

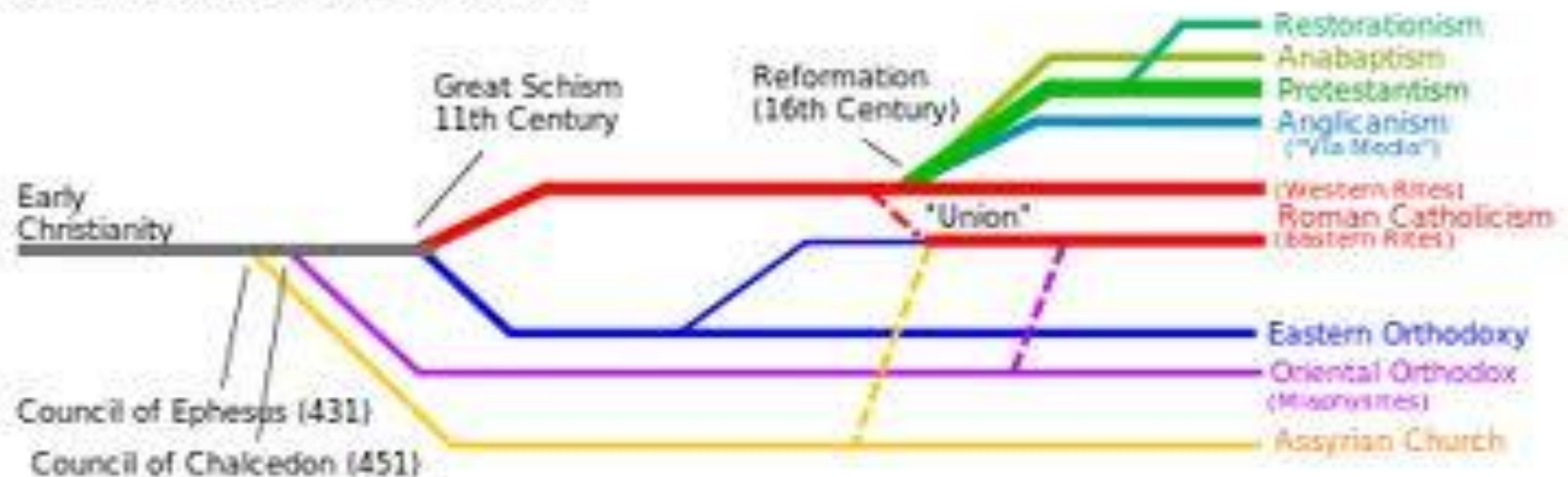
Crean Lutheran High School Chapel, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012

# **Revelation Part 3: Seals, Bowls, & Trumpets (Revelation 6-11, 15-16)**

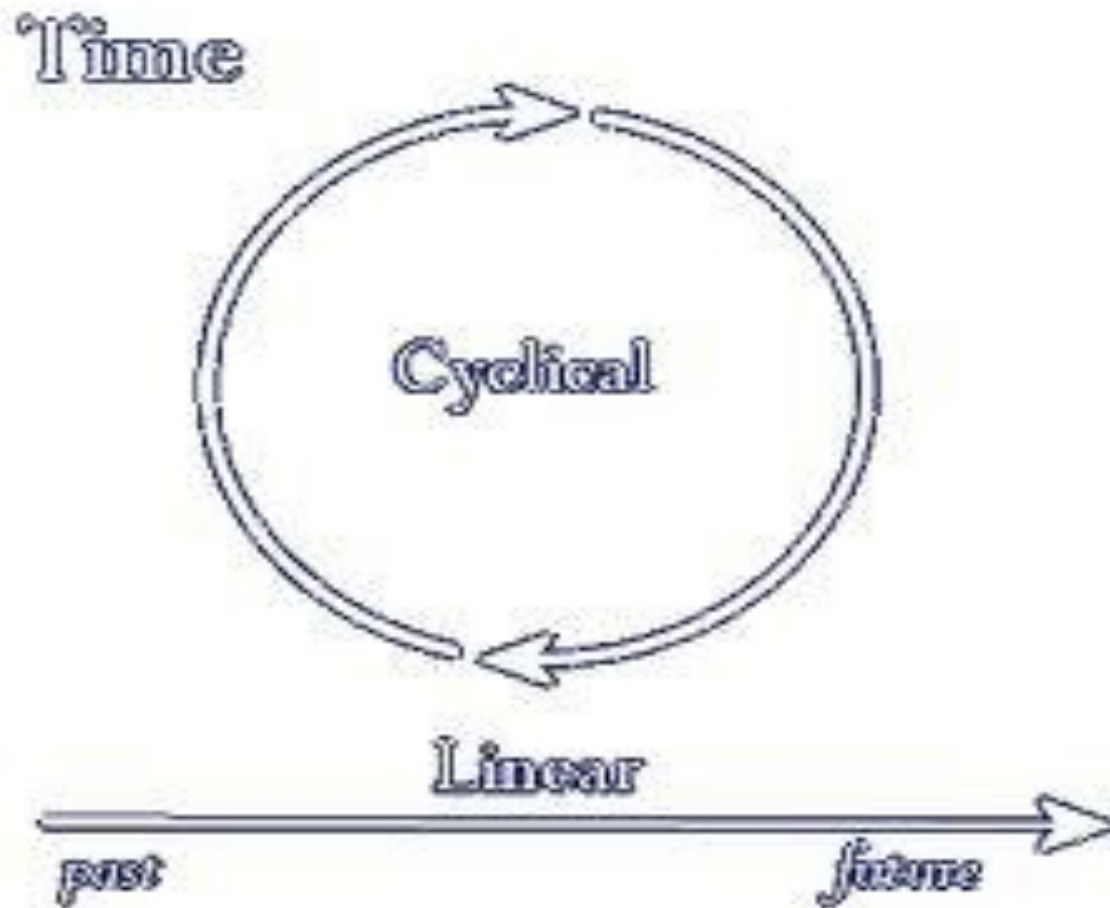
# Revelation written from an Eastern, not a Western Perspective

- Western likes a LINEAR orientation:

Major branches within Christianity



The Eastern Perspective, however,  
is not LINEAR, but CYCLICAL

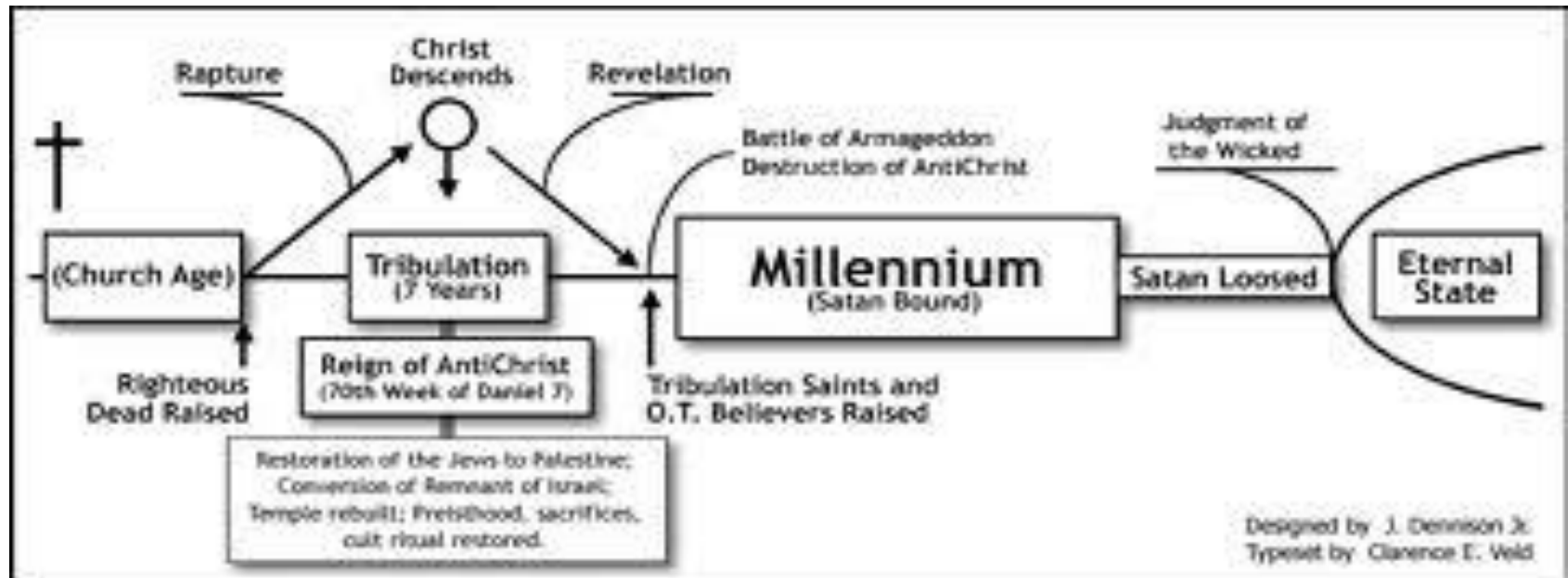


# Consider the cyclical aspects of martial arts = EASTERN perspective



# Revelation is also EASTERN in orientation, but some try to...

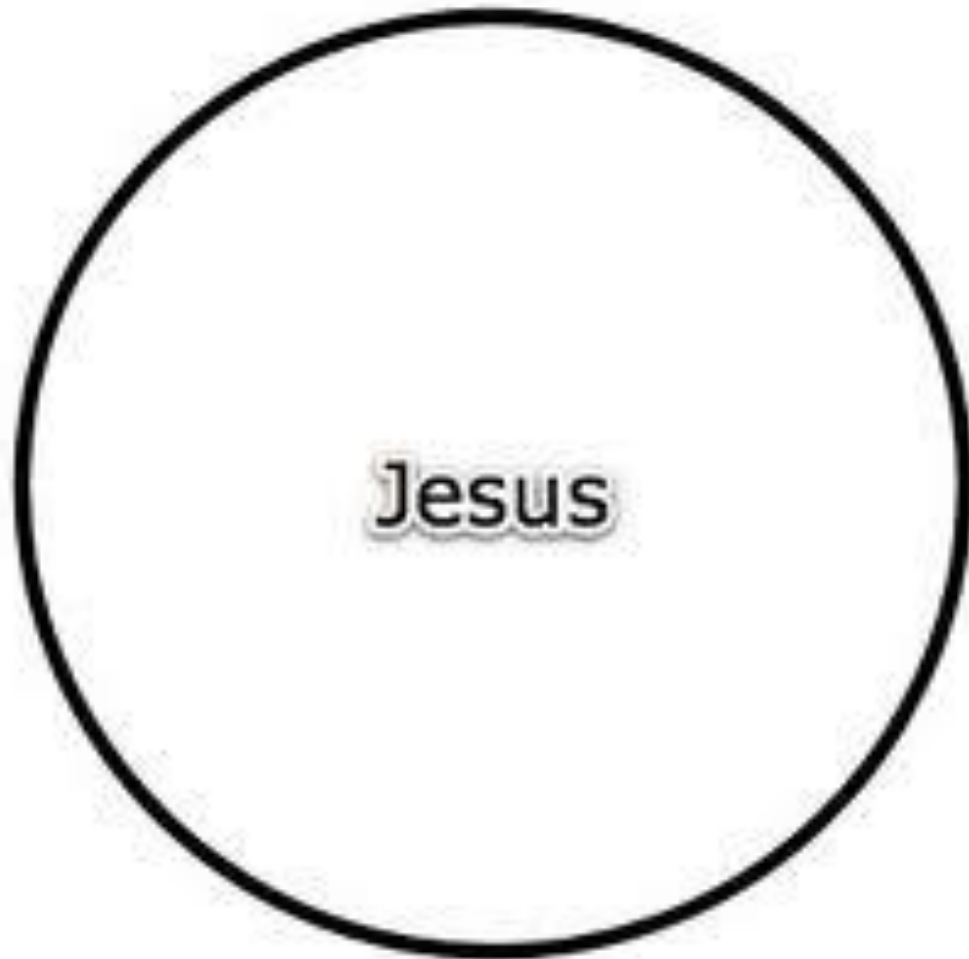
- Force it into a WESTERN and LINEAR perspective...



**But if you do this, you create  
problems and inaccuracies**



**We MUST treat Revelation in its  
EASTERN context...**



# There is a practical reason for this too...

- Cyclical approaches permit REPETITION & THOROUGHNESS.
- These are KEYS to really learning.
- A good teacher will impart knowledge in several different ways to convey what something means.



# For example, the doctrine of the Holy Trinity is taught via...

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1. A water system.
2. A tree.
3. A human being.
4. A mathematical equation.
5. The sun.

# This is exactly what Revelation is doing...

1. The Seven Seals teach about sin's destructive force and God's response.
2. The Seven Trumpets *teach the same thing, but from a different angle.*
3. The Seven Bowls *teach the same thing, but from a different angle.*

# So we do not treat these as linear, chronological events, but cyclical



# The cyclical presentations in Revelation focus...

- NOT on a future, linear, and western timeline.
- But on what has already occurred since sin and death has entered into the world. The cyclical, eastern view teaches their devastating effects and God's response to these!

# We NEED this! Why?

- We take sin and death for granted!
- 1) People curse and use words like “d\_ \_ \_”, words like “hell,” and speak about “death” like these things were nothing.
- 2) Video games, movies, and music that present constant death de-sensitize us to the terrible reality of death.
- 3) Our culture treats committing sin like a game, something “everyone is doing,” something that does not cause us to blush anymore.

\*Why do I dress this way? For the sake of tradition?

**God is saying: “No! Look at how horrible & serious these things really are!”**

# Same story about the devastation of sin, but from different angles...

- Example #1: From the seven seals = The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (Rev. 6:1-8)



# The 4 Horsemen: Seals 1-4

1. The **White Horse**: In Rev. 19 Christ is on a white horse, but here in Rev. 6 this is NOT Jesus, but a tyrant who brings oppression.
2. The **Bright Red Horse**: This one brings bloodshed, violence, war.
3. The **Black Horse** (with the mention of just enough food to barely survive): This one brings famine and poverty.
4. The **Pale Horse**: This one brings death.

# Romans 6:23a & Ezekiel 18:4b

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- “For the wages of sin is death...”
- “the soul who sins shall die.”



# But there is also GOD's Response!

- God causes His servants (His believing people) to stand: they number – in apocalyptic numerology 144,000.
- 12 = the number of God's people = remember 12 tribes in the Old Testament & 12 apostles in the New Testament.
- But take this number 12 and multiply it by itself (for both testaments) = 144.
- But then take this number 144 and multiple it by 1000 which is the number 10 (completeness) cubed (ultimate completeness) = 144,000.
- 144,000 = ALL the people of God; ALL believers in Christ.

# So Romans 6:23b is also depicted

- “but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- These 144,000 received the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!
- How many are they really?

# Revelation 7:9

- “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.”

# And consider their **CONFESSION**

- Saved even when there was oppression, violence, poverty, and death...they were able to continue to believe and they say in heaven:

**“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”**

**-- Rev. 7:10**

# And from the terrible effects of sin, God's salvation covers it all...

- “They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”  
– Rev. 7:16-17

# Remember when I mentioned about 1/3 of the sun going out?

- In the false LINEAR way of thinking...this is a literalistic FUTURE event. The sun they say will really lose 1/3 of its light.
- This is in reference to the FOURTH trumpet in Revelation 8:12.
- The Cyclical way of thinking, however, is describing sin in the world. This is not a future thing, but a PRESENT condition.

# But if the sun literally lost $\frac{1}{3}$ of its light...

- We would not be having this chapel service right now...
- Because we can't survive under such conditions!
- So it is a cyclical way of telling the story of sin coming into the world!

# Revelation 8:12

- “The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck...and a third of the day might be kept from shining...”
- The “day” and “light” are METAPHORS for spiritual light and truth. Whereas “darkness” is symbolic for sin.
- Revelation 8:12 is describing spiritual darkness...God is calling us to REPENT and to believe in Jesus Christ the LIGHT OF THE WORLD!



# He Gives YOU His light and eternal life!

