



2020 2Q How to Interpret Scripture: Lesson 11 The Bible and Prophecy

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

The Bible and Prophecy—what is the primary purpose of prophecy?

I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. John 14:19 NIV8

The primary purpose is to increase our faith, confidence, belief, trust in God ONCE the prophecy happens. It is not primarily so that we can predict future events in detail, but when events happen we can see that God foreknew and that God's plan is being carried out and therefore we can trust God.

Have you considered the focus or endpoint of Bible prophecies? Is there an overarching theme to the Bible and Bible prophecy—various prophecies having increasing details, but do many of the Bible prophecies have the same theme?

Well, let's ask, what are the themes or end-goal of each of these prophecies:

To Satan in Eden: And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. Gen 3:15 NIV84

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

To Abraham: I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed... Gen 22:17,18 NIV84

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

To David: The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son... Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.' " 2Sam 7:11-16 NIV84

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

To Isaiah: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's



throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. Isaiah 9:6,7 NIV84

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

Zechariah's prophecy about a measuring stick and Joshua the High Priest and Satan accusing—what is it about?

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

To Zechariah: Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD. 13 It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.' Zech 6:12-13 NIV84

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

To Haggai: This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. ⁷ I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord Almighty... 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty.'" Haggai 2:6-9 NIV84

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

To Joel: And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; Joel 2:28-32 NIV84

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

To Jeremiah: This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jer 29:10.11 NIV84

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

Daniel 2 the multi-metal man—ends with God's kingdom

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

Daniel's vision of beasts ends with: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and



men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.” Daniel 7:13-14 NIV84

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

To Malachi: See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Mal 3:1-3 NIV84

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

To Malachi: “Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things,” says the LORD Almighty. Mal 4:1-3 NIV84

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

Jesus’ prophecy Matthew 24

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

Paul’s prophecy 2Thes 2, concerning the second coming and the man of sin

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

The prophecies to the seven churches in Revelation—what does each one end with? A promise to the overcomers!

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

The prophecies of the seals—ends with what?

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

The prophecies of the trumpets—ends with what?

- Jesus destroying sin and Satan and saving people

What is the focus of essentially all Bible prophecy? The coming Messiah to defeat Satan, cleanse us from sin and restore this world and His universe to perfection



SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, “The foundational method...” There three general approaches to Bible prophecy are:

- Historicism—historical linear flow that events move into the future in an unbroken chain.
- Preterism—which teaches the prophecies of the Bible are all historic, occurring in the past. Daniel’s prophecies all occurred before the birth of Christ and Revelation all were fulfilled in the first century. Preterism was put forth by Jesuit Priest Luis de Alcasar during the counter reformation (the Roman church’s attack against the Reformation) in the 16th Century. Its purpose was to undermine historicism and create an interpretation that made it impossible for prophecies of Daniel and Revelation to apply to the Roman church.
- Futurism—interprets Bible prophecy as having a future fulfillment around the second coming of Christ, typically literally with very little interpretation of symbols or metaphor.
- Idealism—interprets Bible prophecy as all symbolic of ideals or themes of processes, but not historic, not actually apply to specific events, but principles or processes.

The Protestant Reformers used the historicist approach to Bible prophecy, Luther and the other reformers. It wasn’t until the Roman counter reformation that non-historicist methods were proposed.

The SDA church continues to use the historicist method and Sunday’s lesson demonstrates this with the prophecies of Daniel, the multi-metal man and the beasts which the Bible lists as specific nations (Babylon, Mede-Persia, Greece, Rome) that arose in a linear and progressive way through history.

MONDAY

Documents the year-day principle, that in Bible prophecy a day stands for a year. We find this principle in:

- Numbers 14:34: For forty years—one year for each of the forty days you explored the land—you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.’
- Ezekiel 4:6: “After you have finished this, lie down again, this time on your right side, and bear the sin of the house of Judah. I have assigned you 40 days, a day for each year.

So, these two texts give us a principle to use in Bible time prophecy, but it still needs to be applied to determine if it is correct, which would be demonstrated by accurate fulfillment of time prophecies.

One of the best places to see this demonstrated is the prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27 concerning the coming Messiah:

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.
- 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...***
- 26 “**And after the sixty-two weeks
Messiah shall be cut off**, but not for Himself...
- 27 **Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;
But in the middle of the week
He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering...** NKJV

It is very interesting to read the prophecy in multiple translations because you will note significant differences in how it is translated, based on the assumptions the translators have when they translate. It is a good place to show how wide-ranging translations can be and how biases and assumptions can influence the way it is translated. This translation is a reasonable one, if you understand the “sevens” are weeks, which most of the other translations say.

So to test the year-day principle we need to calculate the total number of days/years, have a starting point and then see if in fact Messiah comes as described and experiences and accomplishes what is described on time.

If you research this prophecy you will find many various interpretations and applications, some taking the preterist view, and apply this prophecy to Antiochus and events before the time of Christ. And I have seen many arguments over the details of the text between the historicists and preterists.

But to me it is really quite simple to know the historicist view is correct: it is a general principles to understanding Scripture—and that is what is the purpose of the Bible, its central purpose? To reveal God and His plan of salvation. If there are multiple potential interpretations and only one of them focuses on Jesus and the plan of salvation and the others take our attention away from Jesus and the plan of salvation, which do you think is the true interpretation?

The focus of the entire OT is the controversy between God and Satan focused on the promised seed who will crush the serpent’s head. Thus, as will be demonstrated, this prophecy is specific to the coming Messiah.

There were three different decrees given to rebuild Jerusalem. This allows for the different potential applications to different times. But only one of them also gave them autonomy to self-govern, which not only rebuilds but restores, which was the decree by Artaxerxes in 457 BC.



So we have a starting point and we have 70 weeks, weeks have 7 days so 70 times 7 equals 490 days, which would be 490 years.

The prophecy breaks the 70 weeks into segments, 7, 62 and 1. The first 7 weeks (49 days or years) plus 62 weeks (434 days or years) which together equals 69 weeks, or 483 days, which become 483 years according to year/day principle.

If we use the starting date of 457 BC:

- The first 7 weeks or 49 years are the years the Jews took to rebuild the temple after their captivity
- The next 434 years added to the 49 equals 483 years which takes us to 27 AD and that was when Jesus was baptized and began His ministry—the coming of the Messiah—just as the prophecy predicted
- In the middle of the last week 3.5 years later He brings an end to the sacrificial system—Jesus died in 31 AD—again just as the prophecy predicted
- At the end of that 70 weeks, 34 AD the gospel goes to the Gentiles, i.e. the entire world.

So, focusing on Jesus, we can see this prophecy is very accurate and is specific in its time application, thus the day year principle is validated. And we also see again that the focus of Bible prophecy is the plan of salvation.

TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY

The lesson focuses on identifying the little horn of Daniel, that the horn arises out of the fourth kingdom—which was Rome and wars against the saints and has many specific identifiers such as it:

- claims God's power or position—blasphemes
- uproots three horns—which the 10 horns represent the 10 groups that Rome broke up into and three of them were Arian i.e. didn't believe in the divinity of Jesus, and this power destroyed them—the Ostrogoths, Heruli and Visigoths.
- Would persecute for 1260 days or years—the Roman church received power in 538 when Roman General Belisarius defeated the last of the Arians and gave authority to the Bishop of Rome. 1260 years later, exactly at 1798 Berthier, Napoleon's general entered Rome and took the pope captive, ending the 1260 years of persecution.
- Seek to change times and laws—and the Roman church introduced imperialism, the belief that God's law functions like human law and then changed the day of worship from Sabbath to Sunday. These days stand as signs, symbols, banners, flags, pennants of two systems of worship—Creator Designer God whose laws are protocols upon which life is built, or dictator god who makes up rules like we do and then uses power to punish rule-breakers.

But I want to focus us on the power behind the horn and connect it with **Wednesday's** lesson, the cleansing of the sanctuary.



The prophecy of Daniel and 8 and 9, focuses on the 2300 years, 70 weeks of which was cut off for the Jewish people to complete their mission to be the avenue for the Messiah which we already discussed, after that the Remedy procured by Jesus would be taken to the entire world but the little horn would oppose it.

The 2300-year prophecy takes us to 1844 and the Millerite movement in which Baptist preacher William Miller taught the sanctuary is the earth and the cleansing was Jesus returning to the earth. This resulted in the great disappointment when Jesus didn't return and afterward a reevaluation of the interpretation.

This is a good example of the misuse of Bible prophecy—its primary purpose is to give us confidence in God once the events have happened, not to accurately predict future events in detail. We can predict general events accurately, like the second coming and ultimate victory over sin. Once the time period had past we can interpret the prophecy and see God acting through history and have increasing confidence in Him.

Further, when we look at the Bible, including Bible prophecy, do we interpret through a human imposed-law lens, or through the design-law lens?

Several questions:

1. What sanctuary needed cleansing?
2. What is the problem with the sanctuary that it needs cleansing? And then after answering these two questions we can answer
3. How is the sanctuary cleansed?

I would recommend, if you haven't read it, getting our pamphlet *The Heavenly Sanctuary and Investigative Judgment for the Modern World*. You can download the pdf from our website, read it on our website, or in the US we will mail you one or more if you want to share them.

From what is the sanctuary in heaven constructed—if we use Biblical sources?

It is always built of living stones—who are the people of God.

“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.” (1 Corinthians 3:16,17).

From one of the founders of the SDA church—which gives us insight into how this was taught historically:

“In the building of the sanctuary as a dwelling place for God, Moses was directed to make all things according to **the pattern of things in the heavens**. God called him into the mount, and



revealed to him the **heavenly things**, and in their similitude the tabernacle, with all that pertained to it, was fashioned.

“So to Israel, whom He desired to make His dwelling place, He revealed His glorious ideal of character. The pattern was shown them in the mount when the law was given from Sinai and when God passed by before Moses and proclaimed, "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." Exodus 34:6. ..

“Through Christ was to be fulfilled the purpose of which the tabernacle was a symbol-- that glorious building, its walls of glistening gold reflecting in rainbow hues the curtains inwrought with cherubim, the fragrance of ever-burning incense pervading all, the priests robed in spotless white, and in the deep mystery of the inner place, above the mercy seat, between the figures of the bowed, worshiping angels, the glory of the Holiest. **In all, God desired His people to read His purpose for the human soul.** It was the same purpose long afterward set forth by the apostle Paul, speaking by the Holy Spirit:

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17. (Education 34-36).

“In the cleansing of the temple, Jesus was announcing His mission as the Messiah, and entering upon His work. **That temple,** erected for the abode of the divine Presence, was designed to be an **object lesson** for Israel and for the world. From eternal ages it was **God's purpose that every created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple** for the indwelling of the Creator. **Because of sin, humanity ceased to be a temple for God.** Darkened and defiled by evil, the heart of **man no longer revealed the glory of the Divine One.** But by the incarnation of the Son of God, the **purpose of Heaven is fulfilled. God dwells in humanity,** and through saving grace **the heart of man becomes again His temple. God designed that the temple at Jerusalem should be a continual witness to the high destiny open to every soul.** But the Jews had not understood the significance of the building they regarded with so much pride. **They did not yield themselves as holy temples for the Divine Spirit.** The courts of the temple at Jerusalem, filled with the tumult of unholy traffic, **represented all too truly the temple of the heart, defiled by the presence of sensual passion and unholy thoughts. In cleansing the temple** from the world's buyers and sellers, **Jesus announced His mission to cleanse the heart from the defilement of sin,**--from the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits, that corrupt the soul. "The Lord, whom ye seek, **shall suddenly come to His temple,** even the Messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? **for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:** and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and **He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver.**" Mal. 3:1-3. (DA 161).

So what sanctuary needs cleansing? The sanctuary of the human soul, which each one makes up a building block of the sanctuary in heaven.



What was the first thing that contaminated the human soul?

Lies—lies about God told in Eden and lies believed break the circle of love and trust resulting in fear and selfishness.

The lies about God persist and fear and selfishness persist and thus our temples need cleansing from the lies about God which win to trust and then in trust we open the heart and receive new hearts, have the law written on the heart, etc. which means we get the character of Christ reproduced within—no longer I that live but Christ lives in me. This means that fear and selfishness are replaced with love and trust.

“Eve believed the words of Satan, and the belief of that falsehood in regard to God's character, changed the condition and character of both herself and husband. They were changed from good and obedient children into transgressors...” (RH, January 5, 1886 par. 8).

Now, let's examine the little horn power:

- Daniel states the little horn grew great, but “not by its own power.” So where does the little horn get his power? Revelation 13:2 tells us the power comes from the dragon.
- The little horn threw the starry host down and trampled them, yet Revelation tells us the dragon's tail swept 1/3 of the stars out of heaven (Revelation 12:3).
- The little horn power sets itself up against the prince and the dragon fought against Michael the Prince (Revelation 12:7).
- The little horn power takes away the daily sacrifice, (the daily sacrifice is just a metaphorical way of saying God's entire plan to heal and restore from sin). God's plan of salvation was taken away. The dragon creates a false system—a penal legal system that supplants God's healing plan (Mark 4:15, 2Cor 11:14, 2Thes 2:9). The dragon's false plan does not result in healing and restoration but is a plan that degrades the human being.
- The little horn power brought the place of his sanctuary low. Instead of having a plan that heals and restores the mind, the false system defiles and damages the soul sanctuary and brings it low. The dragon establishes the synagogue of Satan (Rev 2:9, 3:9) a false sanctuary, a spirit temple filled by the satanic spirit.
- The little horn power throws truth to the ground and causes deceit and the dragon is the father of lies (John 8:44).
- The little horn power persecutes the saints and the dragon persecutes the saints (Rev 12:13-17).

Every defining feature of the little horn power is true of the dragon. And who is the dragon, the true enemy of God? That ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan (Rev 12:9). The true enemy of God is Satan and the little horn power is merely one of his agents and Satan uses many agents.



| The Little Horn Power | The Power Behind the Little Horn |
|--|--|
| Grew great but not by own power | Received power from Dragon Rev. 13:2 |
| Threw starry host down & trampled them | Dragon’s tail swept 1/3 of stars from heaven Rev. 12:3 |
| Set itself up to be like the Prince | Dragon fought against Prince Michael Rev. 12:7 |
| Took away the daily sacrifice | Dragon created false system Mark 4:15, 2Cor 11:14, 2Thes 2:9 |
| Brought the sanctuary low | Dragon establishes synagogue of Satan Rev 2:9, 3:9 |
| Throws truth to ground & deceives | Dragon is father of lies John 8:44 |
| Persecutes the saints | Dragon persecutes the saints Rev. 12:13-17 |

Where does the little horn get his power? From the dragon!

But what is the dragon’s power?

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he [Christ] too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil” Hebrews 2:14.

The devil holds the power of death and what is the power of death?

Christ gives us the insight we need in John 17:3 “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

Eternal life is knowing God, then what would eternal death be? Not knowing God! Then Satan’s power of death are the lies that he tells about God, that we believe, that keep us from knowing God!

So what defiles the soul temple? The lies about God that Adam and Eve believed that broke their trust and confidence and relationship with God; the continued lies that we believe that prevent us from trusting God and being reconciled to Him.

If those persistent lies about God are not removed by the truth about God that Jesus Christ has brought, then Satan’s principles of selfishness continue to grow – the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits. These destructive elements strengthen within and instead of Christlike character developing we develop the character of the rebel, the Satanic character; and the soul, the individual created with



dignity, nobility of character, in God's image to represent Him to an onlooking universe, the being designed to be the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit instead of revealing Godlike character becomes a synagogue of Satan and the habitation of devils and reveals the Satanic character, ultimately ending in desolation and destruction.

The abomination that causes desolation is the abominations of lies about God, told by Satan and religious systems that results in the desolation of the image of God in man, the destruction of character and ultimately the desolation of the sanctuary – the sanctuary of the human soul.

What cleanses the sanctuary? And of course we all know this answer, we have been taught this since childhood – “The blood of Jesus” cleanses. But what does that mean? How does the blood of Jesus cleanse? Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.” (John 6:53-55). We know that Jesus was not promoting cannibalism, so His words must mean something else, what does it mean to drink His blood and eat His flesh?

Consider this historic view:

“In the study of the Bible the converted soul eats the flesh and drinks the blood of the Son of God, which He himself interprets as the receiving and doing of His words, that are spirit and life.” (Fundamentals of Christian Education 378).

“The leaven of truth works a change in the whole man, making the coarse refined, the rough gentle, the selfish generous. **By it [the truth] the impure are cleansed, washed in the blood of the Lamb.**” (Christ's Object Lessons 102).

The blood is symbolic of the truth that Jesus brought, the truth about God which wins to trust, but the blood is symbolic of more: Leviticus 17:11,14 tell us that the life is in the blood. Thus the blood is also symbolic of the perfect life of Jesus, which those who trust Him receive.

This represents the two phases of Christ's mission, the two phases in our salvation: Christ came to reveal truth to win to trust, but Christ also came to develop a perfect character which He offers as a free gift to all who trust Him. Therefore, the blood is symbolic of the truth revealed by Christ which cleanses the Spirit Temple of the lies about God and wins to trust and the blood is also symbolic of His perfect life, His perfect character which is reproduced in the Spirit Temple by the working of the Holy Spirit; **this application into our hearts of His character is symbolically taught as the cleansing of the sanctuary.** Thus to partake of His blood is to partake of the truth about God and the character of Christ, which cleanses the Spirit Temple from sin.

Here is another historic quote

“The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of



Days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by Malachi[3:1-3], are **descriptions of the same event**; and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25.” (p. GC 426).

Remember in the quote above four texts are all referring to the same event. Malachi 3:1-3 which is describing the same event, which states He comes to “purify the Levites”

Well who are the Levites? “You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1Pet 2:4) What is another name for a “spiritual house”? A sanctuary!

What is being cleansed? Doesn't it make sense that Jesus is cleansing His people from sin so we can live with Him again face to face? Doesn't the Bible say we shall see Him face to face for we shall be like Him?

Consider this quote:

“The cases of all are pending in the heavenly sanctuary. Day by day angels of God are watching the development of character... All defects must be remedied. The character must be assimilated to the character of Christ... At an infinite cost a fountain has been prepared for our cleansing. In the blood of the Son of God we may wash our garments of character, and make them white.” (ST, April 17, 1901).

When we study these things do we study with design law, realizing we are damaged by sin, out of harmony with God and His design for life and in need of healing and restoration. Or, do we accept the pagan view that God's law is imposed rules and we are in legal trouble and we need to get legal payments made and adjustment in legal accounts or records in heaven in order for God to legally stamp pardon by our names?

If you ask about the records in heaven being cleansed, simply inquire, what is recorded in those records?

- “At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose **name** is found written in the book—will be delivered.” Daniel 12:1
- “He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his **name** from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.” Revelation 3:5

What does name represent in the Bible? Character!



If you are an SDA, here is what one of the founders and the most important person in establishing this doctrine had to say:

Remember, **your character is being daguerreo-typed [photographed] by the great Master Artist in the record books of heaven**, as minutely as the face is reproduced upon the polished plate of the artist. What do the books of heaven say in your case? Are you conforming your character to the Pattern, Jesus Christ? Are you washing your robes of character and making them white in the blood of the Lamb?" (TSB 62.1, emphasis supplied)

"Every passing hour of the present is shaping our future life. These moments spent in carelessness, in self-pleasing, as if of no value, are deciding our everlasting destinies. The words we utter today will go on echoing when time shall be no more. **The deeds done today are transferred to the books of heaven, just as the features are transferred by the artist onto the polished plate.** They will determine our destiny for eternity, for bliss or eternal loss and agonizing remorse. **Character cannot be changed when Christ comes, nor just as a man is about to die. Character building must be done in this life.**" (TM 429.3, emphasis supplied)

What is recorded in the records are the unique identities and individualities of every person who puts their trust in Jesus.

When Jesus returns and raises the righteous at the first resurrection, will those righteous arise sinful, rebellious, carnal, or will they arise perfect and sinless?

Did those who died trusting in Jesus die with all their defects perfected, overcome, completely and totally eliminated and eradicated from their being, or did they still struggle with sin, but trusted in Jesus? Will they arise with those same defects?

Will the thief on the cross who trusted Jesus arise with the heart of a thief? Will Martin Luther, the great reforming arise with an alcohol problem and as an anti-Semite?

Then something needs to happen in them before the resurrection so that when they arise in the resurrections all residual defects of character have been removed. This is another aspect of Jesus' work in the heavenly sanctuary, in the cleansing of the records.

Here is another historic quote:

We believe without a doubt that Christ is soon coming. This is not a fable to us; it is a reality. **When He comes He is not to cleanse us of our sins, to remove from us the defects in our characters, or to cure us of the infirmities of our tempers and dispositions. If wrought for us at all, this work will all be accomplished before that time.**" (CCh 214.4, emphasis supplied)



Those who die trusting in Jesus have died with their hearts, minds, souls open to Him giving Him freedom to work, heal and cleanse. Any residuals not overcome while alive, Jesus completes while they are asleep in death.

So the big overview:

After Christ's victory at the cross, Satan's *man of sin*—the little-horn power, as Paul and Daniel describe him—wages war against God's people by attacking the truth about God. This evil power advances its assault on God's character by changing people's perception of God's law—it replaces the truth of God's design-law with the human imposed-law lie. This little-horn power—man of sin—thereby sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God (see Dan 7:25; 2Cor 10:3-5; 2Thes 2:4), by getting humans to conceive of God as an authoritarian dictator—an imposer of rules, who, in order to be just, must use His power to inflict punishment and death on the unrepentant. This little-horn power is winning the war of ideas by filling hearts and minds of people with imperial, dictatorial views of God until the Ancient of Days comes and gives judgment/discernment to the saints (see Dan 7:22).

God, looking down the corridors of time, tells His friend Daniel that 490 years remain for the Jewish people to be the avenue for the Messiah. In the middle of the last week of their mission, the Messiah will come and end the ceremonial system, and He will provide the remedy for human salvation (see Dn 9:24-27). But the little-horn power will arise after Christ's victory at the cross, and it will war against the saints until a message goes forth from God, proclaiming to the world: Be in awe of God, for the time has come for people to make a right judgment about God—to worship the Designer, Creator, Him who made the heavens, earth, seas and fountains of waters (see Rev 14:7).

The Three Angels' Message is specific in its design to turn the minds of people away from the imperial dictator-god with its false, imposed Roman-law construct, back to our Creator God, whose laws are the design-protocols upon which life is built. Those who accept the truth about God and His design-law understand their need for healing and transformation, and they cooperate with Jesus in His work of cleansing the sanctuary—their souls—so that they will be prepared to meet Him face to face. Those who reject the truth about God and His design-law continue to perpetuate the lie of the little horn and teach the investigative judgment concept through legal lenses, subvert the church, and obstruct the final healing message.

THURSDAY

The lesson goes from specific prophecies to typology, meaning symbols are a type and reality is the fulfillment or anti-type. Example, the sacrificial lamb is a type, Jesus is the fulfillment or the anti-type.

Understanding the Jewish sacrificial and feast economy as acted out lessons, theater, object lessons allows us to look past the symbolism to its fulfillment in reality—the antitype.



The annual feast days are examples of a type and antitype; they teach the plan of salvation from the fall of Adam to the earth restored:

Passover – as soon as man fell into sin God passed over their sins “he left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.” Rom 3:25

- Christ was the lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world. Rev 13:8
- Those who don’t have the healing life of Jesus applied to the doorpost of their hearts—symbolized by the lambs blood on the doorpost of the house—will die of unremedied sin
- Time covered by the Passover—From Adam’s sin until Jesus victory at the cross

Unleavened bread – immediately God began dispensing truth unmixed with error to nurture and save, but it was internalized by those in sin, represented by the bitter herbs.

- This also represents the time from Adam’s fall until Christ’s victory
- Eating the unleavened bread symbolizes the internalization of Jesus

Feast of First Fruits—The first fruits of the victory over death

- The Wave Sheaf represents Jesus who is the ultimate first fruit, who was buried and rose again in sinless perfection and is the unleavened or sinless bread of whom we partake
- Those who arose with him on resurrection morning to everlasting life

Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) The pouring out of the Holy Spirit to apply what Christ achieved and bring forth a harvest of healed souls

- This occurred after Christ’s death on the Cross as the benefits of His achievement were dispensed into trusting humans
- This feast symbolically spans the time from Pentecost AD 33 until the Loud Cry

Trumpets – a special message for the end time

- The Loud Cry—awake, prepare, get ready it is time to be reconciled and brought back into unity, at-one-ment with God again!
- Late 18th and early 19th Century – the Great Awakening in Christianity

Atonement – reunification with God, oneness with God

- The healing and restoration of Christlike character within; settling into the truth that one cannot be moved
- Removing the residual defects from all who trust Jesus so when they arise in the resurrection they are sinless and perfect in character
- From mid 19th Century until the second coming of Christ

Tabernacles—After we have been restored to at-one-ment in heart, mind, character Christ returns and we *Tabernacle* with Him again in the earth made new—our Eden Garden home for eternity!

We have an entire video series on the symbolism of the Sanctuary if you haven’t watched it you can stream it from our website, or we can ship you a free DVD if you have a US postal address.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We will RESUME meeting publicly at Collegedale City Hall starting June 6, 2020!

September 17-19 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC National Conference in Dallas, TX

October 3, 2020: Come and Reason will have a one day seminar in Chattanooga TN on Healing the Mind, Recovering from Sexual Abuse, the Impact of Digital Media on Kids and more. Details coming soon.

October 9-10, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Lakewood SDA church in Lakewood OH

November 6-7, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at an AACC River Conference at Plano, TX. More info at <http://theriverconference.com/>