

## Looking for Christ's Return – Part 2 Titus 2:13

### Introduction:

1. Have you ever looked forward to something with expectation? Have you ever had a loved one coming to visit you from out of town and you awaited his or her arrival with great expectation?
2. This is the idea of verse 13 when it says, "**Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing...**" (refer to chart)
  - Christ appeared on this earth for 33 years after which He died on the cross.
  - Christ rose from the dead and again was manifested to over 500 people in various appearances for 40 days.
  - Christ then ascended to heaven and was seated at the right hand of the Father.
  - He made one more appearance from heaven to a man we know as Paul. To Paul, Christ revealed the mystery, the dispensation of grace that we live in today.
3. When will Christ make His next appearance? God's Word tells us exactly what His next appearance will be, the catching away of the body of Christ (**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**). It is sometimes referred to as the rapture.
4. We are to be looking for this appearance with great anticipation and expectation. Why?

### First, it will end our present time of suffering.

1. In **Romans 8:18**, Paul describes this dispensation as "*...the sufferings of this present time.*" Why does he describe it this way?
2. During Christ's earthly ministry to Israel, He healed all manner of sickness. Why is this? This was part of the kingdom gospel that He taught, preached, and proclaimed at hand. **Matthew 4:23, 9:35**
  - Physical healing from sickness and disease was part of God's first covenant with Israel (**Exodus 15:26, 23:25; Deuteronomy 7:15**) and it is part of the promises that God made to them regarding the new covenant. **Isaiah 33:24; Ezekiel 34:16**
3. The dispensation of grace interrupted God's prophetic program with Israel. It's been postponed. This time of grace is like a parenthesis in the prophetic program. **Romans 8:22**
4. Every day God extends this time of grace is another day He must postpone the kingdom program (with its physical healing, curse removed, wars gone, etc.)
  - If Christ tarries another 50 years, most of us in here are going to get aches and pains and get sick and die (even Benny Hinn). This is the reality of this present time of suffering.
  - It isn't that God doesn't love us, but this is simply how God is working today.
5. But there is a healing program for the body of Christ - it's called the day of redemption. Our corruptible bodies will be redeemed and we will be given glorified bodies like Christ's. **Romans 8:23; Philippians 3:21** (no more baldness, bifocals, bridge-work, bulges, bunions)
6. Now do you see why it is called our blessed hope and glorious appearing?

**Second, it will usher in for us the hope of God's calling.**

1. Paul calls it "*that blessed hope.*" The word "hope" means "a firm, sure expectation."  
**Romans 8:24-25**
2. This hope has more involved than just being caught up out of this world. When Christ returns, it's not just an escape plan from suffering and then we float around on clouds with no real purpose or plan.
3. God has a **calling** for you to fulfill out there in the future. Look at **Ephesians 1:18**.
  - Notice, God's calling for us has to do with an inheritance. Where is this inheritance? In heavenly places. cf. 1:3, 2:6-7
4. When the rapture occurs, the members of the body of Christ will meet Christ in the heavens. We will be the "*fulness of him (Christ) that filleth all in all.*"  
**Ephesians 1:20-23**
  - The word "filleth" means "to execute an office."
  - We will literally inherit the universe as joint-heirs with Christ. This is why **Ephesians 1:18** calls it His inheritance *in the saints*.
  - Christ will inherit the heavenly places through you and me (the body of Christ).
5. You and I will be a part of God's reclaiming of this universe (presently occupied by Satan's demonic host - **Ephesians 6:12; Revelation 12:7-9**). We will participate in the active government of Christ in the heavens and over the angelic host in the ages to come.
  - **2 Timothy 2:12** says that we will reign *with Him*. There is a government in the heavens that God will establish, just like He will on the earth through the nation of Israel. **Isaiah 9:6-7**
  - You and I will participate in the active government of Christ and the angelic host in the ages to come. We will be active administrators of the government and business of heaven. **1 Corinthians 6:2-3** (judge: to decide, distinguish)
  - This is all part of that blessed hope and glorious appearing.
6. Our hope goes beyond just being caught out of this world of suffering. God has a plan He is accomplishing in the future (the world which is to come - **Ephesians 1:21**) and you and I will be an active part of it.
  - This is the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

# Christ's Appearances

Christ's life  
on earth  
33 YEARS



40 DAYS

ACTS 1-8

Post-Resurrection  
Appearances

CHRIST APPEARS  
TO PAUL FROM  
HEAVEN - ACTS 9

**Grace**

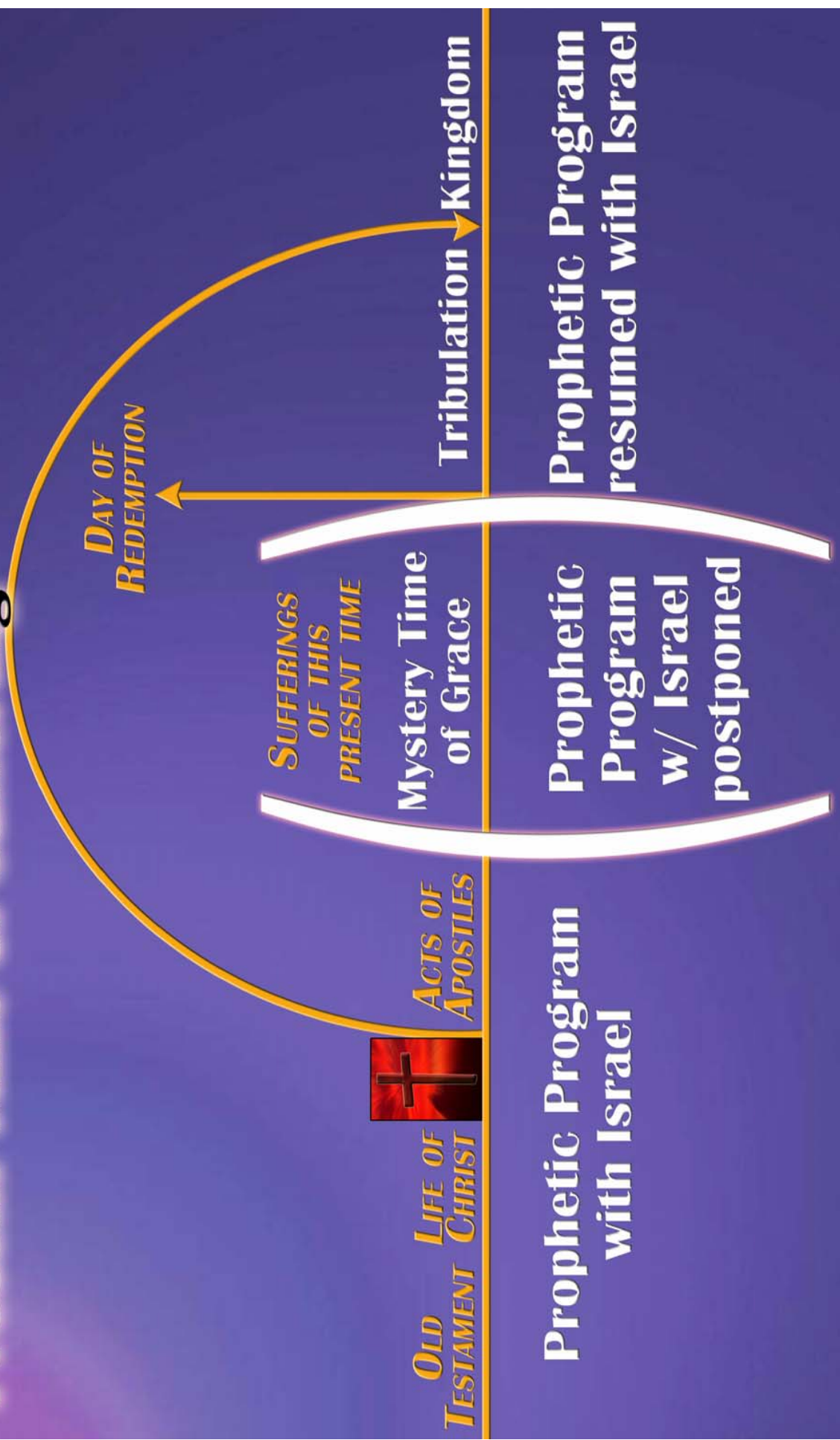
Body of Christ  
formed

CHRIST'S  
APPEARANCE  
IN THE  
CLOUDS

CHRIST'S APPEARANCE  
AT SECOND COMING  
TO EARTH

Kingdom  
established  
on earth

# Present Time of Suffering



OLD TESTAMENT CHRIST  
LIFE OF CHRIST

ACTS OF APOSTLES

SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME  
Mystery Time of Grace

Tribulation Kingdom

Prophetic Program with Israel

Prophetic Program w/ Israel postponed

Prophetic Program resumed with Israel

DAY OF REDEMPTION