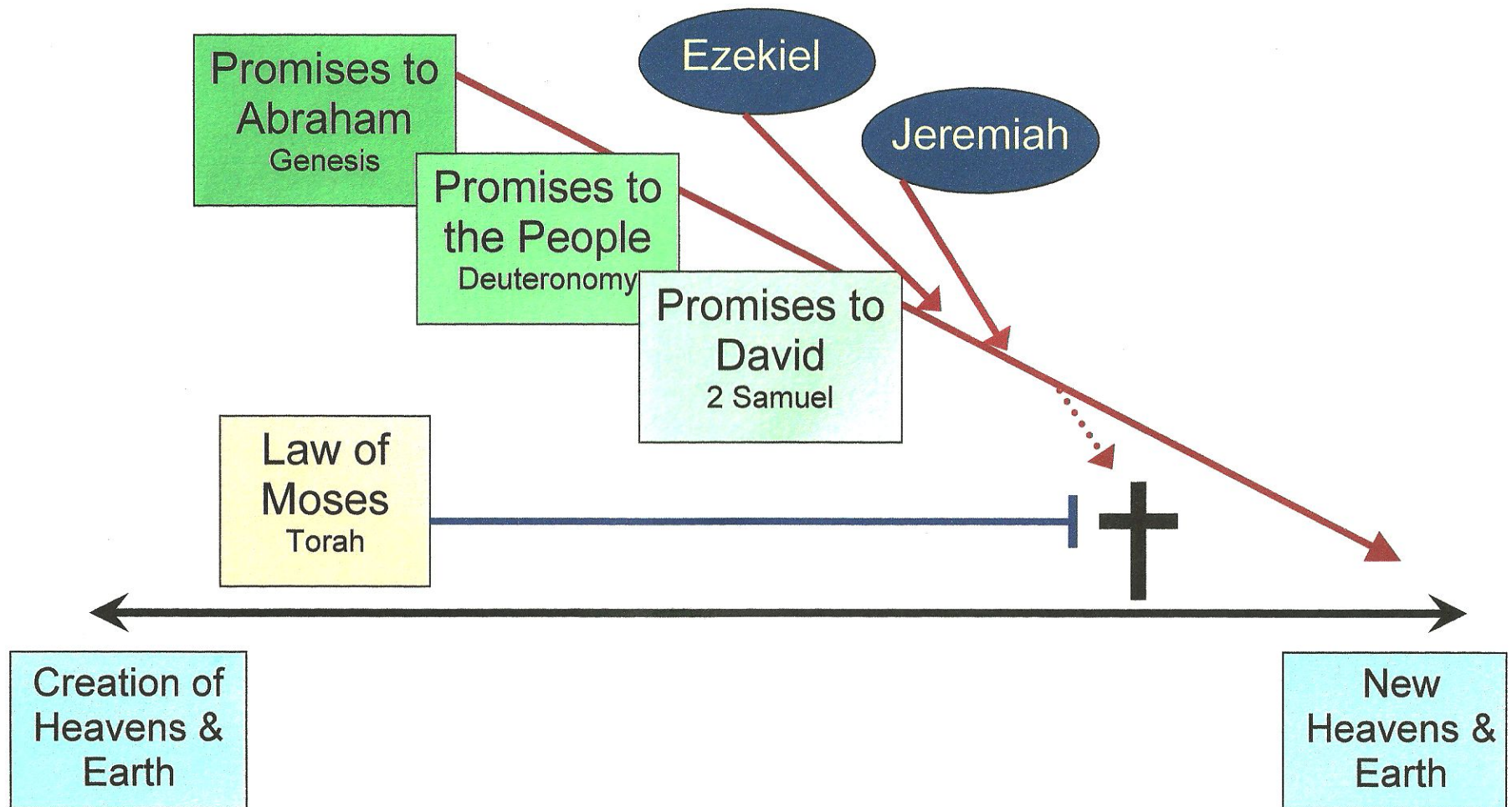


New Hope Chapel
Sunday, September 2, 2012

Apocalypse Now? Interpreting Biblical Prophecy - Part 2



Old Testament Prophecies about the Day of the Lord

Isaiah 13:9-11

See, the day of the Lord is coming—a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger—

To make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.

The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light.

The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light.

I will punish the world for its evil,

The wicked for their sins.

Joel 2:31

The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood

Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

Zephaniah 1:14-15

The great day of the Lord is near—near and coming quickly.

The cry on the day of the Lord is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry.

That day will be a day of wrath—

a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin,

a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness

Zechariah 14:1-7

A day of the Lord is coming, Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up within your very walls.

I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake[a] in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. It will be a unique day—a day known only to the Lord—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light.

Significant New Testament Prophecies

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

...[N]ow you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time... And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

2 Peter 3:8-13

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

Summary of Key Points in the Olivet Discourse

	Matt 24	Mark 13	Luke12
A few disciples ask, "What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"	✓		
Don't let anyone deceive you: many will claim to be the Christ	✓	✓	✓
There will be wars and rumors of wars...	✓	✓	✓
...but do not be alarmed	✓	✓	
Nation will rise against nation	✓	✓	✓
There will be famines and earthquakes	✓	✓	✓
These will happen, but the end will not come right away	✓	✓	✓
You will be persecuted	✓	✓	✓
The Gospel will be preached to all nations	✓	✓	
When you see the abomination that causes desolation, those who are in Judea should flee to the mountains	✓	✓	✓
There will be great distress--greater than any that has been seen or will ever be seen	✓	✓	
If those days were not cut short, no one would survive	✓	✓	
False prophets will perform great miracles to deceive my people	✓	✓	
You will not miss my coming: As lightning is visible across the horizon and as vultures gathering show where a carcass is, so will be my coming	✓		
After the great distress: the sun and moon will go dark; heavenly bodies will be shaken and stars will fall from the sky	✓	✓	✓
At that time, Christ will come with great power/glory in the sky	✓	✓	✓
When you see all these things, the end is "at the door," just like new leaves on a fig tree tell you summer is near	✓	✓	✓
No one knows about that day or hour--only the Father	✓	✓	
Be on your guard and be alert because you do not know when that time will come	✓		
Parable of the Ten Virgins--the five wise ones were prepared when the bridegroom arrived; the five foolish ones were not	✓		
Parable of the Talents--two faithful servants; one wicked & lazy	✓		
When Christ comes, the nations will be brought to him and he will separate the people like a shepherd separated the sheep from the goats	✓		

Principles from the Olivet Discourse

1. Watch out that no one _____.

2. Christ's _____ is imminent.