

# THE BIBLE AND PROPHECY





God is not limited by time (Psalm 90:4; 2P. 3:8).

Therefore, He's the only one able to tell us the events that have not happened yet. He's done so many times through prophecies in His Word.

The fulfillment of those prophecies is verified by history, so we can be sure that the prophecies about the future will also be fulfilled.

Interpreting prophecy

The timeline of prophecy:

- The "year-day" principle
- Identifying the symbols
- The zenith of the events

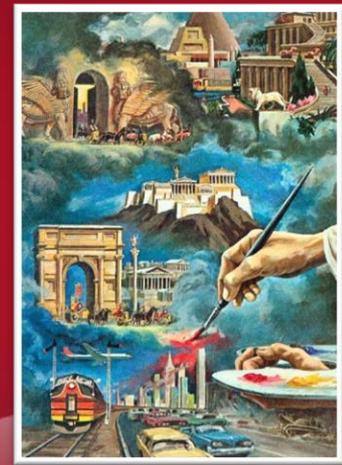
Typology as prophecy



# INTERPRETING PROPHECY

"I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'" (Isaiah 46:10 NIV)

People have used various methods of interpretation when studying the prophetic books of Daniel and Revelation:



**Preterism.** All events have already taken place



**Futurism.** All events are still to happen just before the Second Coming



**Historicism.** Prophecies are fulfilled in history, in the present and in the future

If we follow the Historicism interpretation, we can see how God foretold the succession of kingdoms from Babylon to today through prophet Daniel (cp. 2, 7-12).

Revelation gives more details on the events from John to the end.

Daniel 2

Daniel 7

Daniel 8-9

Daniel 10-12

BABYLON

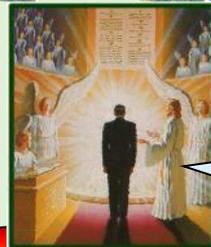
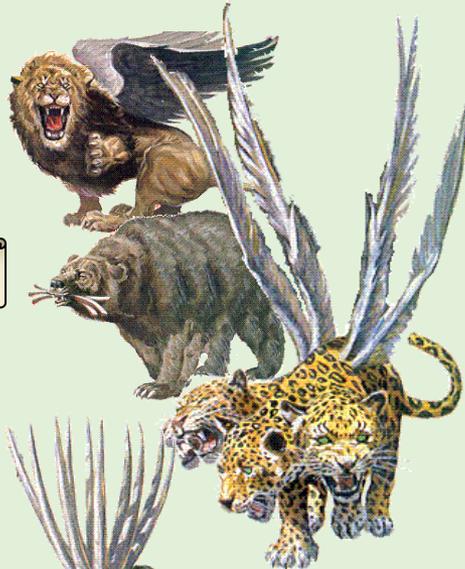
PERSIA

GREECE

ROME

EUROPE

ETERNAL KINGDOM



The beast dies

PERSIA

PERSIA

GREECE

GREECE

PAGAN AND PAPAL ROME

PAGAN AND PAPAL ROME

THE JUDGEMENT

MICHAEL STANDS UP

2,300



# THE “YEAR-DAY” PRINCIPLE

“I have laid on you a day for each year.” (Ezekiel 4:6)

The “year-day” principle can be found in Leviticus 25:8, Numbers 14:34, Ezekiel 4:6, and other texts. The idea is that prophetic days are equivalent to actual years if the next requirements are fulfilled:

- ⌚ The prophetic period must be mentioned in a passage with symbolic elements (beasts, horns, etc.)
- ⌚ The events must be compatible with time periods longer than actual days (e.g. 1,200 days of papal control)
- ⌚ They are not mentioned in the usual way (e.g. “half a time”, “evenings and mornings”, months of 30 days)



# Prophetic times

42 months

1,260 days

Time, times, and  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  time

Rev. 11: 2

Rev. 13: 5

Rev. 11: 3

Rev. 12: 6

Dn. 7: 25

Rev. 12: 14

The holy  
city is trod

The  
authority of  
the beast

The two  
witnesses

The woman  
at the  
desert

The  
authority of  
the beast

The woman  
at the  
desert

1,260 days are 1,260  
years, between 538  
and 1798 AD

42 months  
=  
1,260 days

42 months  
=  
Time, times,  
and  $\frac{1}{2}$  time

1,260 days  
=  
Time, times,  
and  $\frac{1}{2}$  time

# IDENTIFYING THE SYMBOLS

"I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them." (Daniel 7:21)

Daniel 7 and 8 introduce the successive political powers with different symbols.



**Babylon: A winged lion**

**Media-Persia: A bear and a ram**

**Greece: A leopard and a he-goat**

**Rome: A terrible beast and a horn**



Daniel 7 tells the division of the fourth beast in 10 kingdoms, and the emergence of a special "little horn":



Three kingdoms fall before it  
It speaks against the Most High  
It persecutes the saints for 1,260 years  
It tries to change times and law

This identifies that horn as the political and religious power that came from Rome (but was still Rome).



# IDENTIFYING THE SYMBOLS

“I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them.” (Daniel 7:21)

In Daniel 8, the “little horn” is Rome, that conquers new territory and wages war on the saints. This phase is the same as the “little horn” in chapter 7.

THE LITTLE HORNS	Cp. 7	Cp. 8
They are Little	8	9
They grow big	20	9
They persecute	21	10, 24
They are blasphemous	25	25
They attack the people of God	25	24
They have a prophetic time	25	13-14
They remain until the end	25-27	17, 19
They are destroyed by God	26	25



There's only a political and religious power in history that fulfills this: Papacy. Its activity began in the Dark Ages and will continue until the End Time.

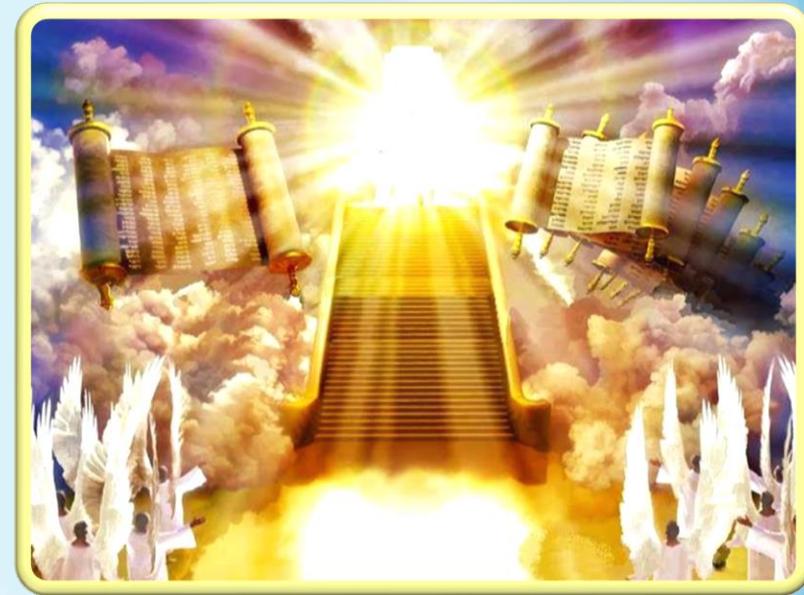
# THE ZENITH OF THE EVENTS

**"And he said to me, 'For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.'" (Daniel 8:14)**

**The historical events in Daniel 7-12 lead to a zenith: the judgment, and the kingdom given to the saints (7:10, 27; 8:14; 12:1).**

**Daniel 7:11 explains that the judgment begins while the "horn" is still active.**

**Daniel 8:14 and 9:24 point out its beginning (the purification of the Heavenly Sanctuary): 2,300 years after 457 BC; i.e. 1844 AD.**



**Finally, Daniel 12:1-3 tells what will happen once the judgment ends: after some time of trouble, Jesus will come back to give us eternal life.**



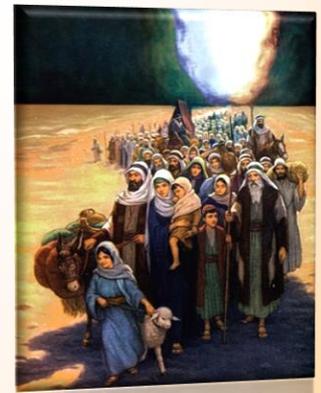
# TYOLOGY AS PROPHECY

**"Now these things became our examples," (1 Corinthians 10:6)**



**Typology is the interpretation of historical events to apply types in them to future events or spiritual truths.**

**For example, John the Baptiste called Jesus "the Lamb of God" (Jn. 1:36). He's applying the type of the lamb that was sacrificed every day at the Temple to Jesus, who takes our sins away by His death.**



**Jesus used the brazen serpent as a symbol of His death, and the story of Jonas as a symbol of His stay in the tomb (Jn. 3:14; Mt. 12:40).**

**Paul used many examples like these (1Co. 10:1-13; Gal. 4:21-31) to teach spiritual truths that can be applied to our daily life.**



**“We are living in the closing scenes of this earth’s history. Prophecy is fast fulfilling. The hours of probation are fast passing. We have no time—not a moment—to lose. [...] Let the message of Christ’s soon return sound forth in earnest words of warning. Let us persuade men and women everywhere to repent and flee from the wrath to come.”**