

# **Understanding Bible Prophecy**

**Kelly McDonald, Jr.**



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## Introduction to Bible Prophecy

The word Prophecy simply means foretelling events before they came to pass. There are some prophecies God spoke many years ago that have already come to pass. There are some that have yet to come to pass.

In the past and even today, God speaks through people who are called Prophets. He has chosen these individuals to speak forth His very Words. Prophets tell the future of people and nations. In the Bible, there are 18 books that are considered prophetic in nature. I have listed the names of these 18 books below, in the order they are found in the Bible.

<b>1. Isaiah</b>	<b>7. Joel</b>	<b>13. Habakkuk</b>
<b>2. Jeremiah</b>	<b>8. Amos</b>	<b>14. Zephaniah</b>
<b>3. Lamentations</b>	<b>9. Obadiah</b>	<b>15. Haggai</b>
<b>4. Ezekiel</b>	<b>10. Jonah</b>	<b>16. Zechariah</b>
<b>5. Daniel</b>	<b>11. Micah</b>	<b>17. Malachi</b>
<b>6. Hosea</b>	<b>12. Nahum</b>	<b>18. Revelation</b>

There are prophesies scattered over other books of the Bible, but these books almost totally address prophecy. God spoke through these prophets concerning the future of entire nations long before those events happened!

To give you an example of this, take into account the prophet Daniel. Daniel lived around 600 B.C., or about 2,600 years ago. Several prophecies God gave him came to pass nearly 450 years later! In Daniel chapter 11, the prophet Daniel foretold that a Greek kingdom would invade the Promised Land and cause mighty destruction. This took place in 168 BC! God foretold it far in advance. To give you another example, take into account the Son of God and our Savior, Jesus Christ. He was also a Prophet. Around 30 AD, Jesus foretold that the Temple in Jerusalem would be destroyed (Matthew 24:1-2). This actually happened in 70 AD when the Romans invaded Jerusalem and destroyed the

Temple.

We can see that some prophesies come to pass in a more immediate time frame, whereas other prophesies come to pass much later.

**In this booklet, we are going to review the basics of Bible prophecy.**

# Chapter 1

## Basics of Prophecy

There are some things to keep in mind as you examine the prophecies of the Bible. When we look at prophecy, it requires us to study history. Why is this? Some prophecies given by God have already come to pass. This means we will discuss dates, people, and places in history so we can understand how those Words from God came to pass.

Symbols are also used in prophecy. These symbols come from the context or other places in the Bible. Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Horns can represent power, kings, or kingdoms (see Daniel 7:7-8,23-27 and Revelation 17:3, 12-13). One interesting symbol of prophecy is that nations are usually depicted by Beasts. For instance, Babylon is depicted as a lion in Daniel chapter 7. Greece is depicted as a leopard. Women can be depicted as a religion. Israel is depicted as a woman many times because the religious system God gave her also formed the backbone of her political and national identity (Ezekiel chapter 16). The false religion of Babylon is pictured as a woman in Revelation chapter 17. The Bride of Christ is pictured as a woman in Ephesians chapter 5 and Revelation chapter 12.

There are also different ways of reckoning time in Bible prophecy. Some prophecies are understood where one day represents one year. For instance, in Numbers chapter 13, the twelve spies sent out into the wilderness searched the land for forty days. Ten of the spies brought a bad report and led Israel astray. As a punishment, the Israelites spent forty days in the wilderness (Numbers 14:26-35). They spent one year in the desert for each day that the spies searched the land.

In Revelation chapter 2, Jesus told the Smyrna church that they would suffer persecution for ten days. The church had two, ten year persecutions from 303-313 AD and then again from 314 to 324 AD (the second one only occurred in the Eastern Roman Em-

pire). We can see how one day represented one year in the fulfillment of this prophecy.

In prophetic books of the Bible, sometimes a year is called a **time**. The term **times** refers to two years and **half a time** refers to half a year. All methods of prophecy are reckoned according to the Hebrew Calendar, which is a lunar calendar (moon-based). Therefore, a day is reckoned from sunset to sunset. A year is 360 days, composed of 12 months with 30 days each. All of these factors are important for us to understand Bible prophecy.

In Revelation 11:3, it says that the two witnesses prophecy for 1,260 days. this is  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  years. In Revelation 12:14, it says that the woman is taken to the place prepared for her to be prepared for a times, time, and half a time ( $3 \frac{1}{2}$  years). In Revelation 13, the beast power is given authority for 42 months (Rev. 13:5). Once again, this is  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  years. These are different ways to reckon time. In these examples, we see three ways to reckon the same period of time!

When you study prophecy, specific events mentioned. One specific event mentioned in prophecy is the Time of Jacob's Trouble (Jer. 30:4-6). Another specific event mentioned is the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord is a general phrase referring to a time of judgment. It can refer to any number of events, including: the Rescue of the Saints and the First Resurrection (Luke 17:20-37, I Corinthians 1:8), the Wrath of God (Zephaniah 1), the destruction of the armies at Armageddon (Zech. 14), or the Great White Throne Judgment (2 Peter 3:10). To understand which day or time period the Bible is referring to, you have to read the context. Context is vital to understand any Bible prophecy. Context was discussed in the "Understanding the Bible" series (Beginner and Advanced). These two booklets can be downloaded on our free booklet page.

Many prophecies are dual in nature, meaning they have a past or former fulfillment and a future or latter fulfillment. The former fulfillment refers to a prophecy that has already come to pass.

This former fulfillment foreshadows the future event called the latter fulfillment. This is a fulfillment that has yet to come. The former guarantees that the latter will happen.

As an example, Jesus foretold that the Temple would be destroyed around 30 AD (Matthew 24:1-2). It was destroyed in 70 AD. This is a prophecy that has already come to pass. However, if we read all of Jesus' prophecy and compare it to other places in the Bible, we can see that there is a future attack on Jerusalem that will take place. He uses the destruction that would come to pass in 70 AD to foretell of a future destruction that would occur at the END of the age (Matthew 24:3). The rest of the chapter explains this. Another future prophecy that foretells of this future invasion of Jerusalem is Zechariah 14:1-2.

Another basic teaching of Bible prophecy is that God often addresses an entire nation. Most prophecies you read are addressed to entire nations like the nations of Israel, Judah, Assyria, Babylon, Moab, etc. Because He is addressing an entire nation, He is addressing all the people that live where that nation is located.

When a prophecy is given, the Lord is referring to the location of a nation (or nations) at the time that prophecy is supposed to come to pass. So, when we look at prophecies that have already come to pass, we look at the location where those nations lived at the time the prophecy came to pass. When the Lord is prophesying about future events, He is referring to nations where they are located in the world today. To this end, we must look at Biblical descriptions of these nations in the last days and compare them with modern nations. The use of history is important because history is a witness of what actually happened in the world at a specific point and time.

This is a basic overview of Bible prophecy to help you understand how to interpret the various Bible passages. We are now going to move to some specific passages of the Bible to apply these concepts.

## Chapter 2

### Important Chapters of Prophecy

There are certain chapters in the Bible that give us very basic, foundational information on prophesy. They bring together all of the elements we have previously discussed, such as symbols and time. This section will be a brief overview of these chapters. We will have literature printed in the future that is much more in depth on these specific chapters from the Bible.

The first two we are going to examine are Daniel 2 and Daniel 7. These two chapters lay the foundation for many other prophecies. In them, Daniel was given the revelation of the history of Gentile nations (non-Israelite), beginning with Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon and continuing all the way to the return of Christ. He was told this history in two different forms in these two chapters.

In Daniel 2, God showed Nebuchadnezzar a statue with a head of gold, arms and chest of silver, thighs and belly of bronze, legs of iron, and feet partially with iron and partially made of clay. The prophet Daniel received the interpretation. This statue represents a succession of Kingdoms beginning with Nebuchadnezzar and ending with the return of Christ. These nations, in order of their appearance on the statue and in history are: Babylon (gold), Medes-Persians (silver), Greeks-Macedonians (bronze), Rome (the two legs on the statue represent the eastern and western half of the Roman Empire) [iron], and then the Holy Roman Empire (iron and clay). The Medes/Persians people conquered Babylon. Greece conquered the Medes/Persians, and Rome conquered the Greeks/Macedonians. After Rome was conquered by the Germanic peoples, it was re-established as the Holy Roman Empire.

From head to toe, the metals used in this statue are of increasingly less value, but they have increasingly greater strength. Gold has more value than silver; silver has more value than bronze, and so forth. Silver is stronger than gold; bronze is stronger than silver;

and so forth. This indicates that each empire would have less moral value than the one before it, but it would be stronger militarily. This began with Babylon and will end with the Holy Roman Empire, which will be revived in coming years.

As aforementioned, the iron of the Roman Empire was inherited by the Germanic Peoples, and renamed the Holy Roman Empire. This began with Charlemagne when he was crowned the Holy Roman Emperor. Notice that the feet and toes on the statue have iron and clay. The clay represents two things 1) the weakness of Italy and 2) feudalism, which is tied to the land.

While the Germanic peoples have had the strong iron military of Rome, they were weakened by feudalism and trying to gain territory in Italy. Feudalism made the Holy Roman Empire weak because rulers had to subdue and earn the fealty of different land owners to have absolute power. Some were able to achieve this, but many were not. Fighting for territory in Italy has drained all major German Kings of their resources. This is what makes the feet of iron/clay partially strong and partially weak. This reflects the military and economic strength of Germany united with the military and economic weakness of the Italy/Feudalism.

This system has been revived off and on from Charlemagne until recent times. It will be the Empire Jesus Christ comes back to destroy at His return.

In Daniel 7, God gave Daniel a very similar dream, but there are a few different details. In this dream, he was given the revelation of four beasts: a lion, a bear, a leopard, and a frightening and terrifying beast. We are going to examine the important details of this chapter.

The Lion had two wings of an eagle and was on all fours. Suddenly, the wings were torn off and it stood upright. It was given the heart of a man. This beast represents Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Empire. God tried to bring Nebuchadnezzar into covenant with Himself (represented by the eagles' wings – see

also Ex. 19:4-6). He was actually called God's servant (Jeremiah 25:9). However, Nebuchadnezzar and later his sons became prideful and attributed their success to their own human effort (Daniel 4). This is represented in the dream by the eagles' wings being torn off and the animal being raised up. In the dream, the lion was given the heart of a man. This corresponds to Nebuchadnezzar and Babylonians having the intent and purpose of men instead of that of God. The lion itself represents royalty.

The second beast was a bear raised up on one side with three ribs in its mouth. The second beast represents the Medo-Persian Empire. They conquered the Babylonians. It is raised up on one side because the Persians had greater power in the alliance between the Medes and the Persians. The three ribs represent the three main conquests of this empire: Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt. This animal is a bear to represent the big, burley armies that this empire amassed (which could be as large as hundreds of thousands).

The third beast was a leopard with four heads and four wings. This represents the Greek Empire led by Alexander the Great. They conquered the Medes-Persians. It is a leopard because his army was known for its quickness. The four heads represent the four generals that took over his army after his death. The four wings represent the four winds, which were the divisions of this kingdom after Alexander's death (north, south, east, and west).

The fourth beast was terrifying and had iron teeth. We know from Daniel chapter 2 that iron represented Rome. This beast represents the Roman Empire. They conquered the Greeks. It was unlike any of the other empires; it was terrifying to ancient peoples. The fourth beast had teeth of iron. Iron was one of the symbols of the Roman Empire. They used iron weaponry and siege machinery. This forth beast has claws of bronze, which means that it will still have some of the Greek influence in its empire. This is why the term Greco-Roman is still used to this day.

This fourth beast had ten horns. The Roman Empire was displaced by Ten Germanic tribes. They are: the Heruli, Ostrogoths,

Lombards, Burgundians, Franks, Saxons, Visigoths, Vandals, Thuringians, and the Alemanni. These Ten Germanic tribes represent the ten horns that grow out of the fourth beast. They were kingdoms with independent rulers. All of these tribes except two (Franks and Saxons) converted to a form of Christianity called Arianism.

In Daniel's dream, another king existed and appears as a little horn. This king uprooted three of the ten horns and replaced them. Three of these ten Germanic tribes were uprooted from Italy: the Heruli, Ostrogoths, and Lombards. During this time, the pope desired sovereign rule over certain territory in Italy, but these three kingdoms did not make that possible. A king must have land. After these three were uprooted, Pope Stephen (II) became the first "pope-king" in 755 AD (Catholic Encyclopedia: "Pope Stephen (II) III"). Thus, all Popes are the small horn of Daniel's dream. It is a man ruling a smaller kingdom instead of a large nation. From that time until now, the Papacy has had land holdings in Italy and even other nations, often ruling them with separate laws from the laws of the nations that they have churches in.

In Daniel 7:25, this smaller horn spoke boastfully against the Most High. The Pope claims to be the vicar of Christ (or in the place of Christ). He claims that his statements on doctrine are made with infallibility. In the summer of 2015, the pope said that "Christ's work on the cross failed". These are just two examples of how he boastfully speaks against God.

It was prophesied that he would change the "set times and laws" and persecute the Saints for times, time, and half a time (3 ½ years). The Aramaic word translated as "set times" is *zeman*, and it corresponds to the Hebrew word *moed*. *Moed* refers to the Feast Days in Leviticus 23. The Catholic Church changed Passover to Easter and Tabernacles to Christmas. Additionally, they changed the Sabbath. They started this change in the 100s AD, but it was accelerated under Constantine. They also changed the Ten Commandments, which are the "laws" in Daniel 7:25. The Catholic Ten Commandments are not the same as the Ten Commandments

in the Holy bible. They got rid of the commandment against idolatry and made coveting two commandments 1) do not covet your neighbor's wife and 2) do not covet your neighbors goods. The papacy is going to persecute the saints who do not bow down to their authority for a 3 ½ year period called The Great Tribulation.

As aforementioned, the Germanic peoples inherited the mantle of the Roman Empire. The fourth beast will be a world ruling empire at the time Jesus publically returns. Specifically, it will rise up out of Germany and Europe. The Lord tells us of this Beast that "he shall devour the whole earth". In World War I and World War II, all the resources of the world were used to defeat the Germanic peoples. They had to ration goods across the world because resources were scarce. The Germans "devoured" the earth. This will happen one more time. Jesus will defeat the fourth beast and throw it along with the False Prophet into the Lake of Fire when He returns (Dan. 7:7-11, Rev. 19:11-20).

These two chapters from Daniel are crucial in helping us understand the book of Revelation.

In Revelation 12, John had a tremendous vision. He saw a woman with a crown of twelve stars on her head, clothed with the sun, and with the moon under her feet. A dragon also appeared with seven heads and ten horns. It had crowns on its heads. In the vision, the woman gave birth to a child. The dragon tried to consume this child but was unsuccessful. The child was caught up to the Throne of God. This woman represents the Bride of Christ. The twelve stars represent the twelve tribes of Israel. The clothing of sun represents the righteousness of living the commandments of God and being filled with the Spirit (Matthew 13:36-43). The moon represents Satan the devil.

In Genesis 1:14-19, the moon is called the lesser light that rules the night. Satan is the prince of darkness, but he also appears as an angel of light (Eph. 6:12, 2 Cor. 11:14). Just as the moon has no light in and of itself, neither does Satan. There is a promise

given to Eve in Genesis 3:18 that her seed shall crush the serpent's head. Thus, the woman stepping on the moon represents the Bride of Christ crushing the serpent. The dragon in this vision also represents Satan the devil. After the woman gives birth to child, who represents Christ, the dragon tries to consume the child. This may seem strange, but it is all told in symbol. This represents Satan trying to tempt Christ in the desert. He literally tried to consume Him. The first temptation was eating (Matthew 4:1-12). After Christ's resurrection, He was called up to Heaven (Acts 1). The woman was then pursued by the dragon for 1,260 days. Using a day for a year in Bible prophecy, this represents 1,260 years.

Between 313 and 337 AD, Christianity began to be syncretized with paganism under Constantine. A group of believers who refused to allow syncretism to influence their beliefs fled into the Swiss Alps. They were called the Waldenses (also named Vadous or valley dwellers). They were nourished and fed by God in the Piedmont Valley for 1,260 years. Towards the end of this time period, political events in Europe allowed others more freedom to worship separate from the Catholic Church.

There is a taking of this woman that has yet to take place (verses 7-17). In the vision, the dragon is then seen fighting a war in heaven again. He is then ejected out of Heaven. After he is kicked down to earth, he pursues the woman again. The woman is given two wings of a great eagle to fly to the place prepared for her for times, time, and half a time. This represents the three and a half year Great Tribulation. The dragon attempts the overtake her, but he is unsuccessful. Enraged at this, the dragon goes off to make war against her offspring. These represent the Christians left behind.

Revelation 13 is the next chapter. Two beasts are introduced. In Rev. 13:1-10, the first beast comes up out of the sea with a body like a leopard, a head like a lion, and feet like a bear. It also has seven heads. This beast is a nation that has taken all the characteristics of the four beasts in Daniel 7. These seven heads corre-

spond to the heads of the animals in Daniel 7: Lion (1 head), Bear (1 head), Leopard (4 heads), and frightening beast (1 head).  $1+1+4+1 = 7$ . Additionally, this beast power has taken on the strongest characteristics from each beast in Daniel 7. For instance, the beast in Rev. 13 has the mouth of a Lion, which is the strongest part of that animal. It has feet like a bear, which is the strongest part of the bear. It has the body of a leopard, which allows the Leopard to be fast. In this chapter, we read that the dragon (which is satan) bestows upon this beast all of his power, throne, and great authority.

If you compare Revelation 12:1-5 with Revelation 13, the beast has seven heads and ten horns similarly to the dragon having seven heads and ten horns. This is because the beast power is structured after the dragon's government. This beast represents the Roman Empire, which by 117 AD had conquered Italy, Greece, Egypt, and some of the ancient territories of the Medo-Persian Empire as well as parts of Babylon.

It was at this time that the Roman Empire took on all the other heads of the Beasts. At this same time, the symbol of a dragon was introduced into some of their troop centuries. In Revelation 13, it says that this beast will persecute Christians for 42 months. The Roman Emperor Valerian persecuted Christians for 42 months from 257-260 AD. This was a past fulfillment, showing us the future fulfillment that has yet to take place! The final revival of the Roman Empire will rule over the Christians left behind for 42 months or  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  years.

In Revelation 13:11-18, a second beast comes up out of the earth. Just as Adam came from the dust of the earth, this beast represents a person (Gen. 2:7). It has horns like a lamb, but speaks like a dragon. This depicts the False Prophet, who will look outwardly pious, but will have the intent of the dragon at heart. Jesus said that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matthew 12:34, NKJV). This False Prophet will be the Pope and corresponds to the little horn of Daniel 7. He will exercise the authority of the first beast in Revelation 13. He will per-

form many false signs and wonders to deceive the inhabitants of the earth into taking the Mark of the Beast on their right hand or forehead.

He breathes life into the image of the beast. An image is anything created to resemble something else. Since the Beast represents Rome, the image of the beast looks like the Roman Empire. The Catholic Church has been set up in the image of the Roman Empire. In this church government, the Pope has the same title as the Roman Emperor (Pontifex Maximus). The College of Cardinals was set up to mirror the Roman Senate.

The Roman Emperor Diocletian set up the Roman Empire into divisions called diocese. The rulers of diocese were called vicars. After the Roman Empire fell, the Catholic Church divided itself into diocese which exists to this day. The Pope is called the “Vicar of Christ”, literally calling himself the ruler over Christ’s dominion. The Catholic Church was modeled after the Roman Empire as an IMAGE to preserve the government of the Roman Empire. As in times past, this Pope will be the leading persecutor of those who refuse to conform. He will cause them to be tortured and killed.

Revelation 17 is another important chapter in the Bible. There are two components to it. The first is the seven-headed Beast with ten horns. The second is the woman riding this Beast. She is dressed in purple and adorned with expensive jewelry. She has a cup in her hand filled with the abominations of the earth. These abominations represent the abominations found in the Torah, including (but not limited to) homosexuality, idol worship, and praying to the dead. The seven heads on this Beast represent seven hills.

Interestingly enough, Rome also sits on seven hills (also called Mountains). This woman represents the Catholic Church. On coins minted by the Vatican, the Catholic Church is depicted as a woman holding a cup in her hand. On some of these coins she also sits on the earth (like the coin to honor Pope Leo XII). She promotes the abominations of the Torah.

She has taken this cup and given it to the nations of the world to drink. She has committed spiritual adultery by mixing Christianity with pagan religions. Every nation in which the Catholic Church has established itself, it has created a religion mixed with the native religion of those peoples (paganism) and the Bible. Mother worship is always part of this. Historically, this church organization uses its large numbers and influence to sway political decisions in other countries. This is part of the adultery mentioned in this chapter.

Revelation 17 also informs us that the seven heads of this Beast also represent seven kings. Interestingly enough, Ancient Rome had seven kings during the monarchy period. Among the sacred deities during the ancient Roman period was Vesta, who was a female goddess. She is considered the oldest of the Roman deities and was the only deity to have individuals chosen solely to serve her temple. The priestesses were chosen by the kings of Rome in the monarchy period. We see the same themes repeated in a future fulfillment of Revelation 17 where the woman rides upon the seven heads of the beast.

The woman rides on each of these heads, so these are seven kings that have in some way honored the authority of the Roman Catholic Church and continued the idea of Ancient Rome. In order, they are: Charlemagne, Otto the Great, Frederick II, Charles V, Napoleon, Francis Joseph, and Hitler. At the time John has the vision, he sees Franz Joseph as the sixth. The seventh was Hitler. Revelation 17:11 says that the beast itself is an eight king, but of the seventh. The last and final resurrection of the Roman Empire will be a continuation of Hitler's fascist regime.

The beast has ten horns. These ten horns can have two meanings. First of all, they can correspond to the princely electors that choose the Holy Roman Emperor, which sometimes numbered ten. The electors had to swear fealty to the Emperor when they elected him. The ten horns can also refer to the 10 land circles of the Roman Empire, each with a princely head. Each of these land

circles was required to provide troops and money to the Imperial army in the event of war. They submitted to the Beast power.

Revelation 17:12-13 read, “12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings [or rulers], which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. 13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.... For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.”

The ten horns give their power and strength unto the beast in the same manner as the electors or ten circles gave their authority to the Imperial entity embodied in the Holy Roman Emperor.

There has been a love/hate relationship between the powers of Europe and the Catholic Church. In the future, the electors of the Holy Roman Empire will be directly responsible for destroying Rome (Revelation 17:16-18).

Two other important chapters as it relates to prophecy are Daniel 9 and Daniel 11. To understand Daniel chapter 11, download our free booklet *Deciphering Daniel 11*. We will soon have a free booklet on Daniel chapter 9 – stay tuned!

## Chapter 3

### Nations in Prophecy

As we discussed earlier, God addresses nations in prophecy. God deals with nations because He has apportioned every nation under heaven where it physically should be located so that prophecy can be fulfilled exactly as He spoke it through His Prophets (Deut. 32:8-9, Acts 17:26). His Word is going to come to pass, so events will occur to bring it to pass!

When God addresses a nation, he is addressing a PEOPLE. People groups migrate. The majority of the inhabitants of the country we call America or the United States came from OTHER countries. The Jewish people are a good example of this.

There are many prophesies about the Jewish nation in the Bible. They apply to the Jewish people WHEREVER they are. The Jewish people at one time DID NOT live in the land we call the state of Israel today. They lived scattered all over the earth (and are still scattered). It was not until 1948 that they began to return home in great numbers. The point I am making is that nations do not always stay in the same geographic location. This means the prophesies about them returning to the Promised Land applied to where ever they had been scattered on earth.

Some nations mentioned in the Bible by name are in the same location as they were at the time the prophecy was made. Egypt is one example. The country named as Persia in the Bible is the nation known as Iran today. They dwell in the same locations as they did in ancient times.

But there are many nations having a huge impact on our world today that are not mentioned directly by name in the Bible. The United States, British, Germans, Russia, China, North Korea, India South America, and other countries are having a huge impact on our world right now. To understand specific prophecies about these nations, we need to know who they are.

As an example, take into account ancient Assyria. Ancient Assyria had an empire that spanned the modern day nations of Iraq, Iran, and even into Afghanistan. Since ancient times, this nation has migrated into Europe. The Bible and historical accounts discuss this migration. For us to understand prophecies about Assyria in the last days, we must know where Assyria is today.

The vast majority of prophecies have not yet come to pass, so this understanding is vital to us understanding our world today and where current events are heading! Prophecy is a great tool to understand what we see in the news and how to react to that in our daily lives. The main nations God addresses prophetically are the houses of Israel and Judah. Other nations are mentioned in the Bible only as they come into contact with them.

**To learn more about the Nations of the world, download our free booklet “The Nations of Bible Prophecy”.** We have provided a chart to give you a sample of what this book explains:

Name in the Bible	Name in the Modern World
Judah, Jewish people	State called “Israel”
House of Israel or House of Jacob	Chiefly—the United States, and British peoples (also Northwest Europe)
Manasseh or Joseph	United States
Ephraim or Joseph	British Peoples (UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada)
Rosh, Meshek, Tubal, or Medes	Russia
Gog, Magog, Gomer	China, North Korea, Mongolia, and Southeast Asia
Cush and Put (used together)	India
Assyria	Germany
Edom or Esau	Turkey
Tarshish	Spain, Portugal, and South America
Gebal	Lebanon

## Chapter 4

### Timeline of Bible Prophecy

In this chapter, I want to give a brief overview of the timeline of end-time events from now until the beginning of the Millennium. **I am not setting dates to any of these events, but listing the order that they occur in the Bible.** I also list a brief description of that event.

**To learn more about these events download our free booklet: “The Order of End-Time Events”.**

- 1) – Right Now – The Time of Jacob’s Trouble – This is the time period where the House of Jacob – Chiefly, the United States and British peoples— are being lowered from the head of all nations to the tail. This event continues until the public return of the Lord. (Jeremiah chapters 30 and 31)
- 2) The Rescue – This is where the Bride of Christ is taken from earth to be wed to our Lord Jesus. (Revelation 12:7-17, John 14:1-4, Matthew 12:40-42)
- 3) The Great Tribulation – A 3 ½ year time period where the Revived Roman Empire is ruling the world by economic prowess, military might, and the Catholic Church. (Revelation chapter 13)
- 4) The Wrath of God – This is another 3 ½ year period. During this time, God is judging the world for sin; the Seven Trumpets of Revelation and the Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath are poured out (Revelation chapters 8-10, 15-16, 18).
- 5) Public Return of the Lord – This is when Jesus publically returns to rule and reign with His called, chosen, and faithful saints. They will defeat the nations gathered to destroy Jerusalem. At this time, the Israelites in captivity return back to the Promised Land. (Rev 17:14, Rev 19:11-21)

6) Satan Thrown Into the Pit – After Jesus comes back, Satan and all of his angels are bound and thrown into the Abyss. When the enemy of humanity is thrown into the Abyss, it will open the way for the Millennium to begin (Rev. 20:1-3).

7) The Millennium – The Millennium is a 1,000 year rule of peace on earth. Jesus Christ will be ruling the earth, and His Children will be ruling under Him. It will be the greatest time of Prosperity ever recorded. (Rev. 20:4-10, Isaiah 2:1-5)

**To learn more about these subjects, download our free booklet: “The Order of End-Time Events.”**

## Who is Hungry Hearts Ministries?

The purpose of Hungry Hearts Ministries is to teach Christians how to LIVE according to the way of life taught in the Law of God and to BAPTIZE them in the Holy Spirit so they can WORSHIP the living God both in Spirit and in Truth. We accomplish this with a five point outreach: a local service, a Feast of Tabernacles Celebration, a weekly message ministry, books on our purpose, and missions overseas.

We are a Ministry dedicated to serve the God of Israel. Too many Christian organizations are focused around men. While it takes men and women to serve God, we just need to shift the focus from us onto Him. Our purpose and our outreach is focused on bringing people to God our Father and to His Son, (Yeshua) Jesus Christ. We live by His laws because he told us to live that way. We accept His Son as our Savior because Jesus paid for our sins with His death on the cross. We want the fullness of His Spirit because it is the power of God living in us. We want Him and all of Him that we can have. We worship God because it is the whole duty of mankind. We worship God because He has redeemed us to Himself. We worship God because we know Him.

We teach and practice Torah Observance. That means we live by the rules that God gave for human living on planet earth. That does not mean we believe we can earn our salvation with God. It means that we appreciate our Savior and His sacrifice, and we are willing to live our life the way that Yeshua taught us to live. The Torah contains all of the relevant rules for living life. It is the way of life taught in the Holy Bible from beginning to the end. It is also the way of life that Yeshua lived. What would Jesus do? What did Jesus do! He lived by the Torah!

We teach and practice a Spirit of God filled life. The Spirit of God is Jesus living in a believer. It is the power of God to overcome sin in our lives, and it is the power of God to open line of contact with the Living God. It is how we feel His presence and how we experience God. God Bless You.

## Meet the Author

Kelly McDonald Jr. is an ordained Evangelist at Hungry Hearts Ministries in Jackson, TN. For 21 years, Kelly attended Trinity Baptist Church in Bemis, TN, where he was saved in 1992. While at Trinity, a small independent Baptist church, Kelly learned boldness for the Kingdom of God and that being a Christian is an all or nothing experience. In June 2006, Kelly was called to his first ministry, going door to door in the Bemis community and inviting people to church. In September 2006, Kelly was called to begin a Christian men's group at his then college, Lambuth University. In February 2007, Kelly was called to preach. Less than a month later, he became introduced to Hungry Hearts Ministries.

Since becoming a member of Hungry Hearts, Kelly has taken on many roles to further the ministry's work, from going door-to-door to pass out booklets, preaching, administering the prison ministry, teaching Bible Studies, and starting churches. Due to his service in the ministry, he was ordained a Deacon during the Feast of Pentecost on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. His spiritual growth and desire to serve God led to his ordination as an Evangelist during the Feast of Pentecost on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012. In 2015, he was elected President of the Bible Sabbath Association (BSA).

Kelly has written for a local Christian magazine, *The Christian to Christian Connection*, the international Sabbatarian magazine, *The Sabbath Sentinel*, and the regional magazine, *The Good News*. He currently writes for and serves as the Editor for the Ministry's magazine, *Pursuit*. Kelly has written over 40 books and booklets on various Bible topics. Kelly graduated *summa cum laude* from Lambuth University in Jackson, TN in 2009. He earned a Bachelor of Science with a double major in Political Science and Sociology with a minor in Legal Studies. Kelly has been preaching since 2007 and is available to speak at your church upon request.



Bible Prophecy is an intriguing subject on the minds of people today. It pertains to events in the future, but it affects how you live right now. In this booklet, you will learn the foundations of Bible prophecy. Did you know there are certain ways of reckoning time in Bible prophecy? There are also important symbols. Certain chapters form the foundation for how we understand Bible prophecy. This guide will be a tremendous tool to grow your understanding of Bible prophecy.



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