

## Study More:

### Lesson 3      The End of the age

#### God knows the end from the beginning:

Since God is all-knowing, He views His creation with a panoramic vision. He knows when something starts and how it finishes. He has shared some of this knowledge with us.

*“In the beginning, I told you what would happen in the end. A long time ago, I told you things that have not happened yet. When I plan something, **it happens.**” (Isa. 46:10)*

The temple of Herod was one of the most beautiful buildings in all of the world rivaling Rome in its splendor. The Jews were very proud of their temple and one day the disciples pointed out to Jesus how wonderful their temple was. Jesus crushed their zeal in one sentence. *“All these buildings will be **knocked down**, with not one stone left on top of another!” (Matt. 24:2)* Forty years later the Romans destroyed the temple. If you visit Jerusalem today you can see the remnants of the destruction. Later that day after considering what Jesus had said the disciples asked him about their future and what the end of the world would be like. *“When will this happen? What events will signal your return and the end of the age?” (Matt. 24:3)* Jesus had extraordinary insight into the future. He had gripped the interest of his disciples and set the stage for a further explanation about the end of the world as they knew it.

Jesus had already explained to the disciples that his earthly mission was winding down (crucifixion) and he would be going back to heaven for a while, but in due time he would return to earth and finish His assignment. He told them that only God knew the date he would return but it would follow some very troubling times. Since the disciples were Jews Jesus framed his answers around the Jewish state of Israel but his message was for Jew and Gentile alike. It is important to keep in mind that the modern rebirth of Israel is only 70 years old and fulfills numerous Old Testament prophecies that will be addressed later in the lesson. Jesus went on to explain what the world would be like just before his second coming. The trouble would start slowly and then mushroom into severe anguish. He compared the end of this age to birth pains. First, slow persistent discomfort finally reaching unyielding pain and then bursting forth a new and wonderful era.

*“You will **hear about wars** that are being fought. And you will hear stories about other **wars beginning**. But don’t be afraid. These things must happen before the end comes. Nations will fight against other nations. Kingdoms will fight against other kingdoms. There will be times when there is **no food** for people to eat. And there will be **earthquakes** in different places. These things are only the **beginning** of troubles, like the first pains of a woman giving **birth**. During that time many believers will **lose** their faith. They will turn **against** each other and **hate** each other. Many **false prophets** will come and cause many people to believe things that **are wrong**. There will be so much more evil in the world that **the love** of most believers will **grow cold**. And the Good News (Gospel) I have shared about God’s kingdom will be told throughout the world. It will be spread to every nation. Then the end will come.” (Matt.24:4-14)*

### **7 missing years:**

Daniel was an old testament prophet that lived 500 years before the birth of Christ. He was the victim of a brutal incursion by Babylonian invaders. Enslaved and carried off to the foreign land, Daniel, eventually rose to prominence in Babylon but never gave up on God, his faith, or his beloved homeland of Israel. After the Babylonian invasion, Israel was left a remnant of her former grandeur and Daniel feared Israel would become nonexistent. He prayed that God would show him the future of his people. He knew, according to the writings of the prophet Jeremiah that Israel would be held slave to Babylon for seventy years. The reason for Israel's misfortune was their excessive and continuous rebellion. But what would happen to them? Would they simply vanish and integrate into the world’s population after seventy years or did they truly have an everlasting place in God's eternal plan? Daniel received the answer to his prayer in a very dramatic way. The angel Gabriel delivered the message in person.

*“Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the **latter days**, for the vision refers to **many days** yet to come.” (Daniel 10:14)*

The message Gabriel carried in the year (539 B.C) would answer all of Daniel’s concerns even though he couldn’t fully understand it. The message was postmarked for “**the latter days**” a period in the future beyond Daniel's frame of reference. A latter-day generation awaits this very important prophecy regarding the Jews. Christians have secured their place in the kingdom of God by receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior but God is not finished with the Jews who reject Jesus as the Messiah.

God made an agreement with Abraham and his descendants that was to last forever. Abraham is the father of Issac and the grandfather of Jacob. God changed Jacob's name to Israel.

*"I will establish **my covenant** between me and you and **your descendants** after you in their generations for an **everlasting** covenant, to be God to you, and your descendants after you."* (Genesis 17:7)

In the year 70 AD, the Romans destroyed the temple as Jesus had predicted and dispersed the Jewish people into all neighboring lands. For all practical purposes, Israel ceased to exist and eventually became Palestine. It seemed as though God had broken His promises to Abraham. But, in 1948 Israel miraculously emerged as a nation once again, fulfilling God's promise. The rebirth of Israel began the era of the "latter day's" and partially began the reconstruction of the Jewish heart.

*"I will take you from among the nations, and **gather** you out of all countries and will bring you into your **own land**. A **new heart** also will I give you and a **new spirit** will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will **put my spirit** within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will keep my judgments, and do them. And you shall dwell in the land that **I gave** to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God."* (Ezekiel 36:24, 26, 27)

The Classified report that was given to Daniel by the angel Gabriel included six conditions in the history of the Jewish nation that has yet to be completed. The reason this file was labeled Top Secret is because it could not be fully understood or recognized until "the latter days".

*"But Daniel, keep this prophecy **a secret**; seal it up so that it will not be understood until the **end times** when **travel** and **education** shall be vastly increased!"* (Daniel 12:4)

We can now understand with some clarity Gabriel's message and its significance by simply studying the historical record over the last 25 hundred years. One of the most intriguing predictions found in the whole Bible was at the heart of the angel's message.

*“The Lord has commanded **490 years** of further punishment upon Jerusalem and your people. Then, at last, they will learn to stay away from sin, and their guilt will be cleansed; then the kingdom of **everlasting righteousness** will begin, and the Most Holy Place in the Temple will be rededicated, as the prophets have declared.” (Daniel 9:24)*

we can account for 483 of the 490 years using past events predicted through the historical timeline. **That leaves seven years yet to be completed.** God established 490 years to complete his side of the agreement He made with Abraham. **Seven years remain unfulfilled.**

*“Now listen! It will be **49 years plus 434 years** from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until the **Anointed One** comes! Jerusalem’s streets and walls will be **rebuilt** despite the perilous times.” (Daniel 9:25) (The Anointed One is a reference to Jesus birth.)*

Remember Daniel’s concern while praying was the future of Israel after the destruction of its cities and dispersion of the people by the invading armies of Babylon. **The first part of the prophecy allows 49 of the 490 years to complete the restoration of Jerusalem.**

*“Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem **lies waste**, and the gates are burned with fire: come, and **let us build** the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.” (Nehemiah 2:17)*

Sometime between (444 and 458 B.C.) Nehemiah started his work to rebuild the wall and gates of Jerusalem previously destroyed by the Babylonians. **The full restoration was completed 49 years later ending the Old Testament.** That left 434 years until the time Jesus Christ was crucified!

*“After this period of 434 years, **the Anointed One** will be **killed**, his kingdom still unrealized . . . and a king will arise whose armies will **destroy** the city and the Temple. They will be overwhelmed as with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. (Daniel 9:26)*

Move the historical timeline ahead 434 years. There were just over 400 blank years between the old and new testaments. Jesus was born (5 B.C.) and crucified (A.D. 29) the second part of the prophecy was Complete 483 years from the time

Nehemiah started the restoration of Israel until the time of the crucifixion. There remain seven years to finish the angel Gabriel's 490-year prediction. **The six conditions left to complete will end the Jewish rebellion against God.** They will recognize Jesus for who He is and accept Him as Messiah bringing Abraham's seed into the family of God just as promised.

*“God has allowed 490 years for your people and your holy city, Daniel. The 490 years are ordered for these reasons: to stop **doing bad things**, to stop **sinning**, to make people **pure**, to bring forever the **goodness that continues**, to put a seal on **visions and prophets**, and to **dedicate** a very holy place. (Dan.9:24)*

Let's recap this astonishing prophecy before we examine the remaining seven years. Daniel was born into a disobedient rebellious Israel but remained strong in his own faith. As a young man, he was carried off into slavery but never forsook God or the nation he came from. It was his faith and intercession that God honored through a personal visit from His heavenly agent Gabriel. **The answers Gabriel brought were complicated because they would cover such a long period of time. God simplified the time differential by breaking the prophecy down into three separate parts (or timelines) starting with the rebuilding of Jerusalem and ending with the crucifixion of Jesus 483 years later.** The New Testament age began (church) fulfilling all old testament prophecies regarding the death and resurrection of Jesus. The third part is still future starting with the 7 missing years of Gabriel's message to Daniel and culminating in the second coming of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom on earth.

*“And so all **Israel will be saved**, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion and will turn away ungodliness from Jacob. For this is **My covenant** with them when I take away their sins.” (Romans 11:26, 27)*

**The physical death of Jesus ended 483 years of the prophecy just as predicted.** It also temporarily ended Israel's existence as a nation. The church was then commissioned to carry on the proliferation of the Gospel. *“Go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.” (Mark. 16:15)*

## **The church is caught away to Heaven:**

The final seven years of Gabriel's message regarding the fate of the Jews is still future. Upon completion of these seven turbulent years, Israel will blossom into the world's leading nation. What happens during this unprecedented trouble in man's history is not applicable to the church of Jesus Christ. **The seven years of tribulation has everything to do with Israel and nothing to do with the church.** God will use the final 7 years of this age to replace the stony heart of the Jewish people with a heart of flesh that will freely receive His Spirit. The church is not the enemy of God therefore not subject to His wrath.

*“The hand of our God is upon all those for good who **seek** Him, but His power and His **wrath** is against all those who forsake Him.” (Ezra 8:22)*

Rebellious men have sided with the prince of darkness in the battle of good against evil. **God has no choice but to let man's self-destruction run its course and end the struggle.** There is good news on the horizon for Jew and Gentile alike, the final seven years end with the greatest event in the history of mankind, the return to earth of Jesus Christ with the church at his side.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born to die for our transgressions. It is a simple story that demonstrates the power of love. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”( Jn. 3:16)*

Thirty-three years after His birth; He was sentenced to die, innocent, of any wrongdoing. **Jesus made a promise to His disciples before He died. He would come again, and gather all His followers (church) and take them back to heaven with Him.**

*“In My Father's house **are many** mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to **prepare** a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will **come again** and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may also be. (Jn. 14:2-3)*



This amazing event known as the Rapture could happen at any time because there are no prophecies left that precede the Rapture. **This event precedes the second coming of Jesus to earth by seven years.**

Men's natures have been in free-fall since Adam rebelled against God, but the accelerated decline of spiritual character in recent generations is a sure sign the earth is in its final descent. We are rapidly approaching a period in **the final hour of earth's rebellious existence when people will no longer consider God a deity but more, a tiresome myth.** It is at this time the church of Jesus Christ will be evacuated from planet earth giving hell its way for seven years. All living believers will be changed in an instant and taken up to **meet Jesus in the air.**

*"The Lord himself will **come down** from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. And the people who **have died** and were in Christ will **rise first**. After that, we who are **still alive** at that time will be **gathered up** with those who have died. We will be taken up in the clouds and **meet the Lord in the air**. And we will be with the Lord forever." (1Th.4:16,17)*

At the end of the seven-year tribulation period, Jesus will come back to earth with all the power of heaven, **the church at His side;** the rebellion will be defeated and Jesus will reign Triumphant.

*"Now I saw **heaven opened**, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness, He judges and makes war. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called **The Word of God**. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. And He has on His robe, and on His thigh, a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**. (Rev. 19:11-16)*

## **“The latter days” compared to the time of Noah before the flood:**

Jesus compared his second coming to a time that will resemble the days of Noah when decadence and corruption were the norm's, just as it was in the days preceding the flood.

*“For as in the days **before** the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark and did **not know** until the flood came and took them all away, so also, will the **coming** of the Son of Man be.” (Matthew 24:38, 39)*

A sobering statement when you consider the earth's population at the time of the flood was estimated to be a staggering 10 billion people.

*“And God saw that the **wickedness** of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only **evil continually**. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it **grieved** him at his heart. And the LORD said, **I will destroy** man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah **found grace** in the eyes of the LORD. Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God” (Gen. 6:5-9) Meanwhile, the crime rate was **rising rapidly** across the earth, and, as seen by God, the world was **rotten to the core**. As God observed how bad it was, and saw that **all** mankind was vicious and depraved, he said to Noah, “I have decided to destroy all mankind; for the earth is **filled with crime** because of man.”(Gen.6:11-13)*

We are witnessing this very transition today. Jesus is no longer the center of family morality and inspiration. Street culture influences more kids than family values. The young suburbans who manage to skirt the alleys and sewers of urban city life are being besieged with intellectual materialism in the halls of higher education. There is no room for God.

*“Professing to be wise, they became **fools**, and **exchanged the truth** of God for **the lie**, and worshiped and served the **creature** rather than the Creator.” (Romans 1:22, 25)*



Dishonesty is now an acceptable way of life. World governments lead the way with power-crazed leaders and greedy career politicians. The entertainment industry panders filth but remains more influential than the church. Sexual perversion is now an acceptable lifestyle.

Corruption of the soul is the deadliest form depravity; it robs men of their integrity and hardens their heart against God. Greed and lust have become the gods of our world. Violence rules the streets. Jesus is comparing earthly conditions at his return with conditions just prior to the flood of Noah. In the days of Noah, all of the earth's residents had managed to suppress God from their memory. They had corrupted themselves with no chance of redemption. There was no room for God in their thoughts because their mind was on evil continually. It was party time. Life was good, plenty to eat and drink, no inhibitions, an anything-goes lifestyle. Live and let live! Civil law was non-existent. Every conceivable kind of sexual encounter was not only welcomed but also encouraged. Their minds were consumed with the desires of this world.

God knows when people's hearts are hardened to the extent that there is no chance they will turn back. As it was in the days of Noah so shall it be in the second coming of Jesus. Noah was the exception in his generation. "*Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*" Because of his faith, and obedience, Noah, and his family were saved out of the flood. The true church and Noah have something in common. They are both saved from judgment by simple faith. Jesus reminded his disciples of this Old Testament account when they questioned him about his second coming. It's a warning to this generation so as not to be caught unaware of what lays just ahead.

### **The rebirth of Israel:**

The rebirth of Israel is the most significant event in *latter-day* Bible prophecy. No one seems to know what a Jew is. Some say a nationality, some say religion, but nearly all will agree they are the most maligned people on earth. They are not just a nationality or religion or race, they are unique, they are the bloodline of Abraham.

*“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, God appeared to him and told him, I am the Almighty; obey me and live as you should. I will prepare a contract between us, **guaranteeing** to make you into a mighty nation. I will give you **millions** of descendants who will form **many** nations, And I will **continue** this agreement between us, generation after generation, **forever**, for it shall be between me and your children as well. It is a contract that I shall be your God and the God of your **descendants**. And I will give **all** this land of Canaan to you **and them, forever**. And I will be your God.”(Gen. 17:1-8)*

In 1948 the Jewish nation of Israel was restored to statehood as prophesied. *“I will cause them to **return** to the land that I **gave** to their fathers, and they shall **possess** it.” (Jeremiah 30:3)*

By the year 70 AD, the Roman Emperor Pompey had put down the final Jewish rebellion against his occupation. As a result, the Jews were displaced (scattered) throughout the rest of the known world. Moses forecast this dispersion 1500 years before it occurred in the year 1423 BC.

*“The Lord will **scatter** you among the people, and you will be left few in number **among** the nations where the Lord will drive you.” (Deu. 4:27)*

**The Roman conquest of the Jewish nation in 70 AD is studied in classrooms throughout the world and accepted as historically accurate.** How could Moses have known such an event would take place 1500 years into the future had God not shown him? Not only did Moses foresee the final Jewish dispersion 1500 years before it happened, but he also predicted the return of the Jew 2000 years later, in 1948 after the dispersion.

*“Then the Lord your God will bring **you back** from captivity and have compassion on you, and gather you **again** from all the nations where the Lord God has **scattered** you.” (Deuteronomy 30:3)*

**The modern nation of Israel looms as a signal that planet earth is about to take a big step toward its amazing future.** It all began when God made an agreement with a man He knew he could trust. If Abraham would keep the faith and trust God then God would be faithful to reward him.

*“Now the Lord had said to Abram, I will make you a **great** nation and in you, **all** the families of the earth be **blessed**.” (Genesis 12:2, 3)*

This verse is in direct reference to the nation of Israel and to Jesus Christ the Redeemer and descendant of Abraham who would amend the law of sin and death. Jacob, Abraham’s grandson became the tribe of Israel. *“Your name shall no **longer** be called Jacob, but **Israel**.” (Gen. 32:28)*

Abraham’s faith was rewarded and Israel became the pathway God chose to deliver His Word in letter, Spirit, and flesh to all generations. Along with the agreement God made with Abraham, came a tract of land.

*“The Lord made a **covenant** with Abram, saying, to your **descendants** I have **given** this **land**, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the River Euphrates.” (Gen 15:18)*

The restoration of modern-day Israel sets the stage for the fulfillment of all remaining prophecy leading to the return of Jesus Christ and life on earth after his return. The people living on earth at present are literally Bible characters because the re-gathering of Israel has materialized in our time. If you are paying any attention to global affairs then you know there is a shifting of power on the geopolitical scene. These international changes are moving in concurrence with the second coming of Jesus Christ and the events surrounding His return.

*“I know that my Redeemer lives and that He shall **stand at last** on the earth.” (Job 19:25)*

### **The second coming of Jesus Christ:**

*“His feet shall stand in that day on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east; **(thus the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with Him.**” (Zechariah 14:4, 5)*

The return to earth of Jesus Christ ends this present age. His coming will be in all power and glory. The Jews will recognize and accept Jesus as their Messiah. Many prophecies regarding this event will be fulfilled, and easily recognized before the

church is raptured. Jesus referred to these events as the beginning of sorrows. Before it is over the geopolitical scene in Asia, Africa, and Europe will look different than it does today. These alliances are obvious and easily recognized at this time. Try to imagine if you can a large geographic puzzle where nation pieces are moving ever so slowly into their final positions. These latter-day nation alignments will develop for various reasons, not the least of which includes ideologies intolerable to one another. Nations will be forced to align with others through intimidation and even war. There are four such confederacies forming at present that will use the tiny nation of Israel as a focal point. Beginning with a northern federation consisting of one very powerful nation to lead them. Russia, Iran, North Africa, and eastern Europe are the likely allies.

*“Son of dust, face northward toward the land of Magog and prophesy against Gog king of Meshech and Tubal. Tell him that the Lord God says: ‘I am against you, Gog. I will put hooks into your jaws and pull you to your doom. I will mobilize your troops and armored cavalry and make you a mighty host, all fully armed. Paras, Cush, Put shall join you too with all their weaponry, and so shall Gomer and all his hordes and the armies of Togarmah from the distant north, as well as many others. (Ezek 38,) [Study More: The Ruin of Russia](#)*

The southern alliance will form out of Africa along with smaller kingdoms south from the Arabian Peninsula to the Persian Gulf. The Arab uprising referred to as Arab spring could be this alliance. From the east, a sleeping giant will emerge with fearsome military power. China and her Asian allies fit this description. [Study More: The Kings of East](#)

*The sixth angel poured out his flask upon the great River Euphrates and it dried up so that the kings from the east could march their armies westward without hindrance. (Rev. 16:12)*

And finally, a great ten-nation confederation will assemble from out of Europe and along the northern and eastern Mediterranean. [Study More: The revised Roman empire.](#)

These alliances have already begun to take shape at this present time. The four great blocks of latter-day nation alliances can be found and studied in the following books, Daniel, Ezekiel, and Revelation.

Understand that the return of Jesus Christ to establish His earthly kingdom will not happen without a violent beginning.

*When you hear of wars beginning, this does not signal my return; these must come, but the end is not yet. **The nations and kingdoms of the earth will rise against each other**, and there will be famines and earthquakes in many places. But all this will be only the beginning of the sorrows to come. (Matt.24:6-8)*

Yes, there have been wars throughout history as some will argue but this verse is Jesus speaking about the latter days, a specific time in history when Israel is once again settled in the promised land for the final time. **The astute Bible student will understand that there is a divine timeline with respect to the second coming of Jesus Christ. Once set into motion these events will come to pass right on time.**

*So when all these things begin to happen, stand straight and look up! **For your salvation is near.**” (Lu. 21:28)*

There are many other subtle signs that cannot be ignored by honest students of truth who are willing to search the scriptures for the answers. **One such sign is the rapid decline of moral values with an increase in self-indulgence.**

*“But know this, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men will be **lovers of themselves**, unholy **without** natural affection, without **self-control**, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God.” (2Timothy 3:1, 2, 3)*

**This is a stern warning for today’s generations.** Anyone who watches TV attends movies, uses the Internet, reads books or magazines or pays any attention to contemporary cultures can’t help but realize the decline in moral standards for the pursuit of pleasure. One more very disturbing matter is hiding in the shadows of human apathy. We are slowly welcoming Government intrusion into our lives through electronic tracking devices that will soon end privacy as we know it and make government control impossible to escape.

*“And he causes all, to **receive a mark** in their right hand or on their foreheads that no man might buy or sell, except one who has the mark of the name of the beast or the number of his name.” (Re.13:16, 17)*

The mysterious 7 missing years in Gabriel's message to Daniel is the final chapter of the Church age that started at the crucifixion of Jesus and will end when the Jews receive Jesus as their Messiah.

*“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens **will be shaken.**”*

*“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.**”*

*“And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they **will gather together His elect from** the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”*

*For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will **the coming** of the Son of Man be.”*