



## 2025 Allusions, Images, Symbols - Lesson 1 Some Principles of Prophecy

by Tim Jennings

### SABBATH

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When you have studied Bible prophecy, what are the principles that you have found helpful?

In the aftermath of my program entitled [Spiritual Warfare: Angels, Demons, Quantum Physics, and Your Brain](#) I have noticed many critics of the program have trouble differentiating when to take something literal and when to take it symbolically, allegorically, as an analogy, metaphor, object lesson, illustration, or simply representing a concept or idea.

For instance, the language of being in someone, like the Holy Spirit being in someone or casting out a demon, many people think very concretely. To them the language of being in someone means being inside the body, inside the cells. Some people have a hard time understanding this language is about who we have in our heart and mind as the one most loved and trusted, whose principles we align with, whose methods we prefer and practice, whose animating energy have we internalized and act upon; it is not describing having another person inside our body.

Likewise, when it comes to understanding Bible prophecy it is important to differentiate symbols from the reality those symbols represent. If the symbol of metaphor doesn't connect directly to some reality, helping us understand that reality more clearly, then it is not symbolic or metaphorical, it is fantasy, pretend, make-believe, in other words, falsehood, myth, and that is Satan's world. He is the father of lies. He gets many people trapped in falsehood by getting them to believe in the metaphor or symbol but not the reality to which it points.

And the next important step, after we agree that the symbol or metaphor must be accurately linked to the reality to which it points is to correctly decode the symbol.

And one of the principles for that is that the Bible is its own decryption key, the Bible is its own decoder, its own standard for what the symbols mean. In the same way an English dictionary is the standard for English, and using a foreign language dictionary to define English words would introduce error, so too, using non-biblical sources to decode the symbols will introduce error.

Notice what I said and didn't say. I didn't say non-biblical sources, Bible commentaries, other Christian writers, cannot be used to gain insight into the Bible and its prophecies, they can be used, but when reading those other writings, we must confirm their interpretations are found in and harmonize with the Scripture.

For instance, Jesus said unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you have not part with me. John 6:53. Jesus was not talking about cannibalism, this is a metaphor, symbol. If we take it literally, we get offended and disgusted, like the Jews did who heard this. If we attach the wrong meaning to it, we misunderstand and fail to benefit, like Frankish abbot Paschasius Radbertus, who in 831 released a paper titled *De corpore et sanguine Christi* (Concerning Christ's body and blood) in which he taught that Christ cannot lie so when taking the symbols of bread and wine they must turn into the literal flesh and blood of Jesus. Or many today, who believe that there is power in the red corpuscles, that if we could get a shroud with Jesus blood on it we would have power over sin. Another wrong meaning is that the blood represents His death, the legal death penalty paid which then is taught that Jesus offers to His Father in heaven to pay for our sins.

Both the superstitious relic collecting and penal legal blood payments lead hearts and minds away from the reality that Jesus taught. It is when we return to understanding the reality to which the symbols point, as decoded by Scripture, that we grow in truth and grace.

Jesus is the Word made flesh as John describes. Thus, the flesh of Jesus is symbolic of the Word of God, the truth. As we partake of literal food, flesh or bread, it becomes building blocks of our body and gives us strength. As we partake of truth of God it become building blocks of our minds, characters, and each truth we embrace and apply changes the substructures of our neurons, our tubulin molecules realign, and this changes our quantum resonance making our hearts more sensitive to the Holy Spirit. As we embrace enough truth to win us to trust and accept Jesus in trust thereby opening the heart, then we receive the new heart and right spirit, the new animating energy, the new life, which is symbolized by the blood, as the Bible tells us the life is in the blood Leviticus 17:11.

Another example is the symbol of the veil in the temple separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place which was torn in two when Christ died.

- Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body... Hebrews 10:19, 20 NIV84

Do we enter by the death penalty payment into God's presence, or do we enter by the sinless, holy, righteous life of Jesus that we ingest, as Paul wrote, "It is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me" or as Peter wrote, "we become partakers of the divine nature."

What is it that enables us to enter into God's presence? God getting paid by a blood payment so He gets His anger and wrath under control and doesn't hurt us? God getting a legal payment so He isn't required to enforce His law with external power and execute us? Or we are reborn, transformed, purified by the life of Christ so that we can stand in God's life-giving glory and thrive?

And what about the curtain, what does it represent? It is commonly taught that the curtain represents Jesus' body, and that at the cross God used divine power to execute Jesus for our sins to enforce the law and pay the legal penalty.

This symbol is interpreted in this way because people use outside the Bible tools; they use human law as the basis of understanding God's law; and they assume that it was Jesus that was torn by God at the cross.

But think through the symbolism of that system. The daily priests, dressed in white, working in the holy place represent who? The priesthood of believers who have the righteousness of Christ, symbolized by their white robes. And the holy place, covered in gold, represents the church on Earth.

So, a priest, working in the holy place, longing to see God more fully, to enter into God's presence and be reconciled to God, literally looks toward the most holy place and sees what? A curtain, a barrier, something is obstructing his view and access to God, and that something was destroyed, ripped open by Jesus' death.

Do you think that Jesus is the one obstructing our way to the Father and God had to kill Jesus and get Him out of the way so that we could have both a clear view of the Father and clear access to the Father? Or did Jesus teach,

- I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do... I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. John 17:4, 6 NIV84.
- "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him... Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? John 14:6-7, 9-10, NIV84.

The curtain is the only element of the entire sanctuary system that God used power to destroy. So if we use the Bible as our interpreter, what is it that the Bible says God destroys through Jesus' death?

- Since the children have flesh and blood, he 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 NIV84.
- Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 2 Timothy 1:10 NIV84.
- The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 1 John 3:8 NIV84.

What separates us from God and causes death?

- The lies we believe about God that break love and trust and cause fear and selfishness.
- Our own fallen fear-infected, selfish, carnal nature, the unclean life with which we are born which Jesus destroyed and replaced through His sinless life and sacrificial death.

The obstruction that blocks our way to God is not Jesus, it is the lies told by Satan that we believe that prevent us from trusting Him, and our own fear-ridden, selfish carnal nature, the spirit of fear and selfishness inherited from Adam. Jesus destroyed the lies and destroyed the infection of fear and selfishness and restored into humanity the sinless, righteous, holy, life, spirit, animating energy of pure love and trust, and we become partakers of that through faith, through trust, and are reborn with a new life, the life of Christ. And thus, the obstruction, the barrier, the veil that prevented us from returning to the full presence and unity with God was destroyed by Jesus at the cross!

And the angels on the veil, represent the spiritual war going on, the battle between the forces of heaven and the forces of Satan warring for every soul, as described in Daniel 10, when Gabriel and the angel prince of Persia were using their quantum energy to influence the spiritual energy of Cyrus. Godly angels can war with evil angels to influence us with love, truth, and trust in God, but godly angels could not reveal the truth about God—only God could do that. And godly angels could not be born as a human and destroy the infection of fear and selfishness in the human spirit and restore a perfect, sinless, holy, righteous spirit into humanity. Only Jesus could do that. Thus Jesus is the way through the veil, not the veil.

- Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body... Hebrews 10:19, 20 NIV84

His body in the text can refer to either the veil or the new and living way—the reader must decide to which it is referring. My view is that Jesus' body is not the veil, His life, His death, His achievement is the new and living way through the veil. Thus, I render this text in the Remedy as:

- Since Jesus died to bring us the truth about God and to eradicate selfishness from humanity, we no longer need to be afraid but can confidently enter the Most Holy Place—God's very presence—because Christ's death revealed the truth about God and ripped open the veil of lies told by Satan that blinded our minds, and destroyed the infection of selfishness that separated us from him. Hebrews 10:19,20 REM.

If we use other sources to decode and apply other meanings it leads us away from the truth.

Let's, as practice, list some of the Bible symbols and decode their meaning:

- The sacrificial lamb
  - Jesus John 1:29
- A dove
  - Both Jesus as a sacrificial animal but also the Holy Spirit who descended in the form of a dove Mt 3:16
- A sword
  - The Word of God Heb 4:12
- A rock or stone 1 Cor 10:4; 1 Pet 2:6-7; 1 Pet 2:4-5

- Jesus: Rock that gave water and chief cornerstone
  - The redeemed: living stones built together into a house for the Lord
- Ladder or Stairway
  - Jesus the connecting link, path, way, from heaven to Earth Gen 28:11-13; John 1:51
- A throne
  - Rulership, upon which Jesus sits, and God's throne is depicted as sitting upon rotating wheels, which symbolizes the living law of love, Isa 6:1; Eze 10:1; Rev 4:2
- Wind
  - The Holy Spirit, the animating energy of God that gives life. John 3:8; Acts 2:2
- Fire
  - The Holy Spirit, the purifying and cleansing energy of truth and love that burns out lies, fear, and selfishness purifying the heart and mind. Acts 2:3
- Water
  - Holy Spirit and Word of God Isa 44:3; Matt 3:11; Ephesians 5:26, the Spirit is the Spirit of truth, which inspired the Scriptures, so the Holy Spirit cleanses through the truth, which is revealed in the Word of God. As we partake of the Word, lies are removed, our tubulin substructure is changed, our resonant harmonic is changed, and our spirits, our animating energy is change through truth, love, and trust. We detach our identity, our self, from being motivated by fear and selfishness and live motivated by love and trust through the empower and indwelling Holy Spirit who brings us the life of Christ.
- Lampstand
  - The Word of God Ps 119:105
  - The central post of gold—Jesus the living Word, the Word made flesh
  - The six bowls attached to the central stand represents humanity that Jesus partook, connected to Christ—7 bowls, perfection, humanity being perfected by Christ
  - The lamp also represents the church, the people connected to Christ who are to be a light to the world and let our light so shine that others see God's glory through us
- Oil
  - Represents the Holy Spirit that transforms the heart and mind and empowers a person to shine brightly for the Lord. Just like wind is energy so too oil is energy that animates, motivates, and moves. And thus the oil represents the animating energy of the Holy Spirit of truth and love that establishes trust. And the oil also represents Christlike character built within the person through the individual choosing to following the leading of the Holy Spirit—this is why the foolish virgins cannot get oil from the wise virgins, but they must assimilate the truth for themselves and say yes to the Holy Spirit and develop their own character in harmony with God.
- Serpent
  - Satan Gen 3:1; Rev 12:9;
  - Jesus Num 21:9, the bronze serpent, representing Jesus taking the terminal sin condition upon Himself and destroying it
- Yeast
  - Sin, fear, selfishness, pride, lies Mark 6:11, 16

- The kingdom of heaven, the principles of truth, love, freedom the animating Spirit of God Matthew 13:33
- How is yeast symbolic of both sin and the truth, love, and trust? Because yeast gets inside the dough and makes changes in the base material altering the result, sin, fear, selfishness works in the heart and mind altering the spirit, the animating energy, drives, motives which deforms and destroys the character. Likewise, truth, love, and trust when chosen, when taken into the heart and mind change the tubulin substructure of our quantum matrix, altering our resonant harmonic, bringing us into harmony with the Holy Spirit, and with the new animating, motivating energy of the Holy Spirit, of love and trust, we make different choices and this transforms the character. So, both work on the inner man making changes in the bread, the character, the person, the outcome.
- Dragon
  - Satan Rev 12:9
- Beasts
  - Nations or people Daniel 7 (also lamb and dragon are beasts)
- Harvest
  - Second coming and the reaping of souls Joel 3:12-13: Matt 13:29-30
- Tearing garments
  - Anger/sorrow Gen 37:29,34
- Shaking dust off
  - Rejection Matt 10:14
- Sitting in sackcloth
  - Repentance Ps 69:11

When we think about Bible prophecy there are some other principles that I find helpful:

- If one part of a passage is symbolic or metaphor, then the rest is symbolic or metaphor unless clear reasons to be literal are expressed in the text.
- Spiritual things are spiritually discerned, this means that we, in our natural, fear-ridden, selfish motivation, our carnal animating energy are unable to accurately comprehend Scripture. Without the enlightening of the Holy Spirit we will always misconstrue and misread Scripture, bringing in carnal and worldly interpretations to what we read. Thus, to accurately comprehend Scripture we must always humbly submit ourselves to God and willingly ask for and following the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- The theme of Scripture that of the conflict between Christ and Satan in the larger setting of a universe wide war. This larger view must be included in our understanding, it makes a big difference in understanding the meaning correctly.
  - Understanding this larger view immediately causes us to realize that the war is not over might and power. The devils know who has the power and it terrifies them. The fact that God didn't use power immediately in heaven to destroy Lucifer and his rebel angels, is evidence that proves the issue isn't a legal one that can be resolved by legal solutions and imposing legal penalties. To destroy sin requires more than destroying the originator of sin, it requires destroying his lies from the hearts and minds of all

intelligent beings in the universe. If God were to use external power to inflict punishment, to destroy His enemies, it would be a violation of liberty that would destroy love and incite rebellion and destroy individuality, which would spread sin, not remove it. This is why God wins, not by might and power but by the Spirit (Zech 4:6). It is only by the outworking of the Spirit of truth and love working on the inner being bring intelligent beings to be fully settled in their own mind, intellectually and spiritually into the living law of God, into unbreakable trust, that God wins. And this is why we have this long history with God providing such costly evidence to win us to love and trust and provide us a new life, a new sinless spirit restored into humanity by Jesus.

- If we don't understand this larger view and how reality works, the design laws of God, then we can take the various symbols of Scripture and misconstrue them to teach God is like Satan alleges, an imperial dictator who is the source of pain, suffering, and death inflicted as so-called just punishment for sin. And that view undermines trust and perpetuates rebellion and sin.
- God's character of love never changes, therefore accurate interpretations will never result in God being represented in a character other than love.
- God's law of love never changes, therefore accurate interpretations will always be in harmony with God's law of love.
  - Understanding both God's design laws of love, liberty, truth, worship and all others, and God's character of love, become standards, boundaries, benchmarks, touchstones, litmus tests, tools we can utilize to test interpretations of the Bible. Any interpretation of the Bible which causes one to conclude God is other than love is in error. Any interpretation that causes one to place God in the position of violating His design laws, like the law of liberty, is in error.

Other principles you have found helpful?

What is the purpose of the Bible in general? It is the revelation of God to fallen and sinful human beings for the purpose of communicating the truths essential for salvation from sin.

The Bible is not given to teach mathematics, or how to build internal combustion engines, or textile manufacturing, or any of a myriad of other worthy lines of study. The Bible is about salvation, which is about healing hearts and minds, which is about character development, maturity, health and wellbeing, which when the truths of the Bible are internalized, are applied to the individual, not only heals that person, but results in them advancing in any other line of inquiry or industry they pursue—why?

- Because the reborn Christian is animated by the Spirit of God, the Spirit of truth and love.
- This Spirit leads them to be a lover of truth, thus they will eagerly pursue truth in all domains, they will be quicker to recognize falsehood, they will be more sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit which brings greater insights and knowledge of reality.
- They will be people of integrity, honesty, loyalty, faithfulness, who see the best in others, who invest in helping others and building others up. They will forgive those who wrong them, and will take ownership over their own shortcomings, which means they mature, grow, and continue to develop themselves, which means they will have less conflict, less interpersonal stress, and are healthier.
- They care for their spirit temples, don't abuse their bodies with toxins, drugs, tobacco, alcohol; they eat healthy diets, exercise regularly; take regular rest to sleep and Sabbath rest each week with God so they don't burn out, and thus they are physically healthier, which makes their minds more efficient and sharp. And this enables them to be more efficient in all they do, no matter what field of personal application.
- They actively ask for God's leading, partnership, and seek to glorify God in their work and thus they receive God's oversight, protection, and blessings
- They apply the design laws of God, truth, love, freedom and create atmospheres where creativity, individuality, and personal development thrive and improve.

So while the Bible is not a book on all subjects, it is the book on the most important subject, the truth about God and His design laws, methods, principles, the sin problem—which is the cause of all pain, suffering, and hardship and death, and God's solution for it, and how we can cooperate with God to experience healing, recreation, rebirth, a new life with new motives and divine power to succeed, and when we do that then no matter what vocation we engage in we will be advancing God's kingdom and have fulfillment with a life of meaning and purpose culminating in eternal life.

But within the plan of salvation which is the overarching theme of the Bible, what is the purpose of Bible prophecy?

- Is it to predict future events?

Jesus said,

- I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. John 14:29 NIV84

Was the reason Jesus gave so they could predict the future, or when the events He predicted occurred they would look back and realize Jesus was not caught off guard, He really does know the future, He really is in charge, we don't need to doubt, have fear, or wonder, but we can have ever increasing confidence, faith, and trust in God?

So, is the primary purpose about prognostication, or is the primary purpose to give us confidence in God along with hope for eventual deliverance from this world of sin? In other words, as we recognize



fulfilled Bible prophecy, does it serve as evidence to us, especially those of us living in the last generation, those who are alive when Jesus appears, so that we have confidence/trust in God and won't give into fear and break trust when the final events of the beastly system arises, that we will be like Daniel and the three worthies and stand faithful to God, trusting Him, knowing He has a plan, even if we are threatened by death?

Are there other benefits to studying Bible prophecy? Yes, understanding the landscape of the war and learning to recognize the methods of evil in contrast to the principles of God, to discern the weapons of Satan and His forces and differentiate them from the weapons of God. To learn how to wield the weapons of God in governance of self, and to keep our hearts daily surrendered to God.

Can Bible prophecy be used by Satan to interfere with God's plan?

Did the Jews, 2000 years ago, misinterpret Bible prophecy in such a way that it was one of the factors that led them to reject Jesus? Didn't they interpret Bible prophecy to teach that the Jews would become a ruling power, dominating the world, and the Messiah would rule the nations with a rod of iron, using physical might and power to crush their enemies; and therefore when Jesus came advancing a spiritual kingdom, not a physical one, their understanding of Bible prophecy contributed to their rejecting Jesus?

What about today? Could Christians misconstrue Bible prophecy in such a way that it could lead them to side with Satan when he impersonates Christ? Any thoughts on how that could happen, how prophecy and the Bible could be misconstrued?

What about the idea that God's law functions like human law and that justice is the infliction of just penalties? If people believe this, then will they be vulnerable to a supernatural being who comes with miraculous signs and wonders and proclamations of love, but who also says, that justice requires all those who refuse to repent and worship him to be justly punished, so they will be imprisoned and threatened with death?

Could some be deceived by believing the second coming of Jesus is going to be a secret thing?

But Jesus warned against this, yet millions today ignore Jesus' warning and are looking for a secret coming. Jesus said to His disciples, prophesying about His second coming:

- If **any man** shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; **believe it not**. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in **the secret chambers**; believe it not. **For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.** Matthew 24:23-27 KJV, emphasis mine.

What is the purpose of this prophecy? To encourage us that Jesus is coming again, and also protect us from the counterfeits, and the false teachings about the second coming that will deceive, all but the elect.

## MONDAY

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The title for the day's lesson is "God Wants to Be Understood."

What do you think about this title?

I totally agree—no question about it, why does God want to be understood?

Do you want to be understood by your spouse, your children, your colleagues, church members, and friends? Why?

Doesn't being understood mean that we are known for who we are?

And what happens to people when they come to know God for who He is?

- Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:3 NIV84

What does it mean to know God? It means to have an intimate friendship with Him, to be restored to love and trust, and when this happens we surrender our hearts, open ourselves to receive a new heart and right spirit, to be healed, recreated, and renewed.

God wants to be understood NOT because God has a need and if He is not understood He will feel inadequate, deficient, lonely, bitter, resentful, angry or any other selfish motive. No, God wants to be understood because He is truth and love and the source of life and to understand and know God is restoration of love and trust, this is restoration to unity with God, this is life. It is for our good, for the healing of the universe, for the elimination of sin, because sin is based on lies about God, which break the circle of love and trust. Thus God wants to be understood so the lies about Him will be removed from hearts and minds and all those He loves, you and me, will be healed and saved from sin.

The lesson makes the case that God is an infinite being and therefore beyond our ability to fully or completely know, but the lesson makes the following critical and excellent point:

- "Thought we will never understand everything, we can understand what is necessary for our salvation." *Adult SS Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2025*, Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy, p. 8.

We are not saved by having a complete knowledge of all truth. In fact, when Jesus comes there will not be one saved person who correctly understands every detail of Scripture. We will all have things to

learn and unlearn regarding various facts, details, interpretations of Scripture. Meaning, we are not saved by knowing right doctrinal facts—we are saved by knowing God and Jesus. If one knows right Bible doctrines, like the Sabbath, tithing, approved foods, etc., but doesn't know God and Jesus, then they will end up like the Jews who crucified Christ—knowing the right doctrines but being enemies of God.

The saved will come from every nation, tribe, kindred, and people, from all backgrounds and cultures, and from many divergent denominations, which means the saved will not all believe the exact same doctrines. But all of the saved will have baseline requirements to salvation in common. All the saved will:

- Have responded to the working of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of love and truth
- They will all have hearts that love truth and are willing to move forward in godly truth as they comprehend it
- They will have all been reborn and been recreated with new hearts and minds that are animated by the life of Jesus that they receive through the indwelling Holy Spirit—this is having the law of God written upon the heart and mind, the living law of truth and love that is restored only through trust, only through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- And they all live lives of love for others

The wicked die in the end because, as Paul wrote, they did not love the truth and thus be saved. 2 Thes 2:10. Paul didn't say they didn't love their church, their religious system, their creeds, fundamental beliefs, doctrines, ceremonies, or rituals—he said they did not love the truth.

The Jews that crucified Christ loved their nation, their temple, their religion, their Scriptures, their doctrines—but they did not love truth, meaning when truth was presented that differed from their understanding, truth that would require them to advance, to surrender old false ideas, and to reinterpret Scripture in new light—they resisted and rejected it and thus their hearts hardened and whatever light they had became darkness to them.

This demonstrates a trap of Satan that our lesson is trying to help protect us against. Because God is infinite, because we will never become God and never know all things, there is NEVER a time when we come to know all truth, there is NEVER a time when there is no more truth for us to learn. Understanding this then, the righteous, those who love God, those who are led by the Spirit of God, are lovers of truth, we love the truth and are eager and willing to move forward and advance in truth at the earliest possible moment our finite minds can comprehend new truth.

But the lost set up their creeds, their fundamental beliefs, their religious systems, which the beastly system of Revelation will be, and any new light, new truth, that arises from the study of God's word that contradicts the current creed is not only resisted and rejected, it is often labeled heresy for questioning the authority of the religious leaders and institution, just like the Jews did to Jesus 2000 years ago. We saw this during the Reformation when truth was advancing and those in the organized system rejected it and called those advancing the truth heretics and sought to burn them at the stake.

Do we find this happening today in our various churches today? I have seen it.

But the lovers of truth never stop growing, advancing, and developing in the truth as God reveals it to us. And just a couple of verses after Paul describes how the wicked perish because they refuse the truth that would heal them, he wrote this:

- But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to **be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.** 2 Thessalonians 2:13 NIV84, emphasis mine.

Notice, it is by the truth we are sanctified, the truth sets us free, we are washed by the Spirit and the Word (Ephesians 5:26). As the Holy Spirit brings the truth to our minds and we say yes, as we accept it and choose to apply, it is then that we experience encoding of that truth in the tubulin substructure of our brains and our spiritual energy, quantum resonance, changes coming into closer harmony with God and the Holy Spirit and we become ever more sensitive to the movements and empowerment and leading of the Holy Spirit. We are literally being transformed and healed by the truth. The sword of the Spirit, the Word of truth, is cutting away our individuality from the spirit of fear and selfishness and merging it, connecting it, bonding it, marrying it, to the Spirit of love and trust.

Consider how the Bible describes this very reality:

- For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to **dividing soul and spirit**, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 NIV84, emphasis mine.

This is why Satan hates the truth and wants us to instead encode lies and false beliefs into our brains, for by the false beliefs, the lies, we encode a different harmonic of fear and distrust which perpetuates selfishness and keeps our spirits unclean.

I found this quote in the Bible commentary *The Desire of Ages* and thought it expressed this reality quite profoundly, and was particularly impressive in light of our understanding of neurobiology and how beliefs get encoded into the tubulin substructure of our neurons altering our spiritual energy.

- The Comforter is called “the Spirit of truth.” His work is to define and maintain the truth. **He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth**, and thus He becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood. **It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind. By directing men to false standards, he misshapes the character.** Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses **truth upon the heart. Thus He exposes error, and expels it from the soul.** It is by the Spirit of truth, working through the word of God, that Christ subdues His chosen people to Himself. *The Desire of Ages* p. 671, emphasis mine.

With this in mind, do you see the assault on truth occurring around the world by various humanistic theories? The idea that a person's own feelings, attitudes, wishes, desires, opinions, and beliefs are "their truth" and thus are to be respected and recognized as legitimate. And anyone who rejects another person's sincerely held feelings about themselves is a bigot, sexist, hater of some sort?

Our opinions, feelings, wishes, dreams, hopes, and wants do not change objective reality. While people are free to choose to believe anything they want, it is not true that all beliefs are equally healthy, they are not. Some beliefs are positively harmful, first because if they are false and the lies imbed into the brain which corrupt the spirit and increase fear and selfishness thereby corrupting the character, and second by leading to behaviors that are harmful to self and others because they violate the laws life and health are built upon.

Just look around at the outcomes in our society where people are given license to live out their feelings as if those feelings define reality—what is demonstrated? Increasing dysfunction, worsening mental and emotional health problems, greater relationship problems, more addictions, more chaos in communities, and a general breakdown in the fabric of society, community respect, love, and trust.

All who have eyes to see and ears to hear, who retain the ability to reason and think for self, who can still differentiate facts from opinion, truth from feelings, reality from propaganda, can see all around us the destruction that comes when people believe the lie that their feelings are the barometer of truth. No, in fact, the Bible teaches that our feelings lead us into temptation, that the human heart is deceitful above all things and utterly wicked. And the evidence is clear for all who want to be lovers of truth to see.

## **TUESDAY**

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The lesson asks us to read Daniel 12:4

- "But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge." Daniel 12:4 NIV84.

What does this mean?

That the understanding of the meaning of this book will not be understood until the time of the end, but once humanity reaches the time of the end, then the knowledge and understanding of this prophecy will increase.

Has this happened? Yes, it is a fact of history that starting in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, through study of the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, that the Great Awakening occurred, which caused the Christian world to begin preaching the nearness of the second coming of Christ. But more specifically, the understanding of the prophecies of Daniel increased since that time, which is a biblical fulfillment that gives us confidence that we are in the last days. Jesus is coming soon.

Are there other prophecies and fulfillments of Scripture that confirm, in addition to Daniel 12:4, that we are in the last days?

## 1. SCOFFERS

- “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation” (2 Peter 3:3, 4 NIV84).

This sign was fulfilled in the late 18th and early 19th centuries during the Enlightenment, which directly opposed the Great Awakening. The Great Awakening was a religious movement that called people’s attention to the nearness of the second coming of Christ. But this movement was countered by the Enlightenment, in which godless scientific views and human reason replaced a belief in God, and godless evolutionism spread throughout the world. In the wake of godless evolution came communism and other godless philosophies that scoff at the idea that Jesus is coming again.

Not only is the world today filled with scoffers, but the critics of God have come to dominate the scientific, educational, and media landscape, creating a societal attitude that those who continue to look for Christ’s return are less educated, ignorant, or foolish.

2. The 1260-year prophecy of Revelation 13, which began in 538 AD and ended in 1798.

3. Prophecy of Daniel 8:14, 2300 years which ended in 1844.

4. The rise of the King of the North as prophesied in Daniel 11 and taking the power of the king of the South.

## 5. LOVE OF MOST WILL GROW COLD

- Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold (Matthew 24:12 NIV84).

Because of the increase in wickedness – which is all the violations of God’s designs, laws, methods, and principles – the love in the hearts of most people grows cold. Because of the denial of God and the rise of the lies of secularism, humanism, socialism, evolutionism; because of the breakdown of families; because of the assault on our common heritage and community values, love is dying in the human heart.

## 6. SO CAUGHT UP IN ENTERTAINMENT AND LIVING, PEOPLE ARE UNAWARE

- As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Matthew 24:37–39 NIV84.

Incredible! The people before the Flood knew nothing about what was going to happen despite Noah preaching for 120 years and building a giant boat. How did they not know? Because they were consumed with pleasure-seeking, eating, drinking, and marrying. They were too busy either being entertained or living their lives to be bothered with eternal realities.

This is exactly the state of the world today: It is caught up in increasing consumption of mind-altering substances, or leaving reality behind for their preferred fantasy world of video games, social media activity, TV shows, movies, sports, concerts, amusement parks, or anything else to consume and distract the mind. This is the world today – ignoring the warnings of Jesus, ignoring the signs of the end all around, and living merely for the pleasures of the moment.

Other fulfillments or signs that confirm we are at the time of the end?

## **WEDNESDAY**

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The lesson gives a great illustration on Bible study, in the second paragraph we read,

- In some ways, studying the Bible is not unlike assembling a large jigsaw puzzle. If you gather just two or three pieces together, it is nearly impossible to discern the entire picture.” *Adult SS Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2025*, Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy, p. 10.

Isn't that true? I have found this to be true so often when talking with people that opinions and beliefs are formed on one text, two texts, or a few, but not incorporating and balancing the entire weight of Scripture, in harmony with the integrative evidenced-based approach.

The more data points we can hold in our mind and bring to bear on the question the better and more accurate our picture will be.

## **THURSDAY**

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The lesson asks the following question in the third paragraph,

- “What remains to be answered, however, is why God would speak in symbols instead of being forthright? Why for example, would Peter cryptically refer to the city of Rome as Babylon, in 1 Peter 5:13?” *Adult SS Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2025*, Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy, p. 11.

This is the outworking of the law of exertion, if you want something to get stronger you must exercise it. If you want strong musical ability you must practice your instrument, strong language skill you

must speak the language, if you want strong ability to think, reason, discern, and comprehend then one must think, reason, and discern for themselves.

One does not learn mathematics by memorizing an answer key to the questions, or by someone telling them the answers. They must be instructed on math and then apply it through problem solving.

The Bible is written in such a way that it not only contains the truth essential to salvation, but is presented in such a way that it requires us to think, to weigh evidences, to develop our minds, abilities, to mature.

Nothing is so designed to help our minds develop that the prayerful and humble study of the Bible integrated with science and life experiences.