

# BIBLE STUDY

LEARNING THE BIBLE WITH AUDIO AND VIDEO SUPPORT

## SERMON SERIES

The foundation of all Truth and Knowledge

# Bible Prophecy Series

“And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.”

Rev. 9:2

**"THIS GENERATION SHALL NOT PASS"**

*"Till all these things be fulfilled"*

*Matthew 24:34*

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Before you begin, we recommend you first view the DVD in its entirety. These sermons / studies are terrific for sermon messages for Sabbath Services. They are also the perfect way to lead into a group Bible Study. If you prefer, you can view them privately or with your family for your own personal studies. Once you have viewed the DVD, test your knowledge by answering all the questions in the accompanying materials. Be sure to read all the scriptures quoted in the materials or on the DVD. This way you won't be taking our word for it, you will be proving God's Word for yourself. Finally, view the DVD again with the questions and answers in hand; pausing the DVD from time to time finding all the answers to complete your study.

Whether you use this study personally or with a group, God's Holy Spirit will lead you into truth and understanding that will open your mind to a greater and deeper understanding. Each study you complete will enrich your life as only God can do. May God bless you as you learn more of His Way and His Holy Word. Finally, as with all things, we recommend you begin your study with prayer, asking God to open your mind to understand His Way and guide your every step.

### The Church of God, Ministries International

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#### THE BIBLE STUDY SERMON SERIES

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This material has been paid for by others called out by God Almighty to proclaim the Good News of the coming Kingdom of God, and the return of Jesus Christ as the ruling King.

**NOTICE:** Be sure to notify the Correspondence Course Department immediately of any change in your address. Please include your old and new address.

**F**or the past two thousand years people have taught that Christ was going to return in their lifetime. Throughout those years, every generation has seen events of partial fulfillment of prophecy to give reasonable credibility to support those beliefs. If you were alive in 70 AD at the ransacking of the Temple in Jerusalem, you probably would have thought so too.

The Apostle Paul literally believed and taught that Christ was going to return in his life time. "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep. 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." I Thess. 4:15-17. You can also read in I Cor. 15:51, "Behold I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed."

The truth is every generation from that time until now could look at current events to give them the understanding and belief that Christ was going to return in their day. Unfortunately, to their disappointment each generation has had to find out they were wrong. The key to this is found in the words given to Daniel. "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." Dan 12:4. This passage is dual. It certainly means knowledge in general will be increased, but most importantly, God is referring to the knowledge needed to understand the prophecies of God's Holy Word.

Daniel could not understand the prophecy God just gave him. God was telling him, that information was not for him, it is for the generation at the end time. "But go thou thy way till the end be; for thou shall rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days." Dan. 12:13. The knowledge needed to understand what he couldn't at that time would not be given until the end. That is the generation that you and I live in today. This lesson explains why it is for this genera-

## FINDING THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS

Each question is designed to let the Bible answer the question for you. Be sure to read each scripture and let the Bible give you the answers to interpret itself.

tion. This vitally important knowledge has been "shut up," "sealed," and misunderstood by generation after generation until now. This lesson shows why. It covers knowledge that could not be understood until it was possible to be understood by the generation that would be alive when those events were being fulfilled; and the Bible tells us, "that generation shall not pass until these things be fulfilled."

[ **Note:** This lesson is just one of many bible studies the church produces to explain prophecy. In our prophecies series, each study covers a specific area of prophecy God is revealing to us. Each study isolates a specific subject, and then goes into depth to develop its meaning from God's Holy Word. From this study you will find why Christ could not return during the lives of the N.T. church. When researching, you will find that you might cover some of the same scriptures, each time approached from various points that tie in with one another. ]

### Familiarity Breeds Contempt

"Here we go again, the same old scriptures, same old subject." Have you ever felt that way? It's easy to become that way if we are not careful. However, when covering prophecy, you find you must cover many of the same scriptures over and over again. Always remember, you are putting events of news, events of today with the pieces of the puzzle that God has left for us. Each time you cover the same scripture, you approach the puzzle from another revelation from God's Holy Word. It is important to take the time to review each scripture to see how it fits in with the subject. This way you do not take any one's word on it, you are proving out God's Word for yourself.

Each scripture must be viewed with respect. It cannot be taken lightly. You will find that quite often, when you read a

scripture God reveals specific understanding. You will also find that you could be studying an entirely different subject, read the same scriptural point and God reveals a new, different, and deeper understanding than you had when you were studying a previous subject. This is why it is important to look up each scripture quoted.

### **This Generation Shall Not Pass, Till All These Things Be Fulfilled**

1. What is the setting of Matt. 24? Matt. 24:3, 27, 44

It cannot be mistaken that Matthew 24 is a chapter specifically concerning the return of Jesus Christ.

Does Jesus give us specifics of what He was referring to when He made this statement, this generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled, to His disciples? Matt. 24:4-31

2. Does Christ give us specifics of events to watch for? Matt. 24:5-7

3. Does it tell us about the nature of our fellow man at that time? Matt. 24:8-12

4. What are we told we must do to be ready? Matt. 24:13, 43-46

When Jesus made that statement, “this generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled,” He was referring to an end time generation? As we shall see, that generation is our generation today.

### **“There Should No Flesh Be Saved”**

The key to giving us the vital understanding of the generation that “shall not pass” is found in one primary scripture. It is essential to keep this in mind.

1. What is that key scripture? Matt. 24:22

Christ predicted there would come a time when it would be possible for mankind to develop the ways and means to destroy all flesh off the face of the earth. He explained, the generation that is alive when that becomes possible, would not pass!

2. Will Christ allow man to destroy himself completely? Same verse Matt. 24:22

3. Does it also talk about the conditions that are extant upon the earth at that time? Matt. 24:21

### **PRESIDENT TRUMAN**

In April 1945 Truman took office following the death of President Roosevelt. President Truman had to be briefed upon the new bomb the U.S. had secretly been working on. His diary explains he had been left totally in the dark as to the proceedings of this project. During his early months, he was brought into the most chilling revelation of the splitting of the atom, thereby opening the door to the proverbial Pandora’s Box.

President Truman enters into his diary, July 25, 1945; “We have discovered the most terrible bomb in the history of the world, it may be the destruction prophesied in the Euphrates Valley.”

1. Does the Bible reference any destruction associated to the Euphrates Valley? Rev. 9:13-21

The entry into the diary was made following the first test of the atomic bomb in New Mexico. President Truman also writes, “... Anyway we think we have found a way to cause a disintegration of the atom. An experiment in the New Mexico desert was quite startling – to put it mildly.”

2. After President Truman is briefed on the test, and sees what took place, what would make him refer to God’s Holy Word as to what he just saw? Rev. 9:1-2

What John is describing in Revelation 9:1-3 is the appearance of a nuclear blast. When John described it, he could only explain it from the knowledge mankind had up until that point in time. John could only likened the event to what he understood. President Truman had just witnessed something never seen by anyone before that time. He could only liken it to what God had revealed to John and had recorded it to be understood by the generation that would be alive when that would happen.

Nuclear blasts also leave radiation poisoning. We can see from the bombs dropped upon Japan that nearly as many died from the lingering after affects from the radiation as died from the blasts. Countless thousands of others spent the rest of their lives with the radiation poisoning.

3. Does Rev. also give us an indication that the aftermath of the rising smoke and fire would continue to affect man’s lives? Rev 9:4-5

4. How long will this continue? Rev. 9:5

5. When the sixth trumpet is opened and the angels are loosed from the River Euphrates, will the time and death of man be continued? Rev 9:13-15

### **CUT TIME SHORT**

August 6, 1945 was the beginning of the end for mankind in his discovery of the atomic age. In his quest to stop war, and the killing of millions of human beings, he opened the way for discovery to have the ability to destroy all flesh from the face of the earth.

By late 1949 the Soviet Union had the Atomic Bomb and the arms race was on. It wasn’t but a few years later that the United States successfully developed the hydrogen bomb, 1,000 times greater than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. By 1954-1955, there were enough bombs stock piled to destroy all mankind.

1. Does Jesus tell us that He would “cut time short” before man destroys himself? Matt. 24:21-22



The above picture was taken at the Potsdam meeting Aug. 2, 1945 in Germany. President Truman was meeting with Churchill of England and Stalin of Russia when the first news came of the successful test of the Atomic Bomb.

2. Does the Bible give us a reason to cut time short to save mankind? Matt 24:22 Last part of the verse

Throughout history God has provided protection for His people. Jesus was telling His Apostles that there would be a time when mankind would literally destroy himself. But, because He has those individuals He refers to as “His Elect,” He would cut the appointed time for mankind short.

3. Does the Bible give us any idea how and when Christ will do this? Rev. 7:2-3, Rev. 9:2-4

## WAR

When we look back upon the history, we can see that as the nuclear age continued more and more countries eventually were able to develop the nuclear bomb. Today the world faces challenges as some of the smaller, more radical nations push to obtain this weapon. North Korea just successfully tested the nuclear bomb, and Iran is on a push to obtain their own. The world seems helpless to stop this aggression and faces the potential of war on the scale that the Bible states, wars would come where Christ would have to cut time short.

1. Does the Bible say how bad this war

will get? Matt. 24:21

2. Does the Bible tell us there will be another war coming upon mankind? Rev. 11:7, Rev. 13:7

3. Will God allow Satan to overcome some of the saints? Same verse Rev. 13:7



President Truman later writes in his diary; “We have discovered the most terrible bomb in the history of (mankind) the world. It may be the destruction prophesied in the Euphrates Valley.” Referring to Rev. 9:2

## CONCLUSION

In the book of Revelation, the term “War” is used five times. In nearly all of the cases, it is used in reference to Satan making war with the saints. We can also see from the words of the Bible that this war will be worse than anything the world has ever witnessed. We can see that there is a time coming when mankind will have the ability to destroy himself. Before God allows that to happen, He will cut time short because of those He has called to be a part of the first resurrection. Those who will rule and reign on this earth with Christ for a thousand years.

During that time there will be a martyrdom of some of those elect. This will open the eyes to many who have heard the truth, but have chosen to ignore it at this time. Eventually, the Bible tells us that “a great multitude” (Rev. 7:9) will come out of this “Great Tribulation” (Rev. 7:13-14) and be converted.



