

Part 1

Why do we want to understand the truth of Prophecy in God's Word? So many, today, shy away from any understanding of Prophecy. Pastors who ignore so much of God's Word which is Prophecy, do themselves and their flocks the greatest of disservice. But how are they to know what Prophecy is saying? They won't even look at it, they say it's confusing but the sad truth is, for many of them, it's an embarrassment. They are too proud to mess with that prophecy stuff: *'A man's pride will bring him low, But a humble spirit will obtain honor. The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.'* Prov 29:23,24

They fear the disdain of people more than they seek the Lord's favor.

Peter wrote: *'... we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For when He (Jesus) received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased" and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.'* 2Pet 1:16

Peter is saying that even though they saw Jesus glorified, the Word of Prophecy is even more sure and to be believed and followed.

The main reason we seek to know and understand Prophecy is that every time we see that Prophecy was fulfilled, exactly as spoken, it gives us greater assurance and confidence in the rest of God's Word. If what He said through His Prophet was true, then we can know with certainty that everything else He has said in His Word is, or will be, just as certain and true.

The Tribulation is the soon coming 7-year period, between the Rapture and Armageddon. When Jesus comes for us in the Rapture, He will come down only as far as 'the clouds;' He will not set foot on the Earth at that time. When He comes at Armageddon, He will stand on the Earth; He will stand on the Mt. of Olives which will split from East to West. Then, He will destroy all His enemies, He will cast the Antichrist and the False Prophet into the Lake of Fire, He will imprison Satan in the Bottomless Pit and He will set up His Earthly Kingdom over which He will rule and reign for 1000 years as we, His Bride, rule and reign with Him.

During the 7 years of the Tribulation, God will judge and punish the unbelieving World for their rejection of Him, His Word and of His Son Who offered His life, death and resurrection as full payment for the sin of every person who would come to Him by faith.

The Tribulation will also be the time during which God will finish His judgment of Israel.

We know that the Tribulation will be a period of 7 years because it is described as the final, 70th 'week of years' in Daniel's prophecy of the '70 Weeks' in Daniel chapter 9.

According to Daniel's prophecy, because Israel rejected and crucified Messiah, the Prince, Who offered Himself as their King at the end of Daniel's 69th Week, 483 years after Nehemiah's edict to return to rebuild Jerusalem, a long parenthetical age, nearly 2000 years, so far, was inserted by God between the end of the 69th week of years and the beginning of the 70th week of years. This was for the express purpose of drawing to Himself, in Salvation, every member of the Body and Bride of Jesus Christ whom He had chosen and elected for Himself before He laid the foundations of the World.

The Tribulation has a very definite purpose which God has revealed to anyone with the wisdom to understand. He clearly laid it out in his revelation to Daniel: *'Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.'* Dan 9:24

God told Daniel that He would, within the span of 490 years (70 x 7-year weeks of years) accomplish 6 specific things: 1. to finish the transgression, 2. to make an end of sins, 3. to make reconciliation for iniquity, 4. to bring

in everlasting righteousness, 5. to seal up the vision and prophecy and 6. to anoint the most Holy.

Since Israel rejected and crucified her Messiah and King, the Lord Jesus Christ, none of those 6 things were fully accomplished. Therefore, there remains one final week, 7 years, during which God will finally, fully accomplish all 6 of these purposes for Israel.

That is God's #1 purpose for The Tribulation. Yes, He does have secondary purposes for The Tribulation such as judging the Gentile World...

*'Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. ²⁶ And after threescore and two weeks (at the end of the 69th week, 7 + 62) shall **Messiah be cut off**, but not for himself: and the people (Rome) of the prince that shall come (Antichrist) shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.'* Dan 9:25 (after Messiah is 'cut off,' Rome will destroy Jerusalem and the Temple, which happened in A.D. 70)

We see that the Tribulation will be a period of 7 years and will begin long after (nearly 2000 years after) Rome's destruction of Jerusalem; the Tribulation will begin when the Antichrist confirms a 7-year covenant (treaty) which involves Israel and 'many' of her neighbors: *'And he shall **confirm the covenant with many for one week** (7years): '... and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.'* Dan 9:27

God's work with Israel was cut short when they made agreement with Rome to crucify the true King as they cried out, *'We have no king but Caesar!' 'And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar. ¹³ When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. ¹⁴ And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! ¹⁵ But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, **We have no king but Caesar.** ¹⁶ Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.'* John 19:12

That was the last agreement Israel made with Rome and Caesar. Soon, after nearly 2000 years, Israel will once again make an agreement with Rome, the 7-year covenant confirmed by the Antichrist (Caesar); God's work with Israel will resume when they make their final agreement with Rome. This time, however, instead of rejecting Messiah in favor of Caesar, they will receive Caesar (Antichrist) as their Messiah.

Jesus said, *'I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, (Antichrist) him ye will receive.'* John 5:43

In Daniel's prophecy, we see, *'... and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease.'* For the sacrifice to cease it will need to have been reinstated. For the sacrifice to be reinstated, there must be a Temple rebuilt in which to, once again, offer the sacrifice. Construction of a new Temple could begin today.

We know that everything necessary for the Temple to be built is now in Jerusalem, stockpiled, ready for construction to begin at a moment's notice. The only thing presently standing in the way is the fact of a multitude of muslim buildings currently covering the Temple Mount. The two most prominent are the al-aqsa mosque and especially the Dome of the Rock which is, in itself, an abomination before the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Inside the Dome of the Rock is an inscription in Arabic script from 691-692 that runs almost 800 feet in a narrow path around the octagonal walls as a form of Islamic artwork that reads: "O you People of the Book, overstep not bounds in your religion, and of God speak only the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, is only an apostle of God, and his Word which he conveyed unto Mary, and a Spirit proceeding from

him. Believe therefore in God and his apostles, and say not Three. It will be better for you. God is only one God. Far be it from his glory that he should have a son." That lie, then, is the 'truth' of Islam.

The Dome of the Rock sits above the top of the Temple Mount, or, Mt. Moriah. It was on this very stone that Abraham was willing to offer Isaac, who was, himself, willing to be offered up as a burnt offering to God which was a picture of Jesus' willing submission to God, the Father, in being offered up as payment for our sin. Hundreds of years after Abraham, King David purchased the threshing floor north of the City of David from Araunah the Jebusite for 50 shekels of silver. This then became Solomon's Temple Mount. Also, it was upon this very stone, the top, and bedrock of Mt. Moriah, where the Ark of the Covenant sat within the Holy of Holies, within the Holy Place of Solomon's Temple.

Very likely, the 7-year 'covenant,' which the Antichrist will confirm, will include Israel's rebuilding of the Temple where it belongs, at the top of Mt. Moriah. God has, to this time, precluded the building of another Temple through muslim interference and He has precluded Israel's destruction of muslim interference through the World wide interference of the United Nations. Thus far, God has not allowed all that will transpire during the Tribulation. Israel has been kept in check; Islam has been kept in check; the Antichrist has been kept in check; the whole World has been kept in check; The Holy Spirit has kept evil in check; He will stop restraining evil when the True Church is removed. God has a moment planned when all will be unleashed. That moment is very likely the Rapture. Since the moment of His very first creation, God has planned every moment and nothing occurs outside of God's planned moments. Nothing happens before its planned moment and nothing is ever kept from happening at exactly God's planned moment; God refers to it as '*the fulness of time.*'

*'Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: ¹² That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.'* Eph 1:9

*'But when **the fulness of the time was come**, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, ⁵ To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.'* Gal 4:4

*'Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, **till all these things be fulfilled.** ³⁵ Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. ³⁶ But of **that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.'** Matt 24:36*

'Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.' Heb 4:13

There is absolutely nothing that is unknown to God... nothing! When He has brought about the 'fulness of time,' then He will begin the Tribulation by removing His Holy Spirit's work of restraining evil.

We learn, from The Revelation of John, that the Tribulation will last 7 years; a 7-year treaty is signed which will begin the Tribulation and then we are told, from the Revelation and from Daniel, that the Antichrist will break the treaty at its midpoint, leaving 3.5 years remaining.

God has planned out, exactly, those 7 years and He has told us much of what will occur; most of our understanding of the Tribulation comes to us from *The Revelation of Jesus Christ to John, His apostle.*

In Revelation chapter 1, John sees the Lord Jesus Christ in His Glory.

In Rev. 2-3: Jesus dictates to John, 7 letters to 7 different churches of the first Century; those 7 churches also represent the entirety of the following history of the Church ending with the Church at Laodicea which represents the falling away apostate false church of today. To the 6th Church, of Philadelphia, which represents the true Church of the Last Days, Jesus says, '*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, (the Tribulation) which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.* ¹¹ Behold, I come quickly...' Rev 3:10

At the beginning of Revelation chapter four, John sees an open door in Heaven and hears a voice say, *'Come up here!'* which represents the removal of the Church, in the Rapture, and then the Church is nowhere to be found until the end of The Revelation when the Bride of Jesus Christ is made ready for the Wedding of the Messiah after which she accompanies Him down to Earth at Armageddon.

God's judgments of the World are unleashed one by one as the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, begins to open a Scroll bound by 7 seals. The opening of the 7 seals is followed by 7 angels who sound their trumpets in succession, followed by '7 thunders' and finally by 7 angels pouring out their vials of judgment upon the World. At this time we will only briefly look at God's judgments in the Revelation; we will study them in more depth when we go through the Revelation together.

When the Lamb of God breaks the first four seals on the Scroll, we see four horsemen. The first broken seal releases the Antichrist as He begins to bring the World under his control. The second seal's horseman is given power to take peace from the Earth so that men would begin to kill each other. The third seal's horseman indicates great famine in the World, that it will take a day's wages just to be able to eat for one day. The fourth seal's horseman is death with Hades following after: *'And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.'* Rev 6:8

The opening of the fourth seal brings death in enormous numbers. One fourth of the World's population die, perhaps two billion dead! Notice that many are killed by 'beasts.' Wild animals will begin to turn on mankind and kill. Just this week I watched a coyote nonchalantly trot through our yard carrying someone's cat. When we are outside and coyotes come through the yard, they just stop and look at us. It used to be that animals would quickly run from people... not so much anymore. Perhaps the fear of man is one of the ways the Holy Spirit has been holding back evil. Perhaps when He removes His withholding power, vicious animals will be one of the results.

When the fifth seal is broken, we see the souls of those killed thus far in the Tribulation, those killed for their faith. When the sixth seal is opened, there is a great earthquake with great cosmic disturbances so that men hide in caves, wishing to die rather than experience more of God's Wrath.

Before the seventh seal is opened, an angel, having the Seal of the Living God, cries out to the angels who've been given power to hurt the Earth and the Sea, *'Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.'* Rev 7:3 At this point 144,000 Jewish men, 12,000 each from the 12 tribes of Israel, are sealed and protected by God; we assume that they have been commissioned to go out as mighty evangelists because the next thing we see is: *'After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands... And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?' ¹⁴ And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, these are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'* Rev 7:14

'And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.' Rev 8:1

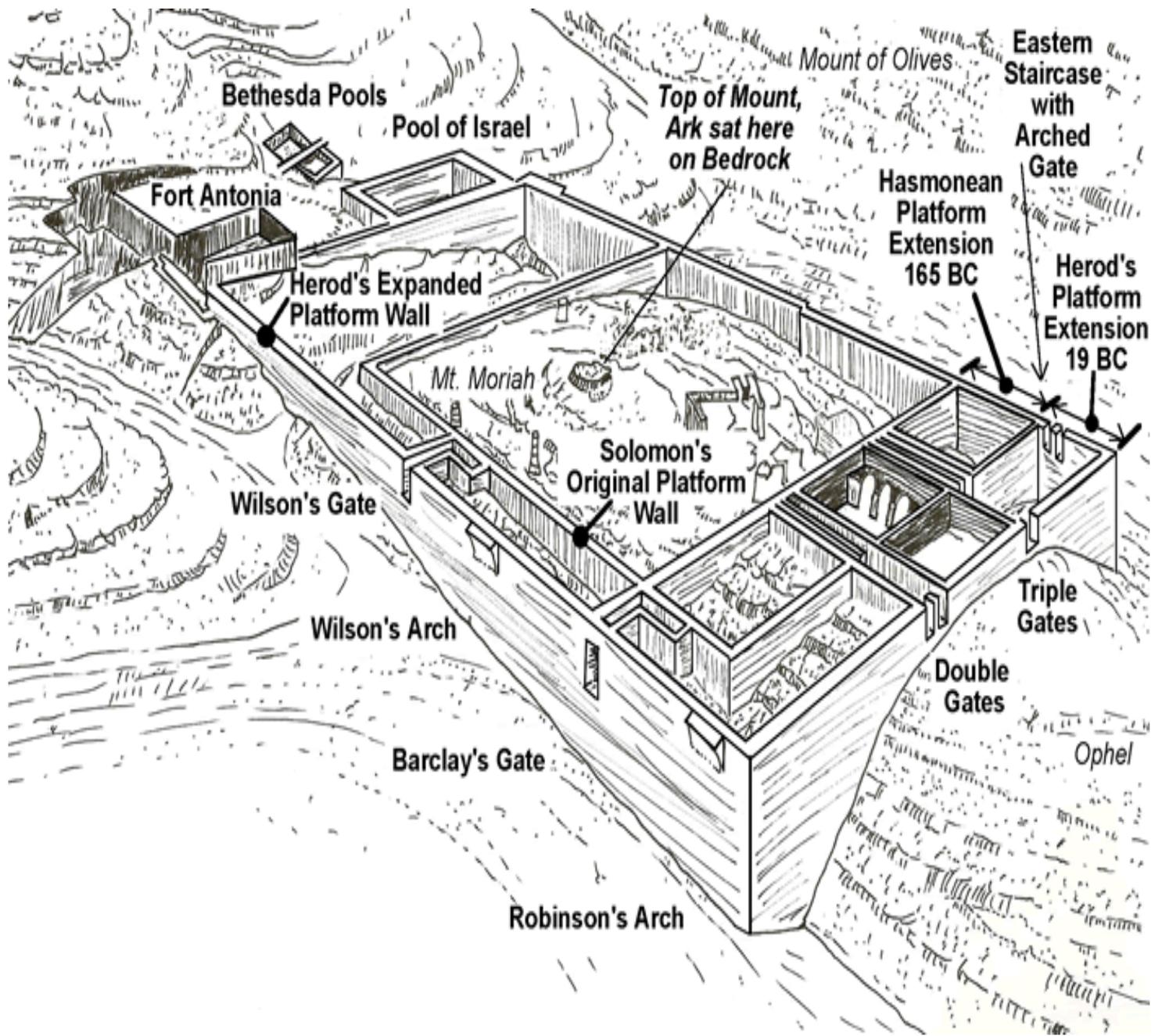
We see that the seven Trumpet Judgments all fall within the opening of the Seventh Seal. The Seventh Seal is God releasing the seven angels to sound their trumpets announcing even more severe judgments. Then it really begins to resemble recent 'End of the World' type horror movies.

By the way... all of the multitudinous 'End of the World' type movies have all... all had one purpose: to prepare the world for the horrors to come and convince them that only one man can save them: Superman/Iron Man/Thor/Captain America/Guardians of the Galaxy: one man to rule them all: the Antichrist.

We will resume, here, next time.

God is Eternal and He lives in Eternity; we can assume that Heaven is also 'in Eternity.' Notice that there is silence in Heaven 'for about half an hour.' Time is marked, even in Heaven. God created time and He created Man to exist in time. There is no reason to think that we will ever cease to mark the passing of time, even in Heaven, even 'in Eternity.'

Temple Mount:



Temple Mount Drawing from:

<https://generationword.com/jerusalem101/67-temple-mount-muslim.html#elaqsa>