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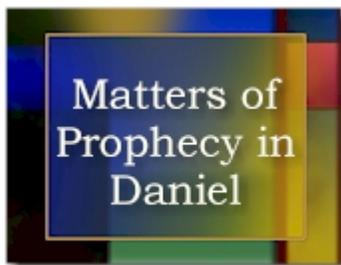
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Matters of Prophecy in Daniel

by Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., 1984

Transcribed and edited by David Sielaff, March 2013

Read the accompanying [Newsletter for March 2013](#)



EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is compiled from two sources, both by Dr. Martin, a 1984 audiotape "Matters of Prophecy in Daniel" and a 1989 article "New Discoveries in Prophetic Understanding." Both deal with background regarding the prophecy in the Book of Daniel called "**The Scripture of Truth.**" This information should be read in light of Dr. Martin's final article "[The 'Great Generation' and Modern Prophecy,](#)" which he was composing at the time of his death in January 2002. Information in that article supersedes any of his earlier research materials should they conflict.

I wish to discuss matters of prophecy in the Book of Daniel. The End Time has to do with events leading to the Second Coming of Christ. There are things which we ought to be watching for, events prophesied to accompany that period of time. I cannot tell the exact time when Christ Jesus will come back to this earth. That knowledge is reserved only for the Father Himself, but I am sure Christ Jesus knows now when He is returning. He has not revealed such knowledge to me; He has not given it to you, or to anyone else. That is made quite clear. Not even the angels in heaven know, at least they did not know when Christ gave the Olivet Prophecy (see Matthew 24:36), and I doubt they know at the present time.

But God has given us information in the Scriptures which will allow us to pinpoint certain events prophesied to occur, and those events associated with the End Time must commence at a particular time in the future. When those events begin to take place, those of us who have God's Holy Spirit and an understanding of prophecy, because we rely only on the Word of God as the standard, we can begin to identify events in a step-by-step way leading up to the Second Coming of our Lord.

After all, Christ Jesus said when the fig tree "**puts forth leaves, you know that summer is nigh**" (Matthew 24:32 and Mark 13:28) and botanically speaking the figs will be growing soon. He also said, "**when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors**" (Matthew 24:33). The things He talked about in the Olivet Prophecy can help us know events leading up to the Second Coming of Christ, even though we will not know the exact day or hour of His Second Advent. We can pick up a scenario of events mentioned in Scripture to have confidence knowing we are coming to the time period preceding His return.

He will come as a thief in the night, as He says¹ but does He have to come as a thief in the night to you? If you have knowledge of prophesied events prior to the Second Coming, then perhaps you can be aware of a closer period of time to be watching. If we watch these events as they happen, we have essential knowledge others will not have. We are even told by Christ Jesus to “watch.”

I have information to share to give you input to study, for you to add or detract from it, so we can better understand events associated with the End Time. This information was revealed in Scripture about 500 years before Christ. I believe the prophecies of Daniel, and the most important section of Daniel is contained in chapters 10, 11, and 12, giving a long description of events to take place at the End Time in great detail. Chapters 11 and 12 are introduced by chapter 10 which talks about a vision given to Daniel.

We have the date the vision was given: the third of Nisan, the first ecclesiastical month of the year, associated with our springtime. Daniel was given this prophecy in the third year of Cyrus by the angel Gabriel, who was not able to get to Daniel until Michael the prince of Israel came to help him fight against the spiritual powers controlling Persia. This is all in the 10th chapter of Daniel.

It may be surprising that powerful angels such as Gabriel or Michael would have difficulty coming to tell Daniel the knowledge about a vision given by God. But the 10th chapter of Daniel tells us clearly that spiritual powers in charge of Persia were able to thwart the knowledge of this information by Gabriel and Michael concerning Daniel’s vision.

There is fighting in heaven. There are wars in heaven. They are the same types of battles you and I can have and do have with angels, wicked spiritual powers in heavenly places. These things are mentioned in the Scripture, great battles going on in a spiritual sense. Gabriel said until he had Michael come help him (and that took a 3 week period to occur), Daniel could not receive the explanation of this essential truth he received in vision on the third of Nisan. It took until the 24th of Nisan for Gabriel and Michael the archangel to come to Daniel and tell information about his vision. When we understand the knowledge of this vision, then we can learn the prophetic scenario of events in a step-by-step fashion,

- Starting with one major event which introduces this **“Scripture of Truth.”**
- It comes to a period of the antichrist when he will have full power on this earth, and events associated with his future history.
- It continues to the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place, in a Temple in Jerusalem.
- Michael the archangel will come and aid in these End-Time events.
- Finally the resurrection of the dead will take place.

The introduction is in the 10th chapter of Daniel; the vision is explained in chapters 11 and 12. It is interesting that this entire vision to Daniel was also written on a long scroll. This prophecy on the scroll gives more detailed information about End-Time events than any other prophecy in Scripture from a historical and chronological point of view. I do not mean that all necessary information is here in this portion of Daniel; even here it gives just the skeleton, but what is given is very detailed. This prophecy in the 11th and 12th chapters of Daniel happens to be the filling in of all the prophecies of Daniel. First, let us look at earlier prophecies in Daniel.

Nebuchadnezzar’s Vision of the Image

Earlier In the 2nd chapter of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon saw in vision a great image on the plains of Shinar. It had a head of gold, the body was of silver, then of copper or brass, and then down to iron, and at the toes, iron mixed with miry clay. Nebuchadnezzar saw the image along with a big mountain. On top of the mountain was a stone cut out without hands. It was the act of God. The stone was cut out and

¹ This concept is expressed surprisingly often in the New Testament: Matthew 24:42–44; Luke 12:36–40; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; and Revelation 3:3, 16:15. Christ warned us to “watch.” *DWS*

rolled down the mountain. With great force it hit the image on the two feet and the ten toes in particular. The image fell over. The stone pummeled the entire image. A wind came and blew the dust away.

The only thing left was this one stone which became a great mountain. Symbolically the stone was the Kingdom of God. The head of the image was Nebuchadnezzar himself, the silver portion was Persia, and the brass portion was Greece. It came down to this mysterious iron kingdom. We will talk about this fourth kingdom, the iron kingdom.

Many interpretations have been made over the generations about this fourth iron kingdom, and people have made major mistakes as a result. In the 2nd century BC, people believed Daniel, but thought Antiochus Epiphanes, the Syrian king, was fulfilling the prophecy of the iron kingdom. The Jews in the 1st century AD interpreted the iron kingdom to be Rome. They made a big mistake. The Jews went to war with Rome in 66 AD thinking the prophecies of Daniel were taking place. They were wrong. By 70 AD the city of Jerusalem was destroyed along with the Temple, just as Christ said, but it was not a fulfillment of this prophecy of Daniel.

The fourth kingdom has not yet appeared, but it will come one of these days. It will develop into two sections, of legs with feet, and each foot will have 5 toes. Those 10 toes, those 10 kings, will be in existence when Christ Jesus returns. But they are not here yet. They are not part of the Common Market. They have nothing to do with Europe.² I will discuss this iron kingdom. Daniel chapter 2 talks about it. In Daniel chapter 7 other visions were given to add more flesh to the skeleton. Still more is given in chapter 8. There is a bit more given in Daniel chapter 9 in the 70-weeks prophecy, but it mostly concerns the Temple and the 7-year period at the end of the age. In Daniel chapter 10 is the introduction to the longest sequential prophecy in Scripture. It details what to expect concerning this iron kingdom at the end of the age.

I want to show you a new way of looking at this prophecy called **“The Scripture of Truth.”** We find in Daniel 12:4, only at the time of the end will this prophecy be made known. Christ said that a particular time in history must come for us to understand these prophecies. We are getting closer to the time of the end. The closer we get to it, the more understanding we ought to have of that prophecy. It says in the Hebrew **“the knowledge shall be increased,”** meaning the knowledge of this prophecy. It also says **“many shall run to and fro.”** This means to run to and fro within the prophecy, to find out what it signifies, what the prophecy means. As the time of the end approaches, knowledge of Daniel’s prophecy, and all others connected with Daniel, will be made clearer.

That is why understanding prophecy is so important. We need to know these events to recognize the chronological scenario. For example, if a major event is prophesied in Scripture to take place, followed by a second event to occur later, then a third event, and a fourth, if we can identify the first event, and then the second, it should help us have a clearer understanding of what the third and fourth events will be.

So it is important to pick up the first. You have to know where it is revealed in Scripture and the time it commences. Once you begin to pick up events, you will recognize time schedules. No one knows when the Second Coming of Christ will occur, but we can begin to know when events will take place which precede His Coming. There are several clear and plain events we can understand, if we love the Scripture and have God’s Holy Spirit dwelling in us. If we need more of His Spirit, ask for more and more! After all, God loves each of us. He has given all of us knowledge and understanding which we never had before. We have to grow in grace and in knowledge (2 Peter 3:18), and God wants us to do so. Others are learning also, as God’s Holy Spirit is working all over this world. Truly it is. I learn things from all different types of people.

The Book of Daniel is key to the whole thing, even more than the Book of Revelation, which comments on Daniel. The Book of Revelation is important and vital to our comprehension of Daniel. Then, you must couple the Book of Revelation with Christ’s Olivet Prophecy (Matthew chapter 24), and the Book of Daniel becomes even clearer. Yet the Book of Daniel is foundational. We are told so by Christ Himself.

² Dr. Martin’s article [“The Prophesied State of Palestine”](#) identifies who are the 10 nations of the 10 toes. His article [“Iran in Prophecy”](#) has more information. Also see my Commentary, [“The Ten Nations and the Roman Empire.”](#) DWS

The Olivet Prophecy and Daniel

Go to the Olivet Prophecy so we can grasp what Christ was telling the apostles at the time, so we will not only understand, but teach others. The apostles were keenly interested in the end of the age.³ Christ said to watch for certain events.

“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the world [in Greek, end of the age]?’”

• **Matthew 24:3**

When an age comes to an end, there is always the beginning of another. The beginning of the next age will be that of the millennium when Christ Jesus is back on earth. This present age will end with the Second Coming. The apostles wanted to know when that would occur and the events associated with it. They thought He would return in their own generation, and they had reasons to believe so. The events mentioned by Daniel were not occurring in the 1st century AD. They have not occurred yet, but they are getting ready to occur. The apostles wanted to know three things:

1. When shall these things be?
2. What shall be the sign of your coming?
3. [What shall be the sign] of the end of the age?

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, ‘Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.’”

• **Matthew 24:4–5**

If someone says he is a Christian, or a believer in the Messiah, or that he uses God’s name, even YHWH, it does not mean the person is right. Jesus starts with this teaching so we can be aware of dangers with people. Just because they are Christian, they want you to believe what they say, even untruths. Check with the Word of God which is the standard to show whether any person is telling the truth or not.⁴

In the Olivet Prophecy Jesus gives a series of events. These events, several of them, are mentioned in the Book of Daniel:

“When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso reads, let him understand). ...”

• **Matthew 24:15**

Note what Christ was talking about when He said to read Daniel. No matter how you interpret that particular phase, it means pay attention to Daniel. We should do what Jesus told His disciples to do. Then He gives a series of events which involve fleeing to the mountains of Judea, false christs coming on the scene, and not to be deceived by a man in a desert place, or another man in the secret chambers (Matthew 24:26), which seems to refer to the Temple in Jerusalem. You know, there will be a man appearing in Jerusalem calling himself God, which is what the abomination of desolation is about. This man is the antichrist.⁵

³ See Dr. Ernest Martin’s article “[Essentials of Prophetic Understanding](#)” where Matthew chapter 24 and Jesus’ Olivet Prophecy is closely analyzed as well as a bit of Daniel chapters 10, 11, and 12, and Zechariah chapter 12. *DWS*

⁴ God opens understanding at particular times. Growing in grace and in knowledge means you have to discard some things you were teaching or believing before, and accept other things that may be new. This may be traumatic to accept. Yet at the end of the age God shall reveal knowledge as never before. There will be a restoration of all things, and part of that restoration is knowledge and understanding of biblical truth, and of prophecy. Many people are not using the scriptural revelation as a standard. We need to let God’s Holy Spirit direct our minds and we will always be directed back to the Holy Scripture. That is the standard by which He reveals knowledge of His truth to you and to me. If we do not go by that Word, we can be certain we are being deceived. Stay by the Word and Christ Jesus will lead us into the truth if we have His teaching foremost in our minds. *ELM*

⁵ See Dr. Martin’s article “[The Life and Times of the Antichrist - Part 1](#).” Then read Part 2. *DWS*

Christ is warning His disciples (as well as you and me) about things to occur in the future, and He is paying attention to Daniel, adding flesh to the skeleton that Daniel gave. We should do likewise.

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven.”

• *Matthew 24:29–30*

There will be a sign. It will be a miracle of some kind.

“... 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. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

• *Matthew 24:30–31*

This is the resurrection of the dead. The apostle Paul said the same: when Christ Jesus comes back, He will come to be with His elect. His angels **“shall gather together”** these people to Christ. Those who are alive will be changed into an immortal existence, our bodies changed into spiritual composition. The people who are dead like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Paul, Peter, and others will be resurrected almost simultaneously with us, the dead having a slight preeminence. We all will be gathered and brought by the angels to Jerusalem.

“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is nigh.”

• *Matthew 24:32*

This is a physical thing. In late spring when the leaves come on, you know summer is coming. You are able to see it. When you see the leaves appear, you can almost prophesy when those figs will ripen for you to eat them. He gives this illustration to show there are certain events prophesied to take place. When you see those events occur you can know summer is coming. God’s summer, the end of the age, God’s sabbath rest, is coming.

“When you see these things, know you that it is near, even at the door. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.”

• *Matthew 24:33–34*

All the things Christ mentioned, starting with the first, all will be fulfilled in **“this generation.”** What generation? The generation that sees all these things. Again, if you can identify the first event, you will be able to pick up the second, and the third, etc., and all lead to the prime event of our Lord’s Second Coming. We will not know the time, but we can pick up the sequence of events.⁶ He said we could, and He said when you see these events take place it will be like the fig tree putting on leaves, summer is near.

How does the Bible interpret a generation? That is up for debate. If you go to Hebrew 3:9–10 the generation of the Israelites coming out of Egypt of 40 years was an important generation which has great prophetic significance to it. The apostle Paul said the events which occurred in that 40 year period have relevance to Christians today, and to the End Time. A generation in the Bible as I show in my book *Restoring the Original Bible* is ordinarily 40 years long, and the first event taking place leading up to the Second Coming of Christ begins at the start of a 40 year period.⁷

⁶ The occurrence of significant identifiable events will begin cascading to a veritable flood. We who have God’s Holy Spirit will likely react often with, “Oh, now I understand what that meant.” *DWS*

⁷ The generation of the Exodus was 40 years as Paul tells us; there is also a longer generation as Dr. Martin came to understand. The End-Time generation would be a long one. He explains in [“The ‘Great Generation’ and Modern Prophecy.”](#) *DWS*

Back to Daniel

In the Book of Daniel, and as reflected in the Book of Revelation, there is 7-year period at the conclusion of this Time of the End. The 7-year period is mentioned in the 9th chapter of Daniel. (It is mentioned in the 7th and 8th chapters as well.) It is also referred to in the 12th chapter of the Book of Revelation where it is called the **“time, times, and a half a time”**; two periods of 3½ years link together to make a 7-year period. Those 7 years at the end of the age conclude with the Second Advent of our Lord. We can know pretty closely when the 7-year period will commence and when it will end.

One major event will be when the iron kingdom in the second chapter of the Book of Daniel will have its emergence. Out of that kingdom will come two legs with feet, each with 5 toes representing 10 kings who will exist at the End Time. All of these iron kingdom events will take place within a generation, including the first, second, and all others as prophesied. When it starts there will be a generation from that time until Christ will be back on earth, with a 7-year period prior which is especially important, indicated in the Books of Daniel and Revelation. The 7-year period is divided into a time, times and a half a time, 42 months, 1260 days.

Let us come to the prophecy which has been misunderstood over generations, even before the time of the apostles.⁸ Chapters 10, 11, and 12 are the concluding chapters of Daniel, but they contain the most detailed prophecy anywhere in Scripture. The 10th chapter is prologue, giving a description how Daniel came to learn of this prophecy, who revealed and explained it to him, and in what manner it was revealed.

“In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long⁹: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.”

• **Daniel 10:1**

The third year of Cyrus was around 535 BC. He saw a great vision:

“And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.”

• **Daniel 10:7–9**

Daniel wanted to know what this vision meant. Immediately he began to fast. He conducted his fast for a three week period during which he had no answer from YHWH. What this meant, he did not know. The end of the three week period comes to the 24th day of Nisan.¹⁰ At the end of this 21-day period (Daniel 10:2–4) a great spiritual personality appears to Daniel, the angel Gabriel. Gabriel tells Daniel he was unable to come earlier and give an interpretation to Daniel because he was thwarted by the princes of Persia and Grecia.

Gabriel has authority but he was unable to reach Daniel because these powers and principalities in control of Persia somehow delayed him (Daniel 10:13). Gabriel received help from Michael, the archangel in

⁸ The Jews misunderstood this prophecy of Daniel, mistakenly believing that events in Daniel were beginning to take place, but the iron kingdom did not arrive then. About 200 years before, other Jews read Daniel. They believed Antiochus Epiphanies, king of Syria, was fulfilling Daniel’s prophecies. I personally do not think Antiochus set up any abomination of desolation in the Temple. If anything, he was a type of the man of sin at the end of the age. In His Olivet Prophecy, Christ Jesus said in Matthew 24:15 that the abomination of desolation was yet to occur in the future from when He made that statement. It never occurred in the past. *ELM*

⁹ Modern translations differ from the King James Version translation of **“the time appointed was long”** changing it to **“it was a great conflict”** (RSV, ESV) or **“it concerned a great war”** (NET, Rotherham). Modern scholars translate the phrase about a conflict or a war, and not relating to time. *DWS*

¹⁰ Nisan is the first month of the ecclesiastical year, springtime, the time of Passover. This great vision was given to Daniel not long before Passover. His fasting to find out from God what it all meant carried on for 21 days through the Passover season. *ELM*

charge of Israel. Together they overcame the other spiritual powers. Finally Gabriel speaks to Daniel:

“Then said he, ‘Know you wherefore I come unto you? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia [the spirit power in charge of Persia]: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia [Javan, in Hebrew] shall come.’”

• *Daniel 10:20*

Javan is the geographical name for the peninsula of Greece today. In Daniel’s near future there will be a spiritual power in charge of that area, and Gabriel will do battle with the prince of Persia¹¹:

“... when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come. But [before then] I will show you that which is noted [written] in THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH: ...”

• *Daniel 10:20–21*

Note carefully verse 21, because what Gabriel will reveal to Daniel is in **“The Scripture of Truth.”** The word “scripture” in this case means a writing, a book, or alternately phrased, the **“The Book of Truth.”** What Daniel saw was a long scroll of some kind. On the scroll were letters which made up words, sentences, etc. It had a beginning and an end. It was all on what was called the scroll, the book, or **“The Scripture of Truth.”** That was the title of it. It was a spiritual document written in heaven. It recorded future events to take place.

Daniel’s vision 21 days before was the visual representation of the things written in this **“Scripture of Truth.”** This is most important. What begins in verse 2 of chapter 11 describes what was written (and is still there today). You and I know what is on **“The Scripture of Truth.”** We do not have to go to heaven to see it, it is recorded in the Bible for us. Gabriel revealed to Daniel what it said:

“I will show you that which is noted [written] in THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH: and there is none that holds with me in these things, but Michael your prince.”

• *Daniel 10:21*

These were the only two spiritual powers in heaven, angelic beings (besides God the Father and Jesus in His preexistent state) who wanted to give this information to Daniel.¹² **“Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him”** (Daniel 11:1). By “him,” Michael is meant. Just as back then Michael and Gabriel strengthened each other, now Michael comes to Gabriel’s help, and both together reveal to Daniel what this **“Scripture of Truth”** says. It starts in verse 2:

“And now will I show you the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he [the fourth king] shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia.”

• *Daniel 11:2*

Later would come great spiritual powers in charge of Greece. The reason Gabriel knew all this information was because he could read it in this **“Scripture of Truth.”** Go on and note verses 3–4:

“And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.”

• *Daniel 11:3–4*

¹¹ This does not mean a human prince of Persia. King Cyrus was relatively righteous from God’s point of view. There are prophecies about him that show his righteousness and faithfulness. He was king of Persia, but not the one who controlled Persia. Spiritual powers are given their authority by YHWH. As long as He continues to give that authority, He allows them to retain and use great power for certain periods. What kind of battles do they have? How do they fight? Do they take swords and try to kill one another? No. In chapter 12 of the Book of Revelation it says that Satan the devil (**“the prince of the power of the air,”** Ephesians 2:2), and his angels battle with Michael and his angels. The apostle Paul gives us a hint in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2. *ELM*

¹² Forget about chapter divisions here. Man put the chapters in there. Go on reading as if they were not there. *ELM*

New Discoveries in Prophetic Understanding (1989)

Scripture states the knowledge of prophetic events will only be given to the world as the time of the end begins to occur (Daniel 12:4, 9). Even the greatest saints of God in former times could not realize what would happen in the End-Time generation. Since this is the case, it means we should expect to abandon some antiquated beliefs of the past and be willing to adopt new ways of looking at things when proper evidence becomes available to vindicate the change.

One key to open up the meaning of End-Time prophecy is the realization that **“The Scripture of Truth”** recorded in Daniel 11:5 to 12:4 gives information which is yet future to us. Indeed, it may well be even verses 2 to 4 of Daniel chapter 11 (which introduce **“The Scripture of Truth”**) are also future to us! Gabriel said the vision contained in **“The Scripture of Truth”** (in the King James Version) was to make the prophet Daniel to **“understand what shall befall your people [Israel] in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days [hence]”** (Daniel 10:14).¹³

Realize there is not the slightest amount of history being referred to in **“The Scripture of Truth”** with the possible exception of the five kingdoms mentioned in verses 2 to 4 of Daniel 11 at the beginning of the vision. Even here the four kings of Persia and the mighty king of Greece could very well have an End-Time significance.

This is because Daniel was told in the visions recorded in Daniel chapter 7 that the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece would not be totally destroyed and would once again arise at the end of the age as mighty and powerful kingdoms (Daniel 7:12, 17).¹⁴ Since this is what Daniel was told, there should be no doubt there will be an appearance of Babylon, Medo-Persia and a revitalized Greece during the generation preceding the establishment of the Kingdom of God at the return of Christ Jesus.

True enough, the prophecies about Babylon in Isaiah chapters 13 and 14 as well as the prophecy about Babylon with the Medes (and Persians) in Jeremiah chapters 50 and 51 are sections of Scripture which have never happened in history. The events those chapters describe are not history; they also are prophecies to occur at the time of the end. A rebuilding of Babylon would surely indicate we may not have long to wait in seeing them fulfilled.¹⁵

One of the great disasters to the understanding of prophecy made by most all prophetic interpreters is the belief that most prophecies about Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece have no relevance for the End Time. This is especially true concerning the first 20 verses of Daniel chapter 11 in which **“The Scripture of Truth”** is revealed. It would be unusual to discover any theologian or biblical historian even hinting that those 20 verses are for the End Time just preceding the Second Advent.

¹³ If what Dr. Martin writes is true, then four kings of Persia must arise. Whether literal kings or leaders with modern titles, we cannot know. The ideal for kings is for an orderly succession of relatives within a dynasty. We do not know if this will be the case. They may be unrelated. All will be powerful, but the fourth king of Persia will be the richest. Their power will likely be regional. The fourth Persian king will stir up Greece and a leader there will do **“according to his will,”** taking control of Persia. The Greek leader shall die soon after gaining dominion.

None of these five kings are on the scene at the present time, although they may be alive. By ANY chronological scenario, they should begin to arise soon, because the events indicated in **“The Scripture of Truth”** will take a long period to prepare for, occur, and prepare for the next events. At this moment in March 2013 there is no evidence of this scenario happening in the near future — yet. *DWS*

¹⁴ If these verses mean something different than what Dr. Martin understands, then I have no idea what they say. Daniel 7:12:

“As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.”

Daniel 7:17:

“These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.” *DWS*

¹⁵ See Dr. Martin’s 1975 article, [“The Rebirth of Babylon”](#) and the 1925 article by F.E. Marsh, [“Will Babylon be Rebuilt?”](#) These two articles come to the same conclusion from different directions. *DWS*

What virtually all state is that the four kings of Persia mentioned in Daniel 11:2 were historical kings who lived in the 6th and 5th centuries BC, and the mighty king of Greece (see Daniel 11:3) was Alexander the Great. I know of no prophetic interpreter who has suggested someone else could be meant.

The dogmatism continues in their identification of the **“king of the south”** (first mentioned in Daniel 11:5) with the dynasty of the Ptolemies who ruled Egypt for several generations after Alexander the Great, and that the **“king of the north”** (first mentioned in Daniel 11:6) refers to the dynasty of the Seleucids who ruled over Syria and the adjacent areas after Alexander. They are wrong.

Common sense careful reading of the text of Daniel 11:6 to 11:19 will show, only one **“king of the north”** is under discussion. With the start of the prophecy speaking of four kings of Persia followed by a fifth king called a mighty king of Greece, the introduction of this one **“king of the north”** becomes the “sixth king” of this prophecy of **“The Scripture of Truth.”** This “sixth king” rules a long time (during which 4 wars are fought). He is followed by another **“king of the north”** who reigns for a short time as indicated in Daniel 11:20. He represents the “seventh king” of the prophecy.

Then there is a final “eighth king” who is called the **“vile person”** introduced in Daniel 11:21. This “eighth king” (still called a **“king of the north”**) is the ruler who:

- places the abomination of desolation in the holy place of the Temple at Jerusalem (Daniel 11:31),
- proclaims himself as a “god” above every “god” (even YHWH in heaven, Daniel 11:36),
- is invincible in war (verse 11:44),
- finally establishes his governmental seat at Jerusalem (verse 11:45), and then
- stands up against Michael the archangel at the time of the great tribulation (verse 12:1).

He will meet his end at the time of the resurrection from the dead (verse 12:2) which other scriptures tell us will occur at Christ’s Second Advent.

“The Scripture of Truth” speaks of only three “kings of the north” from Daniel 11:6 to the end of the prophecy at Daniel 12:4. With the four kings of Persia mentioned at the beginning of the prophecy and the one mighty king of Greece (the fifth king), the remaining three “kings of the north” present a total of eight kings controlling the “north quarters” of the prophecy.

The Book of Revelation Provides the Key to It All

We now come to prime evidence in the Book of Revelation which shows the **“The Scripture of Truth”** from Daniel 11:2 to 12:4 is speaking about the time of the end. This evidence has been overlooked by all interpreters I know, but it is simple to understand. The Book of Revelation gives a full vindication that the **“king of the north”** from Daniel 11:6 to verse 19 represents only one king, who is succeeded by a further **“king of the north”** who rules but a very short time (verse 20), and then there emerges the **“vile person”** (the final **“king of the north”** who will set up the abomination of desolation). He begins his political career starting with Daniel 11:21. The Book of Revelation provides us with the “key” to it all.

To understand this properly we must recall the kings Gabriel said would exist as recorded in **“The Scripture of Truth”** up to the resurrection at Christ’s return (Daniel 12:2). He said there were to be:

- There are four Persian kings to introduce the prophecy. These represent the first, second, third and fourth kings of **“The Scripture of Truth.”**
- These are followed by one mighty king of Greece (who represents the fifth king of the prophecy).
- Then coming on the scene is the first **“king of the north”** mentioned from verse 6 to 19 (who represents the sixth king of the prophecy).

- This king is followed by **one more** “**king of the north**” who will rule but a short time (verse 20) and represents the **seventh** king of the prophecy.
- Then Gabriel refers to the **final** “**king of the north**” who is the “**vile person**” (or from other prophecies: the son of perdition, the man of sin, the beast, the antichrist) who will be destroyed at the Second Advent of Christ. This **final** “**king of the north**” represents the **eighth** king of “**The Scripture of Truth.**”

Let us see the “key” to this matter as revealed in the Book of Revelation. Recall that John the apostle was transported in vision to witness events associated with “**the Lord’s Day**” (Revelation 1:10), called in the Old Testament prophecies: “**the Day of the Lord.**”¹⁶ The whole of the Book of Revelation is the prophetic testimony of Christ Jesus himself, Revelation 1:1. Like Daniel, it describes in prophetic language significant historical occurrences which will occur in the generation preceding the Second Advent of Christ. John was even told by Christ that he would live “to see” His Second Advent (John 21:21–24), and near the end of the 1st century AD, indeed John was taken forward by means of extraordinary visions to witness the most important events associated with Christ’s return.

Within this context we should look at chapter 17 of the Book of Revelation. We find the apostle John giving his interpretation and commentary of “**The Scripture of Truth**” found in Daniel 11:2 to 12:4. Let us notice how clear this is.

John is taken in vision to witness the judgments on the great whore who sits on a scarlet colored beast which has seven heads and ten horns (Revelation 17:1–3). Since the judgments are accomplished by Christ at the time of his Second Advent, it follows that John must be witnessing events accompanying the End-Time generation of this age. In his interpretation of the seven heads of the beast, he shows that each of the heads is on top of the head below, so all seven heads are vertically one above the other. This has to be the case because John gives this precise interpretation starting with verse 9. He says:

“And here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits. And [there] are seven kings:¹⁷ FIVE are fallen, and one IS [the sixth], and THE OTHER [the seventh] is not yet come; and when he comes, he must continue a short space.

And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the EIGHTH, and is of the SEVEN, and goes into perdition.

And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast [the eighth king]. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast [the eighth king]. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords and King of kings.”

• Revelation 17:9–14

The parallel of the above scenario in Revelation with “**The Scripture of Truth**” mentioned in Daniel 11:2 to 12:4 is most amazing — and also revealing. In “**The Scripture of Truth**” there are exactly eight kings leading up to and including the “**vile person**” who sets up the abomination of desolation and he retains power up to the resurrection from the dead (Daniel 11:21 to 12:2).

In the End-Time prophetic narrative depicted by the apostle John there are also eight kings up to and including the beast who (with the ten kings) will fight Christ at His Second Advent. There can be no doubt,

¹⁶ The phrase “**The Day of the Lord**” is found in Isaiah 2:12, 13:6, 9, 34:8; Jeremiah 46:10; Lamentations 2:22; Ezekiel 13:5, 30:3; Joel 1:15, 2:1, 11, 31, 3:14; Amos 5:18, 20; Obadiah 1:15; Zephaniah 1:7–8, 14, 18, 2:2–3; Zechariah 14:1; and Malachi 4:5.

¹⁷ The original actually says: “**And are seven kings**” meaning that the seven heads (or seven mountains) simply represent seven kings. The King James Version inserts the word “there” into the text [“and THERE are seven kings”] which gives the impression that the seven kings might be different from the seven heads (mountains), but this is not what John intended. The seven heads are meant to correspond with the seven kings. John then continues his interpretation about those seven kings. *ELM*

the **eighth** kings of BOTH prophecies are one and the same person. But what about the **seventh** kings of BOTH prophecies? Note the striking similarity in description:

In " The Scripture of Truth " the <u>seventh</u> king is described in Daniel 11:20 this way:	"Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but <u>WITHIN FEW DAYS</u> he shall be destroyed. ..."
Compare with the apostle John's description of his <u>seventh</u> king in Revelation 17:10:	"... five are fallen, and one is, And <u>the other</u> [the seventh king] is not yet come; and when he comes, he must continue <u>A SHORT SPACE.</u>"

The "**few days**" of Daniel's **seventh** king and the "**short space**" of John's **seventh** king are speaking about the same king. This cannot be a coincidence! John is commenting on and interpreting Daniel's "**Scripture of Truth.**" But the matter does not stop there.

Go backwards in time to Daniel's **sixth** king as mentioned in "**The Scripture of Truth.**" There is described one "**king of the north**" whose exploits are recorded from Daniel 11:6 to 19 inclusively. Interestingly, Daniel referred to exactly **five** kings who preceded this **sixth** king. They were the **four** kings of the Persians and the **one** (or **fifth** king) of the realm of Greece.

What does the apostle John tell us about his **sixth** king? Notice it:

"The SEVEN heads ... are SEVEN kings: FIVE are fallen, and ONE IS [the sixth], and the other [the seventh] is not yet come; and when he comes, he must continue a short space."

• **Revelation 17:10**

This means the apostle John was taken forward in vision to witness what was happening in the reign of the **sixth** king of "**The Scripture of Truth.**" This indicates the time of the end must truly start with the **sixth** king, while the previous **five** kings are not important in providing information for the End Time.

If what we are saying is true, then we find the apostle John is giving a commentary on Daniel's "**Scripture of Truth.**" It would mean the first **five** kings (or kingdoms) mentioned in "**The Scripture of Truth**" (the **four** kings of Persia and the **fifth** king of Greece) are not important to consider in the countdown of historical events leading up to the Second Advent of Christ back to this earth.

The Importance of the 6th King

But, the **sixth** king of "**The Scripture of Truth**" is very important indeed. It was to this period of the **sixth** king that the apostle John was taken in vision to witness the generation preceding the resurrection and establishment (under Christ) of the Kingdom of God on earth. Since we are told in "**The Scripture of Truth**" that the reign of this **sixth** king will last a number of years (Daniel 11:13) and several wars will take place between him and the "**king of the south,**" it must mean that Daniel 11:6 to 19 (describing his activities) must be speaking of a long reign of several years for this **sixth** king.

There are at least **four wars** which this **sixth** king is involved in, and one of them starts at the **beginning** of his rule. Christ said the End-Time generation would start with:

"... wars and rumors of wars: see that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places. All of these are the BEGINNING of sorrows."

• **Matthew 24:6-7**

And at the **beginning** of the **sixth** king's reign, as shown in "**The Scripture of Truth,**" a series of wars commence which finally **end with the defeat and death** of the **sixth** king **at the conclusion of his long reign** (Daniel 11:19). Since the Book of Hebrews tells us a generation of time in the Bible is reckoned to be 40

years (Hebrews 3:9–10), this **sixth** king could rule as long as 33 years¹⁸ and the reign of the **eighth** king (after a very short rule of the **seventh** king) will last a total of seven years.

In the middle of the seven years' reign of the **"vile person"** the abomination of desolation is set up and lasts 3½ years. The beast (who is the **eighth** king of both **"The Scripture of Truth"** and Revelation chapter 17) will proclaim himself as being like God and fight with Michael the archangel before God brings to pass the glorious resurrection from the dead (Daniel 12:1–2). The harmony of verbal description between these two prophetic narratives in Daniel 11:2–12:4 and Revelation chapter 17 is so strikingly similar, it must be held as certain that **"The Scripture of Truth"** and the apostle John are speaking about the same prophetic events.

New Understanding of Prophecy Now Becomes Available

Once the foregoing information is comprehended a battery of prophetic information bursts upon the scene which could never have been recognized before. The fact that the **sixth** king of Revelation 17 is to be identified with the **sixth** king of **"The Scripture of Truth"** (the **one "king of the north"** mentioned from Daniel 11:6 to 19) is a key which opens up a plethora of proper teaching that can expand our prophetic understanding of the generation preceding Christ's return.

Gabriel in those 19 verses of **"The Scripture of Truth"** provides detailed information concerning the activities of the **sixth** king which makes other sections of Daniel (and even End-Time prophecies of the Book of Zechariah) take on dimensions of teaching that have to be reckoned as amazing. Several closed and hidden prophecies open to our understanding for the first time in over nineteen hundred years. In some cases the prophecies have been covered and sealed from the time of Daniel.

"The Prince of the Covenant"

Look at a particular prophetic occurrence in **"The Scripture of Truth"** which no one has been able to understand. It is one we may now comprehend in a better way. It concerns a person of Israel called **"the prince of the covenant"** who is **"broken"** (apparently he is put to death or thoroughly defeated) by the final, End-Time **"king of the north,"** also called **"the vile person,"** the beast, or son of perdition who sets up the abomination of desolation in the Temple at Jerusalem. This **"prince of the covenant"** will be **"broken"** and the **"league"** (a covenant which the **"prince of the covenant"** makes with the **"vile person"**) will be put aside and overthrown by **"the vile person."** This is explained by Gabriel in Daniel 11:21–23:

"And in his estate¹⁹ shall stand up a vile person [the eighth king], to whom they shall not give the honor of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant. And after the league [a covenant] made with him he [the vile person] shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people."

• **Daniel 11:21–23**

This **"league"** is called a **"holy covenant"** in Daniel 11:30–32 (when the **"vile person"** sets up the abomination of desolation in the Temple). But the **"vile person"** will turn against **this** covenant made with **"the prince of the covenant"** at the beginning of his reign some 3½ years before.

Who is **this** person called **"the prince of the covenant"** that the beast (or antichrist) will subdue and put down in the middle of his seven year rule just before Christ returns?

Whoever he is, he should be identified with the **"Shepherd"** of Israel mentioned in Zechariah 13:7. This individual will be struck with a sword (Zechariah 13:7–9, either killed or in some way put out of commis-

¹⁸ The sixth king, the first **"king of the north,"** could reign even longer if the "Great" generation is just shy of 100 years. *DWS*

¹⁹ This is the estate of the **seventh** king, **"the raiser of taxes"** from Daniel 11:20. *DWS*

sion) shortly before the “great tribulation” on Israel at the end of the age when a full two-thirds of the people in Israel will perish (Zechariah 13:8). When this End-Time **“Shepherd”** of Israel is killed, apparently, Zechariah says **“the sheep shall be scattered”** (Zechariah 13:7). This event, not long before the final battle for Jerusalem will be conducted, will result in YHWH in the person of Christ Jesus descending from heaven and placing His feet on the Mount of Olives. Then that mountain will split in two (Zechariah 14:1–4). Right after, the Kingdom of God will emerge on earth. Finally a universal peace and security will envelope the world which will last for the next thousand years.

This man is called **“the prince of the covenant”** in Daniel; in Zechariah he is called **“My Shepherd.”** He is such a powerful representative of Christ that even some early prophecies concerning our Lord himself are associated with exploits of this man who will live (and be very important indeed) at the beginning of the last seven years of prophetic history on earth. He will be here, and apparently killed, sometime within the last seven-year period of this age.

Is “The Prince” One of the Two Witnesses?

Though I am not now able to further identify this Prince, we may have indications in Scripture of two other of Christ’s servants who will be killed within the last seven years of the End-Time. These are the two witnesses mentioned in Revelation chapter 11, and referred to specifically in Psalm 79:1–3.²⁰ It may well be that one of these two witnesses could be the one called **“the prince of the covenant,”** an antitype of Zerubbabel, a prince of Israel who lived in the 6th century BC.

Zerubbabel, along with Joshua the High Priest, may be connected in type with the two witnesses. Compare Revelation 11:4 with ...

- Zechariah chapter 4 (which concerns Zerubbabel), and
- Zechariah chapter 3 (which concerns Joshua the High Priest).

Zechariah 4:11–14 speaks about these two individuals (the two witnesses) in prophecy as being **“anointed ones”** (Zechariah 4:14).²¹ This means they have the title of “Messiah” or “Christ” describing them.

There could be still more to this matter. Isaiah shows that an End-Time “Cyrus” (a type of the earlier historical Cyrus of the 6th century BC, and also anointed by God, Isaiah 45:1) will, after a future destruction of Jerusalem, bring the Israelites back to the Land of Canaan, back to their original inheritance.²² As an example of this prime principle of prophetic interpretation, Isaiah made it clear there was such a factor as type and antitype in prophetic application.²³ What was accomplished in the past with certain historical personalities (even with matters involving our Lord himself) could well be repeated in the End-Time generation not far in advance of us. This teaching is reflected in the principle whereby Christ Jesus (the last Adam) was looked on as the reality of his type, the first man Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45).

This information may help identify this End-Time **“prince of the covenant”** (Daniel 11:22) or **“Shepherd”** of Israel (Zechariah 13:7) who will live and be active in Israel’s affairs at the end of the generation preceding the Second Advent of Christ. Could one of the two witnesses be this **“the prince of the covenant”** who, like the former Zerubbabel, was certainly a son or a prince of David’s kingly lineage? (Refer to Matthew 1:12 and Luke 3:27.)

²⁰ Note the similarity with the description of the two witnesses in Revelation 11:1–14 with Psalm 79:1–3 given here:

“O God, the heathen are come into your inheritance; your holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps. The dead bodies of your servants have they given to be meat unto the fowls of the heaven, the flesh of your saints unto the beasts of the earth. Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem; and there was none to bury them.”

DWS

²¹ This is the only one sure example of a prophet being anointed: 1 Kings 19:16, when Elijah was commanded by YHWH to anoint Elisha. Of course, priests and kings were anointed. DWS

²² Given Iran’s official strong antagonism of Israel today in 2013, this will be a remarkable fulfillment indeed! It is another amazing fulfillment to watch for in the future End-Time. DWS

²³ See Isaiah 41:22, along with Ecclesiastes 1:9; 3:14–15; Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11; and even 2 Peter 2:1. ELM

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Martin at this point in his writing presented a concept that the 70-weeks messianic prophecy of Daniel 9:24–27 may relate to the **“Prince of the Covenant”** in Daniel 11:22. That line of inquiry looked promising in 1989, but further research could not sustain that understanding. See footnote #4 above.

As I noted at the beginning, Dr. Martin's later research through 2001 led him to understand that the last generation before Christ's return would involve almost 100 years rather than the 40 years of a typical generation in Scripture. This opened up new areas of understanding presented in Dr. Martin's article, [“The ‘Great Generation’ and Modern Prophecy.”](#)

Even long after his death, Dr. Ernest L. Martin is still a provocative and perceptive commentator of Holy Scripture and its prophecies. *DWS*

While in no way do I want to begin setting precise dates for the fulfillment of prophecies in the future, I can say without fear of doubt (in my own mind) that **“The Scripture of Truth”** from Daniel 11:5 to 12:4 records events yet future to us. The recognition of this essential fact is a breakthrough in understanding the prophetic events associated with the End Time. I believe we will experience some very interesting political and religious occurrences within the next four decades of time. If there was ever a time to pay attention to the teachings of the scriptural revelation, it is now.

Essential Points to Study

(1) The Book of Revelation in chapter 17 tells us that the apostle John was taken forward in history to the generation which will witness the judgment on the great whore of Babylon (Revelation 17:1–3). While in this period of time [still future to us today], he recognizes that five kings of a scarlet colored beast had already fallen and he found himself in the reign of a sixth king (**“and one is,”** Revelation 17:10). There was to be a very short rule of a seventh king (verse 10) which was to be followed by the End-Time personality who would be the final king (with ten allied kings) to fight Christ at his Second Advent. What must be understood (and this is brand new information which, to my knowledge, has not been recognized before) is that the apostle John is giving a prophetic commentary on the events mentioned in **“The Scripture of Truth”** found in Daniel 11:2 to 12:4.

(2) The whole of **“The Scripture of Truth”** should be studied and understood by the prophetic student if one hopes to comprehend the scriptural teaching of what will occur in the generation preceding the Second Advent of Christ back to this earth. Careful study will show only eight kings are mentioned in **“The Scripture of Truth”** through the future reigns of the Persians, Greeks and the **“kings of the north.”** And just like the apostle John commented, the four kings of the Persians (Daniel 11:2) and the one mighty king of the Greeks make a total of five kings. These are the five kings which the apostle John was not concerned with in his End-Time interpretation of the prophecy. But John was very much impressed with what was happening in the reign of the sixth king (Daniel 11:6 to 19). Regarding the seventh king, both **“The Scripture of Truth”** (Daniel 11:20) and John in Revelation 17:10 showed that he would reign but a very short time. The most important king of all, and the one who would stand up against Christ at his Second Advent, is the eighth king of both prophecies! If one takes these prophetic indications into account, a whole new vista of prophetic comprehension will come on the scene. Be sure to study and understand these points carefully.

Ernest L. Martin, 1984, 1989
David Sielaff, March 2013