

It's estimated that about _____ - _____ of the Bible was prophetic when it was written.

ESCHATOLOGY = ESCHATOS – _____ OR _____ - AT THE _____.

Eschatology = study of _____

REASONS TO STUDY PROPHECY (DWIGHT PENTECOST)

- 1: Prophecy proves the _____ of the Bible.
- 2: Prophecy reveals God's _____ and _____.
- 3: Prophecy reveals the _____ of God.
- 4: Prophecy brings _____ to believers.
- 5: God's great purpose in prophecy is to produce a _____ in his children.

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF MAJOR PROPHETIC IDEAS AND EVENTS:

1: THE FIRST PROPHECY

GENESIS 3:14-15 (ESV) – ¹⁴The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

2: DREAMS, VISIONS, AND BEASTS IN DANIEL

DANIEL 2:31-45 (ESV) ³¹ “You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. ³² The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴ As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. ³⁶ “This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. ³⁷ You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, ³⁸ and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold. ³⁹ Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰ And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. ⁴¹ And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. ⁴² And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³ As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. ⁴⁴ And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, ⁴⁵ just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”

Kingdoms to Come (Daniel’s Perspective)

- Head of Gold: _____ Empire
- Chest and Arms of Silver: _____ – _____ Empire
- Middle and Thighs of Bronze: _____ Empire
- Legs of Iron: _____ Empire
 - Feet Partly of Iron and Partly of Clay: Last Days/Final Form/Revived
_____ Empire

- When the 4th kingdom is in its final form, the Kingdom of God will come and bring all these former kingdoms to an end.

DANIEL 7:1-27 (ESV)

4 Beasts:

- **Lion with eagles' wings:** _____
- **Bear raised on one side with 3 ribs in its mouth:** _____
- **Leopard (4 heads) with Four wings on its back:** _____
 - The four heads are the four kingdoms that came out of his empire when he died, as it was divided among his generals:
 - Lysimachus (who took Thrace and Bithynia)
 - Cassander (who took Greece and Macedon)
 - Seleucus (who took Babylonia and Syria)
 - Ptolemy (who took the Holy Land, Egypt and Arabia).
- **Terrifying beast with Iron teeth and 10 horns:** _____
 - 10 horns coincide with the 10 toes of Daniel 2:41-44

Other Big Ideas in Daniel 7:

4 Kingdoms, Then What?

- Two Schools of Thought Follow (*for futurists*)
 - Western: Traditional view of revived Roman Empire
 - Eastern: A Muslim antichrist kingdom/empire

3: THE KINGDOM TO COME LITERAL OR FIGURATIVE?

Amillennial

Premillennial

Postmillennial

Preterist (_____)

The difference between these views really come down to hermeneutics. How do we interpret the scriptures?

I want to point out a few things before going any further:

1. Eschatological beliefs don't determine if one is Christian (saved/born again) or not. This is a tier 2 doctrine – it matters, but its not essential for salvation. Christians from all sorts of times and places have had varying thoughts on Christ's return.
2. CLF belongs to the Assemblies of God denomination. The Assemblies of God and CLF holds to a particular viewpoint (Premillennial/Pre-Tribulation) for several reasons. I'll try to unpack that as we go. All Assemblies of God pastors and churches are strongly encouraged to take these doctrinal positions.

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Are prophetic scriptures to be understood literally or figuratively?

- **ACTS 1:6-8 (ESV)** ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Let's take a glance at other big ideas very briefly:

4: RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

The Rapture is the belief that Jesus will bring believers directly to him in a moment, they won't experience death, but be transformed into a glorified state. The rapture accompanies the bodily resurrection of the righteous dead.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18 (ESV) - ¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are

alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be *caught up* together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:50-55 (ESV) - ⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you 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 imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

- **Pre-Tribulation:** the belief that the rapture will occur before the Tribulation begins.
- **Mid-Tribulation:** the belief that the rapture will occur at the mid point of the Tribulation (3.5 years) or before the wrath of God is fully poured out.
 - Pre-Wrath: The pre-wrath position attempts to separate the persecution by the Anti-Christ as the wrath of Satan from later judgments as the wrath of God.
- **Post-Tribulation:** the belief that the rapture will happen at the end of the tribulation when Jesus comes to establish his kingdom.

5: DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS - THE TRIBULATION, ANTICHRIST, SEAL, BOWL AND TRUMPET JUDGMENTS

DANIEL 9:24-27 (ESV) - ²⁴ "Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. ²⁵ Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. ²⁶ And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. ²⁷ And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the

wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”

6: RETURN OF CHRIST

REVELATION 19:11-16 (ESV) - ¹¹Then 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. ¹²His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Armageddon: Revelation 19:17-21, Zechariah 14

Millennial Reign: Revelation 20:1-6

7: FINAL JUDGMENTS

Believer's Judgment:

2 CORINTHIANS 5:10 (ESV) - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Judgment of the Wicked:

REVELATION 20:11-15 (ESV) ¹¹Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second

death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

8: ETERNITY: NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH

REVELATION 21 & 22

2 PETER 3:11-13 (ESV) ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.