

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Study



*“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” **Col 1:28***

“How To Live in Light of the Second Coming”

“The Lord Is Faithful”

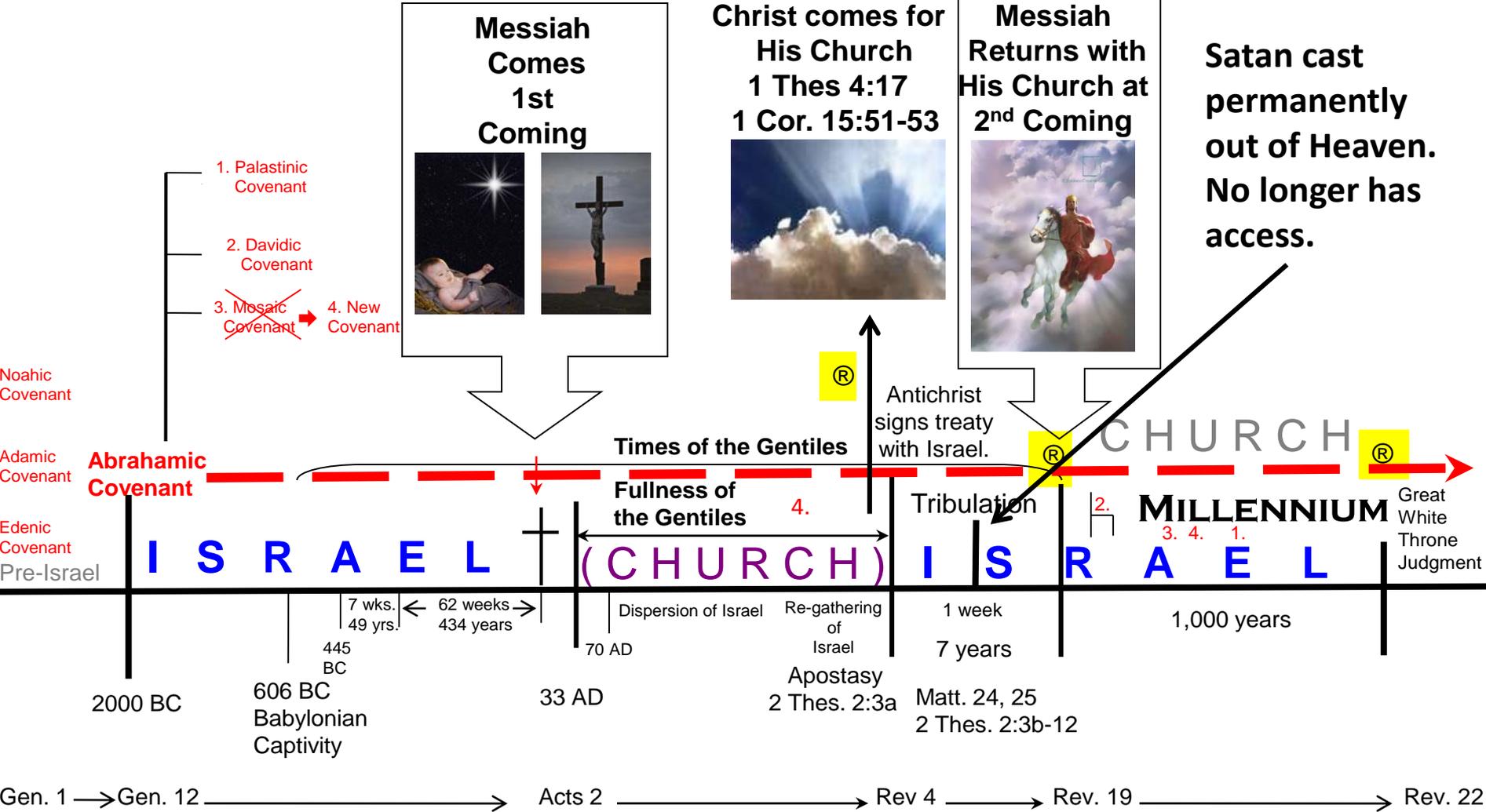
2 Thess. 3:1-5

April 26, 2015

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- 4 We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will continue to do what we command.
- 5 May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.

Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



® = Resurrection

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Prayer Requests –

1. Prayer is to be reciprocal. Everyone needs prayer!

2 Thess 2:13-17

13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

14 It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,

17 comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

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3. Be Biblical.

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Ps 147:15

5 He sends forth His command to the earth;
His word runs very swiftly.

Isa 55:11

11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Heb 4:12

12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Acts 6:7

7 The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem,

Acts 19:20

20 So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

Acts 18:5-6

5 But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

The point of all of these verses is that God has infused His power into His Word.

“I think the greatest weakness in the church today is that almost no one believes that God invests His power in the Bible. Everyone is looking for power in a program, in a methodology, in a technique, in anything and everything but that in which God has placed it—His Word. He alone has the power to change lives for eternity, and that power is focused on the Scriptures.”

- R. C. Sproul

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A

B

A

B

8 Obstacles That Slow The Progress of the Word

1. Blinded minds.

2 Cor 4:4

4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2. A damaged road.

1 Thess 2:18

18 For we wanted to come to you — I, Paul, more than once — and yet Satan hindered us.

Gal 5:7

7 You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?

3. Closed doors.

2 Cor 2:12

12 Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord,

4. Hard hearts.

Mark 4:15

15 "These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

Acts 16:14

14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

5. No root.

Mark 4:17-18

17 and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.

6. Anti-God Philosophies

2 Cor 10:4-5

4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

7. Evolution and Naturalism

Heb 11:6

6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

8. The World System

Eph 2:1-2

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Mark 4:18-19

18 "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word,

19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

At what pace is the Word of God moving in your life?

A. Snail (hardly noticeable)

B. Turtle (very slow)

C. Rabbit (rapidly)

Ps 119:32

32 I shall run the way of Thy commandments,

Ps 119:60

I hastened and did not delay
To keep Thy commandments.

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Ps 140:1-2

1 Rescue me, O Lord, from evil men;

Preserve me from violent men

2 Who devise evil things in their hearts;

John 17:14

14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

1 Cor 15:30-32

30 Why are we also in danger every hour?

31 I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

32 If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me?

Acts 18:1-12

- 1 After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth
- 4 And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.
- 5 But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.
- 6 But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."
- 7 Then he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue.
- 8 Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.
- 9 And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent;
- 10 for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city."
- 11 And he settled there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.
- 12 But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat,

Acts 17:4,5

4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women.

5 But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.

Acts 17:12-13

12 Therefore many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.

13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica found out that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came there as well, agitating and stirring up the crowds.

2 Cor 11:23-26

23 in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

“All the forces of hell were then, and still are, more or less, raised and mustered to oppose the Word of the Lord, to hinder its publication and success.”

- Matthew Henry

“My main ambition in life is to be on the devil's most wanted list.”

- **Leonard Ravenhill**

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Notice Paul's line of thinking –

- 1. Start with an attribute of God – God is faithful.*
- 2. Based on His faithfulness, I can count on Him in time of suffering and trial to:
 - A. Strengthen me in my inner man.*
 - B. Protect me from the evil one.**

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- Always put your confidence in the Lord and not others by themselves. People can fail you.
- Paul is saying here – “I don’t have confidence in you all by yourself, that you will keep on obeying, but I do have confidence in the Lord.”
- We can’t make other believers live the Christian life, we can show concern for them, we can encourage them, we can teach them, but in the end the only one who can cause them to live the Christian life is the Lord, and we have to keep putting them in His hands, time after time, after time, after time.

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Another prayer – (notice how specific it is)

2 things –

1. *The Lord would direct their hearts in the love of God.*

- During times of suffering and trial in your heart of hearts you need to know God still loves you.

Rom 8:35,38,39

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. *The Lord would direct their hearts into the steadfastness of Christ.*

- Christ went through suffering and death and endured steadfastly through it all.
- Paul prays that the Thessalonians would do the same.

How well do you do in time of crises?

A. Remain steadfast

B. Start doubting

C. Fear that God no longer loves you

1 Cor 15:58

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.