



Putting together the End Time Puzzles

April 23, 2017

(Scripture Reading: Acts 1:6-11)

Acts 1:6-11

6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" 7He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; 8but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

9And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. 11They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

How do we solve puzzle piece games? We place the easily recognizable pieces first, we try to set them apart by their colors. Then we try to match the shapes. Some hard pieces are kept till the end and finally, we try to fit in those tough pieces. We may have to do the very same thing when we try to solve the mysteries of the Bible.

All the Bible prophecies are based on one important premise that is God's Word is sure, and when He promises something in the future, it is sure to come.

There are two kinds of prophecies. One is foretelling about something in future, another is forth telling, more like repeating what the Lord has said in our own words, and own context. Today I am going to stick with this foretelling side of prophecy. Just for today. when I use the word prophecy, I am talking about foretelling the future only.

How do we verify these prophecies - If it really comes true?

Or it should be verified through the Word of God. Scripture must be verified through Scripture. If you cannot, you must keep those verses separate and mull over it the rest of your life, as Mary was doing it personally over her Son, Lord Jesus Christ. We are fortunate! We have too much information in our hand. We have Old Testament to verify, Words of Jesus gives us a blue print of all the prophecies, Paul's letters, and all the apostles' letters.



Putting together the End Time Puzzles

April 23, 2017

When you validate a particular prophecy through various sections of the Bible, that prophecy is strengthened. When we hear something peculiar, and that concept is found nowhere else in the Bible, we must hold off that piece, and keep it aside. There are some pieces, we can never fit in properly, and only God can show how those prophecies fit in.

When we study about End time Biblical prophecy, we must run to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ first to learn about what He had to say about the end time prophesy. What Jesus spoke is the main module! Place those puzzles first and then build all other pieces around it. His Prophecy must override any prophecy that contradicts His prophecy because he said it very clearly, Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away!

We looked deep into the prophecy of Jesus concerning the end times two weeks back. Let me just refresh your memory.

The first principle is context, context, and context! The disciples were just marveling at the Beauty of the temple architecture. At that time Jesus prophesied about the temple structures. Not one stone will be upon another which will not be torn down!

Disciples came and asked this:

Mark 13:4“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”

A two-part question.

When will these things be, and
what will be the sign when all these things happen!

So the first lesson to learn about the prophecy of Jesus concerning the end. There is a two-part answer to Jesus' prophesy. One is about the temple destruction, and the other is about His second coming.

Now let us see the puzzle pieces of Jesus' prophecy.

Show the Map of Jesus prophecy

Now Jesus tells them about the signs of foreign invasion and temple destruction one by one. But most of the initial signs are too general.

1. There will be false prophets who will claim that they are Christ.
2. Wars and rumors of war
3. Earthquakes



Putting together the End Time Puzzles

April 23, 2017

4. Famines
5. Luke adds tidal waves also.

These things are always happening but it would be more intense before the destruction of the temple.

Then He talks about the persecution of His followers and disciples.

Then He mentions about the desolate of abomination, referring to Anti-Christ.

This Abomination of Desolation incident had already happened once. Seleucid (Syrian emperor), Antiochus IV Epiphanes, desecrated the temple, in BC 167. This led to Maccabean revolt, and the Jews were free briefly.

But Jesus warned that it was going to happen again to the temple that was built by Herod the great.

But according to modern evangelists, this has not happened yet. According to them, the temple will be rebuilt again in our time, sacrifices will be offered again, the antichrist will come and destroy the temple and then the end will come.

Jesus never mentioned anywhere about the rebuilding of the temple all over again! If temple comes again, the animal sacrifices will begin and it will nullify the blood of Christ. Some evangelists say that there will be only sacrifices of thanksgiving. Still, such speculation without much Scriptural support does not make much sense.

Finally, Jesus talked about the cosmological signs of End time!

And then He says that He will come!

Today let us see what other parts of the Bible fits into the prophecy of Jesus. Remember, the main module is the words of Jesus. The other pieces can be brought in if it matches with what Christ says.

Now let us go to the book of Daniel to substantiate what Jesus was saying. Every prophecy Jesus spoke about the day of the Lord and His coming is in the Old Testament already! Jesus did not speak anything new.

Daniel 9:24-27 24“Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. 25“So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. 26“Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. 27“And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering;



Putting together the End Time Puzzles

April 23, 2017

and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”

There are four major subjects here.

1. Temple will be rebuilt and there will be restoration and rebuilding of Jerusalem!
2. The Messiah will be cut off!
3. The desolate of abomination (antichrist)
4. Enemy Will destroy the city and the sanctuary (temple).

All these four things happened between Ezra and Nehemiah and 70 AD - Temple destruction. Messiah was indeed cut off but He rose again triumphantly!

70 weeks. 7 years x 70 (490 years?). Or 70 years? What is the starting point of this calculation?

The prince who comes will destroy the city and the temple!

Messiah will be cut off!

One week symbolizes 7 years. The wicked one will make a covenant for 7 years, but in the middle, 3 1/2 years he will stop the sacrifice.

Daniel 12:11,12. 11“From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. 12“How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!

This abomination could be an idol, some say, the Roman symbol of eagle, or it could be some form of emperor worship or literally the Anti-Christ standing in the Holy of holy.

People during Jesus' time thought that Antiochus Epiphany was this Anti-Christ who stood in holy of holy during Maccabees time. But Jesus clearly warns that Antiochus was not that Anti-Christ but there will be one coming during the destruction of the temple.

Mark 13:14. "But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. (Mark 13:14 NASB)

Let the reader understand???. It is not Jesus' Word, but it is an edited Word by someone!



Putting together the End Time Puzzles

April 23, 2017

We believe, original manuscript is infallible, but we must be alert for editions, cut and paste, and plagiarism by the Catholic Church that preserved the manuscripts. This is the reason, Scripture must be compared with Scriptures!

So now let us place the puzzle piece from Daniel and place it along with Jesus' prophecy where He talks about desolate of abominations,

Show the map of Daniel and Jesus' prophecy.

Paul elaborates this persona of Anti-Christ based upon what Christ said, and what Daniel says.

2 Thess. 2: 1-11 1Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, 2that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. 5Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? 6And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 7For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. 8Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, 12in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

Please note the first verse very carefully concerning coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering toward Him! He speaks as though there will be just one more visit from the Lord and not two visits, as our modern evangelists claim. If there was indeed two more coming of Christ, (one to rapture us secretly, and the second one as the day of the Lord, Paul would have clarified clearly in his second epistle to Thessalonians, There was no such concept in Paul's Theology and he was always in line with the Old Testament "Day of the Lord" concept and the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If we read further, Paul elaborates about the Anti-Christ who was not revealed yet during his life but someone is restraining antichrist from coming to the throne, and when that restraining political force is taken out Antichrist will be revealed. Many scholars think that this was Nero or one of those Roman emperors after him.



Putting together the End Time Puzzles

April 23, 2017

Futurist (evangelicals) interpretation is that this AntiChrist episode never happened but it will start taking place when the temple is rebuilt again in Israel in the near future.

But the Spiritualist interprets Antichrist as an entity or as a kingdom of Evil, and not as a single person and they have Scriptural support to back it up!

1 John 2:18. Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

1 John 4:3. and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

The spiritualist interpretation seems to be the best when it comes to Antichrist.

The only problem with Paul's prophesy was that he thought that Jesus would return immediately after antichrist kingdom. But he missed out the puzzle piece of cosmological signs after antichrist appearance.

Therefore the shape of the puzzle diagram will look like it:

Map please Jesus' and Paul's.

We will indeed be raptured or caught up in the air when Christ returns. But it will happen right after the grand finale of cosmological signs and fireworks!

Let us see Paul's controversial passage about being "caught up in the air" which are always quoted by modern evangelicals to prove that Christ will have one interim visit.

1 Thess:4: 13-18. 13But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. 14For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18Therefore comfort one another with these words.

There is nothing here that tells us that Christ will have the first visit just for those who died in the Lord and those Christians who are alive. This passage is written by Paul to comfort those people, who thought that Christ will return only for those who are alive, and not for the dead! He just says that Christ will return for both! He will not leave out one or the other!

Now let us see if we can place any of the puzzle pieces from Revelation.



Putting together the End Time Puzzles

April 23, 2017

Map please!

Striking similarities between Revelation and other parts of Scripture:

1. Rev. Ch. 6 and many other chapters describe vividly about calamities
2. Antichrist is specified also in Revelation.
3. The cosmological signs are mentioned clearly in the sixth chapter.
4. There is absolutely no reference to Jesus coming two more times, (first, visit for the rapture of the saints, and the second coming for the judgment). As per revelation, He comes just one time, to annihilate His enemies, and to redeem His People.

What are those puzzle pieces in Revelation that stand out and those ideas are not found anywhere else in the Bible?

1. 144000 Jews from all tribes to be saved except in tribe of Dan.
2. Ambiguity in Jewish temple theology.
3. The great city splits into 3 parts
4. Concept of first resurrection and second resurrection
5. Millennium. Thousand year reign on earth
6. Armageddon battle after millennium?
7. Satan to be confined during the millennium and after that to be loosened.

Now let us see the map one last time!

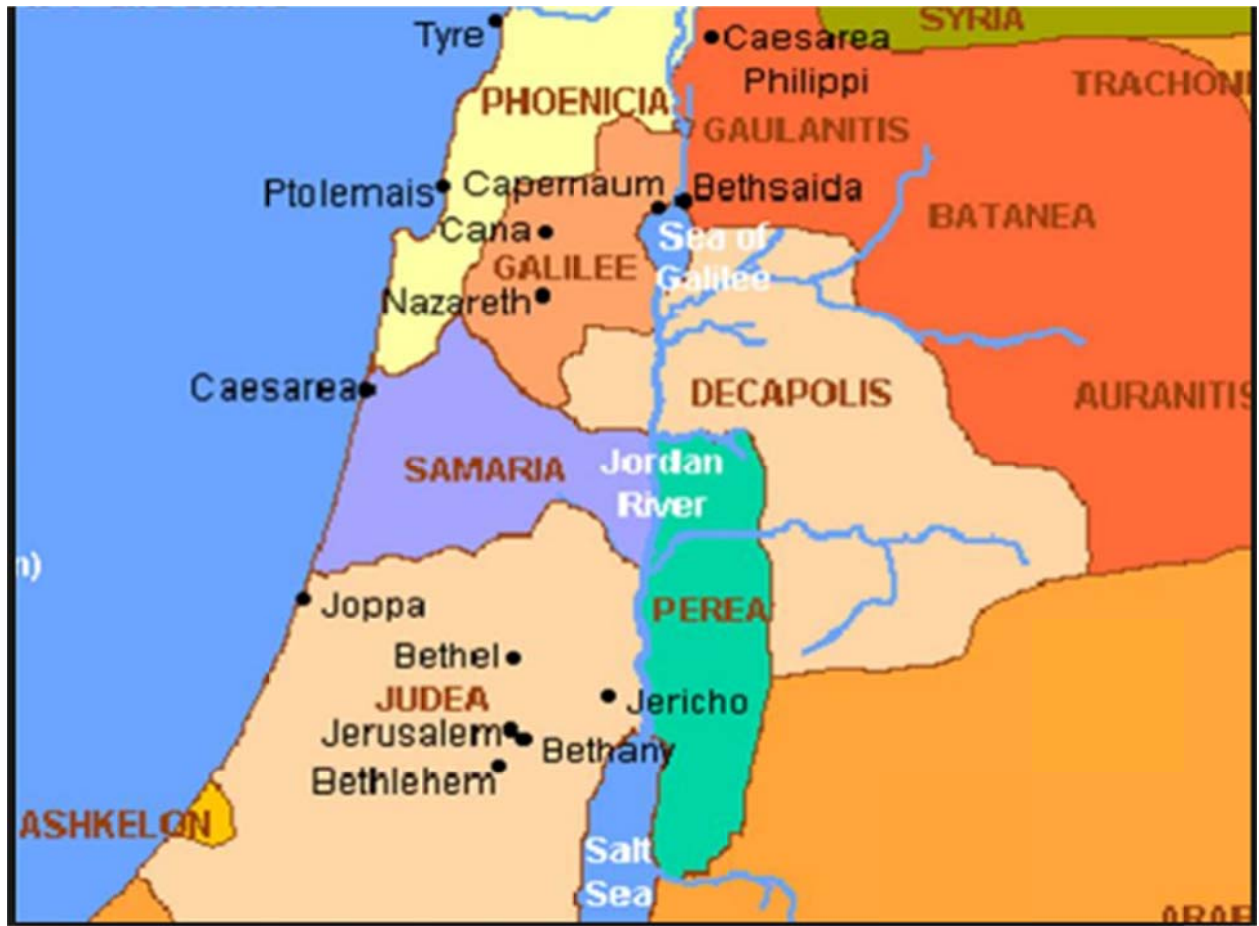
Conclusion: Let us summarize quickly what we have come across so far.

1. Jesus' prophesy has two parts: the first part is about temple destruction, and the other is about His second coming. If you really want to understand what Jesus is talking about, you must remember these two important parts.
2. For us, prophecies surrounding the temple destruction are over. We must look toward the cosmological signs which are the prelude to His coming, just like volcanic lava and smoke warns us of an eruption.
3. Be ready. No one knows the hour or the sequence. He will come when we least expect. His return will be a real surprise. But all flesh will see Him and tremble. Everyone will see Him, all knees will bow down, every tongue will confess that Jesus is indeed Lord of Lords and King of Kings!



Putting together the End Time Puzzles

April 23, 2017



Pastor Daniel Israel