

TEXT- 2 Peter 1:19-21 *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.*

INTRO – Revelation 1:1-3 *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

Matthew 24:3 *And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*

Prophecy is an intriguing topic. The idea that future events are predicted in the Bible with stunning accuracy builds confidence in the Word of God. In the Bible we find phrases such as: “The last days” “The end of the world” “The great tribulation” “The great white throne” “Signs of the times” “The mark of the beast” “A new heaven and a new Jerusalem”

The Bible was written over a period of more than 1,500 years, on three continents by more than 40 authors, who wrote in three different languages. Yet despite its range of topics, the Bible displays a flawless internal consistency. It never contradicts itself or its common theme.

There are several events in the Bible that are still future events that will occur exactly as prophesied.

- Prophecies concerning the messiah.

Theologian Alfred Edersheim found 456 Old Testament verses referring to the Messiah or His times both past and future. Prophets predicted the first coming of Christ His birth, crucifixion, and resurrection. His second coming is still future but it will be personal and visible.

Acts 1:11 *Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

Revelation 1:7 *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*

His second coming is called the blessed hope.

Titus 2:13 *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the*

great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

The next major event on God’s calendar is the rapture of the church. No one knows the day or hour but we are to prepare ourselves for this event.

2 Peter 3:12 *Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

The rapture of the church will occur in the blinking of an eye. The rapture will precede the second coming of Christ and will initiate the beginning of the tribulation.

A term often used is the pretribulation rapture.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

Christ’s second coming invokes several events. Though the rapture is not part of His second coming it is a precursor to it. Other events must be put in place prior to His coming.

Israel will return the land. **Ezekiel 37:1-14.** The prophet is asked this question, “Will these bones live again?”

Israel became a state in 1948 and since then the Jews have been returning to their homeland in droves. God is not finished with the Jewish nation. His timeline has put them aside during this church age, but that is about to change.

Romans 11:1 *I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.*

The Great Tribulation will occur soon after the rapture of the church. It is interesting that the event that will trigger the last seven years of this period will be the covenant of the Antichrist to protect the Jews. After three- and one-half years the Antichrist will break this covenant and this will usher in what is considered the Great Tribulation.

Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

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

Rome is called "the people of the prince that shall come." Who is this prince? Not "Messiah the Prince," because that refers to Christ. "The prince that shall come" is Antichrist. He will be the leader of the restored Roman Empire. This seven-year period is also known as the time of Jacob's trouble. It is described in Revelation 6-19.

After three and a half years, Gog and her allies will invade Palestine (see Ezek. 38-39), and God will judge them. Antichrist will invade the land, break his covenant, and set himself up as world dictator. He will stop all worship at the Jewish temple (2 Thessalonians 2:1-17) and force the world to worship him and his image. This is the abomination of desolation spoken of in Matthew 24:15.

The Second Coming of Christ (Also referred to as the second advent) Will be the climax of the time period. Jesus Christ will return to earth, meet the rebel armies at Armageddon, and defeat them (Rev 19:11-21).

The Premillennial view of His reign teaches us that Christ will return to this earth prior to the millennial kingdom and will sit on the throne of David where He will rule for a thousand years. It is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy stating they will beat their swords in to plowshares.

Isaiah 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Characteristics of the culture during His return.

- Like the days of Noah and Lot the culture will be evil.

Luke 17:26-30 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

War and violence will run rampant.

Natural disasters will be widespread

The mark of the beast, 666, will be instituted and no one can buy or sell without it.

People will be deceived by a charismatic and convincing false prophet. Israel's neighbors will threaten to invade and at the valley of Megiddo the last battle will be fought, called the battle of Armageddon.

The Millennial kingdom will be ushered in as a time of peace and we shall rule and reign with Him.

Isaiah 11:6-9 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Many Biblical scholars and historians (going all the way back to Josephus in the First Century) have identified the countries listed in the Bible with their modern counterparts. They are as follows:

- **Magog: Russia**
- **Meshech: Moscow**
- **Tubal: Tobolsk – Georgia, Russia**
- **Persia: Iran**
- **Ethiopia: Ethiopia**
- **Libya: Libya**
- **Gomer: Germany**
- **Togarmah: Turkey/Armenia**

Other Islamic nations will probably be involved.

Also, an army from the East or 200 million strong - China

CONCL – We are in the final hours. We must make the most of our limited time!