

The Second Witness 7/17/2015

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The Second Witness

The Prophecy Newsletter of Scott Lively Ministries

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It is our plan to publish weekly. An archive of past issues is available [here](#).

A Christian Attorney Takes a Fresh Look at Prophecy

Prophecy

How I Became Interested in Prophecy Study

The following was written on 7/21/2013 as an introduction to my first book on prophecy, a work still in process:

This is an attempt to present my view of end-times theology as simply as possible. I do not claim to have all the answers or to understand how all of the pieces of the prophecy jigsaw puzzle fit together, but I believe I have a good grasp of the big picture and where many of the pieces go.

I am fairly new to the study of prophecy compared to most of the teachers on this subject, having always considered prophecy to be a distraction to my “culture-war” ministry focus. I describe myself as a Missionary to the Pro-Family Movement, and have spent almost twenty-five years as a full-time Christian social activist working to stop the de-Christianization of Western Civilization, primarily as an opponent of the homosexual movement. It is precisely this work that sensitized me to end-times reality. My observations at the front lines of the now-global culture war have convinced me that the age of apostasy is irreversibly upon us. I came to that awareness slowly, beginning about 2005.

In January of 2008, following a year-long speaking tour in the former Soviet Union, my wife and I came to Springfield, Massachusetts with nothing but our suitcases and an undefined vision to re-Christianize a post-Christian city. Yet even within this theme of redemption and restoration I had a strong but vague sense of it as a Noah’s Ark sort-of mission. I still had not yet begun to study prophecy.

In the winter of 2010/11 I suffered a very severe, nearly three-month bout of pneumonia, during which time the Lord impressed on me both my own mortality and the shortness of time before His return. I awoke one morning with a crystal-clear direction from Him to limit our Springfield mission to a seven-year campaign, and then to declare a Year of Jubilee. I had a strong, but less clear sense that I was to backdate the start of the campaign. In other words, the seven years were to be deemed to have begun not on the day I received the vision, but at some earlier point (which I first thought might be the launch of our “Trust Jesus” project in 2009 or 2010 but eventually came to believe was the start of the mission in 2008).

I immediately obeyed regarding the seven year campaign by laying out a series of seven yearly themes which would serve as an emphasis for each year’s ministry efforts. We had already launched a project to promote “Trust Jesus,” through bumper stickers, buttons and yard signs, as a slogan/exhortation to unify and motivate believers in the city. We simply added six additional themes, one to be launched each

believers in the city. We simply added six additional themes, one to be launched each year of the seven year campaign (Trust Jesus, Pray Daily, Read Your Bible, Go To Church, Seek Unity, Love Goodness, Share Your Faith).

I didn't know much about jubilee at that time. I had, of course, read Leviticus 25 but had largely dismissed it as "Jewish stuff" that wasn't all that relevant for Christians. I knew, for example, that it is a timetable based on seven year sabbatical cycles and that a jubilee is the 50th year following seven sabbatical cycle ($7 \times 7 = 49$ years). There is some controversy as to whether the cycle is 49 years or 50 years long. Some believe the "50th year" is actually the first year of the next 49 year jubilee cycle.

Others believe the cycle starts over after the 50th year, meaning that each is exactly 50 years long. I believe it is most likely 49 years with the first year of the next 49-year cycle being the 50th year of the one prior.

I spent a little time digging into the jubilee concept, but was pretty much mystified as to why the Lord had said to declare a jubilee year in our campaign. (What would that even look like in the context of our mission, I wondered.).

In late February and early March of 2011 I went on a short-term mission trip to the country of Moldova to do a training seminar for the fledgling pro-family movement there.

During my stay, one of my hosts took me to lunch with his wife, a very devoted and spirit-filled Christian woman. Our conversation turned eventually to the instruction I had received from the Lord regarding our seven-year campaign. Suddenly, her eyes grew wide and she exclaimed "Your seven years precisely matches the actual jubilee calendar!" She then told me about Pastor Mark Biltz of El Shaddai Ministries and gave me a link to one of his Bible study outlines regarding the jubilee.

That evening, in my hotel room in Chisinau, I began my investigation of prophesy that continues to this day as my primary area of study. It began with the link to Pastor Biltz's study outline, under the title "Signs in the Heavens" at [a now defunct web page]. Here is an excerpt from that page:

"...Daniel 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

$7 \times 7 = 49$ years = 7 weeks of years leading up to a jubilee year.

June 7th 1967 Jerusalem was restored to Israel and began to be built up in troublous times! So let's count from June 7th 1967 forward to the day 17 640 days and see

...360 x 49 = 17,640... Puts you on Sep 23rd 2015
Which is YOM KIPPUR 2015”

[following this was a chart of years from 1967 to 2015 showing the number of days in each year and what date the 17,640th day landed on. See below. Importantly, it also showed which years were “sabbatical” years, the 7th year in each seven year cycle, the most recent one being 2008.]

...360 x 49 = 17,640... Puts you on Sep 23rd 2015
Which is YOM KIPPUR 2015”

I was truly stunned to learn that our seven years corresponded generally to the actual jubilee cycle, but it gets better. The seven year Sabbatical cycle within the jubilee begins every seven years on the Biblical Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah). In 2008, the first year of the current seven year cycle, The Feast of Trumpets, fell on September 30th (though it actually begins at sundown the night before, in this case the 29th). Guess what day we acquired our church building that houses our ministry and serves as the headquarters for our seven year campaign? It was September 30th, 2008!!!

At the time we bought the building I was completely unaware that date was a Biblical feast day, the first day of the Hebrew New Year, let alone that it was the first day of the current seven-year Sabbatical cycle. However, this was enough to convince me that the Lord truly had spoken to me regarding the jubilee and to drive me into prophesy study with great zeal and excitement.

Now Pastor Biltz’s calculation is not the standard means of tracking the jubilees. We don’t use a 360 day cycle today, which is the length of the lunar calendar used anciently. We follow the Gregorian calendar of 365 days. And more importantly we don’t begin the count toward the next jubilee from the middle of June, we start on The Feast of Trumpets in September or October, as the Bible teaches in Leviticus 23 and 25. Biltz, knowing that Daniel prophesied the first coming of Christ to the very year, and that prophesy often follows repeating patterns, was (apparently -- this is just an assumption on my part) investigating a spiritual hunch regarding the second coming. Pastor Biltz took the principle of jubilee as symbolic of liberation, and applied sabbatical-cycle math from the date of the liberation of the Holy City, Jerusalem, substituting weeks of days for weeks of years. He arrived at the very date of the next jubilee!

Yet (and this is where it gets mind-boggling), when you “do the math” according to the “correct” method of calculating the seven year sabbatical cycle, you reach the same

date!

As celebrated by the Rabbis in Jerusalem, the current sabbatical cycle began at sundown September 29, 2008. It ends at sundown September 14, 2015. However, in a jubilee year, the start of the jubilee is not on the first day of the new year (the Feast of Trumpets), It starts on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), which in 2015 is September 23rd.

Now, even though they keep the seven-year sabbatical cycle, the Jews haven't officially calculated the 7x7 jubilee years since around 600BC (when the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the ½ tribe of Manassah east of the Jordan were taken into exile by the Assyrians). They believe that there can be no jubilee celebrations until the majority of the Hebrew people are reunited in Israel. However, jubilee years have continued to come and go through the centuries in God's timetable, and there are major clues as to the timing of the most recent jubilees.

Again, jubilees are intended by God to be celebrations of the liberation of the land in Israel. If we simply look at the calendar over the past century, two historical events stand out like flashing beacons:

The first is the 1917 liberation of Palestine (Israel) from the Ottoman Empire (the last Islamic Caliphate) by the British. In November of that year, after the British military had taken most of the territory into its control, British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour issued the "Balfour Declaration," essentially a letter to Jewish leader Baron Walter Rothschild, inviting the Jewish people to re-establish a national homeland in Palestine after 1900-odd years of absence.

Then, exactly 49 years later, the Israelis liberated Jerusalem itself from Moslem control in the 6-Day War, June 5-10, 1967. Hebrews then held direct control over the Holy City for the first time in nearly two millennia.

Thus, if 1917 and 1967 were truly jubilee years, and the timing of these events is not mere coincidence, the next jubilee year would begin September 23, 2015, exactly what Pastor Biltz predicted using an completely separate calculation.

Why not 2017? It's important to note here that the Hebrew calendar runs from Sept/Oct to Sept/Oct., not January to December. The jubilee of 1917 would have run from September 25, 1917 to September 6, 2018. Adding 49 years to Sept 1917, the next jubilee would have run from September 23, 1966 to October 14, 1967. Add 49 years to September 1966 and you get September 2015.

In support of the above, a November 14, 2012 article in Israel Today magazine lends significant weight. Titled “12th-century rabbi predicted Israel's future,” the article addresses the prophetic writings of Judah Ben Samuel in 1217. The article states that Rabbi Samuel, based solely on biblical calculations (Gematria) and astrological observations, predicted that “When the Ottomans (Turks) – who were already a power to be reckoned with on the Bosphorus in the time of Judah Ben Samuel – conquer Jerusalem they will rule over Jerusalem for eight jubilees. Afterwards Jerusalem will become no-man’s land for one jubilee, and then in the ninth jubilee it will once again come back into the possession of the Jewish nation – which would signify the beginning of the Messianic end time.”

Three hundred years later in 1517 the Ottoman Turks took Palestine from the Egyptian Mamluks and held it for 400 years (eight jubilees), until they lost it to the British in 1917. From 1917 to 1967 (one jubilee), Jerusalem was subject to British control under international law. Even after Israel became a nation in 1948 Jerusalem was divided by a strip of land called a “no-man’s land” running right through the heart of the city, separating the portions of the city controlled to the east by Jordan and to the west by Israel. In 1967, of course, Jerusalem returned to Hebrew control in total. Did you follow that? Eight jubilees under the Turks, one under the British as caretakers, then the next in Israeli hands, just as Rabbi Samuel had predicted.

You’ll notice that the dates in the article would seem to lend credence to the view of a 50 year jubilee cycle, which would not comport with Pastor Biltz’s calculations or those of the modern Israeli rabbis. However, Rabbi Samuel’s predictions were not date-specific, and nothing in the way the way the prophesy unfolded actually contradicts a 49 year interpretation. While a 2017 jubilee would fit within the range of ambiguity in my vision about the starting date of our seven year campaign I think the evidence points strongly to the next jubilee year running from September 23, 2015 to October 2, 2016.

There is one more aspect that makes this story even more interesting, and strengthens the case for 2015. In 2014 - 2015 an extremely rare sequence of four lunar eclipses, or “Blood Moons,” called a “Tetrad” will occur on the Biblical feast days of Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles, one on each of these two holidays respectively for two successive years. Tetrads have occurred only three times in the last 600 years: 1967-1968 (Jerusalem liberated), 1949-1950 (Israel was reestablished as a nation in 1948), and 1493-1494 (All Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492). According to the NASA website, there will not be another Tetrad after 2014-2015 for a thousand years.

While a tetrad has occurred only seven times since 1 AD (2014-2015 will be the 8th),

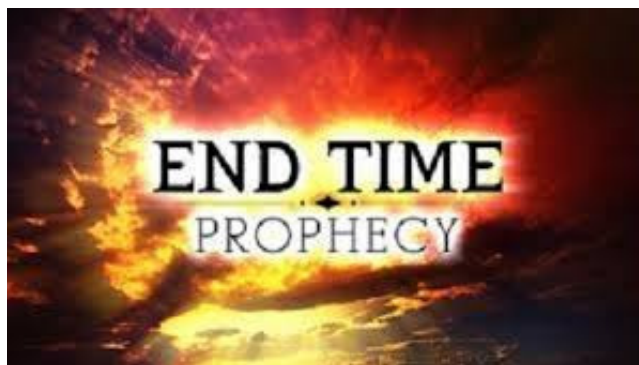
the upcoming one will also be interspersed with two solar eclipses: one just before Passover 2015, the other on the Feast of Trumpets 2015. And the entire sequence of solar eclipses and blood moons will be preceded by a comet and meteor shower on the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah in November of 2013. This combination of celestial signs may be unique in all of time.

“And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.” Luke 21: 25-28

I’m not making any specific predictions but it seems that something really big is about to happen.

Blessings,

Dr. Scott Lively



Fundamentals of End-Time Prophecy

Eschatology 101A

A Certificate Program of Redemption Gate Bible College

In the Spring of 2015, I developed a 5-week class on prophecy for Redemption Gate Bible College. This newsletter will feature the material from that class over the next year

...this college. This newsletter will feature the material from that class over the next year, as I work to refine and strengthen it for use as a correspondence course. To that end I solicit your input.

The original course featured 35 questions (seven in each class session) which were asked and answered during an interactive discussion period.

We will address one or more of those (and likely additional) questions each week in this segment of the newsletter.

Session 1: The Context for Understanding Prophecy

(Questions 1 of 7)

1. What is Prophecy?

"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways" Hebrews 1:1

It is commonly (and wrongly) believed that prophecy means only "predicting the future." While prediction is a part of prophecy, the Biblical meaning of the word is much broader and deeper. And, importantly, not all prediction of the future is prophecy.

According to Smith's Bible Dictionary, the ordinary Hebrew word for prophet is nabi , derived from a verb signifying "to bubble forth" like a fountain; hence the word means one who announces or pours forth the declarations of God. The English word comes from the Greek prophetes (profetes), which signifies in classical Greek one who speaks for another, especially one who speaks for a god , and so interprets his will to man; hence its essential meaning is "an interpreter." John Locke wrote: "Prophecy comprehends three things: prediction; singing [or poetry] by the dictate of the Spirit; and understanding and explaining the mysterious, hidden sense of Scripture by an immediate illumination and motion of the Spirit."

Examples of the three forms of prophecy:

1. Prophecy as prediction of future events.

God passed sentence against Jerusalem four generations before the sentence was carried out by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

2 Kings 21:10-13 *“Now the LORD spoke through His servants the prophets, saying, ‘Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations, having done wickedly more than all the Amorites did who were before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols; therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Behold, I am bringing such calamity on Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle. ‘I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria and the plummet of the house of Ahab, and I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.’”*

God then directed Jeremiah to restate the prophecy to the wicked generation of Judeans under King Zedekiah, great-grandson of Manasseh.

Jeremiah 15:1 *“Then the LORD said to me, ‘Even though Moses and Samuel were to stand before Me, My heart would not be with this people; send them away from My presence and let them go! ‘And it shall be that when they say to you, ‘Where should we go?’ then you are to tell them, ‘Thus says the LORD: Those destined for death, to death; And those destined for the sword, to the sword; And those destined for famine, to famine; And those destined for captivity, to captivity.’ I will ...make them an object of horror among all the kingdoms of the earth because of Manasseh, the son of Hezekiah, the king of Judah, for what he did in Jerusalem.”*

2. Prophecy as ecstatic expression.

In the Biblical sense, ecstasy is a mystical state of rapturous joy one can experience as a consequence of surrender to the control of the Holy Spirit. Expressions of singing and other utterances during such a state are a form of prophecy. See Holman's Bible Dictionary, <http://www.studylight.org/dictionaries/hbd/view.cgi?n=1727>

1 Samuel 10:5-6. [Samuel to Saul]: *“As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, timbrels, pipes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying. The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.”*

2 Samuel 6:12-15 *“David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom into the city of David with gladness...And David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, and David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouting and the sound of the trumpet.”*

Numbers 11:24-29: *“So Moses...gathered seventy men of the elders of the people, and stationed them around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him; and He took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed Him upon the seventy elders. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied...But two men had remained in the camp; the name of one was Eldad and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them (now they were among those who had been registered, but had not gone out to the tent), and they prophesied in the camp. So a young man ran and told Moses and said, ‘Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.’ Then Joshua the son of Nun, the attendant of Moses from his youth, said, ‘Moses, my lord, restrain them.’ But Moses said to him, ‘Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’S people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!’”*

Most if not all references to “singing” in the Bible, including the entire Book of Psalms, appear to be prophetic in nature.

3. Prophecy as declaration or re-clarification of Truth.

This form of prophecy involves the attunement of human beliefs and understanding with the truth and will of God. It can be either an initial declaration, such as the giving of the Torah to Moses (beginning in Exodus 19 and 20), or a restatement of the truth such as when Moses reminded the Hebrews of the terms of their covenant with God in Deuteronomy 5.

Perhaps the best poetic image to explain this form of prophecy is Isaiah’s exhortation to *“make straight in the desert a highway for our God”* (Isaiah 40:3).

This "making straight" or clarifying work is the role and purpose of the Prophet Elijah in Malachi 3:1 and 4:5 *“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts...Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.”*

Indeed, the last of the Old Testament prophets, John the Baptist (identified by Jesus as the second Elijah in Matthew 11:14), demonstrated this form of prophecy in his rebuke of King Herod over his violation of Mosaic law regarding marriage.

Likewise, Paul the Apostle’s instruction to Timothy in II Timothy 4:2-3 was of this prophetic nature: *“reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the*

time will come when [many of God's people] will not endure sound doctrine."

The School of the Prophets started by Samuel at Ramah, (1 Samuel 19:19 1 Samuel 19:20) and continued by Elijah and Elisha at Bethel, (2 Kings 2:3) Jericho, (2 Kings 2:2 2 Kings 2:5) Gilgal (2 Kings 4:38), and elsewhere (2 Kings 6:1) was founded in large part to clarify doctrines and restore fidelity to the scripture at a time when the Aaronic priesthood had become corrupt (1 Samuel 2, esp v.35).

So, in summary, the clarification form of prophecy serves like a tuning fork to attune the hearts and minds of God's people to His truth, preparing them to be optimal vessels for the Lord. It would seem to be the primary form of prophecy for the last days since it is a direct answer to the crisis of apostasy.

What then is prophecy?

Our preferred answer encompasses all three forms:

Prophecy is the truth of God that bubbles forth like a fountain of living water from a person under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

A Few Housekeeping Items

I am pretty-much a one-man show and run two highly active ministry organizations. Because I maximize my time to achieve the greatest impact possible for the Kingdom of God, I value straight-to-the-point resources and communications. If you desire to communicate with me on any matter including this newsletter please be as concise as possible and please use email, not the telephone, even if you have my phone number (except in emergencies).

You may reach me at scottlivelyministries@gmail.com

Donations

I have always followed a policy of providing my writings and other self-created resources without charge whenever possible. However, my support, and that of both of the ministry organizations I run, rely upon donations to operate. For all matters related to my prophecy studies and writings donations should be sent to Redemption Gate Mission Society, PO Box 2373, Springfield, MA 01101 or

online [here](#). If you want your donation to be designated for any specific purpose, just send me a note or an email to say so, otherwise it will be used where most needed.

Today's Hot Links:

[Transhumanism as an extension of the LGBT agenda](#)

[THE ECSTATIC WORSHIP OF OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT PROPHETS](#)

[BIG LIST of Muslim terror attacks in U.S. since 9/11](#)

[Final Point: "Gay Marriage" as a Sign of the End Times](#)

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