

And Don't Know

What We Know about Jesus' Return



Part 2: *The Uncertainties*

A few Do's and Don'ts of biblical interpretation:



1. Don't base a doctrine on a single passage or a unique example.

*When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”—
Luke 18:22 (NIV)*

2. Don't interpret figurative language literally or visa versa.

“And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.”—Matthew 18:9 (NIV)

*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.”—
Revelation 21:9 (NIV)*

3. Do look for the obvious meaning of the passage.

4) Do interpret Scripture in context.

Immediate:

*He went away and hanged himself.-
Matthew 27:15 (NIV)*

*Jesus told him, “Go and do
likewise.”-Luke 10:37 (NIV)*

*“Hurry! Go quickly! Don’t stop!”-1
Samuel 20:38 (NIV)*

Book:

For who knows what is good for a man in life, during the few and meaningless days he passes through like a shadow? Who can tell him what will happen under the sun after he is gone?—Ecclesiastes 6:12 (NIV)

5. Do interpret ambiguous passages against clear passages.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...—Philippians 2:12 (ESV)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.—
Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)



**What we really don't know for sure
about Jesus' return:**



1) We don't know the exact date.

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”—Matthew 24:36 (NIV)

“So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”—Matthew 24:44 (NIV)

“The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.”—Matthew 24:50 (NIV)

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”—Matthew 25:13 (NIV)



- 2) We don't know the specific chronological order of the events associated with Jesus' return.

END TIMES TIMELINE

NumberOfTheBeast.info



666



RAPTURE

MARK OF BEAST EMERGES
RISE OF ANTICRIST/
PEACE IN ISRAEL

**WAR IN HEAVEN/
SATAN CAST OUT**

SEAL JUDGMENTS

TRUMPET JUDGMENTS

BOWL JUDGMENTS

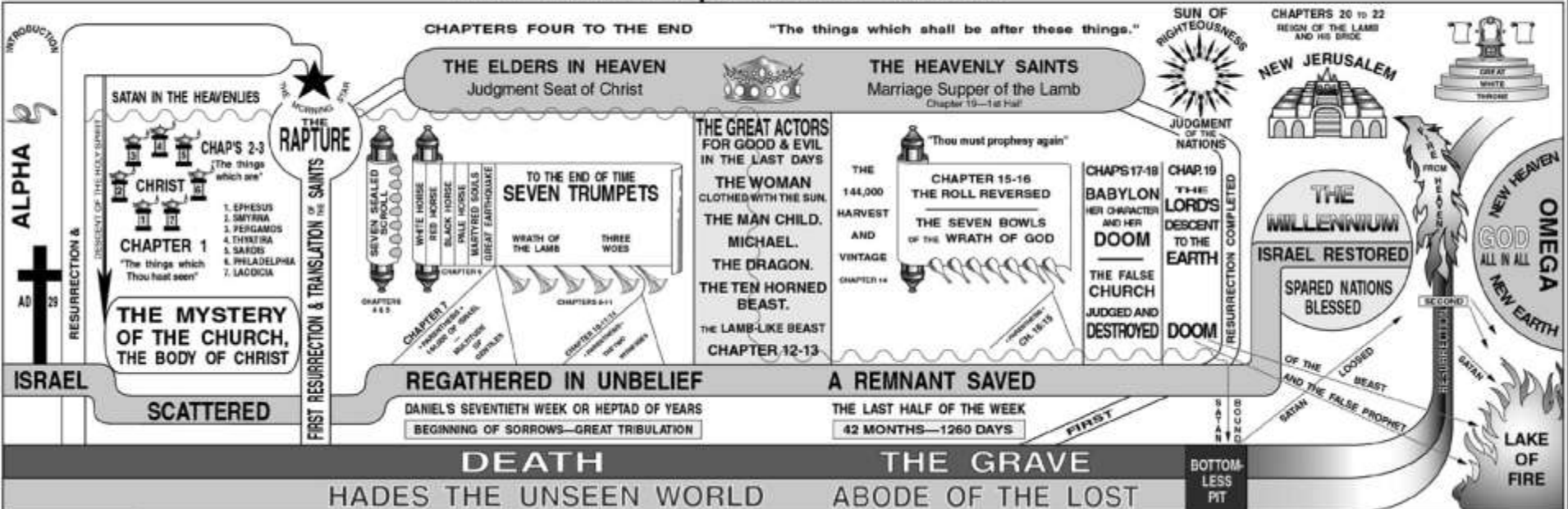
ARMAGGEDON

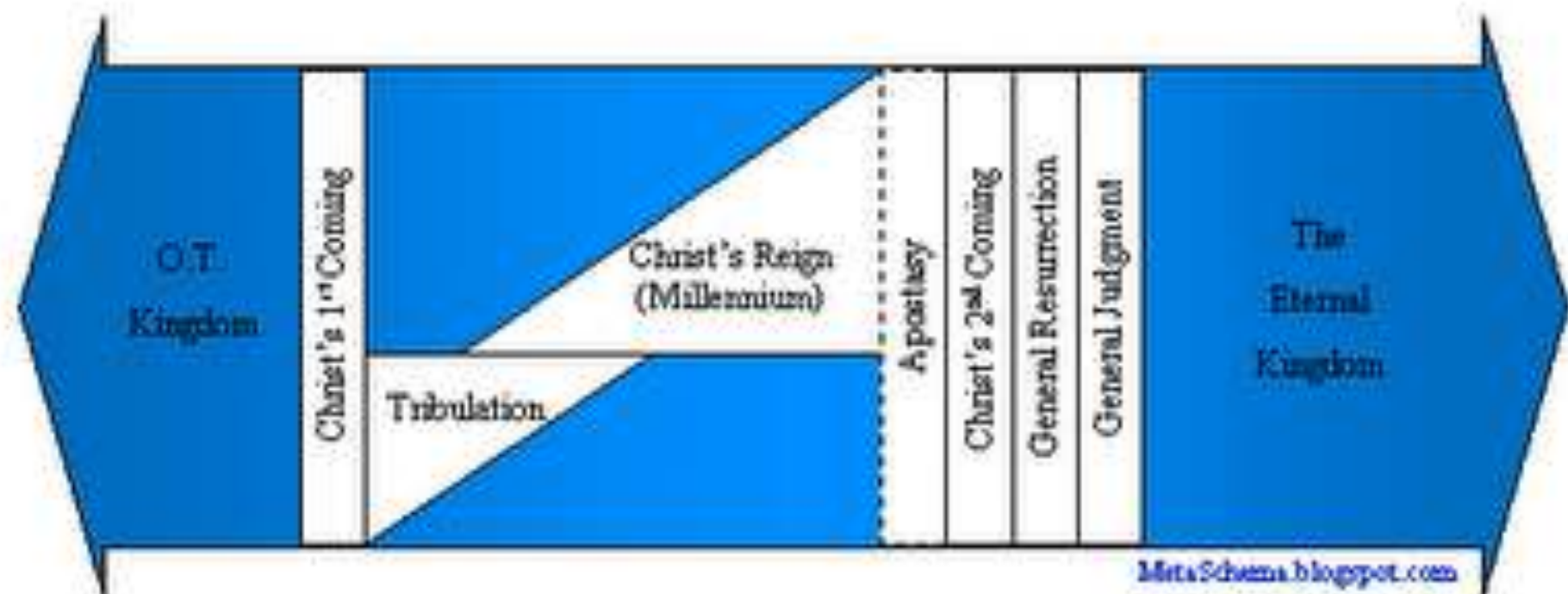
**RETURN OF
CHRIST**

3.5 YEARS OF PEACE

3.5 YEARS OF GREAT TRIBULATION

End Time Sequence of Events





Postmillennial Time Line

3) We don't know the definite identities of all the characters/groups involved.





- 4) We don't know with certainty the significance of all the apocalyptic images and symbolism.

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like

bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.—Revelation 1:12-16 (NIV)

*“Evil” is an abstract term, but a woman
“drunk with the blood of the saints”
graphically sets forth the concrete and
more terrible aspect of this reality. Such
language can trigger all sorts of ideas,
associations, existential involvement, and
mystical responses....—Alan F. Johnson,
The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Vol.
12, p. 400*

**What do we do with these
uncertainties?**

➤ Don't let what you don't understand eclipse what you do.

“Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life. Outside the city

are the dogs—the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idol worshipers, and all who love to live a lie.

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. I am the bright morning star.”—Revelation 22:12-16 (NLT)

- Don't let pondering the uncertainties take priority over applying the certitudes.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.—2 Peter 3:11-12 (NIV)

“But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first! Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first.”—Revelation 2:4-5 (NLT)