

A Biblical View OF THE END TIMES

SETTING THE PROPER FOUNDATION, PT. 1

Week #1; Nov. 23, 2025, 6PM

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INTRODUCTION: This will be an exciting series. We will learn a lot together. But, to do that well, we need to get out of the gates with the right footing.

These first couple lessons will set a proper footing for everything else which follows. It's like building a house – we need to start with the foundation first. The walls and roof come after.

Imagine yourself on an airplane. We are high up in the sky. The earth below is a palette of shapes and colors. We cannot see the details since we are so high up.

That's where I'm going to start. I'll start high-altitude, with the big picture stuff, with the foundational things. We'll gradually descend to gain a more granular view. But let's start with:

A. THE FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTER OF THE BIBLE

NOTE: The Bible is ETERNAL TRUTH. It *contains*....and it *reveals*....that eternal truth. No other source provides this to you and me. This is a **very important issue** for us to understand at the outset.

NOTE: If you cannot grasp this basic fact – or, IF you are *unwilling* to accept it - then nothing else in this study series is going to make much sense to you. You will struggle with the Bible, and you will find yourself in constant conflict with the eternal truth that the Bible **alone** holds.

NOTE: This is the *basis* of everything we will explore from this point forward. So it is here that I must further emphasize...

1. The Bible is God's divinely inspired Word to mankind. It is His personal revelation to you and me.

NOTE: I have TWO important points to make about this foundational truth:

- The **FIRST** point is this: the Bible is a reflection of its divine Author.
 - Now - - the word 'Bible' does not appear in the Bible.
 - ✓ That should not raise any concerns. The word 'trinity' does not appear in the Bible either - - nor does the word 'rapture.'
 - ✓ BUT, the doctrine of the trinity is sound. It is *clearly* supported in Scripture. So is the doctrine of the 'rapture,' as we will soon learn.
 - ✓ Like the words 'trinity' and 'rapture,' 'Bible' is a term we came up with; it has become an accepted part of our vernacular.
 - ✓ The term 'Bible' has been used over the centuries to refer to the 66 books of the OT and the NT.

- ✓ 'Bible' comes from the Greek word 'biblia' which literally means 'books,' or 'the books.' It's a plural term.
- ✓ Throughout this series, I will use the terms 'Bible,' 'Scripture,' and 'God's Word' synonymously. They are all the same thing.

➤ **The 66 books of the Bible are ALSO known as the 'canon.'**

- ✓ This is more of a literary term. 'Canon' refers to the total *collection* of the books of the Bible, ALL of which are divinely inspired and authoritative.
- ✓ There are other literary works which were studied and greatly respected by the early church fathers. They are mentioned - and they are even quoted - in the Bible, but they are not part of the canon.
- ✓ These other literary works are sometimes referred to as the 'pseudepigrapha' or the 'apocrypha.'
- ✓ They include such texts as The Book of Enoch, the Book of Jubilees, the Book of Jasher, and so on. We'll learn a bit more about these texts later on.
- ✓ Back to the Bible: The OT is comprised of 39 individual books, and the NT contains 27 books. These total 66, and they were collectively penned by about 40 different authors over roughly 1,700 years.
- ✓ These facts contribute to some of the greatest evidences of the Bible's supernatural origin. As I said earlier, the Bible is divinely inspired – ALL of it!
- ✓ That means God communicated directly to a human agent - and through the personality and nuances of THAT person, God then revealed what He wanted them to write.

NOTE: Paul says in **2 Timothy 3:15-17**, *"From childhood you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

NOTE: I want to point out three things from that passage:

- a. **FIRST**, the Bible makes us '*wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*' The Bible is a holy, unique, and supernatural book which leads to a holy, unique, and supernatural spiritual transformation.
 - No other ordinary – or even 'extraordinary' – book can achieve this. It's not possible. But the Bible changes lives for all eternity.
 - That's because it alone contains eternal truth that comes to us directly – and supernaturally - from God. It is "*God-breathed.*"

b. **SECOND**, I want you to consider that very important phrase from this passage: *'All Scripture.'*

- Let me be clear. It is unwise to assign more value to certain parts of God's Word over other parts. Paul says *'ALL Scripture'* is God-breathed. It all came from the same source the same way.
- Not some Scripture. Not most of it. Not just the NT. Not just the parts about the Gospel; or the miracles of Jesus; or the Great Commission; or the themes of church, love, and community.
- We are clearly and plainly instructed here. There should be no uncertainty - no questions.
- It's ALL divinely inspired, and it's ALL important. There are no exceptions to this.
- That includes Bible Prophecy which comprises **more than one quarter** of God's Word.
- That part is God-breathed too! That's also very important! (More on this a bit later....)

c. **THIRD**, Paul says ALL Scripture is beneficial for four things. Here's an easy way to remember them:

- #1, for *"teaching"* – that's for telling us what **is** right,
- #2, for *"rebuking"* – that's for calling out things that are **not** right,
- #3, for *"correcting"* – that's for returning us back to **what** is right,
- #4, for *"training in righteousness"* – that's for growing us in the things that **are** right.

- ✓ ONLY through divine inspiration could all of Scripture be beneficial to us this way.
- ✓ ONLY through divine inspiration could the Bible have been written over such a long period of time, by so many different writers, in three different languages, and still be free of error.
- ✓ ONLY through divine inspiration can the Bible remain one unified book from start to end without any contradictions. If it's properly handled, the Bible does not disagree with itself.
- ✓ ONLY through divine inspiration can the Bible contain many hundreds of prophecies which have already been literally fulfilled - - **right down to the smallest detail.**
- ✓ ONLY through divine inspiration will many hundreds of prophecies **still** be fulfilled the same way - just as literally as the ones before - - **right down to the smallest detail.**
- ✓ ONLY through divine inspiration can the Bible change lives and transform people for all eternity.

SO HERE'S AN IMPORTANT QUESTION: Does our attitude towards the Bible suggest anything about our attitude towards God?

- The answer is not just “Yes,” but “ABSOLUTELY IT DOES.” The two issues are inextricably intertwined.
- Consequently, our answer to this question will not only determine how we view God, but our answer reveals how we regard His place and priority in our lives.
- Our attitude towards the Bible has an eternal impact on us. There is no way around this.
- It is therefore dangerous to our spiritual welfare to compromise the eternal truth of God’s Word, to call it something it is not, or to refuse to call it what it is.
- I know pastors and Christian leaders that claim the Bible is largely ‘poetry,’ or ‘apocalyptic literature,’ or ‘Hebrew allegory,’ or whatever.
- They REFUSE to teach it literally. They CHOOSE to take a wrong view of Scripture. They take liberties with the Bible that are not their place or right to take.
- The book of **Jude** has much to say about these sorts of folks. They SUPPRESS the absolute authority of Scripture – and their statements, priorities, and behaviors demonstrate that they are in a rough spot spiritually.
- **Bottom line: the Bible is a reflection of its divine author.**
- You cannot hold God’s Word in suspicion without ALSO holding God in suspicion.
- You cannot force your own concept of the Bible without ALSO forcing your own concept of God.
- You cannot treat the Bible irresponsibly without treating God the very same way.
- One’s view of the Bible, and one’s view of God go hand-in-hand.

- **And that gets to the SECOND foundational point about the Bible being God’s revelation to you and me, and this is a VERY IMPORTANT point. Here it is - - the Bible is MEANT to be understood:**

NOTE: Right there, I know I have irritated some folks. I know I’ve ruffled the feathers of certain Christian leaders. That is because I have claimed that the Bible is meant to be understood. They don’t want to hold that view because that makes us fully accountable to it.

- **But think about it - this point conforms to COMMON SENSE, because...**
 - ✓ IF - as we’ve already learned - the Bible is intended to change lives, then **it must be understood** in order to do that.
 - ✓ IF – as we’ve also learned – all of the Bible seeks to tell us WHAT is right, to call out what is NOT right, to return us to what IS right, and to develop us in the things that ARE right, then **it must be understood** in order to accomplish that.

- ✓ And IF – as we’ve learned – the Bible is our final authority, then **it must be understood** in order to firmly define and adhere to God’s values and standards.
- The bottom line is God WANTS to communicate to you and me!
 - ✓ He wants a personal relationship with us, and He wants to reveal Himself to us.

Romans 10:17 says, “*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*”

- ✓ God speaks to all believers through His Word, and so He intends for us to understand what is written there.
- ✓ Admittedly, there are times that this process requires some personal dedication.

2 Timothy 2:15 says, “*Be diligent to show yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*”

- ✓ **Two things** I want to call your attention to in this last verse.
- ✓ FIRST, it instructs us to ‘*be diligent.*’ (Some translations: ‘*study.*’)
- ✓ Either way, it’s work! Sometimes it takes effort to properly study the Bible, to memorize it, and to meditate on it.
- ✓ We are enabled in the proper study of the Bible by the ministry of the Holy Spirit whom **John 16:13** says, “*guides us into all truth.*”
- ✓ The SECOND thing **2 Timothy 2:15** mentions is ‘*rightly dividing the Word of truth.*’ Putting that another way, one must study and interpret God’s Word **properly**.
- ✓ There is a right way to do that, and there are wrong ways. We’ll unpack this more next week.
- ✓ But for now, understand that it is wrong to *willfully* approach God’s Word improperly.

SIDENOTE: We are not supposed to seek out, subscribe to, or fall under the influence of extra-biblical revelations. It is dangerous to color outside the lines.

- ✓ Personally, I exercise caution around those people who habitually and casually claim they are ‘hearing God’s voice.’
- ✓ With God’s Word available to us, and the personal ministry of the Holy Spirit in the equation, we have what we need to arrive at the truth.

NOTE: Now, we’ve already learned two foundational things concerning the fact that the Bible is God’s divinely inspired Word to mankind:

- #1, the Bible is a direct reflection of its Divine Author, and...
- #2, the Bible is meant to be understood.

NOTE: I could say much more about both of these foundational matters, but more about each will come out here and there in the weeks and sessions ahead.

NOTE: I said at the outset that we were beginning with a high-altitude approach. We see the big picture, but we don't see all the details. Now, with that airplane analogy in view, I want to descend a few thousand feet and take in some finer points. And I'll start with....

B. SOME BASIC ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE:

...**BECAUSE** the Bible contains and reveals eternal truth,
...**BECAUSE** it is God's divinely inspired Word to mankind,
...**BECAUSE** the Bible is a reflection of its Divine Author,
...**BECAUSE** the Bible supernaturally changes lives, and....
...**BECAUSE** the Bible is meant to be understood - then here are three key assumptions (these are 'givens,' – they are self-evident). I want to underscore these three assumptions as we enter into this study series:

- **The first assumption is, this means the Bible is inerrant.**
 - It is without any mistakes. It contains no errors or shortcomings.
 - It has never been wrong, and it never will be. That means it can be fully trusted.
 - **This issue is straightforward.** The Scriptures, as we learned, are "God-breathed." They come from Him directly.
 - THAT is why we can trust the Bible – because we can trust God.

Numbers 23:19 says, "God is **not human**, that he should lie, **not a human being**, that he should **change his mind**. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and **not fulfill**?"

Isaiah 25:1 reinforces this, "LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect **faithfulness** you have done wonderful things, **things planned long ago**."

- This is an important matter – especially in today's times when it is becoming increasingly clear that we can trust nothing and nobody.
 - The Bible is inerrant. That means it is trustworthy.
- **The second assumption is, this means the Bible is complete.**
 - This assumption is closely related to the first one. Think about it.
 - If the Bible was not complete, then it would lack something, and that means it could not be fully trusted. Something would be missing.
 - But nothing is missing in the Bible – and nothing needs to be added to it. The Bible is complete.
 - Despite all the furor and angst against God's Word, it says itself that it will remain intact and complete, *just as it is now*.

Matthew 5:18 says (and this is Jesus speaking), *“For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”*

- This is the well-known “*jot and tittle*” verse as other translations put it. ‘Jots and tittles’ are tiny marks or strokes that are part of the Hebrew alphabet.
- They are the smallest details, but God says even these elements are important.
- The thrust of this verse is this: the truth and content of Scripture will remain ‘as is,’ and it will remain in effect until the end of this current world. And THAT has prophetic implications...
- Furthermore, adding TO the Bible or TAKING AWAY from the Bible is forbidden in Scripture. Here are a couple cases in point:

From the OT we have **Deuteronomy 4:2** which says, *“Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you.”*

And in the NT, in **Revelations 22:18-19** it says, *“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and the holy city, which are described in this book....”*

- The implications of this second verse are particularly sobering. We need to face up to what it is suggesting.
- It suggests that one who is ‘truly saved’ will be marked by their respect for God’s Word. They will leave it alone ‘as is.’
- They will not try to manipulate it or diminish it to suit cultural trends. They will not teach it to suit personal preferences. But, this very thing is happening everywhere right now.
- The Bible is being edited, paraphrased, chopped up, diluted, and reduced to the most *irrelevant* and *irreverent* content imaginable.

NOTE: Have you heard of the ‘Gen Z Bible?’ Here’s how **Genesis 1:1-4 reads verbatim from the so-called ‘Gen Z Bible:’**

“In the very start, God made the sky and the earth. So basically, at first, the earth was a hot mess. It didn’t have any structure or anything, just emptiness and darkness all around. But then, the Spirit of God started doing its thing, cruising over the oceans. Then God was like, ‘Yo, let there be light, and boom, there was light. And God was like, ‘Yo, this light is lit!’ So, God separated the light from the darkness. Like, He made sure they don’t mix, you know?”

NOTE: It pains me to read that, but we are instructed to be ‘awake and alert,’ and that means we need to stay informed.

- It distresses me to see the Bible being disrespected today, but we don't need the 'Gen Z Bible' to show that is happening.
- The Bible is disrespected in many pulpits every weekend. It is mishandled and misinterpreted. It is not properly revered as the inspired God-breathed Word that it is.
- I'll shoot straight. Contrary to the notions of popular 'Christian culture' and certain errant theologies, things in the world are **not** improving. They're getting worse.
- Christians are not taking over and making things better for everyone. Faith is not broadly increasing and getting stronger. It's broadly waning and weakening.
- And, as we'll learn, these downward trends have been specifically prophesied. It's important to have an accurate Biblical view of the times in which we live.

- **The third assumption is, this means God's Word is eternal.**

- There are many efforts to get rid of the Bible, but it's not going away.
- There are many efforts to dilute and discard its truth, but God will see to it that His Word remains timeless.
- God will ensure that His divine Word accomplishes its purpose.

Psalms 119:89 says, "*Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven,*" and in **vs. 152** of that same chapter, it tells us that God established His statutes "*to last forever.*"

Jesus Himself said the very same thing in **Matthew 24:35**, "*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*"

And in **1 Peter 1:25**, we are reminded that "*...the word of the Lord remains forever.*"

- There should be no question here. In multiple passages like these, the Bible affirms this important truth: *God's Word is eternal.*
- **Why is this so important?** It means the Scriptures possess absolute stability, perpetual immutability (meaning: it will not change), and enduring relevancy.
- And so, you can 100% rely on the Bible. It shows divine authorship.
- It came from God Himself, and so we can 100% rely on HIM! God's Word is eternal.

NOTE: There are some natural conclusions resulting from the things we've already learned. Here are two:

- **FIRST, this means we are accountable to ALL of God's Word.**

- You may choose to disagree with the Bible. That's your battle with God, but it's not a battle you will win. We all answer to God.
- You may doubt its veracity, ignore parts of it, or diminish the importance of certain doctrines or themes – but that's a bad position to get yourself into.
- At the end of the day, you are accountable to ALL of God's Word. It is the final authority in your life – like it or not.
- Those terms and conditions are not up to you; that's God's decree.

- You need to believe ALL of the Scriptures – not just parts of them. That’s not showing proper reverence for God’s Word - - or for God!
 - As we go into this study series on Bible prophecy, this means we are accountable to the important things that we will learn.
 - They are intended to have a positive impact on us. Bible prophecy is there to benefit us, to edify us, and to equip us.
 - We will learn that Bible prophecy is mocked in many churches today. It is seldom taught - and if it is, it is often taught incorrectly.
 - But we are accountable to ALL of God’s Word, and so we need to **properly** learn what is coming, and what it all means for us.
- **The SECOND natural conclusion from these assumptions is this: the Bible will be attacked.**
 - Now, the Bible does indeed warn us about attacks we will face from the *outside* - - from the “big, bad, awful world out there.”
 - For example, Jesus says in **John 15:18**, *“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.”*
 - And **Romans 1:18** warns that we WILL face the *“godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness.”*
 - So, certainly, the “big bad awful world out there” will attack the truth of Scripture. That’s a given. We all see that.
 - Those who have rejected Jesus Christ want nothing to do with Him. They want no reminder of Him, or His values, or His order of things. They don’t want His followers having any influence or say.
 - But God’s Word also warns us over and over – maybe even MORE - about attacks that will come from the *inside*.
 - That means from *inside* the church, *inside* our fellowships, *inside* our Bible Studies, *inside* our families, *inside* our circle of Christian friends, etc.

Jude 1:4 pulls no punches about this matter. It says, *“For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.”*

2 Peter 2:1 affirms the same thing. It reads, *“Now there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies....”*

Paul, in his farwell to the Ephesians, wrote in **Acts 20:29**, *“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.”*

Jesus reiterates the very same thing in **Matthew 7:15**. He said, *“Beware of false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.”*

We can easily see WHERE these attacks are coming from. They are coming from the *inside*.

In **2 Corinthians 11:13**, Paul drills down a bit more on WHO these kinds of people are. He calls them “...*false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.*”

There are many passages like these - all of them warning about attacks and assaults **from the inside**. I'll bring to your attention one more.

- Peter puts a spotlight on a **very specific symptom** that we can see with these ‘*ravenous wolves*,’ these ‘*false apostles*,’ these ‘*ungodly people*’ and these ‘*false prophets*.’
- It’s a symptom that **distinguishes** those who are poorly grounded in God’s Word. It’s something we can easily spot in those who are self-serving.
- They attack the integrity of the Scriptures. Peter says in **2 Peter 3:3-4....**

“Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. “Where is the promise of His coming?” they will ask. “Ever since our fathers fell asleep, everything continues as it has from the beginning of creation.”

- What MARKS these people – these ‘*ravenous wolves*,’ these ‘*false apostles*,’ and these people who are not as well-grounded in the faith as they think they are, is this: they MOCK or SCOFF at Bible prophecy.
- They diminish it. Bible prophecy is not important to them. This is a quality many of them share. The Bible warns us of this dynamic.
- They mock the literal interpretation of Bible prophecy, and so they mock the Rapture.
- They mock the importance of ‘eschatology’ (doctrines of the End Times), and they scoff at those who give proper attention to these issues.
- What ALSO brands these people is the fact that they focus instead on ‘*everything continuing as it has.*’
- What’s important to them instead is **today’s** routines. They focus on ‘right here right now.’ They have no reverent or Bible-based future view.
- Peter says these kinds of people are fixated instead on their own selfish ambitions. It’s a worldly mindset, and he calls these things ‘*evil desires.*’
- In other words, they are focused on the temporary. They have become dangerously conformed to this world.
- They don’t care about the more than one quarter of God’s Word which seeks to correct their passions, provide stability, and sharpen their forward perspective.
- They don’t have sufficient respect for the Bible to guard against scoffing, or to keep from doubting.

CONCLUSION: WRAPPING UP WITH A COUPLE OF COMMENTS:

1. #1, today, we have an urgency to properly understand Bible prophecy.

- Deception is rampant – both inside and outside of the church.
- Truth is facing mounting attacks, and this situation is only going to graduate.
- Confusion about WHAT is happening, WHY it's happening, and WHERE all this is going – is ubiquitous. A proper understanding of Bible prophecy is clarifying.

2. #2, Bible prophecy is FAR more important than most people realize.

- It is more than one quarter of the Bible. We'll learn more about this later.
- It formed the foundation of the very first sermon Peter taught to the NT church on the original Day of Pentecost.
- It was a dominant theme that Paul taught to the *infant* Thessalonian church in the short time he was with them.
- Jesus spoke frequently about Bible prophecy. By His own example, He showed us that it is important.
- Had the religious leaders of Jesus' day given better attention to Bible prophecy, they wouldn't have missed Jesus Christ at His First Coming.
- Jesus' Second Coming is now looming. The Rapture is imminent, as we will learn. We are in the season for it, and we will learn why that is the case.
- But the religious leaders of today are largely unaware. They are showing signs of making the same mistakes the religious leaders of the past made.
- This is a desperate dilemma, and it needs to be urgently addressed.

NEXT TIME: "Setting the Proper Foundation, Part 2." We will learn 3 very important rules of proper Biblical interpretation. We'll learn the benefits of studying Bible prophecy, and we'll look at church history to see how and why a critical doctrinal fork in the road came about.



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Solid Bread Community was started with a passion to teach the truth of God's Word – every part of it, as it was divinely inspired to be understood.

The rules are simple. First, teach what IS there. Don't pretend the Bible is not saying what it is saying.

Second, don't teach what is NOT there. Don't force a passage to mean something it really doesn't.

And – number three, if the Bible states it plainly, we should too.

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