

The Timeline of Final Bible Prophecy

What is Bible prophecy?

“Prophecy is history written before it happens”

Revelation 19:10b

“For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”

Did you know that 28 percent of the Bible is prophecy?

Evangelist Tiff Shuttlesworth says that

“Bible prophecy is not given to Scare Us,

Bible prophecy is given to Prepare Us.”

I'll say that again.

Bible prophecy is not given to scare us, Bible prophecy is given to prepare us.

Prophecy was given to change our relationship with God and set us on a course of right thinking.

Instead of looking to ourselves or the news networks, or social media or even some TV preachers, we ~~are to~~^{to} look at the Bible for the answers to this perplexing evil filled world in which we live.

Isaiah 46:9-10 NLT

“Remember the things I have done in the past.

For I alone am God!

I am God, and there is none like me.

Only I can tell you the future

before it even happens.

Everything I plan will come to pass,
for I do whatever I wish."

There are many questions being asked today about our world and the current state the world is in.

Everyone is wanting to know what is going on and why is all of these things happening?

Questions like,

Are we living in the last days?

What is the meaning of the Last Days?

What does the Bible say about people in the last days?

What is the timeline of events in the end time?

These are all great questions.

But the answer to these questions can only be found in the Bible.

Let's begin with the last question first.

The best way determine if we are living in the last days is look at a timeline.

The Psalmist said in chapter 90:12

"So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom."

There was a young man in Jerusalem

His name was Daniel.

History says that he was born in 620 BC

When he reached the age of 15, he along with 69 other bright young men were taken from their land and brought to a foreign land to study at we would call a university.

They were to learn all the ways of the Babylonians.

The university in Babylon was no different than most of our universities.

This university “taught” and let me quote the scripture here...

Daniel 1:1-4

“During the third year of King Jehoiakim’s reign in Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. The Lord gave him victory over King Jehoiakim of Judah and permitted him to take some of the sacred objects from the Temple of God. So Nebuchadnezzar took them back to the land of Babylonia and placed them in the treasure-house of his god.

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah’s royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives. “Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men,” he said. “Make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge and good judgment, and are suited to serve in the royal palace. Train these young men in the language and literature of Babylon.”

I WANT YOU TO NOTICE SOMETHING HERE.

Ashpanez was ordered to indoctrinate these young men in the customs and the way of thinking of the Babylonians.

He was to reprogram them into thinking like Babylonians and not to think like Jews.

Nebucadnezzar didn't want them to listen to their parents teaching anymore.

God had given specific instructions to Moses about how parents are to teach their children.

They were to teach them about Jehovah when got up in the morning till they went to sleep at night.

Are we teaching our children the way God wants them to be taught?

The saddest scripture in the Bible for me is Judges 2:10

"All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and another generation rose up after them who did not know the LORD, nor even the work which He had done for Israel."

That is an indictment against the parents and the Grandparents. They are the ones that had the responsibility of training and teaching their children the ways of the Lord.

Back to Daniel.

Ashpanez was to so indoctrinate them that he even gave them new Babylonian names.

They were trying to change identities even back then. The Devil is still up to his same old tricks.

These young men were to be in Babylon U for 3 years.

some time during their 2nd year King Nebuchadnezzar
Had a dream.

This dream was so troubling to him he called in all his advisors,
soothsayers, and magicians.

The dream was so disturbing to Nebuchadnezzar that he told
them to tell him his dream, and to interpret the dream.

That would be an impossible task unless you had supernatural
connections.

Living among the exiles that Nebuchadnezzar had deported from
Israel were some strong (in their faith) young men who put God first and
would not compromise to appease the king.

One of those exiles was a 17 year old who would not defile himself
with the ways of his captors.

When the king's advisors couldn't do what the king asked them to
do, the king ordered all of them to be executed, including those who
were in the schools.

Upon hearing the execution order, Daniel asked for time to seek God
and pray.

God honored his prayer and gave him both the dream that the king
had, but also gave Daniel the interpretation.

The prophet Daniel was given knowledge of the present and future
world governments by God himself.

The knowledge God gave Daniel is rich with information to what
God says will happen from the time Daniel was a teenager till the second
coming of Jesus.

God reveals hidden things to prepare us for what is about to happen.

Turn in your Bibles to Daniel chapter 2

Verses 19-23 NLT

First, it is important that we see what Daniel did HE Pleaded with his friends, He prayed to God, He praised God, he pronounced what God showed him.

Verses 29-35

Daniel tells the dream Nebuchadnezzar had that God showed him.

Verses 39-45

Daniel interprets the dream that God revealed to him.

The statue is a prophecy of world events from Daniels time to the end of the tribulation.

1. The Babylonian 626 BC -539 Bc The head of Gold
2. The Medo-Perasian 539 BC-333Bc The chest of silver
3. The Greek 333 BC -146 BC The belly and wait of bronze. Daniel prophesied that when Alexander the Great died that his kingdom would not go to his relatives but would be divided up between his 4 generals.
4. The Roman 146 BC -476 AD The legs of Iron (Rome, Constantinople)
5. The revived Roman will start with the tribulation and run 7 years
The feet of half iron and half clay

6. The Messianic Kingdom is when Jesus returns and destroys this world system of governments and He will rule for 1,000 years.

Jesus is The Rock hewn from the mountain but not by human hands.

Daniel would be given a vision about the 70 weeks which the first 69 have been fulfilled when Jesus came into Jerusalem and was crucified. These weeks are actually (heptads). A heptad means 1 week equals 7 years.

We won't get into the details of that, but you need to know what this means so that you will have a better understanding of God's timeline.

Then we have what theologians call a "parenthetical pause"

This parenthetical pause is the church age.

This parenthetical pause is between the 69th week which is when Jesus rode into Jerusalem and was crucified. (Daniel calls it when the messiah would be cutoff.)

The parenthetical pause is the church age. It is the time that Jesus has commissioned His church to evangelize this lost and dying world.

Pause a moment and ask yourself this question,

Am I being sensitive to the Holy Spirit's urging to witness and share the gospel to whomever He brings us into contact with?

The reason is very clear. God loves His creation and wants everyone to turn from sin and to turn to Him.

He doesn't want you to perish and neither does he want your neighbor to perish.

2 Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance.”

If you are a born again believer you are are part of God’s church and you are chosen to be a light pointing the lost to Jesus.

We are to be salt scripture says so that with words of love and compassion we make those we witness to thirst after Jesus.

The 70th week will begin after the rapture of the church. That 70th week is known as the Tribulation.

Question 1

Are we living in the last days

To answer that question we need to answer question number 2 first.

What is the meaning of the “last days”

In the Bible we see that there are 2 covenants.

The Old covenant which is primarily written to the Israel, and

The New covenant is written to primarily to the church.

I say that primarily because we see in Romans where Paul is expressing his desire for all of Israel to be saved.

We see also in Revelation how God will come to Israel’s rescue.

The last days to the Christian refers to the the days leading up to the rapture of the church, or to put it another way, the end of the age of grace, or the church age.

Close to the end of the church age the nation of Israel would be reborn.

We must understand this so we do not become confused and think that the scriptures are talking about the church when in reality it is talking about Israel.

Some people say the the church began on the day of pentecost. The Bible says that the church began at Jesus' first advent.

I would propose the church age began at Jesus' first coming. He said that He would build His church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. With that in mind we believe that the church began with Jesus' first coming.

Jesus is the architect who designed His church.

He is the author and finisher of our faith.

It is His church. We are his workers.

The church age will end with the rapture of the church. This we call the end of the age.

(I want you to make a note at the beginning of chapter 4 of the book of Revelation this is the rapture of the church. The church is mentioned 19 times in the first 3 chapters of Revelation and is not mentioned again until chapter 19.)

Let's recap our timeline thus far.

1. Daniel prophecies 5 world empires ending with the revised Roman Empire during the tribulation.

2. Jesus comes the 1st time around 4 BC to fulfill Isaiah chapter 53 and over a hundred prophecies about His coming.
3. With Jesus' coming the church is established.
4. Towards the end of the church age God will stir the hearts of the Jews to return to their homeland. Fulfilled May 14, 1948.

Jesus said in Mathew when you see the fig tree begins. To blossom.

The fig tree represents Israel.

5. The rapture will take place after Israel becomes a nation and before the tribulation at an unknown hour. Ask yourself, Has Israel become a nation again? Yes. Then it stands to reason that the rapture could take place at any time.
6. The 7 years of tribulation begins after the church is raptured to heaven
7. Jesus returns to the earth exactly (2520 days after the signing of the peace accord between the Jews and the gentiles, that is put forth by the Antichrist.
8. Jesus sets up His 1,000 year reign of peace.
9. Great white throne judgement
10. New heaven and new earth with God for all eternity.

So, according to scripture the last days for Christians refer to the days of GRACE, or the church age.

So with certainty, we can say that we are living in the last days. We will look at that a little deeper when we address the Rapture of the Church.

For Israel the last days are will continue until Jesus returns the second time to the earth to stop the antichrist and to stop the desecration and false worship, and to set up His millennial reign.

QUESTION 3

Who are the different groups of people in the last days?

There are many people groups in the world. Heaven will be filled with Christians from every nation, tribe and tongue. Our ethnicity does not make us a christian.

However,

Spiritually speaking there are only 3 groups of people on the earth.

1.Jews

2.Gentiles

3.Christians (believers in Jesus the Messiah). Christians are made up of born again Jews and born again gentiles.

Chew on that one and after a little while you will see what I mean.

QUESTION 4

What is the order of events in the end time?

1. Notice there is a difference between last days and end times.
2. Christianity depicts the end times as “a period of tribulation that precedes the second coming of Christ” who will face the rise of the Antichrist along with his power structure and false prophet, and usher in the Kingdom of God.

We briefly touched on the church age, let's back up just a bit to when the clock of the end of the age started ticking.

1. The key or the number one event that started the end time clock ticking was the establishment of Israel as a nation again.

Isaiah 66:8,9 is the prophecy referring to the re-establishment of Israel as a Nation.

"Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things?

Can a land be born in one day?

Can a nation be given birth all at once?

As soon as Zion was in labor, she also delivered her sons."

Israel had to become a nation again to fulfill prophecy.

Jesus himself said in Mark 13:28

"Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that His return is near, even at the door.

Note: HIS RETURN not His meeting in the air. His return refers to Jesus's 2nd coming. Since we are seeing more and more of the signs coming to pass, how close are we to the Rapture?

This is referring to the nation of Israel returning to the land God had promised to Abram from God who said that "And He said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to GIVE YOU THIS LAND, to possess it." Gen 15:7 "And He said to him, "I am the LORD who

brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it.”

The Number 1 prophecy concerning the end times is that Israel had to become a nation again for the end time clock to start.

2. The Jews began to return to the Land of Israel in the late 1800's. God was drawing them back to the land of promise.

Jesus prophesied in Math 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 that the temple would be destroyed and the Jews would be scattered.

The old testament prophets tell us that they would be brought back to the land God had promised them.

Look at these passages of scripture that refer to the Jews returning to their homeland.

Ez 34:11-13

““For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search and find my sheep. I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day. I will bring them back home to their own land of Israel from among the peoples and nations. I will feed them on the mountains of Israel and by the rivers and in all the places where people live.”

Ex 36:6,7

““Therefore, prophesy to the hills and mountains, the ravines and valleys of Israel. This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am furious that you have suffered shame before the surrounding nations. Therefore, this is

what the Sovereign LORD says: I have taken a solemn oath that those nations will soon have their own shame to endure.”

Ez 36:10,11

“I will greatly increase the population of Israel, and the ruined cities will be rebuilt and filled with people. I will increase not only the people, but also your animals. O mountains of Israel, I will bring people to live on you once again. I will make you even more prosperous than you were before. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”

Ex 37

Speaks of the valley of dry bones. And God showed Ezekiel that He would bring them back in stages and then would restore them to their home land.

God also promised that He would reunite Israel with Judah. They would no longer be 2 separate nations, but instead they would come back as one.

Jeremiah 30: 1-4

“The LORD gave another message to Jeremiah. He said, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Write down for the record everything I have said to you, Jeremiah. For the time is coming when I will restore the fortunes of my people of Israel and Judah. I will bring them home to this land that I gave to their ancestors, and they will possess it again. I, the LORD, have spoken!”

This is the message the LORD gave concerning Israel and Judah.”

Another scripture can be found in Zech chapter 10:8 & 9

“When I whistle to them, they will come running,
for I have redeemed them.
From the few who are left,
they will grow as numerous as they were before.
Though I have scattered them like seeds among the nations,
they will still remember me in distant lands.
They and their children will survive
and return again to Israel.”

Another scripture says that God will entice them to come home like a fisherman baits a line to entice the fish to bite and God would send out hunters to hunt them down so they would flee from the hunters and return to their homeland.

Jeremiah 16:14-16

““But the time is coming,” says the LORD, “when people who are taking an oath will no longer say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who rescued the people of Israel from the land of Egypt.’ Instead, they will say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the people of Israel back to their own land from the land of the north and from all the countries to which he had exiled them.’ For I will bring them back to this land that I gave their ancestors.”

“But now I am sending for many fishermen who will catch them,” says the LORD. “I am sending for hunters who will hunt them down in the mountains, hills, and caves.”

The fisherman was Theodor Herzl from Hungary . He is known as the father of modern Zionism. He started the Zionist Organization and in the late 1800's he promoted Jewish immigration back to the land of Israel to form a Jewish state.

The hunter could be assigned to Adolf Hitler. His demonic Slaughter of over 6 million Jews drove them back to the land of Israel.

The first key to end times prophecy as we just read is that Israel would again become a nation. That prophecy was fulfilled May 14, 1948

2. The second important prophecy would be fulfilled June 5-10th of 1967. This is known as the 6 day war.

The significance of this war was for the Jews to have control and recapture of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is the most important city in all the world. Here are some reasons that statement is true.

1. Jerusalem is the chosen city going all the way back to Abraham.

God directed Abraham to take his son Isaac to Mount Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice. God provided a lamb.

2. David would conquer Jerusalem and name it the city of our God.

3. Jesus would be crucified outside of Jerusalem fulfilling prophecy.

4. Jesus was taken up to heaven near Jerusalem

5. Jesus will return at the end of the tribulation and set his millennial kingdom up in Jerusalem.

6. Jerusalem will be the capital city of the whole world during Christ's 1,000 year reign. And King David will return with Jesus and will be the prince of all of Israel during the millennial.

Ez 34:23,24 "And I will set over them one shepherd, my servant David. He will feed them and be a shepherd to them. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David will be a prince among my people. I, the LORD, have spoken!"

This promise to David is repeated in

7. Ez 37:25 David will be the prince over Israel during the milenial.

"My servant David will be their king, and they will have only one shepherd. They will obey my regulations and be careful to keep my decrees. They will live in the land I gave my servant Jacob, the land where their ancestors lived. They and their children and their grandchildren after them will live there forever, generation after generation. And my servant David will be their prince forever."

God is so good. Think about this King David will come back and rule the nation of Israel during the 1,000 year reign of Jesus.

7. In the eternal kingdom God will make a new Jerusalem

The last question was,

What will people be like in the last days.

2 Tim 3:1-5

“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power; avoid such people as these.

What do we see today?

1. People love themselves (selfies)
2. They would love money
3. They are boastful, arrogant,
4. Slanderers
5. Disobedient to their parents
6. Thankless, irreligious, haters, always wanting their own way
7. Gossipers
8. Without any restraint (lacking self control)
9. Would make time for pleasure but have no time for God.
10. Religious but pushing the Holy Spirit away. Denying God and the power the Holy Spirit gives us to witness. Acts 1:8
11. Paul said to avoid these kind of people

Church we are there.

The day of the rapture is near.

Will Jesus take us in the rapture?

Or will you be left for the tribulation and wrath of God?

There is only one way to escape the judgement that lies ahead.

That way is to make Jesus Lord of your life.