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The Advent Lightbearer



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Questions on End Times Doctrines

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It is not critical to know that technically speaking, the Seventh-day Adventist Church only has six doctrines, one of which is The Doctrine of Last Things. This doctrine is made up of what you might already know as the last five of our official 28 Fundamental Beliefs, where the essential features of the Bible's descriptive and prophetic teachings about the end of time are summarized[1,2]. Regrettably, many church members have only a cursory understanding of these topics, some never examining these teachings again after they are received into membership. With a solid understanding of the basics, one is better equipped to evangelize those who are outside the church. However, having a more granular view of prophecy and end

time events, one is then equipped to protect and prepare members already within the church for the major risks associated with the crisis ahead of us.

By studying end time events more closely, going beyond the minimum, basic level of understanding that is generally (but not always) expected prior to becoming a denominational member, many interesting additional details are discovered. Some of these details may prove especially useful as we approach even nearer the close of the great controversy. And knowing them may enable you to move beyond merely living in expectation of Christ's return, towards a more optimal situational awareness that will serve you better as the coming storm approaches, which we expect to be relentless in it's fury. The more you know and understand about end time events, the better prepared you will be to make good decisions under ever increasing societal pressure and time constraints. I hasten to add though, that a knowledge and understanding of end time events cannot replace or compensate for not knowing Jesus as your Lord, Savior and friend. It is the pursuit of conforming your life to His revealed will that gives an understanding of end time events a meaningful context for you personally.

This series of articles asks some practical questions about end time events that are *not* often discussed in the typical beginner's baptismal class setting. After examining the evidence, a brief summary will be offered to encapsulate the answers into something smaller and easier to remember for sharing with others who themselves might be awakened or inspired to study more deeply into these important topics.

1. How and when will the United States' empire end?

This question assumes a belief that the national greatness of America will, in fact, one day, end. Why would we believe that? Well, if no other nation before us has ever been able to extend its national importance indefinitely, why would any choose to believe that our nation (or any nation, for that matter) was exempt from losing it's preeminent position on the world's stage? And yet, to believe our beloved, sovereign nation could ever cease to exist, seems so very unpatriotic!

So when will our time run out? If nations, like people, have a limited lifespan, then what is that limit? How is it determined, and can we detect it's nearness on the horizon?

Some of the best evidence of a national collapse in the United States is found in the book of Revelation, which describes (particularly in chapters 13 and 17-19) the

interconnected relationships between the world at large, and the United States (the land beast of Revelation 13). In these prophecies, Jesus predicts the major movements within our political, religious, and economic systems of power, and foretells their impending climactic collapse. In addition to Revelation, the prophecies found in the book of Daniel also tell us of how Jesus will return to this earth and "shall break in pieces and consume all" previously established great world empires/nations, and from then on only His "shall stand for ever." Daniel 2:44, 45. This must necessarily include the United States of America, among and along with the other "all" kingdoms described. The prophecies in Revelation reinforce this prediction. "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." Revelation 11:15. The final takeover of power from earthly governments by Christ, the rightful Ruler and Creator of heaven and earth, while not at all pleasant or peaceful, will be permanent. Contrary to popular Christian thinking, the reclamation by Christ of the rightful rule over His planet will not be widely welcomed by citizens of this world, government leaders, or their militaries. Note carefully the description of each of those players in the global events described in Revelation 19:11-21, especially verse 19. The Bible doesn't leave much room for wondering *if* all nations will come to an end. It's mostly a question of *when* will a given nation come to its end.

The first examples in the Bible of Divine limits being placed upon specific nations can be found early in world history. It was the Amorites and the Egyptians. Genesis says this about them:

"…Know of a surety that thy [Abram's] seed shall be a stranger in a land [Egypt] that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." Genesis 15:13-16.

Note here that for both the Amorite and Egyptian nations, God describes a predetermined (and different) limit for the duration of time He would grant, and the conditions that He would tolerate, before punishing each nation as a whole. Besides secular, *national* limits, we find a description of a religious, or *denominational* limit for the Jews. "Seventy weeks [490 years] 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" Daniel 9:24

These Biblical findings are constant with the following statements:

“The world has become bold in transgression of God’s law. … But there is a line beyond which they cannot pass. The time is near when they will have reached the prescribed limit. Even now they have almost exceeded the bounds of the long-suffering of God, the limits of His grace, the limits of His mercy.” COL 177.5

“In every age there is given to men their day of light and privilege, a probationary time in which they may become reconciled to God. But there is a limit to this grace. Mercy may plead for years and be slighted and rejected; but there comes a time when mercy makes her last plea. The heart becomes so hardened that it ceases to respond to the Spirit of God. Then the sweet, winning voice entreats the sinner no longer, and reproofs and warnings cease.” DA 587.1

Not only are there predetermined limits to the mercy of God as He relates to groups of people (nations), not surprisingly, there are also limits in the way He relates to individuals.

“God keeps what we call a reckoning with the nations and with every individual. There is a point beyond which His forbearance will not reach. It is decided by the degree of light given. God takes an account of the light and the resistance and disregard of that light; and when God’s mercy has been so abundant and is despised and rejected, this mercy of God—being rejected—is changed into wrath, and His long-deferred vengeance comes upon the disobedient, unthankful, and unholy. I wish you to distinctly understand that there are limits to the forbearance of God, and it is folly and madness to pursue a course of sin as you have been doing.” 4LtMs, Lt 83, 1886, par. 6.

What’s interesting to me in the above statement is the limit differs from person to person, and from group to group. Notice that the limit is actually self-imposed. It is true that God enforces the limit, but it is the individual or nation that is at liberty to decide, or set, that limit by the manner in which they receive and respond to the God given light (information) He sends to them. And what is supremely interesting is the idea that God’s wrath, long-deferred until a limit is reached is what His mercy *becomes*. That is, what was mercy, once sufficiently and consistently rejected, transforms into something new, something strange. It is changed into wrath. “For the Lord shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.” Isaiah 28:21.

We know that in the physical world, energy is neither created nor destroyed. It only changes form and location. Could it be that as it is in the physical realm, so it is in the spiritual world? Consider being held as a slave or prisoner. You are abused, even tortured at times, as your life is used up for the benefit of a tyrant. When God the Father destroys in vengeance[3] those of His children who are hurting some of His other children, is not His great wrath upon the one group experienced as great mercy by the other? Is his wrath something that is in reality essentially different than His mercy? Or, is His mercy and His wrath actually the same thing, and is "that thing" just being perceived differently by the two groups, one righteous and holy, the other unrighteous and unholy, because of *who they are*? Is this how and why His mercy is everlasting[4]?

The idea that the US has a limited lifespan is not uniquely found in the Bible or writings of Ellen White. Sir John Glubb (born in 1897) published a work in 1976 entitled "The Fate of Empires & Search for Survival" wherein he describes his 3,000 year long survey of human history that revealed that no major world power that he examined ever sustained its greatness past about 250 years without suffering a fatal decline. The decline of each nation is remarkably similar in sequence. Similar investigative writing has been done since then by Strauss and Howe[5-7], who, like Glubb, have made eerily accurate predictions about likely events in the United States. Having just passed our 250th national birthday this summer, it would seem we are, statistically speaking, nearly out of time, as even the irreligious among us have to admit that things are looking apocalyptic. Especially those who are thinkers.

"The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the strained, restless relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis." Ed 179.5

2. Can we know the day/hour of Jesus' return?

"<u>There is a day</u> that God hath appointed for the <u>close of this world's history</u>." FE 335

The standard, short answer to this question (i.e. no) was how many doubters opposed to the early Advent movement's message of Christ's imminent return, which was initially predicted by the Millerites as being the year 1843, then changed to the fall of 1844. Of the evidence used against the Advent pioneers, some of the most convincing was Jesus' words in Matthew 24:36, or the passage in Mark 13:32, "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father." This counter argument worked well at the time because our pioneers mistakenly believed that "the hour of His judgment" *was* the second Advent. That is, they did not yet fully understand and believe in a distinct and separate pre-Advent *investigative judgment.* This is when and where eternal destinies are set, yet it is rendered apart from the second coming when His judgment will be delivered (*executive judgment*). They discovered after the fact, that "the hour of His judgment" had a definite time prophecy associate with it, and was then to be *followed* by the second coming, which *does not* have a definite time prophecy associated with it.

You may recall the words to SDA Hymnal number 604, "We Know Not the Hour." When we sing it, we reaffirm the words of Jesus in the Gospels about wether we can know the specific date of His return. Yet, despite not knowing the day or the hour, it is also true that "<u>There is a day</u> that God hath appointed for the <u>close of this world's history</u>." FE 335.

In fact, that day and the hour is, indeed, actually described *but not revealed* to the reader in the book Early Writings on page 285. Ellen White affirms hearing in vision the day and the hour of Jesus' return when *the Father* announces it to the 144,000. At that point in time the close of probation has occurred for all, the last of the 7 last plagues are falling, and the special resurrection has just occurred:

"There was a mighty earthquake. The graves were opened, and those who had died in faith under the third angel's message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds, glorified, to hear the covenant of peace that God was to make with those who had kept His law. … The sky opened and shut and was in commotion. The mountains shook like a reed in the wind and cast out ragged rocks all around. The sea boiled like a pot and cast out stones upon the land. And … <u>God spoke the day and the hour of Jesus' coming</u> …" EW 285.

She later stated that she was unable to remember the spoken date after coming out of that vision:

“I have not the slightest knowledge as to the time spoken by the voice of God. I heard the hour proclaimed, but had no remembrance of that hour after I came out of vision.” 1 SM 75.

This does not at all contradict Jesus’ words in the Gospels which simply stated that no man, no angel, nor the Son of Man knows the day or the hour of the second coming. But *the Father does* and He can and will reveal it, just not *at this time*. The apparent contradiction between her description claiming to hear the day and the hour announced by God at the end of the time of Jacob’s trouble and what the Bible says in Matthew 24 is exactly what Ellen White was being asked to respond to in Selected Messages Volume 1 quoted above.

Interestingly, the book of Revelation relates the same things as described in Early Writings. Consider Revelation 16:17–18, and the voice of mighty thunderings in Revelation 19:6. I find it more than coincidental that in Revelation 10:4 the prophet John also hears a thunderous voice speak, and he too is prohibited from reporting to us what he heard at that time.

In brief, we can know the day and the hour of Jesus’ return, but only if we are numbered among either the 144,000 or those who experience the special resurrection. And at that point in time, it’s barely prophetic. It’s more of an end of time news flash than a prediction to be used for long term planing.

In reality, it matters not that we cannot know the day or the hour until it is right upon us. What is essential though, is that we remain awake enough to recognize the season in which we live, and how long we’ve been in it. You can see and know for yourselves that the end of summer is nearing (Luke 21:30). We all have a general sense of how long summer lasts, despite the fact that occasionally there are years when summer is short, and fall comes sooner than expected. Contrariwise, summer can last longer than usual, or there may be a cold spell followed by an Indian summer. Regardless of these variations, summer will end (Jeremiah 8:20), and harvest time will follow (Matthew 13:39).

While it is true that we cannot know the day nor the hour, it is also true that Jesus requires us to know when He is near, even at the door.

“Though no man knoweth the day nor the hour of His coming, we are instructed and required to know when it is near. We are further taught that to disregard His warning, and refuse or neglect to know when His advent is near, will be as fatal for

us as it was for those who lived in the days of Noah not to know when the flood was coming." GC 370.2

What we *can* know is the generation. Now, I cannot tell you currently with certainty if the length of a generation referred to by Jesus in His prophecies about the second coming is 20 years, 40 years, or a whole lifetime. But the Bible does state that we can know with certainty when we are living in the final generation.

"Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled." Matthew 24:34 (see also Mark 13:30, Luke 21:32).

3. Could Jesus come today, if not why not?

No. Your probation could close today, but Jesus could not come today. I've heard the claim made numerous times in my life before that "Jesus could come today!" It wasn't true then, and it's still not true today. This is simply because there are prophecies that He made regarding the sequence of events that will take place just before He comes, and these events have not yet occurred. Some obvious ones found in Revelation chapter 13 include forced worship & reception of the mark of the beast, being unable to buy or sell without it, and a death decree for not receiving it.

This is not to say we have time to eat and drink with the drunken, that we can beat our fellow servants[8], that we may relax in ease thinking all things continue the same as since the beginning[9], or that we can neglect to watch unto prayer[10]. If anything, we should take advantage of this period of extra time and pray for a few more years in which to labor for the Master[11], and be always ready to open unto Him when He arrives[12].

And how are we to remain always ready to meet Him when He comes? It's not a complex pursuit. It's simply living life as a disciple of Jesus. The lifestyle of the remnant people described in Revelation 14 is one consistent with the commandments of God, as well as the teachings of *all* His prophets. It's a lifestyle that, out of love for Him, maintains daily connection with Jesus through an active prayer life combined with Bible study, and the pursuit of graciously sharing Him with others. This is how to stay right with God. And, "if you are right with God today, you are ready if Christ should come today." 7LtMs, Ms 36, 1891, par. 26.

1. Ministerial Association, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Seventh-day Adventist Believe: An Exposition of the Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. 3rd ed. Silver Spring, MD: Ministerial Association/Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2018.
2. General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist, Fundamentals of Faith: A Summary of Essential Bible Doctrines (Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2018).
3. Romans 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."
4. Psalm 103:17 "But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him…"
5. Strauss, William, and Neil Howe. Generations: The History of America's Future, 1584 to 2069. New York: William Morrow and Company, 1991.
6. Strauss, William, and Neil Howe. The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy. New York: Broadway Books, 1997.
7. Howe, Neil. The Fourth Turning Is Here: What the Seasons of History Tell Us About How and When This Crisis Will End.New York: Simon & Schuster, 2023.
8. Matthew 24:49
9. 2 Peter 3:4
10. Luke 21:36
11. We do not believe that the time has fully come when He would have our liberties restricted. The prophet saw "four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree." Another angel, ascending from the east, cried to them, saying: "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." This points out the work we have now to do. A vast responsibility is devolving upon men and women of prayer throughout the land to petition that God will sweep back the cloud of evil and give a few more years of grace in which to work for the Master. Let us cry to God that the angels may hold the four winds until missionaries shall be sent to all parts of the world and shall proclaim the warning against disobeying the law of Jehovah.—Testimonies for the Church 5:717, 718.
12. Luke 12:36

Who Are the Oldest Christians?

By Michael Snyder, MD

J.A. Wylie, the great historian once said, “The noon of the papacy was the midnight of the world.” *The History of Protestantism*, vol. 1, ch. 4. How did the world became so spiritually blind? And how did God prevent the complete obliteration of the Truth?

> “In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived. These sentinels gave the message of warning; and when they were called to lay off their armor, others took up the work. God brought these workers into a covenant relation with Himself, uniting the church on earth with the church in heaven. He sent forth His angels to minister to His church, and the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against His people.” AA 11.

The Bible describes two classes of People, that is to say two churches. Throughout history there has always been the True church of God and the apostate church—the apostate church goes by many names: Babylon, Hindu, Muslim, Tao, Buddhist, Papacy, Roman Catholic, Mythra, Zoroastrian, Pagan, Wicken, Church of Satan; but they are all the same.



Thew other woman of Revelation - the Whore of Babylon.

The book of Revelation describes two churches depicted by two women—The True Church and the Apostate Church. The First Woman is described in Revelation 12:1, "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a ***woman clothed with the sun,*** and the ***moon under her feet***, and upon her head ***a crown of twelve stars***."

This first woman is decked out with the clothing of the Sun. Jesus Christ is.The Sun of Righteousness, Mal 4:2 says, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings."

Second, this church stands on the moon. The Moon is the Law of God and the everlasting covenant and the feet is the authority on which the church stands—the Law of God; the Ten Commandments.

Third, She wears a crown which is a symbol of overcoming. This crown has 12 stars which symbolizes the 12 Tribes of Israel as mentioned in Chapter 7. So, this church is not just New Testament, it has been around since the beginning of our earthly time.

This is God's True Church. She defends the Truth through the harshest of times all the while showing the Glory of God and speaking with the Testimony of Jesus. She sends her sons and daughters off to be missionaries and martyrs. These people are killed in the most ruthless manner because their primary crime is that they keep and proclaim the Word—they follow Jesus and not a man. Whether it was being burned at the stake, pounding infants heads into rocks or pour molten lead down the throats of their victims, the apostate church does it's work relentlessly against God's people. Yet, God preserves His church, His Work, His Truth against which the Gates of Hell cannot prevail.

> Then, there is that Other Woman—Revelation 17:1, 2, "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of ***the great whore*** that ***sits upon many waters***:With whom ***the kings of the earth have committed fornication***, and ***the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication***.

This Church, the other woman, is called a great whore which implies impure, unclean, deceitful, lacking divine morals, compromising, unfaithful, disloyal, uncouth, and many other descriptors. She sits on many waters where Waters are a symbol of many peoples showing that she has great authority over the people. She thinks she has authority to change the law of God, of course she cannot.

Secondly, the Kings of the earth have committed fornication with her—fornication is sexual impurity; however, in a spiritual sense, it means that she teaches Kings to disobey God and support her own doctrines. The Kings and various governments became the enforcers making all people drunk with her false teachings. She breeds confusion and disloyalty to God leading men to actions that are not Chistlike.

Don't be confused, there is only one religious system that meets all the biblical criteria describing this Woman. It is the Roman Papacy and, ***it claims*** to be the oldest Christian religion in the world and therefore has been given a special authority not given any other Christian Church.

In Revelation 2:20, describing His own church in the first part of the Dark Ages, we read:
"Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou suffers ***that woman Jezebel***, which calls herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to ***eat things sacrificed unto idols***."

This clearly shows how God was displeased with compromise within the Papal church. It should be considered also that the Church represented by Jezebel is ancient. Remember, God created His Earthly church first in the Garden of Eden. Satan formed his Earthly church afterward, recruiting members of Adam's family as it's first members—Cain, for one.

Revelation 12 takes a more focused look at the first woman in verses 2 and 5. "And she being with child cried, ***travailing in birth***, and pained to be delivered. . . And ***she brought forth a man child***, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and *to* his throne."

Who was this Man Child? This was our Lord Jesus Christ, born of the virgin Mary, fathered by the Holy Spirit. He lived a life without sinning in the fallen nature of humanity—a nature created by Satan. He was mocked, beaten, spit on, whipped and cruelly tortured before being coronated as the King of Kings.

In their mocking of Him, they crowned Him with a crown of thorns (thorns were part of the curse that Christ must overcome), and placed a staff of authority in His right hand (The right hand of power [Mat. 26:64] and righteousness [Ps. 48:10]), then they put purple robes (Purple = royal) on Him before they hung on a cruel cross with nails piercing his hands. Why nails? No one else was crucified with nails. Nails are a symbol that represents a ransom paid and the nail prints in his hands testify for eternity that we are bought with a price.

It was not without trials that this woman would prevail, "And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold ***a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads***. And ***his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth***: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born." Rev. 12:3-4.

Next, a foe enters the scene: "And ***there was war in heaven***: ***Michael and his angels fought against the dragon***; and ***the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not***; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And ***the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan***, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Rev. 12:7-9.

These texts are pretty self explanatory. Satan is that great red dragon and he started a war in heaven over who should be in charge him or God. In the process he sinned and in doing so invented the fallen, sinful nature. He lost that war and was cast out of heaven to the Earth where he introduced this fallen nature to Adam and Eve, causing them to sin and accept that nature for all humanity. Chapter 12 moves quickly from the past to the future of the church in John's day.

> "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. . . And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." Rev 12:6 & 14.

Please note that God prepared a place of relative safety for His people in the Valleys of Piedmont and these people were called Waldenses—The People of the Valleys. They were also called ***Vadois***—or Heretics by the other woman. This place of protection proved to not only protect the people of God, but also, His Word.

This protection was for 1260 years according to the time prophecy. It is through the Providence of God that the *Textus Receptus* was preserved since the time of the Apostles and how we have the faithful KJV today—without which, the Truth would be lost.

Rev 13:2 describes the apostate woman as a beast. "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."

This beast of the New Testament—the Other Woman—has all the characteristics of the Old Testament beast in Daniel 7: the leopard, the bear and the lion. And, The dragon, Satan, gives the this woman it's "power, seat and great authority." Chapter 12 informs us that she uses that power, seat and authority thinking she can change the law of God. A very clear contrast between the Woman who stands on the law of God and the other woman who thinks she can change the law of God.

Ellen White states:

"Amid the gloom that settled upon the earth ***during the long period of papal supremacy***, the light of truth could not be wholly extinguished. ***In every age there were witnesses for God—men who cherished faith in Christ as the only mediator between God and man***, who ***held the Bible as the only rule of life, and who hallowed the true Sabbath***. How much the world owes to these men, posterity will never know. They were branded as heretics, their motives impugned, their characters maligned, their writings suppressed, misrepresented, or mutilated. Yet they stood firm, and ***from age to age*** maintained their faith in its purity, as a sacred heritage for the generations to come." GC, 61.

Here the battle lines are drawn this war in heaven is being played out in Earth. We are the Lord's army. The enemy is at the gate, he has infiltrated the Christian Church and has caused many to rejoin the Catholic faith which thinks it can change the law of God specifically the Sabbath to Sunday. The end is drawing near, the battles are personal as well as corporate.

The next order of business is to establish, who constitutes the Christian Church in the first centuries? Was it the Church of Christ and His followers or was it the Papacy? Let's examine the evidence.

First of all was Peter an Apostle (messenger, by implication, one that was sent out) or a Pope (Father, by implication, God on earth)? The claim by the Papacy was that he was their First Pope. For this answer we turn to the scriptures. 1 Pet 1:1 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, . . ." and 2 Pet 1:1, "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:" It is clear that Peter never considered himself a Pope. He considered himself an apostle of Jesus Christ, one of many not head of anyone.

The Word "POPE" is never found in the Bible anywhere and it is clear, Peter was an apostle not a pope. The term pope did not come until many centuries later—therefore there was no Pope and no Papacy in the first few centuries, but Christ's Church already existed.

While Jesus instructed Peter it is clear that He wanted him to be teacher of His Word as found in John 21:15-17, "So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, ***Feed my lambs.*** He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, ***Feed my sheep.*** He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, ***Feed my sheep.***"

While Jesus admonished Peter to feed His lambs or sheep, He never appointed him Pope. He didn't even appoint him head of the church. He only told him to feed his sheep—It is clear that he wanted Peter to preach the gospel. Was Peter the only one Jesus wanted to preach the gospel?

In Mark 16:14-15 we read, "Afterward ***he appeared unto the eleven*** as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, ***Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature***." By the logic of the Catholic Church, would this not make all the apostles the first Pope?

Then we have one more problem text to deal with. This is found in Matt 16:18: "And I say also unto you whom are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Who is the Rock? Jesus Christ. There are no scriptures anywhere that would indicate otherwise. The Rock is always Jesus Christ in the scriptures, never anyone else. In this verse, if we remove the punctuation, we would shift the emphasis to Jesus naming Peter and then pivoting to point out to Peter, that the church would be built on the bedrock of Jesus Christ Himself. Remember the original Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic languages did not have punctuation, it was added later by interpreters to aid readers understanding. When Moses struck the Rock, living water flowed from it—obviously Christ who said if you drink of me you will never thirst.

So, How old is the Catholic Church? The term Catholic means Universal—It was first used by Ignatius of Antioch to describe the world Christian Church as being Catholic. But the compound term "Roman Catholic" did not come to use until between 1595 and 1605 during the Protestant Reformation to distinguish itself from the papal church. It is clear that the Universal Church was from the earlier centuries but the Papal (Romish) part of the Catholic Church, did not come to power until 538 AD.

Now we turn again to God's faithful church. Who and how old are the Waldenses?

> "The Vaudois, or the inhabitants of the valley of Piedmont, received the doctrine of the gospel, in the times of the apostles, either from the apostles themselves, or by those who immediately succeeded them. Paul being carried prisoner to Rome, in the reign of Nero sojourned there two years during which space he had the liberty to go round the city, from house to house, dragging a chain after him, which was the badge of a criminal prisoner; and in the capital city, mistress of the world, he preached the gospel of Christ, and laid the foundation of a flourishing church; to which he wrote from Corinth, after his departure, that excellent epistle of Paul to the Romans." *History of the Ancient Christians*, Jean Paul Perrin, p. 289, Jan 1, 1618.

Vaudois is the derogatory description of what the papacy considered heretics—these are the folks the book of Romans was written to, not the papacy.

Perrin continues on:



A monument on Mt. Castelluzzo commemorating the 1655 Massacre of the Waldensians - the "Easter Massacre."

> "If it be true also that Paul performed his voyage into Spain, as he designed in Romans, 15:24, he took Rome in his way; and it is not to be doubted, but that he went by Land. He passed through Piedmont, for it is a direct way from Rome to Spain. And if he went by sea, it was necessary that in going from Corinth to Spain, he should pass by Italy; but he was at Corinth when he wrote that he had a desire to go to Spain. If he had passed through Piedmont, as in all appearance, he did, it is certain he preached there, before he preached wherever he came." Ibid, p 289

The reason this is important is that "since the valleys of Piedmont were enlightened with the bright rays of the gospel common, the inhabitants of those countries have conserved the purity of the Christian religion without any mixture of human traditions; they never had any images or alters in their churches; they never invoked angels, or saints, never believed in a purgatory; they never acknowledge another mediator, other than Jesus Christ, nor other merit than that of his death: they never owed the doctrine of the mass of auricular confession, of absence from certain sorts of meats, of the celibacy of priests, of the doctrine of transubstantiation; but always held the holy scriptures to be the perpetual rule of

faith, and would never receive or believe anything, but what they taught; and their doctrine was always the same as it is now." Ibid, p 289

From the time of the Apostles "The Vaudois are, in fact, descended from those refugees from Italy: who, after Saint Paul had their preach the gospel, abandoned their beautiful country; and fled like the woman mentioned in the apocalypse, to these wild mountains, where they have to this day, handed down the gospel, from father to son, in the same purity and simplicity, as it was preached by Saint Paul." *The History of the Ancient Waldenses and Albigenses*, George Stanley Faber, p. 287, 1838.

And From Boyer's History, "O Marvellous! God, through his wise providence, has preserved the purity of the Gospel in the Valleys of Piedmont, from time of the Apostles down to our own time. Boyer, *Abridge de l'History des Vaudois,* p 23. 1691.

From the Pen of Sir Samuel Morland in 1658, we read the following:

> "Here they'll shall find, besides the arguments which may be drawn from the ancient confessions of faith, and several other authentic manuscripts, which have been in former times so miraculously preserved from the flames during their hottest persecutions, I say besides all these, thou shall find even the most eminent and most bitter of their professed enemies, to have let fall many seasonable passages in those they're very writings, which were directly composed against these poor faithful ones, where have some buy a manifest deduction, others in plain terms of about the antiquity of their religion under the name of heresy, even from the apostles's time; so that now what need we any further witness? We have heard themselves speak, and justify sufficiently what we assert." *Introduction to The History of the Evangelical Churches of the Valleys of Piedmont.* p. 6, 1658.

The evidence points to the fact that the Waldenses predated the Catholic Church and very likely originated in the Churches of Rome and Milan in the early centuries. These people were preached to by the Apostles Paul and Barnabus. The Book of Romans was written to them. There was no Papacy at this time. Peter was no Pope and the Catholic Church being the earliest Christian Church is a LIE.

EGW penned the following:

> "The faith which for centuries was held and taught by the Waldensian Christians was in marked contrast to the false doctrines put forth from Rome. GC, 64.
>
> "Hundreds of years before the Reformation [which began in about 1300's] they possessed the Bible in manuscript in their native tongue . . . who denied the supremacy of Rome, who rejected the Image worship of idolatry, and who kept the true Sabbath GC 65
>
> "Here for a thousand years, witnesses for the truth maintained the ancient faith. GC 66
>
> "Thus the Waldenses witnessed for God centuries before the birth of Luther. Scattered over many lands, they planted the seeds of the Reformation that began in the time of Wycliffe . . . GC 78
>
> "The gospel had been planted in Bohemia as early as the ninth century. GC 97

Many put forth the false claim that the Waldenses were descendants of Peter Waldo, who was born in 1140 AD. He began ministry work with the Waldensian Christians in 1170 AD. However, documents from before his birth that prove that Waldensian Christians predated Peter Waldo by more than 70 years: "*The Noble Lessons"* were published in 1100 AD and "*The Treatise on Antichrist"* was published in 1120 AD. There were many more documents put into the Library at Cambridge that have since been lost that predated these.

An excerpt from the Noble Lessons reads, "There are already a thousand and one hundred years fully accomplished, since it was written thus, for we are in the last times." Morland, Samuel, Esq; *The History of the Evangelical Churches of the Valleys of Piemont*, p. 99; 1658.

> "The persecutions visited for many centuries upon this God-fearing people were endured by them with a patience and constancy that honored their Redeemer. Notwithstanding the crusades against them, and the inhuman butchery to which they were subjected, they continued to send out their missionaries to scatter the precious truth. They were hunted to death; yet their blood watered the seed sown, and it failed not of yielding fruit. Thus the Waldenses witnessed for God centuries before the birth of Luther. Scattered over many lands, ***they planted the seeds of the Reformation that***

> ***began in the time of Wycliffe, grew broad and deep in the days of Luther, and is to be carried forward to the close of time by those who also are willing to suffer all things for "the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.***" Revelation 1:9. GC, 78.

In summary, it is pretty clear from what has been preserved from the book burnings of the Dark Ages, that the Waldenses, Albigenses and other ancient Christians predated the HRE and the Papacy. While the Papal church claims to be the oldest Christian institution, it is neither Christian nor oldest. Christ strove to save humanity from it's own destruction. The aid of the Papacy was needed to hasten it's demise. The true followers of Christ would never think to change God's law, nor his holy Sabbath day. They would never kill other human beings for the sake of their gospel. They would never torture individuals into confessing their sins or make them repent of any deeds they deemed untoward. No, Christ's church allows individuals to make their own decisions, even if it results in their own demise.

It is further just as clear that Peter Waldo did not start the Waldensian Church. Documents presented in this article are clear about that. Finally, it should be noted that God protects His children. The Waldenses were privileged to receive divine intervention for a reason. "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days. . . And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. Rev 12:6,14.

A More Sure Word of Prophecy

By Carl Person

One of the signs of God's true last day church is the Spirit of Prophecy. In Revelation 12;17 we are told:

> "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, ***and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.***"

The "testimony of Jesus Christ" is later defined in Revelation 19:10 as:

> "…I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for ***the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.***"

Being Seventh-day Adventists, we understand this very well. We believe that this prophecy finds its fulfillment in the writings and ministry of Ellen G. White but, how can we be sure and, more importantly, how can we "prove" this to others which are not of this fold?

One of my favorite ways of "proving" the truth of our messages is by exposing the false. However, before we do that, let's consider a very prescient question we often face: "Why did God perform all kinds of miracles in the scriptures but, I have not seen any? Why haven't there been any prophets since Apostolic times?" I myself have previously entertained the exact same thoughts—especially coming from an atheist background.

Well, this is nothing new, and God foresaw that this objection would arise throughout all of human history. Consider Gideon's thoughts as Israel was about to be annihilated by the Midianites, Amalekites and the "children of the east":

> "And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, the LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valor. And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and ***where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of***, saying, did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD has forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites" Judges 6:12-13.

Of course, God did intervene; however, from his day to ours, nothing has changed. We always want "proof" but unfortunately, it takes only one generation for it to mean nothing. As Paul reinforced in 1 Cor.: "For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom." v. 22.

Happily, God has given us these much needed proofs for the last days so that we could share them and lead others to Christ. First though, we will consider the false.

A great place to start is with the first king of Israel, Saul. The Israelites were supposed to be a theocratic government, and as such, it flourished under Samuel's leadership, however, "attracted by the pomp and display of heathen monarchs, they tired of their own simplicity." PP, 603. So, Hosea 13:11 tells us that "I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath."

Saul defied God by not destroying the King of the Amelekites and all their livestock and then, like the accuser of the brethren whose influence he was now under, he blamed the people (see 1 Sam. 13:11). In His rebuke to Saul, through Samuel, God said:

> "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft." 1 Sam. 15:23.

Now that God had rejected Saul, and after Samuel's death, he was faced with an invasion from the Philistines. In desperation Saul sought to inquire advise from Samuel through a necromancer! (But "what communion hath light with darkness?" 2 Cor. 6:14.) Saul entreats the witch of Endor to summon Samuel as though a prophet of God could actually be raised by the devil. This is one of the very few times the devil tells the truth—God his forsaken Saul for his iniquity, and Saul follows his iniquity with yet more sin!

Recently, I was watching something on the History Channel that dealt with Nostradamus (the inspiration to write this article) and I quite was surprised at the belief some have in him as a prophet. It reminded me of the control that Rasputin (a "mystic" and "faith healer" - can I say after the order of Simon Magus?) had over Czarina Alexandra (who married Tsar Nicholas II, the last of the Romanov Dynasty in Russia).

Before we discuss these two profligates, I want to consider some earlier "prophets" and their respective movements.

The first that we see occurring in the New Testament (Acts 8:9-24) is Simon Magus. Simon Magus has a tremendous apostate influence on the Christian church, even to this day. He was a Samaritan, which means he had a mixed religion that was brought to Israel with the return of the Northern tribes from Assyrian captivity. Simon was considered almost god-like in the eyes of the people because of the "magic" he could perform. Early Christian authors attribute all apostasy to Simon (despite their own failings); here are a couple of early Christian quotes:

> "And after the ascension of the Lord into heaven the demons put forward certain men who said they were gods … one of them was Simon, a Samaritan from the village of Gitto … performed in your imperial city some mighty acts of magic by the art of the demons operating in him." Justin Martyr, *Apology I, ch. 26.*
>
> "We have understood that Simon was the author of all heresy. From his time down to the present those who have followed his heresy have feigned the sober philosophy of the Christians …" Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History, XIII.*

I could have added many more early statements but, I think we get the point: Simon Magus was a very influential false prophet. The next New Testament false prophet we run into is Barjesus of Paphos. Though Luke refers to him as a false prophet in Acts, there are no references that I am aware of by the early Christian authors that indicate any real influence by this person.

Next, we move on to Montanism—the so-called "New Prophecy" in 155 A.D. Montanus was formally a priest in the cult of Cybele and as such, introduced some of its rites into his so-called form of Christianity. Eusebius informs us that he would enter into an ecstatic state, fall into a trance and start prophesying; the interpretations were said to be the utterings of the Holy Spirit—sound familiar? This apostate sect would continue until Justinian I enacted severe penalties for anyone who practiced this form of religion in the sixth century.

Most early Christians realized that this was a false gift because the Spirit of Prophecy would never induce such ecstatic intensity, devoid of sensibility.

Throughout Christian history there appears various sects and individuals that would proclaim their special Spirit initiated gifts—were there some that did have the Spirit of Prophecy? It is hard to say because during the height of the Roman church's power, both secular leaders and the church would have burned you as a

witch if you stated as much. However, as the Renaissance and Protestant Reformation took root beginning in the 14th century, things began to change.

In 1555, a “prophet” known as Nostradamus came on the scene and published *Les Propheties* supposedly predicting over 900 future world events. To this day there are many who believe that he was a true prophet, pointing to world events that he supposedly predicted. We will consider a couple here, keeping in mind that he intentionally would have made these vague, and use biblical references to avoid the possible penalties of being tried for witchcraft.



A 19th Century portrait of Nostradamus

The Great Fire of London

The following passage is often linked with the devastating Great Fire of London of 1666:

> “The blood of the just will commit a fault at London, Burnt through lightning of twenty threes the six: The ancient lady will fall from her high place, Several of the same sect will be killed.”

In regards to the date, 20 times three is 60 but, does “twenty threes ***the”*** mean times six? If it does, and you add six to that, and you've got 66—or the year ’66 of some century. London's infamous three-day blaze began on September 2, 1666 so,

it must be what he's speaking of? What? The fire wasn't set off by lightning, however (In fact, Nostradamus uses the words lightening, fire, war, new city and many other cryptic phrases over and over again—you could plug them into almost any event). A hot, arid summer and a spark in the bakery of Thomas Farriner on Pudding Lane set the stage for the inferno. according to *Smithsonian Magazine*, poor and middle class deaths were not recorded at the time, but it's possible that many people did perish in the flames. Is the "Ancient Lady" actually the city mentioned? If so, what of the sect? Could it be a religious sect within London that will burn and not the whole city in this prophecy? Of course, Nostradamus didn't give any predictions that could happen while he was alive—can't be caught alive with unfulfilled prophecies!

9/11

The media and many of Nostradamus' acolytes believe he predicted it. This is what was pushed:

> "Two steel birds will fall from the sky on the Metropolis. The sky will burn at forty-five degrees latitude. Fire approaches the great new city. Immediately a huge, scattered flame leaps up. Within months, rivers will flow with blood. The undead will roam the earth for little time."

First of all, the main thing that should tip everyone off concerning the falsity of this prophecy is the idea of "steel birds." While their was steel being used for many centuries, it was quite rare until 1850. The original words are translated to:

> "the sky burning at forty-five degrees and approaching a great new city while testing the Normans."

Nothing even hints to New York City. Much of the rest of this prophecy was added after the 9/11 attacks. Nostradamus used four line poems hence the term "quatrains," this obviously does not follow that style. A critical examination of his writings reveals that he, at best, realized that there seems to be recurring generational tendencies.

In a book, *The Fourth Turning* (Strauss and Howe, 1997), this idea is presented. The argument asserted is that U.S. history appears to move in 80 to 100 year cycles (depending on the definition of the term "generation," whether it is 20 or 25 years). Of course, we know that this occurs because we have a more sure Word: "…

visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the ***third and to the fourth generation.***" Ex. 34:7 (See also Ex. 20:5 and De. 5:9).

The so-called "turnings" are:

1. High - strong institutions, unity and collective confidence;
2. Awakening - Cultural or spiritual upheaval and rebellion against established norms;
3. Unraveling - Weakening institutions, rising individualism and social fragmentation;
4. Crisis (The fourth turning) - A period of upheaval when society rebuilds its institutional order.

Did Nostradamus notice this or a similar pattern occurring throughout history? He also had access to the Word of God which informs us that this happens. We expect to see these patterns because "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun." Ecc. 1:9.

Now we will briefly consider Rasputin. Rasputin was a Siberian mystic and asserted that he was a man of God. He was believed to have had spiritual insight and healing powers.

In the early 1900s, upon hearing of him, the Russian royal family, Tsar Nicolas II and Czarina Alexandra, were intrigued due to the fact that their only son (hence Heir to the throne) Alexei had hemophilia. Due to Rasputin's seeming successes, he gained much influence in both spiritual and political affairs. Historians credit him with the fall of the Romanov Dynasty in 1917. If he was a prophet, why didn't he forsee his execution coming in 1916?

Apostate Protestantism/Spiritualism

In the United States, during the period between 1906 and 1915, an African-American preacher, William J. Seymore, inspired by the "Holiness Movement," would start what was termed the "Azusa Street Revival." This so-called spiritual revival would usher in the Pentecostal Movement and set the seeds for the modern



The Azusa Street Church c. 1920.

day Charismatic Movement uniting spiritualism to the mainstream Protestant and Roman catholic churches.

Their primary teachings are:

1. Baptism in the Holy Spirit - this is evidence of salvation. Very often, it is associated with "*Glossolalia*" (Greek for tongues) and healing (typically by laying on of hands);
2. Unity - Azusa was noted for unity, breaking distinctions between sexes, races and class barriers.
3. Spiritual Gifts - ***Prophecy*** and healing were central to their worship services.

So, how does this hold up? Well, for starters, both movements returned to racial divisions in that you have black and white churches. Have they ever actually healed anyone? If they did, you can bet it would be publicized widely—I have heard nothing. Have they provided a prophecy that came true? None that I'm aware of.

What of Psychics? Can they actually tap into the spirit world and reveal any secrets? Can they speak to the departed? Of course not—there are enough scriptures that inform us that these two things are actually not possible. The only thing they can connect to is the Devil himself.

Remember the 1-900 lines you could call and supposedly get a revelation? Wonder why they couldn't see their bankruptcies coming? Despite that, the grifters have merely moved to the internet—you can still waste your money speaking with these frauds.

The True Prophet - Ellen G. White

In the last issue, I shared a prophecy made concerning New York. Because I mentioned it while discussing Nostradamus, I will repeat it here:

> "I was in the night season called upon to behold buildings rising story after story toward heaven. These buildings were warranted to be fireproof, and they were erected to glorify the owners and builders. Higher and still higher these buildings rose, and in them the most costly material was used. …The scene that next passed before me was an alarm of fire. Men looked at the lofty and supposedly fireproof buildings and said: "They are perfectly safe." But these buildings were consumed as if made of pitch. The fire engines could do nothing to stay the destruction. The firemen were unable to operate the engines." CCh. 37-38.

The following quote concerned the upcoming Civil War:

> "Men are making light of the succession ordinance that has been passed by South Carolina. They have little idea of the trouble that is coming on our land. No one in this house has even dreamed of the trouble that is coming.
>
> "I have just been shown in vision that a number of states are going to join South Carolina in this secession, and a terrible war will be the result.In the vision I saw large armies raised by both the North and the South. I was shown the battle raging. I heard the booming of the cannon, and saw dead and wounded falling on every side …" Parkville, MI., January 12, 1861 (Three months to the day before the first shot at Fort Sumpter) 1 BIO, 463.

Unlike false prophecies, these visions are very specific and were fulfilled exactly as predicted.

In conclusion, "We have also a ***more sure word of prophecy***; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." 2 Pet. 1:19.

The Spirit of Prophecy is one of the marks of God's last day movement. We can see the events as prophesied in *The Great Controversy* happening before our eyes —just read anything from Liberty of Conscience Threatened to the Impending Conflict—it's all there. Unfortunately, most just prefer smooth things to be spoken and are willing to falsehoods to appease their minds and desires.



The Prophetic Faith of Our Pioneers

Major Time Periods

by Michael Snyder, MD

The book of Revelation is divided into 8 major time periods. Seven of these are denoted by the Seven churches, seven seals and seven trumpets. The eighth is after the seven and generally found after Jesus comes the second time.

When we consider the seven major time periods found in Revelation, we need to begin with Revelation chapters 2 and 3. But first, we need to consider a major prophetic time period that overlaps the book of Revelation time periods and begins in the days of Daniel the Prophet. I would like to deal with this, at least in part, before we move into the 7 major time periods in Revelation. It is important to understand that this time prophecy is the same in both Daniel and Revelation and it ties the two books together. We see it in Rev 12:6, "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there **a thousand two hundred and threescore days**." This 1260 day period comes up again and again in Revelation, five times in fact. It is also found in Daniel twice. It must be important.

The first use is found in Dan 7:25, "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until **a time and times and the dividing of time**." The term time is a prophetic use of the word, it is symbolic or figurative. A time corresponds to a Jewish year, which was 360 days in length. A day in prophetic time equals one year. "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise." Num 14:34 and also, in Ezekiel 4:6 "And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year." It is clear in both scriptures that God has appointed one year for each prophetic day. Therefore a prophetic day equals a year in actual time. A time equals a prophetic year or 360 prophetic days or 360 actual years. Since there was a time, one year, times equals two years, which would be 720 actual years. A half a time would be a half year or 180 prophetic days or actual years. So adding up a time, times and a half time we come up with 360 + 720 + 180 = 1260 years.

A quick study of Leviticus 25:50-52 explains the use of time, "And he shall reckon with him that bought him from the year that he was sold to him unto the year of jubilee: and the price of his sale shall be according unto **the number of years**, according to **the time** of an hired servant shall it be with him. If there be yet many years behind, according unto them he shall give again the price of his redemption out of the money that he was bought for. And if there remain but few years unto the year of jubilee, then he shall count with him, and according unto **his years shall he give him again the price of his redemption." A year is a Time**, a time is 360 days.

In and of itself, this is not entirely convincing. So we need to see if this time reference comes up anywhere else. Another use is not far away, “And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for **a time, times, and an half**; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.” Dan 12:7. The time periods described in nearly identical language. One, a plurality of times, the other a dividing of time—or a half of a time.

But, the 1260 year prophecy does not occur anywhere else in scripture, only in Daniel and Revelation.

In Rev 11:2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot **forty and two months**.

Rev 11:3 we find, “And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy **a thousand two hundred and threescore days**, clothed in sackcloth.” Interestingly, the previous verse has the same time period in different language, “ But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot **forty and two months**. Forty two months of prophetic days is the same: 42 months, with one month equalling 30 days, is the same as 42 x 30 which equals 1260 prophetic days or 1260 actual years. Here it is again. in fact, this prophecy occurs two more times in scripture.

In Rev 12:6, “And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there **a thousand two hundred and threescore days**.” Also in Rev 12:14, “And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for **a time, and times, and half a time**, from the face of the serpent.” This is the one place in scripture where we see the same time period expressed in two different symbolic languages. Clearly, the intent is to show that these two are the same periods, the same prophecy.

Again, in Rev 13:5 we read, “And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue **forty and two months**.

When we examine the evidence, it is now clear that there are seven times this time period appears in scripture. Seven times indicates something important. Seven indicates completion, see numerical glossary. The more the scriptures mention something, the more God wants us to focus on it and understand what it means.

In Dan 7:25, it speaks of the Little Horn Power which speaks blasphemy against God. During this time it will wear out the saints, or children, of God. That is, His believers, those who follow Christ. In Dan 12:7, it is going to establish the scattering of God's people and bring a close to the vision Daniel had seen in chapters 7, 8 and 9. Is there anything these two prophecies have in common? Is it the Little Horn power that causes the scattering of God's people? When in history did this happen? Or has it happened already, or not?

When we look at the references in Revelation, do we find more clues to help us understand? In Rev 11:3, it gives 1260 years for God's two witnesses to do their job. But they will be doing it in sackcloth. Is it possible that God's two witnesses are witnesses against the Little Horn power? We just saw it in 11:2 as well. If God's two witnesses are the Old and New testament, then these would be witnesses against the Little Horn's blasphemy against God. Rev 12:6 and 14 both discuss the woman and how God prepared a place for her in the wilderness for 1260 years. A woman in prophecy is a church. This is telling us that God's church is fled into the wilderness for 1260 years where God fed them. When God feeds His church, it is with the Word of God. In fact, the Word of God is feeding God's church while it is witnessing against the Little Horn. Finally, in Rev 13:5 we read about the beast, who was given his power and authority by the dragon to speak great things and blasphemous things. This sounds very much like the Little Horn power in Dan 7 and in fact, they are the same.

So, in conclusion, the 1260 year time prophecy is found in both Daniel and Revelation. It is the same time prophecy mentioned 7 times for completeness, so it must be important. It applies to both the Little Horn power in Daniel and the Beast power in Revelation. Both these powers speaks blasphemy against God and works against His church. This corresponds to the time period that God's church is in the wilderness fed by God.

So, how do we identify the Beast power who is also the Little Horn power? First, we should identify when the 1260 years start and end and then we will identify it later. (It is my hope that in reading the identifying features of the beast or little horn power that the reader will quickly come to the correct conclusion before I identify it).

By Thy Sorceries

By Dr. Michael Snyder, M.D.



As a physician I have seen a great improvement in the lifespan of my patients since I started practicing. However, longer lives do not always translate into healthier living. Many would maintain that the longevity is strictly due to the new medications that have been developed over the past few decades. I have a rather cynical perspective towards this because I watch too many older Americans suffer for longer periods before they pass away from natural causes or worse. There are many genetic and medical reasons why this dynamic may exist.

Too often, these longer lives expose genetics that have largely been hidden in the early demise of the relatives of those who suffer from the exploding increase in lifestyle diseases. The conventional wisdom should be that most family members did not live long enough to see to what extent their family is prone to these, now prominent, diseases.

It is interesting to me that many would say that pharmaceuticals are no good, but the evidence is pretty clear that people are living longer who would have otherwise passed away from natural causes or lifestyle diseases. The question really should be, “Is this extension of life the result of medications making a person healthier because they take them?”

A study of the book of Revelation would reveal this verse:

> "And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy ***sorceries*** were all nations deceived." Rev 18:23.

This word ***Sorceries*** comes from the Greek word ***Pharmakeia.*** The ancient meaning of the word is the practice of ***witchcraft and magic spells or using magical potions and mind-altering herbs or substances to deceive people***. This could more aptly apply to those who practice herbology than those who practice traditional medicine, but I would not assign that meaning to them at all. I believe many of them do as much good as I do with my practice of lifestyle medicine.

While the modern word "pharmacy" comes from the Greek word Pharmakeia, the modern understanding of pharmacy is not the same as the ancient meaning of the word. I would caution those who use the definition of the word to mean "modern medications" to reconsider their position. Because a quick study of ancient Greek reveals an entirely different picture. Those who stand by this modern interpretation are in danger of condemning the work of many researchers whose only desire is to help humanity. Also, I would not insult the intelligence of the millions of doctors around the world who practice medicine from the same sincere desire to do right. They are not practicing witchcraft or promoting magic spells to accomplish their mission. Most doctors actually do care about the welfare of their patients and would not knowingly give something harmful to them—nor would they practice deceit to make money. This is not within our natures (let us here separate true physicians from government physicians that have a political bent and a desire for control and wealth). Most practice ***Evidence Based Medicine***, which focuses on science to evaluate the treatments that we use. We pick the treatments that are documented to work the best.

Now with this in mind, Studies that follow the course of treatment of common maladies such as constipation, heartburn, diabetes, coronary artery disease show that over the course of years of treatment, none of these patients are cured. While on the other hand, those that practice the use of the 8 natural doctors of Plant based Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest and Trust in God, we find all of them get better and many are cured.

I will be the first one to agree with those who distrust medications that I would not put them in my body unless absolutely necessary. God has given us a health message that, if followed, will help us avoid medications all the days of our lives. Medications will not help us be "healthier." The average Seventh-day Adventist

lives many years longer and healthier than the average American. This is through the practical use of the aforementioned 8 natural doctors.

What we should understand about Revelation 18:23 is that it describes the total destruction of Babylon. This global system is a corrupt church state that deceives the nations through their sorceries, that is; deceit, spiritualism, false doctrine and corruption as supported by the great merchants and kings of this world. While this system is not at it's apex of power yet, it is getting near. Between now and it's final destruction, the bible has much to say about the lengths Babylon and beast of Revelation will go to destroy those who faithfully follow God.

This sorcery is really a metaphor for the "drunk with the wine" of Babylon. that is found in Revelation 17:2, "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication." This fornication is the act of accepting the false church/state model of governance and accepting all the lies that go with it. We can clearly read that those who accept it's lies will receive the Mark of the Beast and those who don't will receive the seal of God. "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, ***to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads***: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is ***Six hundred threescore and six.***" Rev 13:16-18.

It is important to see that the truth is that the world is not deceived by medications, it is deceived by falsehoods, spiritualism, corruption in high places and a media that complicit with this evil union. It would be pretty hard to accuse pharmaceutical companies who develop and distribute antibiotics of destroying lives through deceit. Antibiotics have saved countless millions of lives. Arguments against their use are commonly framed in the fact that they are way overused—which causes superbugs and a myriad of other problems, including diarrhea and other GI problems, increased rates of cancer in women, even leading to allergies and weight gain through disruption of the gut biome. However, overuse is not the same as trying to deceive people through their usage—it is a mistake that has recently come to the fore and is being corrected.

The way to good health and longevity is not through medications, it is through a thorough application of the 8 natural doctors in your life.

If you are interested in receiving more information about the 8 natural doctors, please email me at mdsnydermd@att.net.

Morning Thoughts

By Irene Guzman

God Is My All in All

God is my Source, the giver of all good,
Providing every blessing just as He said He would.
(James 1:17)

God is my Strength when my own power fails,
His mighty hand protects me when the storm assails.
(Psalm 28:7)

God is my Shepherd, leading where streams flow,
Restoring my weary soul in paths that I should go.
(Psalm 23:1-3)

God is my Salvation, my light within the dark,
The rock of my deliverance, the keeper of my heart.
(Psalm 27:1)

God is my Shelter, a fortress safe and sure,
Beneath His wings of mercy I rest and am secure.
(Psalm 91:1-4)

God is my Peace, who keeps my mind at rest,
Removing every sorrow from a heavy, tired breast.
(Philippians 4:7)

God is my Protector, defending all my ways,
Preserving me from evil through all my earthly days.
(Psalm 121:7-8)

God is my Provider, supplying every need,
According to His riches, His faithfulness is deep.
(Genesis 22:14 / Philippians 4:19)

God is my Healer, who makes the broken whole,
Binding up each wound and restoring my weak soul.
(Exodus 15:26 / Psalm 147:3)

God is my Friend, who stays forever near,
Closer than a brother, to cast out all my fear.
(Proverbs 18:24)

God is my Comforter, who wipes away our tears,
Pouring out His mercy through all the passing years.
(2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

God is my All in All, my portion and my stay,
We truly need nothing else to guide us on our way.
(Colossians 3:11 / Psalm 73:26)

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Our Personal Path

By Irene Guzman

“O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save! Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention.” — Habakkuk 1:2-3 (KJV)

The Focus:

Hardship is a real part of living in a broken world. It does not wait for us to be strong, and it does not care about our comfort. When heavy trials press down on us, our natural human instinct is to fight back. We let bitterness, doubt, and arguing harden our hearts against God's shaping hands. Like the prophet Habakkuk, we look at the pain around us and cry out, questioning God’s silence and His timing.

God's Word never changes. Our Heavenly Father sees the end of our path before we even take our first step. On our own, we are just fragile dust and stubborn clay. We cannot survive the storms of this world using our own power. When we rely on our own strength and our own words, it breaks the heart of the Savior—just like Jesus wept over the stubborn blindness of Jerusalem (Luke 19:41).

God never looks at you and I as a lost cause! True rescue comes only when we drop all of our human arguments, step aside, and let the living Word of God stand front and center as our ultimate truth.

Pray:
Heavenly Father, We start this morning by admitting that we are completely helpless without Your breath. Forgive us for the moments we take Your daily love for granted. Forgive our wandering hearts. Like Habakkuk, our eyes focus so easily on our visible struggles instead of anchoring in Your unchanging truth. We are only dust formed by Your hands—You are the Potter, and we are the clay (Jeremiah 18:6).

Wash away any bitterness, pride, or doubt that hardens our souls when hard times come. Take complete control of our minds and hearts today. Let Your Word be the final authority in our lives. Hold us fast in Your hand so the brokenness of this world cannot crush us. Forgive us our sins and that we may allow this day Your will to be done.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Blessing:
May you stop fighting the hands of the Potter today (Isaiah 64:8).
May you lay down the exhausting burden of trying to figure everything out on your own, and surrender it to His perfect control. Let His Word anchor your soul, guard your mind, and lift the weight of all your anxiety.

Rest in His grace today!

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