

## A SUMMARY OF BIBLE PROPHECY

These few pages briefly outline the events leading to the second coming of Jesus Christ. The primary resource materials are the Bible and the research of Rev. Hal Lindsey. His book, "Prophecy For The Now Generation", will be published soon.

First a word of caution. The greatest enemies of prophecy are those, who professing to be friends of prophecy, try to place dates on all future events. When these dates come and go, with no results, they certainly appear foolish. Also, we can expect great opposition from those who reject the claims of Christ. For if prophecy is true, it makes all of His claims even more real. Many can not bear this thought, and they will go to no end to make fun of the believer in prophecy. (Read the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter).

Many are bothered by the symbolism of prophecy; that is, the beasts, horns, etc. The book of Revelations seems to be the focal point of prophecy, but every symbol is explained elsewhere in the Bible. A concordance is quite necessary for you to trace these words and concepts.

Perhaps one of the more familiar examples of prophecy is the 53<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Isaiah. This predicts the coming of Christ, His rejection by the Jews, and His death and bearing of our sins.

The "time-clock" of prophecy is Israel. By watching them, we know where God is on His schedule. In spite of great persecution and scattering, they were to come back together as a nation (Ezekiel 37, 7-14). We saw this happen in 1948. They also need to rebuild their temple, but the land on which to build it was in Old Jerusalem --- in Arab hands. This ground was retaken in the 6-day war of June 1967. The Jews are apparently planning to rebuild the temple soon, as evidenced by the hiring of a Philadelphia architect and busy excavation and land-clearing around the temple site. We can expect Israel to become increasingly prosperous.

Daniel, around 600 BC, saw four beasts come up out of the sea. (Dan 7, 3-7). These four beasts are four kings (Dan 7, 17). Daniel was seeing the emergence of four great gentile empires. The first was the Babylonian empire (Dan 2, 37) under King Nebuchadnezzar. The second empire (Dan 2, 39) would be a ram with two horns (Dan 8, 3). The horns are the kings of Media and Persia (Dan 8, 20). The Media-Persian empire conquered the Babylonians in 530 BC. The third empire, or he-goat, came from the west (Dan 8, 5), and the ram could not stand before him (Dan 8, 21). Alexander the Great conquered the Media-Persian empire in 331 BC. In the prime of his life Alexander died and his kingdom was divided among four generals (Dan 8, 8).

The fourth beast is the Roman Empire, which was different and more powerful than the rest (Dan 7, 19). Rome conquered the Greeks in 63 BC. Dan 7, 23 is describing the Roman Empire at Christ's first coming. Then in Dan 7, 24-27 he describes a revived Roman Empire with 10 horns or kings. There have been many useless attempts to revive this empire -- Napoleon, Hitler, etc., but eventually it will be accomplished in the name of peace.

Israel will be the center of conflict. To her north will be a great army, The King of the North (Ezekiel 38, 1-4; Dan 11, 40-45; Joel 2, 20), which can be traced through Hebrew and Greek to the USSR. To the south we have Persia, Cush (Black Africa) and Put (all Arabs) in alliance (Ezekiel 38, 5; Dan 11, 40). To the east we have the Kings of the East (Rev 16, 12-16; Rev 9, 14-16), with an army of 200,000,000 soldiers. Red China has already boasted of being able to field this many men.

But the power to the west of Israel, the revived 10-nation Roman empire, will be the strongest. (The European Common Market, in the summer of 1969, agreed to have a 10-nation inner core.). It will be led by a great man of peace. He will have great psychic powers. He will seem to be moral and have great passion for the world. He will even seem to be like Christ. He will appear to have received a mortal wound and then recover (Rev 13, 3). Nearly everyone will turn to him as the answer for peace (Rev 13, 4). He will exercise power for 3½ years (Rev 13, 5). His power comes from the dragon (Rev 13, 2) which is Satan (Rev 12, 9). (One other time Satan offered his Kingdom (Luke 4, 5-7)). The believers may not see this time of peace because of the secret coming of Christ (I Thess. 5, 2-11). This is before His second coming which will be to establish a 1000-year reign.

The apparent order of events will then be as follows:

1. Secret coming of Christ for believers--first the dead, then the living (I Thess. 4, 15-18).
2. The coming of the great man of peace (antichrist). The 10-nation confederacy grows in strength.
3. A false prophet is established in Jerusalem (Rev 13, 11-12). (Notice the Satanic trinity; dragon; beast and false prophet in Rev 16, 13).
4. The antichrist will sign a covenant with Israel, guaranteeing their security.
5. 3½ years of peace but great persecution for Christians who are still on earth (Rev 13, 7; Rev 13, 15-18).
6. The antichrist will set himself in the temple of Jerusalem, proclaim to be God (II Thess. 2, 4).
7. 3½ years of destruction (Dan 11, 36).
8. King of South (Arab-Egypt alliance) makes war with Israel (Dan 11, 40).
9. King of North (Russia) comes like a whirlwind against Israel (Dan 11, 40-41; Ez 38, 14-16).
10. Russia double-crosses Egypt (Dan 11, 42).
11. Edom and Moab, regions south-east of Israel, will be safe (Dan 11, 41; Math 24 ).
12. After conquering Egypt, Russia will be alarmed by news from the east and north (Dan 11, 44).
13. Russian army will be completely destroyed, either by God or by revived Roman empire, in the mountains of Israel (Ez 39, 1-16).
14. The next phase of the war is in Rev 16, 12-16. The Kings of the East and revived Roman empire come to a showdown at Armageddon. One-third of the population is killed.
15. The return of Christ to the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14, 1-5). A great east-west fault opens in the earth. (Seismic studies of Israel show that it is laced with faults, the largest in the world running from north of Israel down to Lake Tanganyika.) Christians will flee into the east-west fault (valley) for safety.
16. Terrible holocaust (Zech 14, 12-15).
17. Christ comes to claim His Kingdom that He won at the cross (Rev 19, 11-16).

Let us pray that we will not become so infatuated with prophecy that we forget the object of all our faith, Jesus Christ. He is our way, truth and life.

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