

Center Church

---

# STUDY GUIDE

Introduction.....	3
A Promising End.....	5
<i>The Singularity of God’s Plan</i>	
The End is Now .....	13
<i>The Present Kingdom</i>	
Beastly Visions .....	20
<i>The Kingdoms Daniel Foresaw</i>	
The Dominant Kingdom.....	26
<i>Your Spiritual Heritage</i>	
The Key to the End.....	31
<i>Everything Jesus Fulfilled</i>	
Tribulation Happens .....	42
<i>Now &amp; Then</i>	
Where The End Stands or Falls.....	52
<i>Give or Take 70 Weeks</i>	
The God of Israel .....	58
<i>One Plan or Two?</i>	
Does the Bible Teach a Secret Rapture? .....	64
<i>What Happens During the Second Coming?</i>	

# INTRODUCTION

Any study of the end times is known by the theological word eschatology, which is a combination of two Greek words, *eschatos* (meaning “last”) and *logos* (meaning “the word”), thus — the study of last times. People have always found a study or sermon series on the end times captivating. There are probably several reasons for this. Maybe it’s the sensational nature of some end time studies or the speculative conjectures that some make, like Russia conquering American in 1976. Wait, change that to 1989. Scratch that — 2001. *Okay, okay, it will happen sometime before the millennium.*

Quite honestly, before I studied the end times in depth I just didn’t think covering the subject was helpful. I mean, I just didn’t see what practical use it could be to help Christians live for Jesus *today*. Probably, because most of the time when we think of the end times we think of the AntiChrist and the tribulation and whether locusts are helicopters or not or if people will leave their clothing behind when they are raptured. Things in a far distant future that have nothing to do with our daily lives, other than instilling in us a healthy fear to always wear clean underwear. However, the New Testament paints a very different picture of the end times than popular Christian fiction. When Jesus launched His public ministry the world entered into the last days. This means that the life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus have as much bearing on the end times as His return. The church is the last days people of God, ministering the reality of His kingdom through the work of the Holy Spirit now. That’s the first hint that studying the end times might be practical.

The consummation of the kingdom of God in the return of Christ should have a lot of bearing on our daily lives. Evidence for the practical implications of the return of Christ are the many exhortations the New Testament authors give us “so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 4:9), and “that your hearts are strengthened in holiness to be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.” (1 Thes. 3:13) Their strong faith in the return of Christ had a profound effect on their daily lives. And so it should be with us. Their eager expectation of the coming Christ fueled their desire for holy living. This makes studying the end times much more practical than first thought. What do the end times have to do with how we’re living now? Well, if I understand the times we’re living in according to the biblical texts — everything. And I’d say *everything* is pretty practical.

John the Baptist proclaimed the coming of the Christ, urging people to be prepared. We are proclaiming the Second coming of the Christ, urging people to be prepared. The authors of the New Testament all agree that we are living in the end times right now. If that is the case, then this study should prove to be much more useful than what speculative charts can offer

us. An understanding of what the Bible teaches about the end times covers the past, the present and the future, because the end isn't just near — we're in it.

Our study of the end times begins with the conviction that there is one single plot to the entirety of the biblical story from Genesis to Revelation “that begins with the promise of a Satan-crushing Redeemer in Genesis 3:15 and ends with the ‘Hallelujah Chorus’ in the book of Revelation.”<sup>1</sup> It is a story-line that builds like a fire that starts with a small smoldering stick and ends with a bonfire that can be seen from miles away, one fiery promise about the coming Rescuer heaped upon another.<sup>2</sup> With that in mind, the gospel of Jesus Christ will be the interpretive grid through which we pray to understand the subject of the end times.

## THE GOAL OF THIS GUIDE

The goal of this study is to set a groundwork for understanding the end times. This groundwork will help us understand the details more clearly.

In taking the approach to Scripture that Jesus Himself laid down, that all of the Scriptures testify about Him (Luke 24, John 5), there should always be a conscious effort to ask the question, “How is Jesus central in this?” Nothing is more powerful than the cross of Jesus Christ. If you agree with that perspective as a Christian, then any study of the end times should be viewed through the cross.

It is my hope and prayer that this series, steeped in the Person and work of our Savior, will demonstrate that the teachings of Scripture on the end times were practical for the first century church *which* is what makes them practical for us today.

But true confessions: After spending more time preparing a study guide than I ever have, I'm still not sure it succeeds in accomplishing what any study guide and teaching series should accomplish. I'm not sure it answers the question, “***What difference does knowing this make in my life?***” Maybe that's the question each of you can answer at the end of each week. I'd like more time to hone in on that goal, but time has run out. We must go to press.

If the Lord returns before this series is over, then only He alone will be able to resolve any and every debate we have about the end times.

Amen.

Come, Lord Jesus!

---

<sup>1</sup>Riddlebarger, Kim. *A Case for Amillennialism: Understanding the End Times* (p. 12). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> This is John Calvin's thought.

Week One

# A PROMISING END

## *The Singularity of God's Plan*

There is no question that the Bible teaches that God made covenants with His people, thus we have the old covenant (the Old Testament) and the new covenant (the New Testament). Both of these covenants have to do with God's single plan of redemption for humanity in the Person of His one and only Son. In order to understand the Bible's teachings on the end times, it is imperative that we first understand what the Bible teaches about the covenants and how they relate to one another in God's plan of redemption, because we will find that these covenants are completely centered in everything that God promised to do (past) and has done (present) and will do (future) in Jesus Himself. That is why I use the phrase "God's single plan of redemption" intentionally. There is no plan B, because Jesus has been the plan before the foundation of the world.

### **The Beginning Plan**

The promise of the Person who would one day come and fix this mess we humans created for ourselves begins all the way back in Genesis chapter 3. It's known as the Protoevangelium or "the first gospel." Some have called it "the mother promise," because it gives birth to more promises of the One who would become our Rescuer, the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Lord speaking to the serpent, otherwise known as Satan, after he deceived the man and woman who willingly believed his lie and acted upon it, thus inviting sin into the world:

### **Genesis 3:15**

I 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."

#### **1. What characteristics of the above promise can you list?**

---

---

---

**2. How would you characterize a bruise on the head as different from a bruise on the heel?**

---

---

---

---

---

**3. Who would the offspring of the serpent be?**

---

---

---

**Note**

*The Apostle Paul alludes to this bruising of the serpent's head in Genesis 3 in his letter to the church in Rome.*

**Romans 16:20**

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**4. In a few brief sentences or bullet points, can you list the storyline of the Bible from the beginning of creation to the time of Christ?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## **The Basic Storyline**

Now see if your trajectory of the Bible's storyline followed this pattern:

- *God creates man and woman to image (reflect) Him.*
- *Man and woman rebel (the Fall) and God's image is marred in humanity.*
- *God promises that One will come to restore His image in humanity and save them from the penalty of their rebellion.*
- *God calls a people to Himself (Israel) who will reflect Him to the world around them.*
- *God promises to bring the Redeemer through this people to bless the world and restore His image.*
- *The Redeemer comes in the form of a baby and images God perfectly during his life.*
- *He lives, dies for the penalty of our rebellion and rises from the dead.*
- *This gospel hope in Him creates the church, consisting of both Jews and Gentiles who believe.*
- *The Church now reflects God to the world around them as Christ restores God's image in humanity through the new birth.*

## **An Overview of the Covenants**

This first promise of the one to come (the Messiah) is a covenant of promise (or grace). A covenant has simply been defined as "a relationship under sanctions." In the case of a covenant of grace, God himself meets all the sanctions or requirements. This is why it's much different than a covenant of works. We can trace the various covenants in the Bible as displayed in the Redemptive History chart on the following page. (You can't do a series on the end times without tables and charts.)

In the Redemptive History chart, we can see the various covenants that God made throughout the history of redemption. Because all of these promises have to do with one plan for how God would save humanity through the work of His Son, many have concluded that there is really only one covenant of grace and that all the other covenants fall under this covenant of grace. In other words, they further serve this primary covenant of God's plan for salvation.



**5. Can you offer some biblical evidence as to why the covenant with Adam can be regarded as a covenant of works? (Hint: See Genesis 1-3)**

---



---



---



---

The covenants that come under the covenant of grace fall into two categories, **unconditional** covenants or **conditional** covenants. In an unconditional covenant, God fulfills everything. This is why unconditional covenants are also known as covenants of grace. In a covenant of grace humanity provides nothing, but receives everything. In conditional covenants, God places conditions upon us that we must fulfill for the covenant promises to be fulfilled. This is why conditional covenants are also known as covenants of works, because humanity's obedience is required for their fulfillment.

Below is a chart showing one of the primary Bible verses (there are more) for each covenant and what category (grace or works) it falls under. However, all covenants come under the covenant of grace, because God has one plan of salvation for humanity. I stress this because one of the most popular views of the end times (dispensationalism) teaches that God has two plans of salvation, one for the Gentiles and a separate one for the Jews, which will be fulfilled during the end times. This view becomes problematic when we examine the biblical evidence for it, which we will in detail in the chapters ahead. For now, I will stress that any view of the end times that diminishes the work of Christ as a "once and for all" work as the Bible portrays it, must simply be faulty. The cross of Christ is not just central in the history of the world, it is central in the history of the universe. There is no separate plan of salvation apart



from Christ. If there is salvation for the Jewish people in the end times it will be through the same gospel that the gentiles embraced, by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. God is not going to reinstitute temple sacrifices in the end times for salvific purposes, because Christ completed the work of salvation that temple sacrifices only pointed toward, but I'm getting ahead of things. Either way, Scripture will confirm or deny it for us, so let's move forward and examine the biblical evidence, beginning with the biblical evidence that God has one plan of salvation for both Jew and Gentile.

<b>Covenant of Grace</b>	
<b>Conditional Promise (with Adam)</b>	<b>Genesis 2:16-17</b> 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
<b>Unconditional Promise (with Abraham)</b>	<b>Genesis 12:1-3</b> Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
<b>Unconditional Promise (with Noah)</b>	<b>Genesis 8:21</b> 21 And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done."
<b>Conditional Promise (with Moses)</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 28:1</b> 28 "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth."

**Unconditional Promise  
(with David)**

**2 Samuel 7:12-13**

**12** When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

**The New Covenant**

**Jeremiah 31:31-33**

**31** “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, **32** not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. **33** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**6. What stood out to you the most when you read through these covenants?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**7. What questions did reading through these covenant raise for you?**

---

---

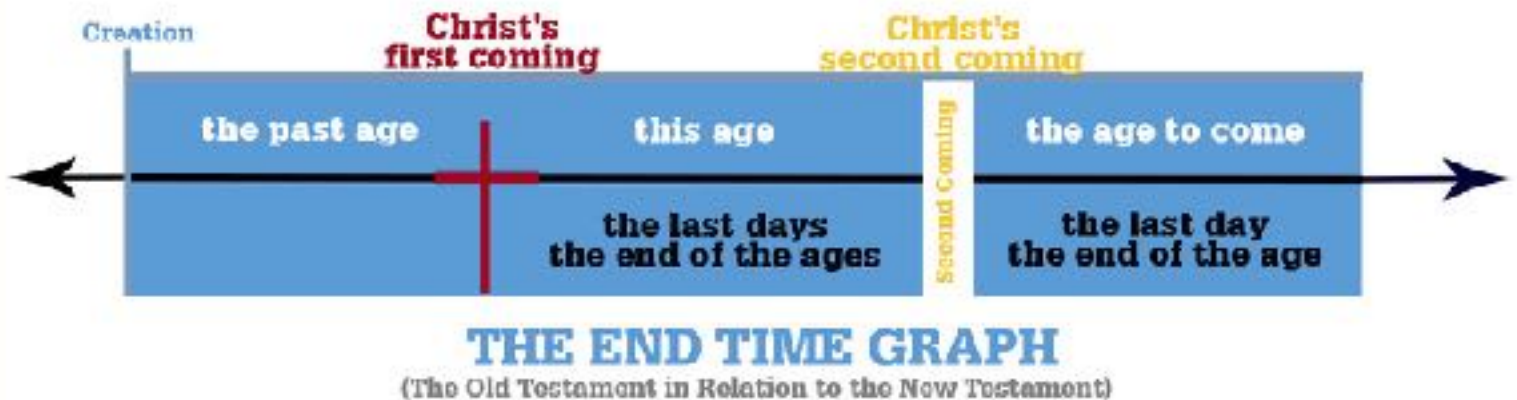
---

---

## The Basic Storyline of the Old Testament in Relation to the New Testament

The covenants show us that the Bible follows one basic storyline about the Redemption of humanity (Jews and Gentiles) and the New Testament is the progressive outcome of this continuing storyline. It has been explained this way: “All that the Old Testament foresaw would occur in the end times has begun already in the first century and continues on until the final coming of Christ. This means that the OT end-time expectations of such things as the great tribulation, God’s subjugation of the gentiles, deliverance of Israel from oppressors, Israel’s restoration, Israel’s resurrection, the new covenant, the promised Spirit, the new creation, the new temple, a messianic king, and the establishment of God’s kingdom have been set in motion irreversibly by Christ’s death and resurrection and the formation of the Christian church.”<sup>3</sup>

This storyline can also be seen in the chart below:



**8. Has this been the storyline of the Bible you’ve been familiar with or is this something new to you? If it is something new, what stands out the most to you regarding this storyline?**

---

---

---

---

<sup>3</sup> Gladd, Benjamin L.; Harmon, Matthew S.. *Making All Things New: Inaugurated Eschatology for the Life of the Church* (Kindle Locations 427-436). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

## **PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH:**

**Have someone read Luke 10:2, then pray along these lines:**

- Pray for the Invite Your One day (February 26)
- Pray for receptivity and unity in the church
- Pray for receptivity by those being invited

## **PRAYER FOR PERSONAL NEEDS - REQUESTS**

Week Two

# THE END IS NOW

## *The Present Kingdom*

### **Matthew 6:33**

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**1. According to the above verse, is the kingdom something we seek now?**

---

**2. If it is something we seek now, what does that say about the nature of the Kingdom of God?**

---

---

---

### **Matthew 12:28**

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

**3. Again, if Jesus says the kingdom of God has come upon us by the casting out of demons, what does that imply about the nature of the kingdom of God?**

---

---

---

---

**4. What can you gather about the nature of the kingdom of God from the verses below?**

## **Mark 4:30–32**

### **The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

<sup>30</sup> And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

---

---

---

## **Mark 9:1**

And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”

---

---

---

**5. Obviously, those who were listening to Jesus at this time have died. What does that say about the kingdom of God?**

---

---

---

---

---

**6. Continuing our emphasis on the nature of the kingdom, what does the verse below (Mark 9:47) tell us about the nature of the kingdom of God?**

## Mark 9:47

<sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell,

---

---

---

---

## Mark 12:34

<sup>34</sup> And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

**7. If this person isn't far from the kingdom, where is the kingdom?**

---

---

**8. What do you think the “good news of the kingdom of God” is according to the verses below?**

## Luke 4:43

<sup>43</sup> but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”

---

---

## Luke 9:2

<sup>2</sup> and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

---

---

## Luke 10:9

<sup>9</sup> Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’

---

# Luke 13:22–30

## The Narrow Door

<sup>22</sup> He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup> And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, <sup>24</sup> “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup> When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ <sup>26</sup> Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ <sup>27</sup> But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ <sup>28</sup> In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. <sup>29</sup> And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup> And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

**9. In the above segment of Scripture, what other term could you use to describe the kingdom of God?**

---

---

## Luke 16:14-17 (NET Bible)

**14** The Pharisees (who loved money) heard all this and ridiculed him. **15** But Jesus said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in men’s eyes, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly prized among men is utterly detestable in God’s sight.

**16** “The law and the prophets were in force until John; since then, the good news of the kingdom of God has been proclaimed, and everyone is urged to enter it. **17** But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tiny stroke of a letter in the law to become void.

## Luke 17:20–21

### The Coming of the Kingdom

<sup>20</sup> Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, <sup>21</sup> nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”



# John 3:3

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

**10. If the kingdom of God is something we’re urged to enter and it was said to be in their midst, is the kingdom of God in our midst now? If so, in what way is it in our midst?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Acts 28:23–24

<sup>23</sup> When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. <sup>24</sup> And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.

**11. If the Apostle Paul was trying to convince them about Jesus and the kingdom from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, what does tell you about the Law and Prophets?**

---

---

---

---

**12. Following, you’ll find some thoughts of Paul and James on the kingdom of God. What characteristics of the kingdom can you gather from them?**

# Romans 14:17

<sup>17</sup> For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

---

---

# 1 Corinthians 15:50

## Mystery and Victory

<sup>50</sup> I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

James 2:5 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

---

---

**13. This will become key in our understanding of the end times. In light of everything that you've culled from these New Testament passages about the kingdom of God, in what sense do you think John is talking about the kingdom in the verse below?**

# Revelation 1:9

## Vision of the Son of Man

<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# 1 Peter 4:7

7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

**14. The Apostle Peter wrote to a people undergoing great persecution. Why do think Peter tied the end times to Christian living the way he did?**

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH:

**Have someone read Mark 16:15, then pray along these lines:**

- Pray for the Invite Your One day (February 26)
- Pray that seven visitors would be with us on Invite Your One day
- Pray for hindrances to be removed
- Pray for the sermon preached that day
- Pray for the ongoing impact

## PRAYER FOR PERSONAL NEEDS - REQUESTS

# BEASTLY VISIONS

## *The Kingdoms Daniel Foresaw*

### **Daniel 7**

#### **Daniel's Vision of the Four Beasts**

7 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. 2 Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.

**1. Let's breakdown the symbolism. Four winds coming from every corner of the earth. What could they represent? (Don't worry. The answers will be supplied below.)**

---

---

**2. These four winds stirred up the great sea. What could the great sea represent?**

---

---

**So, the four winds symbolize that what is happening is universal or global. In other words, it impacts world history. Secondly, the sea represents the nations of the world. What Daniel is saying is that the nations of the world were in turmoil. They were stirred up.**

3 And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

**3. Daniel names three of the kingdoms that these beasts represent in Daniel 1:1, Daniel 8:20, and Daniel 8:21. The four kingdoms being referred to are Babylon (the first beast), Medo-Persia (the bear), Greece (the leopard) and Rome (the last beast). How is the**

**description of the last beast different than the description of the first three beasts in the verses below?**

4 The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. 5 And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.' 6 After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

---

---

**4. Since Daniel chapters 7-12 parallel the book of Revelation, what might we understand the purpose of these prophecies to be for the people then, along with their purpose for Christians living today? (Don't get bogged down in the minutia, but focus on purpose, which is clearly stated in the verses below.)**

## **Revelation 13**

13 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. 2 And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. 3 One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. 4 And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

5 And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. 6 It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, 8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

10 If anyone is to be taken captive,  
to captivity he goes;

if anyone is to be slain with the sword,  
with the sword must he be slain.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

**Purpose:** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. In the verse below, the little horn is small, but it does something. What does this horn do and what might that say about it?**

8 I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

---

---

---

---

**6. In the verses below describing the Ancient of Days, write down each description and then give your best estimate of what it symbolizes (two examples are provided):**

9 “As I looked,  
thrones were placed,  
and the Ancient of Days took his seat;  
his clothing was white as snow,  
and the hair of his head like pure wool;  
his throne was fiery flames;  
its wheels were burning fire.

10 A stream of fire issued  
and came out from before him;  
a thousand thousands served him,  
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him;  
the court sat in judgment,  
and the books were opened.

**(See next page for chart:)**

Description	Symbolizes
Ancient of Days	Eternal
clothing white as snow	Holiness
hair of his head like pure wool	
throne was fiery flames	
its wheels were burning fire	
A stream of fire	
the thousand thousands	
court sat in judgment/books opened	

*Answer key: head like pure wool = holy wisdom; throne of fiery flames = judgment; its wheels burning fire = sovereignty; stream of fire = holy judgment; the thousand thousands = angels; court sat/books opened = judgment begins*

**11** “I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. **12** As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

**7. The 4th beast is the Roman Empire and it is destroyed. What kingdom takes its place? (See the verses below for a clue.)**

---



---

## **The Son of Man Is Given Dominion**

13 “I saw in the night visions,  
and behold, with the clouds of heaven  
there came one like a son of man,  
and he came to the Ancient of Days  
and was presented before him.

### **8. What is the problem with interpreting verse 13 as the return of Christ? (Think direction or location.)**

---

---

---

**Clouds are often symbols of appearances of God (theophanies). Note the verses below.**

## **Psalm 104:3**

3 He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters;  
he makes the clouds his chariot;  
he rides on the wings of the wind;

## **Isaiah 19:1**

19 An oracle concerning Egypt.  
Behold, the Lord is riding on a swift cloud  
and comes to Egypt;  
and the idols of Egypt will tremble at his presence,  
and the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them.

## **Exodus 13:21**

21 And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

### **9. Can you think of any New Testament examples that deal with Jesus and clouds?**

---



---

---

---

---

---

**10. In light of any of the Scriptures you (or anyone in the group) thought of concerning Jesus and clouds, what event might the clouds in verse 13 of Daniel be referring to?**

---

---

---

*(Hint: See the verse below.)*

## **Acts 1:9**

9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

## **PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH:**

**Have someone read Luke 10:2 and Romans 9:1-3, then pray along these lines:**

- Pray for the Invite Your One day (February 26)
- Pray for receptivity by those being invited
- Pray for God to fill us with a passion to see people come to Christ.

## **PRAYER FOR PERSONAL NEEDS - REQUESTS**

Week Four

# THE DOMINANT KINGDOM

## *Your Spiritual Heritage*

**1. When was Jesus given dominion, before His return or after? Can you provide biblical support for your answer?**

---

---

---

### **Daniel 7:14**

14 And to him was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him;  
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
which shall not pass away,  
and his kingdom one  
that shall not be destroyed.

**2. In light of the verses below, answer the same question: When was Jesus given dominion?**

### **Psalms 2:7**

7 I will tell of the decree:  
The Lord said to me, "You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you.

### **Matthew 28:18**

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

### **Psalms 2:8**

8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.

## Matthew 28:19

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

## Revelation 5:9

9 And they sang a new song, saying,  
“Worthy are you to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,

## Psalms 72:11

11 May all kings fall down before him,  
all nations serve him!

---

---

---

---

**3. According to the verses below, how might you state the purpose of the vision Daniel was given?**

## Daniel 7:15-18

15 “As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. 16 I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. 17 ‘These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.’

---

---

---

**4. Verse 18 states “the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.” As a Christian, when did you receive the Kingdom?**

---

---

## **Luke 12:32**

32 “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

**5. Are there any other verses you can think of to support this idea that you have received the Kingdom now?**

---

---

**6. According to verse 22 below, what happens after the Ancient of Days comes?**

19 “Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, 20 and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. 21 As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

---

---

**7. In the above verses, do you see any reason to assume there is a 1,000 year gap between the 4th and 5th kingdoms? Why or why not?**

---

---

23 “Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth,

and trample it down, and break it to pieces.

**24** As for the ten horns,  
out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise,  
and another shall arise after them;  
he shall be different from the former ones,  
and shall put down three kings.

**25** He shall speak words against the Most High,  
and shall wear out the saints of the Most High,  
and shall think to change the times and the law;  
and they shall be given into his hand  
for a time, times, and half a time.

**26** But the court shall sit in judgment,  
and his dominion shall be taken away,  
to be consumed and destroyed to the end.

**27** And the kingdom and the dominion  
and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven  
shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High;  
his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom,  
and all dominions shall serve and obey him.'

**8. How would you explain this tension between the saints who have received the Kingdom and these figures who “wear out the saints”?**

---

---

---

---

---

## **1 John 2:18**

**18** Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

**9. The Apostle John tells us that there are many antichrist and there is an antichrist coming. How would you explain the various horns in Daniel in light of this?**

---

---

---

---

---

28 “Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart.”

**10. Has there been anything in this segment of Scripture that has alarmed you or changed your color?**

---

---

---

---

---

## **PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH:**

**Have someone read Mark 11:22-24 and John 14:13-14, then pray along these lines:**

- Pray for the Invite Your One day (February 26)
- Pray for receptivity by those being invited
- Pray for God to pour out His Spirit in a manner that we have never witnessed.

## **PRAYER FOR PERSONAL NEEDS - REQUESTS**

Week Five

# THE KEY TO THE END

*Everything Jesus Fulfilled*

## 2 Corinthians 1:20

20 For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

**The above Scripture tells us that everything God promised has been fulfilled in Jesus. Let's look at some ways the Bible shows us that Christ has indeed fulfilled everything.**

*Jesus is the True Temple*

## 2 Chronicles 5:7

7 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim.

**1. List some characteristics of the ark according to the above verse:**

---

---

---

**2. In the two verses below, list the characteristics that are similar:**

## 2 Chronicles 5:14

14 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

## John 1:14

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

---

---

## John 4:20-26

**20** Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” **21** Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. **22** You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. **23** But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. **24** God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” **25** The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” **26** Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

**3. According to Jesus in the verses above, what are the new traits of true worship?**

---

---

---

**4. What common trait in the verses below stands out to you the most?**

## Ephesians 2:21-22

**21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

---

---

## 1 Peter 2:5

**5** you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

---

---

## 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

**16** Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? **17** If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

---

---



# 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

---

---

# 2 Corinthians 6:16

16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,  
“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,  
and I will be their God,  
and they shall be my people.”

---

---

**5. List the traits of Jesus and the traits of His church in the verses below:**

# 1 Peter 2:4-10

4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

8 and

“A stone of stumbling,  
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Jesus	His Church

6. According to our study so far, how would you complete this sentence? Jesus is the true \_\_\_\_\_.

## Matthew 12:6

6 I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.

7. What are the implications if Jesus fulfills the Old Testament Temple?

---



---



---

8. What common theme do you notice in the verses below regarding God and His people?

## Leviticus 26:11-12

11 I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. 12 And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.

---



---

## **Ezekiel 20:41**

41 As a pleasing aroma I will accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered. And I will manifest my holiness among you in the sight of the nations.

---

---

## **Ezekiel 37:26-27**

26 I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore.  
27 My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

---

---

**9. In the verse below, which are made in reference to the nation of Israel and the temple, what has changed?**

## **Matthew 23:38**

38 See, your house is left to you desolate.

---

---

## **Matthew 27:51**

51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

---

---

**10. In the verses below, list the ways that Jesus as the True Vine differs from the nation of Israel?**

## **John 15:1-5**

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the

branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.  
5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

---

---

## **Isaiah 5:7**

7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;  
and he looked for justice,  
but behold, bloodshed;  
for righteousness,  
but behold, an outcry!

---

---

## **Hosea 10:1**

10 Israel is a luxuriant vine  
that yields its fruit.  
The more his fruit increased,  
the more altars he built;  
as his country improved,  
he improved his pillars.

---

---

## **Jeremiah 2:21**

21 Yet I planted you a choice vine,  
wholly of pure seed.  
How then have you turned degenerate  
and become a wild vine?

---

---

## Jeremiah 5:10

10 “Go up through her vine rows and destroy,  
but make not a full end;  
strip away her branches,  
for they are not the Lord’s.

---

---

## Ezekiel 15:6-8

6 Therefore thus says the Lord God: Like the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so have I given up the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 7 And I will set my face against them. Though they escape from the fire, the fire shall yet consume them, and you will know that I am the Lord, when I set my face against them. 8 And I will make the land desolate, because they have acted faithlessly, declares the Lord God.”

---

---

## Ezekiel 19:10-14

10 Your mother was like a vine in a vineyard  
planted by the water,  
fruitful and full of branches  
by reason of abundant water.  
11 Its strong stems became  
rulers' scepters;  
it towered aloft  
among the thick boughs;  
it was seen in its height  
with the mass of its branches.  
12 But the vine was plucked up in fury,  
cast down to the ground;  
the east wind dried up its fruit;  
they were stripped off and withered.  
As for its strong stem,  
fire consumed it.  
13 Now it is planted in the wilderness,  
in a dry and thirsty land.  
14 And fire has gone out from the stem of its shoots,  
has consumed its fruit,  
so that there remains in it no strong stem,  
no scepter for ruling.

This is a lamentation and has become a lamentation.

---

---

**11. God, through the New Testament authors, paints a picture of Jesus as fulfilling every requirement laid down in the Old Testament. Read through the sampling below and then see if you can determine what Jesus fulfills in the verses that follow by filling in the blank.**

## **Colossians 2:16-17**

**16** Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. **17** These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

**Jesus Fulfills the \_\_\_\_\_.**

## **1 Corinthians 5:7-8**

**7** Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. **8** Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

**Jesus Fulfills the \_\_\_\_\_.**

## **Hebrews 10:1-8**

**10** For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. **2** Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? **3** But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. **4** For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

**5** Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;

**6** in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

**7** Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

**8** When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law),

**Jesus Fulfills the \_\_\_\_\_.**

## **John 7:37-39**

37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

**Jesus Fulfills the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**12. In what way would you say Jesus either fulfills or is foreshadowed in the verses below? And can you provide any New Testament examples to confirm this usage or foreshadowing?**

## **Numbers 20:7-11**

7 and the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 8 “Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle.” 9 And Moses took the staff from before the Lord, as he commanded him.

10 Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?” 11 And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock.

---

---

---

## **Nehemiah 9:15**

15 You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger and brought water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and you told them to go in to possess the land that you had sworn to give them.

---

---

---

## **Nehemiah 9:19-20**

**19** you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go. **20** You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst.

---

---

---

*The above Scriptures confirm to us that Jesus is the true Temple of the Living God. This again is to emphasize the point that no future temple is needed for the salvation of the Jews in the future. If an end times temple is built it will have nothing to do with the salvation offered in the gospel. Nothing will change regarding how anyone finds salvation both now or in the future. There will never be an alternative to the salvation found in Jesus.*

## **PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH:**

**Have someone read Matthew 5:43-48, then pray along these lines:**

- Pray for the Invite Your One day (February 26)
- Pray for receptivity by those being invited
- Pray that we would be prepared for persecution, remembering to love, not curse, our persecutors.

## **PRAYER FOR PERSONAL NEEDS - REQUESTS**



# ***Bonus Question for the Die-hard End Times Enthusiasts***

## **1 Chronicles 23:13**

**13** The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses. Aaron was set apart to dedicate the most holy things, that he and his sons forever should make offerings before the Lord and minister to him and pronounce blessings in his name forever.

## **2 Samuel 7:12-16**

**12** When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **14** I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, **15** but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. **16** And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

**13. In what way does the use of term “forever” differ in the above verses?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### **Food for Thought:**

*If the bread and the water from the rock can be seen as symbolic and pointing to Jesus, why not the land that Israel would possess? That land being salvation. The land the church is part of now is the Kingdom of God. In this way, God has fulfilled His promise of land to Israel.*

# TRIBULATION HAPPENS

## *Now & Then*

**1. According to Jesus (in the verses below), what are the marks of the present age we live in?**

### **Matthew 24:1–25:46**

#### **Jesus Foretells Destruction of the Temple**

**24** Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. <sup>2</sup> But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

#### **Signs of the End of the Age**

<sup>3</sup> As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

<sup>9</sup> “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. <sup>10</sup> And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**2. List the events of the end of the age as described below:**

**The Abomination of Desolation**

<sup>15</sup>“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), <sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, <sup>18</sup> and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. <sup>19</sup> And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! <sup>20</sup> Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. <sup>22</sup> And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. <sup>23</sup> Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. <sup>24</sup> For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup> See, I have told you beforehand. <sup>26</sup> So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. <sup>27</sup> For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**3. In the verses below, list the order of events:**

**The Coming of the Son of Man**

<sup>29</sup> “Immediately after the tribulation of those days 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.

<sup>30</sup> Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, 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.

<sup>31</sup> And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

---

---

---

**4. Jesus says that immediately after this tribulation that He will come. Does this give you pause regarding a pre-tribulation rapture? Why or why not?**

---

---

---

### **The Lesson of the Fig Tree**

<sup>32</sup> “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup> So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>34</sup> Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

**5. If this generation will not pass away before these events take place, what does that say to you?**

---

---

---

**6. Write a bullet point list of the below scenario:**

### **No One Knows That Day and Hour**

<sup>36</sup> “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup> For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in

those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup> Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

<sup>45</sup> “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? <sup>46</sup> Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. <sup>47</sup> Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. <sup>48</sup> But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ <sup>49</sup> and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, <sup>50</sup> the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know <sup>51</sup> and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

---

---

---

---

---

---

## **The Parable of the Ten Virgins**

**25** “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup> But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup> Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

## **7. How would you explain the above parable?**

---

---

---

## 8. In the two descriptions of the final judgment below, what similarities do you find?

### The Parable of the Talents

**14** "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. **15** To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. **16** He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. **17** So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. **18** But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. **19** Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. **20** And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' **21** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' **22** And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' **23** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' **24** He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, **25** so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' **26** But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? **27** Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. **28** So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. **29** For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. **30** And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

## **The Final Judgment**

**31** "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. **32** 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. **33** And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. **34** Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. **35** For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, **36** I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' **37** Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? **38** And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? **39** And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' **40** And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

**41** "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. **42** For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, **43** I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' **44** Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' **45** Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' **46** And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## John 16:25–33

### I Have Overcome the World

<sup>25</sup> “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup> for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

<sup>29</sup> His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! <sup>30</sup> Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup> I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

### 9. Are there any qualifications or restrictions for the tribulation that Jesus promises Christians in the verses above? Explain.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Acts 14:22

<sup>22</sup> strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.



**10. Was this promise that we enter the kingdom of God through many tribulations just for the first century church or was it also for the present day church?**

---

---

---

## **Revelation 1:9**

### **Vision of the Son of Man**

<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

**11. In the verse above, when does the Apostle John say the tribulation is happening? Does he qualify this tribulation in any way, like there may be another tribulation besides this one?**

---

---

---

---

---

**12. Break the following descriptions in the verses below into bullet points:**

## **Revelation 2:9**

<sup>9</sup>“ I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

---

---

---

# Revelation 7:9-14

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” <sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” <sup>14</sup> I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 13. After looking over your list, what stands out to you the most?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 14. In the verses below, describe the world and the end:

### 1 John 2:17-18

<sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. <sup>18</sup> Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

---

---

---

---

*The resurrection marked the beginning of Jesus’s messianic reign, and the Spirit at Pentecost signaled the inauguration of his rule through the church (see Acts 1:6–8; 2:1–43). On the other hand, persecution of Jesus and the church indicated the beginning of the final tribulation. This means there is the ironic reality that the kingdom and the tribulation could coexist, to this extent, at the same time. For example, John says in Revelation 1:9 (NASB), “I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus. . . .” Therefore, the latter days do not take place only at some point in the future but occur throughout the whole church age, which means that we in the twenty-first century are still experiencing the latter days.<sup>4</sup>*

## **PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH:**

**Have someone read John 20:21, then pray along these lines:**

- Pray for the Invite Your One day (February 26)
- Pray for receptivity by those being invited
- Pray that we would grow in being distinct from the world in love and holiness, even as we engage outsiders.

## **PRAYER FOR PERSONAL NEEDS - REQUEST**

---

<sup>4</sup> Gladd, Benjamin L.; Harmon, Matthew S. *Making All Things New: Inaugurated Eschatology for the Life of the Church* (Kindle Locations 488-493). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Week Seven

# WHERE THE END STANDS OR FALLS

*Give or Take 70 Weeks*

## Daniel 9

### Daniel's Prayer for His People

9 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— 2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

**1. Daniel is referencing Jeremiah's prophecy below. When does Daniel expect the fulfillment of this promise to take place? Explain.**

---

---

## Jeremiah 25:1-11

### Seventy Years of Captivity

25 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), 2 which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem: 3 “For twenty-three years, from the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, to this day, the word of the Lord has come to me, and I have spoken persistently to you, but you have not listened.

4 You have neither listened nor inclined your ears to hear, although the Lord persistently sent to you all his servants the prophets, 5 saying, ‘Turn now, every one of you, from his evil way and evil deeds, and dwell upon the land that the Lord has given to you and your fathers from of old and forever. 6 Do not go after other gods to serve and worship them, or provoke me to anger with the work of your hands. Then I will do you no harm.’ 7 Yet you have not listened to me, declares the Lord, that you might provoke me to anger with the work of your hands to your own harm.

**2. Describe the relationship between the Lord and His people according to Jeremiah 25:1-11:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**8** “Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: Because you have not obeyed my words, **9** behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the Lord, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these surrounding nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation. **10** Moreover, I will banish from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the grinding of the millstones and the light of the lamp. **11** This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

**3. Now describe the outcome of Israel’s disobedience:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**The timeline of Jeremiah’s and Daniel’s prophecies:**

- 605 B.C. - Jeremiah prophesies Israel will be taken captive in Babylon for 70 years. At the end of this period, Babylon will fall.
- 539 B.C. - Babylon falls to Cyrus of Persia.
- 539 B.C. - Daniel prays for the restoration of Jerusalem because of Jeremiah’s prophecy.

- Gabriel responds to Daniel's prayer with the prophecy of the 70 weeks, at which time there would be a decree to rebuild and restore the temple.
- 538 B.C. - Cyrus issues such a decree.
- The decree of Cyrus is both the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy, but the beginning of Daniel's prophecy about the 70 week restoration in Daniel 9:25.

## Daniel 9:3-19

**3** Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. **4** I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, **5** we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. **6** We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. **7** To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you. **8** To us, O Lord, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. **9** To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him **10** and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. **11** All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him. **12** He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity. For under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what has been done against Jerusalem. **13** As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us; yet we have not entreated the favor of the Lord our God, turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth. **14** Therefore the Lord has kept ready the calamity and has brought it upon us, for the Lord our God is righteous in all the works that he has done, and we have not obeyed his voice. **15** And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

**4. What's the most striking thing in Daniel's confession to you? And why?**

---

---

---

**16** “O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us. **17** Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. **18** O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. **19** O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name.”

**5. What are the key elements of his prayer in verses 16-19?**

---

---

---

---

**6. According to the text above, when does Daniel expect this prayer to be answered?**

---

---

---

**Gabriel Brings an Answer**

**20** While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the Lord my God for the holy hill of my God, **21** while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. **22** He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, “O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. **23** At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider

the word and understand the vision. 24 “Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city,

**7. To which seventy weeks is Gabriel referring here? Explain.**

---

---

---

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.

**8. List the things that Gabriel says will be accomplished during this seventy year period. As best you can, reword each item or give your best understanding of what it could mean.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**9. When will these things be accomplished by Jesus? Explain.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

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,



**10. According to the text, what are the two things that will happen?**

---

---

---

---

---

**11. Might Daniel expect any of these things to happen soon? Why or why not?**

---

---

---

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.”

## **PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH:**

**Have someone read Luke 24:46-47, then pray along these lines:**

- Pray for us to grow in our understanding of the gospel.
- Pray for the ongoing impact of the gospel in the lives of those who were with us last week.
- Pray that more of us would use our careers to advance the gospel.

## **PRAYER FOR PERSONAL NEEDS - REQUESTS**

Week Eight

# THE GOD OF ISRAEL

## *One Plan or Two?*

### **Genesis 35:10**

<sup>10</sup> And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.” So he called his name Israel.

### **Genesis 46:2–4**

<sup>2</sup> And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.”

<sup>3</sup> Then he said, “I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. <sup>4</sup> I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph’s hand shall close your eyes.”

**1. God promises to make Israel into a great nation. What could “a great nation” possibly mean? Is there more than one option? Explain.**

---

---

---

---

---

### **Genesis 49:28**

#### **Jacob’s Death and Burial**

<sup>28</sup> All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. This is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him.

***Jacob’s sons become the twelve tribes of Israel.***

# Exodus 4:31

<sup>31</sup> And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

# Exodus 12:27

<sup>27</sup> you shall say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the Lord’s Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.’ ” And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

**2. In the verse above, what does Israel as a people (or nation) ultimately serve as? In other words, does the story of the Passover have a deeper meaning other than God saving Israel from the Pharaoh?**

---

---

---

**3. What God did for Israel in the account of the Passover is what He did for the church in the Person and work of Christ. If this is indeed the case, then Israel foreshadows the church. This makes Israel a type or a shadow of things to be revealed later in the church. If Israel serves as a type, ultimately reflecting what Christ will do for His church, how will that shape our view of prophecy concerning Israel?**

---

---

---

---

---

**4. Now, if that is the case with Israel and the church, this opens up the possibility of understanding God’s promise of land to Israel as a type and shadow that is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ also. When it is insisted that the promise of land to Israel is literal, this will force us**

**into a box as to how we interpret the rest of the prophecies and promises about land. The question becomes, "Which interpretation is most consistent with what Jesus and the Apostles taught?"**

---

---

---

## **Exodus 16:15**

<sup>15</sup> When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

**5. Jesus said that He is the bread which comes down from heaven. What does this say to you about how we should understand the bread the Lord gave His people?**

---

---

---

## **Exodus 17:6**

<sup>6</sup> Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

## **John 7:37-38**

<sup>37</sup> On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

**6. In light of what Jesus said in the verse above, how would you explain the words of Moses?**

---

---

---

## **Exodus 19:5–6**

<sup>5</sup> Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; <sup>6</sup> and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

## **1 Peter 2:9**

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

**7. Comparing the two verses above, what is Peter saying about both Israel and the church?**

---

---

---

## **Deuteronomy 30:6**

And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

## **Philippians 3:3**

<sup>3</sup> For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh

**8. In light of Deuteronomy 30:6, what do you think Paul means by, “We are the circumcision”?**

---

---

**9. According to the Apostle Paul in the verses below, how would you explain true circumcision?**

## **Romans 2:25-29**

<sup>25</sup> For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. <sup>26</sup> So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not

his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? **27** Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law.

**28** For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical.

**29** But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

---

---

---

---

### **10. What are the implications of this definition of circumcision?**

---

---

---

---

### **11. According to the verse below, what does this say about the body of Christ (the church)?**

## **Galatians 3:29**

**29** And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

---

---

### **12. What does the verse below teach about Jews and Gentiles?**

## **Ephesians 2:16-18**

**15** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, **16** and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. **17** And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. **18** For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

---

---

*This isn't about the church replacing Israel. It's about a New Covenant replacing an Old Covenant. In the New Covenant, Jews who believe in Jesus and Gentiles who believe in Jesus become one entity – the church. The church is now the true Israel, so every promise given to Israel is now given to the church.*

## **PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH:**

**Have someone read Isaiah 6:8, then pray along these lines:**

- That a culture of discipling would form in which making disciples is viewed as an ordinary part of the Christian life.
- That adult members would work to disciple teenagers and not just leave it to programming.

## **PRAYER FOR PERSONAL NEEDS - REQUESTS**

# DOES THE BIBLE TEACH A SECRET RAPTURE?

## *What Happens During the Second Coming?*

*One of the rules of biblical interpretation is that we use clearer verses to interpret verses that are more difficult to understand. Below you will find verses on the end times that are neither symbolic nor confusing. We will be examining them for the clear facts. This will help us interpret other end times verses (such as Revelation chapters 19 & 20) that are more difficult to understand.*

**1. As you read through the verses below, make a bullet point list of end times facts that you observe.**

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But 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. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For 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.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**2. According to the verses below, list the facts concerning the last day:**

## **1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

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.”

---

---

---

## **John 6:39-40**

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

---

---

## **John 6:44**

44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

---

---

## **John 6:54**

54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

---

---

**3. The below verses talk about the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Write down all the facts you observe concerning His Second Coming:**

## **2 Thessalonians 1:6-9**

6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

---

---

---

---

---

**4. Do the same for the below verses, list all the facts concerning the end times that you find:**

## **2 Thessalonians 2:1-10**

2 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

---

---

---

---

---

---

**5. Out of all the facts you gathered, did anything stand out to you the most?**

---

---

---

**6. Based on the verses below, when does the final judgment seem to occur? Explain.**

## **Matthew 25:31-46**

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 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. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44 Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ 45 Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you

did not do it to me.’ 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

---

---

---

---

## **Revelation 20:11-15**

11 Then 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. 12 And 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. 13 And 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. 14 Then 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.

**7. Now, list as many facts about the final judgment as you can according to Revelation 20:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## **John 12:48**

48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

**8. According to the above verse, when does the judgment take place?**

---

---

# Revelation 6:15-17

15 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

**9. According to the verses above, who is hiding and when does this take place?**

---

---

---

---

# 2 Peter 3:10-15

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

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.

14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. 15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

**10. Examine the verses above, then list as many facts as you can concerning the final judgment:**

---

---

---

---

---

# Romans 8:19-21

19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

**11. According to the verses in Romans above, when will the earth be restored?**

---

---

---

# 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, **2** not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. **3** Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, **4** who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. **5** Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? **6** And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. **7** For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. **8** And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

**12. In the context of the above verses, focus on verse 8. When will this "lawless one" be destroyed? And what does that say about the Second Coming of Jesus?**

---

---

---

---

---

**13. According to the verse below, when will the judgment take place?**

## **Matthew 16:27**

27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

---

---

**14. According to the verse below, list the order of events?**

## **1 Corinthians 15:22-24**

22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

---

---

---

---

**15. What does Paul mean by “firstfruits”?**

---

---

*2 Corinthians 5:15 and 17 says Christ “died and rose again . . . so that if any are in Christ, they are a new creation, the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.” Revelation 1:5 refers to Christ as “the firstborn from the dead,” and then Revelation 3:14 defines “firstborn” as “the beginning of the [new] creation of God.” Likewise, Colossians 1:18 says that Christ is “the firstborn from the dead” and “the beginning,” so that “he himself might come to have first place in everything.” In Galatians 6:14-15 Paul says that his identification with Christ’s death means that he is a “new creation.”<sup>5</sup>*

---

<sup>5</sup> Gladd, Benjamin L.; Harmon, Matthew S.. *Making All Things New: Inaugurated Eschatology for the Life of the Church* (Kindle Locations 462-467). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

# Revelation 1:3

3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

**16. In this eight-week study, what has been your biggest takeaway?**

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH:

**Have someone read Philippians 2:3, then pray along these lines:**

- Pray that we would have unity amid diversity – loving those with whom we have nothing in common but the gospel.
- That our elders would remain above reproach, kept from temptation, complacency, idols, and worldliness.

## PRAYER FOR PERSONAL NEEDS - REQUESTS