

Bible Basics 2023

Session 8

The church
in the millennium
& in eternity

based on Revelation 21 & 22

what I intend talking about

putting this talk into context

- within today's theme & lectures
- chronologically

the church in the millennium
and the relevance of this
description to us now

the church in eternity

that God will dwell with His people

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that God will dwell with His people

the church as the house of God

- 1 "I will build my church"
 - 2 Foundation of apostles & prophets,
Christ the cornerstone
 - 3 Living stones being built in
-

GOD

- 4 We are building workers
 - 5 Order in the house
 - 6 Failure - the great (large) house
-

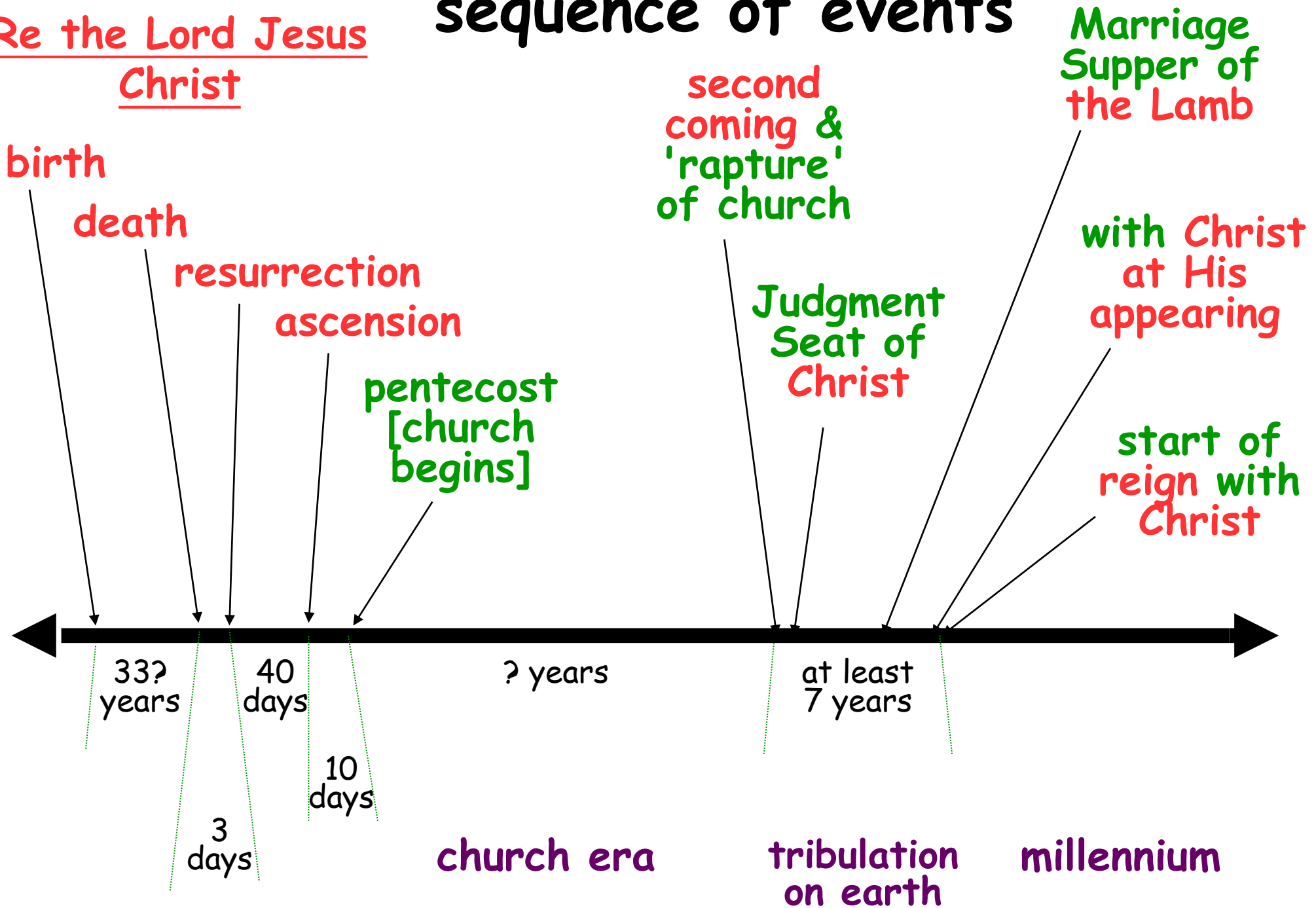
US

- 7 Promise to the overcomer
- a pillar in the temple of God
- 8 The millennium: The Lord God is the temple
Eternity: God will tabernacle with us⁴

GOD

Re the Lord Jesus
Christ

sequence of events



The Lord Jesus Christ will return & call:

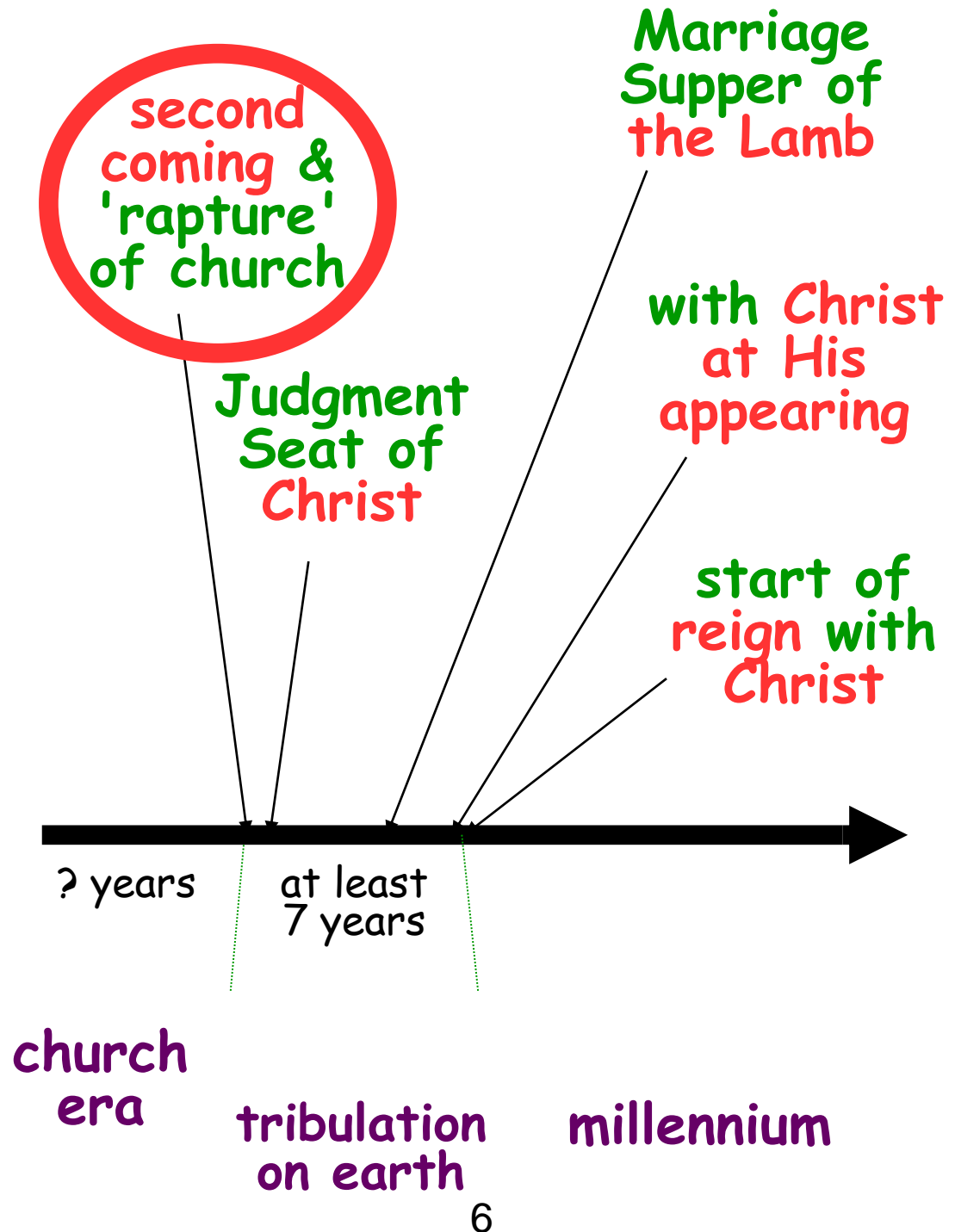
- from their graves the bodies of those who have died in Christ
- living believers (the church on earth at that time)

We will meet the Lord in the air

We will be always with the Lord

[1 Thessalonians 4:17]

Christ's return could be at any time



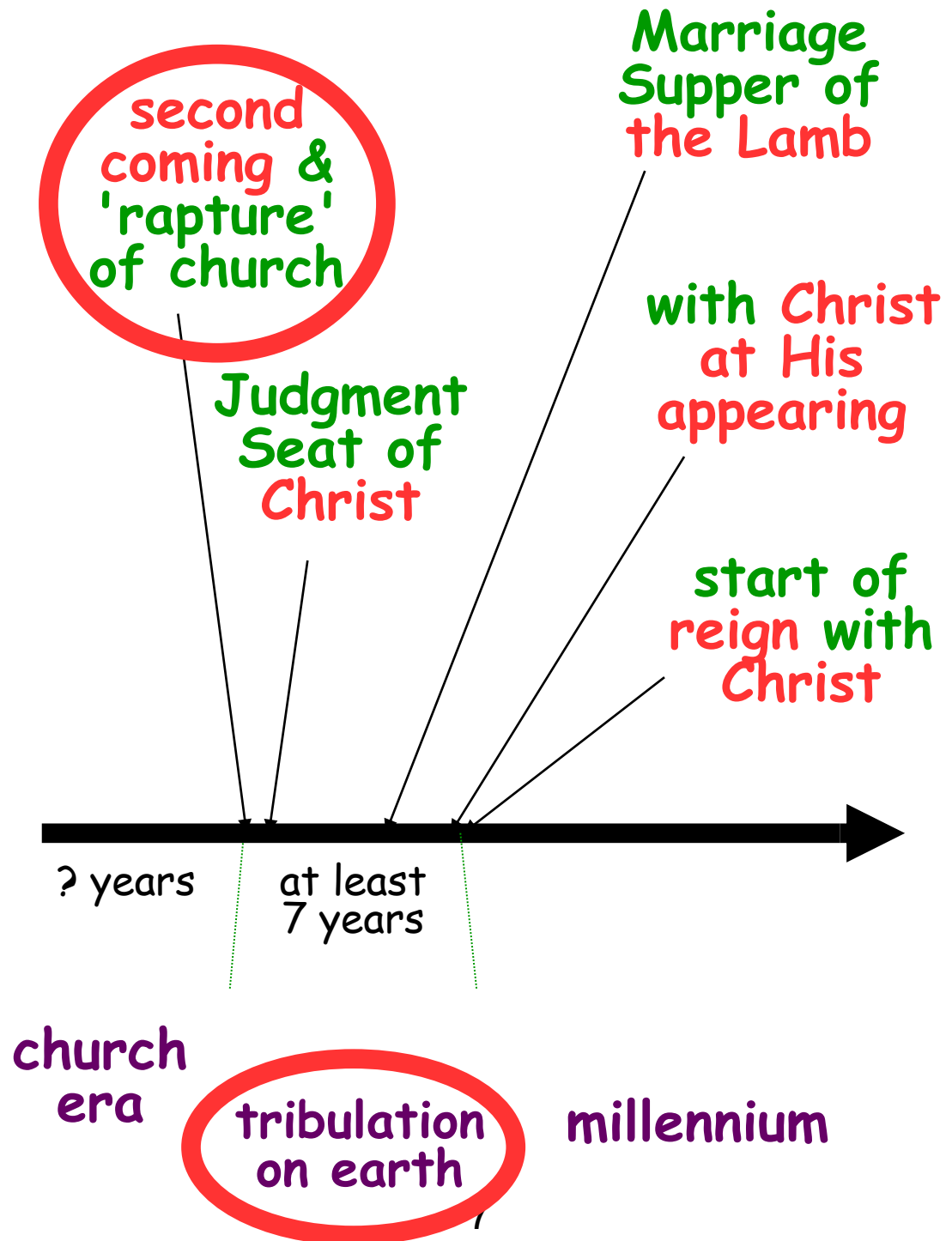
What happens on earth
after the church has
been taken?

There will be a terrible
time of suffering -
called 'the tribulation'

There is a false church
which remains of earth
In the bible it is called a
'harlot' or 'prostitute'

It will be destroyed
during this time by the
great political power

See Rev 17:1-19:4



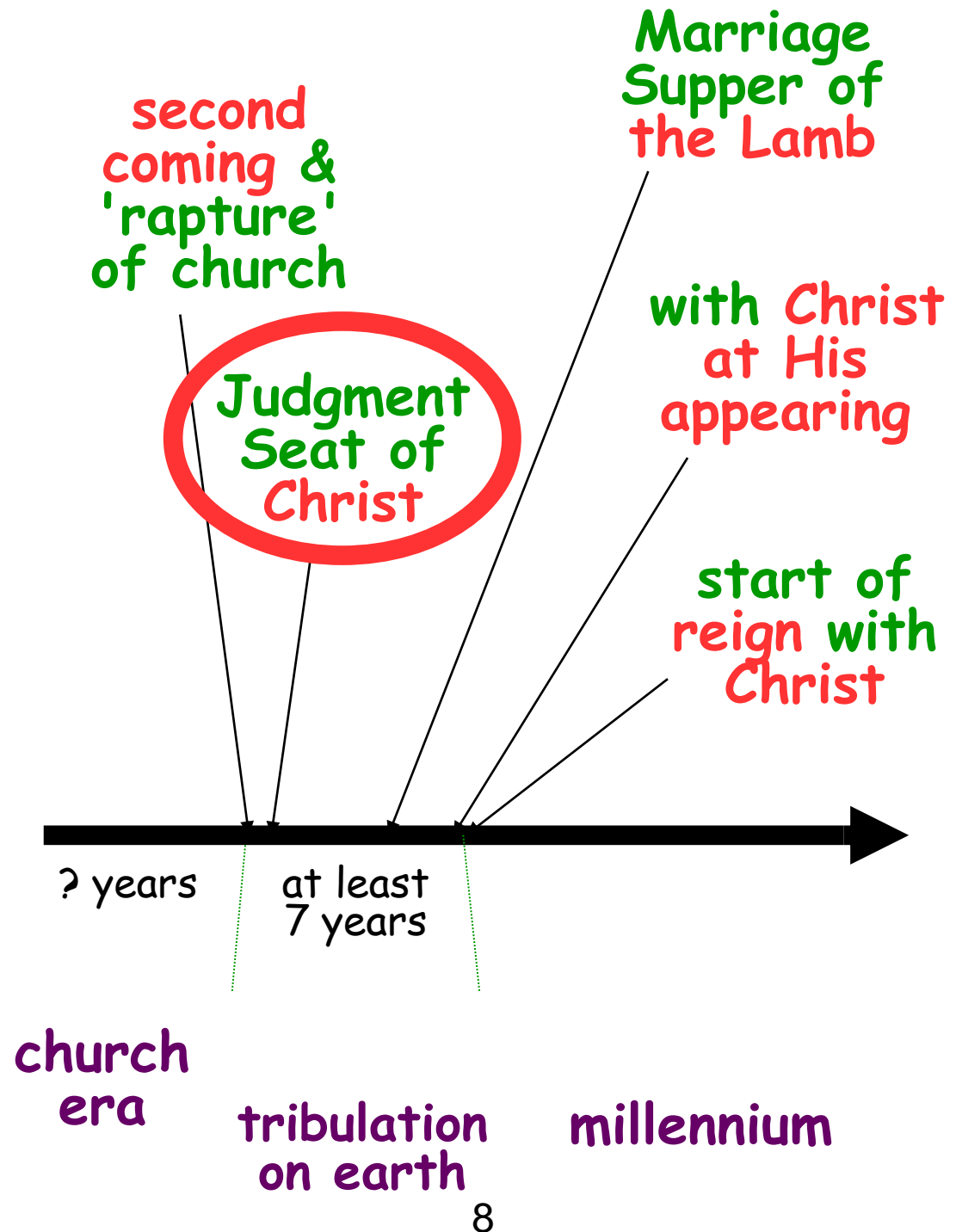
All believers will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ [2 Corinthians 5:10]

We will be judged on our works:

- not to determine our eternal destiny
- but to learn how the Lord assesses what we've done

What is done for the Lord will be rewarded

What is not done for the Lord will be burned up [1 Corinthians 3:10-15]



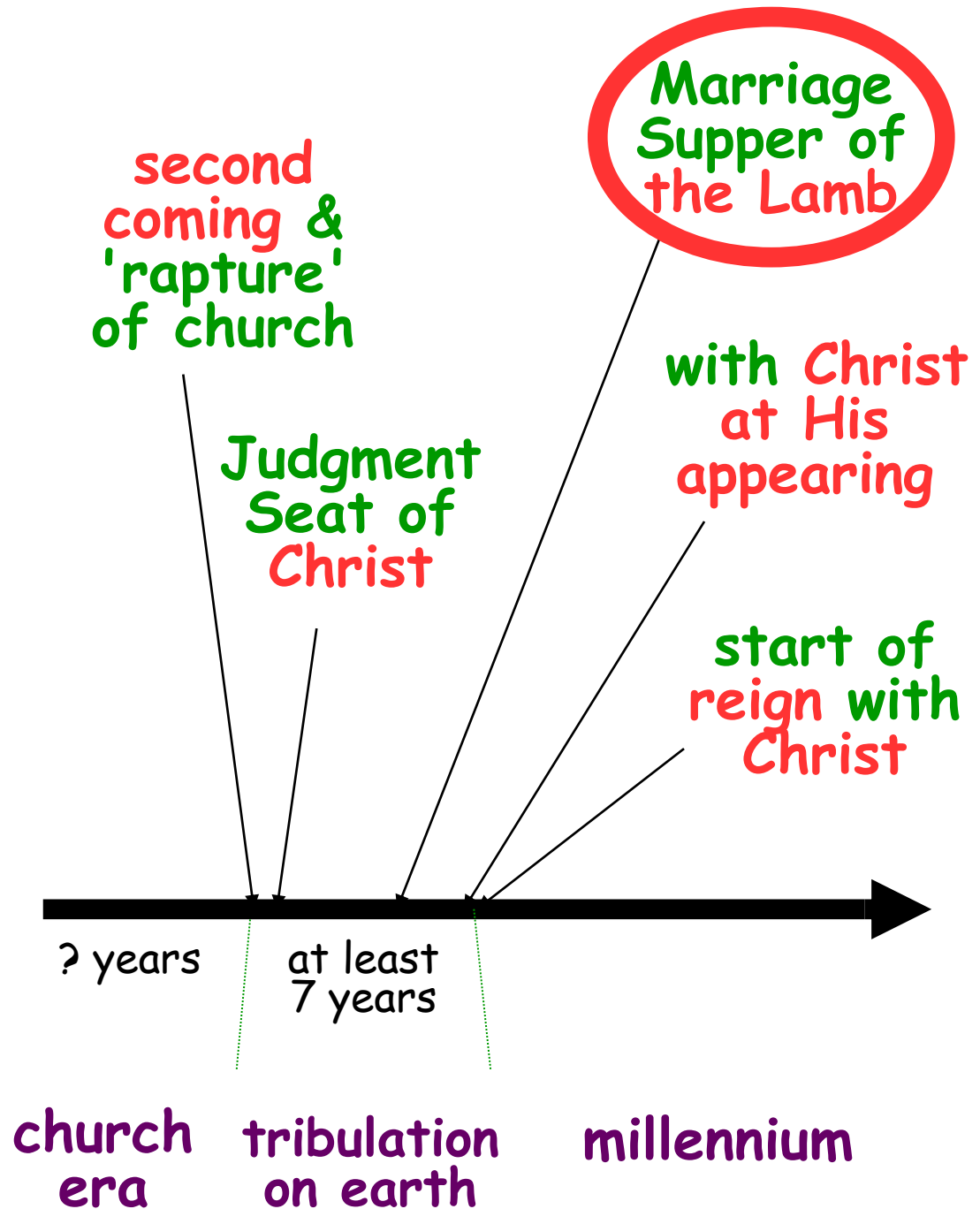
All believers form the Bride, the wife of the Lamb

It was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and pure; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses* of the saints

[Revelation 19:8]

Being the bride indicates intimacy with the Lord

How much 'fine linen' do we have?



The 'appearing' of Christ is when He returns at the end of the tribulation period

His 'appearing' is sometimes called the 'revelation' or 'manifestation'

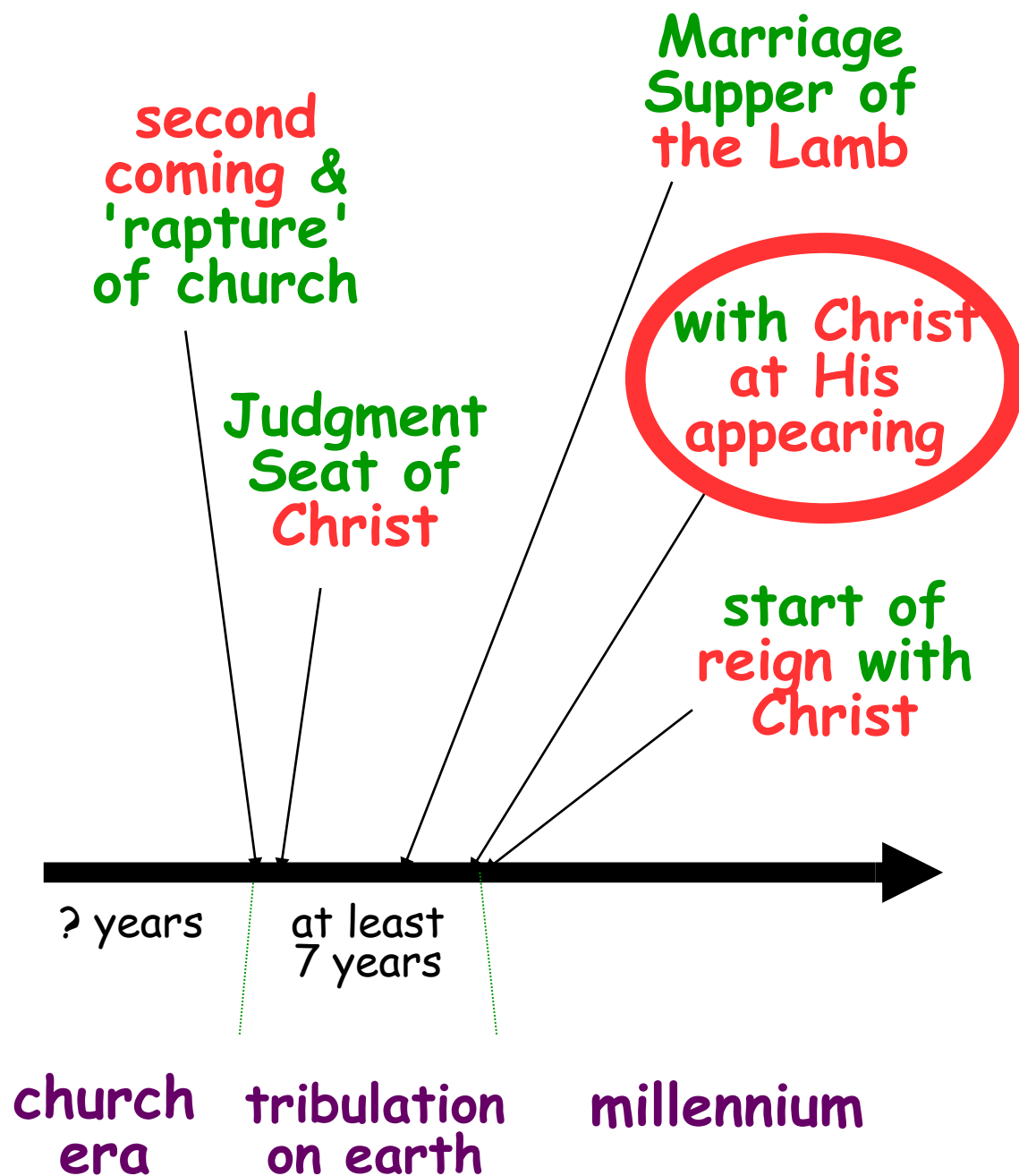
Every eye will see Him [Revelation 1:7]

He will defeat His enemies

We will be with Him

When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory

[Colossians 3:4, ESV]



The Lord Jesus Christ will rule over the earth for 1000 years, the millennium

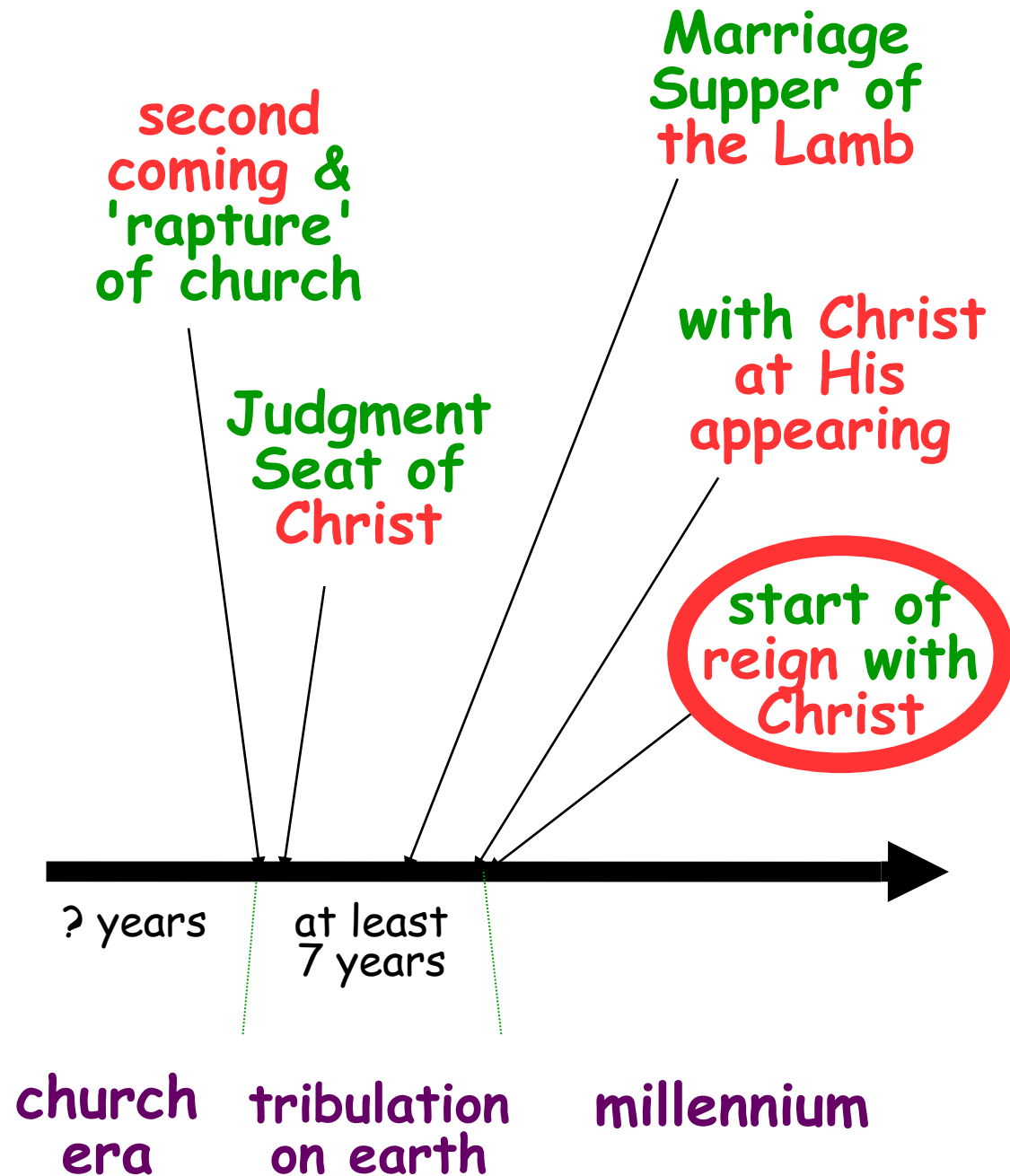
The time will begin with judgment on His enemies

Satan will be bound, but people will still be sinners

The Lord will rule in righteousness

It will be a time of peace, longevity, righteousness

We will reign with Him



**'we will reign
with Him'**

This is a scene in
heaven after the
'rapture'; believers are
the 24 elders

And when it [the Lamb,
the Lord Jesus Christ]
took the book,
the 4 living creatures
and the 24 elders
fell before the Lamb

...

And they sing a new song,
saying,
'You are worthy to take the
book,
and to open its seals;
because you have been slain,
and have redeemed to God, by
your blood, out of every tribe,
and tongue, and people, and
nation,
and made them to our God
kings and priests;
and they will reign over the
earth.'

[Revelation 5:8-10]

We will reign over the earth with
Christ during the millennium ¹²

Revelation 21 & 22

It's easy to get confused!

In these chapters:
the church
- in the millennium
- in eternity

but the church in
eternity is described
first

Revelation 21:1-8

then the church in
the millennium
Rev 21:9-22:5

This way of presentation runs
through Revelation

After a chronological section
the Holy Spirit then expands
on individuals & themes
mentioned in those sections

How do we know that's the
order here?

... death shall be no more ...
[Revelation 21:4]

By its light will the nations
walk

[Revelation 21:24]

eternity

millennium

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**the church in the millennium
and the relevance of this
description to us now**

the church in the millennium: the bride, the Lamb's wife

After the destruction of 'Babylon' (the prostitute,
the false wife, unbelieving Christendom),
the true church will enjoy
the marriage supper of the Lamb

Later we read:

And there came one of the 7 angels
... and spoke with me, saying,
Come here, I will show you the
bride, the Lamb's wife
[Revelation 21:9]

and now the
bride, the
Lamb's wife,
is about to
be described

the church in the millennium: the start of the description

And he ... shewed me the holy city,
Jerusalem,
coming down out of the heaven from God,
having the glory of God.
Her shining was like a most precious
stone,
as a crystal-like jasper stone ...
[Revelation 21:10-11]

the church in the millennium:
the holy city, Jerusalem

WE
will be part of
the holy city,
Jerusalem!

we also need to look backward
from these future events
revealed here

to

NOW

is this relevant to you & me NOW?

YES

the principles described
in these verses

should mark us today

the church in the millennium: the holy city, Jerusalem

And he ... shewed me the **holy** city, Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God, having the glory of God.
[Revelation 21:10-11a]

Holy

Holy means 'separated':

- to God
- from what is evil

We, in our glorified state, will be holy

For today:

We should be
holy in practice
now

Be you holy, for
I am holy
[1 Peter 1:16]

the church in the millennium: the holy city, Jerusalem

And he ... shewed me the holy **city**, Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God, having the glory of God.
[Revelation 21:10-11a]

City

None of us will be isolated

We will be part of a vast throng of many millions

We will be together, centred on the Lord Jesus Christ

For today:

Do not neglect being with other believers - focusing on the Lord Jesus Christ

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together
[Hebrews 10:25]

the church in the millennium: the holy city, Jerusalem

And he ... shewed me the holy **city**, Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God, having the glory of God.
[Revelation 21:10-11a]

City

But why is the church in this era nowhere described as a 'city'?

Cities are centres of administration & rule

The church is not involved in administration or rule in the world now

The church will be involved in rule in the millennium

the church in the millennium: the holy city, Jerusalem

And he ... shewed me the holy city, **Jerusalem** coming down out of the heaven from God, having the glory of God.
[Revelation 21:10-11a]

earthly Jerusalem

The earthly Jerusalem in Israel was chosen by God to be the place where He put His Name

I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there
[2 Chronicles 6:6]

For a time God dwelt among His people in Jerusalem

... this mount Zion, in which you have lived
[Psalm 74:2]

the holy city, Jerusalem

The church in the millennium is described as the holy city, Jerusalem

Why 'Jerusalem'?

It is the place where God has chosen to put His name & where He will dwell

... the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it
[Revelation 22:3]

the church in the millennium: the holy city, Jerusalem

And he ... shewed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God having the glory of God.
[Revelation 21:10-11a]

Out of the
heaven from God
Believers will
have been in
heaven with their
Lord
The church is a
heavenly
organisation

For today:

The church is a heavenly
organisation even now -
so, for example, we should not
base our practices on the customs
of the day, but on what God says.
When writing about order in the
church, Paul writes:
the things that I write to you ...
is the Lord's commandment
[1 Corinthians²³ 14:37]

the church in the millennium: the holy city, Jerusalem

And he ... shewed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God, **having the glory of God** [Revelation 21:10-11]

Having the glory of God
Glory is manifested
excellence, excellence
that is shown
Believers, forming the
church, having been
'perfected', will show
God's glory

For today:

God's glory should be shown in us in many ways
- including, for example, in our relationship with each other

And the glory which you have given me I have given them, that they may be one, as we are one

[John ²¹17:22]

the church in the millennium: the holy city, Jerusalem

And he ... shewed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her shining was like a most precious stone, as a crystal-like jasper stone.

[Revelation 21:10-11]

The holy city will come down out of heaven & be above the earth

The city will shine like a clear precious stone

In the millennium God's glory will be seen from the city by those on earth

For today:

Do we have a witness that shines in this world?

You are the light of the world ...

let your light thus shine before men

[Matthew 5:14,16]

the church in the millennium: the holy city, Jerusalem

... having a great and high **wall**; having 12 **gates** and at the gates 12 angels ...

And nothing common, nor that makes an abomination and a lie, will at all enter into it; but those only who are written in the book of life of the Lamb.

[Revelation 21:12,27]

Wall & gates

The wall separated the holy city from what was outside

Guarded gates allowed those suitable to enter, but not others

For today:

We should be separated from this ungodly world in attitudes & behaviour

The true church: only those in the Lamb's Book of Life

The fundamental expression of fellowship, reception at the Lord's table, needs to be guarded

the church in the millennium: the holy city, Jerusalem

And I saw no temple in it; for the Lord God Almighty is its temple, and the Lamb.

[Revelation 21:22]

The temple

The temple is the place where God dwelt & where He was worshipped

But with the man-made temple there was a distance - the people could not enter the Holy Place. For example:

All the multitude of the people were praying outside (Luke 1:10)

In the millennium there will be no temple structure, there will be no distance between us and God

the church in the millennium: the holy city, Jerusalem

And the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon,
that they should shine for it; for the glory of God has
enlightened it, and the lamp thereof is the Lamb.
[Revelation 21:23]

Lighting the city
No external light
required
The glory of God
lightens it, the Lamb
will be the lamp

For today:

Do we allow the light of
the Lord & His Word to
enlighten us?

Your word is a lamp
unto my feet, and a
light unto my path
[Psalm 119:105]

the church in the millennium: the holy city, Jerusalem

And nothing common, nor that makes an abomination and a lie, will at all enter into it; but those only who are written in the book of life of the Lamb.

[Revelation 21:27]

The Lamb's book of life

This is the record of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ

None of those who have rejected the good news of Jesus and whose sins are unforgiven are in the Lamb's Book of Life

They cannot enter the holy city

and there is much more
to this wonderful
description of the church
in the millennium

read it:

Revelation 21:10 - 22:6

the church today

I suggest - some features that should practically characterise the local church/assembly today:

- holy
- a place of togetherness
- recognition that the church is the place where God has put His Name
- heavenly (including accepting God's church order)
- displaying God's glory (including showing unity)
- a light to this world
- separated from the world in attitudes & behaviour
- suitably protected (walls and gates)
- enlightened by the Lord & His word

to some extent these features are now being displayed in weakness

they will be displayed in perfection during the Millennium

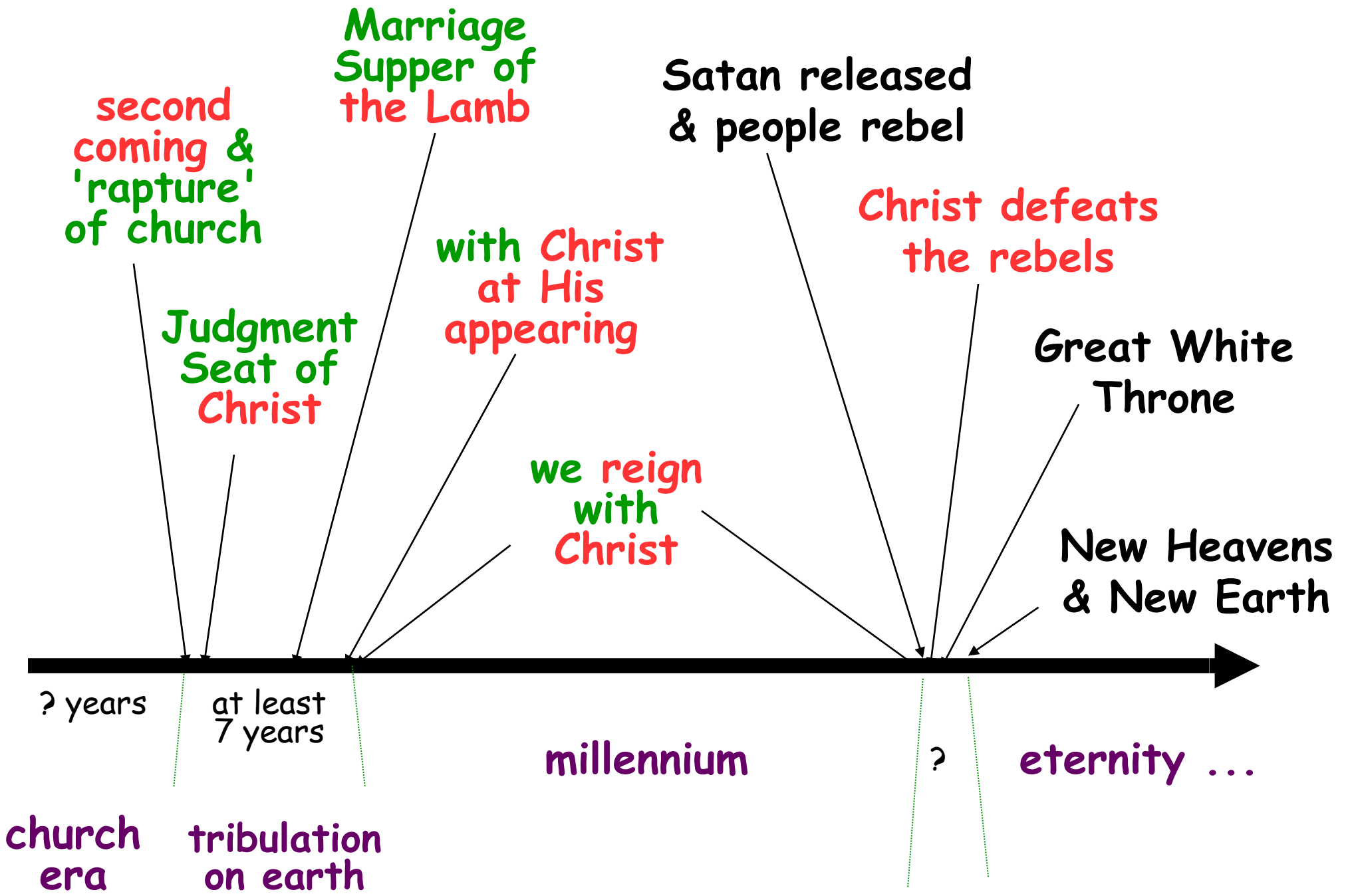
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and the relevance of this
description to us now

the church in eternity



the church in eternity: the holy city, New Jerusalem

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea exists no more.

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice out of the heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will tabernacle with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them, their God.

And he will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death will not exist any more, nor grief, nor cry, nor distress will exist any more, for the former things have passed away.

And he that sat on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he says to me, Write, for these words are true and faithful.

And he said to me, It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

[Revelation 21:1-6]

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea exists no more.

[Revelation 21:1]

What Peter tells us:

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, and the elements, burning with heat, will be dissolved, and the earth and the works in it will be burnt up ...

But, according to his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, in which dwells righteousness.

[2 Peter 3:10,13]

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved,
what sort of people ought you to be
in lives of holiness and godliness?

[2 Peter 3:11, ESV]

the church in eternity: the holy city, new Jerusalem

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

[Revelation 21:2]

Much of this description is similar to that of the church in the millennium:

holy

city

Jerusalem*

coming down out of heaven from God

* but this time 'new'

Behold, I make all things new

[Revelation 21:5] 36

the church in eternity: the holy city, new Jerusalem

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

[Revelation 21:2]

A bride

For the millennium the church is described as the bride, the Lamb's wife:
she is a 'helpmate' (Gen 2:18) in ruling with Christ
[Revelation 19:7]

For eternity, she is simply described as the bride
The freshness and joy of the relationship with the Lord remains eternally

the church in eternity: the holy city, new Jerusalem

And I heard a loud voice out of the heaven, saying,
Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,
and he will tabernacle with them,
and they will be his people,
and God himself will be with them, their God
[Revelation 21:3]

God himself will be with them, their God

Let's look a little at God being with people ...

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that God will dwell with His people

God being with people - 1

Adam & Eve

They heard the voice of Jehovan Elohim, walking in the garden in the cool of the day [Genesis 3:8]

But they sinned & then hid from God

God's presence was there but behind a curtain (veil). The Israelites failed, and He withdrew His presence

To Moses re tabernacle
And they shall make me a sanctuary, that I may live among them [Exodus 25:8]

To Solomon re temple
I have now chosen and hallowed this house, that my name may be there for ever; and my eyes and my heart will be there perpetually. [2 Chronicles 7:16]

God being with people - 2

The Lord Jesus Christ

The Word became flesh,
and dwelt among us
[John 1:14]

But the world did
not want Him

True, of course,
but we fail

Christian believers

Do you not know that
you are the temple of
God? [1 Corinthians
3:16]

The church

The whole structure,
being joined together,
grows into a holy
temple in the Lord
[Ephesians 2:21]

When did God make His plans to dwell with people?

He has chosen us in him before the world's foundation that we should be holy and blameless before him in love; having marked us out beforehand for adoption through Jesus Christ to himself.

[Ephesians 1:4]

When did God make His plans to dwell with people?

Before the world's foundation - in eternity past
Notice that He chose us for adoption

to Himself

God will dwell with His people

then God will dwell with His people
without any hindrance or reserve

The tabernacle of God is with men,
and he will tabernacle with them,
and they will be his people,
and God himself will be with them,
their God.

[Revelation 21:3]

... for all eternity ..⁴³