

SECTION 1 Key Precepts of Bible Study and Key Terms of End Times Prophecy

Key Precepts of Bible Study

This **study** is only for those who already **know** Jesus. And for those who aren't afraid to get to know Him better. If this is not you, you should probably save yourself the frustration and stop now. I mean it's enough for some Christians to know that when they're raptured they're going to "sing and shout the victory" in the presence of Jesus. Sure we will. But it's really not that simple. And you can wait to get all the details when you get there. But you're likely to get some big and unpleasant surprises if you do. Because 'the whole picture' is much more provocative, challenging and complicated than can be fully imagined. But if you think you're ready for a look at the whole **truth** and nothing but **the truth**, enter this future with me now. And I promise you a picture beyond your present wildest dreams.

But this kind of **experience** shouldn't be entirely new to you. After all, life is a journey that's about growth. And you know growing sometimes heals you. And sometimes it hurts. And it's the same with studying God's Word. Like life, it's a journey that's not complete without both healing and hurt. And growth is also about the unexpected. And the benchmarks of growth are the surprises along the way. And these surprises can sometimes be amazing and exhilarating, and at other times bring embarrassment, pain and shame. So such a journey is not best judged by any part of it. And it can't be judged by where you think you're going. It must instead be judged by where you start and how you plan to get there. But if you're not ready to **grow** you won't make it far. And besides these obstacles, there are endless diversions. And there are many other worthwhile journeys you can take besides this one. And this overview of end times **prophecy** might at first appear to be just another possible interpretation contending with all the others. This is why I can only proceed in **faith** that it's been God's plan all along to unify the Church on this subject before all of these events occur—that **the Spirit of truth** will really show us **all truth** concerning these future events before they all come to pass. And this is a goal worthy of a little **faith**. And it requires **faith** indeed because more than a little **patience** will also be required to get there. This is because **the truth** is best **understood** in the totality of **scripture** and beyond. And I mean we'll be looking for quite a big picture.

And naturally, this kind of **understanding** should take some time. It also has a preferred process. This would be a methodology that's specifically defined by **scripture**. And you shouldn't want it any other way. The essence of this process is identifiable in the proclamations of Moses and Jesus who both agree, **The Lord our God is one Lord**. And this could be a **study** in itself. But for now I just want to acknowledge that we see here that The Father, Jesus and The Holy Spirit have Their act together, and that They are the source of **all truth**, and that we must agree with Them. This means that there is altogether but one **truth** and one **interpretation** of the whole **Word of God**. And this makes it our job to **learn** through The Word of God how to agree with Them and do so on Their terms—not try to convince Them to

agree with us on ours. You may think you already agree with this and do this, but I expect that this **study** of end times **prophecy** may show many of you a different perspective.

This **study** is not like other studies. In it I'm not just following an outline. There's a process that's practiced in it that will allow you to **grow** beyond what you will **learn**. And this process is not simple or easily explained. My **experience** is that it's best **learned by experience**. And I mean this study is meant to provide that **experience**. And in the end you should **understand** why this is best learned along the way. Or to put it another way, this is a **study** where you'll be shown how to **study** by **experience** and as a side benefit **learn** how to **understand** end times prophecy. And like I have, you should sometimes **experience** a tedious journey, especially in the earlier sections. And sometimes a frustrating or upsetting journey, especially in the first half. And sometimes a confusing journey, especially for those new to Bible study. But sometimes **experience** a wildly fantastic, rollercoaster exhilarating and breathtakingly awesome journey, especially in the later sections. But ultimately an eternally rewarding journey.

Also along the way this **study** revises, refines, corrects and sometimes just reconsiders the 'popular' interpretations of end times **prophecy**. This is necessary because these popular versions, though containing some **truth**, are too often built on too few selected precepts from The Word of God to stand up to reasonable scrutiny. And under-supported misinterpretation is naturally blind to **scripture** that opposes it. But such misinterpretations may still seem justified because in many presentations of end times **prophecy** they are also commonly matched with a ton of collected 'supporting facts'. And it's too often more the 'facts' and not so much the **scripture** that's being used to justify conclusions presumed to be **'approved unto God'**. Further, even the facts themselves can be blind—or nearsighted—to other collections of facts that oppose them. You can imagine here that cartoon character Mr. Magoo if you want. It often gets that blind. And all this goes on when everyone should **know** that a case can be made for anything with enough facts and as long as you don't use too much **scripture**. The **truth** is that you'll never find much **truth** if you're too easily satisfied with your conclusions, and never test them further in the whole Word of God. And the surprise here is that God has actually designed His Word to be misunderstood by these and other arguably deceptive means in order to expose those who don't really want to **know** Him, or those who just don't **know** Him as well as they should. Lord have mercy on us all, because this is partly why Jesus will be able to say to **many** who thought they knew Him, **I never knew you: depart from me**. And this is painful. But it's worse than you might expect because these misguided practices have been used by the **teachers** I **learned** from, men whom I **know** love God and who are loved of Him.

Such practitioners, whether saved or reprobate, are also compelled to use strong persuasion and passion, trying to convince you that their ideas are probably right, while at the same time implying or even demanding that they speak for God. But such presentations, to the extent that they rely only on such practices, are given in man's terms—not God's. And though some may find or reinforce some very good **revelations** this way, they too often also create or perpetuate disruptive, divisive and dangerous **error** in the process, being unable to detect it. This common approach is all wrong for my intentions, because using it would mean that I only intend to offer you my

opinions too, or just imply that I speak for God. So let me be clear. I absolutely intend to speak for God. This is because the only sure way to show new **revelations** to others while also exposing and avoiding **error** is to speak for God. Of course speaking for God in this way is not just a matter of will and simple faith. It takes 'skill'. There are also qualifications and tests to pass. And you have to **know** how to do it His way. My testimony is that I was homeschooled by God for this purpose, and the **proof** is in this **study**. This may sound boastful at first. But you must come to the **revelation** that speaking for yourself is what is really boastful, and that truly speaking for God cannot be.

I must add that you should keep in mind that I am not speaking as a **prophet**. I am not able to **prophecy** as far as I **know** and I won't have to. What I will have to do is **prove** I'm distinguishing **truth** from **error** by **rightly** interpreting **prophecy**. And everyone should **believe** that there is more than enough **proof** for **the truth** in **scripture** alone. I'm not saying that there is no place for speculation. We'll be doing plenty of that. But I mean to make it clear when I do. And I'm not saying that there is no place for fact checking. We'll be doing some of that too, though this is especially hazardous work. The point is that, in this **study**, I can and do speak for God, and I rely entirely on **scripture** to do so. Aside from **prophecy**, this can only be done with the full confirmation of all **scripture** without contradiction. In one sense this is impossible because God and His Word are infinite and we are not. But it's nonetheless possible to be **approved** by Him to speak for Him. Possible, but no where near easy. Christians in general should not presume to speak too 'far-afield' for God. And in this **study**, as in any, I can at best only begin to draw on the unending messages that can be found in His Word. So I'm not saying you have to **know** as much as God to speak for Him, but that you'd better be using 'the whole Bible' when you do. Still, even this, because of **error**, is no guarantee. God's approval is the only guarantee. And how do you get God's approval?

Before we get into that, to those of you who follow end times **prophecy**, the following should get your attention and serve as an introduction to the journey before us. Those who **teach** that the present trouble that the World is having with the religion of Islam will lead to The Great Tribulation are in **error**. Of course everything is eventually leading to The Great Tribulation. But this present situation (in 2010) cannot immediately precede it. And I mean the Muslims aren't the ones that the rest of the World really have to worry about. Oh, the Muslim extremists will cause plenty of trouble as they do now, but they will not cause the worst of it, and they play a relatively minor role at best with other contenders to World domination in The Great Tribulation. And they will ultimately fail in their efforts to expand beyond their present holdings, and for the most part not even hold onto their present ones. Instead, Israel and whoever will help them—not that they will need any, though blessings along these lines are always available—will overwhelmingly subdue the strongest factions of the Muslim World at least once more and necessarily some time before The Great Tribulation can start. I can say this because I'm speaking for God and agreeing with Him. But to **prove** this will naturally require a lot of **scripture**—probably more than you're used to. And we'll need to look all over The Bible. In this way we'll need only a few supporting facts to really be **approved unto God**.

Also, those of you who expect that The Great Tribulation involves

predominantly modern conventional warfare and 'weapons of mass destruction' (WMD's) including a localized nuclear holocaust or two, plus a preponderance of '1984-style', computer-networked, satellite-linked surveillance and management systems to control and oppress the population of the World are in **error** too. None of this technology of man will play a significant role. And again, **scripture** alone will **prove** that this is the case, and that we'll be seeing a much bigger God than many of you are used to. So do I have your attention?

I intend to offer you **the truth** as I **know** it and as God and Jesus mean it. This will require probably the most 'panoramic' review of end times **prophecy** you've ever seen. But it starts more like an end times **prophecy** primer, because we first have to make sure that we're all generally on the same page. Getting on the same page is possible because of the 'popular version' of end times **prophecy** many of us have **learned** from top evangelical **teachers** of **prophecy**. This is the version which promises that anytime now there will be a rapture of the Church, followed by the seven-year Great Tribulation, ending with Armageddon, then followed by The Millennium, and finally by eternity in New Jerusalem in The New Heaven and Earth. These **teachers** taught me all this. And I will be forever grateful to these servants of God whom God will undoubtedly richly reward for their **work**. But they do not relieve us from the ongoing **work** that was laid on them and afterward is laid on all who follow behind. Sifting out the **errors** and improving the perspective attached to anyone's **teaching** is the **continuing** obligation of anyone serious to, as Jesus puts it, **continue in my Word**, so that we can all, as Peter puts it, **grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord**. And the **knowledge of the truth** should **grow** as new **teachers** today climb upon the shoulders of the ones who taught them in order to gain ever-increasing insights into God's future plans for us all, and for as long as there remains time to do so. And I will try to do all this without leaving behind the 'beginners'. Because of this, the **study** grows in difficulty along the way. And certainly this overview of end times **prophecy** snowballs to perspectives that past and even present day **teachers of prophecy** have never before imagined. This is the natural eternal progression of The Word of God by The Spirit of God. Surely followers of God must, in the progression of God's plans for us all, **continue** to climb unendingly higher. And anyone who desires to do so may join us, now and forever.

Still, there are others decidedly not on the same page when it comes to eschatology—the **study** of end times **prophecy**. I **know** that many of these dissenters from the 'popular version' disagree 'honestly' because I can see how they come to their disagreements and altered versions, especially considering the popular 'man's-way' **study** method mentioned above. But some of these apparently honest dissenters even believe it appropriate to pronounce the rest of 'the Church' condemned precisely because of its more popular brand of eschatology, and some of us pronounce sentence on them, having not satisfactorily answered them, even though we all believe that Jesus died for our sins. Fundamentally, I don't care what you believe about **the end of the world**. It's not essentially what will get you into Heaven. Anyone that teaches that eschatological **error** can in and of itself somehow overcome faith in the blood of Christ doesn't fully **understand** the promise and power of the blood of Christ. But the sacrifice of Jesus alone cannot, in and of itself, save us from other ignorance of the **knowledge of God**.

However it makes attaining more **knowledge** of Him possible. But the majority of evangelicals today perpetuate the cause of all this division by their adherence to a variety of popular untested eschatological **errors**. And we all are still giving the various dissenters this case against us by our own **errors** compounded upon theirs. So another reason we must revise, refine, correct and reconsider the popular interpretations of end times **prophecy** is that they are causing major problems in the Church as a whole. The worst of these is radical dissension because of eschatology. Brethren, this alone makes it a serious issue for everyone. And all we really need to do is just 'lighten up'—double meaning absolutely intended.

And still, it's natural to be in **error** to some extent. This is the natural condition of a growing child of God. But an honest chance given to this **study** can at least end eschatology as a source of major division among us, correcting **errors** on all sides, and separating **truth** from speculation. There is no way I can attempt to specifically expose all eschatological **error**. And I really don't have to because, hopefully, you all **know** what you believe and why. So I more intend to lay down a fuller and therefore truer picture of the coming **end of the world**. Then you can lay your perspective beside it that is likely less complete and compare. If you believe what you believe because someone simply told you so, **errors** should be more easily given up, unless you're more attached to certain relationships than you are to **the truth**. And if you have done some **study** on your own it should be even easier, unless again, you're unnaturally attached to your perspectives for some reason. I promise you're definitely going see some things you've been missing, and also plenty of big **errors** you've been lead to believe exposed, if you're big enough to admit it. In other words, for this 'natural progression' to work we must all be honest.

Again, this **study** is not really about what saves you. It's about the natural progression of the **knowledge of God**. We are all at best links in a growing chain of growth in Him. I hope this **study** makes clear that it's time for us all to **grow** some more again. But it may reach beyond your ability to follow your first time through it. This is the natural progression of God's **knowledge** too. And I'll tell you why. The Apostle Peter tells us that God's **divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him [2 Peter 1:3](#)**. So it's **through the knowledge of him** that we should expect to be able to **understand** more and more **truth** and thereby **grow** spiritually. The point is that God has given us specific **instruction** about exactly how He intends for us to **grow** in this **wisdom, understanding and knowledge of him**. Try to do it your own way, or in **a way that seemeth right unto you**, and you will likely err and be deceived ([Proverbs 16:25](#)). The pursuit of **knowledge** is best carried out God's way. And what is God's way? Let's start with **instruction** from the mouth of the Prophet Isaiah. He asks and answers this exact question, saying,

Whom shall he [God] teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little... [Isaiah 28:9-10](#)

A child ***weaned from the milk*** is an obvious metaphor here for someone who is 'off the spiritual milk' and mature enough for the solid spiritual food of God's Word. More specifically, this implies that ***truth*** comes in the form of 'baby's milk' for the spiritually immature and also in the form of 'chewable solid food' for the spiritually mature. Isaiah makes clear that the transition from ***milk*** to solid food must be made in order to really be able to ***grow*** in ***knowledge*** and ***understand doctrine***. And Isaiah also shows us the difference between the two. Until your Bible ***study*** has reached the stage where you commonly ***understand*** a topic of ***scripture*** by connecting precepts about it from ***here a little and there a little*** all over The Bible, you are still basically a 'milk drinker'. This does not mean that you cannot sit down and read through your Bible for hours. It means that God has scattered the complete picture of ***the truth*** on any given subject all over The Bible, and you're not yet mature until you're familiar enough with the entire Word of God so that you're able to find and gather together all the related precepts on any given subject and put them together in order to gain this fuller ***knowledge*** and ***understanding***. Isaiah says this is how God will ***teach knowledge*** and how he will make us able to ***understand doctrine***. This is His way.

Isaiah also tells us that by this same means God is able to hide ***the truth*** from those who refuse to handle His Word His way ([Verse 13](#)). Why would God hide the 'meatier' ***truth*** in His Word from us? One reason is made clear in this ***study***. God hides His prophetically ***revealed*** plans and other ***truth*** this way to protect it from those who would abuse it. But without even intending to, we ignorantly abuse God's Word anyway. I have. You have too. This is also part of the natural progression of growing in God's Word. And the reason there are so many different versions of eschatology is because so few are properly and consistently handling God's Word God's way. So you end up with washed-in-the-blood believers who are divided because they all use the same Bible to conclude such different things as that The Rapture of the Church is at the beginning, middle or end of The Great Tribulation, or that there will be no rapture at all and that we must all go through The Great Tribulation, or that The Great Tribulation is past and that The Millennium is already ongoing with Jesus coming at the end which supposedly makes it our job to conquer the World for Him before that, and much worse, all of which promotes exclusivism in our greatly divided Church. And of course they all can't be right. It's obviously the mishandling of The Word of God that leads to all these conflicting eschatologies, not to mention doctrines in general. Fortunately, the version most popularly taught by evangelicals is nearest to correct. But the popular ***errors*** associated with it are also partly why so many other versions get so much ink and airplay. Again, it's time to remedy this. To do this we must ***understand*** that God has hidden ***the truth*** on any topic in the totality of ***scripture***. In the same way ***the truth*** of this ***study*** can only be seen in its totality.

But spiritual infancy is not necessarily a bad thing. According to Peter it's where we all start. He says,

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby [1 Peter 2:2](#).

As a new Christian this is how you begin to **grow** in your spiritual infancy. You start with single precepts and at best and are able to put together only a few of them from different parts of The Bible while becoming more familiar with The Bible as a whole. But in time this should change. The Apostle Paul says all those who have too long remained in **need of milk** are **dull of hearing**. He also identifies someone like this as **a babe** and therefore **unskilful in the word**. As a result, he says their problem is that they're unable to **discern both good and evil**. In other words, if you are still mainly just a spiritual **babe**, then you can't tell the difference between **good and evil** in too many **things that pertain unto life and godliness**. Paul laments,

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles [or truth] of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil [Hebrews 5:11-14](#).

Now that's a mouthful. I think Paul got Isaiah's message. Paul is talking about a shameful place to be. He puts the same message in a nutshell for the Corinthians, saying,

Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame [1 Corinthians 15:34](#).

But if you're a new Christian, being someone that still has the **need of milk** is a wonderful place to be. Rejoice in it; just don't get too used to it, because the spiritual reality remains—whatever you think of yourself, you are closer to being a spiritual **babe** by God's definition if you are **not by reason of use** of His Word regularly and properly **exercised** in **the word of righteousness**. And 'proper exercise' is the gathering of more and more precepts from all over The Bible on any given subject in order to correctly **understand** God's complete **truth** on that subject. Jesus expresses His support for God's way when He says,

If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free [John 8:31-32](#).

There is an ocean of **truth** connected to this teaching, but included in it is the implied process that you must **continue** in The Word to **grow** more and more **free** from sin and **error**. Isaiah and Paul make clear that this 'continuing exercise' must include connecting precepts together in larger and larger groups—which becomes stronger and stronger **strong meat**—for greater and greater **understanding** of God's Word. This is God's stated way for you to **grow** in **the knowledge of him**. So the first step in growing in The Word of God is not to be offended if you recognize that you're still a

spiritual **babe**. Be ashamed if it's appropriate. But let that be the motivation Paul is trying to offer you. The upside is that once you give up just **milk** and **learn** to regularly eat **strong meat**, you are promised that you will have the ability with your **senses exercised to discern both good and evil**. This means that you'll really be able to **understand** more and more of The Word of God. But there are many, many wonderful **promises** for those who **grow** in God's Word. The downside for now, if you fit Paul's description of **a babe**, is that you don't yet have the 'skill' to **understand** real **strong meat** yet. God is **patient**, but if you've been a Christian for some time and are still **a babe**, this is not only a **shame**, it is also dangerous to you and everyone around you. And **salvation** is by **grace**, but to all Christians Peter says,

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour [1 Peter 5:8](#).

So if you think you're safe just because you're presently **saved**, you may be in for some unpleasant surprises. These would be the kind of surprises that those with the **knowledge** and **understanding** that Isaiah speaks of would no longer **experience**. This **study** uses God's way to **teach knowledge** so that you can get **weaned from the milk** and **understand [strong meat] doctrine** like never before. It can fast-track your progress on the road to maturity in the **knowledge of God** by way of the **study** of end times **prophecy**. But be forewarned, this is what I mean when I say this journey is not so much about where we're going. It's really about how to **study** God's Word God's way.

You don't **know** me. But God does. And He says you should recognize His voice. So if I speak for Him, you eventually should recognize that too. I mean that the presentation of this **study** is by His design—not mine. And I also mean that there's nothing we will cover that's my own idea. Every single 'good idea' in this **study**, including its design, came to me from The Word of God by The Spirit of God. I don't mean that I'm intellectually challenged. I graduated from a 'top ten' public university and in the undeniably most rigorous undergraduate division of the institution. And I am therefore familiar with a myriad of empirical and conventional formats and paradigms. I mean that the spiritual reality is that there is no **truth** that does not come from Him. And what I also mean is that it's not so much my 'man-given' credentials that should really be of any interest to you. When it comes to the **study** of **prophecy**, what should interest you is my ability to assist you to see...

...the day dawn, and the daystar arise in your hearts [2 Peter 1:19](#).

And I mean this as Peter means it. I also mean that, besides The Spirit, God **gave gifts unto men** [Ephesians 4:8](#) including **some...teachers** [Verse 11](#), and particularly for this work of God that can help you with this endeavor. And again, I mean this as Paul means it. Any other 'credential' believed to be of any help with such an endeavor is just as likely a hindrance. What matters most is God's **gift** that supernaturally empowers me to **teach** you His Word. And supposing that there is any other necessarily meaningful credential for

this job often leads to a diversity of doctrinal ‘messes’, some of which we will identify and clean up in the process of this **study**. At the same time I am a **workman** doing **work**. And it’s for you to decide whether I am **worthy** of my **labor**.

And by-the-way, as Paul also teaches, I do not value my part in the body of Christ any more than any other part. All have the same mission. And it includes striving to make all parts work together better. This is my ultimate hope and goal. And this is my testimony—that God has equipped me to be a **teacher** in order to help in this way. For me it began decades ago. God began **teaching** me, spoon-feeding me at first really, till I recognized that I had His **gift of teaching** for His **purpose**. So I really have nothing to boast about in any of this; it’s all His doing. But He has made me feel very special because of it. Though it’s nothing more than he **promises** everyone. **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you** [James 4:8](#). Still, one reason it’s a special place to be is that, the fact is, most put limits on just how close they want to get to God, not wanting to give up too much of this World to get there. In other words, Paul’s message about ‘too-long-postponed growth in spiritual maturity’ needs a lot more pulpit time than it usually gets. So come along if you will, as long as you will. And God bless you if you decide somewhere along the way you have something more important to do.

Our goal is a broad perspective of end times **prophecy** because **truth** is found and determined and proven in the totality of **scripture**. But now that I have invited you on board to **study** in topical groups of precepts, I have to next warn you that this is hazardous work. Another key related to Isaiah’s **instruction** for Bible **study** is that focusing too narrowly will also lead to misinterpretation if done outside a whole perspective of The Word of God. Every part needs to be seen within the complete framework that it fits in. It also needs to be seen within the complete framework of the whole Word of God, which this **study** addresses in too limited a fashion. The more ‘ancient parts’ of God’s plan we must and will, God willing, focus on another time. I hope to do more of that with the release of my next overview which at this point I’m calling [The Ages of Creation](#). It will be an overview of the whole plan of God for man. I say this to assure you that though the scope of this **study** is limited to end times **prophecy**, the whole plan of God for man from beginning to end is fixed in the background.

And besides this limitation, containing the topics of end times **prophecy** in ‘sections’ can only be arbitrary. These topics, as all topics of **scripture**, are much too interconnected for such treatment, except that God has made us to read or hear one word at a time in a linear fashion, and we don’t have unlimited attention spans. So we are confined to acquire **knowledge** in arguably arbitrary measured bites and meals, or, if you will, by sections and subsections. By-the-way, I hope you **learn** along the way that the tangents I constantly take throughout this **study** are the glue holding all the sections together as well as the **proof** that the sections are arbitrary and that properly connecting precepts of The Word of God is what it’s all about.

But some of you may need to go through certain sections a few more times than others to get up to speed. This is because of what Paul calls **strong meat**. I mean that eventually all topical groups must be connected together without any contradictions anywhere if you really want to **understand**. This is the key to really eliminating **error**. It is also why The Word of God is appropriately referred to as ‘living’. You can ask it questions

on any topic and it will eventually answer you. But the meatier answers are not found in just one verse or passage. Another key to getting such answers is to **continue** asking questions. This is what we'll be doing in this **study**. And this **study** is held to all these standards.

Questions are naturally followed by speculation, which does have an important role to play in growth. Speculations are like questions—only becoming **error** when presumed to be **truth**. But unfortunately, all the good, popular **teachers** of **prophecy** I know continue to perpetuate this kind of **error**. Still I have been able to stand on their shoulders to get a better view. And I'm sure I will find guilty of misidentifying speculation as **truth** too, even though I'm ever vigilant to avoid it. Needless to say I've corrected countless **errors** in my own prophetic interpretation over the last couple decades (1987-2010) amidst ever ongoing speculation, and ever increasing confirmation of **the truth**. But most of **the truth** I offer to you in this **study** has stood the test of time for me, surviving the scrutiny of cross-examination across increasing numbers of topical groups, though all this cross-examination cannot be shown in this one **study**.

This also leads to some unavoidable conclusions about you if you have not been so **diligent** and have not been focusing on **learning** God's Word God's way. Some of you will have to be dragged, maybe kicking and screaming, away from the **errors** that you now hold dear. But surely many of you will cheer to see such **errors** exposed. And I won't even hold it against you if you find that I show you the **proof of doctrines** that you already hold dear that you had no idea could be so conclusively supported. Indeed, it's not my intention to offend. We will all end up on the same side eventually in the end, and that is on the side of The Word of God, and better now than later.

So the limited aim of this **study** is at a complete overview of end times **prophecy** from here to eternity without getting too bogged down in the details. The main features we will use to order our **study** are the nine raptures of The Great Tribulation. And at least some of them will be news to pretty much everybody. But because of the scope of this **study**, I will need to continually defer further more detailed **study** to other sources and times. Still, this **study** is more than comprehensive enough to **prove** itself. Below is a list of some of the things you can expect to **learn** and **prove** that will be news to even most 'top' **teachers** of end times **prophecy**.

- There are nine distinct raptures of nine different groups in and around The Great Tribulation whose groups can be specifically identified and whose raptures can be all placed at different specific times.
- These groups will serve in different prescribed stations to be filled between here and the end of The Millennium for better or for worse including both more or less fortunate positions within each station.
- The pretribulation Rapture of the Church is directly mentioned in The Book of Revelation, and Gentile immortals are identifiable in The Book of Isaiah, not just implied.
- New biblically-defined details about the roles of The U.S., The E.U., Russia, China and the Islamic World are now known. And new biblically-derived deductions can be made about The U.K. and the remaining countries of the Americas.
- New biblically-defined details about the origins and development of the Antichrist Kingdom and the city of the False Prophet are now known, and

there are some startling new speculations too, all showing it's not really Islam we have to worry about.

- The 'nature' of the majority of God's judgments on the Earth during The Great Tribulation will be like His previous judgments in Egypt administered by the Prophet Moses. And for the most part God's future spectacular judgments will not involve modern, man-made technology as most **teach**. Expect to try to imagine something much more awesome.
- There is a direct connection between The Red Horse of The Second Seal Judgment and the earthshaking events of The Sixth Seal Judgment in The Book of Revelation. This connection is clarified in Ezekiel 38-39 and in various other prophecies. In this case, holding on to your hat won't help.
- The U.S. and probably The U.K. will stop by the 'show of force' of warships in the Mediterranean Sea the Antichrist's first attempt to assimilate the North African and Southwest Asian Muslim World in the middle of the first half of the 7-year Great Tribulation. But the Antichrist will succeed in the assimilation of these Muslims by the midpoint because by then no one will be in a position to stop him.
- Daniel 11 can now be confirmed to be finally fully opened and is crucial to understanding many events heretofore not understood or misinterpreted. This means **the time of the end** has just fully come. And this helps reveal that the pretribulation Rapture of the Church is not yet imminent.
- There are disasters of prophetic misinterpretation popularized by top evangelical teachers that must be corrected before further spiritual damage is done. This includes misinterpretations now effective in dividing the Church and others that will also become formidable stumbling blocks to Christians.

But this is just some of the news for the top evangelical **teachers** of **prophecy** along the way. To **prove** stuff like this I must present a complete overview of end times **prophecy**. Only with a whole picture can we, for example, distinguish and identify the nine raptures in and around The Great Tribulation. We will be able to construct this 'whole picture' using a couple of different complete frameworks. One is the whole Book of Revelation. The other is Jesus' Discourse on the Mount of Olives. Many other **revelations** will come from Paul and other **teachers** who **learned** and **grew** from his **teaching**. Foremost of these **revelations** is how we place The Church Age of Grace in time and use it to finish 'opening' the book of Daniel. And I mean that. As far as I **know**, The Book of Daniel has not until now been fully opened. Specifically what I mean is that I expect to show you Chapter 11 now fully opened, including the identities of each **king of the north** and **king of the south**, etc, which will add new dimensions to our **understanding** of the Antichrist and his kingdom, and even to the False Prophet and his institution. We'll finally also take a fresh look at The Millennium and the transition to the New Heaven and Earth in light of the identified 'stations' related to these nine raptures that we'll see all identified by **scripture** by then. And I have identified at least eight different 'stations' where Christians will be placed in eternity. I will also share along the way several reasons from **prophecy** why I do not expect The Great Tribulation to

begin anytime real soon. Soon, but not real soon. It's still likely at least a decade or two away. So I think that there's at least enough time for us all to come together on what we have all together made possible to agree on.

All this will also result in some excursions into Old Testament history to trace the kings **of the north** and **south** in Daniel 11, and into Ezekiel 40-48 to get a better picture of our new hometown during The Millennium, and into The Bible's longest **prophecy** to get a better idea of what God's ultimate plan for us all is really all about. We will also need the help of Jesus, Moses, Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Peter, Paul, John, even Gabriel the Archangel, and many more inspired loved-ones of God to help us along the way. I should also mention that this includes the help of a great sinner, King David, because we will also need the help of other sinners beloved of God, whose help we have had more recently—from about 1840 to date to be exact—that we will also rely on to help us finish opening The Books of Daniel and Revelation. An exception to this is found in Revelation 10. I don't expect God will let us figure out this chapter until the middle of The Great Tribulation. But I do see a good reason why He will continue to hide it from us until then. We'll get to all of this and much more along the way.

You should have already noticed that I avoid the use of quotation marks by using **Bold Italics** (and just *italics*) for all **scripture** references, and all such references are the King James Version (KJV). And I'll try not to leave you floundering in the Old English. One way I'll do this is to use quotation marks to identify helpful vocabulary from various modern translations. And I am keeping my eye on more than a dozen popular translations along the way, and you can too in a number of ways at BlueLetterBible.org. And I'm not just doing all this to avoid copyright infringement as you will eventually see. And if this is not a book on CD or online where direct links are accessible, then I recommend you use BlueLetterBible.org for all the [underlined Scripture links](#) found throughout this **study** to view as you go along. There are also a variety of other links identified by web addresses available along the way. And there are a variety of other personal conventions of mine I hope you'll get used to too.

Another point of order is that Jesus and the Apostles Paul and Peter are alive. Though the apostles' bodies are presently dead at this writing, their spirits live, and their bodies will again too. And it is and should be customary to speak of the things people have said in the past as what they would also still say in the present or the future, especially when it's the living Word of God. So I avoid the past tense whenever possible in this **study**. And after all, when it comes to end times **prophecy**, most of what is 'said' hasn't happened yet.

And let's face it, memorization by rote is out, but it shouldn't be when it comes to Bible **study**. Rote memorization—or at least reference familiarization—of larger and larger groups of connected precepts can be an escape from spiritual infancy. Repetition of spiritual truths is highly recommended by the Apostle Peter ([2 Peter 1:12-13](#); [3:1-2](#)). But to be practical, because of the high resistance to it nowadays, I endeavor to avoid its use unnecessarily. Still, some call restatement for additional clarification—even along with the addition of one or two new ideas—'repetition'. But I tell you that The Bible calls this the road to **wisdom**, on which I am a traveler, and ultimately you'll need to be too. It's the true nature of spiritual **exercise**. However if you're already familiar with end times **prophecy**,

you're bound to view more of this **study**, but not necessarily most, as more regimen than **revelation**. But this **study** is not about repetition beyond the amount needed by new end-times-**prophecy** students to make the more complicated connections, that is, more complicated than my guess of what the 'average' Bible-studier is used to. All said and done, there are other ways this material could be presented, but I **know** no better way, as it is not my way, but it is by and large the way it is taught to me by **the Spirit of truth** [John 14:17](#), [15:26](#), [16:13](#), [1 John 4:6](#).

And if you **know** The Spirit of God you also **know** that sometimes He's a mysterious ethereal **experience**. This is His nature. But when it comes to the **knowledge of God**, our part in this **experience** is clearly defined in The Bible. Besides **gifts** of The Spirit related to the **knowledge of God**, Paul teaches that our general **experience** with The Spirit's **teaching** comes through being **exercised** in The Word of God, and he maintains that this regimen is necessary for truly **understanding** what The Spirit teaches us. The Apostle Peter assures us that the **experience** should be accompanied by our **diligence**, promising unlimited growth in **the knowledge of God**. And the Prophet Isaiah explains how it works on our end. He tells us that **knowledge** and **understanding** come by connecting, **hear a little and there a little**, more and more **precepts** of The Word of God. Do these things and you will **experience** the power of The Spirit working in you in ways you may have never experienced before. So whatever point you're at, this is a good place from which to **continue** with practice in the way God says He will **teach** you and **make you to understand doctrine**. I contend the Church has lost its way on this road to some extent. But if God is willing, I **believe** we can still get back to a more 'sure footing' before The Rapture. Though again, there can be no doubt that we all must eventually **learn** how to travel this road together. And there is also no doubt that it will be better sooner than later. So please join me now.

If you already feel comfortable to jump right into most of these topics mentioned above you can skip the rest of this section and go on to [SECTION 2](#). Of course there's value to confirming that we are all on the same page or at least to finding out what page I'm on. We'll **continue** from here with the literal centerpiece of our **study**, a future event, (that some consider past), popularly called The Abomination of Desolation. We'll rely on it as a reference point from which all connections can be made, as Jesus implies it can be used. Then Jesus will help us with several more popular key terms of end times **prophecy** that we must **understand** in order to begin and build this overview. And we will **exercise** with these terms throughout the **study**. Our purpose, as explained by Paul, Peter and Isaiah, is not just to **learn** to get an **understanding** of these terms, but to see how through their **use**, as Paul means it, we'll be better able **to discern both good and evil**, including right **interpretations** and wrong **interpretations** of prophetic **scripture**. Focusing on these terms will limit our **study** within **scripture**, but there's nonetheless no limit to what we can **learn** from exercising in them.

Still, there is a goal. It's a point of arrival you can reach in this **study**. It's that place where you become **approved unto God**. Paul encourages you to,

Study to shew thyself approved unto God [and reasonable men], **a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing** [by precepts] **the word of truth** [2 Timothy 2:15](#).

This is how you get **approved unto God** to speak for Him. Because if you can show yourself you are able to do this, you have arrived at a place of God's approval. And you can speak for Him, and you are prepared for significant participation in God's eternal kingdom. All God's **sons** must eventually gain this approval. Those of us who don't receive it in this age will in the next. But as Paul is trying to tell the Church of this age, it will be a **shame** to be among the last to receive it.

Finally, our guiding eschatological goal in this **study** will be to establish an unshakable defense of the pretribulation Rapture of the Church. Again, quite a broad view will be required to do this. We'll start by depicting one way to summarize God plan for the rest of human existence. I call it the **TIMELINE of End Times Prophecy**. It lays out in time all our key terms and then some.

This event is our central reference point. But when does it occur?

The 70 Weeks Plan of Salvation for the Jews



The above [TIMELINE of The 70 Weeks for Jews & The Church Age for Gentiles](#) shows the interrupted 70 weeks plan of salvation for the Jews (in blue), and the presently ongoing plan of salvation for the Gentiles (in purple). It is the Archangel Gabriel that *informed* Daniel of this then future final period of **Seventy weeks** [Daniel 9:24](#) to complete God's plan of salvation for Daniel's people the Jews, where...

...in the midst of the [70th] week he [the Antichrist] shall cause the sacrifice and the oblations [or offerings] to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it [The Temple] desolate [or desecrated and destroyed] [Daniel 9:27](#).

This description of The Abomination of Desolation tells us when it occurs—**in the midst of the** 70th week of Daniel's *prophecy*. This last **week** of the **Seventy weeks** is the end of Jewish *prophecy* because Daniel also tells us that the whole period is...

...to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up [or finish] the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy [Jesus] [Daniel 9:24](#).

The **end of sins, reconciliation** and 'sealed up' **vision and prophecy**, with **everlasting righteousness** all 'brought in'—that would pretty much wrap things up. This is also when God will **anoint**—Jewish for 'make king'—**the most Holy** who is Jesus. All this speaks of Jesus' reconciling sacrifice for sin and the establishment of His **everlasting kingdom**. All these things must be complete by the end of the 70th week. And The Abomination of Desolation happens in **the midst** or in the middle of this last **week**. But the question stands. When is this?

A **week**—in Hebrew meaning a "seven"—can be seven days, or **seven years** as in the story of Laban and Jacob [Genesis 29:25-30](#). So it's necessary with Old Testament **scripture**—or Hebrew—to determine which time scale is

more appropriate whenever such quantities of time are given. This will help us find when it is. And it's weeks of seven years, not days, that fit this scenario perfectly. And this would be a total of seventy sevens (70 x 7) or a 490-year plan. The first **week** of seven years begins with a Medo-Persian king's **commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem** [Daniel 9:25](#). This is when the Jews are finally released from their Assyrian to Babylonian then Medo-Persian period of captivity. And the first 69 weeks—or 483 years—we **know** are passed because they ended when **messiah** was **cut off** [or "killed"], **but not for himself** [Daniel 9:24-26](#). So the end of the 69th week is marked by Jesus' crucifixion. Some have done the history and the math. There are arguably exactly 483 years between this Medo-Persian king's **commandment** and when Jesus was **cut off** by crucifixion. But the last week of seven years to complete this plan for the Jews was postponed and has plainly still not yet started. Between Jesus, Daniel, John and Paul we **know** that 'the 70th week' must still be a future seven years of **great tribulation** divided by **the abomination of desolation** event. And from this midpoint, as in any **week** of years, another ½ **week** would be 3 ½ years, 42 months or around 1275 days. An angel later explains to Daniel that...

...from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days [Daniel 12:11](#).

This takes us to **the end** of the 70th week ([Daniel 12:8](#)). And this ½ week of 1290 days is also defined to be **a time, times, and a half** or $1 + 2 + \frac{1}{2} = 3\frac{1}{2}$ **times** or years ([Daniel 12:7](#)). And we'll eventually talk about why there seems to be a few extra days here. Otherwise, all this fits perfectly with the 'one **week** = seven years' timescale.

But all this also means that the time of The Abomination of Desolation remains unknown. This is because we don't **know** when the 70th week is going to start. There's still a **mystery** or two that must be **revealed** before we'll **know** when it will be. But the revealing of the first of these 'mysteries' will result in our not being here to see any of this **great tribulation** transpire. This **mystery** is The Rapture of the Church that ends this present age. The Abomination of Desolation will occur ½ **week**, or 3 ½ years after The Rapture. The **end** comes another ½ **week** or 1290 days after that. This is all popularly accepted doctrine. And this 70th week we're all still waiting for is commonly called The Great Tribulation.

But for all of you who don't believe in 'The Great Tribulation' or a 'pretribulation rapture', I'm not pretending to have proven any of this yet, just to have defined it. We will more than **prove** all this before we're through, and if you now see things differently you will see how you were misled too. However I don't need to spend any more time on the first 69 weeks of Daniel's **prophecy** because it's verifiably fulfilled **prophecy**, and there are too many good studies out there to **prove** this that you can check out on your own. Future end times **prophecy** involves only the last or the 70th week.

[The Church Age of Grace](#)

This **study** refers to The Church Age of Grace also as just The Church Age or The Age of Grace—all commonly used. The beginning of The Church Age of Grace is Jesus. Whether you mark it at His Birth, or when Jesus is **cut off** or as late as Pentecost when the ‘God-sent’ Holy Spirit comes, is debatable. Cases can be made for all these relatively close together starting points. According to Paul this period is a **dispensation** (or planned age) **of the grace of God** that is unlike any of the **other ages** or **dispensations** of God. This is partly because this ‘age’ was a **mystery** that was **hid in God** until it was **revealed** to the **holy apostles and prophets** of the Church with the coming of **the Spirit** beginning at Pentecost ([Ephesians 3](#)). The surprise ‘good news’ is that this **dispensation** is a plan of salvation for Gentiles. So Gentiles have only known of their opportunity to be saved by faith in Christ since the beginning of this present age. But we’ll see in the next sections that many both Jews and Gentiles from the **other ages** before The Church Age of Grace were redeemed at the beginning of this age too.

This previously unforeseen but now **revealed** plan of God implies that the 70 weeks plan for the Jews salvation was interrupted and put on hold exactly at the end of the 69th week, which Daniel marks as when Jesus is crucified. We can also tell this because the events described in the 70th week did not follow the 69th week on schedule and still have not yet occurred. But the best evidence of **the truth** of this comes from Paul who tells us about this Age of Grace directly. He also helps us see that we along with The Spirit must be **taken out of the way** at The Rapture before the final 70th week can begin. And The Rapture remains a **mystery** because we don’t **know** when it will occur. It could be anytime. But the fact that Jesus told everyone to **watch** the end coming means that we should not be clueless about it. We’ll cover all this more thoroughly in [SECTION 2](#) and [3](#). Other Great Tribulation raptures will be covered in [SECTION 4, 5, 6, 9, 10](#), and [11](#). And there is a postmillennial rapture in [SECTION 12](#). So there are nine specifically distinguishable ‘group raptures’ in and around the 7-year Great Tribulation, and another one at the end of The Millennium.

The Mystery of Iniquity

The actual beginning of the 70th week is not technically The Rapture. Its beginning instead takes place just after The Rapture, at an event commonly called The Mystery of Iniquity—as Paul’s describes it in [2 Thessalonians 2:7](#). This is another still unrevealed **mystery** because we won’t find out who the Antichrist really is until after The Rapture, at the beginning of this last seven years of the Jewish plan of salvation. We already do **know** a lot about him though. But his specific identity will not be **revealed** until...

...he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it [The Temple in Jerusalem] desolate [Daniel 9:27](#).

So it’s popular doctrine that the Antichrist will be **revealed** when he makes an ‘international peace treaty’ or **covenant with many** for one **week** or seven years. And this would start the last **week** of the **Seventy weeks** plan.

3 ½ years later he will break **the covenant** at The Abomination of Desolation. But there are many other ways to identify the Antichrist. I've actually charted 45 of them, most of which we will cover in [SECTION 7](#). So really both The Rapture of the Church and The Mystery of Iniquity together mark the beginning of the 70th week of Daniel's **prophecy** which is The Great Tribulation, but also the start of a period called The Beginning of Sorrows which is the first half of that **week**.

The Beginning of Sorrows

The Beginning of Sorrows is a description Jesus uses in His Discourse on the Mount of Olives that outlines the first 3 ½ years of the 70th week of Daniel's **prophecy** from The Mystery of Iniquity to The Abomination of Desolation. This is the period of the rise of the Antichrist and of the rise and fall of other significant powers. It's also the period of the first 14 out of the total of 21 judgments from God that occur throughout the 7-year Great Tribulation. These 14 **beginning of sorrows** judgments from Heaven are described in Revelation 6-11 and are popularly called The Seven Seal Judgments and The Seven Trumpet Judgments. Some divide these judgments up differently in The Great Tribulation. We'll see why they do it and why it's an understandable **error** in [SECTION 4](#). This restarted period of God's dispensation of salvation for the Jews, according to Jesus, is a period of **wars, famines, plagues, earthquakes**, etc. We examine The Beginning of Sorrows starting with The Rapture of the Church and the revealing of The Mystery of Iniquity in [SECTION 3](#) and [4](#). Jews in Israel are miraculously protected by God in The Beginning of Sorrows. And some **chosen** Jews escape the horrors of the following Days of Vengeance too by fleeing to a safe haven **prepared of God** for that entire second half-week. These are topics of [SECTION 9](#).

The Days of Vengeance

The Days of Vengeance is also a description Jesus uses in His Discourse on the Mount of Olives. This is that 'worst time ever', 3 ½-year period of **great tribulation** from The Abomination of Desolation to the end of the 70-week plan, also known as the second half of the 7-year Great Tribulation. [Revelation 13](#) specifically establishes that this is when the Antichrist is **given** his **forty and two months** (also 3 ½ years) of **power...over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations**. This period and its duration is also identified as **a time and times and the dividing of time** in a number of **scriptures** in Daniel and Revelation ([Daniel 7:25](#), [12:7](#), [Revelation 12:17](#)). The necessarily worst and last 7 of God's 21 Great Tribulation judgments are **poured out** on the Earth during this second half-week too. These seven judgments of God are called The Seven Plague Judgments (or Seven Vial or Seven Bowl Judgments) and are described in [Revelation 16](#). We'll cover these judgments and The Ministry of the False Prophet which also dominates in this half-week in [SECTION 4](#) and [8](#). All Jews and Christians caught by the Antichrist in The Days of Vengeance will be executed. It will be a **time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time**. The

consummation of this period is popularly called **Armageddon** and demonstratively few survive it to live on into the following new Millennial Age.

Armageddon

The **prophecy** of Daniel of the 70-week plan of salvation for the Jews promises that by the end of it, **all these things shall be finished** [Daniel 9:24](#), including the establishment of Jesus' eternal kingdom on Earth. And this must be after the Antichrist's 42 month's of power over the Earth are concluded that start at The Abomination of Desolation. Daniel indicates that the mid-week **desolation** of Jerusalem and its Temple will continue throughout the second half of the 70th week **until the consummation** when **that determined shall be poured out on the desolate** [Daniel 9:27](#). This is a brief description of the futile encounter between the Antichrist and his armies with Jesus and His armies popularly known as The Battle of Armageddon and also described in the Book of Revelation ([16:16](#), [19:11-21](#)). It's a marker of the end of The Great Tribulation and of the 70th week of Daniel's **prophecy**. It also marks the beginning of Jesus' Millennial Kingdom. These topics will be elaborated upon in [SECTION 4](#) and [10](#). And this should be enough to get us started. Are you ready to **prove** all this? Ready or not here we go.