Bible Prophecy 101
God's Plan of the Ages and Signs of the Times
Supplemental Study Guides

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PEACE WITH GOD

Do thoughts about God and eternity trouble you? Do you have a guilty conscience before God? You can be certain of your relationship to God. The Scriptures speak clearly about the great issues of sin, salvation, death, heaven, and hell. Romans 3:23 says, For ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The ALL in this verse shows us that sin and guilt is the condition of every person born into this world. Many people attempt to remove the guilt by morality, meditation, church membership, water baptism or communion. No pathway of human works will ever give lasting inner peace or freedom from guilt.

The good news is that God has done for man what he was unable to do for himself. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to pay man’s sin debt in full. When Christ was crucified on the cross, He shed His divine blood to pay the supreme sacrifice for your sins, my sins, and the sins of the whole world (Hebrews 9:22). On the third day, God raised Christ bodily from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:1-6). Having conquered death, hell, and the grave, Jesus Christ is alive forever and offers eternal life to anyone who will repent of their sins and believe on Him for their salvation. To repent means to turn from your sin (Acts 17:30). To believe means to trust in Christ’s precious blood and believe you are forgiven by faith (Acts 16:31). To receive Christ and be saved, pray this prayer sincerely to God:

Dear God,

I am a lost sinner. I repent of my sins. I believe Christ died for me and was raised from the dead. I trust in His precious blood. Lord Jesus Christ, come into my heart and save me now, and I thank you by faith it is done.

Amen.

If you prayed that prayer and meant it, you are saved on the authority of the written WORD OF GOD (Romans 10:13). Here are the first steps to follow in your new Christian life:

1) Be baptized (immersed) in water (Matthew 28:19-20)
2) Be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 2:4; 8:14-17)
3) Join a church which teaches the verbal inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible (66 books), the Trinity, the Deity and Virgin birth of Christ, salvation by repentance and faith in Christ’s blood, the new birth, holy living, bodily resurrection and His literal second coming (1 Timothy 3:15)
4) Read and study the Scriptures systematically (2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16)
5) Spend time in prayer daily (Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18)
6) Confess your sins to God (1 John 1:9)
MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

Memorizing Scripture is very important to the Christian life. One scholar has memorized 14,000 verses of Scripture. When he started this, he began to experience victory in his spiritual walk. This is important for adults as well as children. The Psalmist said, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.”

On one side of a 3 x 5 card, write out the verse WORD FOR WORD, complete with the chapter number and verse number. Be accurate with your wording and punctuation. On the other side of the card write out the verse by putting down only the first letter of each word as a reminder. When you can quote the entire verse word for word, looking at only the first letter of each word, you are well on your way to having it memorized.

Here is how John 3:16 would look on a card:

FGSLTW, THGHOBS,
TWBIHSP, BHEL.

JOHN 3:16

Write out or type whole chapters on a sheet of paper, complete with verse numbers, punctuation, and Scripture reference. Remember word for word.

You can also choose great themes of Scripture such as salvation, grace, peace, love. Also, the great fundamental doctrines of Scripture can be mastered this way. When you can quote Scripture word for word, you are armed with the Sword of the Spirit. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Satan hates to hear Scripture quoted!

REMEMBER: HE WROTE IT, WE QUOTE IT!
Principles of Bible Interpretation

1. Determine the literal meaning of each biblical word in the original languages.
2. Make a complete and systematic study of the main doctrines of the Bible.
3. Make a study of the history of truth and error in the church.
4. Interpret the Bible in the context of the time in which it was written.
5. Christ and the Apostles took the Scriptures literally; they are an example to us.
6. Interpret symbolic passages by comparing them with those which are literal.
7. Gain an understanding of the main people and events from Genesis to Revelation.
8. The Bible is the final authority, not the church or any man.
10. All matters of faith and practice must agree with Christ and the Apostles.
11. No Scripture is to be interpreted apart from the whole counsel of God’s Word.
12. God the Holy Spirit will never contradict or supersede Scripture.
13. Read and study the Bible in the fear of God with reverence for each word.
14. While some may specialize in one area, they should know and respect all of Scripture.
15. Beware of those who deliberately distort the plan of God.
16. Major on the majors, minor on the minors and speak the truth in love.
17. The Word of God should be spoken with clarity, conviction, force and power.
18. One should become a student of Scripture on a daily and lifelong basis.
19. One should meditate on Scripture day and night in a prayerful attitude.
20. Maintain the distinction between the Jew, the Gentile and the Church.
21. Look for practical principles in applying the Word of God to daily living.
22. When we stand before God, we will be judged by the Scriptures.
The Trail of Truth

God the Holy Spirit is the author of Scripture, the 66 books of the Bible

The true doctrine is called the verbal plenary inspiration of the Bible

Verbal means God dictated His exact words with no mixture of human error

This teaching is the guardian doctrine of all we know about God

God used the circumstances and personality of the writers; but gave His words

Plenary means inspiration extends to all parts of the Bible; cover to cover

Inspiration includes all Scripture; not just the words of Christ in red

God dictated his exact words to chosen prophets and apostles over 1600 years

The original writings are referred to as autographs; inspired, dictated by God the Holy Spirit

They were infallible down to the jot and tittle; the smallest punctuation marks

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew; with a few chapters in Aramaic

The New Testament was written in Koine’ Greek; a very precise language

The Scriptures have been transcribed into manuscripts through the centuries

Approximately 5,000 manuscripts exist today; much more than for any ancient document

By comparing manuscripts, scholars are 999% certain of the exact words of the original text

When speaking of verbal inspiration for the autographs; we are on a firm foundation

All modern translations must be evaluated by their conformity to the original languages

A concordance puts the original words in the hands of all men (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, etc.)

The King James Version, a masterpiece of history, has stood the test of time

Many believers today prefer modern translations, which is acceptable if they are reliable translations

With modern translations, make certain the fundamentals of Christianity are kept intact

There are dishonest religious leaders who tamper with Scripture; often for money or power

God the Holy Spirit will never contradict or supersede Scripture

God Almighty will judge any person who tampers with the Holy Scriptures (Revelation 22:18-19)
The Bible: God’s Bestseller

The Bible has two Testaments: the Old and the New
There are 39 books in the Old and 27 in the New
The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic; the New was written in Greek
Scripture has been translated into many languages and preserved throughout the centuries
The Bible has: 1,189 chapters, 31,101 verses, and 783,137 words
It was written by 40 authors over 1600 years: 1492 B.C. to 96 A.D.
Including: kings such as David and Solomon, statesmen such as Daniel and Nehemiah, prophets such as Jeremiah and Ezekiel, Amos the herdsmen, Luke the physician, fishermen such as Peter, James, and John, and men from all walks of life. There is a unity to Scripture explained only by the fact that God inspired these men to write it.

The Five Divisions of Scripture are:
1) Preparation – Genesis to Malachi
2) Manifestation – Matthew to John
3) Propagation – Acts of the Apostles
4) Explanation – Romans to Jude
5) Consummation – The Book of Revelation

Keys to Understanding Scripture:
Fundamental Doctrines: Verbal inspiration of the Bible, Trinity, Deity of Christ, Virgin Birth, Salvation by repentance and faith in the blood of Christ, the new birth, the bodily resurrection of Christ, literal visible second coming of Christ.
Specific word meanings in the Hebrew and Greek: Is the translation accurate?
Great Doctrinal Themes: repentance, faith, baptisms, laying on of hands, spiritual gifts, resurrections, eternal judgment, dispensations, covenants, righteousness, healing, deliverance, Israel, Gentiles, the Church, rapture, tribulation, millennium, Satan, angels and demons.

Prominent N.T. Characters: John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, Christ, the twelve apostles, Peter, James, John, Paul, Barnabas, Silas, Stephen, Philip, the Antichrist, the False Prophet.

Key Principles to Understanding Scripture:
1) Who wrote it?
2) When did he write it?
3) Who did he write it to?
4) Why did he write it?
5) How does it fit into the overall plan of God?
6) What does it mean to us today?

Practical Application of God’s Word:
1) Know the author personally (John 3:3)
2) Study the Word systematically (2 Timothy 2:15)
3) Meditate on the Word of God (Joshua 1:8)
4) Learn from God the Holy Spirit (John 16:13; Romans 10:17)
5) Submit to the Word of God as final authority (Revelation 3:8, 10; 22:18-19)
The word *doctrine* has both a secular and a biblical use. For example, you may have the doctrines of communism, secular humanism, new age occultism or the doctrine of Christ. The biblical word *doctrine* means teaching. A true doctrine is a true teaching. A false doctrine is a false teaching. True Christianity is based only on the doctrines of the Bible. Creeds rise or fall based on their conformity to the Word of God. One minister said we have grown into a generation of people who abhor the word *doctrine*. This is evidenced by a popular cliché heard often today in the religious world calling for men to “set aside your doctrine” for the sake of ecumenical unity. One mark of the last days is that men will not endure sound doctrine (2 Tim. 4:3). Rejection of Bible doctrine is rebellion against God’s divine authority. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23). All preaching and teaching of biblical doctrine should be energized by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The Word of God is anointed and the human vessel that delivers it should be also.

Great Fundamental Doctrines of Scripture are:

- The verbal plenary inspiration of the 66 books of the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- The Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20)
- The Deity and Virgin Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 3:16; Isaiah 7:14)
- The substitutionary death of Christ on the cross for the sins of the world (1 Corinthians 15:1-6)
- The bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead (Luke 24:39)
- Salvation by repentance and faith in the shed blood of Christ (Acts 20:21; Hebrews 9:22)
- The New Birth (John 3:3; Titus 3:5)
- The visible return of Christ to reign on earth from Jerusalem for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:6)
- Repentance, faith, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment (Hebrews 6:1-2)

A complete knowledge of the doctrines of the Bible will prevent you from being led astray when religious apostasy sets in. Smith Wigglesworth once said, “I am first of all a man of the Word of God, and second of all a man of the Spirit of God.” God the Holy Spirit will never contradict or supersede Scripture. Christ commended the church at Philadelphia in saying, “you have kept the word of My patience and have not denied My name.” (Revelation 3:10).

Doctrine occurs 51 times in 50 verses throughout the Bible
Doctrine comes from the Greek word *didache* used 30 times in 20 N.T. verses
Study the Bible systematically to master its sacred contents (2 Tim. 2:15)
In the beginning was the Word . . . . . . . . . . John 1:1
And the Word became flesh . . . . . . . . . . . . John 1:14
Messianic Prophecies

Messianic prophecies are Old Testament prophecies of the coming Messiah, fulfilled at the first advent of Christ. Over 300 prophecies were fulfilled in the life of Christ. The crucifixion was prophesied 1,000 years before the fact. This is strong evidence for the verbal inspiration of the Bible. The same Scriptures which predicted His first coming, predict His second coming back to this earth. Approximately one third of the Bible is made up of predictive prophecy.

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<th>O.T. Prophecy</th>
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<td>His triumphal entry</td>
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<td>Cast lots for His clothing</td>
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<td>Pierced His hands and feet</td>
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<td>The crucifixion prophesied</td>
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<td>Gave Him vinegar</td>
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<td>None of His bones broken</td>
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<td>Darkness covered the day</td>
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<td>Buried with the rich</td>
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<td>His ascension to Heaven</td>
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<td>Seated at God’s right hand</td>
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**In the future:**

Universal rule of the King on earth | Psalm 72:7-11 | Isaiah 2:1-5; Revelation 20:6
World Affairs in Bible Prophecy

I. General Biblical Prophecies

A. Great Religious Deception
1. Matthew 24:4-5
2. Matthew 7:15-23
3. 1 Timothy 4:1-4
4. 2 Peter 2:1-3
5. 1 John 4:1-3
6. Jude 1-20
7. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10
8. 2 Timothy 3:1-9

B. Wars and Rumors and War
1. Matthew 24:6-7
2. Ezekiel 38-39
3. Revelation 16:16
4. Revelation 19:11-16

C. Famines
1. Matthew 24:7

D. Pestilences (Diseases)
1. Matthew 24:7

E. Earthquakes in Many Places
1. Matthew 24:7

F. Moral Degeneracy of the Human Race
1. Romans 1:18-32
3. 2 Timothy 3:1-9
4. Jude 15
5. 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

G. Scoffers of the Second Coming of Christ
1. 2 Peter 3:3-7

H. Widespread Marriage and Divorce
1. Matthew 24:38

I. Widespread Drug Abuse
1. Revelation 9:20-21 (Greek word: sorceries - pharmakia = pharmacy)

J. Worldwide Conflict over the Church’s Ministry
1. 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8

K. A Revival of Ancient Occult Practices
1. Revelation 9:20
II. The Final Generation

A. The Restoration of Israel
   1. Ezekiel 38:8
   2. Zechariah 12:2

B. An Increase in Knowledge and Travel
   1. Daniel 12:4

C. Formation of a False Church
   1. Revelation 3:15-16
   2. Revelation 13:11-13
   3. Revelation 17:1-18

D. Climax of the True Church
   1. Matthew 16:17
   2. Ephesians 4:11-15
   3. Acts 2:17-21
   4. 1 Corinthians 1:5-8
   5. Ephesians 5:27
   6. Revelation 3:10; 5:9
   7. 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8

E. Europe is United as a Superpower
   1. Daniel 2:44
   2. Daniel 7:23-24
   3. Daniel 9:27
   4. Revelation 17:12-13

F. Russia Invades Israel; At Peace with Europe
   1. Ezekiel 38-39
   2. Revelation 6:3-4
   3. Joel 2:20

G. An Islamic Arab Coalition Joins with Russia
   1. Ezekiel 38:5
   2. Daniel 11:40

H. China and Her Allies Invade the Middle East
   1. Revelation 16:12
   2. Revelation 9:16

I. The Armies of the World Gather at Armageddon
   1. Revelation 16:16
   2. Revelation 9:16

J. The Second Coming of Christ brings God’s Kingdom
   1. Revelation 20:1-6
Signs of the Times

Christ and His Apostles predicted many events would come to pass in the last days, just preceding His return. This is the first generation in human history when the following events have all come into focus together. These “Signs of the Times” stand as strong evidence for the Divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures.

For the first time in history, man has the capacity to:

- Destroy all life on planet Earth (Matthew 24:21-22)
- Burn one-third of the earth by fire (Revelation 9:18)
- Produce 100 pound hailstones with nuclear weapons (Revelation 16:21)
- Cause human flesh to melt from the body instantly (Zechariah 14:12)
- Number and track the buying and selling of all mankind (Revelation 13:16-18)
- Address mankind or broadcast any event to a global audience (Revelation 11:7-12)

Certain key events are predicted for the last days:

- The Information Age: an increase in knowledge and travel (Daniel 12:4)
- Widespread persecution and martyrdom of Christians (Matthew 10:22; Revelation 6:9)
- A revival of ancient occultism and eastern mysticism (Matthew 24:5)
- A widespread interest in UFO’s and extraterrestrial beings (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12)
- The rise of many false Christ's and false prophets who work miracles (Matthew 24:5)
- Rejection of biblical authority and doctrine by false church leaders (1 Timothy 4:1; Rev. 17)
- Many depart from the faith and give heed to seducing spirits (1 Timothy 4:1-6)
- An ecumenical movement emerges uniting all religions into a false church (Revelation 17)
- Widespread unbelief in the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ (2 Peter 3:3-4)

The nations of the world aligned in Bible prophecy:

- Israel is restored as a nation after a 2,000 year dispersion (Ezekiel 37-39)
- Jerusalem becomes a burdensome political problem to world leaders (Zechariah 12:3)
- The Arab-Israeli conflict over land and the city of Jerusalem (Genesis 17:20-21; Revelation 6-19)
- Europe is united as a superpower and a movement for world government (Daniel 2:37-44)
- Ancient hatred of the Islamic nations opposing the reborn state of Israel (Genesis 16:11-13)
- Russia and her Islamic allies invade Israel during the tribulation period (Ezekiel 38-39)
- China and her Oriental allies move into the Middle East (Revelation 16:12-14)
- The United States and her allies act as defenders of Israel (Ezekiel 38:13-23)
- The Arab-Israeli conflict involves the nations of the world (Ezekiel 38-39; Revelation 6-19)
- Armageddon threatens the survival of the human race (Matthew 24:21-22)
- The return of Christ to earth saves mankind from complete destruction (Revelation 19:11-16)
DANIEL’S 70TH WEEK

1. Christ opens the first seal: Antichrist (Daniel 9:27; Revelation 6:1)
2. Antichrist makes 7-year covenant with Israel (Daniel 9:27)
3. This brings temporary peace to the Mideast (Ezekiel 38:8)
4. The Jews are allowed to rebuild their temple (Daniel 9:27)
5. The Jews are allowed to restore the Levitical sacrifices (Daniel 9:27)
6. The great whore: rides the beast, martyrs saints (Revelation 17)
7. 144,000 Jewish evangelists are sealed by God (Revelation 7:1-8)
8. A great multitude of people are saved (Revelation 7:9-17)
10. Antichrist’s global economic system (666) (Revelation 13:11-18)
11. Persecution of Jews and tribulation saints (Revelation 12:11-13)
12. Seven vials of the wrath of God (Revelation 16:2-12; 17:21)
13. Russia and her Allies invade Israel (Ezekiel 38-39)
14. Demons gather the armies of the world (Revelation 16:13-16)
15. The armies gather in the valley of Megiddo (Revelation 16:16)
16. Antichrist: makes war with Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:19-21)
17. Angels invite the birds to feast (Revelation 19:17-18)
18. The second coming of Christ (Revelation 19:11-16)
19. The judgment of the nations (Matthew 25:31-46)
20. Christ sets up His kingdom in Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:2-4; 9:6-7)

THE ANTICHRIST: A SCRIPTURAL PORTRAIT

1. Signs a covenant with Israel for seven years (Daniel 9:27)
2. Allows the Jews to rebuild their temple (Daniel 9:27)
3. Allows the Jewish sacrifices and worship (Daniel 9:27)
4. Gives recognition to the whore (Christendom) (Revelation 17)
5. Rules over 10 kings in Europe (Daniel 7:23-24; Revelation 17:12)
6. Symbolized by seven heads, ten horns (Revelation 13:1)
7. Has power from the dragon (Satan) (Revelation 13:4)
8. Has great oratorical power (Satanic) (Revelation 13:5)
9. Is a military genius (Revelation 13:4)
10. Blasphemes the God of the Bible (Revelation 13:6)
13. Controls a one-world economic system (666) (Revelation 13:16)
14. Destroys the whore (Christendom) (Revelation 17:16-17)
15. Enters Jewish temple and says he is God (2 Thessalonians 2:3-5)
16. Gathers the world’s armies to Megiddo (Revelation 16:13-16)
17. Opposes Jesus Christ at Armageddon (Revelation 19:19)
18. Sent to Hell at Christ’s return (Revelation 19:20)
19. Still in torment 1000 years later (Revelation 20:10)
20. A rejecter of the cross of Christ (John 3:16)
THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST

1. Direct government by God (theocracy) (Isaiah 9:6-7)
2. Headquarters in Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:3)
3. God’s Word: constitution of the Kingdom (Isaiah 2:3)
4. Kingdom of God: global in scope (Daniel 7:4)
5. Certain classes of people excluded (Galatians 5:19-21)
6. Jews receive their promised land (Genesis 15:18-21)
7. Christ builds millennial temple (Ezekiel 40-48)
8. Healing of the Dead Sea (Zechariah 14:8; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Isaiah 60:5)
9. Satan is bound 1000 years (Revelation 20:1-2)
10. Global peace and disarmament (Isaiah 2:2-4)
12. Wild animals supernaturally tamed (Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:25)
13. Christ administers perfect justice (Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:4)
14. Man’s lifespan extended (Isaiah 65:20)
15. An increase in solar light (Isaiah 30:26)
16. Deserts shall blossom (Isaiah 35:1; 36:8; 51:3; 55:13)
17. Abundance of rain (Isaiah 30:23)
18. Agricultural abundance (Amos 9:13)
19. Rebuilding of the waste cities (Amos 9:14)
20. Building of super highways (Isaiah 11:16)
21. Earth becomes an oasis (Isaiah 35:7)
22. A baby boom on earth (Jeremiah 30:19)
23. The earth is filled with the knowledge of God (Isaiah 11:9)
THE BOOK OF REVELATION

I. Revelation 1: Vision of Jesus Christ in His Glory
   A. John on Isle of Patmos (96 A.D.)
   B. Sees a vision of the Glorified Christ
   C. Told to Write:
      1. Things he has Seen (Christ)
      2. Things which are (7 Churches)
      3. The things which shall be hereafter

II. Revelation 2-3: Letters to the Seven Churches
   A. Seven churches in Asia (96 A.D.)
   B. Truth Pertaining to the Church Age
   C. Words Church and Churches used 19x

III. Revelation 4-5: Open Door and Scene in Heaven
    A. Throne of God and the Lamb
    B. Twenty-four Elders around the Throne
    C. Blood Washed Multitude in Heaven

IV. Revelation 6-19: Daniel’s 70th Week and Tribulation
    A. Christ Opens First Seal (Revelation 6:1; Daniel 9:27)
    B. 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets and 7 Vials of Wrath
    C. Words Church and Churches Not Used 1x
    D. The Church Escapes this 7-year Period

V. Revelation 20-21: Millennium, New Heavens and New Earth
    A. 1000-year Reign of Christ and Church
    B. White Throne Judgment of the Wicked
    C. The Present Earth Renovated by Fire
    D. New Heavens and New Earth: Eternal