

“ THEN ”

“And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then” Ezekiel 33:33

The American Heritage Dictionary defines the word “then” as:

At that time in the past. Next in time, space, or order. At another time in the future. In that case; accordingly. In addition; besides. Yet; on the other hand. Noun: at a particular time or moment. adj: being so at that time.

There are many words that we take for granted when we are studying the Bible. Chief among them are the words BUT, IF, AND, WHEN, and especially the word THEN. What seem to be such insignificant words in the English language become very significant when used in the King James Bible. Many times in our Bible studies the teacher would ask the question “What is the key word of this scripture?” And many times the key word was the word “then”. This word plays such a big role in the Bible from the testing of Job to the final handing over of all authority by Jesus to the Father at the end of the age.

This Bible study was put together so that these scriptures could be re-studied so as to get a greater appreciation and love for the Bible and for the Lord our God.

The following examples are but a sampling of the power and importance of this simple and yet very significant word:

1.)

Q. When did Satan issue his great challenge to the Lord concerning Job?

Job 1:6-8 - There was a day when the Sons of God (the Holy Angels – Job 38:7) came to present themselves before the Lord and Satan came also. The Lord began to brag about Job to Satan how upright and perfect he was. How he feared God and avoided evil. The accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10) could not tolerate this and he made his great challenge to the Lord.

A. Job 1:9 – Then Satan answered the Lord and said, Doth Job fear God for naught? Hast not thou made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has? Put forth your hand now and touch all that he has and he will curse thee to thy face. It was then that the Lord gave him permission to test Job, including in Chapter 2, afflicting him from his head to the soles of his feet with boils. In all of this, Job did not sin.

2.)

Q. When did Asaph’s torment end?

Psalms 73:12-16 – Asaph was being tormented because of the prosperity of the wicked. Their strength was firm and they were not plagued like other men. They have more than heart could wish and as a result, they talk up or set their mouth against God. He felt he had cleansed his heart in vain and it was too painful to think of the discrepancy between the good and the evil.

A. Psalm 73:17 - Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end (or where they were going to go at the end of their life).

3.)

Q. When is a man who prophesies peace declared to be a true prophet of God?

Jeremiah 27:1-3 – Jeremiah was sent by God to warn the Jewish people of the coming judgment at the hands of the king of Babylon. Hananiah, the false prophet withstood Jeremiah. The Lord told Jeremiah to make bonds and yokes and put them upon his neck (Jeremiah 28:10-11). The Lord said He had given all these lands (v.3 Edom, Moab, Ammon, Judah, Jerusalem) into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. Hananiah the false prophet took the yoke from off the prophet Jeremiah’s neck and broke it, symbolizing the Lord was going to break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar from the neck of all nations within 2 years, thus prophesying peace for those nations. Jeremiah spoke and said, “the prophets that have been before me and before thee of old prophesied both against many countries, and against great kingdoms of war, and of evil, and of pestilence.”

A). Jeremiah 28:8-9 – The prophet which prophesieth peace when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known that the Lord has truly sent him. Then said the prophet Jeremiah to Hananiah the prophet “bear now Hananiah, the Lord has not sent thee, you make this people to trust a lie”(vs. 15). Therefore, thou shalt die (vs. 16). So Hananiah the false prophet died that same year (vs. 17).

4.)

Q. When is Ezekiel acknowledged as a prophet of God?

Ezekiel 33:25-32 – Ezekiel was sent by God to warn the house of Israel and Jerusalem of the coming judgment because of all their abominations and idolatry which they were committing. The people were mocking and talking against Ezekiel behind closed doors.

They were hearing his words but refusing to do them. Finally, the Lord had enough and judgment came at the hands of the Babylonians. Ezekiel's words were proven true but only after Jerusalem was decimated and hundreds of thousands died from the sword, famine, and pestilence.

A. Ezekiel 33:33 - And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.

5.)

Q. When did Herod attempt to kill Jesus?

Matthew 2:1-15- Wise men came from the east to Jerusalem after seeing the Lord's star. They inquired of Herod the King, "where is he that is born King of the Jews, for we are come to worship him". This troubled Herod for he saw in Jesus a competitor to his throne. He called in all the chief priests and scribes and they told him Bethlehem would be the place of his birth. "Go and search for him diligently and bring me back word so I can come and worship him also". He had absolutely no intention of doing this. Then Joseph was told in a dream to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt. The wise men, after seeing the young child also were told to go home by another route. This infuriated Herod.

A. Matthew 2:16 - Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

6.)

Q. When did Jesus finally go up to the feast of Tabernacles?

John 7:2-9- The Feast of Tabernacles was near. The Lord's own brothers, who didn't believe in him, told him to go up to the feast so the people could see the works he was doing. Jesus told them, "His time was not yet, but theirs was always ready." He told them to "go up to the feast but I go not up yet". Some bible translations eliminate the word yet, making the Lord appear to be liar.

A. John 7:10 - But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.

7.)

Q. When are you truly the Lord's disciple?

John 8:20-30 - Jesus was preaching in the treasury part of the Temple. He was talking about his death and ascension into Heaven. He told the people they would die in their sins because they did not believe that he was the one that was foretold that should come. Jesus said, "When ye have lifted up the Son of Man, then shall you know that I am he." As he spoke these words, many believed on him.

A. John 8:31 - Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him "If you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed." (vs 32) "And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

8.)

Q. When did Judas betray Jesus?

John 13:1-2, 21-26 -As the Lord's death drew near, He desired to eat the Passover supper with his Apostles. At the end of the supper, Jesus made a startling revelation. He announced that one of them would betray Him. John asked the Lord, "who is it"? Jesus said, "it is he to whom I give the sop, after I have dipped it." Then, He gave the sop to Judas.

A. John 13:27 - And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, "That thou doest, do quickly."

9.)

Q. When was the first large group of converts added to the Church?

Acts 2:14, 22-37 - After the day of Pentecost had fully come, all of the disciples received the Holy Ghost and began to speak in various languages (vs. 4). As a result, a multitude came together as they heard them speaking in their own language (vs. 6). Then Peter began to speak to the crowd about Jesus whom they had crucified and slain, whom God raised from the dead. He expounded to them about salvation through Jesus and that God had made Him both Lord and Christ. The people, pricked in their hearts, asked "What shall we do?"

A. Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:41- Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

10.)

Q. When did persecution of the Church first begin?

Acts 6:1-10 - The first martyr of the Church was coming soon. Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, was chosen

along with six others to oversee the daily ministrations of the disciples. Then, certain of the synagogue, called the Libertines, among others, began disputing with Stephen and they were not able to resist the wisdom and spirit by which he spoke. They were furious.

*A. Acts 6:11-14 - **Then** they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God. And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council, And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law: For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.*

11.)

Q. When do the Christians who are alive at the time of the Lord's return go to meet Him?

1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 - Jesus is coming back for His church. This is called the Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13). For almost 2,000 years the Lord has been building mansions for us to live in up in Heaven (John 14:2-3). We are told in the Bible that since all the Christians who have died in the Lord since the day of Pentecost have been waiting the longest, they would be the first to rise to meet the Lord in the air. But, what happens to the Christians who are alive at that time?

*A. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 - **Then** we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

12.)

Q. When will the antichrist finally be revealed to the world?

2 Thessalonians 2:3-7 - The mystery of iniquity is already at work and has been since Adam and Eve fell in the garden. The great falling away from the Word of God has already occurred, but the Holy Spirit in all the indwelt Born Again Christians around the world is holding him back because "greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4b). But, when the Rapture hits and all the true Christians are taken out of the world, the restrainer is gone.

*A. 2 Thessalonians 2:8 --- And **then** shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.*

13.)

Q. When will the Great Tribulation officially start for the Jewish people?

Matthew 24:15-20 - Israel has signed a covenant with the Antichrist and many nations for 1 week, or 7 years (Daniel 9:27; Isaiah 28:14-18). But in the middle of that 7 year period, a statue of the Antichrist is erected in the Holy of Holies itself. Finally knowing him to be an imposter, 1/3 of the Jews (Zechariah 13:8-9) flee into the wilderness for protection as prophesied by Jesus. Persecution of the Gentiles and Christians has already been taking place during the first 3 ½ years (Revelation 6:9-11), but now it becomes Israel's turn.

*A. Matthew 24:21 - For **then** shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

14.)

Q. When will the Lord finally return to save His people?

Zechariah 14:1-2 - Armageddon is raging. All the armies of the world have attacked Israel and Jerusalem. The city has been captured, the houses are being looted, and the women are being raped. The residue of the Jews are trapped inside the city with no hope. Without divine intervention Israel will cease to exist.

*A. Zechariah 14:3, 4a, 5b - **Then** shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east... and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with him.*

15.)

Q. When does Israel acknowledge the fact that they would have been destroyed if the Lord was not on their side?

Psalms 124:1-2 - Since its rebirth in 1948 (Isaiah 66:8-9) Israel has had to fight one war after another for its very survival. 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1981 and so on. Israel would have been overwhelmed if not for divine intervention from the Lord. This was prophesied in Amos 9:14-15. But what would have happened if the Lord had not interceded for Israel?

*A. Psalm 124:3-4 - **Then** they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us: **Then** the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our "soul": This is what would have happened, Israel would have been destroyed.*

16.)

Q. When does God truly become all in all, or complete?

1 Corinthians 15:24-27 – At the end of the millennium, Satan will be loosed from the bottomless pit to tempt the world's population one last time. Many will rebel against the Lord's rule and march on Jerusalem and fire comes down out of Heaven and consumes them (*Revelation 20:7-9*). Jesus must reign until He has put all enemies under His feet, the last enemy being death. Then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to God, even the Father, after He has put down all rule and authority and power.

A. 1 Corinthians 15:28 – *And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto Him (the Father) that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.*

Other examples to look up and study include: *Isaiah 35:1-6*, *Joel 3:9-17*, *Malachi 3:13-18*, *1 Corinthians 13:9-13*, *Galatians 1:15-18*, *1 Thessalonians 5:1-3*.

The age of grace is coming to a close. All the prophetic signs and events signaling its end have fallen, and are falling into place, including the great falling away from the word of God, as prophesied in *2 Thessalonians 2:3* and *2 Timothy 4:3-4*. The day of Pentecost (*Acts 2:1-4*) started the age of grace and the Rapture (*1 Thessalonians 4:16-18*) will end it. If you miss the Rapture, you still will have a chance to be saved, but the cost will be high, very high, most likely your life (*Revelation 6:9-11; 20:4*). The time for repentance is now (*2 Corinthians 6:2*) while there is still time, and that time is growing shorter by the day. Jesus paid a very heavy price to make the way for us to get to heaven (*John 14:6*). He gave His life and shed His innocent, sinless (*1 Peter 1:19*), holy blood (*2 Corinthians 5:21*) on the cross to wash us from all of our sins (*Revelation 1:5b*). Salvation is a free gift (*Romans 6:23*) bought and paid for by Jesus and is offered to anyone, Jew or Gentile alike, who is willing to take that gift.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is simple (*2 Corinthians 11:3*), so simple that most people will never understand it's message. We as Christians preach Christ crucified, and only Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the gentiles, foolishness (*1 Corinthians 1:23*). Simply believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did for us at the cross. Then, if you are truly ready to repent of all your sins, ask Him to come into your heart (*Ephesians 3:17*, *2 Corinthians 1:22*) and receive Him as your Lord and Saviour (*John 1:12*). It's that simple. Then, walk with Him, live for Him, and preach about Him until the Lord returns.

Ezekiel 33:33 is going to come into play again very soon. "*And when this comes to pass (the Rapture), and lo, it will come (sooner than anyone thinks) then shall they know a prophet has been among them*" (then finally, they will know who we really were when all of us crazy Born Again Christians just up and disappear from off the earth). Then and only then will all the scoffing and the mocking cease (*2 Peter 3:3-4*). Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Amen!