

MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

Prophecy Seminar

April 8-10, 2022

*Big Events On God's Prophetic Calendar
And What God's Word Says About The Future*

Speaker: Dr. Lester Hutson

This booklet contains the notes used by Dr. Hutson during the seminar and reflect his thoughts and opinions on end times. This booklet will be referenced many times during the five different sessions.

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***Big Events On God's Prophetic Calendar And
What God's Word Says About The Future***

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Schedule of Messages

**Friday 4-8-22 7 PM: #1 The Rapture & the Antichrist:
& How The Current Age Will End**

Saturday 4-9-22 7 PM: #2 Daniel's 70th Week: The Tribulation

Sunday 4-10-22 10 AM: #3 Babylon, Armageddon & The Second Coming

Sunday 4-10-22 11 AM: #4 Two Coming Judgments

**Sunday 4-10-22 2 PM: #5 The Millennium Kingdom, Covenant Theology,
& The New Heaven & Earth**



Prophetic Overview of God's Calendar

In reviewing God's prophetic calendar keep in mind these words from God Himself.

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it," **Isaiah 46:9-11.**

As you move through God's calendar, keep your eyes on the Jews. They are key to understanding the flow of human history both past and future. They are the *fig tree* of the Bible. Jesus said, *"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors,"* **Matthew 24:32-33.**

I. GOD'S CALENDAR FROM CREATION UNTIL THE PRESENT.

A. God's first big human calendar event was CREATION.

1. The Bible begins here, **Genesis 1:1.** (The natural world; not God.)
2. Evidence supports a *young earth* position; about 6,000 years ago.

B. God's next big calendar event was THE FLOOD.

1. It was universal and completely reshaped the face of planet earth.
2. **The Flood** occurred about 2,300 B.C.

C. The third key event on God's calendar is the birth of Israel.

1. He did it thru **ABRAHAM**. It's the first step in His master plan to establish a **new nation thru which He would save humanity.**
2. To this nation God promised to give: **Genesis 12:1-4**
 - a) The **land** at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea.
 - b) His **Word**.
 - c) A **Messiah** thru which all humanity would be blessed.
3. God's unconditional promise was given about 2,000 BC.

D. Approximately 125 yrs. later, God's chosen people went to Egypt where they eventually became slaves.

1. They stayed there 430 yrs. until 1,445. **Exodus 12:40, Galatians 3:17**
2. While they were in Egypt they grew to be a mighty nation.

E. About 1445 BC God freed His people with the EXODUS.

F. By 1405 God had His people in *The Promised Land*.

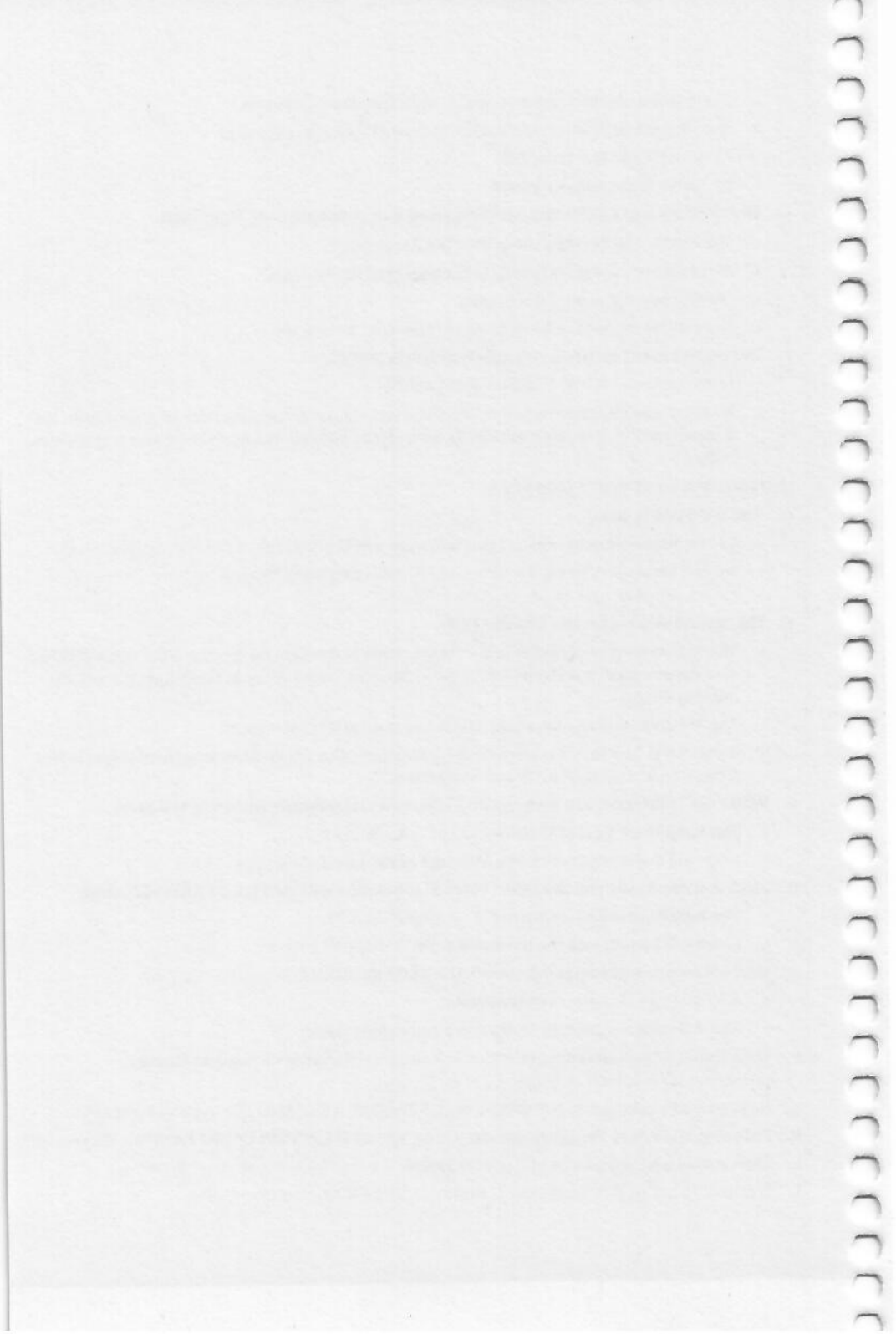
G. For the following 450 years, God directly ruled His people with a series of JUDGES.

H. God's next big calendar event was a Jewish State ruled by KINGS.

1. There was a united kingdom ruled by **Saul, David and Solomon**.
2. The kingdom split and remained divided until taken into captivity.
 - a) Israel fell to Assyria in 722.
 - b) Judah fell to Babylon in 586.
- I. **The kingdom was EXILED and never regained independence until May, 1948.**
 1. The Medes and Persians conquered the Babylonians.
 2. Alexander the Great and the Greeks conquered the Persians.
 3. The Romans conquered the Greeks.
 4. Since Rome there have been Muslims, Germans, British, etc.
- J. **The biggest event on God's calendar was JESUS CHRIST.**
 1. Jesus came about 4 BC and died about AD 29.
 2. No event has impacted humanity like the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is the promised Messiah in which ALL men can be blessed, but apart from whom there is no hope.

II. LOOKING AHEAD AT GOD'S CALENDAR.

- A. **The RAPTURE is next.**
 1. Suddenly and without notice, Jesus will appear in the heavens. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.**
 2. No one knows just when, **Matthew 24:36.** Jesus said it will happen. *"In such an hour as ye think not," Matthew 24:44.*
- B. **The rapture will trigger the TRIBULATION.**
 1. This is a seven year period of unparalleled chaos and misery far beyond what this world had ever experienced. It is Daniel's 70th week; Jacob's trouble. Most of Earth's people will die horrible deaths.
 2. The Antichrist will appear on the scene and oppose all that is good.
 3. Most of the *Revelation* is given to the Tribulation, plus many other lengthy passages in the Bible: **Daniel 7, Matthew 24** and many more.
- C. **While the Tribulation is in progress on earth, two major events will occur in heaven.**
 1. **The Judgement Seat of Christ** will occur. **1 Corinthians 3.**
 2. Jesus will marry His church; **the Marriage of the Lamb. Revelation 19:7**
- D. **Jesus will personally end the seven years of tribulation with BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON.**
 1. **The Antichrist** will be destroyed. **Revelation 19:11-21**
 2. **Satan** will be cast into the bottomless pit. **Revelation 20:1-3**
- E. **God will immediately establish His MILLENNIUM KINGDOM. Revelation 20:4-6.**
 1. A 1,000 reign of perfect righteousness.
 2. God will keep His promise to Abraham and to King David.
- F. **Then comes a short period of rebellion followed by the battle of Gog and Magog. Revelation 20:7-9. Ezekiel 37-38.**
- G. **Next on God's calendar is THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT. Revelation 20:10-15.**
- H. **Following the White Throne Judgment will be THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EARTH. 2 Peter 3:10.**
- I. **Then comes a NEW HEAVEN and a NEW EARTH. 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:1-22:4.**
- J. **The final event on God's calendar is ETERNITY WITH HIM. Revelation 22:5.**



THE RAPTURE & THE ANTICHRIST: HOW THE CURRENT AGE WILL END

For most people *out of sight is out of mind & ignorance is bliss*. That is seldom true for long. A man who fell out of an airplane without a chute said, "*So far, so good*." Since God is not visible to the natural eye, multitudes think He's only an imaginary creature who doesn't really exist. They think the world is moving forward in time by random chance with nobody at the controls. Most people are almost totally ignorant of God's long-announced timetable for the end of the world. A copy is in your hands. Do not imagine the end is a far off. COVID-19 is a rather harsh & sobering message that world conditions can dramatically change VERY quickly.

With the broadest of brushes I am about to give you a brief overview of **Big Events on God's Prophetic Calendar**. Tonight I will 1st explain (1) *The Current Age* which is ripe for a downfall. You're about to see where we are today on God's calendar. Next I will explain (2) the emergence of *The Antichrist* onto the world scene. Finally I will talk about (3) *The Rapture*.

To help establish the big picture, I will read the answer Jesus gave when asked about the end of the world. *Mt. 24:3-22.

I. NOW LET'S LOOK AT OUR CURRENT AGE.

A. As the end approaches many conditions will worsen.

1. Humanity will increasingly reject God. *Rom. 1:21-32
2. Civil strife & disobedience will proliferate. *2 Tim. 3:1-7
3. Lewd, sensuous, sex-driven living will mark the day. *Lk. 17:26
4. **False religion** will be abundant, 2 Tim. 3:5. **Morals** will parallel Noah's day, Mat. 24:37-39. **Social strife** will abound, 2 Tim. 3:1-6. **The threat of war** will be on the minds of everyone, Joel 3:9-11. **The environment** will be in shambles, Mat. 24:7. **Education & academics** will be exalted, 2 Tim. 3:7. Resources will be depleted.

B. On many fronts life on earth is growing unsustainable. Facts:

1. Population end of The Flood (B.C. 2300) 8 people. 4,200 yrs. later in 1900 A.D. = 1 billion. 2019 = 7.674 billion. Increase of over 6 billion in 119 years.
2. Every time we double earth's people, we double our need for food, clothing, transportation & all commodities. We used more energy between 1970 & 1980 than from Creation thru 1969.
3. Factor in nuclear weapons, the pollution of our oceans, growing deserts, loss of rain forests & the warming trend
4. At some point soon there will be global shortages: food, water, clothing, housing, energy & medical attention.

C. Growing crisis is inevitable.

1. Jesus predicted violence & one crisis after another. *Mt. 24:3-22
2. People will lie, steal, fight & destroy to survive. Look at *The French Revolution*. Alferd Packer. **World-wide** crisis is on the horizon.
3. Conditions will reach a point where total destruction seems sure.

Even if I didn't believe there's a God or in the Bible, I would know there is no legitimate hope for the survival of Planet Earth. It's just a matter of time.

II. AT SOME POINT ANTICHRIST WILL EMERGE ON THE

WORLD SCENE & GAIN CONTROL. You need to hear *2 Thes. 2:1-10.

A. This man will be overwhelmingly impressive. *Dan. 8:23

1. Charisma. Intellect. Statesman. Perfect man to save the world.
2. This charismatic man will claim he is God. *2 Thes. 2:2-4

B. The world's leaders will ask him to save the world.

1. He will not seize power by force; earth's people will voluntarily give him power to control. You must hear Daniel. *Dan. 8:24-25
2. Once in power this Antichrist will rule for 7 years. *Dan. 9:27

C. Antichrist will move the world toward a one-world system.

1. He'll sell his ideas on the basis of *the common good*: save the world.
2. He will seek to control *thinking*. He will use (1) public education, (2) the media, (3) political correctness & (4) hate speech.
3. Antichrist will be zealous about *identification* of all threats.
4. At a later point in his reign he will seek to *eliminate* every threat.

Tomorrow we will look more deeply into the reign of the Antichrist. It's called *the Tribulation*. Solomon called this kind of thinking a "*one purse*" mentality, Prov. 1:10-18. Antichrist will have it & the world will support him

Brothers & sisters in Christ, do not imagine that the end is a long way off.

III. AS THIS WORLD RIPENS WITH SIN UNDER ANTICHRIST THE RAPTURE WILL OCCUR.

A. Saved people will be caught up by the Lord. *1 Thes. 4:13-17

1. Dead believers will be resurrected. "*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.*" Rev. 20:6.
2. Living believers will be changed & caught up. *1 Cor. 15:51-54

B. I don't know just when the rapture will occur.

1. Jesus' said of "*that day & hour knoweth no man,*" Mat. 24:36. The Rapture may be years; Jesus could come for the saved at any minute
2. Fact is, nobody knows exactly when the end will begin & the Rapture come; however, Jesus said, "*Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, & putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.*" Mat. 24:32-33.
3. There is debate here. Some say the rapture will be in the *middle* of the *Tribulation*. Others *after*. There are good reasons to say *before*.
4. I think He will come *before* the *Tribulation*, but whenever He comes, I will join Him. It's already set, & all the bickering won't change one thing. If you are saved, you can't miss the Rapture.
5. Jesus was careful to say, "*In such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh,*" Mat. 24:44. It's my opinion that we are VERY near the beginning of the end. COVID taught us that things can change VERY quickly.

C. COVID is an eerie reminder that things can change quickly

1. We found ourselves in crisis.
2. The crisis was seen by government as reason to seize control.
3. In the face of a major threat to all, we submitted to civil control.
4. Special interest groups capitalized on the crisis.
5. It didn't take a long time.

D. God forbid that we miss the obvious message.

1. It is striking that in the midst of this end-time discussion, Jesus said, "*Heaven & earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away,*" Mat. 24:35. God's plans & timetable are still on track.
2. We've just observed how quickly we can be put under the authority of civil officials. Yes, we're vulnerable & it doesn't take a long time
3. It's not hard to see that Antichrist could be in the wings. If not now, some coming crisis will cause this world to ask him to save them.

The "*day of the Lord*" will come "*as a thief in the night,*" 1 Thes. 5:2. When many wake up it will be too late. The only hope is in the Lord. The warning is here. Are you ready?

DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK: THE TRIBULATION

We're walking through *Big Events on God's Prophetic Calendar*. Already we've talked about the end of this current age, the Rapture & the emergence of Antichrist onto the scene. The *Rapture* marks the start of the *Tribulation*, a 7-year period of time during which the Antichrist will be the chief player on earth; however never lose sight of the fact that God is always the chief overall player both in heaven & on the earth. This is God's Calendar; He will have the final say.

A Bit of Background Will Give a Better Understanding of the *Tribulation*

This will be the worst time in the entire history of Planet Earth; an unparalleled time of catastrophe, chaos, destruction & agony. Jesus said, *"Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved."* **Mat. 24:22**. These years are called **Jacob's Troubles**. *"Thus saith the LORD: We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, & not of peace. Ask ye now, & see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, & all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble."* **Jer. 30:5-7**.

I am about to open the book on this horrifying time when God will first judge His people Israel, but also the world which will be ripe with sin, like a fruit ready to harvest. First (1) I will explain the numbering system of Daniel's 70th Week. Next (2) I want you to get a little taste & feel of what the *Tribulation* will be like. Finally (3) we will look at two great events which will occur in heaven while the earth is in meltdown during the *Tribulation*.

I. THE TRIBULATION IS ALSO KNOWN AS DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK. Come with me to ***Daniel 9:24**.

A. Counting the 70 weeks. Each day represents one Jewish year which is 360 days. **Num. 14:34; Ezek. 4:6**. That's 490 Jewish years.

1. The 70 weeks began with the commandment of Artaxerxes to restore & rebuild Jerusalem: March 14, BC 445. ***Neh. 2:1**
2. The 1st 7 weeks was from the proclamation to the restoration of the temple. ***Dan. 9:25**. This was 49 years.
3. 62 prophetic weeks followed. That's 434 years for a total of 69 prophetic weeks or 483 calendar years.
4. Daniel predicted that at the end of week 69 Messiah would be cut off. ***Dan. 9:26**. Jesus Christ was crucified on April 2, 30 A.D. exactly 483 Jewish-calendar years after Artaxerxes' proclamation to restore & rebuild Jerusalem.

B. Daniel predicted 70 weeks, not 69. There's another week.

1. There's another week out there, Daniel's 70th week.
2. Right now we're on hold awaiting the clock to start week 70. I think it will start with the Rapture of the saints.
3. I will let Daniel introduce this 70th week: ***Dan. 9:26-27**.

It's just around the corner. I want you to get a little taste & feel of what's just ahead.

II. NOW THE TRIBULATION, DANIEL'S 70 WEEK.

A. There is the 1st half of the week: 3 ½ years.

1. Antichrist will quietly, but steadily consolidate his power.
 - a) He will rise to world power during an unparalleled period of world fear of total destruction. Like **1 Sam. 8**.
 - b) He'll be charming & VERY deceptive. ***2 Thes. 2:8-11**
2. There will be a brief period of peace. ***1 Thes. 5:2-3**.

"He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week,"
Dan. 9:27. Even Israel will buy-in. ***Dan. 8:24-25**

B. In the middle of the week a dramatic event occurs. ***Rev. 13**

1. Antichrist will be assassinated & Satan incarnates him back to life.
2. Antichrist: Satan in flesh. Killed & risen again. Works miracles.

C. There is the 2nd half of the week: *The "Great" Tribulation.*

The events that follow defy description. The earth & its inhabitants will essentially be wrecked, ruined, destroyed. **Rev. 6-18**

1. Antichrist will declare himself to be God, *2 Thes. 2:3-4. He will offer *the Abomination of Desolation* on the Temple altar, Mt. 24:15.
2. Antichrist will move aggressively to consolidate his power. His main tool: *the Mark of the Beast*, *Rev. 13:16-18.
3. Antichrist attempts genocide against the Jews, Rev. 12:1-17. 144,000 Jews will be preserved & become worldwide evangelists.
4. The 1st of 3 series of judgments will be 7 seals. Rev. 6.
 - a) A white horse conquering, Rev. 6:1-2.
 - b) A red horse taking peace, Rev. 6:3-4.
 - c) A black horse bringing famine, Rev. 6:5-6.
 - d) A pale horse bringing death. Rev. 6:7-8.
 - e) Martyred saints, Rev. 6:9-11.
 - f) Dramatic heavenly phenomena, Rev. 6:12-17.
 - g) Silence in heaven for 1/2 an hour, Rev. 8:1.
5. The seals are followed by 7 trumpets.
 - a) Nature smitten, Rev. 8:2-7.
 - b) Sea turned to blood, Rev. 8:8-9.
 - c) The pollution of fresh water, Rev. 8:10-11.
 - d) Destruction of heavenly bodies, Rev. 8:12-13.
 - e) Locusts like scorpions, Rev. 9:1-12.
 - f) 1/3 of earth's population destroyed, Rev. 9:13-21.
 - g) A heavenly announcement, Rev. 11:15-19.
6. The trumpets are followed by 7 vials (bowls).
 - a) Grievous sores, Rev. 16:1-2.
 - b) Sea life destroyed, Rev. 16:3.
 - c) Fresh water turned to blood, Rev. 16:4-7.
 - d) The sun's heat intensified, Rev. 16:8-9.
 - e) Darkness & great pain upon men, Rev. 16:10-11.
 - f) The drying of the Euphrates River, Rev. 16:12-16.
 - g) Great earthquake & hailstones, Rev. 16:17-21.
7. *The kings of the east* will move against Antichrist and meet him in the land of Palestine. Rev. 16:12-16. Many believe their number will be 200,000,000. Rev. 9:16.
8. Toward the end of the 7 years, Babylon will fall, Rev. 17-18.
9. The Tribulation will end with the personal return of Jesus Christ to fight the Battle of Armageddon, Rev. 19:11-21.

Not everything that's happening during those 7 years is on earth. I cannot end this message without pointing your attention to heaven where two great events will occur.

III. WHILE THE EARTH TRAVAILS & GROANS IN ANGUISH, TWO GREAT EVENTS WILL HAPPEN IN HEAVEN.

A. God's people will face the Judgment Seat of Christ.

1. This is the judgment specifically mentioned in *2 Cor. 5:10 & in Rom. 14:10. Both passages say all believers will be there.
2. This is the judgment of the saved described in *1 Cor. 3:10-15.

B. At this time Jesus Christ will formally marry His church.

1. The Bible likens Christ & His church to a husband & wife, Eph. 5.
2. Look to *Rev. 19:6-9. It's called "*the marriage of the Lamb*."
3. In Matthew 22:1-4 Jesus gave a parable which seems to be a mirror of this event.
4. I believe the bride of Christ is made up of churches which He recognizes as His. One day they will all come together into one "*general assembly*." *Heb. 12:22-23. You can be there.

Daniel's 70th Week. It's close. I hope you are ready!

BABYLON, ARMAGEDDON & THE SECOND COMING

Carnage! On a global scale. The *Tribulation* will be carnage! For 7 convulsing years! Nobody can escape it; **NOBODY!** There'll be no place to hide. WW2! Not even close! Nothing is even close to the *Tribulation!* *Hell on earth* will no longer be merely a cliché. There is no comparison. The *Tribulation* will top even science fiction, but the *Tribulation* is not fiction. It's no joke.

In this session we're going to see how the *Tribulation* will end. Nothing short of the direct intervention of God can stop the carnage; but He can, & He will! Before this session ends we will spend a little time (1) talking about *Babylon*. Yes, Babylon is in the picture. We will then look at (2) *Armageddon*, the mother of all battles. Best of all, (3) we're going to end this message with greatest hope of every child of God, *the Second Coming of Jesus Christ*.

We will start this message with a look at *Babylon* & her collapse.

I. THE COLLAPSE OF MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT. Rev. 17-18

A. Background on Babylon.

1. The city was established by Nimrod in a direct effort to overthrow God & replace Him with science. Babylon is man's 1st attempt as a one-world system. Nimrod is a type of Antichrist. **Gen. 10-11**
2. Babylon is the fountainhead of false religions. All are rooted there. As the people scattered, they took their false ideas with them.
3. Many Bible places predict the downfall of both the city of Babylon & the evil system for which Babylon stands. **Isa. 13. Jer. 50**

B. During the *Tribulation* Babylon is both a city & a system.

1. Wall Street stands symbolic of America's financial district, Broadway stands for theater & Madison Avenue stands for advertising. Likewise the literal city of Babylon which is currently being rebuilt stands for the wicked religious systems which permeate this planet: the Zodiac, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, etc.
2. During the *Tribulation* Babylon will reach her zenith. ***Rev. 17:1-6**

C. Babylon will be a huge obstacle in the way of Antichrist.

1. During the *Tribulation* four world powers will be center-stage: (1) Russia & her Islamic allies, (2) the Asian kings of the east, (3) Babylon and (4) a revived European power base. Europe will be the power base of Antichrist.
2. Babylon will be in the way of Antichrist. Listen to ***Rev. 17:15-18.**
3. Suddenly Babylon will collapse. ***Rev. 18:1-3, 17-21.**

II. THIS SETS THE STAGE FOR ARMAGEDDON. *Rev. 16:12-16.

A. Antichrist who will be incarnated by Satan will use his power to eliminate ALL opposition.

1. His objective will be absolute world control, a complete dictatorship. For almost 7 years his on-going efforts will have been toward that end. *The Mark of the Beast* will be his chief tool.
2. For centuries Israel has been a thorn in the world's side. ***Zech. 12:2-3.** Nations hate her. She will stand in the way of Antichrist.
3. He will set his sights on Jerusalem & Jewish annihilation. Listen to ***Zech. 14:1-3.** Note well that "*the city shall be taken.*" Antichrist will have the support of "*all nations.*"
4. This is the time of ***Lk. 21:20-24.**

B. A massive army from the east will march to this battle.

1. An army of 200 million will arrive from the east. ***Dan. 11:44.** ***Rev. 16:12-16.** China, Japan, India, etc. I think they will come for Persian Gulf oil & for fear of destruction at the hand of Antichrist.
2. The battle that follows will be *the mother of all battles*, ***Joel 3:9-15.** It will center at Megiddo, but will rage world-wide.

Friends, I am speechless & totally inadequate to tell you what a day of slaughter this will be; a slaughter-house & bloodbath of epic proportions. Blood in Israel will flow to horses' bridles for 200 miles. *Rev. 14:15-20.

III. WHEN IT LOOKS LIKE ANTICHRIST WILL SUCCEED, JESUS WILL SUDDENLY APPEAR.

A. Here is a sprinkling of the promises of God about this event

1. The prophet Joel made this great promise. *Joel 3:16
2. This is "*the stone*" of Daniel 2 which will crush all opposition.
3. Here is God's description of the moment. *Rev. 19:11-21
4. Come with me to *Zechariah 14:1-9.

B. Beloved, I'm talking about *the Second Coming of Christ.*

1. Jesus said He'd be back, *John 14:1-3. Angels promised, *Acts 1:9-11. This is it. He's really coming back; this time in glory.
2. Jesus will crush Satan who has incarnated Antichrist & cast him into the bottomless pit. *Rev. 20:1-3. **Oh what a glorious day!** This wretched enemy off the scene.
3. The Apostle Paul put a face on how it will unfold. *1 Thes. 4:13-18. He continued, *1 Cor. 15:51-58.

Brothers & sisters, dark days are ahead, but we know how this story is going to end. Satan & evil will not win. Jesus has the final say; not the Devil. We have hope. Nobody else has hope, but we do. "*Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.*" Psalm 30:3-4.

TWO COMING JUDGMENTS

This morning we are about to look at two big future judgments on God's Prophetic Calendar. When it comes to judgments, there is lots of confusion even in Christian ranks. Most people mistakenly think there is only one big future judgment, & that everybody is going to be at it. Not exactly! Actually judgment is on-going on multiple fronts, but we're looking at big points where God judges a person or group.

Actually the Bible speaks of several special judgments. The biggest was God's judgment of our sins on the cross. Jesus was judged for our sins, *Isa. 53:4-6. Praise God, our judgment for sins is past! As to our hope for heaven, our sins will never be a factor. They have already been addressed, not by us, but by our Blessed Redeemer who paid our death penalty in full! Come with me to *Rom. 8:31-39. In this courtroom scene, (1) God is the judge, (2) we are the accused, (3) Satan is the accuser & Jesus Christ is our defense attorney. He argues our case, not on the basis of our guilt or innocence; but upon the basis of His own payment of our penalty. It's a slam-dunk. Thus, *Heb. 10:10-14.

For every human there remains another judgment. The Bible makes that reality unmistakably clear. *Rom. 14:11-12. There are two remaining judgments for individuals: (1) *the Judgment Seat of Christ* & (2) *the Great White Throne Judgment*. Everybody here will be in one or the other. Which one will depend on what you do with the judgment of Jesus Christ. It will be my effort to be very deliberate as I present these two judgments to you.

I. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.

A. The Bible specifically mentions this judgment 2 times.

1. It's in *Rom. 14:10. The next two verses include every believer.
2. It is an event that no believer can escape. *2 Cor. 5:10

B. Here are details about this judgment.

1. **Subjects.** Only the saved. No one else will be judged at this judgment. *2 Cor. 5:10. The pronoun "we" occurs 26 times in this chapter. In every case it refers to believers in the Corinthian church.
2. **Time.** When the Lord returns. *1 Cor. 4:5.
3. **Place.** "In the air." 1 Thes. 4:17.
4. **Basis.** Works. "The things done in the body" whether they be "good" or "bad." (kakos = worthless). This will not be a judgment in the sense of a trial where a person is found innocent or guilty. It will be like the judging of athletic contestants. As seen in *1 Cor. 9:24-27 the quality of their performance will be rated.
5. **Results.** Rewards (not eternal life or eternal damnation). This is not a judgment of sins, but of works in view of rewards. God "is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:4.
6. **Motives & obedience** to God's instructions will be chief factors in this judgment. *1 Cor. 3:10-15. God is always watching: (1) what we're doing, (2) why we're doing it & (3) whether or not we're doing His work His way. Doing it right is what will count.
7. **Crowns will be given.**
 - a) "The crown of life." Jam. 1:12. For martyrs.
 - b) "The crown of glory." 1 Pet. 5:2-4. For elders/pastors.
 - c) "The crown of rejoicing." 1 Thes. 2:19-20. For soul-winners.
 - d) "The crown of righteousness." 2 Tim. 4:8. For those who love His appearing.
 - e) The "Incorruptible" crown, 1 Cor. 9:25-27. For those who "keep under their bodies." Holy lives separated to the Master.

I will be a part of this judgment. By faith I have identified with Jesus Christ who took my judgment on the Cross. I'm in. Now it's a matter of living a life that honors Him. I mentioned that there are two remaining judgments for individuals. Now I will talk about the second. Keep in mind that if you miss the first judgment, you will be in this one.

II. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT.

A. The Bible specifically mentions this judgment.

1. Come with me to **Rev. 20:11-15.*
2. Peter called this judgment, "*The day of judgment & perdition of ungodly men.*" **2 Pet. 3:7.*
3. No person who refuses to accept by faith God's judgment of his sins in the person of Jesus Christ will miss this judgment.
4. Every person who ends up here "*shall have judgment without mercy.*" *James 2:13*

B. Here are details about this judgment.

1. **Subjects.** Only the unsaved; "*ungodly men,*" **2 Pet. 3:7.* No believer will be judged at this judgment; just lost people.
2. **Time.** After the 1,000 reign of Christ & at the end of Satan's "*little season*" when the earth is on fire. **2 Pet. 3:7.*
3. **Place.** Before God's great "*white throne*" wherever it is. It will not be on the earth which will be on fire at that time.
4. **Basis.** Works. They will not be judged to see whether or not they receive eternal life. They will be judged to determine **the degree of their punishment.**
 - a) Throughout the centuries God has kept a record of every person's life. "*The books were opened,*" *Rev. 20:12.*
 - b) Some will be sentenced to more severe degrees of punishment, but none will escape.
 - c) Yes, there will be degrees of punishment in **the Lake of Fire.** Jesus spoke of those who shall receive "*greater damnation,*" *Mat. 23:14.* The Bible asks this question. "*Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?*" *Heb. 10:29.*
5. **Results.** Every person whose name is not written in God's "*book of life*" will be "*cast into the lake of fire,*" *Rev. 20:15.* This place defies adequate description. "*The second death.*" Disembodied spirits in the lake of fire! Forever!

Why, oh why would any human being reject God's judgment of his sins in Jesus Christ, and elect to take his/her chances at **the Great White Throne Judgment of God?** I can't fathom it.

Friend, you don't have a choice about a coming judgment where you will be personally judged. There are two options, & you will be at one or the other. You do have a choice about which one it will be.

THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM, COVENANT THEOLOGY & THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH

When Jesus returns, He is coming to set up an earthly kingdom & stay on earth for 1,000 years. A *millennium* is 1,000. This kingdom is generally known as *the Millennial Reign of Christ* or *the Millennium Kingdom*. If you are a born-again believer (a saved person), you are going to be there, a part of this Kingdom. It could begin not much more than 7 years from now.

There are people in "the Christian community" who think the great host of Old Testament predictions & explanations about *the Millennial Kingdom* are not literal. They do not think they will be fulfilled in the people of Israel; instead they believe *the church* has replaced Israel, & that the *Kingdom* promises will be fulfilled in *the church*.

When you look at *Big Events on God's Prophetic Calendar*, you have to wonder what happens after the *Millennium Kingdom*. Thus, in this final message we will (1) take a look at the coming *Millennium Kingdom*. We will also look at (2) what's wrong with the idea that there will not be a literal *Millennium Kingdom*. I will end this series of 5 prophetic messages by taking (3) a brief look at events beyond the *Millennium Kingdom*.

I. WHEN CHRIST RETURNS, HE WILL IMMEDIATELY SET UP

HIS EARTHLY MILLENNIUM KINGDOM. *Rev. 20:1-6

A. Much of the Bible is given to predicting this kingdom.

Predictions are so numerous that time prohibits all but a small sampling.

1. Most common is God's promise to Abraham. *Gen. 12:1-3
2. God reaffirmed His promise to David. *2 Sam. 7:8-13
3. One of the most famous is *Isaiah 9:6-7.
4. Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come," Mat. 6:10.

B. Here are summary details about life during this Kingdom.

1. The kingdom will be headquartered at Jerusalem. *Zech. 14:4-9
2. Jesus Christ will rule as King of kings & Lord of lords.
 - a) This will be a *theocratic* kingdom. Rule directly by God.
 - b) Christ shall rule with a rod of iron. *Isa. 11:4.
3. King David will rule as vice regent. *Ezek. 34:23-24.
4. The saints shall rule & reign with Christ. *Rev. 20:4, 6.
5. This the time when saints shall receive their rewards. *1 Cor. 3:14. Mt. 25
6. A regathered Israel will be the head of the nations. *Isa. 14:1-3
7. Satan will be off the scene, in the bottomless pit. Rev. 20:2-3
8. This will be 1,000 year period of universal peace. Isa. 2:4
9. There will be a universal language. *Zeph. 3:9
10. Nature will return to pre-Curse conditions.
 - a) The Curse will be neutralized. *Amos 9:13-15
 - b) Deserts will bloom. *Isa. 35:1-2
 - c) Wild animals will be harmless. *Isa. 11:6-15
 - d) There'll be no sickness. *Jer. 30:17
11. Around the world men shall praise & glorify God. *Jer. 33:9-12

The Millennium Kingdom. What a great hope it is for the people of God!

II. THERE ARE THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE THERE WILL BE A LITERAL MILLENNIUM KINGDOM.

A. There are 3 main views regarding the Millennium Kingdom

1. **A-millennialism** is the belief that the millennium is being currently fulfilled between the first & second comings of Christ. They say Christ is now ruling over His church & in the hearts of His people.
2. **Postmillennialism** also believes Christ's kingdom is now. It's the belief that the gospel will eventually conquer the world which will get better & better until Christ returns to rule a perfect world.
3. **Premillennialism** believes the Millennial Kingdom is totally future.

B. There is also Covenant Theology. (Replacement theology)

1. This is the belief that the church has replaced Israel.
2. I believe the *"rightly dividing the word of truth"* demands ***the belief & practice of consistently applying the historical-grammatical method when interpreting Scripture*** including the prophetic portions. Context both immediate & overall must guide interpretation. *If the literal sense makes sense, seek no other sense.*

C. Covenant theology spiritualizes God's promises to Israel.

1. According to *Covenant Theology* the OT promises regarding Israel must be spiritualized & applied to the Gentile church. None of the OT promises to Israel any longer apply: no land, no future as a people & no returning Messiah. They all apply to the church. The Second Coming of Christ is myth, the tribulation is past, we're already in the Millennium & the Revelation is already fulfilled.
2. The church is the new Israel. One day the New Jerusalem will appear, & the church will be with God forever.
3. A glaring weakness of *Covenant Theology* is it's undermining of God's faithfulness. If God reneged on His promises to Israel about a land, lineage, Millennial Kingdom & so much more, how could anyone trust Him? How can anyone believe He will not somehow spiritualize other promises & statements? How could anyone be sure He will not change His claims on eternal life?

Covenant Theology has enormous connotations. It undercuts God's Word & undermines His trustworthiness & the trustworthiness of His Word. It is based on poor, extremely unsound hermeneutics or Bible interpretation methods.

It is not enough to give yourself to diligent, sincere study of God's Word. To get the truth from the Bible it must be *"rightly divided,"* 2 Tim. 2:15. Sound methods of getting the message intended by the author which is the only correct message must be applied.

III. AT THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM KINGDOM GOD WILL ESTABLISH HIS ETERNAL KINGDOM.

A. Satan will be loosed & stir up humanity for one final war.

1. Satan will be loosed for *"a little season."* How long is not stated. With a vengeance he will go about to deceive men. *Rev. 20:7-9
2. I think this is the battle of Gog & Magog. Ezekiel 37-38

B. The entire planet will be destroyed by fire. *2 Pet. 3:10-12

1. God once destroyed the earth by water; this time by fire.
2. In my opinion *the Great White Throne Judgment* is at this time.

C. God will usher-in a new heaven & new earth. *2 Pet. 3:13

1. Revelation 21 is a spectacular description of this event.
2. Note well that *"There shall be no more curse,"* Rev. 22:3. Note also *Rev. 21:4.
3. God's people will spend eternity with Him in this glorious place. *Rev. 22:5

Words fail me. I've told many people, *"I've read the book; I know the end of the story."* Yes, I have; but I must confess that I really don't know the end of the story. I can't grasp it; it's too strong for me. I have nothing with which to compare it. It's all in the hands of my Blessed Redeemer to whom I have committed everything. Yes, **everything!**

I am going to close this brief look at *Big Events on God's Prophetic Calendar* with these glorious words which I claim as my very own, *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure,"* 1 John 3:1-3.