

Great Controversy Series
Assumptions Leads to Despair
Chapter 19 - Light Through Darkness
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr., pastor

Bible truth leads to a happy and abundant eternal life!

“No truth is more clearly taught in the Bible than that God by His Holy Spirit especially directs His servants on earth in the great movements for the carrying forward of the work of salvation. **Men are instruments in the hand of God, employed by Him to accomplish His purposes of grace and mercy. Each has his part to act; to each is granted a measure of light, adapted to the necessities of his time, and sufficient to enable him to perform the work which God has given him to do.** But no man, however honored of Heaven, has ever attained to a full understanding of the great plan of redemption, or even to a perfect appreciation of the divine purpose in the work for his own time. Men do not fully understand what God would accomplish by the work which He gives them to do; they do not comprehend, in all its bearings, the message which they utter in His name.” - GC 343

We must act and cooperate with the TRUTH of God’s Word by faith. God’s ways are not our ways. God principles do not operate or depend on human reasoning.

Isaiah 55:8-9

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Even though we cannot comprehend every truth of God’s Word we MUST move by unison of His Word, by faith and be obedient to the process.

Daniel did not fully comprehend and understand all the end time prophecies that God revealed to him, but he had to proclaim it by faith. It was not meant for him at the time to understand it all. Matter of fact, Daniel was told to seal up the book until the end of time. In Revelation those prophecies are unsealed and understood at the end of time!

Again we must be faithful to the process and live by the process. You MUST go through the process of growing in Christ and feasting on the promises and counsels of God’s Word daily. It will take you through a transformation process.

What is the Advent promise of Jesus Christ that we MUST never forget in the midst of the last day crisis?

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

16 For the **Lord himself shall descend** from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

John 14:1-3

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again**, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Hebrews 10:37

37 For yet a little while, and **he that shall come will come**, and will not tarry.

Revelation 22:7, 12, 20

7 Behold, **I come quickly**: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

12 And, behold, **I come quickly**; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

20 He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come quickly**. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Jesus is coming again! Are you ready?

What are three prophetic major events that have already been fulfilled according to Revelation 6:12, 13 to warn the world to WAKE UP about the soon return of Jesus Christ?

- 1) Great Earthquake (verse 12) – Fulfilled (Lisbon Earthquake November 1, 1755)
- 2) Sun Darkened and Moon become as blood (verse 12) – Fulfilled (Dark Day - May 19, 1780)
- 3) Falling of stars (meteor shower – verse 13) – Fulfilled (Great Meteoric Shower November 13, 1833)

Remember each one happened in the exact order as it was written in Revelation 6:12, 13. As the new world, America was forming and establishing itself as a place of religious freedom without the dominance of the papacy, these sign were designed to wake up a world who were in deep spiritual darkness.

The second coming of Jesus was the testimony that was in darkness during the dark ages of the papacy. It was not until the dawning of the 1800's in America that the light of the message of the second coming of Jesus Christ shined forth brightly through an American protestant reformer.

Who was this American reformer that was the forerunner of the message of the second advent of Jesus Christ during the 1800's? William Miller (Baptist minister)

Matter of fact, it was the Great Meteoric showers on November 13, 1833 that gave Miller's message about the soon coming of Jesus Christ more urgency and woke up many to learn about the Advent of Jesus Christ.

What prophecy caught Miller's attention in which he and his associates thought that Jesus was coming on October 22, 1844? (Remember they got the right date but wrong event)

Daniel 8:14

14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

Where in Daniel is the interpretation and confirmation dates for 2300 year prophecy of Daniel 8:14 that not only reveals the cleansing of the sanctuary but also prophesied the exact day Jesus would be baptized, when He would be crucified, and the end of the probation of the Jewish nation? Daniel 9:24 – 27

When does the 2300 year timeline begin?

Daniel 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

Prophecy: Decree to rebuild Jerusalem Fulfilled: Autumn of 457 B.C. by King Artaxerxes

457 BC is the start date of the 2300 year prophecy timeline.

What are the three key events on the 2300 year that MUST be happen on the exact date prophesied that confirms the accuracy of the start date 457 BC?

1) End of Jewish nation's probation 2) Baptism of Jesus 3) The crucifixion of Jesus

How long was the Jewish nation's probation to make and end of sin or be cut off as a chosen people?

Daniel 9:24 **Seventy weeks** are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

$70 \times 7 = 490$ days (years)

What happened 490 years later from 457? 34 AD Stephen was stoned. This was the first Christian martyr who preached the resurrection of Jesus. Leaders of Jewish nation officially rejected Christ and His messengers.

When would Jesus be baptized according to Daniel prophecy?

Daniel 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

Messiah (Hebrew) = anointed

Christ (Greek)= anointed

Jesus (Greek) = Jehovah is salvation

Jesus Christ was anointed at the beginning of His ministry at His baptism!

Seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks = 69 weeks = $69 \times 7 = 483$ years

Daniel prophecy revealed that the Messiah, Christ, the anointed would be baptized 483 years starting from 457 BC.

Show prophecy timeline

Did Jesus baptism take place 483 years later as prophesied? YES

$483 - 457 = 26 + 1$ (no zero year from BC years to AD) = 27 AD!

Jesus was baptized in autumn of 27 AD!

Starting from 457 BC 483 years

Show prophecy timeline

When did Daniel prophesy about the crucifixion of Jesus?

Daniel 9:26-27

26 And after threescore and two weeks **shall Messiah be cut off**, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he shall **confirm the covenant with many for one week**: and **in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease**, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

“Messiah be cut off” = killed (crucified)

“Midst of week” = From the baptism of Jesus until the stoning of Stephen is exactly seven years 27 AD to 34 AD (one prophetic week).

What happened after 3 ½ years later from the day Jesus was anointed of Jesus, in the midst of the week, between 27 AD and 34 AD? He was cut off as prophesied in 31 AD!

If all three events as prophesied by Daniel are fulfilled on time 457 BC is absolutely, positively, praise the LORD correct! It is confirmed three times.

When does the 2300 year timeline end? 2300 years from 457 BC

$2300 - 457 = 1843 + 1$ (no zero year BC to AD) = 1844!

Miller and his associates got the right date, October 22, 1844 according to the 2300 year prophecy but wrong event!

Why? It was popularly taught and assumed among many during Miller's day that the sanctuary was the earth. Miller came to the conclusion that the earth was going to be cleansed by fire at the second coming of Jesus. Even though Miller was sincerely wrong about the event, Jesus wanted the message of urgency of His second coming to go to all the world!

Matthew 24:36 teaches that no man knows exact the day and hour of the coming of the Jesus Christ, but the Bible reveals signs that we must watch for so we can see the summer of His coming is extremely close.

It is obvious that the cleansing of the sanctuary of Daniel is not the coming of Jesus, as we will study in detail in another study. It is the beginning of cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary in which marks the beginning of the investigative judgment.

Cleansing of the sanctuary = Investigative Judgment

What are the two main phases of judgment?**2 main phases of judgment**

- 1) Investigative (investigate each case)
- 2) Executive (administration of punishment)

Did you know that Daniel saw in vision the investigative judgment date set in Daniel 7?

Daniel 7:9-10

9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.
 10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the **judgment was set**, and **the books were opened**.

Daniel saw that the beginning of the investigative judgment date was set!

Daniel 8:14 and Daniel 9:25 take us to the exact date of the beginning of the investigate judgment October 22, 1844.

What is proof that we (last day generation) are living in the time of the investigative judgment? It's in the first angels' message

Revelation 14:6-7

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Are assumptions accurate? No!

We cannot based are beliefs based on assumptions or tradition, but solely the Word of God!

Again William Miller was correct with the date but wrong event. They made an assumption that the cleansing of the sanctuary was the second coming of Jesus based solely on the popular belief that the sanctuary was the earth and the cleansing was by fire.

What important Biblical lessons can we learn from Miller's assumption?

“Not infrequently the minds of the people, and even of God's servants, are so blinded by human opinions, the traditions and false teaching of men, that they are able only partially to grasp the great things which He has revealed in His word. Thus it was with the disciples of Christ, even when the Saviour was with them in person. Their minds had become imbued with the popular conception of the Messiah as a temporal prince, who was to exalt Israel to the throne of the universal empire, and they could not understand the meaning of His words foretelling His sufferings and death.” GC 345

Did the disciples genuinely believe that Jesus was the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament and Daniel 9:25?

Matthew 16:13-16

13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Remember, Christ means the same as Messiah, the anointed one. They truly believed that Jesus was the Messiah that was revealed in Daniel 9:25. Many at that time of Christ were taught that the Messiah was going to deliver them from the Roman Empire and set up a temporal earthly kingdom in Jerusalem over the whole earth. Even

though this was a very popular belief at the time of the disciples it was not based on scripture. It was solely based on traditions and the wishes of a people who based their belief on selfish desires.

What did the people and the disciples want to do with Jesus after feeding the 5000 men plus women and children with five loaves of bread and two fish?

John 6:14-15

14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

They wanted Jesus to be there earthly king to deliver them from Roman oppression. They all were only thinking about their selfish desires instead of an eternal kingdom. **The disciples were also caught up in this assumption that Jesus was going raise up take over the Roman Empire and rule as their king over the whole earth!**

The disciples could not hold their excitement. They were actually looking forward to the kingly pomp and circumstance.

What were the disciples seeking from Jesus as their earthly king?

Mark 10:35-37

35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.

36 And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you?

37 They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.

At this point it is quite evident that the disciples were not fully converted. Even though they believed that Jesus was the Messiah they were still blinded by their selfishness and assumption that Jesus was going set up a temporal earthly kingdom.

“Christ Himself had sent them forth with the message: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." Mark 1:15. That message was based on the prophecy of Daniel 9. The sixty-nine weeks were declared by the angel to extend to "the Messiah the Prince," and with high hopes and joyful anticipations the disciples looked forward to the establishment of Messiah's kingdom at Jerusalem to rule over the whole earth.” GC 345

“They preached the message which Christ had committed to them, though they themselves misapprehended its meaning. While their announcement was founded on Daniel 9:25, they did not see, in the next verse of the same chapter, that Messiah was to be cut off. From their very birth their hearts had been set upon the anticipated glory of an earthly empire, and this blinded their understanding alike to the specifications of the prophecy and to the words of Christ.” GC 345

What kingdom did Jesus come to establish at His first coming during his earthly kingdom?

“The kingdom of God is at hand” (Mark 1:15) that Jesus established during His earthly ministry was the kingdom of grace to call sinners to repent and be born again. The Kingdom of grace was instituted in the garden

of Eden as a promise to get rid of Satan and sin and it was established at the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Kingdom of Grace Vs. Physical Eternal Kingdom of God!

In summary:

The kingdom of grace that Jesus established at the cross points to the everlasting physical kingdom that is rewarded to all the faithful people of God who have born again and are residence in the spiritual kingdom of grace while live on this earth.

Kingdom of Grace

“The kingdom of grace is brought to view by Paul in the Epistle to the Hebrews. After pointing to Christ, the compassionate intercessor who is "touched with the feeling of our infirmities," the apostle says: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace." Hebrews 4:15, 16. The throne of grace represents the kingdom of grace; for the existence of a throne implies the existence of a kingdom. In many of His parables Christ uses the expression "the kingdom of heaven" to designate the work of divine grace upon the hearts of men.” GC 347

Physical Eternal Kingdom of God

“So the throne of glory represents the kingdom of glory; and this kingdom is referred to in the Saviour's words: "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations." Matthew 25:31, 32. This kingdom is yet future. It is not to be set up until the second advent of Christ.” GC 347.1

Show pic of Daniel 2 statue

Did Jesus reveal to the disciples that He will be “cut off” and killed as prophesied in Daniel 9:26?

Yes, yes, yes

Matthew 16:21 -23

21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

What was Peter's response?

Mat 16:22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

What was Jesus response?

Mat 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Matthew 20:17-22

17 And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them,

18 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,

19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.

What was their response? They were jockeying for position!

The disciples were so blinded by their selfishness and man made belief that Jesus was going to immediately set up his earthly kingdom, they did not want to believe Jesus would die.

What was the disciple response when Jesus was crucified?

The disciple's man made assumption of a temporal earthly kingdom set them up for an extreme disappointment and despair!

After His resurrection what did Jesus do for the disciples that led to their total conversion and true understanding of the kingdom of grace and the physical kingdom of God?

John 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Acts 1:2-3

2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Permitted Assumption to Shake and Wake

“It was their (disciples) pride of heart, their thirst for worldly glory, that had led them to cling so tenaciously to the false teaching of their time, and to pass unheeded the Saviour's words showing the true nature of His kingdom, and pointing forward to His agony and death. And these errors resulted in the trial--sharp but needful--which was permitted for their correction.” GC 348

Miller's Error Was Allowed to shake and wake up a movement

Miller's error in making an assumption produced a similar situation of the disciples that led to a great disappointment and despair. But God allowed it to shake and wake up a movement to restore the message of the law of God and testimonies of Jesus Christ and his second advent.

“As the disciples were mistaken in regard to the kingdom to be set up at the end of the seventy weeks, so Adventists were mistaken in regard to the event to take place at the expiration of the 2300 days. In both cases there was an acceptance of, or rather an adherence to, popular errors that blinded the mind to the truth. Both classes fulfilled the will of God in delivering the message which He desired to be given, and both, through their own misapprehension of their message, suffered disappointment. Yet God accomplished His own beneficent purpose in permitting the warning of the judgment to be given just as it was. The great day was at hand, and in His providence the people were brought to the test of a definite time, in order to reveal to them what was in their hearts. The message was designed for the testing and purification of the church.” GC 353

In the end only the faithful few pressed forward in understanding after the great disappointment of 1844. They saw Miller's error and allow the Bible to make correction. More on this later.

Key Lesson for God's faithful today

Don't make assumptions – study for yourself based on the word of Truth! We have no excuse.

This is not the time to go to sleep.

What does Jesus tell us to do?

Luke 21:34-36

34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Don't be fooled the Mark Of The Beast Crisis is right upon us!

“God has revealed what is to take place in the last days, that His people may be prepared to stand against the tempest of opposition and wrath. Those who have been warned of the events before them are not to sit in calm expectation of the coming storm, comforting themselves that the Lord will shelter His faithful ones in the day of trouble. We are to be as men waiting for their Lord, not in idle expectancy, but in earnest work, with unwavering faith. It is no time now to allow our minds to be engrossed with things of minor importance. While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord's people may not have mercy or justice. The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending. Its professions are mild and apparently Christian, but when it shall speak it will reveal the spirit of the dragon.” Ellen White, Testimonies Vol 5, p. 452

What does the beast, papal Rome, say is its distinctive “mark” of authority?

“Sunday is our Mark of authority....The church is ABOVE the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact.”

- Catholic Record, September 1, 1923

What is the Climate Change's Entry Into FORCE & the SUNDAY LAW Link?

See slides more details

2 key objectives of climate change (Paris Agreement): Papal World Rule and Sunday Law

- 1) Show US rejection of climate change proposals in the past
- 2) May 2015 Pope Francis Encyclical on Climate Change with Sunday Law
- 3) Sept 2015 Pope Francis Speaks to US Congress and UN
- 4) Legislators worldwide promote Pope Francis climate doc with Sunday Law and promoting Paris Agreement
- 5) Pope Francis strongly advocates country adopting Paris agreement
- 6) Days before Paris Agreement Paris “terrorist attacks”
- 7) Papacy well represented at Paris Agreement meeting in December 2015
- 8) All countries came together – April 2016 to sign agreement
- 9) “Climate change” weather events worldwide flooding etc... heat waves
- 10) Papacy and pope strongly pushing countries to ratify PA. - “It's a sin, etc...”
- 11) US and China (major countries) put away difference and Obama and president of China ratified PA September 3, 2016. technically did not take affect until September 6, Tuesday the day after Labor Day.

12) September 21- “The Gathering” has a solemn assembly also on the same day PA countries are to turn in their instruments of agreement

13) PA is enforced - November 4, 2016

343 mayors adopt Paris climate accord after U.S. pulls out (updated)

“The world cannot wait—and neither will we”

by [Alissa Walker@awalkerinLA](mailto:Alissa.Walker@awalkerinLA) Jun 3, 2017, 11:19am EDT

<https://www.curbed.com/2017/6/1/15726376/paris-accord-climate-change-mayors-trump>

“The mayors who previously pledged to [ignore President Donald Trump’s climate change policies](#) have upped their commitment after he [announced his intent to withdraw](#) the U.S. from the [Paris climate accord](#): At least [343 cities](#) are adopting the historic agreement themselves.”

“Update, July 5, 12:00 p.m. ET: A total of [343 mayors](#) have joined the Climate Mayors agreement, including the 10 largest cities in America — New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Antonio, San Diego, Dallas, and San Jose — along with hundreds of additional cities large and small in both red and blue states.”

“The group of mayors, who represent more than 65 million Americans in 44 states, [outlined a plan](#) to align with the other 194 nations that adopted the accord”

Appeal

Are you ready? Don’t make assumptions. You better know for surety the prophecies spoken of in Daniel and Revelation. Don’t just take someone’s word. Every belief formed must be backed only by the scriptures.