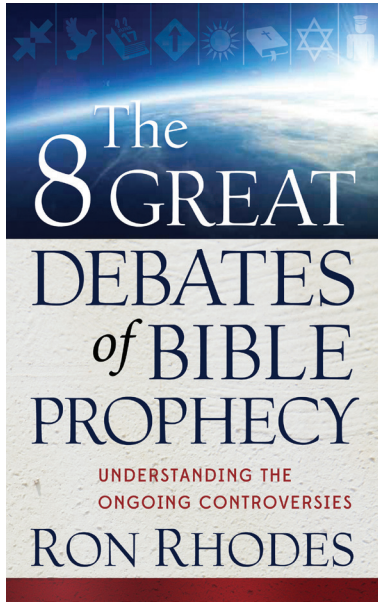


The 8 Great Debates of Bible Prophecy

Ron Rhodes Clears the Fog Surrounding the Top Prophetic Controversies



Escalating tensions in the Middle East have sparked renewed interest in last-days prophecy. With fierce fighting reported in the news every day and unsuccessful attempts at brokering a peace agreement, many are asking if this is the beginning of the end. Questions about biblical eschatology—theology regarding the end times—continue to build, but navigators who can help guide us through the complex terminology and concepts are scarce.

Enter Ron Rhodes—president of Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries, author of over seventy books, and a popular guest on national radio broadcasts—and his new book, *The 8 Great Debates of Bible Prophecy*. “I think there’s a lot of bewildered Christians who really don’t know how to make heads or tails of some of this stuff, let alone what the Bible has to say about it all,” Rhodes states. “One of the things I’m trying to do is to clear the fog on some of these controversies. Wherever you end up—whatever your position is on the rapture or these other issues that I talk about—at least the fog will clear up.”

Structured around eight primary prophecy controversies, Rhodes presents an overview of the different sides of each debate and includes explanations for why he believes what he does. Topics range from the distinction between Israel and the church in the end times, to the timing of the rapture, to the identity of the antichrist. Within each section Rhodes also examines various subtopics, making for an easy-to-follow yet more-than-surface study of biblical prophecy.

Curiosity is a compelling enough reason for readers to pick up and read this handbook. Beyond mere curiosity, though, is the crucial need for Christians to wrestle with these prophetic topics. Why? As Rhodes notes in his book, of the more than 31,000 verses in the Bible, over 8,000 are prophetic in nature. Meaning 27%—*more than one-fourth*—of the Bible deals with prophecy. That should make it a valued and prioritized subject of study for every believer.

This book addresses topics that are relevant to Christians of any era while having a special relevancy to modern times and current news headlines. And it’s written in such a way as to foster a healthy and amicable exchange of ideas between Christians with varying viewpoints, while being entirely accessible to those who are unacquainted with the theology.

“I don’t want to put out books that are going to end up on a seminary shelf somewhere,” Rhodes asserts. “I’d rather reach people out there where they are and write books that are understandable.”

In addition to *The 8 Great Debates of Bible Prophecy*, Rhodes is re-releasing his best-selling book on the biblical view of angels, *Angels Among Us*. Now titled *The Secret Life of Angels*, this book addresses common misconceptions and questions on another popular topic among Christians: the identity and purpose of angelic beings.

Ron Rhodes, president of Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries, is heard regularly on nationwide radio and is the author of *Bite-Size Bible Answers*, *Bite-Size Bible Definitions*, *Commonly Misunderstood Bible Verses*, and *5-Minute Apologetics for Today*. He holds ThM and ThD degrees from Dallas Theological Seminary and teaches there and at several other seminaries.



Meet Ron Rhodes

Ron Rhodes is president of Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries, a teaching and resource ministry that specializes in defending Christianity against atheists, agnostics, skeptics, the cults, world religions, and any group teaching false doctrine.

Rhodes has authored more than 70 books, including *The End Times in Chronological Order*, *40 Days through Revelation*, *Unmasking the Antichrist*, *Conversations with Jehovah's Witnesses*, *The Big Book of Bible Answers*, and *What Happens After Life?*, all from Harvest House.

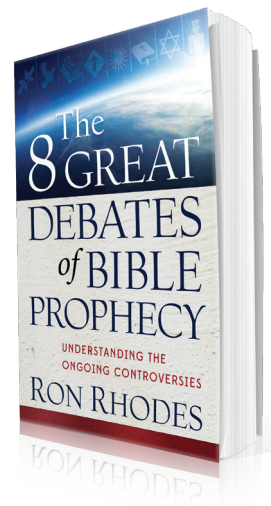
In addition to his writing, he regularly keynotes conferences across the country and, as time permits, teaches apologetics and theology courses at Veritas Evangelical Seminary (Murrieta, CA), Dallas Theological Seminary, Talbot Seminary (La Mirada, CA), as well as other well-known seminaries. A frequent media guest, Rhodes has appeared numerous times in national media—including *The 700 Club*, *Point of View*, *In the Market with Janet Parshall*, and *Midday Connection*—and has been featured in magazines such as *Christianity Today*, *Decision Today*, *Charisma* magazine, and more.

Rhodes previously served as associate editor for the *Christian Research Journal* and editor for the *Christian Research Newsletter*. He was also a “regular” on the Christian Research Institute’s popular national radio broadcast, *Bible Answer Man*. He holds a Th.M. and Th.D., both in systematic theology, from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Rhodes and his wife, Kerri, live in Texas and have two grown children.

Interview Questions

- Why do you think Bible prophecy is so controversial—more so than almost any other biblical doctrine? Do you think such controversy scares some Christians away from studying the topic?
- What do you hope to accomplish with this book and why is it relevant for us today?
- Are the debate topics you cover too difficult for the average Christian—who is not theologically trained—to grasp? How important is it that all Christians determine where they stand on the finer points of Bible prophecy?
- How did you manage to reduce the numerous debates on Bible prophecy into “eight great debates”?
- Does your book address how we as Christians ought to respond to those who may disagree with our personal prophetic viewpoints?
- What’s your take on the debate over whether prophecy should be interpreted literally or allegorically? How does the debate between these two methods of interpretation pertain to all of the other debates you mention in the book?
- Do you think God’s prophetic promises to Israel are somehow fulfilled in the church, or does God still have a plan for Israel?
- What’s your take on setting dates (or implying dates) regarding the fulfillment of specific prophecies (for example, prophecies relating to the rapture)?
- Is there any evidence to support the theory that America is mentioned in Bible prophecy?
- What is the Ezekiel invasion? Would the timing of the invasion have an impact on Christians?
- Do you think the antichrist will be a Muslim, a Jew, or a Gentile?
- What is the distinction between the rapture and the second coming? What is the significance in the timing of the rapture?
- Should Christians be concerned about the tribulation period?
- Do you think the “signs of the times” indicate we are living in the end times?
- Where does the term “millennium” come from in relation to Bible prophecy, and what is it referring to? What do the terms “premillennialism,” “amillennialism,” and “postmillennialism” mean, and why are they important?
- Do you think Islam will play a role in the end times?
- In a book presenting various sides of Bible prophecy controversies, what made you decide to include your own opinion? How might that be beneficial to those who read the book?
- You repeatedly note in the book that Christians should not be overly dogmatic about certain views regarding the end times. Why is that? What are the dangers of dogmatism when it comes to Bible prophecy?



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Interview Topics for Ron Rhodes

Here are some suggested topics you might consider for an interview with Ron Rhodes:

Israel and the Signs of the Times

Since its founding in 1948, the nation of Israel has been the center of much contention and division. Many Christians are wondering if Israel's prominent role in current news headlines constitutes a sign that the end times are upon us. In this interview, Ron Rhodes will analyze the prophetic trends in Israel's situation, clarify whether or not Israel and the church have separate positions in Bible prophecy, and suggest a balanced approach to finding and interpreting the signs of the times.

True or False: America Plays a Part in Bible Prophecy

With many believing that the end times are approaching, a question arises: Where does America fit into the prophetic picture? Some see the United States as an obvious piece of the puzzle; others don't buy that the U.S.—as opposed to other countries—is the key to interpreting certain prophetic verses in Scripture. In this interview, Ron Rhodes states the case for each side of the debate and explains what it might mean if America *isn't* mentioned in Bible prophecy.

The Ezekiel Invasion: Is the Stage Set?

The book of Ezekiel discusses an invasion of Israel in the “latter years” by a group of nations, led by one from the far north. Are we living in a time when we can identify these nations and see preparations for the fulfillment of this prophecy? In this interview, Ron Rhodes offers his interpretation of the Ezekiel invasion and discusses multiple views on the timing of this act of war and its large-scale repercussions.

Gone in a Flash: The Timing of the Rapture

From the decline of morality in the U.S. to the upcoming release of the Hollywood version of Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins's popular book *Left Behind*, the rapture—the gathering up of all living Christians to heaven—remains a hot topic among Christians across America. In this interview, Ron Rhodes will address the ongoing debate regarding the timing of the rapture, and explain the cases (and terminology) for pretribulationism, midtribulationism, posttribulationism, the pre-wrath view, and the partial rapture view.

Who Is That Man? The Identity of the Antichrist

The antichrist has become like the monster under the bed—ambiguous, mysterious, and quite possibly lurking right beneath our noses. Who is he, really, and what does the number 666 have to do with it? In this interview, Ron Rhodes discusses where the antichrist might come from, whether he will be a Muslim, a Jew, or a Gentile, whether or not he will literally die and rise again, and the role of the “mark of the beast.”