



# Bible Prophecy Guide

## The Rapture & The Changing of Times

### Summary 13

**Matthew 24:3-8** – When asked about the signs of His coming and the end of the age, He warned first that they be not deceived. Deceptive teachings about the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming and the end of the age would evidently be prevalent in the last days.

**John 13:19, John 16:4 & John 14:19** – Jesus gave them prophecy that they might believe when it comes to pass.

**John 1:11** – The religious leaders of Christ's day rejected the 1<sup>st</sup> coming of Jesus because they failed to understand the prophecies of Scripture. How can we avoid the same mistake?

**Matthew 28:18** – Jesus carried out His ministry according to His prophetic calendar that He might fulfill prophecy as was predicted.

**Daniel 7:25** The little horn would think to change God's times and laws. We have seen clearly how the Little Horn thought to change God's 10 commandments by removing the 2<sup>nd</sup>, changing the 4<sup>th</sup>, and dividing the 10<sup>th</sup>. Now we want to look at how the Roman Catholic church has sought to change God's times, that is His prophetic timeline.

**Daniel 2:21** – Daniel is very clear that God is in charge of the times and seasons contrary to what the little horn may think. Then Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of His dream and how God would direct the course of history. Then Nebuchadnezzar tried to change God's times or shall we say prophetic timeline by erecting his own golden image that illustrated Babylon would reign forever. As you will see, spiritual Babylon will seek to again change God's times.

**Acts 1:6-7** – The Bible uses the word times to refer to God's prophetic timeline. We see this illustrated again & again throughout Scripture. Some examples would be **1 Thessalonians 5:1**, **Matthew 26:18**, and **Revelation 10:6**.

So how did the Roman Catholic Church (The Little Horn) begin to change God's times? As the reformation progressed, the Catholic leadership sensed a growing need to do something to counter the impact that the protestants were having on the church. In 1534, Ignatius of Loyola founded the Society of Jesus known as the Jesuit Order. From this order came two individuals who introduced two different systems of prophetic teaching that would take the focus off the Catholic church. The first individual was Luis del Alcazar who developed a system that we today call Preterism which places the prophecies of Daniel & Revelation in the past. Preterism has most prophecy ending with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. Most liberal

protestant churches use this system today. The Roman Catholic church uses preterism as their method of prophetic interpretation.

The other system of teaching developed was a system called futurism which was introduced by a Jesuit named Francisco Ribera. This teaching which was further developed over time says that the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel 9 should be moved to the end of time and disjointed from the prophecy in which it was given. Then it is said that the Christians will be raptured in a secret rapture and that the 70<sup>th</sup> week will be the time for the antichrist to set up his reign and sit in the temple. How sad that they would take a prophecy that originally pointed to Christ and then attribute it to the antichrist. Certainly this is a blasphemous act on the part of the Catholic church. Most conservative protestant churches use this method of interpretation in their teaching.

Protestants as a whole traditionally used what we would refer to as the historical critical method of interpretation. This Biblical approach simply states that the prophecy begins in the prophets day unless otherwise specified. Thus when we read prophecy of Daniel 7, we understand the first beast to represent Babylon for that was the nation in power when the dream was given. Then the prophecy continues until the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. The other teachings ignore this basic principle and thus it is left up to the interpreter how to choose to apply the prophecy. Indeed, historicism while once mainstream in Protestantism has been lost sight of by most protestants today and is now been put to the side in favor of these new teachings introduced by the little horn power. Thus the antichrist has been successful in directing protestants to follow its lead in abandoning the directives of the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment and the prophetic warnings as they pertain to the antichrist in Scripture. Now that Protestantism as a whole no longer see Papal Rome in prophecy, there is now an effort amongst protestants to heal the wound formed from the protestant reformation.

**Genesis 13:14-16** – The promise was granted based on faith. Even though the promise didn't look possible, God's Word was fulfilled.

**Genesis 3:15** - Both Eve and Abraham looked forward to the Seed, Jesus Christ.

**Revelation 12:17** – Here too we find a serpent (dragon), enmity (enraged), a woman, and a seed (offspring).

**John 12:23-24** – Jesus was the seed that would produce more seeds. Thus the remnant are the seeds produced by the Seed.

**Galatians 3:16** – The promise to Abraham was fulfilled in Christ.

**Galatians 3:26-29** – Through Christ, the only perfect Israelite to ever have lived, we are adopted and granted the promise.

**Romans 11:14-15, 19-21, 23** – We are grafted in through Jesus. But unbelief will require that you be cut off. There is hope for the Israelite people tonight, but it's the same hope we all share. By coming to Christ, we can all be grafted in.

**Hebrews 11:10, 16** – Israel's hope rests in a heavenly eternal city, not an earthly city.

**Genesis 22:26-28** – Israel was the new name for Jacob because he had wrestled with God and prevailed. This is a defining characteristic of Israel.

**Daniel 9:24, 27** – Jesus comes as an Israelite and fulfills what we were unable to fulfill.

**Luke 13:4-9** – Israel was warned through parables of its demise as a nation if it failed in its calling.

**Luke 13:34-35** – Jesus in agony stated that Israel's house was left desolate. She had rejected the Messiah.

**Matthew 21:33-43** – The unique position held by Israel as a beacon unto all the earth has now been placed upon all men and women. Israel drew into itself instead of going out with the message of God's love.

**Romans 2:28-29** – You are not an Israelite because you are born a Jew; you are an heir of the promise if you are born anew in Christ. Circumcision is now of the heart. We must pull back the layer of protection that we have put up around ourselves and let God in. You don't have to be born an Israelite to be an heir of the promise.

**Romans 9:6-8** – We are heirs of the promise by being bound together with Jesus through a relationship with Him.

**Jeremiah 30:3, 11** – The Lord promised to bring Israel back home after its captivity.

**Jeremiah 18:7-10** – If you do what I ask, God says He will bless them but if they fail, God would not grant them the blessing. Israel failed and so Jesus came and earned the rights that were promised to the people of Israel. Thus we find the fulfillment through Jesus and not with the people of Israel.

**Matthew 24:37-41** – Indeed, many take this passage and suggest it means that the rapture will be secret, but not only does this text not state that, but rest of Scripture suggests it will be anything but secret.

**Luke 17:26-37** – The surprise is not the coming of Christ but the timing of His coming. Folks will be as in the days of Noah and as Lot's wife. That is they will be so consumed by the pleasures of this world, they will not realize the times in which they are living.

**Revelation 1:7** – Everyone will see Jesus when He comes. This passage even states that those who pierced Him will arise to see the Lord appear in the clouds.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** – It will be a loud event and trumpets will sound. The dead in Christ will arise.

**Acts 1:10-11** – Jesus will appear in a great cloud!

**Matthew 24:26-27** – Those who suggest Christ's coming is secret will be operating under deception. Jesus will come like lightening from one end of heaven to the other.

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-4** – The righteous must endure a time of trouble before Jesus comes again.

Just before the Israel's exodus from Egypt, they endured the plagues God brought upon Pharaoh. They were not harmed but they had to go through the experience. Such an experience was a boost to their faith and brought them in closer dependence upon God. Israel didn't avoid the plagues but God was with them during the plagues. So in Revelation when we read of the plagues to befall the earth in the last days, we should not expect to be delivered from the time of trouble but we trust that we will be carried through it. What a precious time this will be for God's followers as they lean completely upon Jesus by faith, knowing that He is their redeemer.

**Revelation 6:12-17** – Here in the 6<sup>th</sup> seal we see a depiction of the earth just prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. The wicked cry for the rocks to fall on them because they don't know God who is coming. The question is put forth, who can stand?

**Revelation 7:1-4** – The 144,000 go through the time of trouble but are sealed and thus made ready to go through it. .

**Revelation 14:1-5** – They sing a song that no one else can sing.

**Genesis 5:24** – Enoch walked with God and was taken without seeing death.

**Hebrews 11:5** – Like Enoch, the 144,000 are those who pleased God.

**Daniel 12:1** – The time of trouble with all of its plagues are coming and we will soon see a period of trouble like there never was before. But we can rest assured that when the plagues fall, just as with Israel of old, that our redemption draweth nigh.

**Matthew 28:20b** – Jesus promises to be with us through to the end.

**Additional Note: Daniel 9:24-27** – This 70 week prophecy was a period of probation for Israel. However, they failed to fulfill their calling but Jesus came as one of them and fulfilled their calling in Himself. This prophecy predicted His arrival and death and even prophecies when the probation for Israel as a nation would close. Proponents of the Secret Rapture take this 70<sup>th</sup> week and remove it from the prophecy and put it at the end of time but there is no basis for this in the text. They then take the prophecy that so accurately predicted Christ ministry and death and suggest it's referring to the antichrist. Again however, there is no basis for this from the text. To take a passage that speaks of the beauty of Christ's and His gift for us and attribute it to the antichrist is nothing short of blasphemy.

The danger of holding to such a theory is that it suggests that the wicked who are left behind after the secret rapture will have that final week to get their act together and be ready for Christ return. Wouldn't Satan love to lead people into believing that they could wait to follow God until after the secret rapture. Indeed, Satan is the father of lies.

