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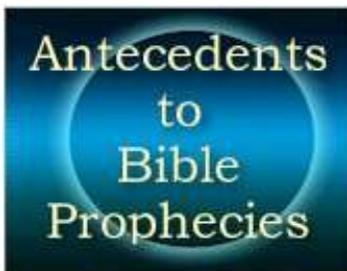
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Antecedents to Bible Prophecies

by David Sielaff, December 2022

Then read the accompanying "[December 2022 Newsletter](#)"



This article surveys some aspects of future prophetic fulfillments of Scripture, in some past examples, but mostly regarding future fulfillments of prophecies. Every prophecy has necessary events and conditions that must occur before the prophecies are fulfilled. Sometimes these prior conditions and pre-fulfillment events are stated in the prophecies. This article examines some of these events and conditions to occur in our future. Some prophecies will overlap with other prophecies as the End Times begin before Christ returns.

There will be new prophets that will come on the world stage before Christ's return.¹ Some will be prophets of God who will give advice to individuals and groups. One such example was given to the apostle Paul as Luke tells us in Acts 21:3–14. Like the prophecy given to Paul, many and perhaps most will have to do with the protection and safety of believers.² The future prophecies from God will not contradict Scripture, nor will they present any major doctrine.³ There are no more doctrines coming along like the Mystery that was revealed to Paul and other apostles. Remember what Paul wrote:

"Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil [complete] the word of God. Even the mystery which has been hid from ages [eons] and from generations, but NOW is made manifest to his saints."

• **Colossians 1:25–26**

Most prophets to come in our future will be false prophets and their words will be false and not from God. The false prophets will teach information that will contradict Scripture. They will contradict plain statements of Scripture. That is how believers will know their messages do not come from God. Most of the world will be deceived by many false prophets. Jeremiah prophesied during the last days of the Kingdom of Judah. Jeremiah wrote to those still in Judea, who had not yet been exiled to Babylon:

¹ You might want to read or reread Dr. Martin's 1977 article, "[Book of Haggai, Time Prophecies](#)," his 1987 article "[Essentials of Prophetic Understanding](#)" as well as his last published article from December 2001, "[Keys to Understanding Modern Prophecy](#)." You will find all three articles to be very interesting.

² See Dr. Martin's 1997 article "[The Place of Safety](#)," his 1999 article "[Personal Safety During End-Time Prophecy](#)" and a 2001 article "[How to Fully Escape the Great Tribulation](#)."

³ See Dr. Martin's 1975 article "[Development of New Doctrine](#)."

“Therefore HEARKEN **NOT** you [1] to your prophets, nor [2] to your diviners, nor [3] to your dreamers, nor [4] to your enchanters, nor [5] to your sorcerers, [all] which speak unto you, saying, ‘You shall not serve the king of Babylon’:

[Why?] For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I [YHWH] should drive you out, and [your end will be that] you should perish.

• *Jeremiah 27:9–10*

In our western world we have many, many of those points cited in [1] through [5] in the above passage. YHWH through His true prophets makes statements like Jeremiah’s throughout the Old Testament. YHWH’s prophetic judgments are against His people Israel for their disobedience to their sworn covenant oath with their God that began in the time of Moses. Some of those prophecies have not yet taken place (See “[Mosaic Prophecies for the End-Time.](#)”)

False prophets diverted the people of Israel and Judah from the true Word of God. Another prophecy by Jeremiah was later given to the people of Judah. Like Jeremiah’s earlier prophecy, it has not yet been fulfilled. It will occur just before Christ returns and steps His feet on the Mount of Olives. The prophecy is in Zechariah 14:4. It was also written by Jeremiah⁴:

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he has prophesied; neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive.”

• *Zechariah 13:4*

Jesus prophesied about false prophets and how they should be received:

“And then shall many be offended, and [many] shall betray one another, and [many] shall hate one another.

And many false prophets shall rise, and [many] shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”

• *Matthew 24:10–12*

The apostle Peter also warned about false prophets and what their end shall be:

“But there were false prophets also among the people [of Israel in the past], even as there shall be false teachers among you [now and in the future], who privily [privately] shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and [as a result they shall ...]

bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.”

• *2 Peter 2:1–2*

This verse tells us the great impact that false prophets and false teachers had at that time. The result will be as Hosea 4:6 tells us: “**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.**” (Read “[How to Identify False Prophets](#)” and “[Falsification of Prophecy.](#)”)

Why Are Prophecies So Difficult to Understand? An Example From Daniel

First, prophecies are difficult to understand because they are intricate, and precise. We like to simplify things with broad and simple conclusions as to what the prophetic biblical texts say.

For example, in Daniel 9:27, 11:31, and 12:11 about the “**abomination of desolation**” the prophecy requires a functioning sacrificial system. Jesus refers to the “**abomination**” in Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14.

1. There can be no abomination unless a biblically sanctioned sacrificial system is operating. Proper Levitical and Aaronic priests must operate the system.

⁴ Jeremiah wrote the last six chapters of the Book of Zechariah, as shown in Dr. Martin’s article “[Gentile Nations and Israel](#)” and “[The Book of Zechariah.](#)”

2. If there is no Temple, there can be no sacrifices. No such system exists at present.
3. Therefore, an antecedent to the prophetic fulfillment of the **“abomination of desolation”** must be the construction of a Temple, as said will occur in Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11; as well as Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14.

No Abomination of Desolation can happen any time soon. A Temple cannot be prefabricated, and it takes time to properly construct a complex structure (actually several structures) with hand tools. Living water must be available. The foundation must be laid. “Living water” is necessary to clean the Temple environs, the lavers, basins, and all the knives, pans, shovels, and other utensils that must be made ritually clean. The blood and bits of offal must be properly drained toward the Dead Sea, or the health of Jerusalem’s people will quickly be imperiled. Read [“The Rebuilding of the Temple.”](#)

More later about the Abomination.

Second, there may be information about a particular prophecy we do not and cannot know — yet. The unknown information cannot be known, until we are informed about the hidden facts. God Himself sometimes keeps information hidden until the appointed time (Matthew 24, 36–42; Mark 13:32). There also could be translation or textual problems that prevent us from properly understanding prophetic passages. God must correct that situation by allowing reliable information to be found, perhaps through archaeological discovery.

Third, God gives us a guideline that we must always keep in mind. God does not lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). But God causes utterly sinful and evil people to be deceived: **“God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie”** (2 Thessalonians 2:11).

Fourth, God tells us explicitly that He hides information from us, and He wants us to search for the answers. God may give such information to anyone. It will come by hard work and research into God’s Word. Note the first of Solomon’s proverbs compiled by a team of Hezekiah’s men:

**“These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.
It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.”**

• *Proverbs 25:1–2*

This proverb is the first from a collection of Solomon’s proverbs assembled and ordered by King Hezekiah. Perhaps the prophet Isaiah assisted in this project of collecting, choosing, and “publishing” these writings authorized them to be included as the Scriptures with the writings of Moses, Joshua, Samuel, and David up to the time of King Hezekiah. See Dr. Martin’s [“Appendix Two: The Book of Proverbs: Its Structure, Design and Teaching”](#) from his book *Restoring the Original Bible*.

As believers in Christ’s resurrection, we are more than kings. We believers are children of the Living God.

**“Be you therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us, and has given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savor ...
For you were sometimes darkness, but now are you light in the Lord: walk as children of light.”**

• *Ephesians 5:1–2, 8*

See my Commentary [“You As a Child of God.”](#)

“Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons [children] of God: therefore the world knows us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, NOW are we the sons [children] of God ...”

• *1 John 3:1–2*

As God’s royal children we have the privilege to search the Scriptures God gave to the world, to learn knowledge, understanding, and wisdom from Him and Christ Jesus. They will guide you as fast as you can receive it, according to the abilities you have been given. As a child of God, you have a right to **“... search**

out a matter” of a prophecy that God has concealed.

Fifth, prophecies are puzzles that will yield the true picture of predicted events, but not until God opens the minds of some to explain a fuller picture of the pieces of each prophecy puzzle. Daniel — called a prophet by Jesus in Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14 — asked to know more about the puzzling prophecies he was given about the time of the end when several events were prophesied to occur (Daniel chapters 9–12). The end time prophecies were “sealed” so they would not be understood until the time was appropriate, as the angel Michael told Daniel:

“But you, O Daniel, [1] shut up the words, and [2] seal the book [scroll, singular in Hebrew], even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro [in Daniel’s prophecies], and knowledge [of the words and scroll] shall be increased.”

• *Daniel 12:4*

God will reveal what he has concealed in His prophecies when He sees fit to do so. Ask God that knowledge, understanding, and wisdom is given to the world, and that we can and will participate. This is an undertaking of the entire body of Christ and not of one or even several organizations. It is a task that will mostly fail until the picture becomes clear. Yes, God will honor such work by His “little children”:

“Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and YHWH has not done it? Surely the Lord YHWH will do nothing, but he reveals his secret unto his servants the prophets.”

• *Amos 3:6–7*

The Jews have their major part to play in prophecy. We Gentiles have our part to play.

“Little children, it is the last time: and as you have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we KNOW that it is the last time.”

• *1 John 2:18*

That is a hint right there. There are an increasing number of “**antichrists**,” even now in December 2022. They are individuals who hate God, hate people, and hate God’s creation. They think they have a right to own it themselves. These “**antichrists**” will increase in number and will be more easily identifiable if you understand the teachings of the Scriptures.

Remember, the main function of a prophet was not just to predict the future; but like the Levites, the Aaronic priests, and the scribes, it was their task to teach God’s words to the people, and most true prophets did so as best they could. We are God’s children who are blessed in our time to learn God’s plan, as Paul tells us, God’s written Word, His Holy Scriptures: “... **are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world** [eons] **are come**” (1 Corinthians 10:11).

“For Yahweh Himself gives wisdom; From His mouth [*i.e.*, from the Word of God] come knowledge and comprehension; He stores up sagacity [cleverness] for the upright, A shield for those walking with integrity, So as to preserve the paths of right judgment, And so He may guard the way of His benign ones [saints].

Then you shall understand [1] righteousness and [2] right judgment, And you shall be [3] upright in every good route; For wisdom shall come into your heart, And knowledge, it shall be pleasant to your soul.”

• *Proverbs 2:6–10*, Concordant Literal Old Testament

Such knowledge, understanding, and wisdom can even cause God to alter His judgments (when it suits Him to do so) when we please him. Read Dr. Martin’s article “[The Repentance of God in the Bible](#)” and also “[When Prophecies Fail](#).”

The Prime Example of Antecedents – The Return of Christ Jesus to Earth

Events that must occur prior to the prophetic fulfillment of Christ's return are the best example of antecedent events and conditions. Read them for yourself in Matthew chapter 24, Mark chapter 13, Luke 19:41–44, and 21:5–36, and even in Acts 1:6–11. When speaking to His disciples on the Mount of Olives overlooking the Temple, Jesus mentioned several events must take place before He returns to take public control of the Kingdom God His Father gave Him. Surely He has total control of earth and events leading up to the moment of His return, but most of the control He exercises now is hidden, not known, or is invisible to the world.

When Christ returns He will not only rule, but He will begin the reconciliation of earth and all the heavens (1 Corinthians 15:12–28; Ephesians 1:10; Philippians 2:9–11; Colossians 1:15–20).

His disciples "... **asked of Him, saying, 'Lord, will you at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?'**" (Matthew 24:3; Mark 13:4). In Luke 21:7 the question is phrased differently: "**Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?**"

Consider this itemized list of events that must occur leading up to Christ's return. I think you will find the list more extensive than you ever realized:

- False Christs ("Messiahs") claiming to be Jesus or to speak for Him, in His name. These people will arise, mislead, and point the people away from the Scriptures (Matthew 24:5, 24; Mark 13:5–6, 22; Luke 21:8)
- Wars and rumors of wars (Matthew 24:6; Mark 13:7; Luke 21:9)
- Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom (Matthew 24:7; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:10)
- FAMINES [hunger] (Matthew 24:7; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11)
- Troubles [unspecified] (Mark 13:8)
- PESTILENCES [Plagues] (Matthew 24:7; Luke 21:11)
- EARTHQUAKES in diverse places (Matthew 24:7; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11)
- TERRORS AND SIGNS from Heaven (Luke 21:11, 24)
- All these things are birth pangs (Matthew 24:8; Mark 13:8)
- They will deliver and persecute you (Luke 21:12)
- They will deliver you to be afflicted (Matthew 24:9)
- They will deliver you to councils (Mark 13:9)
- They will deliver and beat you in synagogues (Mark 13:9; Luke 21:12)
- They will deliver you to prisons (Luke 21:12)
- They bring you before rulers and kings for Jesus' sake (Mark 13:9; Luke 21:12)
- MANY will be offended [by fellow Israelites?] (Matthew 24:10)
- [MANY] will betray one another (Matthew 24:10)
- Brother will betray brother unto death. Father will betray son; children will rise up against parents unto death (Mark 13:12; Luke 21:16)
- Hated by all for Christ's namesake (Mark 13:13; Luke 21:17)
- [Many believers?] shall hate one another (Matthew 24:10)
- When Jerusalem is surrounded, the [Abomination of] "**desolation**" is NEAR (Luke 21:20)

- MANY false prophets shall arise and deceive MANY (Matthew 24:11)
- Iniquity will abound and the love of many will wax cold (Matthew 24:12)
- THE GOSPEL of the kingdom [of God] SHALL BE PREACHED in all the world, [why?] for a witness unto all nations (Matthew 24:13; Mark 13:10)
- THEN shall the end come (Matthew 24:14)
- The ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION shall stand in the Holy Place (Matthew 24: 15; Mark 13:14; Luke 21:20)
- People in Judea should flee (Matthew 24:16; Mark 13:14; Luke 21:21)
- These are the DAYS OF VENGEANCE (Luke 21:22)
- Those on housetops, take nothing when you flee (Matthew 24:17; Mark 13:15)
- Him in the field do not go home to get clothes (Matthew 24:18; Mark 13:16)
- WOE to those with child and to the suckling child (Matthew 24:19; Mark 13:17; Luke 21:23)
- MANY will be killed or made captive (Luke 21:24)
- Jerusalem will be CONQUERED by the Gentiles (Luke 21:24). That happened in 70 AD. **“The times of the Gentiles”** (better, **“the eras of the nations”**) are not yet completed.
- THEN will come great tribulation (Matthew 24:21)
- If those days are not shortened, NO FLESH [would] be saved (Matthew 24:22 ; Mark 13:19)
- REPEAT, false Christs, false prophets, and great signs and wonders (Matthew 24:24; Mark 13:21–22)
- If they say, Christ is in the desert or secret chambers, do not believe (Matthew 24:26)
- LIKE LIGHTNING coming out of the east and shine to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be (Matthew 24:27)
- Where the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered (Matthew 24:28)
- AFTER the tribulation the sign of the Son of Man shall appear: sun darkened, moon dark, stars fall from heaven, powers of the heavens shaken (Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:24–25; Luke 21:25–26)
- HEARTS WILL FAIL from fear (Luke 21:26)
- The SIGN of the son of Man shall appear (Matthew 24:30; Mark 13:26; Luke 21:27)

Some people think the “bulleted” events listed above in Matthew, Mark, and Luke all were fulfilled in 70 AD, but they are wrong. Here are some full passages in Luke that I believe apply to both the Jewish rebellion in 70 AD and a future fulfillment:

“And when you shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof [written about by Daniel] IS NIGH. Then

[1] **let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and**

[2] **let them which are in the midst of it [Jerusalem] depart out; and**

[3] **let not them that are in the countries [adjacent to Jerusalem] enter thereinto [meaning, into Jerusalem] ...”**

• **Luke 21:20–21**

“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.”

• *Luke 21:27–28*

Jesus in Matthew 24:33 said, **“So likewise you, when you shall see ALL these things, know that it is NEAR, even at the doors.”**

Luke 21:31–32 is phrased a bit different:

“So likewise you, when you see THESE THINGS come to pass, know you that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, TILL ALL BE FULFILLED.”

In the first chapter of Acts, after His resurrection, the apostles asked Jesus again and He told them they WOULD NOT KNOW when Jesus would return and inaugurate direct rule of the Kingdom of God on earth:

“When they [the apostles] therefore were come together, they asked of Him, saying, ‘Lord, wilt You at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?’

And He said unto them, ‘It is not for YOU to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in His own power.’”

• *Acts 1:6–7*

God kept that knowledge from the closest apostles of Jesus. Yes, when Christ returns He will set foot on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4). But rather than the peaceful way He ascended, when His feet touch the earth of the Mount of Olives He will cause a great earthquake to split the mountain in two. It may destroy the desecrated and unclean Temple and most of Jerusalem. (This is another good reason for people to flee Jerusalem.) For more information on these times and related issues, see my articles, [“The End Time? Not Yet!”](#) and [“Biblical Wonders In The Sky](#).

Other prophecies have their own set of antecedent events and conditions. Here are some ...

Antecedents To – Rebuilding The Jerusalem Temple

There must be a properly functioning Temple before Christ returns. A nonexistent, non-functioning, or biblically irregular Temple cannot to be desecrated by the Antichrist.

The Temple will be measured out before Christ returns. Read what was involved in rebuilding the Zerubabel Temple after the Jews came out of the exile from Babylon, in [“The Rebuilding of the Temple.”](#)

To look at a survey of ASK information regarding the Temples of God, see the [“June 2022 Newsletter.”](#) As I wrote in an addendum to Dr. Martin’s “Rebuilding” article:

“Contrary to rumors you may have heard, even though a foundation stone may someday be laid, and a Temple may be started, the building of any Temple will take a long time before it is completed. It may take decades to construct the Temple [after] the laying of the foundation stone until its dedication. Environmental and water considerations are substantial and cannot be ignored. Remember, the Jewish Temple is a slaughterhouse where sacrifices take place. Thousands of animals will be killed every year. Blood and animal waste must be dealt with properly.”

Furthermore, other other issues must be solved before the Temple will be built:

- The correct historical site of the Jerusalem Temples should be acknowledged by the world, particularly by the Jewish religious leaders. They may not want to build at that location. However, there is a large area around the proper site where a Temple can be built, and that area includes the Haram esh-Sharif. But why build the next Temple where controversy can cause trouble and wars, when a perfectly good site has been used for the Solomonian, Zerubbabel, Hasmonean expansion, and Herodian expansions — on top of the City of David.

- A working Sanhedrin (a Jewish deliberative body) will judge religious, legal, construction, and social matters according to the Laws of Moses, as well as matters outside of that Law. A working Sanhedrin must be established. There will be problems designating responsibilities, and there will be many arguments about authority and rights of members, particularly regarding Levites and those descended from the priestly family of Aaron. A Sanhedrin decides the schedules of Temple operations and workers. Only Levites can work to construct the actual physical construction of the Temple structure. This leads to another necessary condition regarding the next Temple.⁵
- Work done in the Temple after it is dedicated can only be done by those descended from the tribe of **Levi**. Of all the Levites only those descended from the family of Aaron, can be priests or *cohens*. They alone can perform the sacrificial killing of animals on an altar. At the Temple there will be precise and exacting procedures. Who is a true Levite or a Priest from Aaron? Today we have the advantage of DNA sampling that can, so it is said, determine if any Jew is of Levitical heritage or from the priestly family from Aaron. (See the Israel356 News webpage, “[DNA Studies Trace Jewish Priestly Lineage From Biblical Times](#).”) The tasks done at the Temple involve rigorous and hard manual labor. Many clean animals are sacrificed and their meat distributed. There will be large amounts of blood. Such are the strict biblical requirements that God sets forth in His Scriptures.
- **Priests** are not permitted to marry divorcees or converts, and they are also forbidden from encountering the dead, or from entering cemeteries. However, their position also brings certain benefits, such as receiving a portion of the tithes which are permitted only to **priests and Levites**. Tithes are required of all Israelites on agricultural goods, but only if a Temple is operating. No Temple, no tithes. See [The Tithing Dilemma](#), free online
- **Living Water** is a major requirement. A massive source of “living water” must be available. It must supply the needs of the Temple, both to ensure the purity of the water used for ritually cleansing of the tools and the to cleanse environs of the Temple area. The blood from the sacrifices must be washed away for the sake of hygiene as well as for ritual purposes. On some festival days thousands of animals will be sacrificed, as they were in ancient times. Mikvah water must be sourced from “living water.” Can piped-in water be suitable? These arguments must be decided before sacrifices can begin. I think there is a good possibility that God will “open up” a source of water in Jerusalem. It will be similar to the water that flowed through a siphon spring underneath earlier Temples all positioned above the Gihon Spring. The flow of water was intermittent but reliable.
- **The Two Witnesses**. Will the “**two witnesses**” of Revelation 11:1–14 help settle many, if not most, of these issues during their prophetic service? Or will the two witnesses come to teach and preach after the Temple is completed? We cannot know. They may support the Sanhedrin, or oppose it on many issues, such as, who is the Messiah? At some time before he returns, Christ Jesus will be recognized as the true Messiah of God for Israel, and the Savior of all mankind. The two witnesses seem to relate somehow to the Temple. “**These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.**” (Revelation 11:4, citing Zechariah chapter 4, which itself is hard to understand).
- **Sacrificial Animals** — their purchase, handling, and blood sacrifice within the Temple environs will be part of a functioning Temple. How will that be handled? Will there be moneychangers again? When done honestly, they do serve a purpose. Most all the meat from the animals is eaten.
- **Background about the Temple**. For more background about Temple operations, see “[The Temple — Its Ministry and Services](#)” (revised edition, 1874) by Jewish-Christian author Alfred Edersheim.

⁵ A good place to start in a matter like this is the Wikipedia article, “[Modern attempts to revive the Sanhedrin](#).” It gives a brief history on prior attempts to reestablish a Sanhedrin, and it goes into some of the issues confronting a modern Sanhedrin.

The link takes you to an easy-to-read online edition. Raised and immersed in the Talmudic Jewish teachings, Edersheim converted to Christianity, and wrote several books and eventually became a Protestant minister until his death in the late 1800s.

There is no Temple now. A Temple will be rebuilt before Christ returns. Jesus said He will come to Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives near where a Temple will be located.

These issues, and many others, should be settled before another Temple can be built, authorized by a Sanhedrin, and operated by Levites and Aaronic priests. We WILL KNOW about their discussions and their decisions. They will not be done in secret. Each issue and every decision will likely involve major arguments among Jewish scholars and leaders, and public announcements will be made to explain the decisions.

Fortunately, they have excellent guidelines from Scripture, but also from the *Mishnah*, a written record of the “oral law” of the Jews regarding Temple operations and Jewish life. Regarding the Temple, the *Mishnah* deals with facts and less theology. It complements and comments on the ritual portions in the *Tanakh*, a Hebrew term for what we call the Old Testament. The *Mishnah* is itself commented upon by a mass of arguments on what the *Mishnah* really says. These commentaries are the *Jerusalem Talmud* and the *Babylonian Talmud*. These are the written works about the theology of the Pharisees from before the Time of Christ that gradually became the theology of historical Judaism after 70 AD. See Dr. Martin’s Chapter 10, “[The Solidification of Rabbinic Judaism](#)” from his book, *The People That History Forgot*.

Antecedents To – The Abomination Of Desolation In Daniel

We return to examine more closely the topic of the “**Abomination of Desolation**” referred to in Daniel 11:31, 12:11; Matthew 24:15; and Mark 13:14. It is referred to simply as “**the desolation**” in Luke 21:20–21.

Can there be an “**Abomination of Desolation**” without a Temple? No. The King of the North, the Antichrist, will halt the covenant daily sacrifices (Daniel 12:11). Will a tabernacle sanctuary suffice to fulfill the prophecy of the Abomination? Again, no.

When Jesus spoke about the “Abomination” in Matthew and Mark, the “Abomination” in Daniel had not yet occurred. Jesus was looking across from the Mount of Olives to the Temple. He made no reference to a Tabernacle or a tent, nor did he refer to an altar in this context, but He did refer to the grand Temple edifice with the Roman-occupied Fort Antonia to its north, across the Kidron Valley. The moment Jesus told them about the destruction of the Temple and other events, they asked Him when those events would occur. Jesus responded that it was not for them to know or understand at that time (Matthew 24:36, 24:42, 25:13; Mark 13:32; Luke 21:36). Again, I recommend you reference Dr. Martin’s article, “[Matters of Prophecy in Daniel.](#)”

Regarding the “Abomination of Desolation” ...

- It was not fulfilled before the time of Jesus.
- It was not fulfilled after Jesus ascended.
- It was not fulfilled up to the time of the Jewish rebellion that ended in the Roman siege, conquest, and destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD.
- The destruction of the Temple was not the “**Abomination of Desolation.**” Josephus, an eyewitness who knew and quotes Daniel’s writings, makes no notice of the Abomination, nor was the Roman general Titus against the Temple or Jewish religious practice. The last Herodian King, Agrippa II, and Jews who did not fight the Romans and those like Josephus (who changed sides and joined the Romans) were allowed to flourish and practice their religion by the Romans. The Temple was destroyed, but the Romans did not attempt to forbid Jewish worship anywhere else in the Roman Empire.
- There has been no Temple since 70 AD to the present.
- We do not know how long building the Temple will take, if constructed with tools specified by God.

- The Abomination of Desolation must be fulfilled in our future.

How long would it take to build a new Temple? The Solomonic Temple took seventeen years to build before it was dedicated (1 Kings 6:38). He had thousands of men working on it. During Christ's ministry this incident occurred:

“And his disciples remembered that it was written, ‘The zeal of your house has eaten me up.’ Then answered the Jews and said unto him, ‘What sign show you unto us, seeing that you do these things?’

Jesus answered and said unto them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’

Then said the Jews, ‘Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt you rear it up in three days?’

But he spoke of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

• *John 2:17–22*

Herod built a new *naos*, a new Holy Place and Holy of Holies in 1½ years. He was able to do this because he built the new *naos* alongside the old one. In this way operations of the sacrifices and rituals would not be disrupted (Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, 15.421). In total, the structure of the Herodian Temple complex, under construction for 46 years, was completed by 31 AD, but decorative finishing was not done until 63 AD, a few years before the Jewish rebellion broke out in 66 AD.

Must a Temple be completed to be a functioning sanctuary? No. But note that in the time of Ezra an altar of unhewn stones was constructed before a permanent sanctuary structure (housing the Holy Place and Holy of Holies) was constructed of cut stone blocks. And note that the text says the leaders sought to follow all the Mosaic procedures:

“Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God.

And they set the altar upon his bases; for fear was upon them because of the people of those countries [who opposed the Temple's construction, Ezra chapter 4]: and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto YHWH, even burnt offerings morning and evening. They

[1] **kept also the feast of tabernacles, as it is written, and**

[2] **offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom, as the duty of every day required; And afterward**

[3] **offered the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of YHWH that were consecrated, and**

[4] **[the burnt offering] of every one that willingly offered a freewill offering unto YHWH.”**

• *Ezra 3:2–5*

However, that was not what God wanted. It was not sufficient. God communicated His displeasure through the prophecy of Haggai that the Jews were not working on the Temple. It was 18 years later that the Jews finally began the construction of the stone Temple structure. Again, see the article, “[Book of Haggai, Time Prophecies](#)” and my Commentary “[Haggai and the Temple](#).”

Antecedents To – Rebuilding Babylon and Babylon's Destruction In Isaiah

Let me give another example of prophetic antecedents. I came across a 1922 article (probably on the internet) “[Will Babylon be Rebuilt?](#)” by Dr. F.E. Marsh, written 100 years ago. Dr. Martin wrote his own article on the same subject in 1975, “[The Rebirth of Babylon](#).” They both came to the same conclusion 52

years apart. I republished both articles in October 2002. Dr. Martin had visited Babylon in 1972 and later wrote his article in 1975 article written 53 years after Marsh. I published both in October 2002. You will also find the "[October 2002 Newsletter](#)" to be very informative.

Dr. Martin knew the history of Babylon in Iraq, some 50+ plus years after Marsh's 1922 article. Both used the same passages in Isaiah, but other proofs were different. They both came to the same conclusion. The prophecy in Isaiah has not yet happened as indicated in later Scripture or in recorded history. The prophecy has a future fulfillment. Dr. Martin had his 1975 on-the-scene perspective when he recorded his 1975 tape after his 1972 trip to Iraq. I transcribed the tape and converted it into an article. In an October 2003 Commentary I ask, "[Is America Babylon? No!](#)" The answer is no, America is not Babylon. I wrote a later February 2006 Commentary, "[More on Rebuilding Babylon.](#)"

The entire world lives and operates under a Babylonian "system" imposed by God upon all nations of the world, as revealed in the writings of Jeremiah the prophet. Read or reread that article, "[Prophetic Birth of Our Civilization.](#)" Then follow up with more information on the same topic, "[Origin and Goal of Western Civilization, Part 1,](#)" and "[Origin and Goal of Western Civilization, Part 2.](#)" Given recent events around the world since 2020, the desire and attempt to accomplish a single world government is growing.

However, it will not succeed until the antichrist motivates it to happen, and that will come about only because spiritual beings motivate, and when necessary, control his actions. Read Dr. Martin's 1990 article, "[Coming, the New World Order.](#)"

Some 2,700+ years have passed since Isaiah penned God's prophecies about Babylon. Little has changed for the ruins of Babylon (in the country of Iraq) since 1922, since 1975, since 2002, or even 20 years later, today, as I write in December 2022. Yet God has said Babylon will be destroyed and remain destroyed in a manner that will allow no life to survive in that part of Iraq. Nor has the prophecy of Revelation 14:8-9 occurred, not yet that is, but it will happen:

"And another, a second messenger, follows, saying, 'It falls! It falls! Babylon the great has made all nations drink of the wine of the fury of her prostitution!'"

And another, a third messenger, follows them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone is worshiping the wild beast and its image, and is getting an emblem on his forehead or on his hand ...'"

• **Revelation 14:8-9** (Concordant Literal Old Testament)

The time of Babylon's destruction is future, at the same time as the "**mark of the beast**" will be required in the world. More information about the destruction of Babylon is prophesied in Revelation chapter 18. It was not destroyed in the past. Today life goes on, people live there, animals are raised and pastured near the ruins of Babylon.

Babylon must be rebuilt at a time future to us if that prophecy has never been fulfilled as God described through Isaiah and other prophets. If not, then God's prophecies to Isaiah will have failed. The rebuilding and destruction of Babylon must come before Christ returns. Then Babylon will be uninhabited and unlivable for human beings until a New Heaven and New Earth are created (Revelation 21:1-2).

There were news articles before the dictator Saddam Hussein was deposed. He wanted to rebuild Babylon with help from the World Bank. After Saddam died that idea resurfaced ("[World Bank Ready to Rebuild Iraq](#)"), but other problems prevented that from happening. Up to the present, Iraq has not become prosperous, or the center of world commerce as described in the Book of Revelation.

However, progress has begun on preserving and restoring ancient Babylon and it is now a World Monuments Fund historical site. Iraq is under strong Iranian influence and has regional difficulties with the Kurdish people in the north and the religious disputes of the Sunni and Shiite factions of Islam in other parts of their country. To see a 2019 artist's video conception of what ancient Babylon looked like, see "[Babylon 3d full video](#)" (17 minutes long, I found it fascinating).

Most ancient cities were similar so far as the ordinary housing structures are concerned, varying around the world according to available building materials. In Babylon the materials were hardened mud bricks. With

them they built monumental structures. All ancient cities were built, and their layouts depended on sites where water and good soil were available.

Ancient Babylon is some 70+ miles south of Baghdad, the capital of Iraq. The next Babylon to be built will be a modern city, like the city of Dubai today (one of the three largest cities in the United Arab Emirates). When the rich of the world make the decision, money will pour in to supply the project. Careful planning for infrastructure takes time and must be done before extensive construction begins. Babylon will not be built in months or in a few years.⁶ Babylon's reconstruction will be public. For an example, see the website, "[How long did it take to build Dubai?](#)" Dubai is currently home to the world's tallest building. Different websites give varying answers. One website says actual construction of much of Dubai took only six years.

Antecedents To – The Ten Nations Around Israel

Dr. Martin presents the information given in Psalm 83 in his article "[The Prophesied State of Palestine.](#)" Look at what must happen before the 10 nations form an accommodation with the nation and people of Israel. These ten nations will be independent countries (as we phrase them today), with defined territories of occupation and boundaries. With Israel's participation those nations will form an economic trading group. By that method of cooperation with its neighbors, Israel will economically "conquer" its neighbors, to the benefit of all members. See Dr. Martin's article, "[How Israel Will Conquer the Middle East.](#)" Peace is an antecedent to that cooperative prosperity of Israel and the ten nations, "[Israel Should Cease its Military Conquests Post Haste!](#)" Who knows how long it will last? Probably until the Antichrist reveals himself. In addition to Dr. Martin's articles, I present evidence contrary to the usual evangelical identifications of the Ten Nations in my Commentaries, "[The Ten Nations and the Roman Empire](#)" and "[Current Events and Psalm 83.](#)"

Antecedents To – The Kings of The North And South

Two Kingdoms will arise to the north and south of the lands and peoples that surround Judea at the present time. While these kingdoms may be loose confederations of peoples and land areas each of them will be more like an empire than single kingdoms.

One antecedent will be the formation of ten nations with rough boundaries described in Psalm 83. Another antecedent is that the King of the North will rule or have control of lands and political states roughly to the north of Judea, probably in a northern compass quadrant referring to lands beginning on a compass to the northwest through the north and to the northeast, depending on geography. How far north will the rule of the King of the North extend (there apparently will be at least such kings fighting with the King of the South).⁷

The kings of the south will rule over lands to the southwest of Judea (this would include Egypt, and lands to the west along the coast of Africa), directly south of Judea that today is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and smaller political states around the south and southeast of the Arabian Peninsula.

Another antecedent in Scripture is that we are told the lands of the King of the South will be extremely wealthy and much booty and riches will be seized by a King of the North and his armies (see Daniel chapter 11). Prophetic timelines for the future fulfillment of Daniel's prophecies need to be sorted out.

One more antecedent to the wars of the Kings of the North and South is that they will take place before the revealing of the Antichrist and before he invades the land and people of Israel before Christ comes. At the end of their combats, the King of the North will prevail over the King of the South. Again, see my Commentary, "[End Time in Daniel](#)" that gives introductory information to Dr. Martin's article, "[Matters of Prophecy in Daniel](#)" that I mentioned earlier in this article.

⁶ Discount the rebuilding of Babylon if you wish, but why would you? The prophecies have never been fulfilled. The city was **not** demolished as some claim. When the Persian Empire was overthrown, Alexander the Great sought to make Babylon the capital of his world empire, but he died at age 33. The Seleucid Empire, the Parthian, later regional empires, and even to the time of the Muslim conquests, and Turkish empires — all allowed Babylon to exist, and it eventually declined to its present condition.

⁷ Gog and Magog may be somewhere within Russia, but the present country is not Gog or Magog any more than the defunct Soviet Union was. See the articles "[Afghanistan \(Gog and Magog\)](#)," "[The Breakup of the Soviet Union.](#)" For a full understanding of ancient nations and their future, just before Christ returns, see the article "[Prophetic Geography and the Time of the End.](#)"

Antecedents To – The Antichrist and False Prophet

Antichrists were appearing in the time of the apostle John. With the information John gives us, there should be no difficulty for believers to recognize an antichrist-type person. John wrote this sometime in the 90s AD, after the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD. :

“Little children, it is the last time [“last hour” in Greek]: **and as you have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists**; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

But you have an unction [an anointing, meaning God’s Holy Spirit] **from the Holy One, and you know all things. I have not written unto you because you know not the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that denies that Jesus is the Christ** [Messiah]? **He is antichrist, that denies the Father and the Son.**”

• 1 John 2:18–22

There will be a great deception before the Antichrist is revealed (“[Christian in Name Only](#)”).

Read Dr. Martin’s articles, “[The Life and Times of the Antichrist Part 1](#)”; “[The Life and Times of the Antichrist Part 2](#)”; “[Discovering the Mark of the Beast](#)”; May 2011 Commentary “[Nebuchadnezzar and Antichrist](#)”; my April 2015 Commentary, “[Antichrist and Salvation](#)”; and “[Conspiracy in Scripture](#)”

Antecedents To – Wars Between The King Of The North And King Of The South

Before Christ returns, several wars will be fought between the Kings of the North and the Kings of the South. These will take place over several years. Events must occur before the wars begin.

Do you know who the first King of the North is? What about the second King of the North? When the Second King of the North dies, he will be “reanimated” or made alive somehow, and will likely be possessed by Satan to be the Antichrist who will place Himself in the Temple to perform the “**Abomination of Desolation**” (See the “Antecedents” above.)

If you want to know the movements of the Antichrist army in his confrontation with Christ’s return, read the move-by-move and blow-by-blow account in “[New Prophetic Discoveries Concerning the End Time](#).” Review “[The Land of Israel in Prophecy](#).”

Antecedents To – The Damascus Phase of End-Time Prophecy

Dr. Martin identifies what he called “[The Damascus Phase of End-Time Prophecy](#).” Several events will occur before a disastrous event strikes the Eastern Mediterranean Sea and devastates much of the coastline, particularly the eastern shore of Judea. Damascus will see an end of war and God will greatly favor that city.

See also, Dr. Martin’s articles “[The Asteroid Destruction: It’s Timing and Purpose](#)” and “[The Destruction of the World in Prophecy](#)”

Summary and Conclusion

In this article I have given a limited survey of prophecies that apparently need to be fulfilled before Christ returns. Of course, whether a prophecy is fulfilled and how it is fulfilled is totally up to God and Christ. Remember what the apostle Paul said about God’s will throughout His creation:

“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth;

even in Him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him [God our Father]

who works ALL THINGS after the counsel of His OWN will

That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ.”

• *Ephesians 1:10–12*

God has an excellent and a perfect reason for doing whatever He chooses to do in His creation. When God sees fit to tell us the details of each prophecy and its fulfillment, he shall do so. We will be satisfied. Paul tells us God will reveal the reasons why He does what He does:

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,

may give unto YOU [1] the spirit of wisdom [2] and revelation in the knowledge [Greek, *epignousai*, full knowledge] of Him.”

• *Ephesians 1:17*

Yes, after His resurrection to glory, Christ has — and does so even today — held God the Father, to be HIS God that He worships and serves. This is in line with what Jesus said to Mary Magdalene soon after His resurrection: **“I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to MY GOD, and your God”** (John 20:17).

- Upon our resurrection to glory, we will have **“the spirit of wisdom and revelation of the knowledge of Him,”** God our Father, that Christ has now. We will quickly learn how to wisely use that “full knowledge” to glorify God, and help Christ reconcile all of creation to God.
- We will also be told how every prophecy God has given was fulfilled in creation.

Your Life, Your Death, and Your Future

Remember, for you as a believer, the exact moment of Christ’s return can be known. For you personally that moment will be the ultimate evidence of God’s fulfillment of prophecy in your life. He created you. He will remember you. He will bring you back to life. He shall glorify you to be with every human ever born, to be with Christ, and to be with your God.

Read my brief Commentaries listed below, in order as I present them will be best. They all deal with **YOUR** life, **YOUR** death, and **YOUR** resurrection:

[“Every Breath, Every Heartbeat,”](#) [“The Exact Time of Christ's Return \[for you\],”](#) [“Raised to Mortal Flesh,”](#) [“Your Resurrection; Paul's Comparisons,”](#) and [“Your Resurrection.”](#) A more complete analysis is in Dr. Martin’s information in chapters 16, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 33 from his book, [Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#).

For the best experience of understanding God’s teachings regarding you and your relations with your God and Christ, read all of *Essentials* as Dr. Martin intended it to be read, according to the chapter order in the Table of Contents.

The rest of the world will be in this situation, as Paul teaches.

“For God locks up ALL together in stubbornness, that He should be merciful to ALL.

O, the depth of the [1] riches and the [2] wisdom and the [3] knowledge of God!

How inscrutable are His judgments, and untraceable His ways! For,

who knew the mind of the Lord? or,

who became His adviser? or,

who gives to Him first, and it will be repaid him?

seeing that out of Him and through Him and for Him is ALL:

to Him be the glory for the eons! Amen!”

• *Romans 11:32–36* (Concordant Literal Version)

Trust God and His Word (both living and written).

David Sielaff, December 2022