

Biblical Prophecies 2

Basis of our Eternal Hope

Intro & Main Verse:-2 Peter 1:20-21

“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

Scriptures to Meditate:- Mathew 24, Revelation, Daniel

What we have Studied & will Study?

- **Session 1**

- Introduction
- What is Prophecy?
- What is Biblical Prophecy?
- Why should a Person study Bible Prophecies?
- Prophetical books of Bible
- Some prophecies already fulfilled
- Some prophecies recently fulfilled
- What are the signs of Last Days & are they being fulfilled in our times?
- Technological advancements pointing to fulfillment of Biblical Prophecies

- **Session 2**

- What is End-Time Prophecy?
- What is the role of Israel in Last Days?
- Different Views of Revelation
- Rapture- Will it happen?
- Tribulation Period
- Heaven- What Bible Says about it?
- Hell- What Bible Says about it?
- Antichrist
- White Throne Judgment
- Conclusion

What is End Time Prophecy?

- **Eschatology** (from the Greek ἔσχατος, *Eschatos* meaning "last" and *-logy* meaning "the study of") is a part of theology and philosophy concerned with the final events in the history of the world, or the ultimate destiny of humanity, commonly referred to as the end of the world.
- **Mathew 24:42-44** "So you, too, must keep watch! **For you don't know what day your Lord is coming.** Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come **when least expected.**" (NIV)
- **1 Thessalonians 5:2-9** "For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape. But you aren't in the dark about these things, **dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief.** For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. **Stay alert and be clearheaded.** Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation. For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us."

What is End Time Prophecy?

- In Matthew 24 Jesus was asked about Signs and he told His disciples about Signs of End of Age. Read Matthew 24,25; Luke 21
- Revelation also has lot of End time events which will happen.
- So the Events/Prophecy which will take place before the end of the age is called as End Time Event/Prophecy.
- Jesus encouraged his disciples to understand the signs of time and season. But he also said that it is not for them to know times or seasons which the Father has put in his authority.(Acts 1:7)
- A Good Student of End Time Prophecy will be able to understand the time and will be able to prepare himself to meet Christ.
- Parable of 10 Virgins in Mathew 25 is a good example.

What is the role of Israel in Last Days?

- They will return back to homeland (Prophecies discussed in last session)
- They will flourish in their Land.
- Temple will be re-build.
- Nations will try to destroy it but Israel will become stronger nation
- Dome of Rock – In the famous 6 day war, the war hero General Moshe Dayan did a strange thing. After planting the Israeli flag on the Muslim Dome of Rock (this is said as the place where temple will be rebuild) he decided to take the flag down and gave Muslims control over the sacred spot. Now this is a major issue to be solved before the temple can be made.
- Ezekiel 37 speaks about the resurrection of Jews as a mighty Army.
- It is now a known factor that Israel has some of the best fighters and equipments in the world.
- Hatred of Arab nations against Israel is increasing and all peace talks have failed till now.

What is the role of Israel in Last Days?

- Some signs pointing towards temple rebuilding:-
 - There are reports that all materials needed are already made—robes of priests, utensils needed for worship etc.
 - A detailed model of Temple has been travelling throughout US to raise money for this project. Almost 50% of Jews in world lives in US.
 - Gershom Salomon of the Temple Mount Faithful has been working and motivating Jews for this project. Some time ago he visited US. Once he even tried to lay a 4.5 ton cornerstone upon the Temple Mount but was halted by Israeli government fearing problems in Middle East.
 - Israel Ariel leads a group called Ice and Demy cite which is Temple Institute.. They have made almost 102 utensils needed for temple worship according to biblical and rabbinic standards. They are on display at Temple Institute tourist center in the Old City in Jerusalem.
 - Ateret Cohanim has established a Yeshiva(religious school) for education and training of temple priests. Their task is to research regulations, gather qualified Levites, and train them for future priesthood.(<http://www.ateret.org.il/>)
 - An effort is well underway to secure kosher animals for sacrifice, including red heifer. From 1997 it started appearing again.
 - Ice and Demy conclude by saying “many other preparations are currently underway for Israel’s return to all aspects of Temple worship. “

Different views of Revelation- Introduction

- There are different views of Revelation. Some main views are:-
 - **Preterist Interpretation** – Preterism holds that the contents of Revelation constitute a prophecy of events that were fulfilled in the 1st century
 - **Idealist Interpretation** - The Idealist view does not see the book of Revelation as predicting specific events in history. Rather it sees the visions as expressing eternal spiritual truths that find expression throughout history.
 - **Futurist Interpretation / Classical Dispensationalist** - The futurist view assigns all or most of the prophecy to the future, shortly before the second coming. Futurist interpretations generally predict a resurrection of the dead and a Rapture of the living, wherein all true Christians and those who have not reached an age of accountability are gathered to Christ at the time God's kingdom comes on earth.
 - **Historicist Interpretation / Progressive Dispensationalist** - The historicist view regards the prophecy as spanning the time from the end of the first century through the second coming of Christ.
- Do a study of Revelation to understand some of the end time events.

Rapture- Will it happen?

- Some people express doubt about Rapture.
- The meaning of word rapture is “being taken away or snatched away”
- A common parallel from old testament is considered to be Enoch. He walked with God and he was no more to be found because God took him away.(Gen. 5:24)
- There three different views are Pre Tribulation Rapture, Mid Tribulation Rapture and Post Tribulation Rapture.
- Pre Tribulation Rapture is the most common and proved view
- Rapture is imminent (Math 24:44)

Rapture- Will it happen?

- 1 Thess. 4:13-18 - “And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words.” (NIV)
 1. The Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.”
 2. The dead in Christ will rise first.
 3. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with him in the clouds
 4. We shall “meet the Lord in the air’
 5. We shall always be with the Lord.
- 1 Cor.15:51-53 - “But let me reveal to you a **wonderful secret**. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.
- Titus 2:13- “while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” -**Blessed Hope**

Rapture & 2nd Coming- Two Phases of Christ's Return

Rapture Passages	Second Coming Passages
John 14:1-3; Romans 8:19	Daniel 2:44-45;7:9-14;12:1-3
1 Cor. 15:51-53; 16:22	Zech. 12:10;14:1-15;
Philippians 3:20-21; 4:5	Mathew 13:41; 24:15-31;26:64
Colossians 3:4	Mark 13:14-27;14:62
1 Thess. 1:10;2:19;4:13-18;5:23	Luke 21:25-28
2 Thess.2:1	Acts 1:9-11; 3:19-21
1 Tim.6:14; 2 Tim.4:1,8	1 Thess. 3:13; 2 Thess. 1:6-10; 2:8
Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28	1 Peter 4:12-13; 2 Peter 3:1-14
James 5:7-9; 1 Peter 1:7,13;5:4	Jude 1:14-15
1 John 2:28-3:2; Jude 1:21	Revelation 19:11-20:6; 22:7,12,20
Revelation 2:25;3:10	

Tribulation Period – What is that?

- The **Tribulation** (or "*Great Tribulation*") is an event referred to in the New Testament of the Bible at Matthew 24:21 ("For then shall be great tribulation..." - King James Version) and other passages.
- The Tribulation is a future 7-year period of time when God will finish His discipline of Israel and finalize His judgment of the unbelieving world. The Church, made up of all who have trusted in the person and work of the Lord Jesus to save them from being punished for sin, will not be present during the Tribulation. The Church will be removed from the earth in an event known as the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53). The Church is saved from the wrath to come (1 Thessalonians 5:9). Throughout Scripture, the Tribulation is referred to by other names such as:
 1. The Day of the Lord (Isaiah 2:12; 13:6, 9; Joel 1:15, 2:1, 11, 31, 3:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:2)
 2. trouble or tribulation (Deuteronomy 4:30; Zephaniah 1:15)
 3. Great Tribulation which refers to the most intense second half of the 7-year period (Matthew 24:21)
 4. time or day of trouble (Daniel 12:1; Zephaniah 1:15)
 5. time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:7)
- Scriptures to Read – Daniel 9; Mathew 24,25; Rev. 6-9,16,17,18 etc

Heaven- How it will be?

- Bible has lot of references which describes heaven. Its will be a place of:
 - Rest (Heb. 4:1-11;Rev.14:13)
 - Full knowledge (1 Cor. 13:12)
 - Holiness (Heb.12:14; Eph.2:21)
 - Joy (1 Thess. 2:19;Jude 1:24)
 - Glory (2 Cor. 4:17)
 - Worship (Rev.7:9-12;19:10)
 - Unending fellowship with God (21:3,7,22)
 - Read Revelation 21 & 22 for more.
- What you won't find in heaven
 - No Temple
 - No sea
 - No more tears, death, sorrow, crying or pain (Rev.21:14)
 - No more sinners (Rev.21:8)
 - No night (Rev.21:25)
 - No more sin or evil (Rev.21:27)
 - No more disease or injuries (Rev.22:2)
 - No more Curse (Rev.22:3)
- We will be with Jesus forever there.

Hell- How it will be ?

- "Some will not be redeemed. There is no doctrine which I would more willingly remove from Christianity than this if it lay in my power." - C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*
- "It would be dreadful to suffer this fierceness and wrath of Almighty God for one moment; **but you must suffer it for all eternity.**"
-Jonathan Edwards, *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God* (1741)
- The word "hell" in English Bibles is used to translate the Hebrew word *Sheol* (and its Greek equivalent *Hades*) and the Greek word *Gehenna*.
- "Anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell." (Matthew 5:22, quoting Jesus)
- "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell." (Matthew 5:29, quoting Jesus; see parallel passage in Mark 9:44, which adds, "where the fire never goes out.")
- "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28, quoting Jesus)
- "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 13:40-42, quoting Jesus)

Hell- How it will be ?

- "Throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Parable of the Talents, Matthew 25:30)
- "Then he [the King] will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" (Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Matthew 25:41)
- "The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell." (James 3:6)
- "The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:13-15)
- "The cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile...the idolaters and all liars - their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death." (Revelation 21:8)

Antichrist – Who is he?

- 1 John 2:18- “Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the **antichrist** is coming, even now many **antichrists** have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. “(NIV)
- The words *antichrist* and *antichrists* appear only five times in the Bible — in the epistles 1 John and 2 John.
- The antichrist is the one who opposes Christ and thus God. The antichrist is an eschatological (end times) person who will appear and deceive countless people near the time of Christ's return. The antichrist is associated with Satan and will be aided by demonic forces in his unholy movement against God and in his attempt to rule the nations of the world. Most scholars agree that the antichrist will claim to be God and will rule many nations in Europe and bring the world to the brink of destruction.
- He is referred as “the son of perdition” and Satan himself will possess him.

Antichrist – Who is he?

- Read Daniel 7:8,11,21,25,26 ,11:36-45, 9:26-27 will give you clue about him.
- Read 2 Thess. 2:3-12 “Don’t be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the **man of lawlessness is revealed**—the one who brings destruction. **He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.** Don’t you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you? And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will **remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way.** Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will kill him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming. **This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles.** He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth.”
- Read Rev. 6:2-4, Rev.11:7, Rev.13, Rev.19:19, Rev.20:10
- He is also called as Beast
- He is also referred with Number 666. (Rev.13:18)

Great White Throne Judgment

- Rev. 20:11-14 "11Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12**And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.** 13The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. 14**Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.** The lake of fire is the second death. 15**If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**" (NIV)
- It happens after 1000yrs Rule and Satan is thrown into the lake of burning sulphur where he will be tormented day & night for ever.(Rev.20:10)

Great White Throne Judgment

- The above verse refers to a second death. The first death is when the unsaved are thrown into Hades (Hell) after they physically die and are kept there until the Millennium Kingdom is over. The second death refers to when the unsaved are cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone where they will then remain for all of eternity. Notice that the above verse definitely establishes that these unsaved people are kept in Hades until this judgment comes forth. The verse says that "**Hades delivered up the dead who were in them.**"
- After this final judgment is pronounced, not only are the unsaved cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, but Hades (Hell) itself is also cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone. This would thus be a merger of Hades and the Lake of Fire and Brimstone.
- Anyone's name not found in the Book of Life is thrown in to lake of fire.
- There are different views about White Throne Judgment as to will believers face it or not. Whatever may be your view you must remember that one day everyone will have to give an account to God for whatever he/she has done. But the good news for the believer is that our judgment will not be to determine if we are cast into the lake of fire, because that was settled once we believed the gospel and became "children of God." Those that are truly saved have benefited from the great exchange in which our sins are accounted to Christ and His righteousness is imputed to us. So, while our salvation is secure in Christ we will "still give an account of ourselves to God" (Romans 14:12), and should strive to do all things for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Conclusion

- What I tried to do is present before you a topic which is of much importance at a time like this.
- What we covered during 2 sessions is just the basics of an exciting & interesting study.
- I encourage you to study more and prepare yourself to teach others also.
- Good knowledge of Biblical Prophecies will strengthen your faith.
- If you have questions or concerns or want help or guidance in studying this topic then feel free to contact any Leaders of your church, me or write to me at tinku@gospel-link.com
- **Rev. 22:20 – Amen! Come, Lord Jesus**
- **1 Cor. 16:22 – Maranatha- Come, O Lord!**
- Study & Prepare Yourself to meet Jesus!