

The
END TIMES
IN
CHRONOLOGICAL
ORDER
WORKBOOK

RON RHODES



HARVEST PROPHECY
AN IMPRINT OF HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked CSB have been taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Verses marked NASB are taken from the (NASB®) New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved. www.lockman.org.

Verses marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com. The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.®

Verses marked KJV are from the King James Version of the Bible.

Cover design by the Dugan Design Group

Cover photo © by sdecoret / Adobe Stock

Timeline illustration by Terry Dugan, Dugan Design Group

Interior design by Rockwell Davis

For bulk, special sales, or ministry purchases, please call 1-800-547-8979. Email: Customerservice@hhpbooks.com



This logo is a federally registered trademark of the Hawkins Children's LLC. Harvest House Publishers, Inc., is the exclusive licensee of this trademark.

The End Times in Chronological Order Workbook

Copyright © 2022 by Ron Rhodes

Published by Harvest House Publishers

Eugene, Oregon 97408

www.harvesthousepublishers.com

ISBN 978-0-7369-8538-3 (pbk)

ISBN 978-0-7369-8539-0 (eBook)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, digital, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 / CM / 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

CONTENTS

	Introducing Biblical Prophecy	7
Lesson 1	Rightly Interpreting Biblical Prophecy	13
Lesson 2	Prior to the Tribulation	25
Lesson 3	The Rapture	35
Lesson 4	The Results of the Rapture	47
Lesson 5	The Church with Christ in Heaven	59
Lesson 6	The Invasion of Israel	69
Lesson 7	The Beginning of the Tribulation, Part 1: Emergence of the Antichrist	81
Lesson 8	The Beginning of the Tribulation, Part 2: Rebuilt Temple and Signs of the End	91
Lesson 9	The First Half of the Tribulation, Part 1: The Lamb and His Witnesses	103
Lesson 10	The First Half of the Tribulation, Part 2: Judgments, Martyrdom, and Apostasy	115
Lesson 11	The Midpoint of the Tribulation	127
Lesson 12	The Second Half of the Tribulation	141
Lesson 13	The End of the Tribulation	153
Lesson 14	After the Tribulation, Before the Millennial Kingdom	165
Lesson 15	During the Millennial Kingdom	177
Lesson 16	After the Millennial Kingdom	193
Lesson 17	The Eternal State	205
	Final Thoughts	215

Introducing Biblical Prophecy

Today we are witnessing:

- a massive falling away from the truth
- a widespread embracing of doctrinal error
- a profound moral decline
- a growing tolerance for all things evil
- a widespread outbreak of a variety of sexual sins and perversions, with no repentance in sight
- the steady diminishing of religious freedom
- the ever-increasing global persecution of God's people
- Israel being a relentless sore spot in the world
- ever-escalating conflict in the Middle East
- efforts being made toward rebuilding the Jewish temple
- the stage being set for a massive invasion of Israel by Russia and Muslim nations
- the steady rise and influence of globalism
- political and economic steps toward the establishment of a revived Roman Empire—a *United States of Europe*
- the emergence of a cashless world in preparation for the antichrist's control of the world economy during the tribulation
- and much more.

Does it seem to you that world circumstances are growing more troubling with each passing decade? Give some examples.

What are the most pressing initial questions you have about Bible prophecy?

It is sobering—*sometimes frightening*—to witness all that is transpiring in our present day. Current events are setting the stage for the future tribulation period. It therefore makes great sense to go through a workbook strategically designed to guide you in understanding the prophetic Scriptures.

How do you think an understanding of Bible prophecy might help us keep current events—*even horrible events*—in proper perspective?

This workbook is a stand-alone guide to understanding biblical prophecy. It does not require that you have previously read my book *The End Times in Chronological Order*. The workbook will make perfect sense to you all by itself.

For those who have read my previous book, this workbook will also benefit you. It not only reviews essential truths but also guides you step-by-step through the Scriptures. Trust me—there is great blessing in sifting prophetic truths directly from the pages of Scripture.

It is my hope and prayer that as you study this workbook, you will grow firm in the following convictions:

- The Bible is the Word of God.
- God knows the future.
- God is in sovereign control of all that occurs in the world.
- God has a plan for humanity—*and a plan for you*.
- God will one day providentially cause good to triumph over evil.
- A new world is coming—a “*new earth*.”
- We’ll all receive body upgrades—*glorified resurrection bodies*.
- The Lord is coming *soon!*

I can promise you that a study of Bible prophecy will change your life. It certainly has mine. My exposure to biblical prophecy was a vital contributing factor to my becoming a Christian back in the 1970s. (*Wow, have I been around that long?*)

Now, here is an important foundational point: *Prophecy is God’s specific revelation regarding future*

events. The backdrop is that only God—who is omniscient (or all-knowing)—knows the future. In Isaiah 46:9-11, God Himself affirms:

“I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me,
declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet done,
saying, ‘My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose.’”

This means that our sovereign God controls human history. He is also the only one who can reveal the future to us. And He does so in the pages of the Bible.

I find it fascinating that about 25 percent of divine revelation in the Bible was prophetic when originally written. This means that one out of every four verses in the Bible is prophetic. Such prophetic verses typically deal with Jesus Christ, Israel, the church, the Gentiles, Satan, the antichrist, the signs of the times, the various end-time judgments, Armageddon, the second coming, the millennial kingdom, and the eternal state.

Why is it significant that one-fourth of the Bible is prophetic? Be specific.

In this workbook, I will serve as your tour guide through the pages of prophetic Scripture. By the time we’re done, you will have a thorough understanding of biblical prophecy.

Each lesson has the following helpful features:

Key Concept: This is a concise statement of the primary focus of the lesson.

The Big Ideas in This Lesson: These bullet points give you the big picture.

Probing the Scriptures: I examine key Bible verses relevant to the lesson. Questions will be sprinkled throughout.

Life Lessons: These are applicational life-changing truths based upon Scripture.

Digging Deeper with Cross-References: These cross-references provide extra clarity on crucial biblical concepts.

Prayer: We close each lesson by talking to God about what we’ve learned.

My personal prayer is that this workbook will cause a significant change in the way you view this present world and your place in it. Scripture itself says prophecy ought to have a life-changing effect on us (see, for example, Titus 2:11-14). So this workbook ultimately seeks to make a difference in the way you live your Christian life.

I know there are some who say the prophetic future makes them fearful. Bible prophecy, properly

understood, should have the opposite effect. It should make believers confident and bold as they trust in the God who controls the prophetic future.

What truths can you sift from the following verses about why we should not be fearful in the end times?

- John 14:1—
- John 14:27—
- John 16:33—
- Matthew 6:34—

There's one more thing. Seven times in the book of Revelation we are told that those who study and obey the truths in the book will receive a special blessing. I *want* that blessing, don't you?

Briefly scan through Revelation 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, and 22:7, 14. How are these verses motivational?

Since seven is a number representing *perfection* and *completeness*, what is the significance of seven pronouncements of blessing for those who read and obey the book of Revelation?

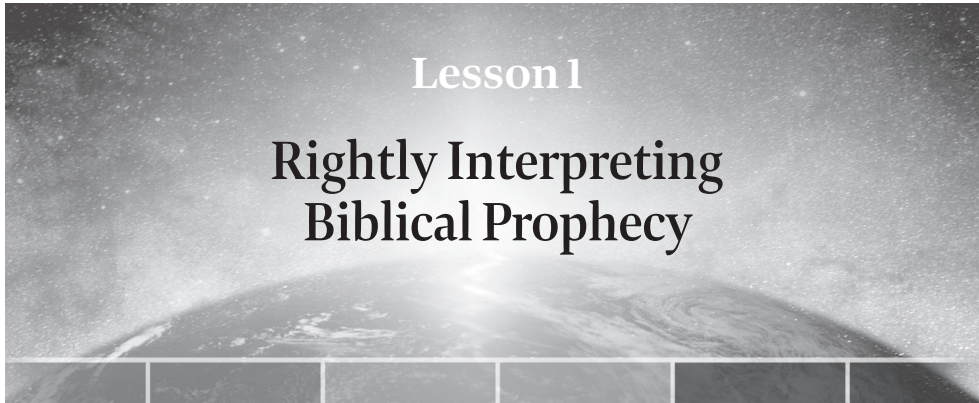
It might interest you to know that, as a general principle, Scripture consistently teaches that obedience to God's Word brings you good things in life. Obedience to God yields:

- blessing (Revelation 1:3; Luke 11:28)
- long life (1 Kings 3:14; John 8:51)
- happiness (Psalm 112:1; 119:56)
- peace (Proverbs 1:33)
- well-being (Jeremiah 7:23)

That's a pretty impressive list. Obeying God is not always easy. But I'm willing to work hard in learning obedience since those blessings are hard to pass up!

Let me encourage you that as you learn prophetic truths from this workbook, allow what you learn to become a part of the fabric of your life. As your mind feasts on these truths, let your heart also be enriched, nurtured, and changed for the better. Seek to follow and obey. *You will be blessed!*

Lord, by the power of Your Spirit, please enable me to understand and apply the truths we examine from prophetic Scripture. Please inspire and excite me with Your Word. Instill in me a sense of awe for the Lord Jesus Christ, who Himself is the heart and center of Bible prophecy. Thank You in Jesus's name. Amen.



■ KEY CONCEPT

God is the ultimate Author of prophecy, and He wants you to understand it.

■ THE BIG IDEAS IN THIS LESSON

- We can trust the prophecies in the Bible because they come from God.
- Old Testament prophecies of Christ's first coming were all fulfilled literally. This sets a precedent. Prophecies of the second coming will be fulfilled just as literally.
- Simple interpretive rules guide us in rightly understanding Bible prophecy.

■ PROBING THE SCRIPTURES

You Can Trust Prophetic Scripture

God has the unmatched ability to predict the future with 100 percent accuracy.

Briefly summarize God's claims in the following verses:

- Isaiah 44:7-8—

- Isaiah 45:21—

- Isaiah 46:8-10—
- Isaiah 48:3, 5—

Our all-knowing God provides everything He wants us to know about Him, and how we can have a relationship with Him, in the pages of Scripture. He is the one who caused the Bible to be written. Through it, He speaks to us today just as He spoke to people in ancient times when its words were first given.

The Bible is not man-made. It is *God-inspired*. The original documents of the Bible were written by men who were permitted to exercise their own personalities and literary talents—but *they wrote under the control and guidance of the Holy Spirit*.

What evidence do you see about how God’s Spirit spoke through the human authors of Scripture in the following verses?

- Zechariah 7:12—
- 2 Samuel 23:2—
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17—
- 2 Peter 1:21—



Word Study: The Greek word translated “carried along” in 2 Peter 1:21 literally means “forcefully borne along.” Even though human beings were used in writing

down God's prophecies, these men were all sovereignly *borne along* by the Holy Spirit. The human wills of the authors were not the originators of God's message.

How did Jesus Himself confirm the divine authority of Scripture in the following verses?

- Matthew 4:4—
- Matthew 5:17-18—
- Matthew 15:1-6—
- John 17:17—

Based on these verses, formulate a one-sentence summary of Jesus's view of Scripture.

A Literal Approach Is Best

A literal approach to interpreting prophecy is best. This approach embraces the normal, everyday, common understanding of the words found in Scripture. We see this illustrated in prophecies of Christ's first coming:

What does a literal understanding of Micah 5:2 indicate about Jesus's birth city?





What does a literal understanding of Isaiah 7:14 indicate about the miraculous nature of Jesus's birth?

What does a literal understanding of Zechariah 12:10 indicate about the nature of Jesus's death?

Just as a literal understanding of the prophecies of Christ's first coming makes great sense, so a literal understanding of the prophecies of Christ's second coming makes great sense.

What do you learn about the second coming based on a literal understanding of the following verses?

- Matthew 16:27—
- Luke 12:40—
- Philippians 3:20—

Exceptions to a Literal Approach

There are some exceptions to a strictly literal approach. After all, not *every* statement in the Bible is intended to be taken literally. Let's briefly consider how these nonliteral statements in Scripture can be understood.

The Literal Method Does Not Eliminate Figures of Speech

The Bible contains some figures of speech. But these figures of speech always teach us something literal.

To illustrate, try to sift out some literal truths from the figures of speech about God or Jesus in the following verses:

- God’s “wings” in Psalm 91:4—
- God as a “rock” in Psalm 94:22—
- Jesus as a “vine” in John 15:4-5—

In each case, these figures of speech teach us something literal about God or Jesus.

The Literal Method Does Not Eliminate the Use of Symbols

While the Bible often makes use of symbols, each symbol conveys something literal. In the book of Revelation, the symbols are often defined for us in the immediate context:

Read Revelation 1:20. What are the “seven stars” that are in Christ’s right hand? What are the “seven golden lampstands”?

Read Revelation 5:8. What are the “golden bowls full of incense”?



Read Revelation 17:15. How are “the waters” defined?

Textual clues often point us to the literal truth found in a symbol, either in the immediate context or in the broader context of the whole of Scripture.

The Literal Method Does Not Eliminate the Use of Parables

Jesus often used parables that are not to be taken literally. Yet—like symbols—each parable conveys a literal point. To illustrate, following are a few of Jesus’s parables, with a concise summary of their meaning:

The Parable of the Wheat and Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30) reveals that true and false believers will coexist and be mingled together until the future judgment when they will be separated.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32) reveals that the kingdom started small, but it will grow immeasurably large.

The Parable of the Fishing Net (Matthew 13:47-50) reveals that up until Christ’s second coming, when judgment will take place, there will be both genuine Christians and phony (professing) Christians that coexist within the kingdom.

The Parable of the Fig Tree (Luke 21:29-31) reveals that as prophetic “signs of the times” come to pass, Christ’s followers will recognize them and be prepared for the Lord’s coming.

The Parable of the Faithful Servant (Matthew 24:45-51) reveals that those who profess to serve Christ during the future tribulation period must make a pivotal choice—be faithful and obedient servants or be unfaithful and disobedient servants.

The Parables of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) reveals that the more faithful we are in serving God in the present life, the more we will be entrusted with in the next life.

Biblical Confirmation of Literalness

Though there are some figures of speech, symbols, and parables in the Bible, the biblical text itself provides numerous confirmations of the *overall literalness* of the biblical text. You can check this out for yourself:



How does Exodus 20:11 confirm the earlier Genesis account of creation?

How does 1 Timothy 2:13 confirm the Genesis account of Adam and Eve's creation?

How does Romans 5:12 confirm the Genesis account of Adam's fall into sin?

How does Matthew 24:37-39 confirm the truth of Noah's flood?

How does Matthew 12:38-41 confirm the account of Jonah and the big fish?

We might say that the literal method of interpretation is built into the very fabric of Scripture itself.

You Can Understand Prophetic Scripture

Here is a promise you can count on: *You can understand prophetic Scripture.*

To accomplish this, it is essential to follow some basic rules of interpretation. It is the rule-based interpreter who “correctly explains the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15 NLT). Following are some simple rules to remember:

1. Always Seek the Plain Sense

Drill this principle into your mind: *When the plain sense makes good sense, seek no other sense lest you end up in nonsense.* This is the foundational principle that has always guided me in interpreting Bible prophecy. It will guide you as well.

2. Submit All Doctrinal Presuppositions to Scripture

All interpreters are influenced to some degree by personal, theological, and denominational prejudices. None of us approaches Scripture with a blank slate. For this reason, our doctrinal opinions must be in harmony with Scripture and *subject to correction by it.* We must allow the biblical text itself to modify or reshape our presuppositions and beliefs.





3. *Pay Close Attention to the Context*

Every word in the Bible is part of a sentence, every sentence is part of a paragraph, every paragraph is part of a book, and every book is part of the whole of Scripture. The interpretation of a specific passage must not contradict the broader teaching of Scripture on a point.

4. *Make a Correct Genre Judgment*

The Bible contains various literary genres, each of which has particular characteristics that we must recognize to interpret the text correctly. Biblical genres include history (Acts), the dramatic epic (Job), poetry (Psalms), wise sayings (Proverbs), and apocalyptic writings (Daniel and Revelation). Incorrect genre judgments will lead us astray when interpreting Scripture.

For example:

- Poetry (such as a psalm that contains symbols) should not be treated as a straightforward narrative.
- A parable should not be treated as history.

Even though the Bible contains various literary genres, some of which include symbols, the biblical authors most often used literal statements to convey their ideas. *Where the Bible writers use a literal means to express their ideas, the Bible student must use a literal approach in interpreting such ideas.*

5. *Consult History and Culture*

The Bible student should try to step out of his or her Western mindset and into an ancient Jewish mindset. It is wise to consider Jewish marriage rites, burial rites, family practices, farm practices, business practices, the monetary system, methods of warfare, slavery, the treatment of captives, the use of covenants, and religious practices. Armed with such detailed historical information, interpreting the Bible becomes much easier.

6. *Remember That One Prophetic Passage May Apply to More Than One Event*

A prophecy in the Bible may refer to two events that are separated by a significant period. Though found in a single passage, these events are blended into one picture, masking the intervening period. The time gap is not recognized within the particular text, but it becomes evident in consultation with other verses.

An example is Zechariah 9:9-10. This passage prophesies both the first and second comings of Jesus Christ:

What do we learn about Jesus at His first coming in Zechariah 9:9?

What do we learn about Jesus at His second coming and His millennial kingdom in Zechariah 9:10?



7. Watch for Insights About Jesus

From beginning to end—from Genesis to Revelation—the Bible is a Jesus book. Prophetic Scripture consistently points to Him!

What did Jesus say to some Jews about how Scripture points to Him (John 5:39-40)?

How did Jesus help the two disciples on the road to Emmaus see that Scripture points to Him (Luke 24:25-27)?

What did Jesus say to His disciples about how Scripture points to Him (Luke 24:44)?

The interpreter of Bible prophecy is wise to look for Jesus in the biblical text! Our interpretation of prophetic Scripture ought to be *Christocentric* (centered on Christ).

What evidence do you see in Revelation 1 that Revelation is a Christ-centered book? Be specific.



What implications does the Christ-centered nature of Scripture have for your own life being Christ-centered?

Jesus and Bible Prophecy	
Jesus is building the New Jerusalem	John 14:1-3; Revelation 21
Jesus will come for us at the rapture	1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
Jesus will judge Christians in heaven	2 Corinthians 5:10
Jesus will inflict judgments during the tribulation period	Revelation 6
Jesus will come again (the “second coming”)	Revelation 19:11-21
Jesus will judge the nations after the second coming	Matthew 25:31-46
Jesus will reign during the millennial kingdom	Revelation 20:1-5
Jesus will judge the wicked dead after the millennium	Revelation 20:11-15

LIFE LESSONS

Bible prophecy has a practical side to it. We can learn essential truths from prophecy that help us to be better Christians. Here are a few life lessons to keep in mind:

Prophecy Proves the Bible Is God’s Word

1. God alone knows the prophetic future.
2. God shares multiple specific prophecies of the future in the pages of the Bible and *no other holy book*.
3. Over 100 Old Testament messianic prophecies of Christ’s first coming confirm God’s 100-percent accuracy rate in foretelling the future.
4. Prophecy is thus a compelling proof that the Bible is God’s Word and can be trusted.

Never doubt the Bible.

God Has an Eternal Purpose

1. Human history, in all its details, is but the outworking of the eternal purposes of God.



2. What has happened in the past, what is happening today, and what will happen in the prophetic future is all evidence of the unfolding of a purposeful plan devised by the personal God of the Bible (Ephesians 3:11; 2 Timothy 1:9).
3. *You* are part of God's eternal purpose. Never forget it.

DIGGING DEEPER WITH CROSS-REFERENCES

Prophecy

- Prophecy does not derive from human beings—2 Peter 1:21.
- God's prophetic word is certain—Ezekiel 12:26-28.
- God knows the end from the beginning—Isaiah 46:8-11.
- God fulfills the prophet's message—Isaiah 44:26.
- Prophecy involves a sure word from God—2 Peter 1:19.

We Can Trust Our All-Knowing God

- There is blessing in trusting God—Psalm 40:4.
- Trust God—He will help you—Psalm 37:5.
- Trust God in times of trouble—Psalm 50:14-15.
- Trust God at all times—Psalm 62:8.
- Trust in the Lord, not human beings—Psalm 118:8.
- Trust God with your whole heart—Proverbs 3:5-6.

PRAYER

Lord, please open my eyes and enhance my understanding so I can grasp all that You want me to learn in this workbook about Bible prophecy. By Your Spirit, I also ask You to enable me to apply the truths I learn to my daily life and be guided each moment by Your Word. Thank You in Jesus's name. Amen.

