

CONTINUITY OF SCRIPTURE

HOW ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE?

Week 1/JROC – UNTIL....

December 31, 2023

“UNTIL” is used in Scripture – 891 times! In the OT – 679X and in the NT – 212X. What does “UNTIL” mean? Is a timeframe noted? What is God’s timeframe? God is above time and space. God created man and placed him on this earth and into time and space. God meets with man within man’s time and space. Gal. 4:4 – *In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, under the law.* Jesus was sent to us – on this earth – Immanuel - God in the flesh – within time and space. Does “UNTIL” talk of a continuation within time?

Ex. 23:30 - *Little by little I will drive them (the Canaanites, Perizites, Girgishites – the “ites”) out from before you, **until** you have increased, and you inherit the land.* “Until” in Ex. 23:30 speaks of *continuous existence*. In v. 30, we read of God’s promise of the physical land to Israel. Does Israel have all the land that God promised them (Gen. 15:18-20)? Is God going to give them all the land that He promised? How do we know? The land was promised through the Abrahamic Covenant which is an unconditional covenant. What does that mean? God obligated Himself to deliver on His promises in unconditional covenants/unilateral covenants (one-sided).

Heb. 6:13 – *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater; He swore by Himself, God does NOT change, *I am the LORD your God; therefore you sons of Jacob are not consumed* (Mal. 3:6).*

Deut. 1:8 - *See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give to them and their descendants after them. God promises multitudes of descendants noted in the OT through genealogies that continue into Matt. 1 and Luke 3 and into eternity (Isa. 66:22)!*

Psa. 110:1 - *The LORD (Jehovah/Yahweh) said to my Lord (David’s master – the Messiah), ‘Sit at My right hand, (this is where Jesus is now – in heaven – at the right hand of God – the place of honor. He is our great High Priest Who intercedes for us continually) **Till** (UNTIL a time in the future when) I make Your enemies Your footstool. When will Jesus’ enemies be made His footstool? When He is ruling and reigning from King David’ throne in Jerusalem. When will that take place? In the Millennial Kingdom (Psa. 2). Is He now ruling and reigning from King David’s throne? NO! Jesus as our High Priest esus is interceding for us as He is seated at the right hand of God!*

Isa. 62:1, 6-7 – God is speaking, *For Zion’s sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, **UNTIL** her (Jerusalem’s) righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her*

salvation as a lamp that burns....I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night (warning; God protects Israel [Deut. 32:8-10] and has given many the task on earth to not keep silent about Jerusalem. And to continually pray for the peace of Jerusalem). *You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, ⁷ and give Him no rest **till** He establishes and **till** He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*

When will Jerusalem's righteousness go forth as brightness (Isa. 60:1-3ff) and her salvation as a lamp that burns. At their restoration (Act 3:18-21). Matt. 19:28 - *So Jesus said to them, Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration (lit. "Genesis again"), when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.* To whom is Jesus speaking? The disciples!

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WHO is going to establish Jerusalem's future place on this earth? JESUS – (Psa. 2; Isa. 2:2-4; Dan. 7:13-14, 27; Zech. 14:1-9; Matt. 25:31-46....). God will make Jerusalem a PRAISE in the earth? (Isa. 60; Isa. 61; Isa. 62:3-5; Isa. 63:7-14....)

For more **UNTIL/till** verses, check out Jer. 23:20; Jer. 27:22; Dan. 9:25, 27; Dan. 11:35, 36, Dan. 12:1, 4, 6, 8...cross reference...and determine the timeframe. Past? Present? Future?

Hosea 5:15 - *I will return again (lit. "I will go") to My place **till** they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.* Jesus ascended into heaven UNTIL "they," Israel, will seek Him.

Has Israel as a nation acknowledged their offense/sin against God? NO!

When will the nation of Israel acknowledge their sin? When will the nation of Israel be restored? In the future!!! Then, Jesus will come to earth the second time.

Matt. 23:37-39 – days before Jesus' crucifixion, Jesus wept over Jerusalem, *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁸ See! Your house is left to you desolate; ³⁹ for I say to you, you shall see Me no more **till** you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' About what timeframe is Jesus speaking? When Israel mourns for Jesus, He will then return to earth.*

Zech. 12:10 - *And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn (the end of the campaign of Armageddon/end of the tribulation).*

Matt. 5:18 - *For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot (dot) or one tittle (stroke) will by no means pass from the law **till** all is fulfilled.*

What did Jesus mean when He said during His Sermon on the Mount – till ALL is fulfilled? At Jesus' first coming, He fulfilled all the prophecies concerning His first coming. He's coming again...the prophecies concerning Jesus' second coming have not yet been fulfilled!

George Eldon Ladd has stated that he and others like him "...form their theology from the explicit teaching of the NT and not from the OT. They confess that they cannot be sure how the OT prophecies of the end are to be fulfilled for the first coming of Christ was accomplished in terms not foreseen by a literal interpretation of the OT and there are unavoidable indications that the OT promises to Israel are fulfilled in the Christian church." "Historic Premillennialism" in *The Meaning of the Millennium: Four Views* (InterVarsity Press, 1977), p. 27.

Ladd also states that "The OT must be interpreted by the NT. ...it is quite possible that the prophecies addressed originally to literal Israel describing physical blessings have their fulfillment exclusively in the spiritual blessings enjoyed in the church. It is also possible that the OT expectation of a kingdom on earth could be reinterpreted by the NT altogether of blessings in the spiritual realm." "Revelation 20 and the Millennium," *Review and Expositor* 57 (1960), p. 167.

How do Ladd and others like him explain "until" in the OT? How do they explain God's character? How do they explain II Tim. 3:16? How do they define "Israel"? According to Ladd and the others, how is the one story of Scripture impacted?