

Prophecy at a Glance - Putting it Together

*“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that **no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2Peter1:19-21).*

To understand Bible Prophecy it is necessary to consider all the Scriptures bearing on any particular subject. No prophecy of scripture is of **any private interpretation**; many erroneous views have been built on isolated texts.

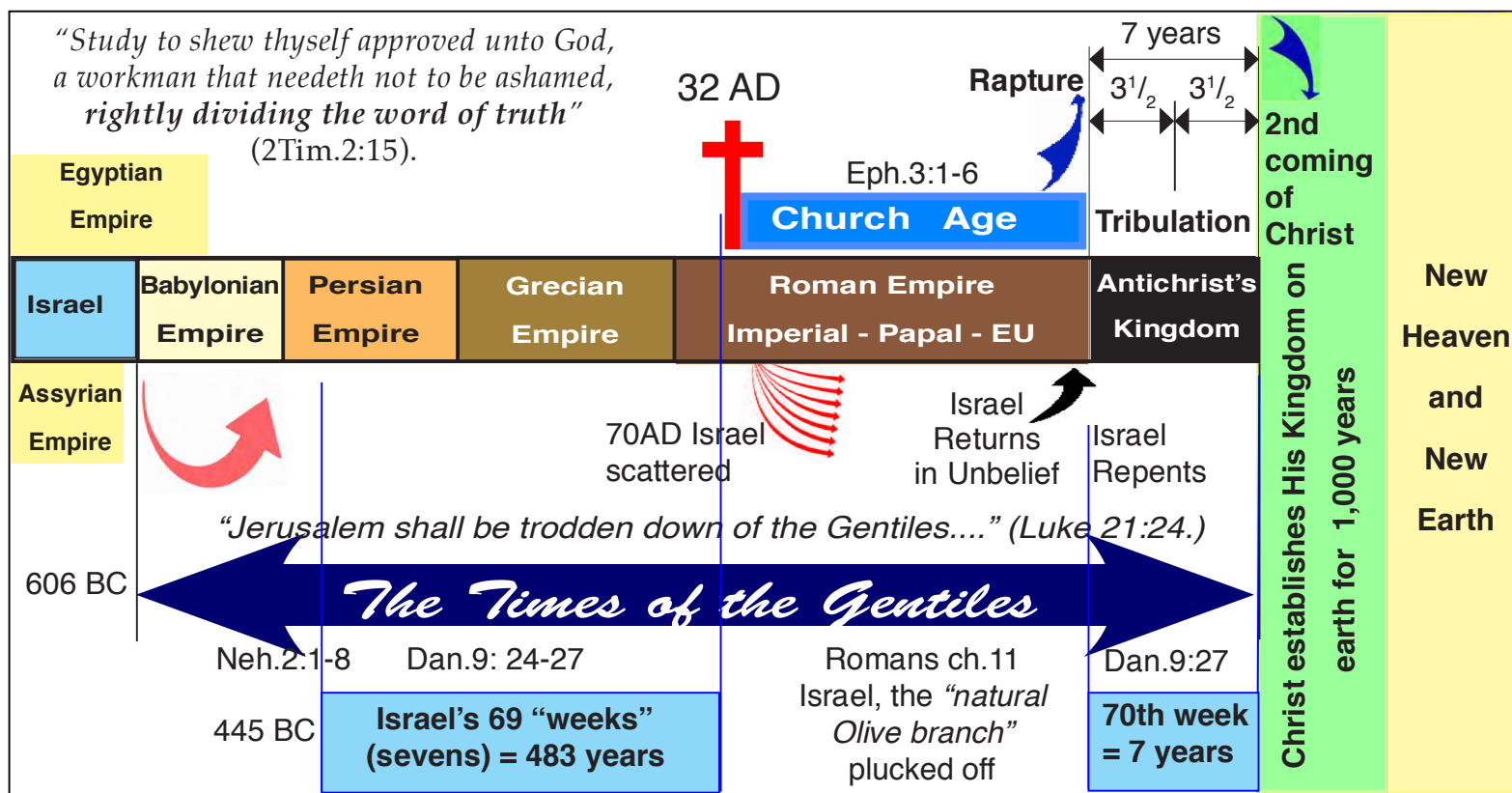
It is also important to have some knowledge of history to identify those amazing prophecies that have already been fulfilled and the historical sections of the Old Testament should be studied. Peter wrote that prophecy is found in **the many portions** of Scripture and we need to compare Scripture with Scripture. The Bible is its own interpreter.

The above chart shows how each aspect of Bible prophecy fits together. The prophecies concerning Israel, the Gentiles, and the Church all come together to give us a complete understanding of God’s purpose and plan for this world.

Israel is God’s chosen people through whom He has preserved His Word. Paul wrote: *“What advantage then hath the Jew?... Much every way: chiefly, because that **unto them** were committed the oracles (utterances) of God” (Rom.3:1-2).*

God chose Israel as the means whereby He brought His beloved Son into the world and Jerusalem was where He has eternally set His name (Deut.12:5). When God chose Abraham He promised that, in his seed, *“all the families of the earth will be blessed.”* Those who bless Israel will be blessed and those who curse Israel will be cursed. Gentile nations rise and fall according to their attitude to God’s chosen people.

Today Israel is under chastening from God for rejecting Christ and have been spiritually blinded in fulfilment of Isaiah ch. 6:9-12, but Paul wrote: *“If the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, **what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?**” (Rom.11:15).*



How Near are We to the Rapture?

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Heb.10:24-25).

Jesus said: *“But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father” (Mark 13:32).* The Father has put the times and seasons *“in His own power” (Acts 1:7)* and the reason why we cannot know the day or hour when the Rapture will take place is because it awaits the completion of the Church. When the last soul is added to the Bride of Christ, the Father will say to the Son, *“Go, and get your bride”.* Christ will bring the souls of the deceased Church-age believers and they will be reunited with their bodies; 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.”*

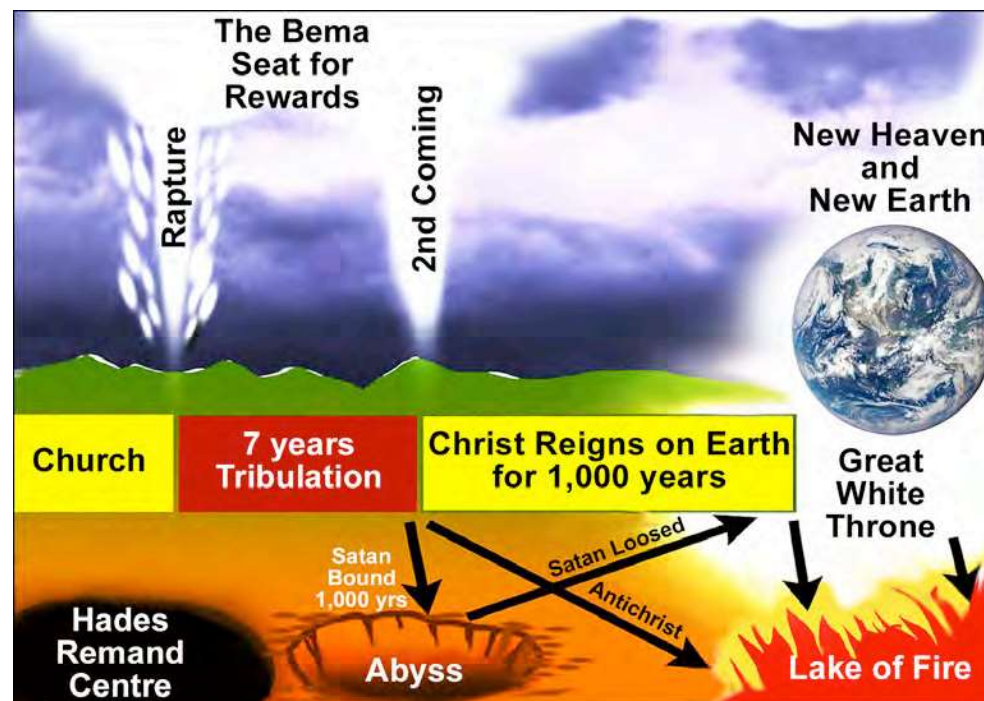
The last seven years before Christ returns in glory and power belong to Israel and Paul wrote:

“I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, UNTIL the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins” (Rom.11:25-27).

The *“fulness of the Gentiles”* is the completion of the Bride of Christ from among the Gentiles during the years of Israel’s blindness. After the Church is removed Israel will seek the Lord in the first half of the seven years of tribulation. Once the Rapture occurs the prophetic clock will begin to tick and the Jews will be able to count down the days until Messiah appears in the heavens, takes His stand on the Mount of Olives, destroys the Antichrist and all his armies in the battle of Armageddon, and delivers His covenant-people; Israel.

For us today, we know not the day or the hour of the Rapture but **we can see the day approaching:**

- 1) We are living at the end of the Church age; in the Laodicean era of Charismatic, Ecumenical, and Emerging Christendom. Apostasy abounds.
- 2) The Roman Empire is being revived, ridden by the harlot woman; (the Papacy). The European Union (EU) is bringing Europe together to prepare a kingdom for Antichrist which will be finally divided into ten parts. It was established by the **Treaty of Rome 1957, the Maastricht Treaty 1993, and the Lisbon Treaty 200**



3) Russia is identifying with the Muslim nations and in the Tribulation will join with Iran, Turkey, Libya and Sudan to invade Israel (Ezek.38 & 39; Joel 2). The war in Syria has brought these armies to Israel’s border.

4) Daniel wrote that in the Last Days, *“many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased” (Dan.12:4).*

5) Christendom has become exceedingly apostate: The Ecumenical and Inter-Faith Movements are embracing pagan religions and demonic possession has been evident in the Charismatic Movement since 1900 fulfilling 1Tim.4:1-2:

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy.”

6) Jesus said the days before His return would be like the days of Noah and Lot when there was a population explosion, **the earth was filled with violence, and aggressive homosexual behaviour** was common.

We can certainly see the day of the Lord’s return approaching. **Are you ready? Have you received Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour?**

How Can I be Ready?

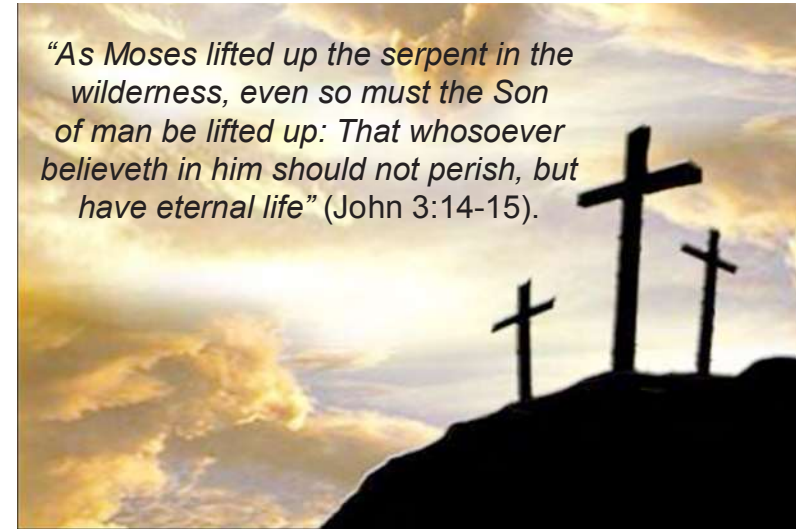
With so much evidence that we are approaching the end of the age it is important to be sure we are ready to meet God. The Rapture of the true believers in Christ could happen at any time and then the 7 years of fearful Tribulation will begin. Jesus said of that time: *"Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved"* (Matt.24:22). Jesus also said, *"Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines and pestilence (disease), and earthquakes in divers places"* (Matt.24:7). During this time Antichrist will control the world through a "one world government" and all will be required to worship him as God; all will be required to wear his mark on their forehead or right hand or they will not be able to buy or sell. As terrible as this will be it is nothing compared with the fearful lot of every person that dies without trusting in Christ for salvation. There is an eternal lake of fire prepared for the Devil and his angels and for all who reject the mercy and grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ. God does not desire the punishment of sinners; in fact He desires that all men should repent of their sin and accept the mercy freely offered in Christ. The Bible says:

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God" (1Pet.3:18). "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2Pet.3:9).

If we are honest with ourselves we will admit that we are sinners and guilty of wrong doing before God. The Bible says that *"if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us"* (1John 1:8). It is because we are sinners that God in His love and mercy sent the Lord Jesus from heaven to live as a man and to go to the cross where He took the wrath of God for all human sin. It was not just the physical suffering that He endured at the hands of men but while He hung on that centre cross, the earth was darkened for three hours as the sinless Son of God became our substitute; our sacrifice, to make atonement for our sin. The Bible says, *"Without the shedding of blood there is no remission (of sins)"* but Jesus shed His precious blood for our sin.

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever, believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

All false religions would tell us that if we do good works God will have mercy upon us but the Bible says *"by grace (undeserved favour) are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast"* (Eph.2:8-9). Salvation from the guilt and power of sin is freely available to all who will seek the Lord with all their heart.



"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:14-15).

The Bible says: *"Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart"* (Jer.29:13). Christ has done all that is necessary to provide forgiveness, power to live a Godly life, and a home in heaven but He will not force His salvation on anyone. You must turn from sin to Christ and place your trust in Him as your personal Saviour.

Not only does God forgive us our sin when we trust Christ, but He puts His Holy Spirit within us to give us the power to live for Him day by day. Furthermore, He guarantees us a home in heaven that is *"incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time"* (1Pet.1:4-5).

But there is more. We have the promise of God's Word that when the Great Tribulation comes every true believer in the Lord Jesus who is alive at the time, will be *"caught up (Raptured) to meet the Lord in the air"* (1Thess.4:17). *"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Thess.5:9).* Jesus has promised: *"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from THE HOUR of temptation (Tribulation) which shall come on all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" (Rev.3:10).* **If you are not saved, Will you trust in Christ now?**

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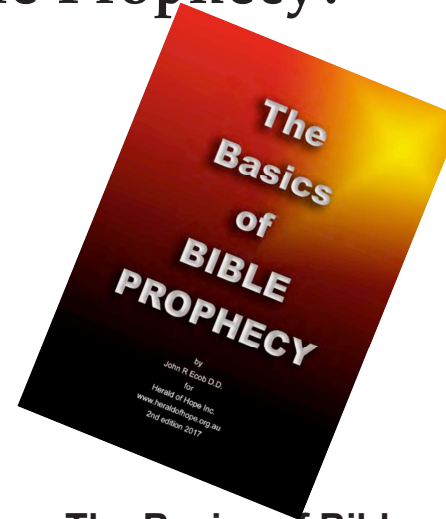
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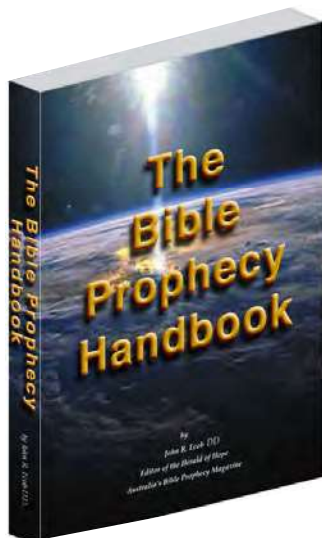
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