

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

REVELATION TODAY

PRESENTATION 5 • PROPHECY AND PARDON

SLIDE • FOOTBALL FIELD. The first “Super Bowl” was played in 1969. Technically, it was the third, but it was the first to be referred to as the “super bowl.” The New York Jets beat the Baltimore Colts, 16-7, and three days before the game, Jets quarterback Joe Namath GUARANTEED that the Jets would win. Especially given the time—more than 50 years ago—that was a pretty outrageous thing for Namath to do. The Jets’ coach joked later that he “could have shot Namath” for saying what he said. But it all worked out, and the Jets won. And haven’t won since.

SLIDE • EINSTEIN. Albert Einstein may have been a brilliant scientist, but he wasn’t such a great prophet. In 1932 he said that “there is not the slightest indication that nuclear energy will ever be obtainable. That would mean that the atom would have to be shattered at will.” Just ten years later, what Einstein said couldn’t happen, did happen, in a project led by an Italian physicist, Enrico Fermi, at the University of Chicago.

Election Day 1948, the conventional wisdom was that the governor of New York, Thomas Dewey would win the election. Harry S. Truman, the incumbent, was way behind in the polls. So the Chicago Tribune wanting to have a newspaper ready (**SLIDE • DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN FAMOUS PHOTO**) to go the next morning ran the giant banner headline, Dewey Defeats Truman. Wrong, of course. Not a great prediction.

SLIDE • MAYAN CALENDAR. A few years ago, people started getting excited about the Maya calendar, saying that the Maya Long Count Calendar predicted the end of the world. Well, it didn’t.

Of course, these aren’t “prophecies” in the Biblical sense. Not by any means. But many Bible-based predictions have been made over the years, with predictable results.

SLIDE • JUDGMENT DAY BILLBOARD. A Christian broadcaster from California predicted the end of the world would occur in 2011. It wasn’t his first failed prediction, but it did get plenty of attention. And of course, it came to nothing. People have predicted the return of Jesus, Armageddon, the rapture, judgments on the world, and they’ve never materialized. I’m not certain how these prognosticators have been able to get away with their predictions, but in many cases they have.

So who do we believe? It’s not hard to figure out.

SLIDE • 1 JOHN 4:1. Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

SLIDE • BIBLE. There are many reasons the Bible is still the world’s best-selling book. One reason is that it’s reliable. No, you and I haven’t seen heaven and we haven’t spoken with angels (that we know of) and we haven’t had a sit-down meeting with God, and yet the Bible still resonates with people all over the world, in every language. It answers the longing in the human heart, and it answers the big questions people wrestle with. You know you’re valuable because Jesus died for

you. You know that this life isn't all there is. You know that there is forgiveness for sin. And one of the reasons you can trust the Bible is that it demonstrates its reliability.

In the book of Micah, chapter 5 and verse 2, we read the following.

SLIDE • MICAH 5:2 NKJV. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

That's God predicting that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. And that's precisely what happened. In Matthew 2 wise men came from the east and they asked where they would find the Messiah.

SLIDE • MATTHEW 2:5-6 NKJV. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel'" (Matthew 2:5-6).

God predicted it hundreds of years before, and it happened just as He said it would.

SLIDE • BIRTH OF JESUS. In Isaiah 7:14 the Bible said that Jesus would be born of a virgin. And that's precisely what happened.

God promised Jacob a son. What God promised actually happened.

SLIDE • NOAH'S ARK. Through Noah, God told the people living on the world that the Earth would be destroyed by a flood. That's what happened.

SLIDE • HOSEA 11:1. "When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt."

Hosea 11:1 said that the Messiah would go into Egypt. You might remember that not long after He was born, Jesus' parents took Him into Egypt. That's recorded in Matthew 2.

God predicted there would be a forerunner prior to Jesus' ministry. John the Baptist was that person.

SLIDE • JESUS KING. Isaiah said the Messiah would be "despised and rejected." He was certainly that.

The Bible predicted that Jesus would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver. Look at this. (**SLIDE • ZECH 11:12-13 NKJV**) "Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter."

SLIDE • JESUS ON CROSS. Psalm 22:15 said years before the event that the Messiah would suffer thirst as He hung on the cross. That's precisely what occurred.

One verse later God said the Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced. Same chapter they cast lots for Jesus' clothing. And there are many others, all the (**SLIDE • PSALM 22:1, MATTHEW 27:46**) way down to Psalm 22:1 which says, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Those words were repeated by Jesus in Matthew 27:46.

Scripture predicted Jesus would be put to death. You read about it in Isaiah 53. We know Jesus was crucified. Between two thieves the Bible even alluded to that. Isaiah even said that Jesus would "make His grave... with the rich at His death." And we know Jesus was buried in the tomb of the very wealthy Joseph of Arimathea.

SLIDE • BIBLE. And there's much more. The Bible named the man who led the overthrow of the kingdom of Babylon years before it happened. It named him by name before he was born. Cyrus.

Add these up, and you realize you're not dealing with an ordinary book. Either the Bible is God's book and can be trusted, or... Well, what's the alternative? Can anyone get that lucky? Is it even possible that you could have that many predictions, written by numerous different people, in different ages, and that they all come to pass? Either this is the most incredible stroke of luck in history, or... Or maybe God can be trusted.

So let's look at a major prophecy of the Bible right now. It's in the heart of the book of Revelation, and it speaks directly to the times in which we live. Directly.

SLIDE • REVELATION 14:6. And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

SLIDE • REVELATION 14:7. Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

SLIDE • REVELATION 14:8. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

SLIDE • REVELATION 14:9–12. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Now let's drill down a little deeper into this. There's an interesting thing about judgment. Look at Revelation 22:12.

SLIDE • REVELATION 22:12. "And behold I come quickly, and my reward is with me..." Reward with Him just, therefore have judged those living on earth. Clearly, there's a judgment before Jesus returns.

SLIDE • BOOK OF DANIEL. In the book of Daniel, God sets date for judgment. You're going to find that this has everything to do with God's Great Reset.

Let's look at this. Not a date for the end of the world or the return of Jesus, but a date for the judgment.

SLIDE • DANIEL 8:14 says, Unto two thousand and three hundred days, then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. What does that mean?

The Bible talks of two sanctuaries. It tells us there's a sanctuary in heaven, and that there is a sanctuary on Earth. The sanctuary on Earth was the portable sanctuary that went with Israel through the wilderness. Whenever they stopped for any period of time, they set up that sanctuary. The heavenly sanctuary is God's temple in heaven and you read about that in the book of Hebrews and in Revelation as well.

SLIDE • REVELATION 11:19. “Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.” This is the temple, the sanctuary in heaven.

God used the sanctuary in the wilderness, as well as the temple, to teach His people about the plan of salvation. And I’m going to show you something special about what the sanctuary services reveal. (The death of the Lamb.) This was the center of the sacrificial system, and those Old Testament sacrifices were full of meaning.

SLIDE • EXODUS 25:8. “And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.” Sanctuary, so God could dwell with them. You know, it has always been God’s plan to dwell with His people.

SLIDE • EXODUS 25:9. “According to all that I show you, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall you make it.”

God gave them the plans, the pattern, to model the sanctuary on.

SLIDE • SANCTUARY. The Sanctuary was divided into two apartments. The Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Every day offerings were made and the priest ministered in the Holy Place, but on a special day every year the High Priest went into Most Holy Place and the sanctuary was cleansed. It was Judgment Day, the Day of Atonement.

SLIDE • HIGH PRIEST. The Cleansing of the Sanctuary was a day of judgment for Israel.

The Day of Atonement was the day on which the record of the sins of the people was blotted out. Throughout year, they’d taken their (**SLIDE • SACRIFICE**) lambs down to the sanctuary, and the blood of those innocent lambs was taken into the sanctuary and ministered there. Their sins were transferred from the sinner to the lamb and then into the sanctuary. They were no longer under condemnation for their sins, but the record of their sins remained until the Day of Atonement, when that record was blotted out. It was judgment day. The truly repentant had the record of their sins blotted out, and the unrepentant were cut off from Israel. That was the Cleansing of the Sanctuary.

SLIDE • DANIEL 8:14. When Daniel said, Unto 2300 days... every Jew knew He meant there would be a judgment day.

And here’s that thing I said I’d show you about the sanctuary services. At the center of it all was a lamb. A sacrifice. No sacrifice, no sanctuary service. The sinner came to the sanctuary, and their hope was in the lamb. It was never in themselves. The key was the sacrifice, the animal that gave its life. That was the key to it all. Do you know what the key is to the judgment we read about in Revelation? The key is a Lamb. Jesus. The sacrifice for sin. He is the key to all of this. That verse again.

SLIDE • JOHN 3:16. “God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Let’s take this a little further.

SLIDE • JOHN 3:17. “For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

SLIDE • 1 JOHN 4:8. One thing the Bible makes clear is that “God is love.” He’s not a tyrant, He’s not an ogre, He’s not unfair, even though sometimes we can’t understand His ways. God is love.

And what is Jesus doing now? He is not ministering in the earthly temple.

SLIDE • HEBREWS 9:24. “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.” Jesus appears in heaven for us.

And what is Jesus doing for you? You know, that verse is instructive.

SLIDE • SPY. Whose side is Jesus on? Over the years there have been some high-profile men arrested for spying. Robert Hanssen worked for the CIA but sold secrets to the Soviet Union and then Russia. He’s now in the Supermax prison in Colorado, in solitary confinement 23 hours a day. There have been other similar, famous cases. The thing with these spies is that no one really knew whose side they’re on.

I wonder if some people feel like that about God. They don’t know whose side He’s on. They don’t know whose side Jesus is on. Well, let me tell you.

SLIDE • HEBREWS 4:14. “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.”

SLIDE • HEBREWS 4:16. “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

Jesus is our great High Priest. He is our Advocate (1 John 2:1).

So we know: Jesus, our High Priest, is in the heavenly sanctuary as our Advocate, and just as there is a cleansing of earthly, there will be cleansing of the sin record in heaven. There’ll be a judgment day.

And basically, this judgment will show which Christians are true believers (Matthew 7) and which are not.

This judgment is like an audit, really. It’s a review, where Jesus looks at the records to see who has truly repented and who has not. Before anyone is eternally saved or lost, Jesus will show that the saved are saved and the lost are lost based on the reality of their own decisions.

So when would this cleansing of the sin record in heaven take place?

SLIDE • DANIEL 8:14. Unto 2300 days...

SLIDES (4) • DANIEL 8:17–19, 26. So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision. Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright. 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. And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days.

So this 2300 day period wasn’t a literal 2300 day period as it stretched from Daniel’s day to what the Bible says is “the time of the end.” So how can that be?

SLIDE • BIBLE. In the Bible, multiple times God uses a day to represent a year.

SLIDE • EZEKIEL 4:6 NKJV. “And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year.”

SLIDE • NUMBERS 14:34 NKJV. “According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection.”

SLIDE • 2300 DAYS = 2300 YEARS. So 2300 days = 2300 years.

Daniel didn't get all info. Prayed. God sent angel to answer prayer.

SLIDE • DANIEL 9:23 NKJV. At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision: (**SLIDE • DANIEL 9:24 NKJV**) “Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.”

Clearly this cannot be literal time being presented. All of this could not possibly happen in 70 weeks. So we need to understand how this prophecy is meant to be understood. As we do, it shows us what's going on behind the scenes.

SLIDE • 70 WEEKS = 490 YEARS. Notice that word determined. It means “cut off” 70 weeks—or 490 years—was allotted for Israel to come to repentance.

SLIDE • HOURGLASS. When does this time prophecy begin?

SLIDE • DANIEL 9:25 KJV. “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

SLIDE • 69 WEEKS. From the time of the decree, 483 years would elapse until the Messiah came.

So there we have the starting point of this prophecy. “The going forth of the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.” According to the Bible, a decree was issued, and that decree represents the starting point of this prophecy. So, where in the Bible do we find this decree?

SLIDE • FLY-OVER. You know how you'll hear the central USA or the plains states referred to as “Fly-over country?” There are parts of the Bible that are like “fly-over country” for Bible readers. They'll read the gospels, Acts maybe, Psalms, Proverbs... but not books like Ezra. Ezra is a wonderful book to read, and right there in the book of Ezra is the key to unlock this great prophecy. Ezra 7 records the decree of Artaxerxes that gives us the starting point for this prophecy. And that decree was issued in (**SLIDE • 457 B.C.**) The decree was issued in the year 457 B.C.

SLIDE • 457 B.C. 483 YEARS. Start in 457 B.C., add 483 years

NEXT SLIDE • A.D. 27. Add those 483 years and you come to A.D. 27.

So in A.D. 27, Messiah would come.

Messiah = “Anointed One.” Jesus was anointed at His baptism (see Acts 10:38.)

In Luke 3 you read that it is the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar. And then this happens.

SLIDES (2) • LUKE 3:21–22. When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.” Jesus was baptized.

SLIDE • TIBERIUS CAESAR. The 15th year of the reign of Tiberius was the year A.D. 27. The Bible had predicted that years before!

SLIDE • MESSIAH. Which is why Galatians 4:4 says that Christ came in the “fulness of time.”

SLIDE • BAPTISM. New Birth!! In Mark 1:14–15, right after Jesus was baptized, he said “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.” The time fulfilled was the time prophecy in Daniel 9! He was announcing Himself as the Messiah! He was saying, “You know what the prophecies say! You know it’s time! I’m here! I’m the Messiah!” He was announcing Himself as the fulfillment of prophecy.

SLIDE • DANIEL 9:26. “And after the sixty-two weeks

Messiah shall be cut off.” The Messiah was cut off, after A.D. 27.

SLIDE • CROSS. When was Jesus cut off? When He died on the cross.

SLIDE • DANIEL 9:27 KJV. Then, verse 27 says “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week.”

A time period of seven years. Those seven years began in A.D. 27.

SLIDE • JESUS CARRYING CROSS. In the midst of the week He would cause the sacrifices to cease. When Jesus died, what happened in the temple?

SLIDE • VEIL BEING TORN. The veil was torn in two. Why? No more sacrifices were necessary. The true Lamb had died. Romans 5:6 says, “In due time, Christ died for the ungodly.”

Let’s look at this:

SLIDE • THE DECREE WAS ISSUED IN 457 B.C.

SLIDE • JESUS WAS BAPTIZED IN A.D. 27.

SLIDE • JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS in 31 A.D., and at the time the sacrifice and oblation ceased.

When would the end of 70 weeks/490 years be?

SLIDE • The 70 weeks would then end in 34 A.D. What happened at the end of the 70 weeks? Remember, God gave Israel 490 years to come to repentance. They didn’t.

What happened at the end of the 70 weeks? The gospel went to the Gentiles.

SLIDE • ACTS 13:46. (Acts 7:59, 8:5; Acts 13:45–46) Acts 13:46 It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. After Steven was stoned, the privileges of the gospel were to extend to all the world.

SLIDE • CROSS. This amazing prophecy is positive proof that Jesus Christ is the Messiah.

At Christ’s birth, which angel delivered this message? Gabriel. In Luke 1, he brought news of Messiah, and Messiah’s forerunner. Here in Dan, it’s Gabriel again, bringing a message about Jesus.

This prophecy was misinterpreted once before. It pointed to Jesus’ first coming to the Earth, and the very people who were supposed to be alerted by this prophecy rejected Jesus. Instead of Jesus, they called out for Barabbas! The same will happen again without a clear understanding of God’s word.

SLIDE • WORLD. This prophecy points us to Jesus. Our Savior on Earth, and our Mediator in the Heavenly Sanctuary.

Now, let's add the rest of the years of the 2300 year prophecy and see what happens.

SLIDE • CHART. Start 457 B.C. Add 70 weeks, 34 A.D. Add 1810 years, 1844. Since 1844, sanctuary cleansed, living in the judgment hour.

What we learn, in 1844 Jesus entered Most Holy Place of heavenly sanctuary to begin final work of preparing a people to be ready for His coming.

First part of the prophecy is to prepare world for His first coming. Most people missed that. Second part prepare for His second coming. Let's be ready!

SLIDE • REVELATION 14:7 says, "Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come!" We can know this is in progress.

And why is that important? While the devil is conditioning this world to turn away from faith in God, Jesus is in heaven at this very moment drawing the world to Himself. He hasn't forgotten anyone. He hasn't abandoned the planet. Do you ever feel like He might have done that? When tornadoes strike, maybe you feel that God is turning His attention away from the world? When another drunk driver takes another innocent life, do you wonder where God was at that moment?

And this reminds us that God sees injustice. He sees sin and avarice and selfishness. He sees it all. And tells us that one day judgment will take place.

And I want you to notice something. The Bible speaks of an antichrist, a great power in Earth's last days that will wreak spiritual havoc. This is heaven's assurance that sin doesn't triumph, and the forces of evil that are right now trying to divert minds and lives away from the direction of heaven will ultimately not win.

Jesus' work of heavenly judgment shows whether we have really accepted Jesus. Don't you want have Him as your heavenly High Priest? This is liberty and justice... for all.

SLIDE • HEBREWS 7:25. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

There's an invitation there, isn't there? God inviting us to come to Him in a time of judgment, not to fear Him, but to trust Him, to believe in Him...

SLIDE • PILOT George almost didn't make it. And if he hadn't, history would have turned out differently.

SLIDE • A GRUMMAN TBM AVENGER AIRCRAFT. When US aircraft conducted a bombing raid on tiny Chichi Jima Island, 700 miles south of Tokyo, in 1944, several US planes were shot down, and of the nine airmen who escaped, eight were captured, and then executed. Some of them were cannibalized, in view of the survivors. But George escaped being shot down. He flew his plane as far away from Chichi Jima as he could, before bailing out at the last possible moment. He was rescued by the USS Finback, a submarine, and was saved.

SLIDE • GEORGE W. BUSH. If one of any number of things had not happened as they did, George would not have made it, and George H.W. Bush would not have gone on to become the 41st President of the United States. He made the best of the second chance he got, didn't he? What are you doing with yours?

God is calling to you today...