

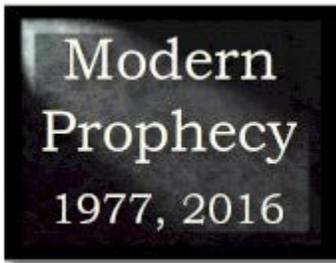
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## Modern Prophecy: 1977, 2016

by Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D, July 1977  
 Comments and arrangement by David Sielaff, July 2016

Read the accompanying [Newsletter for July 2016](#)



Many of Dr. Martin's early articles still have relevance today, though he changed his understanding of several prophecies, even as he grew in grace and in knowledge (2 Peter 3:18). When change was warranted by new evidence, he never hesitated to "change on a dime" to correct teaching. While our understanding of the Scriptures advances, the entire subject of prophecy seems to become more complex the deeper we dig into any area of study.

The article below by Dr. Martin was written in 1977, 25 years before his death in January 2002. Today, 14 years later, I give additional guidelines on reading and analyzing prophecy and explaining some of the inherent complexities of reading any prophecy.

### *"Modern Prophecy," Ernest L. Martin, 1977*

The worst airline disaster in history was accurately predicted by three different people before it happened. Does this precognition have its source in God or from evil forces? Most people are intrigued with prophecy. Everyone would like to know what tomorrow will bring and certainly, the Almighty God could let us know what will occur if He would only give us the information. This article discusses the matter.

One way God proves Himself is through the fulfillment of prophecies given by His prophets (Deuteronomy 18:22; Jeremiah 28:9). This in itself makes prophecy important to anyone interested in the Bible. However, we also have some warnings from God about prophets — even when their prophecies come true.

**"If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spoke unto you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them'; you shall not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or dreamer of dreams: for YHWH your God proves [tests] you, to know whether you love YHWH your God with all your heart and all your soul."**

• *Deuteronomy 13:1–3*

This scripture is most instructive. It clearly shows that people could be able to foretell future events and

still not be legitimate representatives of God. But how are they able to predict such things? Is any human able to manipulate things so that his prophecies come to pass? Does any human have such power? And further, could even an angel (no matter how powerful) cause prophecies to happen unless God gave him the authority? Of course not! Angels are very inferior to God. They cannot circumvent any wishes of the sovereign God. Even Satan has to obey God's express commands (Job 1:12; 2:6). All men and angels are under the direct administration of God and nothing can be accomplished anywhere in the universe without His approval.

**“All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he [God] does according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none [human or angel] can stay his hand, or say unto him, ‘What are you doing?’”**

• *Daniel 4:35*

The knowledge of future events is within God's comprehension. **“Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world”** (Acts 15:18). **“I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I showed them”** (Isaiah 48:3). God is aware of all matters on earth, things happening now and those to happen in the future. He knows them from the beginning.

Just how He accomplishes this is a mystery to us, but the Bible dogmatically states this to be the case. One thing for certain, God's work is to teach the world the consequences of good and evil. He sees this as necessary in His plan of salvation for mankind!

### *The Ways of God*

God does not subject mankind always to the good, but He also allows evil to exist which afflicts man. He even tolerates false prophets speaking lies — and sometimes God even orders that they speak (1 Kings 22:21–23). He has also allowed the prophecies of various peoples to come to pass by giving them a partial knowledge of His immediate plans. Recall one important part of Deuteronomy 13:1–3 that is often overlooked. If prophets or dreamers of dreams arise that accurately predict the future, their knowledge has been given because:

**“YHWH your God PROVES YOU, to know whether you love YHWH your God with all your heart and all your soul.”**

• *Deuteronomy 13:3*

Note that God is directly involved in the proving [testing] of His people. No human or angel could possibly foretell future events (either immediate or in the remote future) unless God gave the allowance.

- **“You could have no power at all ... except it were given you from above”** (John 19:11).
- **“A man can receive nothing except it be given him from heaven”** (John 3:27).
- **“For I know that YHWH is great, and that our YHWH is above all gods. Whatsoever YHWH pleased, that did He in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places”** (Psalm 135:5–6).

But note the next scripture:

- **“Who is he that says, ‘and it comes to pass,’ when YHWH commanded it not?”** (Lamentations 3:37).

This last verse is most instructive! Jeremiah was saying that there is no occasion when prophecies occur precisely in which God is not involved. Jeremiah must mean by personal intervention or through angelic powers whom God has given certain prophetic knowledge. Yet note this carefully: This does not mean that men or women giving the prophecies are necessarily true and upright in all other ways. Sometimes God allows prophesied events to occur, even when the prognosticators are unconverted prophets or dreamers of dreams. It is allowed **“to prove”** [test] His people.

The point is, the fulfillment of all prophecies (or allowing people to “see” future events) must be within the providence of God. But as I said before, this does not mean that the persons giving the revelations are God's representatives in all matters.

One should carefully note the doctrines of those who prophesy. Even if their prophecies are accurate, this in no way proves them as always telling the truth. Much evil can come if such persons used the fulfillment of their prophecies as a basis for deceiving the people. God placed severe penalties on such people under the Old Covenant.

**“And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he has spoken to turn you away from YHWH your God.”**

• **Deuteronomy 13:5**

### ***Many Foretell the Future***

All prophecies having an exact fulfillment must emanate in an ultimate sense from the allowance of God — at least that is what Lamentations 3:37 specifically says. He has given such understanding to His true prophets and sometimes God permits false prophets to accurately foretell the future (Deuteronomy 13:1–5). He knows best why He does this.

Many of us may lift our eyebrows at God’s allowance, but God is in charge of everything. He answers to no man or angel for His actions. Consider these points:

- God, like the great King **“does whatsoever pleases him”** (Ecclesiastes 8:3).
- Both the **“deceived and the deceiver are his”** (Job 12:16).
- God sometimes uses evil people to accomplish His will (Jeremiah 27:5–6; Romans 9:16–17; Revelation 17:16–17).
- And He has permitted all types of people scattered over the earth (whether they are Christians or not) to understand certain aspects of the future. It has been happening over the centuries and it is occurring today.

There have been diviners, astrologers, palm readers, and even ordinary non-professional “psychic” people who have given some [the emphasis is on the word “some”] accurate forecasts of future events. Outstanding ones are cataloged in the book, *They Foresaw the Future* by Justine Glass. However, the vast majority of people who say they can do the trick are very unsuccessful — and even professional astrologers have admitted **“that astrological prophecy is unreliable, and no sensible astrologer would maintain otherwise”** (*The Case for Astrology*, West and Toonder, p. 128). But still, there are a few people who periodically come up with some outstanding predictions through various means. Some of these “prophets” may be what the Bible considers unfaithful, but some may not be.

### ***A Terrible Airline Disaster***

On March 27, 1977, the world’s worst airline disaster happened in the Canary Islands. It was between two Boeing 747s with almost full passenger loads. And strange as it may seem, the press reported that three individuals made accurate predictions of the disaster several days (even weeks) before it happened.

- One woman in Miami, Florida told a TV audience last New Year’s day that two planes would crash in the Canary Islands, that at least one plane would be a 747 and one plane would be of American registry, and that the accident would happen March 25 or 26. Though she was not absolutely accurate in every detail, the prediction was most remarkable.
- Another woman in New York on a radio interview program, aired January 2, 1977, said that two 747’s would crash on a resort island with hundreds dead. She even said that one of the planes would be a Pan American aircraft.
- Also, an 18-year-old freshman at Duke University, six days before the crash, wrote out a prediction, put it in an envelope and sealed it with wax. It was locked up in the desk of the university president.

When it was opened, two days after the crash, the prediction stated: **“583 dead in collision of 747s in World’s Worst Disaster in Aviation History.”**

These predictions were uncannily precise. Clearly, some fore-knowledge must have been known about the accident. How could the individuals have known the exact circumstances otherwise? You have no doubt heard of many other individuals who have dreamed things that have come to pass. Such things are far more common than some people care to believe.

These things may be a mystery to us, but the Bible makes it clear that such knowledge had to emanate ultimately from God. Look once again at Lamentations 3:37. **“Who is he that says, and it comes to pass, when YHWH commands it not?”** The truth is, when things come to pass so accurately, Jeremiah is saying that they, in one way or another, must come from God. But also read the very next verse to the one just quoted. It is Jeremiah’s commentary on what he had just said.

**“Out of the mouth of the most High proceeds not evil and good?”**

• **Lamentations 3:38**

The truth is both types of prophecies are given by God. Note how the *New American Bible* translates these two verses in Lamentations.<sup>1</sup> They are full of teaching — teaching that many Bible students overlook.

**“Who commands, so that it comes to pass, except YHWH ordains it; except it proceeds from the mouth of the Most High, whether the thing be GOOD or BAD.”**

• **Lamentations 3:37–38, New American Bible**

The *Amplified Bible* gives a rendition which shows the intended meaning.

**“Who is he who spoke and it came to pass, when YHWH had not authorized and commanded it? Is it not out of the mouth of the Most High that evil and good both proceed — adversity and prosperity, physical evil or misfortune, and physical good or happiness?”**

• **Lamentations 3:37–38, Amplified Bible**

It is a mistake to believe that God’s prophecies are always about good things to happen. Many of them, even in the Bible, are about evil (calamitous) things. And though we humans are often prone to dislike prophecies about troubles to come on earth, nevertheless, God prophesies them. Most fulfillments of prophecies about troubles are given to bring judgment, but in some cases even the innocent can be involved.

Take for example earthquakes. They have happened in the past, and they are prophesied for the future. Are not innocent babies sometimes killed or maimed in earthquakes? Innocent people can also experience the evils of droughts, famines, and plagues. God does not always rescue the innocent in this life. Of course, He will show us why He allows these troubles in due time. God has promised that all people will one day experience the abundance of God’s love and mercy. But during this earthly life even the guiltless are sometimes caught up in the fulfillment of prophecy.

There is a notable example of this in Matthew’s Gospel (2:13–18). Joseph was warned in a dream to take the infant Jesus out of Bethlehem because King Herod would seek to kill the child. Joseph obeyed and we are thankful to God for the providential care for His Son. Yet a problem emerges in the minds of some people. Why did God not tell the other parents about Herod’s plan? All of them in the area of Bethlehem lost their male children from two years of age and under.

God did not protect those innocent children. Just why He did not do so can best be answered by God. We know that one day the full knowledge of this will be known, but until then, we humans should trust that God knows what He is doing. The apostle Paul wrote:

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<sup>1</sup> The word “evil” and the word “good” are the same Hebrew terms used in the Eden narratives of Genesis 2:9, 17, 3:5, 22, referring to as well as 790+ other instances in Old Testament. DWS

**“Therefore has He mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will, He hardens.”**

• **Romans 9:18**

We may argue that God’s actions are sometimes unjust (Romans 9:14), but Paul says this is not the case:

**“Has not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor?”**

• **Romans 9:21**

The answer, of course, is “yes.” And in this earthly life Paul shows how God deals with mankind.

**“I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”**

• **Romans 9:15**

For some reason, God did not show His mercy of protection on the innocents killed at Bethlehem, nor on those killed or maimed in the world’s worst air disaster. Did these things happen in order to punish the ones involved? Not necessarily. Note Christ’s answer to a similar question on this:

**“There were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them,**

**‘Suppose you that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except you repent, you shall all likewise perish.**

**Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think you that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, No: but, except you repent, you shall all likewise perish.’”**

• **Luke 13:1–5**

Christ admitted that disasters should cause people to think about their own spiritual condition, but He was emphatic that such things did not necessarily indicate exorbitant sins.

Frankly, I doubt seriously if anyone in the world can tell why the recent catastrophe occurred in the Canary Islands. To say that all on board the airplanes were being punished is not only unfair, it is un-Christian. But, since God permitted the disaster to occur (and there was even more precognition of it), He must know what He is doing. He will answer to no man for his actions.

**“He does according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What are you doing?”**

• **Daniel 4:35**

In some way mysterious to us, there was fore-knowledge of what was going to happen to those airplanes. Certain people knew about it and they were not necessarily evil or righteous. The precognition could have been revealed by God directly, or more likely through angelic agents who were aware of what was to happen. Someone might say the disaster occurred because evil powers conspired together to cause it. This may be, but God still permitted it. Even if evil spiritual powers were involved, God and His righteous angels still allowed it. And it happened almost exactly as was forecast. Nothing happens outside of God’s express allowance. He could easily have stopped the catastrophe had He so decreed. But He didn’t. The accident occurred just as the individuals saw it!

Now for a most important question: Does this mean that all things happen by the personal activity of God or by angelic mediators? Are all things inevitable and completely out of the control of man? Does this also mean that God personally brings evil things upon people?

### **Modern Prophets and God**

The fact that people can predict with amazing accuracy future events does not mean they are always God’s

proven representatives to teach proper doctrines, settle moral and social issues, and show the will of God in every circumstance. Sometimes God uses some individuals to “test” His people to see if they will remain loyal to Him. Even the false prophet of Revelation chapter 13 will be able to perform wondrous signs (with God’s approval), but Christians are told not to heed his actions.

On the other hand, does this mean that the people who predict these occurrences are always evil if they are not professing Christians? Not necessarily! Only when and if such individuals use revelations as a basis for leading people astray from the true ways of God should they be watched. Of course, if thousands of people begin to flock to such individuals and subject their lives to be governed by their “visions”, much mischief could result — visionaries and “prophets” are often worshipped by their clientele. This would be very wrong.

## Conclusion

While foreknowledge of certain intermediate events has been allowed to certain people (these people may be good or evil — and the messages may come from good or evil angels who have limited knowledge of the future), no one can understand accurate prophecies relative to the chronological events associated with Christ’s Second Coming. This has been prohibited to all peoples — Christian and non-Christian alike. Christ did not give even His apostles accurate chronological knowledge relative to events surrounding His Second Coming (Acts 1:6–7) and the angels (the highest of them) have had such knowledge withheld from their understanding (Matthew 24:36). Even the Angel of the Lord [better translated, “**the angel of YHWH**”] asked, on one occasion, “**How long?**”

**“Then the angel of YHWH answered and said,**

**‘O YHWH of hosts, how long will you not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which you have had indignation these threescore and ten years [70 years]?’”**

**• Zechariah 1:12**

There have been all types of people who have set dates, and all of them (if those dates are connected with the Second Coming) have proved false in the past, and will continue to be wrong in the future. However, it could well be possible for some intermediate happenings to be forecasted accurately. If they do occur, one could rest assured that the events are not a major factor in the prophesied Second Coming of Christ especially in the sense of chronology.

As for me, I have learned by youthful experience not to set any more dates. And though I dream quite often (don’t most people?), I have never had any of my dreams come true. To my knowledge God has not graced me with prophetic revelation other than what I read in the Bible. Many others, however, are still setting dates of one kind or another. I wish them luck with their prognostications. Even if some of them come true, I would hope that such “prophets” not try to capitalize on them for gain, outward glory, or to get a religious movement going that is beyond the simplicity that is in Christ. The saint of God who has wisdom should be very circumspect in such matters. **“YHWH your God prove you, to know whether you love YHWH your God with all your heart and with all your soul”** (Deuteronomy 13:3).

Ernest L. Martin, 1977  
David Sielaff, July 2016

## **More Thoughts about Prophecy by David Sielaff, 2016**

Let me give you an example of an unusual event. Was it coincidence, a conspiracy, or a prophecy? On the evening of March 1, 2001 a television series debuted titled *The Lone Gunmen*.<sup>2</sup> The series split off from *The X Files*, a long-running science fiction television show. *The Lone Gunmen* had a short run of three months until June 1, 2001. The series itself is not important, but the pilot episode is extremely interesting. I watched that premier episode myself live when it was first broadcast.

<sup>2</sup> The title itself is an oxymoron. For the title *The Lone Gunmen*, “Lone” means one, of course, but “Gunmen” is plural. *DWS*

The plot of the pilot episode was that a remote control device was placed on an airliner. The device, sophisticated for its time, took flight control away from the pilots of the aircraft, who were suddenly unable to change direction, altitude, or speed of the plane. The device controlled all those things. The heroes learned that the airliner was being directed to crash into the World Trade Center in New York City. As the Trade Center loomed closer and closer, the heroes were able, at the last moment, to cancel the signal of the remote control device, divert the airliner, and prevent a mass-casualty disaster.

That show was broadcast seven months before two airliners crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City on the morning of September 11, 2001.<sup>3</sup> So, *The Lone Gunmen* pilot show prefigured the 9/11 disaster by seven months.

- Was this evidence of a pre-disaster notification by a conspiratorial cabal using the show to inform “someone” of the future terrorist strike?
- Perhaps the television show gave terrorists of 9/11 the idea for the plane attack, using two planes, one against each tower of the World Trade Center?
- Was it mere coincidence that the writers of the pilot episode (who likely wrote the basic plot outline many months before production and broadcast), simply had a similar idea as deadly conspirators?

I cannot answer these questions. But I do know that predictions can be made by biblical prophets and false prophets, and in our day fairly accurate predictions<sup>4</sup> such as by people in the 1977 airline disaster as Dr. Martin discussed in his article. These things do occur. Coincidences also occur.

I choose to believe that *The Lone Gunmen* pilot episode was one of those bizarre coincidences that happen more often than we like to admit. After all, God does such things probably more often than we realize: **“He reveals the deep and secret things: he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him”** (Daniel 2:22). He reveals such things to not just Christians and Israelites, but to people all around the world. After all, every human being is a child of God, whether they know it yet or not.<sup>5</sup> **“We trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe”** (1 Timothy 4:10).

### ***The Intricacies of Bible Prophecy***

When I consider the complexities of Scripture and then I think about the interrelated intricacies of prophecy, my mind almost begins to despair. How can anyone make sense of any prophecy? It seems that every prophecy is nuanced so it is almost impossible for us to understand its meaning. Yet Jesus gives us some guidelines, if not how to understand specific prophecies, we can understand “signs” regarding approaching prophesied events.

**“The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them,**

**‘When it is evening, you say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowring.**

**O you hypocrites, you can discern the face of the sky; but can you not discern THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES? A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be**

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<sup>3</sup> Today in 2016 remote control of aircraft is commonplace. Very large aircraft, even experimental fighter and bomber aircraft, are flown by many nations around the world. In fact, most commercial airliners fly with extensive computer controls assisting pilots in flight and even landing. Google the terms “remote control airliners.” You will be surprised at the information available. DWS

<sup>4</sup> Most predictions are not accurate. We hear most often about predictions that are accurate, not those that are wildly inaccurate. And non-biblical “accurate” predictions usually have one or more detail of the prophecy that is wrong or does not fit what really happened. DWS

<sup>5</sup> Most people will learn about their destiny in the future, during the great white throne judgment (Revelation 20:11–13). It will be a period of education, for most, far less punishment than we might suppose. DWS

given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas.’”

• *Matthew 16:1–4*

Note that when Jesus says we can discern “**the signs of the times,**” this can be done without any special knowledge or revelation. Jesus makes no reference to specific Scriptures. Others show signs also.

**“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.”**

• *Matthew 24:24–25 (Mark 13:22–23)*

Jesus is warning that these “**great signs**” will be noticed (not be “small” signs seen by a few), they will be signs that will be astonishing, seen by many people, and they will be remarked upon by everyone. People will ask, “What can such things mean?” Rather than referring to the Scriptures for answers, particularly Matthew chapter 24, they will make up their own minds and be dazzled by the “**great signs and wonders.**”<sup>6</sup> Note that the phrase “**false Christs**” is plural, as is the phrase “**false prophets.**” Those signs will not be from God.

After “**nation rises against nation and kingdom against kingdom**” (Luke 21:10) and after believers will be persecuted (Luke 21:12), there will be signs from heaven that will be from God (Luke 21:11) that will accompany non-supernatural occurrences. All will come suddenly.

**“And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.”**

• *Luke 21:11*

Still later, “**there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars**” (Luke 21:25). In fact, Jesus said one particular sign comes from Him:

**“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”**

• *Matthew 24:30*

That “**sign of the son of man**” is further described by Luke:

**“And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh. ... When you see these things come to pass, know you that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.”**

• *Luke 21:27–28, 31*

Everything that precedes these final events will be similar to the order of a fireworks display. First comes the one-at-a-time fireworks, then comes the spectacular finale. When Jesus returns all heaven breaks loose and an unbelievable finale of destruction begins. It will be so frightening, you will not want to be there:

**“Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.”**

• *Luke 21:26*

We are told that trying to set dates on Christ’s return will be useless, yet some will still attempt to do so (Acts 1:7). It is perfectly fine for people to “play with numbers and dates,” to calculate cycles of time, determine chronological relationships and fathom out astronomical “wonders” or “signs” such as those in Revelation 12:1, 3. But those same people who do so are foolish trying to publish their findings and convince others about their conclusions.

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<sup>6</sup> The word “signs” is the same Greek word as in Matthew 16:3–4. DWS

## An Example in Daniel

In my understanding, determining sequences of prophetic events to enhance the reading of the “**signs of the times**” is the proper thing to do. Take for example the saga of the Kings of the South (Daniel 11:5–40). After an introduction telling when Daniel’s prophecy was given (in the first year of Darius the Mede),<sup>7</sup> the King of the South (or “southland”)<sup>8</sup> is first mentioned in verse 5. It is better to read a modern translation rather than the King James Version.

The Greek Old Testament, the Septuagint or LXX, uses the phrase “King of Egypt” in every instance where the “King of the South” is mentioned in the King James Version. This does not necessarily mean that the King of the South has his rule centered in Egypt. Look at the CIA public map to the right. What do you see that is “south” of Israel? Going south there is wasteland through the Negev Desert and water of the Gulf of Aqaba then through a sliver of the coast of Saudi Arabia into the Red Sea. Still farther south one comes to Sudan and Ethiopia.

Why is Egypt called the King of the South? I believe it is because the King of the South will rule not only Egypt, but also a large portion of western Saudi Arabia (including the two holy cities Mecca and Medina, Sudan, Libya (to the west) and perhaps Ethiopia. It will be very strong and his dominion shall be great, meaning large in size (Daniel 11:5).<sup>9</sup> In 2016 the first King of the South has not yet risen to power.

He has a daughter and she makes a marriage alliance with the first King of the North (and he has not yet appeared on the world stage as of 2016). They have a child who grows to adulthood (Daniel 11:6–7). The King of the South attacks the land of the King of the North and takes some *elohim*, gods back to the south (Daniel 11:8–9).

The King of the North counterattacks with many armies (Daniel 11:10–12) with partial success, but with great slaughter on both sides.

Years go by during which new armies are gathered, the King of the North apparently has new allies who help him (Daniel 11:13–14). Sieges of fortresses are done against the major strongholds of the King of the South. The King of the North shall prevail and cause the King of the South to sue for peace (Daniel 11:15–18). The information about a particular woman is very obscure (verse 17). Events continue with details that make little sense until we come to (Daniel 11:24–26) when the King of the South raises an army to defend what remains of his realm. Much slaughter ensues, and the King of the North uses mysterious devices (secret weapons) and is finally victorious.

Negotiations again take place and both kings lie to each other (can’t they read Daniel 11:27?). The King



<sup>7</sup> It is likely that the person a prophecy is given to (in this case to Daniel), and the time a prophecy is given (in the first year of Darius the Mede), are important, or the information as to the person and time would not be given. Daniel’s purpose, his job, was to solidify and strengthen the power of Darius as king. Doing so meant that Daniel did everything he could to protect Darius in every way possible, including making sure the administration of Darius’ kingdom and government operated efficiently. DWS

<sup>8</sup> In Hebrew the word here for the direction “south” is *negeb*. The term is also the name of the southern desert of Israel, the Negev Desert. DWS

<sup>9</sup> This is explained in Dr. Martin’s “[The Coming Splendor of Egypt.](#)” DWS

of the North returns north with great riches from the King of the South, expecting to return later (Daniel 11:28–29).<sup>10</sup> The ships of Kittim arrive (Daniel 11:30). Are these a fleet of ships from America and/or Europe? No one knows.

I will stop here because the next verses begin the narrative of the King of the North's relations with Israel and the "sanctuary" meaning the Temple. I would think it likely that part of Israel might have been part of the battlefield where the armies of the two kings fought. This would be particularly true regarding the Negev desert in southern Israel.

### *Much Needs to Happen before the End Times*

I presented the above narrative as an example of how we can take note of clearly identifiable places, persons, events, and outcomes which, when we approach the times when the events occur, obscure Hebrew terms in the text will become clearer. Wars are fought over periods of time. While the wars described in Daniel chapter 11 appear to be sharp, quick, and bloody, the aftermaths of the battles, the recruiting, gathering, training and equipping of new armies several times on both sides (war is hellishly expensive, by the way) with weapons old and new, all this takes time, perhaps decades for all these events to transpire before the End Times.

This is why we are not close to the End Times. There is nothing on the political horizon that we can identify with either the kingdoms of the North or South — nothing. And there are kings before the rise of the northern and southern kingdoms.<sup>11</sup> There is, however, this fact to consider. In 2016 borders are being redrawn in the Middle East, and those changes are directed by the hand of God.<sup>12</sup>

Sequential lists of events, rather than setting dates, will be very useful to the *ekklesia* and even to the people of Israel once God opens their eyes, ears, and minds to recognize Him "**whom they have pierced**" (Zechariah 12:10). Such lists can be "alive" and change at a moment's notice. In fact, everyone can use their own version. Events can be "checked off" as having occurred with a view to the next anticipated event, then the next and the next. The "signs of the times" will become clearer to believers and faith will increase as God validates His prophecies with fulfillment. Even so, we will not be able to understand the time of Christ's return.<sup>13</sup>

### *Intertextuality*

I do not think it is wrong to state dogmatically that no unfulfilled prophecy stands alone without reference to or comment by other parts of Scripture. The prophecies of the Bible are an interwoven mosaic or tapestry of commentary, expansion, reference, allusion, and even restatement by one part of Scripture to another.

Intertextuality has many facets, and the definitive book has yet to be written on the many nuances of how one biblical text refers to another text directly or indirectly, by keywords, phrases, or even by mere allusion.

Jewish writers call the commentary of one part of Scripture upon another a *midrash*. As a leading proponent of the study of intertextuality, Dr. George Wesley Buchanan notes his findings of working with students over several decades in intertextual study:

**"We learned quickly that Jeremiah used Hosea, Deuteronomy, Leviticus, and Numbers; Ezekiel**

<sup>10</sup> Egypt is one of the poorest nations on earth at the present time. At some time in the future Egypt and the entire Kingdom of the South shall be very wealthy. That wealth shall sustain several wars and still be available and portable to be taken north. DWS

<sup>11</sup> Dr. Martin's articles "[Matters of Prophecy in Daniel](#)" and "[The Geography of Heaven](#)" both explain that Daniel chapter 11 has no historical fulfillment at all. None of it, not even the early verses of chapter 11 have occurred in the past. The histories of the Ptolemaic and Seleucid empires do not "fit" that Daniel 11 narrative at any place. Scholars have tried to "jury rig" and force history to fit the Daniel narrative. That effort simply does not work out. DWS

<sup>12</sup> My March 17, 2016 Commentary "[Middle East on Fire](#)" and Dr. Martin's article "[The Prophesied State of Palestine](#)" give insight on this process. DWS

<sup>13</sup> Read an exception to that statement in "[The Exact Time of Christ's Return](#)." DWS

**used not only the pentateuch, but also Hosea and Jeremiah; Second Isaiah used the pentateuch and Jeremiah. Zechariah is loaded with earlier texts.”**

• *Buchanan, Introduction to Intertextuality, p. 4*<sup>14</sup>

This not only works for the Old Testament and its prophecies, but also for the New Testament as well:

**“Whenever one text is known to have quoted another earlier text, then the researcher studies the earlier text to learn its original meaning and after that, the later text, the midrash. Once the text is identified in the midrash, the researcher examines the text both before and after the verse involved to see what extent the commentator used these words.”**

• *Buchanan, Intertextuality, p. 5*

The texts mutually inform each other. The first text provides background for the second text, the second gives commentary to the first. Buchanan points out that Daniel 9:2, 24–27 is a reinterpretation of the 70 year period of the exile which Jeremiah prophesied (Jeremiah 25:11–12, 29:10). Daniel in his chapter 9 prays with direct and obvious reference to Solomon’s prayer of dedication of the Temple in 1 Kings chapter 8. We should not be surprised that Daniel’s prayer was motivated by his strong desire for Judah to repent and return to God’s blessing once again.

Nehemiah 1:5–9 also interacts directly with the same text of Solomon’s dedication prayer in 1 Kings chapter 8, pleading with God that His people have repented and should be allowed to return to Judea and rebuild the Temple to YHWH. Ezekiel chapter 16 is an appeal from Hosea, Jeremiah, and Deuteronomy.<sup>15</sup>

If you study about the prophecies against Edom, fulfilled and yet to be fulfilled, you should understand that all the texts are relevant: Isaiah 34:1–17; Obadiah; Malachi 1:2–5; Psalm 137; and Lamentations 4:21–22. If you leave out one, you may be missing a relevant part of the prophecy.<sup>16</sup>

Another aspect of intertextuality is that a reference or quote of a small portion of an earlier text can also reference the entire portion of the earlier text. In other words, a reference or quote of a part directs the reader to the whole text being referred to. In John chapter 10 Jesus was confronted by Jews who insisted He tell them directly **“If you be the Christ, tell us plainly”** (John 10:24). Was He the Messiah or not? Jesus answered, **“I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him”** (John 10:30–31).

**“The Jews answered him, saying, ‘For a good work we stone you not; but for blasphemy; and because that you, being a man, make yourself God.’**

**‘Jesus answered them, ‘Is it not written in your law, “I said, You are gods?” If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; Say you of him, whom the Father has sanctified, and sent into the world, You blaspheme; because I said, I am the Son of God?’”**

• *John 10:33–36*

Jesus quotes Psalm 82:6, but He is referring to all 8 verses of Psalm 82. This is indeed a prophecy composed by Asaph the Seer, a form of prophetic visionary (2 Chronicles 29:30). Read Psalm 82. How else could anyone tell about what occurred in a divine council setting unless they “saw” it in vision? Most importantly, note Psalm 82:8: **“Arise, O God, judge the earth: for you shall inherit all nations.”** (Psalm 82:8). Who else called by the term God in all creation will **“inherit all nations”**? This prophecy has not yet been fulfilled. Christ has not yet inherited all nations, although He has full authority over them.<sup>17</sup>

Psalms 50 and 73 through 83 are all written by Asaph, and all are likely prophecies.

<sup>14</sup> George Wesley Buchanan, *Introduction to Intertextuality* (Lewiston, NY, Edwin Mellen Press, 1994). DWS

<sup>15</sup> Buchanan, *Intertextuality*, 17. DWS

<sup>16</sup> Buchanan, *Intertextuality*, 31, and Dr. Martin, **“The Most Significant Gentile Nation in the Bible.”** DWS

<sup>17</sup> In 1 Corinthians 15:28, the nations Christ will inherit when He returns, He shall give that inheritance back to His Father once all opposition has been subdued. DWS

### *Ezekiel and the Book of Revelation, An Example*

Below is a chart from a website by Michal Hunt, "[The Covenant Treaty Format of the Old and New Testaments: Treaties with God as Sovereign God.](#)" It is interesting and similar lists can be found in several books. There are substantial parallels between the visions of the Prophet Ezekiel and John's visions in the Book of Revelation. The titles of this list on the numbered left column are by Michal Hunt. The correspondences are substantial and not coincidental:

<u>THE VISION</u>	<u>EZEKIEL</u>	<u>REVELATION</u>
1. The throne vision	Chapter 1	Chapter 4
2. The book being opened	Chapters 2–3	Chapter 5
3. The four plagues	Chapter 5	Chapter 6:1–8
4. Those slain under the altar	Chapter 6	Chapter 6:9–11
5. The wrath of God	Chapter 7	Chapter 6:12–17
6. The seal on the Saint's foreheads	Chapter 9	Chapter 7
7. The coals from the altar	Chapter 10	Chapter 8
8. The 1/3 destruction	Chapter 5:1–4, 12	Chapter 8:6–12
9. No more delay	Chapter 12	Chapter 10:1–7
10. The eating of the book	Chapter 2:8–3:3	Chapter 10:8–11
<b>11. Prophecy against the nations</b>	<b>Chapters 25–32</b>	<b>Chapter 10:11</b>
<b>12. The measuring of the Temple</b>	<b>Chapters 40–43</b>	<b>Chapter 11:1–2</b>
13. Comparing Jerusalem to Sodom	Chapter 16	Chapter 11:8
14. The cup of wrath	Chapter 23	Chapter 14
15. The vine of the land	Chapter 15	Chapter 14:18–20
16. The great harlot	Chapters 16, 23	Chapters 17–18
17. The lament sung over the city	Chapter 27	Chapter 18
18. The scavenger's feast	Chapter 39	Chapter 19
19. The first resurrection	Chapter 37	Chapter 20:4–6
20. The Battle of Gog and Magog	Chapter 38–39	Chapter 20:7–9
<b>21. The New Jerusalem [Temple]</b>	<b>Chapters 40–48</b>	<b>Chapter 21</b>
22. The River of Life	Chapter 47	Chapter 22

The sequence of the Book of Revelation is roughly chronological (with some overlap or restatement) while the sequence of Ezekiel is topical. Therefore the topics of Ezekiel must be attached to the sequence of Revelation where applicable. The Ezekiel information gives background information to the Revelation portions, even when they do not directly correspond. I have pointed out three non-corresponding relationships in the boxed portions, sections 11, 12, and 21. These are examples of divergence. Here are some interesting points:

- While item 11, "Prophecy against the nations," has only one verse in Revelation 10:11, the detailed descriptions in Ezekiel, according to Ms. Hunt, encompass 8 chapters, chapters 25–32.
- Likewise for item 12, "The measuring of the Temple," two verses of Revelation 11:1–2 are detailed in four chapters in Ezekiel, 40–43. These are both telling about the millennial Temple. Obviously

if you want to learn the details of what Revelation 11:1–2 refers to, go to the Ezekiel chapters.

- For item 21, Revelation chapter 21 with “The New Jerusalem” is paralleled by 9 chapters in Ezekiel. However, in this case, the Temple in Ezekiel is millennial, while the Temple in Revelation chapters 21 and 22 comes down from heaven, an event that occurs after the 1,000 year reign of Christ. The coming of the new heavens and new earth destroys the Ezekiel millennial at the beginning of the great white throne judgment. Therefore, the Ezekiel chapters 40–48 parallel Revelation chapters 21 and 22, but they discuss two entirely different events. The relationship of both is that they deal with Temple symbolism, but different structures. These distinctions must be understood.
- For item 22, again two different Temples are being discussed, but the symbolism of the water coming from beneath the Temples will occur in each.

### *Authorship and Time Is Important*

Who wrote a prophecy was as important as when a prophecy was written. For example, if you did not know Moses wrote Psalm 90, you miss important prophetic information that only Psalm 90 provides.

If you do not realize that Jeremiah wrote (1) the Book of Jeremiah, (2) the Book of Lamentations, but also wrote (3) Psalm 89, (4) the acrostic<sup>18</sup> Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, and (5) the last six chapters of Zechariah, then you may be missing out on important information about ALL of his prophecies, which likely have self-referential information from one literary work to another. Dr. Martin discusses Jeremiah’s works in “[Jeremiah, Part 2](#).”

When a prophecy was written can give you background information to help you understand social, military, political, and religious conditions at that time. They especially relate to unfulfilled portions of prophecies still future to us today.

### *Prophetic Dualities and Triplets*

There are many prophetic dualities and even triplets in the Bible. Elijah, John the Baptist, and the “Elijah to come” are a prophetic triplet of individuals. Jesus said John the Baptist was an “Elijah” yet there was another to come after him (Malachi 4:5; Matthew 11:14, 17:10–13). The prophecy of the destruction of the Temple presented in the Book of Lamentations was fulfilled twice, and on the same day of the calendar.

There are also prophecies that have three fulfillments, during Old Testament times, during New Testament times, and a final fulfillment before or during Christ’s return. These double and triple fulfillments of prophecy is presented in Dr. Martin’s last article before his death, “[The ‘Great Generation’ and Modern Prophecy](#).”

### *Duality of Books of Scripture*

Some books are closely connected with others, as in the Ezekiel/Revelation duality mentioned above.<sup>19</sup> As I said previously (and), there are often doublets, sometimes triplets of biblical writings:

- The Book of Deuteronomy is a recapitulation, sometimes a restatement, an update, and a commentary on the first four books of the Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers.

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<sup>18</sup> An acrostic is a literary device when a sentence or independent thought begins with a sequential letter of an alphabet. DWS

<sup>19</sup> The Book of Revelation is unique because it links with so many other books of Scripture. This is where good commentaries are so helpful. One of the best commentaries on Revelation is by George Wesley Buchanan, *The Book of Revelation: its Introduction and Prophecy* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2005). Buchanan calls this an “Intertextual Bible Commentary.” In my opinion, all Bible commentaries should be written as Buchanan has written his, the text of the subject book of the Bible in the left hand column, and the intertextual sources in a right hand column, with commentary following. Buchanan has written other separate commentaries in the same format on Daniel, Matthew, and Hebrews. All use his intertextual system of analysis. You will perhaps disagree, as I have, but the depth and scope of his scholarship is remarkable. Buchanan believes and credits Dr. Martin’s Temple evidence as being true and he believes in universal salvation and that the eons are limited.

- The four books of 1, 2 Samuel and 1, 2 Kings are restated, reemphasized, updated, and added to as paired with 1, 2 Chronicles.
- Isaiah and Micah have several points of interrelation.
- Jeremiah and Lamentations are a doublet — the prophecy and the partial fulfillment in the 586 BC destruction of Jerusalem.
- The 12 Minor Prophets were edited and designed to be read as one volume according to the Hebrew canon and the intertextual relationships between each of the books has been proven by James Nogalski in his excellent two volume work on the Minor Prophets.<sup>20</sup>
- Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Daniel were contemporaries and often give prophecies that relate to the prophecies of the others.
- Ezra and Nehemiah were written to be read as a pair during a difficult period after the return from Babylon and the time of rebuilding.
- Matthew, Mark, and Luke, of course, are a triplet of Gospels that present different aspects of Christ's ministry.
- Matthew chapter 24 and the Book of Revelation are a pair, with Matthew being the skeleton fleshed out by Revelation.
- Ephesians and Colossians are a doublet presenting much the same information with different emphasis.
- Of course, the first and second of paired books, such as 1 and 2 Corinthians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, and 1 and 2 Peter are intended to be read in relationship with each other.
- 2 Peter and Jude are widely recognized as epistles that were intended to be read together.

## Conclusion

There are probably several more important factors of prophetic analysis that are we do not yet realize. Perhaps we will encounter them as we progress in time, and gain more understanding of the biblical texts.

It is hoped that at some time in the future that the ASK Timeline Project can transition into beginning the prophetic sequences based on topic. Such a project, like the Timeline itself, will perhaps (God willing) outlive me and all of you reading this while being a useful tool in the decades before Christ returns. Daniel said to the horrifically evil King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon:

**“But there is a God in heaven that reveals secrets, and makes known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, are these; As for you, O king, your thoughts came into your mind upon your bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealed secrets makes known to you what shall come to pass.’ ...**

**The king answered unto Daniel, and said, ‘Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing you could reveal this secret.’”**

• **Daniel 2:28-29, 47**

Are we not more than kings? Yes, we are children of God. He revealed secrets to an evil king through Daniel. Ask that He reveal the truths of His prophecies to us all from His written Word!

David Sielaff, July 2016

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<sup>20</sup> James Nogalski, *The Book of the Twelve: Hosea–Jonah* (Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, 2011) and *The Book of the Twelve: Micah–Malachi* (Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, 2011).