



Gaining A Strategic Grasp of Scripture

The Pre-Prophecy Rapture of the Church

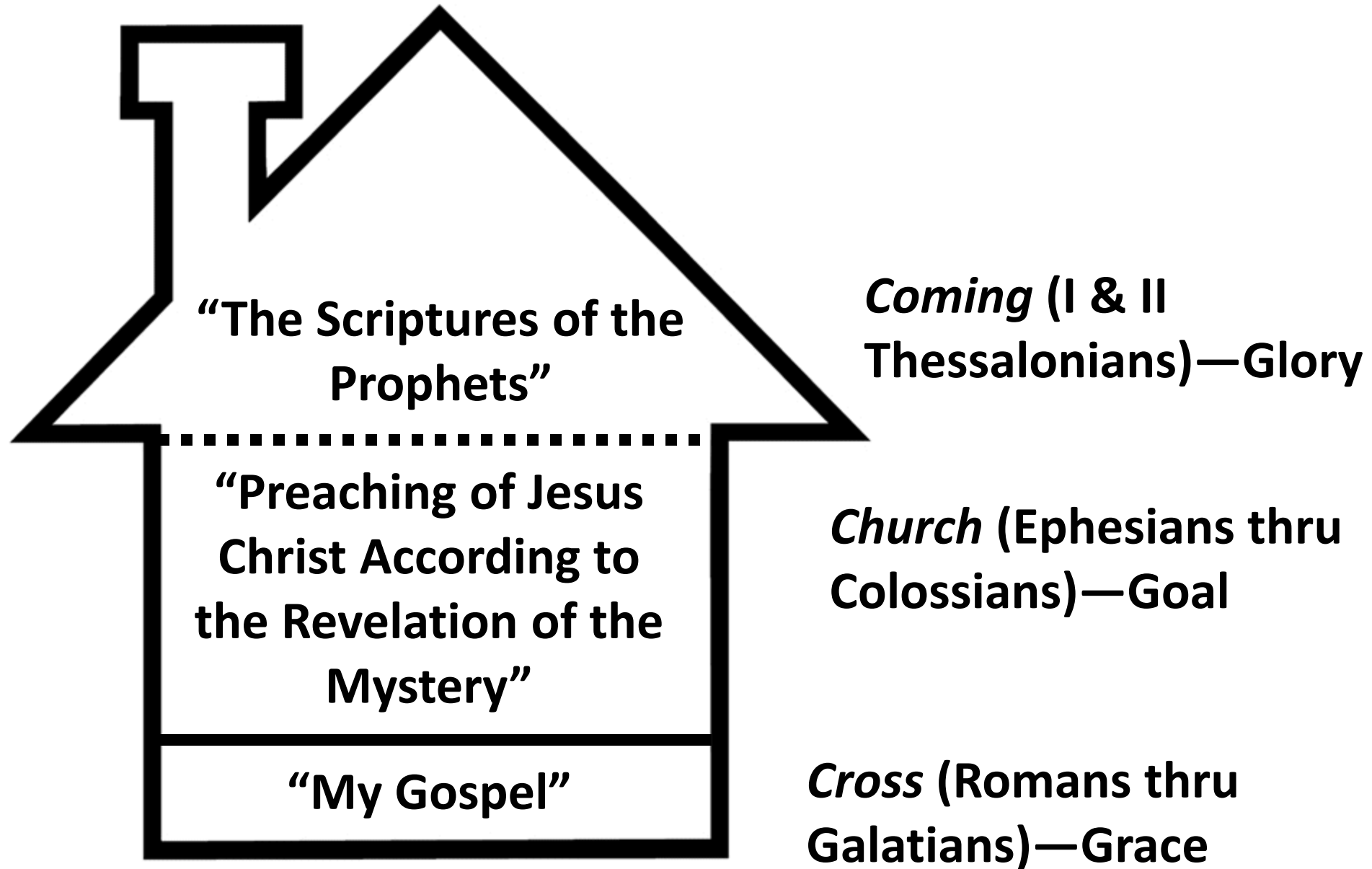
Sunday, March 9, 2025

Grace Life Bible Church

Grand Rapids, MI

Pastor Bryan C. Ross

The Pauline Plan of Stablishment—Rom. 16:25-26



	Cross	Church	Coming
Doctrine:	Romans	Ephesians	I&II Thess.
Reproof:	I&II Cor.	Philippians	Not Needed
Correction:	Galatians	Colossians	Not Needed

Pastoral Epistles

- **I Timothy:** *Protect* the Doctrine
- **II Timothy:** *Preach* the Doctrine
- **Titus:** *Practice* the Doctrine
- **Philemon:** *Personalize* the Doctrine

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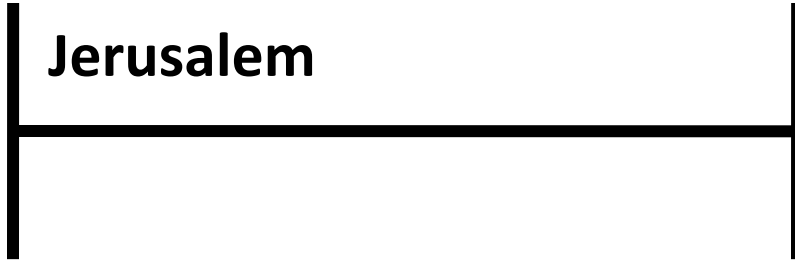
- The entire dispensation of grace (“but now”) was an “unsearchable” mystery hid in God and completely unknown to the Old Testament prophets.
 - I Corinthians 2:7-8
 - Ephesians 3:1-10
 - Colossians 1:25-26
- The entire dispensation of grace (“but now”) is a heretofore unknown parenthetical insertion into Daniel’s prophecy of the 70 weeks that was unknown to Daniel or anyone else before it was revealed to the Apostles Paul.

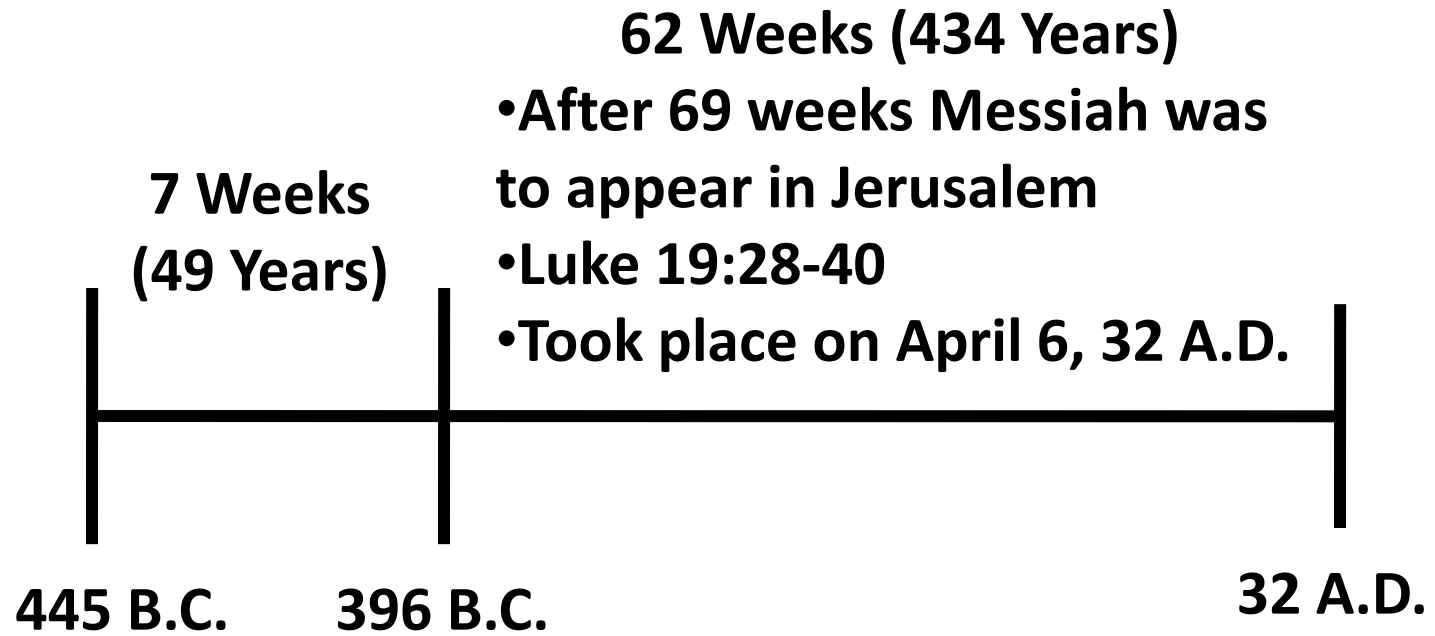
7 Weeks (49 Years)

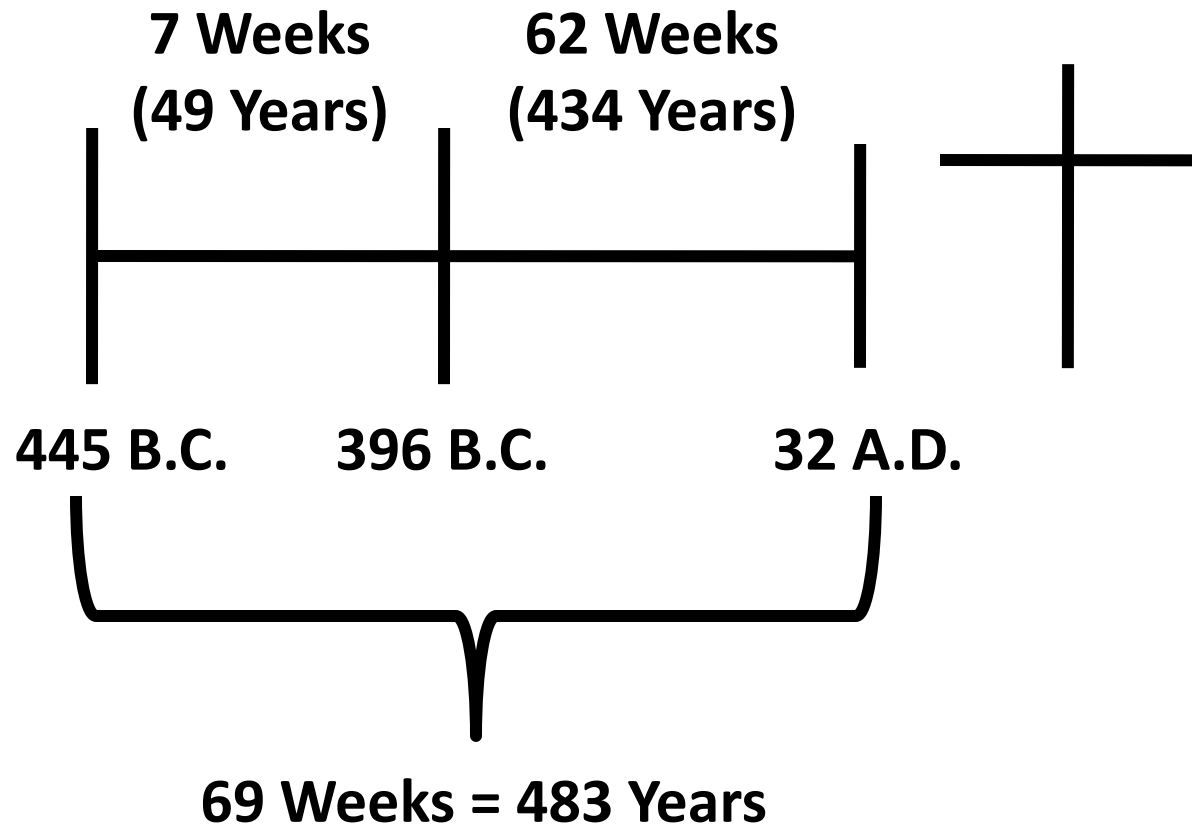
- Nehemiah 2:1-4
- March 14, 445 B.C.
- Edict is Issues to Rebuild
Jerusalem

445 B.C.

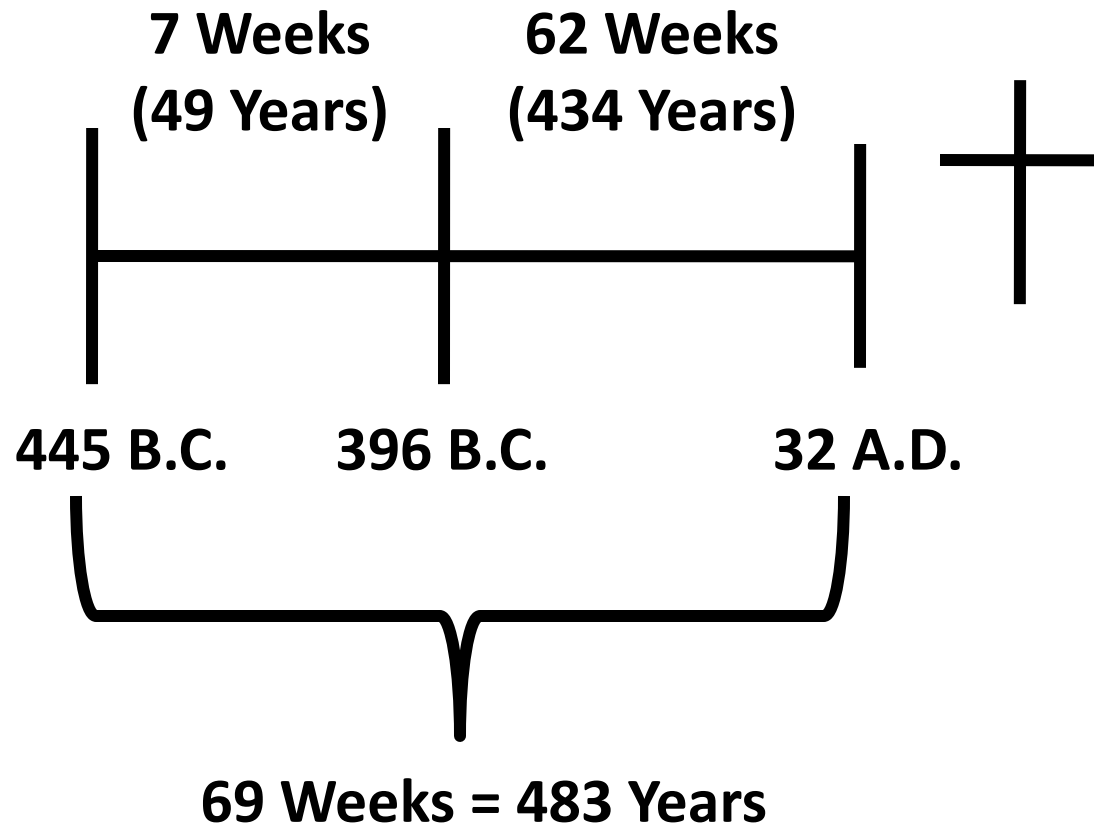
396 B.C.







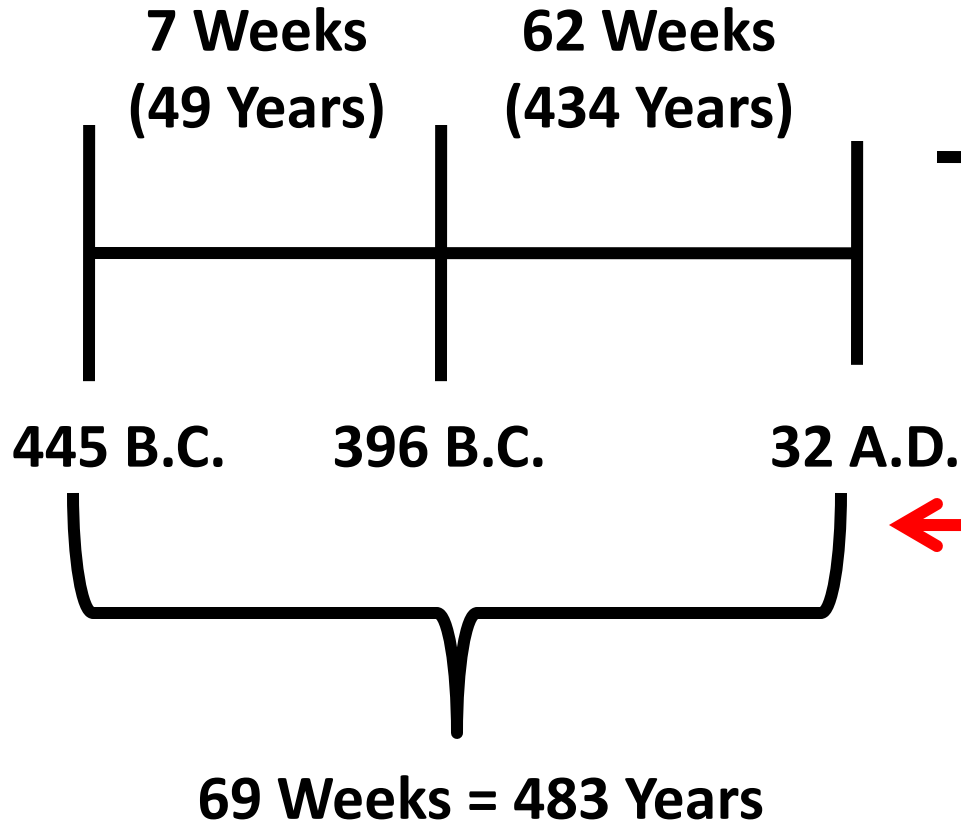
- Messiah is cut off after the 69th week ends but before the 70th week begins.
- There is a gap of an undisclosed amount of time in the prophecy.



The Body of Christ

- Because of Israel's unbelief God inserted a previously unpredicted time period into the prophetic sentence.
- The Dispensation of the Grace is the subject of the mystery which God kept secret since the world began.
- Reveled in the writings of Paul.

Time Past



**But
Now**

Body of Christ

Ages to Come

70th Week (7 Years)
• Still future
• Begins with signing
of Covenant



**Prophetic
Time Gap**

Remains Unfulfilled

The Pre-Prophecy Rapture of the Church

- If the prophets of old knew nothing about the dispensation of grace (“but now”) then it follows that they would have know nothing of its end.
- The only fitting way for this dispensation to end is through an event that is just as much a mystery as the dispensation itself.
 - I Corinthians 15:51-53
- I Corinthians 15:51 establishes the following facts:
 - What Paul is about to say is part of the mystery.
 - Not every member of the body of Christ is going to die before the dispensation ends.
 - Every member of the body of Christ will be changed.

The Pre-Prophecy Rapture of the Church

- I Corinthians 15:52—this changing that all members of the body of Christ participate in will occur, “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump.”
- When the trumpet sounds, the “dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” All are changed both the dead and those which are “alive and remain.”
- I Thessalonians 4:13-14—Paul does not want the Thessalonians to be ignorant of them which are asleep. Departed believers Christ will bring with him when He appears in the air to catch away the church.

The Pre-Prophecy Rapture of the Church

- I Thessalonians 4:15—those who are “alive and remain” unto the coming of the Lord will not “prevent” them which are asleep. There are two groups in verse 15:
 - Those who have fallen asleep, i.e., the believing dead.
 - Those who are “alive and remain” to see the coming of the Lord.
- This matches I Corinthians 15:51, not all believers will sleep, i.e., die physically before the coming of the Lord but all believers will be changed.
- I Thessalonians 4:16—the Lord Jesus Christ will descend from heaven and the dead in Christ shall be raised first.
 - I Corinthians 15:52—the dead in Christ will be raised incorruptible.

The Pre-Prophecy Rapture of the Church

- I Thessalonians 4:17—“then,” i.e., after the dead in Christ rise first those who are alive and remain will be caught up with them (“the dead in Christ”) to meet the Lord in the air.
 - Zechariah 14:1-4—in the prophetic day of the Lord the Lord Jesus Christ will stand upon the mount of Olives in the day of battle.
 - Acts 1:9-12—according to prophecy when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in like manner he will return to the mount of Olives.
 - Revelation 19:11-17—sees Jesus Christ returning bodily back to earth to deal militarily with his enemies.
- Is there a difference between the meeting of the Lord with his saints in the air (I Thess. 4 & I Cor. 15) and his bodily return back to earth the pour out his wrath upon his enemies?

The Pre-Prophecy Rapture of the Church

- The events of Revelation 19 are the subject of the prophetic scriptures, whereas the events of I Thess. 4 and I Cor. 15 are the subject of the mystery committed the Apostle Paul.
- The catching away of the church, i.e., the rapture is pre-prophetic and therefore pre-tribulational as to its timing.
- Daniel 9:24—who are the 70 weeks determined upon? Israel and the city of Jerusalem.
- Jeremiah 30:7—the 70th week commonly referred to as the tribulation period is specifically called in the prophetic scriptures the “time of Jacob’s Trouble.”

The Pre-Prophecy Rapture of the Church

- Where is Israel today during the “but now?” They are set aside and rendered in unbelief along with the gentiles.
- In order for prophecy to be fulfilled again God will need to change his dispensational dealings with the world and resume his dealings with Israel according to the prophetic scriptures.
- I Thessalonians 5:1-9—the wrath associated with the prophetic day of the Lord has not been appointed upon the body of Christ. Why? Because the body of Christ will have already been caught away in Chapter 4.

Works Cited

Jordan, Richard. *Through The Bible In Seven Hours: A Strategic Grasp of the Bible*. Grace Impact Ministries, 2011.