

Will the End of the World Happen This Year?

Introduction:

1. The 2012 speculation of the end of the world has reached a fevered pitch. Many people are panicking, similar to Y2K. 2012 hysteria is all over the Internet with books and movies talking about it. Supposedly it is all based on the Mayan calendar.
2. The idea of the end of the world has been a subject of great speculation and discussion for years, ever since Christ announced He would return to earth.
3. When Christ taught on this subject, He taught that His coming would be associated with cataclysmic and catastrophic natural disasters. We call it the Olivet Discourse. Matthew 24
4. Because of this, along with a failure to rightly divide God's Word, people look at world events as evidence that Christ is coming soon or the end of the world is near.
 - Four Florida hurricanes of 2004, Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans in 2005, Japanese earthquake in 2011 that killed over 15,000 people, the Indian Ocean tsunami that killed over 230,000, etc.
5. People have been predicting the end of the world based on world events for years and years. Last year it was supposedly going to happen on May 15, 2011.
6. While all these events were horribly tragic, they were not a fulfillment of the things predicted in the Scriptures at the Olivet Discourse and known as the End of Days. These were simply natural disasters that are the result of living in a sin-cursed world.
7. Could Christ return to earth in 2012? The answer is "no" when you know your Bible. What is God's timeline for future events?

First, the dispensation of grace must end by means of the rapture.

1. Today, we are living in an unprophesied period of time known as the dispensation of grace. Ephesians 3:2
 - It was a mystery, kept secret from the foundation of the world until the due time to make it known through the apostle Paul. Colossians 1:25-26
2. Because it is an unprophesied time period, there are no cataclysmic, prophetic events associated with its end. There are no road signs.
3. Satan did not even know about the dispensation of grace and the hidden wisdom of the cross that made it possible (1 Corinthians 2:7-8). So, Satan countered by setting in motion an evil scheme known as the "*mystery of iniquity*." 2 Thessalonians 2:7
4. Satan's ultimate goal is to undermine all forms of God-ordained authority and bring the world to a state of lawlessness. As the days of grace are prolonged, Satan's attacks are sure to intensify on the home, the church, and national governments. 2 Timothy 3:1-3

- Notice, these are evil trends that Paul says will use to characterize men in the last days of the church age. Do not confuse this with the miraculous signs and definite events that Christ listed in the Olivet Discourse.
 - A trend conveys the idea of going in a general direction over a period of time. But, haven't these trends always been prevalent? They have always been present, but Paul teaches that they will intensify greatly as we near the end of this dispensation of grace.
5. The dispensation of grace will end with an event we call the rapture. Christ will return in the clouds, and the body of Christ will be caught up to meet Christ in the heavenlies. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18
- This event is **not** the Second Coming of Christ to earth. It is a mystery snatching away of believers, not a public appearance as the Second Coming will be.

Second, the antichrist will be revealed.

1. After the rapture, there will be chaos on the earth. From the ashes of despair Satan will introduce to the world the great problem solver.
 - The Bible identifies him by names such as the beast, the antichrist, the son of perdition, and the man of sin. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4a
2. The world will be so taken in by his wisdom, charm, and charisma that he will be able to fully implement Satan's plan to take over the nations.
3. Satan's evil world system will reach its zenith. The man of sin will be indwelt by the wisdom and power of Satan. Revelation 13:2-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9
4. Will the revealing of the antichrist take place immediately after the rapture? Not necessarily, but rather there could be a period of time between these two events.

Third, the 70th week of Daniel will commence.

1. There are 70 weeks of years that Daniel prophesied, and he gave us road signs to be able to clearly see these 490 years.
2. We know that 483 of those years have been fulfilled, but there is one week of years (7 years) that has yet to be fulfilled. Daniel informs us that the antichrist will make a covenant with Israel for one week of years. Daniel 9:27
3. Sometime after the rapture, the antichrist will broker a major peace pact with Israel. In the middle of the week (3 1/2 year point), he will commit the abomination of desolation, whereby he will enter into the temple in Jerusalem, proclaim himself to be God, and demand to be worshiped. Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15-16; 2 Thessalonians 2:4
 - The Bible identifies the first 3 1/2 years as "*the beginning of sorrows,*" and it corresponds with the seals of Revelation 6. cf. Matthew 24:5-8
 - The Bible calls the last 3 1/2 years "*great tribulation.*" Matthew 24:21; cf. Revelation 13:5

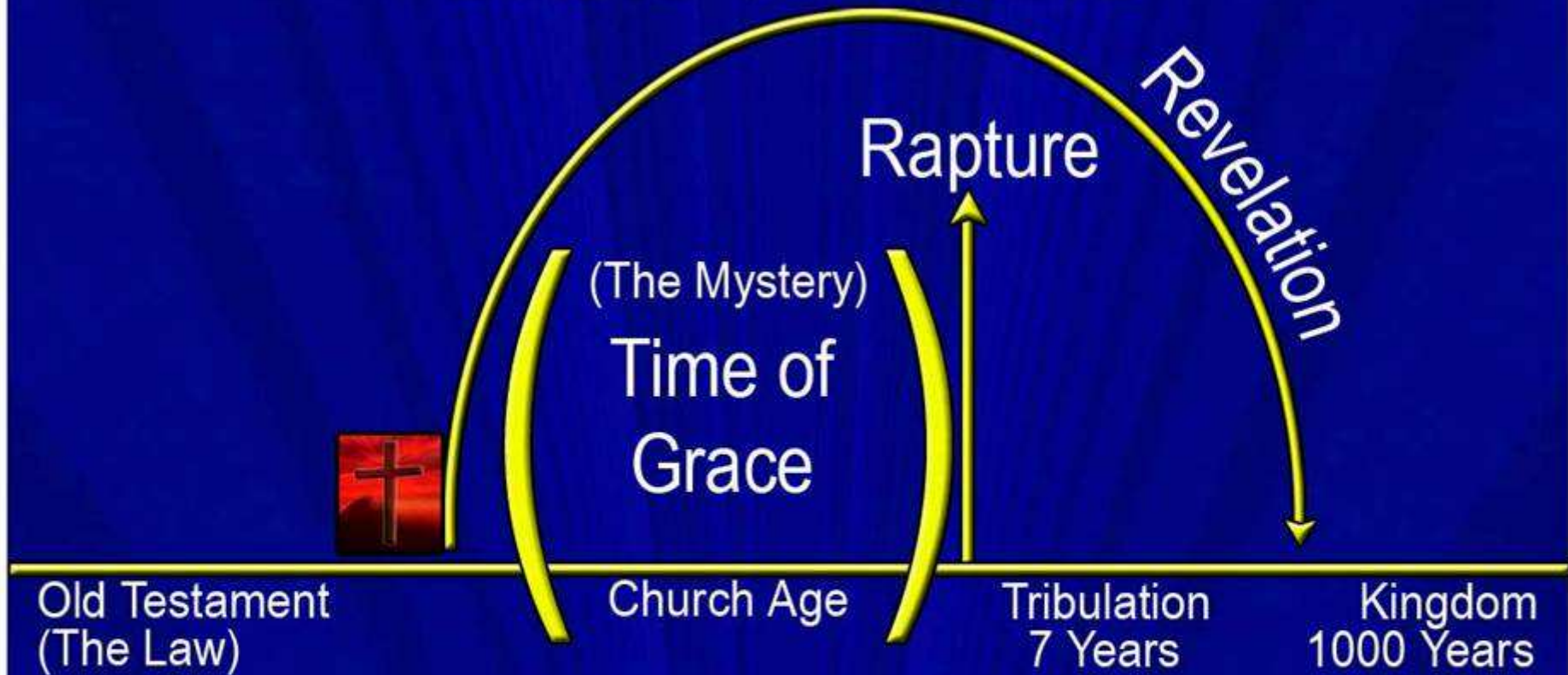
Fourth, Christ will return to earth to establish His earthly kingdom.

1. In the Olivet Discourse Christ made it clear to His disciples that He would return to earth. Matthew 24:27-31
2. Will this mean the end of human civilization? Absolutely not! Matthew 25 teaches that nations will enter into Christ's kingdom on earth. Many unbelievers will be gathered together and judged, but many will be saved out of great tribulation and will shine in Christ's kingdom. Revelation 7:9, 13-15
3. Other believers from time past and martyred believers in the tribulation will be resurrected to dwell in Christ's kingdom. Revelation 20:4
4. Christ's Second Coming will mean the end of Satan's world system on earth. It will mean the end of the world as we know it now, but the current evil world system will be replaced with Christ's righteous government.
5. The Bible never teaches the annihilation of the earth and mankind. This is sensationalism that mankind has invented.
6. One day God will renovate and remake the current earth and there will be a new earth in which the saved will dwell in the ages to come.

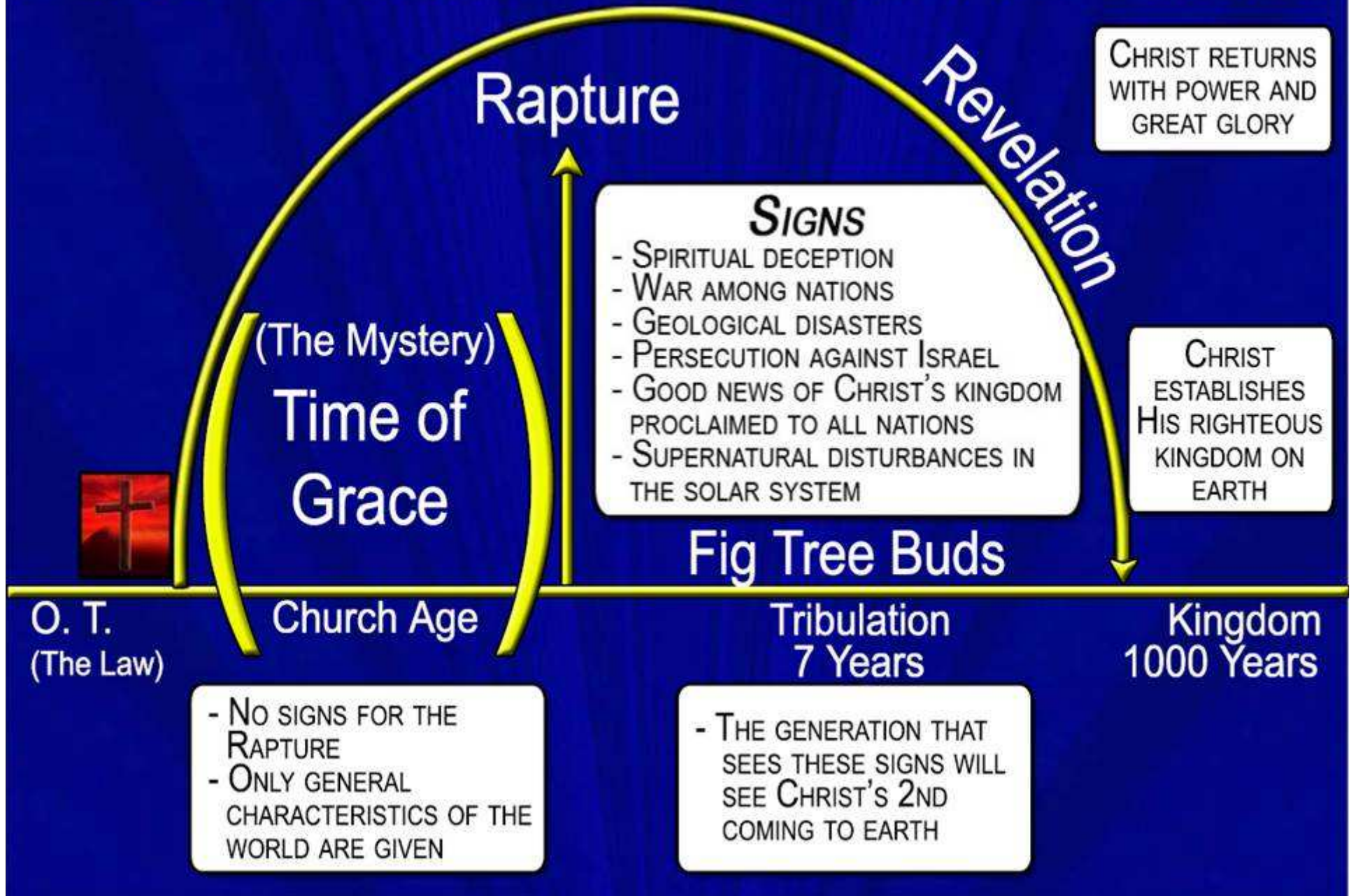
In Conclusion:

1. Will Christ return in 2012 to planet earth? If you do the biblical math, you know that it is biblically impossible.
2. If believers understand the basic prophetic timetable of future events, you do not have to be confused or deceived by those who say the end of the world is near.
3. Could Christ return in the clouds for the body of Christ in 2012? Absolutely! We are ever looking for and anticipating the blessed hope and glorious return of Christ for His church.

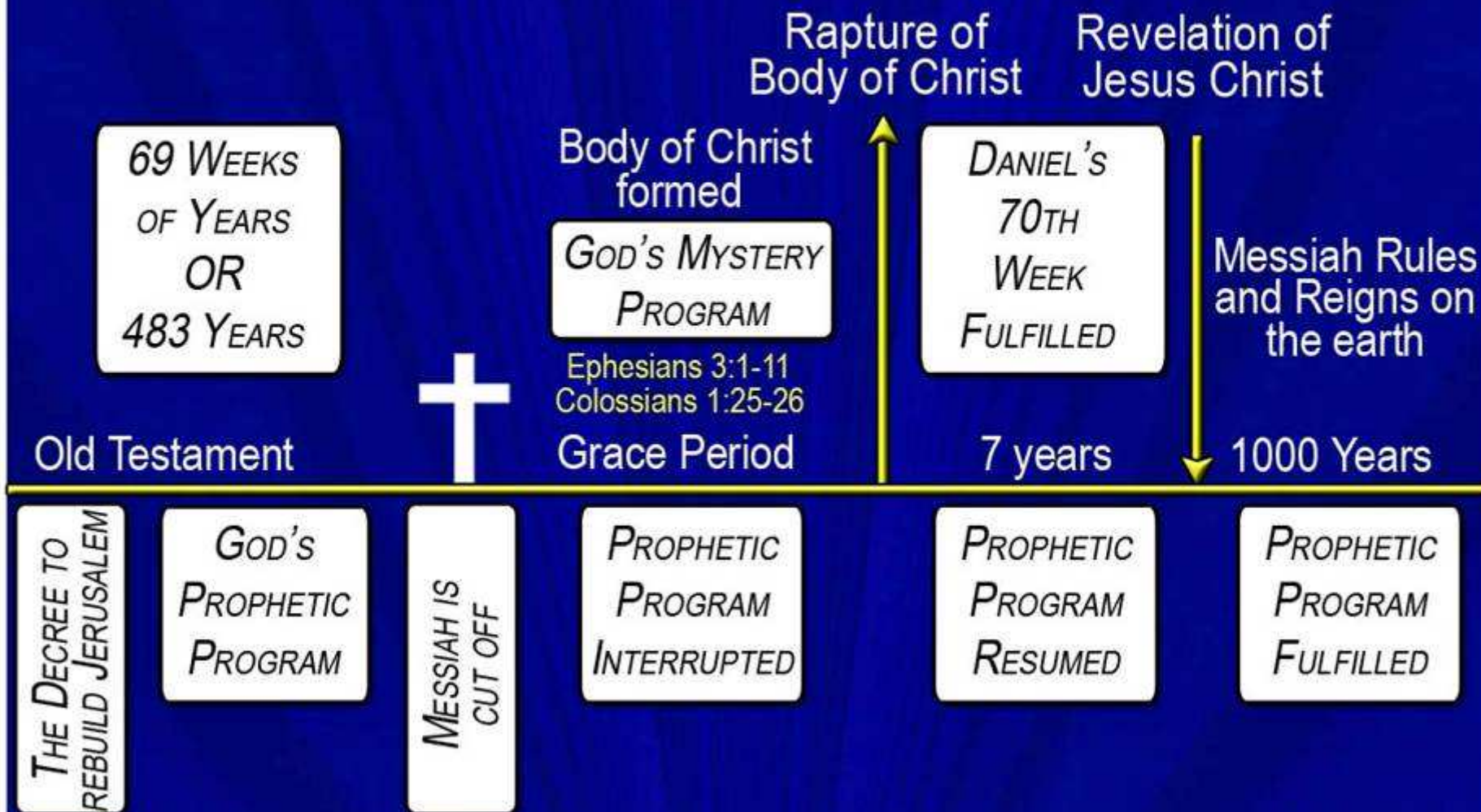
BASIC TIMELINE



SIGNS OF CHRIST'S RETURN TO EARTH



DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS (DANIEL 9:24-27)



70 weeks are determined on Daniel's people (Israel) and the holy city (Jerusalem).



DISPENSATION
OF GRACE
CHURCH AGE

**RAPTURE OF THE
BODY OF CHRIST**

THE DAY OF THE LORD

3 1/2 YEARS

**BEGINNING
OF SORROWS**

3 1/2 YEARS

**GREAT
TRIBULATION**

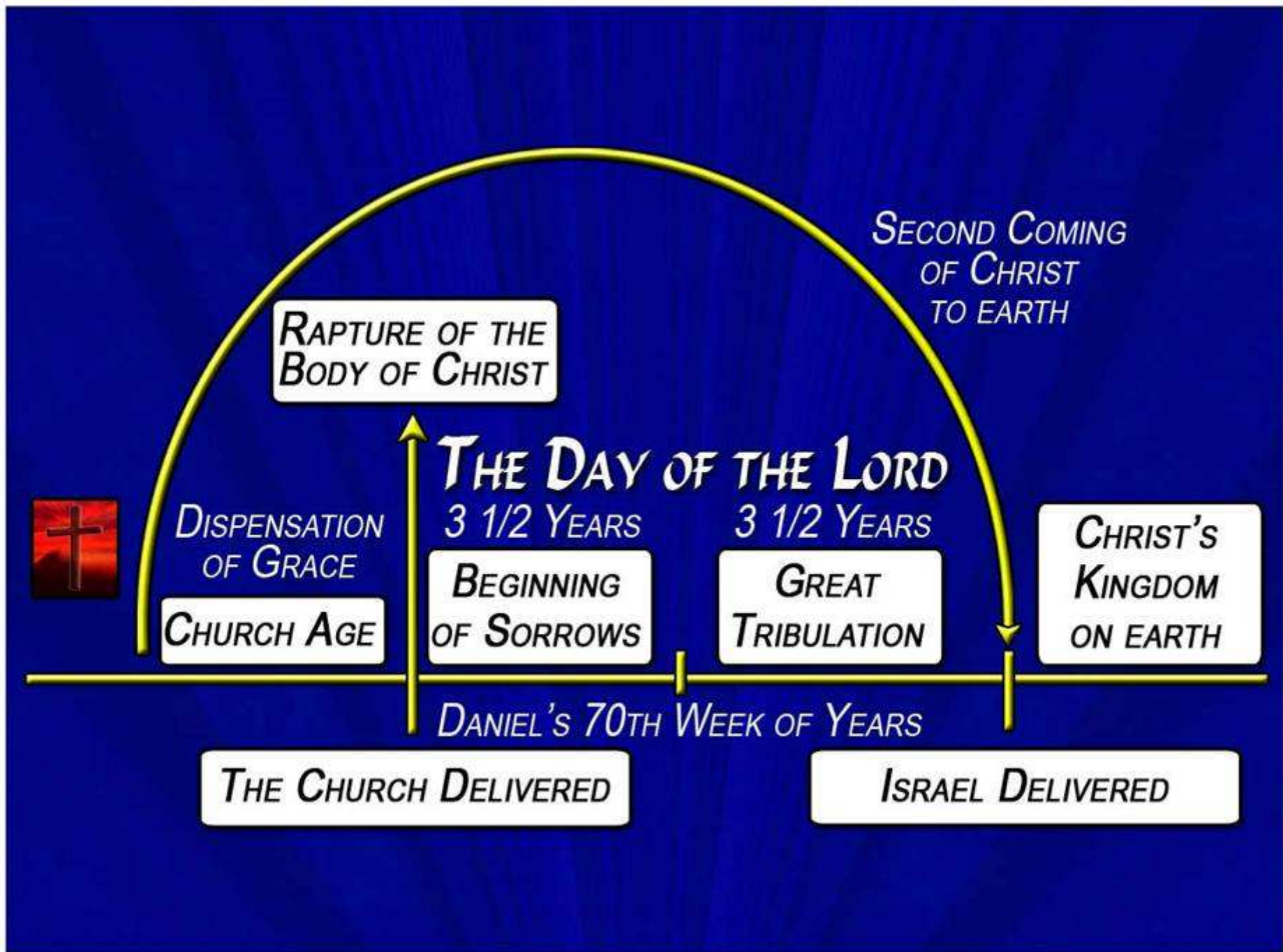
**SECOND COMING
OF CHRIST
TO EARTH**

**CHRIST'S
KINGDOM
ON EARTH**

DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK OF YEARS

THE CHURCH DELIVERED

ISRAEL DELIVERED



GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN

