

11-07-2020 End Times Bible Study, A Look into Old Testament **Post for 11-07, but not posted until 11-09 Due to life and Computer Complications.**

As you begin, pray for God to help you see that the plan of God's salvation has never changed. That is the power and work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

The Hebrew language doesn't have as many words from which to choose when you are describing something. The same word is used with multiple understanding. The context determines which English word we use and those are chosen by the translators. The word for "DAY" is an example. The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament gives this definition of "Yom," (Hebrew for Day): A masculine noun meaning day, time, year. This word stands as the most basic conception of time in the Old Testament. It designates such wide-ranging elements as the daylight hours from sunrise to sunset (Gen. 1:5; 1 Kgs. 19:4); a literal twenty-four hour cycle (Deut. 16:8; 2 Kgs. 25:30); a generic span of time (Gen. 26:8; Num. 20:15); a given point in time (Gen. 2:17; 47:29; Ezek. 33:12). In the plural, the word may also mean the span of life (Ps. 102:3 [4]) or a year (Lev. 25:29; 1 Sam 27:7). The prophets often infuse the word with end-times meanings or connotations, using it in connection with a future period of consequential events, such as the "day of the LORD" (Jer. 46:10; Zech. 14:1) or simply, "that day" (Isa. 19:23; Zech. 14:20, 21).

That is why you may find phrases such as "day of the LORD" or "that day" in an Old Testament translation, but in Hebrew the is only "day." The largest number of verses are prophecies concerning the coming of the Messiah. As you know from Acts 2:16-21 (Peter quoting Joel 2:28-32) Jesus earthly coming marks the beginning of the end times. None of us have ever lived outside of the end times, nor did our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc.

The end-time period surrounding Jesus' second coming is variously called the last times, last hour, last days, day of the Lord, day of judgment, day of Gods wrath, time of punishment, end of the ages, end of all things. The temporal finality of these expressions highlights the firm New Testament belief that the present course of history will come to an end when Jesus returns. The certainty of the first advent guarantees the certainty of the second (Acts 1:7)

Moses' Warning to the Israelites: In Deuteronomy 31:29, Moses tells the Israelites: "For I know that after my death you will act corruptly and turn from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days, for you will do that which is evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him to anger with the work of your hands" (NASB). To understand the Covenant relationship, read Leviticus 26. It begins with the blessings of obedience (vs. 1-13), continues with the punishment for disobedience (vs. 14-39, and closes with the promise of forgiveness if they repent and return to God (vs. 40-46. Study your cross references and you will find many fascinating connections to the New Testament -- particularly Romans 9-11 and the book of Revelation. The last days spoken of in Deuteronomy 31:29 are speaking of the last days of the Old Covenant not the last days of the earth.

Jeremiah 30:24 says: "The fierce anger of the LORD will not turn back, until He has performed and until He has accomplished the intent of His heart; in the latter days you will understand this (NASB)." Jeremiah 30:24 speaks of judgment coming upon His people, and it is also the context for Jeremiah 31. Jeremiah 31 contains several fulfilled prophecies at the first advent of Christ. For example, Jeremiah 31:15 is a prophecy fulfilled in Matthew 2:16-18. Jesus is born under law (Galatians 4:4), at the end of the Old Covenant. The Old Covenant is ending with Christ's birth, and the New Covenant is at hand with the beginning of His ministry. In writing to Jews, the author of Hebrews says in chapter 1:1-2: "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world." The things "spoken of long ago to the fathers and prophets" are the passages that we are outlining here. If you study these verses carefully, against current thought, the last days of the Jews and their Covenant were upon them. These references begin to line up with the last days of the Old Covenant, not the last days of the world.

A special warning. Because the coming of Jesus marks the fulfillment of the promise of the Messiah, we don't have dispensational theology. That says there are different ways to be saved at different times. No, there is only one way of salvation throughout the Scripture. We believe the promise of God to provide the victory over sin and Satan (cf. Genesis 3:15). The New Testament tell the story of the Messiah, God's eternal son, who

humbled himself and became a human being. Faith in old or new covenant shows God fulfilling his promise to rescue us and the only difference between salvation in the Old versus the New is that we know the name of the one who came to save, Jesus is his name.

Tomorrow we will finish our peek into the Old Testament and then I will list the Significance Points we can take from looking back.