

World Events and Bible Prophecy

Bible Study | The Church of God International, Philippines | February 1, 2020



January 1, 2020

Australian Bushfires



Australia is ravaged by the most devastating bushfire in history. More than 10.7 million hectares of At least 33 lives have been lost and over 2,700 families lost their homes. It's estimated that around 1.25 billion animals have been killed across Australia to date.



January 3, 2020

U.S. drone strike killed General Qasem Soleimani in
Baghdad



January 6, 2020

Earthquake in Puerto Rico



January 6, 2020

Alaska Shishaldin volcano eruption



January 8, 2020

Guatemala Pacaya Volcanic Eruption



January 8, 2020

Iran launched ballistic
missiles in retaliation



January 9, 2020

Mexico Popocatépetl volcano eruption



January 9, 2020

Wuhan Virus Outbreak



The first confirmed death from the coronavirus infection occurred on January 9. As of January 27, 2020, approximately 4,600 cases and 106 deaths have been confirmed



January 11, 2020

Japan Kuchinoerabu Island Shindake volcano eruption.



January 12, 2020

Philippines Taal volcano eruption



January 15, 2020

US-China signed initial deal to ease trade war tensions



January 26, 2020

Ebola Outbreak



Democratic Republic of Congo
Latest numbers as of 26 January 2020

3418 Total cases

2240 Total deaths



January 31, 2020

UK to exit the European Union.



The year 2020 opens to major natural disasters and geo-political tensions.



Early in the year natural disaster, epidemic, trade war, political tension and military conflict have wreaked havoc across the world. These are the frightening events we read in the news daily.



Recent world events have people talking about
end-time prophecies.



Today,
we will look at the global events through the lenses
of Biblical prophecies.



The understanding of current events in Bible prophecies is important because prophecy fulfills two very important roles: (1) strengthens the faith of believers and (2) call for repentance of sinners.



Bible prophecy proves the existence of God and the truthfulness of His written words.



As Christians, our understanding and interpretation of Bible prophecy need to be as close to the truth as possible. Jesus told us to watch world events and pray continually that we may be able to escape the coming tribulations.



Luke 21:36

“Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”



Today, we will attempt to do three (3) things:

1. Understand the timing and the difference between the Biblical Last Days and the Day of the Lord
2. Understand the end-time prophetic timeline
3. Identify where we are now in prophecy



- 1 Last Days and Day of the Lord
- 2 Prophecy Timeline
- 3 Revelation of Jesus Christ
- 4 The Sequence
- 5 Prophecy Now
- 6 Summary



1 Last Days and Day of the Lord

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The Bible talks about the Last Days and the Day of the Lord.

Is the Last Days synonymous to the Day of the Lord?



Most churches believe that the Last Days is synonymous with the Day of the Lord – that they are one and the same. That is an incorrect understanding.



Many think that the Last Days is one momentous event that happens in an instant – short and quick. This is not the proper understanding. People with this mistaken mindset will not be able to properly interpret Bible prophecy. Because the fundamental premise is wrong.



Many mistakenly interpret “the last days” mentioned in Joel 2:28 to be an end of the age event – the unveiling of the great tribulation followed by the return of Christ.



A careful study suggests the opposite. The Last Days seems to suggest a long period of time that had already started with the first advent of Christ!



The Last Days



Hebrews 1:2

“...but in these **last days** he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.”

This verse clearly states that the Last Days started with the first advent of Christ.



Hebrews 9:26

“Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the **culmination of the ages** (in the Last Days) to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.”

The scripture describes the redemptive act of Christ as happening in the Last Days.



Acts 2:1-40 – In this passage at Pentecost, Peter quoted from Joel's prophecy recorded in Joel chapter 2. Peter testified that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the Day of Pentecost 31 AD was the fulfillment of the **Last Days** prophecy spoken of by the Prophet Joel. Therefore, they are living in the Last Days and the Last Days has begun.



Acts 2

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.



Acts 2

3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.



Acts 2

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.



Acts 2

7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans?”

8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?



Acts 2

9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome



Acts 2

11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”

12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”



Acts 2

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning!



Acts 2

16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 “In the **last days**, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.



Acts 2

18 Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.



Acts 2

19 I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.



Acts 2

20 The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the
Lord.

21 And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'



1 Peter 1:20

“He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these **last times** for your sake.”

The first advent of Christ was the start of the Last Days.



James 5:2-4

2 Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes.

3 Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the **last days**.



James 5:2-4

4 Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.

This is an obvious reference to the apostolic times.



The verses quoted above clearly indicate that the term “Last Days” started during the first advent of Christ up to the present. Therefore, we are living in the Last Days!



Day of the Lord



The Day of the Lord is a separate and distinct event from
the Last Days.



1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

1 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you,

2 for you know very well that the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief in the night.



1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

3 While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.”

Paul specifically relate the Day of the Lord to the second coming of Christ.



2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters,
2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the **day of the Lord** has already come.



2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for **that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness** is revealed, the man doomed to destruction."

Explicitly clear that the Day of the Lord is the second advent of Christ. The Day of the Lord is still yet in the future.



For a clearer understanding between the Last Days and the Day of the Lord, we can refer to 2 Peter 3:3-10.



2 Peter 3

3 Above all, you must understand that in the **last days** scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

4 They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”



2 Peter 3

5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water.

6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.



2 Peter 3

7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.



2 Peter 3

9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.



2 Peter 3

10 But the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.



1. The Last Days refers to the time of the first coming of Jesus Christ; and
2. The Day of the Lord refers to time of Christ's second coming

1st Advent = The Last days

2nd Advent =
Day of the
Lord

This distinction will help you identify where we are now in God's prophetic timeline.



1 Last Days and Day of the Lord

2 Prophecy Timeline

3 Revelation of Jesus Christ

4 The Sequence

5 Prophecy Now

6 Summary



In Matthew 24 is the famous Olivet prophecy. The disciples asked Jesus three (3) questions:

1. When is the **destruction of the temple?**

-The temple was destroyed by the Roman army in 70AD and still lies ruined today.

1. What are the **signs of the end?**

-This question refers to the Last Days.

1. What are the **signs of Christ's second coming?**

-This question refers to the Day of the Lord.



The response Jesus gave to each question was precise and accurate. Matthew 24:4-14 responds to question about the Last Days while Matthew 24:15-31 answers the question about the Day of the Lord.



Jesus Christ was clearly talking about two (2) distinct and separate events, that is; the Last Days that started with the first advent of Christ, and the Day of the Lord which will start at the time of Christ imminent return.



In the Olivet prophecy Jesus gave the general condition leading to His second advent.



Matthew 24

1 And Jesus went out from the temple, and was going on his way; and his disciples came to him to show him the buildings of the temple.



Matthew 24

2 But he answered and said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.



Matthew 24

3 And as he sat on 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?**



Matthew 24

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man lead you astray.

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am the Christ; and shall lead many astray.



Matthew 24

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled: for these things must need to come to pass; **but the end is not yet.**

7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and earthquakes in diverse places.



Matthew 24

8 But all these things are the **beginning of travail.**
(Wars, famines, earthquakes are just the beginning of the tribulation and distress. They are not the main events. They are just preludes to the great tribulations yet to come.)



Matthew 24

9 Then shall they deliver you up unto tribulation, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all the nations for my name's sake.

10 And then shall many stumble, and shall deliver up one another, and shall hate one another.



Matthew 24

11 And many false prophets shall arise, and shall lead many astray.

12 And because iniquity shall be multiplied, the love of the many shall wax cold.

13 But he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved.



Matthew 24

14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and **then shall the end come.**

(The shall be great apostasy, oppression of the true gospel and persecution of the church before the end comes.)



Matthew 24

15 **When therefore ye see the abomination of desolation**, which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let him that readeth understand),

(This is the marker of the final 3 ½ years that lead to the Day of the Lord - the return of Christ.)



Matthew 24

16 then let them that are in Judaea flee unto the mountains:

17 let him that is on the housetop **not go down** to take out things that are in his house:

18 and let him that is in the field **not return back** to take his cloak.



Matthew 24

19 But woe unto them that are with child and to them that give suck in those days!

20 And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on a Sabbath:



Matthew 24

21 for then shall be **great tribulation**, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.



Matthew 24

23 At that time if anyone says to you, '**Look, here is the Messiah!**' or, 'There he is!' **do not believe it.**

24 For **false messiahs** and **false prophets** will appear and **perform great signs and wonders** to deceive, if possible, even the elect.



Matthew 24

25 See, I have told you ahead of time.

26 “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ **do not believe it.**



Matthew 24

27 For as lightning that comes from the east is **visible** even in the west, **so will be the coming of the Son of Man.**

28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.



Matthew 24

29 “Immediately after the distress of those days
“the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’



Matthew 24

30 “Then **will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven.** And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they **see** the Son of Man **coming on the clouds of heaven,** with power and great glory.



Matthew 24

31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.



1 Last Days and Day of the Lord

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Since the time Jesus spoke about the signs of the end of the age, mankind has been yearning to know the exact timing of the apocalyptic events that will lead to the end of the world.



We know from scripture that prophecies are not subject to personal interpretation. We must allow the Bible to interpret itself. Jesus provided details of the Olivet prophecy in the Book of Revelation. The Book of Revelation of Jesus Christ given to the Apostle John concerning things that are to soon take place.



Revelation 1:1-3

- 1 The **revelation from Jesus Christ**, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,
- 2 who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- 3 **Blessed** is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and **blessed** are those who hear it **and take to heart** what is written in it, because the time is near.



The Book of Revelation is a futuristic book. It primarily reveals events that are to soon take place – a future time. It is a book that provides clarification and detail to Jesus' Olivet prophecy.



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Seals

Seal	Event	Matthew	Revelation
1 st	Religious Deception	Matt 24:4-5	Rev 6:1-2
2 nd	War	Matt 24:6-7	Rev 6:3-4
3 rd	Famine	Matt 24:7	Rev 6:5-6
4 th	Disease Epidemics	Matt 24:7	Rev 6:7-8
5 th	Tribulation and Persecution	Matt 24:8-12	Rev 6:9-11
6 th	Heavenly Signs	Matt 24:29	Rev 6:12-17
7 th	7 Trumpets		



Revelation 7, the sealing of the 144,000 and a great multitude will happen immediately preceding the 7 trumpet blows.



Trumpets

Trumpets	Event	Revelation
1 st	1/3 of the land destroyed	Rev 8:7
2 nd	Devastation of 1/3 of ocean and sea life	Rev 8:8-9
3 rd	Devastation of 1/3 of rivers and freshwater life	Rev 8:10-11
4 th	Heavenly signs	Rev 8:12
5 th	Human affliction	Rev 9:1-12
6 th	Military destruction	Rev 9:13-19
7 th	Seven last plagues/ return of Christ	



Event	Revelation
Appearance of the 2 witnesses on the scene	Rev 11:1-6
War in heaven and the great persecution of the church	Rev 12:7-9, 13-17
Rise of the beast and the false prophet	Rev 13:1-18



Plagues

Plagues	Event	Revelation
1 st	Painful sores	Rev 16:2
2 nd	Sea becomes blood	Rev 16:3
3 rd	River becomes blood	Rev 16:4-7
4 th	Fiery sun	Rev 16:8-9
5 th	Darkness and pain	Rev 16:10-11
6 th	Madness for battle	Rev 16:12-16
7 th	Natural Disaster	Rev 16:17-21



Event	Revelation
Death of the 2 witnesses	Rev 11:7-13
Coming of Christ	Rev 19:11-16
Armageddon	Rev 19:17-21



Revelation 20 Sequence

1. Christ will return with the host of angels.
2. Satan will be incarcerated/put in prison for a thousand years
3. First resurrection, the resurrection of the saints will happen.
4. The dead in Christ together with the two witnesses will rise to meet Christ.



Revelation 20 Sequence

5. Those who are still living will be caught up in the air to meet with Christ. Rapture of the Saints. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
6. Jesus Christ together with the saints and the host of angels will descend on earth
7. Jesus Christ will set up the Millennial Kingdom
8. The saints will become kings and priest and rule with Christ for 1000 years



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We are not yet in the period of the Seven (7) Trumpets.
We are in the period of the seals. The four horsemen of
Apocalypse have been running since the time of the
Apostles.



We are living somewhere in between the fifth and the sixth seal – that is the most conservative view. Scripture suggests we are going into the sixth (6th) seal.



The first six seals took place over a long period of time.
God has His reasons. Peter said it is to give us time to
repent.



The end-time signs are warnings to call people to repentance before that dreadful Day of the Lord. We also believe that once the 7th seal is opened and the first trumpet is blown the events will come in rapid succession.



2 Peter 3

8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.



The length of time the 7 trumpets will run is yet unknown to us. The abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel might herald the start of the 7th trumpet that will usher in the seven (7) bowls of plague. Yet, it is a time of repentance for mankind.



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Today, we learned that prophecies are written to provide wisdom to God's people and to lead them to salvation.



In 2 Timothy 3:16, Paul said all scriptures are God breathed and they provide instruction, learning and wisdom. Prophecy is empowerment. Bible prophecies provide information, knowledge, and wisdom to God's people.



Bible scholars agree that 1/3 of the Bible is prophecy. Of the 2,700 prophecies in the Bible, about 1/3 is yet to be fulfilled. They pertain to days yet to come. Many refer this as end time prophecies. And, many of these prophecies are in our headlines today.



Jesus Christ has revealed the prophetic timeline for His people to watch and to be alert in order to strengthen their faith. At the same time prophecy serves as call for repentance to the world.



Jesus said blessed is anyone who reads the words of the prophecy and blessed are those who take it to heart. (Revelation 1:3) Finally, the assurance of the words of the prophecy is in Revelation 22:6-13.



Revelation 22

6 The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”

7 “Look, I am coming soon! **Blessed** is the one who **keeps the words of the prophecy** written in this scroll.”



Revelation 22

8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me.

9 But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!”



Revelation 22

10 Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near.

11 Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.”



Revelation 22

12 “Look, I am coming soon! **My reward is with me**, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.



Now, the headlines make a lot of sense. They are prophecies fulfilling in our time and before our eyes. You are blessed! You have the privilege to understand the revealed prophecies of Christ!



How should we interpret world events and the recent headlines of trade war, geo-political conflicts, wars, rumors of wars, famines, pestilences, volcanic eruption, earthquake in diverse places, SARS, MERS, EBOLA and Wuhan coronavirus?



Matthew 24

6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the **end is not yet.**

7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are the **beginning of sorrows.**



END

