

Frameworks and the Future

A large, semi-transparent clock face is centered in the background. The clock has Roman numerals for the hours, with 'XII' at the top, 'III' on the right, 'VI' at the bottom, and 'IX' on the left. The hands of the clock are simple, dark lines. The background behind the clock is a soft, out-of-focus image of a sunset or sunrise, with warm orange and yellow light blending into a pale blue sky.

Four Major Eschatological Views

Dispensational Premillennialism

Historic Premillennialism

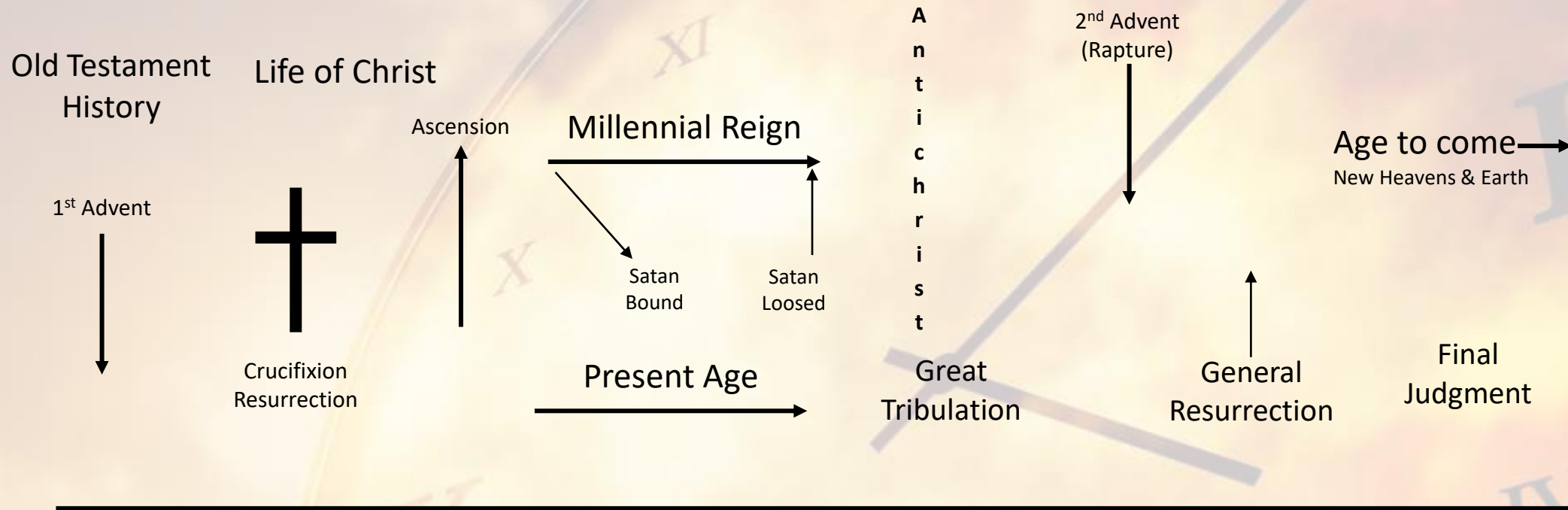
X Postmillennialism

Amillennialism

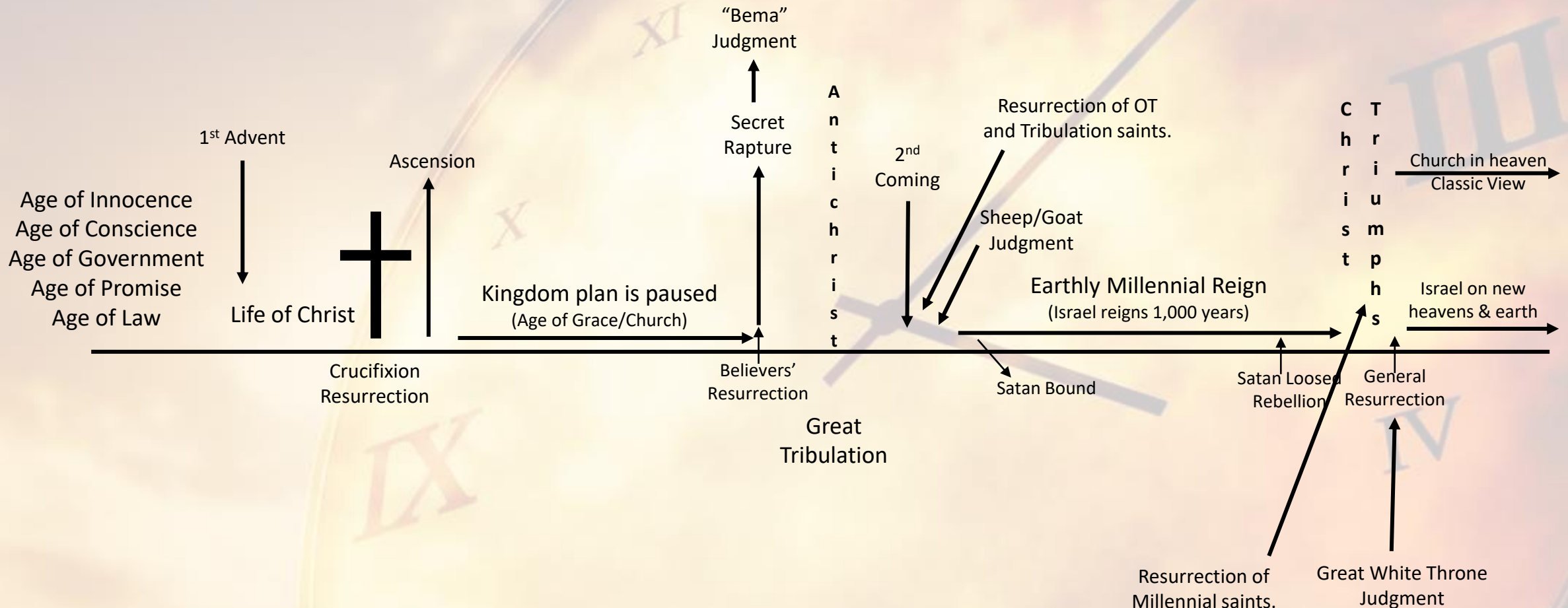
A large, semi-transparent clock face is centered in the background. The clock has Roman numerals for the hours, with 'XII' at the top, 'III' on the right, 'VI' at the bottom, and 'IX' on the left. The hands of the clock are thin and dark. The background is a soft, out-of-focus image of a sunset or sunrise, with warm orange and yellow light filtering through clouds.

Postmillennialism

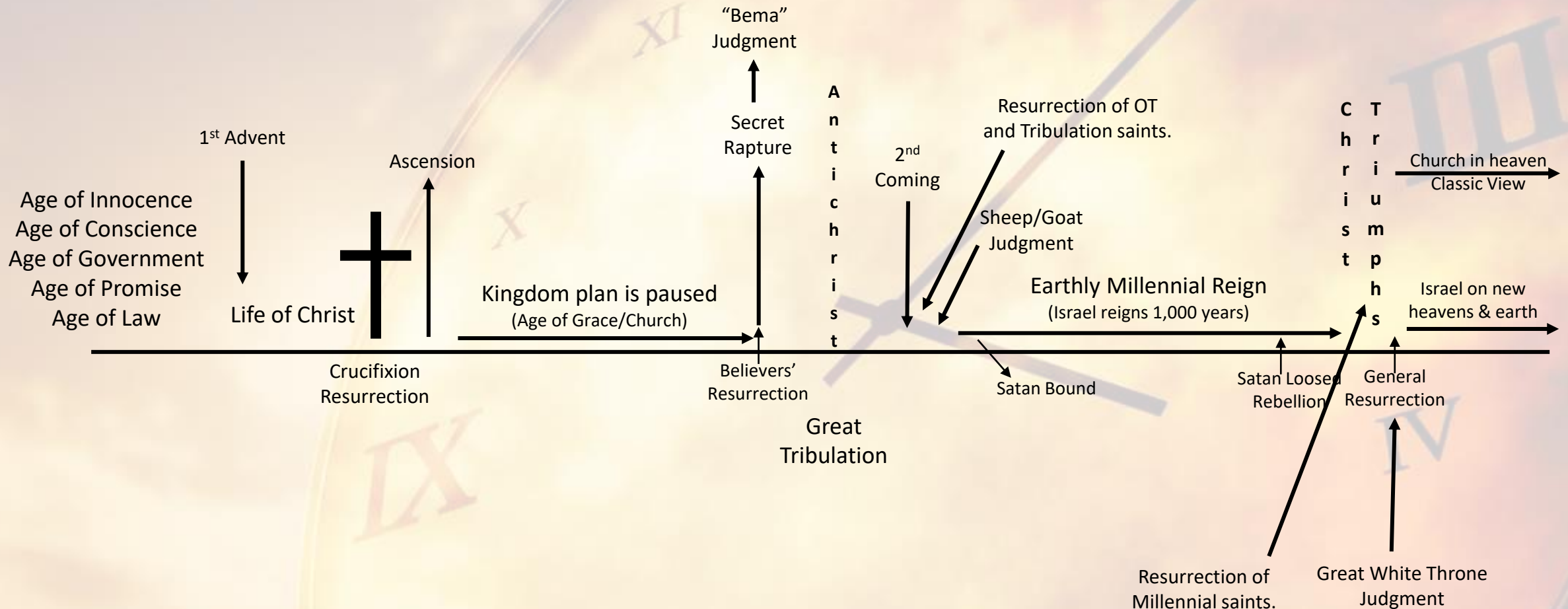
Common Features of the Current Views



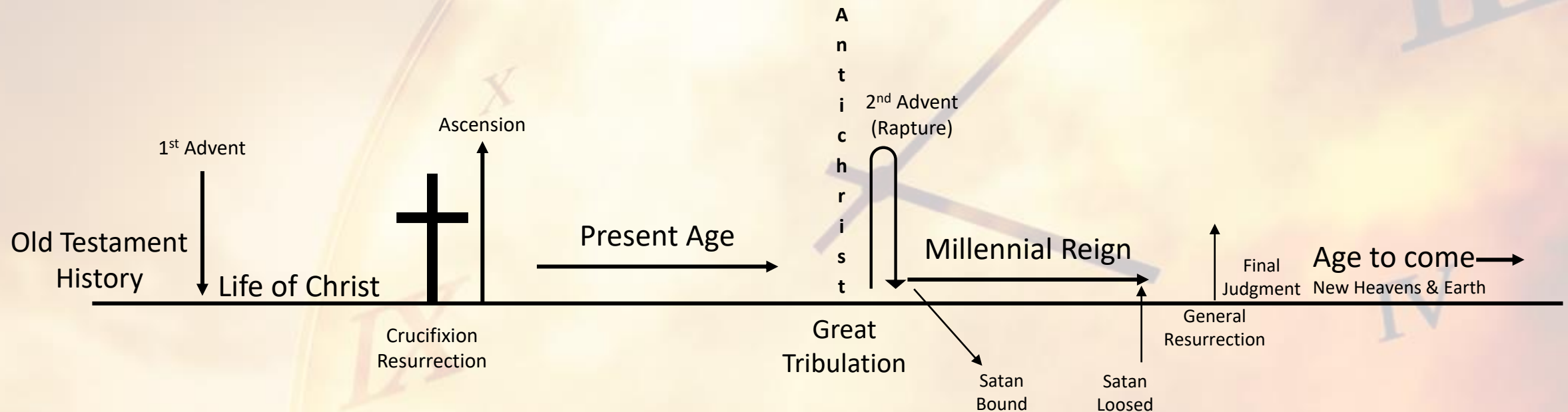
Overview of Dispensational PM



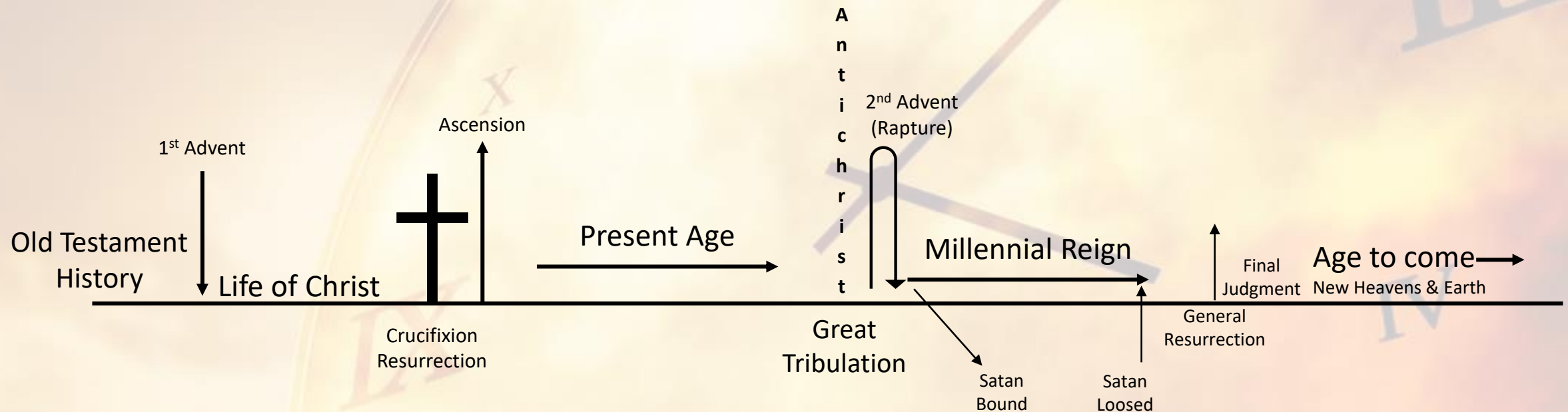
Overview of Historic Premillennialism



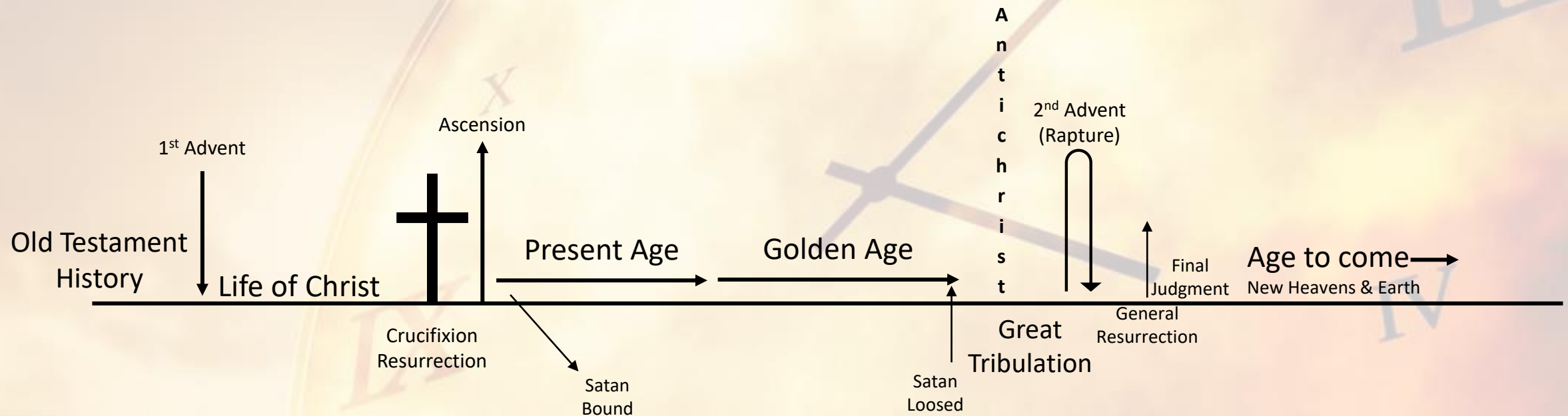
Overview of Historic Premillennialism



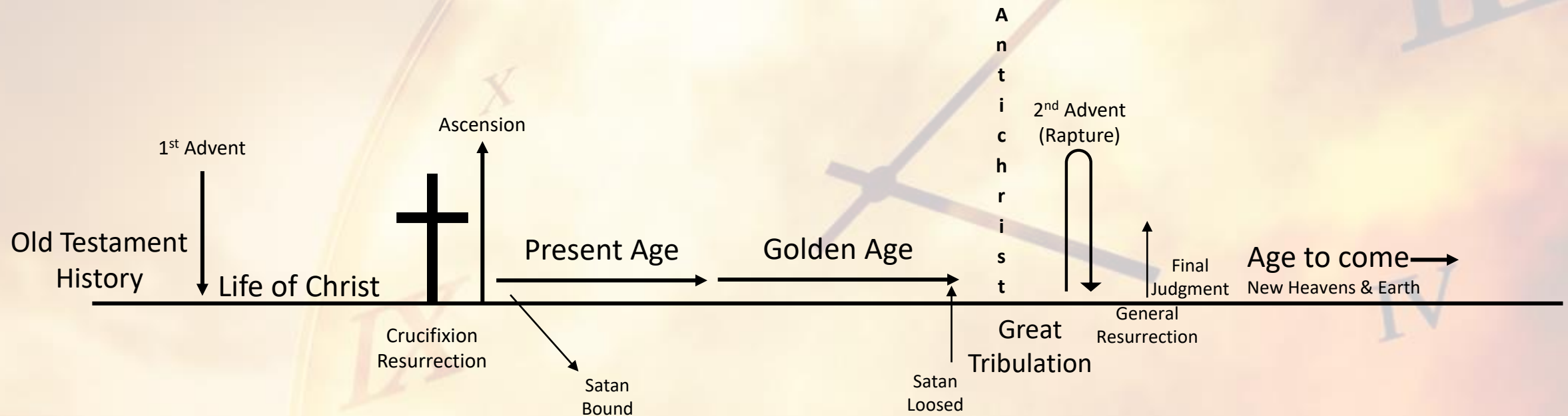
Overview of Historic Postmillennialism



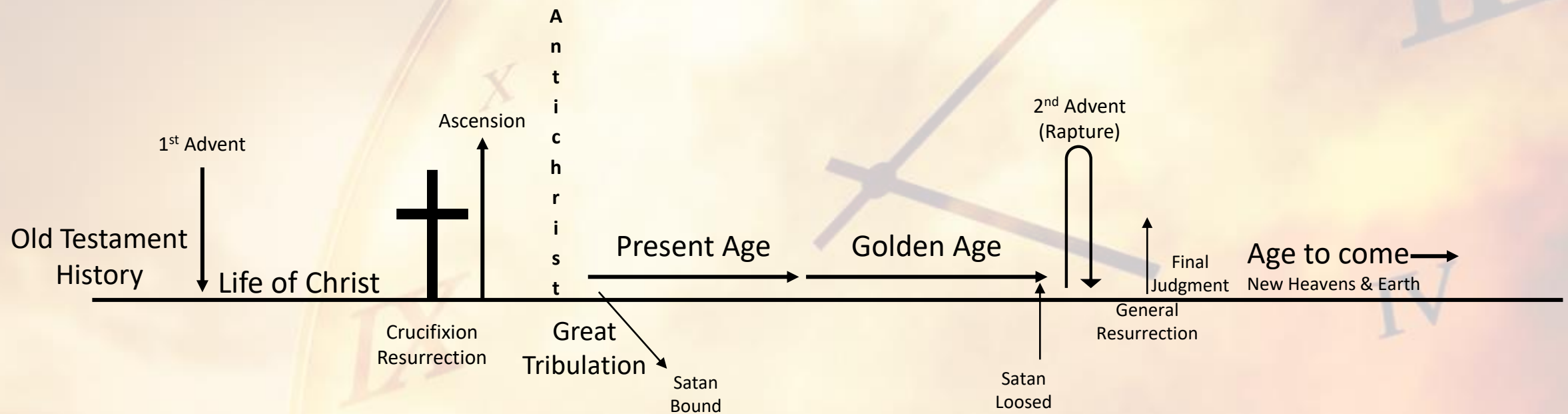
Overview of Historic Postmillennialism



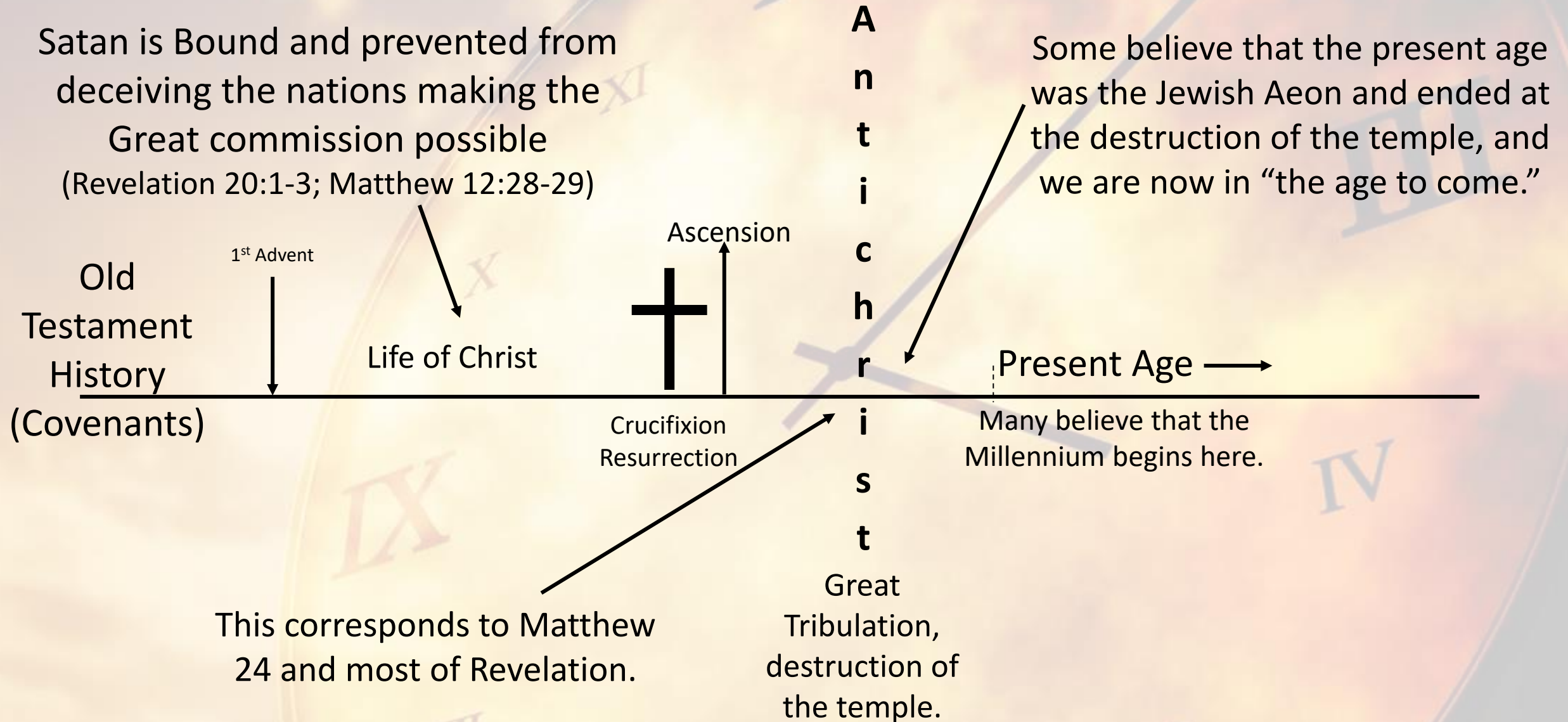
Overview of Preterist Postmillennialism



Overview of Preterist Postmillennialism

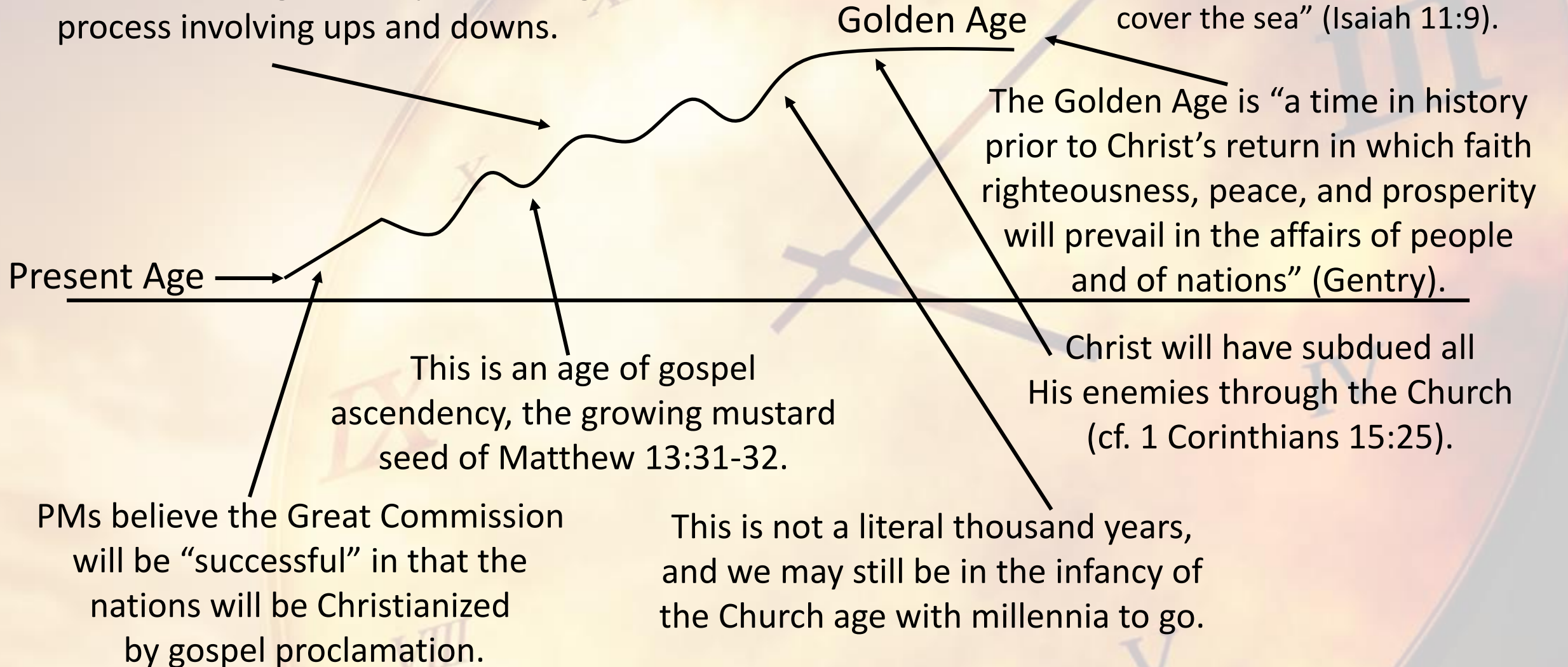


Events As They Unfold (Preterist PM)

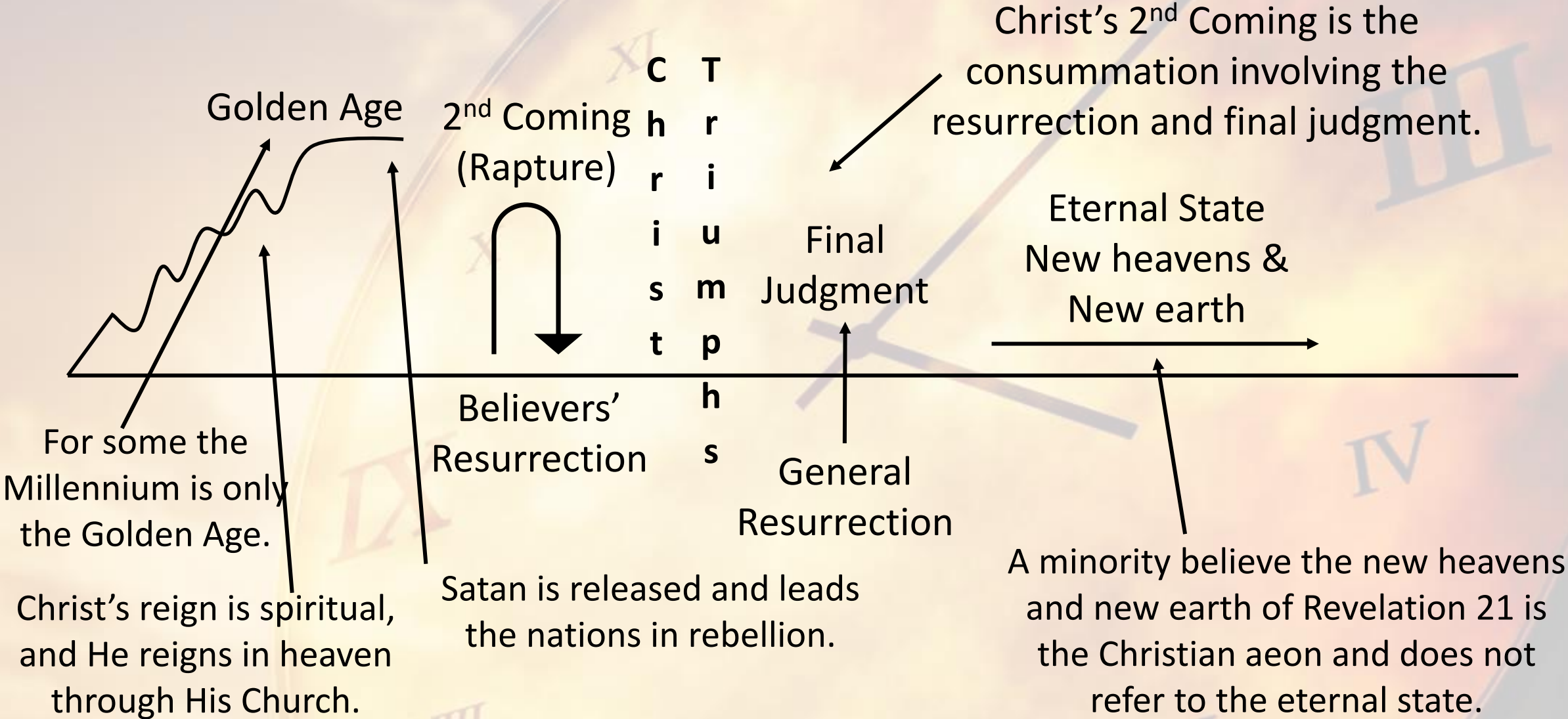


Events As They Unfold (Preterist PM)

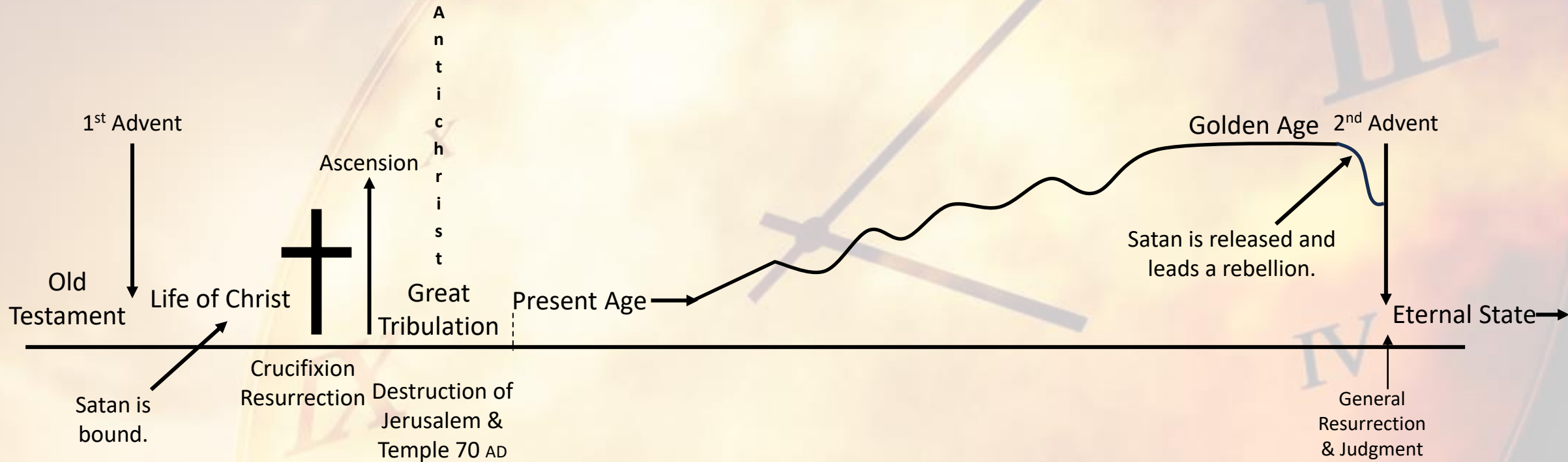
This is not a straight line up but a long process involving ups and downs.



Events As They Unfold (Preterist PM)



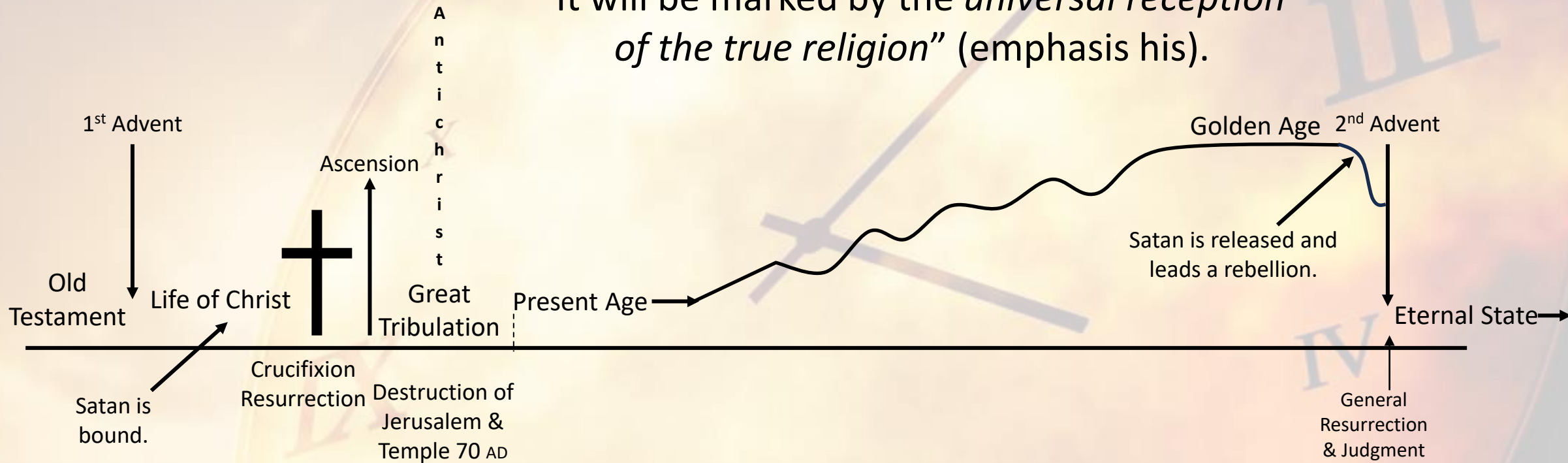
Big Picture Overview



PM is an “optimistic” eschatology that believes that Jesus will answer the prayer, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is on heaven.”

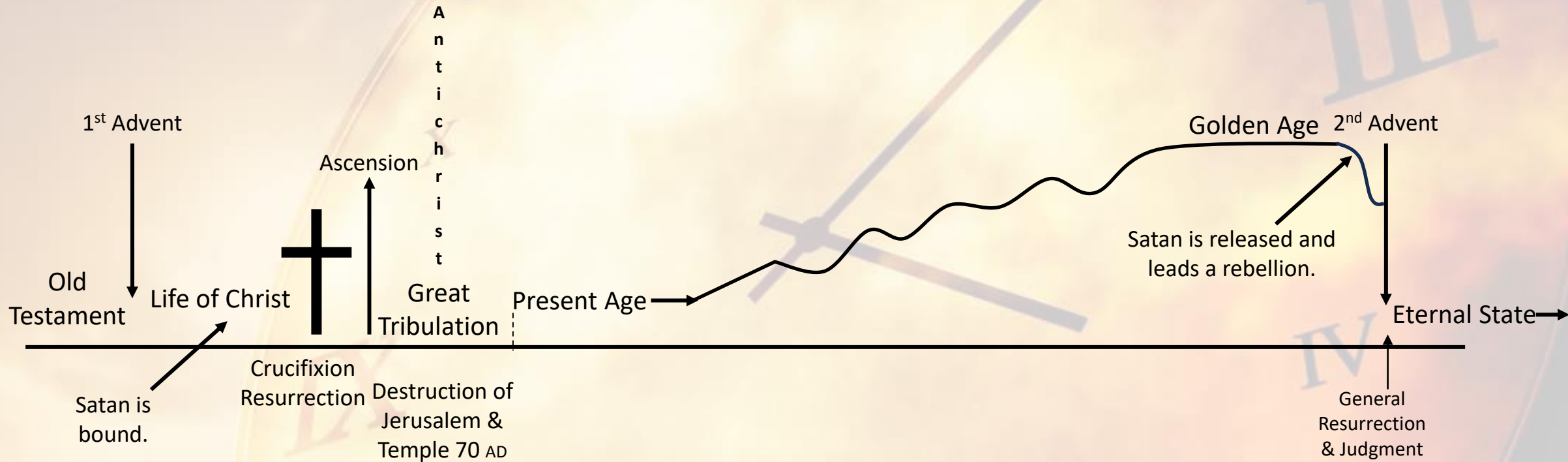
Three Common “Myths”

However, Gentry quotes Brown positively,
“It will be marked by the *universal reception
of the true religion*” (emphasis his).



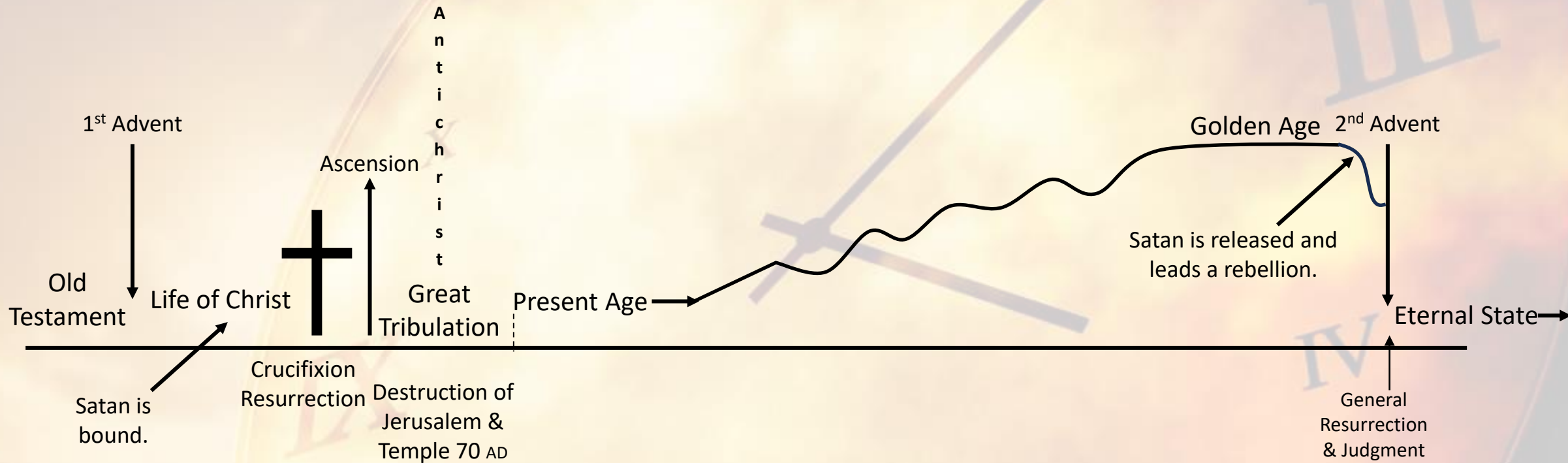
Universalism: PMs do *not* believe that all will
be saved in the Golden Age.

Three Common “Myths”



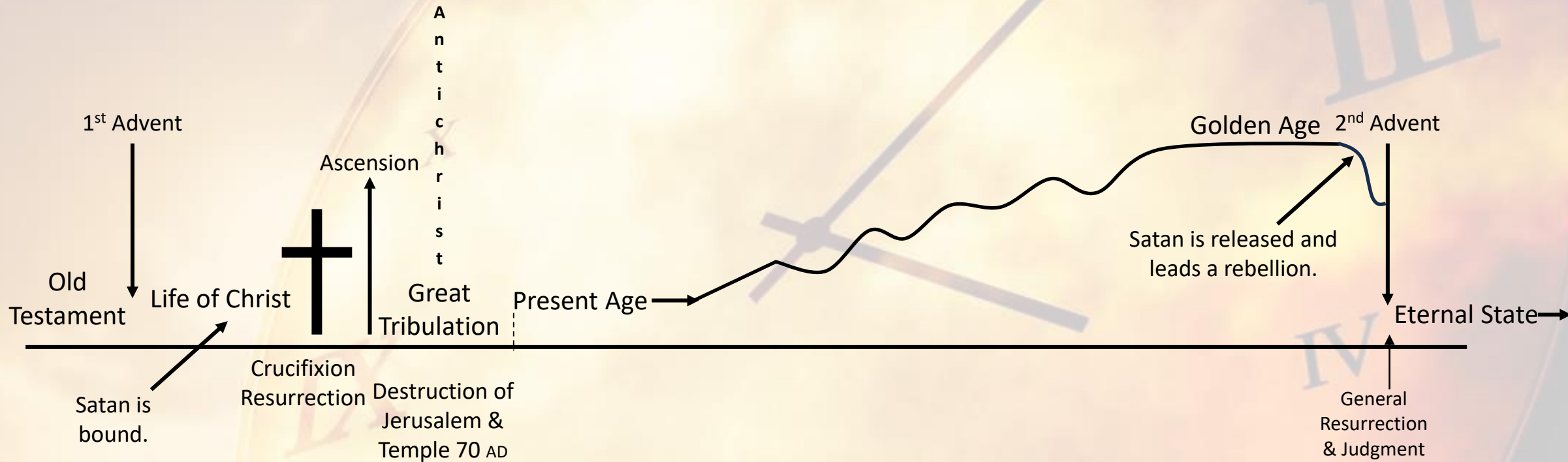
Perfectionism: PMs do not believe that all will be entirely sanctified in the Golden Age.

Three Common “Myths”



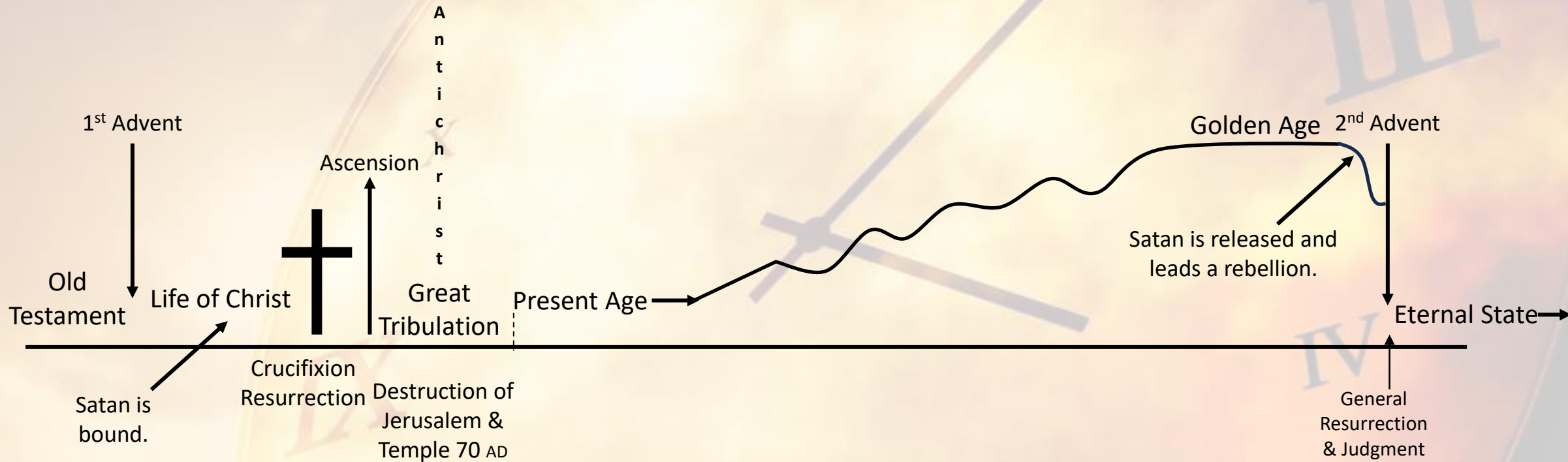
Satisfactionism: PMs do not prefer earthly dominion over consummational glory.

Difficulties and Questions



The “nations” most commonly refers to the Gentiles in distinction from the Jews and not to political entities, and no NT instruction or description addresses “Christianization” of nation states.

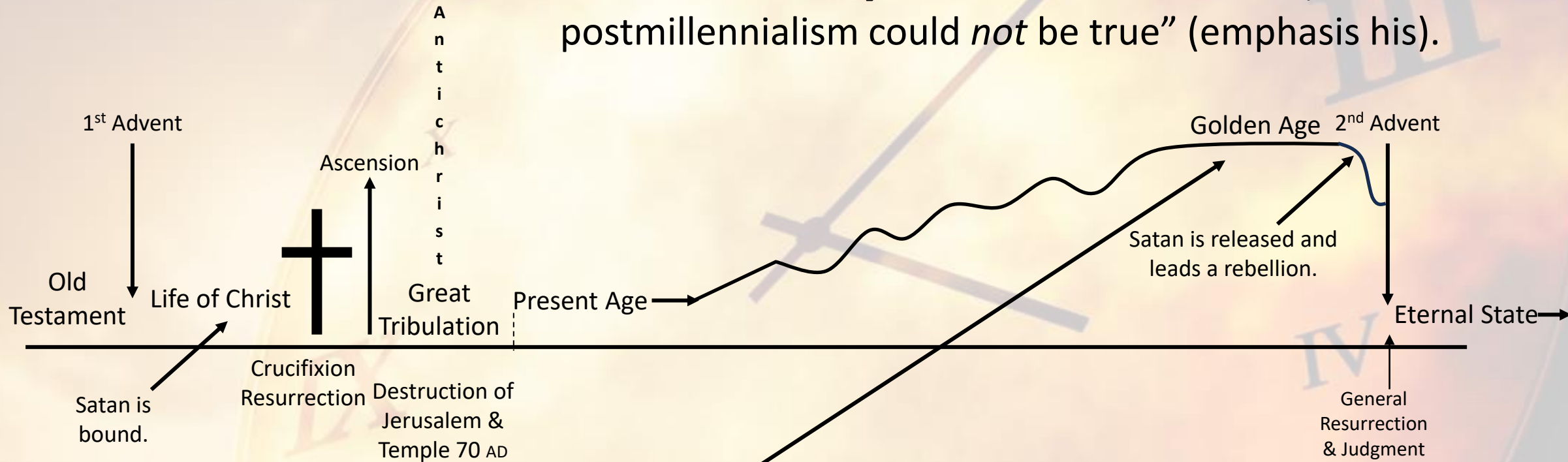
Difficulties and Questions



Current PMs assert disputable interpretations of key passages that form the NT foundation of their view and some assert novel interpretations to buttress their arguments (see handout).

Difficulties and Questions

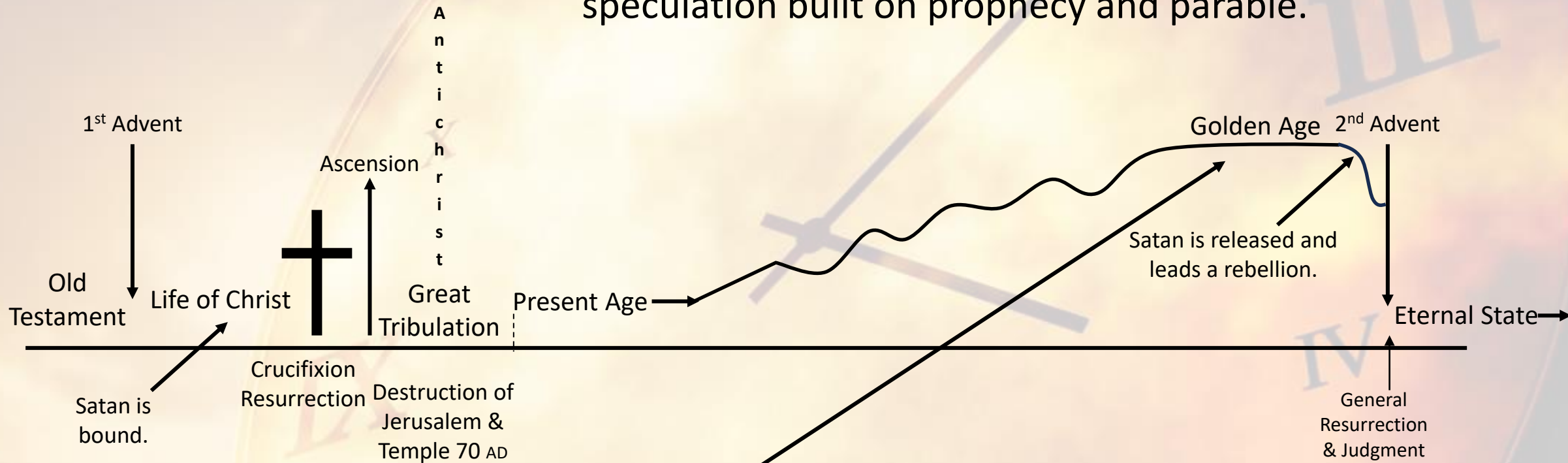
Gentry: “Were these conditions [i.e., persecution of the church] to continue until the end, postmillennialism could *not* be true” (emphasis his).



The two-age eschatology does not seem to allow for an extended period of “prevailing righteousness and peace” that would seem to eliminate most if not all persecution.

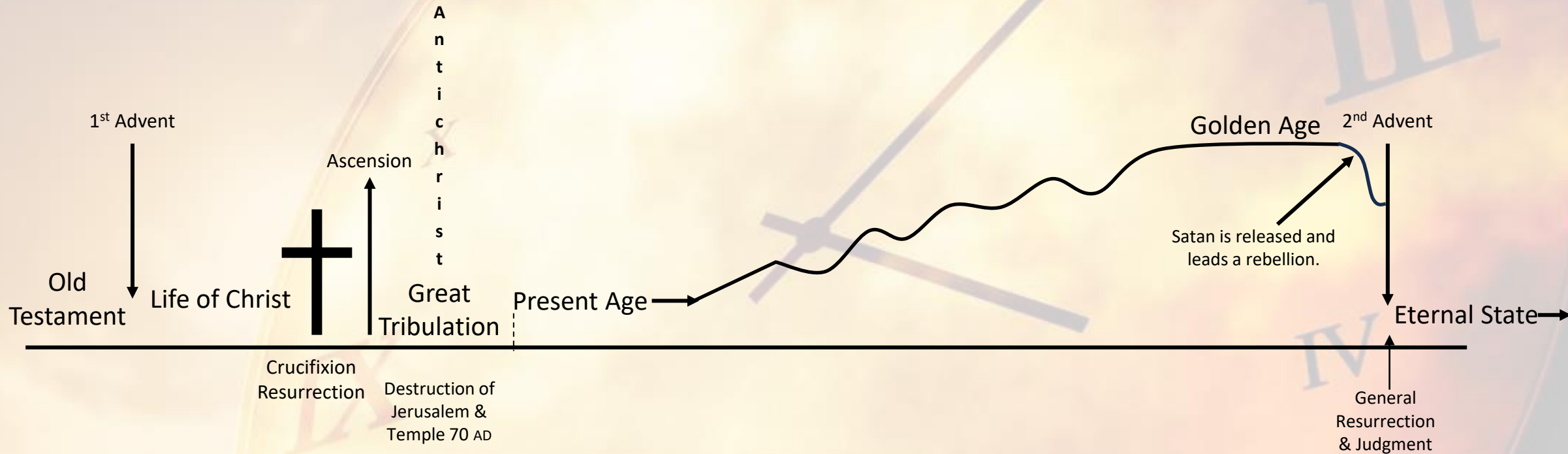
Difficulties and Questions

The PM description of the golden age is largely speculation built on prophecy and parable.



There is no *unambiguous* text in the Scriptures that teach or describe an extended period of prevailing righteousness and peace on the earth prior to Christ's return.

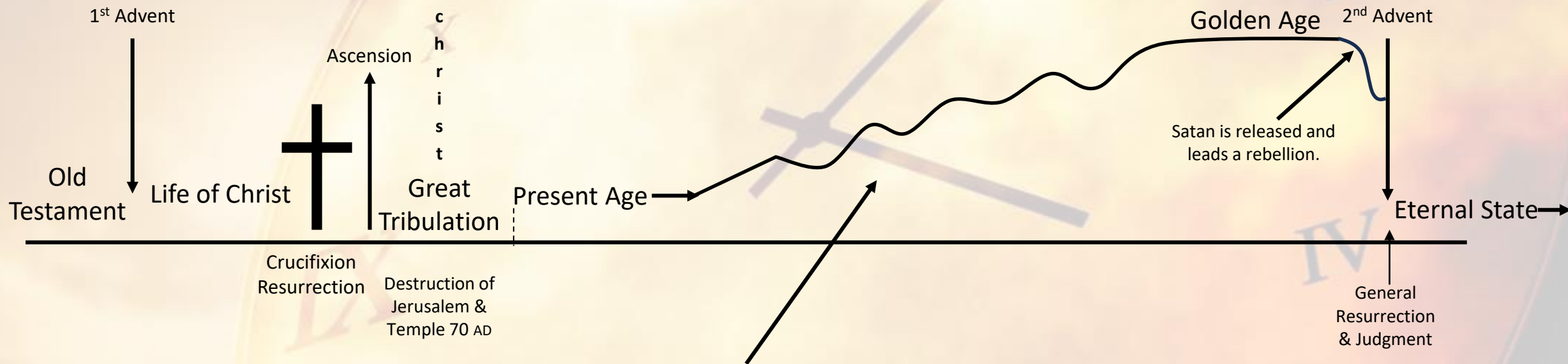
Difficulties and Questions



Efforts to demonstrate “progress” have often meant exaggerations of the data. In 1970, Boettner claimed 61% of Americans were church members, but were these sincere Christians? Additionally, he claimed that slavery and polygamy had practically disappeared.

Difficulties and Questions

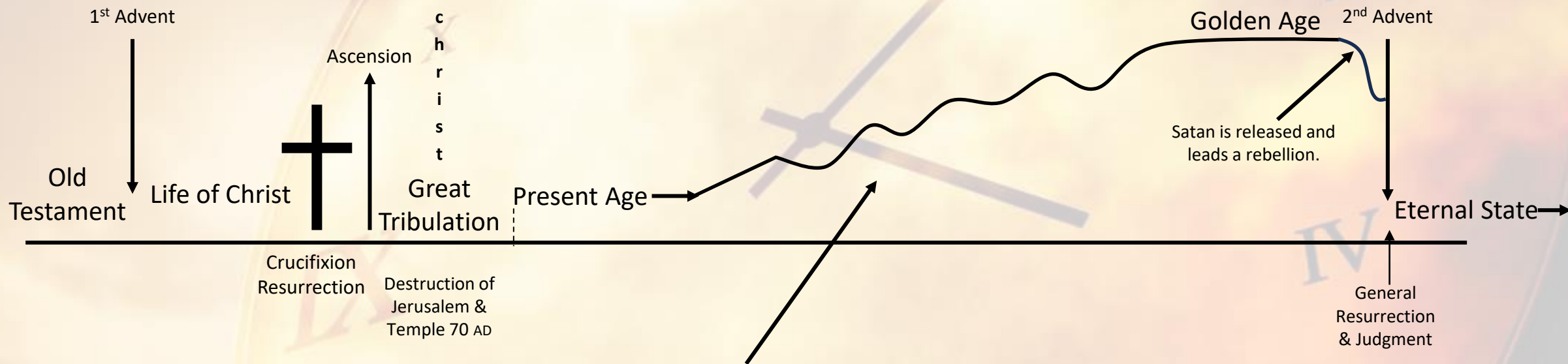
The progress often highlighted by the PMs is the advance of human comforts and conveniences or in the spread of the gospel but not progress in the basic condition of humanity or in the condition of the believer's soul.



The gospel has gone out to the nations, and there has been progress in many respects; but there has been **no** fundamental improvement in the condition of mankind or in the power of the gospel or in the effectiveness of preaching.

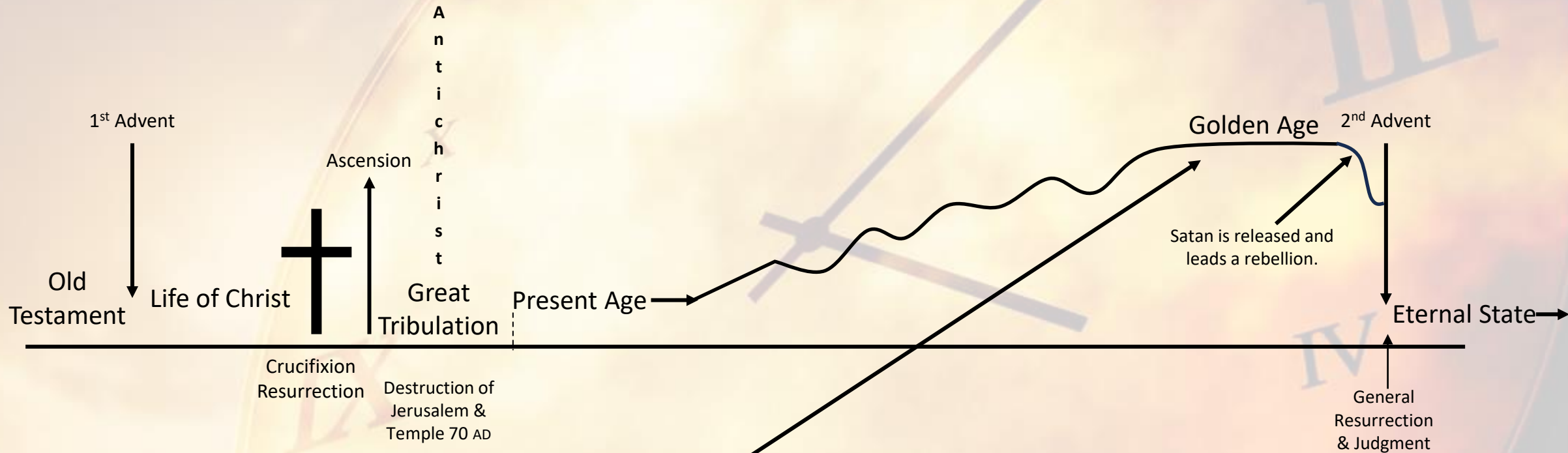
Difficulties and Questions

Yet, it is this kind of progress that would seem to be required if there is to be a golden age as described by PMs. In other words, individuals globally will need to appropriate truth in a manner yet unseen in the history of the Church.



The gospel has gone out to the nations, and there has been progress in many respects; but there has been ***no*** fundamental improvement in the condition of mankind or in the power of the gospel or in the effectiveness of preaching.

Difficulties and Questions



Flesh and blood are inheriting this kingdom though Paul says that they cannot (1 Corinthians 50).