The Book of Revelation

An Overview

Revelation

- Greek word: “apokalupsis” meaning “to unveil”
- Revelation unveils in two ways:
  - Unveils Jesus in His glory
  - Unveils future events, including Jesus’ return to conquer evil

Author & Date

- Author: Apostle John (the son of Zebedee, brother of James)
- Date: AD 95 (approx.), during the time of Caesar Domitian who ruled from AD 81-96

Setting

- Apostle John was exiled to the Island of Patmos, a place criminals were sent to die
- Christians were facing severe persecution. Domitian made a law that everyone had to bow and worship him as God.

Themes of Revelation

- **1. Jesus will return to triumph over all evil (Rev.1:7, 22:12)**
- **2. Only believers who overcome will inherit the kingdom of God.**
  - ***Rev 14:12 (ESV) "Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus."***
  - ***Mat 24:12 (ESV) "And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. [13] But the one who endures to the end will be saved."***

Guidelines for Interpreting Revelation

- 4 ways of interpreting Revelation
  - **1. Past or Preterist View** – Rev.1-18 all happened in the first century, when the Christians struggled against Rome
  - **2. Historist or Historical View** – tries to match Revelation with events of history, from the early church to the present (e.g. rise of the pope, crusader wars, etc.). They don't see Great Tribulation at the end of the age but happening over the church history.
  - **3. Spiritual or Idealist View** – Revelation is about spiritual ideas, not real people or events. It's like a parable. The events did not happen and will not happen.
  - **4. Futurist View** – The 7-year tribulation period (Rev.5-19) of God's wrath and judgement will take place and will end with the return of Christ.

Symbols

- Provides us with word pictures
- Adds emotion and value to truth

Rev.	Symbol	Interpreted	Meaning
1:12-13	7 lampstands	1:20	7 churches
1:16	7 stars		7 messengers or pastors
2:28	the moming star	22:16	Jesus
3:7	key of David	3:7-8	power to open and close doors
4:5	7 lamps	4:5	7-fold Spirit of God; the Holy Spirit:5
5:6	the Lamb	17:14	Jesus, Lord of lords and King of kings
5:6	7 eyes	5:6	7-fold Spirit of God; the Holy Spirit
5:8	golden bowls full of incense	5:8	prayers of the saints
6:1-8	4 horses and riders	6:1-8	conquest, war, famine. and death an angel

9:1	fallen star	9:1	An angel
12:1-2, 5	woman and child	12:5	Israel and Christ
12:3; 20:2	red dragon, old serpent	12:9; 20:2	Satan, the devil
12:4	1/3 of the stars of heaven	12:7-9	fallen angels
12:14	a time, times and 1/2 a time	12:6	1,260 days = 3 ½ years
13:1-10; 17:8-12	the beast out of the sea, with 7 heads and 10 horns	17:11	the Antichrist who is the 8th king, and his kingdom
13:1; 17:3, 7	7 heads of the beast	17:9-10	7 hills and 7 kings
13:1; 17:3, 7	10 horns of the beast	17:12-13, 16-17	10 kings with the beast who is the Antichrist
13:11-17	the beast out of the earth	19:20	the false prophet

17:1-7	the great harlot, Babylon the Great who sits on a beast with 7 heads and 10 horns	17:9, 18	the great city that sits on 7 hills and rules over the kings of the earth
17:1	the waters on which the woman sits	17:15	the peoples of the world
19:8	fine linen	19:8	righteous deeds of the saints
19:11-16	the rider of the white horse	19:16	Christ, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS
22:16	The Root of David	22:16	Jesus

Overview Chart of Revelation 1-22

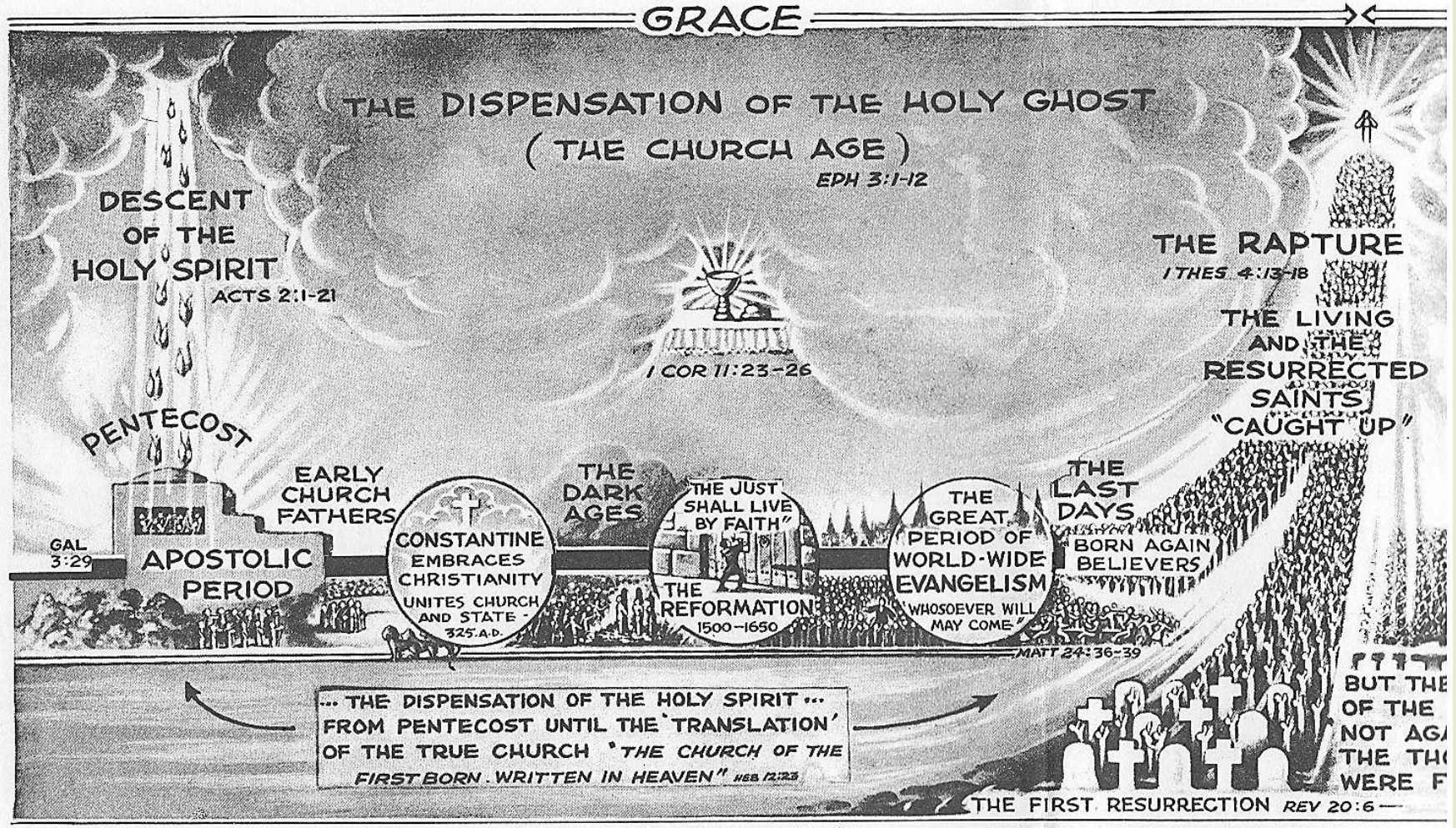
Rapture

7-Year Tribulation

Judgement

Intro, Vision of Christ	7 Messages to the 7 Churches	The Throne	The Scroll & the Lamb	7 Seals	144,000 sealed; a great multitude	7 trumpets; Little scroll	7 trumpets; the 2 witnesses	Woman; Dragon; Male Child	2 Beasts	144,000; 3 Angels Harvest	7 Bowls	The Harlot on the Beast	Fall of Babylon	2nd Coming; Wedding Supper; Armageddon	1000 Years; Great Judgement	New Heaven; New Earth; New City
Chap 1	2 – 3	4	5	6	7	8-9, 10	11	12	13	14	15, 16	17	18	19	20	21-22

SIXTH DISPENSATION – (ECCLESIASTICAL)



DESCENT AND DISPENSATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT • THE RAPTURE • ANTICHR

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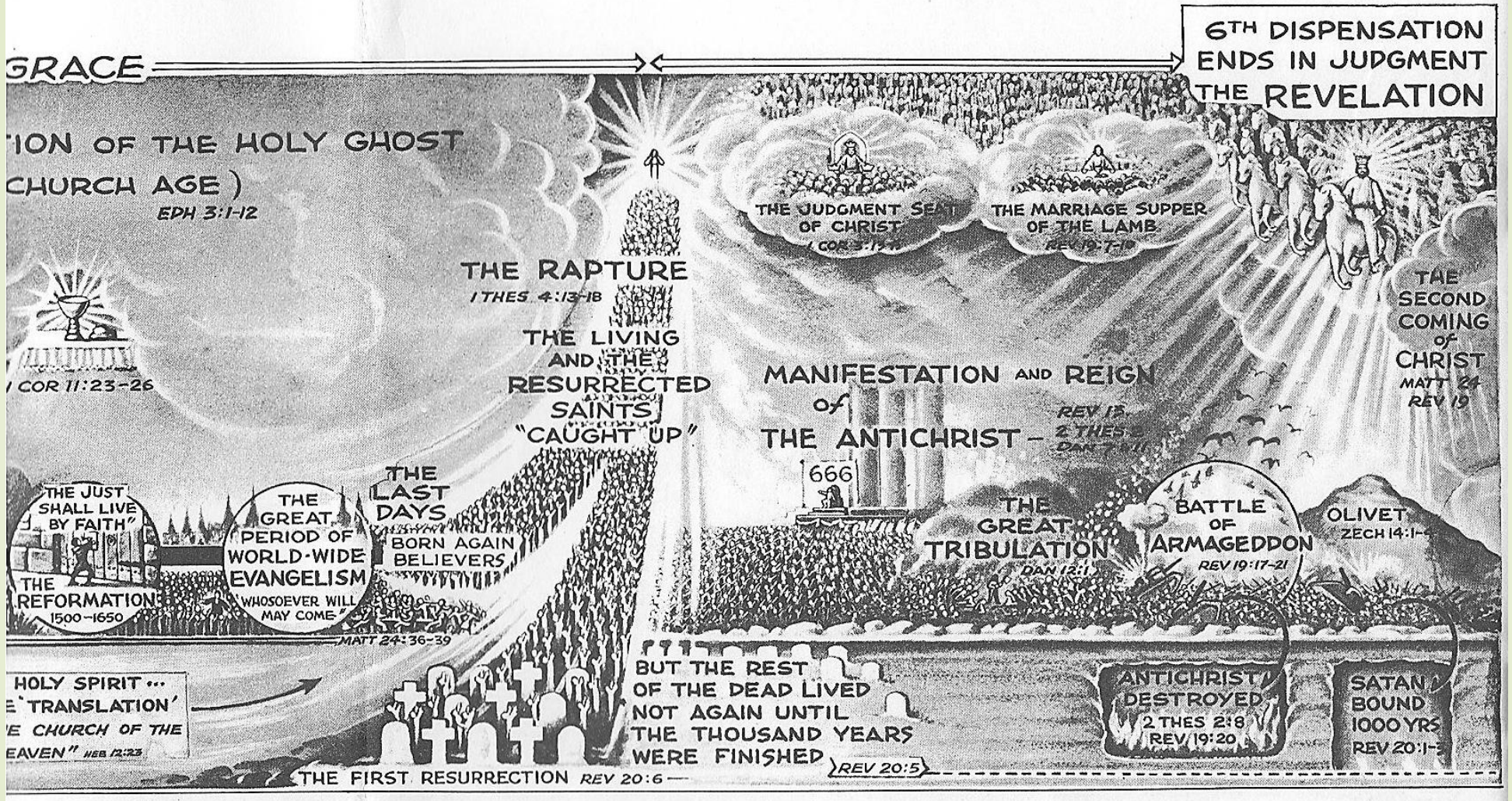

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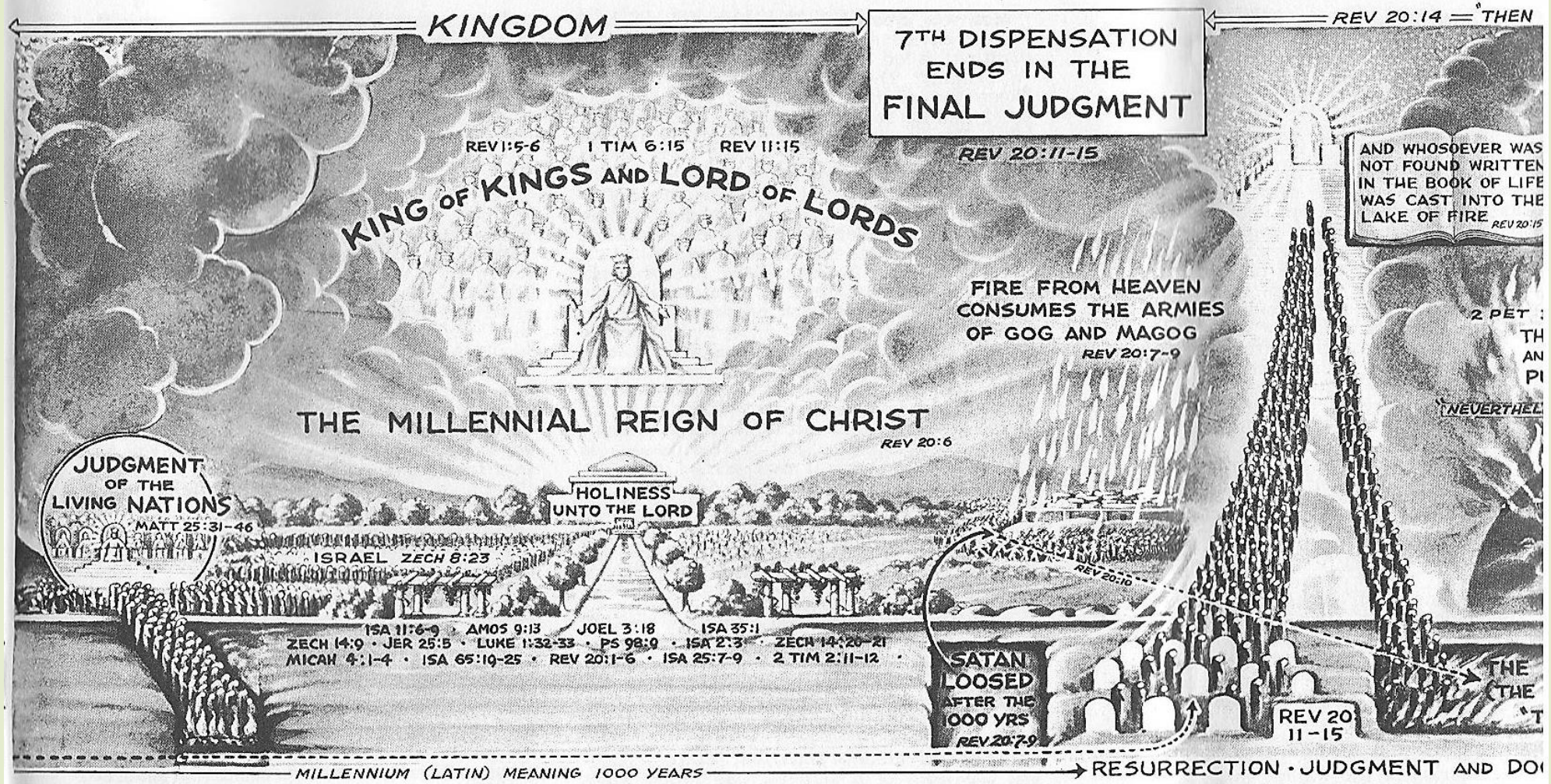
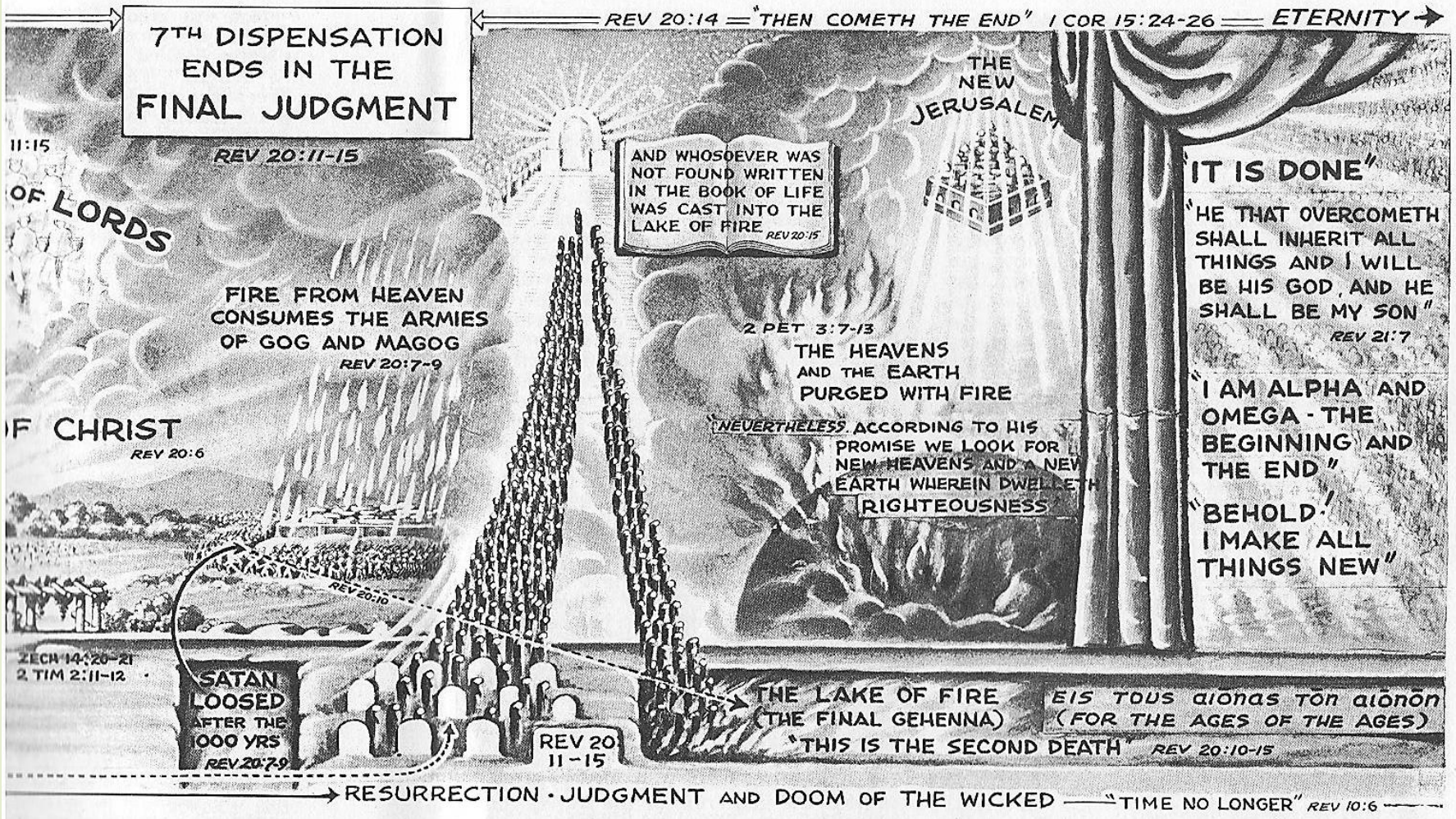
SEVENTH DISPENSATION – (MESSIANIC)



CHRIST REIGNING WITH HIS SAINTS • FINAL DOOM OF SATAN AND THE UNBELIEVING • N

2 TIM 2:12 · REV 5:10 - 20:6 · ESCHATOLOGY (THE STUDY OF LAST THINGS) - REFER TO NOTES →



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"THE STUDY OF LAST THINGS) - REFER TO NOTES → (THE PERFECT AND ETERNAL AGES →