

# End Times



"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."

I John 2:18

TIME FOR PREPARATION AND  
UNDERSTANDING

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**TITLE: END TIMES**

ISBN: 978-1-927468-00-5

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Cover Design / Layout: Sarah Van Pelt

Printed in Canada by:

Project L.A.M.B.S. International Inc.  
Box 20569 Steinbach, MB Canada R5G 1R9  
E-mail: [projectlambs@mts.net](mailto:projectlambs@mts.net)

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible, © The Lockman Foundation 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995.

December 15, 2009 First Edition

March 6, 2012 Second Printing

Leadership Series

**Book 12**

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## PREFACE

Welcome to the discipleship / leadership series. These little booklets were designed to give basic information concerning various topics about our Christian faith in Christ Jesus.

The purpose of this series is to stimulate thought and to foster a clearer understanding of discipleship and servant leadership. These booklets can be used as a discussion tool for personal study, family devotion, youth meetings or in cell groups. Our hope is that this information will stir the readers and encourage them to go deeper into personal research and study.

Our desire is that these booklets will be a blessing to the reader and a tool that can be shared with others as a gift of encouragement.

Please feel free to mail or e-mail us for more copies or to just write to us with any feedback concerning the content of these studies. We hope you enjoy this offering of knowledge and experience. We pray that Christ will draw you into an ever deeper personal relationship with Himself as you study.

Your servants in Christ,

Rev. Dr. James and Hkaw Win Humphries

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*“Little children, it is the **last time**: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the **last time**.”*

*I John 2:18*

## INTRODUCTION

The prophecy of the Bible has set people on a journey that will one day climax – a new heaven and earth with Jesus Christ sitting on His throne as Savior, LORD and King. The timeline was set on the day that man and woman were created, recorded for us in the book of Genesis. The clock started to count down to a Day when time will be no more.

The Bible is not two separate books one belonging to the Hebrews and another to the Christians, they are one, deeply interconnected with each other. The foundations of the New Testament were established in the Old Testament. These principles are like threads that weave their way through all the books of the Bible concluding with the book of Revelation. There is a climax coming that will separate the sheep from the goats. It will cause the five virgins who were ready to go into the wedding feast and five others left standing outside having missed the coming of the Lord. Things will happen in a moment and people will be separated into at least two different groups.

The book of Revelation is revealing a God who is teaching us to make a decision for change. The disciple of Christ must draw closer to God in prayer and to the study of His word, if he/she hope to be able to pass through these coming days.

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There are two major threads weaving their way through the Bible, coming together as one in the last days. The first is the thread of people who have come to Christ during the age of grace. They are often known as Gentiles Christians, through whom the covenant given to Abraham was revealed. The second thread, runs parallel and greatly affects the first, is the people of Israel. Since the time God spoke to Moses to call the twelve tribes of Jacob out of Egypt, they have been under great stress as a people. Then after 70 AD these people saw the destruction of the temple and were then scattered throughout the whole earth. For thousands of years the Israelites underwent persecution and hardships, often being hunted down like animals and killed. In spite of this God kept a remnant that will rise up once again for His glory in the **End Times**.

The first steps began in May of 1948. In one day, the Jewish people were granted the ability to once again become a nation in Palestine, fulfilling many Hebrew prophecies. This event, called scattered people back home to the land God promised to them in a covenant, many thousands of years before. Each day people are being lead by the Holy Spirit to give up all they have and return to a little barren piece of land, today called Israel. To this day millions have taken the first step. The patch of land that they are returning to is about 65 miles wide and about 159 miles long and is mostly desert and rocks. These people are seeing life come back to the land that has been barren, bringing forth a nation that defied the greatest powers of the world. Each day they face neighbor who want to destroy them, desiring to wipe their presence off the map. These Nations of the World have not seen that there is

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One greater who holds these Jewish people in the palm of His hand.

There is an Old Testament account regarding Elijah and his servant being surrounded by many enemies. His servant feels the situation is hopeless but Elijah tells him to go out and look again. This time he sees the mighty armies of the Lord totally encircling them and protecting them (2 Kings 6:15-18).

The purpose of this booklet is to help remind the believers that God keeps His word and that the days of judgment are drawing close. Plus it is our hope that this booklet could be a witness to those who have not yet put their faith in Christ. We will look at some of the facts that can help them make a decision to become a follower of Jesus Christ, before it is too late. The clock is winding down and the hour of decision is at hand.

History, if studied, can be our greatest teacher for those desiring to see, hear and learn. So let us begin our journey by going back 6 to 7 thousand years to see what has been said about the times that we now face.

## **Covenants**

Our first stop in dealing with the subject of the **End Times** is to take into consideration this whole area concerning covenants and promises of God. For thousands of years God has been making covenants and promises to mankind. The word covenant is used over 350 times throughout the Bible. Most of these covenants that have been made, both to the Jews and to the Gentiles, have

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attached to them the words “everlasting or eternal”. This means they have an effect on our present daily lives.

But before we go any further, let’s take a moment to define what covenant making means. The word covenant is defined as: *agreement, contract, treaty, promise or pledge*. It can be done between two or more parties or between groups of people or nations. Historically we see where covenants began in Genesis. We find in chapter 15 verse 12-21 a covenant being made to Abram. Because of Abram’s faith and obedience to God, God was now going to enter into an everlasting covenant with him. There needed to be preparation before the agreement could be committed. Animals would have to be slaughtered and arranged in such a way that both parties could walk between the parts. The idea was that one was making or cutting a covenant. Then at a certain time the two parties would walk between. The purpose was twofold – first, an animal had to be killed and their blood shed as a witness to the agreement. Second, the parties said to each other that if they did not keep the covenant they too would be cut into pieces.

Spiros Zodhiates in his Bible study notes say the following, *“It was a treaty, alliance of friendship, a pledge, or obligation between a monarch and his subject, a constitution. It was a contract which was accompanied by signs, sacrifices and a solemn oath which would seal the relationship with a promise of blessing for obedience and curse for the disobedient.”* Later we will look at the subject of communion and see these same elements being portrayed there.



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The covenant: with Noah (*not to destroy the world again by a flood*), Abraham (*out of Him would come many nations and would give them a land of their own, Genesis 15:1-21*), Isaac (*the covenant of Abraham flowing through Isaac, Genesis 26:2-5*), Jacob (*having a vision of heaven and his name being changed by God to Israel, Genesis 35:9-15*), Moses (*the people being called to God and a land, Deut. 5:1-4*), Joshua (*fulfilling the promise of God concerning a promise land*) and David (*from him an everlasting dynasty as Kings in Israel, Psalm 89:3-4*) are just some of many that are still in effect today and will have a great influence on the **End Time** events of our day and age. The idea of covenants is not popular today as we do not often like to enter into something so binding.

One place that we see the idea of covenant is in the marriage service. We do not often use the word “covenant” but the term “vow”. The couple would speak vows to each other in front of the pastor and audience and then move to the giving of rings to remind them of their commitment to each other. This covenant is to be binding until death.

Right from the beginning of creation God has been a God of love and desires a personal relationship with all mankind. We see this coming through in Deuteronomy 7:7-9 as a “Covenant of love”. This idea of giving flows throughout all of Scripture. God call us to join Him in a covenant of love. Those who choose not to will enter the fear and destruction that is about to come to the world at the **End Times**.

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Communion was also a time where Christ called the disciples to remember the covenant that had been made between Himself as God and them as His Disciple. The idea of communion was to be known as a love feast. Jesus, when He blesses and passes the cup to His disciples, tells that this cup now represents the "New Covenant" that He was about to enact with His body and blood, for them, on the cross (Matt. 26:26-30; 1 Cor. 11:23-34). Jesus told the disciples that He would not partake of this service again until He meets with us in paradise.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-10) is one of the final things to take place during the **End Times**. It brings together His Church as a bride to be presented to the Father as the one who was betrothed. The engagement period is over and the wedding will soon take place.

Many of the Hebrew covenants prophesied about the Jews and the Gentiles, are now being rapidly fulfilled in our present day. The Bible is a road map of what is going to happen in these last days. The covenants are another measuring stick showing how close the coming of Jesus Christ is. Most importantly, are we ready for the "trumpet sound" that will call the believers to Himself?

## **Prophets and Prophecy**

Prophecy was an interesting part in the lives of the people who lived around Israel. There were both prophets sent by God as well as false prophets representing all kinds of other deities. One such example is the 400 prophets of Baal and how Elijah stood

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against them to demonstrate that there is only One true God that people are to worship.

God gave rules for the prophets to be governed by. The main rule was that if a prophet prophesied and it did not come to pass, he was to be taken out and stoned. Prophets were only to speak on behalf of God and not what they felt or how they may get blessed by what they said.

Many prophets spoke not knowing the times nor seasons when their words would be fulfilled. Their relationship with God was sure and steadfast, and they knew that God was showing them things that were to take place at a future time. Because of this they spoke with confidence and boldness, in spite of knowing that they might be persecuted or even be put to death.

Throughout the Bible there are at least four major kinds of prophecies given for the people as instruction of God's expectations. These words revealed what He was about to do both in their lives and in the lives of others in the future. They are as follow:

## **Prophecy about Israel**

The prophecies concerning Israel are like a thread that weaves its way throughout the whole of the Bible. They spoke about the chosen people of God and the land that He has given to them. They show His plan of redemption for them. They also indicate that He will let other nation persecute them, because they have forsaken their first love. It is important to note that the more faithfully people walked with God and the more they did what He

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told them to do, the greater the blessing. But when the people's hearts became hard and far from God, they would undergo bondage and death. God is longsuffering and merciful, but when people chose to sin and forsake God they move out from under His protection.

Other related Scripture from Ezekiel: 8:3-4 shows that God will again dwell in Jerusalem, 9:9, the King is coming, 14:4, there will be a battle for Jerusalem, 14:9, God will be King over all.

## **Prophecy about the Messiah**

These prophecies focus on a coming Messiah who would bring peace and establish a Kingdom of righteousness amongst His people. Much was foretold about where he would be born, what his name would be, how he would die and be raised from the dead. It was also foretold that He would come first as a suffering servant and would be a Lamb that would be sacrificed for the people. The Scriptures also speak about how He would come back a second time as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (see appendix 1).

## **Prophecy about the shepherd leaders of God's people**

These prophecies were both positive and negative. There are leaders who walked in faith. They often had prophecy given to them about blessing. Those who turned their backs at God and his people had words that spoke of doom and punishment for many generations. Shepherds and teachers will be subject to a greater

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judgment as God holds the leaders responsible for what they say and do (James 3:1).

## **Prophecy about the Gentiles (Nations of the World)**

These prophecies were given to the people who were not of the people of Israel, often known as the Gentiles. God wanted to show that He had a chosen people, but He also cared for all of His creation. From Abraham, to the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ, by the first Jewish missionaries, the Gentiles have also been on God's heart. Even now the Gentiles live in what was known as the age of Grace. Soon though, this time will come to a close and once again all mankind will be judged for what they have done while living here on earth.

## **Hebrew Old Testament Books of**

### **Isaiah:**

The name Isaiah means, "The Lord Saves". His ministry started in 740 BC the year that King Uzziah died. He was married and had two children. It was during his time that the Northern Tribes of Israel were captured (722-721 BC). Legend says that he was martyred by being sawn in half in 681 BC.

This book's theme is about God's judgment and salvation. The phrase "the Day of the Lord" is used very often throughout the book. It also titles God as the "Holy One of Israel" (12 times in chapters 1-39 and 14 times in chapters 40-66).