

# 2012 OR 2011

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The following study is the result of several Bible Studies and several persons direct or indirect input. It is a study about the rapture of the Church. We are not date setters just good “Bereans” searching the scriptures daily in anticipation of The Lord’s imminent return.

Have you heard about the Mayan Prophecies? Is the world going to end in the year 2012? These are questions that you will be hearing much more frequently as the year 2012 approaches. For those of you that don’t know, the year 2012 is the year that the Mayan calendar ends. This calendar has been accurate within seconds for centuries. Mysteriously, the calendar ends on December 21, 2012, the winter solstice. This disturbing fact has sparked quite a bit of speculation about the end of the world. As Christians, we should be utilizing every opportunity available to us to talk about Jesus Christ and his Word, The Holy Bible.

From a biblical perspective, it is not surprising that people are looking for answers outside of the Bible. Satan is a counterfeiter. You can rest assured that when a significant biblical event is about to occur, Satan is close by.

*“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”  
2 Corinthians 11:14*

*“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”  
Matthew 24:24*

It is amazing how people will flock to the psychics to see what the demons have to say about the future when they could ask God instead and read it for themselves in the Bible.

*“We have also a more sure word of prophecy...”  
II Peter 1:19*

The Rev. Clarence Larkin, in his commentary on The Book of Daniel, published in 1929, had this to say on the subject. “Men and women resort to fortune tellers, clairvoyants, and mediums to get information as to the future, when they have the “more sure word of prophecy.” Because of the neglect of the study of Prophecy the scriptures have fallen in disrepute, and skepticism and infidelity have become widespread, and an unscriptural optimism as to the world growing better is heard on every side. The neglect of the “Prophetic Word” leaves man ignorant of “Gods Plan and Purpose as to the Ages”... The only cure for the rationalism of the day is the study of Prophecy”

Pg.9 The Book of Daniel by Rev. Clarence Larkin

I couldn't have said it better myself.

The Bible is history written in advance. The Bible also is the only book in the world that has a 100% accuracy rate on predictions for the future. So, what does the Bible say about the end of the world?

In Matthew 24 verse 3, the disciples ask Jesus, ***“Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”***

Jesus then goes through a long list of events and circumstances that will precede the second coming. These include widespread deception, false prophets, wars, famines and earthquakes. Jesus goes into detail describing various events of the tribulation period including the Abomination of Desolation. Then he gets a little more specific as to the timing of these events.

In Matthew 24 verse 32-36 Jesus tells his disciples a parable. Parables are used throughout the Bible to teach a doctrinal truth.

***“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”***

**Matthew 24:32-36**

This biblical parable is what every major Bible scholar uses to explain the timing of the return of Jesus Christ as occurring in our lifetime. In the Bible, nations are referred to as trees. The nation of Israel is defined as the fig tree. Israel's' return to their land in 1948 and their subsequent development of that land is commonly referred to as “the blossoming of the fig tree or “putting forth leaves” if you will. Jesus says when you see these things happen, know that the end is near. He then further says that the generation that is alive when these things happen, will also see the fulfillment of all things, including the end of the world.

The Lord tells you that no one knows the exact date.

***“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”***

**Matthew 24:36**

But, this verse should not be used as an excuse for being ignorant about the general time period of the Lord's return. On the contrary, Remember, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and Sadducees of his day for not recognizing the “signs of the times” for his first coming. Had the Pharisees been more biblically informed, they would have realized Jesus was who he claimed to be and showed up just when he was supposed to.

***“When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky: but can ye not discern the signs of the times?”***

**Matthew 16:2-3**

We are commanded to establish the general time of his return, and then watch and wait for his imminent return.

**“Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”**  
*Mark 13:33-37*

**“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the Goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.”**  
*Matthew 24:42-43*

**“Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.”**  
*1Thes 5:5-6*

**“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.”**  
*Luke 21:36*

**“*Looking* for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:”**  
*Titus 2:13*

As a result of watching for the Lord's return, we are blessed.

**“Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.”**

*Luke 12:37*

We are also rewarded with a CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, Because we are watching and waiting for the rapture

**“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”**

*2 Timothy 4:8*

So. If “this generation shall not pass, till all things be fulfilled”, our jobs as good “Bereans” is to determine how long is a generation, and when did it start?

**“ And the LORD'S anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, was consumed.”**

*Numbers 32:13*

**“Forty years long was I grieved with this generation...”**

*Psalm 95:10*

**“And the space in which we came from Kadeshbarnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the LORD swore unto them.”**

*Deuteronomy 2:14*

It would appear that a “generation” is about 40 years long. But, we were conducting a home Bible Study recently when our friend Jacob, whom we had just met, says “I figured out how long a “generation is.” The genealogy in Matthew lists 42 “generations”

**“So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.”**

*Matthew 1:17*

14 x 3 = 42 There are 42 generations from Abraham to Jesus Christ

Abraham was born in 2166 B.C.

2166 divided by 42 = **51.5 years per generation**

To figure out when the “generation” begins we look at significant events in Israel’s (the fig tree) recent history. All prophecy is fulfilled in relation to Israel.

### **Significant events in Israel’s current history**

**1918 - Balfour Declaration\***

**1948 - Israel becomes a nation**

**1967 - Six Day War**

**1978 - Oslo Peace Accord**

We then matched the biblical numbers for a “generation” with a corresponding historical event in Israel’s recent history.

**1918 +100 = 2018 - 7 = 2011**

**1948 +70 = 2018 -7 = 2011**

**1967 +51 = 2018 - 7 = 2011**

**1978 + 40 = 2018 -7 = 2011**

**\*although the Balfour Declaration was written in November of 1917, it was not received and verified by the Jews until 1918**

The other two time periods that were utilized for this study are 100 years and **70 years**. Israel has had three distinct 70 year time periods in their history. Each of these **70 year** periods has had something to do with King Solomon's Temple and each of these 70 year periods has had something to do with judgment. Furthermore each of these three events were predicted and recorded in the Bible before the happened.

- 1) **70 year** captivity in Babylon –the Jews were punished for not letting the land rest for one full year every seven years for 490 years in a row so God took his 70 years all at once. Babylon invaded Israel, destroyed King Solomon's Temple (1st temple) and took the Jews captive.

**JUDGMENT: 70 years of captivity**

- 2) The birth of Jesus Christ to the destruction of King Solomon's Temple in 70 AD was approx **70 years**. The Romans invaded Jerusalem and destroyed the Second Temple just as prophesied.

**“And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”**

**Matthew24:1-2**

This was a prophecy made by Jesus Christ himself concerning King Solomon's Temple (2nd temple). After the Romans burned the temple to the ground, they pried the rocks apart to get the gold that melted between the rocks.

**JUDGEMENT: The Jews were scattered among the nations** and forced to endure for 2000 years without a homeland because of their rejection of Jesus Christ as their savior. They are the only race of people who have been able to maintain their national identity for that length of time without their own country.

- 3) From 1948 when Israel regained their homeland until 2018 (anticipated day of the second coming of Jesus Christ) is **exactly 70 years**. When this event happens, King Solomon's Temple (3rd temple) will have been rebuilt. The Temple is to be rebuilt during the seven year tribulation period prior to the second coming. We know this because the Anti-Christ will sit in the rebuilt temple and declare himself to be god at exactly the middle of the tribulation. This event is referred to as the “abomination of desolation.”

**“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)”**

Matthew 24:15

**“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.”**

Daniel 9:27

### **JUDGEMENT: THE TRIBULATION**

We have determined that there are three distinct time periods of 70 years each in Israel’s history that have something to do with King Solomon’s Temple or the destruction of the temple. The number 70 is used frequently in the Bible.

We were in another Bible Study recently and we were discussing the significance of numbers, the number 70 in particular, when our friend Ray Tracy blurts out “What do you get when you subtract 70 from 2221 three times?” Ray has a tendency to get a little off track sometimes, so another friend who happens to be a math wiz answered him matter of factly and we moved on. I think that I was the only one in class that day besides Ray that understood the significance of what he had said. That day, The Lord was using Ray to show us something. 22:21 is the last verse in the Bible. If you subtract 70 three times, you have **2011**.

$$2221-210 (70 \times 3) = 2011$$

Talking about this new revelation with my girlfriend Linda a short time later, she says “What does verse 20:11 say anyway?” We turn to Revelation 20 verse 11 and we find “THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT” The Great White Throne Judgment is where all the unsaved dead will be judged. The number 11 is the number of judgment. How appropriate then if the rapture occurs in 2011 and The Tribulation begins. The Tribulation is God’s Judgment on a Christ rejecting world. The Tribulation is also called “THE DISPENSATION OF JUDGMENT.” Every person still on earth when the tribulation begins will be judged at The Great White Throne Judgment.

Now take your King James Bible. What year was it written? It was written in 1611. The last book in the Old Testament in the King James Bible was Malachi. The first book in the New Testament in the King James Bible is Matthew. There was a 400 year lapse in time between Malachi and Matthew, this time period is commonly referred to as the 400 years of silence.

$$1611 + 400 = 2011$$

We do not wish to be dogmatic about the year 2011 despite the fact that we just came up with that year six different ways. The author of the book *Will Christ Return by 1988?* gave 101 reasons for Jesus Christ's imminent return by

1988. The author's only mistake was being dogmatic about the date. He miscalculated the length of a "generation" or when it began. He was aware of Israel's rebirth as a nation in 1948 and used 40 years as a generation. Let's watch and pray about the Lord's return instead of being dogmatic about the exact date.

**But be careful. Just as there is a blessing for those that watch, there is also a curse for the scoffer who thinks that the Lord's return is some far off distant time in the future.**

**"Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all? And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. But and *if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;* and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will *cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes."***

Luke 12:37-47