

Ephesians Series

Lesson #127

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Dean Bible Ministries

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The Ascension and the Kingdom Ephesians 4:7–10



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Eph. 4:7, “But to each one of us grace **was given** according to the measure of **Christ’s gift**.

Eph. 4:8, “Therefore He says: ‘When **He ascended** on high, He led captivity captive, and **gave gifts** to men.’

Eph. 4:9, “(Now this, ‘**He ascended**’—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

Eph. 4:10, “He who descended is also the One **who ascended** far above all the heavens, that He might **fill** all things.)

Eph. 4:11, “And **He Himself gave** some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Eph. 4:12, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

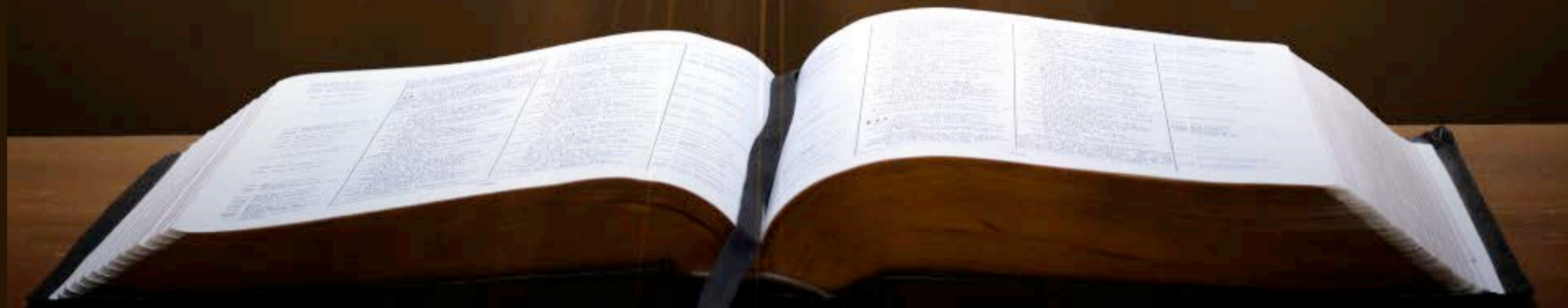
Eph. 4:13, “till we all come **to the unity of the faith** and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a mature man**, to the measure of the stature of the **fullness** of Christ;”

Eph. 4:7, “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

Eph. 4:8, “Therefore He says: ‘*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.*’ ” [Psa. 68:18]

What the Bible Teaches About

The Ascension: Basic Verses



Acts 1:4, “And when he assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ‘which,’ He said, ‘you have heard from Me; ...’ ”

Acts 1:6, “Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, ‘Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’”

Acts 1:7, “And He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.’”

Acts 1:8, “ ‘But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’ ”

Acts 1:9, “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.”

ἐπαίρω *epairō*

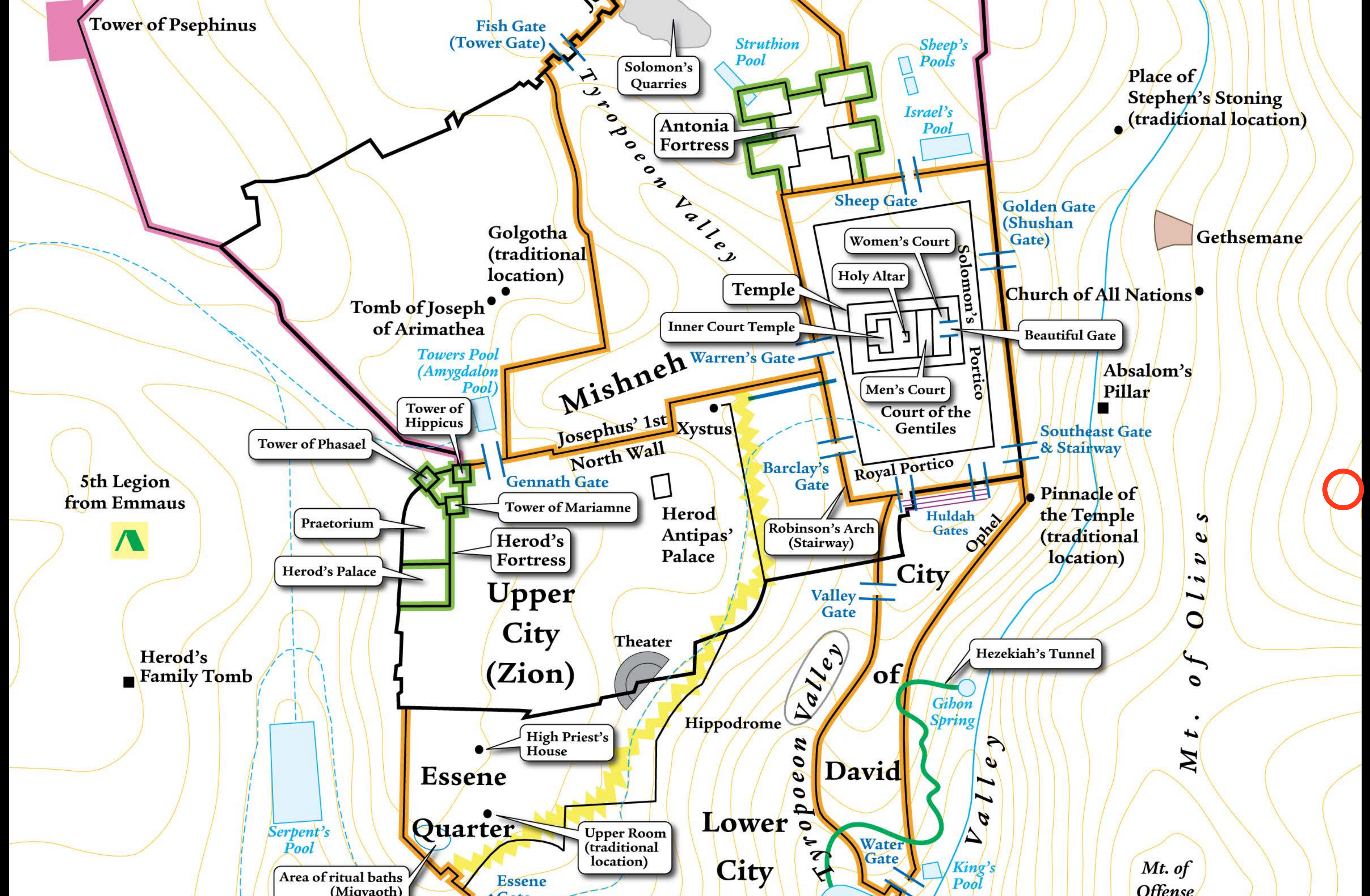
3 sing aor pass

indic to lift up

ὑπολαμβάνω *hupolambanō*

3 sing aor act indic to

suppose; to lift up; to reply



Tower of Psephinus

Fish Gate (Tower Gate)

Solomon's Quarries

Struthion Pool

Sheep's Pools

Israel's Pool

Place of Stephen's Stoning (traditional location)

Antonia Fortress

Sheep Gate

Golden Gate (Shushan Gate)

Gethsemane

Golgotha (traditional location)

Tomb of Joseph of Arimathea

Temple

Holy Altar

Church of All Nations

Beautiful Gate

Towers Pool (Amygdalon Pool)

Mishneh

Men's Court

Court of the Gentiles

Absalom's Pillar

Tower of Phasael

Tower of Hippicus

Josephus' 1st North Wall

Xystus

Barclay's Gate

Royal Portico

Southeast Gate & Stairway

5th Legion from Emmaus

Praetorium

Herod's Fortress

Herod Antipas' Palace

Robinson's Arch (Stairway)

Huldah Gates

Pinnacle of the Temple (traditional location)

Herod's Palace

Upper City (Zion)

City

Herod's Family Tomb

Theater

Hippodrome

Tyropoeon Valley

Hezekiah's Tunnel

Mt. of Olives

Essene

High Priest's House

David

Gibon Spring

Serpent's Pool

Essene Quarter

Upper Room (traditional location)

Lower City

Tyropoeon Valley

Water Gate

King's Pool

Mt. of Offense





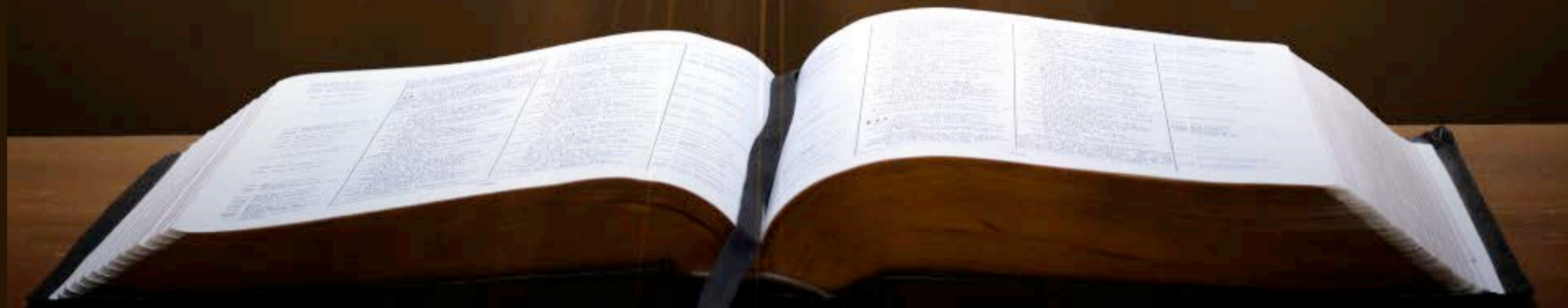
Acts 1:10, “And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

Acts 1:11, “who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’ ”

Zech. 14:4, “And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.”

What the Bible Teaches About

The Ascension: Background



What happened to God's plan when the Lord Jesus Christ was rejected and crucified?

1. The Jews expected a “one-coming” Messiah.

When Jesus came at the First Advent it was not clear from Old Testament prophecy that there would be two advents. The Jews expected only one coming of the Messiah.

Our Viewpoint
 We see the "Mountain Peaks" and the "Valleys" from the side, and we can separate the first and second coming prophecies.

Priest
 Heb. 4:14

The Three Appearings



Birth of Jesus (Bethlehem)
 Num. 24:17;
 Isa. 7:14; Mic. 5:2



What the Prophets Saw



The Old Testament "Valley"
 The viewpoint of the prophets

Calvary
 Isa. 53:1-12



Antichrist
 Dan. 7:19-27



The Valley of the "Church"
 The prophets did not see this.



The Sun of Righteousness
 Mal. 4:1-6



The Kingdom
 Dan. 7:13-14;
 Isa. 2:1-3;
 Mic. 4:1-2;
 Hag. 2:5-9



Destruction of the Earth by Fire
 2 Pet. 3:7-13



The New Heavens and New Earth
 Isa. 65:17; 66:22;
 Rev. 21:1



The Holy City
 Rev. 21:2

The Valley of the "Perfect Age"

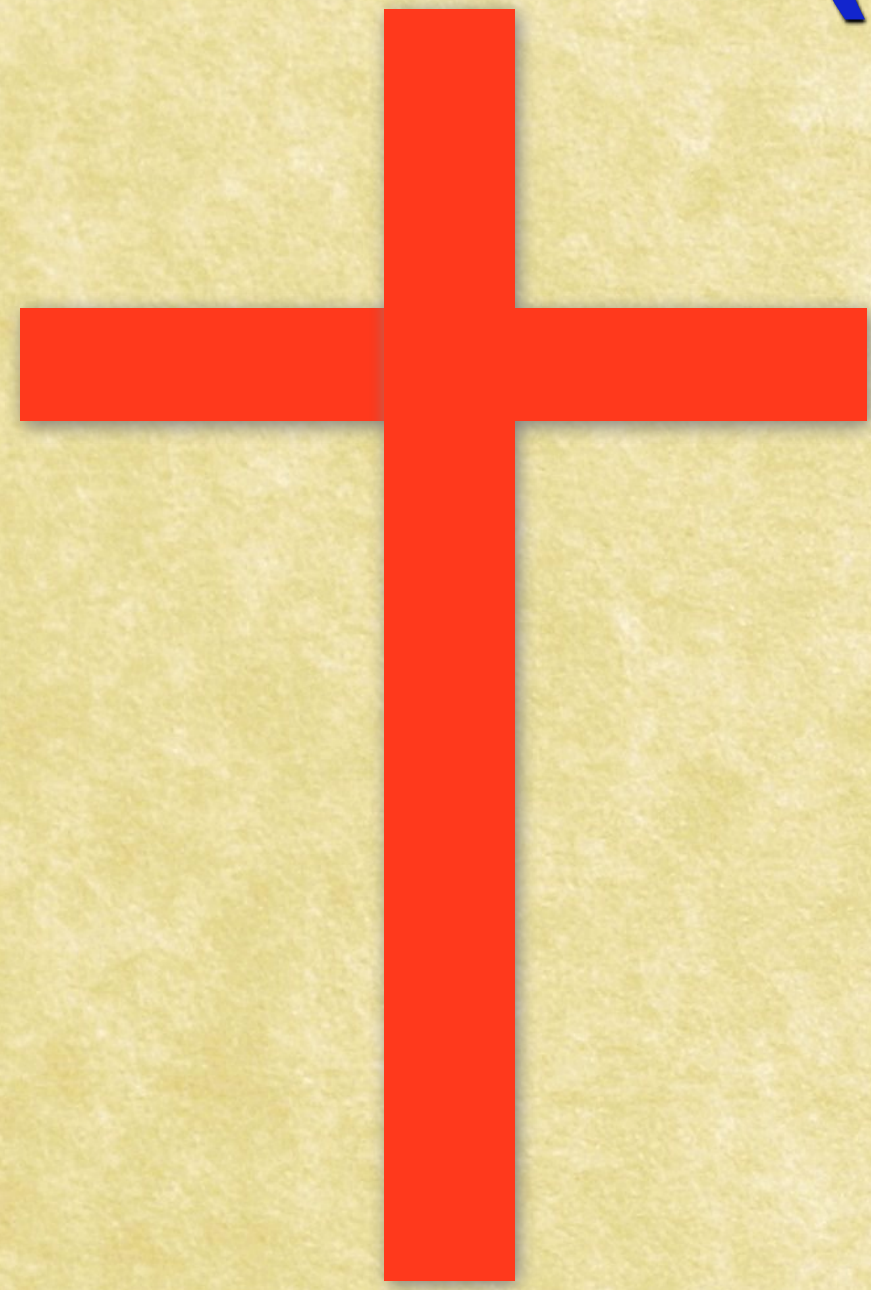
Acts 1:6, “Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, ‘Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ ”

The Kingdom was Postponed:

- 1. It did not come *at all*.**
- 2. It did not partially come, or begin to gradually come in; “already-not-yet” isn’t what happened.**
- 3. It was not cancelled.**
- 4. It was postponed, and an unannounced, but not unplanned for, dispensation began—the Church Age.**

2. Jews expected the crown before the cross.

Cross With/After/Before The Crown? (What was announced?)



The Cross

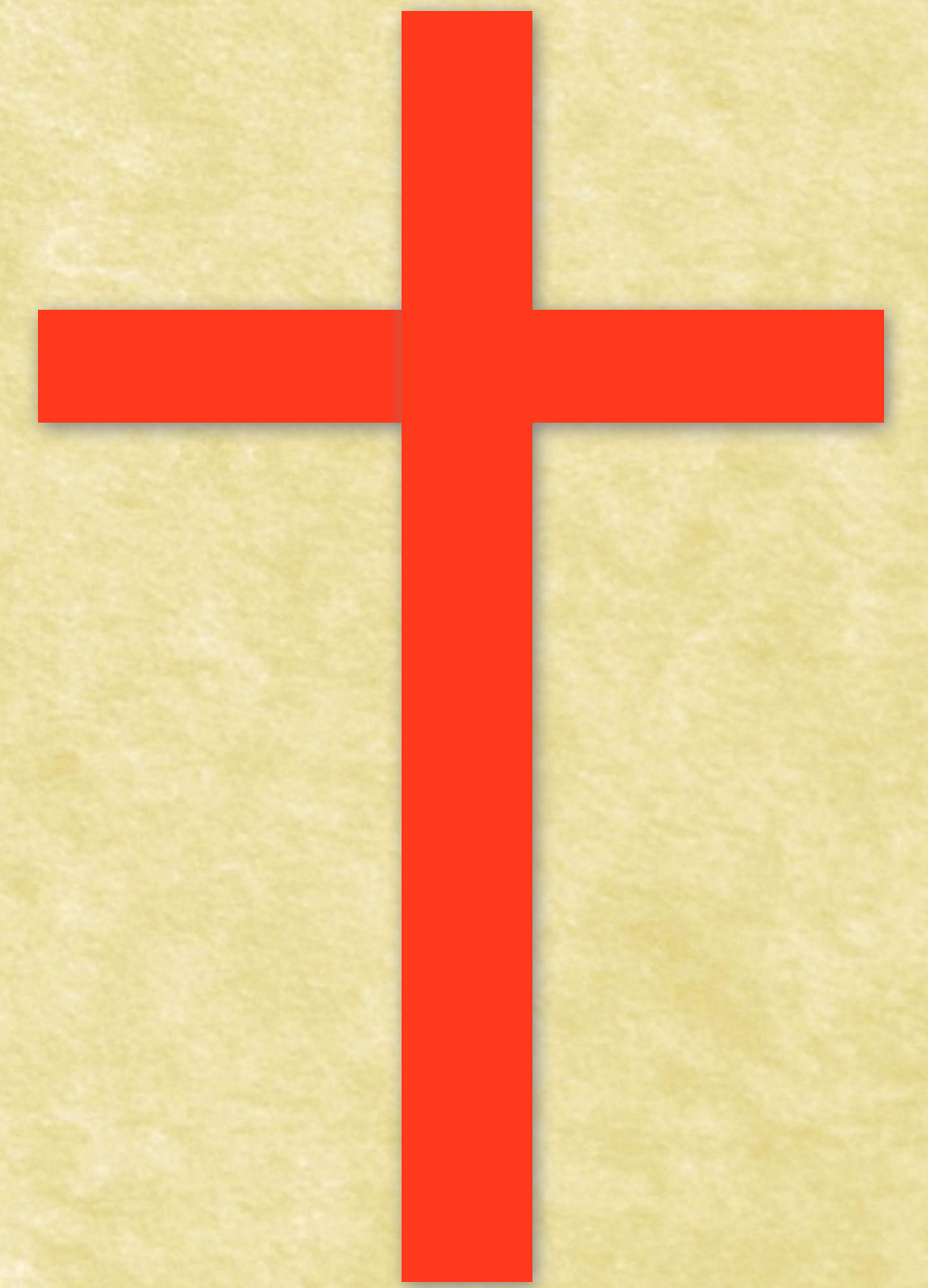


The Crown

**Cross With/After/
Before the Crown?
(Or no cross. What was
wrongly expected?)**



The Crown



The Cross

1 Pet. 1:10, “As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry,

1 Pet. 1:11, “seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted 1) the sufferings of Christ and 2) the glories to follow.”

Isa. 50:6–7; Isa. 53:3–11

The Suffering Messiah

Isa. 53:3, “He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Isa. 53:4, “Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Isa. 53:5, “But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”

The Suffering Messiah

Isa. 53:6, “All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

Isa. 53:7, “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth.”

The Glorious Messiah

Isa. 40:3, “A voice is calling, ‘Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.

Isa. 40:4, “ ‘Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, and the rugged terrain a broad valley;

Isa. 40:5, “ ‘Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’ ”

*****This introduces the major issue that serves as a backdrop to understanding the Ascension and Session: The Kingdom. How you understand the Kingdom, of course, is affected by whether you are a dispensationalist or Covenantal theologian.*****

3. John the Baptist, Jesus, and the disciples all proclaimed a message of repentance, directed to Israel, not Gentiles: “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.” The issue was thought change for the Jews, in order to bring in the Kingdom. Matt. 3:2

Matt. 3:2, “and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!’

Matt. 3:3, “For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the LORD;

Make His paths straight.” ’ ” [Isa. 4:3]

Matt. 4:17, “From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ”

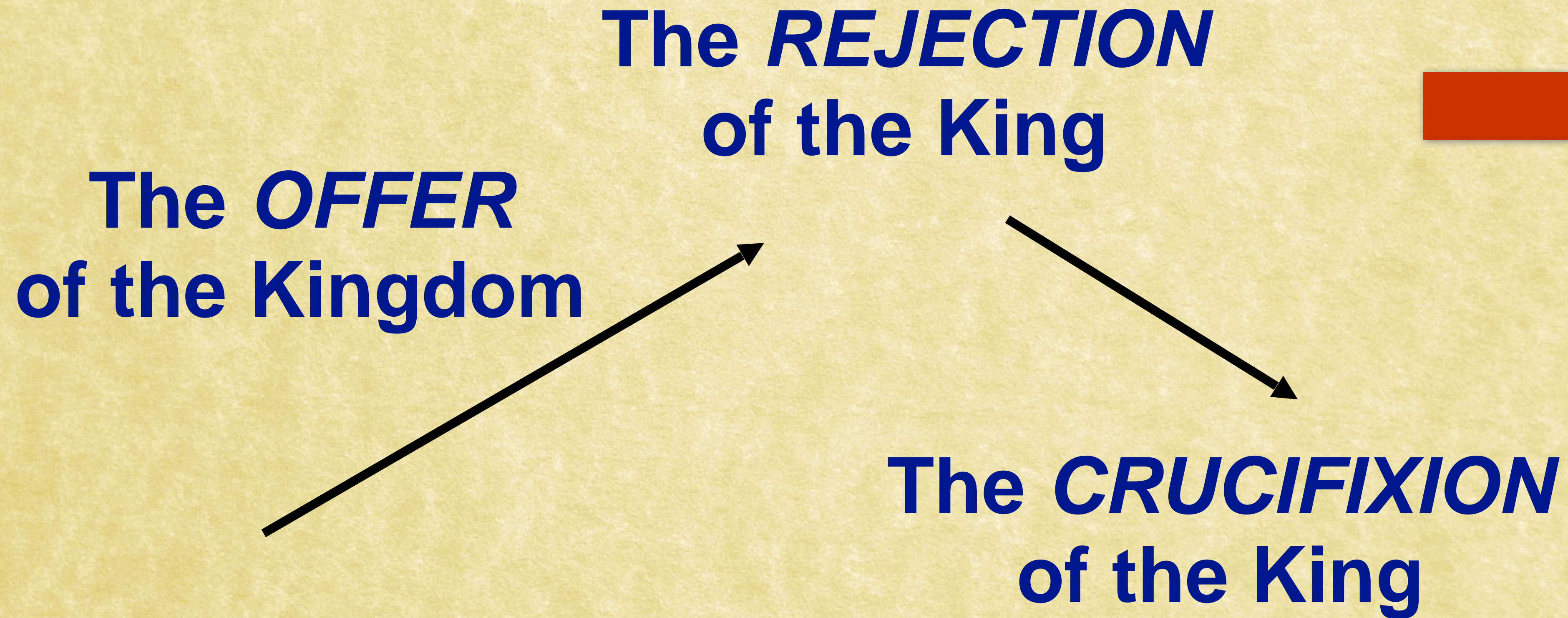
Matt. 10:5, “These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: ‘Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.

Matt. 10:6, “ ‘But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Matt. 10:7, “ ‘And as you go, preach, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ’ ”

4. Near the midpoint of His public ministry the Jewish religious leaders accused Jesus of being empowered by Satan. This official rejection of Jesus led to the postponement of the Kingdom.

4. The Presentation of the Kingdom and the Response



Matt. 12:31, “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men.”

Matt. 12:34, “Offspring of serpents! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”

The Differences Between Christ's Ministry Before Matthew 12 and After Matthew 12

Before

**Signs were for Israel so
they would believe in Him**

**He taught the masses
without faith**

He told them to tell all

**He announced "Repent for
the kingdom is at hand"**

He spoke openly

After

**Signs were for the
disciples to train them**

**He taught the disciples
who had faith**

He told them to tell no one

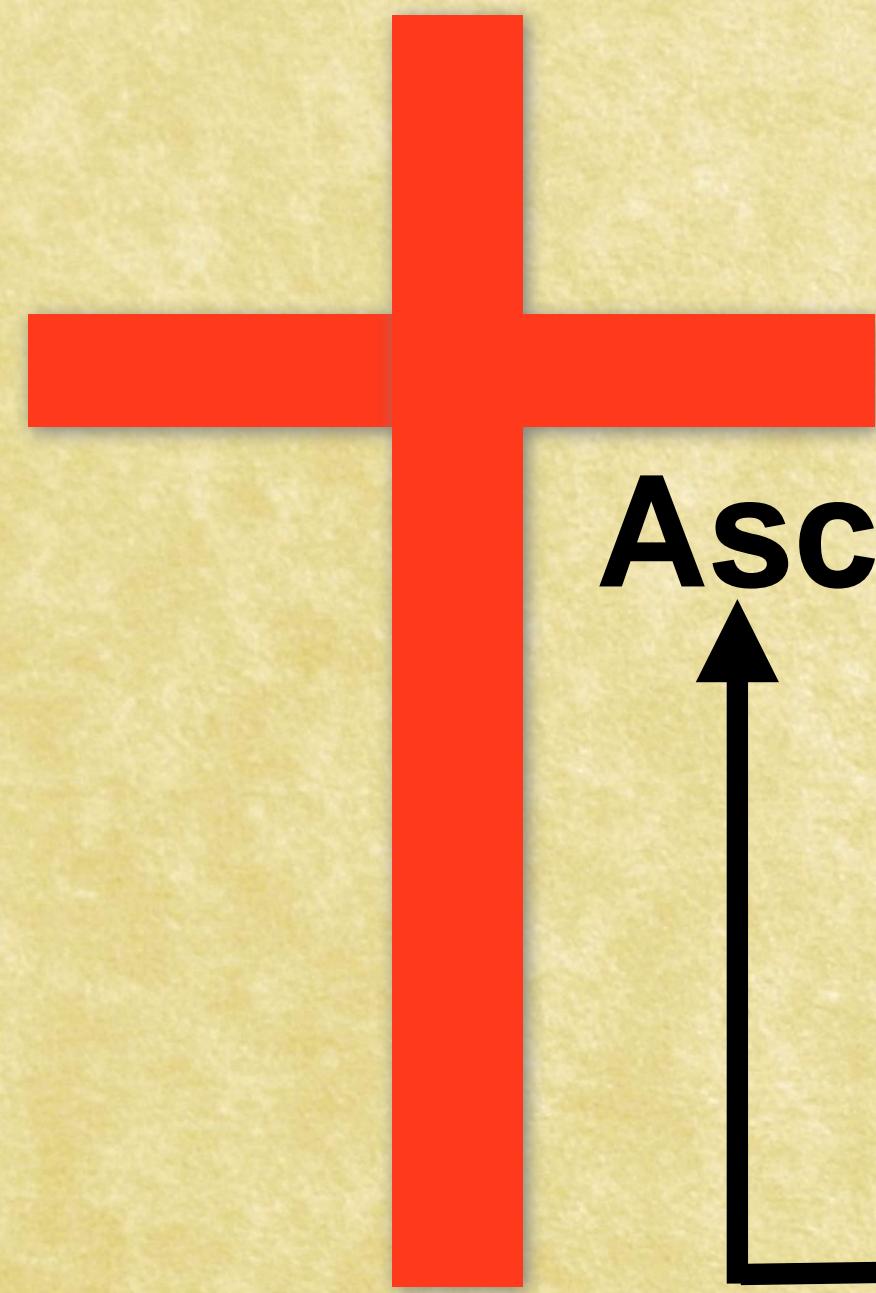
**He no longer announced
this.**

He spoke in parables

Three Points of Summary

- 1. The postponement of the Kingdom called for a postponement of Glory.**
- 2. Postponement means the issue of the Kingdom relates to the distinct plans of God for Israel and the Church.**
- 3. Postponement means there will be an unforeseen departure and a Second Coming.**

What Then is the Purpose of This Interadvent Age?



Ascension



Church Age

2nd Coming
Rapture



The Crown

The Cross



John 6:62, “What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?”

John 6:63, “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”

John 16:7, “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”

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Acts 1:6, “Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, ‘Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’

Acts 1:7, “And He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

Acts 1:8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

John 12:34, “The people answered Him, ‘We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, “The Son of Man must be lifted up”? Who is this Son of Man?’ ”

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Who is the “Son of Man?”

Where does that title come from?

John 12:34, “The people answered Him, ‘We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, “The Son of Man must be lifted up”? Who is this Son of Man?’ ”

Dan. 7:13, “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.

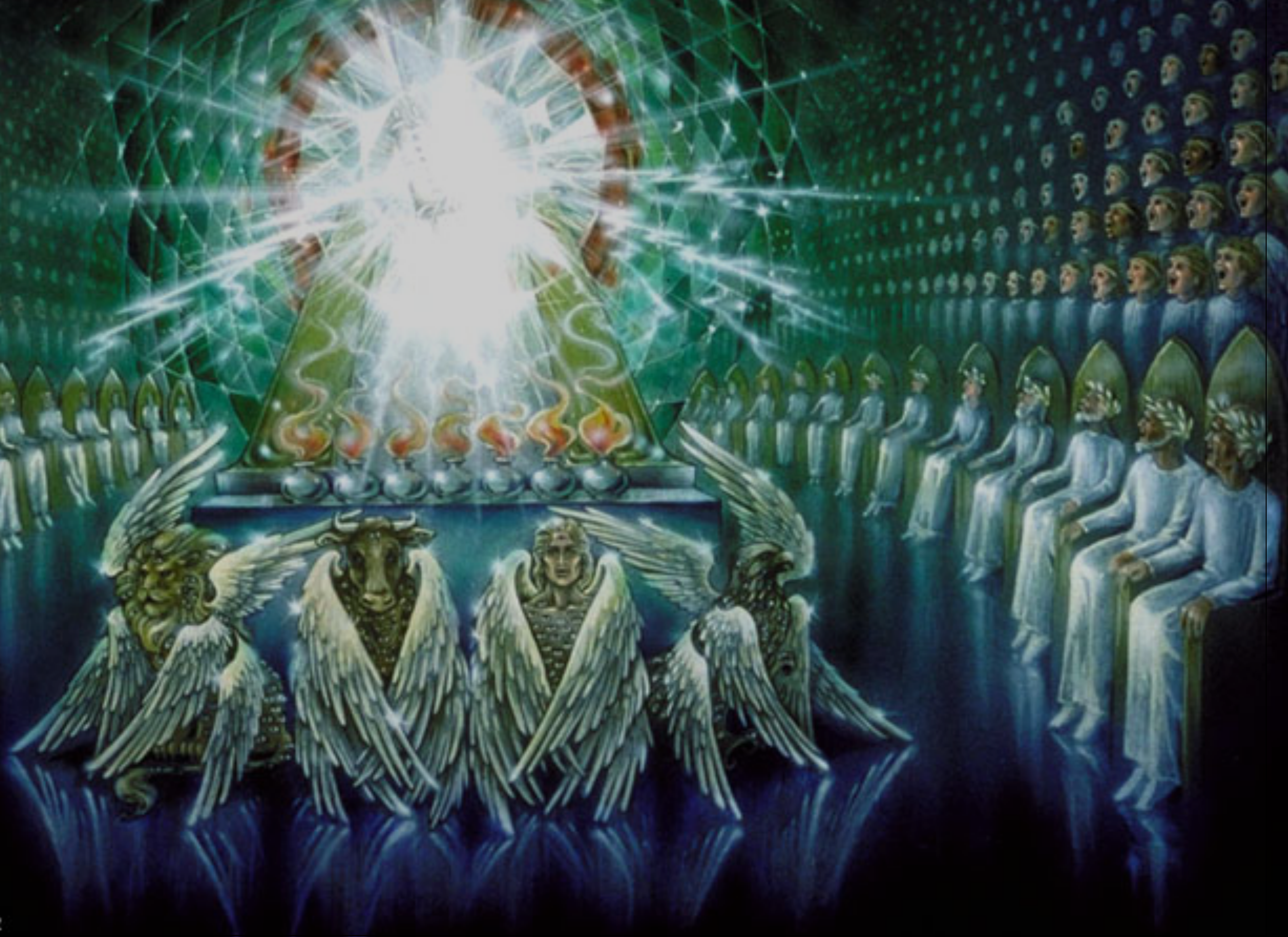
Dan. 7:14, “Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.”

Dan. 7:25, “He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.

Dan. 7:26, “But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever.

Dan. 7:27, “Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.”

Rev. 5:1, “And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.”

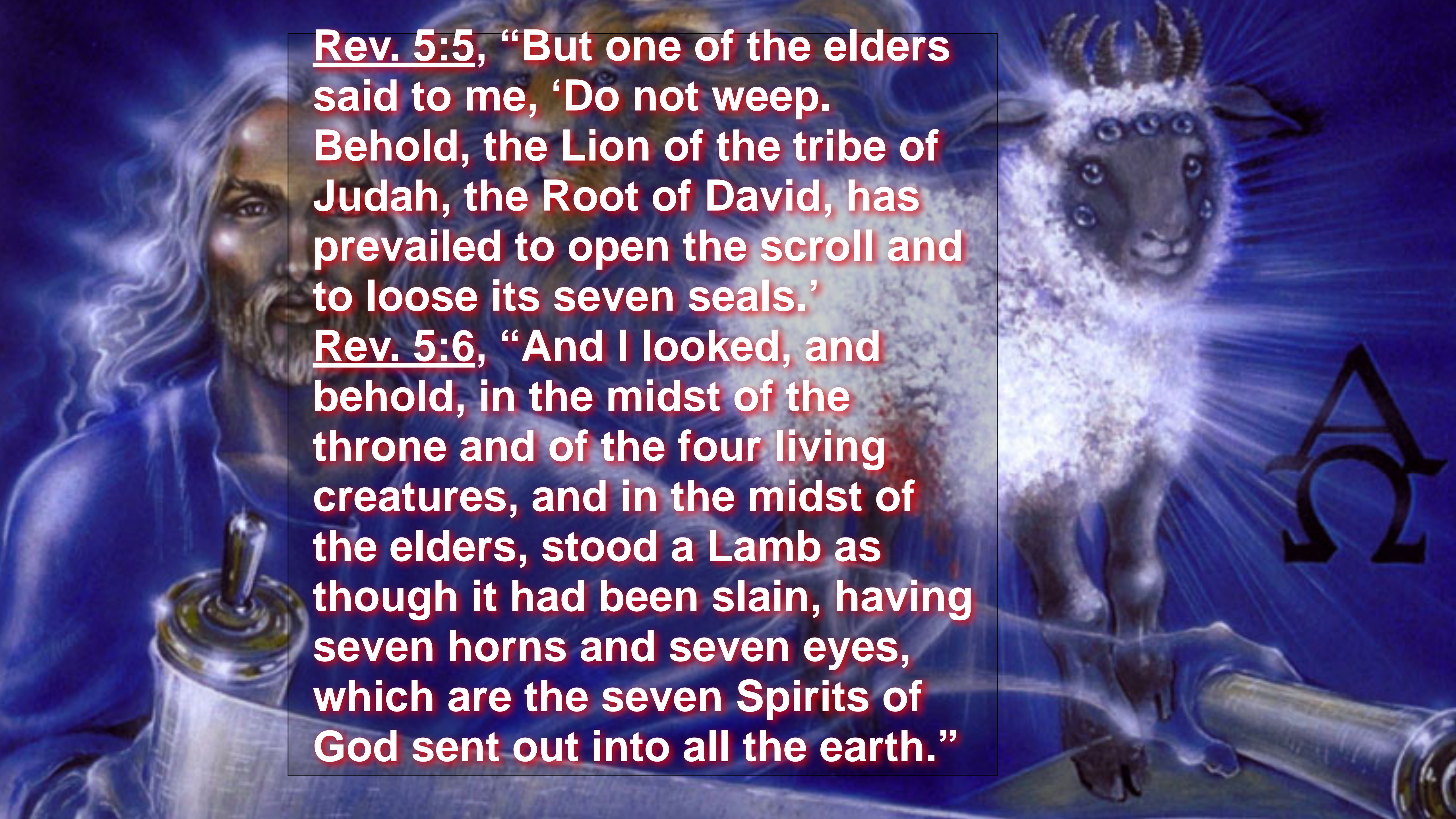


Rev. 5:2, “Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘*Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?*’ ”



Rev. 5:3, “And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

Rev. 5:4, “So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.”



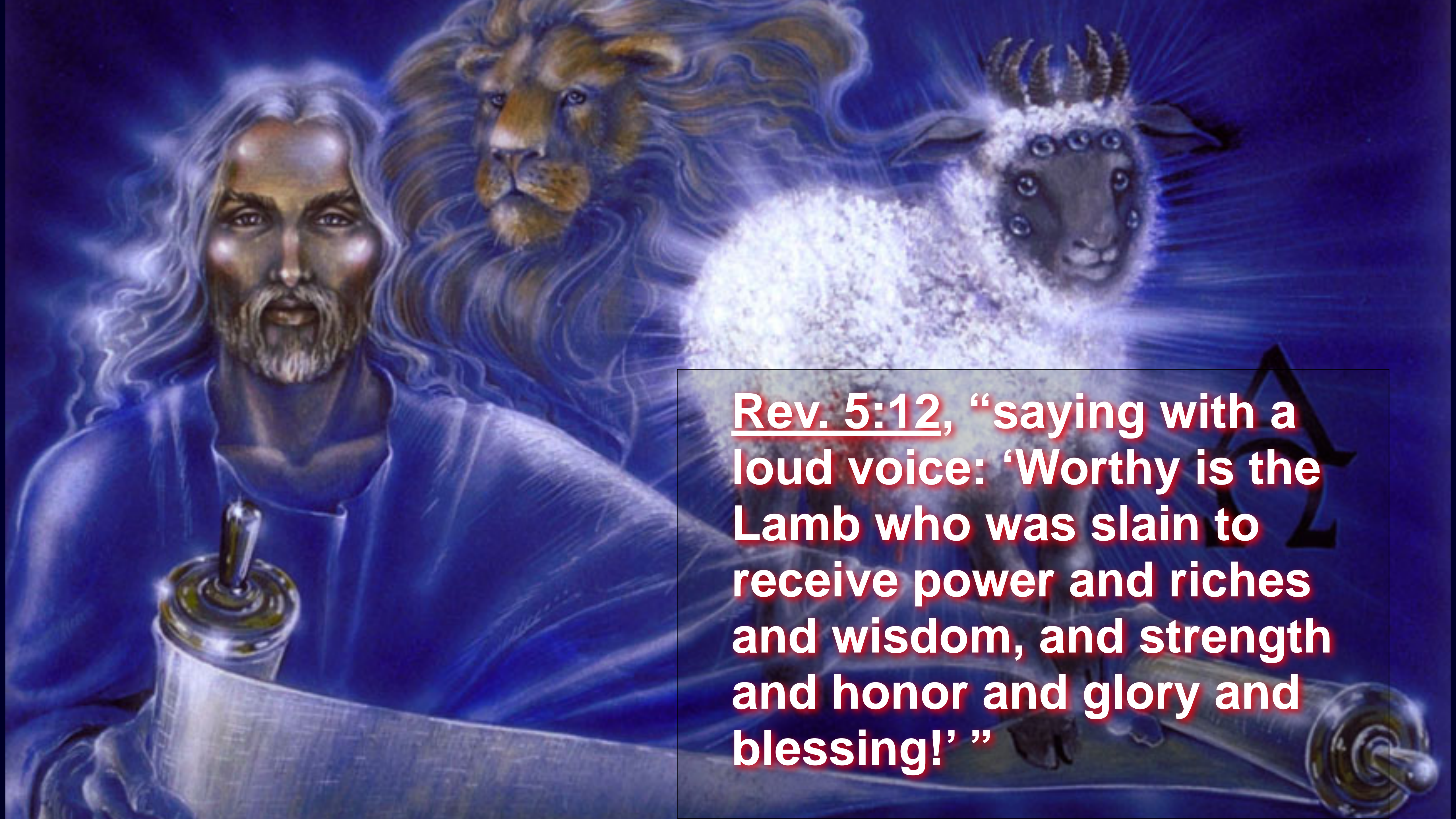
Rev. 5:5, “But one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.’”

Rev. 5:6, “And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”




Rev. 5:7, “Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne ...

Rev. 5:9, “And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,’”



Rev. 5:12, “saying with a loud voice: ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!’ ”



Rev. 6:1, “Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, ‘Come and see.’”

Dan. 7:25, “He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.

Dan. 7:26, “But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever.

Dan. 7:27, “Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.”

Matt. 4:8, “Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

Matt. 4:9, “And he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.’

Matt. 4:10, “Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, “*You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.*” ’ ” (Psa. 91:1)

John 6:62, “What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?”

John 6:63, “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”

What does He mean “*before*”? *Before* when?

John 16:28, “I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”

John 16:7, “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”

5. The result of this was that Jesus was crucified, buried, resurrected. But the people of the kingdom had rejected their King so the King had to expand His base.

6. Since His people rejected Him, the next stage in the plan, was to bring in a new people to fulfill certain objectives related to the angelic conflict. This new people would be based on a spiritual heritage, not a racial heritage.

To accomplish this, a previously unrevealed, but not unplanned for, intervening dispensation came, marked by the Holy Spirit.

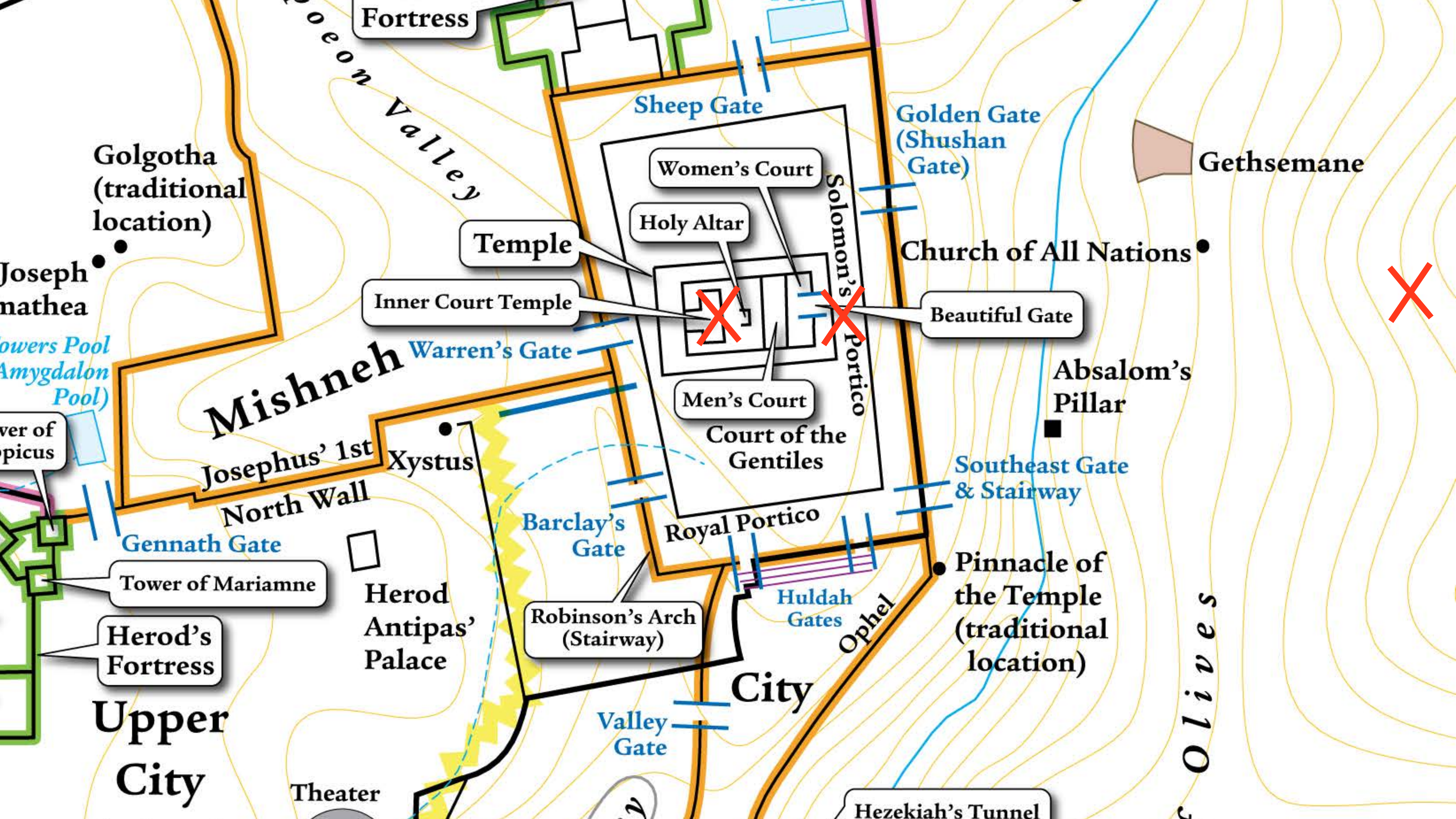
Summary

- 1. The question: Why the ascension? What is its role in the plan of God and its significance for the Church Age believer?**
- 2. Old Testament envisioned one coming, not two.**
- 3. Jewish rejection brought many consequences, including a postponement of the kingdom.**
- 4. There is now an unanticipated interadvent age.**
- 5. The unique characteristic of this interadvent age is the role of the Holy Spirit in the spiritual life of the believer.**

Ezek. 9:3, “Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer’s inkhorn at his side;”

Ezek. 10:4, “Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and paused over the threshold of the temple; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD’S glory.”

Ezek. 11:23, “And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain, which is on the east side of the city.”



Fortress

Sheep Gate

Golden Gate (Shushan Gate)

Gethsemane

Golgotha (traditional location)

Women's Court

Holy Altar

Temple

Church of All Nations

Joseph
mathea

Inner Court Temple

Beautiful Gate

owers Pool
Amygdalon
Pool)

Mishneh

Warren's Gate

Men's Court

Court of the
Gentiles

Absalom's
Pillar

ver of
picus

Josephus' 1st
North Wall

Xystus

Barclay's
Gate

Royal Portico

Southeast Gate
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Gennath Gate

Tower of Mariamne

Herod
Antipas'
Palace

Robinson's Arch
(Stairway)

Huldah
Gates

Pinnacle of
the Temple
(traditional
location)

Herod's
Fortress

Upper
City

Valley
Gate

City

Ophel

Theater

Hezekiah's Tunnel

Olive

Ezek. 43:1, “Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east.

Ezek. 43:2, “And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.

Ezek. 43:3, “It was like the appearance of the vision which I saw—like the vision which I saw when I came to destroy the city. The visions were like the vision which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face.”

Acts 1:11, “who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’ ”

Where is Jesus Now?

Psa. 110:1, “The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ ”

Rev. 3:21, “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”