

Quarter Two: Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy

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Lesson 1—Some Principles of Prophecy

Monday: God Wants to Be Understood

March 31, 2025

- **Last Quarter / Week:** “God’s Love & Justice”
 - “Love is the Fulfillment of the Law”
 - Unity of love & the law
- **This Quarter:** “Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy”
 - Biblical understanding of the focus of prophecy
 - Through the lens of the Great Controversy between Christ & Satan
 - Culminating in a world-wide spiritual struggle between the Creator & the beast & his image
 - Interpretative keys to understanding prophecy found in Dan 2
 - Understanding the keys to the symbols through the Word of God, plus an open, submissive heart, provides answers to end-time prophecies in Revelation
 - Author: Shawn Boonstra, speaker / director for VOP
- **This Week:** “Some Principles of Prophecy”
 - Current Christian confusion on prophecy
 - Truth is – prophecies in God’s Word are understandable
 - God desires us to be in one accord, in unity on Biblical truths & even prophetic understanding
 - This week, study principles that give us a consistent understanding of prophecy

Memory Text: “‘But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,’ says the Lord” (Jer 9:24, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Whoever Reads, Let Him Understand (John D)
 - Principle #1: study the Bible with an open, receptive heart
- 2. **Monday:** God Wants to Be Understood (Jill)
 - Principle #2a: humanity can never fully grasp the mind of the Infinite; Principle #2b: we can, however, understand the plan of salvation: prophecy illustrates the plan of salvation
- 3. **Tuesday:** Daniel—Shut Up the Words (Daniel)
 - The increase in knowledge at the end of time (the increase in Biblical knowledge of the book of Daniel – specifically the judgment hour of 1844)
- 4. **Wednesday:** Studying the Word (SQ)
 - Principle #3: study the Bible in context and compare Scriptures with Scripture
- 5. **Thursday:** Figurative or Literal (James)
 - Principle #4: allow the Bible to define its own terms

Monday: God Wants to Be Understood

Isa 55:9; Ps 139:1 – 6; Ps 147:5; Rom 11:33; 1 John 3:20; 2 Tim 3:15

- Principle #1: study the Bible with an open, receptive heart (John's day)
- Monday: God Wants to Be Understood
 - Principle #2a: humanity can never fully grasp the mind of the Infinite
 - Principle #2b: we can, however, understand the plan of salvation: prophecy illustrates the plan of salvation
- *Story (from lesson)
 - In foreign country, trying to communicate, without adequate vocabulary
 - Frustrating, at best
 - Deadly, at worst
 - God has the necessary vocabulary to communicate with us
 - We lack the vocabulary and intellectual capacity to understand Him
 - Isa 55:9 – “‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth,’ He says, ‘so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.’”
 - Ps 147:5 – “Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.”
 - Rom 11:33 – “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!”
- Yet, even though humanity can never fully grasp the mind of the Infinite (Principle #2a) –
 - We can understand the plan of salvation: prophecy illustrates the plan of salvation
 - 2 Tim 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.”
- **7 snapshots of prophecy & the plan of salvation:** (Principle 2b)
 - **1. Jesus delivers us** (Messianic promise)
 - Gen 3:15 – “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”
 - After the first sin, consequences of sin, then
 - Prophecy = Messianic promise
 - Satan will not be victorious
 - Jesus is coming & He's stronger than Satan
 - **2. Jesus takes my place** (Substitutionary atonement)
 - Ex 12:5 - “Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year...”
 - Ex 12 = Passover lamb, symbolic of Jesus
 - He is our perfect Substitute – He took my place

- Isa 53:5 – “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities (cherished sins); the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”
 - 2 Cor 5:21 – “God made Him...”
- **3. Jesus wins** (final victory in GC)
 - Daniel 2 = four world kingdoms (beasts)
 - Head of gold
 - Chest / arms of silver
 - Belly / thighs of bronze
 - Legs of iron
 - Feet of iron & clay
 - Dan 2:44 – “And in the days of these kings (the kings of iron & clay) 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.”
 - After these kingdoms, God will be victorious in this conflict between good & evil, and God wins
- **4. Jesus died for us** (sacrifice on cross)
 - Dan 9 – 70-week prophecy
 - Dan 9:25 – “Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until **Messiah** the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty two weeks....
 - Messiah = Heb, “Anointed One”
 - Cut off in the middle of the week
 - Died for our sins
- **5. Jesus vindicates us** (judgment in favor of God’s people)
 - Daniel 7 = world kingdoms (beasts)
 - Lion
 - Lopsided bear
 - Leopard
 - Terrible beast
 - Little horn
 - Dan 7:9, 10 – “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; (10) A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him, a thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.”
 - Judgment scene
 - Vs 13 – “...and behold One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven, He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.”
 - Second coming of Christ
 - He brings His reward with Him

- Judgment takes place before He comes
- Vs 21, 22 – “I was watching, and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, (22) until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High...”
 - Back in time again, little horn still on earth
 - Judgment made in favor of the saints
 - Clothed in His righteousness
- **6. Jesus saves us** (gospel message)
 - Rev 14:6 – “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—”
 - 3 angels’ messages IS prophecy
 - Underpinning of messages = the gospel
 - Jesus saves me by grace through faith
 - Righteousness imputed to me (justification)
 - Righteousness imparted to me (sanctification)
- **7. Jesus returns for us** (2nd coming of Christ)
 - Rev 22:20 – “He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming quickly.’”
 - He is coming back for us

7 snapshots of prophecy & the plan of salvation:

- 1. Jesus delivers us (Messianic promise)
- 2. Jesus takes my place (Substitutionary atonement)
- 3. Jesus wins (final victory in Great Controversy)
- 4. Jesus died for us (sacrifice on cross)
- 5. Jesus vindicates us (judgment in favor of God’s people)
- 6. Jesus saves us (gospel message)
- 7. Jesus returns for us (second coming of Christ)