

## UNIT 8 PART 1

### BF232 OUR FUTURE HOPE

Welcome back to our study of Our Future Hope.

I want to take a few minutes to review the things that we've looked at so far. We found that the events that God will bring about in the future are based on His plans and promises that were seen in the past. Really, it's Genesis 1 and 2 that set the stage for everything that follows. Therefore,

**THE ONLY WAY WE CAN TRULY UNDERSTAND WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT THE FUTURE IS TO KNOW WHAT HE HAS SAID IN THE PAST.**

We began in Genesis 1 and 2. We went all the way through major parts of the Old Testament.

*OUR FUTURE HOPE IS BASED ON GOD'S PLAN AND PROMISES.*

**GOD'S PLAN IS TO FILL THE EARTH WITH PEOPLE WHO WORSHIPED HIM AS THE LIVING GOD.**

His promise is to bring that about. God first revealed His plan in the Book of Genesis, specifically Genesis 1 and 2.

God wanted mankind, whom He created in His image and likeness, to be able to live in perfect fellowship with God. God wanted us to know Him. He also wanted mankind to rule over His creation on His behalf. God wanted them to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. God wanted His kingdom that was filled with people who worshiped Him to spread over the entire earth. That was God's plan.

God's plan in Genesis shows us that it was God's desire to be worshipped and known throughout the earth. It also shows us that God had a claim on the earth because He created it. He established His kingdom there. For that reason, Genesis 1 and 2 show us the direction that the Biblical story must go.

**IF GOD IS GOD, AND HE IS, THEN GOD IS GOING TO FINISH WHAT HE STARTED. HE WILL FULFILL HIS DESIRES THAT WERE FIRST SEEN WITH HIS PLAN AT CREATION.**

God set everything up to where it could work. All that had to happen was for Adam and Eve to obey God, and God's plan would come to completion. We know that Adam and Eve sinned against God; and with the fall of man, God's plan was reversed.

It brings some questions. Whose kingdom will win? Will God have a kingdom that fills the earth? Or, because Satan became the god of this world, will his kingdom win? Will God's

kingdom extend over the earth? Will God have a world filled with people who worship Him? Will mankind live in the presence of God? Because of the fall, they are separated from God. Will mankind rule on God's behalf? Will mankind live under God's blessing?

### **Future Hope Based on Genesis**

We expect God's plan to be fulfilled. God will restore His blessing to mankind. God will remove the curse and death. Mankind will rule on the earth. The Seed of the woman will defeat the serpent. These are things that God wants to accomplish through the Seed of the Woman, who would be a descendant of Abraham, a descendant of Isaac, descendant of Jacob from the tribe of Judah. All these things are coming out of the book of Genesis. In the future, it will be very good once again.

As the plan unfolds, Israel is called by God to be a Kingdom of Priests unto the nations. God wants Israel to share His truth with the nations so that they could be blessed, so that they could know the Living God and have fellowship with Him.

However, God knew that Israel would disobey. God said that Israel's disobedience would be punished with exile. He would send them out of their land. That's why Jeremiah and the prophets warned them that if they did not stop, God would remove them from their promised land. Just like God removed Adam and Eve from that special land, God would remove Israel from this special land if they did not live up to their calling as the Kingdom of Priests.

God also said that when Israel returned to Him, He would bring them back to their land and give them a new heart. Israel did not learn from the captivity. We saw that they were in Babylon for 70 years.

Since they did not learn, it would come to pass that God would punish them seven times over, seven times more than the 70 years in captivity. Daniel prophecies of 70 units of seven, or 70 groups of seven years. Daniel recognized that the Son of Man would return. Salvation would come at the end of the 70th unit of seven.

We saw in our timeline that from the decree of Artaxerxes until Messiah was killed, would be 69 sevens, or 483 years. After that final seven years, the time of the end would come. A Messiah would come and restore Israel's kingdom.

When we came to the Gospel of Matthew, they were waiting. They knew from the decree of Artaxerxes, that it was time for Messiah to come. Messiah did come. We learned from Matthew that the Kingdom was offered. Christ came preaching the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand; but when they rejected the King, they rejected the Kingdom. Because of that, the Kingdom was postponed. Jesus told the disciples they would reign on 12 Thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel; but now, it would be delayed into the future. Israel would not see Jesus again until they say, "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord."

In Matthew, we also see that Christ began building a new thing called the Church. We discovered that

**GOD'S PLAN FOR THE CHURCH IS DIFFERENT THAN HIS PLAN FOR ISRAEL.**

**GOD'S PLAN FOR ISRAEL IS THAT ISRAEL'S SALVATION WOULD COME AFTER THE TRIBULATION AT THE END OF THE 70TH WEEK OF DANIEL.**

God's plan for the Church is different. The Church was a mystery, something not known until the New Testament letters. In this mystery, Jews and Gentiles would be one Body in Christ. Therefore, in this period between the 1st and 2nd advent, or coming of Christ, called the Church Age, God was doing something special.

**GOD'S PLAN FOR THE CHURCH, OUR FUTURE HOPE, IS THAT IN GOD'S TIME, THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST. THEN, THE LIVING BELIEVERS WILL BE CAUGHT UP TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR. WE WILL ALWAYS AND FOREVER BE WITH THE LORD.**

God said that His plan for the Church is that it would be salvation for us, but it would be the Day of the Lord for them. God's plan for the Church is different than His plan for the unsaved world. He would deliver us from the coming wrath, the Day of the Lord; but unbelievers would be taken over by this coming wrath. They would not escape this judgment of God.

We moved to 2 Thessalonians. Paul talked about it more and said, "Don't be confused. You cannot be in the Day of the Lord because the rebellion has to come first. The man of lawlessness will be revealed, and the Restrainer will be removed." Then, Paul said, "But that can't happen anyway because God has chosen to deliver us; but wrath will come upon them." God promised to bring salvation to the Church by rescuing us before the Day of the Lord comes.

**GOD'S PLAN FOR THE WORLD DURING THE DAY OF THE LORD IS TO PUNISH THEM FOR THEIR INIQUITY. THEY WILL BELIEVE THE LIES OF ANTICHRIST AND BE JUDGED WITH HIM.**

God's plan for Israel During that 70th week of Daniel is to bring them to repentance.

***GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR THE NATIONS IN THE DAY OF THE LORD. GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR ISRAEL IN THE DAY OF THE LORD. BUT FOR THE CHURCH, GOD SAID HE WOULD DELIVER US FROM THE DAY OF THE LORD.***

That's a summary of what we've looked at so far in this study of Our Future Hope. In the next session, we will move our attention to the Book of Revelation. We're going to find that God's plan for Israel and God's plan for the Church are going to come together at the end of Revelation. The Church and believing Israelites will be together with the Lord forever and ever.