

Looking for Christ's Return – Part 1 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 their arrival with great expectation?
2. This is the idea of verse 13 when it says, "**Looking for that blessed hope, and 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 carries 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 a glorified body 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?

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

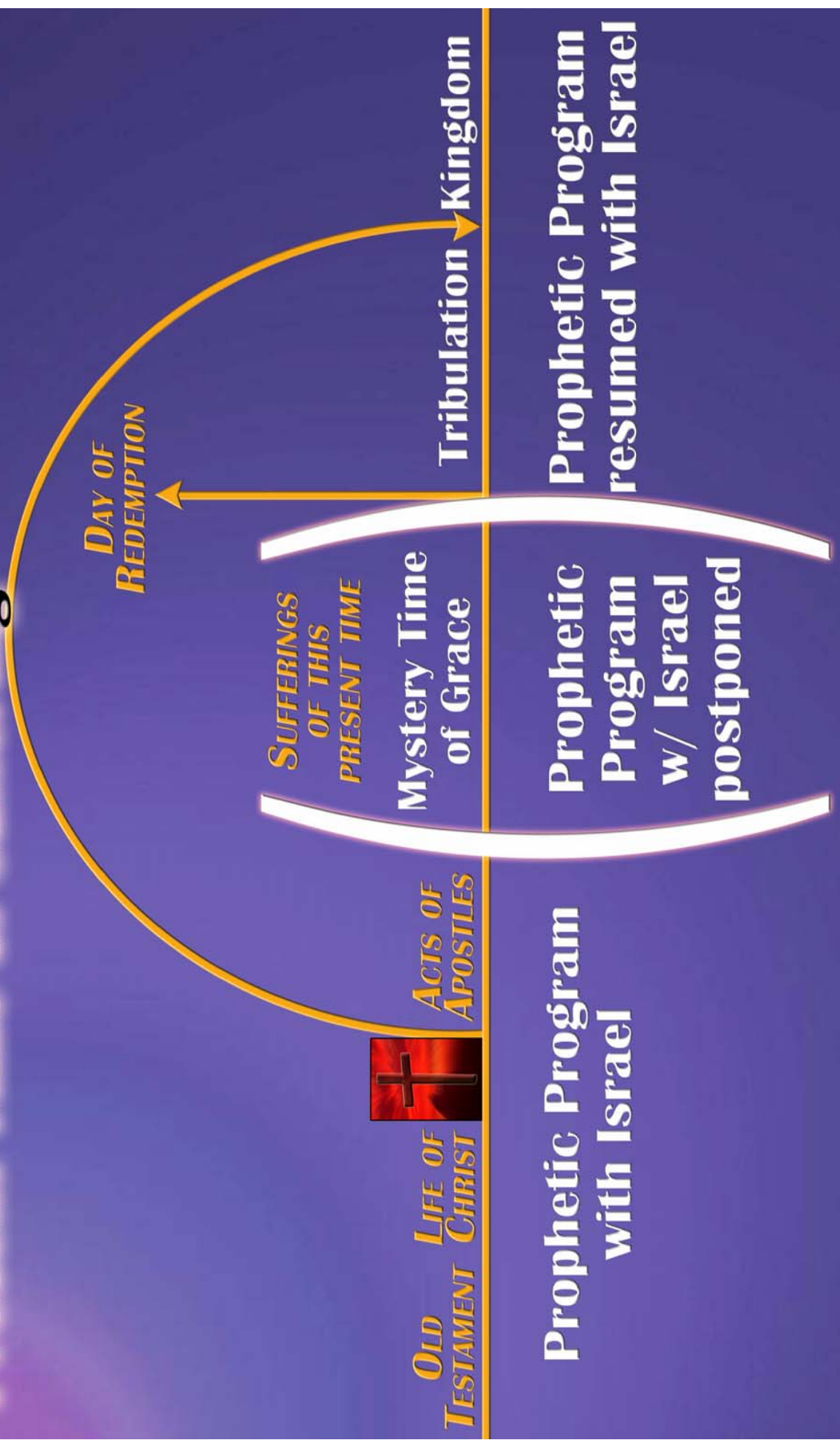
Body of Christ
formed

CHRIST'S
APPEARANCE
IN THE
CLOUDS

CHRIST'S APPEARANCE
AT SECOND COMING
TO EARTH

Kingdom
established
on earth

Present Time of Suffering



DAY OF REDEMPTION

SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME

Mystery Time of Grace

Prophetic Program w/ Israel postponed

ACTS OF APOSTLES



OLD TESTAMENT LIFE OF CHRIST

Tribulation Kingdom

Prophetic Program resumed with Israel

Prophetic Program with Israel