

Objectives

1. To understand better the days in which we live, and to discern current events.
2. To have a better and more balanced understanding of biblical prophecies.
3. To encourage the practice of a more holy, godly and mature conduct.

2 Peter 3 (The coming of the Lord)
 V10-11 – “But the day of the Lord will come **as a thief in the night**, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. **Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ...**”



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➤ Because He will come **as a thief in the night**, therefore, **be vigilant!**
 Luke 21:36
 “**Watch ye therefore**, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy
 → to **escape** all these things that shall come to pass, and
 → to **stand** before the Son of man.”



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Watch, pay attention to what's in the news to be able to discern them
 Watch, discern and understand world conditions
 Watch the Work of the Church (the Gospel being preached)
 Watch and take care of our spiritual life



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Why?
 1 Thes 5:1-2 – “But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes **as a thief in the night.**”
That is why it is extremely important to WATCH and being aware of these points!



Context

- The word *apocalypse* (Rev 1:1) means **Revelation of future things**



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- 1) make known what was hidden, a revelation that was opened to understanding;
- 2) disclosure of truth, instruction
 - 2a) about things previously unknown and unrevealed
 - 2b) events and facts about certain states or people that have hitherto not been revealed, or became known to all
- 3) manifestation, appearance



Context

- Rev 1:1 – “**The Revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,
- The theme is the revelation of Jesus Christ
- It is a revelation of the truth about Jesus Christ
- It's a revelation of future events
- It's a revelation of His 2nd coming - when He will be revealed
- It's a revelation that comes from Christ, that the Father gave him
- The apostle John was the human author of the book.



Context

The book adds critical details to Daniel's prophecies, until the coming of the Messiah and beyond.

- It is important to understand **the sequence** of the Gentile Kingdoms which affected and will affect Israel;
- It is important to understand **who Israel** was and **is**;
- It is important to understand **who the 10 toes** of the image of Daniel 2 will be, as they will be destroyed with the return of Jesus Christ;
- The book of Revelation is important because it gives us **an overview** of these events (complementing Daniel);
- It gives us the **hope** that God promises **to save humanity** despite its nature.



How Christ revealed to us the events to come

- Rev 1:1 – “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must **shortly** take place. And He sent and **signified** it by His angel to His servant John, ...”
- ‘**shortly**’ – Gr 5034 – **tachos** = quickness, with speed
- 1 Thes. 5:3 – “For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then **sudden** destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.”
- ‘**signified**’ – Gr 4591 – **semaino** = to give a sign; to make known (through symbols, metaphors, visions and words)
- “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.” (Rev 1:19).



Some principles of **hermeneutics**
(Rules of interpretation)

- “**All Scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ...” (2 Tim 3:16).
- The Bible must be read, seen and interpreted as a whole.
- The Bible interprets itself.
- God's purpose has been the same from the beginning.
- Doctrine is established on clear and consistent teaching throughout the Bible and not just a few passages of Scripture.
- “Remind [them] of these things, charging [them] before the Lord **not to strive about words** to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing (3718)** the word of truth” (2 Tim 2:14-15).
- Gr 3718 – orthotomeo – cut straight.



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(Rules of interpretation)

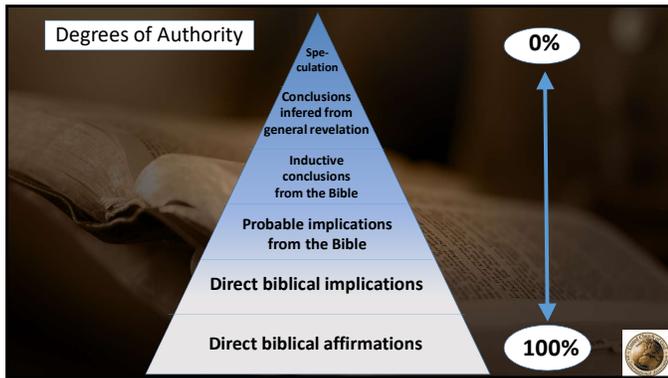
- No book or part of the Bible claims to give a complete systematic presentation of doctrines or theologies.
- Doctrines are understood by reviewing **all relevant sections on the subject or doctrine** under study.
- “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is **of any private interpretation**” (2 Pet 1:20).

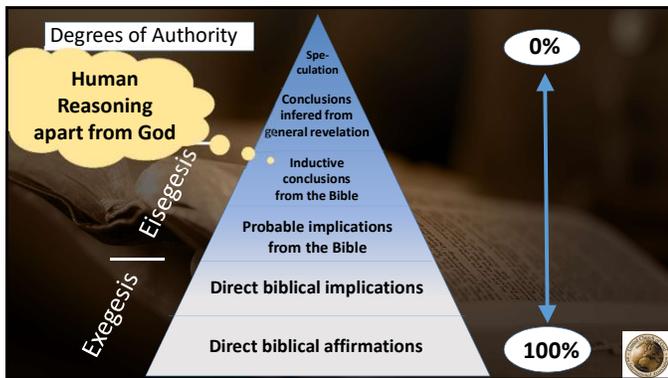


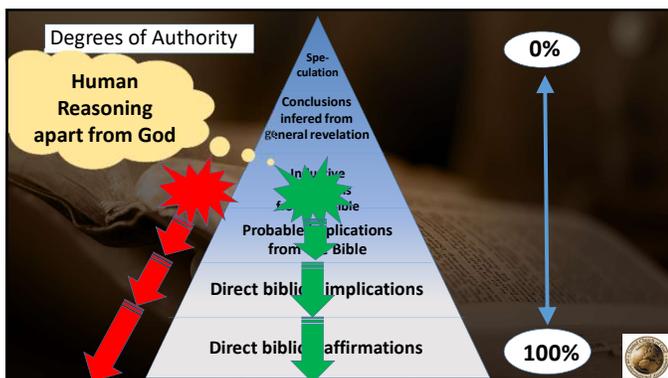
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(Rules of interpretation)

- **Whenever possible**, the simple and straightforward understanding of the text is preferable. (Degrees of authority). 
- Priority must be given to the understanding provided by Christ, the apostolic Church, and the original audience **in the context** in which it was given in their time.
- The rules of **exegesis** are followed to explain **[extract]** the meaning of a text as its original writer intended it to be interpreted and how its audience would have understood it.
- **Eisegesis** (inserting your particular meaning into a word or verse) is **NOT** used in the development of the Fundamental Beliefs [doctrines/teachings] of the United Church of God.









Understanding the Truth: a Miracle from God

- "For what man knows the things of a man except **the spirit of the man, which is in him?** Even so **no one** knows the things of God except **the Spirit of God**" (1 Cor 2:11).
- "Why do You speak to them in parables?"
"Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ...
"Therefore I speak to them in parables, because **seeing they do not see,** and **hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand**" (Mat 13:10-13).

Gen 3:24 – Man cut off from the tree of life.

John 6:44 – In this age God has to call individually (many called, few chosen).

Why only some called now at God, the Father's, choosing?

Key to understand the purpose of God for mankind and His plan to achieve it.

Rom 8:19 – The whole creation [includes all galaxies] awaits the revealing of the sons of God.