

The Last Days

An In-Depth Study of Biblical Eschatology

Introduction

Presenter: Ron Price

1. Welcome, Preliminary Comments and Prayer

2. Foundational Perspectives on Recent World Events

On May 14, 1948 in Tel Aviv, Jewish Agency Chairman and Israel's first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion presented the Israeli Declaration of Independence, establishing the sovereign State of Israel after about 2000 years of being without a nation.

9/11/2001 Islamic terrorists, using hijacked American planes, brought down the World Trade Center's twin towers and crashed into the Pentagon, killing almost 3000. This is the ultimate example of the countless terrorist activities that have occurred in the United States, Israel and all over the world over the last 25 years.

2005 Iran's former President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, called the United States the "Great Satan" & Israel the "Little Satan". He continued by vowing to annihilate the US and to wipe Israel off the map. Later, at the UN, Iran's President ended his speech with the following prayer: "O mighty Lord, I pray to you to hasten the emergence of your last repository, the Promised One, that perfect and pure human being, the One that will fill this world with justice and peace." However, he was not speaking about Jesus Christ, but the Islamic Messiah: the Twelfth (or Hidden) Imam or Mahdi. A month later, he gave a speech to terrorist leaders that included his saying: "Is it possible for us to witness a world without America and Zionism? ... You had best know that this slogan and this goal are attainable, and surely can be achieved."

2012 For a second time, Vladimir Putin was elected as the President of Russia. During his leadership as President and Prime Minister of Russia, his country has sold billions of dollars worth of arms and nuclear technology to Iran.

3. Updating World Events Info Sheet: Chuck Missler and Joel Rosenberg

4. Who is Ron Price and what does he believe?

I am a proud disciple of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and have been since January 1994. I am also a 64 year old retired rock scientist (30½ years at Sandia) who is presently involved in full-time ministry for God. I was married for 26 years to Maurise Price until her death from cancer in December 1999. We were blessed with 4 'kids': Robbie 33, Richard 31, Ryan 29 & Beth 28, who are all actively involved in this church.

I am happily married to Sherolynn, and have been since June 2002. Regrettably, I was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in September 2003, had a dozen (day- to week-long) chemotherapy treatments, received an autologous stem cell transplant on April 10, 2006 and, by the Sovereign Grace of God, have been cancer free ever since.

My beliefs are centered on my conviction that the Bible was written by the Holy Spirit through the hands of men, every word was perfect in the original writings, and the copies we have today are incredibly accurate with only a few minor errors resulting from the meticulous, but imperfect copying process.

5. [Why should you listen to what Ron has to say?](#)

I have been teaching Bible studies since the early 1980's, but became a very serious student of the Bible following my attendance at a PK Conference in the summer of 1993 in Boulder, CO and my first wife being diagnosed with kidney cancer in January 1994. For these last 20 years, I have taught between 1 and 3 Bible studies a week during that time (at 4 different churches, in homes and at Sandia National Labs), have preached in several churches, organized/led a Promise Keepers band for several years, held a church service in a nursing home for 3 years and provided detailed answers to Biblical questions from countless people. Relative to this Last Days study, I have taught on the book of Revelation many times and the other studies one previous time.

I work hard to present my studies with Passion, Confidence and Humility.

With Passion, because how else can I teach about Almighty God?

With Confidence, because the Biblical text presented is perfect.

With Humility, because I am keenly aware of my many imperfections.

And in the end, I know the inevitability of my standing before the Creator of the universe some day and having to give an accounting for what I taught.

The knowledge I have results from intense personal study led by the Holy Spirit, joined with the intellect of many giants of the Christian faith. Those who have been the greatest help to me with general Biblical and End Times issues include:

Pastors/Scholars: Hugh Ross, Chuck Missler, David Jeremiah, John MacArthur, Charles Stanley, Greg Laurie, Tony Evans, Tim LaHaye, John Stott, etc.

Others: Joel Rosenberg, Zola Levitt, John Maxwell, Frank Peretti

However, ultimately, I challenge you to be Bereans ^{Acts 17:11} and do the studying necessary for you to come to your own conclusions about everything I present.

The main reason for your involvement is: for this information to be useful to you in your life, you must also embrace it with passion, confidence and humility.

6. Study Materials

The Bible: It consists of 66 books, written by 40 authors, over a couple thousand years, in 3 languages, and yet it is one cohesive, continuous story of the history of our universe – from the beginning to the end, as well as providing insights on heaven.

In this study (and in all my studies), I will exclusively use the NIV1984 translation, because it is a great thought-for-thought translation, written in modern English.

Why do I not use the NIV2011 translation? The translators made many egregious errors in their recent translation, including changing thousands of (most of the) nouns from a masculine form (in the original writings) to neuter-gender nouns.

And changing God's word is wrong – every time. Proverbs 30:6, Revelation 22:18-19

Please realize the main focus during this study will be on the Jews, not on Christians, because most of the End Times described in the book of Revelation will occur after the rapture of the church. As we study Revelation, you will note the Old Testament flavor in the Scriptural text in Revelation 6-22. Also, I am sorry to say, there are no explicit references to America, in the Last Days verses or in any part of the Bible.

- Specifically, we will study:

Study Number	Title	Biblical Text
1	Introduction	
2	The Signs of the End Times <i>The Olivet Discourse</i>	Matthew 24-25
3	Prophecy Concerning Gog and Magog <i>An All-Out War against Israel</i>	Ezekiel 38-39
4	The Prophetic Book of Ruth <i>Essential to Understanding Revelation</i>	Ruth 1-4
5	The Seventy Weeks of Daniel <i>The Seventieth Week = The Tribulation</i>	Daniel 9:20-27
6-19	The Revelation of Jesus Christ <i>Completing the Story of the Savior</i>	Revelation 1-22

Timeline of God's Plan

Key Events

Important Time Periods

Creation of First Heaven and Earth
Creation/Fall of Man (Curse on Earth)

Earthly Judgement of Man (Flood)

Old Covenant (Abraham)

Earthly Judgement of Jews (Diaspora)

First Coming of Jesus Christ
New Covenant (Jesus)

Rapture of the Church
Judgement/Redemption of Jews/Earth
Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Final Judgement of Satan & Mankind
Creation of New Heaven and Earth



Eternity Past

Age of Man

Age of the Jews (or Law)

Age of the Church (or Grace)

Age of the Jews (Tribulation)

Age of Jesus (Millennium)

Eternity Future in Heaven or Hell

GENESIS

Beautiful, sinless Paradise
Driven from the tree of life
1st Heaven & 1st earth
Devil's 1st appearance
Entrance into sin, sorrow, and suffering
1st death
1st account of tears
1st Adam – dominion over living creatures
1st bride became man's helpmate
Man's rebellion at Tower of Babel

REVELATION

Still more wonderful Paradise
Invited to eat of the tree of life
New Heaven & new earth
Devil's final doom
End of sin, sorrow and suffering
2nd death or No more death
All tears will be wiped away
Last Adam – sovereign ruler over all
Bride of Christ reigns with Him forever
God's destruction of Babylon

7. Interpretation Principles and Key Terms

• Basic Principles in Interpreting the Bible

- ✓ Read the Scripture passage multiple times
- ✓ Interpret the Bible passage as Literal unless there are definitive reasons to treat it as Symbolic
- ✓ Know the correct definition of the word "literal". Literal = true meaning (or, 'what God meant')
- ✓ Recognize that many Hebrew/Greek words (especially nouns) have multiple meanings (*yôwm*), so translating them depends on the context of their use. In addition, but less often, a few Hebrew/Greek words are translated by the same English word (love)
- ✓ Study local context of Scripture passage (read up to a chapter before and/or after)
- ✓ Examine the global context of the passage (let Scripture interpret Scripture)
- ✓ Identify possible historical/cultural distinctions
- ✓ Recognize relevant geographical issues
- ✓ Realize statements of Prophecy may not be chronological and possibly describe multiple events
- ✓ Accept the fact that the Special Revelation (Bible) will always agree with the General Revelation (Creation), when they are interpreted correctly, because Jesus Christ created them both
- ✓ Pray for discernment – never underestimate the role of the Holy Spirit
- ✓ Admit if you do not understand something, it does not mean the Scripture is wrong

- Key Terms

Eschatology is the study of last things (*eschatos*).

Prophecy is history written before it happens; often not just prophecy/fulfillment, but pattern.

Last (Latter) Days (End Times) is the designation for the time approaching the Messianic era.

Day of the Lord is a technical term pointing to special interventions of God in human history for judgement. Ultimately, it refers to the future judgement of the world system during the Great Tribulation and wicked (unsaved) humans at the Great White Throne Judgement, following the Millennium.

Hermeneutics is the art and science of Biblical interpretation.

8. Importance of this Study

Luke 12:54-56 He said to the crowd: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’ and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?”

Luke 6:46 “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord’, and do not do what I say?”

Luke 12:35-40 “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Luke 21:8-13 “Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven. But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. This will result in your being witnesses to them.”

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ ”

A Concluding Scriptural Thought: **Revelation 22:12-21**