

**Program:** SS Panel 2025 2 Q

**Quarterly title:** Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy

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**Lesson Title:** #7 Foundations for Prophecy

**For Lesson Dates:** May 10-16, 2025

**Section title:** Wednesday - God Among His People

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**Note:** This color and font = quarterly text

**Note:** This color and font = John Dinzey notes

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Question:

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\*\*\*READ\*\*\*

NIL: Not in Lesson

Lesson 7

\*May 10–16

## Foundations for Prophecy

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### SABBATH AFTERNOON

**Read for This Week's Study:** Isa. 6:6–8, Gen. 3:21–24, Ezek. 1:4–14, Rev. 4:1–11, Num. 2:3–25, Isa. 14:12–14.

**Memory Text:** “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me” ’ (Isaiah 6:8, NKJV).

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WEDNESDAY

May 14

## God Among His People

Following the leading of God's presence in the cloud, the Israelites would stop in their journey to the Promised Land, set up the tabernacle, and then the tribes would pitch their camps around it—three tribes on each side. The Presence of God would descend into the Most Holy Place and take up residence in the midst of His people.

**Exo 13:21** And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

**Exo 13:22** He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, *from* before the people.

**There was one dominant tribe on each of the four sides of the tabernacle. According to Numbers 2, who were these four dominant tribes?**

**Numbers 2:-2** 1 And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying:

2 “Everyone of the children of Israel shall camp by his own [standard, beside the emblems of his father's house; they shall camp some distance from the tabernacle of meeting.

>>> notice that the arrangement of the camp came from God himself. It's possible that they may have had some strife or arguments concerning who goes where...

- > The tabernacle was in the center
- > all facing toward the tabernacle
- > Unity

they shall camp some distance

- > A reverential or respectful distance

**Numbers 2:3** (East): **3** On the east side, toward the rising of the sun, those of the standard of the forces with Judah shall camp according to their armies; and Nahshon the son of Amminadab *shall be* the leader of the children of Judah.”

From: Keil and Delitzsch: “*Order of the tribes in the camp and on the march.* - [Num 2:3-9](#). The standard of the tribe of Judah was to encamp in front, namely towards the east, according to its hosts; and by its side the tribes of Issachar and Zebulun, the descendants of Leah, under the command and banner of Judah: an army of 186,400 men, which was to march out first when the camp was broken up ([Num 2:9](#)), so that Judah led the way as the champion of his brethren ([Gen 49:10](#)).” Keil and Delitzsch on Numbers 2:1-2

**Numbers 2:10** (South): **10** “On the south side *shall be* the standard of the forces with Reuben according to their armies, and the leader of the children of Reuben *shall be* Elizur the son of Shedeur.”

**Numbers 2:18** (West): **18** “On the west side *shall be* the standard of the forces with Ephraim according to their armies, and the leader of the children of Ephraim *shall be* Elishama the son of Ammihud.”

**Numbers 2:25** (North): **25** “The [i]standard of the forces with Dan *shall be* on the north side according to their armies, and the leader of the children of Dan *shall be* Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.”

**\*\*\*READ\*\*\***

Notice that each dominant tribe flew its own “standard,” or special flag, to designate who they were. While the Scriptures are not explicit in describing what was on each flag, there is an interesting tradition—loosely based on the tribal characteristics described in Genesis 49 and Deuteronomy 33—that assigns one of the four faces to each of the four compass points. “**According to rabbinical tradition, the standard of Judah bore the figure of a lion, that of Reuben the likeness of a man or of a man’s head, that of Ephraim the figure of an ox, and that of Dan the figure of an eagle; so that the four living creatures united in the cherubic forms described by Ezekiel were represented upon these four standards.**”—Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament*, vol. 1 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2011), p. 660.

It is possible to read too much into tradition, of course, but it is still interesting to compare this ancient tradition with the Bible's description of the New Jerusalem. An interesting pattern emerges: there are gates representing three tribes on all four sides of the city (Rev. 21:12, 13).

**Revelation 21:12, 13** 12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

Revelation 1:12 12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

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The descriptions of both the camp of Israel and the New Jerusalem underscore one crucial fact: God intends to pull humanity close to His throne. The book of Revelation teaches us that “the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple” (Rev. 21:22, NKJV).

Psalm 140 I know that the Lord will maintain  
The cause of the afflicted,  
And justice for the poor.

13

Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name;  
The upright shall dwell in Your presence.

Of course, we don't live in the camp of Israel. But what are ways we can, in our own lives now, draw close to the presence of God?

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,

Revelation 21:1-3 1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.

**Jhn 14:1** Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

**Jhn 14:2** In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

**Jhn 14:3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

**Mat 28:20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you **alway**, *even* **unto the end of the world**. Amen.