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Production Notes

This is the most complete work on Bible prophecy Ellis Skolfield has done to date, however it is still just an outline so some doctrinal concepts may need to be amplified by the teacher. Primarily designed for video projection to Bible study groups or Church congregations, this Daniel & Revelation Study Guide explains a view of Bible prophecy unavailable to the Church prior to the new nation of Israel being established in 1948 and Jerusalem being freed of Gentile control in 1967.

And when the Two Witnesses
shall have finished their testimony,
the Islamic jihad that cometh
up out of the abyss
shall make war with them,
and overcome them,
and kill them.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout time, there have been only two significant forces in the entire universe: Sovereign God who created all things and Satan who's been trying to seize control of everything ever since, man included. Every departure from the will of God, every false doctrine, every lie, every theft, every homicide, terrorist act or war is just an earthly manifestation of that heavenly conflict. Though we can't see it, that ongoing battle in the spiritual world is real and it's one of the Bible's central themes.

Most of Scripture is history, recorded in prose and poetry, but almost one third is predictive prophecy – God telling His people about events future to when the prophecy was given. Ever since then, theologians without number have been trying to decipher those prophecies, theorizing a zillion or so “views” of exactly how this . . .

Christian era should end: Preterism, Historicism or the ever-so-popular Futurism (*seven-year-tribulation, pre-trib rapture and all*), each with its own intrepid battalion of fire-breathing defenders. But the very existence of so many end-time “positions” shows that the theologians themselves aren’t sure anybody’s got it right.

So lets set aside our traditions for a while and take a look at a couple of events that took place in the Holy Land within the last few years. They just might change the way we ought to look at Bible prophecy.

In **1948**, the few precious Jews who survived the Nazi Holocaust fled Europe and established a new nation in the Holy Land. They named it Israel.

In **1967**, Jerusalem was freed of Gentile control for the first time in 2573 years. Those two events fulfill more Bible prophecy than anything else that’s happened in the world since the Cross! They also open two verses in Daniel that are key to understanding the rest of Bible prophecy . . .

Daniel 12:4 “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end.”

Daniel 12:9 “And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”

The freeing of Jerusalem from Gentile control in 1967 ended the “time of the Gentiles,” *Luke 21:24*, and began Daniel’s “time of the end!” Since Daniel was sealed until the “time of the end,” all prophetic views devised out of Daniel prior to 1967 are at best incomplete, or at worst, false doctrine. Now that’s scary! We could be basing the last few decisions we’ll make on this planet on imaginary events that will never happen.

Look around the world today. Do we see the supposed Seven-year trib anywhere? How about the Antichrist? Preterism? Historicism or any of the other popular end-time scenarios? None seem to fit reality, do they. We see instead, ever increasing natural disasters, earthquakes, huge fish and wildlife die-offs, honeybees disappearing,

floods, famines, terrorists, anarchy, genocides, financial collapses, wars, all getting worse until what?

It can now be proven beyond reasonable doubt that much of Revelation is not in our future. The False Prophet and the Two Witnesses have already been here. Six of the Seven Trumpets, six of the Seven Seals and all three of Revelation's "beasts" have already been here, too! All have been fulfilled during the Christian era.

In fact, all prophecy that needed to be fulfilled before the Lord's return has already been fulfilled and we face the appalling collapse of Western civilization, followed soon after by King Jesus appearing in the sky!

Not what you were expecting to hear, was it. Please set your end-time traditions aside for a while and open your Bibles, because . . . "If any man wills to do His will, he will know of the doctrine, whether it is of God or whether I speak of myself."

EHS

Ellis H. Skolfield on

DANIEL & REVELATION

A Bible Prophecy Study Guide

2014 edition
Fish House Ministries

Stranger on the Beach

Two fishermen, Peter and Andrew, are on the shore of the Sea of Galilee cleaning and mending their nets. A strange man walks up to them and says, “Come, follow Me.”

Matthew 4:20 “They straightway left their nets, and followed him.”

Then Jesus sees a couple more fishermen, James and John, and says basically the same thing to them.

Matthew 4:22 “And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.”

*So let me ask, would sane men leave everything they knew
to follow some stranger they knew nothing about?
Of course not, these fishermen knew who Jesus was because
they'd been listening to Him preach.*

Jesus began His earthly ministry when He was about thirty, *Luke 3:23*, many years before He chose His disciples, *Luke 6:13*. But how many years before?

Matthew, Mark and Luke are not complete histories of Jesus' ministry on Earth, but eyewitness accounts of what the disciples personally experienced with Jesus **before** and **after** they were called.

So how many years did the Lord Jesus actually minister and how old was He when He went to the Cross?

*Because only three Passovers are recorded in the Gospels,
most theologians assume the Lord was 33
when He went to the Cross, and most of us believe it,
but what do we know from the Bible?*

- 1.** Qurinius was pro-Counsel in Syria
when Jesus was born. *(Luke 2:2)*
- 2.** A census sent Mary and Joseph
to Bethlehem. *(Luke 2:3)*
- 3.** Herod ordered babies killed
two years old and under. *(Mat 2:16)*

And What We Know from Recorded History.¹

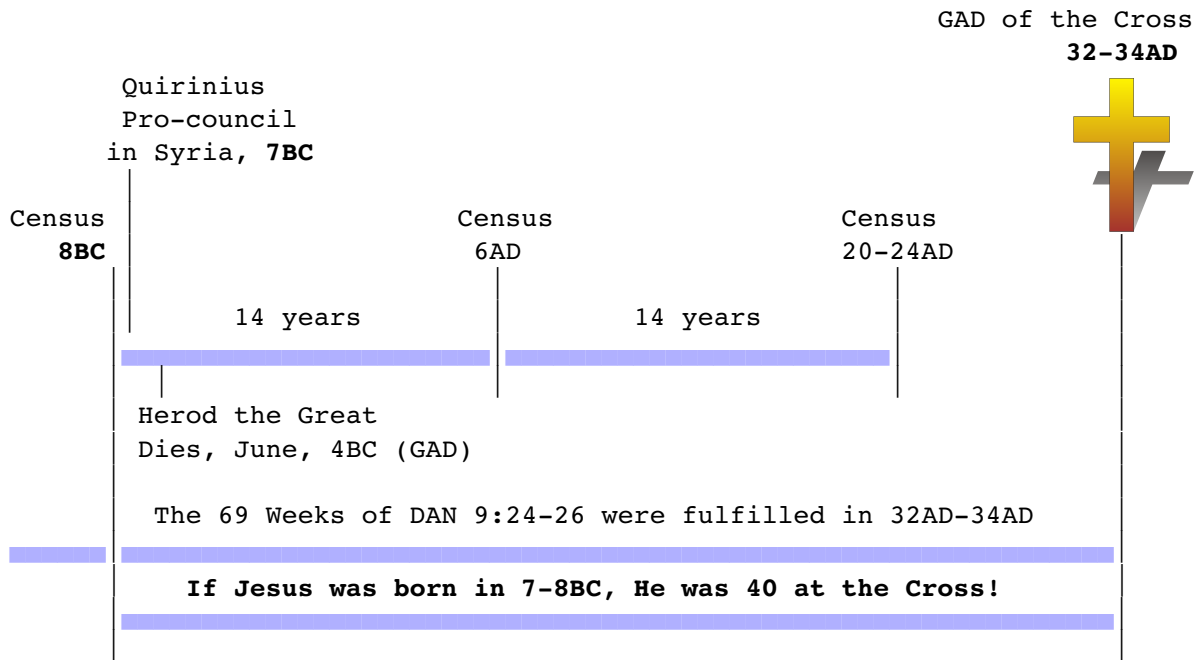
1. Herod died in June of 4 B.C. (GAD)²
2. Quirinius was pro-council in Syria, 7-8 B.C. (GAD)
(Syrian stela states Quirinius was in Syria at this time)
3. The Romans took a census every 14 years.
4. Archeological support for the Roman census of 6A.D., however, all authorities agree, 6 A.D. too late for the birth of Jesus.
5. Archeological support for a Roman census in 8 B.C.!
6. No archeological support for a Roman census between those two dates.

¹Documentation: Packer-Tenny-White, Zondervan's Pictorial Bible Encyclopedia, Halley's Bible Handbook, the Internet, etc. There is never-ending scholarly argument about 1st century dating, available data was correlated and conclusions drawn from that picture.

² GAD = Generally Accepted Date

Biblical Forties, Why so Many?

1. Rained 40 days and 40 nights during the flood, Gen 7:4
2. Noah remained in the ark 40 days after dry land appears, Gen 8:6
3. Moses was in the wilderness 40 years, Act 7:30
4. Moses was on the Mountain 40 days, Exo 24:18, DEU 9:18
5. Malefactors were scourged with 40 stripes, Deu 25:3
6. Israelites were fed manna in the wilderness 40 years, Exo 16:35
7. Tabernacle had 40 silver sockets, Exo 26:19
8. There were 40 year periods of peace, Judges 3:11, 5:31, 8:28
9. Eli (a high priest) judged Israel 40 years, 1Sam 4:18
10. Elijah was on the mountain 40 days, 1Ki 19:8
11. David ruled Israel 40 years, 1Ki 2:11
12. Solomon ruled Israel 40 years, 1Ki 11:42
13. Temple nave 40 cubits, 1Ki 7:35
14. Jesus was in the wilderness 40 days, Mat 4:2
15. Jesus appeared to the disciples for 40 days, Act 1:3



*... this would explain the numerous biblical 40's
as types in the life of Christ!*

Incidentally, our calendar year of 2013 A.D. is actually the year 2020-21. Zero year (or lack thereof) ignored because of the 1-3 year ambiguity in dating accepted by most authorities.

But is this Important?

1. *Yes! Knowing the length of Jesus' earthly life is key to understanding two prophecies in Ezekiel.*
2. *Proves a traditional view long taught in the Church to be incorrect, making other traditions suspect.*

Incidentally, according to Jewish tradition, a man had to be 40 years old to become a ruling member in the Sanhedran. Until Jesus was 40, He was thought to be just another rebel in Israel. But when Jesus entered Jerusalem that final time, He was greeted by the people (*in an apantesis**) as a king. If He was 40, He could have seized control and the Pharisees knew it. That's why they said such things as . . .

John 11:48 "If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation."

*At 40, Rabbi Jesus could have become their king,
so the Pharisees believed they had to kill Him to stay in power.*

* *The apantesis is explained in "Messengers," Chapter 24.*

The background of the slide is a dark brown color. It features a collage of text in a lighter brown, bold, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in four rows: 'DAYS-TIMES-BEASTS', 'HEADS-HORNS-LIONS', 'KINGS-RODS-EAGLES', and 'BEARS-SCORPIONS'. The central text 'FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE' is in a yellow-to-orange gradient with a drop shadow.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Do you actually believe there's
going to be a living animal with
seven heads and ten horns
running loose around the countryside?
A really peculiar beast with the body of a leopard,
feet of a bear and mouth of a lion?

*If taken literally, that is what we have to believe,
because that is what Revelation 13 says.*

Since the physical existence of such an animal
is most unlikely, is there a way of knowing what that
weird creature might actually be representing?

When an author wishes to portray characters or events in a hidden or symbolic way he uses figurative language.

Whether a passage is literal or figurative
is not determined by the reader,
but by the Author.

1. Interpreting **literal** language figuratively
results in false doctrine.
2. Interpreting **figurative** language literally
also results in false doctrine.

Figurative **signposts** are a key to discerning
a passage as literal or figurative.

Examples of Figurative Signposts in Scripture

“Like, Likened” or “Like Unto”

Matthew 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is **like unto** treasure hid in a field.”

Matthew 18:23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven **likened** unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

Mark 4:30 “Whereunto shall we **liken** the kingdom of God?
It is **like** a grain of mustard seed

Luke 13:20-21 “Whereunto shall I **liken** the kingdom of God? It is **like** leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal.”

“AS”

Not always a figurative signpost, must be determined by context.

Mat 9:36 “they fainted, and were scattered abroad,
as sheep having no shepherd.”

Mat 13:43 “Then shall the righteous shine forth **as** the sun.”

Mat 24:27 For **as** the lightning cometh out of the east, and
shineth even unto the west.”

Mar 13:34 “For the Son of man is **as** a man taking a far journey,
who left his house, and gave authority.”

Luke 10:3 “Behold, I send you forth **as** lambs among wolves.”

Luke 17:6 “If ye had faith **as** a grain of mustard seed.”

“In The Spirit”

A different kind of figurative signpost.

*Here the prophet is seeing through his spiritual eyes
rather than through his physical eyes.*

Rev 1:10 “I was **in the spirit** on the Lord's day.”

Rev 4:2 “And immediately I was **in the spirit**.”

Rev 17:3 “So he carried me away **in the spirit**.”

Rev 21:10 “And he carried me away **in the spirit**.”

*All show that the prophet is having a vision
and **all prophetic visions** are figurative!*

Example of a Figurative Vision

Genesis 37:9-10 “And *he (Joseph)* dreamed yet another dream *(in other words he had a vision)*, and told it his brethren, and said, ‘Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the **sun** and the **moon** and the **eleven stars** made obeisance to me.’ And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father *(who understood the vision as figurative)* rebuked him, and said unto him, ‘What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?’”

*Joseph’s dream is obviously about Jacob
and the children of Israel.*

*So are there any prophetic visions in the Bible
that are not figurative?*

The Same Figurative Language is in Revelation.

Revelation 12:1 “And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the **sun**, and the **moon** under her feet, and upon her head a crown of **twelve stars**.”

***“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,”**
so the Bible has only one Author! 2Ti 3:16*

*Since the figurative language in Revelation
is identical to the figurative language in Genesis,
whom do you suppose Revelation 12:1
might actually be identifying?*

Why it's ...

ISRAEL

of course!

Figurative language appears all over Revelation!

Rev 4:6 “And before the throne there was a sea of glass **like unto** crystal.”

Rev 9:10 “And they had tails **like unto** scorpions.”

Rev 11:1 “And there was given me a reed **like unto** a rod.”

Rev 13:11 “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns **like** a lamb, and he spake **as** a dragon.”

Rev 16:13 “And I saw three unclean spirits **like** frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon.”

Rev 16:3 “And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea (*of people, Rev 17:15*); and it became **as** the blood of a dead man; and every living soul died (*spiritually*) in the sea.”

*Revelation has over 60
figurative signposts
so Revelation is
primarily figurative!*

*Some of Revelation's figurative language
is defined for us in the book itself...*

Revelation 1:20 “The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The **seven stars** are the angels (*Greek, ἄγγελος, ang'-el-ose, a messenger***) of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”

Revelation 11:3-4 “And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.”

Revelation 17:18 “And the **woman** which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.”

*** There all kinds of messengers in Scripture: Jesus is the “messenger of the covenant,” the Holy Spirit is a messenger, holy angels and humans are messengers and so is Satan. In Revelation, context reveals the identity of the various “angels.”*

About “Angels” in Revelation

In the New Testament, the Greek word translated angel is: ἄγγελος, pronounced *ang'-el-ose*, by definition a “messenger.”

1. Jesus is the messenger of the covenant, Malachi 3:1
2. Holy Angels can be messengers, Luke 1:19
3. The Holy Spirit is a messenger, John 16:13
4. People can be messengers, Galatians 4:14
5. Satan and his angels can be messengers, 2 Corinthians 12:7

In Revelation, *ang'-el-ose* appears 68 times. All are messengers of some kind, some very good, others very wicked.

*The identity of the various “angels” in Revelation
must be determined by context!*

Seven Important Rules of Interpretation

1. The Cultural Setting of the Prophet.

All prophecy must be viewed from the prophet's own knowledge base, not from ours. We must place ourselves in the sandals of the prophet and render his prophecy from his historic and cultural position. Interpreting a prophecy from our 21st century knowledge base can lead to false doctrine . . .

Hosea 7:8 “Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is **a cake not turned.**”

*In Hosea's time, a flatbread was cooked one side at a time, just like we do pancakes today. This Hosea prophecy (written just before the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel) tells the Israelites that only half the story of the so-called “ten lost tribes” took place **before** they were dispersed by the Assyrians into the Caucasus Mountains region in 725-722 B.C.. Still part of God's chosen people, Israel was still to become a multitude of nations, Genesis 48:19, but their future would be in among the Gentile nations, Amos 9:8-9.*

2. Idioms Must Be Understood As Nonliteral.

1Kings 21:21 “Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will **cut off** from Ahab him that **pisseth against the wall.**”

So is God is going to perform surgery on those of Ahab's relatives who can't find a bathroom? Once again, if taken literally, that is what we have to believe, because that is what Scripture says.

But when understood idiomatically, the prophet Elijah is informing King Ahab of Israel that God is going to judge Ahab's house because of his wicked deeds, and allow all of his male descendants to be killed off so that Ahab's family tree will be wiped out.

3. Scriptural Adjacency.

Revelation 11:4 “These (*two witnesses*) are the two **olive trees**, and the two **candlesticks** standing before the God of the earth.”

*For the definition of scriptural figures, first look within the surrounding verses, then the chapter, then the book, then the testament, then the whole Bible. It is **faulty exegesis** to use Old Testament definitions for “olive trees” and “candlesticks” if there are New Testament definitions that fit these New Testament figures perfectly!*

Romans 11:24-32 and Revelation 1:20

Rules 4 through 7, Having the Right Heart Attitude

4. Recognizing the Bible as the true Living Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick (*Greek: ζάω, dzah'-o, living*), and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

*5. The Lord will not open His Word to us
if we're willing to compromise it.*

*6. The Lord can teach us nothing
if we hold our doctrines above His Word.*

*7. We learn the doctrines of men from books by men,
we learn to know God from His Word.*

OPENING REVELATION



ἀποκάλυψις

ap-ok-al'-oop-sis

disclosure: - appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation.
(Strong's Definition)

Revealing knowledge that was previously unknown. Uncovering of obscure or hidden truth. The disclosure or conveying of divine purpose.
(Webster's definition)

By definition, Revelation should reveal new truths
about the Lord that we don't know!

*But do we go to Revelation that way?
No, of course not!
We force its visions to fit
the doctrines we already believe.*

But the truth of Revelation isn't in the
“*Left Behind*” series or the “*Late Great Planet Earth*.”
Those are doctrines of men.

*To understand Revelation the Lord's way,
one must enter the book with
an open heart and allow the Lord to replace
our debatable traditions with truth!*

The Lord can teach us nothing
from this book if our end-time doctrines
are already set in concrete.

Chapter One is Key

Revelation 1:1 “The Revelation (*apocalypses*) of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him . . .”

So Revelation is actually God the Father’s revelation about His Son and about God’s plan for the Christian era.

“to shew unto his servants . . .”

*Jesus is then told by God the Father to present Revelation to His servants. The Greek word translated servants in this verse is **δούλος** *doulos*, which by definition means a **slave**.*

NOTE: In Greek, the original language of the New Testament, the Lord named many different kinds of servants: the *pais*, the *presbuteros* the *diakonos*, the *episkopos*, the *leitourgikos*, the *huperetes*, the *therapon*, etc., but Revelation wasn’t written to any of those servants. It was written to Jesus’ *doulos*, His slaves! One may indeed be Jesus’ servant, even a church leader, a *presbuteros* or *episkopos*, but to understand Revelation, that person must also be Jesus’ slave!

Revelation 1 continued . . .

“things which must shortly come to pass (*i.e., right away, not 2000 years in the future*); and he sent and signified *it* by his angel (*Greek: ἄγγελος, aggelos, a messenger. In this verse Jesus is that messenger*) unto his servant John.”

POSITION OF THE CHURCH DURING THE CHRISTIAN ERA

Revelation 1:6 “And hath made (*past tense*) us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

Revelation 1:9 (LITV) “I, even your brother John, and co-sharer in **THE** (*the Greek definite article “τὸ”*) affliction (*thlipsis, usually translated “tribulation”*), and in **THE** “τὸ” kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ.”

So are the “tribulation” and Jesus’ kingdom concurrent?

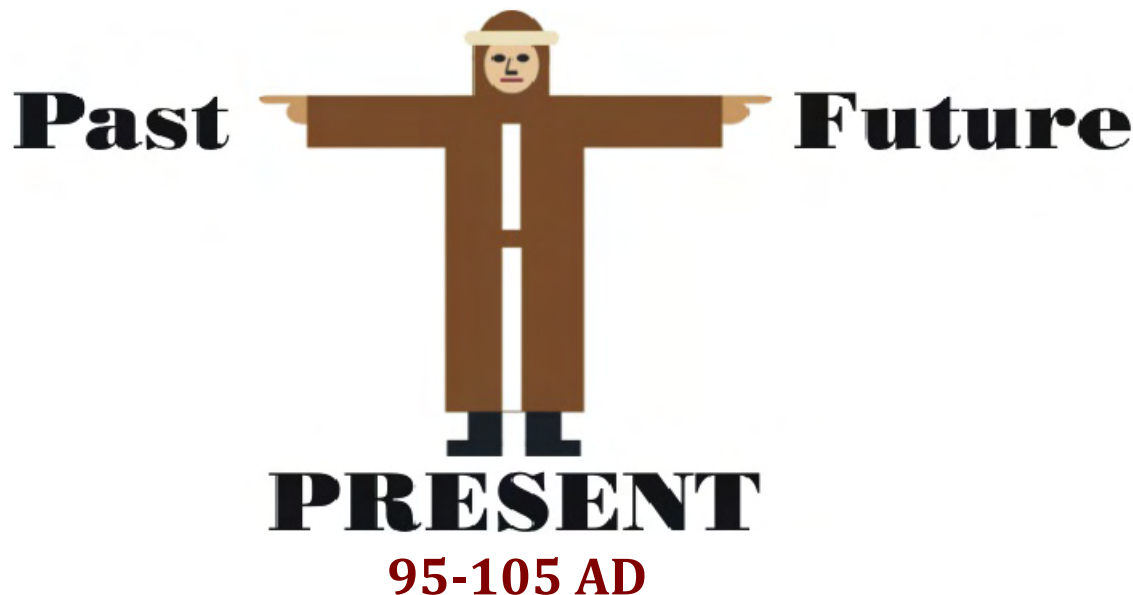
Revelation 1 continued . . .

Revelation 1:10 “I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day (*aren't all prophetic visions figurative?*), and heard behind me a great voice, **as** of a trumpet (*“as,” a figurative signpost*).”

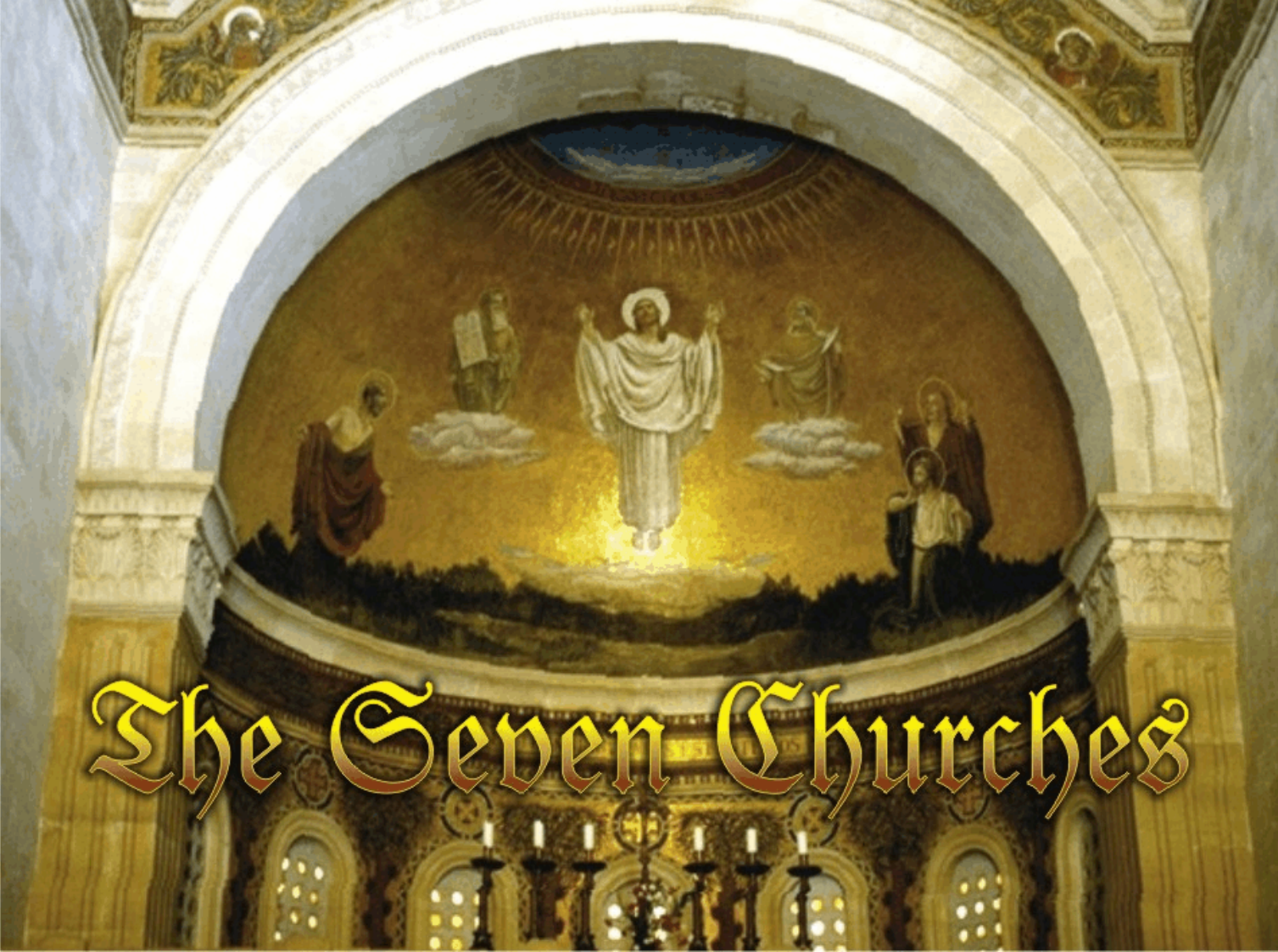
Revelation 1:13 “And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one **like unto** the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle (*the high-girding of authority, compare with Daniel 10:5*).”

Revelation 1:20 “The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels (*so stars in Revelation are messengers*) of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches (*and candlesticks in Revelation are churches*).”

Revelation 1:19 “Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.”



Note the tense of the verbs! The book of Revelation is partly about events that took place before John's time, partly about events that happen during John's time and partly about events future to John's time!



The Seven Churches

Rev 1:10-11 “I was **in the Spirit** on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying, ‘Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to **Ephesus** and to **Smyrna** and to **Pergamum** and to **Thyatira** and to **Sardis** and to **Philadelphia** and to **Laodicea**.’” (NAS)

- 1. These seven churches actually existed in John's time and were just as John described them.*
- 2. Throughout the Christian Era there have been churches spiritually like each of those churches.*
- 3. Those were not the only churches in Asia Minor, they were chosen by the Lord in a specific order for a reason.*

What was that reason?

THRACE

Philippi

Thessalonica

Athens

Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Smyrna

PHRYGIA

Philadelphia

Laodécia

Ephesus

Colosse

Miletus

Perea

Myra

The Post Road

Though there were three other cities nearby to whom Paul had written epistles (Thessalonica, Philippi and Colosse), they were not included because they were not on a Post Road beginning in Ephesus. As a result, they could not give us a timed picture of conditions in the Church during the Christian era.

The Post Road began in Ephesus and continued on to the various cities in the order given in Revelation 2-3.

From “**Ephesus** and to **Smyrna** and to **Pergamum** and to **Thyatira** and to **Sardis** and to **Philadelphia** and to **Laodicea**.”

And that exactly matches the spiritual condition of Church during the Christian era.

32-95AD	<p>Ephesus..... <i>“Lost your first love...”</i></p> <p>Rev 2:4, Heresy enters church: Marcionites, Gnostics, Nicolaitans, Balaamites, etc.</p>
95-321AD	<p>Smyrna..... <i>“Persecuted 10 days...”</i> Rev 2:10</p> <p>Ten major persecutions under ten Roman Emperors: (1) Domitian (2) Trajan (3) Hadrian (4) Antonius Pius (5) Marcus Arelius (6) Septimus Severus (7) Maximin (8) Decius (9) Valerian (10) Diocletian</p>
321-450AD	<p>Pergamum..... <i>“Where Satan's throne is...”</i> Rev 2:13</p> <p>Constantine makes Christianity state religion. Church hierarchy begins.</p>
450-950AD	<p>Thyatira..... <i>“That Woman Jezebel...”</i> Rev 2:20</p> <p>Beginning of Mary worship. Idols brought into the churches. Bishops rise to power.</p>
950-1450AD	<p>Sardis..... <i>“But you are dead...”</i> Rev 3:1</p> <p>Dead Catholic formalism. Bible taken from the people. Persecution of the brethren intensifies.</p>
1450-1948AD	<p>Philadelphia... <i>“You have kept My Word...”</i> Rev 3:8</p> <p>The Reformation, Protestant churches rise, the Puritan movement, foreign missions founded.</p>
1948AD-????	<p>Laodicea..... <i>“You are neither hot nor cold...”</i> Rev 3:15</p> <p>Lukewarm church of today. Great “so-called works,” but spiritually cool.</p>

Sheldon Church

Just west of Beaufort, S.C. are the ruins of the church of Sheldon Township. John Bull, the first Lord Proprietor to the Carolinas is still buried under the altar. Sheldon Church was burned by Tarleton's raiders during the Revolutionary War, rebuilt, burned again in the Civil War during the northern army's march to the sea. Sheldon Church was never rebuilt again.

Sheldon Township is gone now, the worshipers are gone, the life is gone. All that remains are the church's bones, the smoke stains of those burnings still visible on the outer walls.

As the Western Church falls into apostasy, is not Sheldon a perfect metaphor of what is happening spiritually to our once Christian country ...



Less than 3% of Europeans still claim the faith. Their great cathedrals have been turned into tourist attractions.

30,000 people a week are leaving mainline churches.

(1995 statistic)

In Britain today, more people worship in mosques than in the Church of England.

In Scotland, it's difficult to find a church open.

THE CHURCH OF TODAY

Revelation 3:14-22 “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither *(spiritually)* cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art *(spiritually)* lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am *(spiritually)* rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing *(huge organizations, popular pastors and world-renowned TV evangelists)*; and knowest not that thou art *(spiritually)* wretched, and *(spiritually)* miserable, and poor, and blind, and *(spiritually)* naked: I counsel thee to buy of me *(spiritual)* gold tried in the fire *(of My cross)*, that thou mayest be *(spiritually)* rich; and white raiment *(of My imputed righteousness)*, that thou mayest be clothed, and

that the shame of thy *(spiritual)* nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with *(spiritual)* eyesalve, that thou mayest see *(marvelous things out of my law)*. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man *(in the other six churches, the Lord was dealing with the church in general, but in this Laodicean age, He is addressing each of us as individuals)* hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

*“He that hath an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit
saith unto the churches.”*

An aerial photograph of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. The golden dome is prominent in the center, surrounded by a large courtyard and a wall. The surrounding city is visible in the background, with a river winding through it.

רגל הדם

Hebrew: רֶגֶל *reh'gel*, regal ... הַדָּם, *had-ome'*, footstool

God's Footstool Forever

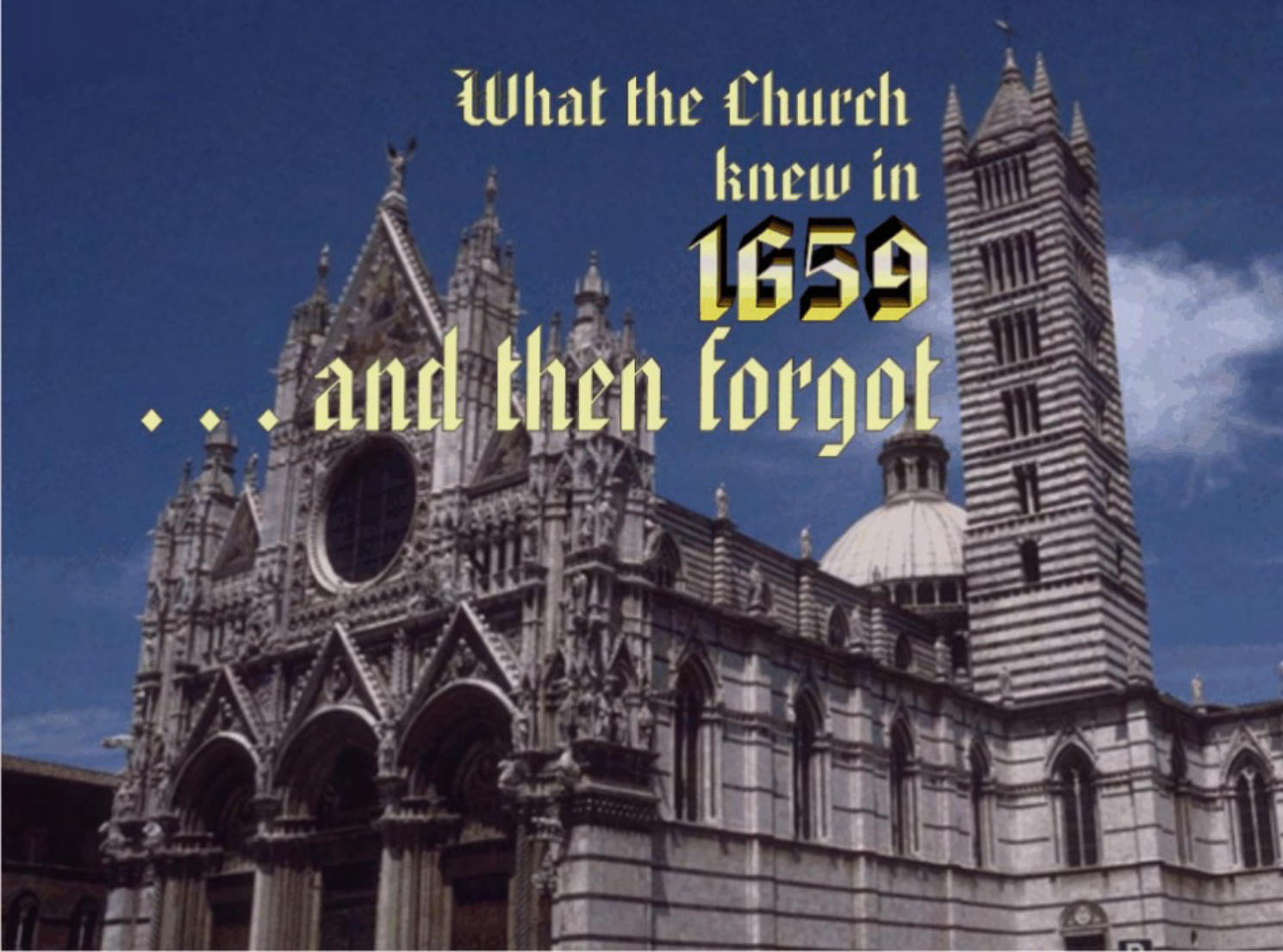
1Chronicles 28:2 “Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and **for the footstool of our God**, and had made ready for the building.”

2Chronicles 7:16 “For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.”

*Revelation is God the Father's account
of the 6000 year battle
for His footstool
and for the souls of His people.*

*The Church may have forgotten
Mount Moriah as the footstool
of God's feet forever, but God has not.
As you will soon see, much of Revelation
is about the Holy Land and
that temple mount!*

What the Church
knew in
1659
... and then forgot



What the Church has Forgotten

Bible scholars of the Middle Ages didn't have the luxury of a library full of commentaries. As a result, they did extensive study in the Bible itself. Some of their writings, like those of Calvin and Luther, achieved immense success. Though not so widely known, other Reformation writers also found significant doctrinal insights from Scripture. Thieleman van Braght (the great Anabaptist theologian) and Matthew Henry (a Reformed theologian) are quoted below.

“FROM Adam to Noah, from Noah to Abraham, from Abraham to Moses, from Moses to Christ, from Christ to the end of the world, God ordained, for each of these periods, different customs, as regards to the external divine service of this church; also different signs, seals, and appurtenances; though it is, was, and shall be, the **same church, the same people, and also the same God** whom they served, still serve, and shall serve unto the end.

So what is the important difference between these ages?

The only major difference
between the Antediluvian, the
Levitical and the Christian eras
lies in how God willed
to reveal Himself to man.

Thieleman J. van Braght, 1659AD . . .

“And that thus the Son of God died, and tasted death and shed his precious blood for all men; and that he thereby bruised the serpent's head, destroyed the works of the devil, annulled the handwriting and obtained forgiveness of sins for all mankind; thus becoming the cause of eternal salvation for all who, **from Adam unto the end of the world**, each in his time, believe in and obey Him, (Gen 3:15, 1Jo 3:8, Col 2:14, Rom 5:18).

“After the Ascension of Christ, the very numerous church which was at Jerusalem dispersed, on account of persecution, through the land of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles; so that this distinguished church, which, it appears, was the chief one on the face of the earth, had to sojourn secretly in a strange land, (Act 8:1).

Thieleman J. van Braght, 1659AD . . .

“Afterwards when the emperor Domitian had banished John, the holy apostle and evangelist, for the Gospel's sake, on the island of Patmos, the Holy Ghost revealed unto him **the future state of the Church of Christ**, namely, that she would have to flee into the wilderness, on account of the persecution of Antichrist, and there be fed by God, a thousand two hundred and threescore days, which, **reckoned according to prophetic language, means as many years**, (Revelation 12:6-11).”

“A thousand two hundred
and three score days
which, reckoned according
to prophetic language,
means as many years.”

Thieleman J. van Braght, 1659AD . . .

“Whether we begin to reckon these years from the death of the apostles; or with the year 300, when the so-called patriarchs had their origin; or with the year 600; or a little later, when Mohammed rose in the east among the Greeks, and the pope in the west among the Latins, and raised no small persecution against the defenseless and innocent little flock of the church of Christ, so that all who did not wish to be devoured, either in soul or in body, had to hide themselves in deserts and wildernesses; let it be reckoned as it may, say we, **a very long period** is to be understood by it, which has extended to this, or about this time . . .”

Thieleman J. van Braght

July 31, 1659AD, from pp21, 25, and 40 of Martyrs Mirror.

And Thieleman J. van Braght was not alone!

Matthew Henry in his 18th Century *Commentary on the Whole Bible* came to the same conclusions. The following excerpts are quoted from Vol VI, p1157, col 1, par I & II:

Par 1: “Some think these (*Two*) witnesses are . . . the church of the believing **Jews** and that of the **Gentiles** . . .”

Par 2: “... the time of their prophesying, or bearing witness for Christ. A thousand two hundred and three score days . . . and if the beginning of that interval could be ascertained, this number of prophetic days, taking **a day for a year**, would give us a prospect of when the end should be.”

The above principles were well understood by most Bible scholars prior to the 20th century. Unfortunately, the Church has allowed these major insights into prophetic Scriptures to be forgotten.

Who else wrote about Day-Years?

A few notable theologians, there are many more . . .

Tichonius, 380 A.D.

Benjamin Nahawendi, c. 850 A.D.

Solomon bar Jeroham, c. 950 A.D.

Abraham bar Hiyya, 1136 A.D.

Joachim of Floris, 1202 A.D.

Arnold of Villanova, 1292 A.D.

John Wycliffe, c. 1379 A.D.

Nicholas of Cusa, c. 1452 A.D.

Martin Luther, 1522 A.D.

Philip Melanchthon, 1543 A.D.

Johan Funck, 1558 A.D.

King James I, 1609 A.D.

Matthew Henry, 1662-1714 A.D.

Sir Isaac Newton, 1727 A.D.

Appolos Hale, 1840 A.D.

William Miller, 1789-1849 A.D.

Josiah Litch, 1809-1886 A.D.

Uriah Smith, 1827-1915 A.D.

But Where Did the Day-Year Idea Come From?

It's from the Bible, of course!

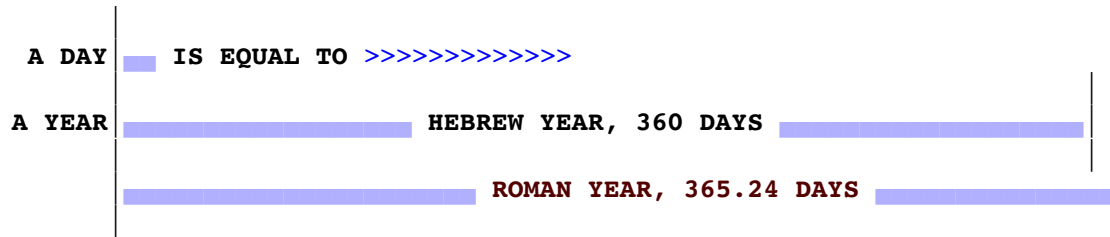
Numbers 14:34 “After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, **each day for a year**, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.”

Ezekiel 4:5 “For I have laid upon thee the **years** of their iniquity, **according to the number of the days**, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.”

*It was 390 Hebrew years from the close
of the Old Testament to the birth of Jesus.*

Ezekiel 4:6 “And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each **day for a year**.”

It was 40 years from the birth of Jesus to the Cross.



When Scripture uses “days” *in a prophetic sense*, they should be viewed as Hebrew or Solar years depending where they appear in the Bible.

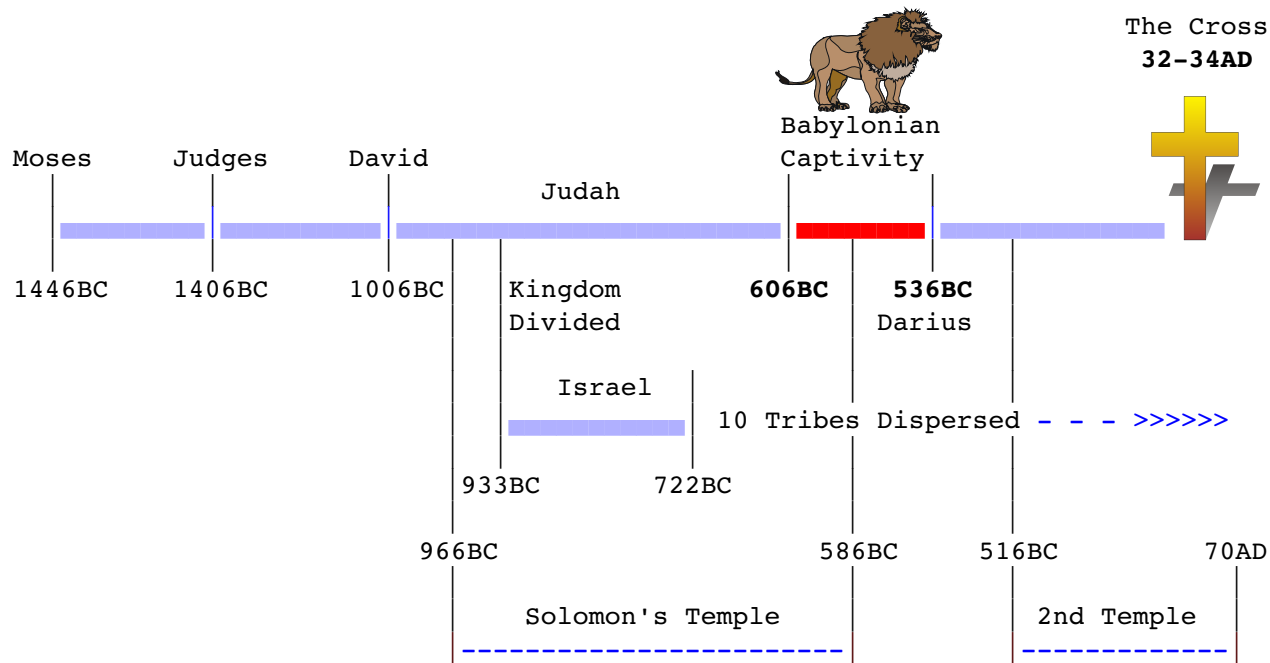
Hebrew Year = For Old Testament prophecy only! Daniel used a Hebrew prophetic calendar of 360 days or .9857 of a Solar year.

*From Torah, the Israelites understood a year to be 360 days,
see Genesis 7:11, 7:24 and 8:4.*

Solar Year = For New Testament prophecy! John was raised under Roman rule and used the solar calendar – 365.24 days.

PROVING THE DAY-YEARS

End-Time Prophecy Begins With Daniel in Babylon



NOTE: This graph presents the conservative historic position. The dating may be verified in any conservative reference work such as *Halley's Bible Handbook* or *Zondervan's Pictorial Bible Encyclopedia*.

Daniel's Seventy "Weeks" Prove the Day-Years

Prophecy given to Daniel in the first year of Darius, 536 B.C.

Daniel 9:24 "Seventy weeks (**שְׁבַעִים** *shiveem*', **שְׁבָעִים**, *shavuim*', or *seventy sevens*) are determined upon **thy people** (*the Jews*) and upon **thy holy city** (*Jerusalem*), to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."

This prophecy is in Hebrew and in the Old Testament!

The addressees are stated: This is to the Jews of Daniel's time and about their holy city, Jerusalem.

It is not to the Church or about the end of the Christian era!

Daniel 9:25-27 “Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times . . .

Four decrees about the Jewish people were issued by Medo-Persian kings. The only one that fulfills the above prophecy is the decree of Artaxerxes 1 (444-445 B.C.) recorded in Nehemiah 2:8. So this is the beginning time for this prophecy.

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, *(killed)* but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood *(of foreign people)*, and unto the end of the *(spiritual)* war desolations are determined.”

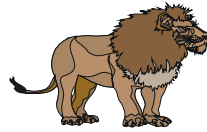
There is no word in Hebrew that just means a week.
Instead, the Jews call a week “a seven.”

The Hebrew word for “seven”
used everywhere in the Old Testament
is שבעה, shavua, meaning “a seven.”

But the word for seven used in **Daniel 9:25-26**
is not שבעה, shavua, it is שבעים, shavuim,
the male plural form of shavua!

Shavuim, a **plural** of seven, requires a multiplier
so these 69 weeks are not
weeks of ordinary 24 hour days!

Ezekiel 4:5-6 states, “a (*prophetic*) day for a year.”



← Neo-Babylonian Empire, 606BC-536BC →

← Medo-Persian Empire →

Daniel
Taken Captive
606BC

562BC

555BC

536BC

444BC

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

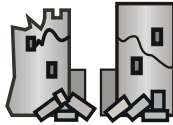
NABONIDUS

DARIUS

ARTAXERXES I

586BC!

Belshazzar
Made Regent
552BC



Jerusalem
Sacked



Vision of 70 "Weeks"

**Decree
To Rebuild
The Wall**

V

69 "Weeks" Begin Here,
The 69 Weeks tell us when
Messiah will be Killed

So Let's Look At That Verse Again

Daniel 9:25-26 “. . . and after *(69 weeks from the decree of Artaxerxes I)* shall Messiah be cut off *(killed)*, but not for himself.”

*Our history is written in solar years of 365.24 days.
Hebrew prophetic years have 360 days,
so we must convert prophetic years
to solar years to fit the historic record.*

69 weeks, each with 7 days = 483 days
(Conversion factor to fit our solar year is $360/365.24 = .9857$)

$483 \times .9857 = 476.068$ of our years.

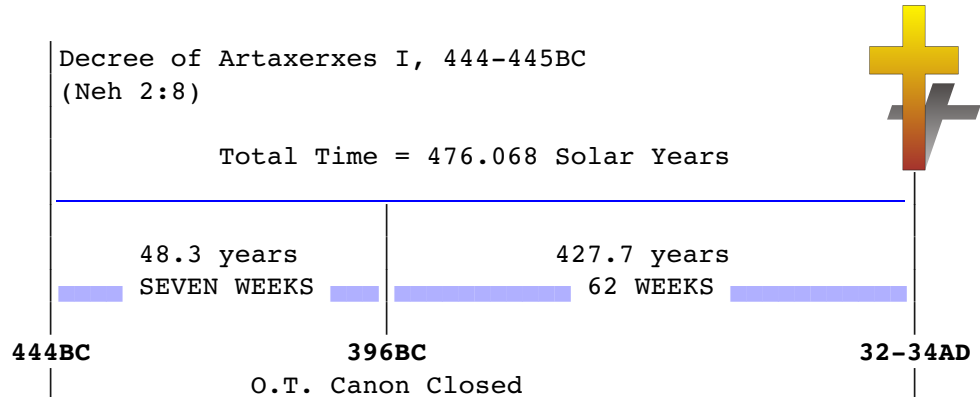
*So Gabriel is telling Daniel there will be 476 solar years
from the decree of Artaxerxes I to the Cross.*

Daniel's 69 "Weeks" Prove Day-Years

536BC

Daniel's
Vision

Both ends of
this prophecy
were in Daniel's
future!



483 Hebrew years is 476 of our solar years.

476 - 444 = 32-34AD, the Crucifixion right to the year!

444BC - 48.3 solar years = 396BC. Close of the O.T.

396BC - 427.7 solar years = 32-34 A.D. The Cross.

“Blessed are the eyes
which see the things that ye see:
For I tell you, that
many prophets and kings
have desired to see those things
which ye see, and have not seen them;
and to hear those things which ye hear,
and have not heard them.”

Luke 10:23-24



THAT WHICH MAKES DESOLATE

Since we can prove
Daniel's 69 weeks
were actually 483
Hebrew years . . .

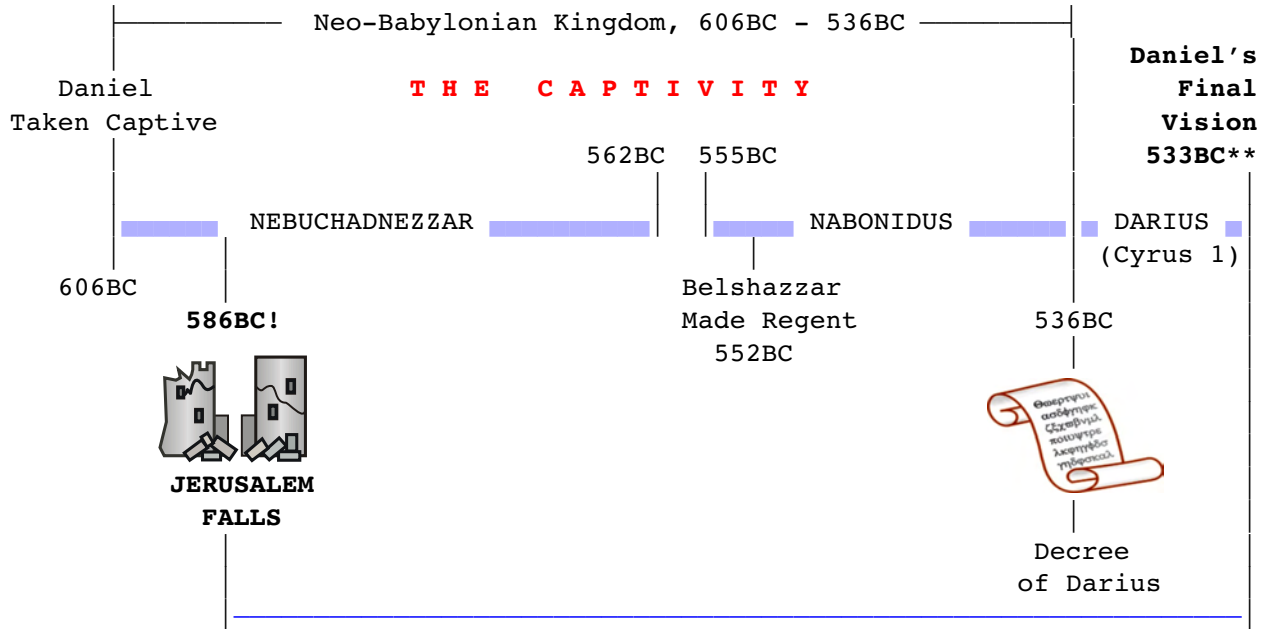
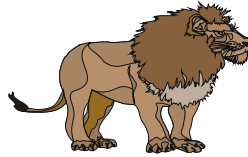
Shouldn't we be consistent
and view the rest of the
prophetic "days" in
Daniel as Hebrew years?

Daniel's Final Vision

Daniel 10:1 “In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.”

*Historic pin: the third year of Cyrus’
control of Babylon . . . 533 B.C. !*

(important to know later)



Prophecy of 1290 days given here,
50 years after sacrifices were abolished.

** Cyrus's reign over the Medo-Persian Empire actually began in 559B.C., however his control of Babylon didn't begin until the city fell to Darius in 536B.C., so from Daniel's viewpoint, 533 B.C. was the "third year of Cyrus."

The 1290 Days of Daniel 12:11

Daniel 12:11, NAS

"And from the time
that the regular sacrifice
is abolished, and the
abomination of desolation
is set up, there will be
1,290 days."

But is this abomination a thing or a person?

Mark 13:14 “But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where **IT**** ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains.”

****** *In Greek: δει, dei, a neuter pronoun.*

According to Mark,
the abomination is not a person, but an “it,”
so the abomination is not the **Antichrist**.

The abomination is a thing!

But Were Sacrifices Abolished When Jerusalem Fell?

The Bible Shows otherwise!

Jeremiah 41:5 “There came certain from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, even fourscore men, having their beards shaven, and their clothes rent, and having cut themselves, with offerings and incense in their hand, to bring them to the house of the LORD.”

*Jeremiah 41:5 was written 6 to 10 months
after the temple was destroyed,
so sacrifices were still being offered
at the temple site!*

Local Gods

In Old Testament times, a belief among Middle Eastern people was that “gods” had a limited geographic sphere of influence, *II Kings 17:27*. Osiris had power in Egypt, Baal had power in Syria, Dagon was lord in Philistia, Marduk had control in Babylon, Melkart was potent in Tyre and our God had to be feared in the holy land.

So in 586 B.C., when Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah for the second time, he would not have wanted to stop the Jews from worshiping their “local” God, and he didn’t, *Jeremiah 41:5*. However, the rebellious Jews murdered Gedaliah, Nebuchadnezzar’s governor for the area, *Jeremiah 41:2*. In response, Nebuchadnezzar sent Nebuzaradan, captain of the king’s guard, to Jerusalem to carry the final captives off to Babylon, *Jeremiah 52:30*. Since sacrifices were indeed abandoned while Daniel was in Babylon, *Daniel 9:17*, the last of the priests were undoubtedly included in this final captivity.

*According to Daniel 9:17, sacrifices were abandoned
sometime while Daniel was in Babylon,
but when?*

Liberal Scholars or the Scripture?

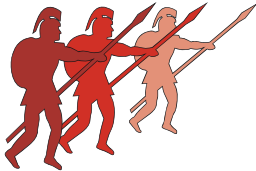
This is where you decide who you are going to believe!

1. God told Jeremiah the prophet that the Jews would be captive in Babylon for 70 years, Jer. 25:11-12 and 29:10
2. Daniel recognized that the 70 years of captivity were over in the first year of Darius, Dan 9:1-2.
3. Conservative scholars have always recognized 536 B.C. as the first year of Darius so $536 \text{ B.C.} + 70 = 606 \text{ B.C.}$ and the fall of Jerusalem.
3. Liberal historians claim that Jerusalem fell in 605 B.C.
4. They further claim that Darius sacked Babylon in 539 B.C., three years before the generally accepted date. If the liberals were right, then the captivity lasted only 66 years.

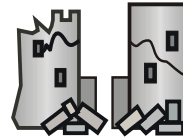
Three times the Scripture states that the Jews would be captive in Babylon for 70 years, so liberal scholars are wrong.

The Final Captivity

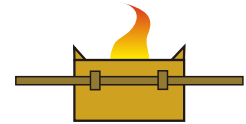
Jeremiah 52:30 “In the **three and twentieth year** of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive of the Jews seven hundred forty and five persons: all the persons *were* four thousand and six hundred.”



Battle of Carshemish
Nebuchadnezzar's 1st Year (*pin date*)
Jerusalem Falls
606BC



Temple Destroyed
586BC



Priests Taken
583BC



So Sacrifices were actually abolished in 583BC!

Daniel 12:11 “And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be **a thousand two hundred and ninety days.**”

Regular sacrifices
Abolished



583BC

1290 HEBREW DAYS

1271.49 SOLAR YEARS

Dome of the Rock
Constructed 685-705AD



688AD!

*According to Mark 13:14, the abomination is an "IT" not a him,
and so it has turned out to be!*

Now remember **688AD**, you are going to run into it again!

Declaration of the Bishop of Jerusalem

When Khalifah Omar entered Jerusalem in 639AD, he was met at the gates by Bishop Sophronius who ushered him through the city. Seeing the temple mount (then in ruins), Omar declared that he was going to build a memorial to Muhammad on the original site of the temple of God. Sophronius exclaimed in horror, "Verily, this is the Abomination of Desolation as spoken of by Daniel the prophet, and it now stands in the holy place." Though Sophronius was an old man of 80 years, Khalifah Omar put him in prison and forced labor, the rigors of which killed him.

Paraphrased from Jerry Landay's, *The Dome of the Rock*,
Newsweek, New York, NY, 1972, p. 18

Somehow, we have managed to forget the truth for which Sophronius gave his life. The Dome of the Rock being the Abomination that maketh Desolate is not new theology.

This knowledge has been in the Church for over 1300 years!



Daniel said he “understood the vision,” but how?



Sacrifices Abolished

583BC



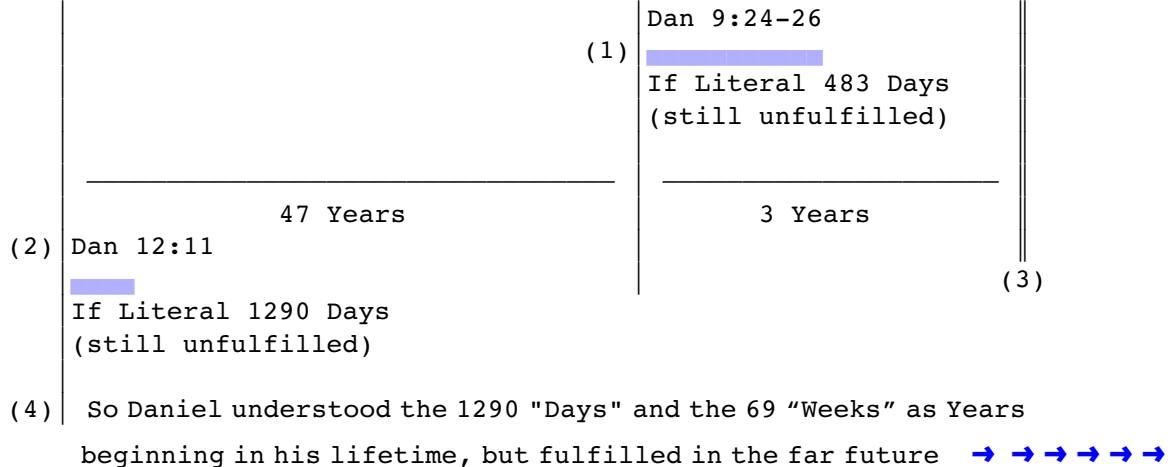
Vision of 70 Sevens

536BC



Vision of 1290 Days

533BC



Isaiah 28:9-10 “Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.”

*And that's the way it is!
Understanding Bible prophecy is cumulative,
one concept built upon another until we
dimly see a little of God's wonderful plan
for the Church, the Jewish people,
and the rest of His creation.*