

Session 8 Introduction to the End Times



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Introduction to the End Times

“If you want to find eternity, you must serve the times.”¹

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I. Most People are Unaware or Unprepared for What’s Coming

Most people, Christian or non-Christian, are at some level of being unaware and unprepared for what’s coming. The people who will endure the end times will face the most catastrophic and devastating events the world has ever seen. The emotional pressure of those days will be unprecedented. People’s hearts will fail them for fear. Understandably, most people want to stick their heads in the sand and not think about it.

But for those who will say “yes” to God’s invitation to partner with him in this time, and seek to garner the courage, spiritual fortitude, and wisdom necessary to carry them through this most tumultuous period, God promises the following:

Matthew 28:20 “... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Daniel 12:3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Revelation 3:21-22 21 “To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Jesus gave an interesting parable about the state of the Church preceding His second coming.

Matthew 25:1-12 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with

their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'

But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' “

If the parable implies that half the Church will be unprepared for the Messiah's second coming and not make it into the kingdom, then according to modern-day statistics:

Of the 2010 global Christian population of 2.18 billion people², the end times will catch just over 1 billion people (1.09 billion) unprepared; and if the parable is pertinent as Jesus told it, they will not enter the kingdom. Of the 2010, estimated U.S. Christian population of 246,780,000³, half of that, about 1.25 million people, would be unprepared and not make it into the kingdom.

In this symbolic context, think about your church's last Sunday morning service. Remember all the people you saw, all your friends and everyone who was there? Half of them will not enter the kingdom because they don't understand the end times, the Israel/Church relationship, and the Hebraic context of Christianity; and they are completely unaware of and unprepared for what's coming.

Because of difficult times to come and people's hearts not being prepared, Jesus said many Christians will turn away from their faith. They will be massively offended with God and Church leadership when God doesn't do what they expect or what they've been taught saying, "How could a God who is love allow this to happen?!"

Matthew 24:10 "At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other..."

Isn't this the human, natural reaction to suffering? But if it "...pleased God to crush his only Son..." (Isaiah 53:10) for divine purposes, and God's desire is to conform us to the image of his Son, then wouldn't it please God for us to follow in Jesus' footsteps and be a sacrifice for his end times purposes for the salvation of many, including Israel, and the very birth of the kingdom of God on the earth?

A common argument against studying or understanding the end times is to misquote the verse: "*of that day and hour no one knows*" (Matthew 24:36), implying that since no one knows it can't be known. This can be an excuse to justify unfamiliarity and lack of study. In the end times, deception due to misunderstanding and ignorance will be rampant both in the Church and in the world. In addition, if today biblical illiteracy is at an all-time high in western civilization,⁴ how many fewer people understand the Bible in its Hebraic context?

Matthew 24:4-5 "Jesus answered: 'Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.'"

II. The End Times are not "the end," they are the Beginning

End of labor pains for birthing the Kingdom of God on the earth

Jewish thought has long held that there would be a Messianic Age on the earth where the Messiah himself would come and establish God's rule, in Israel, on the earth. Isaiah prophesied this in chapters 60-66 when he spoke of God's final judgement and the restoration of the Messianic Age that would follow (see Session 6, p.13). In Isaiah's prophecy, the birth of the modern-day state of Israel (Isaiah 66:7-8) is merely a moment in the context of God birthing his kingdom on the earth.

Jesus also spoke of the birth pains of the coming kingdom of God (Matthew 24:4-8), saying they would precede the final catastrophes of the end times. We must remember that the end times, as bad as they will be, are but the end of this age. The Messianic Age and the joy and benefits to come will far surpass the tribulations of this age, as Paul knew when he said this:

Romans 8:18-22 18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

III. Our strength for the End Times: Intimacy with God, Desire, and Vision

Intimacy with God

The deeper we go with God the more we will understand and know him and his ways. As we grow in this process, we fall more in love with him and our desires change to desire what he wants. This process conforms us to the image of his Son, the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53. Thus, suffering is the tool by which we grow deeper with God, are more conformed to the likeness of Jesus and fall more in love with God. Endure suffering rightly, gleaning all you can from it, because only on this side of eternity are we afforded the honor and privilege to join with Christ and “...*share in the fellowship of his sufferings.*” (Philippians 3:10-11).

Desire

As our oneness with God grows and our desires are more conformed to his, we become more able to withstand suffering if we know it produces a Godly benefit. And it does, every time. All suffering comes with God's promise of restoration to a new level of glory and life with God.

Jesus knew this, and because he did, he was able to withstand the agony of Gethsemane, the scourging, and his crucifixion. It was his love for God and desire for us that gave him the strength to endure.

Hebrews 12:2 For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

In the end times, our desire for God and his purpose of saving the nation of Israel and literally millions of people on the planet, combined with our desire for the eternal life to come in the Messianic Age, will be the strength in our hearts that empowers us to endure till the end. Cultivate the garden of your heart now - it's the secret place of your union with God - for it will be the greatest wellspring of life for you in days to come.

Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Vision

Along with intimacy and desire we need a clear vision of the end times and what's to come in the Messianic Age. The reality of the end times must be firmly established in our hearts and minds. Not only do we need to understand the trials to come and why they must come, but we must have a clearer vision of our role in the end times and the glory to come, including our rewards.

Our remaining class sessions will give us a vision for the trials and glories to come. As difficult as the end times will be, remember that the very kingdom of God will be emerging more and more in you and with you on the earth. As darkness rises on the earth, the supernatural power of God in you will rise to an ever-increasing level; and you will walk in greater levels of love, joy, and hope than you or the world have ever seen. Miracles, signs, and wonders will follow the end times messengers, most likely at a level that will surpass that of the saints in the first century.

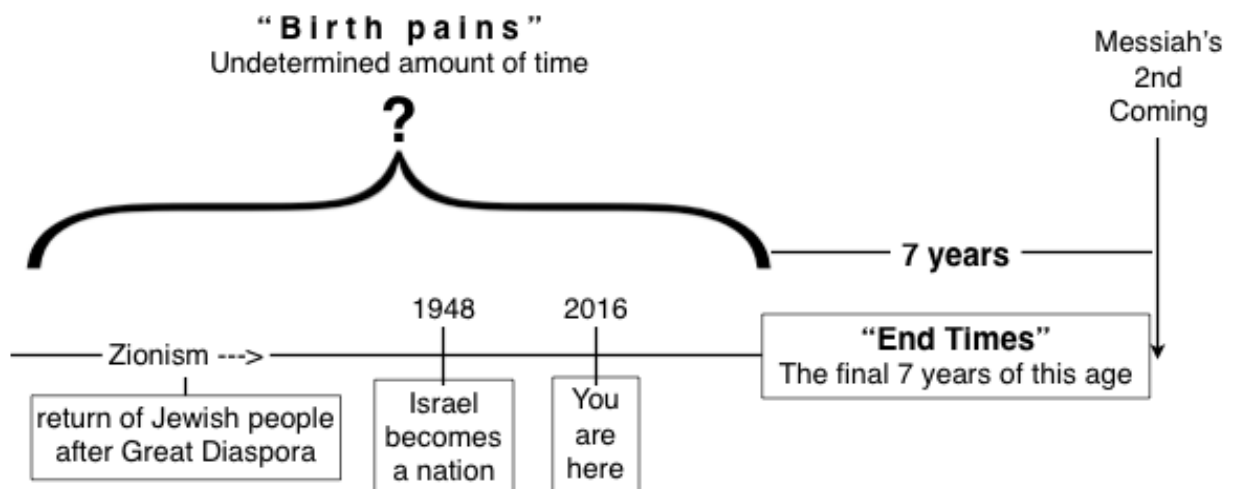
In the Messianic Age to come, Jew and Gentile believers will walk the earth, with Jesus and the saints and angels, in glorified bodies probably with the ability to transcend time and space. The glory of that age, and the one to come after it, has not entered into the heart of man.

IV. Defining the timeframe of the End Times

We will define the end times as the last 7 years of this age. In Session 6, God's Plan Emerges in the 20th Century, we learned that Isaiah, Jeremiah, Jesus, and the Torah place the following events in approximately the same timeframe at the end of this age:

1. The time of Israel's return to their land (mid-20th century),
2. God's soon-to-come judgement upon Israel and the earth,
3. The second coming of the Messiah (final implementation of New Covenant), and
4. The restoration of Israel in the Millennial Reign of Messiah.

Illustrating those events gives us the following "aerial view" of where today's generation is today in God's biblical timeline:



V. Dynamics during the End Times

The Polarization Effect

The Polarization Effect is God's purpose for people "to choose sides" - either good or evil, but as God defines it not as the world defines it. As time progresses from now until the time of Jesus's return, people will be become more and more pressed to decide if they stand with God and his ways, or not. Jesus described it like this:

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43 “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

... His disciples came to him and said, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.’ He answered, ‘The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

‘As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.’”

End Times’ scripture indicates that God will use the global economy, war and conflict, natural disasters, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and other God-ordained judgment events to polarize “global public opinion” and/or “modern theological doctrine” on the issues of:

1. Israel
2. Jerusalem
3. God and his identity
4. The Bible and its authenticity and its morals and principles and their relevance
5. Biblical Judaism and Biblical Christianity

Eventually everyone will be compelled to make a decision about their position on these issues:

Luke 12:51 "Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division."

The end times will come suddenly, unexpectedly, and like a flood

To those who understand what's coming, they can forecast the end times' occurrence with some accuracy. But to those who are unaware and unprepared, the end times will crash in on them suddenly and unexpectedly. For most of the world, life will be going on like "business as usual," and they will not be ready for what's coming. Jesus described it like this:

Matthew 24:37-39 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

God told Noah to build an ark because the coming rains and flood would destroy everyone on earth. It had never rained before. Noah had to suffer the reproach of the people for about 100 years while he followed God, prepared for something the world had never seen before, and proclaimed God's "end times" message. To the world at that time, everything was "business as usual" until the day the flood came. Then it was too late.

Herein lies the struggle of the Forerunner calling: bearing the reproach of the world and the Church while following God and answering his end times call.

Shaking of the Christian and Jewish Communities

If half of the world's Christians, including Church leadership, abandon their faith, and we read in Revelation of a spiritual revival in Israel of 144,000 new, Messianic-Jewish believers, then we could see a "first fruits" of the "new man" in spiritual leadership on the earth.

Remember God's promise to Israel to make them into his kings and priests on the earth (Exodus 19:5-6). That promise still stands. Even though Israel failed to live up to the terms of the Mosaic Covenant, the New Covenant is God's provision for everyone to be empowered by his Spirit to live according to his commandments in holiness and purity. When the Messiah comes, he will sanctify the entire nation of Israel and bring them into salvation. That is

the purpose and rehearsal of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. The emergence of the Jewish 144,000 in the end times is a first fruits of the salvation to come for them. They will bring a new, spiritual, Messianic-Jewish leadership to the earth just prior to the advent of the Messiah.

The end times will see a global revival on the earth, the likes of which has never been seen before (see Revelation 14:14-16). Persecution has always caused the Church to grow. With the end times persecution of Christians (and Jews) on an unprecedented global level, the new believers who come into the kingdom may far outnumber those who fall away because of the tribulation. The remnant of Christians who didn't fall away, plus the new believers, will have incredible faith as the Bible comes alive before their very eyes. They will understand the times and that salvation is about to come to Israel; they will be the new generation of Dietrich Bonhoeffers and Corrie Ten Blooms.

Global economics are a foundation of the end times.

The Mark of the Beast, which comes out midway in the end times, is *“a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark.”* As control over the global economy - think of it as your ability to put food on the table for your children - it will be the tool the Antichrist uses to coerce the world into allegiance with him and his global government.

The 3rd Seal of Revelation also concerns global economics. It appears to show a condition of hyper-inflation affecting the earth. In hyper-inflation, the value of money is excessively depressed, and the cost of goods is very, very inflated. That is happening on the earth today at unprecedented levels with nations' central banks' quantitative easing (money printing) and driving a global economy by debt and not wealth - a direct disregard for God's commandments concerning the sabbath years (shemita years).

As we study the end times, we will discover that the 3rd Seal precedes the Mark of the Beast. Similarly, global hyper-inflation could be the catastrophic precursor which precedes and necessitates a “global economic solution” in the Mark of the Beast.

War and conflict are a foundation of the end times

Four of the six Seals of Revelation appear to involve war and conflict, plus we read repeatedly about conflict and violence after the sixth seal until the

Battle of Armageddon. In addition, end times scriptures in the Prophets contain many examples of war, conflict, violence, and judgement. Jesus warned us of the same:

Matthew 24:6-8 6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Global opposition to Israel

The aggregate effect of end times events will be global opposition to Israel. This is part of God's plan, and it occurs at the peak of the Polarization Effect, which, we will learn, occurs midway in the end times.

Psalm 2:2-3 The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one, saying, 3 "Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles."

Zechariah 14:1-3 1 A day of the Lord is coming, Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up within your very walls. 2 I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. 3 Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle.

VI. End Times: The *Grand Finale* of God's Plan for Redemption

Remember that God's story, his Plan of Redemption, began in Genesis 3:15. It has evolved over thousands of years as God brought forth the nation of Israel, gave Israel his Covenant Program, and made declarations of his plans through the prophets.

Without a Hebraic context of the Bible and God's plans from the beginning, the book of Revelation is almost incomprehensible. The end times occur as a natural and inseparable part of God's Plan of Redemption.

Isaiah 46:9-10 "Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please."

VII. Three Keys Needed to Understand the End Times

An intimate relationship with God.

God reveals his plans to his servants the prophets

Amos 3:7 Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.

Mark 13:33-34 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

The Holy Spirit reveals the things of God to God's people

John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

John 16:13-14 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

A Hebraic understanding of the Bible, God, God's plans, and Israel and the Church in God's plans

Without this, the details of God's plans are often missed or misunderstood. Therefore, unclear assumptions and conclusions about God and/or His plans can be made.

Understanding the biblical holidays as prophetic rehearsals for the 1st and 2nd coming of Messiah

This is explained in Sessions 5 and 9.

VIII. God's Purposes for the End Times

God will avenge Himself on His enemy, Satan.

Genesis 3:15 "... he will crush your head..."

Deuteronomy 32:34-35 "Have I not kept this in reserve and sealed it in my vaults? It is mine to avenge; I will repay...."

Purifying Christians and Jewish People

To refine His people, Jewish and Christian, and turn them into a spotless bride who love God and are conformed to the image of the Messiah.

It is the mercy of God to use judgment to teach righteousness. He uses the least amount of suffering to bring about the greatest amount of repentance.

Isaiah 26:9 "... When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness." (Isaiah 24 - 26 context is the end times)

Daniel 12:10 "Many will purify, cleanse and refine themselves...those with discernment will understand.

Revelation 19:8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)

God will bring judgment and purification to Israel.

Jeremiah 30:5-7 "This is what the Lord says: 'Cries of fear are heard-- terror, not peace... How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.'"

Isaiah 3:1, 13-14 "For behold, the Lord God of hosts is taking away from Jerusalem and from Judah support and supply... The Lord has taken his place to contend; he stands to judge peoples. The Lord will enter into judgment with the elders and princes of his people..."

Romans 2:9 “There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile...”

In centuries past, God used this type of judgement against Israel with the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Roman empires. The “types” and patterns set in kings like Nebuchadnezzar, Antiochus Epiphanes IV, and others will be repeated in a final Anti-messiah (antichrist) figure. However, this final judgement will be greatly magnified.

Daniel 7:7 “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong.”

Exiled Israel is gathered back to the land for the purpose of refining and turning back to God. Israel is in for her most difficult time in history.

Ezekiel 22:17-22 “And the word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to me... therefore, behold, I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. As one gathers silver and bronze and iron and lead and tin into a furnace, to blow the fire on it in order to melt it, so I will gather you in my anger and in my wrath, and I will put you in and melt you... and you shall know that I am the Lord; I have poured out my wrath upon you.”

God will bring judgment and purification to the Church.

God will call upon the Church to be the “hands and feet of Christ” to offer love and support to the Jewish people and explain end times events to the world as they are happening. Just as in World War II with “righteous Gentiles” such as Corrie Ten Bloom and Oskar Schindler, Christians in the end times will be bringing God’s message of salvation to Israel as they give their lives to the effort.

Romans 11:30-31 “Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God’s mercy to you.”

Isaiah 40:9-10 9 You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your

God!" 10 See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm.

The end of "labor pains"

The end times are the final "labor pains" of birthing the Kingdom of God on the earth. It is the culmination of God's (6000 year) Plan for Redemption. Isaiah, Micah, and Jesus speak of the end times with "birthing" language:

Isaiah 66:7-8 Before she goes into labor, she gives birth; before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son. Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children.

Micah 5:3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

Matthew 24:8 ...All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Fulfillment of ALL God's Promises to Israel

God will finally fulfill all His promises to Israel (in the Covenant Program) when the Messiah's kingdom is literally on the earth after the end times.

Micah 7:16-20 16 Nations will see and be ashamed, deprived of all their power. They will lay their hands on their mouths and their ears will become deaf. 17 They will lick dust like a snake, like creatures that crawl on the ground. They will come trembling out of their dens; they will turn in fear to the LORD our God and will be afraid of you. 18 Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. 19 You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. 20 You will be true to Jacob, and show mercy to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our fathers in days long ago.

Ezekiel 16:60 Yet I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.

Jeremiah 33:14-16 14 " 'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house

of Judah. 15 " 'In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety.

XI. God's Vengeance on His Enemies

A primary theme

A primary theme and purpose of the end times is for God to avenge Himself on His enemy, Satan. He accomplished this 2000 years ago when the Messiah redeemed Creation and humanity from a spiritual perspective.

God's literal vengeance on his enemy will occur at the conclusion of end times and fulfill God's initial promises in the Torah:

Genesis 3:15 "... he will crush your head..."

Deuteronomy 32:34-35 "Have I not kept this in reserve and sealed it in my vaults? It is mine to avenge; I will repay...."

The end times scenario:

The archangel, Michael, casts Satan out of heaven:

Daniel 12:1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then..."

Revelation 12:7-9 "And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Therefore, rejoice you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

It appears that Satan, now cast from heaven, is allowed to indwell the world leader, who has apparently been assassinated:

Revelation 13:3 “One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed...”

This event happens after the world leader just took over the Temple and stopped the daily sacrifices.

Daniel 9:27: “...In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering...”

It could be that now, the world leader, indwelt by Satan, rises as a “resurrected messiah.” As the Antichrist, he now usurps the Temple and proclaims himself God, blasphemes all that is truly of God and sets out to destroy all who oppose him during the last 3 1/2 years of the end times.

Revelation 13:3-7 “...The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, ‘Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?’ The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them.”

During the last 3 1/2 years, the Antichrist and his international alliance invade and ravage Israel as he (Satan) takes his final stand against the coming Messiah.

Zechariah 14:2 “I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.”

Zephaniah 1:2-7 “I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth,” declares the Lord... “I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem. I will cut off from this place every remnant of Baal, the names of the pagan and the idolatrous priests...” Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the day of the Lord is near.

The Mark of the Beast is issued shortly after the Antichrist’s assumption of global power. It is the culmination of the Polarization Effect on the earth. An angel declares God’s vengeance on those who turn against Him by taking the Mark of the Beast.

Revelation 14:9-10 “A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God’s fury... He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.’”

The Battle of Armageddon and the Feast of Yom Kippur are simultaneous and/or connected events at the end of the age where God, as Messiah, exacts His vengeance on Satan (Antichrist) and the nations of the earth who have aligned with him.

Deuteronomy 32:43 “Rejoice, O nations, with his people, for he will avenge the blood of his servants; he will take vengeance on his enemies and make atonement for his land and people.”

Psalms 110 “The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’ The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies... he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth...”

Revelation 19:19-21 “Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet... The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. 21 The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.”

X. 4 Keys to Understand Book of Revelation (Chs. 4 - 22)

The book of Revelation is God's *last and final* instruction to us about the end times. **DO NOT** begin studying the end times by starting with this book! Why?

Because everything God revealed *prior to* the book of Revelation gives context and definition to the events in the book. Without that, and without understanding how the fall biblical holidays are prophetic rehearsals for the Messiah's coming (Session 9), you will not understand Revelation – nor will you will be able to establish an accurate sequence of end times events, which we do in Session 10.

One main narrative

There is one, main sequential narrative in the book (chapters 4 - 22).

The book is one long discourse that Jesus revealed to John about the end times when John was exiled on the island of Patmos. The main narrative flows along the 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets and 7 Bowls. Each of these twenty-one “judgments” follows the previous one; they are all sequential.

“Parenthetical visions” within the main narrative

Within the main narrative there are “parenthetical visions”

Several times Jesus interrupts the main narrative and shows John completely separate, but usually related, visions, then resumes with the main narrative.

These parenthetical visions may skip to completely different topics and/or times in history (past, present or future) from what John is seeing in the main narrative. The parenthetical visions usually help explain what John has just seen or will see next in the main narrative.

Understanding how the Feasts of the Lord are rehearsals for the Messiah's two advents to earth are essential for understanding the end times and the book of Revelation.

XI. The Coming of Messiah: Defined by Fall Feasts of the Lord

How do we know this?

By what we learned in Session 5 about the Feasts of the Lord being rehearsals for the Messiah's first and second coming to earth. Jesus fulfilled the rehearsals in the Spring Feasts literally to the day and hour in which they occurred on the calendar. By doing so, we hold that God set a precedent and a pattern, and he will do the same when the Messiah returns.

In the Song of Moses (Deuteronomy 32), God described His coming to fulfill the final part of His plan with language of the Fall Feasts (see Session 1).

Deuteronomy 32:43 (Rejoice, you nations, with his people), for (he will avenge the blood of his servants; he will take vengeance on his enemies) and (make atonement for his land and people.) A study of the traditions and

God's commandments for the Fall Feasts, when compared to end times scripture, reveals that Jesus' second coming is readily understood through the Fall Feasts. We will study this in the following sessions, especially in Session 9 and 10.

The illustration below shows how the fall feasts occur on the Jewish calendar.

How the Fall Feasts Occur on the Jewish Calendar

Tishrei (7th month of Jewish year)						
September / October						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		30	1 (RC) YT	2	3	4
		1 (RC) YT	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10 YK	11
6	7	8	9	10 YK	11	12
12	13	14	15 S ¹	16 S ²	17 S ³	18 S ⁴
13	14	15 S ¹	16 S ²	17 S ³	18 S ⁴	19 S ⁵
19 S ⁵	20 S ⁶	21 S ⁷	22 SA (LGD)	23	24	25
20 S ⁶	21 S ⁷	22 SA (LGD)	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29			
27	28	29	30			

3 Fall Feasts

YT = Yom Teruah (Tishrei 1)

- Feast of Trumpets or Day of Trumpets.
- Occurs on Rosh Chodesh (RC), 1st of the month, at the sighting of the new moon.
- Understood to be the first day of judgment
- Traditionally, this is the day of the Coronation of God as King of the earth

YK = Yom Kippur (Tishrei 10)

- Day of (national) atonement - covering for sin for the nation of Israel
- Understood to be the final day of judgment.
- Days 1 through 10 of Tishrei are understood to be solemn and terrible days of judgment. They are known as the Ten Days of Awe

S = Sukkot (Tishrei 15th - 21st)

- Feast of Tabernacles
- A time of rejoicing for the ingathered harvest and because judgment is over

SA = Shemini Atzeret (Tishrei 22)

LGD = Last Great Day (Tishrei 22)

- The last, and 8th day, added to Sukkot

Yom Teruah ----- The Ten Days of Awe ----- Yom Kippur
(judgment starts) (final judgment)

	1 YT	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 YK
1 YT	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 YK	

ENDNOTES

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³ Ibid. <<http://www.pewforum.org/2011/12/19/global-christianity-regions/>>

⁴ Christianity Today website. www.christianitytoday.com Stetzer, Ed, "Epidemic of Bible illiteracy in our Churches. July 2015. <<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2015/july/epidemic-of-bible-illiteracy-in-our-churches.html>> Accessed 7 Mar 2016