

Six Periods in the Bible

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Date: 26 March 2023

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[0 : 00] Dear God, I just pray that these words, talking about your timeline, that will encourage us and just show that everything is happening the way you want, Lord.

Thank you. Amen. Just over three kilometers from our house sits one of the few remaining statues of Sir John A. MacDonald.

Due to revisionist view of our first Prime Minister, most of his statues have been destroyed or put into storage. This view of history looks at his role in the Native school situation of the time and not of his accomplishments of uniting the country from coast to coast.

There's a lot of this type of historical revision that goes on with leaders from the past who don't fit today's politically correct narrative. There are many that want to change history so as to deny what happened yesterday.

This is just as true for the history of the Bible. From the substitution of evolution for the history of creation to questioning parts of Jewish history, the denial that David was a king to even questioning if Christ was a real person by some.

[1 : 35] Unfortunately, a lot of people that attend more progressive churches fall into this group. Not only do they want to allegorize everything in the Bible, but when it comes to the future event, it makes little sense to them.

Fortunately for us, Jesus, who is the Word of God, John 1.1, knew what he was talking about, inspiring men to write the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. For Christ, everything, everything is historical in a historical form since he sees the end from the beginning.

God sees everything. He's before all things and he is all things. Today I want to look at the six time periods described in the Bible and the significant events that mark the divide.

God is gracious to us that he tells us and warns us of past and future events with the aspiration that all people will come to a real faith in him and not face eternal judgment.

27% of the Bible is prophetic, including the birth, life, and death of Jesus. Much is still to occur in the world time frame.

[2 : 57] Starting with Genesis chapter 1, we have God declaring that he alone is responsible for every physical thing that we experience in this world, from the ground and air to plants and animals and sun and moon.

He claims to have placed the stars in the sky. Without the constellations, it would have been exceedingly hard to navigate long distances in the past.

Also, the change of location in the sky helps us track seasonal time frame. Another thing that's happened lately to verify the stars, does anyone remember or looked at and known about the James Webb telescope that's there?

It's proven that the Big Bang Theory is bogus. I love that. You see way back that there should not be galaxies 10 times bigger than the Milky Way that are mature.

Anyways, with the fall of man, Eve being deceived by Satan, eating from the tree of knowledge, and Adam, who also chose to eat that fruit and face the reality of death, we now have both spiritual and physical death.

[4 : 31] Things spiraled down quickly as Cain killed Abel in a raging fit of jealousy. Abel offered to God an acceptable sacrifice while Cain did not.

As time progressed, the appearance of the Nephilim events turned totally evil. These Nephilim are fallen angels who rejected God and have followed the lies of Satan.

Whether they possessed man or had physical relations with women on their own, the result was evil. Many theologians feel that when the flood happened, that these demons were cast into hell to be released during the tribulation since there were no people or animals to possess other than

Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark.

Think of it. When Jesus freed a demon-possessed man, he sent the demons into 3,000 pigs because the demons did not want to be cast into hell.

They pleaded not to go to hell. So that's the end of period one. Period two starts with Noah's flood, which is verified by the stratification of massive layers of different types of mud, rock, found all over the earth.

[5 : 51] It's not just the Grand Canyon, but it's in Europe, it's in Asia, it's in Australia. Massive amounts of mud, 1,000-foot layers that are stratification.

And that's not just a local little thing. 1,000 feet of mud is a massive amount. These formations are laid parallel to each other with no sign of erosion between the layers.

Think of the Grand Canyon. If the deposit took millions of years to form, there would be indications of gullies and hills in the layers. They wouldn't be parallel. There'd be stratification all through it.

And vertical, petrified trees could be found in some deposits. Also, it is possible to find pliable tissue in many fossil bones. 65 million years should be enough time to dry up any bone marrow.

Even to find fossilized bones, the annals would have to be covered with mud almost instantly. This is the time period of the Jews being God's chosen people.

[7 : 00] This started with God choosing Abraham to set out from Haran to the land that became Israel. Noah was still alive for 58 years while Abraham was living in the Ur of the Chaldeans.

So there was an overlap from Noah to Abraham, 58 years. So Abraham could have known the story of the flood firsthand from his predecessor.

When Isaac's family entered Egypt to escape a famine and lived under Joseph's care, there were about 70 people. 430 years later, to the day, they left Egypt, a nation.

Israel was a nation of 2 million, with Moses leading them. During the 40 years of wandering in the desert, Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament. These are the historical records and books of the law that Jews were to live by.

God also ordered Moses to build a portable meeting tent for him with two rooms separated by a heavy curtain. In the tent was the Holy of Holies that housed the Ark of the Covenant, which was a golden covered box, a little bigger than a two-drawer filing cabinet.

[8 : 16] On top of the Ark sat two figures of angels. This is where man would meet God once a year with the blood of a sacrificed animal.

The outer holy room contained gold candles, a table for bread, and another for incense. The tent of meeting was surrounded by a large curtain courtyard. Inside this area were the priests offered the animal sacrifices and grain offerings that God required for the five types of sacrifices to atone for the people's sin.

There's five different types of sacrifices. These are pictures of Christ. We see that sin could only be corrected for by the loss of life of an animal and its blood sprinkled on the altar.

It is through the Old Testament law that we see how the murder of Jesus paid the price that we would have to pay on our own. So these are, at the time, the Jews didn't really get it.

But hindsight, we look at the death of Christ and we see how that was a fulfillment of the requirements. God's chosen people were constantly rebellious.

[9 : 38] Even while Moses led the nation through the desert for 40 years, they would complain about food, water. They even made golden statues of calves while Moses was on the mountain meeting with God.

After David, a man after God's own heart, the nation drifted into idolatry. And that's where we had our Sunday school lesson this morning, including the sacrifice of their own children to Molech and the worship of all gods.

The pinnacle of Israel's history was the reign of Solomon who built the first temple. After this, God raised prophets to warn the people, which they rejected and often killed.

After much warning, God would send other nations to attack and destroy Israel, leaving just a remnant to carry on in Israel. Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar was the most famous.

Daniel interpreted his dream about the coming kingdoms. Interestingly, from this time on, Israel ceased to be a nation and was always occupied by other nations.

[10 : 46] Rome was in power when Jesus was born. And even you think, oh yeah, Israel was a nation. No, they were occupied. They were never, there was always, there's always been Jews in Israel, but they were never a nation again.

Then, period three, the Gentile age. We are in the Gentile age. Christ's birth, life, and death fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies.

From being born of a virgin in Bethlehem to riding on a donkey, his death on the cross was foretold in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53, 4 to 9.

Isaiah 53. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows.

Yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgression. He was crushed for our iniquities. Punishment that brought us peace was upon him.

[11:52] And by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way. And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearer is silent. So he did not open his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living. For the transgressions of any people he was stricken.

He was assigned a grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death. Though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Interestingly, Jews will not read chapter 53.

It's too exactly what was told. With the death of Christ came the end of the time of Israel being the center of God's focus.

[12:55] At the moment of Christ's death, the heavy curtain that separated the holy place from the holy of holies in the tabernacle, built by Herod, were ripped in two, from top to bottom.

This ended the need for people to come and offer animal sacrifices for their sins. Christ's human death and the shedding of the blood is the atonement that was required.

All the Old Testament sacrifices were just a down payment for sin for Israelites who believed in God. Today, we are no less sinners, but by believing that Christ died for us, we can attain salvation from eternal death.

Ephesians chapter 2, 8 to 10 is just a very short picture of this.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves. It is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.

[14:03] For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. So very clearly, I'm not getting to heaven because I'm such a good person.

I give to the poor, I feed this, I'm that and this. It's only by the grace of God through faith in Jesus. But God does prepare things for us to do for the way we live and everything.

So doing good is not a requirement to get to heaven, but it is a requirement for how we are to live. In the explanation, grace started in the Garden of Eden when God allowed Adam and Eve to live.

Grace continued through Moses as he was saved from the flood. Grace continues to us since believing allows us to live in heaven through faith.

The present church age is when God has expanded his offer of salvation to everyone who will believe. Not just the Jews, but to everyone.

[15:19] So this is our offer. We are the ones grafted into the olive tree. Josh talked about that a few months ago, about being grafted into the tree, and that is us.

God foreknows who would believe, but it's still our choice to accept the offer of eternal life. Over the last thousand years, God's church has been instrumental in events on earth.

It's not that the people are perfect, but God uses people. A few examples of how the believers have had input into things and events is constitution of many countries.

Most notably has been how the United States Constitution was heavily influenced by God's word. Another is, in England, William Wilberforce was active in politics for 45 years.

As a believer, he worked for over 25 years to have slavery abolished. Finally, in 1807, England did so. He also worked to improve conditions in factories and other workplace conditions.

[16:35] So here was a believer who worked to get slavery abolished in England. Then, you can look to modern medicine and how it's inspiration from believers who risked their lives during the European plagues, caring for others.

So people, even though they knew that the plague was active, and they didn't understand it, but they knew that to go care for something, somebody, could be deadly. So these were believers who would do that.

Florence Nightingale is credited with the start of modern nursing. During the Crimean War, she nursed the British wounded at Skirtini, Turkey.

Later on, she helped start nursing schools in England. There are many famous scientists who were Christian believers. Isaac Newton, Robert Boyle, Michael Faraday, Louis Pasteur, Galileo Galilei. There are many believers who had great contribution to our knowledge. Without the influence of Christian believers, the world would be a different place. So God placed exceptional wisdom and insight into these men.

[17 : 48] As we look at the world, we can see this time period is coming to a close. God's word forecasts that rough times are ahead. One of the biggest predictors is the nation Israel.

So, like I said, over 2,500 years ago, it ceased being nation as it was occupied by various nations. The latest before it became a nation was Turkey.

And then it was part of the British Empire from about 1900 on. In Isaiah 66, God asks, Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment?

Only once. May 14, 1948, this happened. Israel again became a nation. The next day, it was at war with all of its neighbors.

And as you read the book of Revelation, it is written about the nation Israel. Not the revisionist view that this is the church under persecution.

[19 : 00] Israel never ceased being God's chosen people. So there's many churches that teach, as you read all the persecution that goes, all the bad things that are happening in Revelation, that that's churches.

It's Israel. And that Jerusalem is the place where the temple will be built. Matthew 24, we read how the apostle asked Jesus about the end of the age.

Verses 4 to 8 describes the transition to the next period. So this is before the tribulation, but at the end of the times right now.

Jesus answered, Watch out that no one deceives you, for many will come in my name, claiming I am the Christ, and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed.

Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

[20 : 10] All these are the beginning of birth pains. So this is God's warning before the tribulation, that things are going to go downhill.

So these verses describe the transition to the next period. At this point, before the tribulations, many believe that the true church of believers will be raptured to be with Christ in the twinkling of an eye.

Others believe that this will happen at the halfway point, at the three and a half years of the tribulation. And yet others believe that the church will live here on earth, but will be protected from God's wrath.

So there are numerous views as to what happens. I prefer the rapture, that God will spare us. He tells the church of the Philippians that they are weak, but he will protect them from the wrath to come. But that's, you know, like, just like so many things, it's not absolutely clear, so there can be debate.

[21 : 22] One thing is for certain, during the tribulation, there will be much deception. People's view of God will be clouded, not wanting to accept him as God. We are also told that things wind down, that believers will be persecuted for the Christian stand we take.

Look around. Here's a few examples. A student at a Catholic church in Ontario is expelled and then arrested for declaring in class that God made only two genders.

In Saskatoon, naked men parading around for hours in various women's changing rooms at public pools. Think of 30 years ago, would that have happened?

I don't think so. Topless women also prancing around at public pools. Because they're men.

Political parties not allowing people to be candidates if they have a pro-life belief.

Pastors being arrested for demonstrating against drag queens reading to young children in public libraries. These are all happening in Canada, and to object is now viewed as hate.

[22 : 34] Now we look at earthquakes, famines, wars, deception, persecution. These are all forecast because Jesus lovingly is warning us of the consequences of rejecting him.

Period 4. We go to Revelation chapter 6. Revelation chapter 6 is the start of the description of the tribulation period.

I'll just read verses 1 to 8. I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals.

Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a loud voice, a voice like thunder, Come, I looked. And there before me was a white horse. Its riders held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror, bent on conquest.

When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, Come. Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and make men slay each other to give them.

[23 : 53] To him was given a large sword. When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, Come. I looked, and there before me was a black horse. Its rider was a pair of scales in his hand.

Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures say, A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wage, and do not damage the oil and the wine. Then when the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the living creature say, Come. I looked, and there before me was a pale horse. Its rider was named Death and Hades, and Hades was following close behind him.

They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine, and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth. In this description, the rider is Satan, mimicking Jesus, as we will look at in chapter 19.

So Satan comes on a white horse, as portrayed, he is a leader of certain stature, so he will deceive.

[25 : 09] So Satan always tries to mimic Christ. There are many ideas about the timing before the tribulation starts, but there's no doubt that when Satan appears, the clock starts kicking down, the seven-year countdown.

This will be the most horrific time on earth. Right away, two billion people die horrendous deaths. Any person who becomes a believer will be murdered, but will have eternal life through Jesus, so that anyone who doesn't have the mark forecast in the middle will be killed because they don't follow the beast.

The mark of the beast will identify everyone without it. No one can buy or sell anything. This mark seems not to only identify, but affects the intellect of the people, stopping them from looking to God. You know, it's interesting. In Australia, it is coming soon that your cell phone will be your identification and banking machine, nullifying the need for the use of cash.

So these things are getting closer that, yeah, you think, well, this is all, you know, how is it? But we do have the technology that 100 years ago and even 50 years ago was only dreamed of.

[26 : 39] Now we have the technology, and in the future, it could be something as simple as a chip in your arm. So you won't, cash is worthless.

Now, during this period, during the period of the tribulation, after Satan comes, there are three titles with seven events each. The seals starts in Revelation 6.

There's Antichrist, then there's war, famine, and death. Death, a quarter of the population destroyed. Earth and heaven are shaken.

The 144,000 are sealed, and they're from the nations of Israel. Each tribe is named as 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes, and there's half an hour of silence in heaven.

Next is the trumpets in Revelations 8, 9, and 11. A third of the trees and grass are destroyed. A third of the sea life and ships are destroyed.

[27 : 45] A third of the fresh water is poisoned. Went through to the sun and moon and stars are darkened. Stars are darkened. Demonic locusts.

Demonic locusts. And then there's four demons released and 200 million troops on the move. Finally, the bowls.

Each one gets worse and worse and worse. Revelation 15 and 16. Boils. So people will suffer with boils. All sea life is destroyed.

All water is poisoned. Scorching sun. Deep darkness. Rebellious mankind curses God, and the Euphrates river dries up for the Battle of Armageddon.

Worldwide earthquakes, and Babylon is destroyed, and with huge, there's huge hailstorms. Hundred pound hailstorms.

[28 : 47] Hailstorms. I'd like to read chapter 9. Revelation chapter 9. The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth.

The star was given the key to the shaft of the abyss. When he opened the abyss, smoke rose like smoke from a giant furnace. The sun and the sky were darkened by the smoke from the abyss. And out of the smoke, locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or the plants or trees, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their forehead.

They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of a sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man.

During those days, men will seek death, but will not find it. They will long to die, but death will elude them. And it also describes the different plagues that are going to come.

[30 : 06] And then, verse, God always warned the Israelites. He allowed them to be, He allowed them to be slaughtered and taken to Babylonia and Assyria.

He warned them, turn away from your worthless idols. Repent, turn to me. He warned them for hundreds of years. And when they refused, they suffered.

They were killed because they would not turn away from the Moloch. And, you know, as we talked a little bit in Sunday school this morning, Moloch was a detestable God where the people would sacrifice.

They would put their children, their babies, on this altar and burn them up. So God told them to change.

So after all these, so this warning about the, the warning about the, you know, the locusts and everything, verses 20 and 21 say, the rest of mankind that was not killed by the plagues still did not repent of the works of their hands.

[31 : 26] They did not stop worshipping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood. Idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murderers, their magic arts, which could mean drugs, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

So the people did not repent. God warns us through the book of Revelation, this is coming to be, to repent, to change your ways and if you don't, you will face the wrath of God.

So the tribulation ends in chapters 19, 11, and I'll just quickly read a bit there. I saw, and this is when the tribulation, because there's always a distinct marker.

I saw heaven open and there before me was a white horse, again a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.

His eyes are like blazing fire and on his head were many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one but he himself knows. He is draped in a robe dipped in blood and his name is the word of God.

[32 : 47] The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth came a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.

He will rule them with an iron scepter. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty and on his robe and on his thigh he has written the name King of Kings and Lord of Lords. All right. Yes. So that's Jesus. That is the end of the tribulation. And then I, at the end of the thousand years in chapter 20, and I saw an angel coming down out of heaven having the key to the abyss and holding in his hand a great chain.

He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil or Satan and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the abyss and locked and sealed it over him to keep him from deceiving the nations for more than, for any more until the thousand years was ended.

After this, he may be set free for a short time. So that's the end of the tribulation period, the start of the thousand years.

[34 : 04] Isaiah describes a peaceful time. Infants will play near the holes of the cobra and young children will put their hands into the viper's nest.

No harm done. Isaiah 65, 19 to 25. This is incredible. Like this is not, this doesn't describe heaven. This doesn't describe the world as we know it today. This describes a special period. And I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people.

The sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old man who does not live out his years.

He who dies at a hundred will be thought of as a mere youth. That's not happening today. He who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. They will build houses and dwell in them. [35 : 06] They will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them or plant and eat and others eat. For as the day of a tree so will be the days of my people.

My chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands. They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune. They will be a people blessed by the Lord they and their descendants with them.

Before they call I will answer. While they are still speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together. The lion will each draw like the ox. Thus will be the serpent's food.

They will neither harm nor destroy in all my mountains says the Lord. So this is a period of absolute perfect peace. There will be humans on earth that can die.

Not believers who have gone to heaven but they will have children. Those that are there during the thousand years will have children. Those children still have to have the, make the choice to decide because again Revelations chapter 20 chapter 20 7 to 15 are some of the most terrifying verses in the Bible.

[36 : 27] This is the end of the tribulation. Again I can say there is a distinct marker and this is the distinct marker. So when I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it earth and sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them.

I saw the dead great and small standing before the throne and the books were opened. Another book was opened which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

The sea gave up the dead and there was in it and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them and each person was judged according to what they had done.

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life he was thrown into the lake of fire.

So that's a promise. When Christ comes is there the there's a big battle that happens and God just with the word of his mouth ends the battle all the forces against him so these are people that were born during the thousand years who rebelled he will destroy them and then the judgment so it's promised that if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life he was thrown into the lake of fire the lake of fire never ends it's not quenchable it's yeah so I was thinking you know people think well I'm just going to go there and I'll be with all my friends hell will be a wonderful place we'll party all the time not so much an example of what hell could be like if you think of

[38 : 27] Lazarus and the rich man Lazarus died he lived a miserable life and the dogs licked his wounds and the rich man had all his wonderful stuff but Lazarus with Abraham and there was a huge you couldn't go across this gully or gap between where Lazarus was and where the rich man was and this is likely how hell will be so the rich man was alone he was tormented unbelievably he begged for a drop of water on his tongue and there was no nothing that could give him any peace so this is how hell will be alone there is no there is no partying with friends you are all by yourself sulfur in the eyes if you have ever had a speck of sulfur in your eyes there is not much more oh that's just horrible flames unquenchable thirst no relief from pain people go into heaven we have perfect bodies we have no pain we live forever there is no relief from pain and the worst part for eternity hell

Romans 6 23 for the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life then we turn to chapter 21 1 to 5 heaven so after after that dividing mark then we look at heaven then I saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away and there was no longer any sea I saw the holy city the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband and I heard a loud voice from the throng saying now the dwelling of God is with men and he will live with them they will be his people and God himself will be with them and there will be their God and he will wipe away every tear from their eyes there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain for the old order of things has passed away he who was seated on the throne said I am making everything new then he said write this down for these words are trustworthy so that's that's what we have to look for heaven is we're with God there's everything to look forward to you know and you know as we live our lives just just saying a few a few words isn't enough we have to live the life and the three chapter book of Titus gives a very clear description on how to live the

Christian life once salvation is accepted so there's expectations God definitely gives us expectations works to live by in revelations 1 8 Jesus said I am the alpha and the omega who is and who was and who is to come the almighty this statement assures us that we have the guarantee that these six periods did happen and will happen in the future this is our hope of salvation thank you