

## **Five interpretive principles for reading the Bible:**

We must let the Bible speak for itself. We must trust it implicitly. We must not impose our feelings or systems upon its text. We must let it interpret itself. We must believe that there will be no contradictions when texts are properly understood. We must not be anti-supernaturalistic or sensationalistic. We must recognize God's perfect sovereignty over history to orchestrate times and dates with his redemptive plan. We must understand that he can harmonize symbolism with history easily.

1. Scripture should be taken literally in its customary, natural, and normal sense allowing for symbolism and figures of speech.
2. Passages must be understood in context. Words, phrases, and passages have both historical and literary contexts that must be carefully considered.
3. Scripture is its own best interpreter. After a passage is carefully studied in its context, the fuller picture given by other relevant passages must fill in and govern our conclusions.
4. Scripture never contradicts. If there is a difficulty between two passages that gives an apparent contradiction, then there would be a perfect resolution if the passages were understood completely. As we learn the Bible, we can grow in our understanding so that we see more and more how Scripture harmonizes.
5. Many prophetic passages have both near and far implications and applications. One of the greatest characteristics of biblical prophecy is "typology" in which God uses patterns and events in history to give partial fulfillments that point to ultimate final realities.

### **Some Big Things to Note:**

1. The 70th week of Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27) is a future, yet unfulfilled, period of about 7 years on earth consisting of three distinct parts: the beginning of birth pangs, the Great Tribulation, and the Day of the Lord.

2. There is therefore a future time of Great Tribulation coming upon the earth through the rule of Antichrist and that the church will have to faithfully endure this time.

3. The term “Tribulation” should be used only of the period following the mid-point of the 70th week after the “Abomination of Desolations” which will launch Antichrist’s full scale attack upon God’s people and before the Day of the Lord.

The Tribulation: The wrath of man/Satan. All God’s people will be his target.

The Day of the Lord: The wrath of God. All the wicked will be his target.

4. That the Day of the Lord will be a complex series of judgments that happen to this generation on planet earth. It will not be a single day and quick moment. It will be the final terrifying era of God’s judgment upon this world system consisting of a number of fiery judgments over a period of months.

5. The two main purposes of the Day of the Lord are to rescue the saints and pour out God’s fiery judgment upon this wicked world system.

6. An additional purpose of the Day of the Lord will be to save a remnant of Israel who turn to Christ in faith.

7. A Christian should recognize that there are both signs to watch for and times that we cannot predict.

8. Following the completion of the Day of the Lord, Messiah will begin his millennial rule on planet earth as prophesied in the New Covenant.