

[1000] “THE COUNTDOWN TO THE FINAL CONFLICT”
LECTURE #1 – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2005

I. MOTIVATION BEHIND THIS SERIES:

For the last 20 years I have been searching the pages of Revelation. The last 14 years have been concentrated study. Added to that are end-time prophecies in particular.

Greatest Benefit – 3 ½ year Verse by Verse Study with Church

Greatest Desire – People want to know how the story ends.

II. CONDITIONS OF WORLD FORECAST END:

MOD: I am fully convinced that we are living in the last days. I have based that on the following reasons:

#1 – Our World is just like it was in the days of Noah:

[1001] (Luke 17:26-27 NKJV) “”And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: [1002] (27) “They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.”

#2 – Our World is just like it was in the days of Lot:

[1003] (Luke 17:28-30 NKJV) “Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; (29) [1004] “but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. [1005] (30) “Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.”

Our world has become like the world of Noah’s & Lot’s day.

- It is just as corrupt and indulgent as the world was then.
- The world of Noah’s day was complacent. Spiritual things fell at the bottom of the list.
- They were willingly ignorant of the coming storm. They understood the signs in the shy more than they understand the signs of the times.
- The daily rounds of life smothered out the urgency of the hour and they worshipped everything but the creator.
- God warned them but they ignored His prompting.

III. SURITY OF GOD'S PROMISE:

The Lord will not do anything without revealing it first:

[1006] (Amos 3:7 NKJV) "Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets."

Studying the word always brings with it a blessing:

[1007] (Psalm 119:130 NKJV) "The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple."

IV. THE BIBLE INTERPRETS ITSELF:

EMP: I also discovered, **for the most part that the best book to use to interpret prophecy is the Bible.** Let the Bible speak for itself.

That's what the apostle Peter meant when he wrote:

[1008] (2 Peter 1:20-21 NKJV) "knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, [1009] (21) for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

[1010] (Isaiah 28:10 KJV) "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:"

- **First.** There is a clearly defined method to use that will tell us whether a prophecy is symbolic or literal?
- **Second.** When there is a symbol present the first place to look for its definition is in the chapter itself; or the book; and then elsewhere in the Bible. Our last resort should be extra-biblical sources.

[1011] (Dan 8:21 NKJV) "And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king."

- **Third.** When prophecies that are in a series begin to unfold, in order for its complete picture to be developed we must allow all of its parts to contribute. **In other words,**

we are not to pick and choose prophetic pieces that we prefer and leave the others components orphaned.

- **Example:** The prophecy of the seven churches cannot begin with church #4 and then jump to church #2.

[1012] (Rev 1:20 KJV) “The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. **[1013]** The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”

[1014] “Every declaration of the Scripture is to be take in the most obvious and literal sense, except where context and the well-known laws of language show that the terms are figurative, and not literal, **[1015]** and whatever is figurative must be explained by other portions of the Bible which are literal.” **Gordon M. Hyde.** “Symposium on Biblical Hermeneutics, Review & Herald 1979.

[1016] (GC 598.3) – “The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed.”

Old Testament is the New Testament Concealed.

New Testament if the Old Testament Revealed.

There are other methods to come to a conclusion about what we read in prophecy:

- 1. Relevance:** Symbols in prophecies are sometimes relevant to the time period in which the prophecy was given and therefore may not be easily understood to the modern man.
 - a. In that case we seek to understand what it meant to the generation of the prophet who gave it.
 - b.
- 2. Literal-Symbolic:** Read the entire prophecy and ask if this could literally take place. If the answer is *no*, then it must be symbolic. **Sometimes symbolic and literal are mixed.**
 - a. **Rev 12:3 – Fiery Red Dragon = (Rev 12:9 – Satan)**
 - b. **Rev 6:1 – Lamb opened a seal (Lamb = Jesus John 1:29)**
- 3. Comparative Analysis:** Look elsewhere for similar language and a similar story and see if/how they two are associated.

- a. **Ezekiel 9 & Revelation 7** – both speak of a similar event among a similar people, the sealing work.
 - b. **Rev 1 & Zechariah - “Candlesticks”** – Both associated with the sanctuary services.
 - c. Since very few conclusions about Bible prophecy are original, when a prophecy is not clearly understood there are two approaches that we can take:
 - i. Research other extra-biblical literature to see what other writers have to say about a particular prophecy.
 - ii. Determine whether the time in which you live is relevant to the prophecy at hand.
 - 1. Prophecies are often best understood at the time or shortly before the time of their fulfillment.
4. **Guess:** The reason what this it not the first resort is, not all guessing is “**educated**” sometimes it is “**uneducated.**”
- a. **Educated Guess:** If I turn over a puzzle and use as many pieces as I have I could make an educated guess about what the puzzle will end up being, even if ¼ of the pieces were missing.
 - b. **Un-Educated Guess:** If I concluded that since *all of the pieces are not there*, I should ignore the pieces that are there, my guess has nothing to base itself on and therefore it is uneducated.

The main focus of this series I will share the following topics:

1. The Coming Great Calamity (what it is and why it will come)
2. The Sealing of the 144,000 & the Great Multitude
3. The Seven Trumpets & The Great Tribulation
4. The Appearing of Satan
5. The Final Battle & The Two Beasts of Revelation 13

V. THE REASON FOR PROPHECY:

[1017] (Isa 46:10 NKJV) “Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’”

[1018] Faith I Live by, p. 354.4 – “Let us give more time to the study of the Bible. We do not understand the Word as we should. The book of Revelation opens with an injunction to us to

understand the instruction that it contains. . . . [1019] When we . . . understand what this book means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival.”

[1020] COL 133 – “The last book of the New Testament scriptures is full of truth that we need to understand.”

[1021] LDE 15.6 – “The unfulfilled predictions of the book of Revelation are soon to be fulfilled. This prophecy is now to be studied with diligence by the people of God and should be clearly understood. [1022] It does not conceal the truth; it clearly forewarns, telling us what will be in the future.”

[1023] 8T 302 – “The solemn messages that have been given in their order in the Revelation are to occupy the first place in the minds of God’s people.”

VI. THE STAGE IS SET:

Never before in recorded history has the world been where it is today. While that may seem obvious consider the following.

- There has never been an age more technologically advanced than this one. We live in an age where knowledge is increasing at an alarming rate.

That is an end time sign: [1024] (Dan 12:4 NKJV) “”But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.””

- There has never been a time where church and state have so much in common.
- There has never been a time when the world has so affected the church.
- There has never been an era that has witnessed such economic instability such as ours. On any given day, the slightest sneeze around the world affects us.
- There has never been a time when the world has had only two superpowers that have a common interest, ruling the world.
- There has never been more fear in the world as it relates to terrorism, disease, and natural disaster. Hurricane season has redefined itself.

[1025] Ed 179.4 – “That time is at hand. Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in our world is in agitation.

[1026] Before our eyes is fulfilling the Saviour’s prophecy of the events to precede His coming: “Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. . . . [1027] Nation shall rise against nation, and

kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.” **Matt. 24:6, 7.**

[1028] Ed 179.5 – “The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. **[1029]** They are watching the strained, restless relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, **[1030]** and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.”

[1031] (Luke 21:28 NKJV) “**Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.**””