

7 Vital Keys to understand the Bible and Prophecy

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The information that is contained in this document has been gathered from different sources. In order to complete this work, I also added scriptures and edited / added comments, which are the results of my own research and understanding. This work is dedicated to GOD my Father and to Jesus Christ my Lord, Friend and Master. I hope this work will bring light to the reader.

PREFACE

The Bible itself claims to be inspired by God. Paul states, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16) and also in 2 Peter 20 “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Pet 1:20-21).

We can say that the Bible is “God breathed.” That is, inspiration applies to all the individual words of the entire Bible. One good theological definition of inspiration is articulated like this, “The act of the Holy Spirit in which it superintended the writers of Scripture so that, while writing according to their own styles and personalities, they produced God’s Word, written, authoritative, trustworthy, and free from error in the original writings.”

A thought on Rightly Dividing the Word of God

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth" (2 Tim. 2: 15). KJV
Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. NKJV

PAUL'S exhortation to the younger preacher, Timothy, has hit home with many with great power in recent years. As a result, there has been a return to more ancient methods of Bible study, which had been largely neglected during the centuries of the Church's drift from apostolic testimony. Augustine's words have had a re-affirmation: "Distinguish the ages, and the Scriptures are plain." And so there has been great emphasis put in many quarters, and rightly so, upon the study of what is commonly known as "dispensational" truth. This line of teaching, if kept within Scriptural bounds, cannot but prove a great blessing to the humble student of the Word of God who desires to know His will or plan in His dealings with men from creation to the coming glory.

The word "dispensation" is found several times in the pages of our English Bible and is a translation of the Greek word "oikonomia." This word, strictly speaking, means "house order." It might be translated "administration," "order," or "stewardship." In each successive age, God gives men of faith a certain stewardship, or makes known to them a certain order or administration, in accordance with which they are responsible to behave.

A dispensation then is a period of time in which God is dealing with men in some way in which He has not dealt with them before. Only when a new revelation from God is given, does a dispensation (administration) change.

Moreover, there may be degrees of revelation in one dispensation; all, however, having to do with a fuller unfolding of the will of God for that age. This was very definitely true in the dispensation of law, from Moses to Christ. We have the various revelations: of Sinai, both the first and second giving of the law; then added instructions during the wilderness years; He added sacrifices, the covenant with David; and the revelations given to the prophets. The circumstances in which God's people were found changed frequently during this age of law, but the dispensation itself continued from Sinai until Jesus cried, "It is finished." It is important to have this in mind, otherwise the vast scope of an ever-unfolding dispensation may be lost sight of, and one might get the idea that every additional revelation of truth in a given age changed the dispensation, whereas it only enlarges it.

We need to be careful, and not read into the Word of God ideas from our own minds which are not really there. By doing this, some have ignored dispensational truth altogether. Others have swung to an ultra-dispensationalism which is most pernicious in its effect upon one's own soul and upon the testimony for God generally. Of these ultra-dispensational systems, one in particular has come into prominence of late years, which, for want of a better name, is generally called "**Bullingerism**," As it comes from men, not from God, **Ultra-dispensationalism or Hyper-Dispensationalism is very dangerous as it adds and removes** to the intent and purpose of the Word of God.

The main doctrines of Hyper-Dispensationalism concerning the New Covenant are:

- The Bible is written for us but not all of it applies to us, that is, the body of Christ is only to follow what the Apostle Paul taught in his Epistles for doctrine and practice.
- Paul was the first Christian and the body of Christ (Christian Church) started with his conversion.
- The Gospels are not for the body of Christ but are for the nation of Israel.
- Jesus only came to save the nation of Israel and His teachings were faith plus works for salvation, and the New Covenant was only for the nation of Israel and the body of Christ is not in the New Covenant.

To conclude, Hyper-Dispensationalism (also known as Ultra-Dispensationalism, Mid Acts Dispensationalism) is a movement that sounds Biblical, but in essence, has doctrines that are false and that are dangerous to the body of Christ.

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INTRODUCTION

In the Bible, what does the Creator tell us about Himself and the future? “Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,' calling a bird of prey from the east, the man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed, I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.” (Isaiah 46:9-11). God not only claims to reveal the future, but He also has the power to bring to pass what He has foretold!

-The Prophet of prophets

A prophet is one through whom God speaks—one appointed to reveal the will of God to His people. One of the greatest of these prophets was God’s own Son, Jesus Christ: “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;” (Hebrews 1:1-2).

-Why is Prophecy Written?

God inspired his prophet Amos to tell us, "The Lord Eternal never does anything without telling his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7, Moffatt translation).

Before God intervenes in the affairs of nations, or the world, He first sends His servants to warn those who will be directly affected by what He intends to do. Why does He do this? To give them a chance to CHANGE their ways — to REPENT of their sins — so that the prophesied calamity need not come to pass.

God is fair, just and righteous. He sends a WARNING and gives people a chance to repent. The purpose of prophecy, therefore, is threefold. First, it is given in love to encourage people to repent of their sins so they can escape punishment. Second, it is given for those who don't repent at first, so that when their punishment comes, they will then acknowledge their sins and repent toward the God who will then deliver and rescue them! (Deut. 4:25-31.) Third, it announces in advance the coming Kingdom of God, the wonderful world tomorrow — a time of the restoration of this earth to a condition of prosperity, peace and abundant well-being.

-A right perspective

Many people regard prophecy as mystical, strange and unreal, with no relevance to their lives. They have almost no understanding of what prophecy is all about. Others, having encountered grossly distorted interpretations of Bible prophecy, have grown skeptical and disillusioned.

However, when properly understood, the Bible speaks with a clear, consistent, reliable language and message that are appropriate for us to understand the future.

Whether you are unsure of the value of the Bible’s prophecies or regard them with deep respect, this booklet is meant to help you *accurately understand* prophecy. I want you to see the true scope of prophecy—how it links mankind’s past, present and future. Knowledge of prophecy can provide you with a balanced perspective revealed by the Creator.

Bible prophecy **is also exciting to** many, but some Bible prophecies may seem hard to understand. The books of Daniel and Revelation, for example, feature various symbols and imagery. The famous Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse symbolize devastation and deception (Revelation 6:1–8). The Beast of Revelation 13 rising up out of the sea has seven heads and ten horns.

The Beast of Revelation 17, which rises out of a bottomless pit, also has seven heads and ten horns, but that Beast is ridden by a harlot. The Apostle John writes what he sees in vision: “And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” (Revelation 17:5).

What other puzzling prophetic symbols do we see in the Bible? How can we understand Scripture’s mysterious symbols, and the many intricacies of Bible prophecy? In this document we will briefly consider some vital principles and keys for understanding the Bible and prophecies in your Bible.

-How and when will God’s people understand prophecy?

The Bible tells us that only a certain category of people will understand prophecy and the mysteries of God’s word.

Fear or having a profound respect for the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and understanding. Prov. 1, 2.

Also, we must search God’s Word as we search for a treasure.

Prov. 2:1 My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you,

2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding;

3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding,

4 If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures;

5 **Then** you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God.

6 For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;

-We also need to understand that Prophecy was hidden till the end time

Dan. 12:4 “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book **until the time of the end**; many shall run to and for, and knowledge shall increase.”

5 Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank.

6 And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?”

7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.

8 Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?”

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

10 Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, **but the wise shall understand.**

Prophecy would then be hidden until the end-times, and only the wise and faithful servants of God would understand.

Since Israel returned to their land in 1948, with all the changes, growth in technology, all of the increasing natural disasters and the decadence of immorality, we have certainly entered the last days also described by Jesus and Paul.

The first Key: Prayer, Obedience, and an Open Mind with the Help of the Holy Spirit

-Pray for understanding

Before even beginning to study, ask God to guide and show you His will. Remember that it is the Creator who gives true understanding through His Word. You cannot gain it on your own (Psalm 119:33-40; Proverbs 3:5-8; Jeremiah 9:23-24).

God is the One who reveals. In order to receive revelation, we need to humble ourselves and recognize that God is the ultimate revealer. Yes, He reveals his secrets to His servants the prophets that they may share His knowledge about the future to His people.

Amos 3:7: “Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets”

God says His true servants the prophets on this earth will understand Bible prophecies!
Jesus also said that the Holy Spirit will lead his servants into all truth. This truth includes prophecy.
And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures” (Luke 24:44-45).

It was not their intellect that let them grasp the meaning; God had to open their minds.

-Obedience is essential

Obedience often brings tests of faith, requiring sincere reliance on God. But it also supplies great blessings to those who obey. It is a vital key to understand God’s Word, because all those who do His commandments have a good understanding. (Prov. 2:1-5).

Pro 2:1 My son, if you will receive my words and hide my commandments with you,
Pro 2:2 so that you attend to wisdom, you shall extend your heart to understanding;
Pro 2:3 yea, if you cry after knowledge and lift up your voice for understanding;
Pro 2:4 if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures,
Pro 2:5 then you shall understand the fear of Jehovah and find the knowledge of God.

-Humility and open mind bring understanding

An example of a proper, humble, godly approach is that of the Bereans, mentioned in Acts 17:10-12: They “were more *receptive* than those in Thessalonica, for they welcomed the message very eagerly and examined the scriptures every day to see whether these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, including a few Greek women and men of high standing” (New Revised Standard Version).

It’s important to understand that unlike others, the Bereans did not immediately reject what Paul was saying, *even though many things they heard*

contradicted their own long-held beliefs. They carefully reviewed the Scriptures with an open mind and saw that what Paul had said made sense. Then, after diligently searching the Scriptures, they verified that what he taught was indeed the truth, and they humbly accepted his teachings and changed their beliefs.

Similarly, if we want to understand the Bible, we need to have the attitude of the Bereans. We need to carefully review the Scriptures, not taking our beliefs for granted, because, as the Bereans found, our own ideas can be wrong. Furthermore, God wants us to have a submissive, teachable attitude as we read and hear His Word preached to us. Indeed, we must embrace it as a guide for living and follow it accordingly.

-All Scriptures are inspired

2Ti 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2Ti 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

When Paul explained in 2 Timothy 3:15-17 that all Scripture is inspired and is important to righteous living, this was before the books of the New Testament had been canonized or portions of it had even been written. So, the “Scripture” to which Paul referred was the Hebrew Bible, what we commonly call the Old Testament. For several decades in the early Church, this was the only “Bible” available. Later, as we saw in 2 Peter 3:14-16, the apostle Peter referred to Paul’s writings as Scripture also.

Accepting only a part of the Scriptures as a basis for faith has resulted in literally hundreds of denominations professing to be Christian but holding contradictory beliefs. Yet if we do justice to what the Bible says, all Scripture should be respected and believed, from Genesis to Revelation. Jesus plainly told us to live by every word of God (Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4). We should rely on Scripture, and not on man’s ideas, to explain God’s truths.

-The Essential Power – The Holy Spirit

The Bible is clear in that if somebody doesn’t possess the Holy Spirit, that person doesn’t belong to Christ.

Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Many churches and believers have their own definition of the way to receive the Holy Spirit. I remember once, I went Billy Graham’s Website of, and there was an option; Click here to accept Jesus... That’s the most ridiculous idea I had ever heard or seen in my life!

The Bible is clear, as it explains the specific conditions required to receive the Holy Spirit.

The first of four conditions is; Hearing the Message of the Kingdom of God (Math. 13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom...) and that we must be called by God (Joh 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;...).

We must then repent of our sins, be baptized in water and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38) by the laying of the hands of one of God’s servants, and then, at this moment, we will receive the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit)

Though we can see that the disciples had the Holy Spirit ***WITH*** them (in the Person of Jesus and the Power of God), their understanding was really limited. It is not till the day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit came to live ***IN*** them. Afterward they were able to understand the Scriptures and God's plan deeper as God opened their understanding.

1Co 2:10 But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

1Co 2:11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit is then the Power that teaches us. In fact, Jesus is the one that teaches us, and He does it through the power of the Holy Spirit.

For people who don't have the Holy Spirit, all is written in a coded language, they cannot understand the deep things of God that are written in the Bible. That's the main reason why so many believers don't properly understand the Bible, they actually don't have the Holy Spirit ***in them***.

-Let's see how this works in action

God Reveals Nebuchadnezzar's Dream through Daniel's prayer.

Dan 2:17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,

Dan 2:18 **that they might pray** for the mercies of God in Heaven **concerning this secret**, that Daniel and his companions should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Dan 2:19 **Then the secret was revealed** to Daniel in a night vision. And Daniel blessed the God of Heaven.

Dan 2:20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His.

Dan 2:21 And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings. **He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.**

Dan 2:22 **He reveals the deep and secret things**; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him.

Dan 2:26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its meaning?

Dan 2:27 Daniel answered before the king and said, The secret which the king has demanded cannot be shown to the king by the wise men, the conjurers, the horoscopists, or the fortune-tellers.

Dan 2:28 **But there is a God in Heaven who reveals secrets and makes known** to King Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head upon your bed **are** these.

Dan 2:29 As for you, O king, your thoughts came on your bed, what should happen after this. And **He who reveals secrets** makes known to you what shall happen.

Dan 2:30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living man, but so that the meaning might be known to the king, and that you might know the thoughts of your heart.

Rev.1:1 The **Revelation** of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to **show His servants**—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

3 **Blessed is he who reads** and those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

According to **Thayer's Definition** the word **Revelation** (apokalupsis) means:

- 1) laying bare, making naked
- 2) a disclosure of truth, instruction

Also, the word '**show**' (deiknuō) from **Thayer's Definition** means:

- 1) to show, **expose to the eyes**.
- 2) metaphorically; 2a) to give evidence or proof of a thing. 2b) to show by words or teach

So, the goal of *Revelation* is not to hide but rather to reveal, expose to the eyes things which must shortly take place.

God said: **Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy and** keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near. *Prophecy is then a blessing for God's servants.*

God has also appointed prophets. The role of a real prophet is to be a watchman and explain bible prophecies in greater detail as they understand the meaning of those Prophecies *ahead of others*.

"Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7)

They can then relate their revelations to the current events that are unfolding and warn people of what will soon take place. They will point out indications for true servants to watch for as Jesus commanded, and lead the people by giving them instructions to escape the tribulations.

They will also warn people of the world to repent from their sins and convert to God. As we are getting closer to Jesus's return, God will empower His Witnesses with supernatural power that they may preach His final message, the Eternal Gospel (Rev. 14:6), and make known the True Eternal God to his people and to the World.

They will perform the final phase of Elijah's and Moses's ministry.

6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, **having the everlasting gospel** to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—

7 saying with a loud voice, "**Fear God and give glory to Him**, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship **Him who made** heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.

Each of us has a part to play. The prophet must warn, and the servant must watch.

The message from Jesus is then clear and specific: **Watch!!**

God's servants are admonished to watch! Failure to obey this directive will bring catastrophe!

Luk 21:36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Mat 25:13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Mar_13:33 Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.

Mar_13:34 It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.

Mar_13:35 Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—

Mar_13:37 And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

Though we may not know the exact day or hour of Jesus's return, Jesus expects us to discern the time of the end and act accordingly.

Mat 16:1 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.

Mat 16:2 He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, '*It will be* fair weather, for the sky is red';

Mat 16:3 and in the morning, '*It will be* foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot *discern* the signs of the times.

-The Lesson of the Fig Tree

Mat 24:32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near.

Mat 24:33 So you also, ***when you see all these things***, know that it is near—***at the doors!***

Mat 24:34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

Mat 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Contrary to some false teachings, Christians are then expected to know when hard times will occur, and the timing when Jesus will be at the door. They must pray that they will have the strength and courage to escape all the tribulations that are ahead.

Luke 21:36 "**Watch** therefore, and **pray always** that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

So, the first key is to Pray, obey and be humble.

Second Key: Understanding Fundamental Biblical Principles

The basic method to study scriptures involves 3 skills: **Observation, Interpretation and Application.**

-Observation

Observation teaches you to see precisely what the passage says. It is the basis for accurate interpretation and correct application. Observation answers the question: What does the passage says. Ask the 5 W's and H.

- a. **Who** is speaking and to *Whom*?
- b. **What** is the subject or event covered in the chapter?
- c. **When** do or will the events occur?
- d. **Where** did or will this happen?
- e. **Why** is something being said or mentioned?
- f. **How** will it happen?

-Interpretation

- a. **Apply the following guidelines. Remember, the context rules, and consider each verse in the light of:**
 - *The surrounding verses*
 - *The book in which it is found*
 - *The entire Word of God*

-Application

- a. *What does the passage teach?*
- b. *Does this section of Scripture expose any error in my belief or in my behavior?*
- c. *What is God's instruction to me as His child?*
- d. **When Applying Scripture, Beware of the following:**
 - Applying cultural Standards rather than biblical standards
 - Attempting to strengthen a legitimate truth by using a Scripture incorrectly.
 - Applying scripture out of prejudice from past training or teaching.

Important Principles:

-Trust Scriptures to Interpret Scriptures

Where should you turn to learn the truth? Jesus, in His heartfelt prayer the night before He was crucified, prayed for His disciples: “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth” (John 17:17).

All God’s word, the Bible, is truth. It is the written word of God. If you want to understand the future God has planned for you and all humanity, you need to go to the Bible.

-The Bible explains what it means

The Bible contains a huge amount of information—presented in many different ways. Sometimes the material is straightforward historical narrative. Sometimes it’s poetry. Sometimes it’s meant to be taken literally. Sometimes it uses figurative language, employing metaphors and symbols.

One vital key we must come to understand is that the Bible interprets itself. Far too often people try to interpret a verse **by itself in isolation without looking at the context itself**. We must be careful not to force our own interpretations onto it. Regrettably, many approach the Bible with preconceived notions and attempt to inject these into Scripture—wrongly reading meaning into the text instead of honestly deriving the meaning out of it.

Related to this, is the mistake many make of drawing conclusions [from just one or a few verses in isolation](#). Remember that the Bible is a package deal—and we must think of it in that way in discerning what any part of it has to tell us.

[In letting the Bible interpret itself, we must always do two things: Consider the context and look at all the scriptures on a subject.](#) If something is confusing or even contradictory, let clear biblical passages shed light on those you find difficult to understand. Scriptures do not contradict each another; they complement each other.

- Consider the context and the audience

To properly understand a verse in the Bible, don’t force your personal point of view into it. Instead use the context and other relevant scriptures to find the correct meaning (2 Peter 1:20; John 10:35; 17:17; Isaiah 28:9-10)

Keeping in mind the *context* of the examples and teachings in the Bible can help us avoid misunderstandings. In fact, most misunderstandings of Scripture come from taking verses out of their context. Reading in context simply means to carefully consider the verses before and after the text being studied. “Out of context” means trying to understand the verses with little or no regard for the surrounding subject matter.

Studying the context includes analyzing the verses within the framework of the paragraph, chapter and book, and often the historical culture, the audience

and in a larger sense the entirety of the author's writings and the Bible as a whole.

For example, we read in Genesis 3:4 that “you will not surely die.” From this verse people could infer that man already possesses immortality, that the soul already has eternal life. But such an interpretation would contradict other plain scriptures (compare 1 Timothy 6:14-16; Romans 2:7; 1 Corinthians 15:53). Yet the context of the paragraph explains that it was Satan the devil, who told this lie, saying that man would not die. The correct teaching was related by God a few verses earlier:

“Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Genesis 2:16-17).

We see that it's not enough to quote an isolated scripture; we must keep in mind its setting. In this case the point is resolved by reviewing the entire passage. We can avoid much confusion by applying this important context principle. At other times it is necessary to consider the context of the book itself.

-Look at all the scriptures on the subject

Interpret difficult passages with clear ones. Also, vital to understanding is taking the time to look up all the related verses on a subject before coming to a conclusion. The apostle Paul set an admirable example in this regard when he taught certain truths about Jesus by referring to many passages in the Bible of his day—the Hebrew Scriptures or what we know as the Old Testament:

“So, when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his house, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening” (Acts 28:23). To prove his point, Paul carefully expounded the scriptures that dealt with Christ as the Messiah.

We see from Paul's example, that to properly understand a subject, we must take *all* related scriptures into account.

Comparing various verses on the same subject can clarify our understanding of biblical teachings. Often, we will find that **different verses complement each other**, with each verse telling part of the story.

For example, many people believe, based on John 3:16— “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”—that simply believing in Jesus is all we need to do to inherit eternal life.

But is this the whole story? Clearly not, for James 2:19 tells us that “even the demons believe—and tremble!” Certainly, more than simple belief is required. We must look at other scriptures to understand more fully what God expects and requires of us.

Certainly, salvation is God's wonderful gift to us. But gifts can have conditions. And the Bible shows in several places that God *sets certain conditions* for receiving salvation. Some conditions *enable us* to receive that gift, and other conditions *disqualify us* from receiving it.

Since Jesus is the author of our salvation, let's examine a few of His statements that tell us what we must do to receive the gift of eternal life in God's Kingdom.

In Matthew 7:21 Jesus says,

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but *he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*”

Christ made it clear that merely acknowledging Him as Lord and Master—saying “Lord, Lord”—is not enough. To inherit the Kingdom, we must *do something*. We must *do the will of the Father*, as He clearly stated. Our conviction that He is our Savior must be more than just a warm, comforting thought or intellectual concept. So, Jesus warns that simply calling on His name or recognizing Him as “Lord” is not enough.

At some point a wealthy young man asked Jesus how he could receive eternal life. “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” the man asked (Matthew 19:16). Christ’s reply, in verse 17, might shock some who think obedience to God’s law is unnecessary. Jesus responded, “If you want to enter into life, *keep the commandments.*”

Jesus didn’t answer that nothing is required other than believing in Him. He told the young man that he must *obey the commandments of God* to receive the gift of eternal life.

Jesus gave another condition for God’s gift of eternal life in Mark 16:16: “*He who believes and is baptized (in water) will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*” Water baptism—by full immersion—is a symbolic act representing the death of our old self and the beginning of a new life of serving God and striving to avoid sin. (Romans 6:1-23).

Baptism is also followed by the laying on of hands by God’s servant, which allows us to receive God’s Holy Spirit and truly belong to Him (see Acts 8:17; Romans 8:9). Unless we surrender our lives to God through baptism and the laying on of hands to receive His Spirit, as instructed, we fail to meet His requirements for receiving His gift of salvation.

In Matthew 10:22 Jesus listed another condition we must meet to receive God’s gift of salvation: “He who endures to the end will be saved.” We can lose out on salvation if we fail to endure to the end (see also Hebrews 2:1- 3; 6:4-8; 10:26-31). Once we have committed ourselves to obeying God and surrendering ourselves to Him, we must stay the course to the end and not look back (Luke 9:62; 1 Corinthians 9:27).

We see from this example that we need to look at far more than one isolated verse to understand the Bible’s teaching on a subject. Only by looking at all the relevant scriptures do we get a full and complete picture.

With this important consideration —carefully comparing all related passages before determining what is meant on a particular subject—we can avoid confusion and error. This simple principle alone also resolves most situations where people assume the Bible contradicts itself. The Bible does not contradict itself; its writers complement each other.

-Gaining an overview

For the broad overview necessary to understand the Bible in its particular verses, it is crucial that we read through it—topic by topic as well as book by book. A topical approach to reading Scripture will help us to see all that God’s Word has to say on a given subject. Effectively studying this way requires other study tools such as a concordance or a topical index.

Book-by-book reading is rather straightforward. A great deal of Scripture is presented simply as a story. The beginning of the first book, Genesis, gives us an account of God’s creation of the heavens and the earth and all physical life, including mankind. It proceeds with the story of the first man and woman and follows their descendants down to the time of a great worldwide flood.

Of course, some books require more depth of study to understand—such as those giving the legal requirements of the law of Moses; those that are poetic, including collections of songs (Psalms) and of wise sayings (Proverbs); and those that prophesy events to follow (some already fulfilled and some still to be fulfilled in the future).

The New Testament gives us epistles or letters of exhortation and doctrinal instruction that Christ’s apostles wrote to individuals or various congregations of the Church. These can be somewhat complex in places, especially where the passage of time has obscured the exact issues being addressed.

In any case, reading through the whole Bible will ensure that you see all that the Bible says on any and every given topic. In a topical study you may miss relevant passages. But in reading through the entire Bible you miss nothing—except what you forget, of course. And as you certainly will forget some things, it’s important to read the Bible again and again—in its parts and as a whole—to familiarize yourself with its content. This is a lifelong endeavor.

Third Key: Understanding Symbolisms

Now we come to the most interesting part of understanding the bible, which is, prophecy. One third of the bible is prophecy, and though many prophecies have been fulfilled, most of them are still for the end time.

-The Bible's self-interpretation of symbols

Many of the prophetic truths of the Bible have been expressed by God through the use of symbols. The book of Daniel, for instance, is full of various symbols—images and animals, some real, some fantastic, some explained, some are unexplained. Some symbols were used, *not to make the meaning clearer, but to hide the message until God reveals their meaning at or near the time of the end* (Daniel 12:8-9).

For centuries men have tried to interpret these symbols according to their own ideas, resulting mostly in chaos and confusion. An important key to understanding biblical prophecy is that these symbols must be plainly interpreted in the Bible itself, in the immediate context or elsewhere. Strictly human interpretations are of no value. We must seek out and rely on God's interpretation, not our own.

The book of *Revelation*, for example, contains symbolic language, giving a description of the glorified Messiah, the Son of Man, standing in the midst of seven lampstands. We read:

“He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength” ([Revelation 1:16](#)).

What do these stars and lampstands symbolize? We do not need to guess; the Bible itself tells us the meaning!

“The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: **The [seven stars are the angels of the seven churches](#), and the [seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches](#)” (v. 20).**

In Bible symbolism, [stars are angels](#)—and [lampstands are churches](#). The writer of the book of Revelation continues in the next two chapters writing God's message and admonition to the seven churches in Asia Minor which is modern-day Turkey. Of course, the Apostle John was writing this book near the end of the 1st century ad.

You are probably familiar with the account of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The prophet Daniel was called before King Nebuchadnezzar and proceeded to describe the great image in the king's dream.

“You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces” ([Daniel 2:31–34](#)).

What did this statue symbolize?

Daniel said to King Nebuchadnezzar: “**you** are this head of gold” (v. 38).

Daniel's prophecy revealed four historical world-ruling empires. Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian Empire would be replaced by the Medo-Persian Empire (558–330BC), represented by the chest and arms of silver. The belly and thighs of bronze represented the Greco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great (333–31BC). The two legs of iron represented the Roman Empire (31BC–476AD). Finally, the ten toes on two feet of iron mixed with ceramic clay represent a future revival of the Roman Empire. History confirms that the predictions of these four empires did come to pass.

So, often the Bible uses symbols to express thoughts and ideas. The Holy Spirit is likened unto some of the physical manifestations of power.

Examples include; **water** (John 3:5; Ephesians 5:26; 1 John 5:6; Revelation 22:1, 17),

fire (Acts 2:3; 1 Peter 1:7; Revelation 3:18),

and **wind** (John 3:8; Acts 2:2).

Water, the life-giving substance which is essential to life; wind, or air, which is also essential to life; and fire, which both purges and cleanses (in the case of metals, etc.), or is capable of destroying, are thus used typically of the powerful Spirit of God!

Also, “light” from the sun and the stars is likewise used.

Notice a few more biblical symbols:

“Isa 2:2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days *That* the **mountain** of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.

Isa 2:3 Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Isa 2:4 He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. ” (Isaiah 2:2–4).

Here, as in many other prophecies, it is obvious that the “**mountain**” is symbolic of God's government. It is probably both literal and figurative, in that the Bible predicts that God's temple, His headquarters on earth, will be on the “Mount of Olives,” which will actually cleave in two during the great final earthquake (Zechariah 14:4–9).

When it says the Lord's house will be established “in the top of the mountains” it means above all of the so-called “great powers” or great nations, and “exalted above the hill's” means exalted above all the lesser nations!

As we saw, Stars are used as symbols for angels (Revelation 9:1). In the vision of Jesus Christ which John saw (Revelation 1) there were “in His right hand seven stars” (Revelation 1:16). Here is an example of how the Bible interprets the Bible. By merely reading on through the description of all that John saw, you come to verse 20, which says,

“20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.” (Revelation 1:20). Jesus Christ is referred to as “the bright and morning star” (Revelation 22:16; 2:28). Stars are then usually angelic beings, good or bad.

A beast, or wild, ravenous creature, is usually used to indicate a Gentile government, or kingdom. In Daniel's seventh chapter, for example, **four great beasts are pictured**. Let's take a look at the description:

Dan 7:4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

Dan 7:5 And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'

Dan 7:6 After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

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

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

Dan 7:9 I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; (Daniel 7:4–9).

Now, notice how the Bible interprets the Bible in revealing the meaning of these different creatures.

Continuing to read through chapter 7, we come to verse 17:

“Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth.”

That a king stands for his kingdom is absolutely conclusive by reading the second chapter of Daniel. Here, we see the vision of Nebuchadnezzar, and the great image described in Daniel 2:32–35.

Daniel, through a miracle, was given the interpretation of the dream and revealed it to Nebuchadnezzar. He said;

Dan 2:37 You, O king, *are* a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;

Dan 2:38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given *them* into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold.

Dan 2:39 But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.

Dan 2:40 And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, *that kingdom* will break in pieces and crush all the others.

Dan 2:41 Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

Dan 2:42 And *as* the toes of the feet *were* partly of iron and partly of clay, *so* the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.

Dan 2:43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

Dan 2:44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall

break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.” (Daniel 2:37–44).

Can anything be plainer? The head of the image stood for Nebuchadnezzar, but it is obvious that king and kingdom are completely interchangeable and mean the same thing.

It says, “But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.” (Daniel 2:39).

Biblical scholars and historians are universal in their acceptance of the obvious succession of the four world-ruling Gentile kingdoms of the Babylonian, Medo/Persian, Greco/Macedonian, and Roman Empires.

What many have missed in these obvious prophecies is the fact that both the great image of Daniel’s second chapter and the fourth beast of Daniel’s seventh chapter culminate in the Second Coming of Christ. Therefore, it is obvious that the fourth beast, which is the Roman Empire with its many revivals and resurrections down through history, will be extant at the final moments before the Second Coming of Christ!

It is “in the days of these kings” (Daniel 2:44) that Jesus Christ returns!

In this case “[these kings](#)” refer to the ten toes of the great image of Daniel 2.

Notice the biblical corroboration:

Rev 17:12 The **ten horns which you saw are ten kings** who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

Rev 17:13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

Rev 17:14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful." (Revelation 17:12–14).

That there will be ten nations united together in a super-dictatorship in Central Europe by the time of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, there can be no doubt.

“**Horns**” on the creatures are symbols of the leaders of the state, either civil or religious. It is obvious that the “little horn” of Daniel 7 refers to the papacy which overthrew various governments during the Middle Ages.

Physical Israel (including both the House of Israel and the House of Judah) is often pictured as a woman. Actually, Almighty God pictured Israel as the bride and Himself as the suitor in proposing the Old Covenant. God “proposed” by giving Israel His laws and promising to become Israel’s protector, sustainer, and provider. When Israel accepted the terms and conditions of God’s law, it constituted a covenant, or an agreement, between them.

God used the analogy of a “marriage agreement” and said, “I was a husband to them” (Jeremiah 31:31–32).

When Israel broke the terms and conditions of the covenant, God called it whoredom, or harlotry. Read the entire chapter of Ezekiel 16, where God depicts Israel as a young, beautiful woman whom He found as an abandoned child, caused her to “**multiply as the bud of the field**” (Ezekiel 16:7), but who forsook Him and “did trust in your own beauty, and played the harlot” (Ezekiel 16:15). Ezekiel 23 is another important chapter, where the House of Israel (the northern ten tribes) is called “Aholah” and Jerusalem, symbolic of the House of Judah, “Aholibah.”

Another important representation is that the church in the Bible is depicted as a woman. **God in the bible uses a woman, a virgin, who is the bride of Jesus, as a symbolism for the Church** or the Nation of Israel.

Rev 12:17 And the dragon was enraged with the **woman**(church), and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the **church**; and He is the Savior of the body.

Rev 21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the **bride**, the **Lamb's wife**."

God also uses the symbol of a harlot, or a fallen woman, to depict the great false, universal church! Notice it:

“Isa 47:5 "Sit in silence, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; For you shall no longer be called The Lady of Kingdoms.

Isa 47:6 I was angry with My people; I have profaned My inheritance, And given them into your hand. You showed them no mercy; On the elderly you laid your yoke very heavily.

Isa 47:7 And you said, 'I shall be a lady forever,' So that you did not take these *things* to heart, Nor remember the latter end of them.

Isa 47:8 "Therefore hear this now, *you who are* given to pleasures, Who dwell securely, Who say in your heart, 'I am, and *there is* no one else besides me; I shall not sit as a widow, Nor shall I know the loss of children';

Isa 47:9 But these two *things* shall come to you In a moment, in one day: The loss of children, and widowhood. They shall come upon you in their fullness Because of the multitude of your sorceries, For the great abundance of your enchantments.

Isa 47:10 "For you have trusted in your wickedness; You have said, 'No one sees me'; Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you; And you have said in your heart, 'I am, and *there is* no one else besides me.'" (Isaiah 47:5–10).

See also Revelation, the great harlot 17:3-18.

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a **woman** sitting on a scarlet beast *which was* full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.

Rev 17:5 And on her forehead a name *was* written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Rev 17:6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

Rev 17:7 But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

Rev 17:9 "Here *is* the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

Rev 17:10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, *and* the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.

Rev 17:12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

Rev 17:13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

Rev 17:14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful."

Rev 17:15 Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

Rev 17:18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

We see then the importance of letting the Bible interpret itself. If we don't follow this important principle, we will fall into all sorts of false doctrines. It is then imperative to search the Bible to find and understand the meaning of the different symbols the Bible uses.

Fourth Key: Understanding Important Bible Concepts (Foreshadows, Types)

- “Here a little, there a little”

No single scripture can be used to establish doctrine. We must take all the scriptures on a given subject and weigh them in order to grasp the overall doctrine. There is great value in gathering all the scriptures on a single subject, as we are instructed to do in Isaiah 28.

Renowned scholars such as James Moffatt and Adam Clark could study the Bible for a lifetime and still not understand the truth. Those called to the truth realize that, without God’s Spirit leading them, the door to scriptural understanding is shut.

Christ used parables to hide the real meaning of Scriptures from the world. This principle applies to understanding of the entire Bible.

The Bible is written in a way that defies understanding on the physical level. With this in mind, read Isaiah 28:9-10: “Whom shall He teach knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.”

We must diligently examine verses throughout the Bible to gain knowledge and understand doctrine. This requires being led by God’s Spirit.

Continue in **Isaiah 28**:

“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom He said, This is the rest wherewith you may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear” (**vs. 11-12**). These verses show an intentional hiding of the meaning (as if it were a foreign language). But they also show a *willful rejection* of the truth: “they would not hear.”

Verse 13 continues, “But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; *that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.*”

Again, we see the unmistakable hiding of the meaning.

-No contradictory verses, they supplement each other

The next example shows the need to draw from precept upon precept and line upon line. It shows that verses people call contradictory **actually supplement each other**. This is the case with what was written on the stake where Christ was crucified.

Let’s read four different verses that critics say are contradictions. We will find them to be otherwise.

Matthew 27:37 “And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: **THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**”

Mark 15:26 “And the inscription of His accusation was written above: **THE KING OF THE JEWS.**”

Luke 23:38 "And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: **THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**"

John 19:19 "And Pilate wrote a title and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was: **JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.**"

Together, the complete sentence is: **THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

Rather than these four scriptures contradicting each other, as we assemble the "precept upon precept and line upon line," we can see the full picture. By comparing the four gospels, one can see how these accounts work in harmony to present a complete understanding.

Another explicit example is from 1 Thess. 4:16-17

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the **trumpet** of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Now the question is: *Which Trumpet?*

No need to speculate as the same author, Paul, in 1 Cor. 15: 52 gives us the answer in relation to the same event.

"in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed".

This last trumpet is the 7th one as we see in Rev. 8:6

"So, the seven angels who had the **seven trumpets** prepared themselves to sound".

When the **last trumpet, the 7th one, will sound**, (not before), the Bible tells us that the saints will be resurrected or changed to immortality if they are alive.

Unfortunately, many have taken 1 Thess. 4:16 out of its context to propagate the rapture false doctrine saying that this event will occur before or at the first trumpet.

But, if we follow this principle and look in the BIBLE for the answer and let the BIBLE interpret itself, we will never be mistaken in regards to the meaning of a specific verse related to a specific subject.

By the way, Jesus himself said in Mat. 24:29-31 that this trumpet will sound **AFTER** the tribulation, not before.

Mat 24:29 "Immediately **after the tribulation** of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 "And He will send His angels **with a great sound of a trumpet**, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other".

- God's DUALITY principle

Throughout Scripture we see prophetic statements sometimes apply to more than one fulfillment, a principle we could call “**duality.**”

The physical creation in Genesis 1 leads to the spiritual creation described in Revelation 21 and 22. The first Adam of physical matter, of the earth, prefigured the second Adam, Jesus Christ, of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 15:47-49).

Another example of duality is Christ's first coming to atone for our sins and His second coming to rule as King of Kings.

Such dual themes are common in Bible prophecy. Jesus specifically alluded to the dual application of some prophecies in Matthew 17:11-12. When asked about the prophecy of “Elijah,” who would precede the coming of the Messiah (Malachi 4:5), Jesus responded:

“Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. But I say to you that Elijah has come already ...” (Matthew 17:11-12).

The disciples understood that the “Elijah” who had come already was John the Baptist (verse 13). Jesus Himself explained that John, already dead when Christ uttered these words, was a first fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy.

But Christ's clear implication is that another Elijah will precede His second coming, announcing His return just as John the Baptist preceded Christ's first coming. John no longer could do anything in the future. But as a forerunner, John had fulfilled, at least in part, Malachi's prophecy.

Another prophecy with dual application is Jesus' Olivet prophecy (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21), so named because He gave it on the Mount of Olives or Mount Olivet, overlooking Jerusalem. Many conditions described in this prophecy existed in the days leading up to the Romans' siege and destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. But Christ makes it clear that similar conditions would prevail shortly before His return.

Another example of dual fulfillment is in references to the “Day of the Lord” such as in Isaiah 13:6: “Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.”

Verse 1 of that chapter identifies the time setting as when the Babylonian Empire threatened the kingdom of Judah (Babylon invaded Judah and captured Jerusalem in 586 B.C.), and it is in this setting that Isaiah wrote about *that* “the day of the LORD.

However, he again mentioned the Day of the LORD in Isaiah 13:9: “Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it.” His subsequent inspired words, though, show that he is writing about the time of the end:

“For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine.

“I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold, a man more than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth will move out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts and in the day of His fierce anger” (Isaiah 13:10-13).

In the Olivet prophecy, Jesus spoke of an “abomination of desolation.” Daniel’s prophecy about the abomination of desolation was fulfilled in 167 B.C. by Antiochus Epiphanes, but Jesus pointed out that the prophecy would have a future fulfillment.

We must carefully examine the context of prophecies to understand their meaning and discern whether the prophecy seems incomplete after its first fulfillment. It is equally important to avoid reading duality into passages that do not support such interpretation. We should take great care to properly discern whether duality is a factor in any particular prophecy.

- Foreshadows, shadows, types, and Antitypes (fulfillments)

In the Bible, there is much foreshadowing. The word *foreshadow* means to represent, indicate, or typify beforehand: prefigure.

Typology in Christian theology and Biblical exegesis is a doctrine or theory concerning the relationship of the Old Testament to the New Testament. Events, persons, or statements in the Old Testament are seen as **types** pre-figuring or superseded by **antitypes**, events or aspects of Christ or his revelation described in the New Testament.

For example, Jonah may be seen as the **type** of Christ in that he emerged from the fish's belly and thus appeared to rise from death. In the fullest version of the theory of typology, the whole purpose of the Old Testament is viewed as merely the provision of types for Christ, the antitype or fulfillment.

To say it simply, a type is a story, an object, or a person in the Old Testament (but also in the New Testament), which can be seen as having a prophetic dimension or meaning.

As an example, when we say that we have to "get out of Egypt", we do not speak of the actual Egypt, we refer ourselves to the story in the Old Testament where the Hebrew were taken out of Egypt by God. In this case the word Egypt is, for example, synonymous with Sin and slavery.

We can further argue that "to be in Egypt" represents, for us Christians, spiritual slavery in sin. When we are in the world, we live in spiritual bondage. The story of the Hebrews being freed from Egypt is prophetic because it announces the freedom we can gain in Christ. We can be freed from Egypt i.e. freed from spiritual slavery and sin.

To resume, a "Type" then is some "person," or "event," or "ceremony" that is recorded to "foreshadow" some future "person," or "event," or "ceremony."

For illustration;

TYPICAL PERSONS, like Adam, Cain, Abel, Melchizedek, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, Jonah.

TYPICAL EVENTS, like the "Flood," the "Plagues of Egypt," the "Passover," the "Brazen Serpent," "Crossing the Jordan," "Cities of Refuge."

TYPICAL CEREMONIES, like the "Offerings," "Ceremonial Cleansing," "Feasts," "Year of Jubilee," "Day of Atonement."

To which might be added-"**Typical Structures**," like the "Ark," the "Tabernacle," the "Temple." "**Typical Furniture**," like the "Brazen Altar," the "Laver," the "Seven Branched Candlestick," the "Table of Shewbread," the "Altar of Incense," and the "Ark of the Covenant" with its "Mercy Seat." "**Typical Colors**," like "Blue," "Red," "White," "Purple," "Scarlet," "Green." "**Typical Numbers**," like "one," "three," "four," "seven," "twelve," "forty," "seventy."

In studying the "Types" the two comparative words "**As**" and "**So**" are forcibly called to our attention. The word "**As**" is used for the "Type," and the word "**So**" for the Antitype.

The first is **historic**; the second is **prophetic**.

"For **As** in Adam all die, even **So** in Christ all shall be made alive." 1 Cor. 15:22.

"But **As** the days of Noah were, **So** also will the coming of the Son of Man be." Matt. 24:37.

"And **As** Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even **So** must the Son of Man be lifted up," John 3:14.

"For **As** Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, **So** will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ." Matt. 12:40.

The above "Types" with their "Antitypes" stand out so prominently in Scripture that their meaning is clear to the most superficial reader. But there are "Types" in the Old Testament whose "Dispensational Teaching" does not lie on the surface and is never seen by the superficial reader.

For illustration take the story of ISAAC AND REBEKAH, Gen. 24:1-67.

In this story;

I. ABRAHAM IS A TYPE OF "GOD."

II. ISAAC A TYPE OF "CHRIST."

Both Isaac and Christ were **CHILDREN OF PROMISE**. Gen. 15:4. Isa. 7:14.

The birth of both was **PRE-ANNOUNCED**. Gen. 18:10. Luke 1:30-31.

Both were **NAMED BEFORE THEIR BIRTH**. Isaac- Gen. 17:19. Jesus- Luke 1:31.

-The Big Picture First

Another vital key to understand Prophecy and the book of Revelation is to understand the methodology that God uses throughout the Bible and in the book of Revelation. Without applying this key, we will fail in understanding the 7 Seals, the 7 Trumpet and the 7 Vials. Throughout the Bible God generally uses the same pattern. The number of steps in His revelation could be different, but usually there is a big picture and or more detailed elements added afterward.

So, God outlines first the big picture, then He describes the prophecy in outlining details in more specific ways to each related section and usually ends in a micro approach depicting the details for each section.

To demonstrates this methodology in action, let us look at the book of Daniel.

God choose Daniel to show us all the subsequent governments that will exist on the Earth from the time of the Babylonian Empire up to the last Roman Empire which would lead the establishment of the Last Empire to rule the Earth, the Kingdom of God.

Let us illustrates how this works. The big picture or a resume is presented in Daniel 2. God outlines the 4 major kingdoms (or governments) that will exist on Earth till Jesus (the Rock) comes and put the statue in pieces.

In the subsequent chapters of the book of Daniel (ch. 7, 8, 11), God will describe **in more details** those 4 different Kingdoms or governments, which are pictured by different beasts. The last government or Beast with 10 horns will later also be described in the Book of Revelation.

We find in Matthew 24 the same pattern of presenting the big picture first is also used where Jesus described the events of the end times. He starts by laying out the *big picture* and after describes those same events with more details by also adding more elements to the big picture.

The same pattern is also found in the Book of Revelation. First, we have the big picture described, the 7 Seals which are an introduction of what is about to take place during the final 3½ years, the period called the Great Tribulation.

God then explained from a different perspective and in more details, what will take place during the final 7 years (through the 7 trumpets), and even in more details about what will happen during the 7th and final year (the 7th trumpet) in the revelation of the 7 final plagues.

So, in conclusion, we find this pattern in Daniel, Matthew, Marc, Luke, and in Revelation. When we understand how God think and write down His prophecies for us, we will be able to have a clear and accurate understanding of His prophecies.

Fifth Key: British-Israelism

The identity of Israel:

Most people do not know that the ancient nation of Israel was divided after the death of King Solomon. *The kingdom of Israel, comprising 10* of the original 12 tribes of Israel, later was taken into captivity by the Assyrian Empire and disappeared from the pages of history, becoming known as “the lost 10 tribes.” These lost tribes occupied the Northern part of Europe, in Assyria, and were gradually integrated into many nations.

Amos 9:9 "For surely I will command, And will sift the house of Israel among all nations, As *grain* is sifted in a sieve; Yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground.

The two tribes forming the kingdom of Judah were also taken into captivity but largely managed to retain their identity. Today their descendants, the Jews, are spread throughout the world and the modern state of Israel.

But what happened to the missing 10 tribes? They still exist, although unaware of their biblical identity. *Many prophecies will take on greater meaning and significance when we understand this vital key.*

For the sake of space here, I'll will not cover in detail what happened to the lost 10 tribes, but focus on the descendants of Joseph, the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh.

Let's say for now that among others, they are the descendants of modern USA, Britain, France, Canada, Australia, New Zealand.

-Britain and the United States Inherit Joseph's Birthright

"And the Lord has declared ... that he will set you in praise, fame and honor high above all the nations ... as he promised" (Deuteronomy 26:18-19, NIV).

After about five centuries of existence on the Eurasian steppes following the destruction of the northern kingdom, Israel's nomadic descendants, now called Scythians, began another forced migration.

This time their enemies—from Asia and the Near East—and a dramatic change of climate on the Eurasian steppes began moving them westward, just as the biblical prophets had said would happen (1 Kings 14:15; Isaiah 49:12; Hosea 12:1). This major westward migration began about 200 B.C. and continued into the fifth century A.D.

Yet during this time, in the first century, when Christianity was in its infancy, the Jewish historian Josephus confirmed that many deported Israelites were still living beyond the Euphrates River. Josephus wrote that, in his day, “the ten tribes are beyond the Euphrates till now [the first century], and are an immense multitude, and not to be estimated by numbers” (*Antiquities of the Jews*, Book XI, Chapter V, Section 2).

The apostle James also plainly confirms that the missing tribes hadn't been reunited with the tribes of Judah and Benjamin in Palestine. He addresses his epistle “to the twelve tribes *which are scattered abroad*” (James 1:1).

Though God had promised that all of the lost 10 tribes of Israel would continue to exist, He also promised to *sift them among the nations* (Amos 9:9). This He did until He brought them to the land that was *north* and *west* of ancient Israel, where He had promised to resettle them.

It was as though a powerful, unseen hand inexorably herded them— with all their tribes and clans—across the Eurasian plains, the Scythian steppes, to Northwest Europe, where the Celts, another group of related tribes, were already settling.

Although not as well understood as the great European migrations beginning in the 16th century—when emigrants established colonies in North America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa—the earlier migration was similar in many respects.

Although many clans from many tribes converged on Europe at the same time, most of those that finally settled in Northwest Europe were related and shared a culture. **Many historians have acknowledged that the Anglo-Saxon peoples provided the racial stock that founded several modern Western nations, including Great Britain and the United States.** This information can be found in many history books.

-Promises of greatness for Joseph’s descendants

Before his death the patriarch Jacob, through God’s inspiration, prophesied what would happen to the descendants of his 12 sons in the “last days” (Genesis 49:1). The focus is on Jacob’s prophecy concerning Joseph. Joseph’s modern descendants are the easiest to identify of all the lost tribes of Israel because the specific blessings they were to receive stand out so distinctly from those of the other tribes. God promised to Joseph’s descendants—through his sons Ephraim (*now Great Britain*) and Manasseh (*now USA*)—all the benefits of the *birthright* promises of national greatness and overflowing prosperity.

These were the birthright blessings (1 Chronicles 5:1-2) God promised to Joseph’s descendants. Because of these divine blessings, Joseph’s descendants were to stand out among Israel’s other tribes (Genesis 49:22-26).

“His *glory* is like a firstborn bull, and his horns [military might] like the horns of the wild ox; together with them he shall *push* the peoples *to the ends of the earth*; they are the ten thousand of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh” (Deuteronomy 33:13-17). God had promised to take a direct hand in delivering magnificent physical blessings to Joseph’s descendants.

When we understand that the modern descendants of Joseph are the people of the United States and Britain, we see that over the past three centuries God has been true to His promises. He has granted the physical birthright blessings of Joseph’s sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, to their modern descendants—the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people of Britain and the United States. The Anglo-Saxon and Celtic descendants have been the primary founders and shapers of British and American culture.

God also has made available to them *opportunities* to shine as spiritual beacons within a confused and darkened world. Regrettably, as with the ancient Israelites, only a few among them have been willing to accept their responsibility and God’s calling.

-God assigned a role to Joseph's descendants

God gave the promised birthright blessings to Joseph's modern descendants in Britain and America. At the same time, He has made available to Israel's descendants—and indeed the whole world—the knowledge of what He expects of them spiritually. He has accurately preserved this knowledge in the Bible, and today that knowledge is available to anyone willing to read it—whether ethnically Israelite or gentile.

-God makes His Word available

The British and American people have been the instruments used to spread God's Word to most of the known world. Although we often take the Bible for granted, and many U.S. and British homes now have several copies, it wasn't always this way.

For many centuries virtually the only copies available outside of the original languages were in Latin, with the Roman Catholic Church tightly controlling the common people's access to the Scriptures. "Yet it was in England, so long deprived of the living Word, where the battle was fought and won for the right of the common man to have his Bible in his own language" (Neil Lightfoot, *How We Got the Bible*, 1986, p. 76).

After several attempts to produce English-language versions in the 1500s, in 1611 the king of England officially approved the publication of what has become known as the *King James Version of the Bible*. Its translators, by order of King James, produced it from its original languages by a large team of Hebrew and Greek scholars. It quickly gained the reputation of being the most accurate translation of the Bible ever attempted up to that time.

For almost 400 years it has remained the best-known Bible translation of the English-speaking world. It has been the model for Bible translations for practically all other languages. No single book has affected the history of the English-speaking people like the King James Bible.

The Bible has since been translated into thousands of languages, virtually every tongue, with the British-descended people printing and distributing hundreds of millions of copies all over the globe.

The policies and resources of America and Britain have both encouraged and enabled the true gospel of the Kingdom of God to be proclaimed around the world in recent years. They have provided the climate of religious freedom, the financial resources and most of the laborers that were needed to disseminate biblical knowledge to all nations.

Many people inaccurately pretend that USA, Britain, Canada, France and others modern Nations are not in the Bible. But, when the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh and other tribes are well identified, we can now relate many major end-time prophecies that are addressed to these descendants.

Assyria is also the descendant of Germany. They will be the core of the instrument that God will use to punish the descendants of the 12 Tribes of Israel, the *House of Juda* and the *House of Israel*. This Beast is described as the 10 future Kings in Europe that will bring the 10th and last resurrection of the Roman Empire.

Sixth Key: Interpret the Bible literally (normally) allowing for normal use of figurative language (Hermeneutic approach)

There are many different concepts in the Hermeneutic approach. For the sake of keeping this paper simple, I'll convey one aspect of this approach which is; Interpret the Bible literally (or normally) allowing for normal use of figurative language.

-What Does a Text Mean?

There are certain implications of this for biblical interpretation. The first is that the human authors had a specific historical audience, context and purpose. These authors used their own language, writing methods, style of writing and literary form of writing. Remember, the divine authorship of the Bible gives it its unity and the ultimate source of all interpretation is from God. In the book of Genesis Joseph was asked about the meaning of some divinely given dreams and he replied, "Don't interpretations belong to God? (Gen 40:8).

When it comes to making claims about what the Bible means, sometimes we hear comments from Christians or non-Christians like the following: "Well, that's just your interpretation." "The Bible can be made to say anything you want." "You can't really understand the Bible. It is full of contradictions." "No one can understand the true meaning of *anything anyone* says." Or, someone sitting in a Bible study might say, "This is what the Bible means to me." All of these types of comments are about principles of biblical interpretation also called in theological jargon *hermeneutics*. Welcome to our postmodern world. Pilate's question lives on: "What is truth? (John 18:38)."

So, as a basic rule, interpret the Bible literally (or normally) allowing for normal use of figurative language. Take the plain meaning of the text at face value. When the literal does not make sense you probably have a figure of speech.

For example, Jesus said that the faithful servants would receive 10 or 5 cities as their reward to manage in the Kingdom.

Luke 19:11 Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.

12 Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.

13 So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'

14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this *man* to reign over us.'

15 And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

16 Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.'

17 And he said to him, 'Well *done*, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'

18 And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.'

19 Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.'

First, let's look at the context. The Context is Jesus rewarding his Faithful servant. He will evaluate what they did with their spiritual gifts (minas) and reward them accordingly.

We also know that Jesus is going to rule the Earth for 1000 years. In **Rev 2:26** Jesus said He will give us authority over the Nations.

And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him *I will give power over the nations*—

With this basic framework, we are then able to assess that Jesus meant what He meant. He will give literal authority over 10 cities to the Faithful servant who produced 5 more minas. He received 5, produced 5 more, he then received authority over 10 cities.

Another example is; Isaiah 55:12 where it states the trees of the field will clap their hands. Since trees do not have hands or clap this must be a figure of speech. Look for words such as “like” or “as” which can also communicate a figure of speech. Figures of speech and illustrations give the Bible a powerful and colorful means of expression. They are an important part of the normal expression of language.

-Parables

Parables are a form of figurative speech. They are stories that are used to illustrate a truth but hidden to the average person. There are parables in different parts of the Bible, but Jesus was the master of them, and many are found in the gospels.

How then should we interpret the parables?

First, determine the context that prompted the parable. Parables always arise out of a context. For example, the Pharisees disdain for Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners prompts Jesus to tell a parable about how God loves a lost sinner who repents (Luke 15).

Second, understand the story's natural meaning which is often taken from real life situations in first century Palestine. Third, ascertain the main point or truth the parable is trying to give and focus on this.

Only interpret the details of the parables if they can be validated from the passage. Many details may only be there for the setting of the story. Jesus stated: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest garden plant and becomes a tree, so that the wild birds come and nest in its branches” (Matt 13:31-32).

The parable is an illustration of the kingdom of heaven which starts small but grows to be very large in size and will give residence to many.

-Conclusion

We have covered just some basic principles here that are helpful to understand the Bible and prophecies properly.

There are many other principles in the *Hermeneutic* approach that we could mention; you can find them by making some research on your own.

Seventh Key: Understanding God's Plan and Timeline

We come now to the one of the most crucial key to understanding prophecy, the whole Bible, and God's plan; which is understanding God's Timeline. Once we understand it, we can then put all of the pieces of the Bible together and obtain a clear image.

In the table below you'll find how God designed His Plan based on the **number 7** which symbolized His accomplishment of Perfection. Everything in God's plan is based on the Number 7.

As shown in the table below, God has established that the week of creation this would become a sort of template for the whole accomplishment of His plan.

Isa 46:10 *Declaring the end from the beginning*, And from ancient times *things* that are not *yet* done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure.

So, God based all of his plan on the number 7; -A week of days, - A week of weeks, -A week of months, -A week of years, -A week of Millenniums, -A week of weeks of years, -A week of decades, -A week of weeks of Decades.

The initial week of creation which included seven 24-hour days, on *a* day for *a* 1,000 years basis, each of those days would then portrays God's plan based on a period totaling 7,000 years.

Jesus would then come at the end of the first 6000 years (*allowed to Satan*) to establish God's Kingdom on Earth and reign for the 7th millennia (portrayed by the Sabbath day).

Psa_90:4 For a **thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday** when it is past, and like a watch in the night.

2 Pe 3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that **with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**

-Solar and Prophetic years.

Now, it's important to understand that a prophetic year is different from a regular solar year. A **solar year** has 365 days and a **prophetic year** has 360 days.

The way to know which kind of year is involved is quite simple. When the Bible talks about a year time period, it is a year of 365 days. But when the Bible uses another language *like* week(s) of days, it refers to a year of 360 days.

Also, when the Bible mentions a **time**, this is also equal to a year of 360 days. When the Bible uses the term month like 42 months, it refers also to 42 months of 30 days each, for a total of 3 ½ years of 360 days each.

-Here are some references about it:

The terms "time, times, and dividing of time", "42 months", have a prophetic flavor to them. And they are surrounded by symbolic language in the verses where they come from. Let's look at a couple of examples:

Daniel 7 ...'And four great beasts came up from the sea ... The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings ... And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear ... After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads ... After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth ... and it had ten horns ... I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn ... And he shall speak great words against the most High and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a ***time and times and the dividing of time.***'

Revelation 12 ...'And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars ... And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns ... And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven ... And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child ... And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for ***a time, and times, and half a time.***'

Revelation 13 ...'And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns ... 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: and the dragon gave him his power ... and power was given unto him to continue ***forty and two months.***'

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

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

So, God confirms this ***day for a year principle*** in these Bible verses above.

It also looks like the number of years Moses lived (120 years) were portraying the timeline as the total number of Jubilees.

Basically, the 6000 years' time could be divided in 3 sections of 2000 years each. 40 jubilees of 50 years each.

So, roughly, we have 2000 years from Adam to Abraham, we have 2000 years from Abraham to Jesus and we have another 2000 years from Jesus's first coming to Jesus's second coming. We then have 120 (120x50) jubilees for a total of 6000 years.

The number 70 plays also a significant role in God's plan. Judah was delivered from Babylon 70 years after they went into captivity. This was prophesied in the book of Jeremiah;

Dan 9:2 in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years *specified* by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Here we have proof that God reveals what he's going to do in advance. God does not change, the same applies today. He reveals His intentions to His servants the prophets and they in turn then reveal them to God's people.

Basically, God told Daniel that Judah would not have a complete restoration because they did not repent of their past, but Daniel did, so God did perform a partial restoration.

God then gave another prophecy to Daniel (the prophecy of the 70 weeks). Its purpose would be to bring God's people, and by extension, the world, to complete repentance. This prophecy would bring the human race on the complete verge of extermination unless Jesus comes back to save us.

Dan 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

Those 70 weeks, when we apply the principle of 1 day for a year, bring the length of the prophecy to 490 years.

After 7 weeks (49 years), there would be an unknown length of cut in time, and after that, there would be another 62 weeks (434 years). Then, the Messiah would be cut off.

After, there would be another cut in time that would last about 2000 years (referred to as the Church age) that would bring the end-times and the fulfillment of the last week (70th), which is called the tribulation week (a period of 7 years). The last 3 ½ years of the final week (7 years) is mentioned in Matthew as being the Great Tribulation. This is the period also referred as the Time, Times and half of time in Rev. 12:14.

At the end of this week or 7 years, Jesus will come back and fight at the battle of Armageddon and establish the Kingdom of God on this Earth.

The end of the 6000 years then coincides with the end of the 70 weeks of Daniel.

After 6000 years (the 6th millennial days allowed to Satan to deceive the World), Jesus will come back to establish the Kingdom for a 1000 years which will be the 7th Millennium depicted by the 7th day, the Sabbath day of the creation. The World will then enjoy God's rest by being allowed the opportunity to enter God's spiritual rest (Kingdom of God) through Jesus.

The book of Revelation with its 7 Trumpets essentially covers this final seven years period of the last week of Daniel's 70 week prophecy. God will bring the World to its knees and the people will recognize that without God we are destined to complete destruction. Jesus describes these times as a time of troubles and tribulation like never before.

He commands us to watch and pray that we may have the strength and courage to escape all these things. He mentioned nothing about escaping the tribulation through a rapture. He actually says that the one who perseveres till the end will be saved.

-The plan of God through the 7 Feasts of the Lord. (see p.41)

Another important aspect of understanding God's timeline is to understand that God reveals its plan of salvation for humanity through the 7 Feasts that He gave to physical Israel.

It's looks like we could also relate each Feast of the plan with each day of Creation. For an example, On the 4th day, God placed the 2 great lights in the Heavens. After 4000, Jesus, the light of the World, came on to the scene. And the fourth Feast is the Feast of Trumpet which portrays Jesus's return on Earth.

Look at the chart below to see how everything relates to the other.

- The Last Great Day, the (7th) Feast of the Lord.

Something else that is shown through God's Plan is the **2 harvests** of physical Israel, which portrayed the **2 harvests of men in 2 different seasons.**

As surprising as it may be, God does not try to save everybody in this age. Just a small amount of people which constitute the Body of Christ (Jews and Gentiles) will be part of the *first* resurrection.

The Last Great Day, the 7th Feast pictures the amazing truth that God is not trying to save the Whole World now! If the Great God who made the universe was actually "trying" to save humanity, He would succeed. Yet the fact is that most people throughout human history have never subscribed to—or even been exposed to—any form of Christianity. And so, it remains this way until this very day! What is the real answer to this dilemma?

First of all, the Son of God stated plainly: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.... Then Jesus said to them again, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep'" (John 10:1, 7). And He inspired the Apostle Peter to declare about Himself: "This is the '**Stone**, which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:11–12).

So, you either accept Christ—the true Christ of the Bible—or you do not. And if you truly accept Christ as your Savior and your Lord, you will surrender yourself to Him and let Him rule your life. As Christ commanded, you will keep His Commandments as a way of life. You will let Christ live His obedient life in you through the Holy Spirit (Galatians 2:20). And if you do not, you are not a Christian. The majority of mankind has been blinded from the knowledge of the true God and the true Christ. And yet again, God's inspired Word tells us: "For there is no respect of persons with God" (Romans 2:11, KJV).

Is God contradicting Himself? Of course not! For God has never said that He is trying save everyone "**now!**" God has said: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

It is God's will that all "come to repentance"—but they certainly have not done so in this age! Notice also how the Apostle Paul wrote of "God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:3–4).

-It is simply a matter of timing.

For in God's time—as we shall see—all humans who have ever lived will be given a real understanding of God's master plan and purpose, and the vast majority will accept God's Truth once their eyes are fully opened. No, this is not a "second chance" as some would like to protest. It will be the first genuine opportunity for these people to come to understand the true God and the true Jesus Christ and their great purpose!

The Bible speaks time and again about a time of "judgment" for all humanity. And as used, the term "judgment" does not usually mean condemnation but, rather, a time of decision—a time of trial and testing (cf. 1 Peter 4:17). Notice Jesus Christ's own statements to those cities of His own day who rejected Him and His teaching: "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. **But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you**" (Matthew 11:21–22).

The pagan cities that never heard of Christ will have a "more tolerable" opportunity in the coming day of judgment. To Capernaum He says: "But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you" (v. 24).

If God judges these people by the same standard as others—which the Bible clearly indicates that He will—then the ancient pagans would have no chance for eternal life because they clearly did not accept Christ as their Savior or obey God's ways. The only answer is that they will—in a coming judgment period—be given the opportunity to really understand God's great purpose to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and then—at that time—to be "judged" by how they respond based on this genuine first opportunity for salvation.

-But does the Bible indicates that such a time is coming?

Yes, it does! In Revelation 20, after describing the Millennium and the short period after the Millennium, when Satan is released for a "little while" (v. 3), God goes on to describe a time of "judgment" for the dead people who died before the Millennium began and had never been converted. After describing a great "white throne," notice what the Apostle John wrote under inspiration: "And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged (in a period of "judgment" which seems to be, according to Isaiah, lasting 100 years.- Isa. 65:20 "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.) according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works" (vv. 12–13).

When these dead peoples are seen "standing," this involves a resurrection! (Ezech. 37) And notice that verse 12 also says that the "books" were opened. The Greek word *biblia*, from which the word "Bible" is normally translated, is used here. So, these people—for the first time—have their minds and hearts open to the Bible. They also have opportunity to obtain salvation—to have their names written in the "Book of Life." In this "Great White Throne Judgment Period," they are truly being "called." after Satan is once again banished. Their minds are now opened to real understanding. In this judgment period, even

the inhabitants of Sodom and hundreds of other pagan or deceived cities of the past, may have a better opportunity than some who lived at the time of Christ, as these ancient pagans never before understood virtually anything about the true God and His ways. They were not responsible for being “blinded”!

Countless millions of these men and women of past ages may zealously grasp the Truth when they fully understand. They may become better Christians—better servants of God—than many of us who sometimes take God’s precious Truth for granted and are not as zealous as we should be.

-How clear!

God will resurrect (Ezech. 37) the countless millions who lived and died long before Christ came and brought the full understanding of salvation. Additional billions who have lived and died since Jesus Christ, or who now live but are blinded to the knowledge of the true God and His purpose—all of these people will be brought to real understanding and repentance! They will be given God’s Holy Spirit—the very nature and character of God will be imparted to them **after real repentance and baptism—just as it is to us today**. Then they, too, will have an opportunity for some years to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18) and bear fruits.

They will have an opportunity for full salvation—eternal life in the very Kingdom and Family of God. It is only a matter that the time of their “calling” is later than many of ours—but it is sure to come!

Then, finally, every single human being who has ever drawn breath will have had a genuine opportunity for salvation! And so the seventh of God’s Holy Days, the mysterious “**eighth day**” coming immediately after the Feast of Tabernacles—but as a separate Festival (Leviticus 23:36)—pictures this wonderful time soon after the Millennium when all humanity will finally be given an opportunity to understand the Truth.

This is obviously the time Jesus was referring to in John 7: “On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘**If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water**’” (vv. 37–38). In the Great White Throne Judgment, “anyone”—everyone who has ever lived—will finally have his or her eyes opened and be given the opportunity to respond to God and to receive His Holy Spirit.

With this seventh Festival, the picture of God’s plan is now complete. In realizing the marvelous wisdom and mercy of God in all of His plan, we may truly say with the Apostle Paul in Romans 11:32–33: “For God has committed them **all to disobedience**, that He might have mercy on all. Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”

What an incredible plan of salvation God has designed for us. We, the sons of the first resurrection, will then reign with Jesus for Eternity! All others called after the Millennium will also have tremendous blessings, but the best resurrection is the first one, when Jesus will come back. We will rule the Earth with Him and help others to achieve Salvation.

At the end, when God the Father will come on the new Earth to be with us forever, we will then reign on the entire universe. The Earth will become the Headquarters of the Universe.

Praise the Almighty God Yehovah!

FINAL CONCLUSION

As we have seen, to properly understand the Bible, Prophecies, and God's Plan for the redemption of mankind, we need to understand God's Timeline of 7000 years. When properly understood, God's Timeline of the Plan of Salvation brings the Master Key to our complete understanding of the Bible. We then can understand, among others, the Time and Season of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Failure to apply all the Keys to properly understand the Bible will lead to false doctrines and errors. This will also lead to the great falling away prophesied by Paul. That's why it is of utmost importance to apply these keys.

God is now preparing those, the Firstfruits, who will assist during the millennium and the Great White Throne Judgment to help mankind to achieve Salvation. We will then reign with Jesus on Earth for 1000 years.

Jesus also warns us severely to discern the Signs of the Times.

Mat 16:3 and in the morning, *'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.'* Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot *discern* the signs of the times.

He also warned us to WATCH and PRAY so that we may ESCAPE.

Mat 24:42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Mar_13:33 Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.

Mar_13:34 It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.

Mar_13:35 Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—

Mar_13:37 And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

Though no one knows the day or the hour, Jesus says we could certainly know the season. Failure to recognize the signs of the times will bring disaster. So, let's make sure we understand them.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree – indicates the Season

Mat 24:32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near.

Mat 24:33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!

Mat 24:34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

Mat 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

1Th 5:1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

1Th 5:2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

1Th 5:3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

1Th 5:4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

1Th 5:5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

1Th 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, **but let us watch** and be sober.

Paul gives us the same admonition that Jesus gave to us. The World will be caught by surprise, but we, true Christians, should not be caught in darkness so this day would overtake us.

Israel (the Fig Tree in context, **Joel 1:6** For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth *are* the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion. **Joel 1:7** He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree; he hath made it clean bare, and cast *it* away; the branches thereof are made white.) came back to their land 70 years ago. They have blossomed and are about to get ready for the final phase that will trigger the final 7 years. They will soon achieve the peace deal of Daniel 9 for 7 years. Then, when they say; peace and safety...then ...

Jesus said: This generation, *Israel*, will not pass away...

A generation in the bible is 70-80 years.

Psa_90:10 The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, ...

Let's pray and watch, that we may be accounted worthy, have the courage and strength to escape and to go through all that will happen, and stand before Jesus at His Second coming, **at the end of the 7th Trumpet.**

1Co 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—

1Co 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet.** For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Nonetheless, a word of encouragement; God promises his faithful children protection **on Earth**, in the desert during the Great Tribulation, for the last 3 ½ years.

Rev 12:14 But the woman (*the Church*) was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

Luke 21:36 **Watch therefore**, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The 7 Holy Days — God's Master Plan to save Mankind

Feast	Old Testament meaning	New Testament meaning
Passover	A lamb was sacrificed, and its blood placed around the doors of Israelite houses in Egypt, which God "passed over" when slaying the Egyptian firstborn. (Leviticus 23:5)	Pictures Jesus Sacrificed as the Lamb of God for the expiation of our sins.
Feast of Unleavened Bread	A seven-day festival during which leavening (such as yeast, which causes bread to rise when baking) is put out of dwellings and is not eaten. (Leviticus 23:6-14)	Pictures the Christian's duty to "put out sin" from a life yielded to Jesus Christ
Day of Pentecost	A day celebrating the gathering in of the first (Firstfruits) and smaller of the two annual harvests; observed 50 days from a fixed point in the previous Feast. (Leviticus 23:15-22)	Pictures the first Christian's (the firstfruits) receiving God's Holy Spirit.
Feast of Trumpets	Called Rosh Hashana by the Jews; a day of rejoicing marked by the blowing of trumpets. (Leviticus 23:23-25)	Pictures a time of war and plagues, concluding with Jesus Christ's Second Coming and the war of Armageddon
Day of Atonement	A day of fasting and repentance, known to the Jews as Yom Kippur (Leviticus 23:26-32) Azazel (Satan) is sent to the desert	Pictures the binding of Satan at the door of the Millennium and the world becoming at one with God.
Feast of Tabernacles	A seven-day celebration of the great fall harvest observed by living in temporary dwellings for the duration of the Feast. (Leviticus 23:33-43)	Pictures the Millennium, when the earth will be ruled by Jesus Christ and <i>His saints</i> .
The Last Great Day	Adjacent to the Feast of Tabernacles, this eighth day is considered a separate Feast. (Leviticus 23:36, 39)	Pictures the coming "Great White Throne Judgment" at which all of humanity <i>not previously called</i> will have the chance to hear the True Gospel and accept salvation.

7000 Years God's Plan of Redemption – 120 generations of 50 years each

Esa 41:26 Who has declared from the beginning, that we may know? And former times, that we may say, 'He is righteous'?... **Psa 90:4** For a **thousand years** in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, And *like* a watch in the night.

2 Pe 3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord *one day is as a thousand years*, and a **thousand years** as one day.

- *The Biblical year begins during Springtime around March-April* -

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	White Throne Judgment	Earth's Purification	New Heaven-New Earth
Light	Water Separation	Land, Grass, Trees	Sun, Moon, Stars	See Life and birds	Animals and Man	God's Rest	100 Years		New Jerusalem
1000	2000	3000	4000	5000	6000	7000			8000+
Adam Age 40 x 50 Jubilees = 2000 years		Abraham Age 40 x 50 Jubilees = 2000 years		Church Age: 40 x 50 Jubilees = 2000 years		Millennial Age	Judgment Period/ 100 years Es. 65 :20		Eternity Age
		Abraham, born around 2000bc	Jesus's Birth 4bc - Jesus is the Light in the darkness	Jesus started His ministry on 27ad. (A Jubilee year). Jesus died 30ad. 40 years after, Temple Destruction 70ad. Jews' Dispersion.	Jews back in their land = Fig Tree BLOOMING (from 1950) (Joel 1:6-7) 1950 – 2030 (80 years) – a Generation = 70 - 80 years (Psa 90:10 The days of our lives are <i>seventy years</i> ; And if by reason of strength <i>they are eighty years...</i>)	Jesus Reigns on Earth with His saints for a thousand years Rev. 20:4			God, Jesus, Saints will reign forever on the New Universe Rev.21:24-26
				3 days / 3 nights = 3000 years - Jesus resurrected at the end of the 3rd day			2 nd Resurrection White Throne Judgment Great Harvest Rev. 20-11-12	3 rd Resurrection Judgement Destruction of the Wicked Rev. 20-13-15	
				1 st day = 1000 years	2 nd day = 1000 years	3 rd day = 1000 years			
				Jesus brought LIFE		End of the 6000 years Christ's Return 1 st Resurrection Firstfruits			
7 Feasts of the Lord representing His Plan of salvation for mankind									
Passover	Unleavened Bread	Pentecost	Trumpet	Expiation		Tabernacles	Last Great Day	Lake of fire	
Jesus = Light	Separation with Egypt/World	Jesus, the seed, FirstFruits	Signs in Sun, Moon, Stars	Church's Expansion – Church's deception in wilderness		Dwelling in temporary bodies	Salvation offered to all		

Summary of the Weeks (the Seven) of Scriptures

The Week	Length	Description	Scripture	Comment
1) A week of days (7 x 1 day)	7 days	God's basic time cycle. 6 days of toil followed by a Sabbath day of rest.	Gen. 1:31-2:3; Ex. 31:12-17	
2) A week of weeks (7 x 7 days)	49 days	The period of time between the Feast of First fruits and the Feast of Pentecost.	Deut. 16:9-12; Lev. 12:15-16	
3) A week of months (7 x 1 month)	7 months	The first seven months of the religious year contains all seven of the Jewish feasts.	Deut. 16; Lev. 23	
4) A week of years (7 x 1 year)	7 years	The Israelites were commanded to work the land for six years and then give the land a Sabbath rest every seven years.	Lev. 25:1-7	
5) A week of Millenniums (7 x 1000 years)	7000 years	The 7 th Millennium will set the culmination of God's Plan to convert the Earth into His everlasting Kingdom	Rev. 20:4, 6	
6) A week of weeks of years (7 x 7 years)	49 years	The period of time between each celebration of the year of Jubilee every 50 years	Lev. 25:8-17	
7) A week of decades (7 x 10 years)	70 years	The life span allotted to man. The time that Juda was in captivity	Psalm 90:10	
8) A week of Weeks of Decades (7x 70 years: 1 day = 1 year)	490 years	The time revealed to the prophet Daniel which would culminate after 69 weeks to the appearance of the Messiah on a donkey to be cut off. The Prince coming for the Peace deal for 1 week (the 70 th one).	Dan. 9:24-27	