

# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



## Malachi Part-6 (Chapters 3 & 4) KJV

12.13.2023

### 3:13-18, 4:1-6

Two Groups | Book of Remembrance | Final Judgement

**DISCONTENT FOLLOWERS (13-15)** Why do people feel it is vain to serve God? Why does God condemn their complaints?

**TRUE FOLLOWERS (16-17)** What is the mark of true followers? How does God recognize them? What is the book of remembrance?

**FINAL JUDGEMENT (18, 4:1-6)** What question/complaint does the final judgement resolve? Who is Elijah and what is his role? What is the final counsel given to Israelites? On what note does the last book of the old Testament end?

# Many failures of Israelites

- Blemished sacrifices
- Broken marriage covenants
- False teachings
- Unfaithful in tithing
- Complaining about Justice of God
- Disobedience and dishonor of God

**But God is merciful and faithful to His covenant.**

**Malachi 3:6** For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

# Discontent followers: Loving with wrong motives (13-15)

Why do people feel it is vain  
to serve God? Why does God  
condemn their complaints?

## Discontent followers

<sup>13</sup> Your words have been stout against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee? <sup>14</sup> Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and **what profit is it** that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts? <sup>15</sup> And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

Unique style  
of Malachi (as  
seen in other  
chapters)

Statement  
(by God)



Objection  
(by people)



Response  
(by God)

**13** Your words have been stout against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?

**God:** Your words have been harsh

**People:** What have we spoken so much against thee?  
(again, claiming ignorance or challenging God's statement)

**God:** You love God with wrong motive

# Wrong motive in serving God

**14** Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and **what profit is it** that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts? **15** And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

## Complaints and murmurings

- We have served God
- We have followed the laws
- We have repented

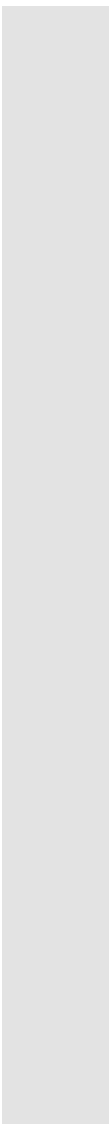
**BUT** There is no profit (14) ... wrong motive!

Wicked are prospering, happier, helped by God (but as discussed earlier, no reason to complain when we look at the end of wicked from an eternal perspective)

**Proverbs 24: 19-20** Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked: For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out



## God does not look as man looks!

- God looks at the intent behind our words and actions. God cannot be fooled by our exteriors.
  - Many religions and false teachers emphasize ‘works’ to earn God’s favor!
  - Many have been fooled into thinking “success & prosperity” is a sign of God’s approval!
- 



# Condition of our heart often revealed by our speech and actions

Tithing practices exposed the condition of heart (3:8-10)

- Lack of obedience
- Lack of generous spirit
- Lack of complete trust in God
- Lack of concern for the ministry of the temple & priests

“Out of the abundance of heart the mouth speaketh” (Mathew 12:34)

The questions and complaints of Israelites in Malachi reveals the condition of their heart.

**Do we know the true condition of our heart?**

**Loving God (or anyone) with a selfish motive is NOT Love.**

# Examine ourselves



**WHAT IS OUR MOTIVE IN  
SERVING GOD?**

Are we seeking personal fame  
and applause from people?

**OR**

Are we seeking to do His will and  
glorify God?

# True Followers: Fear the Lord (16-17)

What is the mark of true followers? How does God recognize them?

What is the book of remembrance?

# True Followers

<sup>16</sup> Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

<sup>17</sup> And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

## Mark of True Followers

True followers **feared the Lord** (reverential fear and respect for God)

- Such fear leads to a life of obedience and fellowship with others

God hears them

God kept a record of such people (book of Remembrance)

*Are we true followers of God?*

# Reward for True followers

## Honored by God

- They shall be mine
- They shall be precious (jewels)
- I will spare them

**Book of  
Remembrance  
& Lamb's Book  
of Life**



# Book of Remembrance

## **Book of Remembrance**

record of righteous works (faith without works is dead)

record used to reward later



# Book of Remembrance (kept by Kings)

**ESTHER 6** On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. <sup>2</sup> And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. <sup>3</sup> And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.

- Book kept by king to reward later.

# God does not forget our goodness

## God records everything and rewards everything

**Mathew 10:42** And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

**Revelation 22:12** And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

**II Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad

# Lamb's Book of life

For the redeemed saints, overcomers, heaven  
bound believers.



**“Lamb’s Book  
of Life”** ...book  
of redeemed  
who will be  
with the Lord  
for ever

Revelation 21:27

And there shall in no wise enter  
into it any thing that defileth,  
neither whatsoever worketh  
abomination, or maketh a lie: but  
they which are written in the  
Lamb's book of life

**Book of Life ...**  
eternal  
security for  
redeemed

**ETERNAL SECURITY ONCE SAVED**

**REVELATION 3:5** He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. (*eternal security*: John 10:28-30, Hebrews 9:12)

Who is an overcomer? Born again believers are Overcomers

**I John 5:4** For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

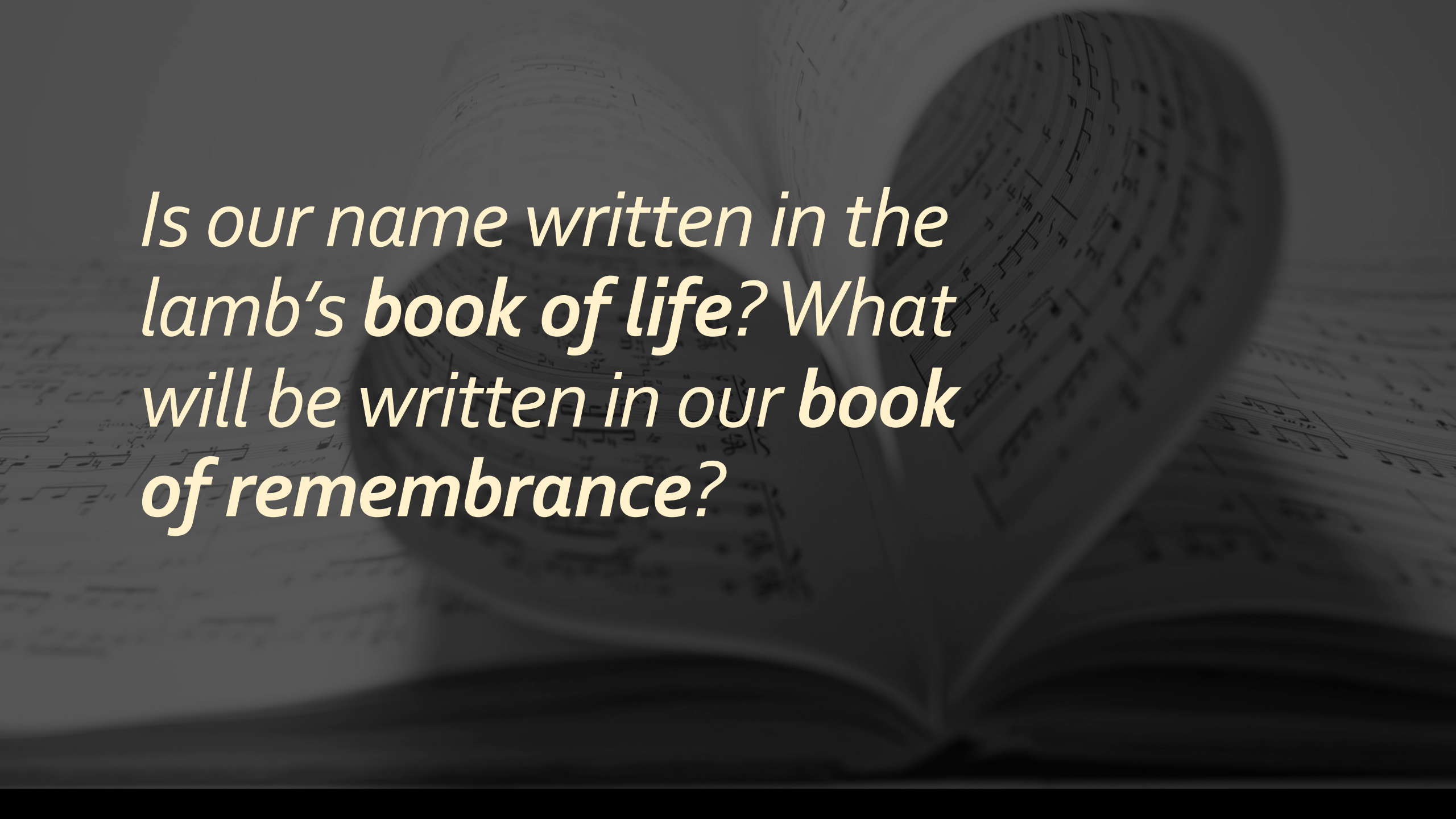
# What if your name is not found in the book of life?

## Revelation 20:11-15 (WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT OF SINNERS)

<sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the **books were opened**: and another book was opened, which is the **book of life**: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

<sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. <sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the **second death**.

<sup>15</sup> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was **cast into the lake of fire**.



*Is our name written in the  
lamb's book of life? What  
will be written in our book  
of remembrance?*

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# Final Judgement

(3:18-4:6)

# Day of the Lord ... Justice for righteous and wicked

**3:18** Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

**4** For, behold, **the day cometh**, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

**2** **But** unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

**3** And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts. **4** Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

**5** Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: **6** And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

# Coming of the Lord

- First Advent of the Lord: As Savior
- Rapture: For believers only
- Second coming of the Lord: As Judge

# Day of the Lord

Continues response to the questions raised earlier (2:17, 3:14) ... why do the wicked prosper and remain unpunished?

Day of the Lord will be the day of final justice.

Righteous will be saved and wicked will be destroyed.

For, behold, **the day cometh**, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

- Fire: Purifies the remnant and Destroys the wicked

Our God is a consuming fire, Hebrews 12:29

- Target of God's judgement: The Proud and the wicked (1)
- Complete destruction: reduced to stubble, neither root nor branch left, wicked will be trampled by the righteous.

# Sun of righteousness

2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

- Addressed to: Those who fear God's name (the remnant)
- Lord Jesus Christ is the sun of righteousness with healing
- Before millennial reign, Sun of Righteousness will rise to exercise judgement and then begin the reign. Antichrist will be defeated.

# Law of Moses

4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

**Law of Moses** – exhorted to remember and obey

Jesus did not come to destroy the law

**Mathew 5:17** Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Moses represented laws

Elijah represented prophets

Together they represent the OT

## Elijah ... who is he?

**Jesus spoke of Elijah Mathew 17:11-13** <sup>11</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. <sup>12</sup> But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. <sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.

**John ministered with the power of Elijah, Luke 1:17** And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

**John said he is not Elijah; John 1: 21** And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

**One of the two witnesses during great tribulation Revelation**

**11:3** And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy



# Elijah's ministry

Ministry of call to repentance and warning of God's judgement

# Moses & Elijah

- Mount Sinai (Moses received ten commandments; Elijah hears the still small voice of God)
- Death (Moses buried by God, Elijah taken up in Chariot)
- Mount of Transfiguration (both Present with Lord Jesus)
- Two witnesses during tribulation time (?)

# Last verses of OT and NT

Malachi warning and curse

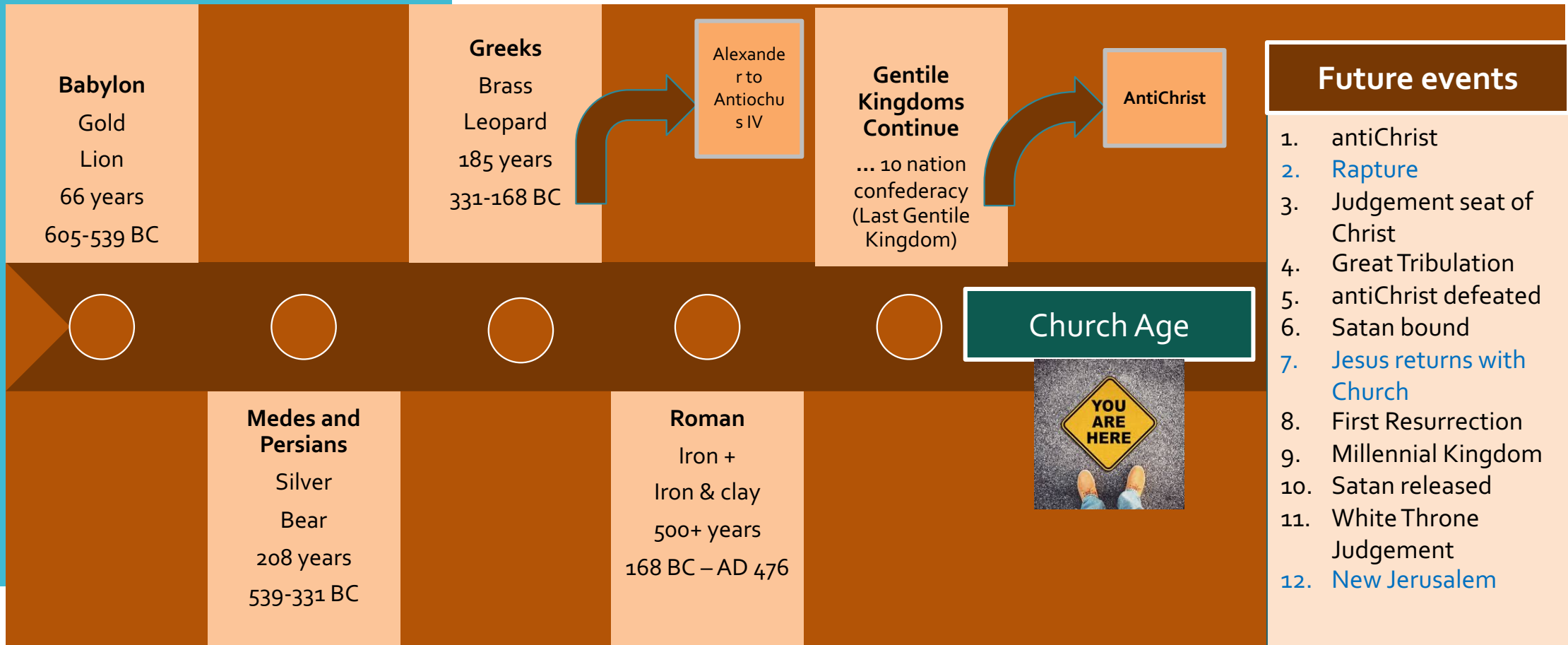
**4:6** smite the earth with a curse

Revelation blessing

**22:21** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

# From Daniel Bible study

## 600 BC to Today to Rest of Eternity



# END OF JEWS ...

## Great tribulation followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming and Armageddon

- Nations shall rise up against Jews and God of Israel (Ezekiel 38-39)
- Lord returns to defend and fight the battle for Israel
  - EZEKIEL 38:18-23 18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face ... 23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord.
  - Compare with battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16 ... and the victory, Revelation 19)

### End of Jews:

- Some Jews will be saved during tribulation (Zechariah 13:8-9)... **God's love extended all the way from calling of Abraham until the great tribulation. Jews given one more chance.**
- Others will be condemned for eternity

*Was God silent  
during 400 years?  
Is God silent today?*

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