

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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JUNE 6, 2021

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT
BIBLE PROPHECY AND THE LAST DAYS
PART 1

Matthew 24:1-8; 32-44; Hebrews 1:1-3

What do we here at the Bible Baptist Church of Erie believe about Prophecy and the Last Days? We need to realize that the “Last Days” began nearly 2000 plus years ago with Christ our Lord. Now that is what we read and learn from **Hebrews 1:1-3**.

Now Prophecy is History written in advance and 28% of the Bible is dedicated to prophetic teaching. Prophecy acquaints us with the most important subject of the ages: **GOD’S PLAN FOR MAN**. Studying Bible prophecy convinces us that **there really is a Living God**.

I. WHEN STUDYING PROPHECY IN THE BIBLE, THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING BIBLE PROPHECY IS THE NATION OF ISRAEL

When we see the rise of Israel as a nation (as we did in 1948), we will know that the time of the end is “near.” The reason for this is that when a **fig tree (Matt. 24:32)** is used symbolically in the Bible, as it is here, it usually refers to the nation of Israel. Israel became a nation again in 1948. The return of the Jews to their homeland after 1700 years in exile may well be the most significant sign that we are indeed living in the “Last Days.”

We have prophecies like:

Ezekiel 20:33-34, Ezekiel 36:24, Isaiah 11:11-12. In 1948 the United Nations established a homeland for the Jews and since that time millions of Jews from every corner of the earth have returned to live there. There are many prophecies about the blossoming of Israel when the Jews returned that we could look at too, but we will not look at today. And by the way, guess what the spoken language in Israel is today? - **Hebrew**.

Another sign related to Israel and the last days has to do with the Building of the Third Temple. Since the Romans destroyed the temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 70, Jews have not had a temple in Jerusalem to worship in. Our Christian Zionism’s support for the nation-state of Israel is rooted in the evangelical readings of Scripture that see Israel’s ‘rebirth’ in 1948 as fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy, signaling the ticking of God’s clock ever closer toward the Second Coming of Christ.

Thus, we Bible believing Christians stand *with* Israel while standing *against militant Hamas*, an organization which stated at its founding exist to destroy Israel.

So, Israel is one of the important keys to understanding Biblical Prophecy. But now let’s look at Matthew 24 and what the Lord Jesus said about the “Last Days”.

II, JESUS PREDICTION OF THE SIGNS OF THE LAST DAYS -

Matt.24:1-8

The disciples ask Jesus a very important question in **V-3**. Now let’s notice what the signs are that Jesus told His Disciples.

- 1. Deception V-4**
- 2. Destructive Conflicts Vs.6-7**
- 3. Deadly Events Vs. 7b**
 - Famines –
 - Pestilences –
 - Earthquakes –
- 4. Deteriorating Spiritual Apathy V-12**

Lastly, In the Prophecy of the Last Days we will see...

III. A PROFOUND MORAL BREAKDOWN OF OUR SOCIETY –

2 Timothy 3:1-7

According to (**Revelation 9:20-21**) the Top 7 Sins during the Tribulation are:

- Rebellion against God**
- The Worship of Demons**
- Idolatry**
- Murders**
- Magic**
- Sexual immorality**
- Thefts**

In other words, the moral conditions spoken of in the Book of Revelation are already here. We are already living in days like those of Noah and Lot – days our Lord predicted would return just before His return. Morally speaking, nothing needs to happen before Christ’s return.