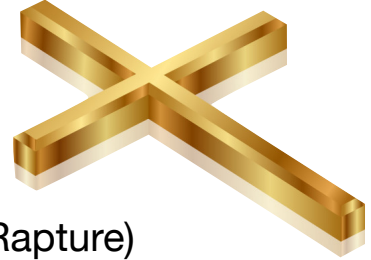
- He and all angels given free will
 - He chose to rebel
 - 1/3 angels went with him
 - kicked out of heaven
- Satan still has access to heaven's council (Job 1, 2)
 - he is no longer citizen of heaven
 - Accusing brethren before God day and night (Rev 12:10)
- In middle of tribulation he will be cast down to Earth
- Bound 1,000 years and then released - stirring all he can against God (giving those people a chance to exercise free will)
- Thrown into the Lake of Fire



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Redemption Plan for Believers

- Spiritual Redemption
 - Sin's penalty - death - has no power over us
 - secured at cross
- Physical redemption
 - Sin's consequences - has no power over us
 - Secured when we are in heaven with Jesus (Rapture)
- Earth's redemption
 - Restored to original state
 - Secured when God makes a new Heaven, Earth after millennial kingdom



How Will God Redeem the Earth?

- It must first be reclaimed
 - God gave it to man
 - Man became slave to Satan and gave up the title of the earth to him
 - Title needs to be put back in Jesus' hands so He can have the dominion
- Let's go back to throne room in Revelation 5
- John is weeping
 - God has Book (scroll) sealed up with 7 seals
 - It is earth's title
 - Jesus already redeemed us spiritually and physically
 - Earth still needs to be redeemed
 - No one found worthy to claim the title
- Elder comes to John
 - Lion of tribe of Judah
 - Root of David
 - He has overcome so as to open the book

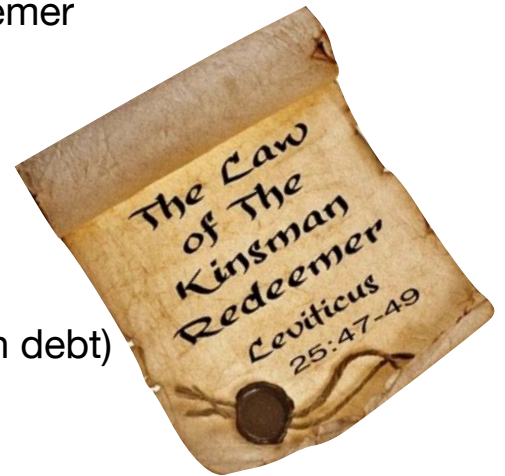


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- Why was John crying
 - If no one was worthy to redeem the earth it would still be under Satan's power - still under curse
 - Satan would win
 - God could not finish redemptive work (which would include the redemption of Israel)
 - Prophecies wouldn't be fulfilled
- God the Father - depicted as Judge in this courtroom
 - Satan is current ruler of earth (wants to keep title)
 - Jesus is shown to be qualified kinsman-redeemer

Kinsman-Redeemer

- Jewish system
 - Relative could
 - Marry a widow
 - Free a relative who is a debt-slave
 - Buy back land lost in a debt (earth to the sin debt)
 - Kinsman-redeemer
 - Close relative from same tribe
 - Have means to pay debt owed
 - Be willing to pay off debt
 - Kinsman-redeemer was linked to land ownership
- When someone turned over land to pay off debt
 - Written on scroll by judge
 - Rolled up and sealed
 - Property was transferred to creditor
 - Contract remained with judge until debt could be paid by kinsman-redeemer
- Mankind fell into sin (debt)
 - Earth deeded over to Satan (temporarily)
- Jesus paid the debt - we are no longer slaves
 - He paid with His death and resurrection
 - He will come and claim His bride - take her away
 - He will take the deed from the Judge and reclaim the earth
- Satan won't turn it over without a fight



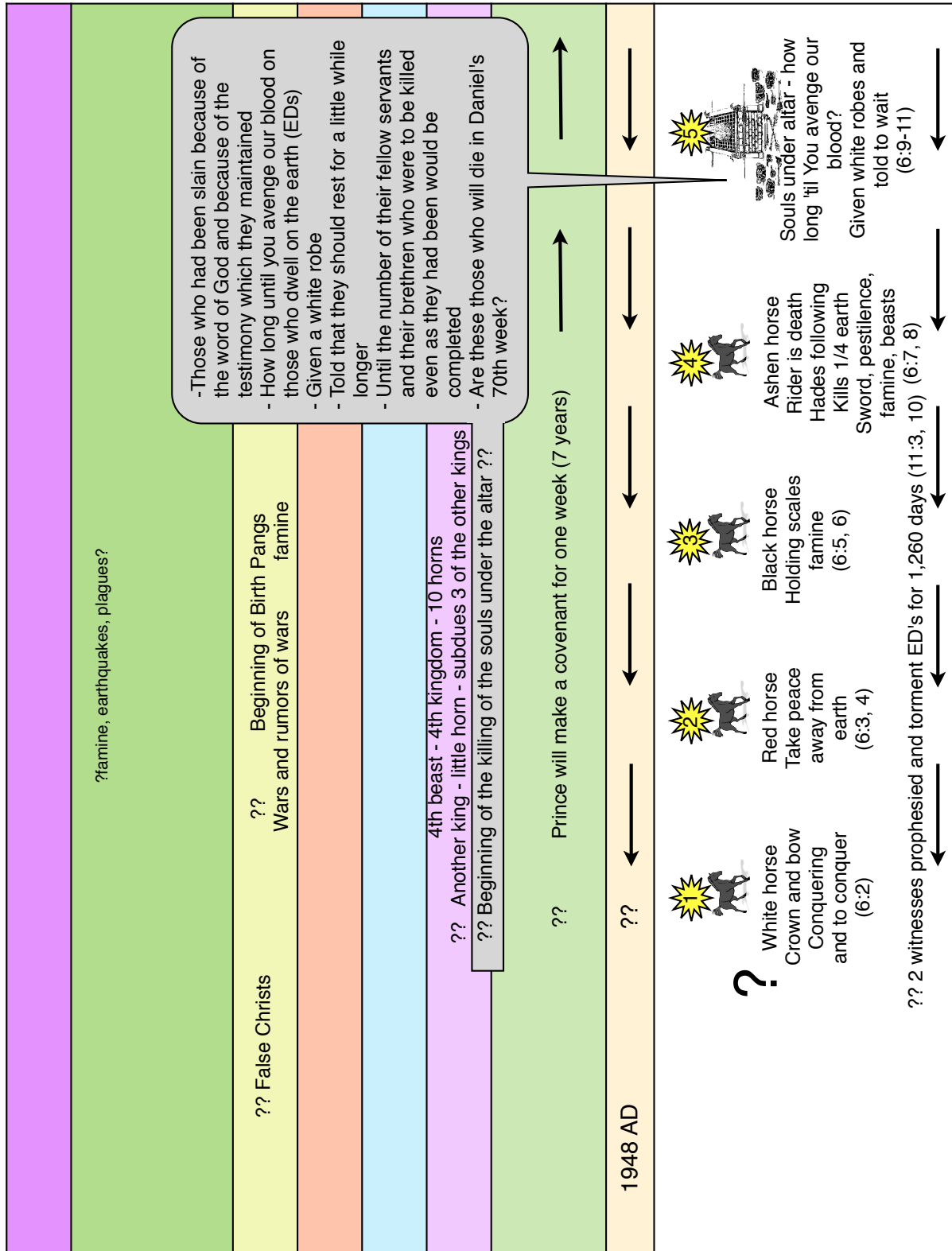
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- Revelation 6-19 records the fight
- We already know who wins the fight
 - The battle is about to ensue
 - Its purpose will be 2-fold (Israel and rightful deed to the earth)
 - Israel needs to know that He is God
 - Satan has gone after God's people and kept them blinded
 - God will take back His city called by His name and His people from Satan's grasp
 - Satan will be shown to be the pitiful, weak opponent he always was
 - Jesus will rule in His rightful place

Would a loving Jewish husband put His wife in the middle of this?
Just a thought

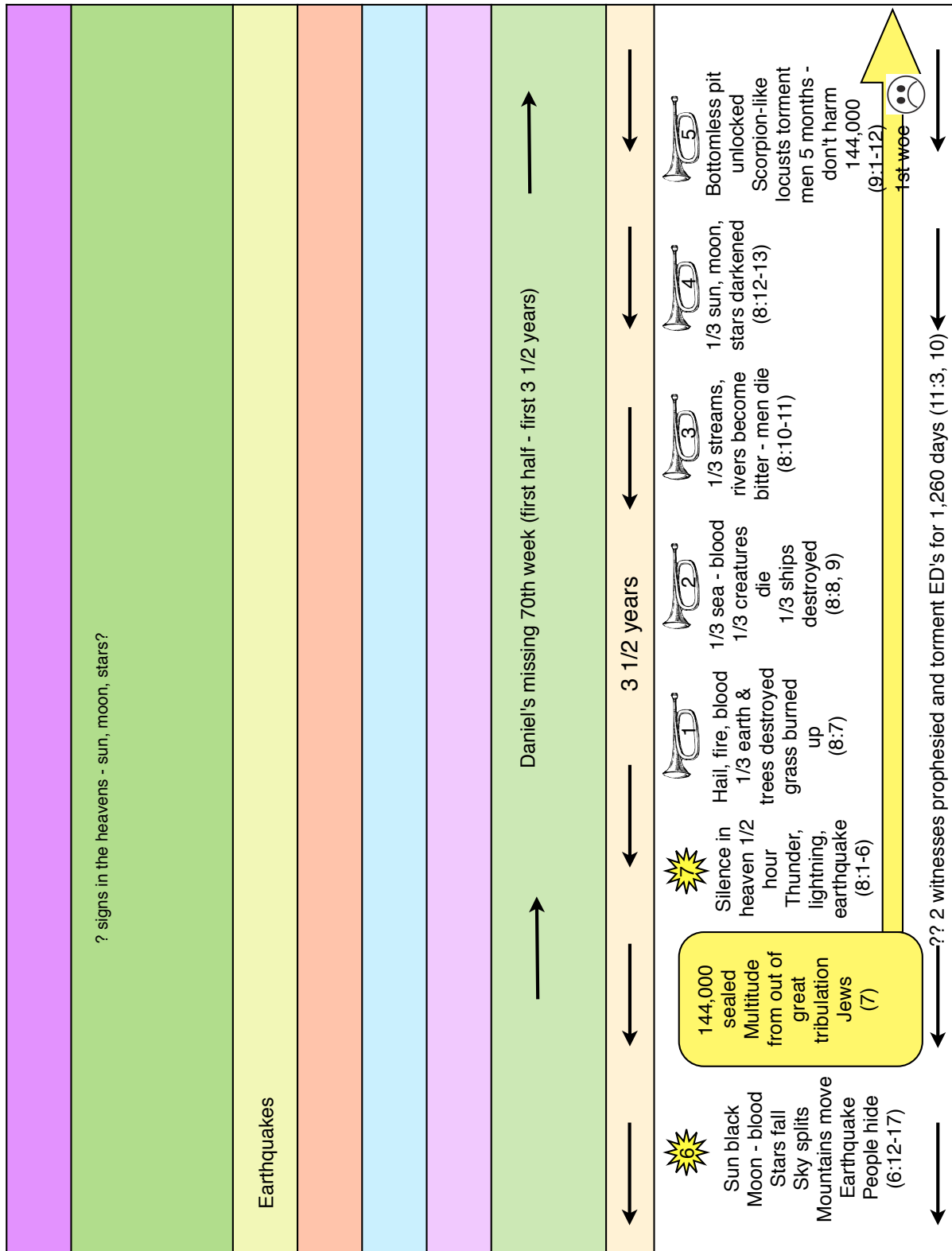
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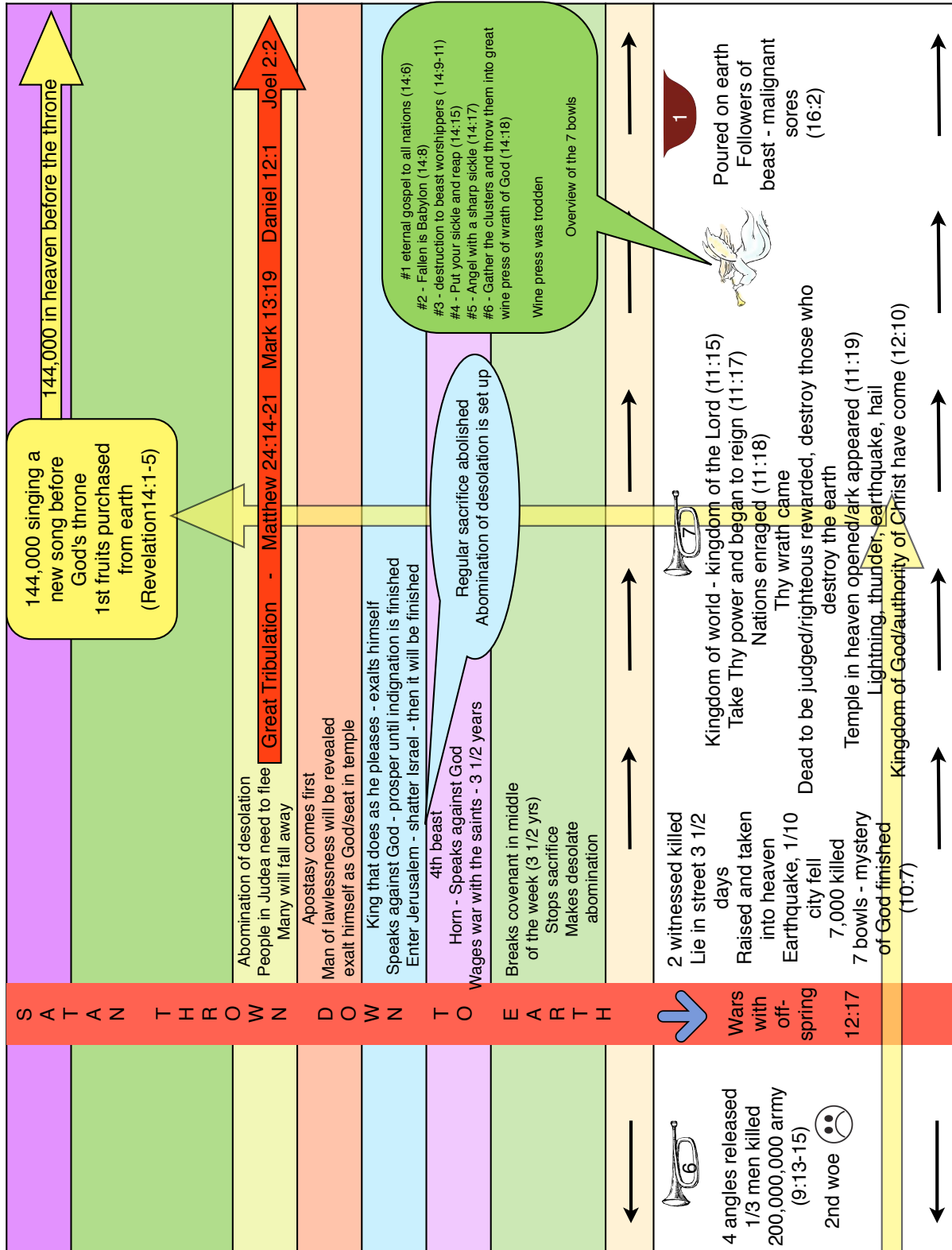
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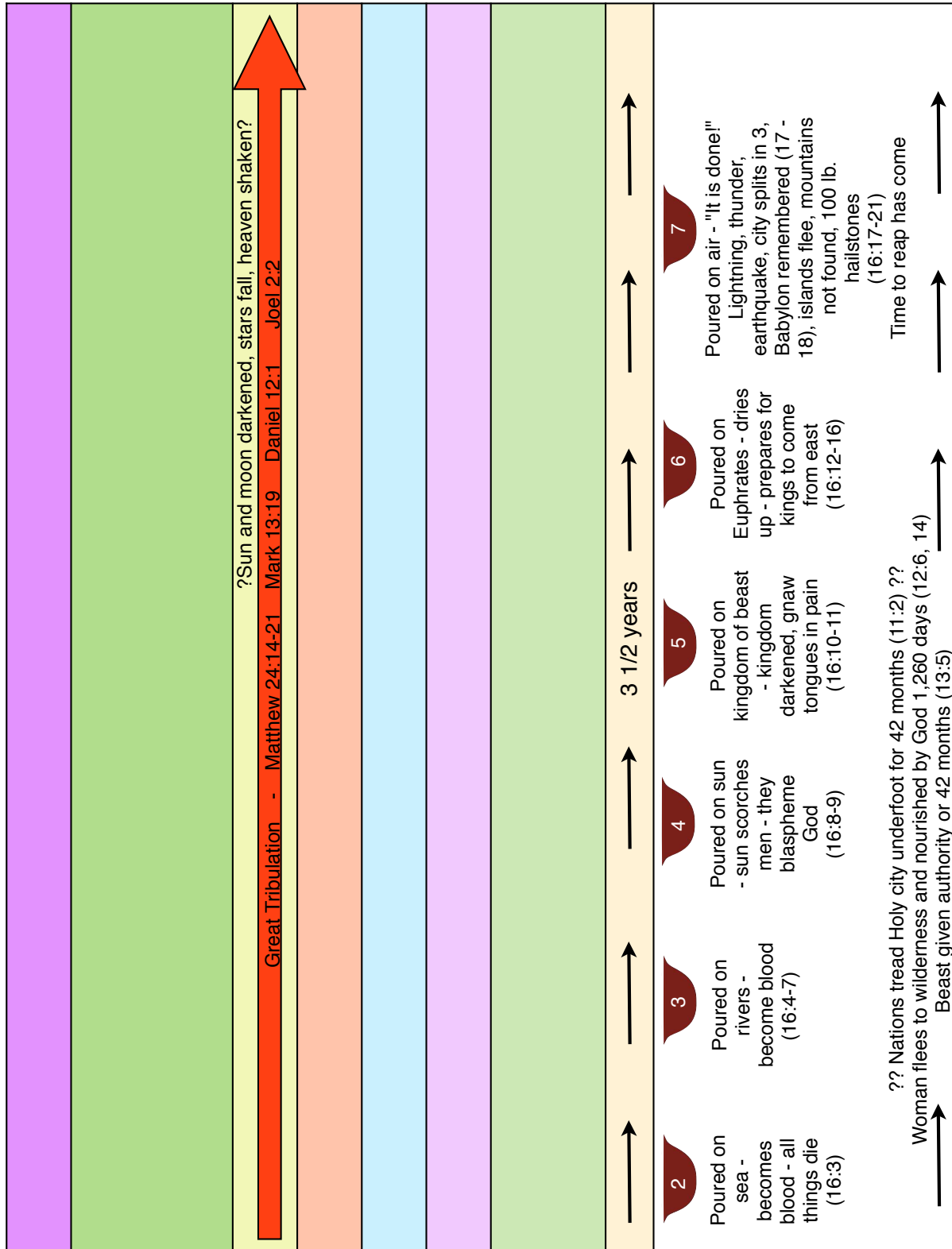
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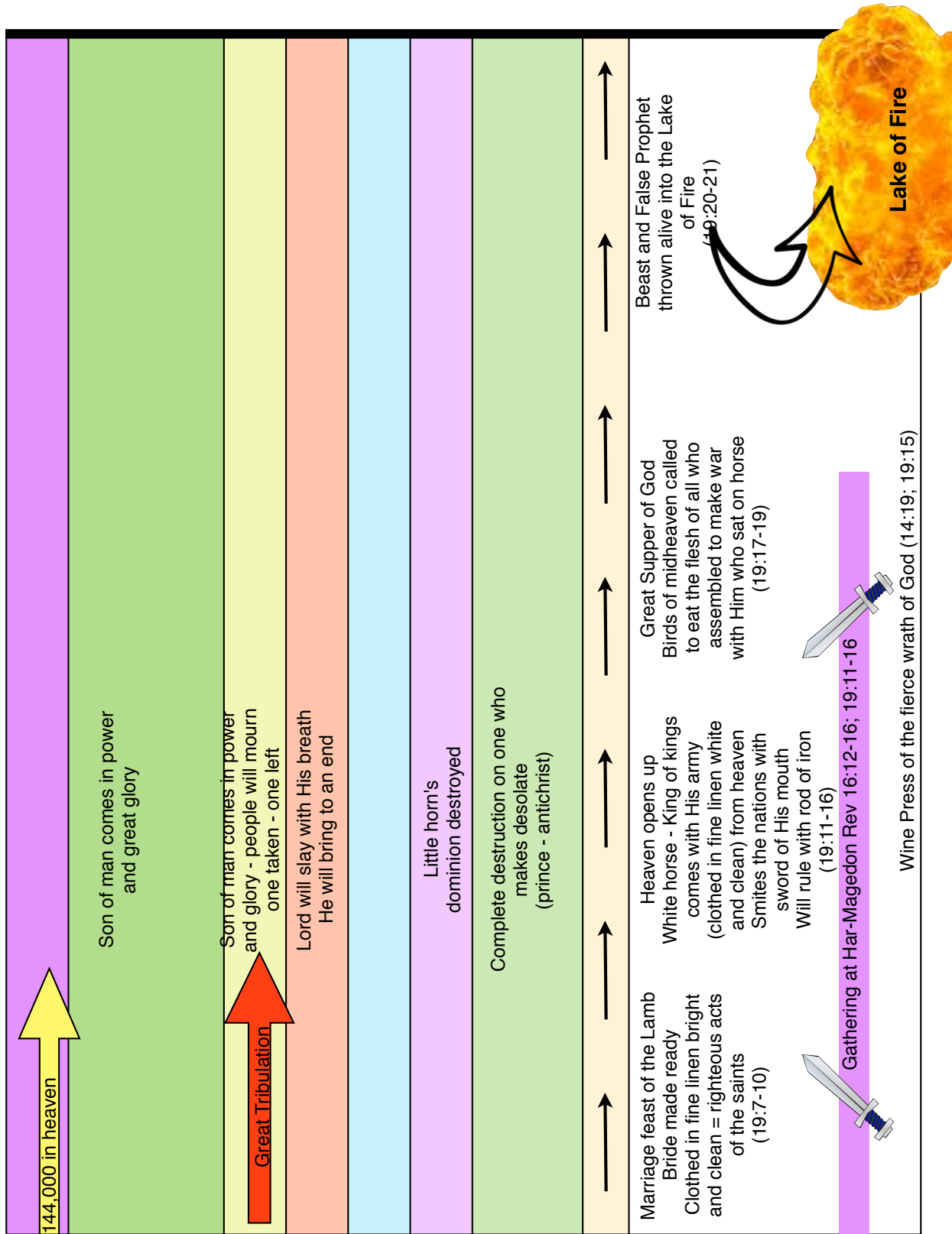
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