

Daniel

God's Sovereignty Through All Time

Daniel – God’s Sovereignty Through All Time

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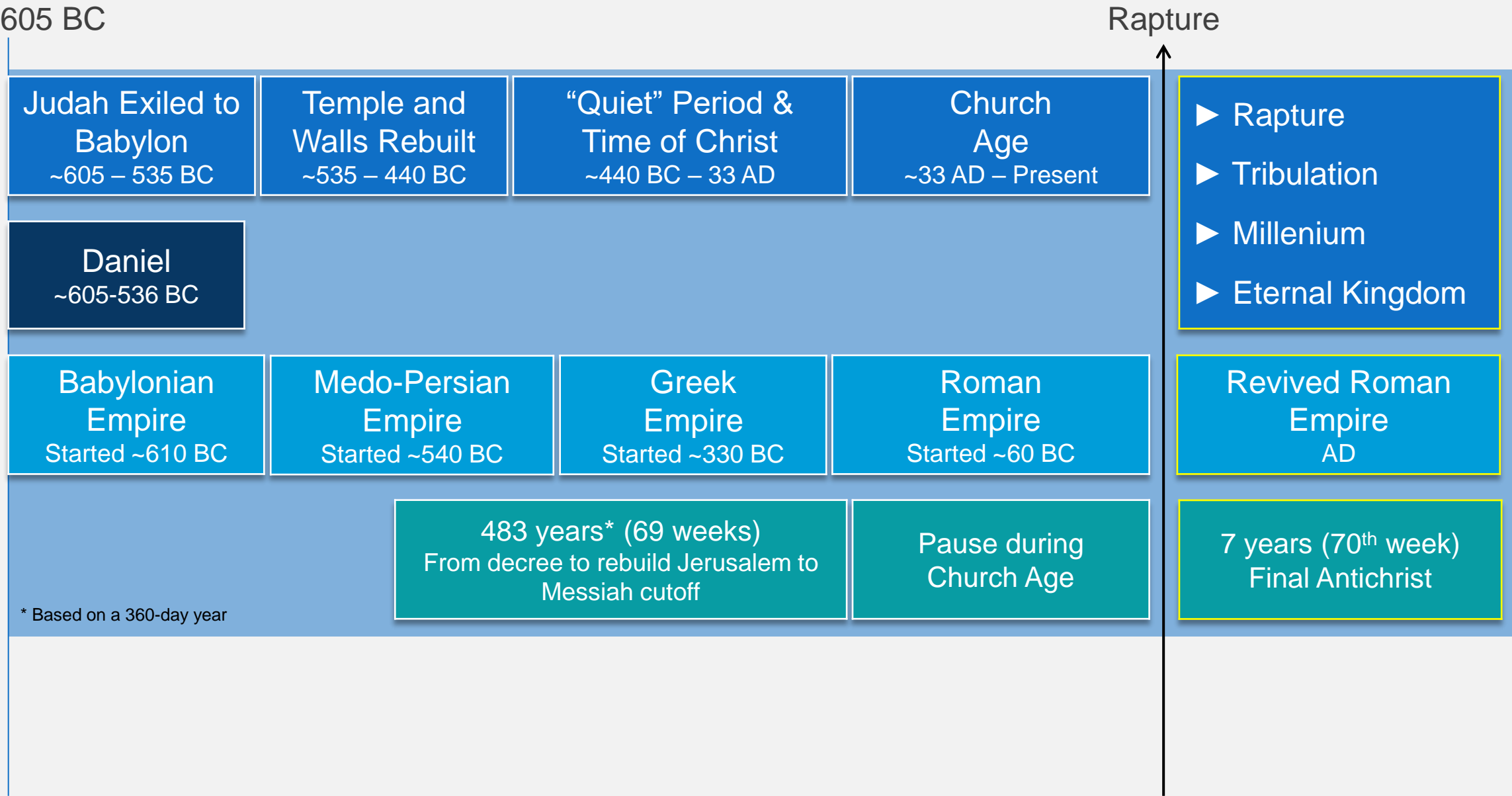
God’s Sovereignty to the End of Time and Eternity

Chapters 9-12 | Heavenly Realm, Antichrists, Tribulation, Eternal Kingdom

Introduction

Context | Timeline | Themes

Time Periods Covered in Daniel



Revived Roman Empire

Babylon

Monarchy

Medo-Persia

Monarchy with a
centralized government

Ancient Greece

City-states could be a
monarchy, tyranny,
oligarchy, or democracy

Revived Roman Empire – *Similarities to the Roman Republic*

✓ **Branches of Government Separates Power**

- US has the executive, legislative, and judicial branches

✓ **Representatives Make Key Decisions**

- Legislative bodies (e.g., Congress – Representatives & Senate)
- Made up of officials elected by the people

✓ **Rule of Law**

- Laws apply equally to all citizens regardless of status

✓ **Architectural Style**

- Important government buildings and sports stadiums
- Statue of Liberty is similar to ancient Roman goddesses

✓ **Romance Languages and Latin**

- French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian
- English alphabet based on the Latin alphabet

Governments over time have become more fragmented and today's world appears to resemble the revived Roman empire - statue's feet and beast's horns. The statue and beast are both destroyed by Jesus - stone that struck the statue's feet & one like a son of man given dominion by the Ancient of Days.

God's Sovereignty

God is above all powers through all time, so none of His purposes & plans can be thwarted.

9 I am **God**, and there is **no other**; I am God, and there is **none like me**.

10 I **make known** the **end** from the **beginning**, from ancient times, what is **still to come**. I say, '**My purpose will stand**, and I will do all that I please.' *Isaiah 46:9-10*

16 For **in Him all things were created**: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been **created through Him and for Him**.

17 He is **before all things**, and **in Him all things hold together**. *Colossians 1:16-17*

33 The **lot is cast** into the lap, but its **every decision is from the LORD**. *Proverbs 16:33*

28 And we know that **in all things God works** for the **good** of **those who love Him**, who have been called according to **His purpose**. *Romans 8:28*

2 I know that **You can do all things**; **no purpose** of Yours can be **thwarted**. *Job 42:2*

1 ..in **perfect** faithfulness **You have done** wonderful things, **things planned long ago**. *Isaiah 25:1*

God's Sovereignty Over People and Events

Chapters 1, 3, 6 | King's Service, Fiery Furnace, Lion's Den

Daniel and His Friends in the King's Service

God, though He is sovereign over all, accomplishes His purposes and plans through the choices that people make, whether they are good or bad.

Daniel **obeyed** God by not defiling himself with the king's portions | 1:8-9

- ❖ He did not want to defile himself by eating food that was unclean, based on the Law
- ❖ Food and drink sacrificed to idols could also be seen as honoring the idols

God works on behalf of Daniel and his three friends | 1:17

- ❖ God **granted** Daniel favor and compassion with the commander of the officials
- ❖ God **allowed** the 10-day test to take place, providing proof to the commander
- ❖ God **gave** Daniel and his friends wisdom and intelligence abundantly
- ❖ God **gave** Daniel the ability understand visions and dreams

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Daniel's Friends in the Fiery Furnace

Nebuchadnezzar sought worship and reverence **like a god** | 3:1, 4-6

- ❖ He made an image/statue, likely of himself
- ❖ He demanded that everyone worship the image when the music played or be cast into a furnace

Certain Chaldeans were **jealous** of Daniel's three friends | 3:8-13

- ❖ They told the king that Daniel's three friends did not worship the image when the music was played
- ❖ They reminded the king what the punishment was for not worshiping the image

Daniel's three friends **trust** in God, regardless of the outcome | 3:16-18

- ❖ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego honor God and demonstrate unwavering trust

God **delivered** the three men and caused them to prosper | 3:25-26, 28-30

- ❖ Deliverance, protection, and blessings helped the Jews prosper
- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar even calls God the Most High God

Daniel in the Lion's Den

The leaders of the Medes and Persians were **jealous** of Daniel | 6:3-4, 7

- ❖ They were jealous that the king was going to appoint Daniel over the entire kingdom
- ❖ They tricked the king into signing an irrevocable decree that would kill Daniel

Daniel continued to faithfully **worship** God, despite the decree | 6:10

- ❖ He continued to pray and give thanks to God three times a day

Neither the leaders or the king can **thwart** God's plans | 6:11-16

- ❖ The leaders reminded the king what the punishment was for not worshiping the image
- ❖ The king is unable to override the laws of the Medes and Persians, but showed faith in God

God **delivered** Daniel from the lions in the den | 6:20-23, 26-28

- ❖ Deliverance, protection, and blessings helped the Jews prosper
- ❖ The king, like Nebuchadnezzar, calls God the Most High God

God's Sovereignty Over Leaders and Nations

Chapters 4, 5, 2, 7, 8 | World Powers

The Key to Truly Understanding God's Sovereignty

Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel interprets the vision of the **great tree** 4:20-27

God's punishment for the king's **pride** 4:28-30

Humbly recognizing God's sovereignty 4:34-37

The king's understanding of God's sovereignty

- 1) God lives forever and is the King of heaven
- 2) His dominion is everlasting
- 3) Men are nothing before God
- 4) No one can stop God's purpose and plan
- 5) No one can question God
- 6) It is God that blesses man
- 7) All of God's works are true
- 8) All of God's ways are just
- 9) God will humble the proud

Belshazzar

The king and his nobles praise **false gods** 5:1-4

The **writing** on the wall terrifies the king 5:5-6

Belshazzar did **not humble** his heart 5:17-23

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World Powers Destroyed by Jesus' Eternal Kingdom

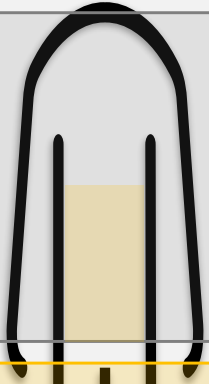
Nebuchadnezzar's Vision of the Statue

2:19-23



BABYLON

- Head of fine **gold** – Nebuchadnezzar
- God gave him the greatest kingdom
- God caused him to rule over all

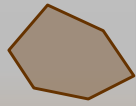


MEDO-PERSIA

- Breast and arms of **silver**
- Inferior to Babylon

GREECE

- Belly and thighs of **bronze**
- Inferior to Medo-Persia
- Ruled over all the earth (influence)

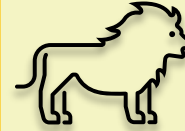


ROME / REVIVED ROME

- Legs of **iron** and feet of **iron & clay**
- Powerful but divided in the feet & toes
- **Stone** not cut by hands strikes the feet

Daniel's Vision of the Four Beasts

7:13-27



- Like a **lion** with wings of an eagle
- Wings were plucked and stood on two feet
- A human mind was given to it



- Resembled a **bear**
- Raised up on one side (Persia was greater)
- Three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth
- It was told to, "arise, and devour much meat"



- Like a **leopard** with four wings and four heads
- Dominion was given to it
- Points to Alexander's 4 generals



- **Dreadful** and **terrifying** and **different**
- It had large iron teeth, and ten horns
- A little and boastful horn supplanted 3 others
- Little horn had eyes and a boastful mouth
- The **Son of Man** destroys the beast

Medo-Persia Conquered by Greece

Leaders and nations will continue to be proud and magnify themselves, defying God's sovereignty, until the final antichrist gives way to God's eternal kingdom.

The **Medes and Persians** are pictured as a **ram** with two horns | 8:1-4

- ❖ One horn was longer than the other, showing how Persia was the dominant of the two
- ❖ They did as they pleased and **magnified themselves**

Greece is pictured as a **goat** with one horn then four horns | 8:8-12, 21-26

- ❖ The first conspicuous horn was **Alexander the Great**, who **magnified himself** exceedingly
- ❖ The four conspicuous horns that replaced the first horn are Alexander's four generals
- ❖ Out of one of the four horns came a small horn that became exceedingly great
- ❖ The small horn is **Antiochus Epiphanes**, an antichrist that mocked God and **magnified himself**

God's Sovereignty to the End of Time and Eternity

Chapters 9-12 | Heavenly Realm, Antichrists, Tribulation, Eternal Kingdom

God is Sovereign in the Heavenly Realm

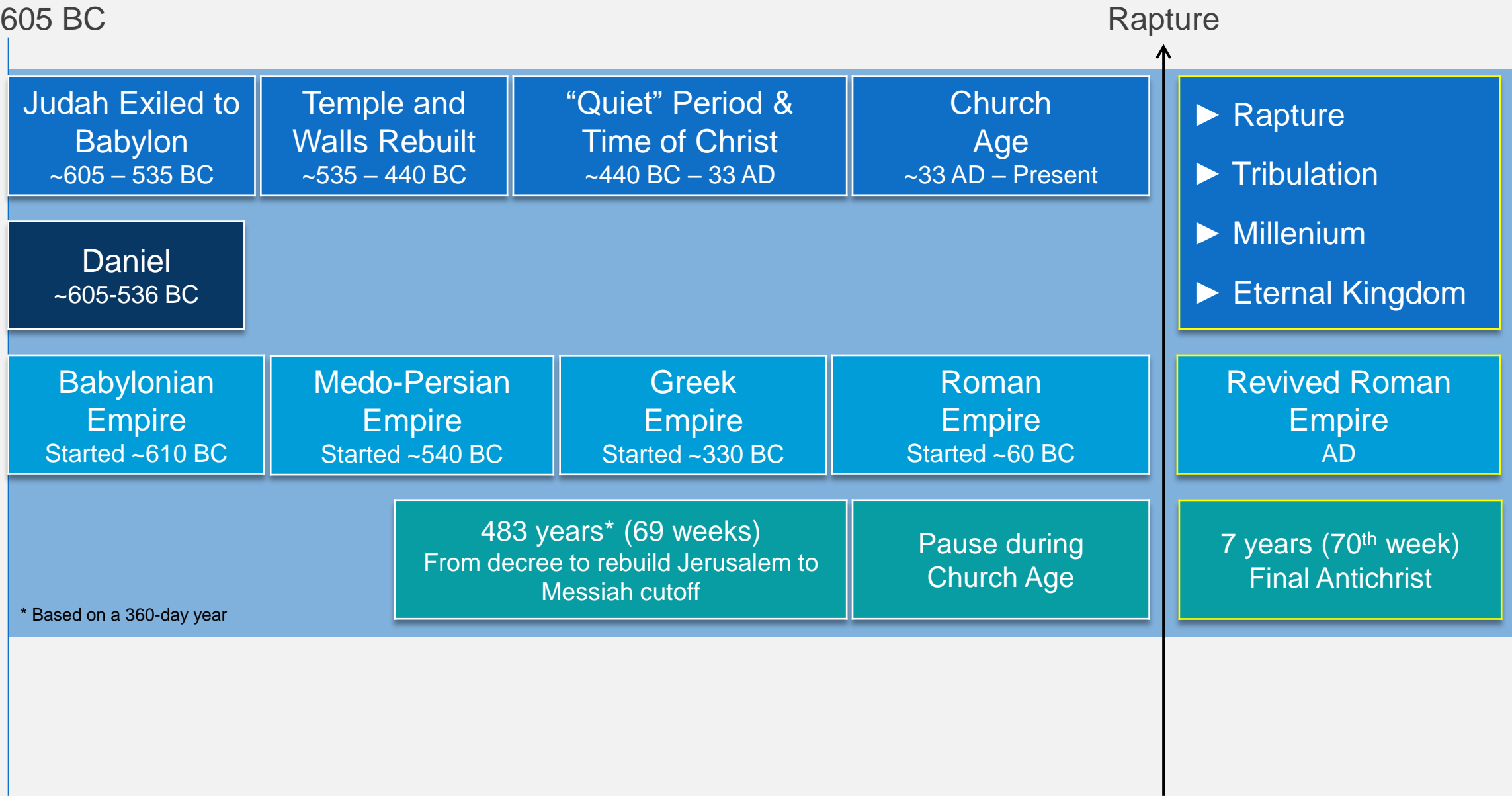
Gabriel tells Daniel there are 70 weeks until Israel's restoration | 9:20-27

- ❖ Daniel prays for God's compassion, since the 70 years of their exile were almost up (9:1-19)
 - ❖ He may have thought restoration would come after the 70 years, but Gabriel tells him otherwise
 - ❖ The 70 weeks begins with the decree to rebuild Jerusalem
 - ❖ 7 weeks (49 years) to rebuild Jerusalem
 - ❖ 62 weeks (434 years) until Messiah is cutoff
 - ❖ There will be trouble (wars and desolations) until the final week
 - ❖ 1 week (7 years of tribulation) for the final antichrist's reign
- One week = 7 years

Daniel's vision | Jesus in His glory | Heavenly warfare | 10:2-7, 10-14, 18-21

- ❖ Daniel's description of Jesus is very similar to John's (Rev 1:13-14)
- ❖ Gabriel came to help Daniel understand the terrifying vision
- ❖ Gabriel was delayed because he was fighting the prince of Persia with Michael's help (Eph 6:12)

Time Periods Covered in Daniel



The Final Antichrist and the Tribulation

The Final Antichrist Will Reign During the Tribulation | 11:35-45; 12:1-13

- ❖ Transition to the final antichrist, who will be like Antiochus IV Epiphanes
- ❖ He represents the statue's feet of iron and clay, and the boastful horn on the terrible beast
- ❖ Description of the final antichrist:
 - He will do as he pleases
 - He will exalt and magnify himself above every god, having no regard for the gods of his fathers
 - He will prosper during his time
 - He will show no regard for the desire of women
 - He will honor what gives him power with precious metals and stones
 - He will only honor those that acknowledge/worship him
 - He will be empowered by Satan (Rev 13:2)
- ❖ Michael will stand guard over Israel during the Great Tribulation
- ❖ The tribulation, or time of Jacob's trouble (Jer 30:7), will be for 3.5 years
- ❖ God will judge every person and send them to either eternal life or eternal disgrace