

Return of the King

Student Edition

By Melanie Stone

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

What to expect

This study is a 8-session course on end-time prophecy. At the heart of this study you will hear about the greatness of God and the strength and authority of Jesus Christ. We will also uncover the deceitfulness of Satan, the self-sufficiency of mankind and the culmination of the nations.

This study is both for the curious beginner as well as for the advanced student. The study of eschatology, or the study of end-time prophecy, is easier to understand when you start with an overview of the events. In the next session you will receive a basic timeline to help you conceptualize God's plan for the end-times. In the weeks that follow we will add detail to that timeline, expanding your understanding of each event.

In this study, we will attempt to stay close to the scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to be our guide. We will look at several passages in both testaments, so that we can see a wide perspective from the Word of God. We will stay away from trying to speculate about how prophecy could be fulfilled.

We also will have the perspective that what we call the "end" is not really a finale, but a transition into a new beginning, a doorway into eternity. So our focus is going to be on our King who is coming back for us and the joy we will have in His Kingdom!

Suggested guidelines for group study;

1. This session is being recorded. If you have questions or comments, please do not interrupt the teaching. Instead, write them down on a piece of paper and give them to the instructor at the end of the class. Some of your questions will be answered by the material in other sessions, others will be answered in a discussion group following the teaching.
2. Try to turn in questions and comments that pertain only to the material that has been presented in that session.
3. Be careful that one person does not dominate the conversation in a discussion group.
4. Be sensitive to other members of the group. Listen to what each person has to say without interrupting or showing disrespect to their thoughts and ideas.

Session 1: The King is Coming!

Importance of Prophecy

Prophecy is important for us to know. Why do some avoid studying prophecy about end time events?

1. Some people are _____

Part of end-time prophecy includes frightening descriptions of events - wars, natural disasters, famine, etc. Because the topic is unpleasant, some have resisted studying the subject.

I John 4:18 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."

Whatever we or our children face, if our position is right with God, we can have the confidence that He will see us through any and all experiences. We should also keep in mind that many of the difficult events are for the wicked, not for the righteous.

2. Some people are _____

Another hindrance to studying end-time prophecy is the complexity of the subject. Because it seems so insurmountable, sometimes people shy away from it. In addition, there have been many opposing views among teachers, so some feel it is impossible to understand.

I John 2:27 "But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him."

3. Some don't see how prophecy _____

There are those who see prophecy as something that will take place in the future, not something that applies to their life today. For this reason, some neglect these portions of scripture because they don't see that it is relevant to their daily living.

II Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Purpose for Prophecy

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Approximately one-third of the Bible is prophecy, whether it has been fulfilled or is yet to be fulfilled. That's incredible! It is apparent that God values prophecy and He wants us to give importance to it. Here are some reasons why:

- God wants us to know His _____

Revelation 1:3 "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near."

- God wants us to be _____

Amos 3:7 "Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets."

- God wants us to know that He _____

Isaiah 54:10 "For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has mercy on you."

- God wants us to trust that He is _____

John 14:27-28a "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. You have heard Me say to you, "I am going away and coming back to you..."

- God wants us to know that He _____

Revelation 1:17b-18 "...Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. (18) I am He who lives, and was dead, Amen. I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

- God wants us to be _____

I Thessalonians 5:4 "But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief."

- God wants us to _____

II Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

God is Sending a Message

When you study the Bible, you can see that God is always trying to get our attention and send us the message of how we can have true life in Him. We can see this message everywhere, even in end-time prophecy.

It seems that God's main message that He wants us to realize is that our source of life is found in dependency upon Him. It starts in the beginning, when the human race chose to separate from God, wanting to have control of our own lives. God has allowed us to continue to populate and rule on the earth. God has allowed the nations of the world to do things their own way for thousands of years. End-time events are a progression of our own doing and the consequence of our own sin.

A. Kingdoms of this World

Acts 17:26-28a "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, (27) so that they should see the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; (28) for in Him we live and move and have our being..."

Read Daniel 2:27-35

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

1. Gold head: _____
2. Silver chest/arms: _____
3. Bronze torso/thighs: _____
4. Iron legs: _____
5. Clay and iron feet: _____
6. The stone: _____

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B. Kingdom of God

Read Daniel 2:44-45

1. The kingdom begins as a _____

Luke 17:20-21 "...The kingdom of God does not come with observation; (21) for will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

2. Jesus is the _____

Ephesians 1:19-23 "and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power (2) which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, (21) Far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. (22) And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, (23) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

3. The kingdom of God has been _____

Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen."

4. Jesus is coming back to rule His _____

Read Revelation 19:11-16

5. In the _____, Jesus reigns on the earth for 1,000 years.

6. A new _____ and a new _____

Read Revelation 21:1-7

Our King is coming back for us!

Session 2: An Overview of End Time Events

God's Word Will Come to Pass

Isaiah 46:10 "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." (NIV)

God Gives an Overview to Daniel

Main Text: Read Daniel 9:24-27

DANIEL 9:24

"Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy."

1. The seventy weeks are about the _____

Prophecies concerning the 70th week are centered on the Jews and the eastern world.

NOTE: We should be careful not to directly apply certain prophecy scriptures to ourselves as western Gentiles.

2. The "holy city" is _____

Jerusalem is an important place because it was there that the temple was built, the dwelling place of God. The temple was located on the Temple Mount, or Mount Moriah, in Jerusalem.

3. The term week describes a period of _____

The word "week" is not in the Hebrew text of this verse. The word here is "sevens" meaning a seven year time period, literally to say, "seventy sevens." The word week was added to help describe a seven year time period.

The word for seven means "full" and is from a root word meaning, "to be complete." You will see the number seven or seventy over and over in the Bible. We see that God rested on the seventh day of creation. We see God requiring the Jews to rest the seventh day, or the Sabbath, to remind us that we can only be made complete when we are in a reliant position upon Him and His love for us.

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NOTE: Remember that there are several different calendars that have been used throughout time. Today we used a Gregorian calendar based on the earth's rotation around the sun. We usually have 365 days and add a day every fourth year, what we call a leap year. The Jews used a calendar based on the cycles of the moon, adding a month when needed.

From looking at Bible prophecy, we can conclude that a prophetic year is 360 days. There is a time period in prophetic scripture given for 1260 days. The same time period has also been described as 3 ½ years or 24 months. Divide 1260 by 3 ½ years and you get 360 days per prophetic year.

4. The seventy weeks have _____

According to verse 24, there is purpose for the 70 weeks:

- To finish the transgression
- To make an end of sins
- To make reconciliation for iniquity
- To bring in everlasting righteousness
- To seal up vision and prophecy
- To anoint the most holy

DANIEL 9:25

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

1. There will be 7 sevens or _____

According to history, King Artaxerxes gave the decree to restore Jerusalem in 445 B.C.

2. There will be another 62 sevens or _____

Jesus was honored as the Messiah in 32 A.D. on the day we know as Palm Sunday. It took place on the 10th day of the Jewish month Nissan. This ended the 62 weeks.

Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. This fulfilled scripture, and if people knew the scripture, they would be aware that Jesus was truly their Messiah.

Matthew 21:5 “Tell the daughter of Zion (Jerusalem), ‘Behold, your King (Messiah) is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

There were people who did recognize that Jesus was their Messiah and King when they called out to Him in the streets. In Matthew 21:9 the people were shouting, “...Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name

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of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest.” The word Hosanna means, “glory to the God who saves us.” There were Jews who recognized Jesus to be the King who would save them.

In Luke 19 we read a different account of this event. The people were shouting loudly in the streets, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest (verse 38).”

The Pharisees called out in the crowd for Jesus to silence His followers, but Jesus answered, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.” Why would stones cry out if the people didn’t declare Jesus as the King, or the Messiah? The answer is so that Bible prophecy would be fulfilled in the right timing according to Daniel 9:25.

Read Luke 19:41-44

The people at the time did not realize the purpose for their King coming as their brother. Their King would soon hang on a cross to die our death. The Bible says the truth was hidden from them. It wasn’t time for Israel to have peace yet. Jesus wept over the city, the place where one day He would return to and rule from.

Five days after Jesus was recognized as the Messiah, He was crucified on the 15th day of Nissan, the same day as the Passover as our Passover Lamb.

3. There is 1 other seven or _____

This is a time period that has yet to be fulfilled.

DANIEL 9:26

“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.”

1. The Messiah is _____

After the sixty-two week time period, the Messiah is “cut off.” The Hebrew for “cut off” is “Karat” meaning “to destroy or consume” or to “covenant by the cutting of flesh and passing between the pieces.”

Jesus was punished and put to death on a cross in 32 A.D. The Messiah was cut off, but not for Himself – Jesus died for the human race. He was killed and He also was cut in covenant, cutting His flesh, putting an end to the Old Covenant and beginning a New Covenant in His blood, the blood of the Son of God.

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2. Jerusalem and the temple is _____

The Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 70 A.D. The Jews scattered to other nations. It wasn't until 1948 that Israel received their own land and became reinstated as a nation.

We also should mention who is "the prince who is to come." This is the antichrist and he will come out of what was once the Roman Empire.

NOTE: The Roman Empire at that time covered the Middle East and went up into Europe. The Antichrist will come out of that empire, quite possibly the city of Rome itself.

When will we see the 70th week?

Daniel 9:26 alludes to the fact that there is a gap between the 69th and 70th week. It says that "after" the 69th week there would be two events and desolations. The first event was when the Messiah would be cut off or cut for covenant, which was five days after Jesus was honored as the Messiah. The second was the destruction of the city of Jerusalem and the sanctuary, which was 38 years later in 70 AD. Verse 27 says "then" the Antichrist would make a treaty with many, marking the beginning of the 70th week. There have been nearly 2,000 years between the end of the 69th week and today, a season where the church of Jesus Christ has spread across the globe.

DANIEL 9:27

"Then he (antichrist) shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."

1. The 70th week, or final seven years begins with a _____

The treaty is between the antichrist and many. It could be that there will be more than one nation who enters into this agreement with Israel.

NOTE: This seven year time period is never called the "Tribulation" in the Bible. This is a term that teachers have added to describe the 70th week. In fact, the first half of the seventieth week is in peace with Israel.

2. In the middle of the week, the antichrist _____

After 3 ½ years, the antichrist puts an end to Jewish worship. The Jews are no longer able to bring their sacrifice and offering before the Lord. This event is called the Abomination of Desolation and it occurs 3 ½ years after the signing of the treaty. If we didn't know who the antichrist was before, we will know who he is at this event.

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The last 3 ½ years are referred to as the Great Tribulation. The Antichrist persecutes the Jews and troubles increase.

NOTE: Just because God foretells what will happen doesn't mean that God has instigated it. Much of what happens in the end is a result of the actions of mankind.

When will the end come?

- There is an _____ for Christ's return.

Daniel 11:35

- The gospel will be preached to _____ within the set time.

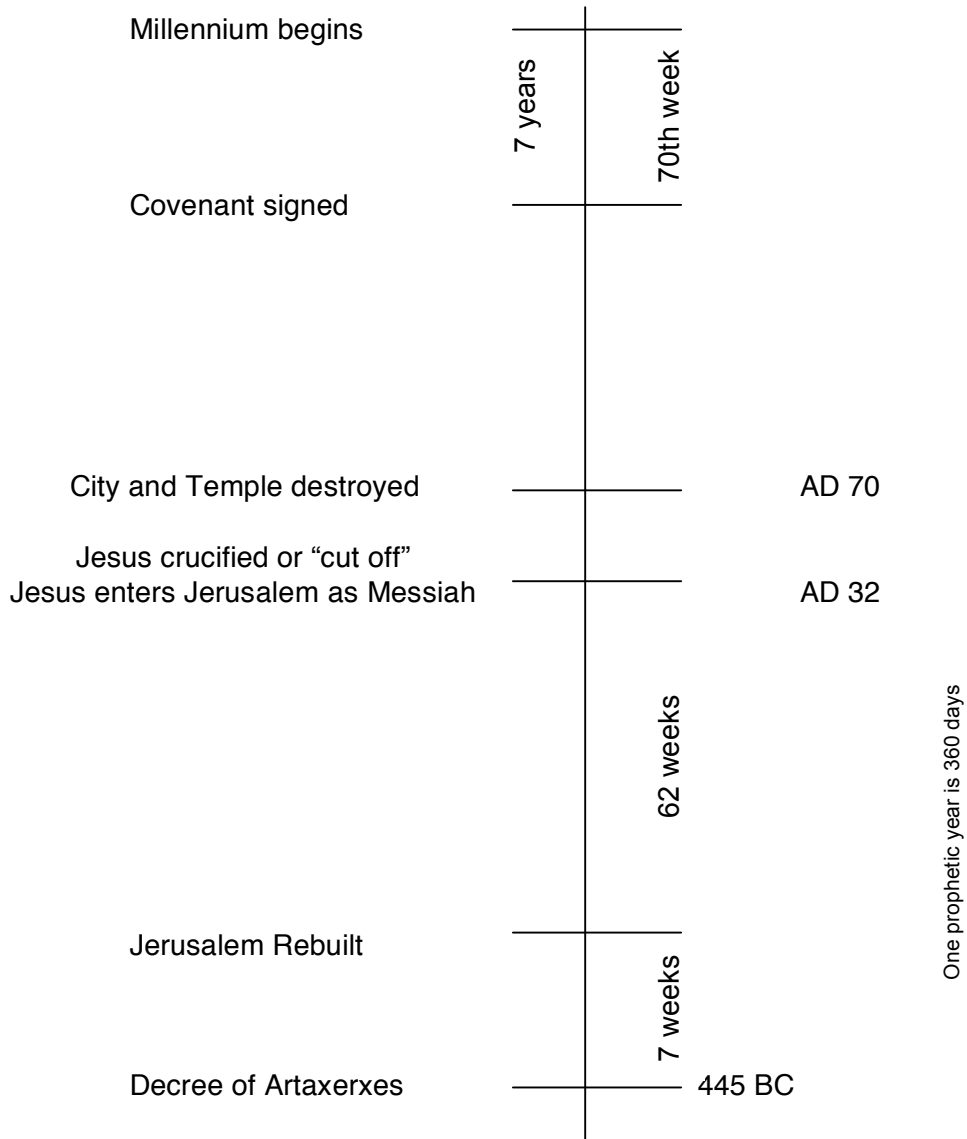
Matthew 24:14

- God is _____ desiring _____

II Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

James 5:7, 8 "Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. (8) You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."

Seventy Weeks Timeline



Session 3: The Beginning of the 70th Week

Review

Last week we studied Daniel's prophecy of the 70 weeks, literally 70 sevens, or 70 periods of 7 year increments. We know that the sixty-ninth week ended when Jesus rode into Jerusalem and honored as the Messiah.

There has been nearly 2,000 years since then and we have yet to see the 70th week begin. We know from Daniel 9 that the last seven years will begin with a peace treaty with Israel.

The Beginning of the Seventieth Week

Daniel 9:27 "Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering..."

- The beginning of the seventieth week starts with the signing of a treaty involving the Jews.
- The treaty is made with many.
- One of the many is the antichrist.
- The treaty is for seven years.

The First Half of the Seventieth Week

In this session, we are going to take a look at the first three-and-a-half years of the seventieth week. From Daniel we know:

- We may not recognize who the antichrist is during the first half
- The nation of Israel is not at war during the first 3 ½ years.
- The Bible calls the last 3 ½ years the Great Tribulation
- The Bible never refers to the entire 7 years as the tribulation.

The Olivet Discourse gives us insight into the first three-and-a-half years of the 70th week. In this session we are going to focus on a portion of what Jesus said in the Olivet Discourse. The Olivet Discourse is recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Jesus Prophecies an Event after the 69th Week

Jesus foretold the destruction of the _____

Read Matthew 24:1,2

In this passage Jesus had just left the temple. Here He is foretelling the destruction of the temple that we know happens in 70 AD. He says that not stone would be left on top of another. In history we know that the Romans took every stone apart to get to the gold that was between each one. Indeed, not one stone was left upon another.

Read Matthew 23:37-39

Jesus laments over Jerusalem, saying, “the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!” The Jews had a history of rejecting the prophets, God’s messengers, who were sent to reconcile them back to God. Jesus knew that soon He would be another prophet, sent by God to reconcile them, that the Jews would put to death.

What Jesus said lined up with what _____ said.

Read Daniel 9:26-27

The _____ have an important place in prophecy.

Many end-time events include either the destruction or the rebuilding of the temple and the holy city Jerusalem. This is significant because of our relationship with God and His purpose to provide us with life and wholeness.

Leading up to the 70th Week

Read Matthew 24:3-8

We are focusing on Matthew’s account for a description of future events. Mark 13:1-8 and Luke 21:5-11a are companion scriptures and we will also pull references from them. Also notice that Matthew 24:1-14 are an overview of the 70th week. Verses 15-31 begin with the Abomination of Desolation, which is in the middle of the 70th week and describe the “Great Tribulation”, which is descriptive of the last 3 ½ years.

The Mount of Olives is the location where Jesus gave us much information about the last days. It is interesting to know that the Mount of Olives is where Jesus ascended into Heaven and also where He is prophesied to return (Acts 1:9-12; Zechariah 14:4).

NOTE: Remember that Jesus is talking to the disciples, who were Jews. Much of what takes place in end-time prophecy is centered around the Jews.

The Beginning of Sorrows

Matthew 24:8 "All these are beginning of sorrows."

The term "beginning of sorrows" is a term used for _____

We know that as a pregnant woman progresses in labor:

- The contractions become more frequent
- The pains grow stronger in intensity

When Jesus gave this description for the end times, we know that it will include the beginning of the seventieth week, but we also see that many of these things have been happening for hundreds of years. As we get closer to the end, these things would begin to happen more frequently and with greater intensity.

1. _____

Read Matthew 24:4-5

The Jews have been and are continuing to look for the promised Messiah. Throughout Israel's history they have had a lot of trouble. Currently we see Israel as a tiny nation that is surrounded by Islamic nations. There has always been a general dissension between the Jews and the Arabs. This stems from Abraham, having Isaac, the promised son, and Ishmael, the son by Hagar.

NOTE: God loves everyone, including the Arabs. God has provided salvation for everyone, including the Arabs. God puts His focus on Israel to bring Jesus into the earth, but Jesus was sent to the nations, not just to the Jews. This is why Abraham was called the Father of Many Nations.

Even now, we see Israel as a country in distress. Terrorism is part of their daily lives. Young men and women are dying because of their conflict. Children have a war mentality. The Muslims have their mosque on an area in Jerusalem where the Jewish temple once stood. All the Jews have now is a remaining wall that once went around the temple, known as the Western Wall. It is also known as the Wailing Wall because of the mourning of the Jews for the destruction of their temple.

There are many Jews who are still watching and praying for the Messiah to come to rebuild their temple in Jerusalem and to rule the nations of the world. Jesus warns the Jews that there will be many leaders who claim to be the Messiah, but they are not the Messiah.

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2. _____

Read Matthew 24:6-7a

When has there not been a war at sometime or another? However, in the last days those wars and rumors of wars will increase.

3. _____

Read Matthew 24:7b

Famine is not only a result of lack of a country's ability to produce or buy food to meet their population's needs. Famine can also result from drought, pestilence and war.

4. _____

The Greek word, "loimos" #3061, means "Any deadly infectious malady." This is describing fatal epidemic diseases.

5. _____

Earthquakes can be devastating, especially if they happen in a highly populated area. This scripture makes it clear that earthquakes will happen in many different places.

Even though we are reading about difficult times, remember that the stage is being set for Jesus Christ to return and take His place as King!

Session 4: The Middle of the 70th Week

Review

There has been nearly 2,000 years since then and we have yet to see the 70th week begin, the last seven years on the earth. We know from Daniel 9 that the last seven years will begin with a peace treaty with Israel. Last week we looked at Jesus' description of events that will take place during the first half of the 70th week, the first 3 ½ years. Some of these events will take place in various places, not just in Israel. There will be men claiming to be the promised leader that will rescue Israel from trouble and rule the nations from Jerusalem. Jews will hear of wars and rumors of wars that are happening in other countries. There will be famines, pestilences and earthquakes in various places. Jesus said that these events are the beginning of birth pains, so we expect that they will grow in frequency and intensity in the later days, especially in the first 3 ½ years of the 70th week.

In this session we are going to look at scriptures that describe the middle of the 70th week. There is an event that marks the middle of the week that is very significant called the Abomination of Desolation.

Daniel Prophesies the Abomination of Desolation

Read Daniel 9:24-27

Verse 27 "...but in the middle of the week he (the antichrist) shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."

The word "abomination" is _____

The word "desolate" means _____

The antichrist is going to turn on the Jews in the middle of the week. The word middle here does not describe a division of exact halves, but rather an approximate middle. The Bible says that he is going to bring an end to sacrifice and offering. This tells us that the Jews have a place of worship that has been restored to them. Most likely that place of worship will be on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem, also known as the Temple Mount. Right now the Muslim's Dome of the Rock is there, a place where they say Muhammad received his visions. It is interesting that the Muslims would want their temple in the same place that God had His temple. It is possible that the Jews could share this site with the Muslims, or perhaps the Dome of the Rock will be replaced – we don't know.

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They are either bringing in offerings to a tabernacle or temple, or they are preparing to set up sacrifices and offerings. The antichrist is going to violently come against the Jews and chase them out of Jerusalem.

This event starts what has been called “the Great Tribulation.” The antichrist is going to cause tremendous suffering for the Jews in the second half of the tribulation.

Daniel 9:27 says that these abominations against the Jews will continue until the consummation, or completion of the end. We also see in this verse that the end is determined. God has the end already set in His timing. His timing for the end is not going to be advanced or delayed.

Jesus Foretells the Abomination of Desolation

Read Matthew 24:15-21

NOTE: Remember that the Abomination of Desolation is specifically about an event that will take place in the temple and to the Jews.

In verse 15, Jesus refers to Daniel’s prophecy about the Abomination of Desolation. Sacrifice and offerings are stopped. Jesus says you will see this happening in the “holy place,” the place of worship.

Jesus warns the Jews to flee to the wilderness, without hesitation. He says, “woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days,” most likely because the attack will not spare women and children. Jesus says the Jews should pray and ask God that their flight not be in the winter or on a Sabbath. We know that these days are appointed, so the timing will not change. The point is that the Jews need to get out of Judea quickly.

Read Luke 21:20-24

In verse 20 we see that the antichrist has planned this attack upon Jerusalem, and is ready to take the city. Therefore, not only should the Jews be watching for an end to sacrifice and offerings, but also for armies that will surround Jerusalem.

Jesus warns the Jews to get out of Judea, the area around Jerusalem. Jesus calls these days that are coming the “days of vengeance.” There are nations that hate Israel, and they are coming against the Jews. Jesus doesn’t say that God is instigating this, but He does say that it will happen and God is going to allow it to happen.

In verse 24 Jesus says that the times of the Gentiles will be fulfilled. A Gentile is someone who is not a Jew. God used the Jews to bring the Savior into the world. The reason He used the Jews was because God chose a man named Abraham, a man who believed and obeyed God. God told Abraham that He would make him the father of many nations. God’s intention has always been to save every nationality from their sin. Because of God’s covenant with Abraham and the descendants of Abraham, the Jews are the means that God is bringing salvation. The Jews are the means God will use for

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the Second Coming. The season for the Gentiles is the time period where the Gospel of salvation is being spread into every nation. The time of the Gentiles is now.

The word for times here in the Greek is *kairos*. The definition of the word is “opportune time, set time, appointed time, due time, definitive time, reasonable time, proper time for action.”¹ It’s a word that describes a time that has purpose. It is also used in Colossians 4:5 which says, “Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.” The word *redeem* means to purchase. I like to say, “Make this time, your time.” Make the most of this opportunity, this time that you have, because once it is over you won’t be able to go back and relive it.

Acts 17:26 “And He (God) has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.”

The Temple in End Time Prophecy

The temple and the city of Jerusalem hold great _____

Read Matthew 24:1,2

Jesus began the Olivet Discourse from a discussion about the temple. In this passage Jesus had just left the temple. Here He is foretelling the destruction of the temple that we know happens in 70 AD. He says that not stone would be left on top of another. In history we know that the Romans set the temple on fire and the gold was melted in between the rocks. The Romans then took every stone apart to get to the gold that was between each one. Indeed, not one stone was left upon another.

Read Matthew 23:37-39

Jesus laments over Jerusalem, saying, “the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!” The Jews had a history of rejecting the prophets, God’s messengers, who were sent to reconcile them back to God. Jesus knew that soon He would be another prophet, sent by God to reconcile them, that the Jews would put to death.

Read Hebrews 8:1-6

We see here that there is a temple in Heaven and that the first tabernacle was made to be a replica of that temple. God had given Moses specific instruction on how the tabernacle would be made (Exodus 40). Tabernacle means “dwelling place.”

Exodus 25:8 “And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.”

¹ The Spirit Filled Life Bible

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God's purpose for the tabernacle was so that He could as close to His people as possible – that meant sacrifices had to be made and blood had to be shed. Life is in the blood (Lev. 17:11) and the blood made atonement (lit. covering) for sins. Once a year the High Priest would offer an offering in the Holy of Holies for the nation of Israel called the Day of Atonement, known as Yom Kippur.

Hebrews 10:3-4 "(3) But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. (4) For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."

The tabernacle was a portable tent that the Jews moved throughout the wilderness. Once the Jews were settled in Canaan, the Promised Land, Solomon build a more permanent structure in Jerusalem, the first temple, following the pattern God had given Moses. This temple was destroyed after the Jews were taken captive by Babylon. After the 70 years of captivity, the temple is rebuilt in Jerusalem.

Read Hebrews 9:11-15

When Jesus died on the cross, the veil to the Holy of Holies in the temple in Jerusalem was torn. On the Day of Atonement, when the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies, if he was not purified, he would immediately die; so they put bells on the end of his robe and a rope on his leg. If the bells stopped ringing, they would be able to pull out his body. The veil being torn and exposing the Holy of Holies was a big deal.

Read Hebrews 9:23-28

Jesus has gone back to Heaven to be a High Priest in the temple. When the time is right, Jesus is coming back a second time! The first time He came to remove sin, the second time for salvation. Hallelujah!

In Matthew 24:38 Jesus says that their house would be left desolate – empty, uninhabited.

In Matthew 24:39 Jesus talks about coming again and quotes from Psalm 118:26. Many of the Psalms are prophetic of Christ.

Read Psalm 118: 22-26

Read Matthew 21:33-34

A cornerstone is a foundational stone of a building. Interesting that Jesus quotes from Psalm 118 again, straightway after it is quoted in Matthew 21:9 for the triumphal entry. Jesus is building another temple.

In His kingdom, Jesus began a different type of _____

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

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Right now, we are the temple of God, individually and collectively. The Holy Spirit lives on the inside of us.²

John 16:7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you."

John 14:16-17 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever (17) the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."

Jesus prophesies the Coming of the Holy Spirit

Read Acts 1:4-8

On Mount Olivet Jesus gave the church instruction to build the kingdom in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Read Acts 1:9-11

Jesus left. Jesus will come back in a similar way, in the clouds and on the same mountain.

Read Acts 2:1-4; 14-21

First of all, recognize that this was the Feast of Pentecost. The feasts themselves had prophetic value. Jesus was crucified during the Passover Feast.

Peter quotes from Joel, a prophetic passage of scripture. The scriptures begins talking about the Holy Spirit being poured out and ends with the Day of the Lord, an event that has not happened yet.

Countdown from the Abomination of Desolation

Daniel 11 describes the event of the Abomination of Desolation, which marks the middle of the tribulation. It also begins the last part of the seven years where the Antichrist has dominion.

Daniel 12:1-3

Daniel 12 is specifically about the end times. Here we read about the end time as a "time of trouble" for the Jews. In Jeremiah 30:7 it is called "the time of Jacob's trouble." We see that in the end many will turn to salvation through Jesus Christ.

Read Daniel 12:4-7

Daniel refers to the last half of the week as being a time, times, and half a time; which we know through comparing it with other scripture to be 3 ½ years. You see this phrase

² I Cor. 6:19; I John 2:27

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“time, times and half a time” in other prophetic scriptures as well.³ This time period is also referred to as being 1,260 days with 360 prophetic years in Revelation 12:6 and Revelation 11:3. It is also referred to as 42 months of 30 days each in Revelation 13:5.

Read Daniel 12:8-12

From the time the sacrifice is removed and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. That is 30 days longer than 3 ½ years. Then in verse 12 it says that a person is blessed if they make it through to the 1,335 days, another 45 days. That is a total of 75 days after the 3 ½ years.

³ Revelation 12:14; Daniel 7:25

Session 5: The Last Half of the 70th Week

Daniel Prophecies About the Last Half of the Seventieth Week

Read Daniel 9:24-27

Verse 27-28 "...but in the middle of the week he (the antichrist) shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate (or desolator)."

The antichrist is going to be coming against the Jews for the last 3 ½ years, until the end.

Read Daniel 7:23-27

This is another prophecy that Daniel had for the last 3 ½ years. We see that the antichrist is coming against the saints of the Most High. We know this is about the Jews. Whether it is about Christians in general, we don't know. We will get into more detail on this scripture and the antichrist in another session.

Jesus Prophecies the End in the Olivet Discourse

Most of our study so far has been out of the book of Daniel and from the Olivet Discourse. Before we go into other scripture, let's look at what Jesus said on the Mount of Olives.

Read Matthew 24:9-14, Mark 13:9-13

This scripture is addressed to the Jews. We see how the Jews will be directly affected in the end:

- They will be delivered up to tribulation (suffering)
- They will be beaten in synagogues
- Some will be killed
- The Jews will be hated by all nations
- Many Jews will be offended and betray one another, hating one another
- Family members will betray one another
- False prophets will rise up and deceive many
- Lawlessness will abound
- Love of many will grow cold
- The Gospel will be preached in all the world as a witness to the nations

The “Great Tribulation”

Notice in Matthew 24:21 that Jesus refers to this time as a great tribulation. We see it called the great tribulation in Revelation 7:14.

The word “tribulation” is used several times in the Bible to describe affliction at various times in history, not at all related to the last days. However, the last 3 ½ years are referred to as the Great Tribulation.

NOTE: The Bible never titles the 70th week the tribulation. The Bible never refers to a 7 year tribulation. Remember that the Jews are in a peaceful covenant with the antichrist for the first 3 ½ years. In Matthew 24 Jesus tells them in the beginning they will only be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; He does not say that they are in war.

This time period is also known as “the time of Jacob’s Trouble” in Jeremiah 30:7.

Events of the Great Tribulation

1. _____ among the nations

We read in Daniel and in Matthew about the antichrist turning on the Jews.

Read Revelation 12:1-17

Verse 17 is one scripture that might lead us to believe that the antichrist will attack Christian nations, whether they are in the Americas, Europe, Africa or Australia, we don’t know.

2. God allows _____ of the earth to be troubled

During the final half of the 70th week, the “trumpets” in Revelation 8:7-13. We will look at what some of these scriptures might be describing in comparison with what we know today, but we are not saying definitively what these scriptures are describing.

- **The first trumpet** (vs. 7): one-third of _____ is burned

There is hail and fire and blood thrown to the earth.

NOTE: When the Bible mentions the earth, sometimes it was referring to certain area or the known world at that time. One-third of the earth may or may not include the western world.

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- **The second trumpet** (vs. 8-9): one-third of the _____ is destroyed

There is something like a mountain burning with fire that is thrown into the sea, causing one-third of the sea to become blood and killing one-third of sea animals and destroying one-third of ships.

- **The third trumpet** (vs. 10-11): One-third of _____ are contaminated.

A great star falls from heaven, burning like a torch, and it strikes one-third of the rivers and springs, contaminating drinking water.

- **The fourth trumpet** (vs. 12-13): One-third of the _____ are darkened.

Obviously something happens that is affecting our atmosphere.

- **The fifth trumpet** (9:1-12): Men are tormented for _ months.

This star that falls from heaven to earth sounds like it could be spiritual, like an angel or demon, because in verse 1 it says, “to him was given.”

The locusts were given permission to torment men for five months, except for the ones sealed by God (see number 3). The torment is so bad that men desire to die rather than to live with their pain.

- **The sixth trumpet** (9:13-21): one-third of _____ killed

By fire, smoke and brimstone one-third of mankind is killed. Again, one-third of mankind could mean one-third of people in the area. The fire, smoke and brimstone could be referring to a weapon.

There is an army of 200 million. This could be a combined army or it could be an army from a large nation.

- **The seventh trumpet** (11:15-19): The _____ is proclaimed

After a passage on the two witnesses, the seventh trumpet sounds and there are loud voices in heaven proclaiming Jesus as Lord. This sounds like the rapture has taken place, when those who have made Jesus their Lord are gathered together, caught up in the air.

Apostle Paul also refers to a “last trump” when describing our catching away, the rapture. Read I Corinthians 15:50-52

Revelation 11:19 – the heavenly temple is opened and the ark of His covenant is seen.

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3. God seals _____ Jews.

Revelation 7:1-8
12,000 from each of the 12 tribes.

4. Two _____

Read Revelation 11:1-13

These men are end-time evangelists in the Middle East that will be well known because of the miracles God performs through them. God uses the two witnesses to send His message of love and salvation to people, even in perilous times.

Read Zechariah 4:1-14 Joshua and Zerubbabel, types of the two witnesses.

5. _____

Read Revelation 13:15-18

- The word mark literally means a _____
_____ like a tattoo.

NOTE: Some have tried to speculate what the mark will be – an implanted chip, a barcode, etc. However, a simple tattoo would be sufficient to satisfy this scripture. When the time comes, it will be obvious what the mark is to the ones who know and understand the scripture.

- The mark is given on the _____ or _____
- The mark is a branding for _____ to _____ the antichrist.
- People under the influence of the antichrist will have to have the mark to _____
- The mark will represent the antichrist's _____
- The number of man is _____

Note: Six is one number short of seven, seven meaning full or complete.

- The antichrist demands _____ of _____ his followers

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The idea of worshipping a political leader seems farfetched to the western mind. In the United States, we separate church and state. Religion is a choice and people are free to decide if they believe in God and what they will believe about God and how they will express their worship to God. Unfortunately, as a result, many children grow up not knowing God and Christians are restricted in sharing their faith because of the offense of other religions.

In most Arab countries, religion and politics are combined. Children are taught Islam to be the true religion. Other faiths are usually not tolerated. In some Middle Eastern countries, people are put to death for rejecting Islam for the purpose of cleansing their family or the nation of their betrayal. A political leader is also seen as a religious leader.

NOTE: When the Bible mentions the world or the nations of the world, it sometimes was only referring to the known world at that time. We know that the antichrist has enemies and not every nation is going to comply with his market system. The mark of the beast may or may not affect the western world.

Jesus Is Lord

Philippians 2:5-16a

Shine your light!

Session 6: The Antichrist

During the next few lessons we are going to go into more detail on specific subjects in end time prophecy such as the Antichrist, the Day of the Lord, the wrath of God, the Rapture and the Millennium.

Jesus is the Promised _____

God promised a Redeemer for the Jews, a king that would restore Israel and the nations of the world. God's plan for redemption not only included a political restoration, which is what most Jews are looking for, but also a spiritual restoration. During Jesus Christ's first visitation, God initiated a new and better covenant through the blood of His own Son, who gained entrance into this world as a human being so He could pay the price for our sin. Jesus was a Jew, a descendant of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. Through the Jewish lineage, salvation has been offered to us all, received only through making Jesus Christ the Lord of our lives. During His first coming, Jesus established a spiritual kingdom, a kingdom that has been growing in the hearts of people in nations around the world for nearly 2,000 years.

Because God operates through covenant, there is a focus on Abraham's descendants, the Jews. The Jews and Jerusalem should also be honored by Christian Gentiles as the entrance of a covenant that anyone can now a part of. The Jewish Jesus Christ came not only for the Jews, but for the world, so He can be our savior, our redeemer, our brother and our king. Jerusalem is also our Holy City and the temple is where our Lord and Savior will reign.

Final _____ **Kingdom**

In our first session, we talked about the kingdoms of this world and mankind's attempts to live apart from God. God promised the us a coming kingdom where the Jewish Messiah would return as king over the nations of the earth.

In the end, there is a leader that makes war with the Jews one last time. We call him the Antichrist. In this time period the tribulation that the Jews experience is described as being the worst they have ever known. In this final hour, God allows the transgressions of the world to come to their own end, and then He comes to purify the world and set up His kingdom with His Son as King.

The _____ of the Antichrist

The Bible has a lot to say about the Antichrist and the final days on the earth. Before we look into who the Antichrist is and what he does, we want to focus on what scriptures say about his destined end.

- He is slain and his body is destroyed and given to a burning fire. Daniel 7:11
- His dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. Daniel 7:26
- There will be a complete destruction for the one who makes desolate. Daniel 9:27
- He will come to his end and no one will help him. Daniel 11:45
- The Lord will slay him with the breath of His mouth and bring him to an end at His coming. II Thessalonians 2:8
- Both the Antichrist and his false prophet are thrown into the Lake of Fire. Revelation 19:20.

Names to _____ the Antichrist

The prefix “anti” means _____

The word “Christ” means _____

In the Septuagint, the Greek Old Testament, “Christ” is translated “Messiah.”

The word “antichrist” can mean either _____

The word could also be a combination of the two meanings, a person who assumes the guise of Christ and who opposes the true Messiah.

Antichrist (antichristos) is used only five times in four verses in the New Testament, all by the author John.⁴ John talks about the coming Antichrist and also uses the word to describe a spirit or a behavior that is against Christ.

There is a lot of scripture on the Antichrist in the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments. Here are some of the names that are used to describe this evil leader:

- The little horn (Daniel 7:8)
- A king (Daniel 8:23)
- A prince (Daniel 9:26)
- A vile person (Daniel 11:21)
- Man of sin (II Thessalonians 2:3)
- The son of perdition (II Thessalonians 2:3)
- The lawless one (II Thessalonians 2:8-9)
- The beast (Revelation 11:7, also chapters 13 and 17)

⁴ I John 2:18; I John 2:22; II John 7; I John 4:3

Daniel 2:41-45 The Final _____

In session one we referenced this passage focusing on the coming kingdom of Jesus Christ. King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream about an image that he said “my spirit is anxious to know the dream (2:3).” Daniel knew the dream by revelation and he interpreted the dream by revelation. The dream was about four kingdoms where the last kingdom, Christ’s kingdom, would rule.

The fourth kingdom is the final earthly kingdom that reigns over the Jews before the second coming of Jesus Christ. The kingdom is a mixed union, a union that does not adhere with one another.

Daniel 7:1-28 The _____ of the Final Earthly Kingdom

Daniel has another interpretation of another dream from another king that describes four kingdoms. The king is Belshazzar and the dream is about four beasts that describe the same four kingdoms as Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.

Verses 7-8 talk about a kingdom that has ten horns, or ten leaders. A horn is a symbol of strength and leadership. Horns were used to anoint leaders with oil in the Old Testament. We know that this last kingdom is a union of groups that are not adhering to one another. There then arises a little horn that subdues three of the horns. This is the Antichrist.

A horn is usually symbolic of a leader. A horn is a symbol of strength. In the Old Testament, Samuel anointed kings with a horn of oil.

Verses 19 -22 we see that the little horn, the Antichrist makes war against the saints, God’s people, until God establishes His kingdom.

Verses 23-28 the Antichrist will persecute the Jews for 3 ½ years, speaking against the God of the Jews. Then Jesus comes to reign in His kingdom.

Daniel 8:23-26 Defeated without _____

In an earlier lesson we introduced Antiochus IV Epiphanes, a ruler in the Grecian Empire, who is a type of the Antichrist described in much of Daniel 11. In Daniel 8:1-22 the prophecy is about Medo-Persia and Greece and Antiochus IV Epiphanes.

In verses 23-26 Daniel talks about a latter time, when transgressors have reached their fullness. In verse 25 it is prophesied that a ruler will come against the Prince of princes and be defeated without human means. We believe that this portion is about the Antichrist.

Daniel 9:24-27 Comes from the Old _____

“The people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary” is referring to the Romans destroying Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD. The prince is the Antichrist. He will come out of what was once the Roman Empire.

Daniel 11:21-44 He Always Has _____

Daniel 11:1-20 prophesies about the Grecian Empire and a mighty king that arises, which is Antiochus IV Epiphanes.

In verse 21, there is a vile person taking the place of another. He is not royalty, as was Antiochus. He comes peaceably, not as Antiochus. He attains his power through intrigue and deceit, not like Antiochus. We believe this is the Antichrist.

II Thessalonians 2:1-12 Sets Himself Up in the _____

Verse 3

There is going to be a “falling away.” The Greek word here is *apostasia*, meaning “to depart or fall away.” We have termed this event as the apostasy. Some have taught that this is the rapture, when Christians are taken up and out of the world – a departure before the antichrist is revealed. It could be that people are turning away from God because of their tribulation or maybe even choosing to accept the Antichrist as their messiah. It could also be describing the fleeing of the Jews, departing out of Jerusalem, before the Antichrist turns on them. Most likely this is a falling away from the faith when the Antichrist comes against the Jews.

We have taught that the antichrist may not be obvious at the beginning of the seventieth week at signing of the treaty because he is one of many. There will be people who recognize who the Antichrist is when he rises up and turns on the Jews in the middle of the seven years.

Verse 4

It says that the Antichrist is going to oppose and exalt himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped. He is going to sit in the temple as if he were God. This is the abomination of desolation. There will be people, including Jews, who will worship the Antichrist. Some Jews will accept him as their promised messiah and believe that he is the one who will restore Israel and rule the nations.

Verses 7 – 8

There is someone who is restraining. We believe that the one who is restraining is the Holy Spirit. When someone restrains, they are holding something back. We believe that God is using the Holy Spirit to keep world events from escalating before their time. He is going to keep the Antichrist in the right timing to fulfill prophecy. When the time is right, He will stop restraining and let the Antichrist reveal himself.

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We read that He, the Holy Spirit, will be taken out of the way. Some have taught that this is describing the rapture. Since the Holy Spirit lives inside believers, some have taught that the Holy Spirit will leave the earth when the church is caught up in the rapture. However, the Bible doesn't say the Holy Spirit is leaving, it says that the Holy Spirit will stop restraining. He will be taken out of the way.

Verse 9

The Antichrist is also called the "lawless one." We see that the Antichrist is going to have power, signs and lying wonders according to the working of Satan.

Revelation 13:1-18 Given _____ Over the Known World

First of all, in chapter 12 we see a dragon that makes war with a woman. This is Satan making war with Israel. In chapter 13 verse 4 we see the dragon, Satan, giving authority to the beast that rises out of the sea.

In verse 1 we see that the beast has seven heads. Some believe that these seven heads are seven kings or empires that have had or will have dominion over Israel.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

In verse 3 we see that one of the heads is mortally wounded, however the head is restored. The Antichrist will survive and people will wonder how anyone could ever come against him.

In verse 6 we see the Antichrist blaspheming God, the Jews and the temple.

In verse 7 we see that God allows the Antichrist to make war with the saints and is given authority over every tribe, tongue and nation. He will have access in every place and many will adore him.

This is a religious war. Again, we are not sure if his authority is global or over the known area at the time. We do know that he is constantly at war and has enemies around him.

In verse 13 we see that the Antichrist performs acts of power, even making fire come down from heaven.

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Verses 11-18

There is another person who supports the Antichrist. We call him the False Prophet. He sets up the mark of the beast and uses force to cause allegiance to the Antichrist and his kingdom.

Revelation 17:1-18 The Seat of _____

Verses 1-6 The harlot is Babylon. The harlot sits on the beast, the Antichrist's kingdom in Babylon.

Verses 7- 13 a description of the kingdom and the Antichrist. Verse 8 describes the Antichrist, a ruler that will subdue three of the ten leaders.

Verses 14-18 Jesus defeats the Antichrist and his kingdom.

Verse 14 "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen and faithful."

The woman is Babylon, the world system. The Beast is the Antichrist. The ten kings are the ten leaders that he rules with for a short time. The city the Antichrist comes out of is said in verse 9 to have seven mountains or hills. The city that has seven hills is Rome.

Revelation 19:11-21 Thrown Into the _____

Jesus defeats the nations. In verse 20 we see that the Antichrist and the False Prophet are thrown in the lake of fire burning with brimstone. This is the eternal punishment where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Summary of the Antichrist

- He is one of many who signs a treaty with Israel
- Three and a half years later the Antichrist turns on the Jews
- The Antichrist puts a stop to Jewish sacrifices and offerings
- He takes his seat in the temple, displaying himself as god.
- An image of the Antichrist is set up and worshipped
- He is able to perform acts of power, even causing fire to come out of the sky.
- He blasphemes God and the Jewish tabernacle and the saints.
- He has authority over all known nations in that area
- An image of the Antichrist is set up and is worshipped
- A mark is given to force allegiance to the Antichrist. People will not be able to buy or sell without it.
- Jesus defeats the Antichrist and the armies that come against Him.
- The Antichrist and the False Prophet are thrown into the Lake of Fire.

Session 7: The Rapture and the Second Coming

Jesus' First Coming

It has always been the plan of God to send the promised Messiah twice. The first time Jesus was sent to remove the penalty sin by giving His own blood as atonement for our sin. He also came to begin a kingdom, a spiritual kingdom that has been growing for the past 2,000 years. This kingdom began with the Jews under a new covenant and it has spread to include any nationality that will accept Jesus Christ as Lord. Through Jesus Christ, a Jewish descendant of Abraham, God has kept His promise to Abraham to be the “father of many nations.”

Since the fall of man, It has been the plan of God to send us a Savior in human form to die our death and bring us back to God. God chose Abraham to father the family that the Savior of the world would be born into. Both Mary and Joseph, the parents of Jesus, were Jewish descendants of Abraham; however, Joseph did not father Jesus – God did. Jesus was both God and man, born without a sin nature, unlike the rest of humanity. He did not owe a debt of sin; therefore He was qualified and able to make payment for our sin with His life.

When this man Jesus died, the separation of sin between God and man was removed. God was able to raise Jesus from the dead by the power of His Spirit. Therefore, Jesus is called the firstborn from the dead. Our brother, the promised Messiah, was the first of many millions that would follow after Him in receiving new life through reconciliation with our Heavenly Father.

Jesus' Second Coming

Before Jesus returns to the earth a second time, He will gather His kingdom of saints to Him in the air. We call this event the rapture, which means a “catching away.”

When the Messiah returns to the earth for the second time, He will have His saints with Him. We call this event the Second Coming. This time Jesus will come in strength and in power as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He will come to make war with the nations of the world. He will succeed in defeating the kingdoms of the world that have been shaped from generations of kingdom history. He will then rule over the nations of the world from the city of Jerusalem.

The Rapture is a Separate Event from the Second Coming

The word “rapture” is not in the Bible. The word means “a catching away” and is used for the event where Jesus comes to take His saints out of the earth by bringing up in the air to meet with Him.

Some have confused the Rapture, where Jesus meets His saints in the air, with the Second Coming, where Jesus comes to the earth. They are clearly two separate events.

Read Matthew 24:29-31; I Corinthians 15:51-54; I Thessalonians 4:16-17⁵

Description of the Rapture

- The rapture happens immediately after the tribulation
- The heavens are shaken
- Jesus appears in the clouds of heaven
- There are angels and a trumpet blast
- Jesus is coming for the saints
- The dead in Christ rise first
- Those that are alive meet Him in the air
- Our bodies are changed in an instant

Matthew 24:29 clearly states that this meeting in the air happens after the tribulation. Some have said that this scripture is about the Second Coming; however, Jesus is not coming to the earth in this scripture. Some have said that this scripture is only for the Jews; however, nowhere in the Bible does it mention two raptures, one for the Jews and one for the Christians.

Read Zechariah 14:4; Revelation 19:11-21

Description of the Second Coming

- Jesus comes to the earth, on the Mount of Olives
- His saints are already with Him
- Jesus comes to take His victory

The Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:11-12

At the end of the tribulation, after the two witnesses have been killed and laid in the streets for 3 ½ days, they come to life and a voice says, “Come up here.” They ascend into heaven in a cloud. This could be that they are part of the rapture, part of the dead who rise first to meet the Lord in the air.

⁵ Also see Daniel 12:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 6:12-17

Daniel's Extra 30 Days

Before God allows Jesus to take His earthly throne to rule and reign over the nations, God cleanses the earth. He does this through judgment, wrath that rids the world of the impure and ungodly. This is part of the Day of the Lord.

The word "day" is not used to describe a 24 hour period, but a season of time.

Read Revelation 14:6-13 (A chronology of the last 3 ½ years)

- 144,000 Jews are sealed, protected
- Verse 6 The Gospel is preached around the world through an angel.
- Verse 8 Babylon is fallen.
- Verse 9-11 Punishment comes to those who have taken the mark.

The Rapture Happens First

Revelation 14:14-16

The Wrath is Poured Out Second

Revelation 14:17-20

Joel 3:13

Christians will not be on the earth when the wrath of God is poured out.

The Saints Are in Heaven

Revelation 15:1-8

Christians are not around for the wrath of God. The wrath of God is clearly being poured out after the tribulation.

Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Revelation 19:7-9

A marriage supper is a covenant meal celebrating a union. In a covenant, a meal was shared to signify being united as one. When you take a piece of food to eat it, you are taking it in, making it a part of you.

At the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the church is united with Christ. Remember what Jesus said when He celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples the night before His crucifixion in Matthew 26:29, "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." At the covenant Passover, the wine represented the blood that covered sin. Drinking wine was a sign of receiving the terms and blessings of the covenant, entering into a union with God. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is our Communion with Him.

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Do you remember Daniel's mention of the extra 30 days and then the extra 45 days?⁶ It seems that the first event after the tribulation and the rapture is the wrath of God. The first 30 days is the outpouring of God's wrath.

The Wrath of God is Poured Out

Revelation 16:1-21

1. First Bowl: Loathsome Sores
2. Second Bowl: The Sea Turns to Blood
3. Third Bowl: Waters Turn to Blood
4. Fourth Bowl: Men Are Scorched
5. Fifth Bowl: Darkness and Pain
6. Sixth Bowl: Euphrates Dried Up
7. Seventh Bowl: Earth is Shaken

Revelation 16:16 The wrath of God draws the nations to Armageddon. The stage is being set for the Second Coming.

Jesus Defeats the Armies of the World

Revelation 19:11-21

The armies come together believing that they will fight and conquer the Jews.⁷ However, at this point Jesus returns and defeats the armies with the word from His mouth.

Other Scriptures:

Isaiah 34:1-6

Zechariah 14:3-5

Joel 2:1-2, 11

The Antichrist and the False Prophet are thrown into the Lake of Fire.

Daniel's Extra 45 Days

We also know that Jesus will reign for 1,000 years. We call this the Millennium. Is there anything that takes place in between Armageddon and the Millennium?

Preparation for the Kingdom

God is going to restore the earth for the Millennial reign.

The Sheep and Goat Judgment

Matthew 25:31-46

⁶ Daniel 12:11-12

⁷ Zechariah 14:2

Return of the King - Student Edition

This scripture is part of the Olivet Discourse, as is chapter 24, and it is specifically written for the last days prior to the Millennium.

There will be unsaved people who live through the tribulation and the wrath of God. There will be Gentiles who refuse to take the mark and refuse to make allegiance to the Antichrist. These people will be judged to see if they will enter the kingdom or not. This selection is based on how they treated the Elect during the Tribulation.

The “goats” are the wicked who are taken out for punishment. The righteous are left behind. This differs from the rapture, wherein the righteous are taken out and the wicked are left behind.

The Jews are Gathered in Jerusalem

God promises to restore the Jews back to their land.

Jeremiah 16:14-15

God Purifies the Earth with Fire

During the Day of the Lord, God purifies the earth with fire.

II Peter 3:17

II Peter 3:10-13

Psalm 50:1-5

Isaiah 33:11-15

Joel 2:1-11

God also brings healing to the earth.

Malachi 4:1-3

Session 8: The Millennium

The Millennium

Jesus begins His 1,000 year reign over the earth. Before He does, He temporarily binds Satan in the bottomless pit.

Read Revelation 20:1-4

Read Isaiah 65:22-25

Read Isaiah 2:3-4

Read Jeremiah 23:3-6

Read Zechariah 14

This is a description of what it will be like:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Revelation 20:7-10

Satan will be released for a short time. There will be nations from the north that try to fight the Lord and fail. God immediately consumes them with fire.

Satan is thrown into the Lake of Fire where the Antichrist and False Prophet are.

The Great White Throne Judgment

Read Revelation 20:11-15

The spirits of the dead from thousands of generations are raised. There are many books with their works written in them. They are judged according to their works.

Read Malachi 3:16 and Matthew 12:36

Those who received Jesus Christ as their Savior have their names written in the Book of Life. If a person's name is not in the book, they are thrown into the Lake of Fire.

The Lake of Fire

Matthew 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

The Lake of Fire was made for Satan and his demons, not for mankind. However, if a person rejects their salvation, their sin is their guilt and their sentence to eternal separation from God. People have the right to choose between life and death as long as they are on the earth in their mortal body. Once you die and your spirit leaves your body and the earth, you longer have the opportunity to choose.

Read Matthew 8:12; Matthew 13:42; Revelation 20:10; 20:8; II Thessalonians 1:9

It is called the Second Death. The first death is Hades, a tormenting holding place, for some it was a place of torment in the belly of the earth, but for others it was called Abraham's bosom. Those in torment could see those in Abraham's bosom across a chasm. Read Luke 16. Read Ephesians 4:9

The second death is described as a place of fire and brimstone. There is painful torment and complete darkness. The torment is everlasting.

New Heavens and a New Earth

Read Revelation 21:1- 22:5

It seems that everlasting life is spent on a new earth. God will be with us on the earth in the holy city. There will be no need for a temple. God and the Lamb are there, together. There is no need for the sun and the moon in new Jerusalem, because the light of the glory of God illuminates it.

There will be no sea. There will be a river that runs that comes from the throne of God. There is a Tree of Life. There is no sorrow, crying or pain. Relationships change; there is no marriage. We will see Jesus face to face.

Maranatha means "Lord, come." We look forward to the "return of our king!"