

Eschatology – Specific Subjects
Grace Bible Chapel
Pastor Teacher Jim Bryant

God's Time Table:

- **What should be our attitude?** **Mat 25:13; Luke 12:35-38; 1 Thess 5:1-6** – one of watching and living consistent with His return.
- **What is the church?** The church is the pillar and support of the truth in this age. It is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus being the Corner Stone. The church as a unique organism began on the day of Pentecost, and consists of both elect Jews and Gentles with a predominance of Gentiles. The development of a predominately Gentile body of followers of Jehovah who perpetuate His truth with the addition of the Gospel of Christ, and the indwelling Holy Spirit form a new body called “the church” which is a mystery previously undisclosed in Scripture.
 - It's beginnings: **Acts 2; 13:44-52**
- **Where is the church today from the standpoint of general history?**
 - History belongs to God, and the movement-of is His story. The next event is the “rapture” or coming of Christ for the purpose of removing “the church” (**1 Thess 4:13-18; 1 Cor 15:51-58**) – the concept is not new (**Gen 5:21-24; 2 Kings 2:11**) and Lot in Sodom (**Gen 19:15-17**).
 - **Mat 24:37-39** – “days of Noah” life in general activity of living with wickedness in extreme measure (**Gen 6:5; 11-12**) “wickedness of man was great on the earth.”
 - **2 Tim 3:1-7** – the society in general will be following a pattern seen in the spiral of Romans 1.
 - **2 Thess 2:3; 1 Tim 4:3; 2 Pet 3:3; 1 John 2:18; Jude 17-19** – the church specifically mirrors or parallels the rot of society.
 - It may well be the 7 churches of **Revelation 2-3** represent (among other truths) a corollary timeline of the general condition of the church, and if so our age is the Laodicea – the apostate church.

Point: God may yet bring a revival to the church, but there is no promise of such in Scripture nor is there any indication of general spiritual improvement near end times – just the opposite.

Conclusion: It is most likely that we are near the closing of church age history.

- **When will the church age be completed?**
 - **Mat 24:3; 28:20** “end of the age” – literally *course or specified time*
 - **Eph 1:10 & 3:9** – “administration” God works according to sovereign time frames – perfect plan.
 - **Mat 24:14 with Rom 16:25-26** – the Gospel reaching all whom God wills to reach.
 - **Luke 21:24; Rom 11:25** – “until” – “times fulfilled” *satisfied*; or the idea of “fullness” means *filled as a container or its completeness*.
 - There are many passages referring to the sovereignty of God in regard to His elect being an exacting number: **John 6:37; 10:29; 17:9; Eph 1:1-14; Rom 8:29-31**.
 - **2 Pet 3:9** – the “any” must refer to the “beloved” (**3:1**) and states the reason Christ has not returned is the last elect person has not been brought to faith.
 - No person knows when, but we do know from Scripture what it will be like or the signs.

Point: The context where end time characteristics are cited is a context demonstrating a slowing down deterioration, or apostasy of the church in general in contrast to a pattern of growth and proliferation -

what we view in context is a trend toward individuals not masses of people coming to faith in the latter days of the church.

Conclusion: It is most likely that we are near the closing of church age history.

God's timetable for Israel:

- Its beginnings: **Gen 12:1-3; 15:13-16; 17:2-8** – the covenant with Abraham – its ending is eternity.
 - These promises were unconditional.
 - These promises were reiterated over & over, and progressively built on and clarified:
 - Isaac in **Gen. 26:3-5,24**; and to Jacob in **Gen. 28:13-15; 35:9-12**; and Moses **Ex. 32:13; 34:10-11**.
 - Davidic covenant – **2 Sam 7:11-16; 1 Chronicles 17:11-15**
 - Focus in Scripture: **Ps 2; Isa 9:1-7; Isa 54:7-9; Jer 31:35-36; 33:25-26; Acts 1:6-7; Rev 1:12-20; 5:11-14; 19:11-19; 20:4-6**.
 - Mosaic covenant – **Deut 29:1-14; 20-30; 28:1-68** (conditional); (This covenant was a means of temporal blessing to Israel as they obeyed in each generation – it did not supersede or replace the Abrahamic covenant. This covenant ended in Christ Jesus: **Gal. 3:1-19; Rom. 7:4; 8:3-4**.
 - God has stated that He has not yet completed His purpose for Israel (**Jeremiah 31:35-37; 33:7-26; Acts 3:19-21; Romans 11:25-29**).
- Is Israel yet to be what God has promised? 70 AD with 1948 AD – **Ezek 37:1-14**. What has God been doing? **Zech 1:12-17**
 - Israel will be first re-gathered to the land in unbelief.
 - (**Ezek 36:24-28**) reveals that the temporal and logical order of Israel's return.
 - Note that in this passage the re-gathering is first *physical* (to the Land), **verse 24**, and then *spiritual* (to the LORD), **verses 25-28**. Therefore, the initial return to the Land must necessarily be in a state of unbelief since in the Land Israel is changed from a state of unbelief to a state of belief.
 - Israel will be re-gathered before the Tribulation in unbelief (**Zep 2:1-2**) - It is also evident that the nation is in unbelief since they are described as a "nation without shame" (**vs 1**).
 - (**Jer 16:15-16**) predicts a worldwide re-gathering of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel through the means of persecution.
 - The bones come to life in stages: first sinews on the bones, then flesh, then skin, and finally, breath of life (**Ezek 37:6-10**). The pattern of successive stages in the process of restoration is first a physical re-gathering to the Land, followed by a spiritual re-gathering to the LORD.

Point: The parallels between the end of Jewish independence in the Land of Israel marked historically by A.D. 70 and the re-establishment of Jewish independence in the Land of Israel marked by 1948 are equally prophetic. Just as with the event of Jewish dispersion, the event of Jewish re-gathering to the Land was certainly prophesied even though no date was given.

Conclusion: We are living in the last times – the closing of the history of the "church" and we are observing at the same time prophesy fulfilled concerning Israel's re-gathering physically to the land.