

# Prophetic Guide To The End Times

by Derek Prince

— Study Note Outline —

PGE 1

## *Four Tape Series*

4385 *How To Approach Biblical Prophecy*

4386 *First Discover The “Spine”*

4387 *Pressures, Tests And Challenges*

4388 *You Can Come Through Victorious*

## How to Approach Biblical Prophecy

4385

Proclamation: Dan. 2:20–22; 4:34–35

### I. Why The Prophetic Word Of God?

- A. It is a light in a dark place (2 Peter 1:19)
- B. Its purpose: to produce expectation of Christ’s coming (compare Heb. 9:28)
- C. Seven principles of prophetic understanding and application
  1. Secret things—*no one can know* (Deut. 29:29)
  2. Revealed things are given *to do them*—otherwise no further revelation  
Revelation is conditional on obedience
  3. Given for a specific time (Jer. 30:1–7, 24(b); compare John 12:14–16)
  4. To avoid wrong prayer/action (Matt. 24:19–20)
  5. The spirit of prophecy focuses on *Jesus* (Rev. 19:10(b); John 16:8)
  6. Give words their plain meaning—don’t “spiritualize”
  7. Acknowledge God’s total *sovereignty*

### II. Fierce Times To Come (2 Tim. 3:1–5)

- A. Inevitable increase of wickedness in the last days (compare Matt. 8:28 “fierce” times)  
Basic cause: corruption of human nature
  1. It is progressive
  2. It is irreversible
- B. Upsurge of occult
  1. Magicians of Egypt (2 Tim. 3:7–8)
  2. Evil men and impostors = wailers, enchanters (2 Tim. 3:13)
- C. Root problem: self-love (2 Tim. 3:1–5)
  1. “A form of godliness” = professing to be Christians—denying the power to produce *radical change*
  2. Such may have *entered*, but will not *inherit* (1 Cor. 6:9–11; compare Gal. 5:19–21; Eph. 5:3–7)

### III. God’s Solution

- A. *A new creation* (2 Cor. 5:17)
- B. Producing: *His own special people* (Titus 2:11–14)

(Read Matthew 24, 25 before proceeding in this series)

## First Discover The “Spine” 4386

Proclamation: Matthew 24:14

### I. The Significance Of A Spine

- A. To assemble the parts of a skeleton, begin with the *spine*
- B. The “spine” of biblical prophecy: Matt. 24, 25; Mark 13; Luke 21

### II. Matthew 24:1–44

- A. Two questions (Matt. 24:1–3)
  - 1. When will these things . . . ?
  - 2. What will be *the sign* . . . ?
- B. Answer to (1): Jerusalem trampled until . . . (Luke 21:20–24)
  - 1. Immediately followed by coming of Christ (Luke 21:25–27)
  - 2. Return to Matt. 24:4–14 for answer to (2)
- C. 24:4–6—A double warning
  - 1. Against deception, the greatest danger—compare vv. 11, 24 (2 Thess. 2:10)
  - 2. Against wars and commotions—compare Luke 21:9
- D. 24:7–8—Beginning of *birth pangs*—compare Luke 21:9–10. Namely: ethnic wars, political wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes (compare Luke 21:11)
  - 1. Famines:
    - a. *Chronic hunger*: about 750 million—mainly in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa
    - b. *Acute hunger*: imminent death—more than 35 million, mostly in southern parts of Africa; also in parts of Eastern Europe and CIS
  - 2. Pestilences:
    - a. AIDS—estimated 100 million worldwide by 2000 AD
    - b. Some parts of Africa heavily depopulated by 2000 AD
    - c. Others increasing: TB, Malaria, Cholera
  - 3. Earthquakes: 6.0 or over on Richter Scale
 

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1950 to 1959           | 9             |
| 1960 to 1969           | 13            |
| 1970 to 1979           | 51            |
| 1980 to 1989           | 86            |
| 1990 to 1993 (4 years) | more than 100 |
  - 4. Wars:
    - a. In 1993: 34 worldwide—mostly *ethnic*
    - b. ? *Starting point*: World War I, e.g., liberation of Jerusalem; way opened for State of Israel; communist government in Russia;

“feminist” movement; initiated period of constantly accelerating change

c. New expressions introduced in 20th century:

- (1) World war
- (2) Holocaust
- (3) Genocide
- (4) Terrorism
- (5) Atomic/nuclear warfare

5. Birth pangs lead to “regeneration,” i.e., birth of God’s kingdom on earth.  
If we want the baby, we will welcome the birth pangs (Matt. 19:28).

E. A key word in Matt. 24: *then* (9x)

Also in Matt. 25: *then* (9x)

F. Four forms of pressure: (24:9–11)

1. v. 9—Persecution
2. v. 10—Apostasy
3. v. 11—False prophets
4. v. 12—Lawlessness, leading to lovelessness—no one safe
5. v. 13—Need to *endure* (compare Luke 21:19; 2 Tim. 2:11–13)

G. v. 14—*The sign*

1. Fulfillment of Matt. 28:19–20; Mark 16:15–16
2. Leading to Rev. 7:9–10
3. All Christians share responsibility

H. v. 15—Focus moves from “all nations” to Israel (compare Rom. 11:25–26)

1. “Abomination” indicates antichrist (compare 2 Thess. 2:3–4)
2. “Holy place”: the temple area (compare 1 Kings 9:3; Ps. 132:13–14)

I. v. 16–20—Extreme *urgency*—“Sabbath” indicates Jewish State

J. v. 21–22—Unique period of tribulation (compare Rev. 7:13–14; Rom. 2:9–10)  
The elect (compare vv. 24, 31 [2 Tim. 2:10])

K. v. 23–26—Further warnings against *deception*

Not all miracles attest truth (compare Rev. 13:13–15)

L. v. 27—No “secret rapture” (compare 1 Thess. 4:15–18)

1. Uses of *harpazo*:

- a. Wolf catching sheep (John 10:12, 28, 29)
- b. Bird catching up seed (Matt. 13:19)
- c. People caught up from earth:
  - (1) Philip (Acts 8:39)
  - (2) Paul’s friend (2 Cor. 12:3, 4)
  - (3) Man child (Rev. 12:3)
- d. Taken by force (4x)

2. Features: without warning, sudden, forceful—no time to be getting ready

M. v. 29–30—*Immediately* after the great tribulation, i.e., Church will *not* have taken over the world to hand it over to Jesus

Coming of Jesus (Dan. 7:13–14; Matt. 23:63–64; Zech. 14:3–5; Acts 1:9–11)

1. Ascended from Mount of Olives in clouds
2. Will return in clouds to Mount of Olives

N. v. 31—Ingathering of elect survivors—compare vv. 22, 24

- O. v. 32–33—Israel and all nations 1948 onwards
  - 1. Trees putting on their leaves
  - 2. End of colonialism—rise of nationalism (ethnicity) (compare Luke 21:29–31)
- P. v. 34–35—“This generation” = 40–45 years—? starting point—*urgency and certainty*

## Pressures, Tests And Challenges 4387

Proclamation: 1 Thess. 5:23–24

### II. Matthew 24:14–44 (cont’d.)

- Q. v. 36—The day known only to God the Father (compare Mark 13:32; Matt. 25:13)
  - We may recognize *times* and *seasons*—but we cannot know the *day* (1 Thess. 5:1–3)
- R. v. 37–39—Days of Noah and Lot (compare Luke 17:26–30)
  - Noah*: (Gen. 6:1–12)
    - 1. Satanic infiltration
    - 2. Corrupted thought-life
    - 3. Sexual perversion
    - 4. Violence
  - Lot*: (Gen. 19:4–5)
    - 5. Blatant, aggressive homosexuality
  - Both:
    - 6. Materialism (Luke 17:26–30; 21:34)
  - But Noah:
    - 7. Walked with God (Gen. 6:9; compare Heb. 11:7)
- S. v. 40–41—Sudden, final separation of believers from unbelievers (compare Luke 17:34–35)
- T. v. 42–44—Need for continual watchfulness (compare Mark 13:32–37)

### III. Matthew 24:45–25:46—Four Categories Of People Impacted By Christ’s Return

- A. v. 45–51—*Pastors/Elders/Overseers/Ministers* (compare 1 Pet. 5:1–4)
  - 1. v. 45–47—Appointed over household and approved
    - a. Need to be *faithful* and wise
    - b. Appropriate food at proper time
    - c. Praised and promoted in Christ’s kingdom
  - 2. v. 48–51—Evil alternative
    - a. Not looking forward to Christ’s return
    - b. Dominating
    - c. Self-indulgent
    - d. Taken by surprise
    - e. Cut in two

- f. Judged as a hypocrite
- 3. Weeping and gnashing of teeth—compare:
  - a. Matt. 8:12—sons of kingdom—Jews vs. Gentiles
  - b. Matt. 13:42—tares vs. wheat
  - c. Matt. 22:13—guest without garment
  - d. Matt. 25:30—one talent servant
  - e. Luke 13:28—ate and drank, heard His teaching  
All came very close, but never qualified—*no commitment*
- B. 25:1–13—*Ten virgins*
  - 1. ? Represent general congregation of believers (compare Rev. 19:9)
  - 2. In Judaism 10 is the minimum congregation
  - 3. All
    - a. Expected the bridegroom
    - b. Had lamps and oil (the Holy Spirit)
    - c. Slumbered
  - 4. Only one difference: amount of oil (compare Eph. 5:18)
    - a. Oil had to be *bought* (compare Rev. 3:18)
    - b. Buying = prayer, Bible reading, waiting on God . . .
- C. 25:14–30—Servants with talents
  - 1. v. 15—According to ability—test of stewardship (compare 1 Cor. 4:1–2)
  - 2. v. 15–23—First and second each gained 100%
    - a. Equal commendation
    - b. *Faithful* more important than successful
    - c. Rewarded with corresponding authority in Christ’s kingdom
  - 3. v. 24–30—Lessons from third servant:
    - a. Love, *not fear*, is the right motive (compare John 14:21, 23)
    - b. Laziness is *wickedness*
    - c. Deposit with bankers = invest in another’s ministry
    - d. Not to use is to *lose*
    - e. Final, eternal rejection
    - f. Weeping and gnashing
  - 4. Luke 19:12–27—Compare parable of the minas
    - a. Each of ten servants received one mina
    - b. One gained 10 minas—“Well done, good servant”—authority over 10 cities
    - c. One gained 5 minas—no commendation—authority over 5 cities
    - d. One gained nothing—“Wicked servant”—mina taken away
    - e. Luke 19:27—Jesus—as Judge—supervises execution  
Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10)
- D. 25:31–46—Sheep vs. goat nations
  - 1. Three categories: (1 Cor. 10:32)
    - a. Jews
    - b. Gentiles
    - c. Church
  - 2. Principles of blessing and judgment
    - a. God *blesses* Jews direct—Gentiles through Jews

- b. God *judges* Gentiles direct—Jews through Gentiles
- 3. Separate judgment for each
  - a. *Church* before judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10; compare Rom. 14:10)
    - (1) *Not* for condemnation (John 3:18; 5:24; compare Rom. 8:1)
    - (2) But for assessment of service (1 Cor. 3:11–15)
  - b. *Jews* during great tribulation (compare Ezek. 20:32–38; Hos. 2:14–15)
  - c. 25:31–46—*Gentiles* before throne of Christ’s glory—sheep vs. goats
    - (1) Basis of judgment: How they have treated the Jews (Joel 3:1–2)
      - (a) Indicates worldwide *anti-Semitism*
      - (b) Israel already the focus of world media, U.N. debates
    - (2) *Sheep* into Christ’s kingdom on earth
    - (3) *Goats* into everlasting fire
    - (4) Both life and punishment are *eternal*
  - d. All three categories: All those who were rejected—what did they *do*?  
Answer: *Nothing!*—compare James 4:17

## You Can Come Through Victorious 4388

Proclamation: 1 Corinthians 15:57–58

- I. **What Do We Have To Come Through?**
  - A. Matt. 24:8–13
    - 1. *You* will be delivered up and killed and hated by all nations
    - 2. Many will be offended, betraying and hating one another
    - 3. The love of many will grow cold
  - B. 2 Tim. 3:1–5—“Fierce times”
  - C. Rom. 8:36–37
    - 1. We are killed all day long
    - 2. Counted as sheep for slaughter
    - 3. Yet we are more than conquerors . . .
- II. **How to Enter Into This Life Of Fulfillment (1 John 2:15–17)**
  - A. Love the Father *OR* love the world—*not both*
  - B. Align with God’s will—he who does the will of God abides forever
- III. **His Will: The Three Main Purposes Of God**
  - A. His kingdom on earth
    - 1. The Lord’s Prayer: “Our Father . . .” (Matt. 6:9)  
You have a Father; there is no reason for feelings of rejection
    - 2. Your will be done (Matt. 6:10)
    - 3. First priority: God’s kingdom on earth—seek *first* (Matt. 6:33)
    - 4. *The kingdom of heaven* is at hand (Matt. 10:7–8)
    - 5. This Gospel *of the kingdom* shall be preached . . . (Matt. 24:14)
    - 6. Impact on unbelievers (Acts 17:6–7)

- B. Gospel to all nations (Matt. 28:19–20; compare Rev. 7:9–10)
  - 1. Order is in force until it is canceled
  - 2. Ignorance is no excuse
  - 3. Make *disciples*—entrance through water baptism
  - 4. Every nation, people, tribe and tongue
- C. A people for the kingdom (Titus 2:11–14)
  - 1. Each one must purify himself (1 John 3:1–3)
  - 2. How to purify ourselves (1 Peter 1:22)
    - a. Obey the truth of God’s Word
    - b. The goal: sincere love of the brethren

**IV. Paul’s Response (2 Tim. 2:10)**

Endure all things for the sake of the elect

We need the same vision.