



# WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE END TIMES?



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WRITTEN BY: PAUL RECORDS  
GRAPHIC DESIGN: JORDON FRYE (SPARQ CREATIVE SOLUTIONS, LLC)





# INTRODUCTION

*Prophecy is not so difficult that we can't understand it, or else God would not have put it into Scripture. There has never been a more urgent time when God's people have needed to know His wonderful plan for the future, and it can be found in the one book that tells us the truth about eternity – the Bible.*  
–Tim LaHaye

As we discover in the Scriptures, man was created as an eternal soul and thus has an undeniable curiosity of his eternity. Solomon wrote that God has placed eternity in the human heart. (See Ecclesiastes 3:11.) We cannot find lasting fulfillment in anything we find on the earth. We must set our affection on the divine. Only in a pursuit of Christ and in a study of the Bible can we find the answers we seek.

Interestingly, 28% of the Bible was prophetic when it was first written. Prophecy flows through the bloodstream of the Bible. Any serious student of the Word of God cannot deny the awesome power and purpose of prophecy.

Due to the nature of certain end time events and due to the time gaps in the fulfillment of certain prophecies, it would be impossible for a four-week study to cover all there is to know. The goal of this study is to serve as an introduction and lay a foundation for future study.

Eschatology can be defined as the part of theology (Scripture) concerned with eternity and the events surrounding the end of life here on earth. Over the next four lessons, students will discover a series of highlights in a study of eschatology. At their conclusion, all participants will know for themselves what the Bible says about the end times.

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## A WORD TO TEACHERS

As you stand to speak, remember to accomplish the following objectives. They will increase your effectiveness as a communicator, provide a standard of excellence, and make it easier for your students to remember the material.

## BE PREPARED

Before you attempt to convey the material in this curriculum:

- Study all four lessons as a whole. Make written notes on your copy and highlight what sticks out to you. Understand the main theme of each session and do your best to convey it to your audience. You may even commit to memorizing each Scripture Focus and encourage your students to do so as well.
- Consider the setting for your class. Will it be a classroom, larger church auditorium, kitchen table, or living room? Ensure that you have enough chairs for your students and provide pens or pencils.
- View the handouts before you pass them out so that you will be familiar with the content.

- Encourage your students to follow along using the handouts and give them time at the end of the session to discuss what was covered.
- Be sure that all your students understand the questions and are able to fill the blanks provided.

You may even consider writing certain things on a chalkboard or whiteboard, or possibly putting some of the material in a PowerPoint presentation if the technology is available. Also, be sure to remain aware of who you are teaching. Stay after each session and mingle with your audience. If certain people are new to the Bible, consider spending more time on certain passages. Make yourself available to answer any questions.

## **BE PRAYERFUL**

If we desire to have a lasting influence and make any spiritual impact on people, we must have the help of Heaven. The week before the course begins, spend extra time in prayer. Clean out your heart in repentance and ask Jesus to guide and direct your thoughts. Pray that your students will understand and remember what they hear. Cover your students with a blanket of prayer, and ask the Lord to shine in their lives. Begin and end each session with a time of prayer.

It is likely that as Jesus leads, certain individuals will express a desire to know more or possibly experience a spiritual new birth if they have not done so already. Prepare your heart to respond if this happens and be ready to tell them about repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, and what it is like to be filled with the Holy Ghost. In every situation, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

## **BE PASSIONATE**

With a topic like God's Holy Word, we should not act like it is common. The Bible is more than a book; it is the living Word. As you study it, teach it, and explain it, do so with passion. Get enthusiastic about the privilege of telling people about its truths. In certain countries, the Bible is against the law and not available to people. I encourage you to develop an appreciation of the Bible and be thankful that God has orchestrated ancient history so that the modern world can embrace His Word. So many individuals throughout history have died so that you may read the Bible in English. Build your life upon it and tell others about it. Study it, listen to it, live it, breathe it, and you will do well.



# A BOOK OF PROPHECY

*What Does the Bible Say About the End Times? Lesson 1*

## 1. IT WILL SHOW YOU THE FUTURE

*The Bible appears like a symphony orchestra, with the Holy Ghost as its Toscanini; each instrument has been brought willingly, spontaneously, creatively, to play his notes just as the great conductor desired, though none of them could ever hear the music as a whole. —J.I. Packer*

H.G. Wells, the famed science fiction writer, wrote a book titled *Time Machine*. The story follows the incredible journeys of a man transported far into the future in a time machine. As an explorer and adventurer, he sits in the time machine and watches as time passes by—hours roll into days, days into years, years into decades, and decades into centuries and millennia.<sup>1</sup> Because he leaps into the distant future, he sees the “destiny” of all of humanity. And that destiny was sometimes quite terrifying, but also hopeful.<sup>2</sup>

Today, we know that there are no such things as time machines. These journeys into the future were all made up in the mind of H.G. Wells. That fact is easy to understand. The idea of time travel is only a fairy tale.

What would you think if I told you that time travel is possible? What if I told you that God selected various holy men throughout history and transported them into the future? And what if I told you that these men lived to tell about it and eventually wrote down what they saw and experienced?

Also, what if I told you that the writings of all these various men are contained in a single book? Even further, what if I told you that this book, and all the knowledge in it, is freely available to you today?

A few read this book and study it, but most ignore it and allow dust to cover its truth-filled pages. Millions if not billions of people know about this book, but far fewer really know it. That book is the Bible, the living Word of the almighty God.

In the Bible, God used certain individuals to record His undying love for humanity. He even gave some the ability to see events to come in the future. The Bible is a written record of not only history, but it is also a record of what is to come. It is a picture of eternity.

For the sake of illustration, we can say that the Bible is like a time machine. It foretells the future. In its pages are descriptions (and sometimes very detailed descriptions) of events that have not happened yet, but will happen in times to come. As this book is a picture of eternity, it shows what could possibly be the eternal destiny, or destination, of every human who walks the planet.

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<sup>1</sup> This “Time Machine” illustration was first used to show the prophetic power of the Bible by John Ankerberg and John Weldon in their *Handbook of Biblical Evidences* (Harvest House Publishers: Eugene, Oregon, 1997), 211–212. Here, I have elaborated on their original thoughts. Any discrepancies are mine.

<sup>2</sup> Ankerberg and Weldon, *Handbook*, 212.

- There are more than six hundred direct references in the Bible to “prophecy” and “prophets.”
- Approximately 28% of the entire Bible contains prophetic material, some of which has already come true while some of which has yet to be fulfilled.
- Only four of the sixty-six books of the Bible are without prophecy (Ruth, Song of Solomon, Philemon, III John).
- 6,641 verses, or 28.5%, of the Old Testament contains prophetic material.
- 1,711 verses, or 21.5% of the New Testament contains prophetic material.
- In total, there are 31,124 verses in the Bible. Out of these 8,352 contain prophetic material.<sup>3</sup>

## 2. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF BIBLE PROPHECY?

The Bible is very clear to state that the purpose of prophecy is not to disperse fear. Rather, its purpose is to shine as a light and point the world to Jesus Christ.

*“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (I Peter 1:19-22).*

The New Living Translation of the Bible says it like this:

*“We have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the morning star shines in your hearts. Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.”*

All Scripture is meant to give hope, peace, and clarity in this present world. As darkness creeps its way over the earth, we should retreat into the promises of the Bible.

*“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).*

## 3. KNOWING THE SIGNS

One of the most detailed passages in the Bible concerning end time events apart from the Book of Revelation is Matthew 24. The significance of this chapter is that many of its words came straight from the lips of Jesus Christ. Eternal realities, such as His second coming, were common features of His teachings.

- **READ:** Matthew 24:1-5.

As Jesus taught, He spoke of the future destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.<sup>4</sup> His disciples were curious. As He spoke of future judgments, they were left with their own interpretations of His words. What did Jesus mean? In time, they were prompted to ask Jesus about the events leading up to the

<sup>3</sup> Ankerberg, John, Handbook on Biblical Evidences (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2008) 68-80.

end times. Interestingly, one of the first descriptions Jesus gave was one of widespread deception and false teaching. "Take heed that no man deceives you," He said.

- **READ:** Matthew 24:6-12.

Next, Jesus talked about political turmoil and war. Famines, pestilences, and earthquakes were also mentioned. As if His words were not already discouraging enough, He added that these events are only the "beginning of sorrows."

In these moments, Jesus addressed His disciples. However, His words extend past the disciples and to the modern church. According to Jesus, a clear sign of His second coming is the persecution of Christians. Offenses shall abound, He said. Brotherly love will wax cold.

According to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity, more martyrs for Jesus Christ died in the twentieth century than the previous nineteen centuries combined. Some 100,000 are killed every year. Some statistics even show that a person is killed somewhere in the world every five minutes simply because they are a Christian.<sup>5</sup> With these facts in mind, we can accurately say that the world is more anti-Christian than ever since the first centuries in Rome.

- **READ:** Matthew 24:13-14.

In the midst of a very harrowing reality there is a silver lining. Rewards are promised to those who endure and persevere in the hard times to come. Despite end time difficulties, the gospel will continue to be preached.

- **READ:** Matthew 24:15-28.

Verse 15 speaks of an event that serves as a turning point. Many consider this to be a central aspect of the Great Tribulation described in detail in the Book of Revelation. When "the abomination of desolation" occurs, it will serve as a signal for God's people to take heed and find safety. The phrase is taken from the Old Testament book of Daniel.

*"And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days"  
(Daniel 12:11).*

Daniel 11:31 refers to Antiochus IV, who desecrated the Jewish temple and set up an idol of Zeus in it. Also known as Antiochus Epiphanes, this Hellenistic ruler is famous for almost conquering Egypt and for his brutal persecution of the Jews, which precipitated the Maccabean revolt.<sup>6</sup> Jesus used the example of this pagan ruler to illustrate what the antichrist will do leading up to the end times.

- Significantly, the apostle Paul also foretold of the antichrist setting himself up as God (II Thessalonians 2:3-4). For the fulfillment of these prophecies, view Revelation 13:14-15.
- **READ:** Matthew 24:29-31.

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<sup>4</sup> In 70 a.d., in response to a Jewish uprising, a Roman army led by General Titus besieged the city of Jerusalem. In a short time, the entire city was sacked and destroyed. Titus ordered his troops to not leave one brick in the city upon another. The destruction was total and complete. The temple in the city was burned to the ground. Apart from a historical event due to political turmoil between Jews and Romans, the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 a.d. is fulfilled biblical prophecy. Nearly 40 years before 70 a.d., Jesus said it would happen. To see this event further illustrated, view Matthew 23:37-38.

<sup>5</sup> The Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. ([www.globalchristianity.org](http://www.globalchristianity.org))

<sup>6</sup> The Thomas Nelson Study Bible (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997). Commentary notes found on pg 1621.

In these three Scriptures, Jesus speaks of the end of the Tribulation period when He descends from heaven to claim victory in the earth. For a more detailed description of this event, view Revelation 19.

- **READ:** Matthew 24:32-35.

In the parable of the fig tree, Jesus teaches that as all of the events He has described begin to unfold, we can be sure that His coming is imminent.

- **READ:** Matthew 24:36-44.

Jesus constantly referred to Old Testament Scriptures as He taught. In this passage, He uses the “days of Noah” to illustrate the state of society leading up to and during the end times. We also see that not everyone will accompany Christ when He returns. Some will be left on the earth; others will be taken up to Heaven.

- **READ:** Matthew 24:45-51.

Again, Jesus paints a vivid contrast between those who follow Him faithfully and anticipate His return and those who live without eternity in mind. As we are challenged by the apostle Peter, we must “take heed” and look to Christ in the times to come. He is a shining light and His Word will illuminate the darkest of days.



# ANCIENT PROPHECIES AND FUTURE FULFILLMENTS

*What Does the Bible Say About the End Times? Lesson 2*

## 1. THE RISE AND FALL OF NATIONS

One of the most fascinating prophecies in the Bible is recorded in the Old Testament book of Daniel. As Daniel 2 opens, the great King Nebuchadnezzar is king over the Babylon Empire.

One night while lying in his bed, he has a terrifying dream. In the dream, Nebuchadnezzar had a vision of a great, metal man. This man stood as a symbol and as a representation. What it represented, Nebuchadnezzar didn't know. The metal man had a head of gold and breast of silver. His belly and thighs were made of brass. He had legs of iron with feet made partly of iron and partly of clay.

Dramatically, a stone struck the feet of the man and he crumbled to the ground. The wind blew away the pieces and the stone then became a great mountain that filled the whole earth.

Being anxious to understand its meaning, Nebuchadnezzar calls for all his magicians and sorcerers and commands them to reveal its meaning. Unable to fulfill his wish, the king grew angry and sentenced them all to die.

At this juncture, the prophet Daniel, one of the many Hebrew captives in Babylon at this time, steps onto the scene. He was brought before the distraught king and gave clarity to Nebuchadnezzar's vision of the metal man.

Having the favor of God, Daniel was able to not only interpret the dream, but also recite all of its details without any help.

After all was said, Daniel revealed all of its meaning.

- **READ:** Daniel 2:27-45.

Having the knowledge of God, Daniel declared that these four metals in the great statue represented four great empires that would successively rule over the civilized world.

Now having the hindsight of history, we are able to firmly establish the following four empires according to Scripture.

WORLD EMPIRE	DESCRIPTION
BABYLON	HEAD OF GOLD
MEDO-PERSIA	CHEST AND ARMS OF SILVER
GREECE	BELLY AND THIGHS OF BRASS
ROME	IRON

Interestingly, Daniel also revealed a fifth kingdom that would eventually rule the earth, represented by feet composed of both iron and clay. It is during the rule of this ten-part (ten toes) kingdom that Jesus Christ, a great stone cut out without human hands, will come to the earth, destroy the kingdoms of man, and set up a kingdom that will fill the whole earth.<sup>7</sup>

Knowing that iron in Nebuchadnezzar's vision represented the rule of Rome, we must conclude that a form of the Roman Empire will emerge during the end times, and, according to Daniel, it will be in place prior to the coming of Christ to rule and reign over the earth.

Aligned with other biblical prophecies, we are well able to establish that this last earthly kingdom points to the future rule of the Antichrist. It's also interesting to note that this future consolidation of world power has similarities with the current European Union.

- For more on this ten-part kingdom and its abominable ruler, refer to Revelation 17:12-14.

It is quite spectacular that more than 2,600 years ago, a prophet of God was given a glimpse of the future and was able to see not only a succession of nations, but also the ultimate triumph of Jesus Christ.

- For an interesting study of comparison, read Malachi 4:1 and try to match any similarities with what you discover in Revelation 19:11-20.

In the end, only one kingdom will reign victorious. At the end of the day, the Lord is in control of it all. As David Jeremiah declares, "The overarching purpose of this metal image was to teach Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel, and everyone else on the planet what happens when man puts himself in control. This vision gives us the history of human civilization, written not by Will Durant or Edward Gibbon, but by God himself."<sup>8</sup>

Later in time, Daniel is also given a vision in a dream during the night. As we analyze its details, we can find certain similarities with the vision of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2.

- **READ:** Daniel 7:2-7.

In his vision, Daniel sees kingdoms as savage beasts, attacking one another and fighting to the death. Knowing that these elements perhaps allude to conflicts between nations, we discover that after the rise of a particular nation, there is always a fall. What was once built by earthly power and might cannot stand when faced with the power and might of the Almighty God.

- **READ:** Daniel 7:8-9.

The description here is rich and we can conclude that in the middle of the international conflict that is soon to envelop the world, an eternal kingdom not made by man will emerge and conquer all that oppose it. As Daniel declared:

*"Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: and he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings" (Daniel 2:20-21).*

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<sup>7</sup> David Jeremiah, *What in the World is Going On?* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2008) 57.

<sup>8</sup> Jeremiah, *What in the World is Going On?*, 50.

In the end, Jesus will come out on top and reign in complete victory for all of eternity! This is why it is vital that we each do what it takes to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord.

## 2. THE EPICENTER OF BIBLICAL PROPHECY

As we consider the full view of biblical prophecy, we view a variety of cause and effect events. At the center of it all, however, is a single geographical region. Much of biblical prophecy has a foundation in this region. From ancient times until today, this area of the world has existed as a hotbed of political activity, protest, and war. The region we refer to is the Middle East.

Many do not realize that a significant amount of the end-time events prophesied by the Bible are centered in the Middle East. All of Heaven and the earth seem to look to the Middle East and its influence on the modern world.

As we look deeper into this region through the filter of biblical prophecy, we set our sights on a single nation: Israel. Uniquely, Israel is a new nation. As of 2017, it is only sixty-nine years old.

As any political science class will convey, there are many nations that oppose the legitimacy of the statehood of Israel. Certain countries and world leaders are fighting politically and militarily against this nation. As Bible-believing Christians, however, we should support the nationhood of Israel. To understand why, we look to an ancient promise spoken by God to the Old Testament patriarch Abraham:

*“Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 12:1-3).*

- For more Scriptures concerning the promise given to Abraham’s descendants, view Genesis 12:7 and Genesis 15:18.

Consider the implications of these Scriptures. God has given the descendants of Abraham an eternal promise of blessing, favor, and provision. Who are these descendants, you may ask? Consider the following:

- Abraham had a son named Isaac. Isaac had a son named **Jacob**.
- After a heavenly encounter, God changed Jacob’s name to **Israel**.
- Israel had **twelve sons**. Over time, these twelve sons grew into twelve distinct **tribes**.
- Over time, these twelve tribes grew into **the nation of Israel**.

The modern nation of Israel started in the Old Testament with Abraham. The promise that began with his descendants extends to the nation of Israel today.

## 3. THE BIBLICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ISRAEL

The modern state of Israel was born on May 15, 1948. Since its inception, the odds have been stacked against it. Compared to other nations, Israel seems to be an under-dog. However, since the first day of Israeli independence, this under-dog nation has never lost a battle to an opposing nation.

What culminated in 1948 for the Jews began many years earlier. After World War I Great Britain

oversaw the region known as Palestine. In 1917, British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour issued The Balfour Declaration, which appealed to justice for the Jews based on their biblical heritage. As a Bible-believing Christian, he wanted to grant Jews all over the world their own national homeland.

Later in time, after World War II, the western world felt guilt over what Hitler's Nazi Germany had accomplished in the Holocaust and the United Nations passed a resolution in 1947 calling for a Jewish and Arab state in a divided land of Palestine.<sup>9</sup>

The Arab nations threatened war if the resolution passed. Even so, on May 14 of the next year the nation of Israel was reborn and declared a state. The first nation to recognize Israel as an official state was the United States under president Harry Truman.

When Israel received its recognition by world leaders, five Arab nations declared war and promised to push the Jews into the Mediterranean Sea.

After independence, war soon followed. In this conflict, Israel's Jews were outnumbered by the surrounding Arab nations nearly 600,000 to 40 million.<sup>10</sup>

On May 15, Egypt began an air attack on Tel Aviv. From the north, east, and south came the armies of Lebanon, Syria, Transjordan, and Egypt. The invading forces were fully equipped with the standard weapons of a regular army of the time - artillery, tanks, armored cars and personnel carriers, in addition to machine guns, mortars and the usual small arms in great quantities, and full supplies of ammunition, oil, and gasoline. Further, Egypt, Iraq, and Syria all had their own air forces.<sup>11</sup>

In contrast, the Jews had no matching artillery, no tanks, and no warplanes in the first days of the war. Invaded from all directions, Israel had to cope with the outbreak of multiple attacks, and had to do so with limited means. The hastily mobilized Israeli army had to defend key positions, block the advance of attacks, and rush to seal gaps in its borders. Despite these odds, Israel won the war.

Interestingly, in the years leading up to this historic event, thousands of Jews returned to Israel from all over the world.

It was as if a giant hand gathered the Jewish people from every corner. At the eve of the twentieth century there were a little over 80,000 Jews living in Palestine. Today, there are over 6,000,000 Jews who call Israel home.<sup>12</sup>

Apart from a heated political topic, the gathering of Jews into the official nation of Israel in 1948 is fulfilled biblical prophecy. Over 2,500 years before 1948, it was prophesied to occur by prophets in the Old Testament.

*"It shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people." The Lord will "set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth (Isaiah 11:11-12).*

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<sup>9</sup> View United Nations Resolution 181. According to Encyclopedia Britannica Online, the resolution called "for the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states, with the city of Jerusalem as a corpus separatum (Latin: "separate entity") to be governed by a special international regime." (<https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations-Resolution-181>).

<sup>10</sup> Bryant Wright, *Seeds of Turmoil* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2010) 20.

<sup>11</sup> Wright, *Seeds of Turmoil*, 22

<sup>12</sup> Statistic taken from the Jewish Virtual Library (<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/latest-population-statistics-for-israel>) accessed on March 8, 2017.

Notice that this passage indicates a second regathering of God's people. The first time God restored His people was after their seventy years in Babylonian captivity, when Jerusalem was rebuilt and the nation of Israel restored. The second restoration of Israel, as prophesied nearly one thousand years beforehand, occurred on May 14, 1948.

Further, in Jeremiah 29:14 the prophet Jeremiah delivered a message from God to the Hebrew people.

*“I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the Lord; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.”*

The most prophesied event in end-time passages in the Bible is the return of the Jewish people to their promised land. As Christian apologist John Ankerberg states, “Unlike the self-proclaimed prophets of today or alleged seers of days gone by, biblical prophets did not peddle vague, general predictions that could be adjusted and manipulated to fit almost any situation.” The prophecies recorded in the Bible are stunningly specific and detailed. This is significant for us because all of the key events of the end times hinge in one way or another on the existence of the nation of Israel.

The number one sign of the times, and the greatest miracle of the twentieth century, is the return of the Jewish people to their homeland from worldwide exile. Many end-time prophecies could not come to pass until Israel had its own statehood. Since Israel has done just that, the dominoes are in motion for the rest of Bible prophecy to unfold.



# REDISCOVERING REVELATION

*What Does the Bible Say About the End Times? Lesson 3*

## 1. THE SOON COMING KING

Thus far, in our study of Bible prophecy and the end times, we have journeyed through many passages in the Old and New Testaments. In this lesson, we will look to a book in the Bible shrouded in mystery and controversy. Located at the very end of the Bible, the Book of Revelation is the most detailed description of end time events available to the church today. All of the Bible's discussions about eternity lead up to this book.

As we shall discover, the Book of Revelation is not meant to incite fear, anxiety, or worry. As it did to first century Christians, it is meant to raise the focus of our hearts to the soon coming King. The Thomas Nelson Study Bible declares:

*“As outside persecution against Christians increased, the first-century church also faced internal problems. They struggled with suffering, spiritual warfare, heretical doctrine and practice, and spiritual apathy. Christ had promised to return—but when? And how? And what would he do about the problems facing the church when he did come back?”*

*Confronted with these circumstances, the original readers of Revelation needed to be both encouraged and exhorted. On the one hand, Revelation was intended to be a promise of divine protection from God's judgement on the world. On the other hand, those who read the book were to take it to heart and obey, worshipfully standing for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus, as the apostle John had. In recording the Revelation of Jesus Christ, John wanted to reassure his readers that Jesus Christ controls the course and climax of history.”<sup>14</sup>*

## 2. FROM THE ISLE OF PATMOS

The writer of the Book of Revelation is the apostle John, who penned these words most likely around 95 a.d. The John of Revelation is also the John who wrote the three epistles of John as well as the Gospel of John. Scripture refers to him as the “beloved disciple” (John 21:10). From his writings, we see that he was a man of tremendous depth and passion. Much of what he wrote testified of the deity of Christ. He was a mentor and apostle to the seven churches mentioned in the first two chapters of Revelation.

The apostle John wrote his gospel after the other gospels were written and was very bold in his ministry. John was so bold, in fact, that he gained the attention of the Domitian, emperor of the Roman Empire (81—96 a.d.). Domitian was the younger brother of Titus (who destroyed the temple in Jerusalem in 70 a.d.) and the son of Vespasian (who besieged Jerusalem during the early part of the Jewish rebellion).

As the last ruler of the Flavian dynasty of Roman emperors, Domitian had a family history that was

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<sup>14</sup> The Thomas Nelson Study Bible (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997). Commentary notes found on pg 2161.

brutally opposed to Jews and Christians. History tells us that he was known to be very pompous, even giving himself the title of “master and god.” In time, he demanded that all of the Roman Empire take an oath to worship him.

As a fierce Christian preacher ministering in Ephesus and throughout the province of Asia, John was arrested and banished to the Island of Patmos. Patmos existed as a slave colony in the Aegean Sea. It was a rocky island, almost treeless, covered with volcanic hills and caves. It was there that John was forced into starvation and slave labor, mining out the stones that were placed in Roman roads throughout the Mediterranean world.

It was in an environment like this that Revelation was written. While on Patmos, possibly carrying stones or carting rocks out of a quarry, John was suddenly taken into the realm of the spirit. On that fateful day, he was shown a picture of a future age painted by the very fingerprints of God.

- **READ:** Revelation 1:17-19.

### 3. AN OUTLINE OF EVENTS

In the twenty-two chapters of Revelation many details are provided. To better understand these details, let's take a brief look at a simple outline of events as they unfold.

- **CHAPTER 1** – An introduction by the apostle John.
- **CHAPTERS 2-3** – The church age, as described by seven different historical churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.
- **CHAPTERS 4-5** – John is taken to Heaven and is given a grand tour.
- **CHAPTERS 6-16** – The events of the tribulation period described in great detail.
  - STAGE 1 – **7 SEALS** (Revelation 6-8)
  - STAGE 2 – **7 TRUMPETS** (Revelation 8-15)
  - STAGE 3 – **7 VIALS** (Revelation 16)
- **CHAPTERS 17-18** – The judgment and destruction of Babylon.
- **CHAPTER 19** – Jesus comes physically to the earth for the second time judging the antichrist and false prophet, and defeats various nations at the Battle of Armageddon.
- **CHAPTER 20** – Jesus binds Satan in the bottomless pit and sets up a one-thousand-year kingdom on earth. Next, judgment is given to those whose names are not found in the book of life.
- **CHAPTERS 21-22** – A description of the eternal rewards Christ has prepared for His church.

With the structure of Revelation in view, we see that Revelation records events before, during, and after the time period known as the tribulation.

### 4. THE RISE OF A GLOBAL LEADER

Perhaps the most talked about figure of the end times is a leader known as the antichrist. From what we understand from biblical prophecy, this leader will step onto the stage of world power and exert global authority.

As we look to worldwide political trends, globalization is advocated by many. In 2017, at the China Development Forum in Beijing, Apple CEO Tim Cook stated that globalization is “great for the

world” and would open markets and create opportunities.<sup>15</sup> In July of 2012, the United Nations urged countries to impose “international” taxes to offset cutbacks in aid by many countries amid global economic turmoil.<sup>16</sup> Though this urging never became law or official policy, such ideas are growing in popularity. Significant to students of Scripture is the fact that for the antichrist to take power, there will have to be a global system coming into place.

According to Scripture, worldwide turmoil, war, and upheaval will set the stage for a world leader to take power. Throughout the New Testament, the word antichrist is used four times, each by the apostle John (I John 2:18, 22; I John 4:3; II John 7). Though the word antichrist is mentioned only four times in Scripture, he is described in various ways.

- **Daniel 9:26**, “the prince that shall come.”
- **Daniel 8:23**, “a king of fierce countenance,” and a “master of intrigue (NLT).”
- **Daniel 11:21**, “a vile person.”
- **Zechariah 11:16-17**, “an idol (worthless) shepherd.”
- **II Thessalonians 2:2**, a “man of sin... the son of perdition.”
- **II Thessalonians 2:9**, “him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.”
- **Revelation 13:1**, “a beast.”

As the title denotes, the antichrist will be against Christ. As Dr. David Jeremiah explains, “The prefix anti can also mean ‘instead of,’ and both meanings will apply to this coming world leader. He will overtly oppose Christ and at the same time pass himself off as Christ.”<sup>17</sup>

We see in Revelation 13:1-3 that the antichrist will receive power from Satan. He will rise to power after defeating other leaders and consolidating his power. (See Daniel 7:7-8.) Daniel 7:25 describes three key acts of this hell-empowered leader.

1. He will use charismatic speech to woo and influence the masses, speaking blasphemous and pompous words against God.
2. He will also persecute and “wear out” those who choose to follow Christ.
3. He will seek to change the “laws and times.”

Dr. Jeremiah points out that during the French Revolution, leaders attempted to gain control of the masses by changing Christian tradition.

*“They set up a new calendar by which years were numbered not from the birth of Christ but from the date of the revolution. They issued decrees to change all Christian churches to ‘temples of reason’ and to melt down church bells for the metal. They actually tried to replace the seven-day week established by God with a ten day week. Such extreme actions showing hostility to everything related to God will characterize the coming world leader.”<sup>18</sup>*

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<sup>15</sup> Chris Street, Apple CEO Tim Cook Argues for Globalization, published March 20, 2017 (<http://www.breitbart.com/california/2017/03/20/apple-ceo-tim-cook-globalization-is-great-to-fix-the-world/>), accessed March 21, 2017.

<sup>16</sup> Reuters, UN Urges Countries To Impose Global Taxes, Raise \$400 Billion, published July 5, 2012 ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/05/un-global-tax\\_n\\_1651759.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/05/un-global-tax_n_1651759.html)) accessed March 21, 2017.

<sup>17</sup> Dr. David Jeremiah, What in the World is Going On? (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2008) 142.

<sup>18</sup> Jeremiah, What in the World is Going On?, 155.

Though we have examples of evil world dictators such as Hitler, Stalin, and Mao Zedong the antichrist will usher in the most anti-Christian, anti-God, and anti-Israel movement the world has ever seen. We also know that during his reign of power, he will be killed and then raised back to life in a mocking of the resurrection of Christ. (See Revelation 13:3-4.) In a final act of terror, the antichrist will set himself up in Jerusalem in the Jewish temple as God. (See Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14.) He will then usher in a final worldwide battle called Armageddon. (See Revelation 19.)

With these frightful events in mind, it's easy to look on the worldwide political scene and anticipate the coming of the antichrist. Who is he? When will he come? Has he already been born? Is he already lurking in the shadows ready to strike against the people of God? Is he already in a position of political power? Will he rise out of the European Union or United Nations? To dwell on these questions is to in fact miss the whole point of the Book of Revelation. We are not challenged to anticipate the coming of the antichrist. We are, rather, to anticipate the coming of another Leader.

## 5. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF REVELATION

As a book, Revelation reveals many things. Early on, it is obvious that, as a whole, the book shows us things to come in the future. As Jesus told John, "Write the things which shall be hereafter" (Revelation 1:19). By this, we see that John's vision is a picture of a period of time that is soon to come.

Among the many "revelations" of Revelation, a primary figure stands in the center. At the end of the age of man, this figure will reign victorious. We find this figure represented in many ways throughout the whole of Scripture. In the Book of Revelation, everything revolves around His ultimate triumph. This figure, around which all of Revelation is focused, is Jesus Christ!

- **Revelation 1:1**, "The revelation of Jesus Christ..."
- **Revelation 1:2**, "...a testimony of Jesus Christ..."

The Book of Revelation, as does every book in the Bible, points to Jesus – the God of Heaven and Earth. It reveals the ultimate triumph of His kingdom over the kingdom of man. Ultimately, the Book of Revelation is a testimony of His greatness, power, glory, victory, and majesty.

What started in the four Gospels culminated on the Cross. What culminated on the Cross was experienced by the world in Acts. What was experienced by the world in Acts is lived within the Epistles. What is lived within the Epistles is rewarded in Revelation. Everything in the Old Testament points to Christ. In the New Testament, Christ is revealed. The Old Testament laid the groundwork for the future redemption of mankind, and in the New Testament, we find that redemption in Jesus Christ. All of Scripture leads up to the victory of Christ over all things. As David declared,

*"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all" (I Chronicles 29:11-12).*

The reason why end time prophecy shouldn't scare us or confuse us is because it reveals or "unveils" Jesus – our Lord and Savior!

- **READ:** Revelation 1:5-8.
- **READ:** Revelation 1:12-18.
- **READ:** Revelation 4:2-11.
- **READ:** Revelation 5:11-13.

If our lives are not right with God, Revelation may bring fear because in the end we see the eternal judgment of the sinful and wicked. In the end, we see that all nations and kingdoms fall in the presence of God's might and power.

However, if we are right with God, Revelation should give us a greater sense of victory. It may look bad now, but in the end, we win. Christ will prevail! Every obstacle and struggle will be defeated! Nothing can stand against our God.

As we look to eternity, we should look to Jesus Christ and anticipate His return to the earth. As we look to eternity, we should prepare our hearts for His coming.

Revelation reveals many things. We know exactly what it reveals about sin, judgment, and the ultimate victory of Jesus Christ. The greater question, however, is "What will it reveal about you?"

In the end, will you fall with every sinful nation? Or, will you rise with Christ and take part in His victory? The choice is yours. Don't waste time in the land of indecision. Today is the day of salvation! Come to God in repentance. If you trust and follow His Word, He is able to forgive and to resurrect your heart.



# LOOKING TO ETERNITY

*What Does the Bible Say About the End Times? Lesson 4*

## 1. IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE

In Scripture, we are told to, “Set our affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:2). Here, we are challenged to look upward toward Christ and live with a hopeful anticipation of His return.

To fully understand what will happen on the day that Christ returns and raptures His church from off the earth, we must discuss what happened to two Old Testament characters: Enoch and Elijah. To begin, we look to the events surrounding Enoch.

*“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God” (Hebrews 11:5).*

We find here a description of the very end of Enoch’s life. He is one of only two people recorded in Scripture that did not experience an earthly death. Genesis 5:24 says, “Enoch walked with God; and he was not; for God took him.” He pleased God so much that God “took” him, or translated him, and he did not experience death while on the earth.

In this sense, the word translation indicates what many understand as “rapture.” Enoch was snatched up and raptured into heaven. Enoch was in one place in space and time, in one form of existence, when God simply and suddenly transferred him to another.

The story of Elijah is a bit different. In II Kings 2:11, we find that he also did not experience a physical death. At the end of his life, God sent a chariot of fire down from heaven and it picked Elijah up and carried him back up in a whirlwind.

That is what happened to Enoch and Elijah. Interestingly, something similar will happen on the day that Christ returns to the earth to translate, or rapture, His church. On that day, all those that have been saved according to Scripture will ascend to heaven with Christ.

When that day comes, we will be taken in an instant. Like Enoch, if we have been cleansed by repentance, water baptism, and the Holy Ghost we will be translated into Heaven. As he did for Elijah, Jesus will send His heavenly chariot throughout every part of the earth to collect His bride, the Church, for which He shed His blood upon the cross. Will you be ready?

In many places, the Bible describes what will happen on that day. I Thessalonians 4:16-17 says, “In the twinkling of an eye” Christ will shout from heaven and “the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.”

In these Scriptures, the term “caught-up” in its original Greek is the one word *harpazo*, which means “snatched up” to be with Christ.

I Thessalonians 4 says it will happen in the “twinkling of an eye,” which indicates quickly, suddenly, and abruptly.

In Matthew 24:42, we are told to, “Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.” Speaking of the return of Christ, I Thessalonians 4:18 encourages us, “Wherefore, comfort one another with these words.”

## 2. FOUR BIBLICAL POINTS ABOUT HELL

### #1

As it pertains to Heaven and Hell and life after the grave, the Bible is the only valid authority. There is only one way to Jesus and His Word is the only source for truth about matters of eternity. (See Jeremiah 32:39 and John 14:6.)

### #2

Hell, or “the lake of fire” as described in Scripture, is not just a state of mind. (See Revelation 20:14 and Revelation 21:8). Rather, it is a literal place as described in the Bible where those lost in sin will ultimately spend all of eternity. It is the end result of a life of sin and wickedness. Those who live a life of sin and follow selfish pleasures, those who bow to carnality and those who have evil hearts will have a terrifying destiny in eternity. We find in Hell that sin has great consequences. As the apostle Paul wrote, “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

### #3

The destiny of the lost is a condition of extreme misery and discomfort, as indicated by various descriptive terms:

- **Luke 16:28**, “place of torment.”
- **Matthew 25:41**, “everlasting fire.”
- **Mark 9:44**, “where the fire is not quenched.”
- **Revelation 21:8**, “the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone.”
- **Revelation 9:2**, “the bottomless pit.”
- **Matthew 25:30**, “a furnace of fire... wailing and gnashing of teeth.”
- **Jude 1:13**, “blackness of darkness forever.”
- **Revelation 14:11**, “the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever: and they have no rest day and night.”

### #4

Many of the descriptions of Hell come from the words of Christ. He often spoke of the coming judgement. The most common Greek word translated “Hell” in English is *gehenna* and it appears eleven times in the teachings of Jesus.<sup>19</sup>

The word *gehenna* is a transliteration of the Hebrew words “ge” and “hinnon” and illustrates the name for the Valley of Hinnom located southeast of Jerusalem. Interestingly, the English word “Hinnon” comes from a Hebrew word meaning “lamentation.”

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<sup>19</sup> Matthew 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5

During the days of the Old Testament kings Ahaz and Manasseh, many Jews turned from God and erected idols to worship pagan and false gods. They built a temple to the Canaanite fire-god Molech in the Valley of Hinnom. (See Jeremiah 7:31.)

It's recorded that, to worship Molech, the people put their children in the arms of a heated idol and burned them to death.

This brought screams from the children and wailings from the mothers. Later, when Josiah became king, he destroyed the temple and forbade the worship of Molech. From that point forward, the "Valley of Hinnom" became a despised and desecrated place to the Jews, where many people dumped heaps of trash. Fires were kept burning continuously to keep the place sanitary.

Over time, the word *gehenna* became to mean something abominable; and it became a way to express the eternal destiny and destruction of the wicked.<sup>20</sup> In New Testament times, it became equivalent in terminology to "lake of fire." (See Revelation 20:14.)

As Christ spoke often of Hell, he also spoke of Heaven. He was sure to paint a clear picture of the rewards waiting those who surrender their lives to His gospel and strive to live according to His Word.

### 3. THE NEW JERUSALEM

In Revelation 21:10-11, the apostle John was given a vision of the New Jerusalem as, "That great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God." The appearance of the city was that of a bright light or precious jewel. It was clear and radiant. Revelation 21:11 describes Heaven as "a jasper stone, clear as crystal." It is pure, undefiled, and holy.

Revelation 21 describes the city as being in the shape of a cube, with an equal length, height, and breadth of 12,000 furlongs (1,500 miles). Its walls are beautifully adorned with pure gold, as clear as glass. The twelve foundations of the city are covered with all sorts of precious stones. It has twelve gates, three on each side, all made of pearl. The Bible also mentions a street of gold.

The glory of the city is the glory of God. The light of heaven has the radiance of God's complete character, reflecting the wonder and beauty of His being.

The city called Heaven does not require a temple or place of worship to access the presence of God because the Almighty God will be present as our temple.

There will be no need of the sun or moon or light or fire because the glory of God will shine as our light. There will be no night there, no darkness, and nothing warped by the curse of sin. (See Revelation 21:27.)

Everything will be pure and undefiled. Heaven will be a place of indescribable joy.

*"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new"*  
(Revelation 21:4-5).

This is why the great apostle acted as he did and said what he said to the Corinthians. After a long life, Paul anticipated experiencing the joys of heaven and being able to see his Jesus face to face. In his

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<sup>20</sup> J.L. Hall, *Doctrines of the Bible* (Hazelwood, MO: Word Aflame Press, 1993), 56.

last words to Timothy, we recognize his anticipation.

“There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (II Timothy 4:8).

## 4. GOD’S PROPHETIC PROMISE FOR YOU

As H.G. Wells in his classic work *Time Machine* wrote about a destiny that was both terrifying and hopeful, the Bible describes two eternal destinations. As you look to Scripture, you will find an eternity that is either solemn or hopeful. Most importantly, however, is what exactly the Bible says about your future. What is your eternity? Does biblical prophecy give you hope or despair? The only person who can settle the issue is you!

Every person on this planet has an eternal destination. When life is over, we each will spend eternity somewhere. The Bible says that there is a Heaven and there is a Hell. It also says that this world, in all its splendor, will one day fade away. It will not last forever. Every skyscraper, car, house, fad, famous monument, school and sports team will one day cease to be. Everything made by earthly hands will one day cease to exist. Only godly things, heavenly things, and spiritual things will last forever. Therefore, it is very important that we make sure we do what is necessary to make it into Heaven and avoid the judgement to come.

Already, we have discovered the prophetic promise concerning the nation of Israel and its significance to biblical prophecy. As we conclude our series, it’s important to note that according to the New Testament, the Church is God’s spiritual Israel. While the nation of Israel represents God’s physical people, the Church represents God’s spiritual people. And every promise that was extended to the Israelites in the Old Testament extends to the church today. Promises to bless those who bless us. Promises to curse those who curse us. Promises to preserve us when the enemy raises its head against us (as we see during the tribulation).

From the very beginning, the eternity of the Church has been sealed. The odds may not be in our favor, but we have a God who is. And that is enough.

And just as God stepped in the battle to defend the nation of Israel, and will defend Israel at the battle of Armageddon, He will come to the aid of His church in its time of need.

As you look to your eternity today, be encouraged. God has promised to preserve His church. No matter what happens, stay anchored to the people of God.

*“So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).*

The world may raise its ugly head in a ferocious show of intimidation. Nations may rise up against biblical ideals and truths, but have no fear.

*“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (I John 4:4).*

The book of Esther is a great example of an adversary rising up to destroy God’s people. Haman, the evil ruler under the king, sought to wipe out Israel in one fatal swoop. At one point, it looked like he would win. However, God used a young Jewish girl named Esther to throw a wrench in his plans. In the end, Haman died instead of the Jews.

In the end, he did not win. The odds may have been stacked against God's people, but that's when God stepped on the scene and brought about a great deliverance.

If you have not yet been born into the church, today is a great opportunity. Make your eternity sure. Today is the day of salvation. (See II Corinthians 6:2.)

Just as many other prophecies hinge upon the nation of Israel being in the right place, the plan of God for your life is incomplete without you being in the right with Him.

If you feel disconnected and broken in pieces, turn to Him and submit your life to His plan. Once you turn to Him in repentance, the full weight of His glory will come in and set other promises in motion.

Just as He did for the nation of Israel, God's hand is able to gather all the pieces of your life and put them right where they belong.



# A BOOK OF PROPHECY

*What Does the Bible Say About the End Times? Lesson 1 Handout*

*The Bible appears like a symphony orchestra, with the Holy Ghost as its Toscanini; each instrument has been brought willingly, spontaneously, creatively, to play his notes just as the great conductor desired, though none of them could ever hear the music as a whole. –J.I. Packer*

In what way is the Bible like a time machine?

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- There are more than six hundred direct references in the Bible to “prophecy” and “prophets.”
- Approximately 28% of the entire Bible contains prophetic material, some of which has already come true while some of which has yet to be fulfilled.
- Only four of the sixty-six books of the Bible are without prophecy (Ruth, Song of Solomon, Philemon, III John).
- 6,641 verses, or 28.5%, of the Old Testament contains prophetic material.
- 1,711 verses, or 21.5% of the New Testament contains prophetic material.
- In total, there are 31,124 verses in the Bible. Out of these 8,352 contain prophetic material.

Do you agree with the purpose of Bible prophecy as it is presented in this lesson?

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As you look to the events of the present day, can you identify at all with the words of Christ in Matthew 24? With which events can you identify?

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What is the proper response to the prophetic signs of today that point to the return of Christ?

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# ANCIENT PROPHECIES AND FUTURE FULFILLMENTS

*What Does the Bible Say About the End Times? Lesson 2 Handout*

In Nebuchadnezzar's dream as recorded in Daniel 2, what do the parts of the great metal man represent?

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What biblical evidence is there to suggest that the fifth kingdom in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represents the future reign of the antichrist?

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Can you explain the gap between the Old Testament patriarch Abraham and the modern nation of Israel? Why do modern Jews look to Abraham as a religious father?

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## THINK AND DISCUSS

- From what you've learned in this lesson, do you think it is accurate to say that the birth of Israel in 1948 is a miracle?
- In what way is the return of the Jewish people from worldwide exile the epicenter of end time prophecies?
- What do you think was God's purpose in giving Daniel the dream that is recorded in Daniel 7?
- How can we apply the lessons learned in this lesson? How are these lessons relevant to everyday living?



# REDISCOVERING REVELATION

*What Does the Bible Say About the End Times? Lesson 3 Handout*

- Before this lesson began, what kind of ideas or mental pictures came to mind when the Book of Revelation was discussed?
- How would the Book of Revelation have been significant to first century Christians?
- Why is it unique that John's vision of the Book of Revelation was given while he was banished to the island of Patmos?

## AN OUTLINE OF EVENTS

- **CHAPTER 1** – An introduction by the apostle John.
- **CHAPTERS 2-3** – The church age, as described by seven different historical churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.
- **CHAPTERS 4-5** – John is taken to heaven and is given a grand tour.
- **CHAPTERS 6-16** – The events of The Tribulation Period described in great detail.
  - STAGE 1 – **7 SEALS** (Revelation 6-8)
  - STAGE 2 – **7 TRUMPETS** (Revelation 8-15)
  - STAGE 3 – **7 VIALS** (Revelation 16)
- **CHAPTERS 17-18** – The judgment and destruction of Babylon.
- **CHAPTER 19** – Jesus comes physically to the earth for the second time judging the antichrist, false prophet, and defeats various nations at the Battle of Armageddon.
- **CHAPTER 20** – Jesus binds Satan in the bottomless pit and sets up a one-thousand-year kingdom on earth. Next, judgment is given to those whose names are not found in the book of life.
- **CHAPTERS 21-22** – A description of the eternal rewards Christ has prepared for His church.

In what ways did this lesson change your perception of the Book of Revelation?

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# LOOKING TO ETERNITY

*What Does the Bible Say About the End Times? Lesson 4 Handout*

How do the biblical characters Enoch and Elijah illustrate what will occur at the rapture of the church?

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In what ways did this lesson change your perception of Hell?

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How does Revelation 21:4-5 give you hope about the joys of Heaven?

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As H.G. Wells in his classic work *Time Machine* wrote about a destiny that was both terrifying and hopeful, the Bible describes two eternal destinations. As you look to Scripture, you will find an eternity that is either solemn or hopeful. Most importantly, however, is what exactly the Bible says about your future. What is your eternity? Does biblical prophecy give you hope or despair? The only person who can settle the issue is you!

- With this in mind, what can you do today that would ensure that you reach the eternal destination that you desire?
- How should the End Time prophecies in the Bible change the way we live our lives?