

# Big Picture Bible Study

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## Lesson 04: The Amazing Evidence of Prophecy

### PROPHECY IS UNIQUE TO THE BIBLE

The God of the Bible claims to be the only One who can tell the future with infinite accuracy. Genuine prophecy requires foreknowledge of the future. That is why prophecy is not found in any other “holy book,” because God did not write them. Only He who knows the future may declare it (remember the challenge in **Isa. 41:23** that says to “*show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods*”). No other religious text claims to be able to do that. This is the ultimate test of validity. This is the ultimate test to see if God is faking it, to see if God is a figment.

***If we find genuine prophecy in it, then the Bible must be true.***

We can read the Quran, but we find no conclusive prophecy; we can read the writings of Buddha, but we find no prophecy; if we read the writings of Confucius we find no prophecy; if we read the writings of Hinduism we find no prophecy. Why? because in order to declare the future you must first know the future. But when we read the Bible, remarkably we find that **30% of it is prophecy!!** Nearly one-third of what God says in Scripture is Him risking His claim to be God by proclaiming the future. But we are at the end of the world; we may look back over the annals of secular history and see the absurd accuracy of Bible prophecy. God has provided His people with an unmovable foundation of evidence upon which to base our faith. We only have to study and find it!

### Brief History of the Old Testament

The Masoretic Text is the official name given to the authoritative collection of 39 Hebrew and Aramaic texts. The “**Tanakh**” as it is called in Hebrew is broken down into three sections:

- **Torah** (תורה “*Instruction or Teaching*”)
  - **Pentateuch**: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- **Nevi'im** (נביאים “*Prophets*”)
  - **Former Prophets**: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, I Kings, II Kings
  - **Latter Prophets**: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Minor Prophets
    - **Minor Prophets**: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
- **Ketuvim** (כתובים “*Writings*”)
  - **Poetic Books**: Psalms, Proverbs, Job
  - **The Five Books**: Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther
  - **Other Books**: Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, I Chronicles, II Chronicles

The Masoretic Text (MT) is based largely on a major manuscript that was a copy made from early, now-long-gone manuscripts. This extant (still existing) manuscript was made in 1008 A.D. For the longest time, Christians were required to have faith that the words we have in the Old Testament are the same words that were written on the autographs (the first manuscripts actually written by Moses, Isaiah, David, etc.). Praise God, we are now able to compare the MT with the much older manuscripts that have been recently found. They confirm that, “*on the whole, that the later Masoretic text is preserved in a good, hardly changed form. They are thus a valuable witness to the great faithfulness with which the sacred text has been transmitted.*” Hasel, G., (1992). **New Light on the Book of Daniel from the Dead Sea Scrolls.** *Ministry, (1).*

## Prophecy in the Old Testament: the book of Daniel

The incredible accuracy of the book of Daniel was long pointed to as the very reason for distrusting the authenticity of its claim to have been written BY Daniel in 530 B.C. Rather, secular historians posited that it was written during the Maccabean period in 160 B.C. to bolster national pride. This may have remained its unchallenged status in the academic world, but praise God: **He had a plan.**

In 1947 a Bedouin shepherd found the first of 11 caves that contained an ancient library of scrolls. The last one was excavated in 1956 and all the findings were published and made available to the academic world by 1987. Scholars worldwide were shocked to discover that the oldest copy of the scroll of Daniel dated to c. 150 B.C.! Its placement among such scrolls as Isaiah and Psalms means that it was already accepted as authoritative and canonical. Textual criticism standards are clear that there is no way it could have held that status by 150 B.C. if it had been authored in 160 B.C.

Also, after comparing the number of fragments found of Daniel with the number of other scrolls, it is evident that Daniel must have been *“a favorite book among the Qumran covenantors... It is very difficult to perceive that one single desert community should have preserved such a significant number of Daniel manuscripts if this book had really been produced at so late a date. The large number of manuscripts in this community can be much better explained if one accepts an earlier origin of Daniel than the one proposed by the Maccabean hypothesis of historical-critical scholarship, which dates it to the second century BC.”* Hasel, G., (1992). *New Light on the Book of Daniel from the Dead Sea Scrolls. Ministry, (1).*

Nearly 30% of the Dead Sea Scrolls are fragments of canonical scrolls, including an incredible, nearly complete copy of Isaiah. It was in this collection from cave 4 that we found many portions (including the core prophetic portions) of the book of Daniel.

- **“4QDan<sup>a</sup>”** preserved the following parts of Daniel: 1:16–20; 2:9–11, 19–49; 3:1, 2; 4:29, 30; 5:5–7, 12–14, 16–19; 7:5–7, 25–28; 8:1–5; 10:16–20; 11:13–16.
- **“4QDan<sup>b</sup>”** preserved the following parts of Daniel: 5:10–12, 14–16, 19–22; 6:8–22, 27–29; 7:1–6, 11(?), 26–28; 8:1–8, 13–16.
- **“4QDan<sup>c</sup>”** preserved the following parts of Daniel: 10:5–9, 11–16, 21; 11:1, 2, 13–17, 25–29.
  - Ulrich, E.. (1989). Daniel Manuscripts from Qumran. Part 2: Preliminary Editions of 4QDan<sup>b</sup> and 4QDan<sup>c</sup>. *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research, (274)*, 3–26. <http://doi.org/10.2307/1357050>.

The book of Daniel is also referenced in **“4QFlorilegium,”** a fragment dated to the early 1<sup>st</sup> Century A.D. that uses the quote formula *“which is written in the book of Daniel the prophet,”* a phrase only used for quotations from canonical Scripture. All of the canonical fragments in the DSS were copies of copies of Jewish scripture and it would be scholarly inaccurate to assume an authorship date for Daniel after the date it claims to have been written: there is simply not enough room for the editorial and canonical developments required to have taken place.

**Therefore, the book of Daniel MUST have been written exactly as it claims within its own words: *written BY Daniel the prophet in c. 530 B.C.***

## The Story: Daniel the prophet and Alexander the Great

Daniel served in the Babylonian court for the duration of the Babylonian captivity of Israel and continued to serve when the Persian Empire conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. The book of Daniel was no doubt fully written by 530 when Daniel was an old man. Soon came the construction of the new Temple that began with Zerubbabel in 515, was continued [after Esther’s story] under the direction of Ezra in 457, and was finished by Nehemiah during 444-408. It was likely only around this time that the book of Daniel began to be included into the Jewish canon. By the time Alexander the Great marched on Jerusalem in 332, it was certainly part of the canon as is attested by Josephus, the famous Jewish-Roman historian. He tells of Alexander, as he was making his way city-by-city towards Egypt, burning each city, that when he came to Jerusalem, the high priest went out to meet

him with open arms and open city gates. Alexander stopped short and honored the priest (an odd thing for him to do) because he had recognized him from a vision where an unknown God had instructed him *“to make no delay, but boldly to pass over the sea thither, for that he would conduct my army, and would give me the dominion over the Persians.”* Josephus goes on, *“And when he went up into the temple, he offered sacrifice to God, according to the high priest’s direction, and magnificently treated both the high priest and the priests. And when the Book of Daniel was showed him wherein Daniel declared that one of the Greeks should destroy the empire of the Persians, he supposed that himself was the person intended.”* Josephus (c. 94 A.D.). *Antiquities of the Jews, Book 11, Chapter 8, Paragraphs 4-5.*

### ***Alexander the Great was shown Daniel and he believed in God. Shortly thereafter, he was made Pharaoh and treated “as a god.”***

How could Alexander have been shown the prophecy that referenced his conquest of 334-323 if it was not written until 150? Clearly secular historians who reject the possibility of prophecy cannot accept the book of Daniel but they must therefore also reject Josephus—they are as links in a chain.

#### **The Story: The Maccabees and the end of the Greek Empire**

The literal scrolls of Daniel found in the Qumran caves were likely copies shared (but not authored) during the Maccabean Revolt of 167-160 B.C. after Antiochus Epiphanes (the Greek king of the Seleucid Empire) had desecrated the Temple in 167. Judah Maccabee, the son of a priest who lived under the time when Antiochus Epiphanes had forbidden all Jewish religious practices since 175, led the revolt that defeated the Greek armies time and time again, literally reconquering the city of Jerusalem, recapturing the desecrated Temple, routing the subsequent armies sent, and even expanding and conquering the surrounding areas.

Antiochus Epiphanes died from disease while trying to reconquer the East (Persia) and after hearing that the Maccabees had defeated his army in the West (Israel). Rome had already defeated his army in the Mediterranean in 168, effectively becoming the new super power of the world. This was the beginning of the end of the Greek dominance of the Hellenic world. Soon the Maccabees made a peace treaty with the still-fragmented Roman Republic in 161. But Demetrius (the Greek who ruled the shrinking Seleucid Empire after Antiochus) did not honor the agreement and sent his general Bacchides with an army of 20,000 infantry and 2,000 cavalry to attack Judah and his army of 3,000 hardened soldiers.

Outnumbered 7:1, more than two-thirds fled from the coming army. But Judah refused to flee the battlefield. He and 800 of his soldiers charged straight at Bacchides and the left-flanking cavalry. Incredibly, they routed the entire cavalry, forcing Bacchides to retreat to the steep hills of Jerusalem leaving his infantry to fight the brave Jews alone. Outnumbered now more than 25:1, Judah and his men turned to fight the infantry. The Greek army phalanx was unable to form in the rough terrain, forcing hand-to-hand combat. Judah and his men killed many of the enemy army but were eventually overwhelmed by sheer numbers. Judah died on the battlefield that day, but his bravery inspired the remainder of his army and two of his brothers led the Jewish forces to finally win independence and the liberty to worship freely under the growing Roman Empire.

#### **Conclusion: Daniel’s Authenticity is Confirmed—God is Vindicated**

The book of Daniel uses names—it uses specifics; it uses imagery and parallels that are so accurate that it defies natural ability or logic. The Bible correctly prophesied the details of **a)** the rise and fall of Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome; **b)** the division of the Roman Empire and the subsequent Dark Ages; **c)** the rise and fall of the Papacy, the anti-god French ideal, and the United States; and **d)** the coming ecumenical movement and the rise of modern spiritualism... and this is just a short list!

Note that we are coming onto the scene at the VERY END of this Bible's use here on earth. We are coming to the end of this entire age. But we have already established that this is the same Word of God that it has always been! So in each of these timeframes, there were people comparing the Bible's account with the real world around them going, "Wow! The Bible was right again! We see it happening right before our very eyes!" And soon we will say the same thing with the ending of the story as we are told from the Word of God. Let's begin our look at prophecy with this in mind.

## PROPHECY INTRODUCTION: PRINCIPLES FOR UNDERSTANDING

Prophecy is one of the most fascinating topics of the Bible. There are so many counterfeits for true prophecy that it has gotten an odd reputation. But God is clear that prophecy is given to us to be prepared. Notice, for example, what the angel Gabriel says to the prophet Daniel during a vision:

- **Daniel 8:19** "19And he said, "Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be."

### Principle of Bible Prophecy #1: "Nothing New, Only More Detail"

The first prophecy of any section in the Bible shows the big picture and the rest are added details. It is like taking a panoramic photo first and then zooming in for each of the next shots. If you rightly understand the opening prophecy, then you will be able to understand the rest of the information.

- *Example 1:* after God prophesized in **Genesis 3:15** in the Garden of Eden that Satan would ultimately be destroyed, the rest of the Bible is just more detail on how that happens.
- *Example 2:* after **Daniel 2** and the prophecy given in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream, the rest of the prophecies in Daniel are only more details on these specific times.
- *Example 3:* after **Revelation 2-3** and the prophecy given to the 7 churches, the rest of the prophecies in Revelation are only more details on these specific timeframes.

### Principle of Bible Prophecy #2: "Day for a Year"

- **Numbers 14:33-34** "33And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness. 34According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection."
- **Ezekiel 4:6** "6And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year."

### Principle of Bible Prophecy #3: "Woman Represents a Church"

- **Jeremiah 6:2** "2I have likened the daughter of Zion to a lovely and delicate woman."
- **II Corinthians 11:2** "2For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." (see also: **Rev. 17:1**)

### Principle of Bible Prophecy #4: "Beast Represents a Kingdom"

- **Daniel 7:23** "23Thus he said: "The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.'" (see also: **Revelation 13:11**)

### Principle of Bible Prophecy #5: "Waters Represent Populated Areas"

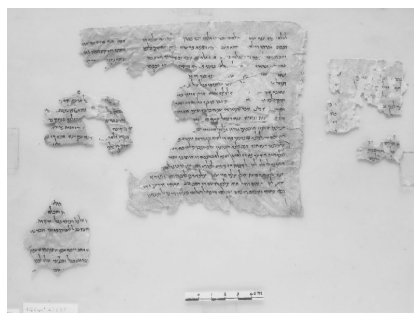
- **Revelation 17:15** "15Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.'" (see also: **Revelation 13:1**)

## STUDYING PROPHECY: INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF DANIEL

The story of Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar's dream is very well known, but we often forget just how incredible and amazingly simple this prophecy is. In 603 B.C., a 20 year-old Daniel interprets the dream for the ruler who had just destroyed Jerusalem and the Sanctuary. He boldly proclaims the word of Yahweh in the palatial halls of the heart of paganism to the king, trusting in God still even though he had just had terrible and unimaginable evidences to the contrary. The Sanctuary and the Most Holy Place were burned to the ground and torn down brick-by-brick. The entire city of Jerusalem with its beautiful gardens, vineyards, towns, markets and families had been razed to the ground by the Babylonian army and even the city walls had been torn down.

***Daniel had faith in God even when all hope was lost, even when the evidence of his senses made it seem like God had abandoned him.***

In our study this week we are going to look at what it means to fight in the army of God. Let's just get it out in the open right away: **fighting for God leads to persecution on earth.** Daniel had everything taken from him and yet he determined in his heart to be loyal to God no matter what. **That is steadfastness.** And the result of his obedience and loyalty was that he was honored to proclaim God's message to the king. The result of his trust and faith was that he became the prophet who gave the world the book of Daniel. (photo: 4QDan<sup>a</sup>)



**Remember, the book of Daniel was fully written by 530 B.C.** and was among the other canonized books of scripture in the Dead Seas Scrolls of the Qumran caves. There were so many fragments of the scroll of Daniel found in the various caves near Qumran that this prophetic book must have been one of the most treasured by that community. Perhaps the popularity of Daniel was due to the fact that the people of Qumran lived during the anxious period in which many of these prophecies actually were being fulfilled. For whatever reason, the words of the book of Daniel were peculiarly safeguarded to the extent that we have at

our disposal parts of all chapters of Daniel, except chapters 9 and 12. (photo: 1QIsa<sup>a</sup>)

This is incredible evidence for our faith because, as was the case for the book of Isaiah, before Qumran there were no extant manuscripts of Daniel that dated earlier than the late tenth century A.D. So many scholars had reasons for doubting Daniel, but the DSS have turned that on its head.



## Daniel 2:26-45

<sup>26</sup>The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?”

<sup>27</sup>Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, “The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. <sup>28</sup>But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these: <sup>29</sup>As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. <sup>30</sup>But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.

<sup>31</sup>You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. <sup>32</sup>This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, <sup>33</sup>its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. <sup>34</sup>You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. <sup>35</sup>Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

<sup>36</sup>This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. <sup>37</sup>You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; <sup>38</sup>and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. <sup>39</sup>But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. <sup>40</sup>And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. <sup>41</sup>Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. <sup>42</sup>And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. <sup>43</sup>As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. <sup>44</sup>And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. <sup>45</sup>Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”



## Building the Pattern: Historical Fulfillment of the Dream

After rebelling against the Assyrian Empire and then beating the Egyptian army **in 605 B.C.**, the Babylonian Empire began to rule the world, including Israel. Being more powerful, beautiful and wealthy than any preceding nation, it seemed like no kingdom WOULD EVER be able to conquer it. King Nebuchadnezzar did not destroy most cities, but rather took youths from them (including Daniel) to go live and train in Babylon. However, after 19 years, he grew tired of dealing with the rebellious Israelite kings and so he sent his army to destroy Jerusalem and the Temple in 586 B.C.

- **Ezra 5:12** “<sup>12</sup>But because our fathers provoked the God of heaven to wrath, He gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this temple and carried the people away to Babylon.”

Before this, in the second year of the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel interpreted a dream that was given to him by God (**Dan. 2:1**). God declared that King Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylonian Empire (the head of gold) would not last forever, but that the Medes and the Persians would take it away. Just as God had said, after only 66 years the joint army conquered Babylon **in 539 B.C.** while Belshazzar ruled the city and his father was out fighting. Thus began the Medo-Persian Empire.

- **Daniel 5:25-28** “<sup>25</sup>And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. <sup>26</sup>This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; <sup>27</sup>TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; <sup>28</sup>PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.”

Daniel lived through this transition of power and served Darius the Mede who was governor of Babylon under King Cyrus the Persian. It would have been incredible enough that the dream prophesied so specifically that Babylon would be conquered by Medo-Persia, but then it goes on to say that the great Empire of Persia would be conquered by the tiny collection of city-states known as Greece, which happened **in 331 B.C.**—a full 272 years after Nebuchadnezzar’s original dream!

- **Daniel 8:20-22** “<sup>20</sup>The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia. <sup>21</sup>And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. <sup>22</sup>As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.”

Daniel was certainly dead by this point, and he could not have invented the prediction that Greece would conquer Persia because it was not even a contender. How could he have invented the strong leader (large horn), the four-way division of the Grecian kingdom, and that it would also not last forever. Then **around 168 B.C.**, 435 years later after Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, another transition:

- **Daniel 2:40** “<sup>40</sup>And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.” (*bruise parallel: Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53:5*)
- **Isaiah 53:5** “<sup>5</sup>But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”

Rome came to power as a crushing (bruising) force that ruled the Mediterranean world for over 640 years, longer than any other empire. God was clear that although this fourth kingdom would also not last, it would not be conquered. Rather, it would be divided up. That is exactly what happened. **In 476 A.D.** over a thousand years after the dream, the Roman Empire disintegrated and 10 barbaric tribes divided up the remains, and they would never join together as one nation again.

- **Daniel 2:43** “<sup>43</sup>As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.”

## SATAN CONTINUES HIS ATTACK ON THE SANCTUARY

While he was still in Heaven, Lucifer was the covering cherub of the Heavenly Sanctuary; he stood in very presence of God. It was in that perfect environment that he rebelled, defiling the Sanctuary.

- **Ezekiel 28:18** “<sup>18</sup>You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you.”

Lucifer sinned and transgressed the law of God that he was supposed to defend. His attack was also against the Sanctuary of God. Then, God gave the pattern to mankind to lead them in righteousness.

- **Genesis 25:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. <sup>9</sup>According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.”
- **Psalms 77:13** “<sup>13</sup>Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; who is so great a God as our God?”

Satan recognized the Sanctuary model as God’s gift to mankind so that they could understand how to be redeemed and be brought back into communion with God. He had been in the Sanctuary in Heaven; he knew how great the impact would be if mankind studied and understood the Sanctuary model. Therefore, he made it his goal to destroy the Sanctuary at every turn down through history.

### Egypt Enslaves the People of God

Satan used the Egyptian empire to attempt to destroy the people of God who carried the message of redemption. During their time in Egypt, the Israelites were nearly extinguished and their trust in God was nearly crushed. But God delivered them with His mighty right arm.

### Assyria Tries to Destroy Jerusalem

Solomon built the Temple during his life, but as soon as he died, the nation divided into the kingdoms of Judah (south) and Israel (north). By the time Hezekiah came to the throne of Judah in the south, it was the very end for Israel in the north. Three years into his reign the Assyrians besieged the northern capital of Samaria; three years after that, King Sennacherib of Assyria conquered Israel.

- **II Kings 18:13** “<sup>13</sup>And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.”



Satan used the Assyrian army to do everything he could to destroy God’s people. He destroyed 10 of the 12 tribes by conquering Israel. He then turned and attacked Judah. Recent archeology supports the validity of the biblical account. *Sennacherib’s Prism*, as it is called, has very detailed records of the conquest of Judah. But unlike the other countries, Jerusalem was protected from the Assyrians. The angel of the Lord killed over 185,000 people in one night (**II Kin. 19:35**).

### Babylon Destroys Jerusalem and the Temple

- **II Chronicles 36:7** “<sup>7</sup>Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.”

Satan knew that to rule all humanity, the Sanctuary with God’s plan must be destroyed so that no one could understand it. He did this through Babylon and hoped that God’s way would be lost forever.





### Persia Hinders the Rebuilding of the Temple

Miraculously, Persian kings allow for Israel to return and rebuild the Sanctuary, but Satan used the surrounding cities (under Persian rule) to so hinder the building that the project was abandoned for many years. It was not until much later that the Sanctuary was once more built and protected.

- **Nehemiah 4:7-8** “<sup>7</sup>Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, <sup>8</sup>and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion.”

### Greece Desecrates the Temple

- **I Maccabees 1:10 (GNT)** “<sup>10</sup>The wicked ruler Antiochus Epiphanes, son of King Antiochus the Third of Syria, was a descendant of one of Alexander's generals. Antiochus Epiphanes had been a hostage in Rome before he became king of Syria in the year 137.”
- **I Maccabees 1:31-37 (GNT)** “<sup>31</sup>He plundered the city, set it on fire, and tore down its buildings and walls. <sup>32</sup>He and his army took the women and children as prisoners and seized the cattle. <sup>33</sup>Then Antiochus and his forces built high walls and strong towers in the area north of the Temple, turning it into a fort. <sup>34</sup>They brought in a group of traitorous Jews and installed them there. <sup>35</sup>They also brought in arms and supplies and stored in the fort all the loot that they had taken in Jerusalem. This fort became a great threat to the city. <sup>36</sup>The fort was a threat to the Temple, a constant, evil menace for Israel. <sup>37</sup>Innocent people were murdered around the altar; the Holy Place was defiled by murderers.”



Antiochus attacked Jerusalem to secure a frontier in the south against the new threat of Roman power in Egypt. He sent a force of 22,000 soldiers, led by Apollonius to Jerusalem. Pretending to come in peace, they attacked the city on the Sabbath.

- **Josephus, The Jewish War Book 12, Chapter 5** “...So he left the temple bare, and took away the golden candlesticks, and the golden altar [of incense], and table [of shewbread], and the altar [of burnt-offering]; and did not abstain from even the veils, which were made of fine linen and scarlet. He also emptied it of its secret treasures, and left nothing at all remaining; and by this means cast the Jews into great lamentation, for he forbade them to offer those daily sacrifices which they used to offer to God, according to the law... And when the king had built an idol altar upon God's altar, he slew swine upon it, and so offered a sacrifice neither according to the law, nor the Jewish religious worship in that country. He also compelled them to forsake the worship which they paid their own God, and to adore those whom he took to be gods; and made them build temples, and raise idol altars in every city and village, and offer swine upon them every day.”



### Rome Destroys the Earthly Temple for Good

- **Matthew 24:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. <sup>2</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Do you

not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” ”

- **Josephus, The Jewish War Book 6, Chapter 4** “The rebels shortly after attacked the Romans again, and a clash followed between the guards of the sanctuary and the troops who were putting out the fire inside the inner court; the latter routed the Jews and followed in hot pursuit right up to the Temple itself. Then one of the soldiers, without awaiting any orders and with no dread of so momentous a deed, but urged on by some supernatural force, snatched a blazing piece of wood and, climbing on another soldier's back, hurled the flaming brand through a low golden window that gave access, on the north side, to the rooms that surrounded the sanctuary... Thus, in defiance of Caesar's wishes, the Temple was set on fire. ...While the Temple was ablaze, the attackers plundered it, and countless people who were caught by them were slaughtered. There was no pity for age and no regard was accorded rank; children and old men, laymen and priests, alike were butchered; every class was pursued and crushed in the grip of war, whether they cried out for mercy or offered resistance.”

**At every point in history, through every pagan power, Satan used his dedicated people of the earth to attack the Sanctuary model.**

**The Earthly Sanctuary Ended: Jesus' EARTHLY MISSION was complete**

- **Hebrews 8:5** “<sup>5</sup>who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” ”
  - *The earthly Sanctuary was but a shadow of the substantive Heavenly Sanctuary above.*
- **Matthew 27:50, 51** “<sup>50</sup>And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. <sup>51</sup>Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,”
  - *When Jesus died, the symbolic was no longer necessary for we now have the literal.*
- **Hebrews 10:16-17** “<sup>16</sup>This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” <sup>17</sup>then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” ”
  - *The law that was placed in the Ark of the Covenant is now written upon our hearts.*
- **I Corinthians 3:16** “<sup>16</sup>Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”
  - *It is within us that the presence of God has a place on earth to dwell with mankind.*
- **Psalms 5:11-12** “<sup>11</sup>But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; let those also who love Your name be joyful in You. <sup>12</sup>For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield.”
  - *We are defended by God's power when we put our trust in Him; it is our choice!*
  - The word DEFEND is actually the exact same word used to describe the covering cherubs! (see: **Ex. 25:20; Ex. 33:22; Ex. 40:3; Ps. 91:4; Ps. 139:13; Ps. 140:7; Ex. 28:14**)
- **Psalms 91:11** “<sup>11</sup>For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.”
  - *The angels of God are empowered to protect us and cover the law that is in our hearts!*
- **Hebrews 1:14** “<sup>14</sup>Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”
  - *Our guardian angels are better named our “covering angels” just like the Sanctuary.*

**WE are the now the Sanctuary: we have the law in our hearts, the “covering angels” around us, and the presence of God within us.**

## ENTER SATAN'S MASTERPIECE: THE CLAY KINGDOM

Once Jesus died, was resurrected, and ascended to Heaven, Satan worked through Rome to destroy the remains of the Sanctuary blueprint model. But this was not enough for him! However, he obviously could not reach up to Heaven and destroy the substantive Heavenly Sanctuary physically, so he went after mankind's knowledge of it through **theology** and **understanding**.

- **Daniel 8:11-12** “<sup>11</sup>He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down. <sup>12</sup>Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered.”

We will soon identify this power, but notice from Daniel chapter 8 how it would try to oppose the Sanctuary but would eventually only seek to “*cast truth down to the ground*.”

### Clay in the Bible

- **Isaiah 64:8** “<sup>8</sup>But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.”

*Clay is used to represent people who profess to have God as their molder and maker.* Satan is going to use a frontman system that professes to serve God to subtly attack the Heavenly Sanctuary.



*Miry Clay*

*Good Clay*

- **Psalms 40:2** “He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps.”

### ***The Clay Kingdom is going to be one that professes to serve God in SPIRIT but has no foundation of truth upon the WORD of God.***

- **Daniel 2:41-43** “<sup>41</sup>Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. <sup>42</sup>And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. <sup>43</sup>As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.”

This Clay Kingdom will be a spiritual kingdom (clay) that unites with the broken down pieces of the Roman Empire (iron): a union of **Spiritual Powers** with **Political Powers**. Sound familiar yet?

### Follow God And Be Moldable

- Gold is a pretty soft metal (Nebuchadnezzar)
- Silver is a little harder than gold (Cyrus, Darius)
- Bronze is even harder than silver still (Alexander)
- Iron is the hardest of all to bend (Pontius Pilate)
- Clay will not bend at all—it will only break (Popes)

***Every time we deny God it becomes harder to follow right and easier to follow wrong.***

## DANIEL CHAPTER 7

- **Daniel 7:2-3** “<sup>2</sup>Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. <sup>3</sup>And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.”



### *First Beast: Babylon (605-539 B.C.)*

- **Daniel 7:4** “<sup>4</sup>The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it.”



### *Second Beast: Medo-Persia (539-331 B.C.)*

- **Daniel 7:5** “<sup>5</sup>And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: ‘Arise, devour much flesh!’ ”



### *Third Beast: Greece (331-168 B.C.)*

- **Daniel 7:6** “<sup>6</sup>After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.”



### *Fourth Beast: Rome (168 B.C. – 476 A.D.)*

- **Daniel 7:7** “<sup>7</sup>After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.”



### *The Little Horn: Divided Rome (476 A.D. – End)*

- **Daniel 7:8** “<sup>8</sup>I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.”

This power will arise in Europe during the time of the ten barbarian tribes that took over the disintegrated Western Roman Empire, it will eliminate 3 of these tribes, and it will then set man in the place of God, speaking blasphemy.

**The Clay Kingdom (Dan. 2) is the same power as the Little Horn (Dan. 7).  
The attributes given to the Iron and Clay apply also to the Little Horn.**

## The Actions of the Little Horn (Miry Clay)

- **Daniel 7:24** “<sup>24</sup>The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings.”

In 476 the Roman Emperor Romulus was ousted and the barbarians who were already establishing themselves divided up the remains of the disintegrating Western Roman Empire. These ten tribes would later become the European Nations. However, three of them were quickly destroyed.

- In 493 A.D. the ***Heruli***
- In 534 A.D. the ***Vandals***
- In 538 A.D. the ***Ostrogoths***

The Lombards joined with the religious heads of the corrupted Christian church in Rome, supported with an army from the Eastern Byzantine Emperor, and began to destroy all who questioned their authority. They were accused of Arianism and were annihilated or incorporated into the new Italian Kingdom.

**By 538 A.D. all of the opposition powers to the Little Horn power were destroyed and it grew.**



## The Chronology of the End of the World

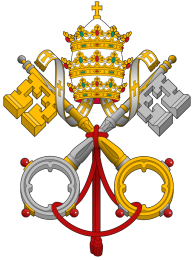
- **Daniel 7:19-22** “<sup>19</sup>Then I wished to know the truth about **the fourth beast**, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; <sup>20</sup>and the ten horns that were on its head, and **the other horn which came up**, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows. <sup>21</sup>I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, <sup>22</sup>until the Ancient of Days came, and a **judgment was made in favor of the saints** of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.”

This is one of the most clear chronologies given anywhere in the Bible. Three times in this chapter (v. 10, 22, 26) the chronology is given: **Rome, Little Horn, and then Judgment**. The fourth beast we know is the Roman Empire. The Little Horn is the false Christian religious power. The coming of God, the judgment in favor of the righteous, and our journey to Heaven is a clear reference to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. But notice how the Little Horn will prevail *until* the Second Coming.

This is the power that will control the world through subtlety and deception (often from behind the scenes), claiming to be promoting God’s truth (clay) but actually redirecting worship away from God to ultimately point to Satan, the prince of this world.

***What are the odds that Daniel could predict by himself all of this transition of power, with all the detail, and not have been inspired by He who actually knows the future? It would be absurd to believe that! The Bible is TRUTH, my friends! We can place our trust in it.***

## THE LITTLE HORN AND MIRY CLAY IDENTIFIED



This power is clear in history: it is the power that ruled politically, religiously, and socially during the Middle Ages of history; it is **the Papacy**; it is the **Roman Catholic Church** (photo: “the Insignia of the Papacy”). Satan has used this power to attack the Heavenly Sanctuary by casting down the truths here on earth and by trying to change the immutable law of God: the Ten Commandments, among other things.

**The antichrist is the Roman Church State. No other power even comes close to fitting all the many criteria given in the Bible.**

It is quite probable that nearly every single Roman Catholic person on earth has no idea about the system’s actual beliefs and workings. It is the leaders, the heads of the church who are deceiving their masses. Many honest, God-fearing Christians are Catholics and have done incalculable good in our world. But this should come as no surprise. Remember, it **professes** to serve God (clay), but actually serves darkness.

Little Horn Characteristics:	
1	arises out of the 4th beast
2	arises from among the 10 horns
3	arises after the 10 horns
4	is different than the other horns
5	is more stout than the others
6	uproots three kingdoms
7	has eyes like a man and spoke words against the Most High
8	will wear out the saints
9	will change times and laws
10	will rule for time, times, and ½ a time
11	shall devour the whole earth
12	rule will last until the end
13	dominion will be taken away at the end of time

### Different Interpretations: Futurism, Preterism, and Historicism

- **II Thessalonians 2:3** “<sup>3</sup>Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup>who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”
- **I John 4:3** “<sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”

Many Christian churches teach “**Preterism**,” that the antichrist Little Horn power was Antiochus Epiphanes from 167 B.C.; this cannot be correct because he was long before Paul who said that the church would fall away from the truth before the Antichrist “Man of Sin” is revealed. Other Christian churches teach “**Futurism**,” that it will be someone from Palestine “after the rapture;” this cannot be correct because John said that the power was already secretly working and would soon become unrestrained. We are teaching “**Historicism**” which looks into history and sees the pattern in the Bible and cannot deny the many, many evidences that point to the Papacy and the Pope.

#### The Twin Pillars of the Protestant Reformation

- Tertullian (200 A.D.) – Early Church Christian
- John Chrysostom (390 A.D.) – Early Church Christian
- Martin Luther (1520, 1537) – Lutheran
- John Calvin (1536) – Presbyterian
- Thomas Cranmer (1543) – Anglican
- John Knox (c. 1550) – Scotch Presbyterian
- Roger Williams (c. 1650) – Baptist
- Cotton Mather (1707) – Congregational Theologian
- John Wesley (c. 1750) – Methodist
- Ellen White (1888) – Seventh-day Adventist



*A Single Example from MANY Quotes: John Calvin (1536) – Presbyterian*

- "Some persons think us too severe and censorious when we call the Roman pontiff Antichrist. But those who are of this opinion do not consider that they bring the same charge of presumption against Paul himself, after whom we speak and whose language we adopt... I shall briefly show that (Paul's words in II Thess. 2) are not capable of any other interpretation than that which applies them to the Papacy." Calvin, J. (1536). *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.

*A Brief Point: Protestantism and the "Anti"-christ*

To claim to be a Protestant Christian—to “protest” the teachings of the Roman Church—was once synonymous with an understanding that the Roman Church had inherited its traditions from Pagan Rome and not from Jesus Christ. It was a core belief that the identity of the antichrist was the Roman Church State and the Pope in particular. This has become less than common knowledge.

The word ANTI-Christ does not mean someone who is blatantly against Jesus. In fact, it is quite the opposite. The suffix “anti” really means, “substitute for.” So the antichrist will be he who claims to be the substitute on earth for God in Heaven. When this understanding is reached, the number of options for the antichrist quickly shrinks to only a very few.

**Distinctive Attributes of the Little Horn Power**

- **Daniel 7:25** “<sup>25</sup>He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.”



Look at the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> commandments—the RCS has intended to change all of them.

The Roman Catholic Ten Commandments*	The Ten Commandments of the Bible
<p><i>Commandment I</i> I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt not have strange gods before me.</p>	<p><i>Commandment I</i> I am the Lord thy God... Thou shalt have no other gods before me.</p>
<p><i>Commandment II</i> Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.</p>	<p><i>Commandment II</i> Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I... am a jealous God...</p>
<p><i>Commandment III</i> Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.</p>	<p><i>Commandment III</i> Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.</p>
<p><i>Commandment IV</i> Honor thy father and thy mother.</p>	<p><i>Commandment IV</i> Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God... For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.</p>

<i>Commandment V</i> Thou shalt not kill.	<i>Commandment V</i> Honour thy father and thy mother...
<i>Commandment VI</i> Thou shalt not commit adultery.	<i>Commandment VI</i> Thou shalt not kill.
<i>Commandment VII</i> Thou shalt not steal.	<i>Commandment VII</i> Thou shalt not commit adultery.
<i>Commandment VIII</i> Thou shalt not bear false witness against your neighbor.	<i>Commandment VIII</i> Thou shalt not steal.
<i>Commandment IX</i> Thou shalt not covet your neighbor's wife.	<i>Commandment IX</i> Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
<i>Commandment X</i> Thou shalt not covet you neighbor's goods.	<i>Commandment X</i> Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

\*Geiermann, P. (1957). *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*. Ed. 3, p. 37-38.

## Proof from History: The Church Speaks

### ALEXANDER HISLOP (1858) – FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

- “To conciliate the Pagans to nominal Christianity, Rome, pursuing its usual policy, took measures to get the Christian and Pagan festivals amalgamated, and, by a complicated but skilful adjustment of the calendar, it was found no difficult matter, in general, to get Paganism and Christianity – now far sunk in idolatry – in this as in so many other things, to shake hands.” Hislop, A. (1858). *The Two Babylons*.

### WALTER DRUM (1914) – ROMAN CATHOLIC

- “Protestants make much of the observance of the Sunday and are sometimes sincerely and honestly shocked that we Catholics seem to make little of that same observance. It does not occur to our separated brethren that by their principle of faith – the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible – there is no Sunday observance of obligation at all... The observance of the Sunday thus comes to be an ecclesiastical law entirely distinct from the divine law of Sabbath observance. The prescriptions of Gen. 2:2-3 regard to the Sabbath having nothing whatsoever to do with the law of the Church about Sunday, the Lord's Day. Catholics should observe the law of the Church, not by the Old Testament observances of the Sabbath nor by the dictates of Protestants or of Jews, but by the prescriptions of the Church herself. The author of the Sunday law is the only one who has a right to interpret that law; and that author is the Catholic Church.” Drum, W. (1914, February). *Recent Bible Study. The American Ecclesiastical Review, (50), 236-239.*

### CONVERTS CATECHISM OF CATHOLIC DOCTRINE (1957) – ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

- “**Q.** Which is the Sabbath day? **A.** Saturday is the Sabbath day. **Q.** Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? **A.** We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.” Geiermann, P. (1957). *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*. Ed. 3, p. 50.



**STEPHEN KEENAN (1833) – ROMAN CATHOLIC**

- “Q. *Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept?* A. Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her-she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.” Keenan, S. (1899). *A Doctrinal Catechism*. 3rd ed., New York: P. J. Kenedy and Sons, p. 174.

***In the Council of Laodicea (364 AD) the Roman Catholic Church transferred the solemnity of Saturday Sabbath to Sunday.***