

# Eschatology & the End of Human History



# Introduction

We dwell in ignorance of history, uncertain about its origin, the direction in which it is heading, and its final destination. Concerning eschatology, or the doctrine of the Last Days, many Christians believe literally what is written in the Bible (II Peter 3:12 - heaven and earth judged by fire; Matt 24:29 - sun, moon, stars losing light, falling; I Thess 4:16-17 – resurrection, meeting with Christ in the heavens).

One pertinent question for Christians is whether these events will take place literally or whether the verses are symbolic, as are many parts of the Bible.

# 1. The Meaning of the Last Days

(The Origin & Goal of Human History)

II Pet 3:12 heaven, earth X, fire judgment

Matt 24:29 sun, moon, stars

I Thess 4:16-17 resurrection, ascend to heaven

- 1) Original history – history of goodness
- 2) Fallen history – history of sin
- 3) Salvation providence history – providence of restoration

## (1) History of development of cultural spheres

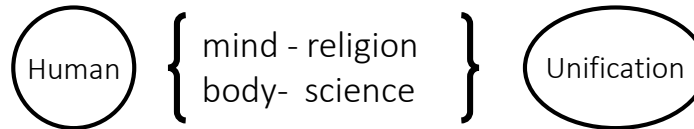
21 - 26 cultural spheres →

Far East Cultural Sphere  
Hindi Cultural Sphere  
Islamic Cultural Sphere  
Christian Cultural Sphere

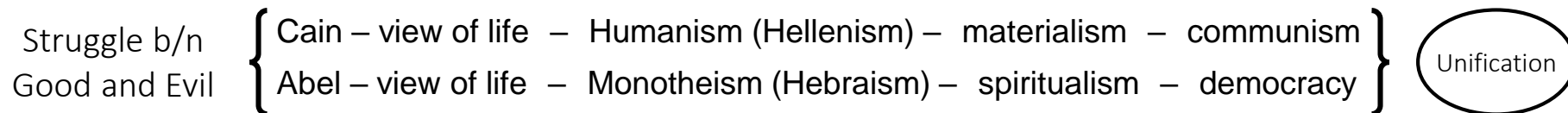
→ Christianity →

God

## (2) Trends in religion and science



## (3) Unfolding of the history of struggle



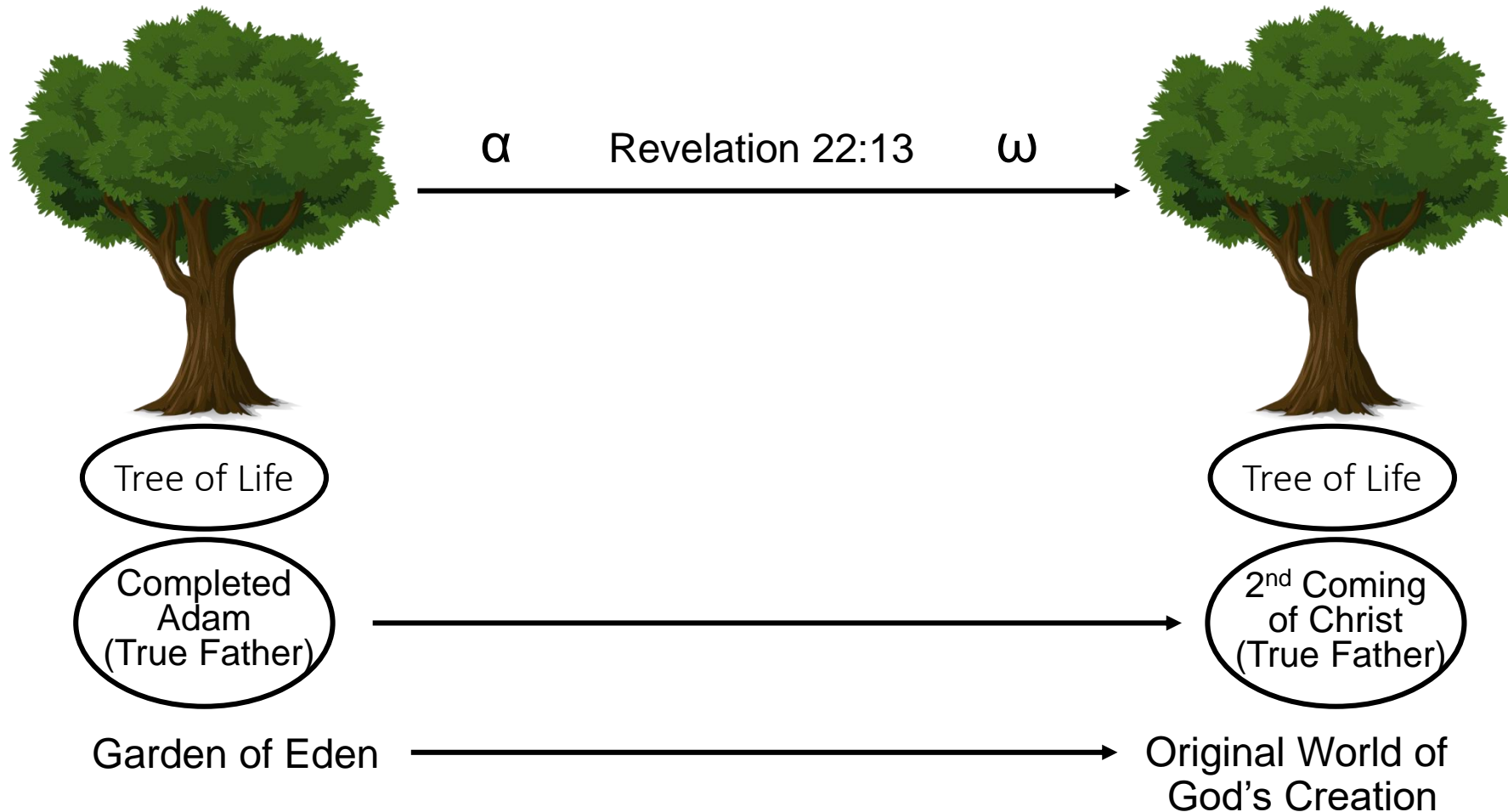
#### 4) The Bible : Restoration of the Tree of Life (Gen 2:9 → Rev 22:14)

Gen 2:9

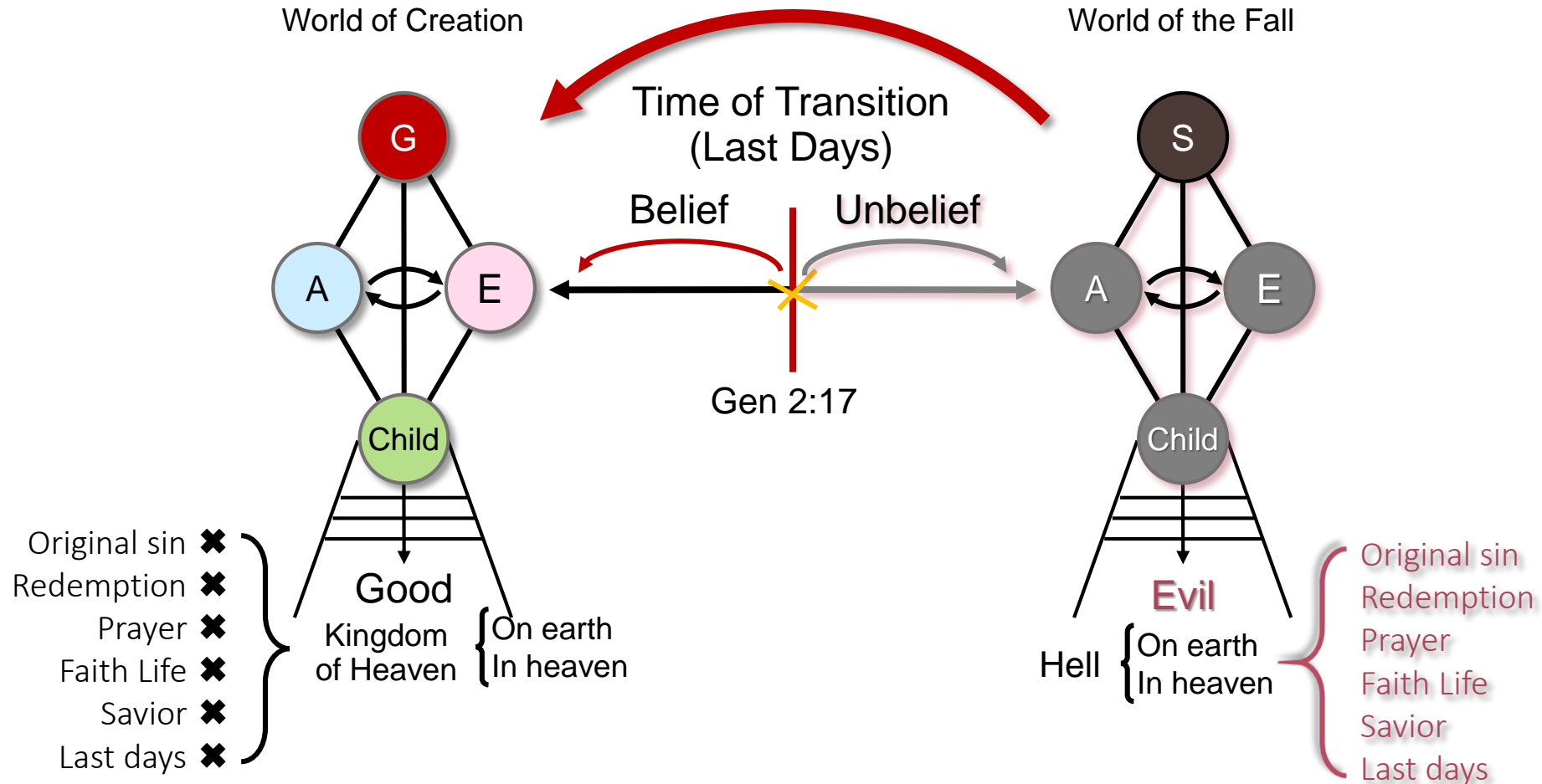
...the tree of life also in the midst of the garden,  
and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Rev 22: 14

Blessed are those who wash their robes,  
that they may have the right to the tree of life  
and that they may enter the city by the gates.



## 2. The Last Days

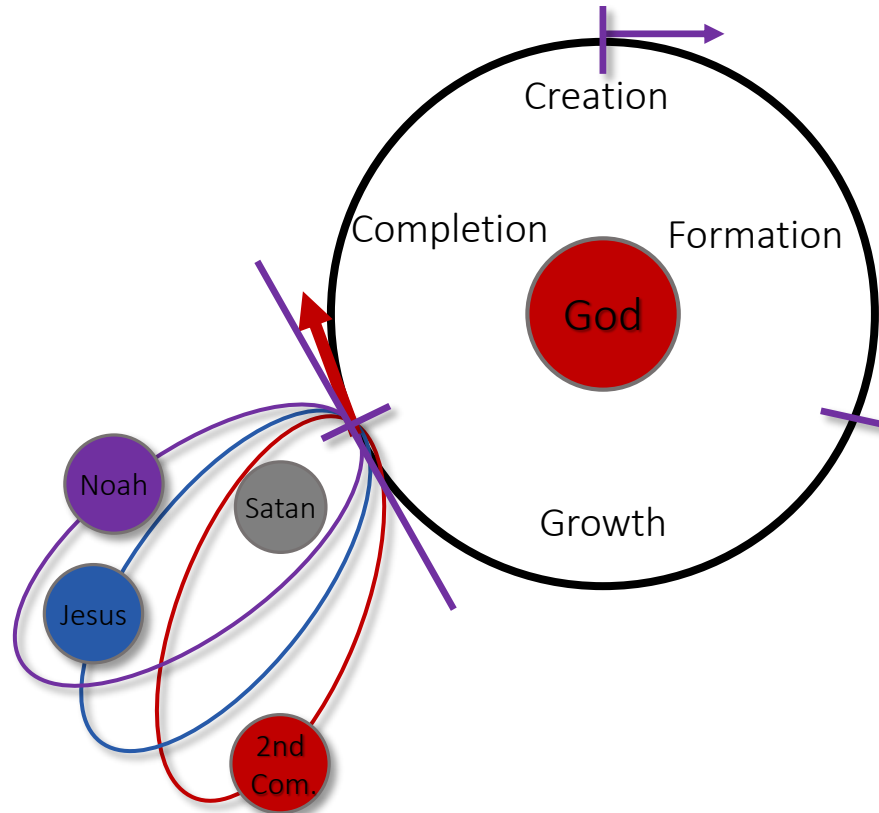


### 1) Meaning of the Last Days

The intersection point where the world of sin that centers on Satan (Satan's evil sovereignty) comes to an end, and the world of goodness that centers on God (God's good sovereignty) begins.

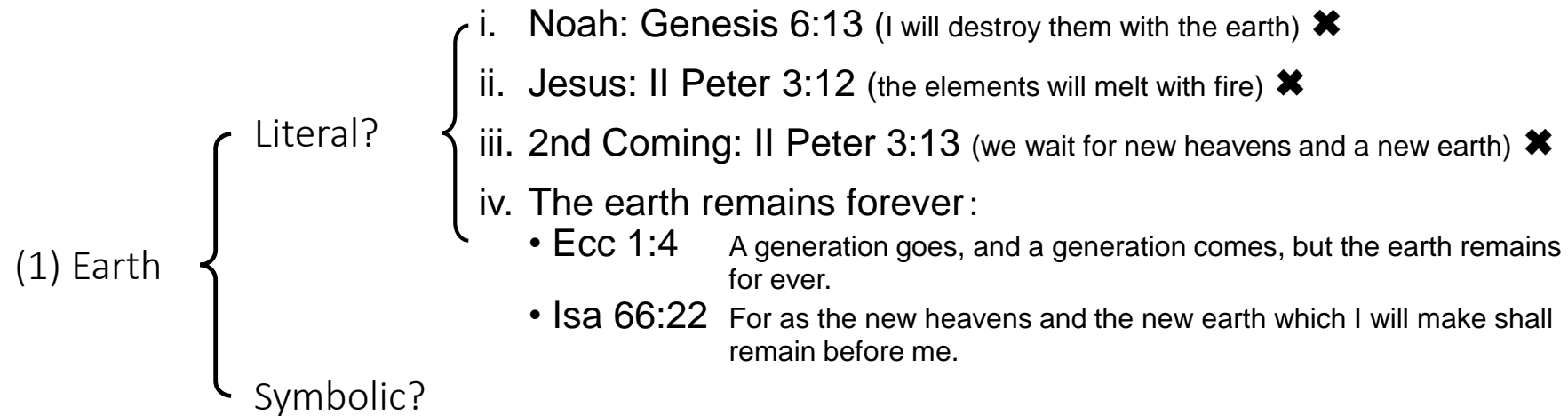
## 2) The Last Days Have Occurred Several Times

- i. **Noah: Gen 6:13** “I have determined to make an end of all flesh; for the earth is filled with violence through them; behold, I will destroy them with the earth.”
- ii. **Jesus: John 5:22, Mal 4:1**
- iii. **Second Coming: Matt 24:29, Luke 17:26** “As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of man....”

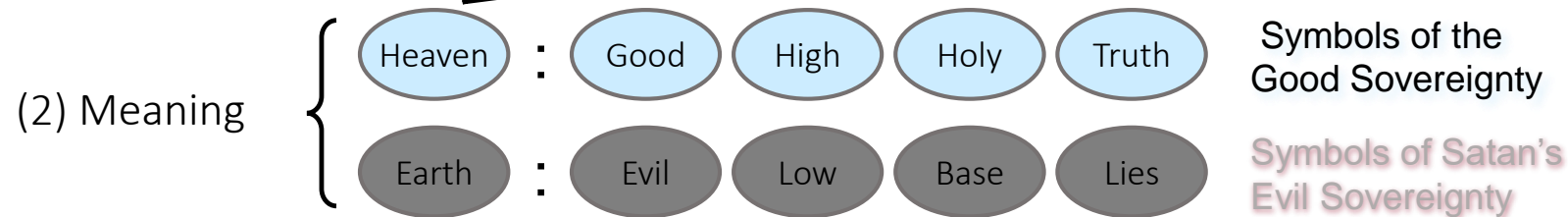


# 3. Scriptural Verses about Signs of the Last Days

## 1) The Earth Destroyed (II Peter 3:12-13)



Matt 6:9 Our Father, which art in heaven....  
John 3:13 ...he who descended from heaven, the Son of man...



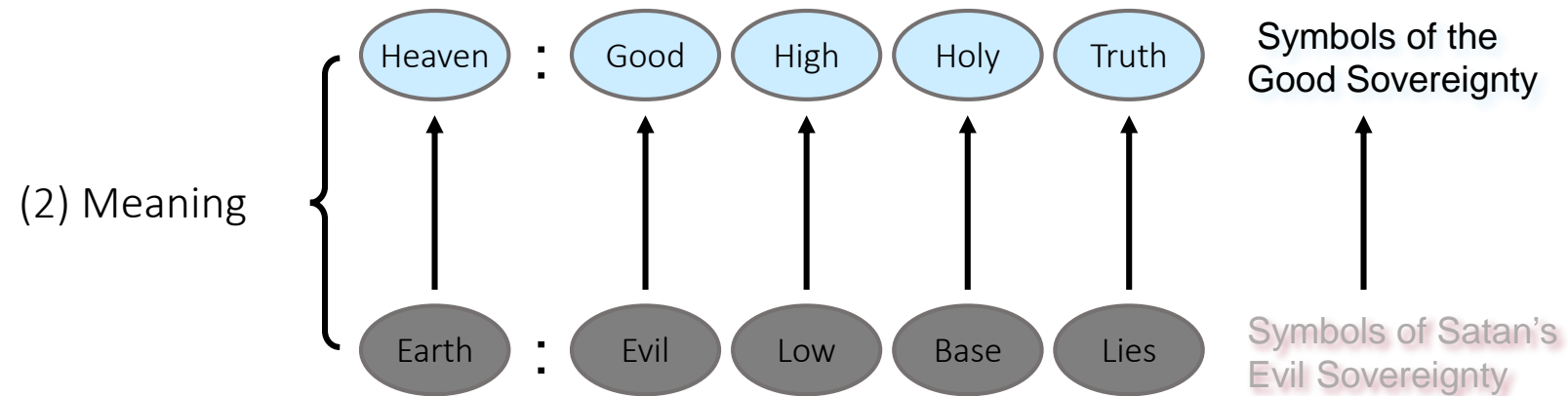
**Destruction of the earth = Satan's evil sovereignty destroyed**



## 2) Rising to Meet the Lord in the Air (I Thess 4:17)

“...shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.”

(1) Rising up in the air { Literal?  
Allegory : symbolic?



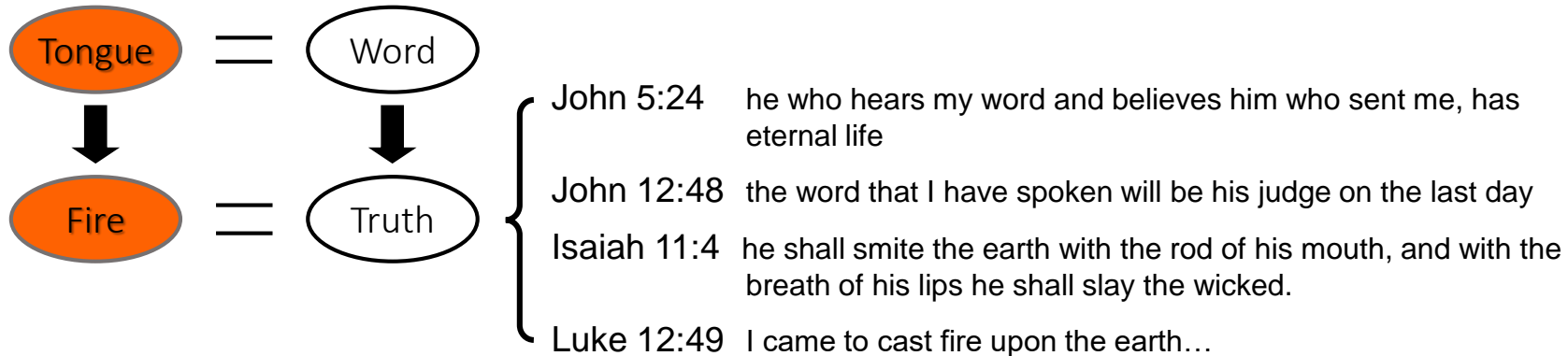
Rising up in the air = a paradigm shift, changing  
fundamental sense of values

### 3) Judgment by Fire (II Peter 3:12)

- 1) Fire { Literal? { i. Jesus: Mal 4:1 (...so that it will leave them neither root nor branch...) ✘  
ii. Second Coming: II Pet 3:12 (...the elements will melt with fire...) ✘  
Allegory : symbolic?

#### 2) Meaning

James 3:6 The Tongue = Fire



Judgment by Fire = Judgment by Truth

#### 4) Sun, Moon, Stars

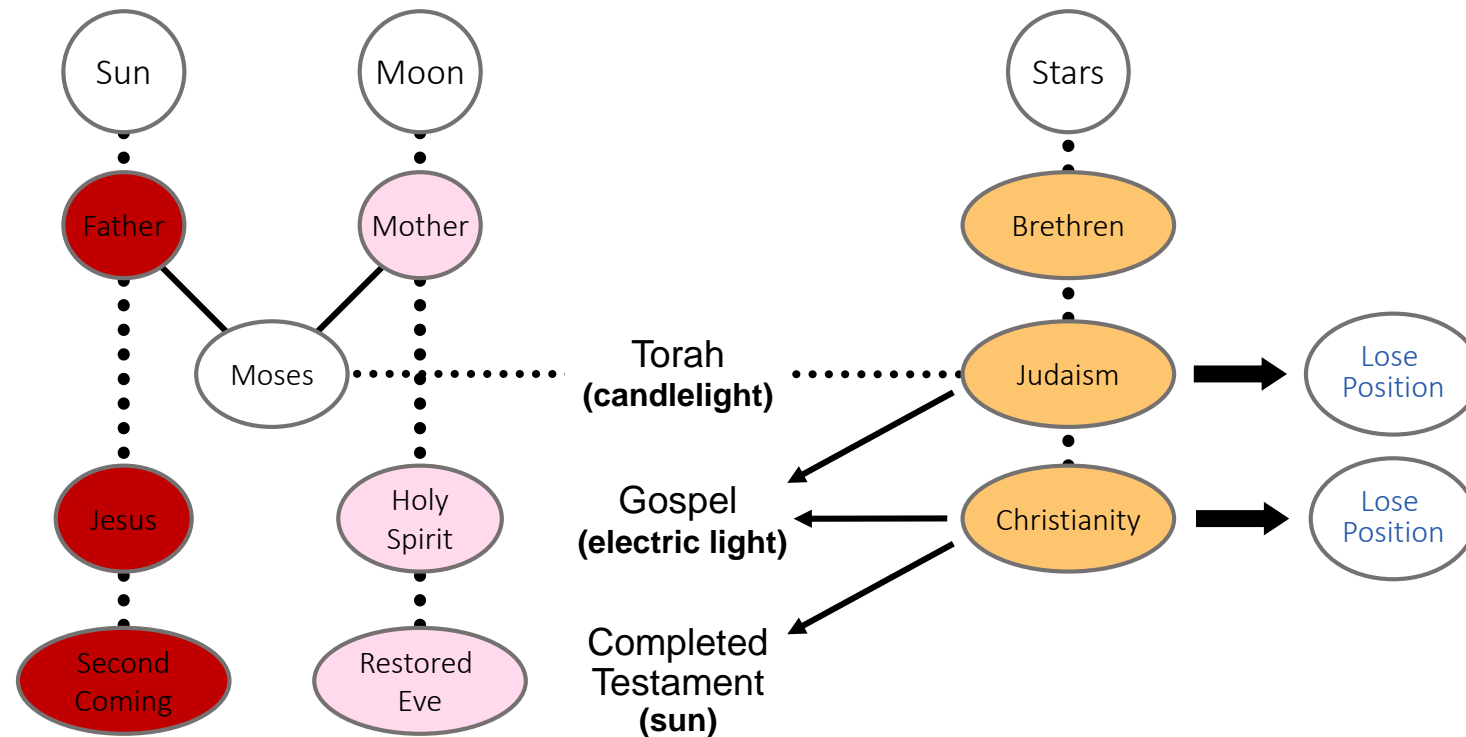
Matthew 24:29 ...the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

1) Sun, Moon, Stars

{ Literal?  
Allegory : symbolic?

2) Meaning

Gen 37:9-10 ...the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.



Be darkened = Foreshadows the end of the mission

Stars falling = Foreshadows possible failure if responsibility not fulfilled

## 4. Our Present Time is the Last Days

Matt 24:32 'fig leaves'

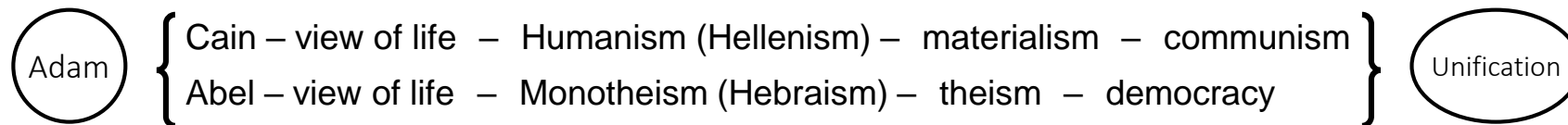
### 1) Perspective 1: From Restoration of the Three Blessings

#### (1) Indications that the First Blessing is being restored (Completion of the Individual)

| Original World of Creation  | Indications                                       | Current Times  |
|---|---|--|
| Oneness of <i>shimjung</i><br>(direct communication b/n God and Humans) | Recovery of spirituality                          | Increasing number of spiritualists   |
| Freedom of the original mind  | Recovery of the original mind's freedom           | Pursuit of original freedom<br>Revolution of society in pursuit of freedom   |
| Noble, worthy; Cosmic value   | Restoration of the original value of human beings | Groundswell towards democracy;<br>pursuit of the value of individuality;<br>movements for securing human rights (liberation) |
| World bound together through the love of God                            | Restoration of original love                      | Philanthropy;<br>pursuit of true nature of love  |

## (2) Indications that the Second Blessing is being restored (Completion of the Family)

|  | Original World of Creation        | Current Times  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| History of the development of cultural spheres | One world family centering on God | One cultural sphere centering on Christianity                  |
| History of the rise and fall of nations        | World of God's Sovereignty        | Democratic world & communist world<br>Division → Unified World |



## (3) Indications that the Third Blessing is being restored (Restoration of Dominion)

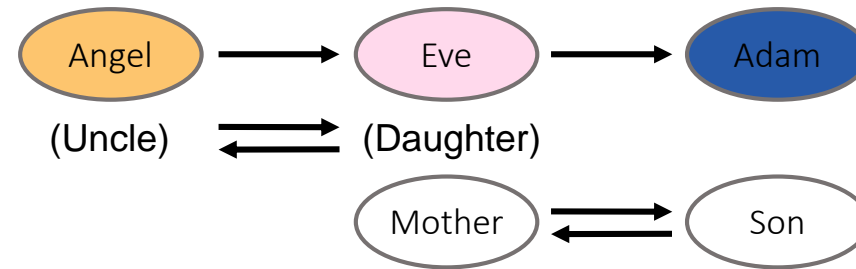
{ Internal – Religion, Philosophy, Ethics – Restoration of Spirit – Conservation of Nature  
External – Scientific & Technological Development – Economic Growth – Comfortable Environment

Conclusion: Signs that the Three Blessings are being restored indicate to us that our current times are the Last Days.

## 2) Perspective 2: From Social Phenomena

1) You reap what you sow.

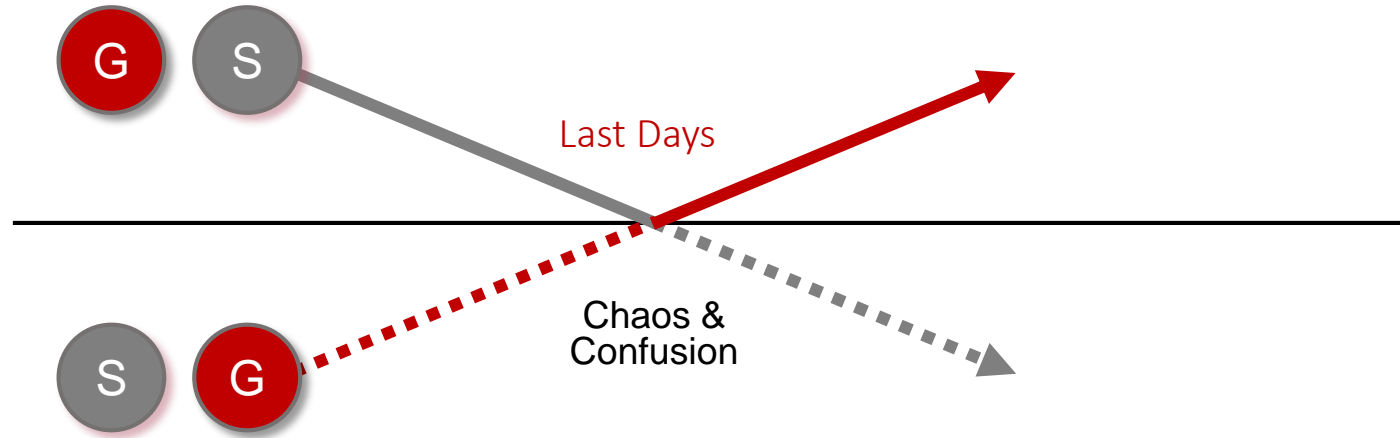
Fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden → Illicit sexual relationship



2) Close correlative relationship → Incestuous relationship

Phenomena in society indicate to us that our current times are the Last Days.

## 5. Our Attitude and The Last Days



1) The Last Days: Liquidation of the old era → Start for the providence of the new era

2) Chaos & Confusion  
(Conflict & Contradiction) { Internally: anxiety · dread · chaos & confusion  
Externally: discord · struggle

3) Our Stance and Attitude

- (1) With a humble heart and mind, we should make the utmost effort to perceive God's mystical presence through prayer.
- (2) We must not fixate or cling to conventional concepts but rather endeavor to be receptive to God's spirit and guidance.
- (3) In this way, we must seek the new expression of truth that can guide us to the providence of this new era.