Divine Principle Bible Study 201

The Consummation of Human History

- Consummation means perfection, completion or fulfillment

```
The Consummation of Human History = The Last Days
```

- -

Questions about the Last Days

- 1. What is the purpose and direction of history?
- 2. What is the meaning of the Last Days of human history?
- 3. Are we now living in the Last Days?
- 4. What should our attitude be in the Last Days?

_ _

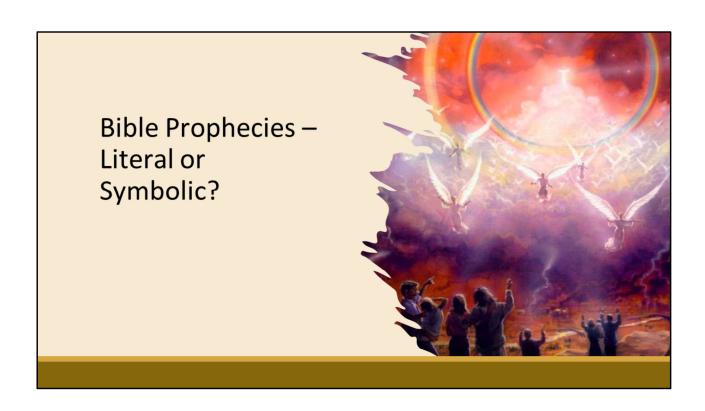
Bible Prophecies about the Last Days

... the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat... II Peter 3:12

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken." Matt 24:29

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. | Thess 4:16-17

5



God's Viewpoint about Human History

- Satan has dominated God's children and the earth since the Fall of Adam and Eve.
- God wants to put an end to Satan's dominion of this world and end the evil history of mankind.
- With the heart of a loving Father, God has been working to bring about the Last Days ever since the Fall of Man.
- The Last Days indicates the intersection where the history of Satan's world ends, and a new history of God's Kingdom begins.

- Regardless of what we may have thought about the Last Days in the past, we need to come to understand God's viewpoint about history and the Last Days.

God will Realize His Ideal of Creation

"... I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." Jer 31:33-34

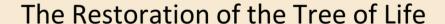
8

God will Realize His Ideal of Creation

... They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. Isa 2:4

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God." Rev 21:3

- -

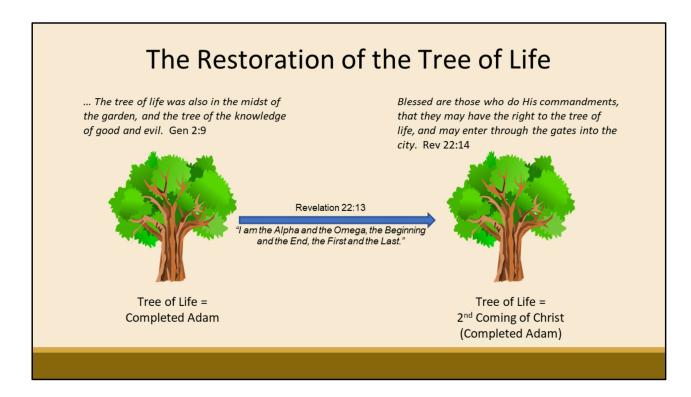


... The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Gen 2:9

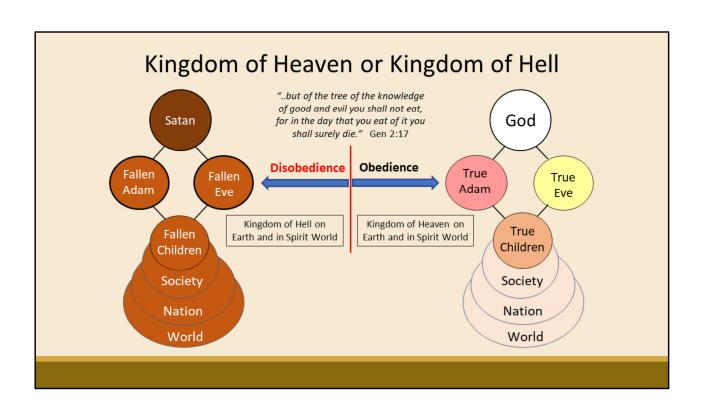


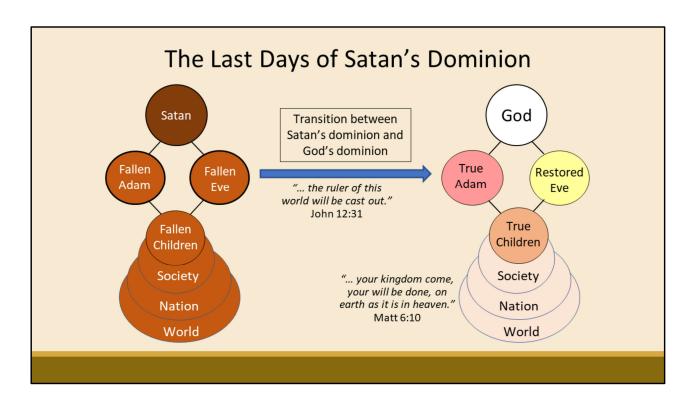
Tree of Life = Completed Adam

- What did human beings lose as a result of the Fall? Genesis tells us that the path to the Tree of Life was lost, and fallen man was banished from the Garden.
- God cannot accomplish His purpose without the establishment of the true Tree of Life, representing the True Adam, at the center of His Kingdom.
- In the first chapter of Genesis, it tells us that God created all things through His Word On each day of creation, "Then God said ..."
- Gen. 1:26 Adam was created by the Word of God, but failed to become the completed incarnation of the Word due to his failure of portion of responsibility resulting in the Fall.



- Rev 22:13-14 tells us that Christ comes to fulfill the purpose of the eternal Tree of Life in the Last Days the same Tree of Life written about in Genesis.
- Due to Adam giving into Satan's temptation, he could not become the Tree of Life the center of God's Kingdom on earth.
- When Christ returns, He will fulfill the prophecies of the Bible and accomplish God's original Purpose of Creation.





- The Last Days is the last days of Satan's dominion not the last days of the earth, which God created to be the home for His children.
- If Satan forever ruled the earth, that would mean that the fallen archangel had eternal victory over God, the creator which is impossible.
- As Jesus instructed us to pray, God's kingdom will come, being established on earth centering on the returning Adam.
- God's kingdom will be established both physically and spiritually on earth and in heaven.



- God's eternal Principle of Creation is the underlying principle through which God must work to fulfill His purpose of Restoration.
- Because God gave man free will and responsibility, God's Kingdom cannot come without man's cooperation.
- If human beings did not have a portion of responsibility in creating God's Kingdom, the Fall of Man would not have been possible.
- Therefore, the purpose of the Last Days cannot be fulfilled unless those at the center of God's providence accomplish their 5% portion of responsibility.

Noah's Time was the Last Days

And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth."

Gen 6:13

- After 1,600 years of Biblical history, God intended to put an end to fallen man's evil, sinful history at the time of Noah.
- God raised up Noah as a champion of faith in order that he and his family could establish the foundation for the Messiah.
- However, due to Ham's failure to trust in and unite with his father, the human portion of responsibility was not fulfilled.
- Therefore, the Messiah could not come, and God's Kingdom could not be established in Noah's time.

Jesus' Time was the Last Days

"For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch." Mal 4:1

"I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!" Luke 12:49

- Upon the foundation of Abraham's family and the Old Testament prophets, Jesus could be born as the Messiah in the nation of Israel.
- Jesus came to destroy the old world of Satan's evil sovereignty and establish the God-centered world of goodness by having fallen people believe in Him and be reborn through Him.
- However, when the people of Israel failed their portion of responsibility to unite with Jesus, God's Kingdom could not come at that time.

The Time of the Second Coming is the Last Days

"And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man" Luke 17:26

"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." Matt 24:7-8

- Even though Jesus was rejected and killed by those of His generation, believers could receive spiritual salvation through faith in Him.
- Based upon the faith of Christians who loved and served Christ at the risk of their lives, the foundation for Christ's return was established.
- Christ at His return will lead the way to finally destroy Satan's sovereignty and establish the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

1. The Earth Will Be Destroyed

... That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. II Pet 3:12-13

And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth." Gen 6:13

Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever. Ecc 1:4

- ... That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. II Pet 3:12-13

1. The Earth Will Be Destroyed

- The earth was originally intended to be a place of goodness God's kingdom on the earth.
- However, due to the Fall of Adam and Eve, the earth and all that was in it was dominated by Satan. "Earthly" things became things of sin and evil.
- God's purpose of history has been to fulfill His original Purpose of Creation on earth by sending His Word through the prophets, and ultimately through His Son.
- When Christ is received by mankind and the earth is restored to God's dominion, this will mark the end of Satan's world of evil and the beginning of God's world of goodness.

Destruction of the earth

=

Satan's evil sovereignty destroyed

- God will always work towards the fulfilment of His original plan and ideal.
- The physical world was created by God as a place where He could dwell with His children.
- God will never be defeated by Satan. God will work with His children until Satan power is destroyed and God's kingdom comes to pass.

2. We Will Meet the Lord in the Air

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 1 Thes 4:16-17

"your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Matt 6:10

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever." Rev 11:15

- "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me." John 6:38
- For this is what the high and exalted One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy:

"I live in a high and holy place ..." Isa 57:15

2. We Will Meet the Lord in the Air

- Through the Fall, the earth became a lowly and miserable place far from God, and full of sin and suffering.
- To be close to God is often expressed as being in a high and holy place; to be lifted up.
- God wants us to resolve our sinful state and come close to Him not by physically rising off the earth He created, but through developing a relationship with Him through Christ.
- When we receive Christ at His Second Coming, we will be lifted up out of the spiritual darkness of Satan's world and enter the heavenly realm close to God.

Meet the Lord in the Air

Raised up by Christ's Love and Truth

3. Judgment Will Take Place by Fire

For behold, the day comes, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. Mal 4:1

"I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!" Luke 12:49

"Is not My word like a fire?" says the Lord ... Jer 23:29

- Malachi prophesied about the coming of Christ, and described the time as "burning like an oven"
- Jesus himself said that he came to cast a fire upon the earth. Was Jesus an arsonist?
- We often say "The truth hurts", because the truth sheds light on the good and the bad within us, causing us to make a choice.
- ... the tongue is a fire... James 3:6
- looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat ... 2 Pet 3:12

3. Judgment Will Take Place by Fire

- Since the time of Adam and Eve, mankind has been judged by the Word of God.
- When God's children receive the truth and obey it, they come into God's grace and blessing.
- When we ignore or reject God's Word, we suffer separation from God, and become subservient to Satan.
- In the Last Days, God delivers His Word through His Son. Regardless of our previous level of understanding, people will hear the new Word and be judged by it.

Judgment by Fire



Judgment by the Truth

John 16:12 (New Truth)

- John 16:12-13 ¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.
- When Jesus came 2,000 years ago, the chosen people of Israel were confident they already had the truth – the Law and the Prophets in the Bible (which we now call the Old Testament). When Jesus came, he did not contradict the Word of God, but brought a higher understanding of the truth. The same will happen in the Last Days when Christ returns and brings His Word to faithful Christians.

4. The Sun, Moon and the Stars Will Be Darkened

... the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Matt 24:29

Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" Gen 37:9-10

4. The Sun, Moon and the Stars Will Be Darkened

- In Joseph's dream, the sun, moon and stars symbolized his father, mother and brothers. God's providence centering on Jacob and Rachel moved on to a new level centering on Joseph, who later became prime minister of Egypt.
- Jesus and the Holy Spirit came as the spiritual True Parents and gave spiritual rebirth to fallen human beings, bringing a new Word the Gospel which outshone the Old Testament teachings.
- The New Truth brought by Christ in the Last Days will outshine the Truth previously revealed to mankind. Christians must humble themselves, "bowing down" to Christ at His Second Coming and the new Word He brings.

Sun, Moon and Stars Darkened

Christ Brings a Higher Level of Truth

We Must Have Ears to Hear God's Word

And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Isa 6:9

These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father." John 16:25

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." John 5:24

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Matt 11:15 And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind." John 9:39

God's Ultimate Purpose is the Restoration of the 3 Blessings

→ Signs of Restoration of the First Blessing

First Blessing – Completion of the God-centered individual

- Recovery of spirituality Increasing number of prophets and spiritualists receiving revelations about the last days
- Freedom of the original mind Pursuit of original freedom of thought and expression; revolutions against tyrannical systems of government; support of universal human rights and freedom
- Living a life of unselfish love Philanthropy and charitable organizations from the local to the worldwide level
- God's purpose of creation was the fulfilment of the 3 Blessings.
- In the Last Days, we see signs of how God is working to accomplish each of the 3 Blessings.

God's Ultimate Purpose is the Restoration of the 3 Blessings

→ Signs of Restoration of the Second Blessing

Second Blessing – Completion of the God-centered family and culture

- Consolidation of cultures Four remaining religious cultures:
 Christian, Moslem, Far Eastern and Hindu
- Attempts to foster worldwide cooperation amongst all people foreign aid programs, international adoption of children
- Final struggle between two major worldwide political systems Christian democracy vs. communism/fascism

God's Ultimate Purpose is the Restoration of the 3 Blessings

→ Signs of Restoration of the Third Blessing

<u>Third Blessing</u> – Restoration of God-centered dominion over creation

- Advancements in technology, science and medicine
- Movement towards higher standards of living through improved farming techniques, transformation of deserts to farmland, worldwide distribution of food and medicine
- Conservation movements focused on caring for God's creation; efforts to return to living in harmony with nature; prevention of cruelty to animals

Our Attitude in the Last Days



- The Last Days are the end of the old era and start of the new era.
- The world will undergo internal and external confusion and struggle as the new world of God's dominion takes hold while Satanic forces attempt to retain power.
- We must be ready to let go of our old, imperfect understanding and welcome the new expression of God's Word, following God's direction for this age.

