

Christ in Prophecy
Interview 31: “Gene Getz on His New Study Bible”

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Opening

Dr. Reagan: A new study Bible has just been published that is different from any other that has ever been published. That’s because it is the very first multimedia study Bible. It is also unique in other ways as well. In just a moment we are going to interview the author of this study Bible, the renowned Bible teacher, Gene Getz. Stay tuned.

Part 1

Dr. Reagan: Greetings in the name of Jesus our Blessed Hope and welcome to Christ in Prophecy. Our special guest today is Gene Getz and my colleague Nathan Jones is here to help me interview him. Gene welcome to Christ in Prophecy.

Dr. Getz: Well thank you for inviting me it is wonderful to be here.

Dr. Reagan: Well we appreciate you taking time out from your busy schedule to do that. And Nathan I appreciate you joining us on the set today too.

Nathan Jones: It is a real honor. And it is a great blessing to meet you. Thank you for coming.

Dr. Getz: You too Nathan. God Bless.

Dr. Reagan: Gene I am really exciting about you being here and I am anxious to get into a discussion of your new study Bible that comes in a box it looks like this right here. But before we do that I just want to take a moment to thank you for something. Back in the late 90’s or maybe around 2000 we were struggling with the decision about transferring from radio to television, and I had a lot of hesitancy about it. But I had been doing some teaching at your church so you were familiar with our ministry. And somehow or other you heard about the fact that we were thinking about going into television and you arranged for your church to make a very generous donation to us. That helped us not only in the construction of this studio, but it was like a sign from the Lord to me that we really were headed in the right direction. I want to thank you for that.

Dr. Getz: Well thank you. And we had some of your team that I was pastoring.

Dr. Reagan: That’s right.

Dr. Getz: And of course they had great respect for you.

Dr. Reagan: Well we just really appreciate it. We launched that television program, this program in September of 2002; we are now into our 10th year of broadcasting. We about to broadcast our 500th television program thanks to people like you who were so generous to help us.

Nathan Jones: What a blessing. Folks Gene Getz is a pastor, teacher, writer, Bible expositor, church planter, and broadcaster. And he is the author or more than 60 books. He currently serves as the President for the Center of Church Renewal, and he hosts a daily radio program called *Renewal*, which is heard on the Moody Radio Network as well as satellite radio. He received his education from Moody Bible Institute, Rocky Mountain College, Wheaton Graduate School, and New York University where he earned his doctorate. And he served on the faculty at Moody Bible Institute, and Dallas Theological Seminary.

Dr. Reagan: And his latest accomplishment, perhaps representing his most important contribution to Christendom is this new study Bible called, *The Life Essential Study Bible*, with the subtitle *Biblical Principles to Live By*. Gene before we get into a discussion of your Bible I just got to tell you a story, really an incredible thing that happened to me recently. And that is my oldest daughter came by one day after work and she was very excited. And I said, "What are you so excited about?" She said, "Dad I got a new Bible. It's just great!" She said, "You won't believe it." And I said, "What is it?" She said, "It is a new Bible put out by Gene Getz." Well I didn't know that you were getting ready to put out a Study Bible and that really excited me to know that you had done that. So I said, "Well what's so special about it?" She said, "You won't believe." So we sat down and we probably spent 30 minutes going through your Bible and she was showing me all the features of it. And I was just sort of blown away by it. And then about 5 days later I get this box in the mail and here is a copy of your study Bible that you had sent me with my name embossed on the cover.

Dr. Getz: Boy that's the Lord's timing.

Dr. Reagan: It really was. And I decided hey I've got to do something about this particular Bible. So I called you and asked you if you would come on the program and you graciously decided to do so. Thank you for the gift.

Dr. Getz: Oh you're welcome.

Nathan Jones: I've never seen him so excited about a Bible. He came in and was showing us all.

Dr. Reagan: I have a question for you. The market today is literally flooded with study Bibles. There are prophecy Bibles. Right there Nathan has an Archaeology Bible.

Dr. Getz: Right.

Dr. Reagan: I don't know if you are familiar with that or not?

Dr. Getz: I am.

Dr. Reagan: There's Creationist Bible. There are Bibles aimed at special groups like men, women, teenagers, you name it. It's just flooded with study Bibles. What motivated you to produce a new study Bible?

Dr. Getz: Well first of all there are a lot of study Bibles, and I use a lot of study Bibles writing this study Bible. But basically the reason I did it, it wasn't in my plan. I got a call from Rodman and Holman and they had just completed the New Holman Christian Standard Bible.

Dr. Reagan: Yes.

Dr. Getz: And it was about a 10 year project that they had been working on. And I knew about it, I had seen books you know that had come out earlier; I saw the New Testament. And I was really impressed with what they were trying to do. To simplify it their goal was really the friendliness of the NIV which is a concept translation which I've used for years; but the literalness of the King James and Authorized. And they lean towards the literal word-by-word translation but trying to get it really friendly in English. And they had completed it 100 scholars had worked on it. And they said, "Gene would you do a Principles to Live by Study Bible from Genesis to Revelation?" And of course they knew my style because they had published about 10, well actually 12 of my character books on Old Testament characters, and two on the New Testament. But basically after every chapter of exposition I would end with principles to live by, that reflected the Biblical content. And so they knew my style so they said, "Would you do a Principles to Live by Study Bible from Genesis to Revelation." So that's how it came about. And I was in the process of transitioning as Senior Pastor, passing the baton to my successor at what was Fellowship Bible Church North, now it is Chase Oaks Church. And so it was just perfect timing. And so I said, "Yes, I'll take on that project."

Dr. Reagan: And how long ago was that? Seven years?

Dr. Getz: Seven years a little over 7 years ago. And actually it was 10 years for the invitation. It took me 3 years to gear up and get going, but it took 7 years to complete the project. By the way you will be interested in this; we thought maybe I could do it in 2 years. You now like borrowing from stuff that I had written before because I had taught a lot of passages and I had a lot of books. But boy when I got into this I realized you know sentence by sentence, line by line I had to do something absolutely fresh. I used my own books as resources like I use other people. But I knew if this thing was going to have cohesion. If it is really going to really hold together, really flow, and unfold the whole Biblical story I needed to start from scratch. So that is why it took 7 years. Well actually 6 years, and a year to actually edit everything.

Dr. Reagan: Well in just a moment we are going to come back and we are going to really delve into this and talk about what makes it so unique.

Part 2

Dr. Reagan: Welcome back to our interview of Dr. Gene Getz, the author of the new *Life Essential Study Bible*. Gene your new Bible is really unique in a number of ways. One thing it talks about Biblical principles to live by, what is that all about?

Dr. Getz: Well actually when I took on this project one of the things that they wanted me to do was principles to live by from Genesis to Revelation; so consequently because this had become an emphasis in my own ministry, frequently in my expositions of Scripture. I come back and I say, okay what are the principles that are true for us today that grow out of this passage of Scripture? I call them supra-cultural principles.

Dr. Reagan: What does that mean supra-culture?

Dr. Getz: Well basically a supra-cultural principle if it is indeed a Biblical principle- an enduring truth, then it can be applied at any moment in history, any place in the world, any place. In other words if it can't be applied in a little rainforest village you know in the heart of the Brazilian jungle, as well as in the United States of America following some tragedy or something, then it's probably not supra-cultural. Probably isn't reflecting the true biblical story.

Dr. Reagan: Give us an example.

Dr. Getz: Well for example Nehemiah, let's just take in Nehemiah the first principle that I have in Nehemiah is I call it intense prayer. And the principle simply reads, "When we are in the midst of agonizing circumstances that seem hopeless we should freely share our painful thoughts and feelings with God." And basically that was Nehemiah's situation. The walls were broken down. There wasn't a thing he could do and so he went to prayer. He sat down he wept, he mourned. A number of days he fasted, he prayed before the God of heaven. Now that principle is stated so it applies to you and to me. And what I point out here is that yes, if you go to the New Testament and I tried to verify every principle from the Old with the New, if I couldn't verify it then it probably wasn't supra-cultural because I wanted these principles to reflect the whole biblical story. So if you go to the New Testament yes a lot on prayer, we are to pray without ceasing which means it should be a regular part of our life. But if you go further into the New Testament you will find that Jesus used an illustration that indicates that we should cry out to God day and night under certain circumstances when we are deep trouble and he used the widow to illustrate that. And he said if your father will hear, if a pagan magistrate will hear, what about our Heavenly Father? So the principle is ended with a question as I explain this. Though prayer should be a pervasive part of our lives, yeah, what are some of the more difficult events in our lives when we should seek God's help more earnestly? That's the will of God, that principle will apply any place in the world.

Dr. Reagan: And you have the principle outlined or highlighted in blue in the text itself.

Dr. Getz: The text, the big idea of the text.

Dr. Reagan: And then right in the text you have your principle.

Dr. Getz: Principle, and I wanted to lay the explanation and the principle as close to the text as possible.

Dr. Reagan: And you have 1500 of these?

Dr. Getz: 1500 principles. 1500 segments. 500,000 words approximately that I've included here. And that sounds like a lot of words and it is. But the plain vanilla Bible is about 750,000 so it's not quite twice the size, still you don't need a truck to carry it.

Dr. Reagan: Another feature in addition to having the principle right there where the text appears you have this funny looking little deal right here called you know I am not up on technology things but Nathan is and Nathan tells me this is called a?

Nathan Jones: Quick response code or QR code.

Dr. Getz: QR code right.

Dr. Reagan: And that is one of the most remarkable things about this Bible.

Dr. Getz: That makes it a multi-media study Bible, the first of its kind. That's a miracle in itself because when I started teaching this material 7 years before it was published we decided to video tape it all, all the presentation just put it on the worldwide web; and using all the PowerPoint slides. And this technology didn't exist.

Dr. Reagan: Yeah.

Nathan Jones: Well kind of auto dealers were using it.

Dr. Getz: That's right, but not video. The video connection was only about year and half old. And so they called me, they actually had this Dave, they had this Bible laid out...

Dr. Reagan: Ready to go.

Dr. Getz: ...in Denmark. It was all laid out and they called me and said, "Gene we want to take all those video segments 1500 of them, have a QR code for every principle. So boy did that put us on fast forward!

Dr. Reagan: Nathan you explain what happens, how do you use this?

Nathan Jones: What you will need is a Smartphone or something that has a QR or barcode scanner.

Dr. Reagan: Alright.

Nathan Jones: Like Scan Life for instance, you download the app, all you have to do is hold it over the code. And you will see this in grocery stores, and bookstores, they are everywhere now just in the last year. You hold it over it takes a picture and it will take you right to. So basically if you go on a webpage it is a link, it is a link that takes you to a video or page.

Dr. Reagan: Yeah but we aren't making it clear where it takes you. It takes you to a video presentation where he is actually teaching on this principle.

Nathan Jones: 1500 teachings.

Dr. Getz: On the worldwide web.

Dr. Reagan: 250 hours isn't it?

Dr. Getz: That's right, that's right.

Dr. Reagan: And each segment is what 10 to 15 minutes?

Dr. Getz: 10 to 15, it can't go longer than 15 because of

Dr. Reagan: Limits on YouTube.

Dr. Getz: the limits on YouTube. But this particular one right here that we recommend and you can get this on an iPhone 4 or on Android and this particular one is called The Life Essentials QR Reader, it is designed just for this Bible.

Dr. Reagan: Oh, okay.

Nathan Jones: Oh so your own app made for this.

Dr. Getz: Right and that has several features, but it has a lot of content and once you download that, it is a free app, then you can connect with these codes. But there is another thing about this, and that is once you bring that down as you can see right here, if I can get this thing to back up. But it will take you actually to a list of all of the videos.

Dr. Reagan: Okay.

Dr. Getz: And that list of videos it will give you the book of the Bible, like you can scroll to Leviticus it gives you all of the principles all you have to do it touch on that.

Dr. Reagan: But you don't have the app for this to work, I mean you can just take a picture and it will take you right to the website.

Dr. Getz: Yeah, it will but you have to have the app to do that, yes you do.

Nathan Jones: Some kind of QR reader.

Dr. Getz: Some kind of QR reader.

Dr. Reagan: Oh, a QR reader, okay.

Dr. Getz: Now you can go with a computer.

Dr. Reagan: Let's have a demonstration of this in Matthew 24 you have a principle here that is one that I would like for us to take a look at. It says, "Even though we do not know when Jesus Christ will remove believers from this world. We are to prepare ourselves by faithfully living in His will." Go ahead Nathan.

Nathan Jones: Okay, just hold it right over there, line it up.

Dr. Reagan: And there it is.

Gene Getz Video

Narrator: Christ's Second Coming. Even though we do not know when Jesus Christ will remove believers from this world we are to prepare ourselves by faithfully living in His will.

Dr. Getz: What is relevant in this passage to us today? Well Matthew 24 says, "Now concerning that day and hour no one knows neither the angels in Heaven nor the Son except the Father only." In other words no one knows when Jesus Christ is going to return to this earth. Date setting is always inappropriate, in terms of the Rapture, in terms of the coming of Jesus Christ because no one knows the day or the hour. And no one knows when the Rapture will take place it's a mystery. We read about that in 1 Corinthians 15, in a moment now, you see this is a different event. In a moment in the twinkly of an eye, at the last trumpet for the trumpet will sound the dead will be raised incorruptible, we will all be changed. We read about this in 1 Thessalonians 4 that's a different event where Jesus removes the Church from this earth and we're in Heaven with Him. And we then will return with Him in our glorified bodies when He comes the Second time which is the primary focus of what Matthew is talking about here, what Jesus is talking about in Matthew's recording in Matthew 24 and 25. But secondly the parables are certainly related to this, and let me walk through this as quickly as I can. Where He says,

“Now learn this parable from the fig tree, as soon as its branch becomes tender sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near.” He uses this parable, so what is this saying? What is the lesson? The parable of the budding fig tree indicates there will be unmistakable signs in the physical, political, and religious world that will unfold prior to Christ’s return on earth; those are all described in Matthew 24. But what are the signs for us today? The truth in the same parable can be applied to those days before the Church is removed for example 2 Timothy 3, and notice here the signs are more moral deterioration and spiritual. “Know this: difficult times will come in the last days.” He is talking now about the last days before Christ removes the Church. People will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, slanders without self-control, brutal without love for what is good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God- holding to a form of religion but denying its power, avoid these people.” That’s spoken about the last days before Jesus Christ removes the Church. Now that’s been around for 2,000 years, but what Paul says it is going to intensify, tremendously in our day. And so in that sense the parable of the fig tree certainly applies, you know we’re seeing these things happen, even in our day. Look at another of the parables. “Who then is a faithful and sensible slave; whom his masters put in charge of his household? To give them food at the proper time; that slave whose master finds working when He comes will be rewarded. I assure you he will put him in charge of all of his possessions.” Well that applies directly to the Second Coming of Christ to earth and so we say the parable of the faithful and sensible slave over his masters household also teaches all believers, that’s us, to be faithful as God’s servants over his household the Church.”

Part 3

Dr. Reagan: Well Gene that is just amazing to me to think you can click on that and watch you teaching. And people can do that all over the world right?

Dr. Getz: Absolutely, all over the world, anywhere there is access to the internet. For example I was teaching 23 pastors in India, wonderful guys, and I looked out and half of them had iPhones, and they all had computers. That means here’s a guy up on the Burmese boarder a little hamlet, poor as church mice, and he could take his iPhone, he has the Bible and I can walk along beside him and help him prepare his message on any passage of Scripture. It boggles my mind; I am still trying to get my head around it. It is humbling and it is awesome, and exciting. Well that is great. I’m hooked hey let me see 2 Peter 3, do you have 2 Peter 3.

Dr. Reagan: Yeah principle number 5 there.

Nathan Jones: Principle number 5, alright, let’s check that one out.

Gene Getz Video

Narrator: Looking for Christ’s return; even though Jesus Christ has not returned for nearly 2,000 years, we should not become apathetic in looking for his return. Here is Dr. **Dr. Getz:**

Dr. Getz: Peter addresses that issue in chapter 3 verses 1-4 he says, “Dear friends this is now the second letter I’ve written to you.” And of course he has already written one letter, he is referring to that first epistle, this is the second epistle. “In both I awaken your pure understanding with a reminder.” Peter liked that word, “a reminder so that you can remember the words previously spoken by the holy prophets, and the commandment of our Lord and Savior given through your apostles. First be aware of this, scoffers will come.” And that happened it was happening right in the First Century shortly after the Church was born relatively speaking. “Scoffers will come in the last days to scoff.” Now one of the things that I think we need to keep in mind that the word last days actually begin with the coming of Jesus Christ. Remember in Hebrews it says, “In these last days he has spoken to us how; through His son.” So we’ve been in the last days for nearly 2,000 years. Now you can imagine that very quickly within the First Century, since they were talking about immanency since they were talking about the fact that Christ could come at any moment. The scoffers said where is the promise of his coming? “So scoffers will come in the last days and say, ‘Where is the promise of His Coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they have been since the beginning of creation.” And so Peter addresses this very, very serious issue of scoffers. In verses 8-9 if you move ahead it says, “Dear friends don’t let this one thing escape you.” And here he explains, “With the Lord one day is like 1,000 years.” And there he is literally talking about a 1,000 years I believe. But he is saying as far as God’s perspective is concerned He doesn’t measure time like we measure time, one day can be like a 1,000 years; and 1,000 years like one day. And then He tells us very specifically why the Lord has not come. “The Lord does not delay His promise as some understand delay, but He is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.” So one of the reasons why Jesus Christ has not returned is that he wants the door to be open to people to come to know Him as their personal Savior. He does not want to see anyone lost that’s the heart of God. So consequently Peter addresses that issue. Well the fact is that He will come, 1 Corinthians 15 just one example, “listen,” Paul said to the Corinthians, “Listen I am telling you a mystery, we will not all fall asleep, we will not all die, but we will all be changed, it will happen in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet for the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible and we will be changed.” In other words Jesus Christ will come.

Part 4

Dr. Reagan: Welcome back to our discussion with Gene Getz about his new study Bible called the *Life Essential Study Bible*.

Nathan Jones: That was really great.

Dr. Getz: Well thank you.

Nathan Jones: How did you shoot, how long did it take 1,500 videos, and where did you shoot them?

Dr. Getz: Well actually the whole process right at the church, and I had a live audience people who committed. Would you believe some of them stayed with me for 6 almost 7 years? And it was great accountability, but I researched, I wrote, I taught it and as we taught it we video tapped it all.

Dr. Reagan: So you were doing both at the same time video tapping and this?

Dr. Getz: All the same time.

Dr. Reagan: When did you sleep?

Dr. Getz: Well I figured 4 days a week for 7 years, my wife says 5 days a week.

Dr. Reagan: Well listen I know from past experience I used to see you at various restaurants around time.

Dr. Getz: Oh, yes, yes.

Dr. Reagan: Over in a corner, early in the morning like Grandy's.

Dr. Getz: Oh, yes.

Dr. Reagan: You sitting there writing and hoping nobody is going to come up and interrupt you.

Dr. Getz: Most of it was at Café de France back in a corner.

Nathan Jones: Where can folks get a copy of this?

Dr. Getz: Well actually they can go to any Christian bookstore.

Dr. Reagan: Okay.

Dr. Getz: And we also make it available online you can go to lebible.com le standing for Life Essentials, lebible.com.

Nathan Jones: Awesome, can they get an on-line version of this Bible?

Dr. Getz: They can by going to Amazon and Kindle.

Nathan Jones: Okay, download into Kindle.

Dr. Getz: That is available right.

Nathan Jones: Wow, that's great!

Dr. Reagan: You know I want to say one thing about the translation, the Holman translation, because I know there are a lot of King James only people out there but I just want to say I think it is a fantastic translation of the Bible, and one of the things I really love about it is the number of times it uses the actual name of God Yahweh instead of using Lord.

Dr. Getz: Yes.

Dr. Reagan: Because there are a lot of verses, my Lord said to my Lord, when it is really saying Yahweh said to my Lord.

Dr. Getz: That's right.

Dr. Reagan: And it makes a lot of things a lot clearer.

Dr. Getz: And I love the way they also in the New Testament use the word Messiah.

Dr. Reagan: Yes.

Dr. Getz: And that is really neat.

Dr. Reagan: Yes, instead of Christ.

Dr. Getz: That's right, yes.

Dr. Reagan: I really like. I recommend people who are not familiar with the Holman translation to get acquainted with it and they can do so through your particular Study Bible. Well Gene you have been a great blessing to us and we really appreciate you coming by today and sharing with us. And I hope that you folks out there will go to the internet and you will look up this Bible. And in fact one thing you can do is go to YouTube and type in Gene Getz and all of these videos will start coming up, and start watching them they will be a great blessing to you. But get a copy of this Bible. Well folks that's our program for this week. Until next week the Lord willing this is Dave Reagan speaking for Lamb and Lion Ministries' together with Nathan Jones saying, "Look up, be watchful for our redemption is drawing near."

End of Program