

# Thursday Evening Bible Study

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

## Teaching Summary for Week 2

### Review:

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.

**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.

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**

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.

### **New Material this week:**

**Chronology:** **words** that serve as markers of chronological material

First, let's go through our **3 readings** and **identify words** that mark off chronological information.

For starters, here are some of these words in Daniel 9:24-27.

#### ***Dan 9:24-27***

*24 "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to **finish** the transgression, to **make an end** of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, **to bring in everlasting** righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. 25 "So you are to know and discern that **from** the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem **until** Messiah the Prince there will be **seven weeks** and **sixty-two weeks**; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.*

26 **"Then after** the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is **to come** will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its **end** will come with a flood; even to the **end** there will be war; desolations are determined. 27 "And he will make a firm covenant with the many **for one week**, but in **the middle of the week** he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even **until** a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

What aspect or **aspects of chronology** are found in Daniel 9:24-27? (absolute, relative, internal). What **words** are used for each aspect?

**Now let's do this together** with the other two passages. (Circle or highlight)

#### **Matt 24:1-44**

24 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. 2 And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

4 And Jesus answered and said to them, " See to it that no one misleads you. 5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. 6 "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. 7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. 8 " But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

9 " Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10 "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. 11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. 12 "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. 13 " But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. 14 "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.

15 "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), 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. 17 " Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. 18 " Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. 19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 "But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. 21 "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. 22 "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. 23 " Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or ' There He is,' do not believe him. 24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. 25 "Behold, I have told you in advance. 26 "So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them. 27 " For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. 28 " Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

29 "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. 30 "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.

31 "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.

32 "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; 33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. 34 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. 36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. 37 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. 40 "Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 "Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. 43 "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 44 "For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.  
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What aspect or **aspects of chronology** are found in Matthew 24:1-44? (absolute, relative, internal). What **words** are used for each aspect?

### **Luke 21:5-36**

5 And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, 6 "As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down."

7 They questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" 8 And He said, "See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not go after them. 9 "When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately."

10 Then He continued by saying to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, 11 and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. 12 "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake. 13 " It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. 14 " So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; 15 for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute. 16 "But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, 17 and you will be hated by all because of My name. 18 "Yet not a hair of your head will perish. 19 " By your endurance you will gain your lives. 20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. 21 "Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; 22 because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled. 23 "Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people; 24 and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

25 "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

27 " Then they will see *THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD* with power and great glory. 28 "But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

29 Then He told them a parable: "Behold the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 "So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near. 32 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place. 33 " Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

34 " Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; 35 for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. 36 "But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

What aspect or **aspects of chronology** are found in Luke 21:5-36? (absolute, relative, internal). What **words** are used for each aspect?

Next week, we will return to these three passages and map out **the events** and **periods** that are described in each of them.

### **Biblical Prophecy: Overview.**

Handout: "Interpreting Biblical Prophecy"

## **The Kingdom in Old Testament Prophecy.**

### **Resources:**

1. Alva McClain, **The Greatness of the Kingdom: An Inductive Study of the Kingdom of God.** BMH Books, 2012. (originally published in 1959).
2. J. Dwight Pentecost, **Thy Kingdom Come: Tracing God's Kingdom Program and Covenant Promises throughout History.** Kregel Publications, 1995.
3. J. Dwight Pentecost, **Things to Come: A Study in Biblical Eschatology.** Zondervan, 1964.

## **Part 1: The Kingdom and the Covenants**

### **Covenants: an introduction**

**Definition of a covenant:** A divine covenant is :

(1) a **sovereign decree** of God, whereby He establishes an unconditional compact with man, obligating Himself, in grace, with the declaration **"I WILL"**, to bring to pass definite blessings for the covenanted ones, OR

(2) a **proposal** of God, wherein He promises, in a conditional or mutual compact with man, by the contingent formula **"IF YOU WILL"**, to grant special blessings to man provided he fulfills perfectly certain conditions, and to execute definite punishment in case of his failure.

[from Pentecost, Things to Come, pages 67-68 , quoting Charles Lincoln]

**God has made 5 major covenants with men (Israel):**

1. **The Abrahamic Covenant**
2. **The Palestinian Covenant**
3. **The Mosaic Covenant**
4. **The Davidic Covenant**
5. **The New Covenant**