



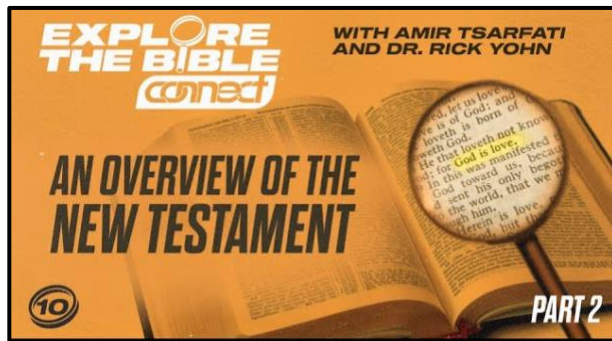
Amir Tsarfati

Pastor Rick Yohn

Explore the Bible: New Testament Overview Part 2

<https://www.youtube.com/live/oYliEYuNQFs?si=ubW8cm1mTTHnEcIF>

AMIR: Hey, Shalom everyone, I'm Amir Tsarfati and we are once again with *Explore the Bible*,



one of my favorite programs. And together with me, as always, Dr. Rick Yohn, Pastor Rick Yohn, Brother Rick Yohn, you have so many titles, Rick. How are you, my friend?

RICK: I'm doing fine. How are things there in

Galilee?



AMIR: In Galilee, so far, so good. I mean, the ceasefire with Lebanon is holding on and we're extending it as much as we can so we can continue to dismantle terror infrastructures in southern Lebanon. But it seems like Hezbollah is beaten so hard that they don't

mind extensions because there's not much they can do about it. It's not like they can shoot rockets again. But hey, we want to talk about a far better thing today. And that's, of course, the second part of our program regarding the journey through the New Testament. May I ask you to start with a prayer?

RICK: Glad to. Lord God, we thank You that You are in the business of transforming our lives and You transform our lives through the Scriptures and through the work of the Holy Spirit. And I pray that once again, You will give us understanding, help us to grasp the principles that You

have laid out for us in Your Word. And we just look forward to Your Spirit guiding us as we discuss all that You were doing through the New Testament, through those who have placed their trust in You. We are so thankful for the opportunity in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

AMIR: *B'Shem Yeshua*, Amen. Thank you, Pastor Rick. So you know, you asked me how we're doing and of course, ever since President Trump took office, things are much more optimistic in our part of the world. But we're still dealing with the same devil. But let's talk about the last podcast, the last part of our program, which is the journey through the New Testament and the discussion that we had. And in that one, you explain what you meant by your acronym. So would you refresh us on what you mean with the Jesus Controls The Future, the J-C-T-F?

RICK: Well, we said that the New Testament is divided into two parts: history and letters. And under the history section, you have the Gospels and Acts and the letters you have the Epistles and the book of Revelation. But to make it simpler, under the Gospels, we said, think in terms of Jesus, because the Gospels are all about Jesus. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John focus on the birth, the ministry, the life of Christ, His death, His resurrection, all about Jesus. When you come to the book of Acts, it's all about the church, the beginning of the church and the expansion of the church. It's the Holy Spirit working through believers to spread the gospel, the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ.

AMIR: We established that the church was born in the first century. There was no church before that.

RICK: There was no church in the Old Testament. There's no church before Jesus. Jesus said, "I will build my church." That is in the future.

AMIR: Correct. Good. So yes, where are we now?

RICK: We're coming into the other section, and that is under the letters where we have the Epistles and the book of Revelation. And instead of the Epistles, because most people don't know what an epistle is, instead of the epistles, we're talking about what the epistles are teaching. And the Epistles are teaching transformation. The Bible tells us that God has transferred us out of darkness into light.

AMIR: His marvelous light.

RICK: Out of spiritual death into spiritual life.

AMIR: Yes. So, you know, in our last program, you went through, in detail, the first two. We talked about the Gospels and the book of Acts. We talked about Jesus and the church. Why don't we now tackle the "transformation" and the "future"? Because this is all... This is about us *now*. I mean, it's not history anymore. It's about all of us even today.

RICK: And transformation has to do with the work of the Holy Spirit. Remember when Jesus says that the servant is not above his master, but will become like his master.

AMIR: True.

RICK: And we are bondservants of Christ. And the work of the Holy Spirit is a process of causing us to become more and more like our master, the Lord Jesus Christ. That is transforming from one form, which is a sinful form, a form of "me, myself and I," the form of, "Let's see what I can get out of life," not caring about what others can get out of life. Moving out of that kind of form into a form that is as *agape* love. A love that is giving of oneself, a love that has other people's interest in mind and not only your own.

AMIR: You know, I'm listening to you right now, Pastor Rick, and I'm thinking to myself. I know a lot of people who call themselves Christians. They're stuck with the first two, the Jesus and the church but they're still into "me, myself and I." And they're still in the business of "How

can I make the most out of this life?” And it seems like they are either without the Holy Spirit because they were never born again, or they are not allowing the Holy Spirit to do the work of transformation in their life because that is it’s all about. I mean, you have to change completely.

RICK: And that’s where I come into **1 Corinthians 2:14**. It says, **“¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God,... nor can he know them,...”** The natural man is a man without Christ. And so we go from being a natural man without Christ, the whole idea is to become more like Christ, more spiritual, and even spiritually mature. And it is a process. It is both an active process and a passive process. Because there are things that we are responsible for. And then there are other things the Holy Spirit is responsible for.

AMIR: Can you elaborate on that? I mean, a person is watching you saying that right now, he’s going to ask himself, “Okay, you just told me that it’s the work of the Holy Spirit to do the transformation. What is my part in it?”

RICK: Okay, let me read from Romans chapter 12. By the way, I have to tell you a story about this passage of Scripture. When I was at Philadelphia College Bible, I went to 10th Presbyterian Church. And for four years, the pastor was Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse, which was he is known as the “Prince of the Expositors.” And one day he got up in the pulpit one Sunday morning and he said, “Today I am going to speak about Jello and butterflies.” And? Okay. And then he said, “Can anyone tell me what text I’m going to preach from?” Well, none of us could think of what in the world is Jello and butterflies. And he said, “Please turn to **Romans chapter 12**. And I will read **verses 1 and 2**.” And this is what it says. **“¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect**

will of God.” He says that Jello is being conformed to the world system. This is Jello. You pour Jello into a mold and put it in a refrigerator, and then you take it out and you hit it, [to unmold it] and that Jello looks exactly like the mold. So he is saying, “Stop being poured into the world system, the world philosophy, the world views all around you, but rather keep on being transformed, like a caterpillar who goes up into a tree and spins a cocoon, and eventually that cocoon breaks open, and this caterpillar is not a caterpillar, but a beautiful butterfly that flies away.” So our job is to be in the Word, to be transformed by the renewing of your mind, the constant renewing. And how is our mind renewed? By pouring the Word of God into our minds and into our hearts. As we pour the world system into our life, we act like the world. When we pour the Word of God into our lives, we will develop a biblical worldview and begin to behave like the Lord Jesus Christ.

AMIR: Yes, absolutely. And you know, a lot of people may not know, but everything we talk about on these programs is backed up with some PowerPoint presentation (<https://beholdisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/Overview-of-the-New-Testament-2-Redesign-1.pdf>) that is on our website. So you can see it in diagrams and in tables and all of that. But you can also, there’s a section there where you can ask Dr. Rick Yohn a question that you may have related to the topic that we covered today. So this is amazing, just so you know, if you have questions, you can always do that. So we talked about the Jello and the butterfly. And I just hope that it’s not prophetic about our lifespan because the butterfly, [Laughter] with the butterfly, you know what happens. But we definitely see that there is an active component, as you just mentioned, and there is a passive component, which is from 2 Corinthians 3:18. Am I right?

RICK: Yes, in 2 Corinthians, well, let’s just look at this in 1 Corinthians. First of all, we have the natural man and then the spiritual man. [AMIR: Correct] And the carnal man. The natural man is

the unbeliever. The spiritual man is also in **1 Corinthians 2:15**, it says, “¹⁵ **...he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.**” So a spiritual person is one who is allowing the Holy Spirit to teach him so that he begins to understand the Word of God. But when it comes to the carnal man in chapter 3 of **1 Corinthians [3:1–3]**, “¹ **And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ²I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; ³for you are still carnal....**” What does that mean? Well, “³ **...For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?**” So there are believers who they have Christ as their Savior, but they’re not really bearing fruit. And they lash out at people and they’re angry; well, they’re just not living as Christ lives.

AMIR: So where do you put them on the scale of born again or not born again?

RICK: Well, when one receives Christ as Savior, he is born again. But if he is in a church where the Bible’s not taught, and he just goes through the motions, he never really grows spiritually. He never really understands the work of the Holy Spirit in his life. I mean, when I came to Christ at the age of nine, I didn’t know you’re supposed to grow spiritually. No one ever told me that. From nine to 19, I was, you know, I just tried to be good, try to act like a Christian, but it was all in my own power. I was just trying, I knew I was a Christian and I just was trying to be good. But there was no spiritual growth from age nine to 19. And then God started working in my life at the age of 19 and I was invited out to a Bible conference. And here were men who got up, and they actually opened up their Bibles and they started teaching. And I thought, I’ve never heard anything like this. This is fantastic! I can now understand the Bible because they are teaching me. I mean, our pastor, the church I grew up in, he preached, but I didn’t get a whole lot out of the preaching. But when I was under teaching...

AMIR: But is it because he didn't preach the Bible or what was it?

RICK: No, he preached the Bible, but they were just sermons. I mean, they basically just went over my head.

AMIR: I see. So you were ready at 19 to finally understand that.

RICK: I was really at 19 and that's when God really got hold of me and called me into ministry.

AMIR: Wow. So you were already at the age of 19?

RICK: Yes, that's when He called me. And I knew that He wanted me to go into the ministry. I didn't know what that meant. I just knew that I had to go somewhere to learn about the Bible. And a friend of mine encouraged me to go down to Philadelphia College of Bible. And that's where I went for four years. And then Dallas Seminary for another four years. And eventually Talbot Seminary for my doctorate. That was God's trajectory for me. All because someone invited me to a Bible conference where I heard someone teach the Word. Just like what you do. You go all over the world, and you don't preach, you teach the Word of God. And you quote so often from Scripture.

AMIR: Yeah, isn't that refreshing to think how God changes us day by day as we allow Him to carry us through His will in our lives? Amazing. I mean, I wanted to kill myself at the age of 17. And my childhood dreams were to be an ambassador. And I'm 52 now. And I'm alive.

RICK: Young man, a young man.

AMIR: Sure. I'm alive and I am an ambassador in a different capacity. So, but definitely a different person than what I was. So, yeah.

RICK: You were asking about a passive transformation.

AMIR: Correct.

RICK: And that is something that God does in us, through us, for us. And that comes from the book of **Philippians**.

AMIR: Chapter 2,

RICK: ...verse 13 says, “¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

AMIR: Do you believe God can work through you even if you’re not exactly the most spiritual person?

RICK: Oh, definitely. I mean, God—I look back on my life and I’m just amazed at what God has done.

AMIR: So the reason why I’m asking is because that’s why it’s the passive. Because it’s not like you needed to do something for Him then, to work in you.

RICK: Right. Right. And He is constantly working in us without our knowledge. And it’s all in the present tense. It is God who continually works in you both to will—He gives you the desire and then He gives you the ability to carry out His good pleasure.

AMIR: Yeah. I mean, He won’t give you the desire unless He will also give you the ability to do it. Yeah, it’s amazing. I’m always shocked that the Creator of heavens and earth is interested in me. And even more shocked that He wants to work in me and through me and give me the tools, the ability, the talent to do that. He’s not expecting me to do it without equipping me with the right things.

RICK: He has equipped you with spiritual gifts. He has equipped you with connections. He has equipped you with influencers in your life. He has equipped you by putting you at a certain location, at a certain time to meet a certain individual that sent you in a different trajectory.

AMIR: Yes.

RICK: And I just look over my life and I see these. This is the combination He uses. He uses influencers in your life. He uses connectors in your life. He uses specific locations in your life where He connects you with somebody. And He gives you spiritual gifts to accomplish what He calls you to accomplish. And then He gives you the desire and then the specific ability for that task.

AMIR: Yeah, I see that.

RICK: So amazing...

AMIR: You know, when I travel, especially when we teach the book of Revelation and we do the *Revealing Revelation* conferences around the world, it's amazing. You have groups of hundreds and sometimes thousands of people sitting in front of you, and they're hungry. Yeah, I mean, they're really hungry. And then it's as if you switched on the lights for them because it's that book that they never truly understood. So, they just put it aside, and they knew that maybe one day we'll dare to get back there and try to understand it. And our book helps so many people to finally understand it. Because it's in the way it was written, in a simple journey. And so those conferences are phenomenal. Because here we are, studying in one weekend the entire last book of the Bible and the entire book that God said that anyone who reads and hears and puts it to use will be greatly blessed. So what a blessing it is for us to be able to unlock so many blessings for other people.

RICK: And that brings us to the book of Revelation.

AMIR: Exactly, which is the last part.

RICK: Yeah. And I just think in terms of the flow of the book of Revelation. Because in chapter 1, and I love chapter 1 because Jesus is exalted.

AMIR: Exactly.

RICK: Now imagine, here's John, who's my age, or a little bit older. I mean, I can't believe in two months, I'm going to be 88. Now, John was just about that age. And here's this old man sitting

there in Patmos. And all of a sudden he hears this sound, and he turns around and he sees this Jesus. But it's not the Jesus he was used to. It was not the buddy-Jesus. It was not the one that he walked with and ate with. I mean, it was, but he didn't look like that one. And John sees Him in His exalted stage. And then you get to chapters 2 and 3. And the focus now, it's like a camera, moves from the exalted Christ over to the seven churches of Asia Minor. And He begins with Ephesus, and then He just goes around to each church.

AMIR: Yes.

RICK: "I know your works." And He speaks to each church and has a specific message to each church. And He reveals Himself in a very special way to each church, showing more and more of His attributes, of His qualities. And then you get into chapters 4 and 5. And there is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

AMIR: Heaven's "Mission Control Room."

RICK: Heaven's "Mission Control Room," I love that. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah and then the Lamb as if slain from the foundation of the world. And He alone is able to take that scroll from the Father. And there are seven seals and starting in chapter 6, the first seal. Who opens the seal? The Lamb opens the first seal. The Lamb opens the second seal. The Lamb opens the third seal. And you just go through the seals in chapter 6. And then we find from [chapters] 6 to 9 this horrible period known as the tribulation. And this is when God's wrath is poured out upon the world. And He's attempting not only to get the attention of the world, but specifically of His people, Israel, to turn to Him. And then you keep on moving and you see the tribulation goes from chapter 6 right up through 18.

AMIR: Correct. In which the church is not even mentioned once.

RICK: The church stops in chapter 3.

AMIR: Exactly. And appears in 19.

RICK: In 19. And that's when the Lord returns. In chapter 19 and chapter 20, He sets up the kingdom. And then in 21 and 22, we are out in the new heavens and the new earth, the eternal state and the New Jerusalem comes down from there.

AMIR: You know, that's why we're told to—If indeed we were raised with Christ, then we need to seek those things which are above. And we need to think about these things and to teach about these things. Because after all, this is our destiny. This is just a way station right now. And if people only understand the great and amazing promise and future that the believers have, and how much it's worth it to go through what we go through right now which is nothing compared to what the world is going to go through when we're out of here. And...

RICK: ...Yeah, it's so hard for us to comprehend. But what He has in store for us. I wonder when our spirit leaves our bodies, just imagine that very second, when your eye opens up to the unseen world. And I've talked—I have a Saturday morning Bible study for my neighbors. And I love that. It's supposed to be an hour study, but it turns out we meet at 8:30; usually they leave at 10:15 to 10:30. And before I said, "All right, time's up." And they said, "No, no, we want more." And it's such a blessing. But we were talking about what happens when the spirit leaves the body. Is it an instant, "I'm here and now I'm in heaven." And I said, "You know, that could be true." When you think of, when you want to surprise somebody, you usually don't go from point A to point B. You like to take them through a couple of things to lead up to what they're going to receive. And I said, "I just imagine that when you think of all the galaxies out there, I mean, millions of years, light years away, I mean, how vast is space?" And I just wonder if... From Luke 16 it says that the angels came and took Lazarus and ushered him into the presence of Abraham. Rather than a quick from here to here, I wonder if that is a process where the Lord actually takes us through space, showing

us, allowing us to see what only the huge telescopes are able to see. And we're ushered through the space and we're going, "Oh, wow, woo, man, ah! Can anything be greater than this?" And then we're ushered into the presence of The Lord.

AMIR: I mean, I don't mind even skipping that one and going straight to the presence to be honest with you. I'd rather a shortcut. Listen, Pastor Rick, once again, we ran out of time, but why don't you share with us, what is it that we want to talk about in the next program?

RICK: Well, this is something that I love to talk about. When I think of coming to Christ at the age of nine and not growing in the Lord until I was 19, and I spent four years at Philadelphia College of Bible where I learned about the Bible, but it wasn't until I got to Dallas Seminary where I ran into a professor by the name of Howard Hendricks. And he had a course there, it was called "Analysis of Bible Books." And he taught us how to get in the Word of God for ourselves. He has often said that many Christians are *under* the Word, but few people are *in* the Word for themselves. We go to church, and we are under the teachings of the pastor. So we are under the Word. But God wants us to get *into* the Scriptures for ourselves. And most people, when they open up the Bible, they just start reading. They read to read. I want them to read to understand and show them here are things that you can look for so that you can *grasp* what God has.

AMIR: Yeah, so don't miss out on our next program because we're going to talk about how to read the Bible and understand it. And not be *under* the Word, but be *in* the Word. Pastor Rick, as always, thank you very much. Again, I want to remind everybody that everything we talked about, especially the PowerPoint presentation is on our website, beholdisrael.org. And over there in the "Explore the Bible" section, you will also have a place where you can ask Dr. Rick Yohn any question you have related to the topic that we covered today. Until then, Pastor Rick, thank you

again for being with us and everyone else. I want to say Shalom and goodbye from Galilee, Israel and from Parker, Colorado. God bless you.

* Scripture is taken from the New King James Version unless noted otherwise.

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