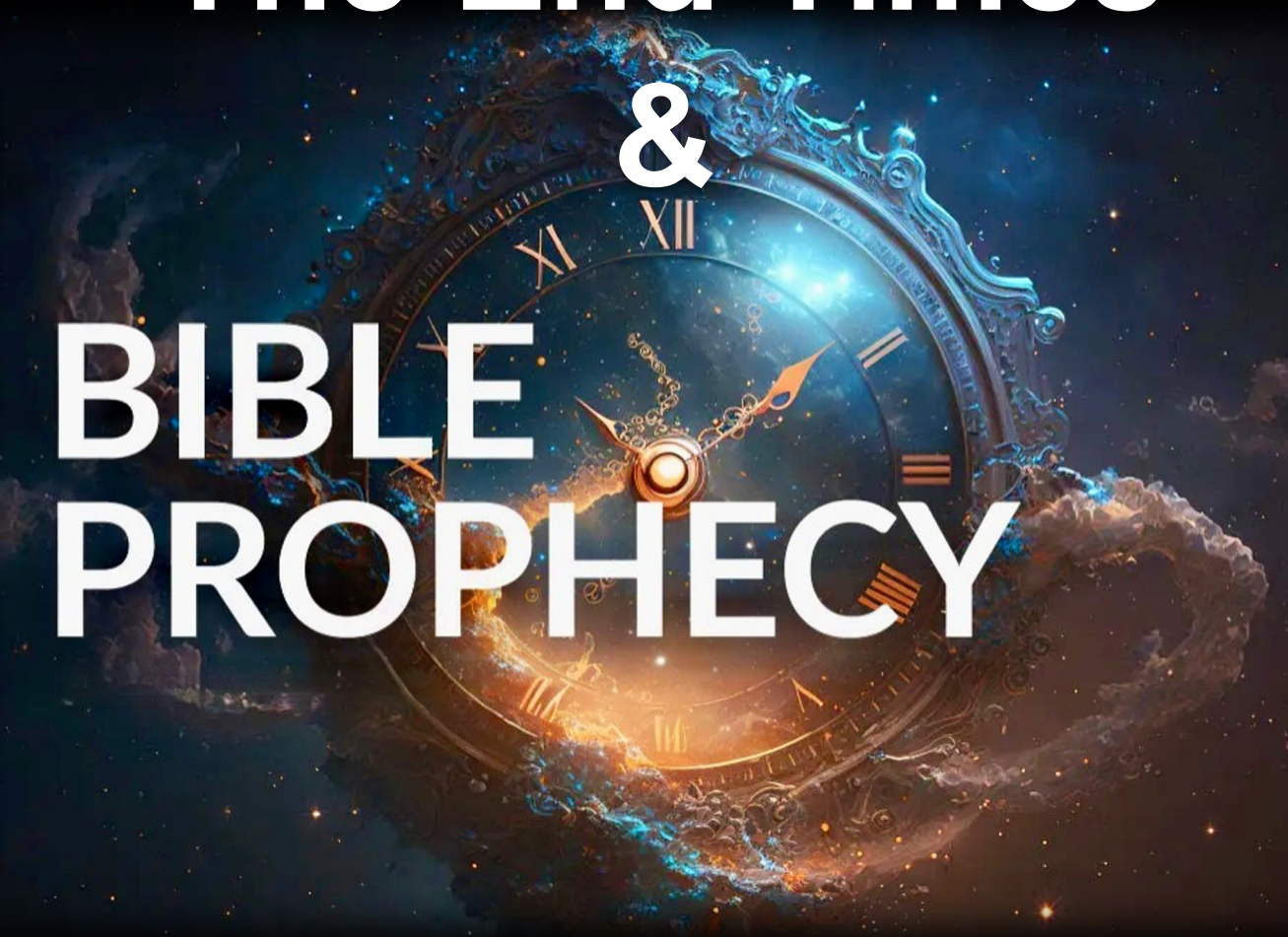


The End Times & BIBLE PROPHECY



Laying The Foundation 101

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I. Bible Prophecy - Laying The Foundation

7 Reasons Why Study We The End of the Age¹

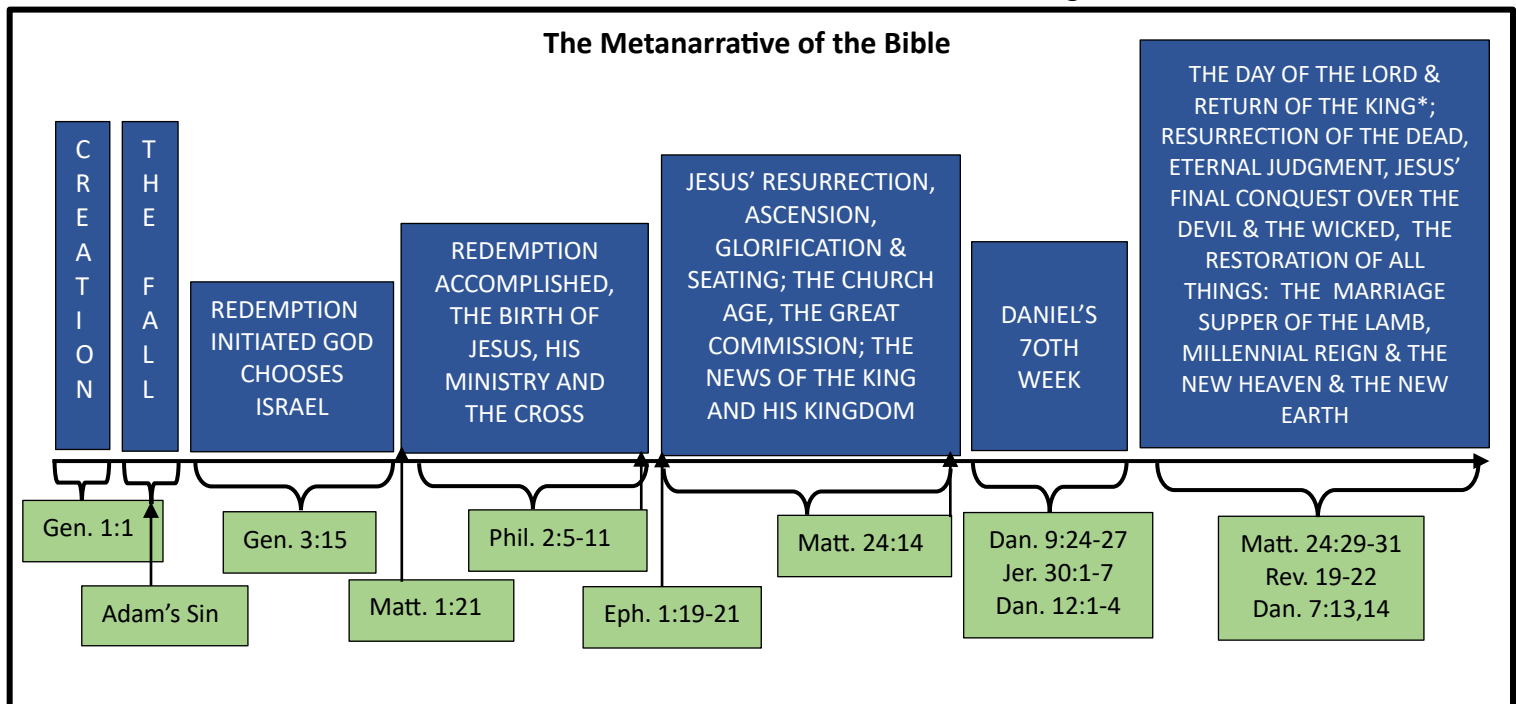
1. Because of Jesus
 - Getting a clearer vision of who He is.
 - Rev. 1:1-3 “The Revelation of Jesus Christ....”.
 - See Him more clearly, love Him more deeply and obey more fervently.
2. Because of the Bible
 - The thread of Redemption and The Kingdom.
 - The Story from Genesis to Revelation.
 - Not just about the Story, but we are in the story.
3. Because Pop-Culture
 - Casual, carnal curiosity: Fringe, bizarre, optional, irrelevant, recreational.
 - This is the Blessed Hope, centerpiece, climax, the end-game.
 - The Return of the Lord, The End of This Age, The Restoration of All Things.
4. Because of the Story
 - If you don’t know the beginning of the story or the end of the story, you get lost in the middle.
5. Because of the Signs of the Times
 - Jesus commanded us to study, understand and know the signs of the times.
 - To live rightly in response to them.
 - The signs that Jesus described are mounting all around us.
6. Because of the Gospel
 - Cross and the Crown
 - Salvation and the restoration of all things
 - The Whole Gospel: The Cross He Bore and the Crown He Wore
7. Because of Perspective
 - Help us navigate these days with stability and confidence in Jesus.

¹ Frontier Alliance International, Maranatha End Times Studies

A. Metanarrative of the Bible²

The “Metanarrative” is the over-arching story of the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Although the Bible is made up of 66 different Books, they collectively tell one story of creation, the fall, redemption, and the final restoration of all things.

1. **Creation** – Genesis tells us that in the beginning God created all things out of nothing by His spoken Word. His crowning work was the creation of man and woman made in His own image.
2. **Fall** - Man and woman were created for fellowship with God but that fellowship was broken by man’s disobedience to God’s command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and so death spread to all men Romans 5:12-17.
3. **Redemption Initiated** - God chooses the Nation of Israel through whom the Messiah will come.
4. **Redemption Accomplished, The First Coming of the King** - The Birth of Jesus Christ came into the world to restore fellowship with the Father. To those who put faith in His death and resurrection, He reconciled us back to God and receive the gift of eternal life.
5. **The Mission of the Church** - Spreading the news of the King and His Kingdom.
6. **The Day of the Lord and the Return of the King** - The restoration of all things. While fellowship with the Father is restored to those who put their faith in Jesus Christ, the world still suffers the effects of sin.
7. **Jesus’ Final Conquest** - He will return to destroy the Devil and His enemies, creation will be restored, the Nation of Israel will be saved and we will live and reign with Jesus Christ forever.



² jenniferhyates.com/understanding-the-metanarrative-of-scripture/adapted.

B. Testimony of the Old Testament Prophets

“The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed. The New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.”

1. The First Gospel

The word “proto” means first and “evangelium” means the evangelistic message of salvation. The Lord announces the future coming of a “seed” (זָרַע) who will bruise the head of the serpent. It also speaks of the ongoing conflict between the righteous descendants of the woman and the unrighteous descendants of satan.



Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall crush bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.

Points of Emphasis:

- God speaks and makes a prophetic declaration to the serpent.
- The day is coming when someone is coming who will crush your head.
- God said He will bring enmity between the woman and the serpent.
- Between her seed/descendants/offspring and the serpent’s seed/descendants/offspring.
- God introduces the Messiah at the beginning. The One who will crush the serpent’s head.
- Most importantly undue/redeem the fall in the garden and restore all things.

2. The First Coming of Jesus, The Birth of The Messiah

Genesis 12:3 And I will bless them that bless you and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 49:8-10 ⁸ “Judah, you *are he* whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand *shall be* on the neck of your enemies; Your father’s children shall bow down before you. ⁹ Judah *is* a lion’s whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, And to Him *shall be* the obedience of the people.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.



Isaiah 9:6,7 ⁶For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of His government...

Micah 5:2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me; The One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth *are* from of old, from everlasting.”

3. The Second Coming of the Messiah, Jesus the King

The First Gospel -

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And your seed and her seed; He shall crush bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.

The Blessing of Moses -

Deuteronomy 33:1-3 ¹Now this *is* the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. ²And he said: “The Lord came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand *Came* a fiery law for them. ³Yes, He loves the people; All His saints *are* in Your hand; They sit down at Your feet; *Everyone* receives Your words.

Daniel 7:13-14 ¹³I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. ¹⁴And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

4. The Scarlet Thread of Redemption and Golden Thread of The Kingdom

- a) The story line of Christ’s first and second coming.
- b) The climax of the story: the endgame – the story of Christ’s second coming with His Throne and Everlasting Kingdom.
- c) From the Cross to the throne.

5. Looking Back and Looking Forward: Probability and Accuracy, Texas & Silver Dollars

³In 1969, Dr. Peter Stoner published a book called “Science Speaks.” Dr. Stoner was the Chairman of the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena City College until 1953, when he became Chairman of the Science Division at Westmont College. In other words, he was a capable mathematician. And in “Science Speaks,” Dr. Stoner calculated the probability that any one man could fulfill just these eight prophecies to be 1 chance in 10 to the 17th power, meaning a 1 with 17 zeros after it. To illustrate how unlikely a chance that

³ Peter Stoner, Science Speaks: Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible 107 (Chicago, Moody Press, 1969).

would be, Stoner gave this illustration: Cover the entire state of Texas with silver dollars to a level of two feet deep. The total number of silver dollars needed would be 10 to the 17th power. Now choose just one silver dollar, mark it and put it back. Then thoroughly stir all the silver dollars all over the state. Now, blindfold someone and tell them they can travel wherever they want in Texas, but then they must pick one of the silver dollars. The chance of finding that one silver dollar that we marked in a pile 2 feet deep covering the state of Texas would be the chance the prophets had for these eight prophecies coming true in any one man in the future.



6. Jesus Teaches/Testifies/Quotes From The Old Testament

Luke 18:31 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished.

Luke 24:44 Then He said to them (the disciples), “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.”

Matthew 24:15 Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand).

Matthew 24:29,30 ²⁹ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

John 5:46,47 For had you believed Moses, you would have believed Me, for he wrote of me. But if you believe not his writings, how shall you believe My words?

Topics Jesus taught and preached from the Old Testament:

- The Greatest Commandment - Deut. 6:4,5; Matt. 22:37-39
- Man shall not live by bread alone - Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4
- My house shall be called a house of prayer - Isa. 56:7; Matt. 21:13
- Marriage - Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5,6
- Moses, the serpent on a pole and His crucifixion – Numb. 24:4-9; John 3:14-18

7. Apostles and the Early Church References to the Old Testament

Peter

Acts 2:14-21

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:....

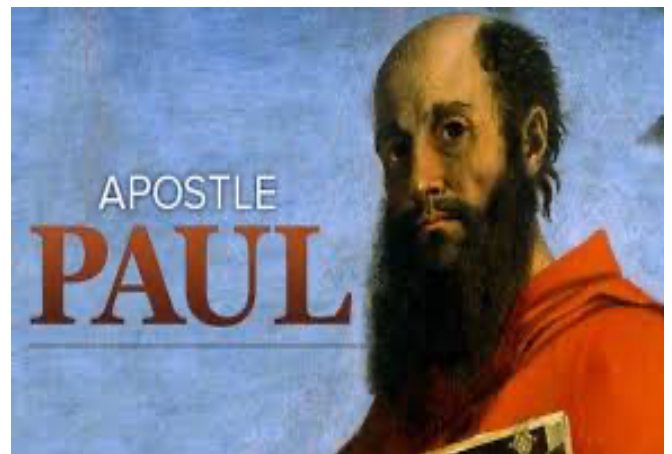
Acts 3:17-21 ¹⁷ “Yet now, brethren, I know that you did *it* in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers. ¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since ¹the world began.

2 Peter 3:1-18 ¹ Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, ³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,....

Paul

Acts 24:15 I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of *the* dead, both of *the* just and *the* unjust.

Acts 28:23 So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at *his* lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.



C. Old Testament Eschatological Themes

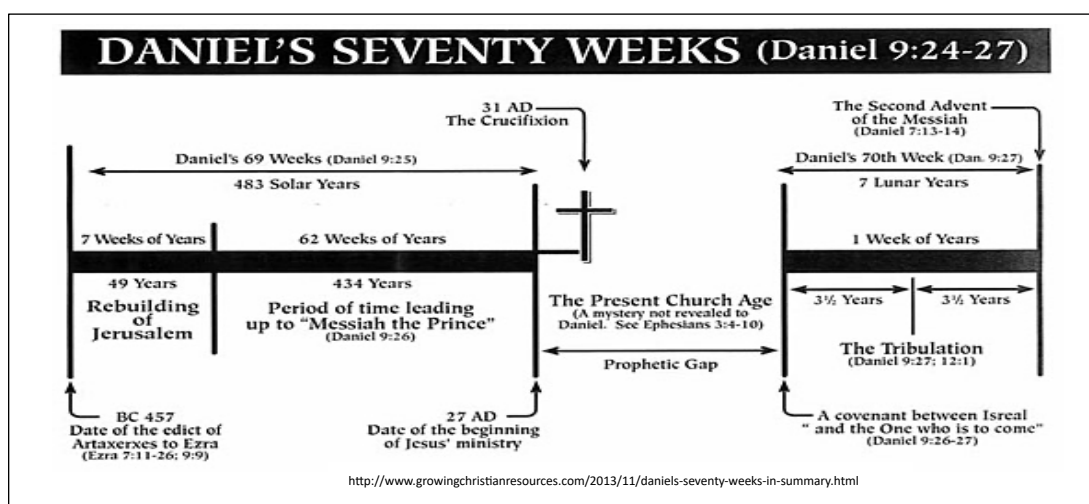
1. **⁴Daniel's 70 Weeks** - The "seventy weeks" prophecy is one of the most significant and detailed Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament containing dates and vital information for understanding end-time events. It is found in Daniel 9.

Daniel 9:24-27 ²⁴ "Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

²⁵ "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command; To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

²⁶ "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

²⁷ Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week, He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."



2. **Jacob's Trouble** - This prophecy of unprecedented difficulty for Israel's descendants will be fulfilled just before the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 4:30,31 ³⁰ When you are in tribulation/distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice ³¹ (for the Lord your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.

Jeremiah 30:1-7⁷Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

⁴ <http://www.growingchristianresources.com/2013/11/daniels-seventy-weeks-in-summary.html>

Jacob's Trouble (Con't)

Daniel 12:1 At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.

3. **Day of the Lord** - Cosmic disturbances; when the Lord rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked.

Isaiah 13:9,10 ⁹Behold, the day of the Lord comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. ¹⁰For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine.

4. **Resurrection of the Dead**

Job 19:25,26 ²⁵For I know *that* my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last day on the earth; ²⁶And after my skin is destroyed, this *I know*, That in my flesh I shall see God,

Isaiah 26:19-21 ¹⁹Your dead will live; Their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, For your dew *is as* the dew of the dawn, And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits. ²⁰Come, my people, enter into your rooms And close your doors behind you; Hide for a little while Until indignation runs *its* course. ²¹For behold, the Lord is about to come out from His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; And the earth will reveal her bloodshed And will no longer cover her slain.

Daniel 12:1,2 ¹At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, *Even* to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. ²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Hosea 6:1,2 Come, ¹let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. ²After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

Ezekiel 37:7-10 ⁹Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ' " ¹⁰So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

5. **The Restoration of Israel**

Jeremiah 30:3,7 ³For behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,' says the LORD. 'And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.' " ³⁷Alas! For that day *is* great, So that none *is* like it; And it *is* the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

II. JESUS' TEACHING ON THE END TIMES-OLIVET DISCOURSE⁵

A. The Final Sermons of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew

The Gospel of Matthew is structured around Jesus' sermons. Matthew 22-24 contains the three final sermons of Jesus.

1. The Final Sermon to the Public - Matthew 22:
The King Arranging a Wedding
2. The Final Sermon to the Leaders - Matthew 23:
Woe to You Scribes and Pharisees
3. The Final Sermon to the Disciples - Matthew 24-25:
Parables and Prophecies of The End of the Age



B. Jesus' Parting Words To Jerusalem

37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! 38 See, your house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" (Matthew 23:37-39)

1. The guilt of Jerusalem (v. 37a)
2. The longings of Jesus for Jerusalem (v. 37b)
3. The future desolation of Jerusalem and destruction of the Temple (v. 38)
4. The temporary estrangement of Jerusalem (v. 39a)
5. The promise of Jesus' return to Jerusalem (v. 39b)
6. The hope of Jerusalem (v. 39c)

C. AN OVERVIEW OF MATTHEW 24-25

Jesus' prophecy in Matthew 23:38-39 provoked the questions in 24:1-3. Those questions are what Jesus is responding to in Matthew 24-25.

1. Jesus' Prophecies the Destruction of the Temple (24:1-3)
 - a. Jesus prophesies the Destruction of the Temple (24:1-2)
 - b. The Disciples ask when the End of the Age will be and about the signs (24:3)

⁵ Frontier Alliance International Matthew 22-25

AN OVERVIEW OF MATTHEW 24-25 (Con't)

2. Jesus' Answer: Prophecy (24:4-31)

- a. Global Social and Ecological Disturbances Called Birth Pains (24:4-8)
- b. Social Pressures that Correspond to the Birth Pains (24:9-14)
- c. The Commencement of the Great Tribulation (24:15-20)
- d. The Unequaled Severity of the Great Tribulation (24:21-28)
- e. The Conclusion of the Great Tribulation (24:29-31)

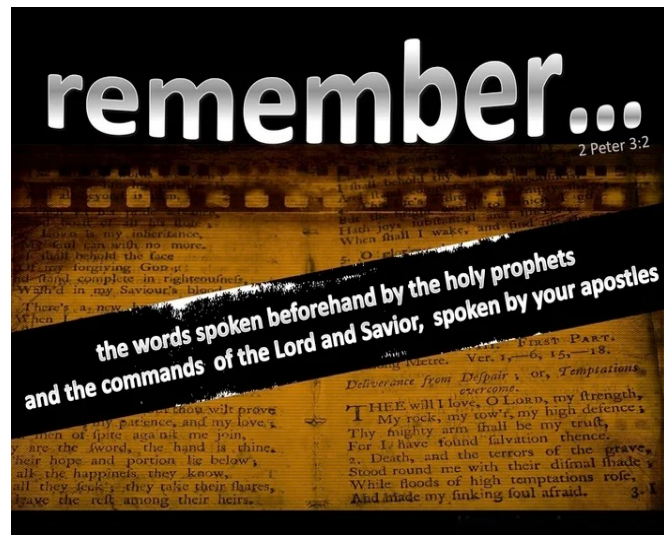
3. Jesus Answer: Seven Parables About Preparation (24:32-25:46)

- a. The Battle for Discernment: The Fig Tree (24:32-35)
- b. The Battle for Messengers: The Days of Noah (24:36-41)
- c. The Battle for Preparedness: The Thief (24:42-44)
- d. The Battle for Leadership: The Faithful & Wise Servant (24:45-51)
- e. The Battle for Intimacy: The 10 Virgins and the Coming Bridegroom (25:1-13)
- f. The Battle for the Knowledge of God: The Talents (25:14-30)
- g. The Battle for the Jews: The Least of Jesus' Brethren (25:31-46)

III. Apostle's Teaching On The End Times-The Early Church

A. Luke (Referring to Daniel 7:13,14)

Acts 1:9-11 ⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."



B. Peter

Acts 2:14-21

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:....

Acts 3:17-21 ¹⁷ “Yet now, brethren, I know that you did *it* in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers. ¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

2 Peter 3:1-18 ³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,.... ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise,... ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

C. Paul

Acts 24:15 I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of *the* dead, both of *the* just and *the* unjust.

Acts 28:23 So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at *his* lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53 ⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a ^[a]mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

Paul (con't)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ...¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are ^[c]asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord....

1 Thessalonians 5:11.... ¹But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-10 ...⁶ since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with ^[c]tribulation those who trouble you, ⁷ and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.....

D. James

James 5:7,8. ⁷ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. ⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

E. John

John 14:1-3 ¹Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know.

1 John 1:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

1 John 3:2,3 ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

F. Early Church Fathers⁶

The Early Church Fathers are men who faithfully transmitted the teachings which were handed down through Jesus and His Apostles. They were thoroughly immersed in the scriptures: the Hebrew Bible, The Epistles of the Apostles and the Gospels. They maintained continuity of faith.

⁷**Hippolytus** (of Rome 170-136 AD) says: "These things, then, being to come to pass, beloved, and the one week being divided into two parts, and the abomination of desolation being manifested then, and the two prophets and forerunners of the Lord having finished their course, and the whole world finally approaching the consummation, what remains but the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ from heaven, for whom we have looked in hope?"

⁸**Irenaeus** (120-140 AD) - The appearance of the Anti-Christ, but prior to the Millennium. At the close of the age, Christ "shall come in glory, the Saviour of those who are saved, and the Judge of those who are judged, and sending into eternal fire those who transform the truth, and despise His Father and His advent". He will "come in the same flesh.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION- INTRODUCTION

Groundwork Before We Begin....

- Go through the entire book, but not necessarily go through every verse.
- Our goal: Not necessarily to get into the fine details of every detail or the details of every event but to:
 - To make the book more accessible for you, the Body of Christ to read and study.
 - That our hearts would burn brightly to know and to love Jesus.
 - To have more confidence to study the book ourselves.



Basic Assumptions:

Assumption #1 - This book is first and foremost about the man Jesus Christ

Assumption #2 - This book is also about events. But if you don't know Jesus, the events are viewed as disconnected, unrelated and irrelevant.

Assumption #3 - Preparing a legacy for generations to come to grasp an understanding unfolding events.

Assumption #4 - The Book of Revelation Can Be and Must Be Understood.

⁶ <https://tcdecker.com/2022/01/25/introduction-to-the-early-church-fathers/>

⁷ <https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0516.htm>; *On Christ and Antichrist*, (64)

⁸ Wood, Steven, *The Eschatology of Irenaeus*

A. Study Helps and Hints

1. First and foremost, this book is about the Revelation of Jesus Christ
 - As mentioned previously, the book of Revelation is a vision that gradually “unveils” elements of our Savior Jesus Christ and His redemptive work using various images, events and symbols.
2. Hermeneutics: the interpretation of scripture. Let scripture interpret scripture.
 - Ask yourself this question: Which Old Testament Prophecy does a scripture reference echo?
3. The Interpretation of symbols
 - Many symbols are explained either by an angel, the Lord Himself.
 - For example: In **Rev. 1:12-20** John hears a voice and sees vision of golden candlesticks and a golden lampstand.¹² And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;¹³ And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man..... And the Lord Jesus tells him to write these things down.¹⁹ Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; Then Jesus, reveals to John what the meaning of the candlesticks and the lampstand means. ²⁰The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.
 - In addition: In Revelation 17, ¹one of the seven angels talk with John say he would show John the judgment of the Great Whore, Mystery Babylon, The Mother of Harlots and the Abominations of the earth - **Rev. 17** And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters... Then the angel says in verse 7 ⁷And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The angel reveals to John the mystery.
4. Chronological Sections and Chapters vs ParentheticalRecapitulation Sections and Chapters
The Chronology of the Book of Revelation:
 - The Chronological Narrative of the 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets & 7 Bowls in Revelation.
 - The 1st 6 Seals are opened in Chapters 1 to 6 and the 7th in Chapter 8
 - The Trumpets are blown in Chapters 8 to 11.
 - The Bowls are poured out in Chapters 15 and 16.
 - The Battle of Armageddon, The Judgement, The New Heaven and Earth are in Chapters 19 to 22.
 - This is the *chronological order of the 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets* and 7 Bowls*.
 - The Narrative of Revelation goes like this:

Narrative Chapters: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22.
Parenthetical Chapters: 7 12, 13, 14 17, 18

Chronological Chapters vs Parenthetical/Recapitulation Sections and Chapters (con't)

The insertion of Parenthetical/Recapitulation chapters at intervals in the timeline, is the writer's way of highlighting or giving extra information of events that occur within the timeline or events that are happening at the same time. i.e What is happening in Heaven at the same time as things are happening on earth.

Summary:

- Chronological Narrative – show sequence, succession and order.
- Recapitulation/Parenthetical - the instance of summarizing and restating a narrative to give a different emphasis or perspective.

B. Outline of the Book; Four Parts

1. John's Commissioning - Chapter 1
2. The Letters to the 7 Churches – Chapters 2 & 3
3. The Throne Room Vision and Transfer of Power – Chapters 4 & 5
4. The Transition Period Between This Age and the Next – Chapters 6-22

C. The Main Message of the Book of Revelation

1. The Revelation of Jesus Christ
2. Things that must take place. Events

D. Outline of the Revelation Chapter 1

1. The Prologue - 1:1-3
 - a. The nature of the Book
 - b. The central message of the Book
 - c. The contents of the Book

Revelation 1:1-3 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants-things which must shortly take place. And He sent and made it known/signified *it* by His angel to His servant John,² who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.³ Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

Notes on Rev. 1:1-3

- This book is about the Man Jesus!
- vs 1 "The Revelation of Jesus Christ"
- The revealing of the Man of Jesus Christ
- The book of Revelation is greatest and most robust, expansive, complex book of the representation and display of the person, work and the man, Jesus Christ in the entire bible.

Notes on Rev. 1:1-3 (con't)

- Yes, OT prophecies of who He was before He came; and what He began to do when He came again, (Is, Was and Is to come) Isa 53:3-6, 59:16,17; Daniel 9; Eph. 1: 20-22; Phil 2:5-11; Gospels tell us who He was - through the eyes of them who follow Him,.... and now He who is to come again! Epistles - tells us of the life of the early church was like; what the teaching of the early church was like.
- Book of Revelation is unique and stands alone as to the revealing of Jesus Christ, the Man
- The revelation, unveiling, disclosure, the display, Gr apokalipsis of Jesus.
- Not primarily about antichrist, tribulation, Babylon (10:40)
- This is about the making known, the revelation of JESUS to His servants, to His Body
- We will get to the events; the events are in the book.
- Events should not take preeminence over Jesus.
- We must understand the context of the events.
- The name of the book is not the Revelation of the End Times (tribulation, antichrist, beast etc.) or the revealing of the events at the last days. It's the revelation of Jesus Christ. The Son of God, The Lamb, The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the One Who is Faithful & True, The Morning Star, the Promised One, Messiah.

2. Greeting and Blessings – 1:4-6

Revelation 1:5-6 ⁵ And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood,⁶ And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

- a. Grace and peace
- b. From the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- c. Doxology to Him who loved us, washed us and exalted us.

3. An Oracle Concerning the Coming of the Lord – 1:7,8.

Revelation 1:7-8 ⁷ Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.⁸ I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

- a. He is coming on the clouds and every eye shall see Him and all will mourn for Him, even those who pierced Him (ethnic Jews)
- b. The Alpha and Omega, Who is, Who was and Who is to come the Almighty

4. John's Vision and Encounter with Jesus on the Isle of Patmos – 1:9-20

Revelation 1:12-20 ¹² And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; ¹³ and in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. ¹⁴ His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes *were* as a flame of fire; ¹⁵ and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. ¹⁶ And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength. ¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: ¹⁸ *I am* He that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. ¹⁹ Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; ²⁰ the mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.



- a. Where and when John had the vision.
- b. The command John received.
- c. The vision of the glory of Christ, the Son of Man
- d. John's weakness and Jesus' glory
- e. The command to write to the 7 churches.
- f. Jesus explains the symbolism of the churches and the angles and gives a hermeneutic for the rest of the Book.

5. A Way to View the Book of Revelation: John's Relationship With Jesus

a. John 1 & 13

- b. **1 John 1:1-3** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

Notes on Revelation 1:12-20 about John the Beloved:

- Last time John saw Jesus was His crucified mangled body.
- Then John saw His resurrected body. But not like this.
- John misses the man he knew who he walked with on the shores of Galilee.
- The Man he sees now is a different Jesus. Same man but different manifestation Jesus.
- Same principle can apply to us. Very Important.
- See Jesus in a way we have not seen Him before.
- Just because we know Jesus in a measure, doesn't mean we know him as He is.

1 John 3:2. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

E. Outline of the Transition Period From Chapters 6-22 (5 Sections of Judgment Events)

1. Section 1

Revelation 6 – Judgment Events:

The Seal Judgments

Revelation 7 – Parenthetical Interjection:

Protection of elect Jewish remnant and the triumph of the martyr church.



2. Section 2

Revelation 8 & 9 - Judgment Events: The Trumpet Judgments

Revelation 10 & 11 - Parenthetical Interjection: Direction given by prophetic leadership.

3. Section 3

Revelation 11:15-19 - Judgment Events: Second Coming Begins

Revelation 12-14 - Interjection: Satanic wrath in the end times

4. Section 4

Revelation 15-16 - Judgement Event: Bowl Judgments

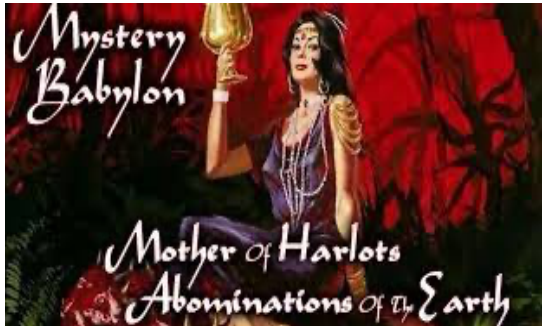
Revelation 17-18 - Parenthetical Interjection: Danger of Harlot Babylon

5. Section 5

Revelation 19-20 - Judgment Event: Entry into Jerusalem. Rev. 19:11-21:8

Revelation 21-22- Parenthetical Interjection: Restoration of all things. Rev. 21:9-22:5

F. The Seven Major Symbols

1. **The Dragon - Satan. Rev. 12:9** So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world;
2. **Woman with the Male Child - Elect Remnant of Jews and Jesus. Rev. 12:5-17** ⁵ And she man child, who was to rule all iron: and her child was throne....

3. **Beast - Antichrist. Rev. 13:1-7** ¹ Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea... ⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; ⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.
4. **Another Beast - False Prophet. Rev. 13:11-15** ¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. ¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence... ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast...
5. **Harlot Babylon - Global Demonized Religious and Financial Network. Rev. 17:1-7**
Rev. 17:1-7 ¹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, ⁷ But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.
6. **Seven Headed Beast - Seven Empires that Persecuted Ethnic Israel and the Church.**
Rev. 17:8-10 ⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition.... ⁹ "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. ¹⁰ There are also seven kings....
7. **The Ten Horns - A 10 Nation confederacy of Nations in the Middle East. Rev. 17:12** "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

G. The Five Revelations of Jesus In Revelation

A simple “key” that you can use to understand the book of Revelation comes in the first five words of John’s record: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”(1:1). When we read about the dragon, the beast, the vials, the trumpets, and so forth we need to do so within the context of the work and mission of our Savior, Jesus Christ. *All that comes after verse 1 needs to be read through the lens of: “What does it tell me about Jesus?”*



In the original Greek, the word for “revelation” is *apocalypsis*, from which we get our word *apocalypse*. But unlike the modern use of *apocalypse* to refer to the end of the world, *apocalypsis* means “to unveil something that is hidden.” What John’s vision serves to do, then, is to “unveil” Jesus Christ—to *reveal* his true nature, character, and mission.

Therefore, the book of Revelation is a vision that gradually “unveils” elements of our Savior Jesus Christ and His redemptive work using various images and symbols.

1. **Jesus, The Lamb of God** - As in the days of Moses, on Passover, when the lamb was sacrificed for the people and the Nation of Israel in Exodus, so is Jesus the Lamb of God for nations of the earth.
 - Jesus is called the Lamb of God because of His perfect sacrifice for all nations.
 - Revelation is referred to as the second Exodus.
 - The Lamb, the Blood of the Lamb is connected prophetically and theologically to the Judgments of God.

Revelation 5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

- The Lion/Lamb is the One who tears the seals, initiating the seal judgments.
- A lion-like lamb that rises to deliver victory after being slain appears several times in the Book of Revelation.
- When John finally sees this “Lion,” it is no lion at all. Rather, what John sees is a “Lamb as it had been slain,” who approaches the throne and takes the book from the Father.

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

- The Lamb/Shepherd still leads, feeds and cares for the flock of God.

Jesus, The Lamb of God (con't)

Revelation 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.

- The Lamb acts also as a Conquering Lion from the tribe of Judah.

Revelation 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, these are the true sayings of God.

2. Jesus, The King and His Kingdom

Revelation 11:15 ^{And} the seventh angel sounded; there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever.

Revelation 19:15,16 ¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.



O.T. Prophecies of the King and His Kingdom

Isaiah 9:6,7 Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Daniel 7:13,14 ¹⁴ And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

3. **Jesus The Judge** - Jesus's ascension to heaven's anticipates his return to judge his enemies, people, and consummate his kingdom. describes the Lord's coming judgment.

- You hear of many people asking and crying for justice. But not many asking for judgment.



Jesus The Judge (con't)

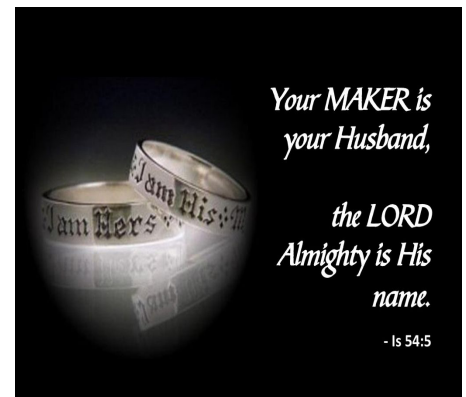
- The second coming is when Jesus returns to judge all mankind – the living and the dead. The living includes all who will be alive when he returns. The dead includes everyone else, all who have lived and died physically. Jesus said that everyone who has died will be raised from the dead and be judged (John 5:26-29)
- Both Acts 10:42 and 2 Timothy 4:1 tell us that the Lord Jesus was appointed by God to judge the living and the dead.
- “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ” 2 Corinthians 5:10.
- Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Matthew 25:32

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

Rev. 19:11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.

4. **Jesus The Husband** Paul explains in **Ephesians 5:31–32** that the relationship between a husband and wife is a picture of the bond between Jesus and His people.

- Paul said this mystery was great, but I speak reference to Christ and His Church.
- Old Testament prophets spoke of God’s relationship Israel is likened to that of a bridegroom to His bride.
- Jeremiah 2:2 recalls the devotion the Israelites had for covenant Lord when He called them out of slavery.
- Hosea 1–2 emphasizes the love of God for His people, love so deep that it persisted in the most difficult of His bride’s unfaithfulness.
- God’s relationship with Israel as a Husband, displays His Covenantal relationship to Her as a Husband to his wife – one of union, faithfulness and intimacy.



Isaiah 54:5 For your Maker *is* your husband, The LORD of hosts *is* His name; And your Redeemer *is* the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.

Revelation 21:2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.”

5. Military Leader and Conquering King

Old Testament Scriptures of Messiah King Vanquishing His Enemies, Covered In Their Blood. Rev. 19:11-16

Isaiah 63:1-6 ² Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. ² Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? ³ I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. ⁴ For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. ⁵ And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore, mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. ⁶ And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.

Isaiah 66:15,16 ¹⁵ For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. ¹⁶ For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

New Testament Scriptures Of Jesus' Final Conquest

2 Thessalonians 2:8,9 ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

Revelation 19:11-16 ¹¹ And I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹² His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ¹³ And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

IV. GLOSSARY

DAY OF THE LORD - Cosmic disturbances; when the Lord rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked.

DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS - The "seventy weeks" prophecy is one of the most significant and detailed Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament containing dates and vital information for understanding end-time events. It is found in Daniel 9:24-27

DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK - The last 7 years of the Church Age. Daniel 9:24-27

DISPENSATIONALISM - A whole theological system that emphasizes that history is divided into multiple ages. Dispensationalism arose in the early 1800s, through the work of John Nelson Darby and popularized by C.I. Scofield's Study Bible.

ESCHATOLOGY - The study of last things - speaks of the last days.

FOUR MAJOR VIEWS OF THE RAPTURE

1. **Pre-Tribulation Rapture View**- teaches the rapture can occur any moment (Imminency) and occurs before the Tribulation begins. At that time, the Church will meet Christ in the air, and then some time after that the Antichrist is revealed and the Tribulation begins. According to this view, God's wrath is revealed the entire seven-year period and the Church does not experience any of the Tribulation.
2. **Mid-Tribulation Rapture View** – teaches the rapture occurs at the mid-point of the 7-year period. At that time the seventh trumpet sounds (Revelation 11:15), the Church will meet Christ in the air, and then the bowl judgments are poured out on the earth (Revelation 15-16) in a time known as the Great Tribulation. In other words, the rapture and Christ's Second Coming (to judge the wicked and set up His Kingdom) are separated by a period of three and a half years. According to this view, the church goes through the first half of Daniel's 70th Week, but is spared the worst of the last three and a half years.
3. **Pre-Wrath Rapture View** – teaches that the rapture occurs before the "great day of wrath" (Revelation 1:17*). According to the Pre-Wrath View, believers go through some of the persecution and wrath of Satan but not the time of God's wrath just before the end of the Great Tribulation. The church will endure Satan's wrath and man's persecution but will be raptured and spared God's wrath. Before God pours out His final judgment on the world the Church will be raptured.
4. **Post-Tribulation Rapture View** – teaches the Rapture occurs at the end, or near the end of Daniel's 70th Week. At that time the Church will meet Christ in the air and then return to the earth for the commencement of Christ's Kingdom on earth. In other words, the Rapture and the Second Coming (to judge the wicked and set up His Kingdom happen almost simultaneously.

FUTURISM – The eschatological view which interprets Biblical prophecies as literal future events.

JACOB'S TROUBLE - This prophecy of unprecedented difficulty for Jacob's descendants will be fulfilled just before the second coming of Jesus Christ. Jeremiah 30:7

MILLENNIUM - This term is derived from Revelation 20:1-6. The literal 1000 year earthly reign of Jesus Christ.

PREMILLENNIALISM - teaches that the kingdom prophesied in the Old Testament will be a literal, political kingdom effected by Christ at His Second Coming. The view is pre-millennial in that Christ returns before and in order to establish the Millennium.

PRETERISM – The eschatological view which interprets Biblical prophecies as events which have already occurred.

PROTOEVANGELIUM -“proto” means first and “evangelium”. **Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall crush bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION - The last 3 1/2 years of Daniel’s 70th Week. Matthew 24:21

THE TRIBULATION - Improper and unbiblical term used to identify the 7 years of Daniel’s 70th Week.

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