

American Christian Zionism History, Theology and Implications



The history of American Christian Zionism, why it's bad theology, and how it's used as a political weapon to fulfill the goals of evil selfish people.

Hermeneutics: The Principles for Proper Interpretation of the Bible



Hermeneutics is the theory and methodology of interpretation of biblical text. They are all based on common sense.

Daniel 11 Explained in the Light of History



Daniel 11 is all about prophecy of future events – future to the time of the

prophet Daniel, not us – and one of the hardest passages in the Bible to understand *unless* you know the history behind it! It's not about the rise of the Antichrist in an as-yet-unknown time in the future as many people think. Why do they think that? Because that's what they were taught. And who taught them? People under the teaching of John Nelson Darby's and C.I. Scofield's dispensationalism! I was one of them. Most evangelicals today are.

When my pastor told me that Daniel 11:31 is a prophecy of the Endtime Antichrist setting up his image in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, I didn't question him. Why should I? I was young then, 23 years old, and still ignorant of Bible prophecy. My pastor was much older and more knowledgeable than I was. At the time I had no reason to question him. I didn't even know there are alternative interpretations in the light of history that much more sense. I did not know about the Counter-Reformation and the Jesuits' corruption of Bible interpretation through infiltration into Protestant churches and seminaries. How could I know that then? At the time I was living in Japan with no access to English libraries. And even if there was a library, would the books I needed to read even be available? It wasn't until the advent of the Internet that I had access to information on what the Bible prophecy teachers of the 18th century and earlier used to teach before Jesuit doctrines seeped into the churches.

The most amazing thing about the prophecies of Daniel 11 is that they are very specific. The prophecies were all fulfilled in specific people and not just generally as the prophecy of empires in Daniel chapters 2, 7 and 8. It's as if God already planned for all this to happen and He chose the people through which the events happened!

The commentary is based on Adam Clarke's research. Adam Clarke (1762 – 26 August 1832) was a British Methodist theologian.

Verse

Commentary

Daniel 11:1 ¶Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him.	The angel from chapter 10 is talking to Daniel. He reveals that heads of state are under the influence of the spirit world, in this case for good. Darius the first Median king of Babylon was favored by God and was a friend of Daniel.
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Gabriel had already spoken of Cyrus, who was now reigning; and after him three others should arise. These were,

1. Cambyses, the son of Cyrus.
2. Smerdis, the Magian, who was an impostor, who pretended to be another son of Cyrus. And,
3. Darius, the son of Hystaspes, who married Mandane, the daughter of Cyrus.

Daniel 11:2 And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia.

Cambyses reigned seven years and five months; Smerdis reigned only seven months; and Darius Hystaspes reigned thirty-six years.

The fourth shall be far richer than they all – This was Xerxes, the son of Darius, of whom Justin says. “He had so great an abundance of riches in his kingdom, that although rivers were dried up by his numerous armies, yet his wealth remained unexhausted.”

He shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia – His military strength was such, that Herodotus, who lived in that time, informs us that his army amounted to five millions, two hundred and eighty-three thousand, two hundred and twenty men. Besides these, the Carthaginians furnished him with an army of three hundred thousand men, and a fleet of two hundred ships. He led an army against the Greeks of eight hundred thousand men, and twelve hundred and seven ships, with three banks of rowers each. As he marched along, he obliged all the people of the countries through which he passed to join him.

Daniel 11:3 And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.

This was Alexander the great.

Alexander's kingdom shall be broken – Shall, after his death, be divided among his four chief generals.

And not to his posterity – The family of Alexander had a most tragical end:

1. His wife Statira was murdered soon after his death by his other wife Roxana.

2. His brother Aridaeus who succeeded him, was killed, together with his wife Euridice, by command of Olympias, Alexander's mother, after he had been king about six years and some months.

3. Olympias herself was killed by the soldiers in revenge.

4. Alexander Aegus, his son, together with his mother Roxana, was slain by order of Cassander.

5. Two years after, his other son Hercules, with his mother Barsine, was privately murdered by Polysperchon; so that in fifteen years after his death not one of his family or posterity remained alive!

"Blood calls for blood." He (Alexander) was the great butcher of men. He was either poisoned, or killed himself by immoderate drinking, when he was only thirty-two years and eight months old: and a retributive Providence destroyed all his posterity, so that neither root nor branch of them was left on the face of the earth. Thus ended Alexander, the great butcher; and thus ended his family and posterity.

Daniel 11:4 And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.

Daniel 11:5 ¶And the king of the south shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion.

This was Ptolemy Lagus, one of his generals, who had the government of Egypt, Libya, etc., which are on the south of Judea. He was strong, for he had added Cyprus, Phoenicia, Caria, etc., to his kingdom of Egypt.

And one of his princes – shall be strong above him –

This was Seleucus Nicator, who possessed Syria, Babylon, Media, and the neighboring countries. This was the king of the north, for his dominions lay north of Judea.

Several historical circumstances are here passed by.

Daniel 11:6 And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times.

Daniel 11:7 But out of a branch of her roots shall one stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail:

Daniel 11:8 And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north.

Daniel 11:9 So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land.

The king's daughter of the south – Berenice, daughter of Ptolemy Philadelphus, king of Egypt, was married to Antiochus Theos, king of Syria. These two sovereigns had a bloody war for some years; and they agreed to terminate it by the above marriage, on condition that Antiochus would put away his wife Laodice and her children, which he did; and Berenice having brought an immense fortune to her husband, all things appeared to go on well for a time.

But she shall not retain the power of the arm – □□□ zaro, her posterity, shall not reign in that kingdom.

But she shall be given up – Antiochus recalled his former wife Laodice and her children, and she, fearing that he might recall Berenice, caused him to be poisoned and her to be murdered, and set her son Callinicus upon the throne.

And they that brought her – Her Egyptian women, striving to defend their mistress, were many of them killed.

And he that begat her – Or, as the margin, "he whom she brought forth;" the son being murdered, as well as the mother, by order of Laodice.

And he that strengthened her – Probably her father Ptolemy, who was excessively fond of her, and who had died a few years before.

But out of a branch of her roots – A branch from the same root from which she sprang. This was Ptolemy Euergetes, her brother, who, to avenge his sister's death, marched with a great army against Seleucus Callinicus, took some of his best places, indeed all Asia, from Mount Taurus to India, and returned to Egypt with an immense booty, forty thousand talents of silver, precious vessels, and images of their gods two thousand five hundred, without Callinicus daring to offer him battle. I can but touch on these historic facts, for fear of extending these notes to an immoderate length.

He shall continue more years – Seleucus Callinicus died (an exile) by a fall from his horse; and Ptolemy Euergetes survived him four or five years.

So the king of the south – Ptolemy Euergetes: – Shall come into his kingdom – That of Seleucus Callinicus. And shall return – Having heard that a sedition had taken place in Egypt, Ptolemy Euergetes was obliged to return speedily in order to repress it; else he had wholly destroyed the kingdom of Callinicus.

Daniel 11:10 But his sons shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return, and be stirred up, even to his fortress.

Daniel 11:11 And the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand.

Daniel 11:12 And when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it.

Daniel 11:13 For the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches.

But his sons shall be stirred up – That is, the sons of Callinicus, who were Seleucus Ceraunus and Antiochus, afterwards called the Great.

Shall assemble a multitude – Seleucus Ceraunus did assemble a multitude of forces in order to recover his father's dominions; but, not having money to pay them, they became mutinous, and he was poisoned by two of his own generals. His brother Antiochus was then proclaimed king; so that one only of the sons did certainly come, and overflow, and pass through; he retook Seleucia, and regained Syria. He then returned, and overcame Nicolaus the Egyptian general; and seemed disposed to invade Egypt, as he came even to his fortress, to the frontiers of Egypt.

The king of the south – Ptolemy Philopater, who succeeded his father Euergetes.

Shall come forth and fight with him – He did come forth to Raphia, where he was met by Antiochus, when a terrible battle was fought between these two kings.

And he (Antiochus, the king of the north) shall set forth a great multitude – Amounting to sixty-two thousand foot, six thousand horse, and one hundred and two elephants; but yet the multitude was given into his hand, the hand of the king of the south; for Ptolemy gained a complete victory. Raphia, and other neighbouring towns, declared for the victor; and Antiochus was obliged to retreat with his scattered army to Antioch, from which he sent to solicit a peace. See 3 Maccabees 1:1-6, and Polybius, lib. v.

His heart shall be lifted up – Had Ptolemy improved his victory, he might have dispossessed Antiochus of his whole empire; but giving way to pride, and a criminally sensual life, he made peace on dishonorable terms; and though he had gained a great victory, yet his kingdom was not strengthened by it, for his subjects were displeased, and rebelled against him, or at least became considerably disaffected.

The king of the north shall return – after certain years – In about fourteen years Antiochus did return, Philopater being dead, and his son Ptolemy Epiphanes being then a minor. He brought a much larger army and more riches; these he had collected in a late eastern expedition.

Many stand up against the king of the south – Antiochus, and Philip king of Macedon, united together to overrun Egypt.

Also the robbers of thy people – The Jews, who revolted from their religion, and joined Ptolemy, under Scopas, - **Shall exalt themselves to establish the vision** – That is, to build a temple like that of Jerusalem, in Egypt, hoping thereby to fulfil a prediction of Isaiah, Isaiah 30:18-25, which seemed to intimate that the Jews and the Egyptians should be one people. They now revolted from Ptolemy, and joined Antiochus; and this was the means of contributing greatly to the accomplishment of prophecies that foretold the calamities that should fall upon the Jews.

But they shall fall. – For Scopas came with a great army from Ptolemy; and, while Antiochus was engaged in other parts, reduced Coelesyria and Palestine, subdued the Jews, placed guards on the coasts of Jerusalem, and returned with great spoils to Egypt.

So the king of the north – Antiochus came to recover Judea. Scopas was sent by Ptolemy to oppose him; but he was defeated near the fountains of Jordan, and was obliged to take refuge in Sidon with ten thousand men. Antiochus pursued and besieged him; and he was obliged by famine to surrender at discretion, and their lives only were spared. Antiochus afterwards besieged several of the fenced cities, and took them; in short, carried all before him; so that the king of the south, Ptolemy, and his chosen people, his ablest generals, were not able to oppose him.

He shall stand in the glorious land – Judea. For he reduced Palestine; and the Jews supplied him with provisions, and assisted him to reduce the garrison that Scopas had left in the citadel of Jerusalem.

Which by his hand shall be consumed – Or, which shall be perfected in his hand. For Antiochus showed the Jews great favour: he brought back those that were dispersed, and re-established them in the land; freed the priests and Levites from all tribute, &c.

He shall also set his face to enter – Antiochus purposed to have marched his army into Egypt; but he thought it best to proceed by fraudulence, and therefore proposed a treaty of marriage between him and his daughter Cleopatra, called here the daughter of women, because of her great beauty and accomplishments. And this he appeared to do, having “upright ones with him.” Or, as the Septuagint have it *και ευθεια παντα μετ’ αυτου ποιησει*, “and he will make all things straight with him;” that is, he acted as if he were influenced by nothing but the most upright views. But he intended his daughter to be a snare to Ptolemy, and therefore purposed to corrupt her that she might betray her husband.

But she shall not stand on his side – On the contrary, her husband’s interests became more dear to her than her father’s; and by her means Ptolemy was put upon his guard against the intentions of Antiochus.

Daniel 11:14 And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall.

Daniel 11:15 So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be any strength to withstand.

Daniel 11:16 But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed.

Daniel 11:17 He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do: and he shall give him the daughter of women, corrupting her: but she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him.

Daniel 11:18 After this shall he turn his face unto the isles, and shall take many: but a prince for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him.

Daniel 11:19 Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.

Daniel 11:20 Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.

Shall he turn his face unto the isles – Antiochus had fitted out a great fleet of one hundred large ships and two hundred smaller, and with this fleet subdued most of the maritime places on the coast of the Mediterranean, and took many of the isles, Rhodes, Samos, Euboea, Colophon, and others.

But a prince for his own behalf – Or, a captain. The consul Acilius Glabrio caused the reproach to cease; beat and routed his army at the straits of Thermopylae, and expelled him from Greece. So he obliged him to pay the tribute which he hoped to impose on others; for he would grant him peace only on condition of paying the expense of the war, fifteen thousand talents; five hundred on the spot, – two thousand five hundred when the peace should be ratified by the senate, – and the remaining twelve thousand in twelve years, each year one thousand. See Polybius in his Legations, and Appian in the Wars of Syria. And thus, –

Without his own reproach – Without losing a battle, or taking a false step, Acilius caused the reproach which he was bringing upon the Romans to turn upon himself.

He shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land – After this shameful defeat, Antiochus fled to Sardis, thence to Apamea, and the next day got into Syria, and to Antioch, his own fort, whence he sent ambassadors to treat for peace; and was obliged to engage to pay the immense sum of money mentioned above.

But he shall stumble and fall – Being under the greatest difficulties how to raise the stipulated sums, he marched into his eastern provinces to exact the arrears of taxes; and, attempting to plunder the temple of Jupiter Belus at Elymais, he was opposed by the populace, and he and his attendants slain. This is the account that Diodorus Sicules, Strabo, and Justin give of his death. But it is variously related by others; some saying that he was assassinated by some of his own people whom he had punished for being drunk at a feast. – So Aurelius Victor. St. Jerome says he lost his life in a battle against the inhabitants of Elymais. In short, the manner of his death is uncertain; and perhaps even this circumstance is referred to by the prophet, when he says, “He shall stumble and fall, and NOT BE FOUND.”

Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes – Seleucus Philopater succeeded his father Antiochus. He sent his treasurer Heliodorus to seize the money deposited in the temple of Jerusalem, which is here called the glory of the kingdom, see 2Macc 9:23. He was so cramped to pay the annual tax to the Romans, that he was obliged to burden his subjects with continual taxes. He shall be destroyed, neither in anger – fighting against an enemy, nor in battle – at the head of his troops; but basely and treacherously, by the hand of Heliodorus his treasurer, who hoped to reign in his stead.

Daniel 11:21 ¶And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

Daniel 11:22 And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflown from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.

Daniel 11:23 And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people.

In his estate shall stand up a vile person – This was Antiochus, surnamed Epiphanes – the Illustrious. They did not give him the honour of the kingdom: he was at Athens, on his way from Rome, when his father died; and Heliodorus had declared himself king, as had several others. But Antiochus came in peaceably, for he obtained the kingdom by flatteries. He flattered Eumenes, king of Pergamus, and Attalus his brother, and got their assistance. He flattered the Romans, and sent ambassadors to court their favour, and pay them the arrears of the tribute. He flattered the Syrians, and gained their concurrence; and as he flattered the Syrians, so they flattered him, giving him the epithet of Epiphanes – the Illustrious. But that he was what the prophet here calls him, a vile person, is fully evident from what Polybius says of him, from Athenaeus, lib. v.: “He was every man’s companion: he resorted to the common shops, and prattled with the workmen: he frequented the common taverns, and ate and drank with the meanest fellows, singing debauched songs,” &c., &c. On this account a contemporary writer, and others after him, instead of Epiphanes, called him *Epimanes* – *the Madman*.

And with the arms of a flood – The arms which were overflown before him were his competitors for the crown. They were vanquished by the forces of Eumenes and Attalus; and were dissipated by the arrival of Antiochus from Athens, whose presence disconcerted all their measures.

The prince of the covenant – This was Onias, the high priest, whom he removed, and put Jason in his place, who had given him a great sum of money; and then put wicked Menelaus in his room, who had offered him a larger sum. Thus he acted deceitfully in the league made with Jason.

He shall come up – From Rome, where he had been a hostage for the payment of the tax laid on his father.

Shall become strong with a small people. – At first he had but few to espouse his cause when he arrived at Antioch, the people having been greatly divided by the many claimants of the crown; but being supported by Eumenes and Attalus, his few people increased, and he became strong.

Daniel 11:24 He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time.

Daniel 11:25 And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they shall forecast devices against him.

Daniel 11:26 Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain.

He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places – The very richest provinces – Coelesyria and Palestine. **He shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers** – He became profuse in his liberalities, and scattered among them the prey of his enemies, the spoil of temples, and the riches of his friends, as well as his own revenues. He spent much in public shows, and bestowed largesses among the people. We are told in 1Macc 3:30, that “in the liberal giving of gifts he abounded above all the kings that went before him.” These are nearly the words of the prophet; and perhaps without any design to copy them on the part of the apocryphal writer. He would sometimes go into the streets, and throw about a handful of money, crying out, “Let him take it, to whom Fortune sends it.” **He shall forecast his devices** – As Eulaeus and Lenaeus, who were the guardians of the young Egyptian king Ptolemy Philometer, demanded from Antiochus the restitution of Coelesyria and Palestine, which he refused, he foresaw that he might have a war with that kingdom; and therefore he forecast devices – fixed a variety of plans to prevent this; visited the strong holds and frontier places to see that they were in a state of defense. And this he did for a time – he employed some years in hostile preparations against Egypt.

He shall stir up his power – Antiochus marched against Ptolemy, the king of the south, (Egypt,) with a great army; and the Egyptian generals had raised a mighty force.

Stirred up to battle – The two armies met between Pelusium and Mount Casius; but he (the king of the south) could not stand-the Egyptian army was defeated. The next campaign he had greater success; he routed the Egyptian army, took Memphis, and made himself master of all Egypt, except Alexandria, see 1Macc 1:16-19. And all these advantages he gained by forecasting devices; probably by corrupting his ministers and captains. Ptolemy Macron gave up Cyprus to Antiochus; and the Alexandrians were led to renounce their allegiance to Ptolemy Philometer, and took Euergetes, or Physcon his younger brother, and made him king in his stead. All this was doubtless by the corruptions of Antiochus.

Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat – This is the proof of what has been last noted, that the intrigues of Antiochus, corrupting the ministers and officers of Ptolemy, were the cause of all the disasters that fell on the Egyptian king. They that fed of the portion of his meat – who were in his confidence and pay, and possessed the secrets of the state, betrayed him; and these were the means of destroying him and his army, so that he was defeated, as was before observed.

Daniel 11:27 And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed.

And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief – That is, Antiochus, and Ptolemy Philometer, who was nephew to the former, and whose interest he now pretended to have much at heart, since the Alexandrians had renounced their allegiance to him, and set his younger brother Euergetes upon the throne. When Antiochus came to Memphis, he and Philometer had frequent conferences at the same table; and at these times they spoke lies to each other, Antiochus professing great friendship to his nephew and concern for his interests, yet in his heart designing to ruin the kingdom by fomenting the discords which already subsisted between the two brothers. On the other hand, Philometer professed much gratitude to his uncle for the interest he took in his affairs, and laid the blame of the war upon his minister Eulaeus; while at the same time he spoke lies, determining as soon as possible to accommodate matters with his brother, and join all their strength against their deceitful uncle.

But it shall not prosper – Neither succeeded in his object; for the end of the appointed time was not yet come.

Then shall he return onto his land with great riches – Antiochus did return, laden with riches, from the spoils that he took in Egypt; see 1Macc 1:19, 20. And hearing that there had been a report of his death, at which the citizens of Jerusalem had made great rejoicings, -

Daniel 11:28 Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land.

His heart shall be against the holy covenant – He was determined to take a severe revenge, and he had an ostensible pretext for it, for Jason, who had been deprived of the high priesthood, hearing the report of the death of Antiochus, raised forces, marched against Jerusalem, took it, and obliged Menelaus, the high priest, to shut himself up in the castle. Antiochus brought a great army against Jerusalem; took it by storm; slew forty thousand of the inhabitants; sold as many more for slaves; boiled swine's flesh, and sprinkled the temple and the altar with the broth; broke into the holy of holies; took away the golden vessels and other sacred treasures, to the value of one thousand eight hundred talents; restored Menelaus to his office; and made one Philip, a Phrygian, governor of Judea. 1Macc 1:24; 2Macc 5:21. Prideaux and Newton. These are what we term exploits; which having finished, he returned to his own land.

Daniel 11:29 At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter.

At the time appointed he shall return – Finding that his treachery was detected, and that the two brothers had united their counsel and strength for their mutual support, he threw off the mask; and having collected a great army early in the spring, he passed through Coelesyria; entered Egypt; and the inhabitants of Memphis having submitted to him, he came by easy marches to Alexandria. But, says the prophet, "it shall not be as the former or as the latter:" he had not the same success as the former, when he overthrew the Egyptian army at Pelusium; nor as the latter, when he took Memphis, and subdued all Egypt, except Alexandria.

For the ships of Chittim shall come against him –

Chittim is well known to mean the Roman empire. Antiochus, being now in full march to besiege Alexandria, and within seven miles of that city, heard that ships were arrived there from Rome, with legates from the senate. He went to salute them. They delivered to him the letters of the senate, in which he was commanded, on pain of the displeasure of the Roman people, to put an end to the war against his nephews. Antiochus said he would go and consult his friends; on which Popilius, one of the legates, took his staff, and instantly drew a circle round Antiochus on the sand where he stood, and commanded him not to pass that circle till he had given a definitive answer. Antiochus, intimidated, said, he would do whatever the senate enjoined; and in a few days after began his march, and returned to Syria. This is confirmed by Polybius, Livy, Velleius, Paterculus, Valerius Maximus, and Justin. **Therefore he shall be grieved** – “Grieving and groaning,” says Polybius; both mortified, humbled, and disappointed.

Daniel 11:30 For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.

Have indignation against the holy covenant – For he vented his rage against the Jews; and he sent his general, Apollonius, with twenty-two thousand men against Jerusalem, plundered and set fire to the city, pulled down the houses round about it, slew much of the people, and built a castle on an eminence that commanded the temple, and slew multitudes of the poor people who had come up to worship, polluted every place, so that the temple service was totally abandoned, and all the people fled from the city. And when he returned to Antioch he published a decree that all should conform to the Grecian worship; and the Jewish worship was totally abrogated, and the temple itself consecrated to Jupiter Olympius. How great must the wickedness of the people have been when God could tolerate this!

In the transacting of these matters he had intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant; with wicked Menelaus the high priest; and the apostate Jews united with him, who gave from time to time such information to Antiochus as excited him against Jerusalem the temple, and the people. See 1Macc 1:41, 62; 2Macc 6:1-9; confirmed by Josephus, War, book i. chap. 1, s. 1. The concluding reflection of Bp. Newton here is excellent:- “It may be proper to stand a little here, and reflect how particular and circumstantial this prophecy is, concerning Egypt and Syria, from the death of Alexander to the time of Antiochus Epiphanes. There is not so concise, comprehensive, and regular an account of their kings and affairs to be found in any authors of those times. The prophecy is really more perfect than any history, and is so wonderfully exact, not only to the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, but likewise equally so beyond that time, that we may conclude in the words of the inspired writer, ‘No one could thus declare the times and seasons, but he who hath them in his own power.’”

Daniel 11:31 And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

And arms shall stand on his part – After Antiochus, arms, that is, the Romans, shall stand up: for arms in this prophecy every where denote military power; and standing up, the power in activity and conquering. Both Sir Isaac Newton and Bp. Newton agree, that what follows is spoken of the Romans. Hitherto Daniel has described the actions of the kings of the north and of the south, that of the kings of Syria and Egypt; but, upon the conquest of Macedon by the Romans, he has left off describing the actions of the Greeks, and begun to describe those of the Romans in Greece, who conquered Macedon, Illyricum, and Epirus, in the year of the era of Nabonassar, 580. Thirty-five years after, by the will of Attalus, they inherited all Asia westward of Mount Taurus; sixty-five years after they conquered the kingdom of Syria, and reduced it into a province; and thirty-four years after they did the same to Egypt. By all these steps the Roman arms stood up over the Greeks; and after ninety-five years more, by making war upon the Jews, they polluted the sanctuary of strength, -the temple, (so called by reason of its fortifications,) and took away the daily sacrifice and placed the abomination that maketh desolate, or of the desolator; for that this abomination was thus placed after the time of Christ, appears from Matthew 24:15.

In the sixteenth year of the Emperor Adrian, A.D. 132, they placed this abomination by building a temple to Jupiter Capitolinus, where the temple of God in Jerusalem stood; upon which the Jews, under Barchocab, rose up against the Romans. But in this war they had fifty cities demolished, nine hundred and fifty of their best towns destroyed, and eighty thousand men were slain by the sword; and in the end of the war, A.D. 136, were banished Judea on pain of death; and thenceforth the land became desolate.

Daniel 11:32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Such as do wickedly against the covenant – This is understood of the *Christian Jews*; for the NEW had now succeeded to the OLD, the whole of the Jewish ritual having been abolished, and Jerusalem filled with heathen temples. And he-the Roman power, did all he could by flatteries, as well as threats, to corrupt the Christians, and cause them to sacrifice to the statues of the emperors.

But the people that do know their God – The genuine Christians.

Shall be strong – Shall be strengthened by his grace and Spirit.

And do exploits – Continue steadfast in all temptations, hold fast their faith, and enjoy a good conscience.

Daniel 11:33 And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.

Daniel 11:34 Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries.

Daniel 11:35 And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.

Daniel 11:36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

And they that understand – The apostles and primitive Christians in general, who understood from the prophets, and his own actions, that JESUS was the true MESSIAH.

Instruct many – Preach the Gospel every where, and convert multitudes to the faith.

Yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. – They were exposed to the malice and fury of their enemies, during TEN STATE PERSECUTIONS, and suffered all kinds of tortures, with but little intermission, for three hundred years.- Newton.

Now when they shall fall – When the storm of the tenth persecution under Diocletian, which lasted ten years, fell upon them, they were sorely oppressed.

They shall be holpen with a little help – By Constantine; who, while he removed all persecution, and promoted the temporal prosperity of the Christian Church, yet added little to its spiritual perfection and strength. For many, now seeing the Christians in prosperity,-

Cleave to them with flatteries. – Became Christians BECAUSE the EMPEROR was such.

And some of them of understanding – Disputes on certain points of religion soon agitated the Christian Church; and now, having no outward persecution, they began to persecute each other. And many excellent men, men of understanding, fell victims because they would not embrace erroneous doctrines, when professed by the state. But this was permitted,-

To try them, and to purge, and to make them white – To bring all to the pure profession, possession, and practice of Christianity.

To the time of the end – My own comment: Till Jesus returns!

And the king shall do according to his will – This may apply to Antiochus, who exalted himself above every god, called himself a god, sported with all religion, profaned the temple, c., c. But others think an antichristian power in the Church is intended for in the language of this prophecy king is taken for power, a kingdom, c. That such a power did spring up in the Church that acted in an arbitrary manner against all laws, human and Divine, is well known. This power showed itself in the Greek emperors in the east, and in the bishops of Rome in the west. And this is to continue.

Till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. – This is the same as what was called in Daniel 8:19, the last end of the indignation and Daniel 9:27, the consummation and means the end or consummation of God's indignation against the Jews.

Daniel 11:37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

Daniel 11:38 But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.

Daniel 11:39 Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.

Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers – That God who sent the evangelists and apostles to preach the pure doctrine. These true fathers of the Christian Church, and their God, the Church of Rome has not regarded, but put councils, and traditions, and apocryphal writings in their place.

Nor the desire of women – Both the Greek and Latin Church, in their antichristian enactments, have discouraged, and in several cases proscribed, marriage, under the pretense of greater chastity, to the discredit of God's ordinance, and Christianity itself.

Nor regard any god – For the mandates and decrees of that Church have been often in defiance of God and his word, for it has magnified itself above all power and authority in heaven and on earth. It professes to hold the keys, and to open and shut heaven at pleasure, both to states and individuals.

Shall he honour the god of forces – מַזְזִימַי mauzzim, or gods protectors, as in the margin; worshipping saints and angels as guardians, and protectors, and mediators; leaving out, in general, the true God, and the only Mediator, JESUS CHRIST.

And a god whom his fathers knew not – For these gods guardians, the Virgin Mary, saints, and angels, were utterly unknown as mediators and invocable guardians in the primitive apostolic Church.

Shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones – How literally does this apply to the Church of Rome! See the house of our lady at Loretto; the shrines of saints; the decorated images, costly apparel, gold, jewels, c., profusely used about images of saints, angels, and the blessed virgin, in different popish churches. This superstition began to prevail in the fourth century, and was established in 787, by the seventh general council for in that the worship of images was enacted.

In the most strong holds with a strange god – Bishop Newton proposed the following translation, after justly finding fault with our common Version: "Thus shall he do to the defenders of Mauzzim, together with the strange god whom he shall acknowledge: he shall multiply honour, and he shall cause him to rule over many; and the earth he shall divide for a reward." The defenders of Mauzzim, these saint and angel gods protectors, were the monks, priests, and bishops; of whom it may be truly said, "They were increased with honour, ruled over many, and divided the land for gain." They have been honoured and revered almost to adoration; their jurisdiction was extended over the purses and consciences of men; they have been enriched with the noblest buildings and largest endowments, and the choicest lands have been appropriated for Church lands. These are points of such public notoriety, that they require no proof. – Newton.

At the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him – These kings are to be understood in reference to the times of which the prophet speaks. While the kingdoms of Egypt and Syria were subsisting, the king of the south and the north applied to them exclusively: but they did not exist at the time of which the prophet speaks; therefore other southern and northern powers must be sought. These we may find in the Saracens, who were of the Arabians, who came from the south, headed by the false prophet Mohammed, who pushed at him-made war on the Greek emperor Heraclius, and with amazing rapidity deprived him of Egypt, Syria, and many of his finest provinces.

Daniel 11:40 And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.

And the king of the north – The Turks, who were originally Scythians, seized on the remains of the Greek empire; and in process of time rendered themselves masters of the whole. They are represented as coming like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen; their armies being chiefly composed of cavalry.

And with many ships – With these they got possession of many islands and maritime countries; and were so powerful in their fleets, that they entirely defeated the Venetians; and at last their fleets became of the utmost consequence to them in besieging, and afterwards taking, Constantinople, A.D. 1453, which they hold to the present day. So they entered into the countries, and overflowed, rendering themselves masters of all Asia Minor and Greece.

He shall enter also into the glorious land – Entirely subdue Judea.

Daniel 11:41 He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

And many countries shall be overthrown – Aleppo, Damascus, Gaza, and many other cities were forced to submit to them; and they hold them still.

But these shalt escape – Edom and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. – These and other Arabians they have never been able to subdue. They still occupy the deserts; and receive a yearly pension of forty thousand crowns of gold from the Ottoman emperors, to permit the caravans, with the pilgrims for Mecca, to have a free passage.

Daniel 11:42 He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

He shall stretch forth his hand – He – the Ottoman emperors, have stretched forth the hand, not only on European, but also upon Asiatic and African countries. Egypt – has not escaped; it is a province of the Turkish government, as are also Fez, Morocco, Algiers, and many other African countries. And as the prophecy says they “got power over the silver and gold, and the precious things of Egypt,” so it was; for when Selim conquered Egypt, A.D. 1517, he took all its spoils; and the immense sums drawn from it to the present day, and the wretchedness of the land in consequence, are almost incredible.

Daniel 11:43 But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.

The prophecy refers specifically to the vast treasures of Egypt. Therefore, its fulfillment must be looked for in the days of Egypt's power and wealth. It cannot have been fulfilled in the debased and poverty-stricken Egypt of later centuries. In the days of Antony and Cleopatra the treasures of Egypt were of immense value, having been accumulated over the years of the Ptolemaic rule. Octavius captured the accumulated riches of Egypt with his victory over Antony and Cleopatra, and celebrated his triumph in Rome in 29 BCE. He became the first Roman emperor, entitled "Caesar Augustus." Interest rates in the Roman empire fell greatly due to the influx of plunder from Egypt. Octavius returned in victory to Rome. Octavius' general, Cornelius Balbus, later took Libya and Ethiopia for Rome.

But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him – This part of the prophecy is allowed to be yet unfulfilled; and what is portended, the course of prophetic events will show. Were we to understand it as applying to Antiochus, then the news might be of the preparations which he heard, that the provinces of the east, and Artaxerxes, king of Armenia, on the north were intending to rise up against him. But if the Turkish power be understood, as in the preceding verses, it may mean that the Persians on the east, and the Russians on the north, will at some time greatly embarrass the Ottoman government. And how completely has this been fulfilled; first, by the total destruction of the Egyptian fleet, by the combined fleets of England, France, and Russia, in the Bay of Navarino; and, secondly, by the total overthrow of the Turkish army by the Russians, in the years 1828 and 1829, when the sultan was obliged to accept any conditions that the emperor of Russia was pleased to give!

Daniel 11:44 But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.

Daniel 11:45 And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

He shall plant the tabernacles – He shall make a last stand in Judea, and there shall his power be smitten. He shall come to his end, and none shall help him – All his confederate and tributary kingdoms, states, and provinces shall desert him, and leave that government to come to a shameful end.

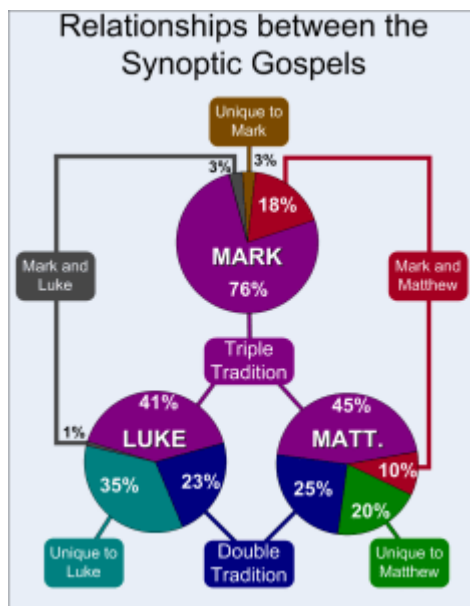
There are two other articles on Daniel 11 on this website:
[All Prophecies of Daniel 11 Fulfilled!](#) by Bryan T. Huie and
[Daniel 11:21-45 Explained in the Light of History](#) by Philip Mauro

They probably differ somewhat. I hope to compare them a verse at a time and may update this article later with more or different information.

When I was yet a babe in Christ and Bible knowledge, I was told God gave us prophecy to know the future. I don't believe anymore that we can know specific events before they happen. Did any prophet of God prophesy of a fake pandemic that would bring tyranny to democratic nations and trample on the civil rights of the public? No! Does the Bible predict an atomic war that will destroy the earth? What value is it for us to even speculate about such things? The only thing we can know for sure is Jesus is coming and will get

rid of the evildoers and bring an end to the madness on earth. When? When the Father says so!

The Olivet Discourse in All Three Synoptic Gospels Compared Verse by Verse



The Olivet Discourse is the message Jesus gave to His disciples on the Mount of Olives. This message is written in slightly three different ways in the three synoptic Gospels in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. The Gospels Matthew, Mark and Luke are called **synoptic Gospels** because they include many of the same stories. And they stand in contrast to the Gospel of John, whose content is largely distinct.

In my opinion, Just as the Daniel 9:27 is one of the most misinterpreted prophecies in the Bible, Matthew 24 is one of the most misinterpreted chapters in the Bible. False doctrines of Dispersationalism and Futurism have tainted the thinking of the vast majority of evangelicals today. Most Bible believing Christians today interpret Matthew 24 as the Lord's description of events just before the end of the world. Is that what Mark 13 and Luke 21, the parallel passages of the other two synoptic Gospels teach? Let's find out by comparing them!

I believe it's very important to compare the three passages because through it's the same account of Jesus on the Mount of Olives, the wording is not always identical! And because they're not always identical, Mark 13 and Luke 21 sheds light on the words recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. Scripture interprets Scripture.

Prophecy of the destruction of the Temple

Matthew 24:1-2 "And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. {2} And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Mark 13:1-2 "And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here! {2} And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Luke 21:5-6 "And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said, {6} As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Not much difference in the first three verses of the Olivet Discourse.

The disciples ask Jesus when it will happen and what the signs will be before it happens.

Matthew 24:3 "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, **and of the end of the world?**"

Mark 13:3-4 "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, {4} Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the **sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?**"

Luke 21:7 "And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and **what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?**"

As you can see, only Matthew says "the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world", and not Mark or Luke. According to Strong's concordance, the Greek word for world is *aion* and from which we get our English world *eon*, meaning an age. With that in mind, a better translation for Matthew 23:3 would be, "the end of the Jewish age." Do you think I'm stretching it to say that? The Olivet discourse is all about the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Roman army in 70 AD. No Temple = no more animal sacrifices, the very heart and practice of the Jewish relation. Jesus was telling His disciples He is giving the Jews 40 more years to repent before He returns to destroy them!

This is connected to what "the sign of thy coming" means. It doesn't mean the second coming of Christ at the very end of the world, it means Christ's coming to destroy the people who rejected Him as their Messiah! How do I know Jesus returned in 70 AD? Jesus told the high priest Caiaphas He would return!

Matthew 26:63-65 "But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. {64} Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. {65} Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy."

God has given us an intellect to help us interpret Scripture. Some things are symbolic and others literal. Jesus told the high priest that he would see Him sitting at the right hand of power coming in the clouds of Heaven. It seems logical to me that the high priest would live 40 more years to the destruction of Jerusalem, and literally see Jesus in the clouds, and therefore know that he and the Jews are being judged by God through the Roman army for their rejection of Jesus as their Messiah, their Christ. It therefore can't possibly mean 2000 years later as some may interpret it.

Jesus tells them signs before the destruction of the Temple.

Matthew 24:4-14 "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. {5} For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. (6) "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. {7} For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. {8} All these are the beginning of sorrows. {9} Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. {10} And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. {11} And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. {12} And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. {13} But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. {14} And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Mark 13:5-13 “And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you: {6} For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. (7) And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet. {8} For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows. {9} But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them. {10} And the gospel must first be published among all nations. {11} But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. {12} Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. {13} And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”

Luke 21:8-19 “And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: **go ye not therefore after them.** {9} But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. {10} Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: {11} And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. {12} But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name’s sake. {13} And it shall turn to you for a testimony. {14} Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: {15} For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. {16} And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. {17} And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake. {18} But there shall not an hair of your head perish. {19} In your patience possess ye your souls.”

Luke adds more information with “fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.” Flavius Josephus wrote about [seven signs](#) before the destruction of Jerusalem.

1. A star stood over the city like a sword, and a comet – remaining for a whole year. **Matthew, we know, also likes the idea of a star hanging over a particular spot on earth.**
2. At a Feast of Unleavened Bread, at 3 am, a bright light, as bright as midday, appeared around the altar and sanctuary, lasting for an hour.
3. During the same feast a cow brought for sacrifice gave birth to a lamb in the middle of the Temple courts.
4. At midnight the East Gate of the Inner Sanctuary opened of its own accord. This solid bronze gate normally required 20 men to shut it, and it was fastened with iron bars secured by bolts.
5. Shortly after the feast, before sunset, there appeared in the sky over the entire country chariots and regiments of soldiers racing through the clouds and surrounding the towns.
6. At Pentecost the priests **who were performing the normal Inner Temple**

ritual at night heard a violent movement and loud crash, then a loud cry of many voices: "Let us go hence!"

7. Four years before Jerusalem's war with Rome, Jesus the son of Ananias proclaimed doom for the city – especially at the feasts, and from the Temple. He spoke as one possessed for 7 and a half years, "Woe to Jerusalem", was beaten by the authorities, and was killed during the siege.

Jesus tells His followers when to flee Jerusalem and Judea.

Matthew 24:15 "When ye therefore shall see the **abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

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

Luke 21:20-21 "And when ye shall see **Jerusalem compassed with armies**, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

Matthew and Mark say to flee when they see "abomination of desolation" and Luke says to flee when they see, "Jerusalem compassed with armies." I submit to you that the abomination of desolation, therefore, is the armies of Rome about to attack Jerusalem and not some idol the Antichrist puts in the Temple as many have interpreted it.

Jesus tells His followers where to go, what to do, and why.

Matthew 24:16-21 "Then let them which be in **Judæa flee into the mountains**: {17} Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: {18} Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. {19} And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! {20} But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: {21} For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. "

Mark 13:15-19 "And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house: {16} And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment. {17} But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! {18} And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter. {19} For **in those days shall be affliction**, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be."

Luke 21:21-24 "Then let them which are in Judæa flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. {22} "For these be the **days of vengeance**, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. {23} But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and **wrath upon this people**. {24} And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

As you can see, Mark and Luke add more detail and clarify exactly what the "great tribulation" is! Mark calls it days of affliction and Luke calls it days of vengeance! Affliction upon whom? Vengeance upon whom? Upon the Christ rejecting unbelieving Jews! And where were they? In Jerusalem. Many of them fled to the Temple and were killed there. None of the Christians were there. They in obedience to Jesus' command fled Jerusalem and Judea and went to the mountains where they were safe. The Lord must have fed and took care of them there.

These scriptures are clearly about the attack by the Roman army by the Jews for their rebellion. The Lord was going to punish the Christ rejecting Jews but did not want His people to be caught up in that judgement. He therefore told His followers to flee Jerusalem and Judea when they saw the Roman army coming. He warned the Christians who were not in Judea not to return to it. He told them to make haste to flee for their lives. He told them to pray it won't happen in winter when it's much more difficult to travel, and to pray it won't be on the Sabbath day when the gates are closed.

The war against the Jews shortened for the Christians sake.

Matthew 24:22 "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

Mark 13:20 "And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days."

Missing in Luke.

If the Romans had gone on destroying in this manner, the whole nation of the Jews would have been destroyed. For the Christians particularly those days were shortened.

Warning about false teachers

Matthew 24:23-26 "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. {24} For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. {25} Behold, I have told you before. {26} Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not."

Mark 13:21-23 "And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: {22} For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. {23} But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things."

Already told in **Luke 21:8** "And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them."

Christians today need to be very careful who they listen to! There are many false teachers, dispensationalists, futurists, doctrines tainted by Jesuits. And there are prosperity Gospel preachers who rip off the poor while they live in luxury. And some churches are even infiltrated with witches! We need to make sure we are following what the Bible actually teaches and not just what some preacher says it teaches. Let's be like the Bereans and search the Scriptures for ourselves to see if what the preacher or teacher is saying is what the Bible actually says!

Acts 17:10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto **Berea**: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 **These were more noble than those in Thessalonica**, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

Jesus uses a parable of lightning, a carcass, and eagles

Matthew 24:27-28 "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. {28} For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together."

Not in Mark.

Not in Luke

Adam Clarke's interpretation: "The Lord, points out the very march of the Roman army: they entered into Judea on the East, and carried on their conquest Westward, as if not only the extensiveness of the ruin, but the very route which the army would take, were intended in the comparison of the lightning issuing from the east, and shining to the west. Clarke also interprets the "carcass" as the Jewish nation which was morally and judicially dead and the "eagles" as the armies of Rome gathered around the dead nation. It's makes sense to me!

The Historicist interpretation of Scriptures futurists consider to be about the end of the world.

Matthew 24:29-31 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: {30} And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. {31} And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Mark 13:24-27 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, {25} And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. {26} And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. {27} And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven."

Luke 21:25-28 "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; {26} Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. {27} And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. {28} And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

From Adam Clarke's commentary: "Commentators generally understand this, and what follows, of the end of the world and Christ's coming to judgment: but the word immediately shows that our Lord is not speaking of any distant event, but of something immediately consequent on calamities already predicted: and that must be the destruction of Jerusalem. "The Jewish heaven shall perish, and the sun and moon of its glory and happiness shall be darkened – brought to nothing. The sun is the religion of the Church; the moon is the government of the state; and the stars are the judges and doctors of both. Compare Isaiah 13:10; Ezekiel 32:7, Ezekiel 32:8, etc."

In the prophetic language, great commotions upon earth are often represented under the notion of commotions and changes in the heavens: –

The fall of Babylon is represented by the stars and constellations of heaven withdrawing their light, and the sun and moon being darkened. See Isaiah 13:9, Isaiah 13:10.

The destruction of Egypt, by the heaven being covered, the sun enveloped with a cloud, and the moon withholding her light. Ezekiel 32:7, Ezekiel 32:8.

The destruction of the Jews by Antiochus Epiphanes is represented by casting down some of the host of heaven, and the stars to the ground. See Daniel 8:10.

And this very destruction of Jerusalem is represented by the Prophet Joel, Joel 2:30, Joel 2:31, by showing wonders in heaven and in earth – darkening the sun, and turning the moon into blood. This general mode of describing these judgments leaves no room to doubt the propriety of its application in the present case.

The falling of stars, i.e. those meteors which are called falling stars by the common people, was deemed an omen of evil times.

Verse 30 Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man – The plain meaning of this is, that the destruction of Jerusalem will be such a remarkable instance of Divine vengeance, such a signal manifestation of Christ's power and glory, that all the Jewish tribes shall mourn, and many will, in consequence of this manifestation of God, be led to acknowledge Christ and his religion. By τῆς γῆς, of the land, in the text, is evidently meant here, as in several other places, the land of Judea and its tribes, either its then inhabitants, or the Jewish people wherever found.

Verse 31 He shall send his angels – Τους ἀγγέλους, his messengers, the apostles, and their successors in the Christian ministry.

With a great sound of a trumpet – Or, a loud-sounding trumpet – the earnest affectionate call of the Gospel of peace, life, and salvation.

Shall gather together his elect – The Gentiles, who were now chosen or elected, in place of the rebellious, obstinate Jews, according to Our Lord's prediction, Matthew 8:11, Matthew 8:12, and Luke 13:28, Luke 13:29. For the children of the kingdom, (the Jews who were born with a legal right to it, but had now finally forfeited that right by their iniquities) should be thrust out. It is worth serious observation, that the Christian religion spread and prevailed mightily after this period: and nothing contributed more to the success of the Gospel than the destruction of Jerusalem happening in the very time and manner, and with the very circumstances, so particularly foretold by our Lord. It was after this period that the kingdom of Christ began, and his reign was established in almost every part of the world. To St. Matthew's account, St. Luke adds, Luke 21:24, They shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shalt be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down by the Gentiles, till the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. The number of those who fell by the sword was very great. Eleven Hundred Thousand perished during the siege. Many were slain at other places, and at other times. By the commandment of Florus, the first author of the war, there were slain at Jerusalem 3,600, Josephus. War, b. ii. c. 14. By the inhabitants of Caesarea, above 20,000. At Scythopolis, above 13,000. At Ascalon, 2,500. At Ptolemais, 2,000. At Alexandria, 50,000. At Joppa, when taken by Cestius Gallus, 8,400. In a mountain called Asamon, near Sepporis, above 2,000. At Damascus, 10,000. In a battle with the Romans at Ascalon, 10,000. In an ambuscade near the same place, 8,000. At Japha, 15,000. Of the Samaritans, on Mount Gerizim, 11,600. At Jotapa, 40,000. At Joppa, when taken by Vespasian, 4,200. At Tarichea, 6,500. And after the city was taken, 1,200. At Gamala, 4,000, besides 5,000 who threw themselves down a precipice. Of those who fled with John, of Gischala, 6,000. Of the Gadarenes, 15,000 slain, besides countless multitudes drowned. In the village of Idumea, above 10,000 slain. At Gerasa, 1,000. At Machaerus, 1,700. In the wood of Jardes, 3,000. In the castle of Masada, 960. In Cyrene, by Catullus the governor, 3,000. Besides these, many of every age, sex, and condition, were slain in the war, who are not reckoned; but, of those who are reckoned, the number amounts to upwards of 1,357,660, which would have appeared incredible, if their own historian had not so particularly enumerated them. See Josephus, War, book ii. c. 18, 20; book iii. c. 2, 7, 8, 9; book iv. c. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9; book vii. c. 6, 9, 11; and Bp. Newton, vol. ii. p. 288-290.

Many also were led away captives into all nations. There were taken at Japha, 2,130. At Jotapa, 1,200. At Tarichea, 6,000 chosen young men, who were sent to Nero; others sold to the number of 30,400, besides those who were given to Agrippa. Of the Gadarenes were taken 2,200. In Idumea above 1,000. Many besides these were taken in Jerusalem; so that, as Josephus says, the number of the captives taken in the whole war amounted to 97,000. Those above seventeen years of age were sent to the works in Egypt; but most were distributed through the Roman provinces, to be destroyed in their theatres by the sword, and by the wild beasts; and those under seventeen years of age were sold for slaves. Eleven thousand in one place perished for want. At Caesarea, Titus, like a thorough-paced infernal savage, murdered 2,500 Jews, in honor of his brother's birthday; and a greater number at Berytus in honor of his father's. See Josephus, War, b. vii. c. 3. s. 1. Some he caused to kill each other; some were thrown to the wild beasts; and others burnt alive. And all this was done by a man who was styled, The darling of mankind! Thus were the Jews miserably tormented, and distributed over the Roman provinces; and continue to be distressed and dispersed over all the nations of the world to the present day. Jerusalem also was, according to the prediction of our Lord, to be trodden down by the Gentiles. Accordingly it has never since been in the possession of the Jews. It was first in subjection to the Romans, afterwards to the Saracens, then to the Franks, after to the Mamalukes, and now to the Turks. Thus has the prophecy of Christ been most literally and terribly fulfilled, on a people who are still preserved as continued monuments of the truth of our Lord's prediction, and of the truth of the Christian religion. See more in Bp. Newton's Dissert. vol. ii. p. 291, etc.

The meaning of the parable of the fig tree

Matthew 24:32-35 "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: {33} So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. {34} Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. {35} Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

Mark 13:28-31 "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: {29} So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. {30} Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. {31} Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."

Luke 21:29-33 "And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; {30} When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. {31} So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. {32} Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. {33} Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."

Adam Clarke commentary: **Learn a parable of the fig-tree** – That is, These signs which I have given you will be as infallible a proof of the approaching ruin of the Jewish state as the budding of the trees is a proof of the coming summer.

My commentary of **This generation shall not pass away**: Jesus was talking to his disciples who were mostly young. They would live 40 more years to see all these things, namely the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem by the Roman army.

Jesus exhorts us not to fall spiritually asleep.

Matthew 24:36 "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Mark 13:32-33 "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. {33} Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

Not in Luke.

How many times in history were people caught off guard and unprepared for a disaster? The destruction of Lahaina in Maui is a recent example.

Who was left behind? The fortunate ones!

Matthew 24:40-41 "Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. {41} Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left."

Not in Mark.

Not in Luke.

Adam Clarke's commentary: **Then shall two men – two women – one shall be taken, and the other left** – The meaning seems to be, that so general should these calamities be, that no two persons, wheresoever found, or about whatsoever employed, should be both able to effect their escape; and that captivity and the sword should have a complete triumph over this unhappy people.

I hope you see these verses are not talking about the Rapture as the popular "Left Behind" series by Tim LaHaye indicates. It's talking about the killing of Jews by the Romans.

Warnings to watch and stay spiritually awake!

Matthew 24:37-51 "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. {38} For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, {39} And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. {43} But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. {44} Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. {45} Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? {46} Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. {47} Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. {48} But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; {49} And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; {50} The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, {51} And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Mark 13:34-37 "For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: {36} Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. {37} And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

Luke 21:34-36 "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. {35} For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. {36} Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

Self-explanatory.

For more commentary of the Olivet Discourse, please see [Adam Clarke's Commentary on Matthew 24](#)

[Early Protestant leaders told us who the Biblical Antichrist is!](#)

According to the Bible, which of the below is the Antichrist likely to look like?



Many Christians know a bit of the history of the Protestant Reformation that began with Martin Luther in 1517. But how many know about the Roman Catholic reaction to the Protestant Reformation, also known as the “Counter-Reformation”? How many Christians have even *heard* of the Counter-Reformation? Not many! And why? It’s because the leadership of the Counter-Reformation have done a bang-up job of undermining Protestant churches and seminaries with false interpretations of Daniel, Matthew 24 and the Book of Revelation to the point they do not know anymore who the Biblical Antichrist is!

What early Protestant leaders taught about the Antichrist:

Martin Luther

“We here are of the conviction that the **papacy is the seat of the seed of the true and real antichrist**. I owe the Pope no other obedience than that I owe to antichrist.”

“I am persuaded that if at this time St. Peter in person should preach all the articles of Holy Scripture and only deny the Pope’s authority, power and primacy and say that the Pope is not the head of all Christendom, they would cause him to be hanged.”

“The *Pope is the very antichrist* who is exalted himself above and opposed himself against Christ because he will not permit Christians to be saved.”

“It is nothing else than the devil himself, because above and against God he urges and disseminates his papal falsehoods concerning Masses, Purgatory, monastic life, one’s own works, fictitious divine worship, which is the very papacy, and condemns, murders and tortures all Christians who don’t exalt and honor these

abominations of the Pope above all things. Therefore just as little as we can worship the devil himself as Lord and God we can endure his apostle the Pope. For to lie and to kill and destroy a body and soul eternally, that is wherein his papal government really consists."

John Calvin 1509-1564

"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 2 Thessalonians 2 are not capable to any other interpretation than that which applies them to the papacy."

Thomas Cranmer (2 July 1489 – 21 March 1556) was a leader of the English Reformation and Archbishop of Canterbury during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI and, for a short time, Mary I.

"Whereof it follows Rome to be the seat of antichrist and the Pope to be the very antichrist himself, I could prove the same by many scriptures."

Cotton Mather An American Puritan who died in 1728

"The oracles of God foretold **the rising of an Antichrist in the Christian Church: and in the Pope of Rome**, all the characteristics of that Antichrist are so marvelously answered that **if any who read the Scriptures do not see it, there is a marvelous blindness upon them.**"

Charles Spurgeon

"It is the bound and duty of every Christian to pray against this Antichrist, and as to what Antichrist is, no sane man ought to raise a question. If it be not the popery in the Church of Rome there is nothing in the world that can be called by that name."



"Popery is contrary to Christ's gospel and is the antichrist and we ought to pray against it. It should be the daily prayer of every believer that the antichrist might be hurled like a millstone into

the flood and for Christ, because it wounds Christ, because it robs Christ of his glory, because it puts sacramental efficacy in the place of his atonement and lifts a piece of bread into the place of the Savior and a few drops of water into the place of the Holy Spirit. And puts a mere fallible man like ourselves up as the Vicar of Christ on Earth. IF we pray against it, because it is against him, we shall love the persons though we hate their errors. We shall love their souls though we loathe and detest their dogmas. And so the breath of our prayers will be sweetened because we turn our faces toward Christ when we pray.”

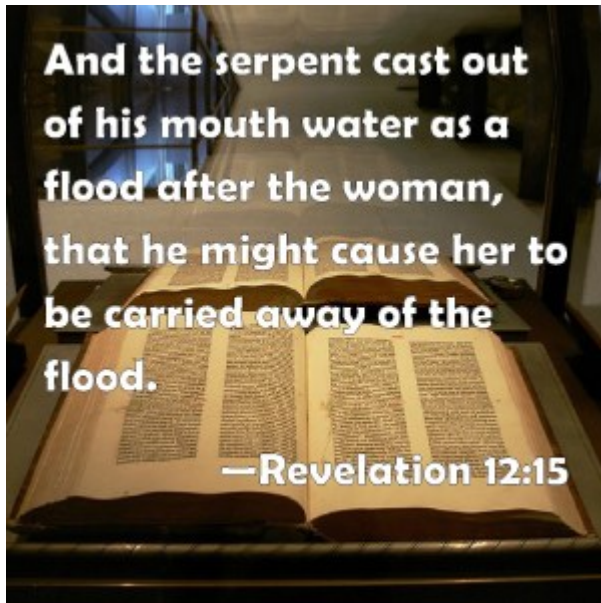
“Of all the dreams that have ever deluded men, and probably of all blasphemies that ever were uttered, there has never been one which is more absurd and which is more fruitful in all manner of mischief than the idea that the bishop of Rome can be the head of the church of Jesus Christ.”

“A man who deludes other people by degrees comes to delude himself. The deluder first makes dupes out of others and then becomes a dupe to himself. I should not wonder but what the Pope really believes that he is infallible and that he ought to be saluted as “His Holiness.” It must have taken him a good time to arrive at that eminence of self deception. But he’s got to, I daresay, by now and everyone who kisses his toe confirms him in this insane idea. When everybody else believes a flattering falsehood concerning you, you come, at last, to believe it yourself or at least to think it may be so.”

“Christ did not redeem his church with his blood so the Pope would come in and steal away the glory. He never came from heaven to earth. He never poured out his very heart that he might purchase his people. That a poor sinner, a mere man, should be set upon high to be admired by all the nations and to call himself God’s representative on earth, Christ has always been the head of his church.”

[What is the “Water as a Flood after](#)

the Woman” from the Mouth of the Serpent of Revelation 12:15?



I believe the flood is a flood of lies.

When I was young, I would never have believed that my government would ever lie to me. When I was 18, if someone even suggested the government is lying about anything, I wouldn't have believed it. I would have thought the source was parroting some communists to cast doubt on the credibility of the government. I trusted what the authorities had to say. That was before I got saved by the Lord Jesus Christ and knew the truth of the Bible. I came to realize that the government isn't perfect. Governments are part of the world that Jesus Himself called evil.

John 7:7 The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

Please don't get me wrong. I believe governments are necessary. The heart of man is wicked. We need laws and law enforcers. Since I moved to the Philippines in June of 2023, I haven't heard of any local crimes. I see people leaving their motorcycles with the engines running. I see unlocked bicycles. I also see guards and law enforcers carrying guns and rifles! Jesus said in Luke 11:21 "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:"

What I'm saying is we need to put our trust in the Lord most of all, base our thinking on the Bible, and not look to the government as our standard of morality. [A new law in California](#) forbids teachers from telling parents that their child is seeking to change his or her gender! School teacher Jessica

Tapias lost her job for not obeying that law. I say to her, "Bravo!"

Christians should not obey authorities when laws are in violation of our morals and faith! We have a duty before God to protest evil to government authorities! Ecclesiastes 8:2 says, I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that *in regard of the oath of God*. We must not obey ungodly orders from the government that violate Christian morality.

Sad to say, all governments use propaganda to control their people. The 1994 Rwanda genocide of the Tutsi people would have not happened without the cooperation and complicity of the common people! Authorities told them to kill the Tutsis, and that's what they did. And the Catholic Church was complicit in the genocide but Pope Francis only [apologized for 23 years later in 2017!](#) And remember how the common German people were deceived by the wicked criminal Nazi government of Hitler. They believed Germany had a right to conquer and take over Europe. The same thing with the Japanese in World War II thinking they had a right to take over East Asia. They believed their emperor was a god and laid down their lives for him. Satan deceived them with a flood of lies which washed them away.

And of course, false doctrines and heresies abound in the world today. They are too innumerable to count. We must stay grounded in the Word of God lest we be led astray by something we hear on the news or social media. If you wondered why I'm not posting on this website everything I hear that sounds like an evil conspiracy, that's why. I'm going to stick with what I know to be true. There's a lot of disinformation on the Internet. Just remember how Alex Jones got in trouble for repeating falsehoods he heard about the Sandy Hook massacre.

Also remember, the government and medical facilities are not responsible for our health, we are! People vaccinated for Covid still became ill with Covid in spite of the fact the government said they would not if they get vaccinated. The governments of the world claimed the vaccine was "safe and effective" and yet I've heard many sad testimonials of vaccine injuries.

Doctors don't always give us the right advice. Doctors on Guam gave my wife Tess contradictory advice about the joint pain in her knee. A doctor in the Philippines gave her an expensive shot that did absolutely nothing to heal her chronic pain. We are seeking the Lord for what is best.

What Bible commentator John Gill has to say about Revelation 12:15:

John Gill (23 November 1697 – 14 October 1771) was an English Baptist pastor, biblical scholar, and theologian. He was also the first Baptist pastor to write a commentary on the entire Bible. His interpretation of the prophecies of the Books of Daniel and the Olivet Discourse of Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 are in agreement with most of his contemporaries who held to the Historicist school of interpretation. Sad to say not very many Christians today know what John Gill and his fellows had to say. Their voices have been drowned out by John Nelson Darby's Futurism. Why would Darby be promoted over John Gill? Undoubtedly it was because of the insidious work of the Jesuit

Order! The Jesuit's plan is to bring the "separated brethren" back to the fold of the Pope. Will you follow them? I'm not.

John Gill calls the water as a flood from the mouth of the serpent of Revelation 12:15 false doctrines and heresies:

As the words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, (Proverbs 18:4); and doctrines, good or bad, may be so called; that **flood of errors and heresies**, which were poured in between the times of Constantine and the rise of antichrist may be here intended; such as the **Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ**; the **Nestorian heresy, which divided his person**; and the **Eutychian heresy, which confounded the two natures in him**; and the **Macedonian heresy, which took away the deity of the Holy Ghost**; and the **Pelagian heresy, which destroyed the grace of God**, and set up the power of man's free will: and this flood of errors and heresies may be truly said to be cast out of the serpent's mouth; since the old serpent, the devil, is the father of all lies, and errors: and the above heresies are the doctrines of devils, and damnable ones; and were designed by Satan to destroy the souls of men, and ruin the church.

What Bible commentator Matthew Henry has to say about Revelation 12:15:

Matthew Henry (18 October 1662 – 22 June 1714) was a British Nonconformist minister and author who was born in Wales but spent much of his life in England. He is best known for the six-volume biblical commentary Exposition of the Old and New Testaments.

This is thought to be meant of a flood of error and heresy, which was breathed by Arius, Nestorius, Pelagius, and many more, by which the church of God was in danger of being overwhelmed and carried away. The church of God is in more danger from heretics than from persecutors; and heresies are as certainly from the devil as open force and violence.

What Bible commentator Matthew Poole has to say about Revelation 12:15:

Matthew Poole (1624 – 1679) was an English Nonconformist theologian.

And the serpent; the devil, the old serpent, mentioned Revelation 12:9, being able no longer to execute his malice as a dragon, by the civil power of the heathen emperors, tearing Christians in pieces, but discerning the church secured by the special providence of God, went to work another way.

Cast out of his mouth water as a flood; corrupting the judgments of several persons, who, out of the abundance of error in their hearts, **preached corrupt doctrine**. Such were the followers of Arius, Nestorius, Eutyches, Pelagius, &c. The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, Proverbs 18:4. The mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things, Proverbs 15:28.

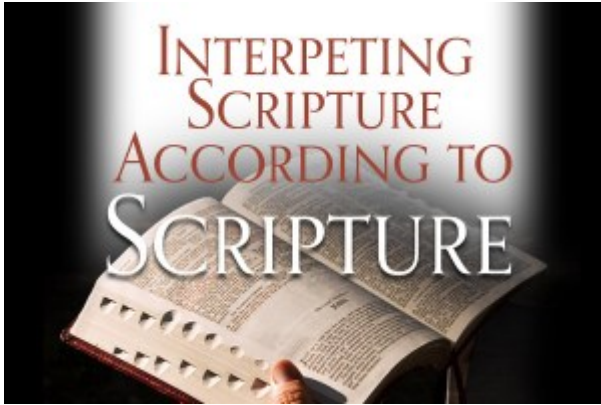
That he might cause her to be carried away of the flood; on purpose **to ruin the church: and, indeed, such were the ill effects of these heresies**, that he who is but meanly versed in the history of the fifth age, will see reason to adore the providence of God, that the Roman emperors, upon the sight of them, did not again turn pagans, and add their force to the malice of these pretended Christians against the sincerer part of the church.

[Who is the "He" of Daniel 9:27 Who Confirms the Covenant with Many for One Week?](#)



Up to the beginning of the 20th century, Daniel 9:27 was considered a Messianic prophecy of the 7 years of Jesus and His disciples' ministry of giving the Gospel to the Jews. This article is my best attempt to explain in my own words why the "he" of Daniel 9:27 is referring to Jesus Christ in as clear and concise a manner as I know how.

[Using Scripture to Interpret Scripture](#)



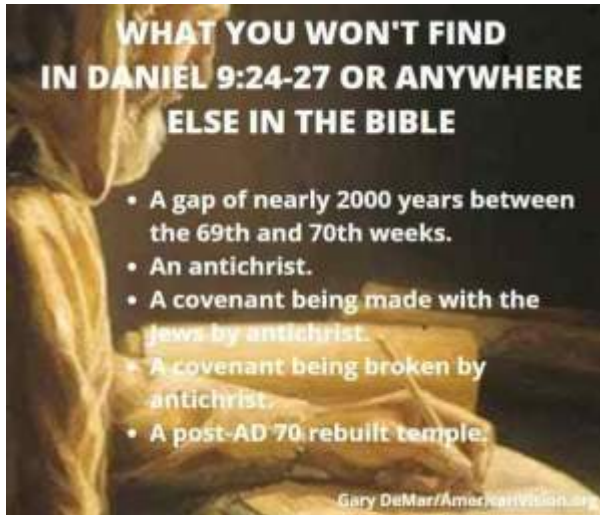
The Bible itself is the best commentary to refer to in order to find the correct interpretation and meanings of important words. Scripture is its own best interpreter.

Clash of the Worldviews



The importance of basing our worldview on what Genesis chapters 1 -11 has to say. Unbelievers reject it which is why the world is embracing false ideologies promoted by the LGBTQ movement.

What early Protestants had to say about the 70th Week of Daniel



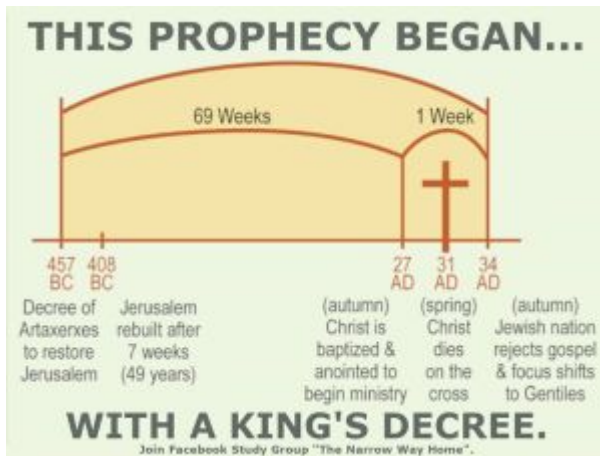
Most Protestant and Baptist leaders up to sometime in the 19th century did not hold the view that Daniel 9:27 will be fulfilled by a future Antichrist, but that it was *already fulfilled* by Jesus Christ!

[What was the Leaven of the Pharisees?](#)



The people most responsible for sowing the leaven of false doctrines among Protestant Christians today are *the Jesuits*. Some of them became Protestant ministers!

[The 70th Week of Daniel is all about Christ, not the Antichrist!](#)



Jesus was crucified in the middle of the 70th Week when 33 years old in 31 AD. The rest of the 70th Week is the Apostles ministry to the Jews up till the persecution began in 34 AD.

[The Origin of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture Doctrine](#)



By Mark Williams.

How did the pretribulation doctrine come about? A brief rundown would go something like this:

In 1591 a Jesuit priest named Francisco Ribera wrote a 500-page commentary on the grand points of Babylon and the antichrist, the object being to set aside the Protestant teaching that the Papacy is the antichrist. In his commentary, he assigned the first chapters of Revelation to the first century. The rest he restricted to a literal three and a half years at the end of time, BEFORE the resurrection. He taught that the Jewish temple would be rebuilt by a single individual antichrist that would abolish the Christian religion, deny Christ, pretend to be God, and conquer the world. Thus was laid the foundation for Dispensationalism.

In 1812 another Jesuit priest, named Emmanuel Lacunza, started teaching that there would be a 45-day tribulation period, AFTER Christ's coming.

In 1826 Edward Irving translated Lacunza's book and published it in 1827. Sometime after that, Irving started to teach a three-and-a-half-year tribulation after Christ's coming.

In 1830, a man named John Darby of the Plymouth Brethren started teaching a seven-year tribulation period. He came to America seven times to promote his teaching. When George Muller of Bristol came up against the Dispensationalist doctrines of the Brethren movement, he severed all connection with it. "The time came," he said, "when I had to either part from my Bible or part from John Darby. I chose to keep my precious Bible."

So in 1812, we see the teaching of a 45-day tribulation after the rapture.

Around 1827 Edward Irving taught a three and a-half-year tribulation after the rapture. Then in 1830, the final turn to a seven-year tribulation after the rapture. Others picked up on this new doctrine and added to it.

In 1909, C. I. Scofield published the Scofield Reference Bible. His dispensational notes were mixed in with the verses of the Bible so well that if you didn't know better, you would think they were part of the Holy Scriptures. Over two million copies of his Bible were sold with this new dispensational teaching. Scofield, although not a Plymouth Brethren, was a devoted disciple of John Darby.

After that, W. E. Blackstone wrote a book titled *Jesus Is Coming Again*. A millionaire financed sending several hundred thousand copies of this book to missionaries throughout the world.

After Israel became a nation in 1948, prophecy teachers sprung up like wildfire, teaching that the Second Coming would happen approximately forty years after Israel became a nation. They got this belief from misinterpreting the word "generation" in Matthew 24. Hundreds of books were written on this subject. People learned about this new doctrine, not from the Bible, but from these so-called prophecy books.

Today Dispensationalism has become the generally accepted belief of the Fundamentalist wing of popular Protestantism.

In his tract, "Who is the Antichrist?" a former Catholic priest, Joseph Zacchello, says: "The Jesuits were the first ones to introduce a new theory in order to divert men's minds from perceiving the fulfillment of the prophecies of the antichrist in the papal church. The Jesuit Ribera brought out the futuristic system, which asserts that the antichrist is yet to appear." And to this statement, he adds: "**Protestants who advocate the futuristic system are pleasing the pope and are playing into the hands of Rome.**"

The teaching that the Church is to be raptured to heaven just prior to a time called the great tribulation was not known prior to the 1800s. It's amazing with all the writings left to us from early Christians on the rapture, all agreed that if there is going to be a tribulation at the end of time, the Church would go through it. Since no voice spoke out in favor of a pre-

tribulation rapture, the only conclusion possible is that the Church did not teach this in the beginning and that it should not be teaching it now.

Conclusion

This material was condensed down from hundreds of pages of notes just to give you a quick insight into the problem we are facing today. If we continue to curl up into a ball and keep our mouths shut because somebody might get their feelings hurt, the original truth that was taught by Jesus and his apostles, will one day vanish.

I'm not saying that we should go out and create war with those who disagree, but we should, in a loving manner, spread the whole truth of the Gospel. And if it were only on the last days, it would be easier for me to keep my mouth shut. But Satan has caused Christians to pervert his truth in dozens of chapters throughout the Bible.

It's sad to think that a large part of God's Church teaches that the Abrahamic covenant is yet to be fulfilled and yet the Bible teaches it has been fulfilled to the very letter. It's sad to see Christians teaching that Jesus Christ isn't reigning now when a simple study of the Bible shows he is and that Jesus is reigning from David's throne now just as the Scriptures foretold. It's sad to see Christians misleading the world into believing that after Christ comes back, there will still be a chance for salvation, and again, the Bible says no such thing. Friends, the Bible warns against believing in false doctrine, and yet to many, it's not a problem. I believe that Christians can come together with a more unified understanding of the Scriptures, but only if we take the time to study amongst ourselves and not be afraid to ask questions or get our feelings hurt. Our goal should be stamping out false doctrine and becoming unified in Christ Jesus. Remember, we are commanded to study to show ourselves approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Now if you still disagree with my notes, I would love to hear what you have to say and I promise to keep an open and honest heart. I for one do not want to stand face to face with Jesus only to find out that I've been deceived my whole life and neither should you.

[How Israel-Based Prophetic Futurism Breeds Mass Misinterpretation Of Bible Prophecy](#)



Pastor Chuck Baldwin

I love this message from Pastor Chuck Baldwin and was inspired to take time to transcribe it for busy people who just don't have time to listen to an hour talk on YouTube. Just reading the text below may inspire you to listen to his entire message from YouTube.

This is just a synopsis of his talk so I can claim the Fair Use copyright law.

Before we read Matthew chapter 24, let me begin by saying, there are basically two versions of prophecy. Now, don't misunderstand me. The nuances of understanding relative to prophecy are many and varied. I understand that. But when you boil all these interpretations down to their simplest form, there are basically two versions of prophecy.

1. That most prophecies of the Bible are present and future.
2. That most prophecies of the Bible are past.

How you look at prophecy, from whichever perspective, will make all the difference in the world in how you interpret the entire Bible. Both versions cannot be right. Therefore whichever version is wrong, they are misinterpreting most of the Scripture. And therefore the conclusions they are drawing, based on the Scriptures they're using, are predicated upon a false presupposition. Which means that every conclusion they draw from that false presupposition is *also* false.

(Pastor Baldwin reads Matthew 24:1-6)

The vast majority of evangelical Christians who hold to an Israel based prophetic futurism doctrinal interpretation of Scripture apply this chapter to the Second Coming of Christ. But I have showed you in my message of the destruction of Jerusalem, this chapter is not primarily speaking of the Second Coming of Christ, it is speaking primarily of the destruction of

Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

Most Israel based prophetic futurism preachers interpret the Antichrist as a future personage. But I have shown you in my message I will curse them that bless thee which is in the first Israel package (shows DVD) I will curse them that bless thee. I showed you in that message that **Antichrist is mostly a past and present system, not an individual in the future, but a past and present system**, a beastly antichrist system.

Israel based prophetic futurists interpret almost everything that has happened since 1948 as being prophetic. Almost everything since 1948 is prophetic in their view. But I have shown you that the advent of the Zionist State of Israel in 1948 fulfilled no prophecy and is in fact a great hoax and deception.

Listen to most televangelists, radio preachers, Christian authors, pastors, etc., and you will hear today's news being interpreted as some direct fulfillment of biblical prophecy. It's ubiquitous. How many Christian programs have "prophecy" or "End-times" in the title of their ministry or their title or their program? Constantly every day they're interpreting something that happened on that day as a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. And of course, next week they'll use the same verse to say this happened in direct fulfillment of that verse, the same verse that they used a week ago to prove something else that happened! In fact, prophetic Futurists are supporting the building of a third Jewish temple and a return to the practice of the Jewish sacrifice of animals, under the delusion that such events must take place in order to fulfill prophetic scripture of a coming Antichrist who they believe must come before Christ appears.

Today, I want to show you how easy it is to misapply Bible prophecy to modern times if one is a prophetic Futurist. I'm gonna show you how easy it is to misapply Bible prophecy to modern times if you hold to prophetic futurism.

Would evangelical Christians be able to identify the Antichrist from what Bible prophecy says about him? They talk about the Antichrist all the time. It's a key element of their understanding of prophecy all this stuff about Israel and the Third Temple and animal sacrifices and all of it is directly related to their understanding of a coming Antichrist. Right? Would they be able to identify the Antichrist from what the Scripture says regarding his spirit?

Now, the following points are taken from a man, Benjamin Cory who identifies himself as a member of the Christian left. That's his own testimony. He is a liberal theologian who has two doctorates from a liberal seminary. He may be wrong about many biblical doctrines, and I believe he is, but he wrote an astute piece about the ignorance of the biblical characteristics of the Antichrist that illustrates the way most evangelical Christians who are prophetic Futurists have misinterpreted the Scripture regarding prophecy. So these 16 points are his. OK, we are going to interpret the prophecy of Antichrist looking at it from a prophetic futurist point of view. Are you with me so far? All right, here we go.

- 1. The Antichrist will be a leader of a nation that is a military superpower.

Daniel. 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

This nation will have the ability to destroy or to devour the entire earth. There are only two countries in the world today that have this capability, only two, Russia and the United States. Russia and the United States are the only two nuclear superpowers in the world. Our country and Russia each have over 6000 nuclear warheads, each country. All the other nuclear powers of the world, the other 4 or 5 or 6 they have a few hundred. America and Russia are the only two countries that could be interpreted as fulfilling this prophecy. And, between the two, only America shall be diverse from all kingdoms. America is the melting pot of the world, not Russia. So, therefore, the United States fits this prophecy if you are interpreting it as a prophetic futurist would applying it to modern-day.

- 2. The Antichrist will be a man who is exceptionally arrogant and will be known for giving boastful speeches.

Revelation 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things.. Daniel 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Revelation and Daniel talk of an Antichrist who speaketh great things, boastful things, arrogant things. We're identifying the Antichrist, OK?

- 3. The Antichrist will be someone known for making a lot of public threats against people.

Revelation 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion:

The mouth of a lion. A roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. The Antichrist will be someone known for making a lot of public roaring against people.

- 4. The Antichrist will come from among 7 tall "hills" or mountains, that each act as a "head." "And I saw a beast coming out of the sea with ten horns and seven heads, which stood for seven hills"

Revelation 13:1 ¶And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads.

Revelation 17:9 ...The seven heads are seven mountains,...

Mountains or hills can be metaphorical for places of power in the Bible. So, if the Antichrist were to come in the present age, we'd be most likely looking for an American president known for being exceptionally arrogant, boastful, and threatening others, but who also came from 7 tall "hills" or

places of power... one of which would need to be somewhere in the vicinity of where John was looking out into the ocean where the vision occurred. – The isle of Patmos.

Two hundred miles northeast of the Isle of Patmos which is now a Greek island off the Turkish coast is Istanbul, Turkey. Rising up out of the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara with a tall hill or place of power – Trump Tower! Seven heads? Maybe like seven head-quarters? There are seven Trump Towers!

Trump Tower, NYC
Trump International Hotel and Tower, Chicago
Trump Towers, Istanbul, Turkey
Trump International Hotel and Tower, Toronto, Canada
Trump World Tower, New York
Trump Towers, Sunny Isles Beach
Trump Tower, Manila, the Philippines

And of course, Trump Tower New York City is the headquarters of all, and Jered Kushner's building sits a block away from Trump Tower New York, and it's called, it's named after its address, the "666 Building." Seven heads, seven headquarters, seven Trump Towers.

We are looking at Bible prophecy from the eyes of prophetic futurists, ladies and gentlemen. And we're applying the Scripture to today based upon that interpretation.

- 5. The Antichrist will be a political outsider with despicable character and a contemptuous personality who wins an election that no one expects him to win.

Daniel 11:21 ¶And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

A contemptible vile man who does not come from the kingdom's political elite and comes to power to flatteries and lies.

- 6. The Antichrist will give speeches where he speaks "great things."

Daniel 7:20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

Have you ever heard of "MAGA"? Make America, what? GREAT again. Great, speaketh great things.

- 7. The Antichrist comes to power through collusion with a secret alliance that uses disinformation to help him win– even though he has a minority number of supporters.

Daniel 11:23 And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people.

Trump won the election with a minority, small people. And was assisted by Russian Zionists – a league or conspiracy made with him. There's more! We're only one number 8, we've got eight more to go after this one! (Laughter from the congregation.)

- 8. The Antichrist's rise to power will seem like a miracle that God performed, tricking people into following Satan instead of God without even noticing.

2 Thessalonians 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,
When the Antichrist comes, look for powerful religious people claiming it was a miracle from God! This is a quote:

“He did everything wrong, (speaking of Trump) politically. He offended gays. He offended women. He offended the military. He offended black people. He offended the Hispanic people. He offended everybody! And he became president of the United States. Only God could do that.”

Who said that? Franklin Graham!

- 9. Once in power the Antichrist will reveal that his heart wants to make alterations to the “appointed times” that are in current laws.

Daniel 7:25 And he shall ... think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

How many times have we heard Donald Trump say he would serve more than two terms in office? He repeats that constantly. Under the laws of the United States a President can only serve two terms in office. Donald Trump repeatedly says he will serve more than two terms. He thinks to change times and laws!

- 10. The Antichrist will make fake news popular and he will be a chronic liar.

Daniel 8:25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart..

2 Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

The Antichrist will be a pathological liar.

- 11. The Antichrist will reward those who are completely loyal to him with powerful positions and lucrative real estate deals.

Daniel 11:39b ... and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.

A powerful wealthy man of real estate.

- 12. The Bible says that we'll be able to spot the Antichrist because he will give an arrogant public speech in the middle of his first term where he boasts of "great things" but also uses God's name as a curse in the same speech.

Revelation 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. (Three and a half years.)

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name ...

At almost the three and a half year mark, Donald Trump stood up in front of the world in North Carolina, and spoke great things and blasphemed the Name of God, **not once but twice** on international television. I went back and searched through the archives of Presidential speeches through a search engine, and tried to find a record or any other American president who used the name of God in vain and who blasphemed the Name of God publicly in a speech. I could not find a single president. To my knowledge, and after my research, Donald Trump is the only president the United States has ever had who has publicly taken God's Name in vain and has blasphemed the Name of God in a public speech. And he did it at about the 40 and 2-month mark! Humm...

- 13. The Antichrist will appear to receive a wound he can't recover from, but will survive to put down the first attempts to remove him from office.

Revelation 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

First, there was the Russian collusion indictment that he survived. They thought they would kill him with that. He survived. Now it's an impeachment inquiry, they think they're gonna kill him with that. He's surviving. He will survive. And the world will wonder. The deadly wound that was healed.

- 14. The Antichrist will see himself as being above everyone else, as if he had no need for God. He will eventually elevate himself as the God and King of Israel.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Trump said, "Why should I repent if I haven't done anything wrong?" Only a god could say that. Jesus said to the Pharisees and His opponents and adversaries, "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" That's exactly what Donald Trump was saying in his own words. "Why should I repent if I haven't done anything wrong? "... exalteth himself above all that is called God." Trump tweeted a remark from Wayne Allyn Root. He read what Wayne said and then he liked it so much he put it in two of his tweets and tweeted it to the world. Here's what Wayne said,

"President Trump is the greatest president for Jews and for Israel in the history of the world. Not just America, he is the best

president for Israel in the history of the world. And the Jewish people in Israel love him like he's the King of Israel. They love him like he's the second coming of God. "

And Trump accepted that accolade for himself by tweeting it to the world. "... exalteth himself above all that is called God ... as God sitteth in the temple of God". We're just reading the Bible!

- 15. The Antichrist will worship the god of walls and will despise women.

*Daniel 11:37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.
38 But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces:*

In the King James the word is "forces." The Hebrew word means, are you ready for this? Fortifications! You can't build fortifications without walls. Walls are the preeminent part of fortifications. He will honor the god of fortifications! Walls! And he will not regard or respect, women.

Albert Barnes, Nor the Desire of Women, what they desire, respect, honor. His own desire, that is, that he would be not be restrained by the desire of women with any regard for women, he will not regard the sacredness of womanhood, the sanctity of womanhood, he will not regard or respect or appreciate the feelings of women, and he will not try to limit his lust without any regard or respect for the hurt he brings in the process. That's the character trait described in Daniel chapter 11. Humm! Who do we know that fits all of these characteristics?

- And lastly, 16. The Antichrist's most devoted followers will wear a sign of their allegiance to him on their foreheads.

Revelation 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their ... their foreheads:

What's that thing that they have on their head? That red thing that they have on their head? On their foreheads? The MAGA cap?

Am I saying that Donald Trump is the Antichrist? No, *absolutely not*. I AM saying that if you apply the characteristics of the Antichrist described in the Bible to a modern-day personage, Donald Trump fits many of those characteristics! So question, **why do evangelical Christians not apply the biblical characteristics of the Antichrist to Donald Trump when he so obviously matches so many of those characteristics?** Why not? Because, very simply, THEY DON'T WANT TO!

This illustrates the absurdity of prophetic futurism. You can make any current event fit or not fit biblical prophecy if you want to because there is no standard of interpretation beyond your own private interpretation. I want to interpret it toward this person, and this event, and this circumstance, or maybe I DON'T want to apply to that person or event. It's all up to your personal interpretation. But 2 Peter 1:20 emphatically says:

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

No one can interpret Scripture, especially prophetic Scripture, by their own private interpretation. But that's what happens every day among prophetic Futurists.

I remember when Barack Obama was President. Can you remember that? I remember listening to Christian pastors go on and on and on about how Barack Obama could be the Antichrist. And they had all these Scriptures to prove that Barack Obama is the Antichrist!

END OF TRANSCRIPT

(Back to me.)

The transcript was taken from parts of the first 40 minutes of a one-hour YouTube. I think Pastor Baldwin is very clear in this message. Please listen to his entire talk when you have the time.

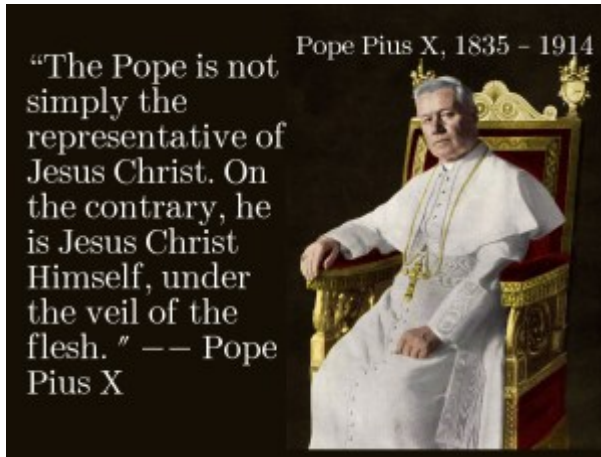
I hope you got the point, dear reader, why it is folly to apply Bible prophecy to events of today, and especially without seeing first whether the prophecy was not already fulfilled in the past! I was taught by my former pastor of 40 years that prophecy can have multiple fulfillments. I don't believe that anymore. The prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament were very specific and had only one fulfillment. The concept of "multiple fulfillments" has no precedent in the Bible. Is there one, even one? If there is, please educate me because I sure don't know of one.

I believe all the prophecies of the Antichrist are fulfilled in the Popes and the office of the papacy. You may dispute that but this is what Protestants believed starting with Martin Luther and up till some time in the beginning of the 19th century. In my lifetime there is only one rather famous Protestant preacher who was also the leader of Northern Ireland, [Ian Paisley, who publicly denounced a Pope, John Paul II, as Antichrist.](#)

Just think how much time Christians waste guessing on who the Antichrist is because they consider him to be an Endtime personage and not somebody who is always with them – Satan ruling through the papacy. I used to think that Prince Charles of Britain or his son William would become the Antichrist. The reasons given are as logical as the reasons given why Trump is the Antichrist.

If you hold to the Futurist school of Bible prophecy interpretation, the chances are you also support Israel believing that the modern State of Israel created in 1948 by the United Nations is a fulfillment of prophecy. I believe that to be false. That doctrine crept into Protestant churches starting with John Nelson Darby's (false) doctrine of Dispensationalism and promoted by C.I. Scofield in his Scofield Bible. The Dallas Theological Seminary picked up on it which caused it to be taught among all fundamentalist seminaries.

Who is that “Man of Sin” of II Thessalonians Chapter 2?



Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that **man of sin** be revealed, the **son of perdition**; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the **temple of God**, shewing himself that he is God.
-2 Thessalonians 2:3,4

Believe on not, all true born again Christians in the 16th century *knew* exactly who the Man of Sin, the son of perdition is! How do I know that? It says so in the Geneva Bible notes, the Bible translated in the 16th century.

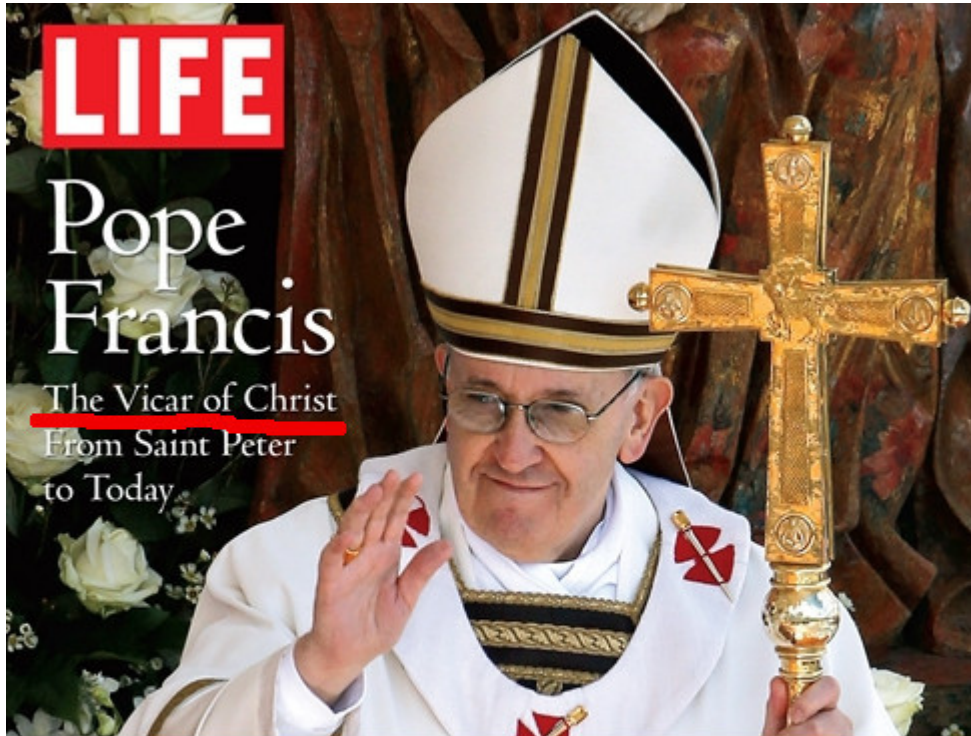
*All men know who he is that says he can **shut up heaven and open it at his pleasure**, and takes upon himself to be lord and master above all kings and princes, **before whom kings and princes fall down and worship**, honouring that antichrist as a god. (4) He foretells that the antichrist (that is, whoever he is that will occupy that seat that falls away from God) will not reign outside of the Church, but in the very bosom of the Church. (Reference <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/geneva-study-bible/2-thessalonians/2-thessalonians-2.html>)*

Who are they talking about? Let's see what the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church about the papacy is. The following is taken from <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/teachings/papacy-37> which is a Catholic website. I added the emphasis in bold.

The Papacy

We also define that the holy apostolic see, and the Roman pontiff, holds the **primacy over the whole world**, that the Roman pontiff is

the successor of blessed Peter, prince of the apostles, that he is the true vicar of Christ, the **head of the whole Church** and the **father and teacher of all Christians**, and that to him was committed in blessed Peter the full power of tending, ruling and governing the whole church, as is contained also in the acts of ecumenical councils and in the sacred canons (COUNCIL OF FLORENCE, 1439).



Vicar: (From Latin) vicarius, **a substitute**,
Anti: (From Greek) against, opposite, **instead of**,
Vicar of Christ = Anti Christ

Did you get that? Even though *YOU* may not acknowledge the authority of the Catholic Pope over your life, as far as he is concerned, *you belong to him!*

Did the Pope take “upon himself to be lord and master above all kings and princes”?

The papal deposing power was the most powerful tool of the political authority claimed by and on behalf of the Roman Pontiff, in medieval and early modern thought, amounting to the assertion of the Pope’s power to declare a Christian monarch heretical and powerless to rule.

Pope Gregory VII’s Dictatus Papae (c. 1075) claimed for the Pope “that it may be permitted to him to depose emperors” (12) and asserted the papal power to “absolve subjects from their fealty to wicked men” (27).

Oaths of allegiance held together the feudal political structure of medieval Europe. The principle behind deposition was that the Pope,

as the ultimate representative of God from whom all oaths draw their force, could in extreme circumstances absolve a ruler's subjects of their allegiance, thereby rendering the ruler powerless. In a medieval Europe in which all confessed the Pope as head of the visible Church, it gave concrete embodiment to the superiority of the spiritual power over the temporal—the other side, so to speak, of the role of Popes and bishops in anointing and crowning emperors and kings. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_deposing_power)

What is the “temple of God” of II Thess 2:4? Is it a rebuilt Third Temple of Solomon in the Endtime? Would a rebuilt temple of Solomon to resume animal sacrifices be of God in spite of the fact Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, already paid the price for the sins of the world?

1 Corinthians 3:16 ¶Know ye not that **ye** are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Would not a rebuilt third Temple in Jerusalem represent yet further rejection of the Blood of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, as the propitiation for our sins? And if so, would God call that temple a “holy place”? Definitely not! Any symbol of rejection of the true Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth would be an abomination to God! And if this is so, and I believe it is, would a rebuilt temple be the “holy place” of Matthew 24:15? Definitely NOT!

Whether you agree with the early Protestants or not, up to the 18th century they all interpreted 2 Thess 2:4 to be the office of the papacy, the Popes of Rome standing in the Temple – the Church – the Christian world – proclaiming himself to be as God on earth having total authority over both your body and your soul.

Satan is the god of lust. He wants to rule the entire world and demand all men worship him. Hasn't he already done that through each and every tyrant and dictator who has ever lived? Many of them considered themselves to be God! The pharaohs of Egypt did, the rulers of all the great empires, the heads of the Assyrians, Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Grecians, and Romans, most of them, claimed to be God on earth.

Men are mortal and Satan is immortal. I believe Satan has influenced each and every head of world power until their rule ended at death. After one emperor or king died, Satan went to the next emperor or king who had the most world power, from major ruler to ruler from the beginning of history till the present day. Would the god of lust have the patience to wait for a final 7 years of world history to have his fling? NO! He wanted it all from the beginning!

All that to say is this: If you have been waiting for the “rise of the Antichrist,” you may have missed seeing all the antichrists throughout history up to the present. And if you are expecting a rebuilt Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem so that the Antichrist can sit there and rule the world,

you probably don't see the Covid pandemic phobia is the work of the Antichrist to get you to take the [vaccination](#) of the Beast.

The Prophecy Jesus Told His Disciples on the Mount of Olives was ALL Fulfilled in 70AD



This article is from communication with a friend who wrote:

I'm very interested in your comments about Jesus's Olivet prophecy saying it does not refer to our future but to AD70 when the Romans sacked Jerusalem. (I hope I'm not misrepresenting your position but please correct me if I am.) I know you've mentioned it before to me. Can you explain to me in layman's terms, how we know this refers to AD70 and not to our current future? I believe it relates to the years in Daniel? Thanks, and sorry I'm very muddled on this.

My reply:

You are presenting my position correctly when you said I believe it was all fulfilled in 70 AD.

If we agree that Matthew 24 Mark 13 and Luke 21 are all talking about the same thing, meaning the Olivet Discourse, it behooves us to compare these passages with each other to see if the account of one Gospel writer may shed more light on the account of another Gospel writer. It seems to me most contemporary teachers of the Olivet discourse have not done that!! And this has resulted in two very serious misinterpretations. One of them has resulted from a mistranslation of Matthew 24:3. Let's compare that verse with what Mark and Luke have to say.

Matthew 24:3 (KJV) And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Mark 13:4 (KJV) Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?

Luke 21:7 (KJV) And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?

Notice that Mark and Luke does not say "the end of the world." A better translation would be, the end of the age, meaning the Jewish age.

Other translations confirm this:

<https://biblehub.com/matthew/24-3.htm>

I don't recommend modern English translations but I think some of the translations are better than the KJV in some verses. Most King James only people would not want to accept that. But I do see some errors in the King James version. For example, In the book of Acts, it uses the word Easter but it should say Passover. The Passover is not determined by the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox as Easter is.

In 70 AD the Roman army destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and all the records of Jewish lineage. And that means there is no person who claims to be Jewish today who can tell you what tribe of Israel he is from. Dr Chuck Baldwin does the most thorough job of any preacher I have ever heard in [explaining the Olivet discourse and the meaning of it.](#)

It's long but worth reading if you can take the time. It answers very clearly the second serious major misinterpretation of the Olivet discourse: The meaning of the Abomination of Desolation.

I will sum it up for you as succinctly as I can.

Most evangelicals today believe the Abomination of Desolation is the End time Antichrist erecting an idol in a rebuilt Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. And this is connected to false doctrines of so-called Christian Zionism. This was a popular doctrine in the Scofield Reference Bible and has misled millions of English-speaking Christians. And again to find the truth all we have to do is compare what Matthew has to say with one other Gospel writer, Luke and what he has to say:

Matthew 24:15-16 (KJV)

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Luke 21:20-21 (KJV)

20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

Luke clearly identifies the Abomination of Desolation as Jerusalem compassed with armies – Roman armies. And both Matthew and Luke tell the followers of Jesus who witness that event what to do: Flee into the mountains. From where? From Judaea. Why? To avoid the slaughter of the Jews by the Romans. To me, that's as clear as crystal. The followers of Jesus who believed in the prophecy left Jerusalem and Judea and survived the Roman attack. The unbelieving Jews who remained were killed.

In this prophecy, Jesus was referring to the final words of Daniel 9:27.

Daniel 9:27 (KJV) And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

The "overspreading of abominations" is talking about the attacking armies of Rome, and "make it desolate" is referring to the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. The problem evangelicals make is that they also include the prophecies of Daniel 11, and they are completely different prophecies and were already fulfilled before Jesus was born on Earth. I also talk about this on my website but I don't want to give you too much to read right now.

Another point: Matthew refers to it as great tribulation, but Luke refers to it as *days of vengeance*.

Luke 21:22 (KJV) For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

Days of vengeance on whom? On the Jesus of Nazareth rejecting Jews who crucified their Christ, their Messiah. This is brought out very clearly in Dr. Baldwin's talk and it makes a whole lot of sense to me.

Evangelicals today are always talking about a future coming great tribulation of people. Some say this includes believers as well if you believe in a post-tribulation rapture. I cannot see how you can come up with this doctrine when you read Luke chapter 21, because it's clearly referring to God's judgment on the unbelieving Christ-rejecting Jews!

Anyway, there's a lot more to talk about on this subject, and you're only going to learn it if you take the time to read what Pastor Chuck Baldwin has

to say and or read other articles about it on my website. I have written extensively about it:

<https://www.jamesjpn.net/?s=Matthew+24>

And of course, you can say all of the above are *also* really interpretations but please know that this was the standard Protestant interpretation up to the end of the 18th century. Bible commentators up to that time have all said Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 are fulfilled prophecies. This is not the same thing as Preterism! The preterists say that ALL of the Bible prophecies have been fulfilled, including all of the Book of Revelation, and I certainly don't believe that.