

A wide banner image showing a bright sun setting or rising over a range of dark mountains. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall color palette is warm, with oranges, yellows, and browns.

Prophecy Research Initiative presents

The Story of Daniel 8 and 12

Franklin S. Fowler Jr., M.D.





**Lesson One –
Daniel 8 & 12**

How to Understand End-Time Prophecy



Jesus said in His famous end-time discourse:

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” (Luke 21:28)

This message tells us that there are signs so specific that when they start, we know that Jesus is coming very soon!

Our understanding is not to be subjective or sensational. We are to know the objective signs so we can really tell when His coming is near.

In fact, He is so eager for us to know all about those events and signs that He has given us “time prophecies” or special “clocks” to be very explicit!

We are no longer to be tempted by opinion, tradition or superficial Biblical understanding. God says: “Don’t go there! **You can know exactly what lies just ahead!**”

In 1957 the USSR launched this rocket, putting Sputnik I into orbit around the earth.



This scientific achievement came as a surprise to the world. Many felt it heralded the end of the world! Man did something that many said “God would not permit!”

Was this “cold war” event a sign of the end?

All over the world people began to ask questions that hadn't been asked before about the end of time!

In many religious circles, ministers, priests, and parishioners, concluded that this indeed meant that the end of the world had now begun.

But: Jesus didn't come. Our fears and hopes melted away.

Why? What happened?

It simply wasn't one of God's signs! Sputnik is not found in the Bible! It was sensational.

But – you say: Daniel talks about men running to and fro and the great increase of knowledge at the very end!



Daniel does say: *“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”* (Dan. 12:4)

BUT! – what does this verse mean?

That verse simply tells us that the “sealed” portion of Daniel will be “unsealed” at the very end.

A portion of Daniel 8–12 that couldn’t be understood when he wrote it, would become open to our understanding at the very end! People will spread those discoveries all throughout the world.

Note what Expositor White said:

“The book that was sealed was not the book of Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel which related to the last days.... By the increase of knowledge [found within that book] a people is to be prepared [future] to stand in the latter days.” (2SM 105 – 1896)

What about calamities?

2001 – Terrorists attacked the United States

- Ministers began preaching apocalyptic messages.
- Religious literature quickly portrayed this image as showing “the end is here”!



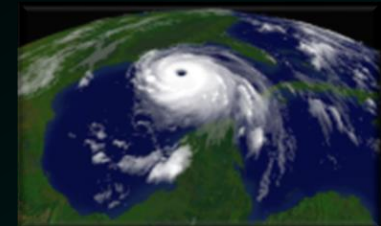
2004 – A terrible earthquake hit S.E. Asia

- A tsunami followed.
- 230,000 dead, 14,000 missing



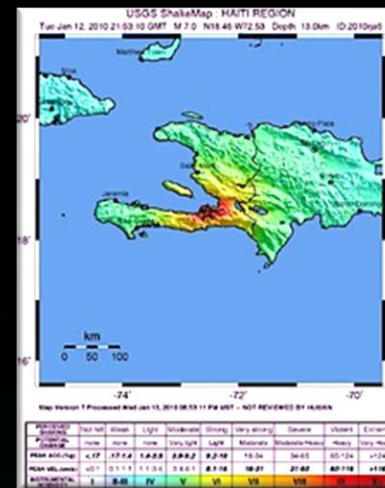
2005 – Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast.

- 1,400 deaths
- \$81 billion in damages



2010 – Haiti

- 7.0 magnitude earthquake
- 330,000 deaths (latest estimate)
- \$14 billion in costs



Then the wars (eg Yemen, Syria, Ethiopia)
then locust plagues and the Corona-19 virus!

What did/does all that mean?

Are they the signs which announce that Jesus is coming soon? Are they things we might find in Daniel?

How are we to interpret what is going on around us?

Why have such events occurred for centuries, and Jesus is still not here? !!

MAYBE – MAYBE – IT’S TIME TO REALLY TAKE A LOOK AT THE BIBLE – and carefully analyze what Jesus actually said!

Let's begin by looking at how God reveals future apocalyptic truth in the Bible.



When God decided to bring the flood upon the world, He introduced several fascinating principles:

1. He decided it was time to bring His ultimate response to sin, destruction, called “desolation” in the Bible!
2. He found leaders to warn the world that God’s mercy has limits.
3. He provided a “place of refuge,” an ark/boat, if one chose to enter.
4. He gave timing messages.
5. He gave the world final signs.

That is absolutely amazing!!!

Another example:

At the Time of Judah's Rebellion:



1. God decided that this nation should become desolate. (Jer. 4:27) (700–600 B.C.)
2. He chose Jeremiah to be the messenger. (Jer. 1:2-5)
3. There would be mercy only if they repented. (Eze. 33:11)
4. A timing message was given that within 40 years, one generation, some end would come. (Jer. 2:31, 7:9)

(continued)

(concluded)

“And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.”

(Jer. 25:11)

5. God gave final signs – two warning attacks, then a final destructive/desolating move:

“... came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand.” (Dan. 1:1-2)

Everything came true!

The first attack was in 605 B.C. That was when Daniel was taken captive. Jerusalem was not destroyed then.

There would be two other attacks:

In 597 B.C. more captives were taken and in 586 B.C. Jerusalem was destroyed.

That is when the land became “desolate.”

All that time Judah had a chance to repent and change. But they didn't.

THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE PROPHECY!

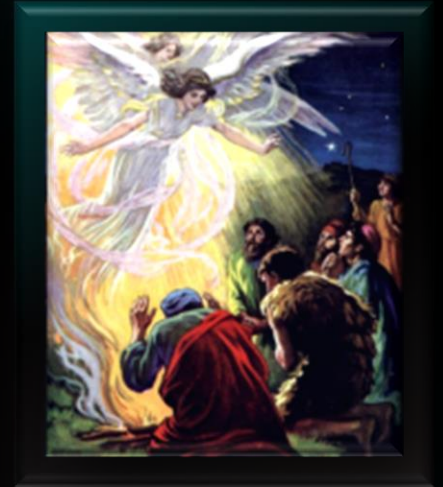
In anticipation of the birth of Jesus:

1. A new kingdom would come (opposite of desolation!)
2. God's people were to be the messengers.
3. Saints would possess that kingdom. (Dan. 7:18)
4. Daniel 9:24 on and I Chronicles 23:3 even tell us when Jesus would be born.
5. Signs of His birth include: Raiser of taxes (Dan. 11:20), a star emerged in the east (Matt. 2:2-9) and His birthplace would be Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2-3).



There was no failure of the prophecy, signs or timing!

BUT – the leaders, the appointed messengers, failed to study the prophecies.



Only a few people knew that the Messiah of the whole world, the Savior, had been born!

When Jerusalem fell in 70 A.D.:

God's people were saved because they heeded the special counsel Jesus gave:

1. There would be a sin or abomination that would lead to desolation. (Matt. 24:15)
2. Through the disciples/apostles, that warning was successfully given that God's mercy would end.
3. If they fled at the "sign," they would be saved.
4. It would occur within one generation (40 years).
(Matt. 24:34, Mark 13:30, Luke 21:32)

The sign to flee was "*when ye see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know ...*"

(Luke 21:20-21)

Everything happened exactly as prophesied!



God's people escaped and found refuge east of the Jordon River!

WE NOW COME TO A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION:

Do you think that at the very end of time, when the conflict between good and evil is ending, God will provide the same prophetic warnings, special counsel, as He did with all these prophecies?

He not only follows “His warning routine” – but much more. Amazingly – it is the time when “Babylon falls!”

“Those who place themselves under God’s control, to be led and guided by Him, will catch the steady tread of the events ordained by Him to take place. Inspired with the Spirit of Him who gave His life for the life of the world, they will no longer stand still in impotency, pointing to what they cannot do. Putting on the armor of heaven, they will go forth to the warfare, willing to do and dare for God, knowing that His omnipotence will supply their need.” (7T 14)



Everything will happen by
His events and clocks.

If we are going to be part of the last work on earth, we (God's messengers) will:



1. Have a desolating message (warnings)
2. Be part of a worldwide movement, warning that God's mercy is about to cease!
3. Reveal Christ's righteousness – the “ark”
4. Have a specific timing message (no ethereal guess work). There isn't much time left!
5. Give convincing signs to the world that bring conviction

That is what Daniel and Revelation are all about!
That is why this study is of vital importance to
God's last messengers the world will ever hear.

“The solemn messages that have been given in their order in the Revelation are to occupy the first place in the minds of God’s people. Nothing else is to be allowed to engross our attention.

“The testimony of Christ, a testimony of the most solemn character, is to be borne to the world. All through the book of Revelation there are the most precious, elevating promises, and there are also warnings of the most fearfully solemn import. Will not those who profess to have a knowledge of the truth read the testimony given to John by Christ? Here is no guesswork, no scientific deception. Here are the truths that concern our present and future welfare.” (8T 302 – 1904)

LET'S NOW LOOK AT KEY FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES THAT ALL BIBLE PROPHECY IS BUILT ON!



1. Prophecy is event-driven.
2. It is always set in a framework of time.
3. Parts or all of a given message are repeated.
4. They are always in a proper sequence.
5. The symbols and/or metaphors may vary –
6. But the truths are always the same.
7. Daniel frames the basics for end-time issues.
8. Revelation fills in “how” things will be fulfilled.
9. Jesus is found centered in all.

There are warnings related to prophetic study!

We have a paucity of prophetic understanding *because:*

- Past insight – tradition – often creates bias against new light.
- In some religious circles, fear of *sensationalism* is a reason not to go into end-time themes.
- Finally – there are pet excuses why we don't study events that are now happening.

**Let's look at some of
these more closely.**



RESISTANCE TO NEW LIGHT

New Light – warning

- “There is no excuse for any one in taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without an error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people, is not a proof that our ideas are infallible. Age will not make error into truth.”

(RH 12-20-1892)

New Light – a personal challenge

“When God’s people are at ease, and satisfied with their present enlightenment, we may be sure that He will not favor them. It is His will that they should be ever moving forward, to receive the increased and ever-increasing light which is shining for them.

“The present attitude of the church is not pleasing to God. There has come in a self-confidence that has led them to feel no necessity for more truth and greater light.... God wills that a voice shall be heard arousing His people to action.” (GW 300)

New Light – is to encircle the globe

- “There is much light yet to shine forth from the law of God and the gospel of righteousness. This message, understood in its true character, and proclaimed in the Spirit, will lighten the earth with its glory.

“The great decisive question is to be brought before all nations, tongues, and peoples. The closing work of the third angel’s message will be attended with a power that will send the rays of the Sun of Righteousness into all the highways and byways of life, and decisions will be made for God.” (2MR 58)

New Light – warning to leaders



- “The rebuke of the Lord will be upon those who would be guardians of the doctrine, who would bar the way that greater light shall not come to the people. A great work is to be done, and God sees that our leading men have need of greater light, that they may unite harmoniously, with the messengers [specially chosen individuals] whom He shall send to accomplish the work that He designs they should.” (CW 38)

**People have Excuses
to Not
Study Prophecy**

Excuse One: “Study of the end of time is misguided because it places undue emphasis on things that have little to do with our salvation!”

1. Current events are distracting.
2. Don't worry about the signs.
3. When things happen, they happen.
4. Just stay centered on Jesus.

- Before Jesus' first coming:
 - “The earth was dark through misapprehension of God.” (DA 22)
 - “For over a thousand years they waited for His coming. When He came, they didn't know Him.” (DA 27)
 - *“He came to His own, and His own received Him not.”* (John 1:11)
 - “Pride obscured their vision. They interpreted prophecy in accordance with their selfish desires.” (DA 30)
- Those Jewish leaders distorted Messianic truth, AND they never welcomed the Savior.

- Satan has end-time counterfeits to deceive.
 - Example! Most of the evangelical world believe that Jesus will come and set up His kingdom here on the earth.
 - That is a perfect setup for Satan to appear as an angel of light!
 - *“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”*
(II Cor. 11:14)

“In the last days he will appear in such a manner as to make men believe him to be Christ come the second time into the world. He will indeed transform himself into an angel of light.” (5T 698 – 1889)

- Knowledge of truth and prophecy are key weapons in the final conflict!

“Truth and error are both in the field, striving for the mastery. The champions of truth **will have a fierce conflict**. ‘We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places’ [Ephesians 6:12] No one need be deceived, if he will make the word of God his study. **How little is the book of Revelation studied! ... it is to be understood**; for it especially concerns us who are living in these last days.” (SpTA07 52)

- Remember that the ones who really knew the prophecies at the first Advent were “outsiders” from the east.

“Outside of the Jewish nation there were men who foretold the appearance of a divine instructor. These men were seeking for truth, and to them the Spirit of Inspiration was imparted. One after another, like stars in the darkened heavens, such teachers had arisen. Their words of prophecy had kindled hope in the hearts of thousands of the Gentile world.” (DA 33)

Excuse Two: “The study of end-time issues sounds like we are time setting.”

1. This is very disturbing.
2. It goes against God’s implicit counsel:
“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.” (Matt. 24:32-33)
3. We are to have major clues as to when!
4. Prophecy is loaded with end-time clocks.

- Expositor E. G. White addressed this relative to Revelation 13:

“In the last days Satan will appear as an angel of light, with great power and heavenly glory, and claim to be the Lord of the whole earth. He will declare that the Sabbath has been changed from the seventh to the first day of the week; and as lord of the first day of the week he will present this spurious sabbath as a test of loyalty to him. Then will take place the final fulfillment of the Revelator’s prophecy. [quoting] *‘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.’*”

(plus rest of chapter) (19MR 282)

“Let us read and study the twelfth chapter of Daniel. It is a warning that we shall all need to understand before the time of the end.”

(15MR 228 – 1903)

Why is that important?

There are three timing prophecies in that chapter that tie directly to the period when probation closes. God’s people are delivered, and a special resurrection occurs!

The key is in verse 6. We will be studying that in detail.

Excuse Three: “Talking about end-time issues is simply sensationalism.”

1. Because of the numb nature of the Laodicean heart:

- God will speak within crisis events!
- He knows we won't study unless we are suddenly helpless.
- God isn't fooled – He is soon to bring calamities to wake up all of humanity. But for some, it will be too late.



- There is a difference between “sensational” and “sensationalism.”
 - “God has a purpose in permitting these calamities to occur. They are one of His means of calling men and women to their senses. By unusual workings through nature God will express to doubting human agencies that which He clearly reveals in His Word.” (19MR 279-280)

- “The people are asleep in their sins, and **need to be alarmed** before they can shake off this lethargy. Their ministers have preached smooth things. God’s servants, who bear sacred, vital truths, should cry aloud and spare not, that the truth may tear off the garment of security, and find its way to the heart.” (2SG 300)

A Final Concept About Prophetic Study

- With all the prophetic clocks that are set for the end of time – God wants us to understand a “tarrying time” that precedes them.
- That period began at the Cross, when the fulfillment of the purpose of the 490 years was delayed. In another study, Daniel 9, this will become part of our deeper analysis.

A “tarrying time” issue was raised by God in Ezekiel’s time – and is a metaphor for our day!

*“Son of man, what is that **proverb** that ye have in the land of Israel, saying, **The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth?** Tell them therefore, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will make this proverb to cease, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel; but say unto them, **The days are at hand....**”*

*“Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, The vision that he seeth is for many days to come, and he prophesieth of the times that are far off. Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; There shall **none of my words be prolonged any more**, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord GOD.”*

(Eze. 12:22-23, 27-28)

What was this time prolonged from?

The warnings and prophecies of Jeremiah. For a generation he had given to them the message that the end of their nation would come.

In the study of God's "clocks," there is a time – a distinct period of time – when one prophetic "clock" temporarily stops "ticking."

Then time moves forward while that specific prophetic clock is not ticking. This becomes a "lull" for that specific prophecy. But God's great overall millennial clock still goes forward.

We must understand that that is NOT a delay in Christ's coming. Time continues to move forward.

When there is a "lull" in that time period, it is called a "tarrying time." It is very important to our prophetic understanding!

Christ did warn of thinking about a “delay!”

A pause in any of His active clocks is always anticipated and defined.

Many prophecies throughout history have appeared to be delayed in their fulfillment (e.g., the time of Noah, when Jeremiah warned God’s people of Judah and even when anticipating the First Advent). But they all occurred on time. That will be so for the Second Advent as well.

There is a tarrying time or “lull” in the 490-year prophecy of Daniel 9. That will be discussed in another class dealing with that chapter.

Jesus warned in a parable about claiming that the Second Coming is delayed. It is the story He gave of an “*evil servant*,” found in Matthew 24:48-51.

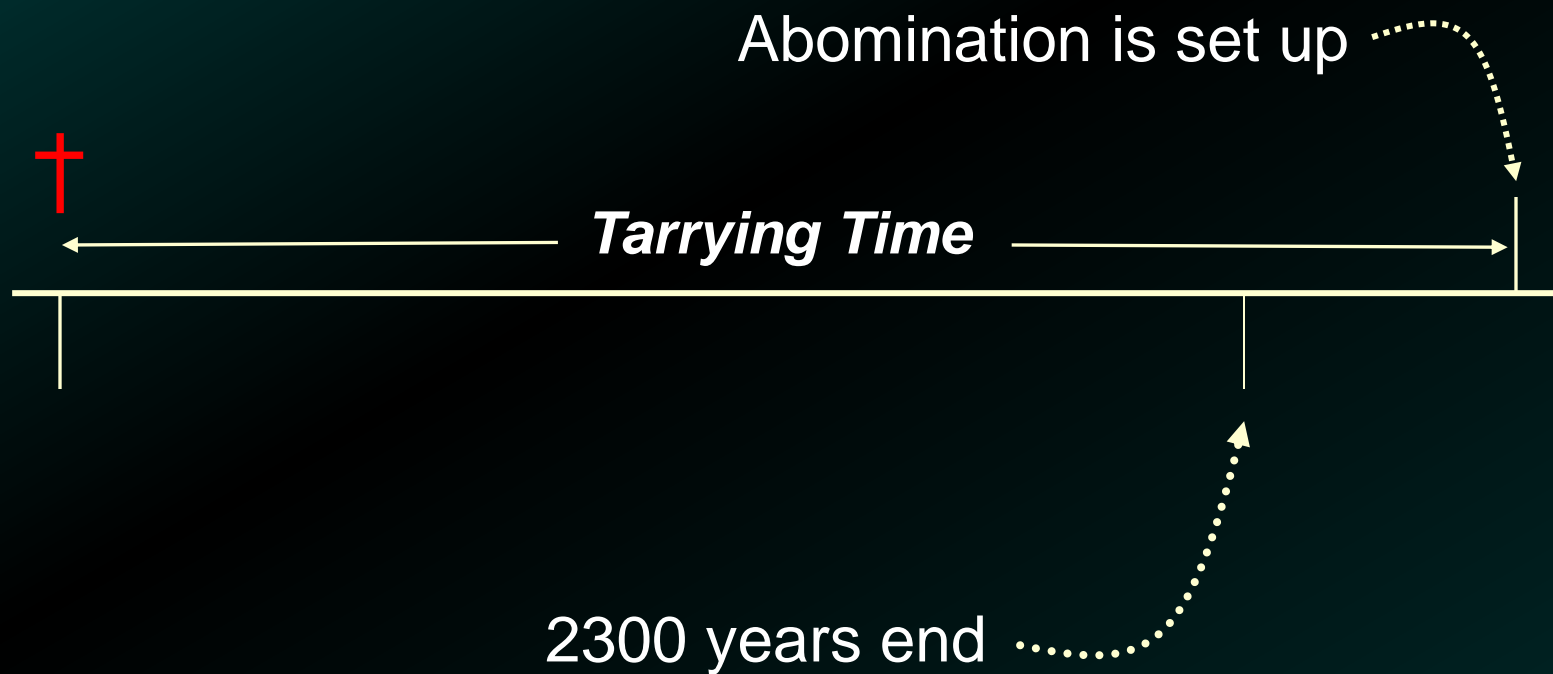
- There, the servant says in his heart: “My lord delayeth his coming.”
- In his mind that was license to sin, abuse and live a careless life.

The “delay complaint” undermines the prophetic precision with which God has set His clocks!
AND – it ignores the imperative to “watch.”

BUT – God has given us a tarrying time period that we are to understand and reckon as part of our studies.

During this time, the 2300 Atonement years of Daniel 8:14 do go forward.

But the tarrying time doesn't end until an "abomination" begins, which God said would lead to "desolation." That is when the final part of the 490 years is completed.



The classic text which outlines very well that prophetic “pause” is in Habakkuk:

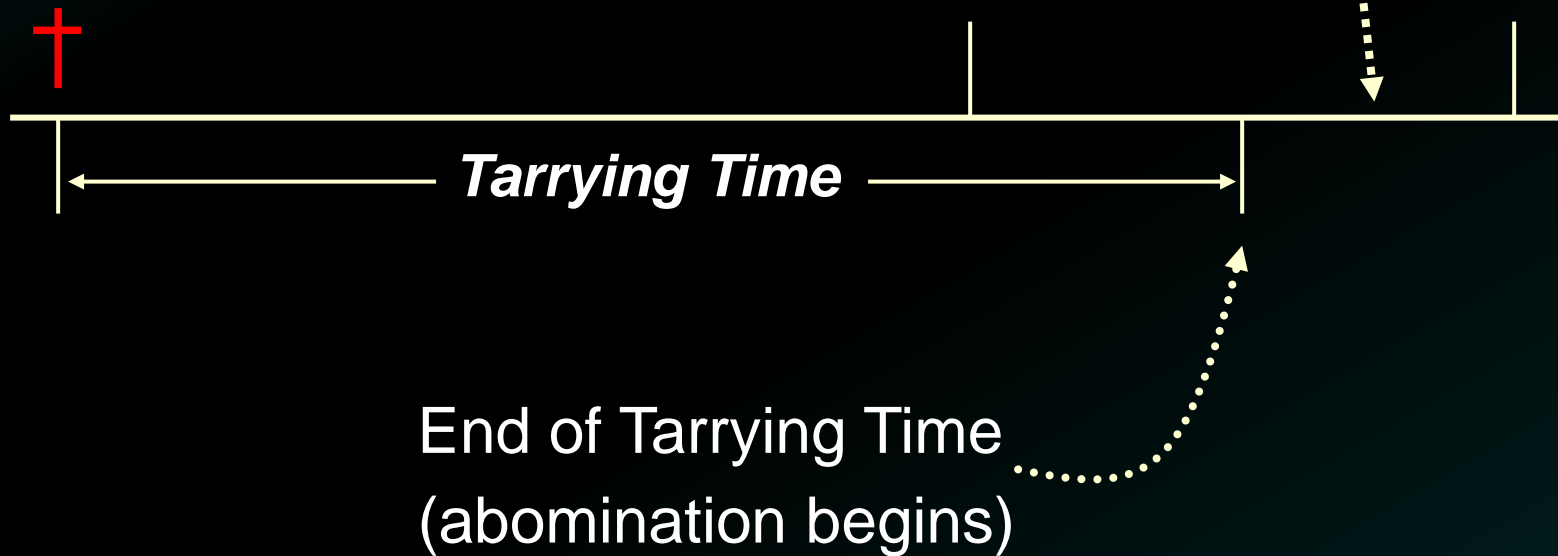
*“And the LORD answered me, and said,
Write the vision, and make it plain upon
tables, that he may run that readeth it. For
the vision is yet for an **appointed time**, but
at the end it shall speak, and not lie:
though it tarry, wait for it; because it will
surely come, **it will not tarry.**”* (Hab. 2:2-3)

This ties beautifully with Daniel 8:19 and
Hebrews 10:36-37.

*“And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the **time appointed the end shall be.**” (Dan. 8:19)*

*“For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and **will not tarry.**” (Heb. 10:36-37)*

Daniel and Revelation's end-time prophecies mainly fit here
("appointed time" – *moed*):



This brings us to the end
of our review of principles
that help us prepare to
understand the
prophetic Word.

What Have We Learned?

- Jesus is very interested in time.
- He has filled prophetic messages with timing information.
- Prophecy is driven by prophetic events. We have a deep obligation to understand what they are!
- End-time predictions follow a very specific sequence of information.
- “New light” or understanding of prophecy will unfold right at the end. Revelation 10 says it would come right before the appointed time begins!

There is no excuse to “not know” what lies ahead. Prophecy paints the most incredible picture, in “full color,” of earth’s final months.

Soon we will enter a “pre-appointed” time. This is the final time for God’s messengers to learn about end-time prophecy. WHY?

The next prophecy to be fulfilled is for the world to hear what we have learned!

There is a prophecy for us to prepare to be God’s final messengers. We have homework to do.

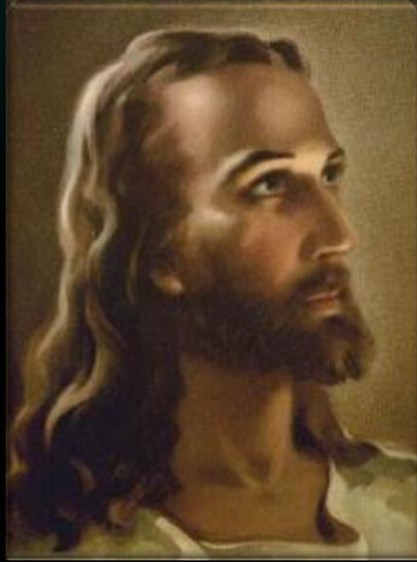
“The work of the people of God is to prepare for the events of the future, which will soon come upon them with blinding force.” (2SM 142 – 1903)

That occurs just as the “tarrying time” ends.

“In the Scriptures are presented truths that relate especially to our own time. To the period just prior to the appearing of the Son of man, the prophecies of Scripture point, and here their warnings and threatenings pre-eminently apply. The prophetic periods of Daniel, extending to the very eve of the great consummation, throw a flood of light upon events then to transpire.... None need remain in ignorance, none need be unprepared for the coming of the day of God.” (RH 9-25-1883)

“Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.” (Isa. 5:13)

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge.” (Hos. 4:6)



Are you ready to delve deeply into the prophecies that He gave us regarding the time we are living in? Is He your friend? Are you ready for Jesus to come? It will be very soon now – as you will see from these studies!

The End

Next Lesson:

**Jesus Introduces Us to the
Time of the End and Daniel!**



PRI Headquarters

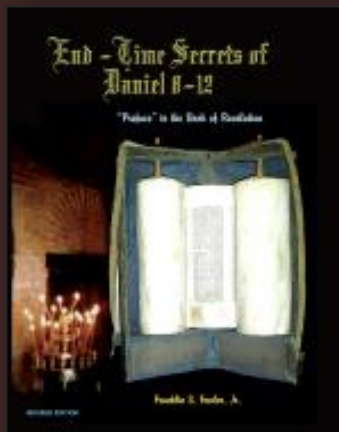


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A book that goes along with this Daniel series is *End-Time Secrets of Daniel 8–12*, which can be obtained by:

E-mailing: prophecy-research@earthlink.net