



Journey: A Summit on Christian Manhood

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Workshop: Fundamentals of Bible Prophecy – Past and Future

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Research the Scriptures – Proclaim the Scriptures

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Fundamentals of Bible Prophecy

Past and Future

The Middle East is the Center Stage where the
Prophetic Plot of the Conflict of the Ages is playing out.

What is the Conflict of the Ages?

It is *Truth that is Challenged by the Lie!*

What is Truth?

John 14:6 (KJV) *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

John 17:17 (KJV) *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

What is Truth? *Jesus Christ and Scripture*

What is Non-Truth?

John 8:43-45 (KJV) *Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.*

Non-Truth consists of Lies that originate from Satan

Lucifer (the shining one, the light bearer) was in Eden

At the fall, Lucifer became Satan and the serpent became the symbolized snake

The First and Foundational Prophecy: Genesis 3:15

Genesis 3:14-15 (KJV) *And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:*

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The Main Players

God (His Will and Plan) versus Satan and his Opposition
Played on Earth with the Middle East being center stage

The Purpose of Prophecy

It is not to tell the future but to validate God's Word

Outline of Biblical History

For this study, we will use the dispensational approach to theology and consequently, human history. I have enlarged C.I. Scofield's outline from seven to nine dispensations because I think it describes the future dispensations more precisely. Scofield defines a dispensation as a "period of time during which man is tested in respect of obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God. Schofield divided time into seven dispensations: Innocence, Conscience, Human Government, Promise, Law, Grace, and Kingdom.

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|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Innocence | From Creation (Genesis 1:26) to the Human Fall (Genesis 3:6) |
| 2) Conscience | From the Human Fall (Genesis 3:6) NOTICE God's first promise of redemption!! (Genesis 3:15) to God's Covenant with Noah (Genesis 8:20) |
| 3) Human Government | From God's Covenant with Noah (Genesis 8:20) to God's Covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:1) |
| 4) Promise | From God's Covenant [one-sided] with Abraham (Genesis 12:1) to God's Covenant with Israel [two-sided] (Exodus 19:8) |

- 5) Law From God's Covenant with Israel [two-sided] (Exodus 19:8) to the Death-Burial-Resurrection of Jesus Christ (Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; John 19:30)
- 6) Church (Grace) From the Death-Burial-Resurrection of Jesus Christ (Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; John 19:30) [See also Ephesians 3:2] to the Rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51; Revelation 4:1)
- 7) Tribulation From the Rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51; Revelation 4:1) to Messiah's return called the second coming of Christ (Revelation 19:11-20:3; Malachi 4:1-3)
- 8) Kingdom From called the second coming of Christ (Revelation 19:11-20:4; Malachi 4:1-3) to Satan's final rebellion (Revelation 20:7-15)
- 9) The "Fullness of Times" Sometimes referred to as "Eternity Future" or "New Heaven and Earth" From Satan's final rebellion (Revelation 20:7-15) to the New Heaven and New Earth FOREVVVER!! (Ephesians 1:10)"

Major "Milestones" in the Battle of the Ages New Testament

Jesus – Birth, Ministry, Death, Burial, Resurrection
 The Birth, Early Development of the Church
 More of God's Plan of Redemption Revealed

Major "Milestones" in the Battle of the Ages Old Testament

The Flood
 The Tower of Babel
 Call of Abraham
 The Nation of Israel (Colorful History of Success, Failure, Warning, Redemption) Revelations and Hints of God's Plan of Redemption

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 ($70 \times 7 = 490$) 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 prophesy 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 ($7 \times 7 = 49$) plus 434 years ($62 \times 7 = 434$). 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>

Considerations of the Seven Churches

- ❖ These were actual historic churches (But why these seven?)
- ❖ The traits can be found in a number of churches from any period of church history.
- ❖ To one degree or another, traces of these traits can likely be found in any given church in any given era.
- ❖ There is a personal application for in each letter.
- ❖ There MAY be a prophetic profile of church history found in the particular choices of church and the particular order.

Prophetic Profile

- ❖ Ephesus – The Apostolic Church – A.D. 30 – 100 (160)
- ❖ Smyrna – The Persecuted Church – A.D. 100 (160) – 312
- ❖ Pergamos – The Married Church – A.D. 312 – 600
- ❖ Thyatira – The Medieval Church – A.D. 600 - 1520
- ❖ Sardis – Denominational Church – A.D. 1520 - 1750
- ❖ Philadelphia – The Missionary Church – A.D. 1750 - 1900
- ❖ Laodicea – Apostate Church – A.D. 1900 – 2015+

Eight of the Old Testament Prophecies of Jesus Christ (there are over 300)

❖	Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2
❖	The King rides on a Donkey	Zechariah 9:9
❖	Betrayed for Thirty Pieces of Silver	Zechariah 11:12
❖	Potter and the Temple	Zechariah 11:13
❖	The Wounds in His Hands	Zechariah 13:6
❖	Innocent – Offers no Defense	Isaiah 53:7
❖	Died with Wicked – Grave with Rich	Isaiah 53:9
❖	Crucifixion	Psalm 22 (verse 16)

Prophecies to study and places to watch

Ezekiel 38; Psalm 83; and Jeremiah 49:34 – 39

Also keep a watchful eye on Babylon (Iraq), especially the ancient city

The Great Deception

Matthew 24:4, 37-39; Genesis 6:1-2; and Luke 21:26

Human Response to the Truth

There are those that are willfully ignorant of the Truth

Some completely reject

Some get angry

Some procrastinate

There are those that believe the Truth

Some “halfheartedly”

Some remain “willfully ignorant” of all that life in Christ can be

Some refuse to let go their presuppositions and remain “willfully ignorant” of the Truth (Acts 17:11)

Some completely commit to Christ and are fruitful

A great promise unique to us (the church)!!

Daniel 7:21-22 *I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.*

Revelation 13:7 *It was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

Matthew 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

So What?!!

- ❖ God is in complete control of all history
- ❖ God loves us with a love greater than any love
- ❖ God promises deliverance
- ❖ Let our thinking be more focused on eternal things and less on earthly values

Note: Preparation for this seminar has included research from studies with Koinonia House (<http://www.khouse.org>); Scroll Publishing Co., *The Myth of Christian America* by David Bercot (<http://www.scrollpublishing.com>); and, of course, many volumes and notes of Commentaries and Church History from my personal library.