

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Series: the End Times – Bible prophecy about future events and periods

Teaching Summary for Week 1

We'll be using the following format for this subject because of its nature:

1. I will teach a portion of the subject
2. You can ask questions that pertain to that teaching

This will keep things focused and in order. This subject is best mastered by building our knowledge one piece at a time, rather than moving around.

I encourage everybody to keep an open mind about this series. That means we need to set aside any preconceived notions that we may have.

We will examine **what the Scriptures say explicitly**, using the ordinary and literal meaning of words along with sound rules for interpreting prophecy.

And we are going to take an **inductive** approach. That means we will consider all of the available information we can find in the Bible on each subject, rather than limit our work to one particular passage or even one book of the Bible.

We will build our timeline and draw conclusions about the nature of different events and periods in view of all of the available information.

We are going to proceed in **the following order**:

1. The Kingdom
2. The Tribulation
3. The Second Coming
4. The Church Age
5. The Rapture

For each of these events and periods, we will read the major passages of Scripture that address it. Then we will define our terms. Finally, we will place each into a chronology that we will construct as we go along.

An important note about chronology: For any event or period, there can be three aspects of chronology.

The first one is the **absolute** aspect. We can identify the absolute chronology of an event or period if we can pinpoint **the exact date** of that event or period.

The second one is the **relative to others** aspect. For example, we can attempt to identify when the Second Coming occurs in relation to the Millennial Kingdom.

The third one is **internal** chronology. This pertains to **the order of events within a period**. An example would be the order of events during the Tribulation Period. It also pertains to **the duration** of the period. An example would be the length of the Tribulation period.

Let's begin.

This week we begin our first period: the Kingdom.

We begin with a definition.

A **Kingdom** consists of three essential elements:

- (1) A RULER with authority and power
- (2) A REALM of subjects to be ruled
- (3) Actual exercise of the function of RULERSHIP

Next we make a vital distinction. There are two phases of the Kingdom in the Bible.

Universal: God reigns supreme over all creation at all times.

Mediatorial: God establishes an earthly monarchy and appoints a king (mediator) to sit on an earthly throne.

“UNIVERSAL”	“MEDIATORIAL”
Always existed	Historical beginning among men
All of creation	Local rule established on earth
God rules <u>directly</u> (no mediator) <i>Psalm 59:13</i>	God rules through a mediator: a channel between men and God <i>Psalm 2:4-6</i>
A present reality <i>Psalm 29:10</i>	Wholly future (in relationship to now) <i>Zechariah 14:9</i>
Unconditional rule based on the sovereignty of God <i>Daniel 4:34-35</i>	Based on a covenant made by God with man <i>Psalm 89:27-29</i>

Ps 59:13

*13 Destroy them in wrath, destroy them that they may be no more;
That men may know that God rules in Jacob
To the ends of the earth. Selah.*

Ps 29:10-11

*10 The Lord sat as King at the flood;
Yes, the Lord sits as King forever.
11 The Lord will give strength to His people;
The Lord will bless His people with peace.*

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Dan 4:34-35

34 "But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever;

For His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.

35 " All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
But He does according to His will in the host of heaven
And among the inhabitants of earth;
And no one can ward off His hand
Or say to Him, ' What have You done?'

Ps 2

2 Why are **A** the **I** nations in an uproar
And the peoples **B** devising a vain thing?
2 The **A** kings of the earth take their stand
And the rulers take counsel together
B Against the Lord and against His **I C** Anointed, saying,
3 "Let us **A** tear their fetters apart
And cast away their cords from us!"
4 He who **I** sits in the heavens **A** laughs,
The Lord **B** scoffs at them.
5 Then He will speak to them in His **A** anger
And **B** terrify them in His fury, saying,
6 "But as for Me, I have **I** installed **A** My King
Upon Zion, **B** My holy mountain."
7 "I will surely tell of the **I** decree of the Lord:
He said to Me, 'You are **A** My Son,
Today I have begotten You.

8 'Ask of Me, and **A** I will surely give **B** the **1** nations as Your inheritance,
And the **very C** ends of the earth as Your possession.
9 'You shall **1 A** break them with a **2** rod of iron,
You shall **B** shatter them like **3** earthenware."
10 Now therefore, O kings, **A** show discernment;
Take warning, O **1** judges of the earth.
11 **1** Worship the Lord with **2 A** reverence
And rejoice with **B** trembling.
12 **1** Do homage to **A** the Son, that He not become angry, and you
perish **in** the way,
For **B** His wrath may **2** soon be kindled.
How blessed are all who **C** take refuge in Him!

Zech 14:9

9 And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one.

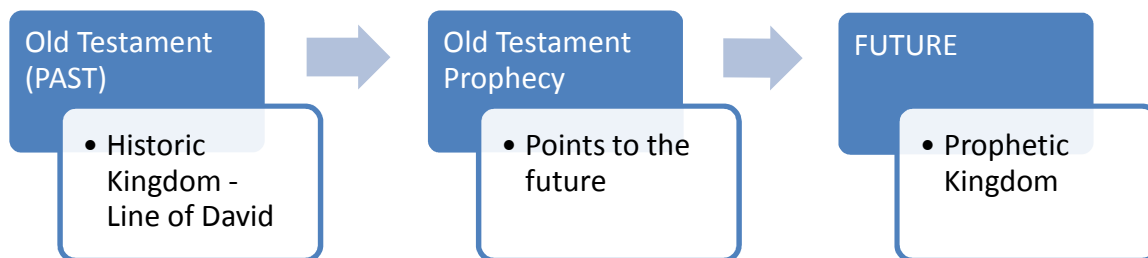
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Ps 89:27-29

27 "I also shall make him My firstborn,
The highest of the kings of the earth.
28 "My lovingkindness I will keep for him forever,
And My covenant shall be confirmed to him.
29 "So I will establish his descendants forever
And his throne as the days of heaven.

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Mediatorial Kingdom chronology



At the climax of the Kingdom program, the Mediatorial Kingdom will be subsumed into the Universal Kingdom.

1 Cor 15:20-28

20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. 21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, 24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. 27 For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, " All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. 28 When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

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"Israel" = physical descendants of Jacob