

Understanding Today in Light of Biblical Prophecy

What On Earth Is Happening for Heaven's Sake?

Riots * shootings * unrest * terrorism * divisions
financial instability * earthquakes * droughts * floods
sink holes * Covid * superbugs * weaponized viruses
global warming * war * nuclear weapons
100s of millions of unborn children murdered

Are these signs that the end is coming?

~ more apocalyptic movies and tv shows are produced and watched now than ever before

~ as of 2018 (things have increased since then)

- 957 movies - 67% since 2000
- 88 TV shows - 66% since 2000

~ everyone realizes that something has to give . . . or break!



Ground Rules for the Class

- 1. We are going to paint the background of Biblical prophecy**
- 2. We will provide handouts and Scripture so you can dig in for yourself**
- 3. We are not diving deep**
- 4. We can't stop or we will lose the momentum**
- 5. Clarifying questions are encouraged - but nothing that is off subject**
- 6. We will open up for questions -**
 - some answered
 - may be answered in later teachings
 - others may be off subject and not answered in class



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Objectives of Class



1. See the awesomeness of God
 - He is a God of His word
 - What He says, He will do
 - His Word is reliable and can be understood
 - We can KNOW THAT HE IS THE LORD
2. Equip you with Scripture and visual aids to process prophecy and prophetic Scriptures with confidence, so you can study for yourself or help others
3. Want to encourage you if you are a true follower of Jesus Christ
 - time of excitement - not fear
 - time to wake up - there is an urgency to share God's word - be a watchman on the wall
4. If you are not a true follower of Jesus Christ or you are not sure what that means
 - we want to be the watchman on the wall
 - judgment is coming and you need to be ready
 - Jesus said (John 14:6) "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."
 - no other path leads to salvation but the atoning work that Jesus Christ did when He died on the cross for you
 - It's not by works
 - It's not by the church you go to
 - It's not by becoming good enough
 - It's not the family you were born in or the country that you live in
 - When you put your complete faith in Jesus Christ then you will know that you have eternal life (I John 5:13)

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Foundational Premise



1. There is one God, maker of heaven and earth
2. The Bible is His Word to man
 - every word is inspired of God
 - if there is confusion, misunderstandings, or seeming contradictions
 - to go back to the original languages
 - put the passage into its cultural setting
3. It is true from cover to cover
4. It needs to be read and understood literally. We take it at face value - it means what it says
5. Good Bible study is inductive Bible study - allows Scripture to speak for itself - Scripture interprets Scripture

3 Steps

- **Observation** - studying it, allowing God to speak to us through it
- **Interpretation**
 - there is only one way to interpret a passage of Scripture
 - it means what the author, inspired by God, intended it to mean when it was penned and given to the recipients
 - not open to man's own interpretation (II Peter 1:20)
 - it is the word of truth - it is God's truth
- **Application** - innumerable ways to apply God's Word to your life

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What two books of the Bible are the most
disputed?

Difficult to understand or believe

Cause controversy and division

They are . . .

. . . Avoided

. . . Ignored

or worse yet

. . . called fairy tales

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Revelation 22:6, 13
Jesus says



“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

and He's everything in between - He is God's Word become flesh -
John 1:1, 14; Hebrews 1:2

begins God's story - His story - history	tells us how that struggle is going to end
created a perfect place	Once again creates perfect place
set man over it to rule and reign for God	Man will rule with God
Man choose to throw away God's perfect to chase a lie of Satan	God will do away with lies and his truth will reign supreme
Man's sin put the world on a collision course with two forces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God who loves man and wants the best for him - Satan who hates God and man created in His image - wants to destroy all of God's creation - including man 	God defeats Satan and all who have chosen to follow after his lies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Heaven, Earth, Jerusalem filled with those whose hearts are truly His - It will be a perfect place where there are no more tears, sorrow, mourning
Satan kills man (3:1)	Satan is punished (20:10)
Rebellion begins (3:6)	Rebellion ends (21:27)
Earth cursed (3:17)	Curse removed (22:3)
Paradise lost (3:22-24)	Paradise regained (22:2)

There are many people, pastors, and churches that don't want to touch prophecy
it's taboo
it's divisive
it's impossible to understand

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Are there benefits to studying prophecy?

1. Growing in spiritual maturity - knowing God and Jesus Christ - in a real and personal way
2. Give us a desire to share Christ with others
3. Helps us to view life with an eternal perspective - to see today in the big picture of History
4. Help us to live out our convictions each and every day - not knowing when our Lord may come
5. Blessing that is promised (Rev 1:3; 22:7) - only book of the Bible that promises a blessing for hearing and heeding its words

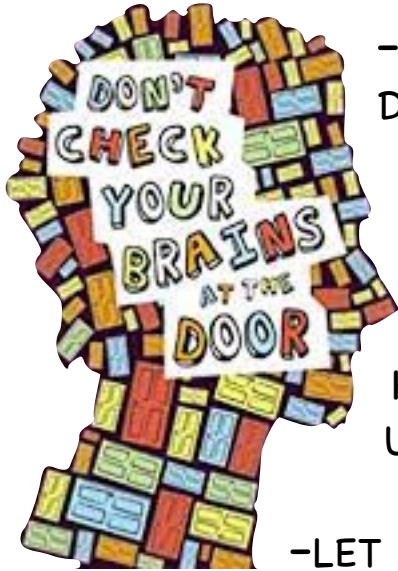
Satan doesn't want you here! Why?

1. He doesn't want you to be blessed
2. He doesn't want you effective in ministry
3. He doesn't want the world to hear about Jesus Christ
4. He doesn't want you to be prepared for the battle that is coming
5. He wants you defeated, scared, unfruitful, and complacent



The question is - Are you going to let him win?

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-MUCH OF PROPHECY IS NOT
DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND

-USE COMMON SENSE

-DON'T RELY ON WHAT SOMEONE
HAS TOLD YOU - PEOPLE CAN BE
UNRELIABLE!

-LET GOD'S WORD SPEAK FOR ITSELF

Definitions

1. **Church** - the body of believers made up of true followers of Jesus Christ
2. **Church age** - the period of time when Christ's church lives and ministers on earth
3. **Rapture** - the catching up or gathering together of believers to meet the Lord in the air
4. **Tribulation** - a time of great trouble and persecution that will last for 7 years and directed at those who have forsaken God, specifically the Jews
5. **Millennium** - 1000 year time period of peace when Christ will rule on the earth
6. **Anti-christ** - the man of Lawlessness, the beast - the one who will blaspheme God and will demand worship of himself, alone
7. **False Prophet** - the spiritual advisor to the anti-christ - who will cause all mankind to worship the image of the beast and receive his mark
8. **Apocalypse** - usually referred to as the end of the world, destruction, judgment - in Scripture it means the "revealing" or "the unveiling"
9. **Armageddon** - a physical place where the armies will gather to make war against God and the Son
10. **Eternal state** - eternity future - the New Heaven, Earth, Jerusalem - the old has been destroyed. It also refers to where man will spend his eternity - in the New Heaven - or outside where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth - in the fire that never consumes or destroys

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4 Views of Prophetic Interpretation

1. **Idealist** - prophecy is all symbolic - it becomes man's interpretation
2. **Preterist** - the prophecies have already happened
3. **Historicist** - prophecy is just an overview of history
4. **Futurist** - since prophecies happened exactly as spoken in Christ's first coming - prophecy will again be fulfilled exactly as Scripture says in the future

The first 3 views interpret Scripture figuratively - allegorizes or spiritualizes - if we can allegorize portions of Scriptures - we can allegorize any we choose

Only the last one interprets Scripture literally

3 Views of the Rapture

1. **Pre-Trib(ulation)** - The church will be taken out of this world before the 7 years of tribulation
2. **Mid-Trib** - Many events happen at the mid point of the 7 years - at 3 1/2 years - one of those events would be the church taken out of the world
3. **Post-Trib** - The believers will be gathered with Jesus at the end of the 7 years and then return with Him when He comes at the end of the tribulation

3 Views of the Millennium








1. **Amillennialism** - It is a symbolic time that describes the church age
2. **Postmillennialism** - Jesus will come back after the millennium - tribulation period is just symbolic of the difficult times we experience on the earth
3. **Premillennialism** - will be a literal 1000 year kingdom come to earth after the 7 year tribulation and before Satan is released for a short time - Jesus will rule and reign

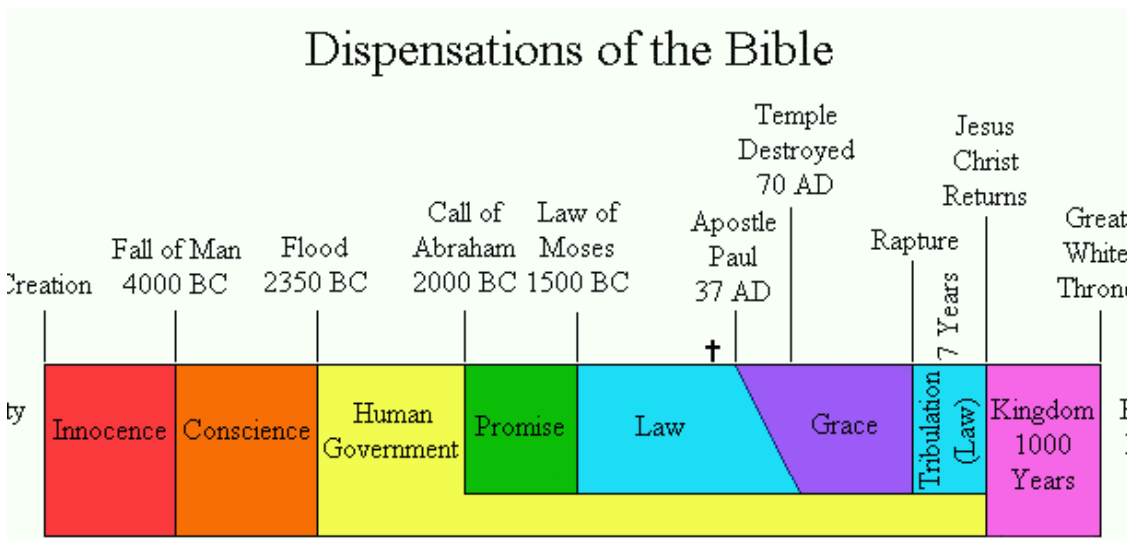
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7 Dispensations

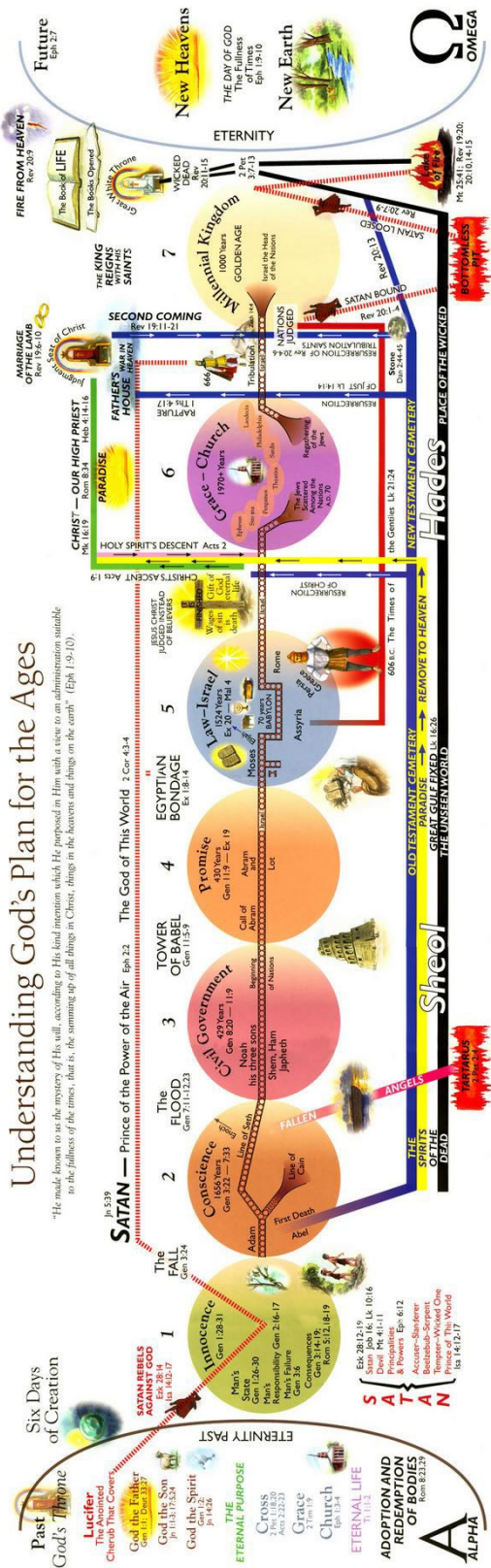
dispensation = a system of order especially as existing at a particular period of time - the way something works within a given context as God relates to mankind

DISPENSATIONS OF TIME

<p>1</p>  <p>Innocence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First man and woman pure and innocent. • Enjoyed fellowship with God. • Made stewards of God's earth. • Disobedience resulted in sin and death—with promise of a coming Savior. 	<p>2</p>  <p>Conscience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood sacrifices "covered" man's sin. • Conscience guided man's moral acts. • By calling upon the name of the Lord and offering blood sacrifices, fellowship was restored. 	<p>3</p>  <p>Human Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority for men to begin governing others. • Capital punishment instituted. • At Tower of Babel, men forced to scatter to replenish earth. 	<p>4</p>  <p>Promise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everlasting covenant between God and Abraham and his heirs with many promised blessings. • All who believed and obeyed the covenant terms could share the promises. 	<p>5</p>  <p>Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's covenant with Israel contained commandments and laws that governed all life and activities. • The law exposed man's dead spirit and sinfulness, which prepared him for Christ's coming. 	<p>6</p>  <p>Grace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God showed His great love and grace by redeeming us from sin with His own blood. • New covenant laws are written in hearts. • All who by faith accept His salvation become sons of God in a new spiritual kingdom. 	<p>7</p>  <p>Kingdom Age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus returns to rule and reign on earth with the faithful from every dispensation. • For 1,000 years, righteousness and peace prevail. • At the White Throne judgment, eternity begins and time ends.
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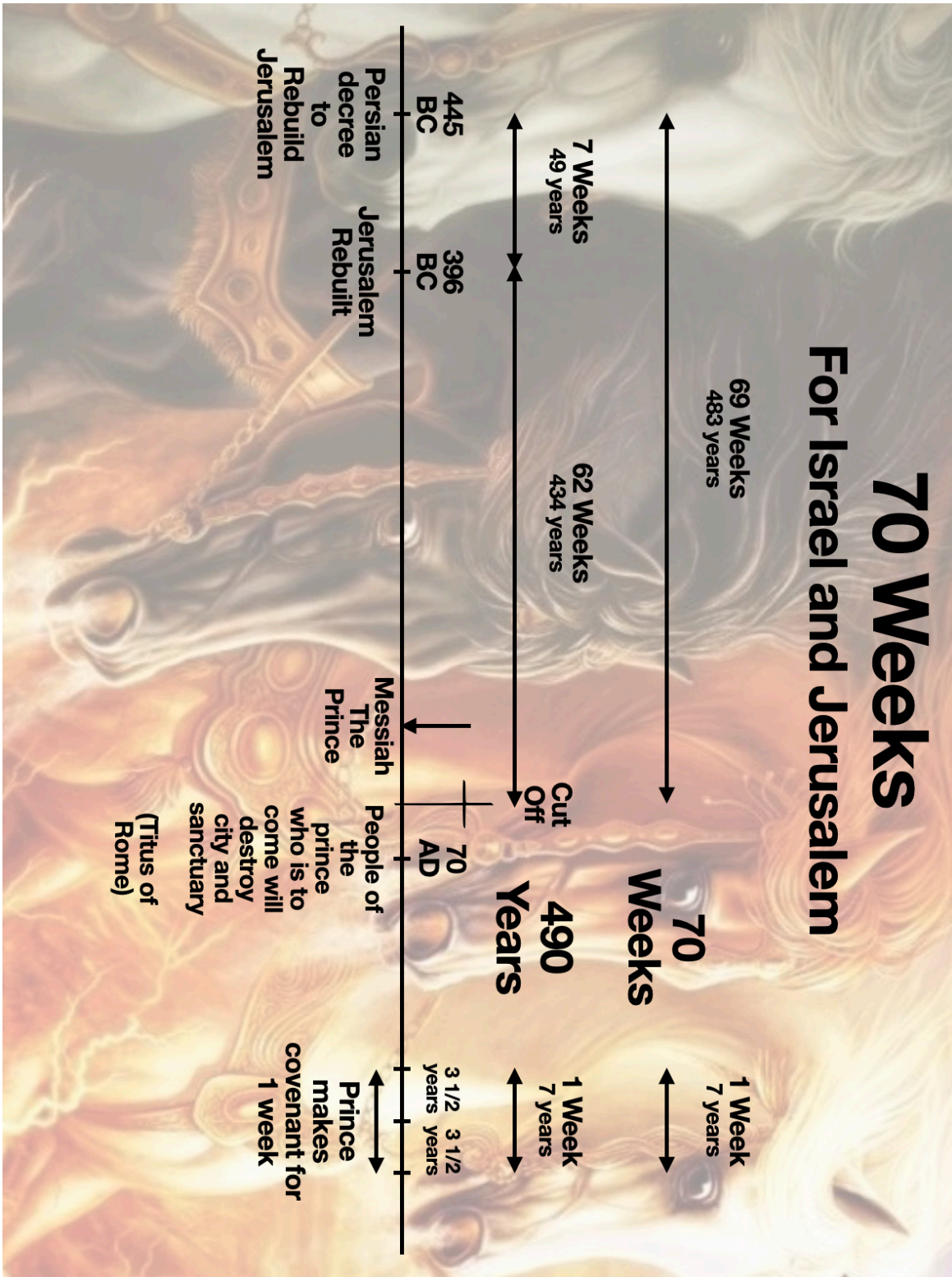
- Daniel was written in the dispensational time period of the Law
- certain things were sealed up and not known until the time was right
- As we move into the time of grace - those prophecies that were sealed up are now becoming evident
- As we move through Scripture we need to keep in mind what was understood during that time period

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Prophetic Overview of Daniel					
	Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Daniel 8	Daniel 9	Daniel 11,12
605-539 BC Babylon GOLD		 Lion			626 BC BABYLON
539-331 BC Med/Persia SILVER		 Bear	 Ram	Dan 9:24-27 49 weeks 49 years plus 434 years = 483 years 445 BC DECREE OF ARTAXERXES MESSIAH THE PRINCE ENTERS JERUSALEM ON DONKEY LUKE 19:28-38	539 BC MEDO-PERSIA Dan 11:2 4 Persian Kings
331-168 BC Greece BRONZE		 Leopard	 Goat 1 horn, 4 horns, small horn		331 BC GREECE Daniel 11:3 Alexander the Great Daniel 11:5-20 Kings of North/South Daniel 11:21-35 Small Horn Antiochus Epiphanes
168 BC - 476 AD Rome IRON		 Beast			63 BC ROME AD 476
GAP OF TIME					
AD ? IRON and CLAY	 10 KINGS	 10 horns Little horn Time, times, half a time		PRINCE MAKES COVENANT 3 1/2 years 3 1/2 years 483 yrs + 7 yrs = 490 yrs 70th seven 9:27	AD ? Daniel 11:36-45 The opposing king Daniel 12:1-11 1290 days
Kingdom Of God	 Stone Daniel 2:44, 45	Ancient of Days Comes Son and saints rule kingdom Dan 7:22, 26, 27			KINGDOM OF GOD Daniel 12:12-13

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Notes or Questions A bout Daniel