

BEGINNING OF SORROWS

(“BIRTH PANGS”)

“BEGINNING” IS NOT “THE END”

“...see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet” (Mt.24:6)

⁴And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. ⁵For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

⁶And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. ⁸All these are the beginning of sorrows.

MATTHEW 24:4-8

BEGINNING OF SORROWS

BIRTH PAINS — Mt.24:4-8

BEGINNING OF CHURCH

RETURN OF CHRIST

- Many coming in Christ's name (v.5)
- Wars (and rumors) (v.6)
- Nation against nation (v.7)
- Kingdom against kingdom (v.7)
- Famines (v.7)
- Pestilences (v.7)
- Earthquakes (v.7)

Natural Historical Trends
Normal Evidences of Sin

Approximately 2,000 Years

3 1/2 Years

Unknown Length



32AD 70AD

CHURCH AGE

1

FIRST 1/2 OF 70th WEEK

2

GREAT TRIBULATION

3

4

5

6

7

DOTL

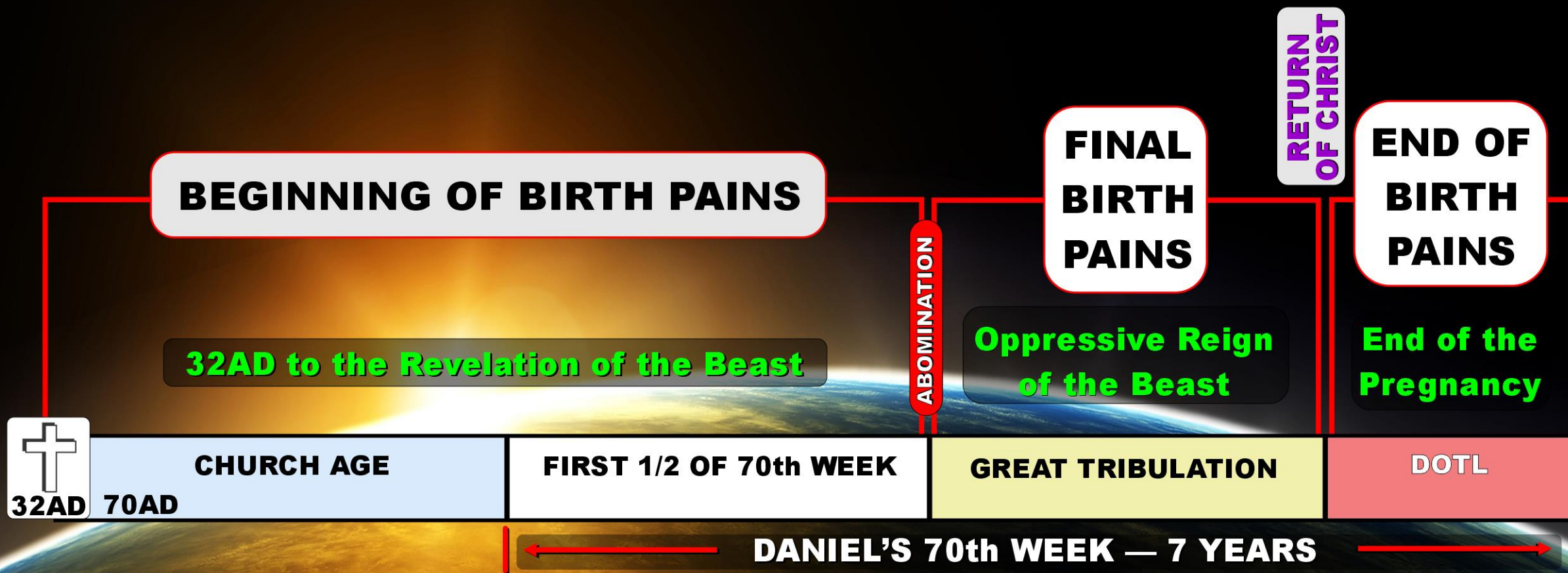
Beginning of Daniel's 70th Week

The Covenant Created

Middle of Daniel's 70th Week

The Covenant Broken

BIRTH PAINS IMAGERY



Birth pains are those intermittent pushes which indicates a pregnancy is moving toward its “end” (Mt.24:6). Before that “end” (Mt.24:13-14) can occur, there must be the final birth pains which are the body’s actions to bring that baby into the world, and thus “end” that pregnancy.

BEGINNING OF SORROWS SUMMARY

1 **The oriented Christian should not be deceived (Mt.24:4)**
⌘ These things must occur, but they do not indicate the end is near.

2 **Jesus does not want the disciples to become distracted by these characteristics (Mt.24:5)**
⌘ The church should not become distracted (form of deception) from her evangelistic purpose.

3 **These characteristics do not indicate the end is near (Mt.24:6)**
⌘ These are simply a natural progression of history. Some of these characteristics may have increased in frequency and intensity in recent years.

4 **Jesus does not mention the beginning of Daniel's 70th Week, only the midpoint (Mt.24:15)**
⌘ No distinction is made between the beginning of the 70th Week and the years preceding it.
⌘ These characteristics will continue until a change of focus occurs with the beginning of the Tribulation at the midpoint of Daniel's 70th Week.

2 PROPHECY PERIODS

FIRST THINGS

(32AD — 70AD)

Focus: Local to Jerusalem

2 Stage Judgment:

1. Indictment (at the cross)

2. Physical (destruction / scattering)

- Lv.26:27
- Zc.13:8-9
- Du.28:49-68
- Ho.5:14-15
- Da.11:33

- “But before all these” (Lk.21:12)
- “Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled” (Lk.21:24)

(Mt.10:16-23; Mk.13:9-13; Lk.21:12-19)

LARGER SCALE TRENDS

(70AD — RETURN OF CHRIST)

Focus: Extends to the Whole World

- Many coming in Christ's name (Mt.24:5)
- Wars (and rumors) (Mt.24:6)
- Nation against nation (Mt.24:7)
- Kingdom against kingdom (Mt.24:7)
- Famines (Mt.24:7)
- Pestilences (Mt.24:7)
- Earthquakes (Mt.24:7)

(Mt.24:4-8; Mk.13:5-8; Lk.21:8-11)

BIRTH PAINS (Mt.24:4-8; 1Th.5:1-11)

Jesus and Paul did not use the birth pains imagery in the same way. They do not refer to the same time or event. The context bears out the distinction.

JESUS — Mt.24:8

COMPARE

PAUL — 1Th.5:3

Jesus describes the “birth pains” as occurring before the Great Tribulation (Mt.24:6, 21). Jesus says the birth pains show that the end has not yet arrived. These are before the celestial disturbance (v.8-29)

Paul describes the birth pains to announce that the end has arrived. “Sudden destruction cometh upon them” (1Th.5:3) “like labor pains” (Is.13:7-8). This celestial disturbance is the trigger for the Day of the Lord (Is.13:8-10)

These will be a tolerable stage of “birth pains”. Hence Jesus reassures the disciples to not be alarmed (Mt.24:6).

Paul draws from Isaiah’s labor imagery focusing on how intolerable these birth pains will be (1Th.5:3; Is.13:8).

Jesus tells His disciples that birth pains is what the Christians will experience (Mt.24:4-8).

Paul promises that Christians are exempt from these labor pains of God’s wrath (1Th.5:9).

Jesus describes the birth pains as natural events (Mt.24:5-8). [False Christs, wars, famines, etc].

Paul describes the birth pains as supernatural events of the Day of the Lord (2Th.1:5-8).

Jesus describes the birth pains as applying to both Believers and Unbelievers (Mt.24:5-8).

Paul describes the birth pains as applying exclusively to Unbelievers (1Th.5:3-4).