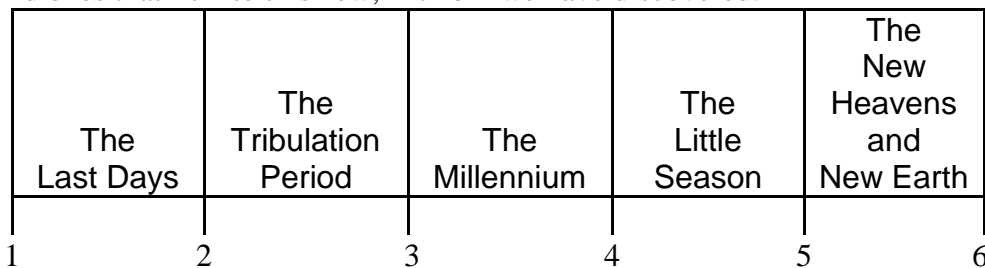


Episode #431 Bins for Bible Prophecies 5 – Sorting More Prophecies

I. The Word of God contains many passages wherein Scriptures predict future events. There is a need to properly order the predictive passages of Scripture. Lord Bacon called this “sorting prophetic material.” We can compare this to sorting screws into bins. We need “bins for Bible prophecies.” We can get these by establishing the future time periods of Scripture, and then sorting any given prophecy into the proper one of these bins.

II. We have established five future bins, “The Last Days,” “The Tribulation Period,” “The Thousand Years,” “The Little Season,” and “The New Heavens and New Earth.” The first period, “The Last Days,” is not one that is commonly believed among Christians, but we have seen that this period must exist to sort prophecies that could not fit either in the Thousand Years nor in the New Heavens and New Earth. Now, we will sort more prophecies and see if we can find ones that fit into this new, fifth bin we have discovered.



III. Matthew 12:15-21.

- A. Verses 15-17. The Pharisees plotted to kill Him, so the Lord withdrew. The multitudes followed Him, however. He healed their sick, but warned them not to make Him known so His enemies would not hear where He was. This was not just a wise and necessary policy, but was in accordance with a prophecy in Isaiah 42:1-3.
- B. Verses 18-21. These words relate to what the Lord was then doing. Yet what He was doing was not the fulfillment of the prophecy, for He did not do the things stated in it. He did not send forth justice to victory. The Gentiles did not trust in Him. If what the Lord was doing was the same as this, we might as well give up understanding the Bible at all! Yet this is not necessary. The Lord did this so Isaiah’s prophecy could be fulfilled. Matthew never says what He did fulfilled it.
1. Verse 18. Clearly God’s Servant is the Lord Jesus Christ. God’s Spirit was clearly on the Lord, as demonstrated by the dove at His baptism. Yet He never declared justice to the nations, so this part is yet future.
 2. Verse 19. The Lord did quarrel with the Pharisees many times, and you could hear His voice in the streets, for He was a street preacher. This prophecy was not fulfilled in Christ’s earthly ministry, but must fit in a future bin.
 3. Verse 20. God’s Servant does not break a bruised reed nor quench smoking flax. These are both easy things to do. This means He does no violence, at least, not until He sends forth judgment unto victory. When one government takes over from another, there is usually much bloodshed and violence. Yet God’s government will be very different when He takes over. Even the weakest and most vulnerable will not be injured in the least.
 4. Verse 21. The result of this amazing, bloodless revolution is that all nations will come to trust in His character.
- C. A greater contrast with II Thessalonians 1:7-10 cannot be imagined.

1. In Matthew 12, Christ does not hurt anyone. In II Thessalonians 1, Christ hurts everyone who does not already know and obey Him.
2. In Matthew 12, Christ does not fight, quarrel, or cry out. In II Thessalonians 1, Christ takes vengeance in flaming fire.
3. Only one conclusion is possible: these two passages cannot be talking about the same thing!
4. How does Christ get victory first: by hurting all His enemies or no one? By taking vengeance, or by enlightening? By shouting, I Thessalonians 4:16, or by remaining silent?
5. If we tried to limit future events to the four bins commonly believed by evangelicals, we could not place this prophecy. That is why most ignore Matthew 12:18-21. But we have a place for it: our fifth bin! This prophecy will be fulfilled before Christ's second coming.

IV. Isaiah 65:17-25.

- A. Verse 17. This describes a glorious new creation. "Remembered" does not mean everyone forgets about it, but no one would look back on the former and desire it.
- B. Verse 18. Like so many other prophecies of Scripture, this one centers around the land and people of Israel.
- C. Verse 19. The joy of Jerusalem and her people will be complete, and no more will sorrow take place in her.
- D. Verse 20. Though verse 17 spoke of the new heavens and new earth, the rest of the prophecy must not speak of this time. Why not?
 1. Because men still die, but there is no death in the new heavens and new earth of Revelation 21:4.
 2. This describes a time when 100 years old is still a child, yet a sinner could still die at 100. This means longevity is restored, but death is still possible. This can only fit a period of blessing before the Millennium or the new heavens and new earth of Revelation 21 wherein God greatly blesses the earth, but some accursed men still sin and die.
 3. Notice that this sets the length of our "Last Days" time period as covering many centuries of time, for no one would call 100 years old "young" unless many were already much older than that.
- E. Verse 21. Sadly through much of Israel's history the things they have built for themselves have been stolen from them. No more in this future time!
- F. Verse 22. Trees live for a very long time, and generally do not die unless something bad happens to them. So it shall be with God's people in that future time.
- G. Verse 23. In that day, no one will labor for nothing. In that day, no one will bring forth a child just to see that child go bad and live a wasted life.
- H. Verse 24. In our day, God seems slow to answer the cries of His people. In that day, the cry will be answered before the one in need is even finished speaking!
- I. Verse 25. The animal kingdom too will be affected, and violence in nature will end. The "serpent," Satan, will be defeated and constantly humiliated. All wicked schemes and desires will fail and come to an end.

V. Conclusion: Matthew tells us Christ will get victory on earth peaceably. Isaiah describes a glorious earth made completely new and almost unbelievably good. But when will this happen? What am I saying comes next? Does this order I have suggested make sense?