

The Fundamentals of Bible Prophecy

11/18/12 Lesson

- > Today we are starting a “primer” class which will introduce the God-ordained purposes and basic concepts of the subject of prophecy in the Scriptures. We will examine its beginnings, construct and flow and true meaning in prediction *AND* fulfillment – with much more than just the “end-times” as our focus.

- > The need for this class became clear because I found that during the current run of the *Cover-to-Cover: An Overview of the Entire Bible* class (which started in October, 2008), even though this course was not specifically prophecy-focused, I found myself talking more and more about prophecy as I was giving updates on current events before many of the Sunday school classes actually began.

- > The reason for this was simple and yet became even more glaringly apparent lately: Geopolitical and geophysical changes in our present reality had started to escalate very, very rapidly, especially within the last year-and-half or so. Thus, the need for and greater focus on prophecy and the need of mapping current events into it.

- > So, what is this thing called prophecy? What is it about and why does it have such a large – and defining – influence through the God’s Words of Scripture?

- > First, let’s consider that the whole of the Bible itself is a complete *messaging system* from the mind and heart of the creator and sustainer of all that.

> The Creator specially designed and fashioned beings in His image, with distinct purpose, but who live in a contrived plane of existence that separates them from the Creator, known as the *physical universe*.

> Here, everything revolves around and is bound to the limitations of linear-time, three-dimensional space – and the laws of physics, which keeps it all running in a locked-down and preordained mode (locked-down for those who are part of it – and not for the creator and sustainer of it)

> The Creator, who reveals Himself as three persons in one and His name as God, resides in what He terms as an *eternal environment* or *state*.

11/25/12 Lesson

> An analogy to better help us define eternity would be comparing eternity to a “fixed” or “static” environment where everything is always “present” and therefore there is no concept of moving from one moment to the next, or a beginning event to an end of a chain of events. I hope this helps!

> How about this analogy: In eternity, time is not so much a “road” one travels but a “field” always under one’s feet. No matter where one “stands” the field is always there under one’s feet.

> In the eternal environment, there is no such thing as linear time (or time or dimensional space at all as we in the physical universe understand it), nor are there the attributes – or restrictions - of this physical universe in which the special beings He created in His image – aka “man” are made and exist in.

> When God created the physical universe and placed this special creation – called human beings -in the midst of it, He personally walked with them and talked and taught them about Himself, His plans for the creation and, most specifically, His plans for them and their kind as they multiply and have dominion over the earth (Adam was the first king of the earth and was trained accordingly).

> But, as we know, sin, which had manifested before hand in Satan and then to other of the angels (a class of beings very different than humans, but not the direct subject of this course) was “offered” and accepted by the new human king and his queen. This made even more viral the infection of sin in the physical universe and started the chain of events that we are now almost at the end of, after about six-thousand years.

> Sin placed a very great divide between God and human beings. As a matter of fact, from that point forward, Scripture is positioned in such a way that human beings are logically no longer considered the “direct creation” of God. From that point, on, the angels only were spoken of as direct creations of God: Humanity is now in the line of Adam.

> Since that time, God no longer walks and talks in the most direct and intimate way with human beings. Now, there is need for a way to continue to teach and guide and instruct man: A device that is of the “stuff” of what man is composed of and can be used by him who lives in the physical planet, earth, in the context of the physical universe – a device called a “book” – The Bible.

12/2/12 Lesson

> This Bible is the complete messaging system to man because it is directly inspired by God – who declares that everything from his standpoint has already been determined and completed – is a chronicle in a human-palatable basic “time order” of:

- Who God is, and as three distinct personages in One
- The brief history of creation and purpose of it
- What He has created and why
- Who humans are in relation to Him
- Other beings, including angels, he directly – and some He had not directly) created and their purposes
- How we and they are to interact (and *not* interact!)
- His overarching plan and expectations – history and future
- His plan for dealing with and containing to repairing the damage of sin: what He calls judgment and grace
- A chronicle of the six-thousand years of linear time allotted for this plan, which covers it all from beginning to

- Much, much more... (But not everything – God still keeps many things to Himself for later revelation when we can bear it – when we are like Jesus is now and unbound from the physical universe and our physical humanity)

> Now that we have established the “what” and “why” of the Bible, we have one more main thing we must validate – each one for him/herself. That is the authenticity and infallibility of the Bible as being the very stated thing it told to us it is, the very words of revelation of the Creator Himself.

> We also must be sure that if we find any discrepancy at all, that it is our own limitation of understanding that is the root cause and never any portion of the Bible itself. You and I must be 100% sure or we will never truly accept the truth; And this only comes through the Holy Spirit. We must have Him in us to interpret and then we must *discern everything* we hear or come upon in this life here – everything!

> Read II Timothy 3:16...

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for *teaching, rebuking, correcting* and *training in righteousness*,¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

> Now, we focus on the “forward –looking” aspect of the Scripture, also known as prophecy. As we do, it will serve you and I better to always keep in mind that our linear time (the tick...tick...tick... of the clock, one second following another) is not the reality in eternity: For God, everything is always in the present – in a word, one might say “static” in that it has *all* “already occurred” and is already “historical fact” to God.

> In the book of Isaiah He says:

ISA 42:8 "I am the LORD; that is my name!
I will not give my glory to another
or my praise to idols.

ISA 42:9 See, the former things have taken place,
and **new things I declare;**
before they spring into being
I announce them to you."

> Also read in Isaiah 46:5~13 (from the Septuagint and NIV)...

> From the Septuagint (the Hebrew-to-Greek manuscript of the Bible that Jesus and the Jews of His day used as they lived in Hellenized society even during the time of Roman rulership)

5 To whom have ye compared me? see, consider, ye that go astray. 6 They that furnish gold out of a purse, and silver by weight, will weigh it in a scale, and they hire a goldsmith and make idols, and bow down, and worship them. 7 They bear it upon the shoulder, and go; and if they put it upon its place, it remains, it cannot move: and whosoever shall cry to it, it cannot hear; it cannot save him from trouble.

8 Remember ye these things, and groan: repent, ye that have gone astray, return in your heart; 9 and remember the former things *that were* of old: for **I am God, and there is none other beside me**, 10 **telling beforehand the latter events before they come to pass, and they are accomplished together:** and *I said, all my counsel shall stand, and I will do all things that I have planned:*

> (Now, back to the NIV which states the rest of these passages more clearly)

ISA 46:11 From the east I summon a bird of prey;
from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose.
What I have said, that will I bring about;
what I have planned, that will I do.

ISA 46:12 Listen to me, you stubborn-hearted,
you who are far from righteousness.

ISA 46:13 I am bringing my righteousness near,
it is not far away;
and my salvation will not be delayed.
I will grant salvation to Zion,
my splendor to Israel.

12/9/12 Lesson

> In the book of Revelation, Jesus Himself declares this:

REV 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

REV 21:5 He who was seated on the throne said, "**I am making everything *new!***" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

REV 21:6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, **the Beginning and the End.**

> And in the book of Luke He says:

LK 21:32 "I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away *until* all these things have happened.³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but **my words will never pass away.**

> So then, what is prophecy? Briefly, it is God's roadmap presented in linear fashion to show us where history is going (as it flows in a "line" or "road" to be traveled by us from one end to the other).

> The Bible's predictions claim literal and specific fulfillments or "milestones" that verify that such prophecies are indeed from God.

> The key is learning how to discern what is literal and what is symbolic (prophecy is parabolic in that it is written in some instances using symbols and types).

> Some basic precepts on how best to approach prophecy:

1. Interpret prophecy literally wherever possible
2. Prophecies concerning Israel and the church must *never* be transposed
3. For symbolic passages, compare Scripture with Scripture, as Scripture always interprets itself.

> A final point in our introduction of the prophecy is that it must always be viewed in the context of Jesus Christ and His *finished* work on the cross.

> Prophecy tracks the activities and past and future history, etc. that must be completed as the run-up to His sure coming for His church and then His second coming as King of kings and Lord of Lords. It finalizes the fulfillment of all the promises and covenants with His people, Israel and the end-time church.

> Make no mistake about this: prophecy is a MAJOR part of all of the divine revelation from God in His Word.

> Let use a well-know tool in Bible study, and that is the “law of Proportion”:

- # of Verses in the Bible: 31,124
- # of Predictions in the OT: 1,239
- # of OT Verses Containing Predictions: 6,641 out of 23,210
- **Percent of OT that is Prophecy: 28.5%**
- # of predictions in the NT: 578
- # of NT Verses that Contain Predictions: 1,711 out of 7,914
- **Percent of NT that is Prophecy: 21.5%**
- **Percent of Whole Bible that is Prophecy: 27%**
- **Number of Distinct Prophetic Topics in the Bible: 737**

(From the *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy* by J. Barton Payne)

> Now that we have defined basically what prophecy is and why God has taken such great care to use it, we need to ask a very pressing question for this very day and age we live in:

> Why is prophecy – especially as He made it so intrinsic and prolific throughout His Word – all but totally ignored by many Christian leaders as they teach the Word of God?!

> This is a key question! It is sure that by ignoring at least one-third of the Bible, we will surely be misled and our very understanding of the Words of the Creator and His plan set askew.

> This is ignorance also leads to an even worse condition, which is the injection of false *believable* doctrines of prophecy.

> These are the “icing on the cake” of the plan of Satan of the turning aside of the very people who want the truth of God!

> Here are a few sample warnings from Scripture about this (from Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Revelation) tied together:

PS 4:2 How long, O men, will you turn my glory into shame?
How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?
Selah

PS 4:3 Know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;
the LORD will hear when I call to him.

PS 24:3 Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?

PS 24:4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to an idol
or swear by what is false.

PS 24:5 He will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God his Savior.

PS 24:6 Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

ISA 41:26 Who told of this (- *the prophecies of Messiah in the coming of Jesus Christ*-)
from the beginning, so we could know,
or beforehand, so we could say, '**He was right**'?
No one told of this,
no one foretold it,
no one heard any words from **you**.

ISA 41:27 I was the first to tell Zion, 'Look, here they are!'
I gave to Jerusalem a messenger of good tidings.

ISA 41:28 I look but **there is no one--**
no one among them to give counsel,
no one to give answer when I ask them.

ISA 41:29 See, they are all false!
Their deeds amount to nothing;
their images (*and words*) are but wind and confusion.

JER 14:10 This is what the LORD says about this people:

"They greatly love to wander;
they do not restrain their feet.
So the LORD does not accept them;
he will now remember their wickedness
and punish them for their sins."

JER 14:11 Then the LORD said to me, "Do not pray for the well-being of this people. ¹²
Although they fast, I will not listen to their cry; though they offer burnt offerings and
grain offerings, I will not accept them. Instead, I will destroy them with the sword,
famine and plague."

JER 14:13 But I said, "Ah, Sovereign LORD, **the prophets keep telling them**, 'You will
not see the sword or suffer famine. Indeed, I will give you lasting peace in this place.' "

JER 14:14 Then the LORD said to me, "The **prophets are prophesying lies in my name**.
I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them. They are prophesying to
you **false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds.** ¹⁵
Therefore, this is what the LORD says about the prophets who are prophesying in my
name: **I did not send them**, yet they are saying, 'No sword or famine will touch this
land.' Those same prophets will perish by sword and famine. ¹⁶ And the people they are
prophesying to will be thrown out into the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and
sword. There will be no one to bury them or their wives, their sons or their daughters. I
will pour out on them the calamity they deserve.

REV 22:18 I (*Jesus Himself!*) **warn everyone** who hears the words of the prophecy of this
book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this
book. ¹⁹ And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away
from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this
book.

REV 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, ***I am coming soon.***"
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (*How many deniers and ignorers of prophecy say "I don't
believe we are in the end times"*).

> Good Question: How many deniers and ignorers of prophecy
say: "*I don't believe we are in the end times. Things are almost
the same as they have been for the last number of decades. Yes,
they are getting worse, but incrementally and there is no indication*

that we are any closer than in any other time as nothing is really different. So, no need to “worry” about this now. There are more important things we need to accomplish .”
There are many today who indeed believe like this and to them it is written:

> Read 2Peter 3:3~10...

^{2PE 3:3} First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is this `coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." ⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

^{2PE 3:8} But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

^{2PE 3:10} But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

> So, let’s address the question of why a subject of such great and intrinsic importance and relevance to God is ignored or placed aside in favor of “more important” things?

> Here is an outstanding summary of the issue from Christian author and communications advisor Joel Rosenberg. (*For information about Joel, visit: <http://www.joelrosenberg.com/about.asp>*)

> WHY AREN'T PASTORS TEACHING BIBLE PROPHECY TODAY?

I would point to four main reasons:

First, many pastors don’t teach prophecy because they have a lack of belief in the power of God’s Word.

Sadly, many pastors today don't really believe the Bible is the inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God. The Lord Jesus once remonstrated the Pharisees because they were misinterpreting Scripture. He said, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God." (Matthew 22:29)

Too many pastors and priests today are the same way. They are not carefully studying the whole Bible. They're not trying to understand the "whole counsel of God." (Acts 20:27, KJV).

Second, many pastors don't teach prophecy because they have a lack of knowledge of — and/or sound training in — Bible prophecy.

There are many, of course, who do believe that the Bible is the Word of God. However, for a variety of reasons they have never taken the time to study prophecy carefully on their own, and/or weren't taught it in any detail or depth in seminary or Bible college or seminary. Thus, they understandably feel unprepared and inadequate to help people unpack the truths of these Scriptures.

Some prophecies are, of course, complicated and confusing. Some of the names mentioned in prophecies (like "Gog" and "Magog" and "Gomer" and "Put" in Ezekiel 38-39) are strange and obscure. It takes some historical detective work to determine what these things mean, and some pastors decide they neither have the interest nor the time to do the research and teach their congregations clearly and accurately, so they avoid teaching prophecy all together.

The Bible is clear that God will bless those who study and teach End Times prophecy, and we should be faithful in doing just that. The Apostle John wrote, "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it, for the time is near." (Revelation 1:3)

Third, many pastors don't teach prophecy because they have a fear of being lumped in with "prophecy nuts" and those who peddle sensationalism.

Admittedly, there are many false teachers and nuts who try to teach prophecy.

- Example: Harold Camping's prediction of the Rapture on May 21, 2011.
- Example: Harold Camping's prediction of the Rapture in September 1994.
- Example: *88 Reasons Why Jesus Is Coming In 1988*
- Example: *89 Reasons Why Jesus Is Coming In 1989*

Pastors are right to avoid such false teachers, and to avoid creating an appearance of cheapening the Word of God in these ways.

But just because some teach Bible prophecy wrongly, or badly, is no reason for solid teachers to avoid the topic. There are those who teach false regarding the Gospels and the epistles, too. But a good pastor wouldn't dare skip teaching correctly these books of the

Bible. On what basis, then, do we have the right to avoid teaching whole books of the Bible — Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Revelation, among others — just because some charlatans are out there misleading people?

To the contrary, we should be teaching solidly on prophecy all the more because of the nuts out there. We shouldn't cede the battle for hearts, minds and souls to the false teachers.

The Apostle Paul told Timothy, "Preach the word: be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." (2 Timothy 4:2-3)

Fourth, many pastors don't teach prophecy because they have a lack of understanding of the times in which we live and the increasingly close return of Christ.

Sadly, many sincere pastors are asleep to the times in which we live. Somehow they are not gripped by the remarkable moment of history that we're in, and the urgent need to prepare for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ for the Church.

Like the Pharisees of old, Jesus is saying to them, "Why do you not analyze this present time?" More than ever, we need pastors who do analyze and understand the times in light of Bible prophecy. Like the sons of Issachar, "men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do." (I Chronicles 12:32), we need pastors who understand the times and know what the Church should do.

Specifically, we need men ready, willing and able to rediscover the purpose and power of Bible prophecy.

1/6/13 Lesson

> Let's now set the very context of our study: Jesus Christ *is* the main topic of prophecy. As we study and use prophecy in our lives we must always temper this by remembering that Jesus is the center of all that is foretold and was and is to come. He is the reason for it all, and it is all from, to and about Him.

> The very first prophecy is of the One who was coming Messiah in Genesis 3:15

GE 3:15 And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel."

> Here are just a few samples of twenty-five which point to the coming Savior in Jesus Christ:

Shiloh ("the one to whom it belongs") Genesis 49:10:

GE 49:9 You are a lion's cub, O Judah;
you return from the prey, my son.
Like a lion he crouches and lies down,
like a lioness--who dares to rouse him?

GE 49:10 The scepter will not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
until he comes to whom it belongs
and the obedience of the nations is his.

The Passover Lamb Exodus 12:21

EX 12:21 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²² Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. ²³ When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

The Star from Jacob Numbers 24:17

NU 24:17 "I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near.
A star will come out of Jacob;
a scepter will rise out of Israel.

The Prophet Deut. 18:14~19

DT 18:14 The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so. ¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me (*Moses*) from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. ^{DT 18:17} The LORD said to me (*Moses*): "What they say is good. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹ If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account.

The Final King in Judah's Line (Jacob's Prophetic blessing to Judah, Genesis 49:9~11)

GE 49:8 "Judah, your brothers will praise you;
your hand will be on the neck of your enemies;
your father's sons will bow down to you.

GE 49:9 You are a lion's cub, O Judah;
you return from the prey, my son.
Like a lion he crouches and lies down,
like a lioness--who dares to rouse him?

GE 49:10 The scepter will not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
until he comes to whom it belongs
and the obedience of the nations is his.

GE 49:11 He will tether his donkey to a vine,
his colt to the choicest branch;
he will wash his garments in wine,
his robes in the blood of grapes.

The Final King in David's Line (Isaiah 9:6~7)

ISA 9:6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

ISA 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

1/13/13 Lesson

> There are many, many more examples of prophecies (former and fulfilled) of Jesus Christ coming as King of the Jews, humbly offering Himself as the final and all-paying sacrifice, fully human and fully God – and all this at just the right time (Romans 5:6)

> The point: Studying prophecy helps us *prove* that the Scriptures refer to the Word and His becoming Jesus Christ as the savior for all who will believe in Him – Studying prophecy amplifies the *truth* of the Gospel and *how* it was to come to pass!

> What else does knowing and studying and understanding prophecy give us? What are the main benefits God intends *for us* in this most major factor of His Word?

Proper and dead-centered perspective in life as His people

> Prophecy gives us the proper perspective in our life and mission as set apart in God's service through Christ in this **dying** world...

Read II Peter 1:10~19; 2:1-22...

^{2PE 1:10} Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

^{2PE 1:12} So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. ¹³ I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, ¹⁴ because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

^{2PE 1:16} We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

^{2PE 1:19} And **we have the word of the prophets made more certain**, and **you will do well to pay attention to it**, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that **no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation**. ²¹ For **prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit**.

> Part of our "job description" is to watch for intruders into the fold (this is not just the job of pastors and designated leaders – it is also your and mine! We must be educated to do this so that we can discern!)...

^{2PE 2:1} But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ³ In their greed

these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

^{2PE 2:4} For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; ⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; ⁶ if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷ and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men ⁸ (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)-- ⁹ if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. ¹⁰ This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.

Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; ¹¹ yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. ¹² But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.

^{2PE 2:13} They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. ¹⁴ With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed--an accursed brood! ¹⁵ They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. ¹⁶ But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey--a beast without speech--who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

^{2PE 2:17} These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. ¹⁸ For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. ¹⁹ They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity--for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. ²⁰ If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. ²¹ It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. ²² Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."

> What should our view of the world be as Christians? Some think that we are here to prepare the world for the return of Christ (this is an old heresy that resulted in much damage to the Name of Christ and the Gospel. The Crusades are shining examples of this problem).

> Some think that our major goal is to improve our world and environment (while this is a very good side effect and indicator of our efficacy as “salt” in the world, is it what we are really here for?) What does the Scripture say about God’s intent for this current world?

> Read II Peter 3:1~17...

^{2PE 3:1} Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. ² I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

^{2PE 3:3} First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." ⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

^{2PE 3:8} But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

^{2PE 3:10} But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

^{2PE 3:11} Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

^{2PE 3:14} So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. ¹⁵ Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. ¹⁶ He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

^{2PE 3:17} Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure

position. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

1/20/13 Lesson

Proper and Understanding of the Whole Bible

- > Many people can “take the Bible apart” but fail at “putting it all together”!
- > Why is this? Because most lack the framework or, out another way, the frame of reference for whatever they’re reading at any particular time and putting things into their proper context and place.
- > Understanding God’s plan for the future give the studier the best vantage – or reference – point to work from. To be a student of prophetic Scripture is to be a student of the Scriptures in their *entirety!*
- > Read Acts 20:25~27 (*HINT: Compare translations – do your due diligence and be mindful of the translations you use. Some fail to convey (possibly even hide?) the real thrust if what was originally written and the writer under the Holy Spirit!*)

NIV: "Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. ²⁶ Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷ For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.

NKJV: “And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

THE MESSAGE: “And so this is good-bye. You’re not going to see me again, nor I you, you whom I have gone among for so long proclaiming the news of God’s inaugurated kingdom. I’ve done my best for you, given you my all, held back nothing of God’s will for you.

KJV: ²⁵ And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. ²⁶ Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

AMPLIFIED: ²⁵ And now, observe, I perceive that all of you, among whom I have gone in and out proclaiming the kingdom, will see my face no more. ²⁶ Therefore I testify *and* protest to you on this [our parting] day that I am clean *and* innocent *and* not responsible for the blood of any of you. ²⁷ For I never shrank *or* kept back *or* fell short from declaring to you the whole purpose *and* plan *and* counsel of God.

> See the differences? Which translation of the few examples above give the reader the best explanation of the thrust of what Paul was actually conveying? Be mindful and careful as you read. (Obtaining one or more parallel Bibles is a good suggestion).

> Now that we've sampled prophecy to see how it helps shape our understanding of how God thinks and His point-of-view (i.e. one of the ways prophecy reveals to us God's point of view about this thing called "time" is the we are told that one thousand years is as a day, and a day is as one thousand years.

> A practical example of this view of the passage of time is where we saw the passages in Hosea which map the "timing" of Israel's dissolution from her land and her final re-gathering at the end of the church age (2,000 years) and finally opening their eyes to see Jesus Christ as their Messiah and their heading-up the nations under the kingdom of the Jews by the King of the Jews in the Millennium (1,000) years.

> Now, let's look at another example of the use of prophecy by God to show us how His manifold plan will "roll-out" across time – and what this roll-out "looks like" and the conditions it points to from His perspective.

> A major and overarching theme in Scripture and, of course, prophetically, is the pre-written history of the world during the age between its creation its judgment and final redemption and renewal.

> This period between the time sin was introduced into the world and the final redemption and renewal to come is earmarked as the world being ruled under Satan.

> This rulership takes the form of and is manifested by global governance under the Mystery Babylon religious and economic system. This system tightly coupled global governance pair is meant to emulate the complete theocratic rulership under God as sovereign in His holiness, righteousness and gracious rulership.

> Let's briefly examine how the Bible shows the path of this predetermined history and how it executes in over time in the earth...

> We pick-up the beginning of the timeline of Mystery Babylon as it starts to form in earnest right after the flood of Noah. We pick-up the story with a character named Nimrod...

> Read Genesis 10:8~12...

^{GE 10:8} Cush was the father of Nimrod, who grew to be a mighty warrior on the earth. ⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD." ¹⁰ The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Erech, Akkad and Calneh, in Shinar. ¹¹ From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah ¹² and Resen, which is between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

> Read Genesis 11:1~9...

^{GE 11:1} Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ² As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

GE 11:3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

GE 11:5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. ⁶ The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

GE 11:8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why it was called Babel--because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

1/27/13 Lesson

> And so it all really takes-off with a man of Satan named Nimrod. History holds that Nimrod had a wife named Semiramis and a son named Tammuz. Without going into the detail at this time, Nimrod became the king of Babylon and also the “god” of the city by instituting a false religion that involved his wife and his son/himself.

> They built the tower of Babel to reach Heaven alright, but make no mistake: It was not to reach the one True God of creation! Babel roughly translates into “gateway to the gods”.

> This system spread throughout the world and even into the current time. Through Semiramis, the Queen of Babylon came the goddesses of mythology and also through her and her son/Nimrod came the various mother-son cults.

> Semiramis became the “Queen of Heaven” and then the current “co redemtrix” worshiped the Roman Catholic Church, the “Virgin Mary” who has her ever-a-child “Jesus” in her lap and is worshiped along with him.

> Biblical history shows that even Israel worshiped this woman...

> Read Jeremiah 7:12~19...

JER 7:12 "Go now to the place in Shiloh where I first made a dwelling for my Name, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of my people Israel. ¹³ While you were doing all these things, declares the LORD, I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer. ¹⁴ Therefore, what I did to Shiloh I will now do to the house that bears my Name, the temple you trust in, the place I gave to you and your fathers. ¹⁵ I will thrust you from my presence, just as I did all your brothers, the people of Ephraim.'

JER 7:16 "So do not pray for this people nor offer any plea or petition for them; do not plead with me, for I will not listen to you. ¹⁷ Do you not see what they are doing in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? ¹⁸ The children gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead the dough and make cakes of bread for the **Queen of Heaven**. They pour out drink offerings to other gods to provoke me to anger. ¹⁹ But am I the one they are provoking declares the LORD? Are they not rather harming themselves, to their own shame?

> ... And her son...

> Read Ezekiel 8:9~16...

EZE 8:9 And he said to me, "Go in and see the wicked and detestable things they are doing here." ¹⁰ So I went in and looked, and I saw portrayed all over the walls all kinds of crawling things and detestable animals and all the idols of the house of Israel. ¹¹ In front of them stood seventy elders of the house of Israel, and Jaazaniah son of Shaphan was standing among them. Each had a censer in his hand, and a fragrant cloud of incense was rising.

EZE 8:12 He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the darkness, each at the shrine of his own idol? They say, 'The LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the land.'" ¹³ Again, he said, "You will see them doing things that are even more detestable."

EZE 8:14 Then he brought me to the entrance to the north gate of the house of the LORD, and I saw women sitting there, mourning for **Tammuz**. ¹⁵ He said to me, "Do you see this, son of man? You will see things that are even more detestable than this."

EZE 8:16 He then brought me into the inner court of the house of the LORD, and there at the entrance to the temple, between the portico and the altar, were about twenty-five men. With their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, they were bowing down to the sun in the east.

> We've now seen the baseline established in the Bible of the foundation of the religion that is part of the worldwide Mystery Babylon system.

> Let's move on now and allow prophecy to show us how it was destined to burgeon into building the dominating system of worldwide control over the timeline allotted for it...

> The Scriptures moves on from here into the story of the call of Abram as he is specifically selected by God to leave the land of Mesopotamia and move to a new land that God was to show him.

> As a matter of course, God and Abram enter a covenant together. They both agreed to the terms and it is ratified through a series of transactions between God and Abram. Seven times He visits the patriarch, and seven times He certifies His Word.

> Just after the third contact between God and Abram, he and 318 of his choicest servants were forced to engage in war. (This took place after he and his nephew Lot separated, when Lot chose to move into the fair land near the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

> At that time, that region was said to compare in beauty to the Garden of Eden, but its citizenry were exceedingly wicked. (Not surprising since Nimrod had the major influence in building this area).

> We now move to Genesis chapter 14 where a series of battles in which four kings began to wage war in the Sodom/Gomorrah territory...

2/3/13 Lesson

> Read Genesis 14:1~3...

GE 14:1 At this time Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Kedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goiim² went to war against Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).³ All these latter kings joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (the Salt Sea).

> Their battles drew four northern Gentile kings southward into the region of Sodom, where Lot chose to dwell with his family. They took Lot captive, but one man escaped and ran to Abram, who took immediate action to rescue them using his hand-picked 318 men to form an army. In the end, Lot was not only rescued, but Abram received the spoils of the defeated.

> An interesting point about the “prophetic personality” of the king of Sodom should be noted...

> Read Genesis 14:21~22...

> This account is after Abram defeats the king of Sodom and saves Lot and his family together with other people and brings them out from under that city and its king’s grip.

GE 14:21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give **me** the **people** and keep the **goods** for **yourself**."

GE 14:22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, and have taken an oath²³ that **I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the thong of a sandal**, so that **you** will never be able to say, '**I made Abram rich**.'²⁴ I will accept nothing **but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me**--to Aner, Eshcol and Mamre. Let them have their share."

> How prophetic is this! It tells of the world’s systems and societies purpose – to enslave the people of the earth, and more specifically to enslave the people of God!

> It wants to enslave them under Satan the king, by supplying all our needs and making us dependant on him and his worldwide economic and religious system rather than God and His (yet future) universe-wide system.

> Abram is a type of us (and also Jesus as He was tempted by Satan) who reject his desire to rule and “own” us to his face.

> As Abram, we are sojourners on this earth and should take only what we need from it to survive and to do God’s will – as He provides it through the world’s system. What a meaningful prophecy of the “Sodom type” of this world’s system and how it operates!

> Now, let’s let prophecy show us about these four kings and the kingdoms they ruled, and how they extend into the future...

> Background research shows that these four kings are representative of four prophetically important nations, and as such, outline future history as determined by God.

> Let’s review the relationships...

- Amraphel of Shinar = Nimrod...

GE 10:8 Cush was the father of Nimrod, who grew to be a mighty warrior on the earth.⁹ He was a mighty hunter (*of the souls of men*) before (*in defiance of*) the LORD; that is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD."¹⁰ The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Erech, Akkad and Calneh, in Shinar.¹¹ From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah¹² and Resen, which is between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

- Arioch of Ellasar = The line of the rulers of Greece

> The Dead Sea Genesis Apocryphon locates his area of rulership in southwestern Asia Minor (the region that later became Cappadocia in central Turkey) and westward into what is today's Greece.

> Interesting to note is that some populations of Greeks still label themselves as the people of "Ellas".

> Excerpt from Wikipedia about this history:

The name of Greece differs in comparison with the names used for the country in other languages and cultures, just like the names of the Greeks. Although the Greeks call the country **Hellas** or Ellada (Greek: Ελλάς, Ελλάδα) and its official name is Hellenic Republic, in English the country is called Greece, which comes from Latin *Graecia* as used by the Romans and literally means 'the land of the Greeks'.

The first Greek-speaking people, called Myceneans or Mycenaean-Achaeans by historians, entered present-day Greece during the 19th century BC. Homer refers to *Achaeans* as the dominant tribe during the Trojan war period usually dated to the 12th-11th centuries BC,¹ using "*Hellenes*" to describe a relatively small tribe in Thessaly. The Dorians, an important Greek-speaking group, entered Greece during the 13th century BC. According to the Greek tradition, the "Graeci" ("Greeks", Γραικοί, *Graikoi*) were renamed "Hellenes" probably with the establishment of the Great Amphictyonic League after the Trojan war.

> Also, note that "Ellas" or "Hellas" is the root of the word "Hellenistic" and corresponds to the period between the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC and the annexation of the classical Greek heartlands by Rome in 146 BC.

> Arioch would represent the later Mediterranean seafaring people who came to control the region of the Aegean and Northwestern Mediterranean Seas. This ties in well with ancient history, which holds that the people we refer to as the ancient Greeks began arriving in their land during the centuries preceding 1900 BC – the time of Abraham.

- Kedorlaomer (aka Chedorlaomer) of Elam = The progenitor of the Medio-Persian empire.

> Elam encompassed the area between the Persian Gulf on the south and the Caspian Sea on the north. It is the land that later came to be ruled by the Medes and the Persians.

**** NOTE ****

Between 2/3/13 and 6/19/13 we embarked on a “side bar” session in our weekly class that covered the disposition of the king of Elam in this very time.

Because this particular “king” works out to be within the very prophetically active country of Iran, we are using it as a case study in the “rest of the story” of these kings as we come to the very edge of the close of this age.

Class notes are not available for this special session. However, the weekly audio is posted for use. (The audio files associated with the special session are posted in *purple* on the website for easy identification).

6/26/13 Lesson

- Tidal of “Goiim” or in the Hebrew “Goyim” = King of the nations.

> Since the word “goyim” is a reference to the Gentile nations (i.e. a general reference to all nations outside of the Hebrew nation), it is strongly indicated that Tidal’s power extended across at least several of the Gentile nations of the world in his time.

> History seems to connect him to Tudhalia I, ruler of the Hittite empire.

- > The Hittites were a people who once lived in what is modern Turkey and northern Syria. Secular history shows that the first indication of their existence occurred in about 1900 BC – again, the time of Abraham.

- > Tidal’s region of rulership would then include most of modern-day Turkey, from the area of Bosphorus on the west, to the eastern end of the Black Sea.

- > History shows that in the period of the Hittites, their kings originated the practice of mounting large mercenary armies for battle.

- > They would well pay (or “hire”) the best warriors of the surrounding tribes. Then they were all regimented through a systematic training program to be a coordinated fighting nation that was feared for centuries across the ancient world (and as mentioned in the Bible).

- > Finally, Tidal’s “king of nations” title suggests a large sphere of influence. As a matter of fact, many Jews believe that Tidal is the progenitor of the large, western Gentile powers that followed in history. They strongly state that “Tidal is Rome”.

- > Interesting note: The *Artscoll* commentary on the book of Genesis (by Rabbi Meir Zlotowitz) says “According to the Midrash, the Goyim refers to Rome which levies troops from all nations. Rav Eleazar bar Abina said: When you see the powers fighting each other, look for the advent (or “feet”) of the King Messiah.”

> Sort of sounds like ...

> Read Daniel 2:40~45...

DA 2: 40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron--for iron breaks and smashes everything--and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. ⁴¹ Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. ⁴² As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³ And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

DA 2:44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵ This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands--a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

"The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."

> Stop! Here is another example of a very telling mistranslation of Scripture!

Let's read the Daniel 2:41~43 again, this time from the KJV:

Dan 2:41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

Dan 2:42 And *as* the toes of the feet *were* part of iron, and part of clay, *so* the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

Dan 2:43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, **they** (*who are the "they" being referred to? Maybe other races of humans?*) shall mingle themselves with the seed of **men** (*It does not seem that way since the "they" will be mixing themselves with the DNA of humans, as it says here*): but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

> Let's read it again from the Amplified version:

Dan. 2:41 And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of [baked] clay [of the potter] and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom; but there shall be in it some of the firmness *and* strength of iron, just as you saw the iron mixed with miry [earthen] clay.

⁴² And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of [baked] clay [**of the potter**], so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle *and* broken.

⁴³ And as you saw the iron mixed with miry *and* earthen clay, so **they shall mingle themselves in** the seed of men [in marriage bonds (Ref. Luke 17:26 "*Just as in the days of Noah...*"); but they will not hold together [for two such elements or ideologies can never harmonize], even as iron does not mingle itself with clay.

> Just who then are these "they"? Obviously, it is not being said that humans are trying to mix themselves with other humans, because, first of all, this would not be considered the mixing of dissimilar – actually polar opposite – forms of life – because there would be no failure of them to cleve – and also would not be noteworthy since humans have been mating with humans since the beginning and God said that this was to be done.

> We will cover this more when we get into the next section of the fundamentals of prophecy, how God and Satan are enmeshed in a "chess game" the playing board of which is this thing called time.

> Even though Tidal's empire precedes imperial Rome by two thousand years, it is the metaphoric progenitor of the final empire that Biblical prophecy says will one day encompass the entire earth.

> It is truly remarkable that these four kings give us an advance view of Babylon, Greece, Medio-Persia and Rome. Their historical is order only slightly altered as we see them in the rulership positions that Daniel later reveals as representative of the future history of Gentile world rule until Christ returns to take the Scepter of rulership and destroy all of them.

> We see that when Abraham engages these four kings, he's really acting out a theme, which will later be expanded into the four Gentile world-ruling empires spoken of in the books of Daniel and Revelation.

> Let's now move forward from Abraham's time and follow this time "thread".

> Read Daniel 2:31~35...

Dan 2:31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness *was* excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof *was* terrible.

Dan 2:32 This image's head *was* of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, Dan 2:33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Dan 2:34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

Dan 2:35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

> As we know, the image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream outlines the four major Gentile empires to rule the world under Satan until Jesus returns (the "stone that smote the image") and obliterates and consumes them as He establishes His kingdom.

<i>Nimrod of Shinar</i>	GOLD	Babylonian Empire 606 B.C.
<i>Kedorloamer of Elam</i>	SILVER	Media-Persia 536 B.C.
<i>Arioch of Ellasar</i>	BRONZE	Greek Empire 330 B.C.
<i>Tidal King of Nation ("Goyim")</i>	IRON	Roman Empire 27 B.C.
	IRON / CLAY	Endtimes

> Daniel’s prophecy was given at the end of the 7th century BC, about 1,300 years after Abram’s battle with the four kings.

> Yet, God had given him to document the unbroken thread of progression of what He had already decreed would roll-out in the timeline.

>The review of this reverberation in the timeline. That is, early history plays out as an initial form, which is later carried out to a matured, fully developed historical conclusion.

> One final note about planned and purposeful reverberations in the timeline...

> Classical Jewish teaching states that Abram was born in 1948 “AC – After Creation”, believing that creation took place in the year 4004 BC.).

> Although there is much more to this, they have noted that the year 1948 AD is also the year of the rebirth of Israel in the modern time. Could it be that they are viewing something prophetic in nature?

> Just as Abram was called and came on the scene to defeat the four Gentile rulers of his time, could it be that Israel the physical children of Abraham, “born” in 1948 AD has the same destiny, to defeat the fine Gentile end-time empires under God’s sword?

> The amazing timeline symmetry of this dating system reminds Israel – and us as Christians if we learn and seek to understand – that God is in control of the destiny of all men – especially His very precious elect, both Israel and the end-time church.

> A final point about Abram’s history as a fore-type of past and future history...

> He defeated the northern alliance and returned to Salem in about 2023 BC, when he was seventy-five years old. *If* the date of 1948 is in fact prophetically meaningful in that it is the year of both Abram’s and Israel’s birth, could it also be that the years 2023 has some end-times prophetic implications as well? Not saying that this is surely the case, but it is something to ponder as we seek to better understand God and His plans for us as we move through His pre-ordained timeline.

7/10/13 Lesson

> For the sake of time, we are bypassing the full story of Abram's encounter with Melchizedek king of Salem.

> However, since this is also a very important and key prophetic encounter that most certainly reverberates through the timeline – right down to Jesus Christ, Himself, we will take a quick look at it...

> Abram – the wealthy and powerful savior of a lower-life relative from out of a heathen city (which the relative loved, and, by the way, was involved deeply in – Lot was a Councilman as well)...

...saves the relative out of this pit.

> Abram and his “army” defeat the four kings who just defeated the other five kings – the gates of these four kings could not prevail over the power of Abram's people. *Use your spiritual imagination here!*

> Read Genesis 14:18~20...

> Upon returning from the battle with the kings, Abram meets a very significant person at a very significant place...

GE 14:18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

GE 14:20 And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand."

Then Abram *gave him a tenth of everything.*

> He meets Melchizedek, king of Salem at a place called Valley of Shaveh (also called the King's Valley) – at the base of Mount Moriah.

> Melchizedek is said also to be the priest of the Most High God (v.18).

> Melchizedek administers bread and wine to Abram (aka “communion”) and Abram give him a tithe of all his possession – very interesting transaction between these two men.

> Melchizedek is *both* a king and a priest – these two “lines” were later separated within the Israelite societal structure.

> Judah was the royal tribe from which the kings came, and the tribe of Levi was the line of the priests – the two never mixed roles.

> After He comes in the flesh in the line of Judah as the final king in the line of David, Jesus is *also* equated in likeness to this ancient and prophetic Melchizedek, in that He took on the mantle of the high priest *as well* – forever...

> Read Hebrews 5:1~10...

^{HEB 5:1} Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. ³ This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.

^{HEB 5:4} No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵ So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,

"You are my Son;
today I have become your Father. (*Psalm 2*)"

> For reference, let's read Psalm 2...

PS 2:2 The kings of the earth take their stand
and the rulers gather together
against the LORD
and against his Anointed One.

PS 2:3 "Let us break their chains," they say,
"and throw off their fetters."

PS 2:4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs;
the Lord scoffs at them.

PS 2:5 Then he rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,

PS 2:6 "I have installed my King
on Zion, my holy hill."

PS 2:7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:
**He said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have become your Father.**

PS 2:8 Ask of me,
and I will make the nations your inheritance,
the ends of the earth your possession.

PS 2:9 You will rule them with an iron scepter;
you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

PS 2:10 Therefore, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.

PS 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear
and rejoice with trembling.

PS 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry
and you be destroyed in your way,
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

> Continuing in Hebrews 5:6...

HEB 5:6 And he says in another place (*Psalm 110*),

"You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek."

> For reference, let's read Psalm 110 again...

PS 110:1 The LORD **The LORD** (*Jehovah/Yahweh* – "I AM" or "I AM THAT I AM") says to **my Lord**:

"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet."

PS 110:2 The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion;
you will rule in the midst of your enemies.

PS 110:3 Your troops will be willing
on your day of battle.
Arrayed in holy majesty,
from the womb of the dawn
you will receive the dew of your youth.

PS 110:4 The LORD has sworn
and will not change his mind:
**"You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek."**

PS 110:5 The Lord is at your right hand;
he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

PS 110:6 He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead
and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.

PS 110:7 He will drink from a brook beside the way;
therefore he will lift up his head.

> Continuing in Hebrews 5:7...

^{HEB 5:7} During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him ¹⁰ and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

7/17/13 Lesson

> As we complete our “prophecy primer”, let’s roll forward to where we seem to be right now, the final culmination of all prophecy. It strongly seems we are at the doors of the time of the end.

> As such, we should examine the main features of “the end”. We’ll look at the most prominent opinions of the:

- Timing and fulfillment of end-time events
- The nature and timing of the Millennium
- The timing of the rapture of the church

> Here are the various modern-day views of these:

- Timing of end-time events and their fulfillment
 1. Preterist
 2. Historicist
 3. Idealist
 4. Futurist
- The nature and timing of the Millennium
 1. Amillennial
 2. Premillennial
 3. Postmillennial

- The rapture of the church
 1. Pre-Tribulation
 2. Mid-Tribulation
 3. Post-Tribulation

> We will look at these in detail and then judge their merits as compared to what Scripture says.

> Why is the correct view on these fundamental points important? Because the position we come to take concerning these matters will dictate the conclusions we come to about - not only “the end times” - but, more importantly, *who* God is, *what* His character is like, *AND* at least as important as these, His point-of-view of the basic purpose of the creation and its current six-thousand-year part in the grand eternal scheme of His plans.

> Aspect number one on the timing of end-time events and their fulfillment: *the Preterist view* (past fulfillment).

> The preterist believes that most, if not all of the key New Testament prophetic passages were fulfilled in the first century.

> They think that the events leading up to and during the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD constitute fulfilled prophecies of:

- Matthew 24
- 1 Thess. 4~5
- 2 Thess. 2
- Revelation

- > There are two main types of preterist: *full* and *partial*.
- > **Full**: Maintains that all prophecies including the Second coming and resurrection of believers are past events. They view the resurrection as spiritual in nature.
- > According to this view, we are beyond the Millennium and are already dwelling in the new heavens and earth as these are described in Revelation chapter 21.
- > These contend that if there is a definite end to history, it is not recorded for us in the Bible.
- > Full preterists reject clear Biblical truths such as the physical Second Coming of Christ, the actual bodily resurrection, and the final judgment which marks the end of history (aka “the age”).
- Partial**: Believes that while the supposed “coming” of Christ in AD 70 was only “*a*” coming, it was not “*the*” coming of Christ.
- > For them, this “coming” in AD 70 was a judgment for the Jews but not the final judgment at the end of history.
- > Partial Preterists at least believe in a literal, yet future Second coming and the resurrection of the dead, and a final future judgment.
- > Finally, when it comes to the book of Revelation, the preterist *must* date this book as being written before 70 AD (circa 65 AD by their standard) to be able to fall within their requirement of being “prophetically viable” within their 70 AD fulfillment belief.
- > Unfortunately, they must grapple with what is stated in the view of the early church and throughout church history, that John wrote Revelation in 95 AD.

- > Aspect number two on the timing of end-time events and their fulfillment: *the Historist view* (present fulfillment).
- > Basically, the Historist views the book of Revelation's and many other prophecies as a panorama or overview of church history from the time of the apostles until the Second Coming of Jesus.
- > The strength of this position lies in its desire to make the book of revelation relevant to readers in every generation.
- > The central issue facing Historists is that they find themselves in vehement disagreement on what prophetic symbols to refer to, which leads to lack of general consensus about *just what* the book of Revelation even means in the grand scheme of the age.
- > There is also the propensity to degenerate into excessive speculation, conjecture and the direct mapping of currents and news headlines into the actual script of Revelation.
- > Aspect number three on the timing of end-time events and their fulfillment: *the Idealist view* (no time-marked fulfillment).
- > These adherents believe that the book of Revelation is not directly prophetic in nature, but more of a depiction of the ongoing struggle between good and evil that teaches ideal and timeless principles to inspire believers as they endure the setbacks and sufferings of this current life. This point of view is, unfortunately, the one held most closely among many Biblical scholars today
- > The strength of this view is in its desire to connect prophecy to the reader across all periods in history. But, it denies that the symbols in the book of Revelation have any solid and verifiable concrete meanings. This is a grave error, as Revelation is filled with symbols that refer to literal things.

> The Historist view denies that any interpretive glue to hold it together. It is very reader centered and does not allow the adherent to be bound to the original and actual meaning of the text.

> Aspect number three on the timing of end-time events and their fulfillment: *the Futurist view* (future fulfillment).

> Simply, the futurist interprets many New Testament prophetic texts as describing real people and events as yet future, to appear on the world scene at a much later date than when the original text was written.

> These passages include (but are not limited to):

- Matthew 24 (from verse fifteen and beyond)
- 1 Thess. 4:18~5:9
- 2 Thess. 2:1~2
- Revelation 4~22

> The holders of other positions have a major problem with this point of view in that the futurist view removes Revelation from its original setting in time so that the book had little meaning for to the original audience.

> This view was the most favored among the early church, including the first fathers of the developing church such as Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Hippolytus and Victorinus.

> So, which view do you espouse?

> If we apply the futurist view to even Old Testament prophecies it holds water.

The prophecy of Isaiah about the coming Messiah, such as his virgin birth (Isa. 7:14) were written seven-hundred years before it took place in exactly that way.

> The prophecy of Micah about the birthplace of the coming Messiah in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) also written about seven-hundred years before it came to pass in exactly the stated way.

> How about Daniel's prophecies? Written over twenty-five hundred years before Messiah's coming, he wrote of events and the timing of them toward this crux of history and what would follow in time-ordered fashion after Messiah came and "was cut off, but not for himself" (Daniel 9:26).

> He was also blatantly told "Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end" (Daniel 12:9).

> We also know that Daniel's thrust was the prophetic mapping of the rise and fall of the four major Gentile world powers leading to the time of the end and the Millennium.

> Could it be any clearer? This book and its writings were NOT intended for the readers of its time!

> All of these prophecies are relevant because the readers didn't know when they would be fulfilled. That's the point.

> Each generation of believers lives with and were soured on by the hope that these prophecies would come to fruition in their time. Indeed, we live in this hope today, correct?

> We can look back and see which have already been fulfilled (those who lived before these times also hope for their fulfillment in their own time, just as we do at this time as we look toward yet unfulfilled prophecies in the Scriptures) and those we wait and hope to come very soon simply because we have not experienced them yet. How's THAT for relevance?!

>The spirit of expectation and the doctrine of immanency – supported by faith and hope because of trust that the word of God is truth and sure – makes all prophecy relevant for every generation.

>Now that we've examined the major views concerning timing of key end-time events, let's take a look at three of the most popular views of the millennium – the one-thousand-year reign of the returned Jesus Christ at His second coming:

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, the old serpent, which is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

Rev 20:3 and cast him into the abyss, and shut *it*, and sealed *it* over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years should be finished: after this he must be loosed for a little time.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the word of God, and such as worshipped not the beast, neither his image, and received not the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they lived, and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Rev 20:5 The rest of the dead lived not until the thousand years should be finished. This is the first resurrection.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: over these the second death hath no power; but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

- > The key questions concerning the Millennium include:
 - Are the thousand years literal or figurative?
 - Is this period past present or yet future?

- > Here are the three main positions that various people hold when examining the Millennium.

- > **Amillennial** - There is no future, literal earthly one-thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ. The prophesied Kingdom is spiritual in nature and is presently fulfilled as Christ reigns in heaven and in the hearts of His people. The one-thousand-year period simply is symbolic of “a long period of time” within this current age.

- > The amillennial position is prevailing view of the Catholic church, the Greek church and a even to an extent in a large portion of Protestantism. It can largely be traced back to Augustine, who wrote extensively on the Millennium (and the book of revelation) and fused it all into the whole church age.

- > This was also the view of John Calvin and Martin Luther.

- > **Premillennial** – This view teaches that Jesus will return to earth at His second coming and will usher in a literal one-thousand-year sovereign reign. In this view, the Millennium has yet to come. It is my strong opinion that this point-of-view is the only one that fits any realistic general timeline of the flow of God’s plan and prophecy from end-to-end.

> Premillennialism was the most widely and strongly held view of the early church, especially by the early church fathers, some of which immediately followed the original apostles and may have even been taught directly by them, including Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp of Smyrna and Justin Martyr.

> After the third century, with the rise of Augustine's "spiritualized" kingdom, premillennialism faded and amillennialism prevailed.

> **Postmillennial** - Jesus will return to earth *after* the Millennium. It holds that the millennial Kingdom is not a literal thousand years but a golden age the church will usher in by the preaching of the Gospel during the present age. This golden age will arrive gradually as the gospel spreads throughout the earth, until the whole world is Christianized. The Millennium will spread across the globe as Christians exercise increasing influence over the affairs of this planet. Ultimately, the Gospel will prevail, and the earth will become a better world, after which time Christ will appear to usher in eternity.

> Postmillennialism is the latest of these points-of-view to come on the scene. Daniel Whiby (1638~1726), a Unitarian minister in England, is usually credited with the development of this view.

> With all of the advancements of technology and science and the burgeoning industrial revolution, the idea that man by himself could usher in the Kingdom of God seemed to make perfect sense.

> ...And so it is even more so today! Many churches are working to bring the world to a crescendo of Christianity – sort of like Islam wants to accomplish with a worldwide caliphate – nicer, BUT NONE-THE-LESS INVALID

> The more we examine these main points of view on the Millennium, the more it seems that the postmillennial view is the one most widely held today...

> One does not have to look too hard to see “purpose-driven” churches (Rick Warren’s paradigm) and Dominionism which are spreading like wildfire through the church, and with those in the USA in particular.

> Some examples of the postmillennial mindset permeating the church now:

(Quotes taken from the Lighthouse Trails Research Project which is an excellent source of current information. www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com):

"Who's the man of peace in any village - or it might be a woman of peace - who has the most respect, they're open and they're influential? They don't have to be a Christian. In fact, they could be a Muslim, but they're open and they're influential and you work with them to attack the five giants. And that's going to bring the second Reformation."—Rick Warren, May 2005, [Pew Forum on Religion](#)

"I am praying for a **second reformation** of the church that will focus more on deeds than words. The first Reformation was about beliefs. This one needs to be about behavior. ... We've had a Reformation; what we need now is a transformation."—[Rick Warren, July 2005 at the Baptist World Alliance](#) with Tony Campolo and Jimmy Carter

"Warren said the deeds of a new reformation will require mobilizing Christians, multiplying churches, evangelizing the world and eradicating global problems." —[A World of Baptists By Greg Warner Associated Baptist Press](#)

> On Dominionism:

Dominionism teaches that the Gospel of Salvation is achieved by setting up the "Kingdom of God" as a literal and physical kingdom to be "advanced" on Earth in the present age. Some dominionists liken the New Testament Kingdom to the Old Testament Israel in ways that justify taking up the sword, or other methods of punitive judgment, to war against enemies of their kingdom.

Dominionists teach that men can be coerced or compelled to enter the kingdom. They assign to the Church duties and rights that belong scriptural only to Jesus Christ. This

includes the esoteric belief that believers can "incarnate" Christ and function as His body on Earth to establish His kingdom rule. An inordinate emphasis is placed on man's efforts; the doctrine of the sovereignty of God is diminished." ["Dominionism and the Rise of Christian Imperialism"](#)

> For much more on the facts and figures of these points-of-view, and as an excellent source of study to help you determine which of these is correct and within the intention of God's plans, I recommend obtaining a copy of the book:

The End: A Complete Overview of Bible Prophecy and the End of Days by Mark Hitchcock (ISBN: 978-1-4143-5373-9)

> With this we've completed out fundamentals of Bible Prophecy study.

> I hope you will then make the study of the overall plan of God a part of your personal life's work through the continued and prayerful and deep study of Scripture.

> I urge us all to study, learn, share and admonish in all these things until that time when it all comes to pass - *at just the right time by the will and hand of God, through Jesus Christ.*

> Prophecy. It really does set apart and prove God and His Word is truth and high above everything else.

> The command of the future is *only* found in the One True, Triune God and His Word.

> Here are some interesting thoughts by some prominent people who would like to rival God in the mastery of time:

(From Famous Forecasting Quotes page on the University of Exeter website)

"Those who have knowledge, don't predict. Those who predict, don't have knowledge. "

--Lao Tzu, 6th Century BC Chinese Poet

"I have seen the future and it is very much like the present, only longer."

--Kehlog Albran, *The Profit*

"The best qualification of a prophet is to have a good memory. "

--Marquis of Halifax,

"If you can look into the seeds of time, and say which grain will grow and which will not, speak then unto me. "

--William Shakespeare

"I always avoid prophesying beforehand because it is much better to prophesy after the event has already taken place. "

--Winston Churchill

"Prophesy is a good line of business, but it is full of risks. "

--Mark Twain in *Following the Equator*

"It is said that the present is pregnant with the future. "

--Voltaire in *The Portable Voltaire*.

> Here's the best quote I found...

"Everything I prophesied has come true, and now I will prophecy again. I tell you the future before it happens. "

--God as quoted from *The Bible (Isaiah 42:9)*

THE END