

Toward The Climax

by Derek Prince

— Study Note Outline —

PP1

Four Tape Series

7001 *Climax In Four Phases*

7002 *Divine Destiny For This Nation (USA) And This Generation*

7003 *Prophecy: God's Time Map*

7004 *Israel and the Church: Parallel Restoration*

Climax In Four Phases

7001

I. Spoken Originally By Peter To God's Covenant People, Israel (Acts 3:19–21)

- A. Now applies equally to the church
- B. The present age will come to its climax in four phases:
 - 1. Repentance
 - 2. Refreshing
 - 3. Restoration
 - 4. Return of Christ
- B. The essential first step is repentance
- C. Repentance defined: To “change your mind”; to stop, to turn around, face God and submit to God. Not an ordinance or a ritual or an emotion, but a *decision of the will*.

II. Repentance

- A. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Messiah by calling to repentance (Mark 1:1–4)
- B. The first requirement of Jesus: *Repent* and believe (Mark 1:15)
- C. The only alternative to perishing: repentance (Luke 13:3–5)
- D. Repentance and forgiveness to be preached to all nations (Luke 24:47)
- E. Three steps into God's kingdom: Repent . . . Be baptized . . . Receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)
- F. God now commands all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30)
- G. Paul's testimony towards Jews and Gentiles: Repentance towards God, faith towards Christ (Acts 20:21)
- H. The first of six foundation doctrines: Repentance (Heb. 6:1–2)
- I. To 5 out of 7 churches, Christ's first requirement: Repent (Rev. 2 & 3) God cannot reach the world until he has dealt with the church.

III. Parallel Between First And Second Coming Of Christ

- A. Time for Christ's first coming fixed by prophecy, yet He could not come until John had prepared the way by preaching repentance
- B. Likewise, the time for Christ's return is fixed, yet He cannot come until God's people have turned back to Him in repentance.

1. This is the generation that cannot pass until all be fulfilled (compare Matt. 24:34; Luke 21:32)
2. First, the hearts of the fathers must turn to the children; then, the children to the fathers (Mal. 4:6)

IV. Prophetic Outline In Isaiah 59:19–60:5

- A. 59:19 The uplifted standard
- B. 59:20 God's people turn back in repentance (compare Acts 3:19; Rom. 11:26; Isa. 53:6)
- C. 59:21 The Spirit permanently restored
- D. 60:1–2 The nations: *darkness* — The church: *light and glory* (compare Eph. 5:25–27)
- E. 60:3 Nations and their rulers come
- F. 60:4 The young people come in (compare Acts 2:17)
- G. 60:5 The church's reaction
 1. See (restored vision)
 2. Flow together
 3. Holy awe
 4. Heart enlarged
- H. 60:12 Destiny of nations decided by their reaction to God's program
- I. 60:17 Restoration provides abundance
- J. 60:22 Rapid and tremendous expansion

Divine Destiny For This Nation (USA) And This Generation

7002

I. Every Nation Has Its Own Destiny

- A. Without a vision a nation perishes (Prov. 29:18)
 1. Each generation requires a fresh personal revelation of God's purpose.
 2. Under Eli, Israel had "no open vision" and the whole nation backslid, until God raised up Samuel (compare 1 Sam. 2:12–3:21)
- B. For a nation, as for an individual, destiny is determined by relationship to God and His purposes (Ps. 33:10–12)

II. A Special Generation Is Emerging

- A. A seed shall serve Him; it shall be accounted . . . for a generation (Ps. 22:27–30)
- B. In God's calendar there is a *set time* for the restoration of Zion (i.e., God's people) (Ps. 102:13–16)
- C. The promised restoration of God's two peoples: the fig tree, Israel; the vine, the church. (Joel 2:22, 25)
- D. God has special watchmen ("remembrancers") whose ministry is to remind Him of this appointment in His prophetic calendar (Isa. 62:6–7)
- E. A special generation is being created at this time to offer God the *praise* due to Him (Ps. 102:18)
- F. The generation that sees the fig tree bud will close this age (The State of Israel was reborn on May 15, 1948) (Matt. 24:32–34)
- G. The Jews regained control of the Old City of Jerusalem in the Six Day War of 1967. This is the greatest single sign that the climax is at hand. (Luke 21:24, 29–32)

III. First The Rain, Then The Harvest

- A. The promised last day outpouring of the Holy Spirit, with special emphasis on the young people (Acts 2:17)
- B. *The sign* of Christ's coming (Matt. 24:3; 24:14)
 - 1. "This gospel of the kingdom" to be preached with evidence to all nations
 - 2. First the outpouring, then the outreach
- C. The *latter rain* is followed by the appointed weeks of harvest (Jer. 5:23–24)
 - 1. At this time, the harvest must either be gathered or lost (Jer. 8:20)
 - 2. Three successive phases: the latter rain, the harvest, Christ's return (James 5:7–8)

IV. In This Special Generation, The USA Has A Special Destiny

- A. Two interrelated "explosions" are taking place
- B. The population explosion provides the ripened harvest field
- C. The technology explosion provides the means to bring the gospel to the whole world in this generation
 - 1. The Spirit-baptized young people will provide the harvest workers
 - 2. The needed finances are available in the USA – we must claim, dedicate, and direct the wealth of the USA to the ingathering of the harvest

Prophecy: God's Time Map 7003

I. Prophecy

A. Description

The revelation from Scripture, by the Spirit of God, setting forth God's purposes for the human race, and how they are to be worked out.

B. Three main purposes of Bible prophecy

- 1. To enable us to understand God's purposes
 - a. God always shares His secrets with His prophets (Amos 3:7)
 - b. No longer slaves, but friends, knowing the Father's purposes (John 15:15)
 - c. To Moses, as a prophet, God made known His ways (inner purposes); to Israel generally, only His acts (outward actions) (Ps. 103:7)
 - d. Prophecy is "a lamp in a dark place." The "daystar in the heart" is the assurance of Christ's return (2 Peter 1:19)
- 2. To enable us to find our place in God's purposes
 - a. Expecting, and helping on, the coming of God's kingdom (2 Peter 3:10–14)
 - b. Three character requirements: (1) in peace; (2) without spot; (3) blameless
- 3. To give us needed warning and direction
 - a. The close of this age will be like the days of Noah (Luke 17:26)
 - b. Noah had supernatural warning and direction from God — we need the same (Heb. 1:7)

II. Questions (Matt. 24:1–3) and Answers

A. QUESTIONS

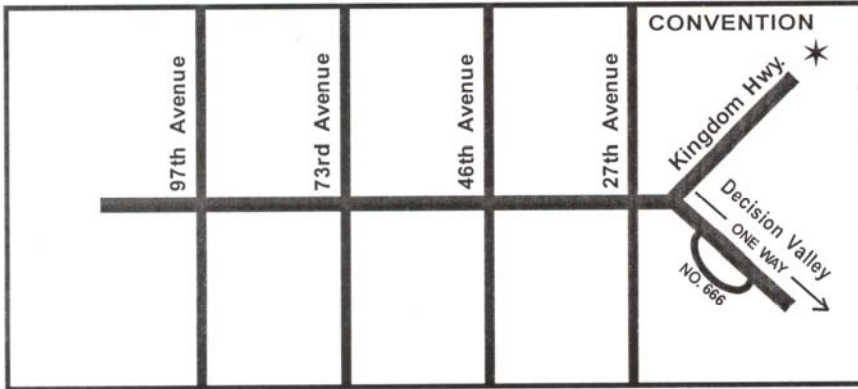
- When shall be . . .
- 1. The temple destroyed?

ANSWERS

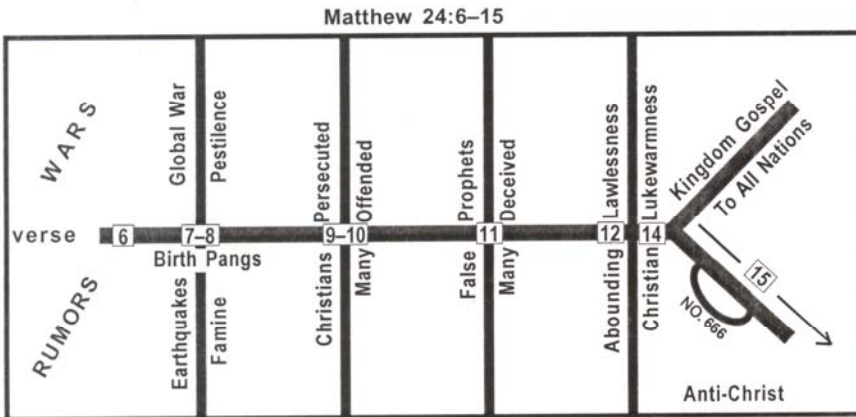
- When you see . . .
- 1. Jerusalem besieged (fulfilled 70 A.D.)
(Luke 21:20–24)

- 2. Thy coming? (*parousia*) (compare John 11:28)
- 3. (The period of) the end?
- 2. Gospel of the kingdom preached to all nations (Matt. 24:14)
- 3. The abomination placed (Matt. 24:15)

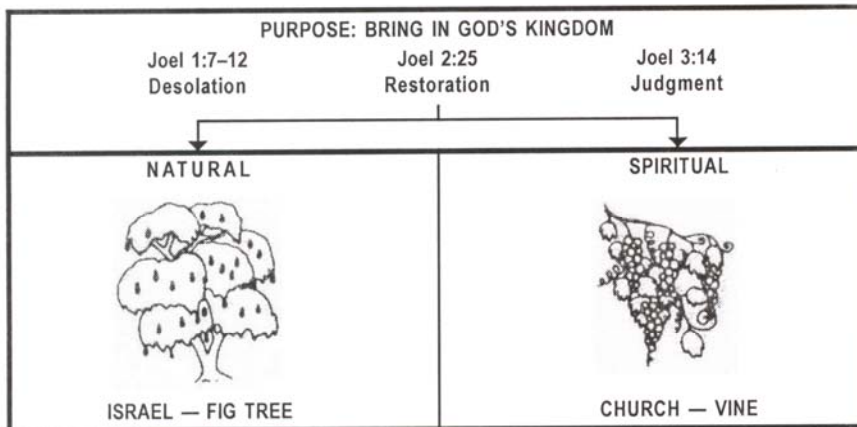
Example of a city map



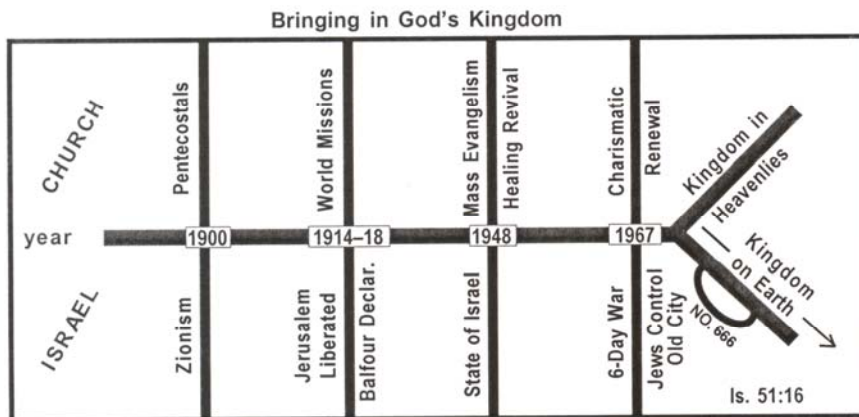
The Close of the Age



Joel's Vision: Bringing God's Kingdom



1900–1967(+): Historical Fulfillment



III. Final warning to all believers: Watch and pray always (Luke 21:34–36)

Israel And The Church: Parallel Restoration 7003

I. God's Central Purpose Today: Restoration

- A. The period of restoration of all things (Acts 3:21) – (compare Matt. 17:11)
- B. To restore: To put back in the right place and condition
- C. The “set time” to favor Zion (God's people on earth): immediately before Christ's return in glory (Ps. 102:13–15)

II. Theme Of Joel: Desolation – Restoration – Judgment

- A. In the forefront, two trees
 1. Fig tree: Israel

- 2. Vine: the Church
- B. Desolation: Especially corn, wine, oil (Joel 1:6–12) (compare Luke 21:29 – The fig tree and all the trees)
- C. Restoration: Including corn, wine, oil (Joel 2:21–25)
- D. Judgment: The valley of decision (Joel 3:14)
- E. At the trumpet of Jubilee, every man returns to his possession (Lev. 25:8–10) (compare Obad. 17 – The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions)

III. Features That Are Parallel For Israel And The Church

- A. Cause of desolation – In both cases: disobedience, rejection of God’s Word
- B. Instrument of desolation
 - 1. In both cases: An invading army compared to insects (see Joel 1:4; 2:25)
 - 2. For Israel, these are literal armies; for the church, they are demons
- C. Motive of restoration – Not for our deserts, but by God’s grace and for God’s glory (Ezek. 36:20–23)
- D. A sovereign intervention of God – “I will” 17 times (Ezek. 36:24–30) (compare Acts 2:17)
- E. But God requires a response from His people – “I will yet for this be inquired of . . . to do it for them (Ezek. 36:37) (compare Dan. 9:2–3)
- F. Compared to the reuniting of a body
 - 1. Three successive phases (compare Eph. 4:11–16)
 - a. Bones
 - b. Complete bodies
 - c. A great army
 - 2. It is the city, when compacted together, that constitutes the collective testimony of God’s people (Ps. 122:3–4)
 - 3. The church, collectively, is the foundation and main support of God’s truth proclaimed to the world (1 Tim. 3:15)
- G. Compared to the rejoining of two divided peoples
 - 1. The two kingdoms of Judah and Israel become one nation again through restoration (Ezek. 37:15–19)
 - 2. Compare Protestants and Catholics
- H. The cost of restoration
 - 1. The valley of trouble for a door of hope: Giving up familiar places and associations (Hosea 2:15)
 - 2. Returning to swamps, deserts, hard labor, war
 - 3. Honor the “pioneers”
- I. The result of restoration (Ezek. 37:21–23)
 - 1. A single people, with one king, one language, similar customs, clothing, practices, interests
 - 2. But each returning group makes its special contribution
- J. Restoration also implies judgment
 - 1. The valley of decision (Joel 3:14)
 - 2. The fishers (Zionists) and the hunters (Nazis) (Jer. 16:14–18)
 - 3. In Hitler’s day, many European Jews left it too late – many Christians are in danger of doing the same (Ezek. 20:33–38)

4. Those who refuse the truth of God clearly revealed will be handed over to the deceptions of anti-Christ (2 Thess. 2:8–12)

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