

Deal Pentecostal Church Sermon Outlines 2026

Daily Prayer

Father, may we clearly know Your will and achieve the height and depth of spiritual wisdom and understanding. May our lives be a credit to You, Lord; and what's more, may we continue to delight You by doing every good work and growing in the true knowledge that comes from being close to You. Strengthen us with Your infinite power, according to Your glorious might, so that we will have everything we need to hold on and endure hardship patiently and joyfully. Thank You, Father, that You have made us eligible to receive our portion of the inheritance given to all those set apart by the light. You have rescued us from dark powers and brought us safely into the kingdom of Your Son, whom You love and in whom we are redeemed and forgiven of our sins through His blood. *[Colossians 1:9-14 The Voice]*

Let Your Spirit produce in me wise desires by which I may ask right things, and then I shall know You hear me. May I never be importunate for temporal blessings but always refer them to Your Fatherly goodness—for You know what I need before I ask. May I seek first Your kingdom and its righteousness.. May I never think I prosper unless my soul prospers; or that I am rich, unless rich toward You; or that I am wise, unless wise unto salvation. May I seek my happiness in Your favour, image, presence and service. May my spiritual welfare be my chief consideration and value everything in relation to eternity.

Prayer for Ukraine

Heavenly Father, destroy the works of the enemies, divide their tongues, frustrate their efforts, and bring their counsels to naught; cause the enemy to fight within their own ranks, weaken their cause, force them to abandon the war and return home in shame, never to return! But may all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You—may those who love Your salvation always say, “Let God be exalted!” In Jesus’ Name, Amen!

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January

Glory. *Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.* *Isaiah 60:1-2*

Thought for the Month: To hear is to be informed—to believe is to be transformed. *Mike Petzer*

Sunday 4th January Ps.126

“*What would you like to achieve this year?*” Many people say that they have made a new year resolution—but their goof intentions don’t usually last a month—sometimes because their circumstances changed, but mostly because they were unrealistic. However, regardless of those new year resolutions, what do you want to achieve spiritually this year? The glib answer would be: *I want to be more like Jesus!* But what does it mean to be more like Jesus? And what should you do to work towards that goal? Your answers will depend your theology—and as we said last week, “*good theology makes stress-free Christianity!*” For many people, the goal of becoming more like Jesus would entail more Church services, more prayer, more Bible Study, more... (*add your own list of activities*). All these activities are good (and some are important) but whilst they have their place, they will not make you more like Jesus. The only activity that will make you more like Jesus is conversion—the New Birth. The moment we are born-again we are spiritually complete, we are whole and holy: *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*^{1Pet.1:3-5} *For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.*^{1Pet.1:23} *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. [For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.]*^{Col.2:9-10} *Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.*^{Heb.2:11}

If want to be like Jesus and don’t believe that we are spiritually complete, whole and holy, we will spend all our time and energy trying to be more complete, more whole and more holy. We will tire ourselves out by trying to be good enough, trying to be holy enough, trying to pray enough, trying to be spiritual enough, instead of living as the spiritual whole and holy person that God says we are. Adam was created whole and holy but when he sinned, his relationship with God was broken and he was expelled from Paradise. Adam’ work became wearisome and tiring—and he passed this “curse” on to all his descendants: *To Adam he said: Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.*^{Gen.3:17-19} But Jesus redeemed us from that curse: *For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."* Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “*the righteous will live by faith.*” The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “*The person who does these things will live by them.*” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “*Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.*” He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.^{Gal.3:10-14} Now we are redeemed, we are united with God—and we cannot be more spiritual than having God dwelling within us! *But whoever is united*

with the Lord is one with him in spirit.^{1Cor.6:17} And if our spiritual work is tiring, Jesus has promised us rest for our souls: *All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*^{Matt.11:27-30} God doesn't want us "religiously" spiritual but He does want us to live *naturally* spiritual. There is a heresy that began to infiltrate Christianity from almost the beginning of the Church. This false teaching says: "*Spirit is good, flesh is evil; God is spirit, we are flesh and if we are to be more like God, we have to deny our flesh*". The devil will often flood our minds with truth in order to float a lie and deceptions work because they have some credibility. But just as a little dirt makes the cleanest clothes dirty, so a little error will make the whole teaching wrong—a little yeast permeates the whole loaf: *Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.*^{1Cor.5:6-7}

If we don't understand that we are good enough for God, we will try to make ourselves more holy and miss out on the life God has for us. But the Christian life is a life of fellowship with God not a life of fellowship with the devil and so, of course we should live a holy, pure, and wholesome life that is compatible with the values of God's Kingdom. We live by faith, trusting not trying; communion not conflict. Nevertheless, we all readily admit that we are not yet perfect. Even John and Paul recognized this: *This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.*^{1Jn.1:5-10} Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.^{Phil.3:12-14} So how do we change from where we are to where we are going? How do we become more like Jesus, not just in our nature but in our daily lives as well?

Jesus is full of glory: *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*^{Jn.1:14} The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.^{Heb.1:3} Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.^{Jn.17:3-5} Paul defines sin as falling short of God's glory: *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*^{Rom.3:23} But when we meditate or contemplate God's glory, we are transformed into Jesus likeness: *And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*^{2Cor.3:18} This word "transformed" is also used about Jesus' transfiguration: *There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.*^{Matt.17:2-3} The same word is used about the renewing of our mind as we worship: *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the*

pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.^{Rom.12:2}

So to make our new holy and righteous nature a reality in our daily lives, we need to display the Lord's glory—and that will change us to become more like him so that we have more and more glory. *The Government of Death, its constitution chiselled on stone tablets, had a dazzling inaugural. Moses' face as he delivered the tablets was so bright that day (even though it would fade soon enough) that the people of Israel could no more look right at him than stare into the sun. How much more dazzling, then, the Government of Living Spirit? If the Government of Condemnation was impressive, how about this Government of Affirmation? Bright as that old government was, it would look downright dull alongside this new one. If that makeshift arrangement impressed us, how much more this brightly shining government installed for eternity? With that kind of hope to excite us, nothing holds us back. Unlike Moses, we have nothing to hide. Everything is out in the open with us. He wore a veil so the children of Israel wouldn't notice that the glory was fading away—and they didn't notice. They didn't notice it then and they don't notice it now, don't notice that there's nothing left behind that veil. Even today when the proclamations of that old, bankrupt government are read out, they can't see through it. Only Christ can get rid of the veil so they can see for themselves that there's nothing there. Whenever, though, they turn to face God as Moses did, God removes the veil and there they are—face to face! They suddenly recognize that God is a living, personal presence, not a piece of chiselled stone. And when God is personally present, a living Spirit, that old, constricting legislation is recognized as obsolete. We're free of it! All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.*^{2Cor.3:7-18}

Displaying God's glory is a wonderful honour as well as being a wonderful experience, but we should not fall into the error of thinking that only "super-spiritual" people can attain this. Our Verse for the month is from Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus' glory rising upon us: *Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.*^{Is.60:1-2} Isaiah saw and experienced Jesus' glory before He was born in Bethlehem: *Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.*^{Jn.12:41} But Isaiah prophesied that when we see that glory, we will no longer live in gloom or darkness: *Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness. Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.*^{Is.8:20-9:7}

Let's live in the fulfilment of this prophecy and instead of seeing darkness and gloom, see the light of God's glory—not just in heaven but on earth, on us and in us. And let's make 2026 the best year of our life—because with God's glory risen upon us we can. If God be for us, who can be against us?

Questions

What is God's glory like?

What is sin?

What does “*the glory of the LORD rises upon you*” mean?

Can we become more like Jesus?

How can we display more of Jesus?

Should we change anything in our services to facilitate God’s glory?

Puritan Prayer. Worship and Fellowship: O Lord, we commune with You every day but sometimes secular concerns reduce heavenly impressions. We bless You therefore, that today is sacred to our souls and we can wait upon You and be refreshed. We thank You for the institutions of religion, by use of which, we draw near to You and You to us. We rejoice that today, without distractions or even with distractions, we can attend upon You. Let our fellowship be devout, our conversation edifying, our reading pious and our hearing profitable. We are the House of Prayer—pour upon us the Spirit of Grace and Supplication. We are the House of Praise—awaken in us every grateful and cheerful emotion so that our souls are quickened and elevated. As we receive instruction, give testimony to the Word preached and glorify it in the hearts of all who hear. May Your Word enlighten the ignorant, awaken the careless, reclaim the wandering, establish the weak, comfort the feeble-minded and make ready a people for their Lord. Be a Sanctuary to all who cannot come and forget not those who never come. Bestow upon us benevolence towards our dependants, forgiveness towards our enemies, peaceableness towards our neighbours and openness towards our fellow-Christians.

Psalm 126: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev. Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

February:

Glory. *For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done. Matthew 16:27*

Thought for the Month: Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength—carrying two days at once. It is moving into tomorrow ahead of time. Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength. *Corrie ten Boom*

March:

Glory. *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14*

Thought for the Month: Truth and godliness belong together. Truth is a living thing; when it grips our minds, it changes our lives. If we claim to know the truth, then the Bible would require us to prove our claim by the evidence of a way of life matching the truth. *Alec Motyer.*

April:

Glory. *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed [when God will reveal who his children really are]. Romans 8:18-19*

Thought for the Month: Christianity is not based on a mystical revelation or self-inspired philosophy but it is deeply rooted in history. In fact, it is the only religious system I can think of that depends on a historical event (the resurrection of Jesus) being real—not fake—news. *Alisa Childers*

May

Glory. *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1Corinthians 10:31*

Thought for the Month: Jesus says that to experience the Holy Spirit is like to be born again. It's a new birth in the sense that everything comes alive. The Holy Spirit doesn't change anything and yet He changes everything. He doesn't add anything to what Jesus has already said and instituted, but he makes all Jesus has said and done become alive today. *Raniero Cantalamessa*

June:

Glory. *The Law that sentences people to death is glorious. How much more glorious is the work of the Spirit! His work makes people right with God. The glory of the old covenant is nothing compared with the far greater glory of the new. The glory of the old is fading away. How much greater is the glory of the new! It will last forever. Since we have that kind of hope, we are very bold. 2Corinthians 3:9-12*

Thought for the Month: We should be able to build into our life the things that have true foundations in the Scripture. Of course, there are some things concerning both our personal life and also church life, that are not mentioned in the New Testament, and here we must be careful that we depend upon our sanctified reasoning faculties and righteous judgment. *George Jeffreys*

July:

Glory. *For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2Corinthians 4:17-18*

Thought for the Month: We should treat people as equally valuable, but treat ideas as if some are better than others—because they are! Tolerance requires that every person is free to express

their ideas without fear of abuse or reprisal, not that all views have equal validity, merit, or truth.
Greg Koukle.

August:

Glory. *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21*

Thought for the Month: The thought of God stirs a person so deeply that he cannot be content unless he praises Him—because He made us for Himself and our hearts find no peace until they rest in Him.*Augustine of Hippo*

September:

Glory. *I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Philippians 4:18-20*

Thought for the Month: Faith is obeying God, so it's irrelevant what you believe if God hasn't said it! Faith is trusting God's Word. Presumption is telling God what to do and then expecting that He will fall in line with what you say. Faith is when you are sick and everything seems to be going wrong—and yet you are trusting God, enjoying Him and are still in fellowship with Him. *Andrew Corbett*

October:

Glory. *the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:26-27*

Thought for the Month: If you are born again, you are a child of God. Never tear yourself out of that relationship and the righteousness of God by saying that you are dirty or unclean—Jesus' blood has cleansed you and His life has been delivered to you! It is alright to sing that as an unregenerate but it is not the experience of the sons and daughters of God. *John G Lake*

November:

Glory. *But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14*

Thought for the Month: Whatever the Holy Spirit touches, the Holy Spirit changes. So it is normal that the Holy Spirit will bring some changes, even in our feelings, in our emotions, in our way of expressing ourselves. It is normal when we first approach the Holy Spirit that there should a reaction of our laughter, of tears, of jumping for joy, or speaking in tongues. *Raniero Cantalamessa*

December:

Glory. *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Hebrews 1:3*

Thought for the Month: Triumphant prayer is almost impossible where there is neglect of the study of the Word of God. Prayer that is born of meditation upon the Word of God is the prayer that soars upward most easily to God's listening ears. R.A.Torrey

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 1Pe 5:4

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. Rev 21:22-23

Theme for the year: God's Glory

January

Remember: *But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, ‘In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.’* Jude 17-18

Thought for the Month: God's speech in Jesus Christ meets us in the Holy Scriptures. If we wish to pray with confidence and gladness, then the words of Holy Scripture will have to be the solid basis of our prayer. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

February:

Remember: *Remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.* Jas.5:20

Thought for the Month: When we pray, we can rely on Jesus Christ, who is always praying for us and with us. Christ's praying on our behalf is what makes our prayers true prayer.

K.D.Johnson

March:

Remember: *But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.* Deut.8:18

Thought for the Month: Jesus says that to experience the Holy Spirit is like to be born again. It's a new birth in the sense that everything comes alive. The Holy Spirit doesn't change anything and He changes everything. He doesn't add anything to what Jesus has already said and instituted but He makes all Jesus has said and done come alive today. R. Cantalamessa

April:

Remember: *Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel.* 2Tim.2:8

Thought for the Month: When we pray “*in Jesus' name*,” we acknowledge that our prayers depend on Jesus Christ. When suffering and grief make it difficult to pray, we can rest in the reality that the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ will continue to intercede on our behalf. Jesus Christ himself is the foundation, the Word of God, who always lives to intercede for us. K.D.Johnson

May:

Remember: *I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus.* Phile.4-5

Thought for the Month: When we pray, we must hold fast and believe that God has heard our prayer. It was for this reason that the ancients defined prayer as an *Ascensus mentis ad Deum*—the ascent of the mind to God! Martin Luther

June:

Remember: *We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.* 1Thess.1:2-3

Thought for the Month: Remorse before Calvary is of God; remorse after you have been to Calvary is of the devil. Repent of your sin, yes; but do not make your sin a subject for long and melancholy meditation. Why should I cheat God by spending my time and energy on remorse? I am greater than my sins. Martin Luther

July:

Remember: *Remember Lot's wife! Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.* Lk.17:32-33

Thought for the Month: Prayer is communion with the Father; prayer is pondering what God's Word says about our ideas—and then conforming our concepts to His. Never contemplate that sacred season with demons on your mind or anticipate a battle with evil forces—Christ did all of that for us, in our name. ^{Col.1:13; 2:15} T.L.Osborn

August:

Remember: *I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.* Phil. 1:3-4

Thought for the Month: We live at a time where people accumulate information and think that is truth, but facts are not the same as truth. Facts are a collection of information that produce evidence. Truth is how God see things—it is evidence seen from the divine perspective. *M. Petzer*

September:

Remember: *Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.* Heb. 13:7-8

Thought for the Month: God's Name, God's Kingdom, God's will must be the primary object of Christian prayer. Of course it is not as if God needed our prayers, but they are the means by which the disciples become partakers in the heavenly treasure for which they pray. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

October:

Remember: *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.* 2Cor.9:6

Thought for the Month: There is no such thing in the Body of Christ as low self-esteem, only a low esteem of Jesus Christ! If we esteemed His finished work properly, there would be no sense of inferiority or inadequacy because we are a miracle—not only fearfully and wonderfully made but also fearfully and wonderfully re-made—we are re-created in the image of Jesus! *M.Petzer*

November:

Remember: *Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come.* Eccl. 12:1

Thought for the Month: If you are born again, you are a child of God. Never tear yourself out of that relationship and the righteousness of God by saying that you are dirty or unclean—Jesus' blood has cleansed you and His life has been delivered to you! It is alright to sing that as an unregenerate but it is not the experience of the sons and daughters of God. *John G Lake*

December:

Remember: *Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.* Ps. 105:4-5

Thought for the Month: To the eye of faith God's Word is sure, and by it we perceive that our works are prospered even when everything seems to go against us. But it is not outward prosperity that Christians most desire and value—it is soul prosperity they long for. *C.H. Spurgeon*

Bible Time Chart

Time Chart of OT

1479B.C.	Exodus under Thutmoses II (<i>Thutmoses II is the only Pharaoh's mummy to display cysts, possible evidence of plagues that spread through the Egyptian and Hittite Empires at that time. [Edersheim, A., Old Testament Bible History]</i>)
1270B.C.	<i>Another possible date for the Exodus (under Ramesses 2 also called Ramesses the Great)</i>
1000B.C.	David
970B.C.	Solomon builds the Temple
722B.C.	Israel's (<i>Northern Kingdom</i>) Exile 2Kings 17:6
597/6B.C.	Judah's (<i>Southern Kingdom</i>) 1 st Exile 2Kings 24:10-17
586B.C.	Judah's (<i>Southern Kingdom</i>) 2 nd Exile 2Kings 25:1-21
537B.C.	Judah's (<i>Southern Kingdom</i>) Return from Exile

Time Chart of NT

20/19B.C.	<i>Herod's Temple began</i>
18/17B.C.	<i>Herod's Temple in use</i>
c8B.C.	Zechariah in the Temple (Lk.1)
5B.C. April 5 th	Birth of Jesus
4B.C.	<i>Death of Herod the Great</i>
A.D.14 -37	<i>Reign of Tiberius Caesar</i>
A.D.29	Baptism of Jesus <i>Lk.3:1 15th year of Tiberius reign hence A.D. 29 **</i>
A.D.33 April Wed. 1 st	Last Supper (see Colin Humphreys' "The Mystery of the Last Supper")
A.D.33 April Fri. 3 rd	Crucifixion of Jesus
c A.D.35	Conversion of Paul <i>Acts 9</i>
<A.D.37	<i>Christianity came to Britain. ***</i>
A.D.37-41	<i>Reign of Caligula</i>
A.D.41-54	<i>Reign of Claudius</i>
c A.D.44	<i>Death of Herod Agrippa 1</i>
< A.D.50	Letter of James
A.D.48-49	Paul's 1 st missionary journey
A.D.49/50	Jerusalem Conference <i>Acts.15</i>
A.D.50	Paul's 2 nd missionary journey
A.D.50-52	Paul at Corinth
A.D.51	1 & 2 Thessalonians from Corinth
A.D.52	Galatians from Corinth
A.D.54	Paul's 3 rd missionary journey
A.D.54 -68	<i>Reign of Nero</i>
A.D.54-57	Paul at Ephesus
A.D.57	1Corinthians from Ephesus
A.D.57	2Corinthians from Macedonia
A.D.57/58	Romans from Corinth
A.D.58	Paul's arrest at Jerusalem
A.D.58-60	Paul's imprisonment at Caesarea
A.D.60-61	Paul winters at Malta
A.D.61	Paul arrives at Rome
A.D.61-63	Paul's imprisonment at Rome
A.D.62	Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon from Rome
A.D.63	Philippians from Rome

A.D.63-65	Paul's release & further ministry
A.D.63	1Timothy & Titus
A.D.63-64	Hebrews (possibly Barnabas)
<i>A.D.64</i>	<i>Herod's Temple finished</i>
<A.D.65	Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts
<A.D.65	Revelation****
A.D.64	1 & 2 Peter from Rome
A.D.65	Peter's death in Rome
A.D.65	Paul's 2 nd imprisonment at Rome
A.D.65	2 Timothy from Rome
A.D.65	Paul's death at Rome
<A.D.65	Gospel John, 1, 2, & 3 John
A.D.65/66	Jude
<i>A.D.68</i>	<i>Death of Nero</i>
<i>A.D.68-69</i>	<i>Reign of Galba</i>
<i>A.D.69</i>	<i>Reign of Otho</i>
<i>A.D.69</i>	<i>Reign of Vitellius</i>
<i>A.D.69-79</i>	<i>Reign of Vespasian</i>
<i>A.D.70</i>	<i>Destruction of Jerusalem by Titus</i>
<i>A.D.79-81</i>	<i>Reign of Titus</i>
A.D.98/100	Death of John
<i>A.D.81-96</i>	<i>Reign of Domitian</i>

** Besides the dating from Tiberius, Daniel had stated that it would be 69 “weeks” before Messiah would appear from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Daniel 9:26). Accepting that a “week” represents seven years and the decree to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem was given around 455B.C. (during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah), a specific period of 483 years (69 x 7) was to elapse before the Messiah would appear, dating Jesus’ Baptism at A.D.29 (*there is no date of 0B.C. or A.D.0*). Also: *They replied, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?’*^{Jn.2:20}

*** Gildas (A.D.516-570) a British Historian, states, *Meanwhile, these islands ... received the beams of light that is, the Holy precepts of Christ, the true Sun at the latter part, as we know, of the reign of Tiberius Caesar*^{Roman Emperor A.D. 14-37}

**** Reasons for early date for Revelation:

External evidence:

Clement of Alexandria (A.D.150-220) plainly states that it was Nero who banished John to Patmos, not Emperor Domitian: *And to give you confidence, when you have thus truly repented, that there remains for you a trustworthy hope of salvation, hear a story that is no mere story, but a true account of John the apostle that has been handed down and preserved in memory. When after the death of the tyrant (previously identified as Nero) he removed from the island of Patmos to Ephesus, he used to journey by request to the neighbouring districts of the Gentiles, in some places to appoint bishops, in others to regulate whole churches, in others to set among the clergy some one man, it may be, of those indicated by the Spirit.* ("Who is the Rich Man that shall be Saved?", Section 42)

Cerinthus was a C1st author who wrote *The Pseudo-Apocalypse*. He died well before John, *i.e.* well before A.D.95, but his Pseudo-Apocalypse contains many references to John's Apocalypse (the Book of Revelation).

Internal evidence:

42 months = the period between A.D.64 and A.D.66 when Nero embarked on the most violent campaign against Christians martyring multitudes.

666 = six hundred and sixty-six, not six, six, six. It is the numerical value of “*Caesar Nero*” The “*temple*” in the “*holy city*” is still standing as John writes, though it is being threatened with devastation (Rev.11:1-2). We know as a matter of historical fact that the Jewish temple was destroyed in A.D.70, and has never been rebuilt. The sixth “*king*” is presently ruling from the “*seven mountains*” and will do so until a king comes who will reign a “*short time*” (Rev.17:9-10). The preterist takes this to be a clear enough allusion to Nero Caesar. According to the enumeration found in Josephus' *Antiquities* (18:2:2,6, 10) and Suetonius' *Lives of the Twelve Caesars*, Nero is Rome's sixth emperor, following Julius Caesar, Augustus, Tiberius, Gaius, and Claudius. “...the cryptic number 666 (Rev.13:18) designates Nero. The number involves the use of *gemetria* (assigning numerical values to letters of the alphabet and thus determining the numerical value of words). Nero Caesar written in Hebrew letters has the numerical value of 666. That explanation becomes all the more probable when you realize that in Hebrew, *Nero* can also be spelled *Neron*. With the second “*n*” the numerical value is 666. Without it, 616 (a well-attested reading in some New Testament manuscripts).” J. Stewart Russell, *The Parousia*

“It is with great satisfaction that he finds himself in substantial agreement with the distinguished ecclesiastical historian and theologian, Dr. Dollinger, of Munich, in his interpretation of St. Paul's prediction in 2 Thessalonians. (1) Dr. Dollinger distinctly identifies the “*Man of Sin*” with Nero, a conclusion now so generally accepted by the highest authorities, that it may be regarded as a settled point. (2) He clearly distinguishes between the “*Man of Sin*” and “*the Apostasy*,” so frequently confounded by the mass of interpreters. Dollinger shows that the former is a person, the latter a heresy. (3) He recognizes “*the Beast*” of the Apocalypse as the Emperor, and therefore identical with the “*Man of Sin*.” (4) The miracles wrought by the “*Second Beast*” (the Beast from the earth) he regards as a representation derived from our Lord's prophecy on the Mount of Olives.” (*The Parousia, Afterword*.)

The seven seals are shown to have taken place during the reign of the Emperors Augustus to Vespasian. The seven trumpets during the time when Rome placed 4 battalions at the Euphrates River (Rev.9:14). The seven bowls, when Nero was Emperor (Rev.17:10). But Revelation 20 makes the point that there is a long-time gap between Jerusalem being judged and the events described in verse 9 by its use of the term “*thousand years*”. A. Corbett: *Revelation*.

Rome launched its persecution against Christians in A.D.64 under the direction of Caesar Nero. This ended with his death in A.D.68. It had lasted around 1240 days (3½ years). Rome launched its attack against Jerusalem in A.D.66 and this ended when Jerusalem fell under the leadership of Caesar Vespasian in A.D.70. This was a period of 1260 days (3½ years).



Covenant

A “*covenant*” is an agreement between two parties—either individuals or an individual and group, or a monarch and their subjects. The ‘*Abrahamic Covenant*’ was established by Yahweh (YHWH, that is, God) with Abram and involved a covenantal exchange of their names. Thus, Abram's name became *Abrah'ām*, and God became known as the God of Abraham. Abraham's wife Sarai became known as *Sar'ah*

Christian Guidelines

Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government. ^{*1Pet.2:13-17/TM*}

We expect Christians to take their responsibilities and privileges seriously

- by taking an active part in the work and worship of the Church according to their ability and circumstances
- by relating into the Church's system of Pastoral care
- by prayerfully contribute to the unity, encouragement and fellowship of the Church
- by showing a Scriptural regard for those in positions of leadership
- by supporting the Church through regular attendance at services of worship, regular prayer and considered giving

We also expect Christians to live by the accepted rules of Christian conduct—which includes being a loyal citizen of our Country: *We render loyalty to Her Majesty's Government as far as conscience and morality permit*; and also a commitment to Christian marriage: *We uphold the Biblical standard of monogamous, heterosexual marriage between a biological man and biological woman as the only acceptable union*.

True repentance which will always include these 5 A's:

Acknowledgement of the wrong.

Apology for the wrong.

Action of determination to change.

Appreciation of God's forgiveness.

Attitude of grace, gratitude and gentleness towards God and people.

Forgiveness is unconditional (because it is by grace); Restoration is conditional on repentance, which involves at least a determination to change. Forgiveness is a clean slate; restoration is keeping the slate clean. Forgiveness is mending what was broken; Restoration is making it work again.



Some people have a very distorted view of salvation, believing that salvation was the result of human effort to accept the grace of God. This usually leads them to believe that salvation could be relinquished if a believer sinned and so, if a sin was not repented of it would cancel out a person's salvation. Salvation is entirely by grace—our efforts do not save us.

The Bible only lists one unforgiveable sin: the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (the rejection of the Holy Spirit's work of regeneration). No-one can determine whether someone is saved or damned, but we can determine from Scripture that *all who come unto Me I will in no wise cast out.*^{*Jn.6:37*}

The grace of God covers more sin and human failure than semi-pelagians (someone who believes that salvation is faith in Christ plus our efforts to be righteous) know! The Biblical doctrine of the grace of God destroys the notion that suicide or any other sin is unforgiveable! This does not necessarily mean that everyone who professes faith in Christ and commits suicide dies in a regenerated state (saved). But it at the least counters the idea that suicide automatically causes a person's salvation to be forfeited. And at the very least, we can be assured that genuine salvation is not easily lost. Remember *I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate us from God's love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can do that. Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can do that. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.*^{*Rom.8:38-39*}

Should we read the Bible literally?

Well, it depends on what you mean by literal. Of course, Christians have historically believed that the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is the inspired and authoritative Word of God. This means that it communicates objective truth that isn't meant to be interpreted subjectively. But reading it literally doesn't mean taking *everything in it* literally. The Bible employs figures of speech like metaphor, simile, euphemism, hyperbole, and personification. It is made up of sixty-six books that were written in different time periods by different authors, who were communicating through different genres. Some books of the Bible are history (like many books in the Old Testament such as Joshua, Judges, and Ruth), and others contain law codes (like Deuteronomy and Leviticus). Some are made up of poetry (like Psalms and Song of Solomon) while others communicate general principles of wisdom (Ecclesiastes and Proverbs). Some are instructive (like Paul's epistles), and some are books of prophecy (like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel). According to the *Merriam-Webster* dictionary, the word *literal* does not always mean exact equivalence. It's also defined as: "*adhering to fact or to the ordinary construction or primary meaning of a term or expression; free from exaggeration or embellishment; characterized by a concern mainly with facts.*" In other words, reading literally means believing that the Bible communicates literal truth, but not always in a literal way. (*The Deconstruction of Christianity* by Alisa Childers and Tim Barnett)



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