

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

“Acts 17:11” and “2 Timothy 2:15”

CLASS #8 - INTERPRETING PROPHECY AND ESCHATOLOGY

PROPHECY

**I. PROPHECY — Greek; “to speak before” or “to speak forth the mind and counsel of God.”
In the Word of God we observe prophecy in two different categories;**

A) Prophecy that is the forth telling or proclaiming the Word of God;

(1 Cor 14:3) But he who **prophesies** speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

(Rom 12:6) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if **prophecy**, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

(1 Tim 4:14) Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by **prophecy** with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

B) Prophecy that is proclaimed as the foretelling of future and last days events. A prophecy can be given to the prophet by direct revelation, dreams and/or visions.

(Rev 19:10) And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For **the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**”

(Mat 13:14) “And in them the **prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled**, which says: ‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive;’

Note: In this section we will only be addressing prophecy that is foretelling future events.

II. The following are some of the reasons why the study of prophecy and eschatology is important to the believer:

A. Some Biblical scholars state that as much as one third of the Bible was prophetic when it was written.

B. Understanding prophecy can protect and warn believers about cults and false prophets. Every cult can be observed as having erroneous views about Biblical eschatology and prophecy.

Ex. The 144,000 living as spirits in heaven; the Jehovah Witnesses.

Ex. No eternal punishment; the Annihilationist

Ex. Eventually, nearly everyone goes to one of three separate heavenly kingdoms, some achieving godhood; the Mormons

Ex. Reincarnation until one reaches oneness with god, no heaven or hell; Buddhist, Hindus, New Age

C. Knowing that Jesus could come at any time keeps believers pure in their conduct and accountable for their actions.

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

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has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

D. The hope of Jesus' soon return to set up His kingdom has been a great comfort for believers throughout the centuries who experience tribulation, persecution and/or martyrdom.

E. Throughout Church history, revivals have usually been accompanied by the study of prophecy.

(Mat 24:44) "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

(Heb 3:15) while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

F. Prophecy fulfilled in Biblical times is an internal evidence of the validity of Scripture.

Ex. There are about 300 prophecies about the first coming of Christ that have been fulfilled

III. Some helps to consider when observing or interpreting prophecy

A. When the prophets spoke, they could refer to any of the following:

1. A present or near fulfillment.

a. The destruction of Herod's temple in 70 AD.

(Mat 24:2) And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

b. Samuel prophesied the death of Saul; (1 Sam 28:16-19)

c. Jeremiah prophesied the 70 year captivity.

(Jer 25:11) "And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

d. Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him three times (Matt 26:34).

(Mat 26:34) Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

2. A future fulfillment; The 1st coming of Christ i.e. Looking forward to Jesus' birth, death, resurrection and ascension, and also "Eschatology" (the study of last days events); the Rapture, Great Tribulation, Second Coming, Millennial Kingdom, and New Jerusalem.

(Joel 2:28) "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.

(Acts 2:16-17) "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

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(Psa 22:1) My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?

(Psa 22:14) I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.

(Psa 22:15) My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.

3. A twofold fulfillment; prophecy being fulfilled in two separate time periods. The following verse in Isaiah illustrates the 1st and 2nd comings of Christ, 700 years before Jesus’ birth.

(Isa 9:6) For unto us **a Child is born**, Unto us **a Son is given**; And **the government will be upon His shoulder**. And His name **will be called** Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

B. When interpreting prophecy, use the literal interpretation unless the text indicates the passage is symbolic. For example the Statue in Dan 2 and the four beasts in Daniel 7.

(Dan 2:38) “and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all; **you are this head of gold.**”

(Dan 2:39) “But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.

(Dan 7:3) “And **four great beasts** came up from the sea, each different from the other.

(Dan 7:4) “The first was **like a lion**, and had eagle’s wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it.

(Dan 7:5) “And suddenly another beast, a second, **like a bear**. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: ‘Arise, devour much flesh!’

(Dan 7:6) “After this I looked, and there was another, **like a leopard**, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

(Dan 7:17) “Those **great beasts**, which are four, **are four kings** which arise out of the earth.

(Rev 13:2) Now the beast which I saw was **like a leopard**, his feet were like the feet of **a bear**, and his mouth **like** the mouth of **a lion**. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

C. Remember that when a prophet refers to a future event, he does not always use the future tense, which indicates that there is probably also an immediate and future context.

(Isa 7:14) “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, **the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son**, and shall **call His name** Immanuel.

(Isa 8:3) Then I went to the prophetess, and **she conceived and bore a son**. Then the LORD said to me, “**Call his name** Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz;

(Mat 1:23) “Behold, **the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son**, and they shall **call His name** Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

D. In prophecy as well as any passage of Scripture, remember the historical context.

(2 Chr 36:21) to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

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(Jer 25:11) 'And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

(Jer 25:12) 'Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the LORD; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation.

(Jer 29:10) For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.

(Dan 9:2) in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

(Zec 1:12) Then the Angel of the LORD answered and said, "O LORD of hosts, how long will You not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which You were angry these seventy years?"

E. Remember that the meaning of specific prophecies could not always be understood by the prophet or those in which it was addressed.

For example, the prophecies in the book of Daniel were sealed until the end times.

(Dan 12:8) Although I heard, **I did not understand**. Then I said, "My lord, what shall be the end of these things?"

(Dan 12:9) And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for **the words are closed up and sealed** till the time of the end."

F. When studying prophecy, look for key words that indicate the time line.

For example, look for phrases like "in the last days," "day of the Lord," "day of wrath," and "end of the age."

31 Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Christ's first coming:

1. Birthplace

Prophecy: Mic 5:2 "But you, **Bethlehem** Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The one to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

Fulfillment: Matt 2:1 Now after **Jesus was born in Bethlehem** of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

2. Virgin born

Prophecy: Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: **Behold, the virgin shall conceive** and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Fulfillment: Matt 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, **she was found with child of the Holy Spirit**.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for **that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit**.

21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

23 "Behold, **the virgin shall be with child**, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

3. Tribe of Judah

Prophecy: Gen 49:10 The scepter shall not depart **from Judah**, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

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Fulfillment: Heb 7:14 For it is evident that **our Lord arose from Judah**, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

4. Line of David

Prophecy: Isa 11:1 There shall come forth **a Rod from the stem of Jesse**, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

Fulfillment: Rev 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. **I am the Root and the Offspring of David**, the Bright and Morning Star."

5. In Egypt

Prophecy: Hos 11:1 "When Israel was a child, I loved him, And **out of Egypt I called My son**."

Fulfillment: Matt 2:13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, **flee to Egypt**, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt,

15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

6. Preached deliverance

Prophecy: Isa 61:1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To **preach good tidings to the poor**; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

Fulfillment: Luke 4:17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To **preach the gospel to the poor**; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

7. A prophet

Prophecy: Deut 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you **a Prophet like me** from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

Fulfillment: Acts 7:37 "This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, 'The LORD your God will raise up for **you a Prophet like me** from your brethren. Him you shall hear.'

8. The Light of the world

Prophecy: Isa 9:1 Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed her, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles. 2 **The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light**; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.

Fulfillment: Matt 4:13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

15 "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles:

16 **The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light**, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned."

9. The great healer

Prophecy: Isa 53:4 Surely He **has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows**; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

Fulfillment: Matt 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people**. 24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.

10. The good shepherd

Prophecy: Isa 40:11 **He will feed His flock like a shepherd**; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And

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gently lead those who are with young.

Fulfillment: John 10:11 **"I am the good shepherd.** The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.
John 10:14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.

11. Triumphal entry

Prophecy: Zech 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! **Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.**

Fulfillment: Matt 21:1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. 3 And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." 4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: 5 "Tell the daughter of Zion, '**Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.**'"

12. Rejected by His own

Prophecy: Ps 69:8 **I have become a stranger to my brothers,** And an alien to my mother's children;

Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and **acquainted with grief.** And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Fulfillment: John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and **the world did not know Him.** 11 He came to His own, and **His own did not receive Him.**

John 19:15 But they cried out, "**Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!**" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

13. Betrayed by a friend

Prophecy: Ps 41:9 **Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.**

Ps 55:12 For it is **not an enemy who reproaches me; Then I could bear it.** Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; Then I could hide from him. 13 But it was you, a man my equal, **My companion and my acquaintance.** 14 We took sweet counsel together, And walked to the house of God in the throng.

Fulfillment: John 13:18 "I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, '**He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.**'"

John 13:26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

14. Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver

Prophecy: Zech 11:12 Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages **thirty pieces of silver.**

Fulfillment: Matt 26:14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him **thirty pieces of silver.** 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

15. Silver purchased a potter's field

Prophecy: Zech 11:13 And the LORD said to me, "**Throw it to the potter**" -- that princely price they set on me. **So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.**

Fulfillment: Matt 27:3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and **brought back the thirty pieces of silver** to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" 5 Then **he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed,** and went and hanged himself. 6 But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." 7 And **they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.**

16. Beaten and spit upon

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Prophecy: Isa 50:6 **I gave My back to those who struck Me**, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

Fulfillment: Matt 26:67 Then **they spat in His face and beat Him**; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands,

17. Struck with a rod

Prophecy: Mic 5:1 Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops; He has laid siege against us; **They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek.**

Fulfillment: Matt 27:30 Then they spat on Him, and **took the reed and struck Him on the head.**

18. Silent under persecution

Prophecy: Isa 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet **He opened not His mouth**; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, **So He opened not His mouth.**

Fulfillment: Matt 27:14 But **He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.**

19. Forsaken by followers

Prophecy: Zech 13:7 "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, Against the Man who is My Companion," Says the LORD of hosts. **"Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered**; Then I will turn My hand against the little ones.

Fulfillment: Matt 26:31 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And **the sheep of the flock will be scattered.**'"

Matt 26:56 But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." **Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.**

20. Pierced hands and feet

Prophecy: Ps 22:16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. **They pierced My hands and My feet**;

Fulfillment: John 20:25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "**Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.**"

John 20:27 Then He said to Thomas, "**Reach your finger here, and look at My hands**; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

21. Pierced side

Prophecy: Zech 12:10 Mourning for the Pierced one "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then **they will look on Me whom they pierced.** Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

Fulfillment: John 19:34 But one of the soldiers **pierced His side with a spear**, and immediately blood and water came out.

22. Died among criminals

Prophecy: Isa 53:12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And **He was numbered with the transgressors**, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

Fulfillment: Mark 15:27 With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. 28 So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "**And He was numbered with the transgressors.**"

23. Buried with the rich

Prophecy: Isa 53:9 And they **made His grave with the wicked -- But with the rich at His death**, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.

Fulfillment: Matt 27:57 Now when evening had come, **there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph**, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.

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Matt 27:60 and **laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock**; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

24. Mocked

Prophecy: Ps 22:7 All those who see **Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head**, saying, 8 "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"

Fulfillment: Matt 27:39 And **those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads** 40 and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, **save Yourself! If You are the Son of God**, come down from the cross." 41 Likewise the **chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders**, said, 42 "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. 43 He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" 44 **Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him** with the same thing.

25. Cry of agony

Prophecy: Ps 22:1 **My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?** Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?

Fulfillment: Matt 27:46 And about the Ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "**Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?**" that is, "**My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**"

26. Vinegar and gall to drink

Prophecy: Ps 69:21 They also gave me **gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.**

Fulfillment: John 19:28, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"

John 19:30 So when Jesus had received the **sour wine**, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Matt 27:34 **they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink.** But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.

27. Clothes divided

Prophecy: Ps 22:18 **They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.**

Fulfillment: John 19:24 They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "**They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.**" Therefore the soldiers did these things.

28. No broken bones

Prophecy: Ps 34:20 **He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.**

Fulfillment: John 19:36 For these things were done that the **Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken."**

29. Body didn't decompose

Prophecy: Hos 6:2 **After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up**, That we may live in His sight.

Ps 16:10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, **Nor will You allow Your Holy one to see corruption.**

Fulfillment: Acts 2:30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, **He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne**, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that **His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.**

30. The ascension

Prophecy: Ps 24:7 **Lift up your heads**, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And **the King of glory shall come in.** 8 **Who is this King of glory? The LORD** strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.

Fulfillment: 1 Peter 3:22 **who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God**, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

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31. Heavenly high priest

Prophecy: Zech 6:12 Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: "Behold, the Man whose name is **the BRANCH!** From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the LORD; 13 Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. **He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne,** And the counsel of peace shall be between them both."

Fulfillment: Heb 8:1 Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: **We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,** 2 a Minister of the sanctuary and **of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.**

Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we have **a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens,** Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

ESCHATOLOGY

Eschatology - "The study of 'last days events.'" Eschatology can refer to the Rapture, the Tribulation, the Great Tribulation, Jesus' 2nd coming, the millennial kingdom and/or New Jerusalem. Many Christians do not like to study or discuss eschatology or prophecy because they do not see the relevance in their own lives. Eschatology however, must not be neglected because it points to the reality that Jesus is coming soon.

(Mat 24:42) **"Watch** therefore, for you do not know **what hour your Lord is coming.**

(Mat 24:43) "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

(Mat 24:44) "Therefore you also **be ready,** for **the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**

When addressing the subject of eschatology, it is helpful to use the book of Revelation and chapter 9 in the book of the Daniel as time lines to put prophetic events in a chronological order.

For example, we find in Revelation 1:19 a natural time line for the sequencing of last days events.

(Rev 1:19) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."

1. "Write the things which you have seen,"

The first section speaks of the vision John saw of the risen Christ in heaven (Rev 1:10-20)

2. "And the things which are,"

This section speaks of the present "church age", illustrated in Rev 2-3.

3. "And the things which will take place after this."

This final section speaks of the future Rapture, Great Tribulation, Second Coming of Christ, Millennial kingdom, and New Jerusalem (Rev 4-22)

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(1 Th 5:2-4) For you yourselves **know perfectly** that **the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night**. For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief**. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

a. Rev 4; The Rapture- “Come up here” Rev 4:1; Jesus is coming **“for”** His own. The only place in the book of Revelation that the rapture fits.

(1 Th 4:16) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

(1 Th 4:17) Then we who are alive and remain **shall be caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

(1 Th 4:18) Therefore comfort one another with these words.

b. Rev 6-18; The Great Tribulation- The judgment of the unbelieving world and restoration of the Jews. Jer 30:7 “the time of Jacob’s trouble”

c. Rev 19; Jesus 2nd Coming “with” His own. Rev. 19:14.

d. Rev 20; Millennial Kingdom, literal 1000 years. Last world empire, the physical kingdom verses the spiritual kingdom;

e. Rev 21-22; New Jerusalem

In Daniel 9:24-27 is a timeline for the Jews and Jerusalem in the last days prophetic events.

(Dan 9:24) **“Seventy weeks** [70X7=490] are determined for **your people and for your holy city,**

To finish the transgression, [the penalty of the law; Rom 8:2]

To make **an end of sins**, [at the Cross; Ps 103:12]

to make **reconciliation for iniquity**, [the ministry of reconciliation; 2 Cor 5:18-21]

to bring in **everlasting righteousness**, [everlasting life; John 3:16]

to seal up **vision and prophecy**, [Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy; Rev 19:10]

and **to anoint the Most Holy**. [The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me...Is 61:1]

(Dan 9:25) “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of **the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks**; The street shall be built again, **and the wall**, even in troublesome times. [Nehemiah]

(Dan 9:26) “And **after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off**, [Triumphal entry] but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come **shall destroy the city and the sanctuary** [70 AD]. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the **end of the war desolations** are determined. [Armageddon]

(Dan 9:27) Then he [Antichrist] shall **confirm a covenant with many for one week** [Seven year tribulation]; **But in the middle of the week** [three and ½ years] **He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering** [the Temple]. **And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate**, even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

"Acts 17:11" and "2 Timothy 2:15"

March 14, 445 BC; Artaxerxes Longimanus gives Nehemiah the decree to return and rebuild Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:1-8) thus beginning the Daniel 9 timeline for the coming of Messiah the Prince. 483 years later (69 weeks or exactly 173,880 days) on April 6, 32 AD Jesus enters Jerusalem.

Note: Eschatology and last days events are not allegorical fables, or science fiction novels, but facts based on absolute truth. Don't try to explain it away or think eschatology is far fetched. All who have rejected the literal interpretation of the Bible (including Bible prophecy) have been embarrassed at its' proven reliability and accuracy. No archeological discovery or study in ancient history has ever proven wrong any Biblical text. These sciences have only validated the reliability of the Word of God. In a day that the church should be watching, waiting and warning, it is asleep; May God open our eyes to the eminent return of Jesus Christ.

(2 Pet 3:3-4) knowing this first: that **scoffers will come in the last days**, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "**Where is the promise of His coming?** For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

"Acts 17:11" and "2 Timothy 2:15"

PROPHECY: Assignment; Psalm 22

On a separate sheet of paper list all the Messianic prophecies in Psalm 22 and their NT fulfillment in the Gospels.

Psalm 22

- (1) To the chief Musician upon Aijeleth Shahar, A Psalm of David. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?
- (2) O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.
- (3) But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.
- (4) Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.
- (5) They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.
- (6) But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.
- (7) All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,
- (8) He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.
- (9) But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts.
- (10) I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly.
- (11) Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.
- (12) Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round.
- (13) They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.
- (14) I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.
- (15) My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.
- (16) For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.
- (17) I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me.
- (18) They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.
- (19) But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me.
- (20) Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog.
- (21) Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.
- (22) I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.
- (23) Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel.
- (24) For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.
- (25) My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.
- (26) The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.
- (27) All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.
- (28) For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among the nations.
- (29) All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.
- (30) A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.
- (31) They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this.

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

"Acts 17:11" and "2 Timothy 2:15"

PROPHECY: Assignment; The Rapture

Compare these passages and list the order of events, as well as answering the following questions:

1. In John 14:1-3, what does Jesus promise His disciples? Where does Jesus say He will come from and take His disciples to?
2. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, what does Paul not want them to be ignorant of? Who is Paul writing to? Look up the Greek word for "caught up" and define. Who are those that "sleep in Jesus"? Define "sleep" in this context.
3. In 1 Corinthians 15:50-58, why can't flesh and blood inherit the kingdom of God?
4. From the Text of these passages, comparing what Jesus said about His coming and what Paul taught about the Rapture, how should we respond and apply this to our lives?

John 14:1-3

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

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- (13) But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.
- (14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.
- (15) For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.
- (16) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
- (17) Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
- (18) Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

- (50) Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.
- (51) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--
- (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
- (53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.
- (54) So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."
- (55) "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"
- (56) The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.
- (57) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- (58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.