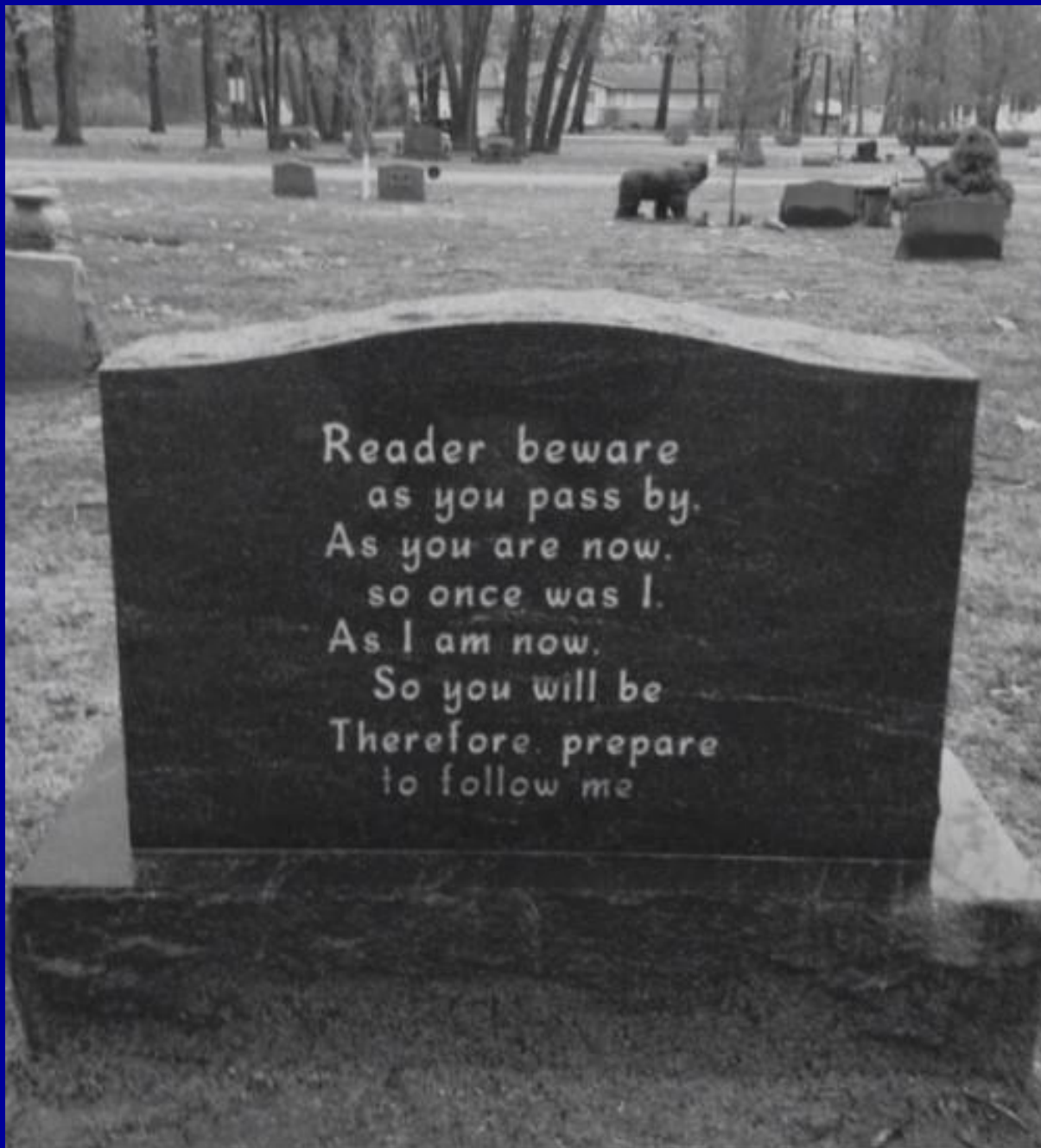


The background is a golden-hued, atmospheric scene of a city, likely Babylon, with a prominent tower in the center. The word "Daniel" is written in a large, glowing, brush-stroke font across the middle of the image.

Daniel

GODLY LIVING IN AN UNGODLY WORLD



Added later:

To follow you I'm not content,
until I know which way you went.



THE RAPTURE

A photograph of a wooden park bench in an outdoor setting. A dark jacket is draped over the back of the bench, and a pair of brown leather boots sits on the ground in front of it. The background shows a cloudy sky and some foliage. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

ARE YOU
saved??...

...YOU DON'T
WANT TO BE
"LEFT BEHIND?"

The Bible says about the RAPTURE

Three key passages

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18
- John 14:1-6
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-55

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

Four Things in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

1. The dead in Christ will rise up first.

1 Thessalonians 4:16b “...And the dead in Christ will rise first”

Four Things in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

2. The living believers will be translated.

(1 Cor. 15:51 we shall all be changed)

1 Thessalonians 4:17 “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds”

Four Things in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

3. We will all meet the Lord in the air and will always be with Him.

1 Thessalonians 4:17b [We will]
“..meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord”.

Four Things in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

4. We ought to comfort
(encourage) one another.

1 Thessalonians 4:18 Therefore
comfort one another with these
words.

4 Different Views About the Rapture

1. Pre - tribulation
2. Mid - Tribulation
3. Pre – Wrath (3/4)
4. Post - Tribulation

How would you encourage a person that holds to a Post – Tribulation view of the Rapture?

- You'll go through 7 years of God's wrath.
- You'll experience the seal, trumpet, and bowls judgments.
- Satan is going to chase you around for 7 years.
- Things are going to grow worse and worse for you, and some of you are going to die painful deaths as martyrs.

What is the point?

We have to be Biblical

What does the Bible say about the subject?

Where does it say that?

Why does it say these things?

Pre – Tribulation Rapture

- Christ will rapture the church before any part of the Tribulation begins.
- The **Tribulation** is a seven year period during which God's wrath is poured out on the world prior to the second Coming of Jesus.

What does that mean to the church?

The Church will not go through any of the judgements prophesied of the Tribulation in the book of Revelation (chapters 4 -18)

- **Seal** Judgements
- **Trumpet** Judgments
- **Bowl** Judgments

Why do we believe in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church?

Because we know that the
Tribulation focuses on Israel and the
non - believing nations, **NOT** the
Church.

How do we know that?

Because we are Biblical

- Daniel 70 weeks prophecy
- In Daniel 9:24-27 God provided a Prophetic Timetable for the nation of ISRAEL.
- **Daniel 9:24** seventy weeks are determined **for your people** and **for your holy city....**

The Bible Says.....

Daniel 9:25 Know therefore and understand..

- The first 69 groups of seven years – 483 years – counted the years “from the going forth of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince”

The Gap

Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem, on Palm Sunday March 30, A.D. 33.

At that point God's **prophetic clock stopped**.

Daniel describes a GAP between these 483 years and the final seven years of Israel prophetic timetable.

Events to take place during that GAP, according to Daniel 9:26

1. The **Messiah** will be killed
2. The **city of Jerusalem and its temple** would be destroyed
3. The **Jewish** people would be scattered all over the world and suffer severe difficulty from that time on.

The Final “Week” of 7 years

- The final “week” of seven years will begin for Israel when the Antichrist confirms a “covenant” for seven years (Daniel 9:27).
- **KEEP IN MIND:** 70 weeks prophecy deals with Israel, **NOT** the Church.
- Additionally, all unbelieving people will experience God’s wrath for rejecting salvation as offered by Christ Jesus.

The Main Point!

The seventy weeks prophecy deals with Israel, NOT the Church!



“Church” is missing in the Tribulation passages

The Book of Revelation

- “Church” mentioned 19 times in chapters 1-3.
- Not one time is the “Church” mentioned in chapters 4-19 in the book of Revelation.

“Church” is missing in the Tribulation passages

No **Old Testament** passage on the
Tribulation mentions the church.

No **New Testament** passage on the
Tribulation mentions the church.

That’s very Interesting!

But the Bible does say the following...

- **Romans 5:9** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
- **1 Thessalonians 1:10** and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
- **Delivers** = “Snatch out to oneself”

- **1 Thessalonians 5:9** “For God did not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ”
- The Bible speaks of “The great day of His wrath” (Revelation 6:17), but the Church will be “**Delivered**” that means “**Snatch out**” of the time of wrath.

Remember, we need to be BIBLICAL!

The Bible teaches that it is God's pattern to protect His people before His judgement falls.

- Enoch
- Noah and his family
- Lot
- Spies out of Jericho

- **Revelation 3:10** “Because you have kept my command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth”
- “Keep you from” = “out of”
- Not in the “midst of”
- Not save “through”, but “Out of”

Keeping Things in Context

- **2 Thessalonians 2:7** for the **mystery of lawlessness** is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.
- **Lawlessness will reach its highest point** in the future Tribulation under the Antichrist, who by the way is energized by Satan himself.

The Restrainer

The **Holy Spirit** indwells the church.

- **1 Cor. 3:16** “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Holy Spirit of God dwells in you?”
- **1 Cor. 6:19** “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you”..

What do we know so far

- The tribulation deals with Israel and the non – believers, NOT the Church.
- The Church is noticeably absent from all Tribulation passages.
- The Church is promised deliverance from the coming wrath.
- God's consistent pattern is to rescue His people before judgment falls.

- The Church is promised to be “kept” from “the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world.”
- The removal of the “Restrainer” from earth requires the removal of the church.
- Now, here is the amazing power and ministry of the Scriptures and the blessed hope they provide.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore **comfort one another with these words.** (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

Titus 2:13

“Looking for **the blessed hope** and **glorious appearing** of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”

Romans 13:11-12

“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to **awake out of sleep**; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light”.

James 5:8

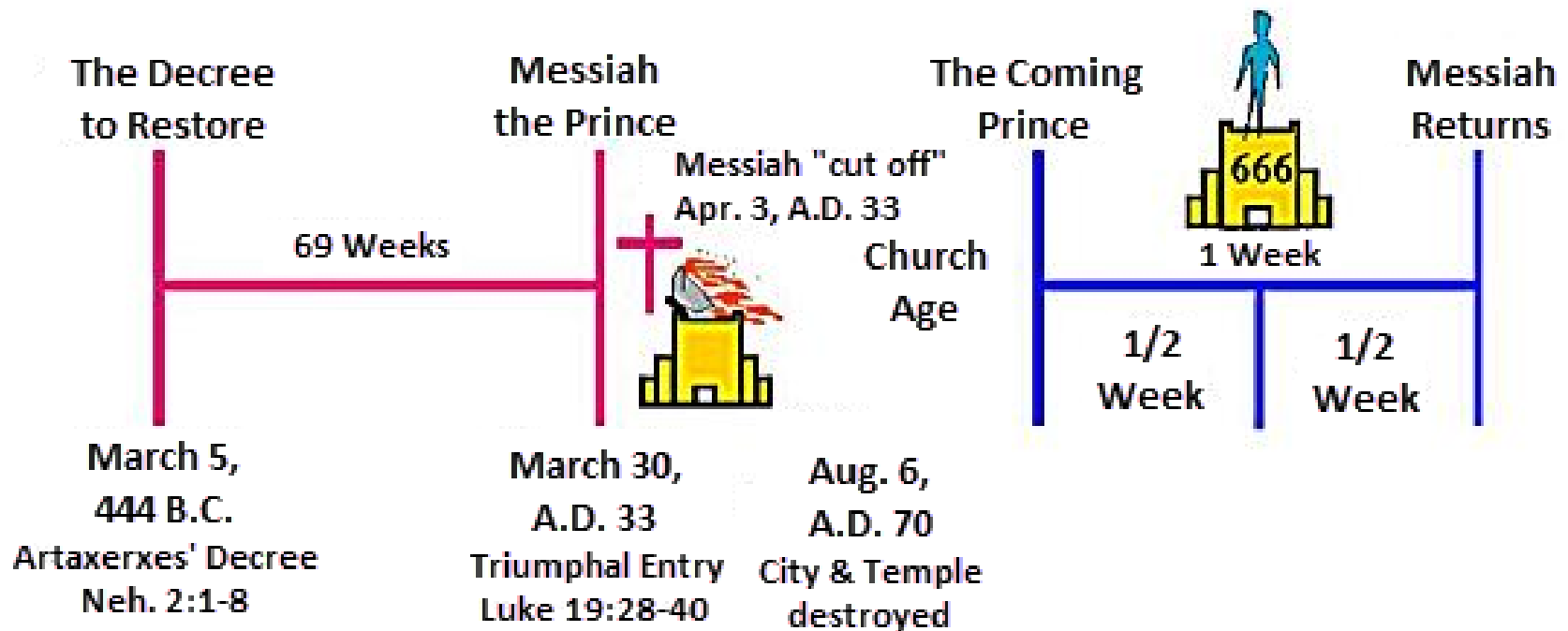
You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for **the coming of the Lord is at hand.**

1 Peter 5:7

But the end of all things is at hand;
therefore **be serious and watchful** in
your prayers.

Daniel's Seventy Weeks

(Daniel 9:24-27)



Daniel 9:27

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for **one week**; but in the **middle** of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”

Tribulation Overview

- Duration = 7 years
- Starts = Peace Treaty
- Mid-point = Temple Desecration
- Conclude = Second Coming of Jesus

The Stage is Set

- Rebirth of Israel in 1948
- Israel's desire for peace
- Desire among some Jews to Rebuild 3rd Jewish temple
- Desire among some Jews to Restore the sacrificial system

Daniel 9:27 = Revelation 6-19

- Rebuilt temple (Rev. 11:1-2)
- Division of the Tribulation into two 3½ year periods (Rev. 11:2, 13:5, 11:3, 12:6, 14)
- Antichrist (Rev. 13:1-10)
- Destruction of Antichrist (Rev. 19:20)
- 2nd Coming (Rev. 19:11-21)

Revelation 19:20

Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 22:7

“Behold, I am coming quickly!
Blessed is he who keeps
the words of the prophecy of
this book.”