



the age of the antichrist

ARE WE THERE YET?

a guide through the last days

Steve Magill

**The Age of the Antichrist
Are We There Yet?**

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Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version unless otherwise noted. Author replaced some old English words to modern English, such as thee, thou, didst, etc.

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“But be on your guard;
I have told you
everything in advance.”
Mark 13:23 (AMP)

Dedicated to my daughter, Kellie,
and my grandmothers, Elva & Thelma,
who now experiences the hope
I press forward to gain.

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Introduction

“LOOK AT ALL YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP.”

The voice was angry...desperate...coming from within me. I was fearful, not quite understanding what was happening, yet knowing that I was in a life and death struggle with this voice within my head. It was more than just a voice; there was something very physical, very personal about this battle taking place within me.

What would I have to give up? It didn't matter. The fact that I was in this struggle made me realize that my decision to commit my life to Jesus on that early morning of December 1, 1976, proved that Jesus was real and what the Bible said about Him was true.

I didn't know what to do. I felt very much alone and afraid as I climbed into my bed, covered my head, and did the only thing I had been taught throughout

childhood to do—call upon Jesus. “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,” I thought, then vocalized. The struggle of wills became more intense. My desperation became more desperate. I kept calling, “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.” After what felt to be a lengthy battle, I felt something on my feet. Peering over my covers as I had done as a child, uncertain of what I might see, I cried out, “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus”...then again, over and over, “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.”

I was afraid to move, remaining motionless, glaring for but a second or two at the source of my battle sitting on my feet. As quickly as I saw it, it disappeared. It was the demon that was in me filled with anger and bitterness. I cried out again, “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.” It was then that peace and an overwhelming comfort penetrated every cell of my body. I smiled. I laughed. I experienced love. Jesus came. Jesus filled me with His Spirit and my life changed. Who I was prior to this early morning battle had disappeared, and I had started a journey from which, to this day, I have not turned back.

Changes

With this change of spirit also came many changes in my understanding of life and truth. One of these had to do with how the world was not moving toward bigger and better things, but to its end. Realizing that the end would dissolve humanity into an eternity of either God’s kingdom or the lake of fire spurred me to encourage others to repent and turn toward Christ. A Scripture I’ve embraced since the

early days of receiving Christ's love was Mark 1:15. This Scripture let me know that the world is moving toward its end, God's kingdom will replace our present world, and we need to repent and believe the message Jesus taught to prepare for eternity. My number one focus was now to encourage others to repent and prepare for Christ's return...that would change in 2005.

It was in 2005, twenty-nine years after committing my life to Christ, that I experienced a very personal, knife-cutting side of the last days as I understood that the church would enter great apostasy and deception, where most claiming the name of Christ would have an image of being a Christian without the power of the Holy Spirit to actually be one. I've taught and preached this many times, but the reality of it all took on a new depth, a new intensity. This concept cut me deep as I realized that a person does not live in apostasy and deception knowing they have been deceived.

I began to question who I was as a Christian, whether I was a true Christian, who and what I was as a pastor, and was I really prepared to stand eyeball to eyeball with the God who created me? Certain Scriptures such as 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 2 Timothy 3:5, and Revelation chapters 2 and 3 would burn within me, unsettling the Christianity I had grown up with. Eventually, I made changes which included stepping down from my position as a "professional pastor" in 2008 to become a "normal," everyday Christian. This repentance was equivalent

to my initial repentance over forty years ago. Forty years ago, I gave up sin; in 2008 I gave up everything I thought I knew about Christianity and the church.

After this change, I began to see an urgent side of the last days (2008 to the present). I realized, like never before, that if I live a natural and long life, my eyes will see the Antichrist and experience the earth's last seven years. With this understanding, my focus shifted to helping others understand where we are on the prophetic timeline. Scriptures, such as Daniel 11:33 and Revelation 10:10-11, now spurs me on with their encouragement to teach prophecy to many.

Also spurring me on were the many conversations I've had about the last days and comments such as the one that Ron made:¹ "That's why Jesus came, right? To tell us about these things so we will know without a doubt?"

Ron was typical of so many I've discussed the last days with. He was not lacking knowledge of the events of these days: apostasy, the Antichrist, the great tribulation, the return of Christ, and so on. His pressing issue was: "Since Jesus came to tell us about the last days, gave us events to look for, and told us to be ready...then we should be able to know where we are and whether we are there yet, right?"

¹ Ron is not his real name. The quotes are typical of numerous conversations I've had with others.

Though Ron knew the events of the last days, he didn't know how to organize them into a roadmap to give assurance of where he was on the prophetic timeline. How was he to know, especially with all the contradicting teachings and books on the last days?

My goal in this book is to lay the foundation for understanding last day events through the lens of the prophetic/historical timelines outlined in the books of Daniel, Matthew, and Revelation.

Are We There Yet

UNDERSTANDING PROPHECY

A SEARCH OF THE INTERNET WILL BRING UP INNUMERABLE ARTICLES ABOUT THE LAST DAYS. It appears everyone has their own version of how things will take place. What all these theories and postulating indicate is that there is not one foundation from which the theories originate. If there were, there would not be so many contradicting views concerning the last days. Somewhere along the way, we have moved past the “one mind and one doctrine” of the early church.²

This is to be expected in our age of apostasy and deception, since the Devil is the author of confusion and he is fulfilling his job description with excellence. He has divided God’s people into various

² Acts 4:32; Philippians 1:27

factions, called denominations, with most claiming to be the true guardians of Christianity. This lack of unity is no doubt one of the reasons many believe their opinions concerning the things of God are valid, just because it is *their* opinion. The difficulty is that all opinions and theories are not valid; to think otherwise is to throw aside absolute truth. This division of thought is contrary to Jesus' statement, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."³ If we can know the truth, why do we have so many "truths" that create divisions among those who claim the name of Christ? It appears we have departed from the One who leads into all truth, the Holy Spirit.⁴ Our departure from the Holy Spirit will be looked at later in this chapter.

Since so many view the last days from different perspectives, we must ask if Scripture gives a clear foundation for understanding the last days and where we are on the last days continuum? The unequivocal answer is yes. It is this foundation from which all considerations of the last days should begin and that will keep us from a wide difference of opinions as we build upon the same foundation. Without the correct foundation, we have no way of measuring whether our ideas are valid or not. With a correct foundation, we are able to confidently answer the question, "Are we there yet?"

³ John 8:32

⁴ John 16:13

Must Be Observable

There are two other reasons why prophetic events are not understood. The first is because the events of prophecy must be observable before they can be known. The second is the lack of or disregard of the Holy Spirit's guidance who gives this understanding.

Concerning the first reason, after Daniel was given his vision, he was then told:

“But you, 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.”⁵

This statement is clear that understanding will not be given until the end times are here. We will know we are at the end when these two events are observable, everyday events.

These events will set the stage for the time of trouble that the two angels told Daniel would take place and last for three and a half years,⁶ taking place when the Antichrist is on the scene striving to destroy God's people. This is the time when God's indignation will be finished.⁷ This is speaking of the future Antichrist who will “scatter” and cause great persecution upon God's people. In other words, the end would not take place until the Antichrist unleashes the great tribulation. Instead of being told

⁵ Daniel 12:4

⁶ Daniel 12:1-7

⁷ Daniel 12:7b

when the end would come, Daniel was told persecution would earmark this time.

Daniel heard what must have been overwhelming to him. He wanted to know when these things would take place and asked the angels: “What shall be the end of these things?”⁸ Daniel was told to go back to his day to day activities. This knowledge would not be given since the vision would be closed and sealed until the generation in which they would be fulfilled;⁹ this generation would be the “this generation” of Matthew 24. Understanding of last day events would not be given until far into Daniel’s future.

Though the unrighteous will not understand what is taking place or why, those who are wise and belong to God will understand.¹⁰ God’s people are able to understand the times they are living in and where they are on the prophetic timeline.

Daniel also was told there would be one thousand, two hundred and ninety days from the time the sacrifice would be stopped and the abomination making desolation¹¹ would be set up in the temple.¹² Matthew 24:15-21 records that the abomination of desolation takes place just prior to the great tribulation. That would mean the temple would be

⁸ Daniel 12:8

⁹ Daniel 12:8-9

¹⁰ Daniel 12:10

¹¹ The abomination is the Antichrist who will take control of the Temple and Jerusalem. Once having control, he will fulfill Daniel’s vision and bring complete desolation to Jerusalem and God’s people through the great tribulation.

¹² Daniel 12:11

rebuilt before the great tribulation. The Jews would be allowed to continue worship in the temple until the Antichrist establishes himself in Jerusalem and the Temple as the one called the abomination that makes desolation.

According to Daniel, we will know when we enter the last of the last days when the following events are observable:

1. Exponential increase in travel (Dan. 12:4)
2. Exponential increase in knowledge (Dan. 12:4)
3. The Antichrist appears and persecutes God's people (Dan. 12:7)
4. Wickedness and sin would be great (Dan. 12:10)
5. The temple would be rebuilt (Dan. 12:11)

Out of these five events only two have not been fulfilled in our present generation: the rebuilding of the temple and the appearance of the Antichrist. The other three stand as witnesses to the fulfillment of Daniel's vision. Here's a brief synopsis of the increase in these events since the twentieth century.

First, "*Many shall run to and fro.*"¹³ No one can deny that we are the most traveling generation in all of recorded history. It was country singer Willie Nelson who captured this spirit when he sings:

¹³ Daniel 12:4

“On the road again
Goin’ places that I’ve never been
Seein’ things that I may never see again
And I can’t wait to get on the road again.”

Like swarms of bees, we flit from city to city, state to state, nation to nation. When you consider that from Daniel’s time until the mid 1800s (over 2,500 years) travel consisted of horseback, wagons, and boats and that people only traveled a few miles from their home at most, it is without question that this is the fulfillment of Daniel 12:4.

Second, “*Knowledge shall increase.*”¹⁴ Who can deny the great explosion of knowledge concerning everything under the sun, secular and religious, visible and invisible, that exploded in the twentieth century? Consider that before the twentieth century, knowledge of modern technology and the availability of knowledge just didn’t exist. Consider also the explosion of universities, state colleges, community colleges, correspondence schools, seminars, conferences, and online classes.

No one can deny that our time in recorded history is the only time when knowledge has become so available that it is frequently called “the information age.” It has been said that a week’s worth of the New York Time’s contains more information than someone would be exposed to in a lifetime in the eighteenth century. One author explains this explosion of knowledge in this way:

¹⁴ Ibid.

“...until 1900 human knowledge doubled approximately every century. By the end of World War II knowledge was doubling every 25 years. Today things are not as simple as different types of knowledge have different rates of growth. For example, nanotechnology knowledge is doubling every two years and clinical knowledge every 18 months. But on average human knowledge is doubling every 13 months. According to IBM, the build out of the ‘internet of things’ will lead to the doubling of knowledge every 12 hours.”¹⁵

This increase of knowledge in our twenty-first century is without question the fulfillment of Daniel 12:4.

Third, “*The wicked shall do wickedly.*”¹⁶ This phrase is a contrast to the one before it, speaking of how many of God’s people “shall be purified, and made white, and tried.”¹⁷ In contrast, the wicked will continue to do wickedly with more people being involved with more sin. This also is brought out in Jesus’ teaching on the last days when he taught:

¹⁵ David Russell Schilling, “Knowledge Doubling Every 12 Months, Soon to be Every 12 Hours,” April 19, 2013. www.industrytap.com/knowledge-doubling-every-12-months-soon-to-be-every-12-hours/3950

¹⁶ Daniel 12:10

¹⁷ Daniel 12:10

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”¹⁸

Today we are eyewitnesses to how iniquity abounds with more people doing wickedly with the killing of our babies in the name of abortion, the mind altering drug, marijuana, legalized as a recreational pleasure, and the legalizing of various deviant acts by calling them a disease or a choice. Sadly, the world’s culture is being turned upside down where what was once seen as wrong is now called right and the right is increasingly being called wrong.¹⁹

Great wickedness and sin have always raised its ugly head throughout history. We only need to bring in remembrance the legalization of child sex with adults, slavery, and all kinds of vices running rampant and tolerated in England as recent as the 1800’s. And who could forget the atrocities of Stalin, Hitler, and Genghis Khan, as well as the ongoing exploits of the Islamic State in our present age?

What makes wickedness a sign of the last days is that it will not be localized to certain countries and people, but will permeate the entire world to return us to the days of Noah before the flood when sin and violence permeated the earth corrupting all people.²⁰

This time of great wickedness we are presently moving toward is what the Apostle Paul calls

¹⁸ Matthew 24:12

¹⁹ Isaiah 5:20

²⁰ Genesis 6:11,12

“perilous times.”²¹ It will be a time when the Christian love of many will grow weak because of widespread sin.²² When love grows weak, wickedness and violence grows strong. Though many think we are now living in these perilous times, things will grow much worse as we move closer to the age of the Antichrist.

Fourth, “*Many shall be purified and made white, and tried.*”²³ No one likes to think that one day their name may appear in a future edition of *Foxes Christian Martyrs*, but the reality is that persecution and Christianity fit together like a hand in glove.²⁴

As we move closer to the arrival of the Antichrist, persecution will continue to increase and become more intense and frequent until it brings us into the great tribulation.²⁵ Though it hasn’t yet reached the level Daniel speaks of, a number of articles indicate that global persecution of Christians is intensifying and moving toward what is known as the “great tribulation. What makes this tribulation greater than any we’ve experienced at any other time in history is that it will permeate the entire earth, not just certain countries or particular people.

Statistics suggest that Christianity is now the most persecuted religion in the world, with estimates of over 100 million Christians presently persecuted

²¹ 2 Timothy 3:1

²² Matthew 24:12

²³ Daniel 12:10

²⁴ 2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:20

²⁵ Matthew 24:21

because of their faith.²⁶ In some parts of the world, such as the Middle East, there is the concern whether or not the church will survive.²⁷ What this persecution looks like is described by one author in this way:

“From all accounts, the incidents of persecution are now apparently relentless and worsening; churches being burnt, Christians under pressure to convert, mob violence against Christian homes, abduction and rape of Christian girls, anti-Christian propaganda in the media and from Government, discrimination in schools and the work place...the list goes on.”²⁸

This increase in persecution in Daniel 12:10 is being fulfilled. What is the purpose of persecution? As unsettling as this may be, Daniel 12:10 reveals that persecution and martyrdom are used of God to purify, to make righteous, to revive and preserve His remnant.²⁹ Like a glove protects the hand, so does

²⁶ “The Persecution of Christians Is Increasing,” *Voice of the Persecuted* September 11, 2013.

voiceoftheperscuted.wordpress.com/2013/11/09/the-persecution-of-christians-is-increasing/

²⁷ “Christian Persecution has Increased in 20 Countries,” *UCAN Indica* October 21, 2013. www.ucanews.com/news/christian-persecution-has-increased-in-20-countries/69515

²⁸ “One Third of Syrian Christians Have Gone, Says Cleric,” *Open Doors* October 24, 2013

²⁹ The Apostle James expresses this same sentiment when he wrote in James 1:2-4: “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith works patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that

persecution protect and preserve the faith of God's people. Throughout history, Christianity has always thrived during times of persecution. This is exemplified when the Israelites were in captivity in Egypt; the more they were persecuted, the more they grew.³⁰

Fifth, "*The temple is to be rebuilt.*" In order for the end time abomination of desolation to be set up in the temple, it must be rebuilt, since it is not now in existence.³¹ Are there plans in place right now for the rebuilding of the temple? The plans and all that is necessary to rebuild the temple and restart temple worship and sacrifices are in place. It is now up to God to permit the Antichrist to establish peace with Israel and her enemies in order for the rebuilding to begin. For more information concerning the plans for rebuilding the temple, visit templeinstitute.org.

These five events, happening at the same time, is one more confirmation that we have entered that time revealed to Daniel as the end. It is with the arrival of these exponential events that make it possible to understand the end times. It was not possible to understand the books of Daniel or Revelation until these events appeared. This indicates that our

ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Trials, troubles, and tribulation leads to being purified and perfected.

³⁰ Exodus 1:12

³¹ The temple that Ezra had built was also defiled by Antiochus Epiphane before the Roman Empire came into existence. Also, Titus, the Roman Prince, defiled the temple before he destroyed it in 70 AD. Yet neither of these fulfilled all the criteria that this future end time abomination would fulfill.

theories concerning the last days prior to this time must be seen as either incomplete or perhaps completely wrong. Now that Daniel's prophecies are being fulfilled in our present age, understanding where we are on the prophetic timeline is possible. Confusion no longer has to be the norm.

Must Have the Holy Spirit

The second, and really the number one reason there is confusion about where we are on the prophetic timeline today, is that the majority claiming the name of Christ are not connected with the Holy Spirit.

It is the Holy Spirit that gives understanding of the things of God. When we are connected with the Holy Spirit, our understanding of the things of God is much greater than that which the well educated in book learning and the world's wisdom have. This is brought out in Matthew 11:25 when Jesus prayed:

“I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.”

This concept of babes should be a mind blower for each of us. It is a term referring to someone who is not yet mature, just beginning, starting to learn, and growing. In this case, it refers to their knowledge of the things concerning God. It was this concept Jesus used to contrast those embracing Christianity with those mature in the wisdom and knowledge of

the things belonging to the world. Those belonging to Christ are in contact with a knowledge that is different from that belonging to the world. It is knowledge hand-delivered by the Holy Spirit from the mind of God.

The Holy Spirit is an actual part of God, and He knows all things. He is within God's people and the knowledge that is within Him is within us, because He is within us.³² Though we have the knowledge of all things through the Holy Spirit, this does not mean we have complete knowledge within our consciousness. It is required that we search out that knowledge within, as Proverbs 25:2 encourages:

“It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.”

You and I are kings in training. It should be the greatest of delights to search out the truths given from the King of Kings.³³

This knowledge from the Holy Spirit is the knowledge the Jewish people perceived in Jesus when, in amazement, they spoke, “How does this man know letters, having never learned?”³⁴ In Acts 4:13, the rulers, elders, and scribes observed in the disciples a knowledge that surpassed their education: “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of

³² 1 John 2:20

³³ Psalm 1:1-3

³⁴ John 7:15

them, that they had been with Jesus.” It is this knowledge, hand-delivered by God, which allows you and I to “understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”³⁵ It is this knowledge from God that caused the Apostle Peter to proclaim, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,” and caused Jesus to respond, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood has not revealed it to you, but my Father which is in heaven.”³⁶

The knowledge given to God’s people is that knowledge which does not come from book learning and formal education, but directly from the hand of God. It is this knowledge that can only be received by God’s people as 1 Corinthians 2:11-14 makes clear:

“For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knows no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know

³⁵ Hebrews 11:3

³⁶ Matthew 16:16-17

them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

This knowledge from the Holy Spirit is where the Apostle John received understanding of earth’s last seven years in the book of Revelation. He was *in the Spirit*, meaning that the Spirit of God was strong with John and was permitting him to see the revelation through pictures and sounds as if he were actually witnessing the Antichrist and the day of the Lord.³⁷ It was not through much study and observation that John received discernment of the final years of earth’s history, but through an outside force, the Holy Spirit.

The prophet Daniel also received his knowledge of the last days, not from much study and knowledge, but from visions, dreams, and angels. While seeking knowledge and understanding got him into the books, understanding and discernment of the reality of this knowledge was hand-delivered by God.³⁸

Please don’t misunderstand me. We are not to throw book knowledge aside. We are encouraged to study to show ourselves approved unto God, to meditate, and to think upon the things of God.³⁹ Without the Holy Spirit to give discernment, however, we will never truly understand God’s knowledge or where we are on the prophetic timeline. This lack of knowledge from the Holy Spirit is the number one reason there

³⁷ Revelation 1:10

³⁸ Daniel 2:27-28; 7:1; 8:1; 9:21-22; 10:1

³⁹ 2 Timothy 2:15; Psalm 1:1-3; Philippians 4:8

is so much confusion concerning the last days in our present age. Think about this in this light: if the Holy Spirit is giving the knowledge of all the contradicting opinions, then why is He so confused? I don't think it is the Holy Spirit who is confused. I do think that many claiming the name of Christ are not in tune with Him. It appears the apostasy of our present age is greater than most of us are willing to admit.

No One Really Knows, Right?

In my discussions concerning the prophetic/historical timeline, inevitably someone will say, "It could take place this year or may not take place for another hundred or thousand years...nobody really knows." This uncertainty is not what Scripture teaches. We are meant to know.

When Jesus told us to "watch," He was telling us to observe what was happening in the world around us. When we see social, cultural, political, and religious happenings aligning themselves with prophetic events, then we can know where we are on the prophetic/historical timeline. Jesus was clear that the events he outlined in Matthew 24 would let us know where we are on the prophetic timeline when he told His disciples, "When ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors."⁴⁰

As the great deceiver and liar, it is the Devil's plan to add great confusion to God's word,⁴¹ especially

⁴⁰ Matthew 24:33

⁴¹ John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:3, 14; John 8:44; Revelation 12:9

during our time in history when understanding of prophetic events would be given. Therefore, we should give even more diligence to the words given to the Apostle John in Revelation 1:3 where we are encouraged:

“Blessed is he that reads and they that hears the words of this prophecy and keeps those things that are written therein.”

The encouragement here is to read, hear, and keep. It is difficult to keep what we do not understand; therefore we must be students of God’s Word and truly connect with the Holy Spirit. This verse indicates we can understand (hear), we can know (be certain), and we are able to keep (guard, preserve, protect) ourselves from the Devil’s wiles and deceptions. The encouragement here is to read, hear, and keep the prophecy given in the book of Revelation. This final prophecy is the key to understanding with certainty last day events. God has always given this certainty to His people. Amos 3:7 gives this assurance:

“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he reveals his secret unto his servants the prophets.”

Revelation 19:10 gives us this incredible thought:

“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

This means that every Christian has the ability to know where they are on the prophetic timeline because they have an actual part of God in them, communicating with them. It is this Holy Spirit that made a prophet a spokesman for God. It is this Holy Spirit that makes you and I proclaimers of God's truth. It is this Holy Spirit that allows you and I to know where we are on God's prophetic timeline.

Anytime God moves within the world, He lets His people know before it happens. Noah is a good example of this. God told Noah that the world he knew would end, when it would end (in 120 years), and what he was to do to prepare for this end.⁴²

Later, God revealed to the prophets that the Messiah would come and taught that the Messiah would appear, when He would appear, and what signs to watch for to know He had arrived. And then there is the Messiah Himself who told His disciples that the present age would end, when it would end, and what signs to watch for to know that our present age is in its final years.⁴³

Does it really make sense that God would inform Noah, the prophets, the disciples, and not leave with us the same certainty? Let us remember that the majority did not hear God's voice or understand the signs that Noah understood. In Jesus' day, the majority did not discern the signs that the wise men followed to give gifts to the Christ child. Very few

⁴² Genesis 6:11-22

⁴³ Matthew 24:4-37

discern the time of the end, though it be upon them. Jesus rebuked the people of His day for not being able to discern the prophetic times when He spoke in Luke 12:54-56:

“And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There comes a shower; and so it is. And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it comes to pass. Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?”

The Messiah had come. Prophecy was fulfilled before their eyes. Yet they did not know where they were on the prophetic timeline. The conclusion to the matter is that prophecy is not given as an intellectual or philosophical pursuit. Prophecy is given by the hand of God to give assurance of where we are on the prophetic timeline and how close we are to the second coming of Christ. Prophecy is given so we can confidently answer the question, “Are we there yet?”

In Closing

The main hindrance to understanding anything that is of God is the lack of a connection to the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, the things belonging to God cannot be understood.

In this light, I think of my grandmother who only had a sixth grade education. She could not explain the latest theological term, but she understood theology. She could not quote Scripture word for word, but she

knew the Word of God. She could not articulate the right and wrong of a situation, but she knew right from wrong. In all of her earthly weakness, she was strong in spiritual discernment and knowledge. In our churches today, it appears we are strong in earthly wisdom and knowledge, but weak in the discernment and knowledge of God. The greatest need of the church in its present apostate environment is to reconnect with the Holy Spirit. ⁴⁴

You are the church. You are the one in danger of right now living in great deception. Are you really a Christian? Is your Christianity and relationship with God works oriented or an actual relationship with an actual God?

As I end this chapter, consider these verses from Mathew 7:21-27 along with the five deceived churches in Revelation two and three:

“Not everyone that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? and in your name have cast out devils? and in your name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

⁴⁴ For more information on the apostasy and the need for the Holy Spirit, check out my book, *Revelation and the Age of Antichrist*.

Therefore whosoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

And every one that hears these sayings of mine, and does them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”

The time is short.

Apostasy rules.

Let us stir up the Holy Spirit within us.

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