



Magnolia Bible Church Sunday Bible Study - Prophecy Series

Lesson #2: The Prophecy Timeline

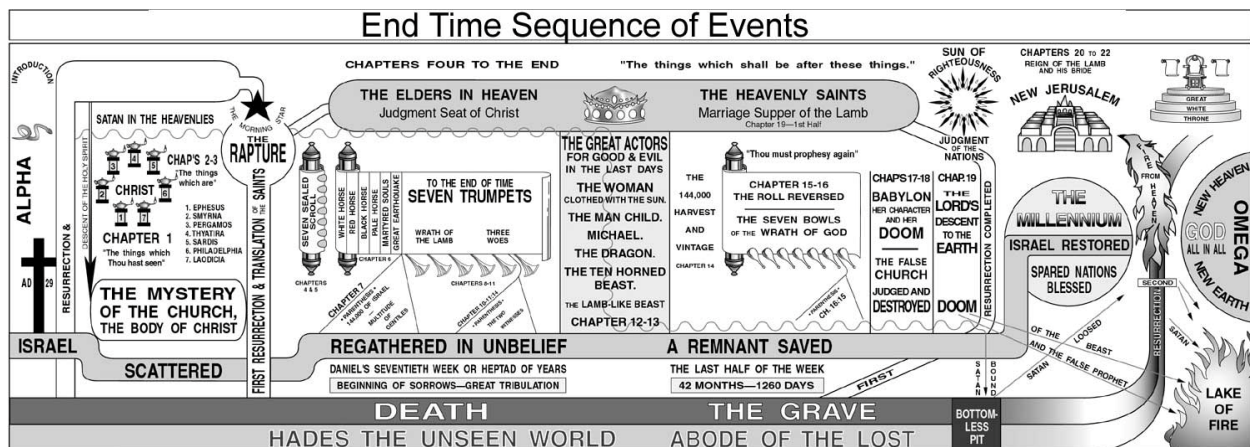
Sunday, September 7, 2025 | 8:30 AM | Prepared by Chris Alexander (drchrisalexander@outlook.com)

There is no doubt that studying prophecy can be extremely confusing, one might say *extremely confusing*. There is often great debate regarding what different passages mean and whether concepts should be interpreted literally or figuratively. On top of all this, different denominations within the church have differing viewpoints that are often influenced by their “natural bents” related to their particular church history and heritage. For these reasons alone most teachers shy away from teaching on prophecy.

Like anything dealing with history, studying prophecy requires an understanding of significant events and when they occur. Having a framework related to a timeline helps us better understand the importance of significant events and also what causes differences in opinion regarding Biblical interpretations. Along with the timeline, terminology is also critically important. When we understand what certain words mean, it helps the pieces of the puzzle start to fit together. Listed below are several key terms and concepts that will be used throughout this series. Your goal by the end of this series is to develop an understanding of each term and how they connect to tell a complete story.

- Church Age
- Rapture
- Tribulation Period
- Day of the Lord
- Millennium / Millennial Reign of Christ
- White Throne Judgment

Clarence Larkin (1850–1924) was an American Baptist pastor, Bible teacher, and author whose writings on Dispensationalism had a great impact on conservative Protestant visual culture in the early 20th century. Interestingly, he was educated as a mechanical engineer and draftman. His intricate and influential charts provided readers with a visual strategy for mapping God's action in history and for interpreting complex Biblical prophecies.¹ I have several of his books that contain beautiful illustrations. They are some of my “most prized” books. Copied below is one of his charts that presents some of the key End Time events we will be discussing.



¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarence_Larkin

Throughout this series I will do my best to present a “range” of interpretations to help you better understand the variations in prophetic interpretation. Having been educated as an adult in the Bible church, my natural inclination is towards a **pre-tribulation, pre-millennial position**. While not overly-dogmatic, I feel this position best reflects God’s overall plan for mankind, the Church, Israel, and His creation as outlined in Scripture.

Questions for Consideration

1. Provided below are some of the major prophecy “milestones” that we will be discussing in this series. During our lesson time we will discuss each one and provide some context in where these events might fall in relation to future events. Using the provided Bible passages, write a brief description of each.
 - Church Age (Romans 11:25)
 - Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
 - Tribulation Period (1 Thessalonians 5:3–6,9 and Revelation 3:10)
 - Day of the Lord (Joel 2:1-2, Malachi 4:5, and 2 Peter 3:11-12)
 - Armageddon (Revelation 16:12-16)
 - Millennium / Millennial Reign of Christ (Revelation 20:1-6, 7-10)
 - White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-16)

2. Using the line provided below, identify the following events on the timeline. Note that the cross represents Christ’s resurrection that ushered in the “Church Age” (some argue it started at Pentecost, recorded in Acts 2).
 - Church Age
 - Rapture
 - Tribulation Period
 - Jesus’ 2nd Coming
 - Armageddon
 - Thousand Year Reign
 - White Throne Judgment
 - Eternity

