ALPHA A OMEGA

PART III: THE FINAL WORD

ALPHA & OMEGA

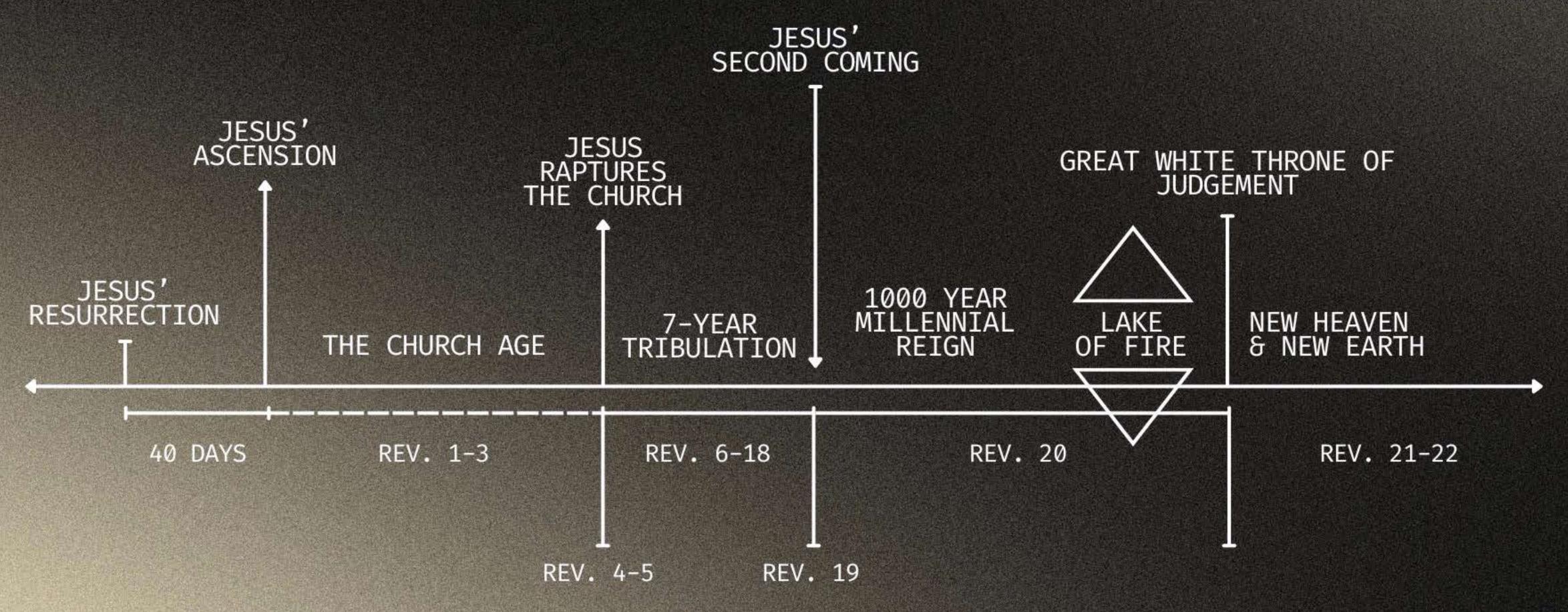
SERMON RESOURCES

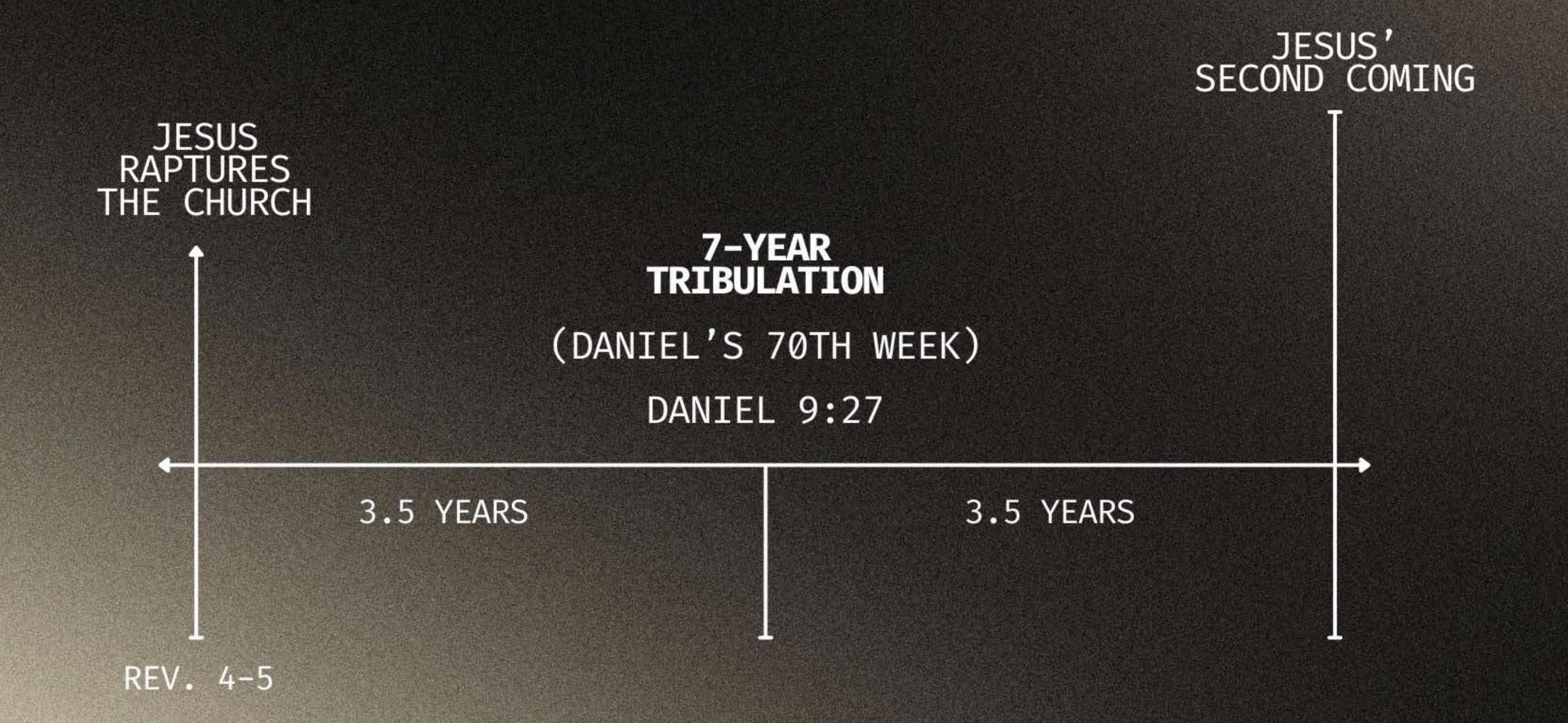


OR GO TO WWW.STONE.CHURCH/ALPHA-OMEGARESOURCES

ENDER MENTS

TIMELINE





The 7 Churches of Revelation:

- 1. Ephesus: A church that lost its first love.
- 2. Smyrna: A persecuted church facing trials.
- 3. Pergamos: A church compromising with worldly influences.
- 4. Thyatira: A church known for its love and good works, but also for tolerating false teachings.
- 5. Sardis: A church with a reputation for being alive but actually dead.
- 6. Philadelphia: A faithful church with opportunities for growth.
- 7. Laodicea: A lukewarm church that needs to repent.

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look!
God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he
will dwell with them. They will be his people,

and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega,

the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

This is the second death."

REVELATION 21:1-8

"Christians often talk about living with God in heaven forever. . . But in fact the biblical teaching is richer than that: it tells us that there will be new heavens and a new earth, an entirely renewed creation, and we will live with God there."

WAYNE GRUDEM

1. Remember that this world is not our home

2. Maintain Biblical priorities and perspectives

When a Christian dies, they are present with Jesus... joyful and happy...awaiting Christ's return to earth, our bodily resurrection, and the creation of the New Heavens, New Earth, and New Jerusalem.

Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west.

The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Descriptions of the "New Jerusalem":

- It is made of pure gold and filled with jasper, sapphire, ruby, and more.
- It is huge.
- It will not have a temple in it.
- It will not need the sun or moon because the glory of God will give it its light.
- Everyone will have access to it.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city.

On each side of the river stood the tree of life,

bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.

And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city,

and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun,

for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

REVELATION 22:1-5

The "5 W's" (Ways We Should Live):

- 1. Walk
- 2. Worship
- 3. Witness
- 4. Work
- 5. Wash

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died,

and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.