

BIBLE PROPHECY: INTRODUCTION

Most of the time Bible Prophecy generates a lot of interest even among unsaved, hell bound sinners because inquiring minds want to know. Many people study and follow Bible prophecy because of the sensationalism that is attached to it. There is much practical application to the Christian life in Bible prophecy if we will just look for it. Let me say this. The end of all Bible prophecy is Revelation chapters 20 through 22. For the unsaved sinner, Bible prophecy ends in the everlasting punishment and infamy of the fiery pits of hell following the Great White Throne Judgement in Revelation 20:11-15. For the saved sinner, Bible prophecy ends in the eternal bliss and glory of an everlasting heaven in Revelation chapters 21-22 following the Judgement Seat of the Lord Jesus Christ. Since we know that many students and followers of Bible prophecy are lost, we have a question for you today. If you were to die today, do you know for a fact that you would not burn forever in the agonizing and fiery pits of Hell and the Lake of Fire. Hell and the Lake of Fire are the most agonizing places in Bible prophecy. Hell is a place at the end of a Christ rejecting life. This place of everlasting torment is mentioned at least 88 times in scripture. The word "hell" itself occurs 54 times in scripture. In its first mention in the Bible, hell is connected to fire. In its first mention in the New Testament, hell is connected to fire. The Lord Jesus Christ preached more on hell than he ever did on heaven. Hell and the Lake of Fire are a places where the fires cannot be quenched and the worm dieth not. Death, Hell and all its lost sinners will be cast into the Lake of Fire after the Great White Throne judgment. This is referred to as the second death. Death is not an end of being. Death is an eternal change of conscious state. Man is an eternal being. The Lake of Fire is a place of eternal flames, a place of everlasting torment, a place of eternal pain, a place of everlasting thirst, a place of eternal regret, a place of everlasting screams, and a place of eternal punishment. There is no purgatory and there is no way out. If you die in your sin, you leave God no choice but to throw you into the Lake of Fire. Revelation 20:11-15 says:

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

You do not have to go to hell if you will in your heart put your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of your sin, and publicly profess the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are serious with God, the Lord Jesus Christ will save you because He is God manifest in the flesh. He will deliver the vilest of sinners and the most sanctimonious of church members. Today can be your day of salvation. If you are under conviction do not delay. Respond to the call of the Holy Ghost of God. You cannot get saved anytime you want to.

At the center of all Bible prophecy is the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, the Lord Jesus Christ

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comes walking down through every page of the scriptures since he is the Word of God. When the Lord Jesus Christ left heaven and was born of a virgin, he was never the same when he returned to heaven. He returned to heaven as the eternal God-man. He came to us as Emmanuel, in other words, God with us in the flesh. According to Colossians 2:9, in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. According to Hebrews 1:3, the Lord Jesus Christ is the express image of God. According to Psalm 91:1 He it is that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High, God, the Almighty. When speaking of Him Isaiah the prophet said in Isaiah 57:15:

¹⁵ For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Hallelujah! He is talking about believers in the last part of that verse. He dwells with me. If we will repent and show remorse, he will revive us. Hallelujah!

If the 2012 American elections prove anything, they prove that America is a God hating pagan nation. Yet, there are statistics out there that claim that 80% of Americans claim to be “Christian”. What a lying travesty! When Barak Hussein Obama can win an election in America, it proves that America has been sent strong delusion that they would believe a lie. Obama is pro abortion. Bible believing Christians do not vote for abortion, but unbelieving murderers do. Obama is pro sodomite. Bible believing Christians do not vote for a sodomite agenda, but those that take pleasure in the conduct of the sodomites do. Obama is an anti Semite that proves himself to be so by his antagonism and hatred toward Israel. Christians do not vote for Israel hating politicians, but unbelieving anti Semites do. It is the greatest of tragic lies when the majority of so called “Christian” Americans can turn out and vote for candidates from a political party whose official party platform endorses abortion on demand, endorses same sex sodomite marriages, endorses special treatment for sodomites, initially denied that Jerusalem was the capital of Israel, initially took specific action to remove the name God from their platform, and ad nauseam, . Add to that the fact that Obama is a Muslim who would deny every Christian the right to worship as they please if he had the power and you have one of the greatest perplexities in American history. That adds an exclamation point to strong delusion indeed! Now, turn in your Bibles to 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12:

¹ Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him, ² That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. ³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. ⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? ⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the

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mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way. ⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹ *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

To call America a Christian nation would be laughable if the eternal consequences were not so severe. The eternal consequences are this: the great majority of Americans are going to spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. Yet, many of Satan's sinister ministers proclaim from their pulpits and radio and television stations that America is a Christian nation. These politically correct pulpit devils also blindly proclaim that the God of Islam is the God of Christianity. Never has there been a generation that is so deluded and deceived. Psalm 9:17 says: The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and* all the nations that forget God. For genuine Bible believing Christians our confidence rests not in men, or the institutions of men. We rest in the Lord Jesus Christ who is our refuge, our Rock, our confidence, and our victory. The real battle for the destiny of America is not in the houses of Congress, or in the White House, but rather in the repentant hearts of believers in the houses of God: that is, in Bible believing churches. Second Thessalonians chapter 2 speaks of the Antichrist. There is the dark spirit of Antichrist that pervades our homes, our churches, our land, and our houses of government. Election day 2012, November 6, was judgment day for America. I believe that America has reached the point of no return. There is nothing left now, but a certain fearful looking for judgment. When we can elect and appoint leaders who have legalized and promoted the murder of over 56 million babies since 1973, we have shed much innocent blood: not to mention the horrors of the abortion mass murder process. As wicked as the Jewish Holocaust was, it pales in comparison to the worldwide abortion Holocaust. What we have done in America's abortion clinics is no different from what the Germans did to the Jews when they tortured them and put them to death in the ovens and gas chambers of the death camps. The American Auschwitz and Treblinka is the abortion clinics we have in every city. Add to that the untold numbers of children that have been molested and sodomized by Roman Catholic priests, sodomite public and private school teachers, and other pedophiles in general. If you would do an internet search of your state or local sexual offender registry, it would shock you how many registered pedophiles are out there. I received an e-mail from a group that tracks pedophiles that stated that the problem is much more serious than the sexual offender registries indicate. What they stated was that the registered offenders were much in the minority. So, is sexual perversion a subject of Bible prophecy. Yes, it absolutely is. The Lord Jesus Christ prophesied of it in Luke 17 and in Matthew 24. Peter prophesied of it in 2 Peter 2 and 2 Peter 3. Jude prophesied of it in Jude 1. Both Jude and Peter were dealing with, and prophesying of, the apostasy, heresy, mockers and scoffers, and the sexual perversion in the end times church. According to Jude, the end times church will be full of unbelieving, sodomite, church members.

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Jude describes these church members as filthy dreamers that defile the flesh (verse 8). After referring to the sodomites of the flood and of Sodom and Gomorrah, Jude said: “These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit” (verse 19). What that means is that these individuals are not saved. Today we have denominations that were specifically organized for sodomites. The Metropolitan Community Church is one such denomination. We have denominations such as the Roman Catholics, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the United Church of Christ, the Presbyterian Church USA, the United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church, and some Baptist Churches that are ordaining male and female sodomites to the ministry. Most of these are also performing same sex marriages where the partners and the church officials enter into a marriage covenant with the Devil for the destruction of their souls. Any church that would conduct a same sex marriage ceremony is a part of the Bride of Satan. She is described in Revelation 17. Any religious building in which any same sex marriage ceremony takes place is the Synagogue of Satan. While we know that the sodomite agenda is a subject of Bible prophecy we will not focus on those issues in our brief comments here. For a more detailed study of the wickedness and the consequences of sexual perversion and sodomy please read our articles titled “The Sodomite Agenda” and “The Consequences Of Sexual Perversion And Sodomy” located on our church web site at <http://www.earnestlycontendingforthefaitth.com>. Before we move on we want you to know that God refers to abortion and sexual perversion as an abomination. We have also preached a series titled “The Murder Of The Innocents – The Abomination of Abortion” that is available for download or streaming from our web site. There are also two companion written articles on abortion that are available on our web site. Now, what we are about to embark on is an extended series dealing with many subjects in the area of Bible prophecy.

The focus of this series will be to present a scriptural view of end times events. Throughout this sermon and teaching series we will use the literal method of interpreting the scriptures. That means that we will take the words of the King James Bible to mean exactly what they say. God means what he says and says what he means. By that we also mean that we will not attach some mystical or spiritualized meaning to the literal written words of scripture. We will not allow our doctrine to force us to misinterpret the literal words of scripture. If our doctrine seems to contradict the scriptures, then we need to examine our doctrine and adjust it to agree with a literal interpretation of the scriptures. Furthermore, all obvious symbols in the Bible are literally interpreted somewhere in the context where they appear and that equally applies to the Books of Daniel and Revelation.

The study of Bible prophecy is known eschatology. What follows is a very broad overview of what we hope to accomplish in this Bible prophecy series. We will discuss the doctrine of premillennialism in depth with some brief comments on post millennialism and amillennialism. The doctrine of premillennialism deals with the timing of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will talk about the role of the nation of Israel, the Gentile nations, and the Lord’s churches in Bible prophecy. We will talk about the role of the unholy trinity in Bible prophecy. The unholy trinity is composed of the Devil, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet. We will talk about the unseen spirit world and the role of the Holy Ghost in end times prophecy. We will discuss the details of Daniel’s 70TH Week that is described in Daniel 9:24-27. We will discuss the details of the Millennial Reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will speak about the doctrine of the eternal state where we will deal with the

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doctrines of heaven and hell. We will also detail what the Bible has to say about the doctrines of the First and Second Resurrections and their associated events. We will tell you what the Bible has to say about the catching away of the saints, or what many refer to as the Rapture. During our discussion on the Rapture, we will focus on the Pre-tribulational Rapture with some brief comments on the different Rapture views. We will conclude our series with a broad overview of the books of Daniel and Revelation followed by a discussion on the Olivet Discourse and Romans 11. The Olivet Discourse is the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ concerning his return that was written in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. Several brief comments on the book of Revelation are in order. Many people will tell you not to read and study the book of Revelation because you cannot understand it anyhow. That statement is a violation of the intent of the Book of Revelation. By its very title and introduction we can see that the book is “**The Revelation of Jesus Christ**” from God to man, his servants, concerning the closing events of the end times. According to Revelation 1:3, God intended that we read, hear, and understand the Book of Revelation. Revelation 1:3 says:

³ 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.

God the Holy Ghost gave a broad outline of the book of Revelation in Revelation 1:19 where he said:

19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

We hope that you will read and study this entire series on Bible prophecy.