

Focus on Prophecy GUIDE 21



Bible Prophecy

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- **They are filled with fantastic symbols.**
- **Actually, the bewildering symbols and epic overtones that make Daniel and Revelation so different were a fairly common literary style in the days that Daniel and John wrote.**
- **This kind of writing is called apocalyptic. Let's look at some of the characteristics of apocalyptic writing.**

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- **This kind of writing always focuses on the future. Daniel and Revelation deal with the ongoing struggle between good and evil, God and Satan, as it has played out from eternity past to eternity future.**
- **This kind of writing is based on dreams and visions. Daniel and John receive visions and talk with angels.**

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- **This kind of writing uses symbols to convey its message. These two Bible books are filled with symbols—and they are almost always things that don't exist in real life, such as animals with many heads, dragons, stars falling to earth, etc.**
- **This kind of writing views the earth and the universe in a certain way.**
- **It sees the universe in terms of two opposing powers—God and Satan, good and evil. The present age is largely controlled by Satan and evil. The future age will be controlled by God and righteousness.**

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- **With these four characteristics in mind, we can study Daniel and Revelation without feeling quite so lost.**
- **Even so, we shouldn't be discouraged if we don't understand every detail. It isn't necessary to do so in order to understand what these books are trying to tell us.**
- **God has given us these prophecies so that we can understand where we are in the stream of history and to assure us that He will soon put an end to sin and suffering.**

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Visions in Babylon

- DANIEL 1-4 WHEN KING **Nebuchadnezzar couldn't remember what he had dreamed, God gave Daniel both the dream and its interpretation.**
- The king had dreamed of a giant statue made of different materials.
- The head was of gold; the chest of silver; the thighs of bronze; legs of iron; and feet of iron mixed with clay.



Visions in Babylon

- **Daniel told the king that each part of the statue represented a kingdom that would rule the world in turn.**
- **In the king's dream, a stone smashed the statue on its feet, breaking and grinding it to powder which blew away in the wind.**
- **This, Daniel told the king, represented God's kingdom which would be set up at the end of time and would rule all the world in righteousness forever.**



- DANIEL 5
- *Mene*, "being numbered or counted"
- God hath numbered your kingdom, and finished it (vs. 26).
- *Tekel*, "being weighed"
- You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting (vs. 27).
- *Peres* (plural *upharsin*), "portion or pieces"
- Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians (vs. 28).
- DANIEL 7
- Daniel saw four extraordinary creatures, rising from the sea in succession: a winged lion, a bear with three ribs in its mouth, a four-headed winged leopard, and a powerful fourth beast. They represented four successive, dominant powers.

--comparison chart-- Daniel was shown the succession of world empires and their relationship to God's people several times in different symbols. In chapters 2, 7, 8, and 11 God took Daniel over the same ground—each time adding new details to round out the picture. In studying the amazing fulfilment of these prophecies, we not only realize God's divine power to control human events, but we also are assured that His kingdom will ultimately triumph over all the forces of evil and sin—and that we can personally overcome and be a part of his glorious, everlasting kingdom.



God's Sanctuary in the Old Testament

- **God gave detailed instructions for building His sanctuary in the Old Testament.**
- **It was to be an illustration, an object lesson, of how He would save men and women from their sins.**
- **Each part of the sanctuary, and each part of the service, had significance for His plan of salvation.**
- **The illustrations given here provide an overview of the sanctuary and identify the major parts and their meaning.**

- **COURTYARD**
- *Altar of Burnt Offering*
- **This altar stood in the courtyard; on it the priests offered a lamb every morning and every evening.**
- **This pointed to Christ, the Lamb of God, who sacrificed His own life on the cross so that repentant sinners might live and find peace with God (John 1:29; Isaiah 53:7; Hebrews 13:12).**
- *Laver*
- **This washbasin stood in the court as well. Here the priests washed themselves before entering the sanctuary.**
- **They had to be clean, just as Jesus was pure. Only a pure, sinless Mediator can represent fallen human beings before God (Hebrews 7:26; Matthew 27:4; 1 Peter 2:21, 22).**



- *Holy Place*
- The sanctuary itself was divided into two rooms—the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. They were divided by a curtain. Priests went into the Holy Place every day with sacrifices. But only the High Priest went into the Most Holy Place, and only once a year on the Day of Atonement.
- *Lampstand*
- This lampstand had seven lamps. These were never all extinguished at the same time. The lampstand represents Jesus who is the light of the world (John 8:12). God's people are to be sources of light to the world as well (Matthew 5:14–16).



- *Table of Showbread*
- The priest placed fresh bread on this small table every week. It was called the “showbread,” or “bread of the presence” because it remained before the presence of the Lord. It represented Jesus who is the bread of life (John 6:35–63).
- *Altar of Incense*
- This small altar sat before the curtain separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. The priests burned incense on this altar every morning and evening.
- The incense represents the work of Jesus as He presents the prayers of His people, mixed with His righteousness (Revelation 8:2–4).

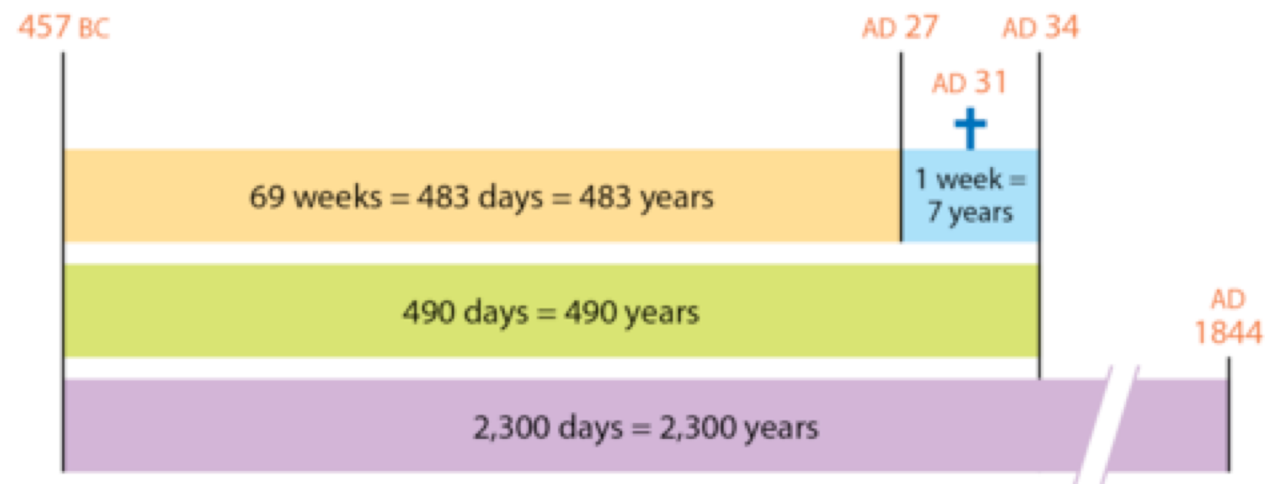


- *Most Holy Place*
- **This second room of the sanctuary was entered once each year on the Day of Atonement. On that day the High Priest brought sacrificial blood into the Most Holy Place to cleanse the sanctuary. This represented a work of judgment that occurs before Jesus comes.**
- *Ark of the Covenant*
- **This wooden box, covered with gold, housed the Ten Commandments written by God's own finger. The lid to the ark was called the "Mercy Seat" and was made of pure gold. On each end of the lid was a golden angel. This represented God's justice combined with His mercy (Exodus 25:10–22).**



The 2300-Day Prophecy

- In prophetic time a day symbolizes a year (Ezekiel 4:6).
- “Seventy weeks (490 years) are determined upon thy people.”
- “Unto two thousand and tree hundred days (years) shall the sanctuary be cleansed” (Daniel 8:14).



- **457 B.C. Persian King Artaxerxes commands rebuilding of Jerusalem (Daniel 9:25; Ezra 7:11–16).**
- **A.D. 27 Baptism of Jesus; Jesus begins to preach and teach.**
- **A.D. 31 Messiah “cut off in the midst of the week” after 3 1/2 years of ministry (Daniel 9:26, 27; Matthew 27:60, 61; Mark 15:33–39).**
- **A.D. 34 Stoning of Stephen; Gospel introduced to the Gentiles (Daniel 9:24; Acts 7:54–60, 9:15).**
- **A.D. 1844 End of the 2,300-year prophecy; Investigative judgment begins.**

Books Used in the Judgement

- **“The judgment was set, and the books were opened” (Daniel 7:10).**
- **THE BOOK OF LIFE**
- **Contains the names of all those who have ever given their lives to God and entered His service (Revelation 20:12; Luke 10:20; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 21:27; Revelation 3:5).**
- **THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**
- **Contains a record of the good deeds done by those who worship God (Malachi 3:16; Nehemiah 13:14; Psalm 56:8).**
- **THE RECORD OF SINS**
- **Contains the record of the sins of all persons. (1 Corinthians 4:5; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 12:36, 37; Isaiah 43:25, 65:6, 7).**

The Lamb in the Book of Revelation

- **Jesus is often pictured as a lamb throughout the book of Revelation. Because a lamb was sacrificed as a sin offering in the Old Testament sanctuary service, Jesus, who is the divine sacrifice for the sins of the world, is called the “Lamb of God” (John 1:36; 1 Peter 1:18, 19). The following are the main texts in Revelation that picture Jesus as the Lamb who was sacrificed for our sins.**
- **In the midst of the throne . . . stood a Lamb as though it had been slain. . . . Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne . . . saying with a loud voice: ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!’ (Rev. 5:6, 11, 12).**

The Lamb in the Book of Revelation

- **After these things I looked, and beheld a great multitude . . . standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes . . . and . . . saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’ . . . ‘These are the ones who . . . washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb’ (Rev. 7:9, 10, 14).**
- **They [God’s people] overcame him [the Devil] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony (Rev. 12:11).**
- **These [ten kings] will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings (Rev. 17:14).**

The Lamb in the Book of Revelation

- **Let us be glad and rejoice . . . for the marriage of the Lamb has come . . . ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ (Rev. 19:7, 9).**
- **The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for . . . the Lamb is its light (Rev. 21:23).**
- **There shall by no means enter it [the city] anything that defiles . . . but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life (Rev. 21:27).**

The Seven Churches of Revelation

- **John saw Jesus walking among seven lampstands which he was told represented seven churches.**
- **Then Jesus dictated a letter to each of these churches, pointing out weaknesses and praising strengths—giving counsel and encouragement and promises.**
- **This tells us that Jesus is intimately acquainted with His people.**
- **He knows all about you—your strengths and weaknesses, your temptations and your victories.**
- **And He loves you.**

The Seven Churches of Revelation

- **These seven churches represent seven periods of church history.**
- **The praise and warnings Jesus gives to each church are related to what was going on in the Christian church during the particular time that each church represents.**
- **The accompanying chart shows the period represented by each church and gives a summary of Jesus' message to that church.**
- **Notice that we live today during the time of Laodicea, the last of the seven churches.**
- **--chart of churches, dates, name meanings, complaints, compliments and promised rewards--**

The 1260-Day Prophecy

- **The 1,260-day time prophecy is referred to seven times in the Bible:**
- **As 1,260 days in Revelation 11:3 and 12:6**
- **As 42 months in Revelation 11:2 and 13:5**
- **As 3 1/2 times (years) in Daniel 7:25; 12:7; and Revelation 12:14**
- **The book of Revelation uses the image of a composite beast emerging from the sea to symbolize a great religious power that causes the woman of Revelation 12 to flee to the wilderness for 1,260 days/years (A.D. 538-1798).**
- **After that, the beast receives a deadly wound that is eventually healed.**

The 1260-Day Prophecy

- **Explanation of Symbols**
- ***Woman*: The people (church) of God**
- ***Clothed with Sun*: The glory of God as revealed in the gospel**
- ***Moon*: System of types and shadows (ceremonial laws) of Old Testament times**
- ***Crown of 12 Stars*: Victor's crown—12 stars represent the 12 apostles**
- ***7-Headed Dragon*: Primarily Satan (secondarily pagan Rome)**
- ***Ten Horns*: Minor political powers through which Satan operates**

The 1260-Day Prophecy

- ***Seven Crowns:*** Indicates that seven heads are political entities
- ***Third Part of Stars:*** Third of angels who joined Lucifer in his rebellion
- ***Man Child:*** The Messiah
- ***Wilderness:*** "An Uninhabited Place" of refuge for the church
- ***Water as a Flood:*** A symbol of intent to destroy
- ***Remnant of Her Seed:*** God's people in the last days who keep His commandments and have the testimony of Jesus

Three Angels and Their Messages

- **THE FIRST ANGEL**

- **Appears in the heavens and has “the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth” (Rev. 14:6).**
- **Announces that “the hour of His [God’s] judgment has come (vs. 7), and calls on men and women everywhere to “worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water” (vs. 7).**

Three Angels and Their Messages

• THE SECOND ANGEL

- **Follows the first and cries out, “Babylon has fallen” (vs. 8).**
- **Babylon represents religious confusion and the powers opposed to God.**
- **Babylon falls as a result of her false doctrines and teachings.**

Three Angels and Their Messages

• THE THIRD ANGEL

- **The last of the heavenly trio, warns against worshiping the “beast” or its “image” or receiving their “mark” (vs. 9).**
- **The “beast and its “image” represent the religious-political powers warring against God in these last days.**
- **The penalties for receiving the mark of the beast are among the most severe of any given in the Bible.**

The Millennium

- ***Beginning of the Millennium***
- **Jesus returns to earth (Matt. 24:30).**
- **Righteous are raised to life (Rev. 20:6; 1 Thess. 4:17).**
- **Wicked are destroyed (Jer. 25:33; Matt. 13:39–42).**
- **Righteous are taken to heaven (Matt. 24:31; 1 Thess. 4:17).**
- **A great earthquake occurs on earth (Jer. 4:23–27).**
- **Satan confined to this desolate world (Rev. 20:1–4).**

The Millennium

- ***During the Millennium***
- **Righteous are in heaven with Jesus (Rev. 20:4, 6; 15:2, 3).**
- **Wicked are dead on the earth (Rev. 20:5).**
- **Satan continues bound to this earth (Rev. 20:1–4).**

The Millennium

- ***At the End of the Millennium***
- **New Jerusalem descends to earth from heaven (Rev. 21:2, 10; 20:9).**
- **Wicked dead are raised to life (John 5:28, 29; Rev. 20:5).**
- **Satan is loosed to continue his work (Rev. 20:7, 8).**
- **Satan and the wicked surround the New Jerusalem (Rev. 20:7–9).**
- **Fire consumes Satan and the wicked (Rev. 20:9, 10).**
- **The earth is cleansed of sin (2 Peter 3:10–13).**
- **Earth is re-created (Rev. 21, 22).**
- **Death is destroyed and eternity begins (Rev. 20:14; 22:5).**

Conclusion

- **The great sacrifice of Jesus--on the cross of Calvary--to restore mankind, is woven symbolically throughout Daniel and Revelation.**
- **These prophetic books point to His return and the great climax of human history--the second coming of Christ.**
- **I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also (John 14:3).**

Conclusion

- **You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven (Matthew 26:64).**
- **This same Jesus . . . will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven (Acts 1:11)**
- **The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise (1 Thessalonians 4:16).**

Conclusion

- **We should live . . . looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ (Titus 2:12, 13).**
- **Behold, I coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work (Revelation 22:12).**
- **THOUGHT QUESTION: The books of Daniel and Revelation point to the second coming of Jesus, the climax of human history. (False or True)**

Decision & Prayer

- MY DECISION

- **Take a moment to reflect on the following statements, placing a check mark next to each statement you relate to.**
- **Do you want to be ready for Jesus' soon return?**