

BIBLICAL

ANCIENT BOOKS FOR MODERN TIMES

PROPHECY

APRIL 19 - JUNE 28

The Series



Step Into the Journey of Prophecy: Hope for Today, Confidence for Tomorrow

You are about to embark on a powerful journey that will open your eyes to the unfolding story of God's divine plan. In a time when headlines are filled with uncertainty, Biblical prophecy shines as a beacon of hope and assurance. Together, we will explore ancient truths that speak directly to the challenges of our modern world, affirming God's sovereignty and His promises for your future. As you engage with each session, let your heart be filled with faith, your mind anchored in truth, and your life inspired to live with purpose and expectancy.

In this study series, you will learn about the vital role prophecy plays in affirming God's character and foreknowledge, deepening your understanding of His loving care and redemptive plan for humanity. Each session will equip you to interpret prophetic symbols and timelines accurately, strengthening your faith and providing spiritual clarity in a confusing world. You'll discover how historical events align with Biblical prophecy, preparing you spiritually for current and future challenges, and inspiring you to live with purpose and expectancy of Christ's imminent return.

Throughout the series, we will explore key prophetic chapters in Daniel (chapters 2, 7, 8, 9, and 12) and Revelation (chapters 13 and 17), identifying historical fulfillments, symbolic meanings, and end-time implications. You will learn essential principles of prophetic interpretation, including historical, preterist, and futurist methods, recognizing the significance of correct interpretation to maintain spiritual clarity and avoid confusion.

Ultimately, this journey encourages a personal, practical response to biblical truths, urging spiritual vigilance, readiness, and the active sharing of prophetic insights. Prepare to deepen your anticipation of Christ's imminent return, living with renewed hope, confidence, and clarity. This is more than a study — it's an invitation to see God's hand at work in history, today, and in the glorious future to come.

Tina Carriger
Pastor Tina Carriger

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Biblical Prophecy: An Introduction

Prophecy offers compelling, objective evidence of God's existence, sovereignty, and foreknowledge (Isaiah 41:21-23; 46:9-10; 48:3-5). It reveals God's identity clearly and outlines His loving plans for humanity's salvation and future. Understanding biblical prophecy prepares us spiritually for end-time events and deepens our anticipation of Christ's return.

"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."
(Amos 3:7, KJV)

"We have also a more- sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed..." (2 Peter 1:19, KJV)

Purpose of Studying Prophecy

- Confirms God's existence and character: Prophecy removes uncertainty about God's identity and existence.
- Reveals God's love and His plans: Demonstrates God's deep, abiding care for humanity through advanced warnings (Amos 3:7; 2 Peter 3:9).
- Prepares believers for end-time events and Christ's return: Encourages readiness and a life centered around spiritual truths (Hebrews 9:27-28)

Moral Purpose of Prophecy

- Demonstrates God's Loving Care: God offers prophetic guidance out of compassion for humanity, desiring that no one should perish (2 Peter 3:9).
- Reveals Jesus as Savior: Prophecy points explicitly to Christ, emphasizing His redemptive mission (Luke 24:25-27).
- Strengthens Faith: Faith is reinforced when prophecies are fulfilled exactly as foretold (John 14:29).
- Provides Warning and Encouragement: Urges spiritual readiness and holiness of life in anticipation of Christ's imminent return (Romans 13:11-14).
- Affirms Christ's Return: Christ promised He will return for His followers, providing hope and purpose (John 14:1-3).

"Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share." (The Desire of Ages, p. 25)

Prophecy as Evidence of God

- Predictive accuracy proves God's sovereignty and knowledge: Fulfilled prophecy provides irrefutable proof of God's control and foresight (Isaiah 41:21-23).
- Removes excuses about not knowing God: Clear prophetic fulfillment demonstrates God's existence beyond doubt (Isaiah 48:3-5).

God's Love and Concern

Prophecy serves as God's loving warning system, calling humanity to repentance and readiness for judgment. God's aim is always redemptive and filled with grace (Hebrews 9:27-28).

God Came (Christ's First Advent)

Prophecy clearly identified Jesus Christ as the Messiah and Savior, specifically fulfilling Old Testament prophecies:

- Daniel 2: Foretells four earthly kingdoms and establishes Christ's everlasting kingdom.
- Daniel 7: Depicts the Son of Man and the heavenly judgment.
- Daniel 8: Illustrates attacks against Christ's ministry as our High Priest.
- Daniel 9: Precisely pinpoints the Messiah's mission as prophet and sacrifice.

Prophecy Strengthens Our Faith

- God reveals future events to foster our trust in Him (John 13:19; John 14:29).
- Fulfilled prophecies, such as Jesus' birth (Isaiah 7:14) and resurrection (Psalm 16:10), strengthen our confidence in God's Word.

"God has given us sufficient evidence of His existence, and He requires that we should exercise faith, not doubting His Word." (Steps to Christ, p. 105)

Prophecy Provides Warning and Encouragement

- Calls believers to be spiritually alert (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3).
- Encourages active spiritual living, preparing hearts for Christ's imminent return (Hebrews 11:7).

God Promises to Return

- Christ explicitly promised His second coming (John 14:1-3).
- Daniel describes Christ's kingdom symbolically as a "Stone," indicating His eternal, unshakeable reign (Daniel 2:44-45).

"Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me..." (Revelation 22:12)

Principles for Interpreting Prophecy

- Seek the Obvious Meaning Guided by the Holy Spirit: Prophecy is clear when illuminated by the Spirit (John 14:26).
- Scripture Interprets Scripture: Prophecies explain each other (Isaiah 28:9-10; Daniel 2:36-38).
- Literal vs. Symbolic Interpretations: Discern literal meaning from spiritual symbolism (Romans 2:28-29).
- Repetition and Enlargement: Key prophecies expand and repeat with additional details (Daniel chapters 2, 7, 8, 9).
- Local to Global Application: Prophecy moves from immediate context to global significance (Revelation 13:1-10).
- Double Application: Some prophecies have dual historical and future applications (Daniel 2:42-43; Jeremiah 18:1-6).
- Historical Parallels: History repeats itself – Ecclesiastes 1:9-10; Matthew 24:37-39; John 15:20

Competing Methods of Interpretation

Historicist Method:

The view that prophecy predicts history in the same sequence in which it will unfold, showing the rise and fall of individuals, institutions, countries, empires and events in their chronological order. This view was held by all Roman Catholic and Protestants during the Protestant Reformation which officially began in 1517 when Martin Luther presented the view that the Roman Catholic Church was the Antichrist and the Whore of Revelation 17.

Futurist Method:

This view was first promoted by a Roman Catholic Jesuit theologian named Francisco Ribera in 1580. It was his specific aim to refute the Protestant interpretation which had resulted in the loss of countries which previously had been primarily Roman Catholic. Based on the persuasive power of the prophetic Word, countries such as Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, England, Scotland and France switched to Protestantism. This interpretation of Daniel 9 pointed to the Antichrist as an individual rather than the institution of the Papacy, and so diverting attention from the period of papal dominance during the middle-ages into a 'small fragment of time in the still distant future just before Christ returns.'

Preterist Method:

This view was first promoted by a Roman Catholic Jesuit theologian named Luis De Alcazar in 1614. The view that all prophecies have been fulfilled by the end of five centuries of the Christian era. This interpretation points out that the prophecies concerning the Antichrists were fulfilled long before the Papacy came into power.

Both Roman Catholic views, though conflicting and contradictory, achieved the common objective of diverting the minds of the people from the scriptures pointing its finger at the Papacy as the tool of Satan. Revelation 13:2-4.

Importance of Correct Interpretation

- Misinterpretation causes spiritual confusion and danger.
- Proper interpretation promotes spiritual clarity, confidence, and readiness.

"In order to arrive at truth, we must have a sincere desire to know the truth and a willingness of heart to obey it." (Great Controversy, p. 599); Joshua 1:8

Why Biblical Prophecy Matters Today

- Clarifies God's plan for humanity.
- Equips believers spiritually for Christ's return.
- Compels urgent gospel proclamation.

Conclusion & Call to Action

- Embrace personal study and application of biblical prophecy.
- Remain spiritually vigilant and prepared.
- Confidently and clearly share prophetic truth with others.

Reflection Verse:

"And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me..." (Revelation 22:12)

Reflect: Are you ready for His return?

"Great pains should be taken to keep this subject before the people. The solemn facts of Christ's second coming are but dimly comprehended." — Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 307

The Rise and Fall of Kingdoms – Understanding the Flow of Prophetic History - Daniel Chapter 2

Prophecy reveals the overarching control of God in human history, highlighting the sovereign authority and divine orchestration in the rise and fall of kingdoms (Daniel 2:21). "In the annals of human history, the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as if dependent on the will and prowess of man. But in the word of God, the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold...the agencies of the All-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will" (Education, p. 173).

Babylon was the First Empire

Babylon began with Nimrod, the great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:8-10). Neo-Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar is represented as the golden head.

Head of Gold: Babylon

Babylon symbolizes human pride, false worship, and materialism—characteristics that continue into prophetic Babylon in Revelation 17. Scripture describes Babylon's prideful defiance (Daniel 4:30; Isaiah 47:7-8).

Known for:

- Wealth (Isaiah 13:19)
- False Religion (Isaiah 47:12-13) (Isaiah 47:12-13; Daniel 2:7-13; I John 4:1-4; John 1:1-4, 14; Hebrews 2:14-18; Romans 8:1-2; Daniel 5:11)
- Pride: Daniel 4:30; Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-18

Breast and Arms of Silver: Medo-Persia

Symbolizing:

- Cruelty (Isaiah 13:17-20)
- Supremacy of Law (Daniel 6:8, 12-14)

Belly and Thighs of Brass: Greece

Known for:

- Worldly wisdom and philosophy (Daniel 8:21; 1 Corinthians 1:21-25)

Legs of Iron: Rome

Represents strong governance and strict organization (Luke 2:1-5). Its power and influence extend symbolically into the prophecies of Revelation 13.

Feet of Iron and Clay: State and Apostate Church

This symbolizes the union of secular powers (iron) with corrupted religious institutions (clay) (Daniel 2:41-43; Jeremiah 18:6). This dangerous mingling is prophetic of the final apostasy preceding Christ's return.

The Stone Cut Out Without Hands: Jesus Christ

Represents Christ's divine and eternal kingdom established without human intervention (Daniel 2:34-35). Isaiah 28:16; Ps 118:22-23; Acts 2:10-12; I Peter 2:6-8 "That stone cut out without hands symbolizes Christ's kingdom, which shall never be destroyed" (Prophets and Kings, p. 501).

- Foundation Stone: Believers as living stones, built upon Christ (1 Peter 2:5).
- Stumbling Stone: Rejected by unbelieving Jews (Psalm 118:22; Acts 4:11).
- Mountain: The professed church facing divine judgment and purification (Daniel 9:20; Joel 2:1).
- Without Hands: Symbolizing the work of the Holy Spirit, spiritual transformation (Colossians 2:11).
- Great Mountain: Represents the victorious, redeemed church, destined to reign with Christ (Revelation 20:6).
- Smiting Stone of Destruction: Christ's final judgment upon rebellious earthly kingdoms and individuals (Matthew 21:44; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).

Prophetic Fusion in Revelation

All negative characteristics from Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome unite symbolically in the beast of Revelation 13 and the symbolic Babylon of Revelation 17:1-6, highlighting the final apostasy and persecution of God's faithful.

Before the Flood: Genesis 6:1-5

Jesus referenced conditions before the Flood (Matthew 24:37-39), highlighting apostasy—the mingling of the faithful with the world:

- Sons of God: The faithful, Spirit-led believers (Romans 8:14).
- Daughters of Men: The world, characterized by unbelief and rebellion (Psalm 14:2-3).

This union of sacred and profane increased wickedness and moral decline (Genesis 6:5).

The Church: God's Appointed Instrument

The Church is God's ordained agent to spread divine truth (Matthew 5:13-16). When apostasy within the church blends sacred truth with secular error, it accelerates moral corruption and impending judgment.

Lessons from Sodom

Jesus also highlighted the destruction of Sodom (Luke 17:29-30). If Abraham had found ten righteous people, judgment would have been withheld (Genesis 18:32). This underscores the church's responsibility to remain pure and influential.

Final Apostasy Before Christ's Return

As it was apostasy that triggered judgment before the Flood, a similar mingling of church and secular powers marks the end times, signaling Christ's imminent return (Matthew 24:37-39). "The mingling of churchcraft and statecraft is represented by the iron and clay. This union will precede the coming of Christ, bringing a test of loyalty upon God's people" (Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 711).

Reflective Scripture:

"And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Revelation 22:12, KJV).

Unmasking Kingdoms – The Prophetic Vision of Daniel 7

In 553 BC, Daniel received a significant prophetic vision revealing God's divine foreknowledge and sovereign orchestration of human history. "Prophecy has traced the rise and fall of the world's great empires... the Omniscient One looked down the ages and foretold the rise and fall of kingdoms" (Prophets and Kings, p. 499).

The Vision: Successive Historical Kingdoms

Daniel's vision highlights a progression of empires symbolized by distinctive beasts:

- Lion with Eagle's Wings: Babylon (605-539 BC)
- Bear with Three Ribs: Medo-Persia (539-331 BC)
- Leopard with Four Wings: Greece (331-168 BC)
- Terrible Beast with Iron Teeth: Rome (168 BC - 476 AD)

Historical Identification

The vision's symbolic beasts correspond historically:

- Babylon represents power and pride (Daniel 7:4).
- Medo-Persia reflects ruthless dominance and strong legalism (Daniel 7:5).
- Greece symbolizes swift conquest and intellectual supremacy (Daniel 7:6).
- Rome embodies severe strength and brutal governance (Daniel 7:7).

Ten Horns: Divisions of the Roman Empire

Following Rome's collapse, the empire fragmented into ten kingdoms:

- Alemanni (Germany)
- Franks (France)
- Burgundians (Switzerland)
- Ostrogoths (Germany)
- Visigoths (Spain)
- Vandals (North Africa – Tunisia & Algeria)
- Suevi (Portugal)
- Lombards (Italy)
- Anglo-Saxons (England)
- Heruli (Italy)

The Little Horn: Ten Key Characteristics

identifies a "little horn" power arising uniquely from Rome, characterized by:

1. Emerging from the 4th beast (Rome)
2. Among the ten horns (European kingdoms)
3. Rising after the ten horns
4. Being distinctly different
5. Removing three kingdoms (horns)

6. Being more prominent
7. Speaking great words against God
8. Persecuting God's saints
9. Attempting to alter divine laws and times
10. Dominating for "a time, times, and half a time" (1,260 prophetic years)

Three Horns Plucked Up (Confirming Papal Power)

Historical evidence confirms the Papacy as this "little horn" through the removal of three Arian kingdoms:

- Heruli (removed 493 AD)
- Vandals (defeated 534 AD)
- Ostrogoths (uprooted 538 AD)

The 1,260-Year Prophecy

Repeated seven times throughout Daniel and Revelation, this prophetic period (538 AD - 1798 AD) marks Papal supremacy and persecution of faithful Christians.

The Purpose and Nature of the Judgment

The judgment detailed in Daniel 7 assesses human conduct, vindicates God's character, and establishes His eternal kingdom. "The judgment is set, the books are opened, and every man's work passes in review before God" (Great Controversy, p. 480).

Conclusion

Daniel 7's prophetic vision affirms biblical accuracy, providing clarity on historical progression and final events leading to Christ's glorious return.

Reflective Scripture:

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit...the judgment was set, and the books were opened" (Daniel 7:9-10, KJV).

Reflection: Are we prepared for the judgment and Christ's return?

Prophetic Countdown – The Day of Judgment - Daniel Chapter 8

The terms "pre-advent judgment" and "cleansing of the sanctuary" describe the same critical event—God's final evaluation of humanity before Christ's second coming. The bible presents two judgments. The first is to evaluate all who professed Jesus Christ as their Savior. The result will be the separation of the wheat and tares in the church. I Peter 4:17; Matthew 13:24-30; Matthew 18:21-35. This judgment is the focus of Daniel 7 and 8. Those who successfully pass this judgment by the blood of the lamb will participate in the first resurrection Revelation 20:4-6.

Daniel's Prophecies and the Judgment

Daniel's prophecies locate the pre-advent judgment after the papal dominance (the "little horn"). Daniel 7 illustrates political persecution of the saints lasting 1,260 years (538-1798 AD), signifying judgment commencement sometime after 1798 (Daniel 7:9-11).

Spiritual Impact: The Papacy's Attack

Daniel 8:11-12 details the spiritual harm done by the papacy against Christ's continual, saving ministry, symbolized by sanctuary rituals (Numbers 28:3; 29:6). This attack introduced significant counterfeits:

- Sanctuary: Roman Catholic Church
- Sacrifice: The Mass
- Priesthood: Sinful human priests
- Mediator: Mary
- Vicar of Christ: Pope replacing the Holy Spirit
- Salvation: Works-based rather than faith-based
- Sabbath: Sunday replacing the biblical Sabbath

Cleansing of the Sanctuary

Daniel 8:14 states the sanctuary cleansing would occur after 2,300 prophetic days (years), pinpointing this event to October 22, 1844. This marks the beginning of the pre-advent judgment.

The Earthly Sanctuary

The earthly sanctuary, symbolizing Christ's earthly ministry, was divided into the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Its court was a rectangular, unroofed area (150 ft x 75 ft) housing the altar of burnt offering and laver (Exodus 27:9-18).

Daily Sacrifices: Symbolism of Christ's Death

The daily sacrifices symbolized Christ's atoning death, highlighting:

- Penal substitution (Romans 6:23)
- Voluntary sacrifice (John 10:17-18)
- Substitutionary atonement (Isaiah 53:6)
- Propitiatory purpose (Romans 3:25)
- Reconciliation with God (Romans 5:10)
- Divine revelation of love (John 3:16-19)
- Victory over death (Revelation 1:18)

Seven Steps for Believers' Forgiveness

Forgiveness required specific actions by believers:

- Conviction of sin (Leviticus 4:27)
- Acceptance of Christ's surety (Hebrews 11:4)
- Genuine repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10)
- Faith in Christ's righteousness (Romans 3:21-22)
- Confession of specific sins (Romans 10:9-10)
- Transfer of sin through laying hands-on sacrifice (Leviticus 4:29)
- Killing the lamb, symbolizing substitution (1 Peter 2:24)

Priest's Ministry in Forgiveness

The priest's actions completed forgiveness:

- Blood applied to altar horns (Leviticus 4:30)
- Blood poured at altar's base
- Burning of fat
- Consumption of sacrifice's meat by priest
- Completion of atonement (Leviticus 4:31)

Two Phases of Forgiveness

Forgiveness involved:

1. Sacrifice at Calvary—universal provision (1 John 2:1-2)
2. Mediation in heavenly sanctuary—personal cleansing (1 John 1:9)

The Day of Atonement

Annually, the sanctuary required cleansing (Yom Kippur), symbolizing divine judgment (Leviticus 16):

- Pre-Advent Judgment: Removal of sins
- Millennial Judgment: Scapegoat banished
- Executive Judgment: Final cleansing

The Scapegoat's Symbolism

The scapegoat represents Satan, sin's original instigator, who ultimately bears responsibility and punishment. It is sent alive into wilderness isolation, paralleling Satan's millennium confinement (Revelation 20:1-3).

Final Judgment

After the millennium, Satan deceives the resurrected wicked. God executes final judgment, eradicating sin, Satan, and all unrepentant sinners (Revelation 20:7-15).

Reflective Scripture:

"And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed" (Daniel 8:14, KJV).

Reflection: Are we spiritually prepared for the day of judgment and Christ's return?

From Prophecy to Fulfillment – The Messiah's Timeline in Daniel 9

Daniel 9 builds upon the vision of Daniel 8, offering detailed clarity about the coming Messiah, including precise events and dates. This timeline affirms that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Christ, and that God's plan for redemption is unfolding with perfect accuracy.

Daniel's Vision

Daniel 8 outlines five key events:

- A ram with two horns (Medo-Persia)
- A goat with a prominent horn (Greece)
- The horn breaks and four arise in its place
- A little horn arises, opposing God and persecuting His people
- A prophetic timeframe of 2,300 days is introduced

Daniel receives understanding of the symbols, he faints before hearing the start and end of the prophetic period. Daniel 9 opens with his prayerful appeal to God on behalf of Jerusalem, the sanctuary, and God's people (Daniel 9:16-19).

Daniel's Prayer and Gabriel's Response

Daniel's heart burden leads him to study the prophecies of Jeremiah and pray fervently. Gabriel responds by clarifying the vision and offering a structured timeline. The 2,300 prophetic days (years) are divided into two parts:

- 70 Weeks (490 Years): A time granted to Israel for preparation
- 1,810 Years: Leading to the judgment (Daniel 8:14; Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6)

Six Purposes of the 70 Weeks (Daniel 9:24)

1. To finish the transgression – Israel's rebellion culminated in rejecting the Messiah (Matthew 23:29-38).
2. To make an end of sin – Christ's death ended the need for sin offerings (Hebrews 9:24-26).
3. To make reconciliation for iniquity – Christ changed our relationship with God and others (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).
4. To bring in everlasting righteousness – Jesus' sinless life and sacrifice fulfilled righteousness (Romans 5:17-19).

5. To seal up the vision and prophecy – Accurate fulfillment validates the divine origin (Isaiah 46:9-10).
6. To anoint the Most Holy – Refers to the anointing of Christ as High Priest and inauguration of the heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews 8:1-5).

Seven Prophetic Signposts (Daniel 9:25–27)

1. 457 BC – Command to rebuild Jerusalem (Ezra 7:6-28)
2. 27 AD – Baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11)
3. 31 AD – Crucifixion of Christ (Matthew 27:50-53)
4. 34 AD – Stoning of Stephen, gospel to Gentiles (Acts 7:54-60)
5. Temple rebuilt in troubled times (Ezra 4:4-24)
6. 1844 AD – Cleansing of the sanctuary begins (Daniel 8:14; Revelation 14:7)
7. Three Angels' Messages proclaimed (Revelation 14:6-12)

Master Timeline of the 2300-Day Prophecy

- 70 Weeks = 490 Years (from 457 BC to 34 AD)
- Remaining 1810 Years = 34 AD to 1844 AD

Fulfillment of key milestones:

- In the midst of the week (31 AD), Messiah is “cut off” – Jesus is crucified (Daniel 9:27)
- End of 70 weeks (34 AD), Israel's special role ends; gospel goes to all nations
- 1844 AD, marks the beginning of the investigative judgment

Importance of the Prophecy

- Validates Scripture – Predictive fulfillment confirms biblical authority (Isaiah 46:9-10)
- Confirms Christ's Identity – Dates and events affirm Jesus as the Messiah
- Prepares Believers – Encourages readiness for judgment and the Second Coming
- Strengthens Faith – Demonstrates God's sovereignty and trustworthiness

Reflective Scripture:

"Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed" (Daniel 8:14).
Reflection: Do you see God's hand in history? Are you responding to His call today?

When Judgment Ends and Christ Prepares to Return – Daniel 12

The twelfth chapter of Daniel brings his prophetic visions to a dramatic and hopeful climax. It illuminates:

- The conclusion of divine judgment.
- Preparations for Christ's return.
- The critical importance of prophetic timelines.

This chapter serves as a guidepost for believers living in the final days of earth's history, urging readiness and trust in the promises of God.

Who is Michael? (Daniel 12:1)

The name *Michael* means "Who is like God?" — a rhetorical declaration of God's incomparable nature. Michael is not a created angel, but a divine figure representing Christ Himself before His incarnation:

- Daniel 10:13, 21; Daniel 12:1; Revelation 12:7-9 — Michael leads the armies of heaven.
- Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1-6 — Christ, whose goings forth have been from of old.

Representations in Scripture:

- The Angel of the Lord (Genesis 16:7-14)
- The Angel of God (Genesis 21:17)
- The Angel of His Presence (Isaiah 63:9)
- The Messenger of the Covenant (Malachi 3:1-5) — who purifies and judges His people.

Michael's actions reveal His divine identity:

- He spoke as God at Bethel (Genesis 31:11-13).
- Claimed to be the God of Abraham (Exodus 3:6).
- Made the ground holy by His presence (Exodus 3:5).

Christ Himself declares, "*Before Abraham was, I AM*" (John 8:58), confirming His eternal divinity.

Evidence that Michael is Christ

- Claims Divinity: "I am the God of Bethel" (Genesis 31:13)

- Performs Divine Actions: Delivered Israel from Egypt (Judges 2:1); Multiplied Hagar's descendants (Genesis 16:10)
- Referred to as Redeemer: "The Angel who redeemed me from all evil" (Genesis 48:16)

Michael, as Christ, fights for His people and assures their ultimate deliverance.

End of Judgment

The "standing up" of Michael signifies the conclusion of the investigative judgment (Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Daniel 8:14; Malachi 3:1-5)

When Michael stands:

- Human probation closes.
- Every case is decided for life or death.
- This marks the beginning of the "time of trouble" (Daniel 12:1), which aligns with the pouring out of the seven last plagues (Revelation 15:1-8).

"When Christ ceases His intercession in the sanctuary, the unmingled wrath of God is poured out upon the guilty." (*The Great Controversy*, p. 613)

Two Resurrections

Daniel 12:2 points to two distinct resurrections:

1. First Resurrection — The Righteous (Rev. 20:4-6): At Christ's return, the faithful dead rise to eternal life. *"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection."* (Revelation 20:6)
2. Second Resurrection — The Wicked (Rev. 20:5): After the millennium, the wicked are raised for final judgment and destruction.

Believers' Role During the Millennium:

- We will participate in the judgment of the wicked and fallen angels (1 Corinthians 6:1-3; Daniel 7:21-22).

Scripture affirms, *"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?"* (1 Corinthians 6:2)

Sealing and Unsealing Prophecy

Daniel was told to seal the book "until the time of the end" (Daniel 12:4, 9).

- This time arrived in 1798 AD, marking the end of papal supremacy (Daniel 7:25).
- A surge of Bible study and understanding of prophecy followed:
 - *"Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."* (Daniel 12:4)
 - *"Seek, and ye shall find."* (Amos 8:11-12; Jeremiah 5:1; Job 1:7)

The global awakening to biblical prophecy fulfilled Daniel's words perfectly.

Prophetic Timeline #1 — 1260 Years

- 538 AD: Emperor Justinian empowers the papacy.
- 1798 AD: Pope Pius VI is captured by Napoleon's forces, ending papal authority.

This fulfills the prophetic period of persecution described in Daniel 7:25.

Prophetic Timeline #2 — 1290 Years

- 508 AD: Clovis, King of the Franks, converts to Catholicism, strengthening papal power.
- 1798 AD: France, which once elevated the papacy, now brings its downfall.

This timeline highlights the rise and fall of papal dominance, as foretold by prophecy.

Prophetic Timeline #3 — 1335 Years

- 508 AD to 1843 AD: Believers anticipated Christ's return in 1843, marking the "Great Disappointment."
- Like the early disciples (Acts 1:6), their expectation was sincere, though their understanding of the event was incomplete.

Revelation 10:10 depicts this bittersweet experience:

"It was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter."

Revelation 10 — Daniel Unsealed

- Between 1798 and 1844, interest in Daniel's prophecies exploded worldwide.
- Sixty-five expositors across four continents confirmed the nearing fulfillment of the 2300-year prophecy (Leroy Froom, *Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, Vol. 4, p. 403-406).

This movement validated Daniel's prophecy and ignited the Advent awakening.

Importance of Daniel 12

- Clarifies the sequence of end-time events.
- Confirms the trustworthiness of Scripture.
- Motivates us to spiritual vigilance and readiness.

“Prophecy not only foretells the future but points out our duty in the present crisis.” (*Education*, p. 178)

Preparing for Christ’s Imminent Return

Prophecies stir us to:

- Certainty and hope in God’s promises.
- Spiritual preparedness.
- Active proclamation of the soon return of Christ.

As Jesus declared:

“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” (Matthew 24:44)

Invitation & Reflection

Consider:

- Are you spiritually prepared for Christ’s return?
- Are you studying diligently, trusting God’s word, and sharing the message of hope?

Christ’s final invitation still echoes:

“Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” (Revelation 22:12)

Let us live in readiness, looking for that blessed hope!

Powers of Prophecy and Their Significance Based on Revelation 13 & 17

Revelation 13 and 17 unveil the strategies Satan uses in his final attempt to oppose God's kingdom. These chapters:

- Reveal major prophetic symbols.
- Illustrate the use of political, religious, and spiritual powers against God's people.
- Equip believers with understanding to face end-time events with faith and vigilance.

"None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict." — *The Great Controversy*, p. 593

Three Great Prophetic Symbols

1. The Sea Beast (Revelation 13:1-10):

- a. Represents the Papacy — Roman Catholic Church.
- b. Linked to Daniel's "Little Horn" (Daniel 7, 8).
- c. Exercised both religious and political authority.
- d. Persecuted God's faithful during the Dark Ages (538–1798 AD).

2. The Dragon (Revelation 13:2, 4):

- a. Represents Satan working through Papal Rome.
- b. The original source of persecution against Christ and the early church.
- c. *"There was war in heaven..."* (Revelation 12:7-9)

3. The Earth Beast (Revelation 13:11-18):

- a. Symbolizes the United States — Apostate Protestantism.
- b. Begins as a lamb (freedom and justice) but speaks as a dragon.
- c. Initially upholds religious freedom and democracy, later enforces false worship.

The Sea Beast

- Tied to Daniel's Little Horn power (Daniel 7 & 8).
- Blended the features of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Pagan Rome (Daniel 7:4-7; Revelation 13:2).
- Exercised authority over nations and persecuted the saints for 1260 years (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5-7).

- *The beast received a deadly wound in 1798, but the wound will be healed (Revelation 13:3).*

“The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties.” — *The Great Controversy*, p. 571

The Dragon

- Satan operates through political systems, notably Pagan Rome.
- He tried to destroy Christ at birth (Revelation 12:4-5).
- Continues to work against God’s people using deception and persecution (Revelation 12:7-9).
- Scripture describes the dragon as the originator of persecution and rebellion.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers...” — Ephesians 6:12

The Earth Beast

- Rises after the papacy’s deadly wound (circa 1798).
- Emerges from the "earth" — symbol of a sparsely populated region (Revelation 13:11).
- Displays two horns:
 - Religious freedom — "A church without a pope."
 - Political freedom — "A state without a king."

The Constitution and Bill of Rights protected freedom of conscience:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” — U.S. Constitution, First Amendment

“When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power... then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.” — *The Great Controversy*, p. 588

From Earth Beast to False Prophet

- The U.S., once a champion of liberty, will eventually “speak like a dragon” — enforcing religious laws that violate conscience (Revelation 13:11-18).
- Performs deceptive miracles to unite church and state:

- Revelation 13:13-14 — Fire from heaven.
- Revelation 16:13-14; 19:20 — Miracles to deceive the nations.

We must remain vigilant in preserving religious liberty:

“We are not to sit in quietude, doing nothing... The signs of the times cry out in solemn warning.”
— *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 716*

The Seven Heads of Revelation 17

The seven heads represent seven successive powers through which Satan has fought against God’s people (Revelation 17:9-11):

1. Babylon
2. Medo-Persia
3. Greece
4. Pagan Rome
5. Papal Rome
6. France (Atheism, Secularism)
7. United States speaking as a dragon
8. Resurrected Papacy ("The beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth" — Revelation 17:11)

Current Phase: France and Secularism

- Politics: Communism.
- Science: Evolution undermining creation.
- Religion: Higher criticism.

“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.” — Psalm 14:1

Future Phase: USA Speaking as a Dragon

- Loss of freedoms.
- Union of church and state.
- Enforced worship contrary to Scripture.

"The United States will repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government." — *Last Day Events, p. 131*

Resurrection of the Papacy

- The deadly wound is healed (Revelation 13:3).

- Papal Rome regains global influence.
- Enforces Sunday worship and persecutes dissenters.

"Rome is aiming to re-establish her power." — The Great Controversy, p. 579

Importance of Understanding Revelation's Symbols

- God's timing is precise for proclaiming the gospel.
- Prophecy prepares believers to recognize and resist deception.
- Strengthens faithfulness amid trials.

"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."
— Amos 3:7

Satan's Strategies to Oppose God

- Deception: False teachers and doctrines (Matthew 24:4-5, 24).
- Corrupt churches: Outwardly godly but inwardly compromised (2 Timothy 3:1-5).
- False science: Evolutionary theories denying God (Romans 1:20-22).

Equip yourselves through diligent study and reliance on God's Word.

Being Ready for Christ's Return

- Recognize fulfilled prophecy in world events.
- Preserve religious freedom and biblical truth.
- Proclaim the Three Angels' Messages (Revelation 14:6-12).

"We have no time to lose. The end is near. The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with dangers." — *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6, p. 22*

Reflection & Encouragement

- Reflect: Are you personally ready for Christ's return?
- Commit: To lovingly and clearly share these truths.
- Hope: *"Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."* — Revelation 22:12