

# A Bible Prophecy Series

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## Putting God to the Test

### Lesson #22

#### ***Introduction:***

Today we will see how God is taking His last warning message to the world before He comes. Let's ask God's blessing on this lesson and pray.

1. **What did Jesus say regarding the last days?** - Matthew 24:14, 15  
Jesus said one of the signs of His soon return would be for the gospel to go to all the world. Also notice its connection to the study of Daniel's book. Jesus said that people like us, all around the world, would be studying prophecy in the last days. Isn't it exciting to see that we are fulfilling this prophecy?
2. **Did John the Revelator see Jesus prophecy fulfilled?** - Revelation 14:6  
John saw the gospel going to the entire world before Jesus returns. We know this context is just before Jesus returns as depicted in verses 14 and 15. In Matthew 13:39 Jesus likened the end of the world to reaping the harvest, the harvest is the end of the world.
3. **What does the gospel teach as it goes to the world in the last days?**  
Revelation 14:7, 8  
It teaches the very things you've been learning in our studies. We are in the judgment hour, it is time to worship God as creator and to keep His seventh-day Sabbath holy, and it also teaches the fall of Babylon.
4. **What is Babylon?** – Revelation 18:1-4  
God calls His people out of worship that is not in harmony with the Bible. He has true people in every church, but He will not let them stay in those churches to receive the plagues. He invites them to come out so they can be safe. When someone comes out of one thing, they come into something else. When they leave Babylon, they go into God's church. The Greek word for church is *ecclesia*, based on the root word *ek* meaning out. We use the word exit for a place to go out. The church is the people who respond to God's call to come out of Babylon and to follow Jesus.
5. **When we leave our old ways to worship God in truth, how do we become part of God's church?** - 1 Corinthians 12:12, 13  
We are baptized into the body of Christ or the church (Ephesians 1:22, 23 – Body of Christ = the church). When we are baptized into Christ, we become part of His church.

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6. **Was this seen in the early church?** - Acts 2:40-47  
Those who were baptized were added to the church, they did not act independently, they fellowshiped together. Worshipped together, and they believed the same Bible doctrine (teaching).
7. **Was there real church order and structure?** - Titus 1:5, Acts 15:1-23, 16:4, 5  
The early church was organized with specific doctrines, set worship meetings, standards of living etc. Paul even set elders to be ordained and for things to be set in order.
8. **Should religion be organized?** - 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40  
Without organization you have chaos. The early church was organized so should the last day church. God is not the author of confusion but of decency and order because this facilitates carrying the gospel to the lost.
9. **How do those that preach the gospel survive?** - 1 Corinthians 9:13, 14  
Those who preach the gospel are to be funded in the same manner the Old Testament priests were supported. This is where the tithing system came in. Tithing means one tenth. God designates that we should return one tenth of our income to Him to be used to promote the gospel.
10. **Did the priests have secular jobs?** – Numbers 18:21  
No, they ministered full-time and the tithing provided for their needs.
11. **Did Jesus endorse tithing?** – Matthew 23:23  
Yes, He did. While the Pharisees were correct in paying tithing, they had neglected judgment, mercy, and faith. Jesus said, “these ought ye to have done”.
12. **How important is tithing to God?** – Malachi 3:8-11  
God says those who withhold tithing and offerings are thieves. We must acknowledge God owns everything. He wants us to acknowledge this by returning one tenth of our income and then offerings as we are blessed.

**This is one of those rare places in the Bible where God asks us to prove Him. It is as though He is saying, “Are you wondering how you can pay the bills with ten percent less to live on? Well, try me and I will show you the power of God. Start returning your tithing to me and I will pour you out so many blessings that you will not have room to receive it.” This is really fantastic! I have tested it and found it to be true.**

Not only is tithing and offerings a test of our trust in God and acknowledgment of His ownership, but it also reveals we share God’s interest in saving lost people. When we share God’s heart for saving lost people, we will want to finance taking the gospel to the world.

13. **What attitude should we have when giving?** - 2 Corinthians 9:6, 7  
God loves a cheerful giver. We are happy to give to God because He has given us so much. Because the Adventist church has followed the Bible in tithing it has been able to finance the gospel going to more countries of the world than any other Protestant church.
14. **Common questions regarding tithing**  
**When should I tithe?** – Proverbs 3:9 – Give to God first, as soon as you get your paycheck.  
**Should I tithe before or after paying taxes?** – Deuteronomy 14:22 – Tithe your increase, pay tithe before government taxes, God comes first.  
**Can I pay my tithe whenever I see fit?** – Malachi 3:10,  
2 Chronicles 31:11 – Tithe is not to be used for whatever we choose. It is to be brought into the storehouse, God’s church. God has specified it is to be used by His church to pay for the ministry. Offerings are to be used at our discretion, as we see the need.
15. **What will God’s people say when Jesus returns?** Isaiah 25:9  
“Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us.”

***Conclusion:***

Do you want to be ready for Jesus’ soon return? Do you want other to be ready for His return? I am glad to be a part of a group of believers that help to take the gospel to the world. Would you like to be part of such a group of believers?