

Stay & Study “How Do I Study My Bible” For Women
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The Bible and History

Future Events – Prophecy 101

The Bible and History
4th Year Class Syllabus
Prepared and Presented by
Donn Williams



Research the Scriptures – Proclaim the Scriptures
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A Ministry of Donn & Sue Williams

Presuppositions

- A presupposition is a condition that you assume and accept as true.
- A presupposition is not necessarily logically proven.
- A presupposition requires FAITH.
- Your presuppositions will determine your world view and theological view.
- Your worldview attempts to answer life’s basic questions:
 - 1) Who am I?
 - 2) Why am I here?
 - 3) Where did I come from?
 - 4) Where am I going?
- Only two possible basic worldviews:
 - 1) Everything is a result of an accident. (Someone sarcastically defined the big bang: First there was nothing and then it exploded! – Unless you accept eternal matter/energy)
 - 2) Everything is a result of the deliberate design of an intelligent Creator.
- My Presuppositions:
 - 1) God is.

- 2) God is Absolute Truth.
 - 3) God has Revealed Himself in His Written Word (Scripture) and His Living Word (God the Son, Jesus Christ).
 - 4) God is the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe.
- My Approach to Theology
 - 1) Dispensational
 - 2) Prophetic (or Futurist) view of Revelation
 - 3) Pre-Millennial and Pre-Tribulation view of the Rapture of the Church
 - 4) The Church has NOT replaced Israel. God has separate future plans for Israel and His church.
 - 5) Belief in a literal Kingdom where Jesus Christ is King. It is challenged by Satan's final revolt at the end of 1000 years. Satan is defeated and the Kingdom of Jesus Christ continues forever in a New Heaven, New Earth, and New Jerusalem.

Introduction to Prophecy

- A. Definition of Prophecy
 1. Must be 100% accurate. Deuteronomy 18:20-22 (See also Numbers 12:6; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Deuteronomy 18:15-22)
 2. New Testament attitude
 - a. Public attitude – Matthew 13:57; Mark 6:4; John 4:44
 - b. God's attitude – James 3:1
 3. Declares: "Thus saith the LORD."
 4. Prophecy can reference the past, present or the future. True prophecy of things to come is history that is yet to happen. Let us call it "unfulfilled history" at this point in time. It absolutely will happen and is as reliable as events in the past.
- B. The Purpose of Prophecy
 1. It is not a "crystal ball" to tell the future.
 2. It's purpose is to validate God's Word.
 3. God's Word (the Scriptures) come from God, completely outside this physical realm (matter and space) and outside of time itself. But the problems is this: How do you validate its message as true? By proving its accuracy 100% of the time when it deals with subjects outside of time.
- C. First and Second Mentions of Prophecy
 1. Generally taught to be Genesis 3:15.
 2. Consider Genesis 2:17 (KJV) --- "*But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: [imperative command] for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*" [prophetic consequence]
 3. The second mention is indeed Genesis 3:15 (KJV) --- "*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, [Satan did not win the allegiance of the woman] and between thy seed [a possible reference to the Nephilim first mentioned in Genesis 6] and her seed; [a reference to the virgin birth] it shall bruise thy head, [The woman's seed, Jesus Christ, would inflict a mortal wound up on Satan, eventually putting all sin and evil away forever] and thou shalt bruise his heel" [Satan would inflict only a painful wound upon Christ].*

4. An interesting note regarding the heel: It is often incorporated into the ancient myths and legends of antiquity which would of course be the descendants of Adam. An example would be the Achilles Heel.
5. An obvious note regarding the head: If it is crushed, it means death. It is the only effective way to destroy a serpent (we reference the use of the word here as snake, not seraphim).

D. History Summed up in Three Verses --- Matthew 23:37-39 (KJV)

*37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often **would I have gathered thy children together**, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and **ye would not!***

38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

*39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, **Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.***

1. The Determination or Commitment (Purpose) of all History
 - a. "how often would I have gathered thy children together"
 - b. God's desire from the very beginning, including Eden
 - c. God's desire is opposed by Satan, who is constantly trying to defeat God
 - d. History records this struggle and it is often called the "Conflict of the Ages: (with Satan always ultimately losing)
2. The Disaster or Calamity (Tragedy) of all History
 - a. "ye would not"
 - b. Israel, God's chosen people to bring the Christ, were not faithful.
 - c. They murdered prophets, and embraced idolatry.
 - d. They ultimately rejected the Messiah and had Him crucified.
 - e. Yet, this was necessary (the Lamb slain for the sins of the world) to accomplish salvation.
 - f. The work of redemption (salvation) had to be accomplished first in order to bring in the Kingdom.
 - g. This disaster, calamity, or tragedy is the central focus of all history.
3. The Delight or Conquest (Triumph) of all History
 - a. "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord"
 - b. The ultimate goal of history is reached.
 - c. Messiah establishes His kingdom.
 - d. All sin and rebellion is eradicated.
 - e. The utopian "Garden of Eden" life is restored, this time without danger of evil entering in.

E. When will this delight, conquest, or triumph happen?

1. "Til' you shall say" – Sequential link
2. "Blessed be He that cometh in the name of the Lord!" – From Psalm 118:26
 - a. Messianic Psalm
 - b. Part of the Hallel Psalms
 - 1) The Hallel Psalms (113-118)
 - 2) J. Vernon McGee tells us that there were six Hallel (Hallelujah) Psalms (Psalms 113-118), which were likely sung at all of feasts of Israel, particularly the Passover feast, the Feast of Pentecost, the Feast of Tabernacles and Dedication. It is not certain if they were sung intermittently or three at the beginning and three at the end.
 - 3) Quoted by the crowds in Matthew 21:9

Hosea 5:15 (KJV)

"I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early."

4. "I will go and return to my place" He had to leave in order to return.
5. Messiah came but was rejected by His own people (John 1:11)
6. He returned to the right hand of the Father Psalm 110:1; Romans 8:34
7. "till" appears again as in Matthew 23:39
8. "offence" is singular and specific (Arnold Fruchtenbaum)
9. Leviticus 26:14-46 Another prophesy
10. Jeremiah 30:1-7 Jacob's trouble
11. Zechariah 13:8-9 Holocaust destroyed 1 in 3; Tribulation will destroy 2 in 3

The Rapture (Harpazo)

- A. Two popular objections to the rapture
 1. The word "rapture" is not in the Bible
 - a. The word derives from the Latin word "rapiemur".

- b. This is the word the Latin Vulgate translation used in to translate the word “harpazo” in the Greek (1 Thessalonians 4:17). It is translated “caught up” or “taken by force” and it means “to be seized”.
 2. The doctrine was not practiced by the Early Church and was introduced much later in Church History.
 - a. Evidence that the early church fathers took a literal view of the millennium exists. (Epistles of Barnabas {first century}; Irenaeus’ work *Against Heresies*; Hippolytus; Ephraem the Syrian of Nisibis (Eastern Church) and others.
 - b. We will expand on one: Ephraem the Syrian of Nisibis - According to Thomas D. Ice and Timothy J. Demy in an article that was to be published in the July-September 1995 issue of *Bibliotheca Sacra* (Dallas Theological Seminary), a translated excerpt of a sermon by Ephraem the Syrian of Nisibis reads as follows: *“All the saints and elect of God are gathered together before the tribulation, which is to come, and are taken to the Lord, in order that they may not see at any time the confusion which overwhelms the world because of our sins.”*
 - c. Allegorizing and spiritualizing Scripture began with Origen (184 – 254). Augustine (354 -430) developed this doctrine, and it became the accepted church view of the Medieval Church. This was a time during which the church was very powerful politically.
- B. Jesus teaches concerning the rapture (John 14:1-4)
 1. This takes place during after the “Last Supper” just hours before the arrest of Jesus. It is an intimate conversation where Jesus gives his “last minute” encouragement to his disciples.
 2. Judas has left. These promises are given only to believers. Not to everyone.
 3. Notice the frequency of the use of the word “you”.
- C. Jewish Wedding:
 1. It all began with the engagement. This may have begun earlier with “negotiations” between the parents of both the bride and groom. At any rate, approximately a year before the wedding came the *ketubah*, the official engagement ceremony, which included payment of the purchase price, a contract was made, the bride-to-be was set apart (sanctified), and during the engagement ceremony both drink wine.
 2. Next, the bridegroom departed to build a house. Usually it was an additional room at his father’s house.
 3. The bride remained home and prepared for the groom’s imminent return. She was expected to be faithful, keeping herself pure for her husband. The engagement could only be broken by divorce.
 4. When the house was completed (upon the father’s approval) the groom would gather his wedding party and go to the bride’s home (often at night, with a torch-lit procession, and alerted by a shout) to literally snatch or catch away his bride. The bride, expecting the imminent return of her groom should have been ready with her wedding party. She was veiled.
 5. Upon arriving at the groom’s house, the wedding ceremony (huppah) began by the couple (the bride still veiled) entering into the bridal chamber which was a tent setup for the wedding. Here, the couple would consummate their marriage.
 6. After the consummation, the groom would announce to the wedding party that the consummation had completed. The party would tell the host and a seven day feast for the guests began.
 7. During this time, the couple remained in the wedding chamber for the seven days of the feast.

8. At the end of the seven days, the groom appeared with his now unveiled bride and they were presented or introduced to the guests.

D. Correlations of the Jewish Wedding to the Church

1. We were chosen before the foundations of the world. (Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:20; John 17:24) Jesus Christ has paid the purchase price, with His blood. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) The church has been sanctified (1 Corinthians 1:2) and celebrates communion with the drinking of the wine. The covenant has been established (1 Corinthians 11:25-26)
2. Jesus Christ has returned to the Father and is interceding for His bride and preparing a place. (John 14:2-3)
3. The church should be living in anticipation of the imminent return of Jesus Christ. It should be sanctified and pure. It is secured by the promise of Jesus. (John 14:3) It has been sanctified (set apart). (Ephesians 5:22-33; Romans 7:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2; James 4:4; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Hebrews 10:10; Hebrews 13:12)
4. The Bible promises the coming of Jesus to catch up His bride, with a shout! (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17)
5. The Bible records a marriage supper in Revelation 19:7-9.
6. Presumably, this happens during the 70th week of Daniel (7 year tribulation period). Is there a correlation between the 7 days spent in the bridal chamber of the Jewish wedding?
7. At the end of Daniel's 70th week, Christ returns to earth with His bride. (1 Thessalonians 3:13; 2 Thessalonians 1:10; Jude 1:14)

Matthew 25:10 virgins

Other raptures?

Enoch – Genesis 5:42; Hebrews 11:5

Elijah – 2Kings 2:1,11

Jesus – Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 12:5 (Harpazo)

Philip – Acts 8:39 (Harpazo)

Paul – 2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (Harpazo)

Body of Christ – 1 Thessalonians 4:17 (Harpazo)

John – Revelation 4:1

Two Events

Rapture

No reference to Satan

He comes For His own

He comes in the air

He claims His Bride

Only His own see Him

Great Tribulation begins

Church believers only

Second Coming

Satan Bound

He comes with His own

He comes to the earth

He comes with His Bride

Every eye shall see Him

Millennium begins

Old Testament Saved raised later?

The Book of Daniel is Key to Basic History and Prophecy

In Daniel chapter 2 the major world empires are revealed (Babylon – Persia – Greece – Roman) Details are given later in Daniel concerning these four empires. Preceding these empires was the Sumerian, Assyrian, and Egyptian empires. The final “empire” indicates ten divisions and a mixture of two non-compatible substances.

Daniel 9:20-27 reveals perhaps the key to all prophecy:

Daniel 9:20-27 (KJV)

20 And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;

21 Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

24 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.

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Daniel describes seventy weeks of years in Daniel 9: 24-27. The word for “weeks” is actually “sevens”. It can refer to seven days (as we consider a week) seven months, or seven years which the context indicates here. Seventy weeks (70 X 7 = 490) is a 490 year period. At the end of this 490 year period, the transgression will be finished, there will be an end of sins, reconciliation of iniquity will be made, everlasting righteousness will be brought in, the vision and prophecy will be sealed up, and the most Holy will be anointed. Since we are way beyond the 490 years when Gabriel first declared this to Daniel, something has to be adjusted because those conditions listed here have not happened.

Reading on, it is declared that from the command to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah will be 49 years (7 X 7 = 49) plus 434 years (62 X 7 = 434). Why not just say 483 years rather than state it in two parts? The 49 years is the period that the

rebuilding would take place in troublesome times. The 434 years is the period between the Old and New Testaments, sometimes referred to as the 400 silent years. (No prophetic activity) Actually they are not silent because Daniel accurately prophesied the events that happened during that period. After the total 434 years, Messiah is cut off (executed). That marks the end God's direct dealing with Israel BUT ONLY TEMPORARILY until the end of the Church age. With the snatching away of the Bride of Christ, (the church) God begins to deal once again with Israel for the final "week" of 7 years. The "prince" is in power for this period, who is the false messiah, referred to as the beast in Revelation and commonly known as the antichrist. Scripture indicates this "prince" is an Assyrian. (*Isaiah 10:12; 14:24-25; 19:23; 23:13; 30:31; 31:8; 52:4 Ezekiel 31:3 Hosea 5:13 Micah 5:5-6*)

The Book of Revelation Outlines Present and Future Prophecy

Basic Chronology of Revelation

Chapters 1 – 3	The Church Age <i>(Dispensation of Grace)</i>	<i>Unknown Time</i>
Chapters 4 – 19	The Time of Judgment <i>(The Tribulation Period)</i>	<i>7 Years</i>
Chapter 20	The Kingdom Age (Millennium) <i>(The Dispensation of the Kingdom)</i>	<i>1000 Years</i>
Chapters 21, 22	The Eternal Age <i>(Eternity Future)</i>	<i>Endless Time</i>