Prophetic Guide To The End Times
by Derek Prince

— Study Note Outline —
PGE1

Four Tape Series
4385 How To Approach Biblical Prophecy
4386 First Discover The “Spine”
4387 Pressures, Tests And Challenges
4388 You Can Come Through Victorious

How to Approach Biblical Prophecy
4385

Proclamation: Dan. 2:20–22; 4:34–35

I. Why The Prophetic Word Of God?
A. It is a light in a dark place (2 Peter 1:19)
B. Its purpose: to produce expectation of Christ’s coming (compare Heb. 9:28)
C. Seven principles of prophetic understanding and application
   1. Secret things—no one can know (Deut. 29:29)
   2. Revealed things are given to do them—otherwise no further revelation
      Revelation is conditional on obedience
   3. Given for a specific time (Jer. 30:1–7, 24(b); compare John 12:14–16)
   4. To avoid wrong prayer/action (Matt. 24:19–20)
   5. The spirit of prophecy focuses on Jesus (Rev. 19:10(b); John 16:8)
   6. Give words their plain meaning—don’t “spiritualize”
   7. Acknowledge God’s total sovereignty

II. Fierce Times To Come (2 Tim. 3:1–5)
A. Inevitable increase of wickedness in the last days (compare Matt. 8:28 “fierce” times)
   Basic cause: corruption of human nature
   1. It is progressive
   2. It is irreversible
B. Upsurge of occult
   1. Magicians of Egypt (2 Tim. 3:7–8)
   2. Evil men and impostors = wailers, enchanters (2 Tim. 3:13)
C. Root problem: self-love (2 Tim. 3:1–5)
   1. “A form of godliness” = professing to be Christians—denying the power to produce radical change
   2. Such may have entered, but will not inherit (1 Cor. 6:9–11; compare Gal. 5:19–21; Eph. 5:3–7)

III. God’s Solution
First Discover The “Spine”  
4386

Proclamation: Matthew 24:14

I. The Significance Of A Spine
A. To assemble the parts of a skeleton, begin with the spine
B. The “spine” of biblical prophecy: Matt. 24, 25; Mark 13; Luke 21

II. Matthew 24:1–44
A. Two questions (Matt. 24:1–3)
   1. When will these things . . . ?
   2. What will be the sign . . . ?
   1. Immediately followed by coming of Christ (Luke 21:25–27)
   2. Return to Matt. 24:4–14 for answer to (2)
C. 24:4–6—A double warning
   1. Against deception, the greatest danger—compare vv. 11, 24 (2 Thess. 2:10)
   1. Famines:
      a. Chronic hunger: about 750 million—mainly in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa
      b. Acute hunger: imminent death—more than 35 million, mostly in southern parts of Africa; also in parts of Eastern Europe and CIS
   2. Pestilences:
      a. AIDS—estimated 100 million worldwide by 2000 AD
      b. Some parts of Africa heavily depopulated by 2000 AD
      c. Others increasing: TB, Malaria, Cholera
   3. Earthquakes: 6.0 or over on Richter Scale
      1950 to 1959 9
      1960 to 1969 13
      1970 to 1979 51
      1980 to 1989 86
      1990 to 1993 (4 years) more than 100
   4. Wars:
      a. In 1993: 34 worldwide—mostly ethnic
      b. ? Starting point: World War I, e.g., liberation of Jerusalem; way opened for State of Israel; communist government in Russia;
“feminist” movement; initiated period of constantly accelerating change

c. New expressions introduced in 20th century:
   (1) World war
   (2) Holocaust
   (3) Genocide
   (4) Terrorism
   (5) Atomic/nuclear warfare

5. Birth pangs lead to “regeneration,” i.e., birth of God’s kingdom on earth.
   If we want the baby, we will welcome the birth pangs (Matt. 19:28).

E. A key word in Matt. 24: then (9x)
   Also in Matt. 25: then (9x)

F. Four forms of pressure: (24:9–11)
   1. v. 9—Persecution
   2. v. 10—Apostasy
   3. v. 11—False prophets
   4. v. 12—Lawlessness, leading to lovelessness—no one safe
   5. v. 13—Need to endure (compare Luke 21:19; 2 Tim. 2:11–13)

G. v. 14—The sign
   1. Fulfillment of Matt. 28:19–20; Mark 16:15–16
   2. Leading to Rev. 7:9–10
   3. All Christians share responsibility

H. v. 15—Focus moves from “all nations” to Israel (compare Rom. 11:25–26)
   1. “Abomination” indicates antichrist (compare 2 Thess. 2:3–4)
   2. “Holy place”: the temple area (compare 1 Kings 9:3; Ps. 132:13–14)

I. v. 16–20—Extreme urgency—“Sabbath” indicates Jewish State

J. v. 21–22—Unique period of tribulation (compare Rev. 7:13–14; Rom. 2:9–10)
   The elect (compare vv. 24, 31 [2 Tim. 2:10])

K. v. 23–26—Further warnings against deception
   Not all miracles attest truth (compare Rev. 13:13–15)

L. v. 27—No “secret rapture” (compare 1 Thess. 4:15–18)
   1. Uses of harpazo:
      a. Wolf catching sheep (John 10:12, 28, 29)
      b. Bird catching up seed (Matt. 13:19)
      c. People caught up from earth:
         (1) Philip (Acts 8:39)
         (2) Paul’s friend (2 Cor. 12:3, 4)
         (3) Man child (Rev. 12:3)
      d. Taken by force (4x)
   2. Features: without warning, sudden, forceful—no time to be getting ready

M. v. 29–30—Immediately after the great tribulation, i.e., Church will not have taken over the world to hand it over to Jesus
   Coming of Jesus (Dan. 7:13–14; Matt. 23:63–64; Zech. 14:3–5; Acts 1:9–11)
   1. Ascended from Mount of Olives in clouds
   2. Will return in clouds to Mount of Olives

N. v. 31—Ingathering of elect survivors—compare vv. 22, 24
O. v. 32–33—Israel and all nations 1948 onwards
  1. Trees putting on their leaves
P. v. 34–35—“This generation” = 40–45 years—? starting point—urgency and certainty

**Pressures, Tests And Challenges**

4387

Proclamation: 1 Thess. 5:23–24

II. Matthew 24:14–44 (cont’d.)
Q. v. 36—The day known only to God the Father (compare Mark 13:32; Matt. 25:13)
   We may recognize times and seasons—but we cannot know the day (1 Thess. 5:1–3)
   *Noah*: (Gen. 6:1–12)
   1. Satanic infiltration
   2. Corrupted thought-life
   3. Sexual perversion
   4. Violence
   *Lot*: (Gen. 19:4–5)
   5. Blatant, aggressive homosexuality
   Both:
   But Noah:
   7. Walked with God (Gen. 6:9; compare Heb. 11:7)
S. v. 40–41—Sudden, final separation of believers from unbelievers (compare Luke 17:34–35)
T. v. 42–44—Need for continual watchfulness (compare Mark 13:32–37)

III. Matthew 24:45–25:46—Four Categories Of People Impacted By Christ’s Return
A. v. 45–51—Pastors/Elders/Overseers/Ministers (compare 1 Pet. 5:1–4)
   1. v. 45–47—Appointed over household and approved
      a. Need to be *faithful* and wise
      b. Appropriate food at proper time
      c. Praised and promoted in Christ’s kingdom
   2. v. 48–51—Evil alternative
      a. Not looking forward to Christ’s return
      b. Dominating
      c. Self-indulgent
      d. Taken by surprise
      e. Cut in two
f. Judged as a hypocrite

3. Weeping and gnashing of teeth—compare:
   a. Matt. 8:12—sons of kingdom—Jews vs. Gentiles
   b. Matt. 13:42—tares vs. wheat
   c. Matt. 22:13—guest without garment
   d. Matt. 25:30—one talent servant
   e. Luke 13:28—ate and drank, heard His teaching
      All came very close, but never qualified—*no commitment*

B. 25:1–13—*Ten virgins*
   1. Represent general congregation of believers (compare Rev. 19:9)
   2. In Judaism 10 is the minimum congregation
   3. All
      a. Expected the bridegroom
      b. Had lamps and oil (the Holy Spirit)
      c. Slumbered
   4. Only one difference: amount of oil (compare Eph. 5:18)
      a. Oil had to be *bought* (compare Rev. 3:18)
      b. Buying = prayer, Bible reading, waiting on God . . .

C. 25:14–30—*Servants with talents*
   1. v. 15—According to ability—test of stewardship (compare 1 Cor. 4:1–2)
   2. v. 15–23—First and second each gained 100%
      a. Equal commendation
      b. *Faithful* more important than successful
      c. Rewarded with corresponding authority in Christ’s kingdom
   3. v. 24–30—Lessons from third servant:
      a. Love, *not fear*, is the right motive (compare John 14:21, 23)
      b. Laziness is *wickedness*
      c. Deposit with bankers = invest in another’s ministry
      d. Not to use is to *lose*
      e. Final, eternal rejection
      f. Weeping and gnashing
      a. Each of ten servants received one mina
      b. One gained 10 minas—“Well done, good servant”—authority over 10 cities
      c. One gained 5 minas—no commendation—authority over 5 cities
      d. One gained nothing—“Wicked servant”—mina taken away
      e. Luke 19:27—Jesus—as Judge—supervises execution
         Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10)

D. 25:31–46—*Sheep vs. goat nations*
   1. Three categories: (1 Cor. 10:32)
      a. Jews
      b. Gentiles
      c. Church
   2. Principles of blessing and judgment
      a. God *blesses* Jews direct—Gentiles through Jews
b. God *judges* Gentiles direct—Jews through Gentiles

3. Separate judgment for each
   a. *Church* before judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10; compare Rom. 14:10)
      (1) *Not* for condemnation (John 3:18; 5:24; compare Rom. 8:1)
      (2) But for assessment of service (1 Cor. 3:11–15)
   c. 25:31–46—*Gentiles* before throne of Christ's glory—sheep vs. goats
      (1) Basis of judgment: How they have treated the Jews (Joel 3:1–2)
         (a) Indicates worldwide *anti-Semitism*
         (b) Israel already the focus of world media, U.N. debates
      (2) *Sheep* into Christ’s kingdom on earth
      (3) *Goats* into everlasting fire
      (4) Both life and punishment are *eternal*
   d. All three categories: All those who were rejected—what did they do?
      Answer: *Nothing!*—compare James 4:17

**You Can Come Through Victorious**

4388

Proclamation: 1 Corinthians 15:57–58

I. What Do We Have To Come Through?
   A. Matt. 24:8–13
      1. You will be delivered up and killed and hated by all nations
      2. Many will be offended, betraying and hating one another
      3. The love of many will grow cold
   B. 2 Tim. 3:1–5—“Fierce times”
   C. Rom. 8:36–37
      1. We are killed all day long
      2. Counted as sheep for slaughter
      3. Yet we are more than conquerors . . .

II. How to Enter Into This Life Of Fulfillment (1 John 2:15–17)
   A. Love the Father *OR* love the world—*not both*
   B. Align with God’s will—he who does the will of God abides forever

III. His Will: The Three Main Purposes Of God
   A. His kingdom on earth
      1. The Lord’s Prayer: “Our Father . . .” (Matt. 6:9)
         You have a Father; there is no reason for feelings of rejection
      2. Your will be done (Matt. 6:10)
      3. First priority: God’s kingdom on earth—seek *first* (Matt. 6:33)
      4. *The kingdom of heaven* is at hand (Matt. 10:7–8)
      5. This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached . . . (Matt. 24:14)
B. Gospel to all nations (Matt. 28:19–20; compare Rev. 7:9–10)
   1. Order is in force until it is canceled
   2. Ignorance is no excuse
   3. Make disciples—entrance through water baptism
   4. Every nation, people, tribe and tongue

C. A people for the kingdom (Titus 2:11–14)
   1. Each one must purify himself (1 John 3:1–3)
   2. How to purify ourselves (1 Peter 1:22)
      a. Obey the truth of God’s Word
      b. The goal: sincere love of the brethren

IV. Paul’s Response (2 Tim. 2:10)

   Endure all things for the sake of the elect

   We need the same vision.

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