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# Preparing for the Soon Second Coming of Christ

## My Personal Ground Rules for Studying Prophecy

### 1. Be Humble

There have been many spectacular failures in the field of prophecy, most of which involve setting dates for the return of Christ or some other key end-times milestone.

From William Miller in the mid-1800s to Hal Lindsey and Harold Camping in more recent decades, the trail is littered with examples of what we might charitably call bad guesses.

Except most of these “guessers” spoke with certainty about their predictions.

I want to avoid that pitfall. While I am diligent in my research and know that God has gifted me with a good analytical mind, I freely confess that I do not have all the answers, and that I could be wrong on any number of facts or speculations.

But neither do I want to run with the mob that bashes “date setters” as heretics as is so fashionable today. In my reading of scripture I find no Biblical prohibition on speculating about the timing of the second coming or other future events, so long as one doesn’t make the deadly mistake of falsely claiming to speak for the Lord (Deuteronomy 18:20). If I in this study I venture to make educated guesses about future events I will make certain to clarify the speculative nature of my conclusions and show the steps in my deductive reasoning.

Furthermore, unlike most prophecy teachers I have encountered, I readily admit that most of what I know is based on others’ work. Sometimes I have original ideas by the prompting of the Holy Spirit (these are moments of great excitement) but, like everyone else, I learned most of what I know from other people. I will endeavor to give them credit where it is due.

Importantly, I am not in complete agreement with any of the prophecy teachers I have read. Indeed, I believe some of them are wrong in most of what they teach. However, I always endeavor to accept truth where I find it and never to “throw the baby out with the bathwater.”

*“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”* Hebrews 4:12.

Likewise, the Biblically-minded scholar should carry that two-edged sword metaphorically into every intellectual pursuit, dividing truth from error with precision, always preserving and honoring what is true. And conversely, rejecting what is false, no matter how eminent the person asserting it. God is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34) and neither should we be.

## **2. Think Like a Judge, Not a Lawyer**

*“Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of anyone, for judgment belongs to God...”* Deut 1:17

I happen to be a lawyer in addition to being a pastor. Lawyers are often paid big money for their skills in advocating for their clients. In other words, we specialize in championing

one point of view against all opposing views.

Judges on the other hand are expected to be impartial and to hear all the evidence before rendering an opinion on a matter.

In studying prophecy we should not only think like judges -- holding our conclusions lightly and remaining open-minded as we go -- but we should also be very hesitant to draw firm conclusions because so much of the evidence before us is necessarily speculative. How could it be otherwise when many of the events we're considering haven't happened yet?

Unfortunately, many Christians tend to think and act like lawyers on matters of doctrine, including eschatology (the study of end-times theology). It is a problem that is in fact worsened by the phenomenon of denominationalism in which churches train people exclusively in their own perspective of scripture, rather than teaching a holistic biblical worldview and critical thinking skills with which to understand the Bible for themselves.

Denominational believers typically hear one perspective on prophecy and then start advocating for it without any real understanding of other views. Look at the comments sections under prophecy-oriented news stories on the web and you'll see lots of these folks battling it out like armchair quarterbacks after a Superbowl game.

In this book I will make arguments for what I believe to be the correct conclusions but also acknowledge opposing views, especially regarding matters of which I am less confident.

### **3. Stay Biblically Grounded**

I believe in the absolute authority of the Bible in all matters of doctrine and theology and in a contextual interpretation of its meaning within the holistic totality of all the scripture.

This study will therefore rest on a foundation of scripture, and most of my key assertions will include citations to the scriptural references I rely upon.

One glaring fault shared by many prophecy teachers today is the problem of selective editing of the Bible. Beware of teachers who rely heavily on scriptures which support their theories and ignore or dismiss contradictory passages.

I strongly believe that if a person can't reconcile the apparent contradictions in the text of the Bible -- in a manner that flows smoothly and naturally -- then he doesn't yet

understand what it is trying to teach.

In my view, the Word of God is perfectly harmonious and I will work to present a natural reading of it in this study.

#### **4. Follow a Hebrew rather than a Hellenic Perspective**

*“Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints” Jude 1:3.*

Every word of the Holy Bible was written down before the end of the first century by those who either received the teaching of the Jesus Christ (a Judean) personally or secondhand via one of His Hebrew disciples. The “faith which was once for all handed down to the saints,” is thus best understood from the Hebrew cultural perspective they shared, not the Hellenic (Greek) perspective of the generations that followed.

As Paul emphasized, the Gospel of Christ was only a “stumbling block” to the Jews (our spiritual first cousins) but was “to the Greeks, foolishness” (1 Corinthians 1:23).

Likewise, the study of prophecy is a minefield for those who study it from a Greek perspective, invariably being forced to “spiritualize” (and thus confuse) concepts, symbols and events that make perfect literal sense from a Hebrew perspective.

This is not, however, a Catholic or Orthodox vs. Reformed issue, because nearly every Christian denomination since Constantine follows a Greek perspective regarding prophecy.

Neither does “Hebrew perspective” in this context mean “Jewish perspective” since most of modern Talmudic Judaism does not hold the Hebrew perspective of the first century, which was Torah-based (what Jesus called “the law and the prophets” in Matthew 5: 17). In contrast, the earliest portions of the Talmud were written in Babylon starting around 200 AD.

No, the “Hebrew perspective” as I define the term, is “the New Testament interpreted primarily through the teachings of the Old-Testament-as-read-literally, supplemented by the writings of the first century disciples of the Apostles, who may be presumed to know better than anyone else what Jesus and the Apostles meant by the things they said, and for whom the subtleties and nuances of the parables, metaphors and symbols employed in scripture were understood as present-day cultural references.”

After I began studying prophecy from a Hebrew perspective, I was forced to abandon many of the things I thought I already knew about prophecy, as I experienced epiphany after epiphany of genuine understanding -- like successive waves of joy washing through my spirit and brain.

## **5. How to Get the Most out of This Study**

First, wipe the slate clean and resolve to restudy prophecy anew from scratch, letting go of whatever you may have already been taught. Be ready to reclaim those beliefs that you can confirm by your own Berean-style study and to leave behind or modify those that you discover are false or flawed.

Second, buy a new Bible exclusively for prophecy study and mark it up with highlighting, and margin notes, and insert additional note pages in key sections.

Third, start re-reading the Old Testament with a prophetic eye and a literalist's mind - - from Genesis 1:1 -- examining every scripture for its end--time implications, as if the entire Bible was written for the last days as much or more than for ages past (as I am convinced it was). Read voraciously.

Forth, be an active part of the drafting and beta-testing of the "Fundamentals of End Time Prophecy" correspondence course that I will be writing over the coming weeks and month.

Lastly, consider yourself part of this ministry family. Tribulation is upon us and the world as we have known it is crumbling around us. Let us take joy in the fellowship of the remnant and seek value in these relationships rather than the darkening material world. Let us also search evangelistically and diligently for others to join us in this lifeboat.

Blessings,

Dr. Scott Lively



# The Second Witness

***In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established (2 Corinthians 13:1)***

The Hebrew word "Amen" (amen) means to confirm or support, which is the role of the second witness to any matter. To be a second witness is to provide independent verification of the truth.

In matters of last days prophecy study the emphasis is not on new revelations from God but on the interpretation of what has already been revealed in scripture and what has been and is being fulfilled in this generation.

Just as Yahweh appointed His Two Witnesses to confirm the wickedness of Sodom in Genesis 19, and to testify against the last-days Antichrist in Revelation 11, there must be at least Two Witnesses to establish every word of prophecy.

While this writer has several fresh and original perspectives to offer as a First Witness, the foremost goal of this newsletter is to be a Second Witness to the assertions of others who have offered their observations and conclusions about prophecy in light of current events.

The scripture alerts us in Joel 2:28 that in the last days

*" I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind;  
And your sons and daughters will prophesy,*

*Your old men will dream dreams,  
Your young men will see visions.*

When God pours out His Spirit, many among His people hear His voice (in dreams and visions) and quickly recognize that same voice in the testimony of other believers as to what God has said. There is not a perfect harmony in our chorus, since we each have our limitations and flaws, but a consensus grows among the remnant the more we work collectively to confirm what things are true in the testimony of our brethren.

We see this phenomenon clearly in the aftermath of the "gay marriage" ruling by the United States Supreme Court. A growing chorus of believers is (I believe rightly) proclaiming in harmony that the "Days of Noah" are upon us. Yet those able to read the clues from scripture have recognized for years that the rise of the homosexual movement is itself the fulfillment of that prophecy of Jesus in Matthew 24:37.

As the Apostle Paul warned in 1 Timothy 3:1-5:

*"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

Yet God provided two witnesses of his prophetic clue by cataloging the elements of end-days apostate culture in one other of Paul's letters as well: the Epistle to the Romans (1:26-31):

*"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful"*

Taken together, these two witnesses confirm that rampant homosexuality would define the "perilous times" of the last days, and that the last days church would "*have a form of godliness but deny its power.*" .

My lengthy article [\*The Forgotten Last Days Warning about Homosexuality in the Bible\*](#) expands on this topic.

A summary version of this article in the form of bullet points is published in a professionally designed tri-fold brochure titled [\*NOT Just Another Sin\*](#), available on request in any quantity for distribution to pastors and other church leaders.

## **What We Will Cover in this Newsletter**

### **Fundamentals of End Time Prophecy**

I am developing a correspondence course under this title and will use this newsletter to beta-test and refine the course material before offering them through Redemption Gate Bible College and in live seminars.

### **Prophecy Books and Articles**

I am currently writing books on three separate end-time themes: the Second Coming of Christ, the Antichrist, the Two House Prophecy. Excerpts of these books and related articles will be published in these pages.

### **Current Events**

Prophecy is being fulfilled before our eyes at an increasing speed. I will use this newsletter list to send links and commentary about news events that I believe are particularly important or interesting, as my schedule allows.

### **End Time Scripture Familiarization**

Even relatively Biblically-literate Christians benefit from increasing familiarity with key end-time scriptures. This newsletter will regularly feature the full text of end-time scripture passages whenever our context allows, and in sidebars, to build familiarity through repetition.

For example, regarding our coming glorification in what is popularly known as the "Rapture," there are three witnesses in the scripture:



Matthew 24:29-31 (Words of Jesus):

*“But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. “And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. “**And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.***

I Thessalonians 4:13-18:

*But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.** Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

1 Corinthians 15:50-53:

*Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

Amen!

## **A Few Housekeeping Items**

I am pretty-much a one-man show and run two highly active ministry organizations. Because I maximize my time to achieve the greatest impact possible for the Kingdom of God, I value straight-to-the-point resources and communications. If you desire to communicate with me on any matter including this newsletter please be as concise as possible and please use email, not the telephone, even if you have my phone number (except in emergencies).

You may reach me at [scottlivelyministries@gmail.com](mailto:scottlivelyministries@gmail.com)

## Donations

I have always followed a policy of providing my writings and other self-created resources without charge whenever possible. However, my support, and that of both of the ministry organizations I run, rely upon donations to operate. For all matters related to my prophecy studies and writings donations should be sent to Redemption Gate Mission Society, PO Box 2373, Springfield, MA 01101 or online [here](#). If you want your donation to be designated for any specific purpose, just send me a note or an email to say so, otherwise it will be used where most needed.

## Today's Hot Links:

[Global Financial Collapse Beginning?](#)

[7 Key Events That Are Going To Happen By The End Of September](#)

[The False Prophet?](#)

[Unnoticed by the West, Demonic ISIS "Liberates" Temple of Bel \(Baal\) in Ancient Syrian City of Palmyra:](#)

[Ocean Waters Being Poisoned by Massive and Growing Algae Bloom](#)

[Final Point: "Gay Marriage" as a Sign of the End Times](#)

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