

End-time Events in God's Prophetic Calendar "Charting End-Time events"

When we think of "*end-time prophecies*"

- must remember that God's Word deals with three distinct, separate lines of prophecy – **The Church** – **Israel** – and the **World**.

God gave an unconditional covenant to Abraham and his seed after him.

- understanding this governs our understanding of the Jewish people and forms the backbone of Bible prophecy.

Genesis 12:1-3, records God's call of Abraham

and the specific promises God made to Abraham

These promises were confirmed and clarified in later passage of Genesis

– (13:14-17; 15:1-7; and 17:1-21)

They were also reconfirmed to Abraham's son Isaac (26:3-4)

and grandson Jacob (28:13-15)

- Specifying which line of Abraham would receive God's promises

The promises God made to Abraham fall into three categories:

personal, national, and universal.

Promised Abraham He would make him a great name, vast wealth,

abundant *spiritual* blessings

National – God promised "*his seed would be as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore.*" (Genesis 22:17)

God promised give to nation of Israel the land of Canaan as an "*everlasting possession*"

(17:8)

- with its boundaries extending from the river of Egypt in the West

– to the Euphrates River in the East, and to the land of the Hittites in the North (15:18-21)

God has promised the title deed of the land of Israel to the Jewish people.

It has never been fulfilled – since God always keeps His promises

- it is certain that one day, – Israel will dwell in all the land that God promised.

God promises that those nations that bless Israel would be blessed

and those that cursed Israel would be cursed! (12:3 and 27:29)
 This principles will guide God's judgment on the Gentile nations when Christ's returns.

God promised to "*bless the whole earth through Abraham's seed*" (12:3 and 22:18)
 This was fulfilled when Jesus, the Messiah of Israel, provided atonement
 for the whole world through His death and resurrection (Galatians 3:16).

God declares it is as impossible for to cease as a nation – (Jer.31:35-37)
 – as it would be for one to stop to sun, moon, and stars from shining

Whoever touches them – touches "*the apple of God's eye*" – (Zech.2:8)

Many have tried – from Haman to Hitler to Saddam Hussein – never succeeded.

Despite a history of hatred and persecution – God has preserved the Jewish people

Romans 9, 10 and 11 – makes it clear that God is not through the His chosen people.

It took WWI and the Balfour Declaration to prepare the land of Israel
 for end time fulfillment
 – It took WWII the prepare the Jewish people for end-time fulfillment.

God said, (Ezek.36:24) "*I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land.*"

Then God continues, "*I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will vie you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*" (Ezek.36:25-26).

First Israel will return to her own land – **then** there will be a *spiritual* regeneration.

In Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones
 – God clearly says the "*This is the whole house of Israel*" (Ezek.37:11)

God relates to Ezekiel that Israel's return to her land will be in stages!

Israel's regathering is not an event that occurs in one full swoop
 Development will take place in stages – as these "*bones*" came together

- the process will culminate in the nation’s receiving the breath of life
- by turning to their Messiah

There have been waves of immigration of Jewish people ever since 1881
(Becoming a bonafide nation in May 14, 1948)

The most recent wave of immigrants from the former Soviet Union
– Jewish people have returned in stages.

Israel’s return to her land will set the stage for end-time events.

Daniel 9:27 prophesies a 7 year covenant
between the future world dictator and the Jewish people.
that will unleash the final events before Messiah Jesus’ return

This 7year period precludes the Battle of Armageddon
and Christ returning to set up His Kingdom

FOR THE CHURCH – IS AWAITS CHRIST CATCHING HER AWAY
--

The Church is a distinct entity from Israel
= Israel was – and is – a nation made up of people from one ethnic group
Before Christ’s death,
God worked through the nation of Israel to bring blessing to the world.

Today God’s primary work world-wide is the building of His Church.

Jesus’ disciples did not understand the “mystery of the church” – at first.
They asked, “*Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?*”
But Jesus taught, “*I will build (future tense) My church*”

God’s program for the church was clearly in His mind from all eternity -
However, the church has a specific beginning point and an ending point in history.

The student of Scripture must understand the distinction between:
God’s a program for the church – and His program for Israel
- if he is ever to grasp God’s plan for the future properly.

Today God is building His church.

The church’s job is to proclaim the glorious message of salvation - through faith

for all who will believe

The Church is the visible Body of Christ on earth – made up of multitudes of ethnic – sociological, and economic backgrounds – all sharing equally in the body of Christ.

The Church has not replaced Israel

– nor has she inherited the promises God made to Israel

Romans 11:17-25 teaches that God has temporarily “*set aside*” Israel

= But, God’s Word also teaches that the a time is coming

when God will conclude His program – for the church here on earth

– and resume His program for the Jews

Jesus told His followers, “*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*” John 14:1-3)

Those words had never been heard before

– The Old Testament had their hope in the coming Messiah

– who will set up His kingdom on this earth.(And this will take place in the future!)

Jesus describes a different destiny – with a heavenly hope.

He promised to return for His followers and to take them to his Father’s house in heaven

– so that they would always be with Him there.

This revelation of a new destiny for the Church

was later explained more fully by the Apostle Paul

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, “*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*”

Bible students refer to this event as, “***The Rapture of the church.***”

- Latin, meaning “*caught up*”

The New Testament again and again refers to “*The mystery of the Church*”

- Hidden in Old Testament times – revealed in the New Testament

You must not confuse the Rapture of the Church

with Christ's return in power and great glory to set up His kingdom on earth.

There are two future events that must be kept distinct: The Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Christ to earth to inaugurate His promised Kingdom on earth.

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE WORLD?

End-time Bible Prophecy centers around the land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem.

The world has been unable to resolve the *ethnic* and *religious* hatreds

that defies all attempts to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Just when it may appear that there maybe – even a *spurious* peace

– violence spirals out of control

We see almost daily – bodies mutilated by blood-thirsty mobs

Many are asking “*Is peace possible?*”

The causes of the hostilities in the Middle East are *many* and *incredibly complex*.

The insane **fanaticism** and **hatred** between the Arab (Palestinians) and the Jew

seem to defy any solution.

=====

From a Biblical perspective the answer is as old as the first murder.

Cain's lack of faith and reverence for God made his offering unacceptable,
but Abel's offering pleased the Lord

Blinded by jealousy, Cain killed his brother.

The problem was not political, racial, or religious.

The problem was *spiritual*.

= God considered Abel's offering acceptable – but was displeased by Cain's

That's the problem in the Middle East today. – Why do peace processes fail?

It is because men try to apply political solution to a spiritual problem.

What about the future – What does the Bible say will happen in the Middle East?

God's Word does tell us – and it is a frightening one – but it is true!

When Jesus' disciples asked about the end of this age

– Jesus identifies “*the times of the Gentiles*” as a crucial period in history

To understand the turmoil in Israel – is to understand “*the times of the Gentiles*”

– and – answer the question why no one has been able to bring permanent peace
to the Middle East.

“*The times of the Gentiles*” began when the Babylonians captured Jerusalem 586 B.C.

There have been continuous powerful nations in constant turmoil

in the struggles there.

The Bible teaches that “*the times of the Gentiles*”

will end with the Second coming of Jesus Christ

“*The times of the Gentiles*” will continue – through the next period

on God's prophetic calendar – **the Tribulation**

At the end of the seven-year Tribulation Jesus Christ will return

as Lord of lords and King of kings.

He will crush all opposition, rescue the Jewish people,

and establish His Kingdom of **righteousness** and **peace**.

Until the return of Christ you can expect turmoil and trouble in Jerusalem and Israel.

Jesus Christ predicted trouble for Jerusalem until His return

– peace in the Middle East has eluded the world's greatest statesmen.

- Who will lead the final world government?
- What is the nature of the final Gentile world power?
- Is the United States mentioned in prophecy?
- What will happen with Christ returns to set up His Kingdom?

The Bible isn't always as specific as we would like for it to be.

Many have attempted to identify *nations* and *individuals*

in the past – and the present – with the final world empire

– only to find themselves mistaken.

However the Bible does paint in broad-brush strokes – a fascinating picture

of what will happen as we approach the end of the age.

This picture is found primarily in two books of the Bible – Daniel and Revelation

The Bible teaches that in “*the last days*” a charismatic leader
will propel himself into prominence as a peace maker with Israel.
This individual is commonly referred to as the **Antichrist**.

However Scriptures give him numerous other titles
that are indicative of his character and his program

Daniel 7:8, identifies his as a “*little horn*” Daniel, refers to a beast with 10 horns –
then says, “*While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a
little one.*” He continues, “*It has eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that speak
boastfully.*”

The Antichrist will be a man of strength
– Horns on an animals represent its strength for attack and defense.

He will be intelligent (“*the eyes of a man*”)
and arrogant (“*a mouth that speaks boastfully*”).

He defies God, persecutes the nation Israel
– and brings Israel under his authority – 7:25

He is called “*ruler*” in Daniel 9:26
What he accomplishes sets the stage for one of the most **terrifying**
and **destructive** eras in the history of the world.

9:7 “*the ruler makes a covenant with Israel at the beginning of Daniel’s 70’s Week*”
– the future seven years Tribulation period!

He will be the head of a powerful coalition of nations
– he promises the security of God’s people.

The treaty is a deception – But it proves effective in convincing Israel
that this ruler is the nation’s best hope for peace.

But, in the middle of the seven year period – he betrays Israel

and moves to establish himself as the political ruler of the world.

(Also the religious ruler of the world – through the False Prophet.)

He begins by promising peace

– but ultimately sets the Middle East ablaze with destruction and death

His crowning achievement will be his boldest and most despicable act

– After eradicating Israel’s religious system

– he erects an image of himself on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

– and compels the world to worship him as God.

Christ called this blasphemous act “*the abomination that causes desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet*” (Matthew 24:15)

Paul calls this future leader “*the man of lawlessness*”

– revealing that the Antichrist will be **ruthless, hardened** criminal rejecting all laws

and “*the man doomed to destruction*” (2 Thess.2:3)

– reference to the fact that Christ will destroy him at His 2nd coming.

Paul gives the clearest reference to his blasphemous attempt to make himself God

In the middle of the Tribulation – in vs.4

He seeks to replace to worship of the one and only God – and proclaims that he is God

– and will set up a throne in the sanctuary of the Temple

What is taking place in Israel today – gives us a preview of the betrayal of the peace pact that the Antichrist will make with Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation.

Peace pact after peace pact has been shattered again and again.

Hopes and dreams of any lasting peace have been dashed over and over

John – in Revelation 13:1 – pictures “*a beast coming out of the sea*”

“Sea” symbolizes the demonic origin of the Antichrist

Rev.11:7 tells us that “*he comes out of the abyss.*”

The Antichrist is a henchman of Satan – the second person in an unholy trinity

– made up of Satan, pictured as a dragon (13:11)

Satan's goal – as it was from the beginning – is to overthrow God and to rule the world

End time events will produce an unholy trinity

– a clever and sinister imitation of God the God, Son and Holy Spirit

It will consist of **Satan** – the **Antichrist** – and the **False Prophet**

John describes a beast with “*seven heads and ten horns with ten crowns on his ten horns*”
(13:1)

The “**ten horns**” connect the Antichrist with the fourth beast of Daniel 7

– which also has ten horns

Rev.17:12 tells us that the “*ten horns*” are “*ten kings, or kingdoms*”

= These ally themselves with the Antichrist
to form an empire that is incredibly ***powerful*** – and as ***evil*** as it is powerful.

John's description becomes even more chilling when he reveals

that the Antichrist is energized by Satan (13:2)

He gains world renown with he makes an amazing recovery

from what is apparently a mortal wound – (13:3)

The world not only worships the Beasts – but they also worship Satan!

With all appearance – is seems that Satan has achieved his ultimate goal
– to usurp God and to receive worship that God alone deserves.

Satan assumes the place of God – the Antichrist pretends that he is a new messiah!

Once he has consolidated his power

– achieving total political and spiritual domination over the entire world

– the Antichrist **goes on a rampage of terror** against the Tribulation saints.

Though he controls Israel – even that does not satisfy the thirst he has for power

Daniel 11 reveals that midway through the Tribulation

he uses his political and military might to claim absolute power in the religious realm.

He begins a ruthless persecution to destroy all the Jewish religious worship and set himself up as the “*messiah*” and magnify himself as God (vs.37-38, of Daniel 11).

Keep in mind that there are two “*beasts*” in Revelation 13

One “*coming out of the sea*” – representing the Antichrist
– and another beast “*coming out of the earth*” – representing the False Prophet.

It is the False Prophet that issues the “*mark of 666,*”
controlling the world’s economic system

Without this mark in either their hand or forehead
– proving they worship the beast (Antichrist)
– no one will be able to buy or sell (Rev.13:16-17).

The Antichrist and the False Prophet will be powerful
– but they will be no match for Christ
– when He returns as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The Antichrist consolidates his armies in the Middle East to crush the rebellion in Israel
– that was provoked by his breaking the treaty
– and his desecration of the Temple with his image.

Just when it seems that total annihilation of God’s covenant people seems inevitable
– Christ returns WITH His saints who have been raptured before the Tribulation

Jesus Christ suddenly appears riding on a white horse
– leading the armies of heaven.

He treads on the armies of earth as one treads grapes in a winepress.

Nothing in the history of war compares to the carnage of this final battle.

Christ casts both the Antichrist and the False Prophet – and Satan, himself
– into the last of fire.

Jesus Christ will return “*in power and great glory*” and set up His Kingdom on earth!

Israel will experience the enjoy the blissful promises of the Old Testament
– as they turn to Jesus Christ as their true Messiah

This sets the stage for the Millennial (thousand years) reign of Christ on earth.

Does America fit into Bible Prophecy?