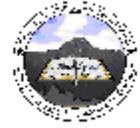




On The Frontier



“For The Glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

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A Scriptural Synopsis Of The Order Of End Time Events

All Scripture presented is from the 1769 Authorized Version unless otherwise noted.

We find our first requirement for understanding in II Peter 1:20.

II Peter 1:20

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

The word private is in Greek *idios* meaning one's own, we derive idiot from it.

II Peter 1:21

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.”

The prophecy came from God's mind, not man's. None of us should be giving our interpretation. What is said is what is meant. This is not true for men, as many lack integrity and don't mean what they say. What God says, God means, we need not give our rendition. Our only course of action is ascertaining God's Word. He doesn't need our interpretations.

Accordingly, we must understand two things :

1.) What is prophecy? and 2.) How to get God's Word as given when holy men of God spake?

The how of the latter is as follows:

II Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The words “rightly dividing” are translated from the Greek word *orthotomeo*, signifying to cut straight.

Since we're working with translation versions and not the original documents, we must make a single “straight cut” and remove the translator's words (personal convictions communed through translation) from God's. It's similar to diamond cutting in that only one cut is THE right one. Make the wrong cut and mar the diamond's potential.

We acknowledge ALL Scripture as prophecy since it came when “holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost.”

There are two types of prophecy, a telling forth and a foretelling.

Much of God's Word is in the category of declaration regarding events that have already transpired or were transpiring at the time the declaration was issued.

Prophecy of events yet future does not represent the entire Word of God nor define in total the meaning of the word prophecy.

In considering End Time event order we limit our study to Scripture predicting the future.

All such biblical records cannot be understood fully until after coming to pass. This concept is clear to us in that the clarity of our understanding crystalizes in retrospect. I believe the idiom is, “Hindsight is always 20-20.” That may not be biblical but it does serve to compliment our understanding.

Bearing these things in mind, we set before you a synopsis of the order of End Time events as found in the Bible. What follows is not every single event, only those whose order can be presented with reasonable certainty.

I Corinthians 15:22-28

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Then *cometh* the end, when he (Christ) shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he (Christ) shall

have put down all rule and all authority and power.

For he (Christ) must reign, till he (God) hath put all enemies under his (Christ's) feet.

The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.

For he (God) hath put all things under his (Christ's) feet. But when he (God) saith all things are put under *him* (Christ), *it is* manifest that he (God) is excepted, which did put all things under him (Christ).

And when all things shall be subdued unto him (Christ), then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him (God) that put all things under him (Christ), that God may be all in all.

A cursory listing of events taken from this record are:

- 1.Christ brings the dead to life at his return.
2. He's the first raised to life everlasting.
3. Christ delivers up the Kingdom to God. All authority and power are put down. Christ reigns during this time. After all enemies, powers and authorities are made subject to Christ, the Kingdom and Christ are made subject unto God, the power behind the success of all these end time events. Death is an enemy and the last one to be destroyed.

Death will be destroyed, so that mortality may be swallowed up of life! Praise God!

Revelation 1:5,
And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

To be continued:

November 11, 2007

A Deeper Look Into the Order of End Time Events

All verses are from the Authorized King James Version unless noted otherwise.

The phrase "end of days" is often used to describe a cessation of planet Earth. Speculation as to how this occurs varies. The more sensational concepts are often described as events of "biblical" proportions. Some examples are, nuclear conflagration, pandemic disease, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, asteroid impacts and ice-age induced climate change.

Hollywood makes money exploiting fear of the unknown. But a knowledge of God's Word will dispel any fear in those searching for truth.

Genesis 8:22

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

While the Earth remains we shall have all that verse promises.

However, we do have some concerns as the Bible speaks of three different Heavens and Earth.

Bible scholars agree the Heavens and Earth of today are the second, though they disagree as to how the first was destroyed. One thing is certain, it overflowed with water.

Thus, many believe the great flood of Noah's day was the cause.

II 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.

We learn from II Peter the current Heavens and Earth will be judged by fire.

After this, there will be much cause for rejoicing!

Revelation 21:1, 4 & 5

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first (*protos* = former) heaven and the first (*protos* = former) earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former (*protos*) things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

The Greek words translated first in Peter are *protos*, a contracted superlative of "pro" meaning before. Considering the scope of God's Word a better translation is former, as the subjects are three in number. Each succeeds the other and they don't exist together in time, i.e., the first was replaced by the second which will be replaced by the third.

The event taking place is not at issue, how and when is. It's not ours to know when but we are given adequate information as to how.

The disciples asked Jesus these questions:

Matthew 24:3b

. . . what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world (*aion* =age)?

Jesus went into great detail recorded, in part, in the following passage:

Matthew 24:6-8

And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

All these *are* the beginning of sorrows."

None of these things are new, but the intensity and frequency with which they occur is ceaselessly accelerating. Yet we're told these are just the beginnings. But, pay special attention as the disciples asked not only about end times but also about the Lord's coming knowing one advances the other.

We've learned the Son of Perdition will have a seven-year reign, but in its last phase our Lord will return to annihilate him.

II Peter 3:12-13

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

God shall wipe every tear from every eye! No more sorrow and pain! What a day that will be!

We really have something about which to rejoice and tell others, Jesus Christ's return!

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Next we're given more events to consider, chiefly the resurrections, of which there are two.

To be continued:

November 25, 2007

The End Time Events Hold the Promise of Resurrection Life

The Bible speaks of three profound resurrections. The first being the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, celebrated by many as Easter. The remaining two are often overlooked, if not ignored, by most Christian groups. One of these is singularly momentous as it holds the promise of eternal life.

Information on all resurrections can be found in abundance in your Bible. The Bible is the Christian's **ONLY** reliable source of information for faith and practice. It's folly to rely on any other.

The two resurrections which are major components of the End Time events are:

1. The resurrection of the just, also called the first resurrection (Revelation 20:5,6), a better resurrection (Hebrew's 11:35), the resurrection to everlasting life (Daniel 12:2) and the resurrection of life (John 5:29). Those who participate are called the children of God and the children of the resurrection (Luke 20:36).

2. The resurrection of the unjust, also called the resurrection of damnation (John 5:29) and the resurrection to shame and everlasting contempt (Daniel 12:2). Those who participate in this one are all those NOT in the resurrection of the just (Revelation 20:5 calls them, "the rest of the dead").

Neither will take place before Christ's Return!

I Thessalonians 4:16-17

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (all Scripture quoted is from the 1769 Authorized King James Version unless noted otherwise).

The above takes place after a series of events, namely: a great war, the destruction of the beast (man of sin) and his false prophet, and casting Satan bound into the bottomless pit (Revelation 19:11-20:5).

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

The second death is reserved for some, not all, of those in the second resurrection. No wonder the resurrection of the just is called the better resurrection!

This resurrection of the unjust will take place one millennium after the resurrection of the just. During this time the Lord Jesus will set up God's Kingdom upon Earth and wondrous changes shall abound.

Isaiah 35:4-10

Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *even* God *with* a recompence; he will come and save you.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, *shall be* grass with reeds and rushes.

And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall*

be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*.

No lion shall be there, nor *any* ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk *there*:

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Imagine, wolf and lambs feeding together (Isaiah 65:25), vipers harmless to children (Isaiah 11:8), swords beaten into plows (Micah 4:3) and we sitting at the Master's feet!

Revelation 21:4

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

We long for that day when Jesus Christ shall free the entire creation from bondage (Romans 8:18-25)!

Albeit, in considering these resurrections we're made to wonder why they're needed if those who have died are already in heaven or hell.

Herein lies the rub, the Bible declares the dead to remain so until Christ's Return!

John 3:13

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man which is in heaven.

To be continued:

December 9, 2007

The Birth of Jesus Christ Brought Hope for All Mankind

All Scripture is from the Authorized King James Version unless noted otherwise

With our Lord's birth we have the promise of our redemption paid for in the accomplishments and sacrifice of his ministry and life.

With Jesus' crucifixion and death came also his resurrection and ascension, bringing to us God's gift of holy spirit and the promise of eternal life!

We are also given the promise of his Return! He will return to set up God's Kingdom here upon Earth and make right all which is wrong!

Jesus Christ is THE hope of all mankind! Without the birth of Jesus Christ mankind has no hope and thus left solely to despair.

Luke 2:11-14

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe

wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

The Aramaic text of verse 11 reads:

“good hope for men.”

Our hope is good!

II Thessalonians 2:16

Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

All this and so much more because of our Lord Jesus Christ! Praise God for the birth of Jesus Christ!

The record of Jesus' birth reveals magnificent truths!

Luke 2:1-3

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(*And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

The words “should be taxed” are from the Greek *apographo* meaning write off, register or enroll.

Caesar Augustus was preparing to celebrate his Silver Jubilee (25th anniversary) as Roman Emperor in two B.C. Prior to the celebration he wanted an accounting of his subjects and an official declaration of political allegiance.

Registrations such as this were typically conducted in the fall of the year when weather was mild for travel.

Cyrenius was governor of Syria in 6 A.D.. This "first" registration was made in three B.C. when Cyrenius had been sent to Syria to command the registration process. Later in 6/7 A.D. while he was governor a second registration took place. The word "first" is the key to understanding the historical evidence.

Luke 2:4

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)"

We learn from this that Jesus was born in the fall of three B.C. and in Nazareth due to the lineage of Mary and Joseph. The prophets of old prophesied of this. The Bible records the place of our Lord's birth among many other things. All testifying to the Divine Authorship of the Scripture!

Luke 2:6-7

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes (customary for kings), and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

NOTES

Now we know what brought them to Bethlehem, when it was, and why there was no room at the inn which was full with travelers from every corner of Caesar Augustus' realm of influence.

They weren't rejected at the inn or too poor to cover the costs. There simply were no vacancies.

This inn was a khan or lodging house for caravans. It would have had an inner court yard and stables for caravan animals along the outside back wall. Within each stable would be a manger with straw to feed the animals. Each would have been impeccably clean as was the custom.

Some have alleged the manger to have animal filth even as they've asserted Joseph and family to be impoverished. Scripture refutes this as well as December 25 for our Lord's birth.

Biblical, chronological, historical and astronomical evidence concerning the birth date of the promised Messiah points to Wednesday, September 11, 3 B.C. between the hours of 6:18 (sunset) and 7:39 (moon-set) Palestine time.

The only thing that can trump his birth is his return!

Good hope for men! Jesus Christ is coming back!

December 23, 2007

One Solitary Life

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office.

He never owned a home. He never set foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He had no credentials but Himself.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves.

His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying -- and that was His coat. When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as that One Solitary Life.

by James A. Francis