

Session 22

A Chronological Timeline of the End Times

A. Introduction

1. God has provided details in Scripture for His people to develop understanding and gain clarity regarding His End-Time timeline of events.
2. While not every piece of the puzzle is laid out for us, there are sufficient details given about the End of the Age for us to put together a coherent broad-perspective timeline, especially when it comes to the three distinct prophetic timeframes in the End Times.

B. Why Do We Need to Know?

1. We will not be caught unawares or be deceived
 - a. One of the exhortations that Jesus gave regarding the End Times was to take heed so that we will not be deceived (Matt. 24:5,11,24–26).
 - b. If we are clear and understand what is going to take place prior to the return of Jesus, it will guard us against the deception that will be widespread.
 - c. We will also not be caught by surprise when we witness certain sign trends and events taking place, as God has provided us with His Word beforehand.
2. We can prepare ourselves to partner with God
 - a. When we are familiar with the End-Time chronology and the events that will happen, we can then prepare ourselves accordingly in the things that will be important for us, so that we can partner with the Lord in advancing His Kingdom.
 - b. Without knowledge and prophetic insight, we will find ourselves unprepared when the Lord begins to pour out His glory.

C. Three Distinct Prophetic Timeframes in the End Times

1. Scriptures describe three distinct prophetic time frames in the End Times. We clearly find these when comparing Matt. 24 with 1 Thes. 5:2–3 and Dan. 9:27.
2. These three prophetic timeframes are:
 - a. The beginning of Birth Pangs;
 - b. The final 7 years of human history, which includes:
 - i. Counterfeit world peace and safety;
 - ii. The Great Tribulation.
 - c. The Second Coming of Christ and the rapture of the saints, leading to the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom.

D. First Prophetic Timeframe — The Beginning of Birth Pangs

1. Jesus spoke of a specific period of time called the “beginning of birth pangs” or “beginning of sorrows” (Matt. 24:4–8; Mark 13:5–8; Luke 21:7–18).
2. The beginning of birth pangs was triggered by the return of Israel in 1948 as a nation, as the premise for the timing of all events in the End Times is God’s plan for Israel.
 - a. The events unfolding in Israel are the time-table for the unfolding of God’s prophetic plans.
 - b. In other words, the return of Israel was a milestone for God’s prophetic timeclock and Israel herself is the reference point for understanding redemptive history past and present.
3. The beginning of birth pangs is characterized by 12 worldwide sign trends and events that will increase in frequency and intensity, through the second and third prophetic timeframes, until the Second Coming of Jesus.
 - a. Jesus used the analogy of a woman giving birth because at His Second Coming, He with birth forth a new “age” — the Millennial Kingdom and His rule and reign on this earth.
 - b. As with a natural birth, the birth pangs in the form of the 12 worldwide sign trends will increase in frequency and intensity, culminating in the Second Coming of Jesus.

- c. Apostle Paul spoke of creation as “groaning” before the establishment of the rule and reign of Jesus (Rom. 8:21–22).
4. These 12 major worldwide trends are to be discerned and received as prophetic signs to help the Church prepare for the coming years (Matt. 24, Mk. 13, Lk. 21):
 - a. False christs — false leaders in the Church (Matt. 24:5; Mark 13:6; Luke 21:7);
 - b. War — military and political conflict (Matt. 24:6; Mark 13:7; Luke 21:9);
 - c. Ethnic conflict — civil disorder and racism as nation rises against nation (Matt. 24:7);
 - d. Economic warfare — economic related hostility and conflicts in kingdoms competing against kingdoms (Matt. 24:7; Mark 13:8);
 - e. Famines — massive food shortages (Matt. 24:7; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11);
 - f. Pestilences — fearful epidemic diseases (Matt. 24:7; Luke 21:11);
 - g. Earthquakes — in various places and in greater magnitudes (Matt. 24:7; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11);
 - h. Troubles — events that cause pressure (Mark 13:8);
 - i. Commutations — chaotic events (Luke 21:9);
 - j. Fearful sights — unusual events (Luke 21:11);
 - k. Great signs from heaven — cosmic or atmospheric signs (Luke 21:11);
 - l. Persecution — the increase of martyrdom of believers in Jesus (Mark 13:12; Luke 21:12–19; Rev. 6:9–11; 7:13–14; 9:21; 13:7; 16:6; 17:6; 18:24; 2 Tim. 3:3).

E. Second Prophetic Timeframe — The Final 7 Years of Human History

1. This second prophetic timeframe is also known as the “70th week” or the “final week” in Daniel’s 70-week prophecy in Dan. 9:24–27.
2. Daniel’s 70-week prophecy is crucial for us to know if we are to piece together the End-Time chronological timeline. (See Chart 1.)

- a. The context for Daniel's 70-week prophecy is that the nation of Israel has to be back in her land, which she currently is.
 - b. When Israel was in her Diaspora (scattered across nations and not in existence for almost 2000 years), God's prophetic timeclock was put on "pause". Now that she is back in her land, it has started ticking again.
 - c. The signing of a peace treaty by the Antichrist (Dan. 9:27) is what will transition us into the final 7 years of human history.
3. The Antichrist will establish a political peace treaty with many nations, including Israel, which will start a period of temporary peace and safety for unbelievers. However, during this period, persecution against the Church will increase.
4. **Counterfeit World Peace and Safety — First 3½ years** (Dan. 9:27; 1 Thes. 5:2–3)
- a. This will be a time of false peace.
 - i. Wars, terrorism and conflict will temporarily stop
 - b. The Jerusalem temple will be rebuilt and Israel will be allowed to offer animal sacrifices once again (Dan. 9:27).
 - i. It is necessary for temple worship to be restored in order for prophecy to be fulfilled in Dan. 9:27, where it says that Antichrist will "bring an end to sacrifice and offering" in the middle of the 7 years.
 - c. Antichrist will solve humanitarian issues such as famine, disease, and economic crisis as the Harlot-Babylon arises.
 - d. There will be the rise of Harlot-Babylon (Rev 17–18) and the Harlot Church.
 - e. There will be a Great Falling Away among believers (2 Thes. 2:3).
 - i. Many in the Church will be seduced to join the Harlot-Babylon religious entity and global economic network (see Session 8);
 - ii. False teachers will deceive God's people into renouncing their faith (Matt. 24:9–13; 1 Tim. 4:1–3; 2 Tim. 3:1–8; 4:3–5; Jude 1:18–19; 2 Peter 3:3–5).

- f. There will be an increase in behind-the-scenes persecution for the true Church of Jesus Christ, with a simultaneous increase in God's glory and power in His Church.
5. **The Great Tribulation — Final 3½ years** (Matt. 24:21; Jer. 30:5–7)
- a. The Great Tribulation corresponds to the fullness of birth pangs and occurs during the last 3½ years of the 7-year period (Matt. 24:15–31; Rev. 6 – 19).
 - b. It begins when Antichrist breaks the peace treaty, commits the Abomination of Desolation in the middle of the 7 years (Dan 9:27), and openly shows his hostility without needing to deceive unbelievers.
 - c. The Antichrist will require all people on earth to worship him and implement the Mark-of-the-Beast system.
 - d. The Antichrist will openly persecute the Church and Israel via the Armageddon Campaign.
 - e. God will also begin to release the judgments written in the book of Revelation at the beginning of the final 3½ years, which we term the 3-Numbered Judgment Series.
 - i. This refers to the seal and trumpet judgments in Revelation chapters 6, 8 and 9, which happen in chronological sequence over the final 3½ years.

F. Third Prophetic Timeframe — The Second Coming of Christ, the Rapture of the Saints and the Establishment of the Millennial Kingdom

- 1. Jesus' Second Coming
 - a. This will begin the establishment of His Millennial Kingdom on this earth. Scripture calls His coming our blessed hope (Tit. 2:13).
 - b. He will also release the final numbered judgment series — the bowls of wrath during His Second Coming Procession across the sky and land (see Chart 2).
- 2. The Rapture of the Saints
 - a. As Jesus proceeds across the sky during His Second Coming, He will rapture or "catch up" all the saints in the air to meet Him (1 Thes. 4:16–17).

3. The Marriage of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7)
 - a. This happens when Jesus, our heavenly Bridegroom, meets His Bride made ready at His Second Coming and her Rapture. This is what the Church is making ourselves ready for — our wedding day. Scripture says that from that point onwards, “we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thes. 4:17).

4. The Battle of Jerusalem and Victory over the Armageddon Campaign
 - a. Jesus will destroy the worldwide empire of the Antichrist and False Prophet along with their armies (Rev. 16:16; 19:11–21; Matt. 25:31–32).

 - b. The final military conflict will be between Jesus and the Antichrist. The blood that will be shed will flow for over 200 miles throughout Israel (Rev. 14:20; Joel 3:2–15; Zech. 14:1–5; Zeph. 3:8).

5. Establishment of the Millennial Kingdom
 - a. Jesus will rule all the governments on earth as King of kings after He binds Satan and casts him in prison (Rev. 20:1–6 ; Isa. 2:1–4; 9:6–9; 11:1–16; 51:1–8; 60 – 62; 65:17–25; Ps. 2:6–12; 110:1–7; Matt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21).

G. Where are we in God’s End-Time Timeline?

1. We are not within the final 7 years of human history yet, as there are certain events that have not yet taken place. Thus, Jesus will definitely not return within the next 7 years.

2. However, with an escalation of the 12 sign trends taking place worldwide, especially in recent years, it is unlikely that we are at the beginning of the beginning of birth pangs either.

3. If we take a look at when the nation of Israel returned (in 1948), there are definitely people who are alive today who will see the return of Jesus.

4. While we cannot say for certain, it is more likely that those in their teens and below 10 years of age will see the return of Jesus, than those in their 40s or 50s.

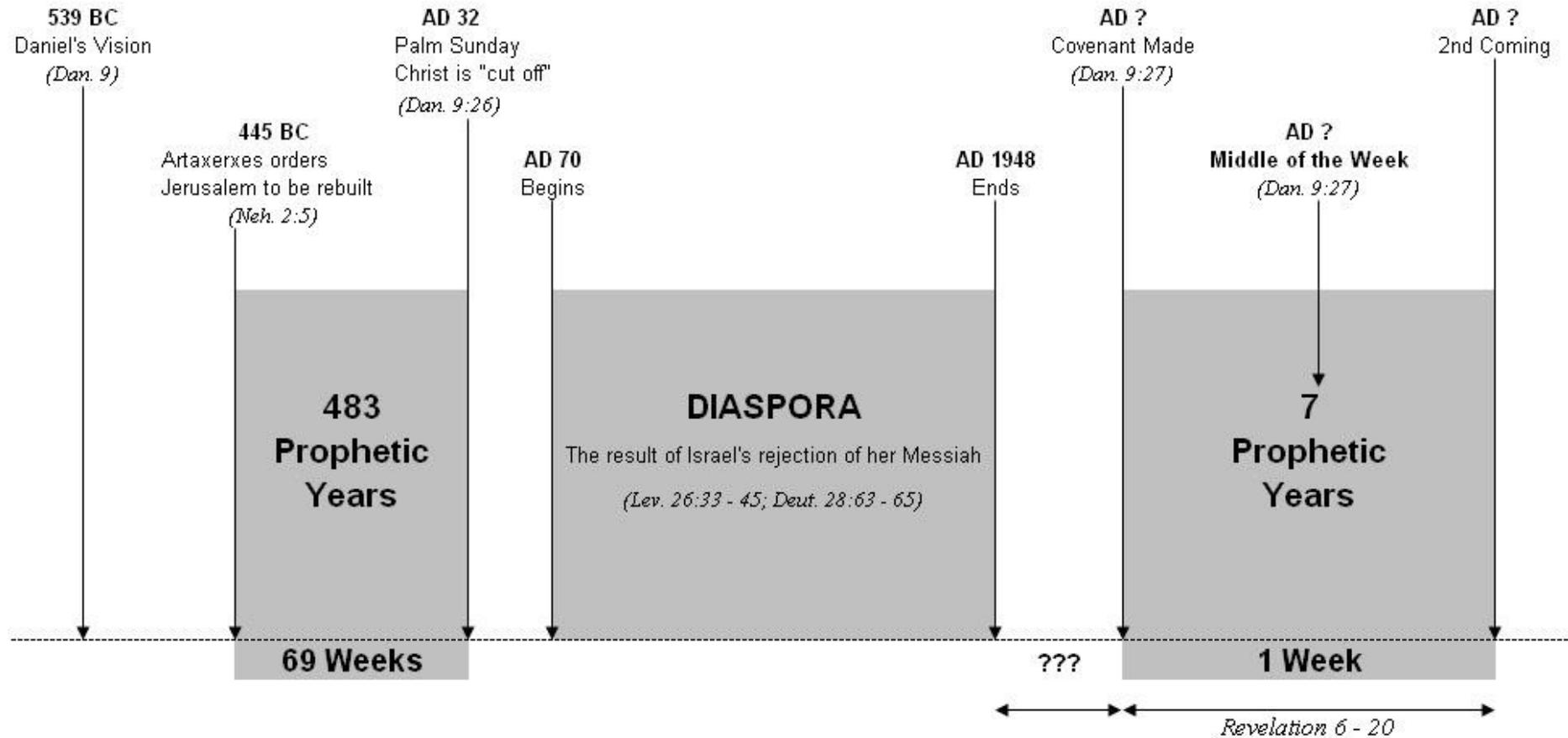
5. The reality is that in relation to the rest of human history, we are currently very close to His return.

H. Conclusion

1. Scripture gives us sufficient information to put together a timeline of End-Time events, especially in the generation where Jesus will return.
2. This is because the Lord wants His End-Time Church to know, so that we can prepare and make ourselves ready for His return.
3. Regarding the finer details within the three prophetic timeframes, there may be different views within the Body of Christ regarding the sequence of some of these events. We exhort everyone (including ourselves) to keep seeking the Lord for greater clarity and understanding as we search the Scriptures and await the day of His return.

THE 70 WEEKS OF DANIEL

Daniel 9:24 - 27 --- A broad Outline of God's Prophetic Timetable



*Note: 1 Prophetic year is 360 days each.

Overview of End-Time Events

www.OneThingMinistries.net

