

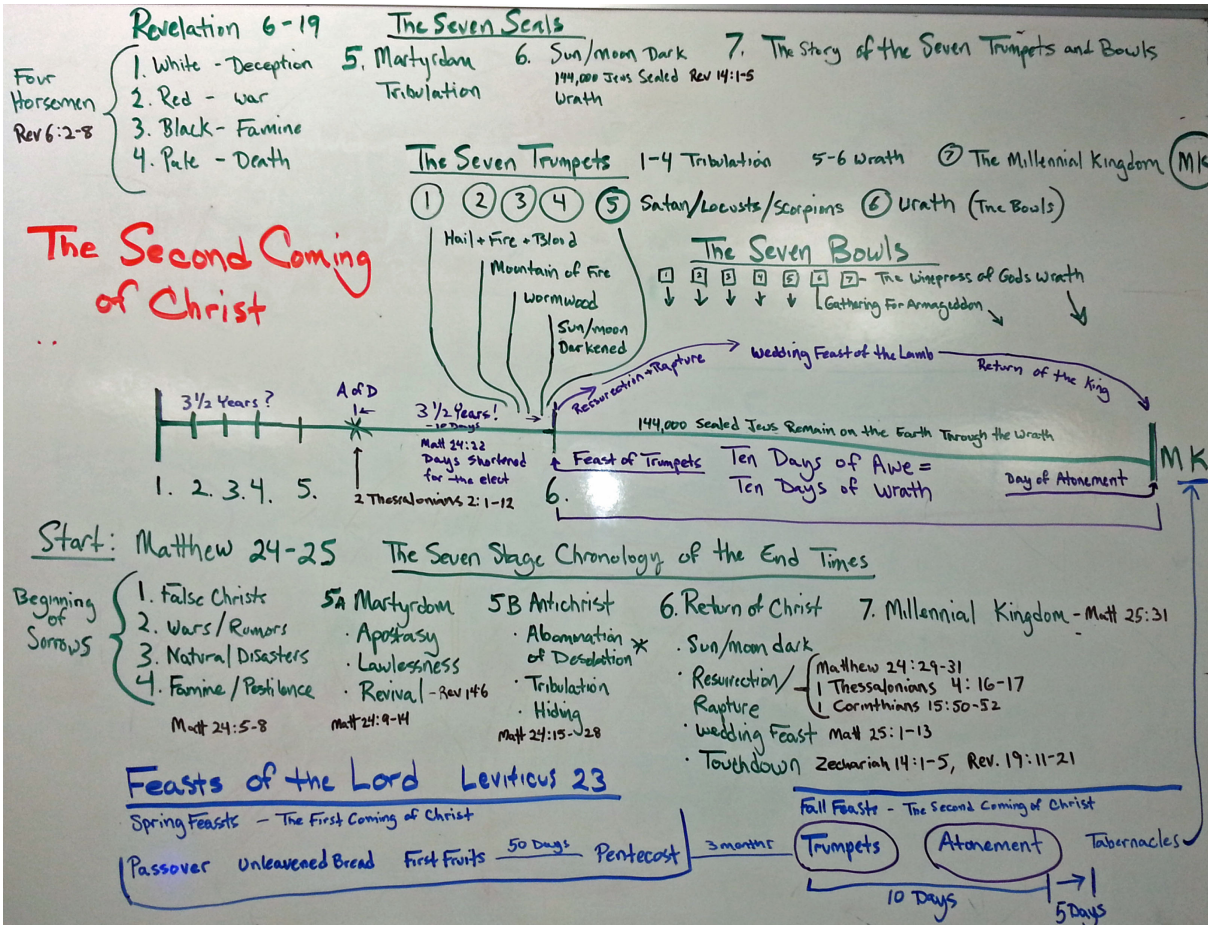
The Second Witness 8/9/2015

The Second Witness

The Prophecy Newsletter of Scott Lively Ministries

8/11/2015

Volume 1, Issue 4



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It is our plan to publish two to four times per month. An archive of past issues is available [here](#).

The Seven Stages of the End

What Jesus Taught the Apostles about the Last Days: Part II

"And one of the elders said to me, 'Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals'" (Revelation 5:5).

In Matthew 24-25, which includes the Olivet Discourse, the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins, the Parable of the Talents, and the Separation of the Sheep and Goats, Jesus presents the teaching of the last days in a seven individual segments that align with the Seven Seals of Revelation.

1-4) The Beginning of Birth Pangs: Matthew 24:4-13

“For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs” (Matthew 24:5-8).

“Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, ‘Come.’ I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, ‘Come.’ And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him. When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, ‘Come.’ I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, ‘A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine.’ When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, ‘Come.’ I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth” (Revelation 6:3-8).

In these four segments, which address “The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse,” Jesus compared the last-days events to the delivery of a woman in labor. The “beginning of birth pangs” is expressly analogized to the initial contractions that signal the start of labor. By doing so, He indicated the clear chronological sequence of the events. As any mother (or involved father) knows, once the actual contractions begin they do not stop until the entire process climaxes with the birth of the baby. That climax is represented in this lesson by the resurrection and rapture of the church, in which the believers are delivered from our bodies of flesh into new glorified forms, like a baby emerging from the womb.

It is a simple yet elegant presentation of the facts as only Jesus can tell them. And if we start with this premise, we will find that all other prophetic scriptures can be comfortably reconciled with this chronology.





5) The Time of Testing: Matthew 24:9-28

The word tribulation comes from the word “tribulum,” which is an ancient Roman threshing sledge (pictured above) designed to separate chaff from wheat at the time of harvest. Thus, the time of tribulation in the Bible is not a time of God’s wrath but of His testing when believers (the wheat) are separated from their attachments to the things of this world (the chaff), prior to being taken up by Christ at His return.

In our timeline, the 5th stage of the end begins before or upon the unveiling of the Antichrist and his “Abomination of Desolation” .

“Then [following the ‘beginning of birth pangs’] they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains...For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short” (Matthew 24:9-22).

This corresponds to the 5th Seal of Revelation 6:9-11 (described from the perspective of the spiritual realm):

“When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.”

During this period of “great tribulation,” defined by widespread apostasy and martyrdom, there will also occur an end-time revival which I believe will be a single global event designed both to harden the world against the church and to coalesce the remnant of believers in preparation for the final separation of the wheat and tares.

6. The Return of Christ

*“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” (Matthew 24:**).*

This corresponds to the sixth seal of Revelation 6:12-17:

"I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?"

In my analysis of Revelation, as plotted on my chart, the first five of the seven trumpet judgments occur during the period of the fifth seal, immediately proceeding the return of Christ.

What John is describing as he reports his vision -- "Hail and fire," "a flaming mountain," "a great star blazing like a torch" ...appears to be a series of meteors both large and small striking the earth.

Importantly, there was apparently no word for "asteroid" or "meteor" at the time the Bible was written, and thus "stars" should be interpreted as "asteroids" (i.e. "small stars"), or "meteors" (asteroids that have entered our atmosphere).

This would explain the geologic upheavals, the darkening of the sky by massive volumes of dust and debris, and the attempts of people to hide in clefts and caves. Even the appearance (to people on the earth) of the sky being rolled up like a scroll would be explained if a large-enough meteor struck the earth so as to briefly slow its spin. The optical illusion created during that shudder would match the Bible's imagery.

I believe the return of Christ will occur on a Feast of Trumpets and trigger the resurrection and rapture. During the Ten Days of Awe that begin with the Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) and end with the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), the Bride of Christ will celebrate the Wedding Feast of the Lamb and the testing of the works of the believers in the heavenly realm.

Meanwhile, those "left behind" on the earth (the wicked, the 144,000 Torah-faithful Hebrews sealed against death, and the "foolish virgins" who thought they were saved by weren't) will (for 10 days, not seven years -- Revelation 2:10) experience the Wrath of God poured forth from the Seven Bowls during the Ten Days of Awe. These seven bowls of judgment are contained within the sixth trumpet.

7. The Millennial Kingdom

Again, we must remember here that the Seven Trumpets of Revelation are contained within the Seventh Seal like a wheel within a wheel." Only the 7th Trumpet describes that seventh stage of the end, the Millennial Kingdom.

Revelation 11:15 *"The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.'"*

Matthew 25:31*“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”*

Importantly, this is not describing Heaven, which is as yet a future destination for those who will spend eternity with Christ, whose reign will continue for all time. First, however, the earth must have it's Sabbath!, its seventh millennium that corresponds to the seventh “day” of creation. The earth will enjoy 1000 years of Christ's bodily reign on the planet earth, which has been regenerated to it's pre-sin, Edenic state. And we have been “glorified” upon the advent of the rapture will rule and reign with Him during this time (2 Timothy 2).

As Jesus told the Apostles in Matthew 19:28: *“Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel”*

The promise is repeated for all the faithful in Revelation 20:4-6:

“Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”

The Season of the End. Matthew 24:32-35

“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. “Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place” (v 32-34).

Jesus gave the parable of the fig tree as the clue which establishes the season in which the last days occur, and delineates the length of the season as the lifespan of the generation living at the time the metaphorical fig tree puts forth its leaves.

Throughout the Bible the fig tree is representative of Israel, most especially the House of Judah which at the time of Christ was largely synonymous with the Kingdom of Judea. In Jeremiah 24:1-10, the Lord compares two groups of Judeans (good and evil men, respectively) to good and bad figs. Then, Mark 11:12-13 and 20-21 records the cursing of the fig tree by Jesus in the short period between His triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the Olivet Discourse -- a context heavily emphasizing judgment against Judea.

I agree with the majority view that this prophecy is being fulfilled today, that we are living in the last generation, and that all of the end time events leading to the start of the Millennial Kingdom will occur within the lifespan of those born in the generation of the fig tree.

There are disagreements as to the starting date of “this generation.” There are three likely options:

likely options.

A. On or about Hanukkah of 1917, during World War 1, when British General Allenby marched into Jerusalem after liberating the Holy City from exactly 400 years of occupation by the Moslem Ottoman Turks and approximately 1800 years of exclusion of Jews from the land. Subsequently, British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour issued the famous Balfour Declaration inviting the Jewish people to repopulate “Palestine.”

The Balfour Declaration was in fact a letter from Balfour to Baron Walter Rothschild, defacto leader of world Jewry at that time.

Significantly, this was at the height of the popularity of the doctrine of “British Israelism,” the belief (held by many, including Queen Elizabeth of the House of Windsor) that the British monarchy was rooted in and a continuation of the royal lineage of the Judean kings, and the Anglo Saxon people they ruled were the descendants of Ephraim, the dominant tribe of the House (and Kingdom) of Israel.

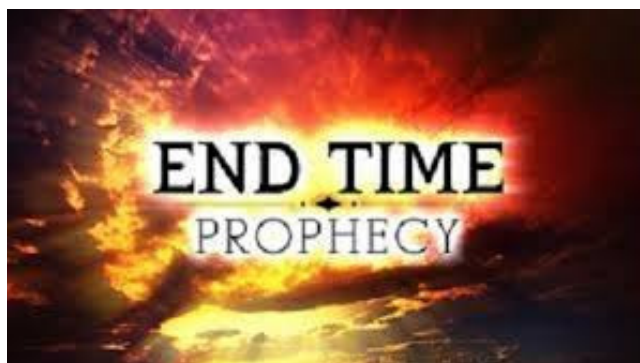
B. May 14 1948, when the Jewish immigrants in the Holy Land declared the reestablishment of the State of Israel upon the expiration of the British Mandate.

C. June 6, 1967, when the Jews recaptured/liberated East Jerusalem, gaining full control over the entirety of the Holy City for the first time in nearly two millennia.

Though the Jews had possession of West Jerusalem from 1948, East Jerusalem and the all-important Mount of Olives was in the possession of Jordan until 1967. The two territories were divided by a vacant strip through the center of Jerusalem called “No Man’s Land.”

Importantly in the study of prophecy, Jerusalem is the Center of the Universe in the priority and perspective of God and therefore is our point of reference for navigating our way, just as sailors plot their course by reference to the North Star. Thus, the liberation of Jerusalem is arguably a more significant spiritual event than the establishment of the State of Israel, and perhaps the most significant spiritual event of the 20th century.

Nevertheless, I have concluded that May 14, 1948 is the most likely starting point, largely because it appears also to be the fulfillment of Isaiah 66:8: *“Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once? As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons.”*



Fundamentals of End-Time

Prophecy

Eschatology 101A

A Certificate Program of Redemption Gate Bible College

In the Spring of 2015, I developed a 5-week class on prophecy for Redemption Gate Bible College. This newsletter will feature the material from that class over the next year as I work to refine and strengthen it for use as a correspondence course. To that end I solicit your input.

The original course featured 35 questions (seven in each class session) which were asked and answered during an interactive discussion period.

We will address one or more of those (and likely additional) questions each week in this segment of the newsletter.

Session 1: The Context for Understanding Prophecy

(Questions 3 of 7)

3. What is End Time Prophecy?

“Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7

*“[Yahweh] said, ‘Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream.’”
Numbers 12:6*

“It will come about after [the First Coming of Christ, the “early rain”] that 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. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days” (Joel 2:28, repeated in Acts 2:18).

This question might seem like a “no-brainer” and some readers might skip right on past it thinking they know the answer, but like so many of God’s truths, the simpler the concept, the deeper the profundity it holds.

The “trick” aspect of the question goes to the definition of prophecy itself, which we have shown is NOT simply predicting the future, but includes asserting the truth of God that has already been revealed in His Word, and any form of expression, including singing, that bubbles forth like a fountain of living water from a person under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Peter invoked Joel 2:28 to explain the disciples’ speaking in tongues, suggesting that this phenomenon would in part define the end times. Oh, that we could know exactly what the disciples were saying then that was heard and understood by those Hebrew pilgrim bystanders from so many diverse lands!

Yet, dreams and visions (and means of expressing them) come in many forms and that indicates there is a much broader category of phenomena than just speaking in

tongues.

Luke’s version of the Olivet Discourse states in Chapter 21, verse 28: “*But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.*”

When I think of end-time prophecy, I think of the believers whose countenance is uplifted at the thought of Christ’s soon return and imagine all the ways they may give voice to the stirring in their hearts.

What then is End-Time Prophecy? Our preferred answer is:

Any expression that acknowledges or celebrates the soon coming of Christ.

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

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:

[Concise teaching on the fig tree](#)

[The Seven Feasts of the Lord](#)

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

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