

SCG Open Session
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Theme: Living at the Edge of Time

INTRODUCTION

- Scripture teaches there is a time for everything - God's time

(Ecclesiastes 3:17)

I said in my heart, "God shall judge the righteous and the wicked, For there is a time there for every purpose and for every work."

(Galatians 4:4)

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,"

Examples showing that God has a time-table for His people:

- God told Abraham things long before his name was changed and Isaac was born, before Jacob and Joseph and his brothers entered into Egypt
- God told Abraham of Israel's bondage in Egypt - how long she would be in slavery, how God would deliver her and how they would come out.

(Genesis 15:12-15)

12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.

- A lesson on Prayer (Exodus 12:40-41)

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(Exodus 12:40-41)

40 Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years - on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

- Israel came out after 430 years. The prophecy was 400 why the delay? There is only one reason I find in Scriptures.

(Exodus 3:6-10)

6 Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. 7 And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. 9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

- “Prayer gives God the moral right to intervene in the affairs of man”.
- You must want salvation and deliverance. God will not force His will on you.
- Our salvation is based on “whosoever”, though it is God’s will that none should perish.

PROPHECY IS GIVEN BY GOD FOR TWO REASONS

- For us to know and understand God’s purpose

(Amos 3:7)

“Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”

- Therefore, as God’s servants, live in the light of eternity.

(2 Peter 1:19-21)

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

- To warn and encourage us

(Hebrews 11:7)

7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

- We are warned by the things not seen yet.
- When you see, having been warned, live for God.
- Jesus warns us by describing what our days will be like before He comes.

(Luke 17:26) Like the Days of Noah

“And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man”

- “In the days of the Son of Man” refers to the “days of the coming of Christ”

(Matthew 24:32 & 33) – The Fig Tree

32 “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!

2 things to note of this prophetic word from Jesus about the Fig Tree:-

- Who is the fig tree? Most scholars agree it is Israel.
- The budding of the fig tree speaks of Israel becoming a sovereign nation on May 15, 1948.
- That “summer is near” speaks of the closeness or nearness of the return of Christ.

THREE VIEWS RELATING TO THE TRIBULATION AND THE CHURCH

- Pre-Tribulation View
- Post Tribulation View
- Mid Tribulation View

Pre-Tribulation View

All believers are “raptured” before the Great Tribulation.	Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18)	The Second Coming (Luke. 21:27; Revelation. 1:7)
The Rapture and the Second Coming are separate events.	Church in Heaven	
The Church is totally free of 7 year Tribulation on the earth.	7 yr Tribulation on earth for Israel only.	Earthly millennial Kingdom followed by eternity.
Only Israel goes through The Tribulation.		

Post-Tribulation View

All believers are “raptured” at the end of the Great Tribulation.		Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18) 2nd Coming (Luke 21:27; Revelation 1:7)
The Rapture and the Second Coming are the same events.	The Church and Israel go through the Great Tribulation.	
		Earthly millennial Kingdom followed by eternity.

Mid-Tribulation View

All believers are “raptured” After 42 months or 3 ½ yrs (1,260 days) of the Great Tribulation.	Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18)	The Second Coming (Luke. 21:27; Revelation 1:7)
The Rapture and the Second Coming are separate events.	The Church goes through the beginning of sorrows – 3 ½ years.	
	Church in heaven	
	Israel goes through the Great Tribulation Remaining of the 7 years which is 3 ½ yrs.	Earthly millennial Kingdom followed by eternity.

- **An interesting study by Bible Scholars that is acceptable to the evangelicals.**
 - From the birth of Abraham to the Exodus of Israel from Egypt is 490 years.
 - From the Exodus of Israel to the Dedication of Solomon’s temple is 490 years.
 - From the Dedication to the Edict of Artaxerxes in 444 B.C is 490 years.
 - From the Edict to the Birth of Jesus, death and resurrection to 47 A.D. is 490 years.
 - From 1517 A.D.(the beginning of the Reformation which includes: The Birth of Israel in 1948; The Capture of Jerusalem in the six day war in June 1967) To- date, 2007 is 490 years

- ***What is the “490 year” timeline?***
 - Daniel 9 speaks of Daniel praying and seeking God for the skill to understand the vision given to him for the end time.
 - He is told of a 70-week time period where one day equals 1 year. There are $70 \times 7 = 490$ years

(Daniel 9:24)

“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.”

- What is going to happen? - It is not “what” it is “how” we are living.
- This is a crucial year for us to be serious in our faith of the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION

We must make good use of time.

(Ephesians 5:16)

“redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

Tide and time waits for no man.

(Psalm 90:12)

“So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom”

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES

(Revelation 4:6-8)

Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. 7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.

8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

- *Who are the 4 living creatures?*
 - They are angelic beings.
 - John chooses certain animals to describe their characteristics.
 - A lion which symbolizes supremacy.
 - An ox which symbolizes strength.
 - Man which symbolizes intelligence.
 - Eagle which symbolizes swiftness.
- *They tell us two things about God:*
 - The supremacy, strength, intelligence and swiftness of God.
 - All of nature and the world owe worship to God alone.

- *There are various responsibilities given to Angels.*

They are all not of the same rank and have the same responsibilities.

- Angels to fight those who oppose the purpose of God – Michael the archangel. (Daniel 10:13, 21, Jude 9, Revelation 12:7)
- Angels who are messengers.
- Angels who are sent on special assignments e.g. Gabriel. (Luke 1:26, Acts 5:19, Acts 8:26)
- Guardian Angels.
- Angels who are only in the presence of God as mentioned in Revelation 4.
 - Cherubim
 - Seraphim

Facts about angels

- They are invisible (Colossians 2:18, Revelation 19:10, 22:9)
- They are Innumerable (Psalm 148:1-3, Revelation 9:1,2)
- They are superior to men (Psalm 8:4,5, Hebrews 2:6-11)

THE WOMAN IN REVELATION 12

The woman refers to the nation of Israel.

An interesting fact about her is found in. (Revelation 12:13-14)

(Revelation 12:13-14)

13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

God gave the woman wings

The purpose of the wings

- An act of love and provision
- A symbol of God's care and protection
- This is an additional significance to CCC having 2 wings as part of its roof.

Originally, the wings spoke of us being in the presence of God – As angels covered themselves with their wings in the presence of God.

THE LAST DAYS OF HISTORY

<u>Event</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>References</u>
Last Days Events	Increase of false prophets and religious compromise within the Church	Mt. 24:4-5, 10-11, 24; Lk.18:8; 2 Th.2:3; 1 Ti 4:1; 2 Ti 3:1,13; 4:3-4; 2 Pe.2:1-3; 3:3-4
	Increase of crime and disregard of God's law	Mt. 24:12, 37-39; Lk. 17:26-30; 18:8; 1 Ti 4:1; 2 Ti 3:1-8
	Increase of wars, famines and earthquakes	Mt.24:6-8; Mk.13:7-8; Lk.21:9
	Decrease in love and family affection	Mt. 10:21; 24:12; Mk. 13:12; 2 Ti 3:1-3
	More severe persecution of God's people	Mt.10:22-23; 24:9-10; Mk13:13; Jn 15:19-20; 16:33; Ac 14:22; Ro 5:3
	Those who stand firm will be saved	Mt. 24:13; Mk. 13:13
	Gospel will be preached to the whole world	Mt. 24:14; Mk. 13:10
	The Spirit will be poured out on God's people	Ac 2:17-21, 38-39
The Rapture	Christ will come unexpectedly, since the time cannot be calculated	Mt. 24:36, 42, 44; 25:5-7,13; Mk. 13:32-37; Lk. 12:35-46
	Christ will come to catch up believers living on earth at this time	Lk. 21:36; Jn. 14:3; 1 Th. 1:10; 4:15-17; 2 Th 2:1; Rev.3:10-11

Believers will be delivered from the coming wrath	Lk. 21:36; 1 Th. 1:10; 5:2-9; Rev. 3:10-11
Believers living at this time will receive transformed bodies	Ro 8:23; 1 Co 15:51-54 1 Th. 4:16-17
Believers who died before this event will rise and be caught up with Christ	1 Co 15:50-55; 1 Th. 4:16-17
All raptured saints will be judged by Christ	Jn. 5:22; Ro. 14:12; 1 Co. 3:12-15; 2 Co. 5:10; 2 Ti. 4:8
Believers will be judged according to their deeds	Ecc 12:14; Mt. 5:22; 12:36-37; Mk. 4:22; Ro 2:5-11, 16; 1 Co 4:5; 2 Co 5:10; Eph 6:8; Col. 3:23-25
Faithful believers will receive rewards	Mt.5:11-12; 25:14-23; Lk19:12-19; 22:28-30; Gal. 6:8-10; 1 Co 3:12-14; 9:25-27; 13:3; Eph 6:8; 2 Ti 4:8; Heb 6:10; 1 Pe 5:4; Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 26-28; 3:4-5,12, 21