

God is a precise God. His foreknowledge allows Him to predict future events with pinpoint accuracy. In fact, the primary way that God reveals the future to His people is through the divine telescope of prophecy. The prophet Amos declares, "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7). Jesus declared, "And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe (John 14:29). God longs for His people to clearly understand "The Prophecy of the Ages." God has imbedded within the prophetic portions of scripture the longest and the last prophecy regarding time in the Bible. It spans the ages and points to an important event occurring in heaven with mathematical precision. It would do us well to not rest until we understand this important prophecy and order our lives accordingly. Let us begin our study and gain a clear understanding of What God Says About..."The Prophecy of the Ages."

A MORE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY

1. **What does Peter say that he and his fellow disciples have not followed?**

   "For we have not followed _____ _____ _____, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty." *2 Peter 1:16*

2. **What did Peter, James, and John distinctly hear when God the Father spoke to Jesus on the mount of transfiguration? What did the Father say?**

   "For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such _____ _____ to him from the excellent glory, _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____." *2 Peter 1:17*

Note: *Christ's closest earthly companions, Peter, James, and John were with Him on the mount of transfiguration. They beheld Christ's glory as He was transfigured on the holy mount. As they observed His face shine as the sun and His garment become white as the light, they saw Moses and Elijah appear and talk with Jesus. Shortly thereafter, a cloud overshadowed them, and they heard the voice of God speak out of the cloud and declare, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" (Matthew 17:5).*

3. In what place does Peter say that he, James, and John heard a voice from heaven when they were alone with Jesus?

"And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him _____ _____ _____ _____." *2 Peter 1:18*

4. According to the apostle Peter, of what do we have a more sure word?

"We have also a more sure word of _____; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." *2 Peter 1:19*

Note: *In 2 Peter 1:16-19, the apostle Peter affirms the glorious experience of being eyewitnesses to the majesty of Christ on the holy mount and hearing the voice of God speak. Then he says that we, the church, have also a "more sure word of prophecy." Peter is indicating that the written word of prophecy is surer than what the disciples saw with their own eyes and heard with their own ears in the holy mount.*

THE VISION OF DANIEL 8

Note: *In Daniel 8, the prophet Daniel receives a vision of which sanctuary animals are seen—a ram and a he goat. These two animals were used on the Day of Atonement. This indicates that God is directing the readers' mind to focus on the sanctuary, particularly the Day of Atonement. Daniel's vision in chapter 8 begins with Medo-Persia, which ruled the world from 539 B.C. to 331 B.C. Babylon has already been overthrown by Medo-Persia and is off of the scene by the time we reach chapter 8. Therefore, Babylon is not mentioned in this vision.*

5. In vision, what beast did Daniel see standing before the river Ulai? How many horns did this beast have?

[2]"And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai. [3]Then I lifted

up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river _____ _____ which had _____ _____: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last." *Daniel 8:2, 3*

6. How many beasts could stand before the ram or deliver out of his hand? How is the ram's success described?

"I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that _____ _____ might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and _____ _____." *Daniel 8:4*

Note: *In the beginning of Daniel 8, Daniel sees a vision of a powerful ram with two horns that no beast could stand before. This ram with two horns with one horn higher than the other symbolizes Medo-Persia (Daniel 8:20). The higher horn represents the Persians as they were stronger than the Medes. Medo-Persia overthrew Babylon and ruled the world from 539 B.C. to 331 B.C.*

7. What swift moving beast did Daniel see run toward the ram? What did this beast have between its eyes?

[5]"And as I was considering, behold, an _____ _____ came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had _____ _____ _____ between his eyes. [6]And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power." *Daniel 8:5, 6*

8. What did the angry he goat do to the ram? How is the he goat's success described? How many notable horns came up after the horn was broken?

[7]"And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and _____ _____ _____, and _____ _____ _____ _____: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand. [8]Therefore the he goat _____ _____ _____: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up _____ _____ _____ toward the four winds of heaven." *Daniel 8:7, 8*

Note: *As Daniel was considering the powerful ram in vision, he saw a swift moving he goat with a notable horn between his eyes run furiously toward the ram and strike it. When the he goat struck the ram, he broke*

its two horns, cast it to the ground, and stamped upon it (Daniel 8:5-8). This powerful he goat with a notable horn between his eyes represents Greece and its first king Alexander the Great (Daniel 8:21). Greece overthrew Medo-Persia and ruled the world from 331 B.C. to 168 B.C. The four notable horns represent the four generals that took over after Alexander the Great's death. These four horns or generals came up toward the four winds of heaven. Incidentally, pagan Rome overthrew Greece as indicated in Daniel 2 and 7.

"THE LITTLE HORN"

Note: *The "little horn" spoken of in Daniel 8 refers to both pagan Rome (vs. 9-10) and papal Rome (vs. 11-12) during its different phases. The pagan Roman Empire began to rule the world after it overthrew the Kingdom of Greece in 168 B.C. and it launched a horizontal attack on God's people through persecution. Whereas, papal Rome, which ruled the world during the Dark Ages from 538 A.D. to 1798 A.D., launched both a horizontal attack through persecution on God's people and also a vertical attack on the truth of the heavenly sanctuary.*

9. What came forth out of one of the four points of the compass? (Daniel 8:9 indicates "the location" of the rise of the little horn). How is the little horn's success described?

"And out of one of them came forth _____ _____ _____, which _____ _____ _____, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land." *Daniel 8:9*

Note: *It is important to note that Daniel 8:9 indicates the location of the rise of the "little horn." It arose "out of one of them"—out of one of "the four winds" (Daniel 8:8) or four points of the compass—from the west. According to prophecy and history, pagan Rome overthrew Greece in 168 B.C. and then eventually morphed into papal Rome. Incidentally, papal Rome is essentially a continuation of the pagan Roman Empire with a religious head. Therefore, Daniel 8 refers to both pagan Rome and papal Rome during its different phases as the "little horn."*

10. What did the little horn cast to the ground?

"And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of _____ _____ and of _____ _____ to the ground, and stamped upon them." *Daniel 8:10*

Note: *The "host" and "stars" referred to in Daniel 8 refers to God's people who were persecuted by pagan Rome. Daniel 8:24 identifies who was persecuted by this power, and it literally describes them as*

"the mighty and holy people." These texts reveal the horizontal attack that pagan Rome launched against God's people.

11. Who did the little horn magnify himself against? What did the little horn take away?

"Yea, he magnified himself even to the _____ _____ _____ _____, and by him _____ _____ sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down." *Daniel 8:11*

"Some devout Bible students have considered that the 'daily' refers to paganism, and other equally devout Bible students, that the 'daily' refers to the priestly ministry of our Lord. Perhaps this is one of the passages of Scripture on which we must wait until a better day for a final answer. As with other difficult passages of Scripture, our salvation is not dependent upon our understanding fully the meaning of Dan. 8:11." *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* Volume 4, p. 843.

12. What else did the little horn cast to the ground?

"And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down _____ _____ to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered." *Daniel 8:12*

13. What questions does Daniel hear being discussed?

"Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, _____ _____ shall be _____ _____ concerning _____ _____ sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?" *Daniel 8:13*

14. How long was Daniel told that it would take for the sanctuary to be cleansed?

"And he said unto me, Unto _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." *Daniel 8:14*

"The prophecy of Daniel 8 focuses on the religious conflict between the Prince of the host and the little horn. In this conflict 'there have been two rival plans of sanctuary ministry and salvation—the heavenly original and the earthly substitute. There have been two rival high priests who have officiated over these plans. At some point in the history of this struggle, there must come a time of judgment that will decide between them. This judgment is what is brought to view in the time period of Daniel 8:14, the 2300 days." Shea, W. Daniel 7-12, *Abundant Life Bible Amplifier* (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1996), p. 110.

DANIEL SEEKS TO UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF "THE VISION" OF THE 2300 PROPHETIC DAYS

Note: *In Daniel 8:15-27, we read the account of the angel Gabriel explaining the vision that Daniel had seen starting at the beginning of chapter 8. Gabriel does explain to Daniel that the 2300 days would occur at the time of the end and that it would be for many days (vs. 17, 26). However, Daniel fainted and became sick for certain days and did not receive or understand the vision of the 2300 days (vs. 27). In Daniel 9, Gabriel returns to Daniel and explains the 2300 prophetic days to him (see Exhibit 1). It's important to note that in symbolic Bible prophecy, one prophetic day equals one literal year (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34).*

15. Who came to Daniel when he was praying and confessing his sin and the sin of the people?

[20]"And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God; [21]Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man _____, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation." *Daniel 9:20, 21*

16. In regards to the 2300 Day Prophecy spoken of in Daniel 8:14, what did the angel Gabriel give Daniel?

[22]"And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee _____ _____ _____. [23]At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision." *Daniel 9:22, 23*

17. How many weeks were determined or "cut off" from the 2300 days for the Jewish people? What were the Jews to do within this probationary time period?

"_____ _____ are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to _____ _____ _____, and to _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, and to _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, and to bring in _____ _____, and to _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, and to _____ _____ _____ _____." *Daniel 9:24*

Note: *In Daniel 9:24, the angel Gabriel explains to Daniel that 70 weeks or 490 years are determined or "cut off" from the full 2300 day/year period and allotted privileged time for the Jewish nation. In other words, Gabriel was saying to Daniel that God was giving the Jewish nation 70 weeks or 490 years of probationary time to amend their ways and obey Him. Gabriel also reveals that within this 490 year time period, Jesus Himself would come live among His people and seek to reach and save the Jewish nation. Jesus, referring to this prophecy, called the Jews to repentance in Mark 1:14, 15. His understanding of the allotted time given to the Jewish nation is further noted in Matthew 15:24.*

18. What is the starting point of the 2300 Day Prophecy? To whom does the first 69 weeks reach?

"Know therefore and understand, that _____ _____ _____ _____ of _____ _____ to _____ and to _____ _____ unto _____ _____ _____ _____ shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times." *Daniel 9:25*

Note: *In Daniel 9:25, Gabriel gives Daniel the starting point of the 2300 Day Prophecy, and he explains that the first 69 weeks reaches 483 years into the future until it reaches to the Messiah the Prince—Jesus Christ. The starting point of the 2300 Day Prophecy began with the decree to rebuild Jerusalem given by Artaxerxes in 457 B.C. In other words, the first 69 weeks or 483 years were to reach to the baptism and anointing of Jesus as the Messiah (Acts 10:37, 38) which occurred in 27 A.D.*

19. According to the angel Gabriel, what would happen to the Messiah when He arrived on the scene? How does the Bible indicate that He was crucified on behalf of others?

"And after threescore and two weeks shall _____ _____ _____ _____, but _____ _____ _____: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined." *Daniel 9:26*

20. In reference to the covenant, what will Jesus do? After His arrival on the scene among the Jewish people, how much time will He provide to confirm the covenant? What would Jesus cause to cease in the midst of the week?

"And _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ with many for _____ _____: and in the midst of the week he shall cause _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, and for the overspreading of abominations

he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." *Daniel 9:27*

Note: *In order to fulfill this prophecy, Jesus arrived on the scene among the Jewish nation at the appointed time. Jesus was baptized in 27 A.D. as the Messiah. The one week spoken of here is seven literal years that would extend to 34 A.D. when the Jewish nation stoned Stephen as the first Christian martyr. In the midst of this one prophetic week or seven literal years, Jesus was crucified in 31 A.D. for others, not for Himself. These events in the life of Jesus fulfill the final week or last seven years allotted to the Jewish nation in the 70 weeks—490 day/year prophecy. Undoubtedly, Jesus came close to His people and sought to reach them before their probationary time had run out. Sadly, the Jewish nation failed to comply with the conditions required to remain God's chosen people. When the Jews crucified Christ in 31 A.D. and stoned Stephen in 34 A.D., God rejected them as a nation and His gospel was preached to the Gentiles. There were 1810 years remaining which would reach the year 1844. In 1844, a special event was prophesied to occur in the heavenly sanctuary.*

SUMMARY

God is a precise God. His foreknowledge allows Him to predict future events with pinpoint accuracy. One of the primary ways that God reveals the future to His people is through the divine telescope of prophecy. The apostle Peter speaks of the "more sure word of prophecy" that believers are admonished to heed. In Daniel 8, the angel Gabriel began explaining to Daniel the vision that he received from God. As Daniel listened, he understood every part of the vision except the 2300 days and consequently became sick and fainted. In Daniel 9, Gabriel returned to Daniel, opened his understanding, and explained the 2300 prophetic days. This period began in 457 B.C. and ended in 1844 A.D. The prophecy is comprised of two major sections that add up to 2300 prophetic days or years: 70 weeks or 490 years allotted probationary time for the Jewish nation and 1810 years allotted for the gospel to be preached to the Gentiles. The angel Gabriel explained each intricate detail of the 2300 prophetic days from beginning to end, and revealed to the prophet Daniel that a special event would occur in heaven called the cleansing of the sanctuary in the year 1844 A.D.

21. Dear friend, are you willing to accept that the 2300 Day Prophecy points to a special event in heaven called the cleansing of the sanctuary? _____

Copyright © 2018 Pastor Brian McKinney. All rights reserved.