

02 WATCH!

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Tagline

"And what I say unto you I say unto all, [watch](#)." | Yeshua, Mark 13:37

Synopsis

Ever since Christ ascended to heaven almost 2,000 years ago, Christians have been trying to understand the prophetic narrative of scripture. For many, the varied opinions of what it means and the number of times expectations have been dashed have turned many away from paying it any mind. Since 2005 I have felt led to be a watchman and in this I have misunderstood and misinterpreted prophecy and taken for granted certain teachings from more learned scholars than I. However, I found the more I relied on the Bible to interpret itself and looked through the lens of Israel and Jerusalem in God's plan of redemption for the elect, the more clear things have become.

So why should we watch and does it hold any value? This is the question at the beginning of a series of Bible studies I call *HIStory, Our Future: Pearls for the Bride*. The answer addresses what we are watching for and why. Is there any importance in understanding Bible prophecy and is it even possible to? I believe we can, and you don't have to be a scholar to understand it. You just have to trust and take the Bible seriously, ask the author of it to guide you through it, and consider the whole council of God with the promise that we have not been left in the dark as to what is coming and the season in which He will arrive. We may not know every detail, but we've been given enough information to understand more than most think and it has been sealed until the time of the end. As that time approaches, I believe you will see in these studies just how much the story of Yeshua has affected mankind's past and future. God has given us understanding to comfort us and ease our anxiety about the future, replacing fear of the unknown with understanding that brings peace and eliminates fear. This is a gift that He has bestowed upon His bride, who faithfully watch for His return to gather her, carry out the justice of God, and woo again the faithful, unblinded Israel into His kingdom and into their inheritance.

Overview

- What is the purpose of these studies
- Reasons against studying prophecy
 - "People have been saying He's coming back ever since He left."
 - "All that prophecy stuff is just figurative, not literal."
 - "Everything in Bible prophecy was already fulfilled."
 - "We're not going to know when He's coming." Or "Nobody knows the day or hour so why should we watch?"
 - "So heavenly minded you're no earthly good."
 - "We don't know and anyone who claims to understand are false prophets if it doesn't come to pass how they say."
- Watch Scriptures
- Trusting the Source: Blind faith or reasoned trust? I believe God's Word and take it seriously
- Israel and Jerusalem are center of most unfulfilled Bible prophecy
- HIStory, Our Future: Pearls for the Bride (Meaning behind the title of this series of prophecy studies)
- Conclusion: What do I do with all this?

Details

- Introduction

- I have been called to be a watchman. Why am I watching? We're told to watch.
- There are 23 verses in the New Testament that use the word *grēgoreō* in the Greek, or to watch, give strict attention to, and be cautious of. It was the watch scriptures we will review that solidified the importance of watching for me personally and to suggest to others that it become a bigger part of their lives as well.
- Of these 23 verses, 12 are explicitly tied to the return of Christ while several of those that are not could be hinting at it being part of the Christian life and watching and praying not to enter into temptation.
- It's not just about the coming transition to the Messianic Kingdom, it's also about being mindful of your relationship with God through your life now. We are to be imagers of God, bearing His name in Truth to His Word. As covered in the [Milk Before Meat](#) study, this is a heavenly kingdom mindset that should become the lens through which we view our lives here on earth now. He has given us His identity in His Word and when we say we are Christians and the world sees our hypocrisy, we are bearing the name of God in vain, falsely. We give the world a false image of who our God is, which in many cases causes them to turn away from God due to our hypocrisy. That is what the second commandment is all about, bearing His name in Spirit and Truth. It echoes the first commandment to love God and have no gods before Him. As will be covered in greater detail in the [Harpazo: The Blessed Hope](#) study, we are sealed as His and our covenant through the blood of Yeshua is a two-way agreement, or relationship, and betrothal to become one with Him. He loved and saved us, and we love, honor, and obey Him. This is evidenced in being an accurate bearer of His name and showing the fruits of the Spirit, not the works of the flesh.
 - **Galatians 5:22-26** - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."
 - **2 Corinthians 1:21-22** - "Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, [is] God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."
 - **Ephesians 1:10-14** - "That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; [even] in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."
 - **Ephesians 4:17-32** - "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with [his] hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed

out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

- This is the walk of a Christian, properly bearing the title according to our Savior who died for us, fulfilling the spirit of the Law in love, and sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption, the day of Christ.
- So understanding how we are to live and doing so as best we can in humility toward God, is there more to understand than the milk of the Word? When we understand the spiritual nature of existence and have a relationship with God, does life just continue on through the generations forever or is there a time when God will say there is time no more and intervenes in human history once again? This is part of the meat of the Word that requires some chewing on, and that promised day of redemption is what the whole of Bible prophecy revolves around. It is manifest in different ways at different times for different people, but the plan of God is redemption of His people, Jew and Gentile. These Bible studies are all about this time of the end of the age and the fulfillment of our redemption according to God's design.
- **Matthew 24:3-5** - "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, **when shall these things be? and what [shall be] the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?** And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.**"
 - The first thing Yeshua warned about when asked about the signs of His coming was great deception surrounding false christs. Knowing the source and what to watch out for are keys to not falling into deception and apostasy, falling away from God. If we don't know and live God's Word, then we've built our spiritual house on sand and it will collapse and be washed away in the coming storms that will test the foundations of your faith. But we must also know what God's Word says about these times so we are not deceived. The Word of God, the Bible, is the only solid foundation we have to go on that never changes. It is the only trustworthy source for understanding that has proven itself over time.
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17** - "All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."
 - **Object lesson: In personal presentations, bring fake \$100 bills and leave on desks for participants without saying anything about it. Many will see they are fake, some may not, but at this point in the presentation it will be clear what the point of them was.**
 - It's easy to spot a counterfeit \$100 bill only if you are knowledgeable of the real thing. If you didn't know what a real one looked and felt like, how would you know the one you have is counterfeit? A child would fully trust a counterfeit bill to be real, not only because they don't understand there are ways to tell, but also because in their innocence and naivety, they can't imagine why a fake one would exist. So too must we know what the Word of God says about our future so we are not deceived by a counterfeit Christ. We must not be naïve to the reality that we have a spiritual enemy that hates us because we exist and is seeking our eternal destruction. Just like the counterfeiter that creates fake currency to steal from their victims, our enemy has created great deceptions to steal our inheritance from us. We are to be as little children toward God to enter the kingdom of God, but we must also not be foolish in the world in which we live.
 - **Matthew 10:16** - "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be

ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."

- **Luke 21:8** - "And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am [Christ]; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them."
- **1 Timothy 4:1-10** - "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, [and commanding] to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God [is] good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself [rather] unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. This [is] a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."
- **2 Timothy 3:12-17** - "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned [them]; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."
- **Revelation 19:19-21** - "And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. **And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image.** These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which [sword] proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."
- **Revelation 20:7-10** - "And **when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle:** the number of whom [is] as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet [are], and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."
- Make point about deception
- As we will see, it's not hard to know what the Bible says about how Christ will actually come and therefore guard against deception, He said it plainly. However, there is also a blessing given to us in understanding the time leading to that.
- **Bob Brasnet:** *"One of the most important and most neglected messages of the church today is the message of Jesus' second coming. Our fear of controversy has caused us to put this truth aside keeping silent on this vitally important, life-giving truth. Jesus is coming soon. In the Old Testament, there are twenty times as many prophecies about Jesus' second coming as there are about His first advent. In the 260 chapters of the New Testament, the second coming is mentioned 380 times. It is truly a most important topic."*

- "According to "The Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy" by J. Barton Payne, there are 1,239 prophecies in the Old Testament and 578 prophecies in the New Testament for a total of 1,817. These prophecies are contained in 8,352 of the Bible's verses. Since there are 31,124 verses in the Bible, the 8,352 verses that contain prophecy constitute 26.8 percent of the Bible's volume." | [Link](#) ... significant?
- Watching and studying Bible prophecy seems shied away from open discussion in churches. There are many opinions on what prophecy means, but I believe that many of the critical aspects can be explained from scripture with little to no personal interpretation, if we accept the Word of God as written. Of course we don't fully understand but the Spirit of God, who authored the Bible through His servants the prophets, has promised to guide us in understanding. I don't believe that means new ideas will be introduced, but rather the already existing Word will be understood. I believe when the time is right each generation will understand more than previous as the day approaches.
- **Daniel 12:4** - "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, [even] to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."
 - For example, until May 14, 1948 much of Bible prophecy's clear connection to Israel was taken to be symbolic because Israel as a nation hadn't existed since the first century. As soon as Israel became a nation, and continued to survive against all odds through the constant overpowering armies coming against her, the symbolic interpretations now had a literal meaning. What was once seen as impossible, a nation in the graveyard of history coming back to life and bringing with it a long-dead language as well, was now right before the eyes of the world, showing that God says what He means and means what He says. Since that time, things from Bible prophecy once thought impossible like Israel rebuilding the temple and returning to the Mosaic Covenant like ancient Israel, are now not only possible, but apart from fear of war, able to happen overnight if the desire is there. All the elements necessary are present today. It's a great lesson not to discount God's Word, no matter the impossibilities it seems to contain.
- The goal of these studies is to share the combination of what I've learned from others in bits and pieces, scriptures that were revealed from reading them in Bible study, or from other presentations and how they connect to others to reveal a clearer picture. The Bible should be our foundation for understanding and that is all I ask you take seriously from any presentation of doctrine.
- Understanding what is to come, and reading God's Word to find out, has deepened my relationship with God and trust in His Word. Seeing the precision of the historical fulfillments as well as the precision of future prophecy continues to leave me in awe of God. This is my desire for all who hear and see this.
- Prophecy can be very involved, detailed, complicated, and difficult to explain let alone understand. It often requires a deep knowledge of the scriptures that I struggle to learn. Fortunately we have tools like Blue Letter Bible and other apps that allow us to search the scriptures in the blink of an eye and learn from the gathered intelligence of scripture of those who came before us. The level of detail is not for everyone and I'm constantly overwhelmed by it, but I can't ignore the unction I've felt to organize and share what I've learned that makes sense to me in the hopes of building up the body of Christ in preparation for the coming years. These studies are not fully comprehensive, but I've tried to bring the relevant pieces together to aid in your own study.
- I don't claim to have everything nailed down, I just want to share what I have learned. Don't take my word on anything presented, but search the scriptures to see what is true and what is not. Most likely you will have some variances based on interpretation of words, but I will try and define the terms as we go from scripture so that as much

as possible we will all be on the same page. God has glorious plans for those that love and obey Him, the study of prophecy should be an encouragement by the promises given us.

- There is a framework taken directly from scripture that speaks to the coming times and understanding that from the Christian perspective is a gift from God that brings peace and comfort out of the chaos of this present age. God knows the end from the beginning and He has shared it with us!

John 15:12-17 - "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. **Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.** Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another."

- Just as Israel has been blinded by not seeing the fulfillment in the New Testament, Christians can be blinded by not recognizing the central nature of the Old Testament in interpreting our future.
 - "The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed, the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed" | Chuck Missler
- Common reasoning not to watch and counterarguments.
 - "People have been saying He's coming back ever since He left."
 - Those who don't believe have been saying a form of this as they grip tightly to the scientific consistency of the universe, thinking they know how things will progress for millions of years until the heat death of the universe. Taking a uniformitarian view, they project into the past and future, assuming the world they live in today is how it always was and always will be. They discount a God outside of the dimensions science can measure, and we can perceive, intervening in the natural world as He pleases in the future. He has intervened in the past and interrupted the steady constancy with periods of cataclysmic destruction.
 - **2 Peter 3:3-7** - "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as [they were] from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."
 - This scientific materialist mentality has crept into the minds of believers too, but I believe in the coming years it will become very hard for believers to not see the signs of the times, if they're watching for them. As we will see, for the world the sudden destruction will come like a thief. This means that we are responsible to remain awake and watchful. You know there are plenty of distractions in the world and the signs will build slowly then all at once. If we don't know what signs to look for, we will be less aware until it's upon us.
 - As Christians become more hated and prophecy seen as conspiracy theories, unbelievers may know some things, but not believing God's Word they will discount them, as will some who call themselves Christians. Indeed some of these may fall into the same coming deception that will grip the world if they don't know God's Word and are led away by signs and wonders and the emotions of the moment, replacing the foundation of the Word of God.

- Unfortunately, awareness is not for everyone as we see in the fact that the parable of the 10 virgins sees 50% of the bride awaiting the bridegroom being shut out of the marriage. This means calling yourself a Christian and going to church is not the point of a follower of Christ. Followers of Christ have **personal relationship** with God by His Spirit and obey Him, loving God and our neighbors selflessly and sharing the good news to all who will listen. This will be covered more in the [Harpazo: The Blessed Hope](#) and [Hour of Temptation: Left Behind](#) studies.
 - "All that prophecy stuff is just figurative, not literal."
 - Many of the visions given to prophets like Ezekiel, Daniel, and John are surely full of symbolism and strange and confusing things. This doesn't mean they don't speak to a reality that can be interpreted according to the Bible itself. Yeshua's parables were not literal stories, but they convey meaning on multiple levels and prophecy is no different.
 - While I'm in the same boat with everyone else and also don't understand all things, I take the Bible seriously, which I view as literally with logical exceptions where scripture dictates. I think there is a lot of understanding we can miss by not searching the scriptures for understanding of those symbolic things that sound fantastical and supernatural. There are parts of scripture that are literally historical record and sometimes the visions and symbology are interpreted from that historical record and earlier prophecies. They represent future things whose symbolic identity will become more revealed as they act out the prophetic narrative. These don't exist in a vacuum either, constantly the Bible gives multiple witnesses of an event from different times and angles, each contributing to the larger understanding.
 - There are also some fantastical things that are described by a 3-dimensional being brought into higher dimensions and seeing things difficult to translate back in a manner for those who have not seen to understand.
 - **2 Corinthians 12:2** - "I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven."
 - [Exploring other dimensions - Alex Rosenthal and George Zaidan](#) YouTube - I would recommend getting a glimpse of what I mean by checking out this short 5 minute video taking *Flatland* by Edwin Abbott one dimension further, to consider how we would see dimensions higher than our own.
 - What does a 4-dimensional being look like if we were able to peek into that dimension, could our minds comprehend it fully? There are four-faced and four-winged living creatures that looked like a man as seen by Ezekiel, not natural in our known world. When we put on incorruption and are able to live and see in higher dimensions, perhaps it won't be so confusing to us, who knows?
 - However fantastical and bizarre things may be described as, does that mean they represent things that didn't happen or won't happen?
 - **Revelation 11:1-2** - "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty [and] two months."
 - Some may look at this passage and say the idea of a third temple is ridiculous because, "don't you know that we are the temple of God now in Christ? The animal sacrifices were done away with and not needed anymore."
 - This is usually stated in terms that because this is all true, it is therefore not possible that a temple will be built by the Jews. I can only really follow this logic by thinking that the Bible is the Word of God, it says Christ died once and for all, and therefore it can't be telling us of something that will happen that is contrary to this. How many things contrary to God's Word are relayed historically in

God's Word? Did God tell or condone the forming of the golden calf at Sinai?
Did it depict this happening anyway?

- I agree we are the temple in which the Spirit of God dwells with us while we are walking in obedience, but that doesn't mean that Israel, who was blinded in 30 AD by Christ, recognizes this. All you have to do is read through the 28 times "perpetual" or 33 times "continual" are found in the Old Testament to understand why the Jews, who have lived in tradition detached from practicing it as decreed for them to do for 2,000 years might actually desire to return to their historical roots of relationship with God.
- "But God wouldn't be ok with all this Old Testament stuff," one might say. It is not my place to determine the mind of God, but who said that Bible prophecy is always foretelling only the things God wants to happen?
- God also promised a time of choosing for His people amidst great deception surrounding false christs, or false anointed messianic figures. While for some Israelis they will sincerely desire relationship with the True God in the only way they know how, the temple is also the center of the coming deception to deceive God's people if possible into accepting the wrong Messiah.
- I would point out too that these sincere, yet blinded, of Israel desiring relationship with God will be the faithful Israel that rejects the false christ and become grafted back onto the root, which is Christ. This will be covered in greater detail in the [Natural Israel & Spiritual Israel](#) study.
- All I ask is that you consider it possible that God's Word means what it says and says what it means about the events of the end. If everything is figurative or spiritualized, that means you can interpret it your own way and I can interpret it mine. Each of us will be right in our own eyes and content with the wisdom we displayed in fitting the pieces together with our imaginations. In that case we will likely both be wrong.
- However, if I trust God's Word above my own imaginations and adjust my thoughts to match it, we can all come much closer to a consensus on what it means by interpreting it with itself and some logic mixed in.
- "Everything in Bible prophecy was already fulfilled."
 - I think in order to say this and think nothing is left to happen a heavy dose of personal interpretation based on twisting the words of scripture to mean something they do not is required. We've seen in modern culture the idea of "my truth" spread into all sorts of areas of life.
 - However, if two people are walking on train tracks and one says there is no train because they believe these tracks are not in use anymore while the other, standing off to the side, warns that the horn is blaring on the train fast approaching, it doesn't matter what the person thinks. The end is coming just as you would expect for one walking on a set of parallel rails with a train barreling down on you. Reality will not conform to each individual's thinking, each individual will one day be forced to conform to reality.
 - There are views that are not so cut and dry, I know. Some think various levels of fulfillment are past with others to come still. I think we're all in that boat in various degrees. I'll just say that I think this collection of studies, when taking the Bible seriously, will show a Biblical interpretation of the prophetic narrative that may not have it all figured out but is enough to recognize the signs of the times and that's why God told us what would happen, so we aren't in darkness about it.
 - Many things were already fulfilled, many things are not yet fulfilled. In some cases there is an "already but not yet" fulfillment where prophecies have foreshadows or dual fulfillment. Regardless, there is a time of redemption and judgement coming and nothing we think, say, or do is going to stop it.
 - The question is, when that time comes will you be able to pivot from the current thinking and see what is happening or will you put aside or not recognize or

- mistranslate events that are happening until it's too late? As long as you have a personal relationship with God based on His Word you will probably be able to see when events start to happen and avoid falling for the great deception. If you desire blinders, I'm not here to stop you from wearing them, I'm just asking that you consider these things and search the scriptures yourself with an open mind.
- "We're not going to know when He's coming." Or "Nobody knows the day or hour so why should we watch?"
 - The Bible actually describes many events that must happen before He comes, that's what this series of studies is all about.
 - When asked what would be the sign of His coming, the first thing He said was not to let anyone deceive them. And why would He answer that question at all if there were to be no signs of His coming? If there is a possibility of deception regarding the time surrounding His return, should we not study to understand it?
 - As we will see, not knowing the "day" or "hour" says nothing about not knowing the "appointed times." The world is in darkness, but we are not. Contrary to popular belief, there are many signs of the times that we will cover in these studies that will enlighten us to the nearness of the end. They may be starting sooner than you think.
 - "So heavenly minded you're no earthly good."
 - Understanding the Word of God is the most earthly good we can do. The one thing most important in our existence is to be in a loving relationship with God and each other. And to that end, bringing as many as will hear to the knowledge of salvation through Christ. Understanding the season of the end is upon us should motivate us to be earthly minded in the temporal for the eternal heavenly good. In other words, we need to be more heavenly minded than ever because that is the kingdom of God we are to grow. To be heavenly minded is to live in a place spiritually where you refrain from evil and show the fruits of the Spirit, to rightly image God in the world.
 - How does one define earthly good? A great job, influence, power, wealth? Yes we all need to survive in the world, but where is our primary focus, growing the kingdom of God on earth or "making it" in the world? The world as we know it is about to have its foundations shaken, upon what foundation will you rely?
 - The only way to not be deceived is to know the truth, and the only way we can know the truth is to understand it from the God who created the world and who will judge it at His return.
 - As a watchman, I am compelled to share what I've learned in the hope that those with ears to hear will incline their ears and understand.
 - **Ezekiel 33:6** - "But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take [any] person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand."
 - **Mark 1:14-15** - "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."
 - The kingdom of God is not of this world, yet those who follow Him are in this world, filled with the Spirit of God and representing Him on the earth.
 - In Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar has a dream where a rock cut without hands grows into a mountain that fills the whole earth and destroys the kingdoms of this world.
 - At Christ's first coming, the kingdom of God began with Him and after His resurrection Christianity grew throughout the world. It is not in competition with the governments of the world, but grows within the spirits of those who believe, sealing them for the time of Christ's return in the clouds to gather them to Him. God's kingdom will be forever and beyond the expectation, understanding, and reach of any mortal government or person.

- In this light, should not we all who believe be more heavenly minded than ever? Should not we be growing the invisible and persecuted kingdom in preaching the Gospel for heaven's sake, not that of the earth and its wickedness?
 - I think understanding the end not only prepares us against deception, but is a reminder that all we are building in this world personally and corporately is not guaranteed to last. Should we not build it then? Of course life must continue, but where is the Christian focus better placed building up our worldly kingdom or God's eternal kingdom? And when the signs begin to be apparent, we need to recognize them because when the time arrives, it doesn't matter what you built it will be destroyed and you will be eternally changed never to return to that old life you were building.
 - **Matthew 16:24-17:3** - "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. **For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?** or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom. And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him."
 - Peter, James, and John saw the glorified Son of man in his kingdom and that kingdom has grown and will continue to grow through the whole earth until His return.
- "We don't know and anyone who claims to understand are false prophets if it doesn't come to pass exactly how they say."
 - True, there have been many claims through history that the end is near and it wasn't the end yet. Does that mean there isn't a coming transition to eternity?
 - **Deuteronomy 18:22** - "When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that [is] the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, [but] the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."
 - I think it's important to clarify that these presentations are not stating any new prophecy or personal revelation, it's a review of Old and New Testament prophets and what the Holy Spirit led them to prophesy. I can guarantee every word they said will all come to pass just as prophesied. That my understanding of their order is correct remains to be seen. And it may be in the future I learn something new about what God's Word says about a thing and I adjust my understanding accordingly.
 - What I **am** doing as a watchman is both examining the existing prophecies from the Bible and looking to interpret them **with the Bible** to understand the signs of the times. Will I be wrong on things? Absolutely! I have been and I will be, but I'm not prophesying anything, I'm pointing to the existing prophecies and showing the consistencies across all scripture agreeing with itself about what is to come.
 - If I am in error or find a more valid interpretation by scripture, then I change to align with the Word of God, not the other way around. I am not a prophet, I am a watchman. A prophet hears from God and declares a thing, a watchman observes what is coming and if they see a reason to warn the people sleeping or distracted, then they sound the alarm so that the people aren't caught by surprise and taken. I am seeing many reasons to warn the people.
- Every individual relationship with God is the primary thing and spreading the Gospel is a close second. We must be healed ourselves and clean our own house, eliminating hypocrisy

and the carnal, before we can be a good witness to others and true imagers of Christ in love. Every generation must also be watchful and aware, which is what these studies are about. God has not left us in darkness about what His plans are, but He has also not laid them out in bullet points for all to understand. They're scattered throughout scripture waiting for the pieces to be brought together in agreement to reveal the larger picture.

- WATCH!

- Greek [G1127](#) - To keep awake, watch, be vigilant, to give attention to

- **Revelation 3:1-6** - "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. **If therefore thou shalt not watch [G1127](#), I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.** Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

- Sardis has a name by which they live, but are dead. They, like the hypocrites of Yeshua's day, speak of the Lord with their mouth but their hearts are far from Him, much like Israel in her past.

- **Isaiah 29:13-14** - "Wherefore the Lord said, **Forasmuch as this people draw near [me] with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me,** and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, [even] a marvellous work and a wonder: for **the wisdom of their wise [men] shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent [men] shall be hid.**"

- ◆ This was fulfilled in Matthew 15:8, Mark 7:6, but the principle is not tied to any one time as seen in the church of Sardis regarding John's vision of the end.

- These studies of Bible prophecy are a wake-up call to the bride of Christ, the church. As we will see throughout scripture, God only wants relationship with those who desire relationship with Him. Saying we are Christians and calling ourselves by His title is not the same as being Christians by obeying what He told us to do. We are to be imagers of God in this world, showing the love of God and the fruits of the Spirit. We are not to be caught up in the cares, desires, and pleasures of this world, these are distractions from an eternal reality we can only vaguely understand now.

- If the Lord comes as a thief to those not watching at an hour they do not expect, then it follows that He does not come as a thief to those who are watching. And this is a message to all the churches as expressed through the message to the church in Sardis.

- **Matthew 24:32-51** - "**Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer [is] nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, [even] at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.** Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. **But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.** But as the days of Noe [were], so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood

came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two [women shall be] grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. **Watch [G1127](#) therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.** But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. **Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.** Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed [is] that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. **But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite [his] fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for [him], and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint [him] his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."**

- The fig tree is representative of Israel in several places in scripture. **[Hosea 9:10](#), [1 Kings 4:25](#), [Joel 1:6-7](#)** One of those places was just after the triumphal entry when Yeshua cursed the fig tree that produced no fruit and it withered away.
- **[Psalm 90:9-10](#)** - "For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale [that is told]. The days of our years [are] threescore years and ten [70]; and if by reason of strength [they be] fourscore years [80], yet [is] their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."
- The parable of the tender branch of the fig tree putting forth leaves meaning summer is near is associated with seeing all the things Yeshua just told them about being at the doors. This is something that wouldn't make sense before May 14, 1948 as Israel didn't exist. In that context, the generation that saw that putting forth of the leaves is nearing its end. As the rest of this collection of studies will show, that is not the only sign. The WWII generation is quickly disappearing and with it those who followed in 1948.
- **[Daniel 12:4](#)** - "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and **seal the book, [even] to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.**"
- The understanding of ancient prophecy will remain sealed until the time of the end when knowledge will be increased and understanding will be made known to those with eyes to see and ears to hear.
- The day and hour of these things coming to pass is for the Father to know. What is interesting is that there is a Hebrew idiom regarding the day and hour no one knows covered in greater detail in [The Moedim: Appointed Times](#) study. It is tied to the one appointed time that takes place on the first day of the seventh month on the religious calendar whose spring feasts were all fulfilled at Christ's first coming.
- It is also interesting that Yeshua's second Parousia is tied to the fall moedim, or appointed times, which revolved around the fruit harvest. Events of the end that will be covered in detail later in this series are very much tied to the appointed times when prophecy and space-time will finally converge in fulfillment.
- The placement of the days of Noah in this passage cause immediate association to the one taken being the caught up believers. As will be covered more in the [Olivet Discourse: Vision of the Future](#) and [Great Tribulation](#) studies, there is another event happening just before His coming that this may be talking about.
- What is interesting here is that we are told to watch because we don't know when the Lord is coming. These seem polar opposite on the surface level, but if you think about it the only reason to watch for an event we won't know is

coming is because there will be signs that it has almost arrived.

- **Mark 13:28-37** - "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, [even] at the doors. Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and [that] hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. **Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. [For the Son of man is] as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch**[G1127](#). **Watch**[G1127](#) ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, **Watch**[G1127](#)."
- A different author of the same discourse Matthew documented, it also speaks to the parable of the fig tree as a sign of the times.
- In both of these cases, we are told both that we won't know the day, hour, or time, yet we are also contrarily told to watch for this time we won't know. The purpose being to not be caught unaware. So while we don't know the precise day or hour, there are things to be aware of and watchful for so we are not caught off guard.
- All of these have to be true and so it follows that while we won't know with absolute precision the day or hour, whether at noon or midnight or morning, we are to be aware of the signs of the times anyway. There will be events that should catch our attention and keep us awake and watching from that point on. I believe those events are coming soon and it's better to have understanding before they happen than scramble to understand after they do.
- **1 Peter 3:13-17** - "And who [is] he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy [are ye]: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But **sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:** Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For [it is] better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing."
- In the coming chaos, confusion, and great deception, we should have an answer and be a warning against the deception with understanding and truth. Seeing the storm coming on the horizon will help us to prepare ourselves as we draw closer to God.
- **Matthew 16:1-4** - "The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, [It will be] fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, [It will be] foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. **O [ye] hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not [discern] the signs of the times?** A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed."
- I recently learned of a great site called [Watermark Gospel](#) that looks at the narrative view of scripture with short videos that connect various stories to Christ. The [3 days](#) are seen in several places in scripture foreshadowing the ultimate fulfillment in Christ.
- The sign of the prophet Jonas was explicitly fulfilled in the time from His death to His resurrection covered in greater detail in [The Moedim: Appointed Times](#)

study. This was in reference to the time of Yeshua's first coming. As we will see in the [Daniel's 70 Weeks](#) study, it could be determined when His first coming was, although it was overlooked by many to whom it came unexpectedly. So too His second coming will be unexpected to many not discerning the signs of the times, but we are not in darkness about this time. The Bible contains much detail about events of the final seven years for us to understand.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** - "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. **For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.** For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then **sudden destruction cometh upon them**, as travail upon a woman with child; **and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.** Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. **Therefore let us not sleep, as [do] others; but let us watch [G1127](#) and be sober.** For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. **For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.** Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."
 - If the day of the Lord comes like a thief to those who are in darkness, and it does not come like a thief to those who are not in darkness, then it follows that we have been given enough information in the Word of God to not be in darkness about His return, which is what the day of the Lord, or day of Christ, is. We will have sign posts to guide our understanding and we will not be surprised when He comes suddenly, we will be ready and waiting for our redemption.
 - As we get into more detail you will see the reasons I believe we will not be in darkness as the appointed time approaches. We must not look over the large number of scriptures that speak of certain events detailed very specifically throughout scripture. These different views of the same events can be brought together for a more wholistic view of the event. And many times these events are then tied together with other events that themselves have a whole series of scriptures more wholistically presenting that truth. As we will see in this collection of studies, there are many road signs that will be clearly seen on the road to Christ's second coming, but you have to be watching for them or you may miss them. And you have to know what to look for to understand them, which is why God gave us these details in His Word. My prayer is through the Word you will understand the signs and continue to watch and pray yourselves and in your own communities as you gather and as the day approaches.
- **Matthew 25:1-13** - "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five [were] foolish. They that [were] foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, [Not so]; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. **Watch [G1127](#) therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.**"
 - 10 virgins: 5 wise, 5 foolish. All are waiting for the bridegroom to return to

- gather them to the marriage.
- There is an interesting tie in with Jewish wedding customs that will be covered in greater detail in the [Harpazo: The Blessed Hope](#) study. The price was paid for the marriage contract and the Bridegroom gave His bride a gift in the Holy Spirit. He has gone to prepare a place at His Father's house for His bride and will come and collect her to the marriage ceremony.
 - Again those that are waiting for His return are told they won't know the day or hour He comes for them, but they are to watch and be ready with oil in their lamps.
 - **Exodus 27:20-21** - "And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they **bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp [menorah] to burn always.** In the tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which [is] before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the LORD: [it shall be] a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel."
 - **Revelation 1:20** - "The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and **the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.**"
 - **1 John 2:25-29** - "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, [even] eternal life. These [things] have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But **the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.** And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him."
 - **Psalms 119:103-105** - "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! [yea, sweeter] than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. NUN. **Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**"
 - The symbology of the anointing of the Holy Spirit in the believer can be seen in the parable of the 10 virgins. The oil is fuel for the menorah foreshadowing the seven churches in God's temple according to the Word of God. We are guided by that same Spirit that guided the writing of the Word of God. The wise virgins are filled with the Holy Spirit, evidenced by the fruits of the Spirit in their lives. They have no need to go and get oil for their lamps, they already have it because they are already in relationship with the God whose Spirit indwells them in that relationship they fostered with God. Not because they felt obligated to save themselves, but because they love God first and foremost. That is the bride He is returning to collect, those who live by faith in His Word and love Him because He first loved us. They already have the oil needed to light their lamps and go meet the Bridegroom.
 - **Luke 12:35-40** - "**Let your loins be girded about, and [your] lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.** Blessed [are] those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching [G1127](#): verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find [them] so, **blessed are those servants.** And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched [G1127](#), and not have suffered his house to be

broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."

- Just like Passover at the Exodus, they were to be ready to go that very day with their loins girded. And just like the parable of the 10 virgins, they were to have oil for their lamps to light them and go out to meet the bridegroom to go to the marriage.
 - The Holy Spirit came to the church at Shavuot, or Pentecost. We should already have a relationship that shows the fruits of the Spirit as we wait for Him expectantly. When He comes, it is not for all who call themselves Christians, it is for those who are in relationship with Him by His Spirit in obedience, in Spirit and Truth.
 - **Matthew 5:14-16** - "**Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**"
 - **Galatians 5:22-26** - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."
 - Oil provides the fuel required for the lamp to burn and produce light. We know who God is by His Word and are drawn to Him. In trusting in Him, we receive the Holy Spirit who guides us to Truth by the Word of God, being the author of it. And so we are the light of the world and should not hide that light, showing the fruits of the Spirit in all we do and rightly bearing His image of love. That Word also guides our path, giving us understanding that we don't trip on the stumbling blocks in this world.
- End 1st session
 - **Revelation 16:15** - "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed [is] he that watcheth [G1127](#), and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."
 - **Luke 21:34-36** - "And **take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and [so] that day come upon you unawares.** For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. **Watch [G1127](#) ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.**"
 - Just before this in verses 25-28, are the signs of the sixth seal heralding the wrath of God and the coming of the Son of man in great power and glory. It is at that time we are told to look up because our redemption draws nigh. As we will see throughout these studies, what we are promised to escape is the wrath of God. This will be covered in greater detail. in the [Day of the Lord](#) study.
 - Note also the correlation between being caught up in the cares of this life and being caught unawares. This as opposed to watching and praying to escape what is to come and stand before the Son of man.
 - **Hebrews 9:28** - "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and **unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**"
 - If you do a word study on the "day of the Lord," you will find a lot of scriptures pointing to the wrath of God coming.
 - If you do a word search on the "day of Christ" or "day of our Lord Jesus Christ," you will find a small number of scriptures about confirming us to be blameless, without offence until that day. Paul wants to rejoice in that day that he did not run or labor in vain. And comforting the Christians of his time that the day of the

"coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him," the day of Christ, had not already come.

- I find it interesting that Yeshua is the Christ, and He is also the one that treads the winepress of the wrath of God alone. It is His garments dipped in blood before Armageddon, implying He carried out the wrath of God leading up to then. His Parousia is a singular event, lasting for the final years of the 70th week of Daniel. Parousia means coming, with the idea of arrival and continued presence.
- As we'll see more in the [Day of the Lord](#) study, the day and the Lord and the day of Christ are the same day, viewed from two perspectives, that of the world and God's impending wrath, and that of the bride of Christ to whom He is appearing a second time without sin unto salvation when their redemption will be at hand. He is coming for those that look for Him, impressing a desire for His arrival and the associated redemption and start of eternal relationship with Him face to face. The time to prepare yourself and bring others in is now, because when He comes it will be too late to begin preparing.
- **Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42** - "Watch [G1127](#) ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly [is] ready, but the flesh [is] weak."
 - This is more of a warning related to watching that I've experienced in being a watchman. I began my journey in 2005, building the watchmanbiblestudy website more to help me remember and document my journey, and sharpening my understanding, but took a break of sorts for the last 10 years or so as daily life took a priority. While still paying attention, I strayed from what I felt my calling was, getting closer to the Lord in His Word. It was still a time of learning and watching, but not deep study of the Word. Since the beginning of 2023 I snapped back to reality and the conviction of failing to fulfill my calling due to my laziness and desire to do my own things. It is easy to be selfish, get distracted, and complacent, I know.
- **Colossians 4:1-6** - "Masters, give unto [your] servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven. **Continue in prayer, and watch [G1127](#) in the same with thanksgiving**; Withal praying also for us, **that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.** Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. **Let your speech [be] alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.**"
 - Prayer and watching can also associate to our witness, looking and praying for any opportunity to be the salt and light of the world and share the Gospel when we perceive an opening. God does not force Himself on anyone, but He takes opportunities when their hearts are open to reveal Himself. We are His hands and feet in this world, given the opportunity to participate. Let us be wise as serpents and gentle as doves, reading the room and approaching opportunities in humility, patience, and love. Our own testimonies can mean a lot to others. Perhaps we plant a seed or we're the one watering a seed already planted by someone else. We may never see the harvest, but we should do what we can in any role to show the love of God and introduce people to Christ and let them decide.
 - To me, understanding the future is a comfort as it takes away fear of the unknown, but introducing others to relationship with the God of creation is our role. Do not mistake my focus on Bible prophecy as the sole focus in the life of a Christian. While it is important to understand what is coming so we can stand on a solid foundation in the coming storm, our primary goal is reaching the lost with the same good news that saved us.
- **1 Peter 5:6-11** - "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he

may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. **Be sober, be vigilant**[G1127](#); **because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith**, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle [you]. To him [be] glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

- We have an enemy looking for any way to destroy us. He too has his followers in the world, who have no faith in God and some who actively work to pull people out of their faith. Their vision is darkened and they don't understand the spiritual reality of the world beyond that which they can measure. Those with eyes to see must be steadfast in their faith, have an answer to why they have faith. The journey to understand Bible prophecy has strengthened my faith immeasurably, and when you see other elements such as science and archaeology confirming the reality of that faith it is impossible to shake it.
 - These scriptures focused on the concept of watching give us a good example of how I think we should approach the study of God's Word. We see several places where we're told we won't know the day or hour of His coming, yet we're also told over and over again to watch and that with this watching comes the promise to not be caught off guard like the rest of the world who is living life assuming it will continue just as it always has. It's all true and so taking it all seriously, we can see that being sober, watching and praying, and being in relationship with God by His Spirit, we may not know the exact day or hour, but we will be given many signs so we won't be caught unaware. And given the warning of deception surrounding this time, it's important to know what we're watching for. As we will see, not all prophecy is vague, in fact many express periods of time. Are these relevant or should we assume there is no reason they were placed there?
- Like a thief in the night
 - **2 Peter 3:10** - "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."
 - **Matthew 24:42-44, Mark 13:33-36, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, and Revelation 3:3** also highlighted a particular Hebrew idiom regarding the day of the Lord coming as "a thief in the night" and "coming as a thief." This idiom was reportedly resulting from the practice of the high priest to ensure the command to never let the fire go out on the altar was followed.
 - **Leviticus 6:8-13** - "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Command Aaron and his sons, saying, This [is] the law of the burnt offering: **It [is] the burnt offering, because of the burning upon the altar all night unto the morning, and the fire of the altar shall be burning in it.** And the priest shall put on his linen garment, and his linen breeches shall he put upon his flesh, and take up the ashes which the fire hath consumed with the burnt offering on the altar, and he shall put them beside the altar. And he shall put off his garments, and put on other garments, and carry forth the ashes without the camp unto a clean place. And the fire upon the altar shall be burning in it; it shall not be put out: and the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order upon it; and he shall burn thereon the fat of the peace offerings. **The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out.**"
 - The priesthood ministering at the temple would require shifts where the priests would monitor and ensure the fire in the altar never died. Similarly, the priests ensured the light from the menorah also never went out according to the statute. Because of this it was critical that none of the priests on duty were to sleep. And so every so often the high priest or captain of the guard reportedly would go and ensure the priests were

not asleep and if they were found asleep, the high priest would place the coals from the altar under their garment and light it on fire. Not caught in time, the sleeping priest may have to throw off their burning clothes, being naked, leaving in shame for falling asleep. Thus the nickname of thief in the night was related to not falling asleep on duty, being alert and performing the duties of a minister to the Lord.

- **Revelation 16:15** - "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed [is] he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."
- **Luke 12:35-40** - "Let your loins be girded about, and [your] lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed [are] those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. **And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find [them] so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.**"
 - "During the night the 'captain of the Temple' made his rounds. On his approach the guards had to rise and salute him in a particular manner. Any guard found asleep when on duty was beaten, or his garments were set on fire—a punishment, as we know, actually awarded. ... But then the preparations for the service of the morning required each to be early astir. The priest whose duty it was to superintend the arrangements might any moment knock at the door and demand entrance. He came suddenly and unexpectedly, no one knew when. The Rabbis use almost the very words in which Scripture describes the unexpected coming of the Master (Mark 13:35), when they say, 'Sometimes he came at the cock-crowing, sometimes a little earlier, sometimes a little later. He came and knocked, and they opened to him. Then said he unto them, All ye who have washed, come and cast lots' (Mishnah, Tamid. i. 1, 2)." | [The Temple - It's Ministry and Services](#) by Alfred Edersheim (p. 46)
- Yeshua is the High Priest.
- Review: who is watching for what?
 - **Revelation 1:1-3** - "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified [it] by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. **Blessed [is] he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time [is] at hand.**"
 - This is the only book in the Bible with a blessing for the reader. As will be seen in these studies, it truly is a blessing to be given a glimpse of not only the future, but our place in it.
 - The remainder of the next several chapters gives us the who, the seven churches represented in the menorah, foreshadowed in its presence in the tabernacle since Israel was saved from bondage and in a covenantal relationship with God.
 - As we've seen from the watch scriptures:
 - **Revelation 3:3** - The coming of the Lord like a thief, if we don't watch. This implies those watching for His coming will not be caught off guard when He comes.
 - **Matthew 24:32-51** - Watch, because we don't know what hour the Lord is coming.
 - **Mark 13:28-37** - The porter was to watch for the return of the Master of the

house, the Son of man, whether at evening, midnight, or morning. Further, He gives this command to all, watch.

- **Matthew 25:1-13** - The coming of the Son of man as related to the bridegroom gathering his bride. We are to watch because we don't know the day or hour the Son of man is coming.
- **Luke 12:35-40** - Be ready with lamps lit for the coming of the Son of man. There is a blessing to those servants He finds watching when He comes.
- **Revelation 16:15** - The coming of the Lord like a thief, blessing to those watching.
- **Luke 21:34-36** - The snare of the wrath of God coming suddenly on the earth, and we are told regarding this to watch and pray to be counted worthy to escape from it to stand before the Son of man.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** - The coming of the day of the Lord and the sudden destruction of the wrath of God and our escape from it. Regarding this day we are to watch and be sober, not sleep and be unaware.
- **Hebrews 9:28** - His second coming will be to those looking for Him.
- **Colossians 4:1-6** - Be ready to seize the opportunity in this world to give an answer for the hope within you.
- **1 Peter 5:6-11** - Vigilance for the enemy attempting to destroy our faith.
- God gave Yeshua a revelation for His servants of the things that will come to pass and John faithfully recorded it for us. Time and again we are told regarding the coming of the Lord to watch, and there are blessings for those who do so. Should we consider something God desired to reveal to us important then? Should we try to understand it? Would God have told us to watch for something we can't understand?
- Watching is an action, not in controlling, but observing what will come to pass and warning those with ears to hear as it does. It builds faith, confirms God's Word, tells us God's plan so we're not in darkness and gives us hope.
 - If God has a plan we begin to see unfolding according to His Word, do you think you have any control over its coming to pass? I believe understanding God's design for the end is about awareness, not attempting to make changes to it. God is in control as we will see in these studies, we are not.
 - Country falling apart? Good called evil and evil good? Being labeled all sorts of things for noticing and calling it out? Feeling like the target of gaslighting? Hatred of the prudent? These are all the kinds of things that we are warned about happening, even more so as the love of many grows cold as their selfishness grows. Chaos is the sign of the mystery of iniquity at work, the Dragon's influence over the world.
 - But understanding what is coming brings personal peace in chaotic world. While we can't control what is going to come, knowing what is coming takes away some of the fear of the unknown. We don't have to fear what God is going to do, and knowing what the Dragon is going to do prepares us, come what may.
 - God has glorious plans for those that love and obey Him and a lifetime of suffering in this world is but a flash in the pan compared to time without end. We have been given understanding of the eternal nature of God as opposed to the temporal fading of this world.
 - **1 Corinthians 2:6-12** - "Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, [even] the hidden [wisdom], which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known [it], they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed [them] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man

knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

- ◆ Except we express what is in our mind, nobody knows it but ourselves. So it was from the creation that God's design for our redemption was hidden in a mystery in order that in their own wickedness they would fulfill God's plan of redemption in the death of His Son. When the Holy Spirit opens His Word to us as we welcome Him in through Christ, the Word becomes alive and the mysteries even many in the world can't see become clearer over time. They are revealed freely from His Word and He wants us to be a part of it.
- We should live by His Word in love and do what we can to be a light, but don't expect the world to get better. Strive to spread the love and the Gospel. Most of all, ensure whoever will listen learns who Yeshua is and develops their own relationship with him.
- Grow in relationship with other believers and build them up just as you will be built up.
 - **Hebrews 10:24-25** - "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."
 - When we stand in the peace of knowing what is coming and secure in our relationship with Yeshua by His Spirit, people will envy that peace the less they feel it themselves. This provides opportunities for witness, not of prophecy necessarily, but the Gospel and the hope in you.
- This study of Bible prophecy is more for those who already have a relationship with Christ, trying to share all these details to a non-Christian may be a stumbling block to their relational development.
 - As covered in the [Milk Before Meat](#) study, we need to first be able to digest the milk of the Word, the Gospel, as new believers. Once we have been changed and grown, we begin chewing on the meat of this Word.
 - **1 Corinthians 3:1-4** - "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, [even] as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able [to bear it], neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas [there is] among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I [am] of Apollos; are ye not carnal?"
 - ◆ The spiritual vs. carnal can be discerned by the fruits of the spirit
 - **Hebrews 5:12-14** - "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 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."
 - ◆ Those drinking the milk are babes learning the first principles, but meat is for those with senses exercised to discern good and evil.
 - That's not to say Bible prophecy has no value in bringing people to Christ. It certainly does, because as we will see the Bible has plenty examples of fulfilled prophecy, some of which can be proven historically and archaeologically to have not been written after the fact.
 - But those who are already antagonistic toward God will not understand and need the spirit changed first and foremost.

- These things are revealed by the Spirit of God for the bride of Christ to understand. For the church, Bible prophecy is meant to be a blessing. However, much of the church ignores God's blessing for her. The topic tends to cause division, which is what pushes people away from this blessing. Everyone's got a take, but that's why I want to let the Bible interpret itself and these presentations are meant to explain how I see the Bible doing just that. If we all approach the Bible seriously and take to heart the Old and New Testaments and what they say about the end, a lot of things become more clear. And when we can get past our carnal nature to be right and instead let God's Word be our guide, division and contention are replaced by mutual guidance of the Word.
- Trusting the Source: Blind faith or reasoned trust? I believe God's Word and take it seriously
 - I plan to go into more detail on some of the reasons my faith is not blind, but I want to touch on a few things here. (REF: Why I Believe)
 - **Proverbs 29:18** - "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."
 - In a fallen world separated from heaven and careening toward a known end full of deception, only by knowing the truth and seeing the end goal are we prepared to not be caught up in the selfishness and deception. God has given us a vision of the future so that we are not caught up in the deception that will lead to death. Instead we should take the hope He has given us in knowing the surety of our salvation through Christ and be the light of love in the dark world.
 - **Matthew 22:37-40** - "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."
 - **Galatians 5:14** - "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."
 - Understanding God's plan and the role of His people in it to be a light and bring people to their own personal relationship with Christ gives us purpose with a vision of the end.
 - **Romans 10:13-17** - "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? **So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**"
 - One of the amazing things about the Bible that is not like any other book, it a collection of 66 books written by 40 authors over thousands of years and is the only book that has both the ability to speak with precision about the future and cut to the spirit with truth.
 - As we will see in the Visions of Daniel and John study, the Greek New Testament has a total of **5,795 copies** with a gap of **40 years** after authorship. "But the text of the NT is also supported by translations into other languages." **18,000+ copies**. More copies of the Bible than any other book in history, attesting to its validity. Homer's Iliad, Herodotus's History, Sophocles Tragedies, and more all have at most 1,757 copies, most being between 100 and 200 copies with gaps from 100 to 1,350 years after the authorship.
 - Old Testament has copies and fragments dated back to 200-100 BC, validating the content. These were discovered in the Dead Sea Scrolls in Qumran in 1947.
 - The majority of translation differences relate to grammar changes that don't affect the content, and even in the more severe versions with differences, because of the way scripture is written, here a little and there a little, the content remains confirmatory.
 - Unless clearly symbolic, I accept the plain meaning of the Word. Where a concept is spoken of in multiple places, I accept each perspective of that concept as written and bring all

together to gain a more wholistic understanding, this becomes my foundation upon which other elements are compared to. In this way, as little personal interpretation creeps in as possible.

- **Isaiah 28:9-13** - Precept on precept, line on line, here a little there a little
 - A "line upon line, here a little there a little" take on Bible study means scripture interprets and expounds upon itself to reveal the bigger picture. In this way topical studies of events and identities in prophecy can be helpful.
 - The truth of God's plan is in His Word. Each similar piece must be compared and combined to gain a more full understanding than just the one piece of scripture.
 - I think Bible prophecy is a lot more nuanced than people realize and requires examining the whole council of God. Even then we have a lot to learn and even more we won't know until we are face to face. But we know enough from God's Word to not be in darkness about what He is doing.
- **1 Corinthians 14:32-33** - "And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not [the author] of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."
 - Related passages on prophecy are spread throughout the Old and New Testaments, and the full understanding of the thing spoken of can only be understood more fully with the agreement of all related passages as accurate.
 - An example of this is pointed out in the [Olivet Discourse: Vision of the Future](#) study
 - ◆ Matthew, Mark, and Luke's account of this conversation diverge somewhat. It would seem to be confuse things, but I believe this points to the possibility that Yeshua spoke of these things with the disciples multiple times in the days leading up to Passover and these elements were written the way they were to guide believers both of that time and the end. Carefully looking at the wording in all three accounts, some confusing aspects become clearer.
 - ◇ Matthew and Mark seem to describe the future unparalleled tribulation associated to running to the mountains at the abomination of desolation while Luke associates escape when Jerusalem is under siege.
 - ◇ Matthew has an oddly placed sentence about vultures gathering around carcasses while Luke provides clarification on the one taken and one left.
- ★ ▪ The harvest at the end of the world (I want to just present a series of scripture without commentary to demonstrate how some scriptures can lead to connections to others and let the hearer come to their own conclusion)
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** - "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. **For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.** Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as [do] others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. **For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.** Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."
 - **Revelation 6:12-17** - "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair,

and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; **And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"**

- **Matthew 24:29-31** - "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: **And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:** and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. **And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."**
- **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43** - "Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn. ... Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, **He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked [one]; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.** As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. **The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire:** there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."
- **Revelation 14:14-20** - "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud [one] sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, **Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.** And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. **And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire;** and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. **And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast [it] into the great**

winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand [and] six hundred furlongs."

- **John 14:1-3** - "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. **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 unto myself;** that where I am, [there] ye may be also."
- **Isaiah 26:19-21** - "**Thy dead [men] shall live, [together with] my dead body shall they arise.** Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew [is as] the dew of herbs, and **the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity:** the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain."
- **Revelation 7** follows the sixth seal, before the seventh seal and depicts the 144,000 of the 12 tribes of Israel sealed before the wrath of God is unleashed. It also shows an innumerable multitude standing before the throne in heaven.
- **Joel 2:30-32** - "And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. **The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.** And it shall come to pass, [that] whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call."
- **2 Peter 3:5-7** - "For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: **But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**"
- **Isaiah 63:1-6** - "**Who [is] this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah?** this [that is] glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. **Wherefore [art thou] red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people [there was] none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance [is] in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.** And I looked, and [there was] none to help; and I wondered that [there was] none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. **And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.**"
- There are many more verses, but each of these when combined together paint a clear picture of the sequence of events of the end and the harvest of the parable. At the time of the harvest, when the wrath of God will consume the earth by fire, His wrath and His coming will be heralded by the signs of the sixth seal. Then every eye will see Him and the bride of Christ will be caught up and Israel protected in the wilderness and sealed. Then the seven trumpets will sound and seven bowls poured out and Yeshua will carry out His wrath as decreed on the scroll written on both sides that only He was able to open. When He returns with His bride after the wrath is completed, His garments will show

the results of Him treading the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of God alone when He comes to defeat the armies gathered at Armageddon to set up the Messianic Kingdom for 1,000 years.

- This is the epitome of here a little there a little from the whole council of God. Each statement in each prophecy offers just a glimpse, and each glimpse is true alone. Many people build doctrine off of one piece and stumble, but the connecting pieces when brought together allow us to step back from the bark to see the tree, and further back to see the forest.
- That is not to say there aren't details that need to be addressed, and that is why these studies are built the way they are. The timing of the events just reviewed is a contentious thing among many, but I believe understanding the details of the great tribulation, as defined by scripture, and the details of the wrath of God, as defined by scripture, answer the questions and show why all these various views are held by solid Christians that disagree. If we focus on only certain scriptures instead of taking them all as a whole, we can see where these views originate, but specifically a generic definition of the great tribulation has caused a lot of confusion on this topic.
- There will inevitably be lack in understanding of certain elements that will cloud attempts to explain, but these do not trump the whole council of God. Taking God's word seriously means there is no contradiction in each statement or prophecy, but rather a revealing of a more wholistic truth that all agree. This is what my approach to prophecy has been, and I've been corrected, and corrected myself according to the Word many times and will continue to grow as I meditate on His Word. This is important to do in rightly dividing the Word of Truth, with humility and acceptance of the Word over our pride and desire to be right. We will all, myself included, see how wrong we were in many things we hold true with our limited understanding, but I believe we've been given enough from the Word to have much more clarity on what is to come than we ever have before, especially as the day approaches.
- Approach the Word in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit, who is the author, to reveal God's Word in Truth, not as you desire it to be.
 - **2 Peter 1:19-21** - "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that **no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost.**"
 - Prophecy was given by the Holy Spirit, not personal assertions of men, we should trust that for those who diligently seek to understand, you don't need a doctorate or master of divinity to understand, although it can help at times. Trust God's Word and take it seriously.
 - To say I take the Word literally obfuscates some of the nuance of interpretation and so I prefer to say I take the Word seriously. I believe everything critical to know is plainly stated and can be understood for the most part by the non-scholar or expert if approached with seriousness and a desire to know God.
 - Some things are parables, they are stories meant to relate a meaning and not speaking of a literal event, they are teaching tools.
 - Some things are clearly symbolic, having prophetic meaning in both a near and far sense.
 - ◆ **Revelation 12:1** - "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:"
 - ◆ Do I think a woman with a crown of 12 stars and standing on the moon is wearing the sun? That's what it literally says right? No, this is a symbolic representation of the nation of Israel, or Jacob as interpreted by scripture

itself.

- ◆ **Genesis 37:9-11** - "And he [Joseph] dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told [it] to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What [is] this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying."
 - ◇ We see in scripture that a dream given to Joseph, one of the 12 sons of Jacob, also called Israel, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham. His family did indeed come and bow down to him after his brothers sold him and he was taken to Egypt where he interpreted Pharaoh's dreams warning of the 7 year drought and his family later had to come to Egypt for help. This began the slow subjugation of Israel in Egypt leading to the Exodus.
 - ◇ And so the same symbology Joseph saw in a dream identifying the children of Israel tells us that the woman of Revelation 12 symbolizes the children of Israel, further strengthened by the fact that she gave birth to a child who was to rule with a rod of iron, the Messiah, whom the dragon attempted to kill. However, that child was caught up to God after His death and resurrection.
 - ◇ Interestingly, it is also representative of a certain time of year where the constellation Virgo, the virgin, is seen around the fall. Every so often the sun will be in the midst of her stars and the moon beneath her "feet" and depending on interpretation, 12 prominent lights above her head.
 - ◆ The constellation Virgo will at times have the sun within the stars that make her up and the moon beneath them and stars above them. This happens at times during the month of Tishri. This is the time during the fall some believe that Yeshua was born. Aside from the literal display of the symbology in the Mazzaroth, the constellations, we actually have her identity given in a dream.
 - ◆ So not only was Joseph's dream relevant to the story within their lifetimes, but it was an interpretation of John's vision of the symbolic woman representing Israel, Jacob's family, and showing the lineage of the Messiah from Israel. There may also be an indication of timing in the literal layout of the stars that occurs every so often in the fall on the 7th month.
 - ◆ **Genesis 1:14** - "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:"
- Some things are clearly literal, if the Bible says that the man of sin will be given power for 42 months, then I would expect that period of time to be given for a reason.
- ◆ **Daniel 7:25** - "And he shall speak [great] words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and **they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.**"
 - ◇ Was this vision full of symbology given to Daniel really saying that the saints would be given into the hand of this blaspheming person for 3.5 years? As we will cover in greater detail in [The Moedim: Appointed Times](#), [Great Tribulation](#), and [Framework of the End](#)

studies, there is a reason behind a 30-day month calculation that brings together a period of days, months, and years that are equivalent and speak of a time of great tribulation.

- ◇ **Revelation 13:5** - "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and **power was given unto him to continue forty [and] two months.**"
- ◇ **Daniel 12:7** - "And I heard the man clothed in linen, which [was] upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that [it shall be] **for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people,** all these [things] shall be finished."
- ◇ There is a lot of understanding to build to in order to see the nuance and detail in Bible prophecy, and so these studies are built that way. Starting at the foundation and building understanding topically from there according to scripture with detail and not generalities. But this is a case where I take the Bible literally when it gives a timeframe in such detail. There is a reason for that and if the understanding is glossed over, some very important foundations are missed and the building of understanding is no longer on a solid foundation.
 - These are just a couple of examples that will be covered in greater detail in these studies, but give an idea of how I approach interpreting Bible prophecy, with the Bible. I have found that searching for common passages speaking of the same topics has revealed different events of that time also discussed. These relate to other topics, and bringing each of these pieces together gives a more expansive view of the events surrounding the return of Christ.
 - It's like putting a puzzle together, where the same parts of an image allow you to organize the various pieces together and then see how they fit to reveal the whole picture of the thing. That, in turn, is connected to another clump of pieces revealing detail about another aspect. Approaching topical understanding in the same way both builds a comprehensive picture of an event and shows connectivity to other events for greater understanding of the sequence of the whole.
 - So it is possible at times to interpret symbols according to scripture itself, and other times there are scripture and logic that help define these symbols for us.
- **Amos 3:7-8** - "**Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.** The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?"
- **Isaiah 46:9-13** - "Remember the former things of old: for I [am] God, and [there is] none else; [I am] God, and [there is] none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times [the things] that are not [yet] done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken [it], I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed [it], I will also do it. Harken unto me, ye stouthearted, that [are] far from righteousness: I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory."
 - God knows the end from the beginning and all that He has said will come to pass. Bible prophecy glorifies God and builds faith.
- **John 15:13-15** - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, **if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.**"
- We don't need new prophecy, we have been given all we need to know from the prophets

of old and they have time and again agreed with each other such that understanding spread throughout scripture when brought together paints a clearer picture of what God has in store. We must pray the Spirit who authored scripture guide us through it for understanding and blessing.

- Israel and Jerusalem are center of most unfulfilled Bible prophecy
 - While there are elements about the future given to followers of Yeshua, Jew and Gentile, the focus of *future* prophecy (*to us*) is not about what God did on the cross, that is covered in fulfilled prophecy, which we will cover. This was to the Jew first, then spread to the Gentiles.
 - **Romans 1:16-17** - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; **to the Jew first, and also to the Greek**. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."
 - Future prophecy is about how God will separate His people Israel, the faithful from the unfaithful, preserving the faithful and judging the unfaithful to the Jew first and also to the Gentile.
 - **Romans 2:8-10** - "But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, **of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile**; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, **to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile.**"
 - In Israel's historical relationship with God, adultery was associated with going after other gods. A time of choosing is coming for those of Israel that remain blinded, and the world, to follow a fallen angel giving his power to a false christ demanding worship as God, or to follow the One True God of creation. The world will fall into deception, and those who do not will be purged from the earth until Yeshua intervenes at His coming.
 - The nature of prophecy gives us road signs. For instance, most of end time prophecy is focused on Israel and Jerusalem as we will see in the next study, Natural Israel & Spiritual Israel. As such, this should be the primary focus of our watching.
- HIStory, Our Future: Pearls for the Bride (Meaning behind the title of this series of prophecy studies)
 - We gain understanding and faith looking back in history at fulfilled prophecy and learning from the mistakes and faithfulness of those who came before.
 - The study of Bible prophecy is the study of who Yeshua is
 - **John 5:39** - "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."
 - **Revelation 19:10** - "Worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."
 - Just as pearls are an adornment, so too is the understanding of God's plans. It is His gift to His bride that gives us peace in difficult and uncertain times. When that peace is evident, those who see it admire the Spirit that brings it within us. Our expression of the peace and joy of the kingdom of God within us as we wait for the ultimate fulfillment in the prophesied future is part of that light we are to shine in the darkness. This peace that passes all understanding comes from the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and guide, that still small voice reminding us of God's Word and His love for us, worth more than any worldly possessions and lasting for time without end. It is only through the atoning sacrifice of Yeshua on the cross that we gain all this and we need to share that with those who have ears to hear.
 - **Matthew 13:45-46** - "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."
 - And so it is His story of history and His story of our future laid out in the prophetic timeline, revealed in time through the faithful prophets guided by the Holy Spirit, that we gain this gift of understanding because God loves us.
- What do you do with this?

- Time is short, relationship with Yeshua should be focus. We know the heart of God by trusting His Word in explaining who He is to us. We build relationship struggling with God in prayer to align ourselves to His heart and grow in love for Him and others.
- **Hebrews 10:24-25** - "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."
- Freely we have received, freely give. Spread the Gospel to those you have their ears, and share the promise of hope to those who have already also received.
 - Be wise as serpents and gentle as doves. Build relationships to share the Gospel with the guidance of the Spirit. You may only plant a seed another waters and another harvests, but ultimately it is Yeshua who saves them when they accept Him of their own free will.
 - Milk vs. meat - Prophecy can be a powerful tool to increase faith, but relationship with Yeshua is of utmost importance. The Gospel is primary, repentance must come, then growth continues in the Spirit with obedience.
- This world is going to get much darker and as such those with the light of the Spirit will stand out that much brighter. There are answers about the future that will give us strength and confidence not just in knowing generically God wins in the end, but what that is going to look like as it plays out. It may be more relevant to this generation than we've accepted.

May God continue to bless you as you remain in Him.

Associated studies

- [Milk Before Meat](#)
- [Natural Israel & Spiritual Israel](#)
- [The Moedim: Appointed Times](#)
- [Olivet Discourse: Vision of the Future](#)
- [Daniel's 70 Weeks](#)
- [Great Tribulation](#)
- [Harpazo: The Blessed Hope](#)
- [Hour of Temptation: Left Behind](#)
- [Day of the Lord](#)
- [Framework of the End](#)

References

- [How Much Of The Bible Is Prophecy?](#) By Jack Kelley
- [Exploring other dimensions - Alex Rosenthal and George Zaidan](#) YouTube
- [Watermark Gospel](#)
- [The Temple - It's Ministry and Services](#) by Alfred Edersheim

Associated Dates

- N/A

Tags

- Watch

Script
