

Restored Truth Bible Study #14 - Prophecy

August 3, 2013

Prepare to cover a lot of material in this Restored Truth Bible Study #14. This Study will discuss the topic of Bible prophecy, its purpose, and the vital key for understanding it.

What is prophecy? The Apostle Peter provides the biblical definition.

2 Pet.1:16 *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables...*[Fables are lies. Peter witnessed firsthand Christ's life as a human being, did not follow cunningly devised lies] *when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses to his majesty...*[These men were there. They touched Christ; they ate with Christ; they worked with Christ; they walked with Christ. They saw Christ perform His miracles. They were eyewitnesses to some of the most incredible events this earth has ever experienced] (vs 17) *For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when such a voice came to Him from the excellent glory and said, this is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!* [This is a reference to the Transfiguration in Matthew 17] (vs 18) *And we heard this voice...*[Specifically, Peter, James, and John, because they were the only apostles with Christ at His Transfiguration] *which came from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain...*[Verse 19 spells out into the meaning of prophecy] (vs 19) *and so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns, and the morning star rises in your hearts.* (vs 20) *Knowing this first...*[This is what must be known about prophecy first] *that no prophecy of scripture is of any private interpretation...*[Or origin—meaning prophecy doesn't have its origins in the minds of human beings] (vs 21) *For prophecy never came by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by Holy Spirit.* The Greek word for prophecy means prediction in scriptural or other senses. It also can mean to foretell or to speak or utter by divine inspiration.

Be clear on prophecy, God doesn't predict things. He says in advance what is going to happen. That is the key to prophecy. God knows the end from the beginning. It must be understood that prophecy consist of God's statements about future events that will happen. There is no possibility, there is no chance, that it will not happen. Prophetic events will happen just as God says in advance they will.

Prophecy is not prediction in the sense of an educated guess. It is God's ability to say an event or series of events are going to happen in the future; and when the time for those prophesied events come. Verse 19 in 2 Peter 1 refers to prophecy as light. Prophecy, as previously pointed out, does not originate with human beings, it originates from God.

God always tells somebody about a prophecy before it is going to happen. God does not leave people uninformed. He tells people what is going to happen before it happens.

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord God does nothing...[God takes no action-] unless he reveals his secret to his servants the prophets...[Add in the word council next to secret. This word in Hebrew means secret counsel, which is what prophecy is. God does not reveal the meaning of prophecy to just anyone. He keeps it hidden. He keeps it quiet; and when the time comes for Him to reveal it, He tells somebody] *surely the Lord God does nothing unless he reveals his secret counsel to his servants the prophets.* This is speaking of prophecies that have already been recorded. Many of the Bible's prophecies have yet to be fulfilled; but will be revealed, in God's time, before those prophecies are about ready to take place. There are several scriptures that support Amos 3:7 and how God works in relation to prophecy.

Isa. 42:9 Behold the former things have come to pass...[Speaking of history] new things [Prophecy] I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.

Christ told his disciples the following prior to His arrest. *John 15:15 No longer do I call you servants; for a servant does not know what his master is doing: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard from my father, I made known to you.* Clearly, God doesn't leave His people in the dark.

Ps. 25:14 The secret of the Lord is with those who fear him...[Or respect Him. If you want to know what God is going to do, what God's plans are, then you need to respect God. How does one respect God? By obeying God. By doing what God says to do] *The secret of the Lord is with those who fear him, and he will show them his covenant.* A good example of this is found in Genesis.

Learn how God revealed His plans to Abraham concerning Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham had been visited by three angelic beings. *Gen. 18:16 Then the men arose from there and looked towards Sodom;*

and Abraham went with them to send them on their way. (vs 17) And the Eternal said, shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing (vs 18) Since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?...[This was God's covenant with Abraham] (vs 19) For I have known him, in order that, he may command his children, and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Eternal to do righteousness and justice; that the Eternal may bring to Abraham what he has spoken to him. Right here in verse 19 shows what it means to fear the Lord.

Here is a review of examples of fulfilled prophecy in the Bible. The first prophecy in the Bible, in terms of starting at the front of the Bible and working toward the back is made in the Garden of Eden. This is after Adam and Eve had partaken of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and had been confronted by God for their sin. God first turns His attention to Satan. Gen. 3:14 *So the Eternal God said to the serpent, because you have done this...[He had deceived God's human creation] you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. (vs 15) and I will put enmity...[Hostility] between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.* The 'he' is a reference to Christ; and 'you' refers to Satan. How was this prophecy fulfilled?

How did this hostility between Satan's seed and God's seed develop? John 15:18 *Christ says: If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you...[Satan the devil hated the God family long before Adam and Eve were ever created] (vs 19) If you were of the world, the world would love its own: yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (vs 20) Remember the word that I have said to you, a servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me they will also persecute you; if they have kept my word, they will keep yours also.*

It is important to understand this hostility between Satan and God is a hostility between error and truth.

How would Christ bruise the head of Satan and Satan bruise the heel of Christ? The Hebrew meaning for the word bruise means to gape or snap at or overwhelm. Christ bruised the head of Satan when He qualified to replace Satan as ruler of this earth. Christ's victory in this titanic battle is what will eventually lead to Satan being put away forever (Rev. 20:10).

Matt. 4:8 *Again, the devil took him up on an exceedingly high hill and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory (vs 9) and he said to him all these things I will give you; if you will fall down and worship me. (vs 10) Then Jesus said to him, away with you, Satan, for it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve. (vs 11) Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.*

Right here is when Christ bruised the head of Satan the devil. Satan still remains the ruler of this earth. He has not yet been replaced by Jesus Christ, but this is the moment when Christ subdued Satan, when He qualified to replace Satan as ruler of the earth.

Now look at when Satan bruised Christ's heel. John 14:29 *Now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass you may believe. (vs 30) I will no longer talk much with you for the ruler of this world... [Satan the devil] is coming and he has nothing on me.* Satan was behind Christ's crucifixion. He was the one who stirred up the hatred of the Pharisees. He is the one that stirred up the Roman soldiers. He is the one influencing Pilate. He is the one who entered Judas Iscariot in betraying Christ. He bruised Christ's heel in stirring up people to put Jesus Christ to death; However, Christ was resurrected back to eternal life. His death was the bruising of His heel.

Another prophecy which has been fulfilled is the promised slavery of Abraham's descendants, the ancient Israelites. This prophecy was given to Abraham after God told him he was going to be given a son as an heir from his own body. After giving an offering to God, Abraham went into a deep sleep and had a terrible dream.

Gen. 15:12 *Now when the sun was going down a deep sleep fell upon Abram and a horror of great darkness fell upon him. (vs 13) And he said to Abram, know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them: and they will afflict them...[Speaking of their captors] for 400 years. (vs 14) And also the nation whom they serve I will judge: afterward they shall pass out with great possessions.* Abraham's descendants were to become slaves in Egypt for 400 years before Abraham had an heir.

The beginning stages of this prophecy start coming to fruition when Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers in the latter chapters of the book of Genesis.

After Joseph dies and some time has passed a new Pharaoh comes to power not knowing who Joseph is. Ex. 1:8 *Now there arose a new king over Egypt who did not know Joseph. (vs 9) And he said to his people, look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we. (vs 10) Come, let us deal shrewdly with them; lest they multiply, and it happen in the event of war that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land. (vs 11) Therefore, they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Ramses. (vs 12) But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel (vs 13) So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor...[Or harshness] (vs 14) And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage in mortar and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service in which they made them serve was with rigor.*

When it is time for the Israelites to leave Egypt, the following is said about their departure. Ex 12:40 *Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was 430 years. (vs 41) It came to pass at the end of 430 years, on that very same day, it came to pass that all the armies of the Eternal went out from the land of Egypt.* There it is, prophecy fulfilled, just as God said it would come to pass. Some take issue with the fact that Abraham was told 400 years, and Exodus says 430 years. Don't allow these details to cause confusion. God said Israel would be in captivity for 400 years and they were in captivity for 400 years. However, Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt longer than 400 years when the time Joseph brought his family to Egypt to escape the prophesied 7 years of famine. God's words to Abraham were about 400 years of captivity, not the amount of time Israel would be in Egypt. This doesn't make God a liar. (vs 35) *Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses; and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. (vs 36) And the Eternal had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.* God's prophecy to Abraham said how long Israel would be captive, that they would be delivered, and when He would deliver them, they would leave captivity with a great deal of wealth. Exodus 12 shows how this prophecy was fulfilled.

The last fulfilled prophecy to review in the Old Testament deals with Christ's first coming. This prophecy was given to King Ahaz of Judah. Isa. 7:13 *Then he said, hear now, O house of David; is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? (vs 14) Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and you shall call his name Immanuel...*[Which means God with us] (vs 15) *Kurds and honey shall he eat that he may know to refuse the evil and to choose the good. (vs 16) For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings.* That is reference to the king of Israel and the king of Syria, who were attacking Ahaz at the time, but the main focus is on the prophecy of Christ's birth.

Notice how Isaiah's prophecy is recounted to Joseph, Christ's physical father, in a dream pertaining to his future wife Mary who is pregnant. In this dream Joseph is being advised on how to respond to his future wife being pregnant, knowing he had not had sexual relations with her and supposing she was pregnant with someone else's child. Matt. 1:20 *While he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife: for that which is conceived in her is of Holy Spirit. (vs 21) For she will bring forth a son, and you shall call his name Jesus: for he will save his people from their sins. (vs 22) All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet saying (vs 23) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which is translated, God with us.* Vs 23 is a direct reference takes to Isaiah 7 and the prophecy given to King Ahaz.

And, like the other prophecies previously examined in this study, this prophecy too was fulfilled and Jesus Christ was born. Matt. 2:1 *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea – Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled.*

Connected to the propesy of Christ's birth is also prophecies about His death and resurrection.

There is another prophecy from Isaiah about Christ's crucifixion and death. Isa. 53:2 *For he...*[Referring to Christ] *shall grow up before him...*[Referring to God the Father] *as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground: he has no form or comeliness...*[Christ was not the most handsome person in the world; He did not have outstanding physical features] *and when we see him there is no beauty that we should desire him. (vs 3) He is despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we did not esteem him...* [People had no respect for

Christ, who He was, and what He was doing for those didn't respect Him] (vs 7) *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.* (vs 8) *He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who will declare his generation? For he was cut off from the land of the living: for the transgressions of my people he was stricken.* The fulfillment of this prophecy is found in Lk. 23:46 *And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this He breathed His last.*

John recounts Christ's death in John 19:32: *Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with him.* (vs 33) *But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs...[Christ died as the scripture said]* (vs 36) *For these things were done, that the scriptures should be fulfilled, not one of his bones shall be broken...[A prophecy concerning Christ in Psalm 34]* (vs 37) *Again another scripture says they shall look on him whom they pierced.* This refers to a couple of prophecies in Zechariah 12 and 13. There are other Old Testament prophecies that deal with Christ's death other than those covered here.

Now, look at Christ's resurrection. David, writing in Ps.16:9 *Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices: my flesh also will rest in hope.* (vs 10) *For you will not leave my soul in Sheol...[In the grave. David is expressing his confidence that God is going to resurrect him from the dead, but notice the latter part of this verse]* *nor will you allow your Holy One to see corruption.* To undergo the decaying process which occurs in the human body when a person dies. The fulfillment of Christ's resurrection can be found in Mt. 28:5-6 *But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."* As these women departed Christ's tomb, they meet the resurrected Jesus Christ (vs 9) *And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshipped Him.* (vs 10) *Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."*

John also validates the fulfillment of the prophecy concerning Christ's resurrection. John 20:24 *Thomas, called the twin, one of the 12, was not with them when Jesus came...[Referring to an earlier event when the resurrected Christ had appeared to the disciples]* (vs 25) *The other disciples therefore said to him, we*

have seen the Lord. So he said to them, unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe. (vs 26) And after eight days his disciples were again inside, Thomas with them: Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst and said peace to you. (vs 27) Then he said to Thomas, reach your finger here, and look at my hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into my side: do not be unbelieving but believe. (vs 28) Thomas answered and said to him, my Lord and my God. (vs 29) And Jesus said to him, Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed: blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed. This is a reference to those who would become members of God's Church following His ascension back into heaven. The Passover is the starting point of God's Holy Day plan of salvation. It is designed to commemorate Christ's death.

These three prophecies given by God are fulfilled. They occurred just as God said they would. Hopefully, by seeing this, it provides a proof of God's existence. It should also help one to understand clearly what prophecy is, how it comes about and how it works.

The key for understanding prophecy requires knowing who is involved in the prophesy. To correctly understand prophecy, you have to know who is who. Who is involved and who the prophecy pertains to. Knowing who the prophecy applies to is the essential element for understanding what is going to happen in any prophecy.

The Bible mentions many different countries and peoples. There are numerous prophecies that pertain to these countries. Before trying to understand the meaning of these prophecies; one must first examine who the people and countries are. There is a section of Isaiah beginning in Isaiah 3 running through chapter 23, which mention several different countries. These countries culminate in chapter 24 which is a prophecy that includes the whole earth, but this chapter will not be covered in this Bible Study.

A brief review of Isaiah 13 provides the countries that are mentioned, countries one should be familiar with, countries still in existence today.

Isa. 13:1 *The burden against Babylon which Isaiah, the son of Amos saw.* The word 'burden' in the Hebrew is used in connection with all the countries Isaiah names. Specifically, it can refer to tribute or payment. In the abstract sense, portage. Think of portage as a porter in a hotel who carries luggage from entrance

to room. Refers to the act of carrying weight. Figuratively, this word can refer to an utterance, chiefly in connection with doom or something bad. It can also refer to singing, but mentally it refers to desire, prophetic oracle, or warning. When Isaiah says the burden against Babylon, he's referring to the prophecy or the oracle of warning against Babylon.

In Isa. 15:1 Isaiah speaks another prophecy against Moab.. Another country. *The burden against Moab*. Who was Moab? To identify Moab requires locating where Moab was anciently. Moab was located southeast of the Promised Land, which puts it in the south of the modern state of Jordan.

In Isa. 17:1 it says: *The burden against Damascus*. Or the prophetic oracle against Damascus. Where is Damascus located? It is in the capital of the modern state of Syria today.

In Isa. 18:1 the word "woe" is used in place of the word "burden.": *Woe to the land shadowed with buzzing wings*. This is land mass beyond the rivers of Ethiopia pointing to the northeastern part of Africa.

Isa.19:1 *The burden against Egypt*. Egypt is always very much is in the news today.

Isa. 22:23 *The burden against the valley of vision*. This applies to the area around Jerusalem.

Isa. 23:1: *The burden against Tyre*. Tyre is located on the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea, in the country of Lebanon.

Time does not allow for a thorough explanation of these prophecies, but mentioning these countries illustrates how the Bible is very much current with the nations of this world. These prophecies have both ancient and end-time fulfillments. The peoples of these countries are soon going to be affected by end time events.

Go back now to Isaiah 13. Babylon anciently was a country. It was ruled by King Nebuchadnezzar which is seen in the book of Daniel. Under Nebuchadnezzar the Jews were taken captive in Babylon and punished for their disobedience to God. Babylon, which means confusion, extends beyond just the ancient country. Babylon describes this world's governmental, economic, and religious structures. Specifically, Babylon is

going to refer to the government of the final beast power, which will destroy and wreak havoc on this earth, before Jesus Christ returns to put an end to it. Take a look at some of the prophecies concerning Babylon.

All these prophecies are yet to be fulfilled. Isa. 13:9 *Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he will destroy its sinners from it. (vs 10) For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light: the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine...*[Isaiah is writingt about events that signal the start of the Day of the Lord] (vs 11) *I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, and I will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. (vs 12) I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold ...*[Human beings will become be a precious commodity at this time] *a man more than the golden wedge of Ophir. (vs 13) Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth will move out of her place, in the wrath of the Eternal of hosts, in the day of his fierce anger.* This prophecy shows Babylon having a greater scope that goes beyond just its existence anciently.

In reference to the king of Babylon Isaiah says in Isa. 14:3 *And it shall come to pass in the day of the Lord, in the day the Lord gives you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear, and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve...* [This is referring to the modern descendants of Israel who will be taken captive by this modern king of Babylon] (vs 4) *That you will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon and say, how the oppressor has ceased! The golden city has ceased. (vs 5) The Eternal has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers (vs 6) Who struck the people in wrath with a continual stroke, who ruled the nations in anger, has persecuted, and no one hinders (vs 7) The whole earth is at rest, and quiet: they break forth into singing. (vs 8) Indeed, the cypress trees rejoice over you, and the Cedars of Lebanon saying, since you were cut down, no woodsman has come up against us. (vs 9) Hell... [Or the grave] from beneath is excited about you, to meet you at your coming: stirs up the dead for you, all the chief ones of the earth; it has raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. (vs 10) They shall speak and say to you, have you also become as weak as we? Have you become like us? (vs 11) Your pomp is brought down to sheol (the grave), the sound of your stringed instruments: the maggot is spread under you and worms cover you.* This prophecy concerns the death of this end-time king of Babylon.

Keep in mind going through these prophetic examples just how prophecy works. Many of these prophecies apply to the end-times just ahead. This is when Babylon will be destroyed. Rev. 18:9 *The kings of the earth, who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her, will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning. (vs 10) Standing at a distance for fear of her torment saying, alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come. (vs 11) And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her; for no one buys her merchandise anymore.*

These scriptures are discussing the future destruction of the economic element of Babylon. Next, is the destruction of its religious element. Rev. 17:4 *The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold, and precious stones, and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornications (vs 5) And on her forehead a name was written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots and of the abominations of the earth.*

Rev. 19:20 speaks about the destruction of the king of Babylon, and Babylon's religious leader called the false prophet. *Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast, and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.* These verses summarize the destruction of Babylon's leadership.

Rev. 18:21 speaks to the utter destruction of Babylon. *Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and threw it into the sea, thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down and shall not be found anymore.*

There is a group of people that much of Bible prophecy revolves around. These prophecies run from the very beginning of the Bible to the very end. Who are these people? Israel. The predominant group of people, identified by name in the Bible, is the nation of Israel. Who is Israel and why are they mentioned so much?

In Restored Truth Bible Study #9a and b, Israel is identified as the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These descendants were to become as numerous as the dust of the earth, the stars of heaven, and the sand on the seashore. That is how numerous the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, were to

become. These people were to spread around the whole world and would not be easily missed if someone were are for them. These descendants were to be given land by God that was to extend from the Nile River in Egypt to the Euphrates River in Babylon, known today as the country of Iraq. Also, from these descendants would come the Savior of all mankind: Jesus Christ. This was touched on earlier in reviewing the prophecies concerning Jesus' birth, and what the angel said to Joseph His human father.

Who makes up the nation of Israel? The starting point for understanding who Israel is begins with Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac in turn was the father of Jacob, and Jacob was the father of twelve sons. At the end of his life, Jacob adopted his eleventh son, Joseph's, two sons as his own, Ephraim and Manasseh. This adoption is found in the book of Genesis.

In Gen. 48 we read that the two boys are before Jacob. (v14) *Then Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger...[Ephraim was the second-born] and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn...[The Bible makes clear that inheritance is passed along through the firstborn. Being the firstborn in a family carries responsibilities and benefits] (vs 15) Then he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham, and Isaac walked, the God who has fed me all my life long to this day (vs 16) The angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads. Let my name be named upon them...[This is very important in studying Bible prophecy going forward] and the name of my fathers Abraham, and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.*

So, the descendants of these two boys were to be quite numerous as well. Jacob here is speaking of the birthright blessing, which is separate from the other blessings promised to all the descendants of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. This specific birthright blessing applies only to the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh.

Joseph was not happy with his father's actions; so, he objected. His father responded by refusing to switch his hands back as Joseph wanted. Gen. 48:19 *And he said, I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people and he also shall be great...[Referring to the descendants of Manasseh, the firstborn] but truly, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations.* The descendants of Ephraim were to become a multitude of nations, whereas, Manasseh's descendants were

to become a great nation. This is an important distinction to understand. Now notice how Jacob made individual prophecies concerning all his sons.

Gen. 49:1 *And Jacob called his sons and said, gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days...*[These prophecies would not apply to his sons in their lifetimes; but to their descendants. When? In the last days, prior to the return of Jesus Christ. Specifically, Jacob refers to the blessings given to Ephraim and Manasseh in-] (vs 22) *Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well; his branches run all over the wall.* (vs 23) *The archers have bitterly grieved him, shot him, and hated him* (vs 24) *But his bow remained in strength...*[This is a prophecy concerning the many enemies the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh would have] *but his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; from there is the shepherd, the stone of Israel.* (vs 25) *By the God of your father who will help you, and by the Almighty, who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lie beneath, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb...*[Jacob is speaking to variety of blessings Ephraim & Manasseh's descendants would enjoy] (vs 26) *The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my ancestors up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph...*[The father of Ephraim and Manasseh] *and on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.*

In Deut. 33 Moses also gave individual prophecies concerning the tribes of Israel right before he died. Notice Moses' words concerning the blessings of Joseph. (vs 13) *And of Joseph he said, blessed of the Eternal is his land, with the precious things of heaven, with the dew and the deep lying beneath...*[Moses is making the connection with Jacob's words in Genesis 49] (vs 14) *With the precious fruits of the sun, with the precious produce of the months* (vs 15) *With the best things of the ancient mountains, with the precious things of the everlasting hills* (vs 16) *with the precious things of the earth and its fullness, and the favor of him who dwells in the bush: let the blessing come on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.* (vs 17) *His glory is like a firstborn bull...*[Joseph wasn't the firstborn. Joseph was Jacob's 11th son] *and his horns like the horns of the wild ox: together with them he shall push the peoples to the ends of the earth: they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and the thousands of Manasseh.* Right here shows the breakdown of Joseph, and the blessings his descendants were going to enjoy. Ephraim would have tens of thousands versus Manasseh's thousands, because Ephraim was

going to grow into a greater number of people, a multitude of nations, versus Manasseh becoming one great nation.

In Gen. 35:22 it says *Now the sons of Jacob were twelve*. His sons are listed by the women who bore them in verses 23–26.

The ancient Israelites, descendants of Jacob's sons, went into the Promised Land of Canaan after the death of Moses. These descendants live together as one nation until after the death of King Solomon. Shortly after a great controversy arose causing Israel to split into 2 nations under the leadership of Solomon's son Rehoboam. What cause this split? The issue of taxation. Because Rehoboam refused to listen to his older counselors who told him, "no, you don't need to tax these people so much"; Rehoboam instead listened to his younger counselors who said, tax them to the hilt. As a result of listening to bad counsel, ten of the twelve tribes formed the northern kingdom called Israel: while the two remaining tribes became the southern kingdom called Judah. These two kingdoms warred with each other off and on, until Israel was defeated militarily by the Assyrians 721 B.C., and carried away captive into the area of northern Iraq today. We read about their captivity in 2 Kings 17.

2 Kings 17:5 *Now the King of Assyria went throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria...[The area of the northern kingdom] and besieged it for three years (vs 6) In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away to Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. The Assyrians took the Israelites captive into northern Iraq, and possibly even further east into the upper corner of Iran; nevertheless, that area of northern Iraq that borders on Turkey and Armenia is where the ancient Israelites were taken captive.*

From there they migrated up and across Europe into the British Isles. From the British Isles, they then crossed the Atlantic Ocean to North America, and primarily the area we know today as the United States. It is important to keep in mind Ephraim and Manasseh when studying the migration of Israel out of the Middle East. It is their descendants who are the predominant figures in this migration. The descendants of Ephraim formed what has come to be the once Great Britain, with numerous colonies that spread around the world. The descendants of Manasseh formed the United States, with all its strength and power. Today the prophecies concerning the strength, power, and prosperity of these sons of Joseph have come

to pass. Now each is in the waning years of their great material and military power. Their greatness and abundance is dwindling away. There are numerous prophecies concerning the reason for removing these blessings. Their punishment is coming soon because of their mounting sins. This where Bible prophecy stands today.

Take a look at some of these prophecies concerning the modern descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Space is limited in what can be covered, but certain prophecies will provide a clear indication of what's coming. Again, Moses is at the end of his life gives a serious prophecy concerning the modern descendants of the twelve tribes of Israel in Deut. 31:26; *Take this book of the law, and put it inside the Ark of the Covenant of the Eternal your God, that it may be there as a witness against you. (vs 27) For I know your rebellion and your stiff neck. If today while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the Eternal, then how much more after my death? (vs 28) Gather together to me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their hearing, and call heaven and earth to witness against them. (vs 29) For I know that after my death, you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you...*[Which they did. The Old Testament provides the history of Israel's rebellion after Moses' death. But Moses was not speaking of that history. For he goes on to say:] *and evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the Eternal to provoke him to anger through the works of your hands.* Or through their actions. Moses is talking about all the tribes of Israel prior to the return of Jesus Christ. But remember that Ephraim and Manasseh are the leading nations during this time.

Isaiah explains what becoming utterly corrupt means. Isa. 1:2; *Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth, for the Eternal has spoken. I have nursed and brought up children. They have rebelled against me. (vs 3) The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib...*[A dumb farm animal knows who its master is] *But Israel does not know...*[Israel is dumber than farm animals] *my people do not consider...*[Don't understand where they came from, don't understand the importance of obeying God and don't understand who created them. Israel historically has been truly worse off than dumb farm animals who know where their food comes from every day] (vs 4) *Alas, sinful nation, a people laden...*[Weighed down] *with iniquity; a brood of evil doers, children who are corrupters: they have forsaken the Eternal. They have provoked to anger the holy One of Israel. They have turned away backward. (vs 5) Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick...*[This is exactly the condition of the descendants of

modern Israel today. During her life, the Queen of England signed off on perverted unions (gay marriage). These unions are not marriage, but have been sanctioned by the Supreme Court of the United States of America. France has accepted these unions as part of its law. It's also not a problem in the northwestern countries of Europe where modern descendants of Israel reside today] *The whole head is sick and the whole heart faints. (vs 6) From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it...*[There is no moral principle in these people, no moral backbone, no commitment to doing what is right, or having the desire to uphold what is right] *but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, or bound up or soothed with ointment...*

What is the ointment that will cure the sicknesses and the wounds Isaiah is writing about? It's God's word!!! How can this ointment be applied when one can't make a judgment on homosexuality; when people say they're not going to serve a homophobic God; when culture says it is not a sin to alter one's body or the bodies of children as God created it, or when national leaders promote living a gender one is not born with and say it's OK. This should help understand a little more about the meaning of what Isaiah is writing about.

Hos. 4:1 speaks to the leading nations of Israel. Hosea's words mirror exactly what Isaiah said. It is helpful to understand Hosea and Isaiah were actually contemporaries. They lived at the same time and wrote about the same time. *Hear the word of the Eternal, you children of Israel: for the Eternal brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land. There is no truth, or mercy, or knowledge of God in the land. (vs 2) By swearing, and lying, killing, and stealing, and committing adultery...*[This is the condition of society today] *they break all restraint [Refuse to be bound by the law] with bloodshed upon bloodshed.* What is the impact of such a lawless, unrestrained society?

(vs 3) Therefore the land will mourn, and everyone who dwells there will waste away, with the beasts of the field, and the birds of the air; even the fish of the sea will be taken away...[This speaks of the blessings Jacob talked about going to Joseph, and Moses talked about going to Joseph. Right here, Hosea says these blessings are going to be taken away] *(vs 4) Now let no man contend or rebuke another; for your people are like those who contend with the priest. (vs 5) Therefore you shall stumble in the day...*[Referring to the latter times] *the prophet also shall stumble with you in the night and I will destroy your mother. (vs 6) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...*[Lack of God's knowledge, a lack of understanding the Bible]

because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priests for me...[God's intention was to use Israel as an example nation] *because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.* Referring to Israel's descendants. This is exactly what Moses was talking about in Deuteronomy 31.

Who does God take issue with in his word from front to back? He takes issue with the leadership, because those in leadership are the ones responsible for making sure things go right. When leaders don't do what is right, the people they lead won't do what is right either. This is exactly what is happening in the modern nations of Israel today, especially in Britain and the United States.

Jer. 30:4 These are the words that the Eternal spoke concerning Israel and Judah. (vs 5) For thus says the Eternal, we have heard the voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. (vs 6) Ask now and see whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor?...[It is not an easy process to give birth to a child. God is not looking at a woman in labor, but a man] and all faces turned pale...[Why does God see this condition?] (vs 7) Alas, for that day is great, so that none is like it; it is the time of Jacob's trouble.

Eze. 6:1 Now the word of the Eternal came to me saying (vs 2) Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them...[Mountains in Bible prophecy refer to human governments. These mountains are the governments of the modern nations of Israel] and prophesy against them (vs 3) And say, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord God, thus says the Lord God to the mountains, to the hills, to the ravines, and to the valleys...[God is speaking to the whole nation, represented different geographic locations, or types of topography] Indeed I, even I, will bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your high places...[Centers of religious worship] (vs 6) In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste...[Where people live] and the high places shall be desolate... [Again, religious centers of worship] so that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, your idols may be broken and made to cease, your incense altars may be cut down and your works may be abolished. (vs 7) The slain shall fall in your midst, and you shall know that I am the Eternal. God is going to get the attention of lawless politicians, and the lawless people their leadership produces.

Eze. 6:11 Here is what God is going to do to people. *Thus says the Lord God, pound your fist and stamp your feet, and say, alas for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel. For they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence...*[This is a statement of fact] *for they shall fall. (vs 12) He who is far off shall die by the pestilence; he who is near shall fall by the sword; he who remains and is besieged shall die by famine. Thus I will spend my fury upon them. (vs 13) Then you shall know that I am the Eternal when their slain are among their idols all around their altars, on every high hill, and on all the mountain tops, under every green tree, and under every thick oak, wherever they offered sweet incense to all their idols...* [Talking about all the false places of worship. Keep in mind when Ezekiel gave this prophecy, the northern kingdom of Israel had been taken into captivity well over 100 years earlier. Ezekiel is speaking of a future punishment] *(vs 14) So I will stretch out my hand against them, and make the land desolate, yes, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblath, in all their dwelling places: and they shall know that I am the Eternal.* That's right. The modern descendants of Israel are going to know God is real.

Hos. 3:1 Notice this little prophecy. It's just one chapter that talks about the modern descendants of Israel turning back to God. This is an end-time prophecy because the ancient Israelites taken captive by Assyria did not turn back to God in repentance. *Then the Eternal said to me, go again, Hosea, love a woman who is loved by a lover, and is committing adultery...*[Hosea is being told to take a prostitute for a wife] *just like the love of the Eternal for the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love the raisin cakes of the pagans...*[The purpose telling Hosea to do this] *(vs 2) So I bought her for myself for 15 shekels of silver, and one and a half homers of barley. (vs 3) And I said to her, you shall stay with me many days; you shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man: so too will I be toward you. (vs 4) For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice, or sacred pillar, without an ephod or teraphim. (vs 5) Afterward the children of Israel shall return, and seek the Eternal their God; and David their king. They shall fear the Eternal and his goodness...*[Notice] *in the latter days.* The fulfillment of this prophecy is found in the Book of Revelation

Rev. 7:2 This clearly shows the descendants of ancient Israel are alive on the earth today. This understanding runs contrary to the teachings of traditional Christianity, which teaches the northern ten tribes were lost; just disappeared. *Then I saw another angel ascending from the east having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea (vs 3) Saying do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of*

our God on their foreheads. (vs 4) And I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed. The word 'of' there means "out from." This points to a much larger group of modern Israelites alive at this time. But it's only 144,000, out from that larger group, who are going to receive protection from the trumpet plagues of Revelation 8, 9 & 11.

One final point on Israel. God identifies his Church as spiritual Israel. Unfortunately, the vast majority of His Church behaving just like the modern descendants of Israel in the end times. Paul gives a prophecy about the final era of God's Church to the brethren of Thessalonica in the first century: 2 Thess 2:3 *Let no one deceive you by any means: for that day will not come, unless the falling away comes first.* This falling away is to happen first, which in time will be followed by the revealing of the man of sin. This falling away is a rejection of God's truth by his Church. When does this happen? Right before Jesus Christ returns. But not a year or six months before His 2nd Coming. Paul addresses the timing of this falling away with his understudy Timothy.

1 Tim. 4:1 Paul explains why this falling away occurs. *Now the Spirit expressly says, that in the latter times, some will depart from the faith...[Where's the faith? In the Church of God] Giving heed to deceiving spirits, and doctrines of demons.* This has been a problem thorough out the existence of God's Church.

2 Tim. 4:2 *Preach the word. Be ready in season and out of season...[During the holy day seasons and between the holy day seasons] Convince, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and teaching...[With true doctrine] (vs 3) For the time will come when they [Members of God's Church] will not endure sound doctrine; but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers (vs 4) And they will turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables.*

This bible study started off with Peter writing about teaching God's truth free of cunningly devised fables. However, in the end times, many in God's Church have turned to cunningly devised fables. Notice the spiritual condition these fables have rendered on God's Church right before Jesus Christ returns.

Rev. 3:16 Jesus Christ says to the Laodicean era: *So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to vomit you out of my mouth (vs 17) Because you say I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing...[The final era of God's Church has the same pompous attitude the modern*

nations of Israel have. These church members think they are spiritually doing fine. When, in reality, their spiritual condition makes Christ sick to His stomach. Notice the second half of verse 17] *and do not know...*[They do not know] *that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.*

The word 'and' in between these spiritual conditions is called a polysyndeton. This is a figure of speech which means that each one of these conditions stands alone, by itself. Just being in one of these spiritually conditions is enough to displease God. Yet Laodiceans have five spiritual conditions being pointed out by Jesus Christ. No wonder Christ is so sick. No wonder He's about ready to puke, and throw these people out into the great tribulation. Read about this in chapter 6.

Rev. 6:9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar those who had been slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held. (vs 10) And they cried out with a loud voice saying, how long, O Lord, holy and true, until you judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth? (vs 11) Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them, that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow-servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was complete.

So, at this time, in the final era of Laodicea, what should God's Church really be doing? Christ addresses this in Luke 21.

Luke 21:34 But take each for yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the cares of this life, and that day come on you unexpectedly...[The timing of Christ's warning is for God's Church prior to the start of the great tribulation. This event is going to catch people by surprise. Christ compared the times prior to His return to the Days of Noah. Noah was on the ark for seven days and yet the people of Noah's day did not know until the flood came and took them away. What does this say? That people see life as going on as normal in a sick, perverted, chaotic world. People have gotten used to it. Christ here is warning His followers-don't get used to it] *lest that day come upon you unexpectedly. (vs 35) For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. (vs 36) Watch therefore, and pray always, that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*

Realize that once the seventh trumpet blows, those who have been faithful in God's Church, will be resurrected to eternal life. These individuals will not be threatened by the events of the Day of the Lord. Christ is referring to the time of great tribulation; which is the time one needs to be counted worthy to escape.

Understand what prophecy is not. The Catholic Catechism doesn't have a whole lot to say about prophecy, but it does speak to it some.

Section 702, the first paragraph:

From the beginning until the fullness of time (It's talking about from the beginning of creation until everything is done.) the joint mission of the Father's Word and Spirit remains hidden, but it is at work. God's Spirit prepares for the time of the Messiah. Neither is fully revealed, but both are already promised, to be watched for, and welcomed at their manifestation. So for this reason, when the church reads the Old Testament, she searches there for what the Spirit, who has spoken through the prophets, wants to tell us about Christ.

It appears the Catholic Church believes the Old Testament prophecies are mostly about Christ. This bible study has proven this is not the case.

Section 715, of the catechism says:

The prophetic text that directly concerns the sending of the Holy Spirit are oracles by which God speaks to the heart of his people in the language of the promise, with the accents of love and fidelity. St. Peter will proclaim their fulfillment on the morning of Pentecost. According to these promises, at the end time, the Lord's Spirit will renew the hearts of men, engraving a new law in them. He will gather and reconcile the scattered and divided people. He will transform the first creation, and God will dwell there with men in peace.

Finally, in

Sections 59 and 60: (speaking about Abraham and his descendants.)

In order to gather together scattered humanity, God calls Abram from his country, his kindred, and his father's house; and makes him Abraham, that is the father of a multitude of nations. In you all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. The people descended from Abraham would be the trustees of the promise made to the patriarchs, the chosen people, called to prepare for that day when God would gather all his children into the unity of the church. They would be the root onto which the Gentiles would be grafted once they came to believe.

Clearly, the Catholic Church doesn't understand Bible prophecy, nor the purpose of prophecy.

Notice how prophecy was attacked in God's Church and how it failed to appreciate prophecy after the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. Many of these quotes come from Mr. Armstrong's successor, Joseph W Tkach. In the Worldwide News August 19, 1991, Mr. Tkach wrote the following about prophecy:

God has led us to see that the purpose of prophecy is to guide us to Him, to remind us that He is judge, to assure us of His love, mercy, faithfulness, and justice; as well as, to encourage us and to reassure us that our faith is not in vain. God promises to see us through hard times, not to prevent them

From his Personal in the Worldwide News dated November 19, 1990, Mr. Tkach wrote about the purpose of prophesy concerning the World Tomorrow broadcast. He said:

Prophecy programs will not lose sight of the gospel message by trading the true gospel for a 10-nation save-your-own-skin gospel. (He quotes Galatians 1:6-10) To preach that if you repent and obey God you will not be killed in a war, taken captive, go hungry, or get a disease is to preach another gospel, not the gospel of Jesus Christ. (He quotes 2 Tim. 3:12.)

From his Personal Section of the Worldwide News dated April 23, 1990, Mr. Tkach writes:

To think we possess some special, infallible, inside information about the precise timing of prophecies concerning yet future events can be alluring and exciting; but such thoughts are also misleading, and are definitely not what Jesus promised that his Church would know.

From his Personal in the Worldwide News dated January 9, 1989, Mr. Tkach takes issue with Mr. Armstrong and the work God did through him, and also ministers who were leaving at that time. He says:

Over the years some have referred to the faithful in the Church as Philadelphians and the unfaithful as Laodiceans. It is simply not biblical to say that the best spiritual state is the state of being Philadelphians; and that we should strive to be Philadelphians above others. What the messages to the churches do tell us is that we should look carefully at our own spiritual state, whatever it is, and repent whenever necessary; so that we will be ready when Jesus returns, no matter the century or the era. (Christ is only going to return in one of those eras and that is the seventh. This quote concludes with Mr. Tkach saying:) The best spiritual state is that of being forgiven.

In his Personal from the Worldwide News dated August 27, 1990, Mr. Tkach wrote this:

As many religionists throughout the ages have found, one of the most effective ways to exercise religious mind control is to keep people stirred up in a constant state of fear, about impending doom and destruction, while proclaiming oneself as the only true leader possessing the true understanding of prophecy, and how people can save themselves from what is quote just about to burst on the world scene.” (Which I think probably is a quote from Mr. Armstrong.) Some preachers bill themselves as the only faithful voice proclaiming an urgent warning about the prophetic beast forming in a united Europe, reminding them to send a few dollars to support their work.

Then one final quote comes from an article in the Plain Truth, January 1995, entitled *Amos, Upholding the Covenants* written by Neil Earl. This deals with Israel and Judah in prophecy. Mr. Earl writes:

Though the Old Testament prophets unanimously attested that God was in charge of the future, the future they spoke about involved ancient Israel and Judah, much more than specific, and exact, events of the late 20th century.

If Mr. Armstrong were alive today he would certainly have a different opinion. Based upon what he said in his sermon of December 17, 1983, entitled *Mission of the Philadelphia Church Era*. Mr. Armstrong says:

Our identity, and that opens all the doors of one third of the whole Bible, prophecy you can't understand without that knowledge (Referring to the identity of Israel.) that opened up a whole third of the Bible, which is prophecy. (A third of the Bible.) And so, a third of the Bible, and the understanding of prophecy has been opened to this Church. That has been restored to this Church. Has God sent someone to restore knowledge to this Church, brethren? I'm not tooting any horns. I'm just telling you what has actually happened, and you know it's happened.

In closing, consider the following question: Where does this world stand in relation to Bible prophecy today? Well, first

- It is nearly 40 years since the completion and fulfillment of Matt. 24:14. Nearly 40 years past the fulfillment of the gospel going to the world as a witness.
- This means God's Church is almost 40 years into the final era of Laodicea.
- When it comes to Israel, primarily the United States and Great Britain, continue to watch as their blessings are being removed. Massive national debt, hollowed-out militaries, continuous social problems in the way of sexual immorality, and violence; the very things that Isaiah 4 described will continue to grow and increase. The weight of these problems are going to bring these nations down.

- While the decline of the United States and Great Britain is evident, Europe is not in a position to exercise the kind of power and influence that Bible prophecy says it will.
- The Catholic Church under the leadership of Francis I, continues to stray from core beliefs. The Church will need to undergo a revival to return back to its roots of origin.
- The Middle East continues to be a tinderbox of tensions. The Hamas attack on October 7, 2023 has thrown the world for a loop. Don't expect these tensions to subside. The Middle East and Jerusalem in particular is the focal point of end-time Bible prophecy.

Finally understand this – God's restored truths are alive and well on the earth. These truths aren't followed by many people; but they are being deeply adhered to, and they are being grown in. So with this understanding, what conclusions can be drawn?

Well, it seems there is still a little time to wait before prophetic events begin their dynamic fulfillment. Don't let this assessment become a source of discouragement. Instead use the time to continue holding fast to God's truth, overcoming sin, watching world events, and growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. If these things are being done, one can be guaranteed to be counted worthy to escape. This is the approach that will keep a person Philadelphian in mind, body, and spirit; and this is the very best spiritual state to be in as end-time Bible prophecy unfolds.