



## Prayer Focus- Rightly Divide the Word of Truth

January, 2026

Greetings, Empower Church and Happy New Year! The year 2026 will be an historic year as the United States of America celebrates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its' birth as a nation. Starting on March 17, 2026 it also will be the beginning of the year 5951 on the Essene calendar, which marks the last 50 years of this age [ending in the year 6000 (2075 AD). Many scholars believe that we are in the period that Jesus referred to as the early birth pains which **Matthew 24:8 AMPC** describes. *All this is but **the beginning [the early pains] of the birth pangs [of the intolerable anguish]***. We believe that this began with the birth of Israel as a nation on May 14, 1948 (78 years ago). Jesus described this time frame perfectly in **verses 6-7; and you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened or troubled, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in place after place. We have talked to Christians which say these rumblings are the same as they have always been; yet just in the last year alone, we have seen several small wars, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes. Now, what is interesting is that prior to these verses, Jesus said something that many overlook, but is a very important warning to the church in **vv. 4-5 AMPC; be careful that no one misleads you [deceiving you and leading you into error]**. For many will come in **(on the strength of) My name (appropriating the name which belongs to Me)**, saying, I am the Christ (the Messiah), and they will lead many astray. It has not been business as usual when it comes to deception in the current time frame in which we are living. We have never seen this level of deception in the media, government, education, theology and even in the judiciary etc., like we are seeing today. Anecdotally, we have seen and heard of examples of A.I. assisted videos that are created to deceive and push rumors deliberately to help or harm a person, a group, a movement, institution, or nation; so, are things the same as they have always been? Consider the deception that came to Adam and Eve while they were in the garden and how it continues to increase. How do we avoid falling into deception? Paul reminds Timothy when we rightly divide the Lord's will, we will not be lead astray or lead into error by false appearances or statements in **2 Timothy 2:15 AMPC;**

***Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of truth.***

Last month we emphasized the peace that emanates from the WORD and Paul confirms that in **1 Corinthians 14:33 NKJV**; *For **God is not the author of confusion but of peace**, as in all the churches of the saints.* Jesus prayed in **John 17:17 NLT**; ***Make them holy by your Truth; teach them your Word, which is Truth.*** We have heard it stated many times that the youth are hungry to know what truth is especially since the death of Charlie Kirk. There has been a concerted effort by the enemy to deceive the youth of our nation concerning the Father's will for mankind. Peter encouraged the Church in **1 Peter 3:15 TPT**; *...And if anyone asks about the hope living within you, **always be ready to explain your faith.*** The Apostle Paul also stated in **Ephesians 5:15-17 NKJV**; *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, **redeeming the time because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*** The Father wants us to know His will so we can explain it to those around us. Paul emphasized to Timothy and the church that we should be eager and do our utmost to study the Word, so we can explain our faith, and skillfully teach the Word of Truth. To **rightly divide the Word**, we need to understand God's character and how He views things, which will enable us to support what we believe. Notice, Paul stated we need to **rightly divide the Word**. That must mean we can **wrongly divide the Word**. When reading or studying the Word, we need to understand that the language of the scriptures consists of three kinds: **Figurative, Symbolic, and Literal**. The **Figurative** is explained by the context, the **Symbolic** either in the context or somewhere else in the Scriptures, and the rest should be taken **literally**. That is, we are to read the Bible as we would read any book, letting it say what it wants to say without allegorizing or spiritualizing its meaning. Also, we should be aware that the Word was written for the instruction of the Church, but it is not all written about the Church. The Bible addresses 3 classes (groups) of people: the Jews, the Gentiles and the Church which is how our heavenly Father views humanity. Paul reveals this in **1 Corinthians 10:32 KJV**; *Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the Church of God.* The Old Testament deals mainly with the history of one nation, Israel, and the Jew, but was also written to be an example and warning to the Church, as disclosed by Paul in **1 Corinthians 10:11 NKJV**; *Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.* We must also keep in mind that most of the New Testament addresses the Church, the Body of Christ. When reading the Bible, it is important to know who the Word is addressing so it is not misapplied, which can lead to confusion causing one to exchange the Truth for a lie.

*Because **they exchanged the truth of God for a lie** and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! (**Romans 1:25 NKJV**)*

**Psalms 119:160 NKJV,**  
*Scott and Jackie*