



Pondering Prophecy... Week 2

- Literal or Allegorical?
 - Israel & the Church Distinct or the Same?
-

Our Book: "The 8 Great Debates of Bible Prophecy"
By Ron Rhodes



Week 1 Take Aways ... *Points to Ponder*

- We are all called to study prophecy in the Bible
 - ~ 27% of all Biblical verses
 - 2Tim 3:16 **All Scripture** is God-breathed and **is useful** for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...
- We are all called to know “the times...”
 - Mark 13:28-29 ...parable from the fig tree: know the tree, recognize He is near...
- We are blessed who read, hear and take to heart what is written here... for the time is near.
 - Rev 1:3

The Ways of the Wise...

- Acts 17:11, "Now the Bereans were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily** to see if these things were so."
- In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity...Rupertus Meldenius 1627
- Lets keep building!





Pondering Prophecy ... Week 1 Questions

- Great questions from week 1:
 - Looking for a clear sequencing of the events.
 - Will be provided (as best as I understand them) in time line chart(s)
 - Why do some say there will be a rapture, and some say not?
 - I will present the passages that I believe support a rapture. Also contextual models for your consideration (Jewish wedding, God's wrath, etc.)
 - Who are the current players? Biblical names versus current names?
 - I will provide a map of these players as best as I understand them.
 - How does the end times relate to the whole Bible?
 - Hopefully towards the end, the inter-relatedness will start to jump out. It is basically God's final chapter for mankind's life on the old earth, with the final call to conversion and cleansing, before we enter the new heaven, and the new earth and the eternal state.



Debate 1: Prophecy Literal or Allegorical?

- Literal or Allegorical?

- Allegory is the use of characters and events in a story, poem, or painting to represent other things.
...Pointing to a Hidden, or a Symbolic meaning
- Literal is common, face value reading
- AD190 Allegorical School started in Alexandria Egypt
- Read excerpt 1 page 14
- Christ's 1000 year reign on earth, allegorized into Christ's spiritual rule in the current church age
- Led Augustine to interpret Scripture at face value *except for* prophecy
- Highlight implications page 14 and 15 and one must make a choice



Debate 1: Prophecy Literal or Allegorical?

- Literal or Allegorical?

- Literal is normal, everyday, plain understanding
- Does not preclude:
 - Figures of speech > “vine and branches...”
 - Symbols > “stars” are angels to the “lampstands” churches
 - Parables > Sower and the tares, the soils, the rocks, etc.
- What do you think of the six reasons on page 17-18?
- Trust the Bible for interpreting the Bible!
 - Read Ryrie on page 19
- We will move forward using Literal Interpretation...



Debate 1: Covenant or Dispensationalism?

- What is Covenant Theology vs Dispensationalism?
... frameworks for Biblical Interpretation
 - Key issue: Is Israel distinct from the Church?
 - Classic Covenantal Characteristics:
 - Strict literal interpretation of prophecy is **rejected**
 - Covenant of Works > Covenant of Grace with Adam
 - Old Covenant > New Covenant
 - The Nation Israel > The House of Israel (Redeemed Christians & Jews) > huge eschatological implication who goes through trials
 - Read top of page 27
 - OT covenants with Israel fulfilled by the Church
 - Millennium symbolic of Church Age
 - Covenantal Theology leads to Replacement Theology... pages 33-36



Debate 1: Covenant or Dispensationalism?

- Key issue: Is Israel distinct from the Church?
 - Read bottom page 28:
 - Eph 3:3 “the mystery of the Church...”
 - Eph 3:9 “which was hidden (the Church)...”
 - 1Cor 10:32 “the Jews, Greeks and the Church...”
 - 2Cor 5:17 “the Church is a new creation...”
 - Read Romans 11:1-2, 25-27
 - Conclusion so far: The Church is new, was a mystery and is distinct from the Jew (Israel)



Debate 1: Covenant or Dispensationalism?

- Characteristics of Dispensationalism:
 - Literal Method of Interpretation
 - Maintains a clear distinction between Israel and the Church
 - Literal fulfillment of Israel's covenants
- View's the world as a household run by God
 - God delegates duties and assigns responsibilities
 - If people obey God, they receive blessings
 - If they disobey, they receive judgment
 - Each dispensation is a testing
- Traditional Dispensationalism has 7 dispensations



More Dispensational Characteristics

- C.C. Ryrie: A distinguishable economy in the outworking of God's purpose. The characteristics are:
 - A **change in God's governmental relationship** with man
 - A resultant **change in man's responsibility**
 - A new revelation to effect the change
- H.A. Ironside: That particular order or condition of things prevailing in one special age which does not necessarily prevail in another
- God's **methods of administration differ** with each dispensation
- God's means of **salvation is the same** & unbroken from Eden to the end of time
 - **Justified** on the same principles of **faith** as was Abraham
 - **Forgiven** on the same ground of **grace** as David
 - **Acceptance** rests on the atoning **work of Christ**



Some Examples of Gaps or Parenthesis in the Word

There are Gaps or Parenthesis in the Word Examples:

Ps 68:22 The stone which the builders refused...

is become the headstone of the corner.

IS 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:...

and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Zech 9:9,10 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation: lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. ...

And I will cut off the chariot from Ephram, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

Luke 50:31,32 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus...

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David

Isaiah 61:1,2 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me;...To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,...

and the day of vengeance of our God



Gaps or Parenthesis in the Word

- Most significant parenthesis confirmed by Jesus himself: (Luke 4:16-21)
 - Isaiah 61: V1 and 2 where Christ read v1 and sat down.
 - No Rabbi ever thought there was a pause or gap there!
- In fact some see 24 gaps in the Word...that all point to the Church!
- The Church was a “mystery” to the OT saints
- Why do you think God never mentioned the “Church” in the OT?



The Seven Dispensations

Innocence ... Gen 1:28-3:6

Conscience ... Gen 3:7-8:14

Government ... Gen 8:15-11:9

Promise ... Gen 11:10 – Exodus 18:27

Law ... Exodus 19 – John 14:30

Grace ... Acts 2:1 – Rev 19:21

Parenthesis of the Church

Kingdom ... Rev 20:1-16

Pages 22-23 of our text



Major Covenants with Israel

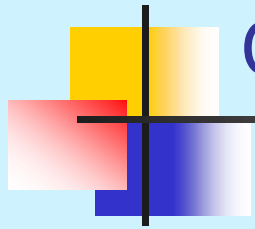
Unconditional - Eternal – “I will...”

- **Abrahamic Covenant** (land, seed, blessing)
Gen12:1-3,6-7 13:14-17 15 17:1-7-14 22:15-18 16
- **Palestinian Covenant** (regathering, land, prosperity)
Deuteronomy 30:1-10 Refines Abrahamic Covenant
- **Davidic Covenant** (seed, throne)
2 Samuel 7:8-16 Refines Abrahamic Covenant
- **New Covenant** (spiritual blessing...after those days)
Jeremiah 31:31-34 33 Refines Abrahamic Covenant

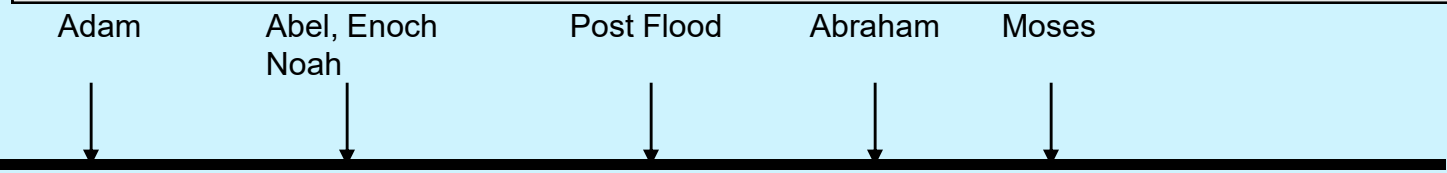
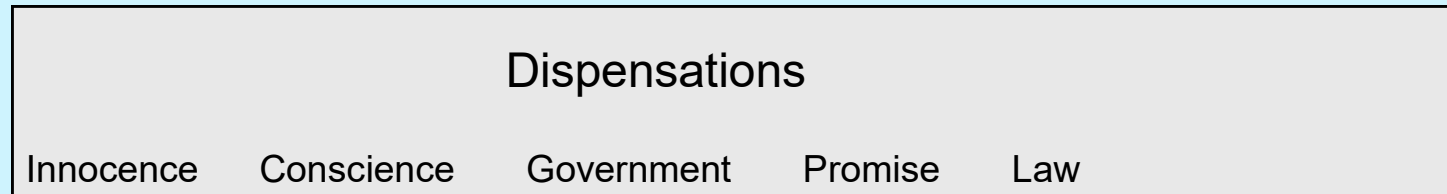
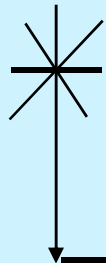
Conditional – Temporal – “if you will...”

- **Mosaic Covenant** (blessing ... following law)
Deuteronomy 11 note V13 22

Our Historic Timeline



Creation of Universe



Unconditional - Eternal Covenants with:

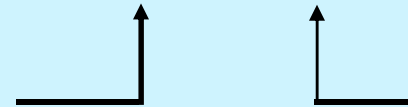
- Abrahamic land, seed blessing
- Palestineic land, prosperity
- Davidic land, seed, throne
- New blessing

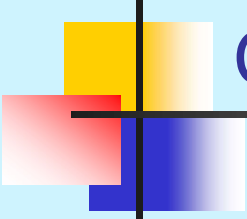
Israel

Israel

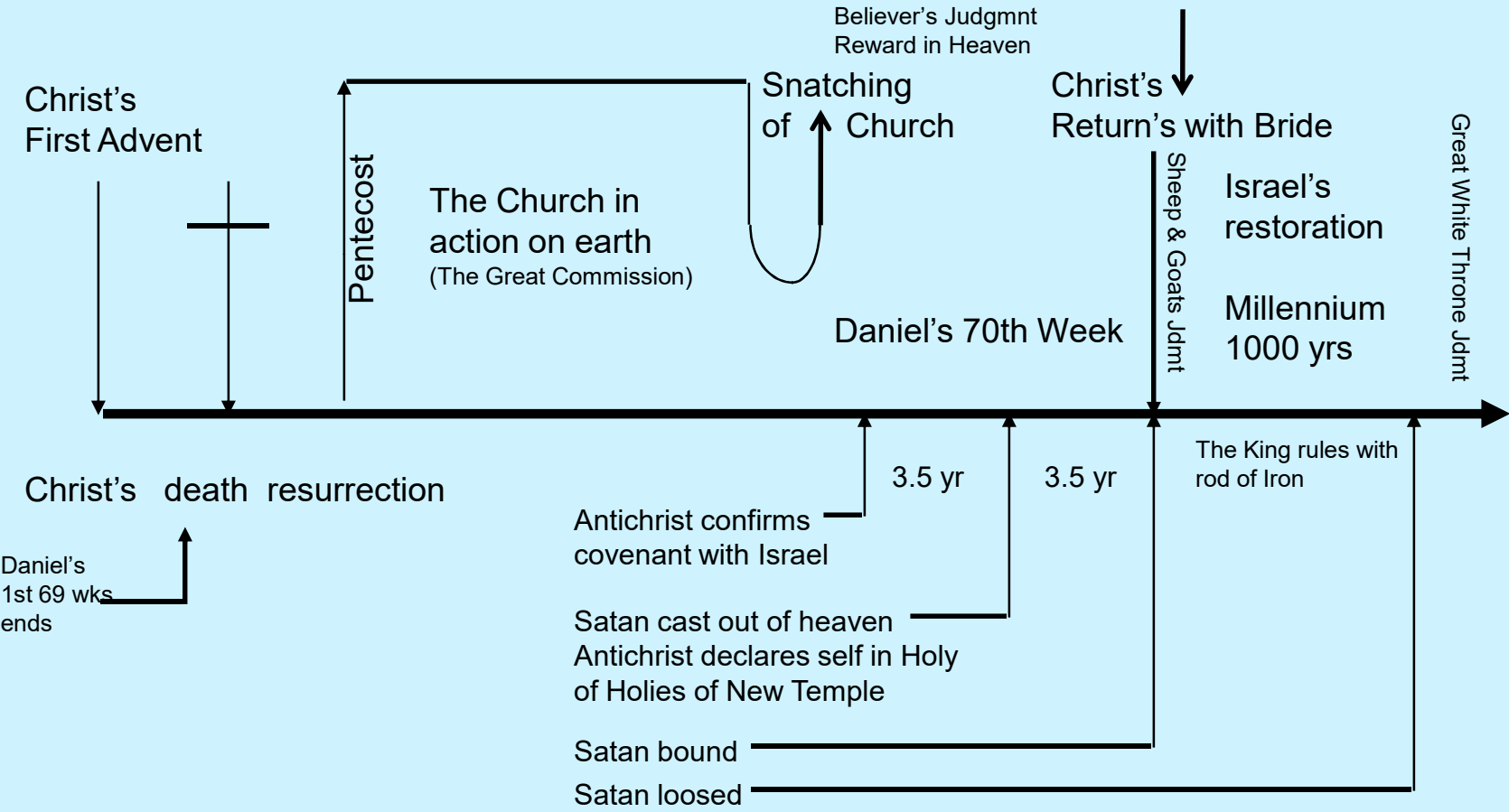
Conditional

(Temporal till the coming of the promised seed)
Mosaic Covenant





God's Prophetic Timeline



This is it! Praise Him!
 We are in Sinless Eternity!!



Observations of the Grace Dispensation

- A silent heaven is a leading characteristic of this dispensation. The heavens were not silent for Israel ...Long day of Joshua...The plagues upon Egypt...The parting of the Red sea...
- From the Apostolic age to the present hour not a single public large scale event can be identified to offer indisputable proof of an immediate divine intervention upon the earth.
- Contrast this with the Great Commission of Matt 28:16-19 ... go forth and make disciples of all... A focus on the heart

The heavens have been silent for ~ 2000 years



Why so much time on Dispensations & Covenants?

- Why so much time into OT principles of dispensations covenants and interpretation methods?
 - Because we are interlopers on the Hebrew prophetic path
 - 11 chapters of the bible cover 2000 years before the call of Abram, and the church is never mentioned in the OT >> the OT is all about Israel
 - “For a time” the Gentiles have gained a place of blessing upon the earth.. but only for a time.
 - Read Rom 11:25.. Blindness in part happened to Israel until the full of the Gentiles come in. ***God is not done dealing with Israel as a nation.***
 - Read Luke 21:24 Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. So can you tell when Jerusalem will be fully restored to the Jew?After this dispensation ends.



We are Interlopers on the Jewish Timeline

- Acts 15:12-17:

The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. When they finished, James spoke up: "Brothers, listen to me. Simon (Peter) has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself. The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

" 'After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things that have been known for ages. ' "



Debate 2: Are Israel and the Church Distinct?

■ Replacement enthusiasts case on pages 33-36

- Key verse is Gal 3:29 "If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."
 - How do you interpret this passage?
 - Our genetics do not change, we are *spiritually* Abraham's sons and daughters...
 - Paul in Rom 11:25-26 sees Israel being united with Christ and their hardening removed
 - Unfulfilled promises on pages 39 to 41
- Every OT prophet talks of a permanent return to the land of Israel by the Jews (except Jonah)



The Truth about Jerusalem from Prophecy

- The truth about Jerusalem: Zech 12: 1-3
 - Intoxicating obsession of the **entire** world
 - The Lord declares:
 - I will make Jerusalem a cup that makes the surrounding people reeling
 - Judah and Jerusalem reeling
 - ALL the nations gather against her
 - Jerusalem an IMMOVABLE ROCK... boundary immovable for ALL the nations... including the USA
 - All who try... will injure themselves... to their own peril



Jerusalem and Peace in the World...

Why two state solution is evil

- Could be repackaging of Hitler's final solution ... its intent is to destroy Israel
- Arafat: in the west "peace" but in arabic back at home said "peace for us means destruction of Israel"
- MO of Islam: Mohammad & Saladin made peace then destroyed their enemies
- Dan 8:25 ...Antichrist... through his policy will cause craft to prosper in his hand... **by peace shall destroy many...**
- We need to be very careful about US led peace processes ...USA supports 2 state solution ... if the 2 sides agree...
- Signs of the times... Points to Ponder...
 - will Israel ever be removed from her land again?
 - Is it "prudent" to support dividing Israel?

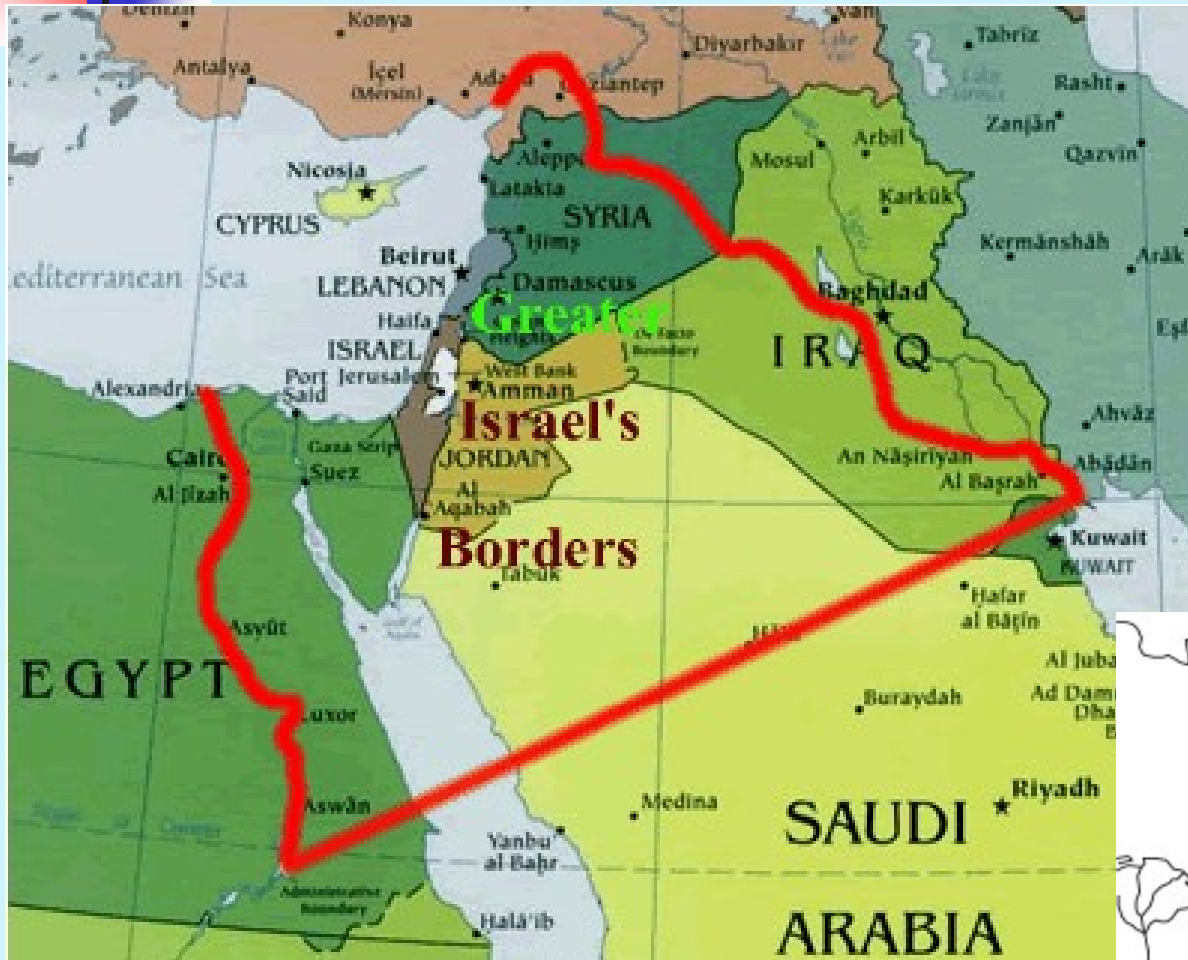


The Regathering of Israel...

- God said He would re-gather Israel back to the Land...
 - Isaiah 66:8 ...nation born in a day...
 - Isaiah 11:12 ...assemble outcasts of Israel...gather dispersed of Judah
 - Ezekiel 37:21 ...take Israel from among the nations...
 - This is part of the "dry bones being brought back to life prophecy in Ezekiel 37, it is fascinating! ...
 - Lets read together V14 ... and declare it's implications based on our framework to date.
 - Lets read together V24 through 28 ... and discern its implications

- Leviticus 25:23 ... the land is Mine
- Genesis 12:7 ... to your (Abraham) descendants I will give this land
- Genesis 26:3-4 To Isaac: ...to you and your descendants (not Ishmael) I will give all these lands
- Gen 15:18-21 ... the extent...Israel, Judea, Samaria (West Bank), Gaza, Golan Heights, ALL of Jerusalem. (NE portion of Egypt, Modern Israel, Lebanon, Syria, piece of Turkey, half of Iraq, northern half of Jordan a slice of Saudi Arabia)

The Promised Land



The Full Promised Land





Debate 2: Are Israel and the Church Distinct?

- Page 42: The terminology through book of Acts keeps the Church and Israel distinct. ... top read.
- Israel re-gathered on May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion, the head of the Jewish Agency, proclaimed the establishment of the State of **Israel**. U.S. President Harry S. Truman recognized the new nation on the same day however, **Israel is yet in unbelief**.
(secular state) bottom p 42
- Suggest we move forward with a framework that keeps Israel and the Church separate and distinct.



Closing Thoughts for Week 2

- I now understand why Jesus calls believers to "watch" repeatedly in the scriptures.
- It is harder to stray from God when you are paying attention to, and understand the times we live in.
- What an amazing blessing it is to witness the puzzle pieces falling into place for the apparent fulfillment of many prophecies described in Scripture.
- Could this be the blessing God talked about for reading Rev 1:3?