

Memory Verse

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.



**THE CHURCH HAS LEFT
THE BUILDING...**

**PART 10 – THE FUTURE
OF THE CHURCH**

A. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 - The Future

We will start with what Paul says about the *future of the church*. This will occur in the *end times just prior to the return of Jesus*. There are many details, but I will begin with the text...

1 Thessalonians 4:15-5:11

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will

not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

18Therefore encourage one another with

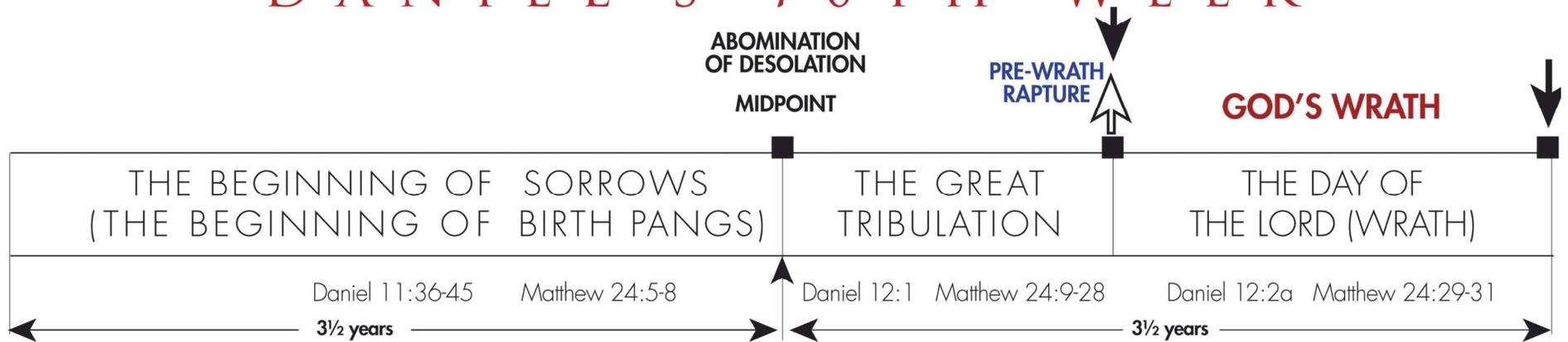
these words.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4But you are not in

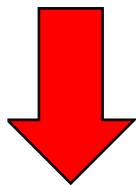
darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of

salvation. 9For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK



DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK



ABOMINATION
OF DESOLATION
MIDPOINT

PRE-WRATH
RAPTURE

GOD'S WRATH



THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS
(THE BEGINNING OF BIRTH PANGS)

THE GREAT
TRIBULATION

THE DAY OF
THE LORD (WRATH)

Daniel 11:36-45

Matthew 24:5-8

Daniel 12:1

Matthew 24:9-28

Daniel 12:2a

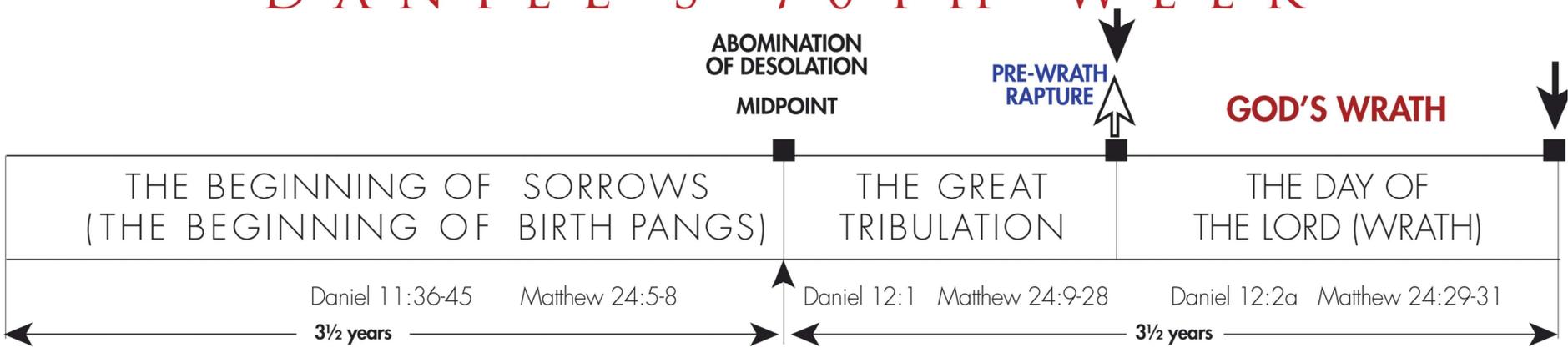
Matthew 24:29-31

3½ years

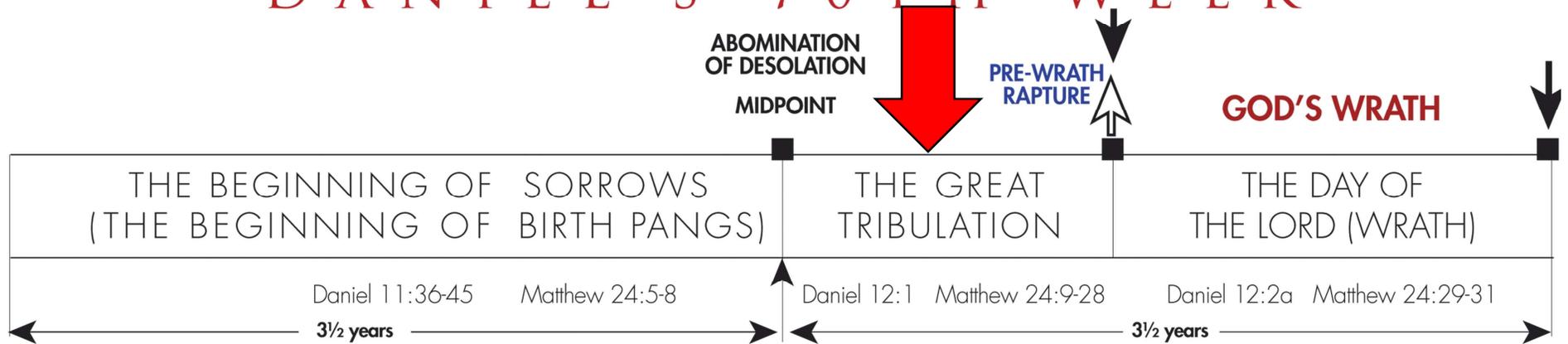
3½ years



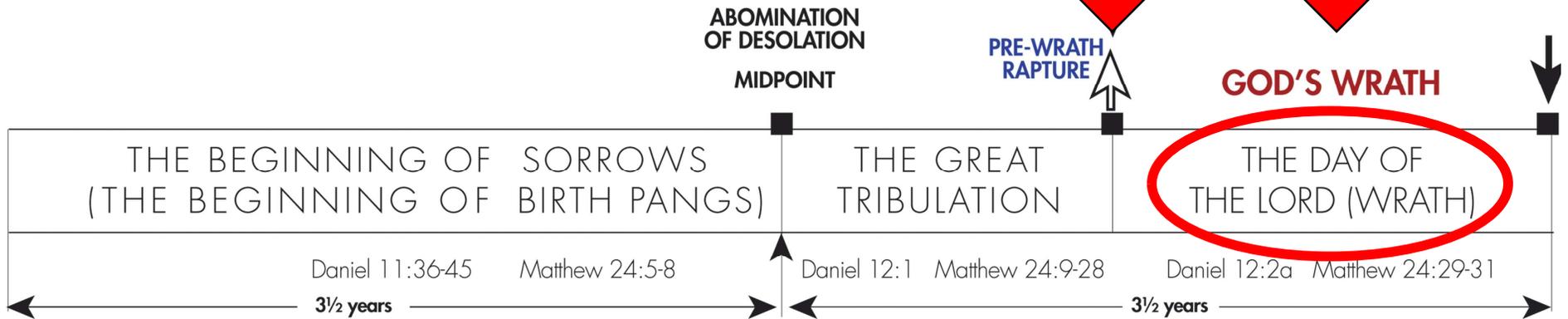
DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK



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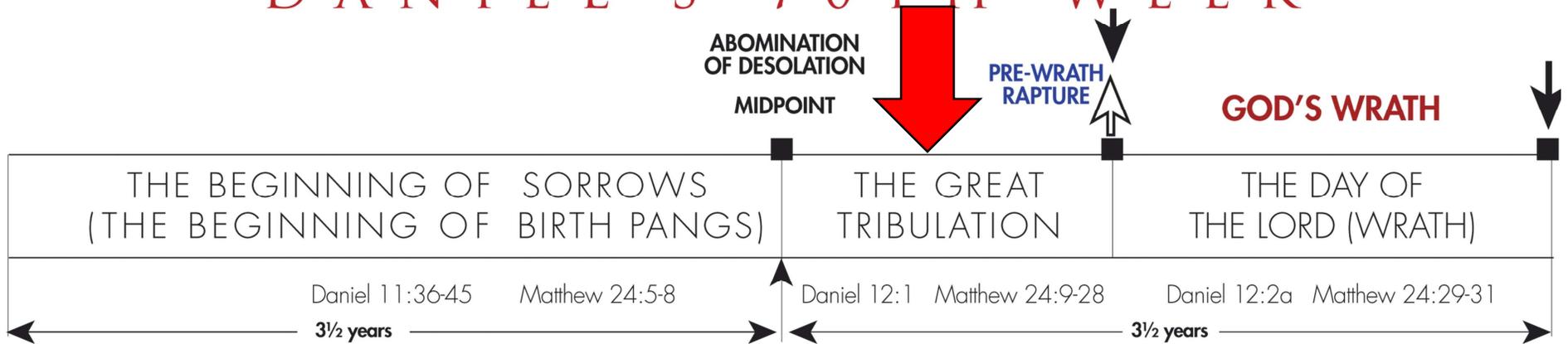
A. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 - The Future

The Thessalonians were concerned about those who had *died or had fallen asleep*, before the return of Jesus. Some thought they missed the rapture and were in the Day of the Lord. Paul said *don't worry*. Why? Those who have *trusted in Jesus by faith* and are dead will be physically resurrected or raised at the return of Christ. At the *last*

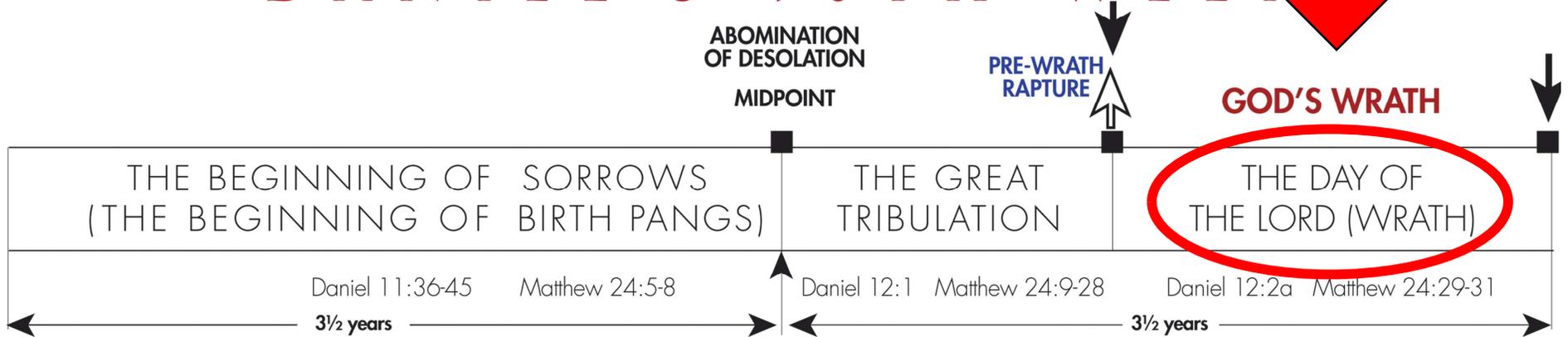
A. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 - The Future

trump, a reference to the Feast of Trumpets, the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive will be caught up together with them to meet Jesus in the air.

DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK



DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK



A. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 - The Future

Paul *contrasts* **2 types of people** in *chapter 5*. There are those who are in **darkness**, and those who are in **light**; those who are of the **night** and those who are of the **day**. He refers to the "you" and "them" or "they."

Who is "**you**?"

Who are "**they**?"

A. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 - The Future

But *Christians are **not in darkness***. They are fully aware of what is taking place and Christians will ***not be taken by surprise***. The Day of the Lord will **not** overtake believers like a thief. He challenges them, and us, to be sober, or *think clearly, be alert, not lazy*, not believing everything is going to be easy, *not thinking it is ok just to relax*. In contrast, let us be **awake, aware and active** in our *faith walk with Christ*.

B. Review of Series

We began this series focusing on *who the church is*: **Christians**. These are individuals who have **recognized they are sinners**. They realize they have offended God, broken His Law, blasphemed His holy Name and **cannot save themselves by their works**.

B. Review of Series

The church is structured around the *ancient Synagogue model*, with various leaders holding different responsibilities.

Paul writes in *1 Timothy 3* and *Titus 1* that there should be a *plurality of elders and deacons* who lead. We looked at their *qualifications and responsibilities*.

B. Review of Series

Outreach takes many forms and looks *different in a variety of contexts* and should be done with the goal of sharing the gospel and calling people to repentance and faith in Jesus. We use the **spiritual gifts** God has given to us to *edify the body of Christ*. We all *have a place of service*. God has gifted us all to *do something for Him and others*.

B. Review of Series

Each local body or church works together to fulfill what God has called us to be and what He has called us to do.

B. Review of Series

There are **2 ordinances** of the church.

What are they?

B. Review of Series

Baptism *after salvation* and **Communion**, or the **Lord's supper**, also *taken after salvation*. We share the **gospel**, people believe and are baptized, and are able to partake in the bread and cup, as *both ordinances point to Jesus*.

B. Review of Series

When it comes to the church and the culture, we should have a **theological response**, rather than an **emotional reaction** to what is going on. We are to be **different** and *reflect the **light** of Christ to a **dark** world.* We are to be the **hope** that people need in a **hopeless** world. We are to be the **truth** in a world of **lies**. We are to be the **boat** of safety in a world that is flooded with **peril**.

C. The Future of GraceLife

Are **WE** based on the
Biblical model?

C. The Future of GraceLife

Leadership – I believe we *need to get back to the Biblical model* which is partially contained in the *Constitution and Bylaws* with elders and deacons.

Let's talk...

C. The Future of GraceLife

Outreach - I have *talked about this* and we *have done it this past year*. What are other ways we can reach our families, friends and this community?

Social media outreach...

Let's talk...

C. The Future of GraceLife

The Board - It is *required by Florida law* to have a board. The board does not lead the church, but makes practical decisions regarding the facilities, some \$, etc. We must have **more** than 2 people.

Let's talk...

C. The Future of GraceLife

Coronavirus

1. Don't panic!
2. Wash your hands!
3. The regular flu kills more...
4. Be aware and while the media IS *pushing it for their own reasons*, it is very contagious.
5. The survival rate is about 80%...
6. If you are sick, stay home.
7. Keep up with what is going on.

C. The Future of GraceLife

Other Topics?

Let's talk...