

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW – THE OLIVET DISCOURSE
YOUR KINGDOM COME...ON EARTH – Fall 2022

“...whoever reads, let him understand” Matt. 24:15b

Week 3 – JROC - The Foundation of End Times Prophecy

October 9, 2022

The significance of end times is understanding God’s heart and His remaining faithful to His promises to Israel which impact the world...and God’s faithfulness to the promises that He has made to the Church...Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus.

The promises that God has made to the Church...

The rapture – John 14:1-3; I Thess. 4:16-17; I Cor. 15:51-52.

Our resurrection – because Jesus was raised to life, we will be raised (I Cor. 6:14; II Cor. 4:14; Rom. 8:11; Eph. 2:6; Col. 3:1; Col. 2:12....)

The judgment seat of Christ – receiving rewards or loss of rewards based on how we have lived for Him, how we have served or not served Him (I Cor. 3:9-15; II Cor. 5:9-10)

The marriage of the Lamb – The Church is the Bride and Jesus is the Bridegroom (Jude v. 24; Rev. 19:7-9).

Our ruling and reigning with Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom (II Tim. 2:12).

End times allows us to understand the Big Picture of Scripture.

And, as we continue to ask questions, I’m praying that God will give us the faith to accept His eternal plan because of Who He is. And, that at the end of the study we can proclaim with joy, “I am satisfied in my God”!!

Understanding end times and the message it conveys to mankind – warning some and encouraging others – can give us purpose – in sharing and impacting lives for all eternity! This is a that outlasts our lives!! Impacting others is a purpose that has ETERNAL VALUE

One of the themes of Scripture: the GLORY OF GOD!

Habakkuk 2:14 tells us that in the Millennial Kingdom – *the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea!!*

God’s desire is for the world to know Him! Eze. 38:23; Eze. 39:7-8 (cross reference)

The glory of God is God’s desire!

THE FOUNDATION OF END TIMES PROPHECY IS TO VINDICATE GOD – TO DEFEND, DEMONSTRATE, PROVE, TO SHOUT TO THE WORLD - WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE HAS SPOKEN...WHAT HE HAS PROMISED.

If you were asked to explain end times, where IN SCRIPTURE would you begin? Think with me about ETERNITY PAST! Where would we find proof for the end times from ETERNITY PAST?

Jesus came the first time...to die for our sin. (Gen. 3:15; Psa. 16:10; Psa. 22; Isa.53; Psa. 22). BECAUSE Jesus died and rose...He MUST return physically to earth to fulfill all the promises God gave to Israel through the unconditional covenants concerning the land

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(Israel does NOT have ALL the land that God promised to them in Gen. 15:18-20), the Messiah/the Seed to sit on King David's throne and rule from Jerusalem, and the blessings which will be poured out in the Millennial Kingdom (Deut. 30:1-10)

Jesus must return to fulfill the promises God made to the Church (rapture verses; guarantee of resurrection, rewards/loss of rewards at the Bema, marriage ceremony [The Bride and Bridegroom], and ruling and reigning with Jesus).

How is God vindicated?

REVELATION 1:1-3 - *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place.*

We have been invited, by being given this book of Revelation, to grasp the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. Revelation, that has been viewed as fearful, torturous, foreboding to so many, opens with more than a glimpse...it opens with a BEHOLDING – a fixed gazing on the love between the God the Father and God the Son.

Here is the glorious gifting from God the Father to God the Son – a gifting of the Revelation of Jesus – of Who He is. In Revelation we see Jesus in His GLORY!

Why this gift? Jesus, in eternity past, offered to lay down His life, He offered to take on the role of a guilt offering. Isa. 53:10 - *But the LORD (JEHOVAH) was pleased to crush Him, (Jesus) putting Him to grief; if He (Jesus) would render Himself as a guilt offering,*

We saw Jesus in His humiliation in the Gospels which was prophesied in the OT (Psa. 22; Isa. 53....) In the book of Revelation we see Jesus in all His majesty. We see Him in His GLORY!

Because of Jesus, because of Who He is, because of His suffering, because of His humiliation, He MUST return in GLORY! (John 17:1-2)

And, when Jesus returns in GLORY, He will be visible to the entire human race.

Matt. 24:30 - *Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

Phil. 2:10-11 - *every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*

Rev. 5:6-14 – the Lamb Who was slain is WORTHY to take the scroll and break the seals because He has redeemed us!

Let's look further at God's vindication! I had asked where do we see the beginning of end times in Scripture? Let's think about Genesis. Genesis provides us with the key to what God is planning.

Have you ever considered that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit knew love within the Godhead? God had to know love. God is love (I John 4:7-21). God created man to have a relationship with man. To create man in His own image. AND, God gave man dominion over the earth/every living thing. (Gen. 1:26-28). Dominion means to rule over, to nurture, to bring governance over. Man was created to rule the earth – Gen. 1:26; Psa. 8:6. Man would be God’s representative -- co-ruler with God.

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Man was placed in a physical paradise on earth – Gen. 2:8-17. Physical isn’t bad – this is God’s idea. God created a physical earth, planets, galaxies!!! God declared that all of it was very good (Gen. 1:31) – excellent, fantastic – not substandard, not second rate.

The original plan was ruined by sin. Sin caused man to lose his privilege, priority, and place. The ground was cursed and produced thistles and thorns. Man would know hard toil in working the ground. Woman knew birth pains. Man – man and woman – Adam and Eve were kicked out of Eden. Mankind was separated from God immediately.

God’s plan/His goal: to restore/to reconcile. God has chosen to restore and reconcile His original plan. HE MUST. There is no Plan B, C, D...X, Y, Z. There is only Plan A!

This is the foundation for Biblical prophecy.

God has chosen to restore and reconcile His original plan. **The foundation for Biblical prophecy: GOD’s restoring and reconciling everything that was lost. For God’s credibility to be intact, everything must be restored. God’s CHARACTER is at stake!**

What was LOST? **Everything!!!** Mankind’s relationship with God was lost. AND, the earth was cursed! Both the earth and man groan for its/our redemption (Rom. 8:20-23).

Because God is God – all will be restored and even enhanced! Jesus will be ruling and reigning on earth: Psalm 2; Psa. 110; Isaiah 9:6. Conditions on earth in the Millennial Kingdom after JESUS establishes His kingdom: Isaiah 11.

GOD IS IN THE PROCESS OF RESTORING HIS ORIGINAL PLAN FOR MAN
AND FOR THE WORLD.

THIS IS THE FOUNDATION OF BIBLICAL PROPHECY.

God has committed Himself to fulfill His unconditional/unilateral covenants (Heb. 6:13 – He swore by HIMSELF when He made the covenant w/ Abraham) .

HOW DO I KNOW GOD’S PLAN A CAN NEVER BE THWARTED? Deut. 30:1-6; Isa. 2:2; Isa. 9:6; Isa. 11; Isa. 54:4-8; Isa. 62:1-7; Jer. 31:31-36; Eze. 40-48; Dan. 9:24-27; Zech. 12:10; Zech. 4:4, 16-21; Luke 1:33-35; John 14; Rev. 20-22.

AND, re: man being given dominion...

Dan. 7:13-14, 27 - "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. ... Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

Jesus will restore dominion to man in the kingdom of God. It will be restored to us! Should we understand this literally? Did you understand Jesus being born of a virgin literally? What about Jesus birth/incarnation in Bethlehem? Did that literally occur?

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Did Jesus literally perform miracles? Was Jesus literally crucified? Did Jesus literally rise from the dead?

If there's no Millennial Kingdom, what then do you do with all the promises God made to Israel through the Abrahamic Covenant, the Land Covenant, the Davidic Covenant, and the New Covenant? God's promises of the land, the Messiah seated on the throne of David, and the covenant blessings will all be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom!

God delivering on His promises to Israel impacts the world as...

Gen. 12:3 – through the physical descendants of Abraham...*all the families of the earth will be blessed.*

Gen. 18:18 – God promised to make Abraham and his physical descendants an instrument of blessing for the world!

And so, the restoration to God's original plan is the foundation of Biblical prophecy
Have you ever thought of end times in this way? THINK OF IT IN THIS WAY!!

THE FOUR WORDS THAT SUMMARIZE THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

CREATION FALL REDEMPTION RESTORATION

The first chapter of the Bible which tells us of God's original plan for the creation and man sets the stage for end times!

God Himself assures us of this elsewhere: "I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times

things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose'" (Isa. 46:9b-10).

May we set our hearts to understand the entirety of Scripture!

Is this our desire?