

# AN URGENT PERSPECTIVE!

## Introduction

Over the past few weeks several disconcerting comments regarding the times we are living in have come into this office. They did not originate from “secular” minds nor “generic” Christians. Everyone was sourced from a Christian leader who claimed an advent orientation. The most common:

1. Jesus is coming soon. I’m convinced of that. (Yet, they don’t know why things are different now.)
2. Jesus could come any time (unaware of what lies ahead).
3. Nothing has changed in the last 50 years.

The apostles anticipated the end centuries ago. Is their restricted orientation still a safe conviction to lean on? Do we assume that most apocalyptic prophecies have been fulfilled – and thus the Second Advent is presently anticipated? Do we identify with Solomon’s cadence of thinking? “What exists now is what will be and what has been done is what will be done, *there is nothing truly new ... [under the sun]*” (Ecclesiastes 1:9 – NET).

Though written in yesteryear, advisor and religious writer E. G. White noted:

“The ‘knowledge of the nearness of Christ’s coming should not be allowed to lose its force, and we become careless and inattentive, and fall into slumber, – into an ***insensibility and indifference to realities. In slumber we are in an unreal world,*** and not sensible of the things which are taking place around us.”<sup>1</sup> “Let us show the people where we are in prophetic history.”<sup>2</sup>

The structure of Biblical end-time prophecy is unique and summons conscientious attention. If studied, their narratives actually shrink 2000+ years of time into the present. There is now an urgent, tangible perspective that God’s word beckons us to understand!

This is the inspired view:

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<sup>1</sup> White, Ellen G.; *The Youth Instructor*, August 25, 1886.

<sup>2</sup> White, Ellen G.; *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 716.

### Apocalyptic Template

Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 12–21

Jesus specifically advised going to Daniel (Matt. 24:15, Mark 13:14)

### Daniel 8–12 – divinely required study

Many detailed end-time events framed in timing periods

Preparation journey to understand

### Revelation 1–22 – The Fulfillment Story

The “players,” unfolding events, important ancillary issues, how to “think” at the end, precision time periods, eternal hope

## Overview

There is endless debate as to what part of Matthew 24 was meant for the fall of Jerusalem and which portion is for the Second Coming (*parousia*). When a comparison of that Olivet rendition is made with Mark 13 and Luke 21 (especially), it can be concluded that most of Christ’s reflective projections are of immediate interest.

Prominent and of hermeneutical interest, Christ presents several “ends.”

1. End of the world (Matthew 24:14), when the gospel has spread globally. That is a God sign – not a man sign.
2. Signs revealing the end is very soon (Luke 21:28, 31) – within a generation.
3. Signs announcing the end of man’s waiting for Jesus (Matthew 24:27, 30-31).

The greater purpose of the Olivet discourse wasn’t to create a montage of opinion and speculation over its content. A proper analysis puts into motion a myriad of objective observations. One fascinating prophetic morsel: The sequence of events is a template for all end-time prophecy!

## Christ's Template:

### Beginning Events

War  
Earthquakes  
Famines  
Pestilences  
Celestial Signs  
(Matt. 24:7, Mark 13:8, Luke 21:10-11)

Persecution  
Martyrdom

Betrayed  
Hated

Break in  
prophetic  
discourse  
Matt.  
24:15-28

→ Tribulation →

### Terminal Events

#### Signs

Sun  
Moon  
Stars

→ Second  
Coming

Gospel going to world →

A study of these events shows that ~1978 a statistical shift occurred.

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

Christ's discourse to four of the disciples (who were not the ones writing about it – interestingly) is a “cookie-cutter” to “clarify one's understanding” against all other apocalyptic prophecy.

Jesus dropped a bomb that never seems to explode for most expositors. Luke explains it best:

- *“And when these things **begin** to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.... So likewise ye, when ye see these **things come to pass**, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, **This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled**”* (Luke 21:28, 31-32).
- Darrel L. Bock, in his excellent treatise on the book of Luke, notes: *“**What Jesus is saying is that the generation that sees the beginning of the end, also sees its end.**”*<sup>3</sup>

Are these prophecies beginning to be fulfilled? Anything less than an objective “Yes” is of concern.

### Progressive Insight

To neutralize any confusion regarding what He said, Christ advised the disciples and us to go to Daniel for more information:

*“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)”* (Matthew 24:15).

*“But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains”* (Mark 13:14).

<sup>3</sup> Bock, Darrell L.; *Luke 9:51–24:53* (Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, MI; 1996), p. 1691.

Where in Daniel is the “desolation” and “abomination” described? It is within Daniel 8–12. “Obviously the Lord took Daniel’s prophecy as a description of the last days.”<sup>4</sup>

- This is of immeasurable value.
- In fact, the most important timing information of end-time prophecy is couched within these narratives.

Here, one learns that the end will be a war between Christ and Satan (ram and he-goat) (Daniel 8:38). God identifies two groups of people who are loyal to Him (Daniel 8:2-12) – a small group and a large group – in that order (living horns on the ram).

- The rise of the antichrist is depicted as a “little horn,” a “king,” a “vile person” and, finally, the “king of the north” (Daniel 8 and 11).
- That “person” is arrogant and defies the “prince of princes,” Jesus Christ – the ram of God (Daniel 8:25) – previously called the “prince of the host” (Daniel 8:11).

Is there an identifiable power/person(s) beginning to match this antichrist description? Have we moved into that last generation by those signs? The first clues are emerging! Amazing declarations have recently been made. Examples:

1. 1998 (May 31): Pope John Paul II published an encyclical called *Dies Domini*. In it he pled for a worship change from what God had established and even written in stone:  
Point 66. “In this matter, my predecessor Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical *Rerum Novarum* spoke of Sunday rest as a worker’s right which the State must guarantee.”  
Point 67. “Therefore, also in the particular circumstances of our own time, *Christians will naturally strive to ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy.*” *Dies Domini*, May 31, 1998. These are appeals for a Sunday law – change of times and law.
2. 2000 (August 6): *Dominus Iesus* by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (later, Pope Benedict XVI) was published. Writing as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, he defended the Church’s claim for “absolutions” and firmly noted that salvation is through the Church only – countering Paul’s assertion in Acts 4:12.
3. 2014 (June 25): Pope Francis affirmed this position in a homily. He further stated that salvation cannot be obtained without the intercession of Mary<sup>5</sup> – a dogma totally at variance with the Bible.
4. In November, 2013, Pope Francis published an “apostolic exhortation” in which he stated that the global economy was about to collapse. He appealed for a Roman Catholic solution, first outlined in *Rerum Novarum*, 1891, by Pope Leo XIII. Francis is vying for a geopolitical leadership role (noted in Daniel 11:40-45) for a new world order.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Miller, Stephen R.; *The New American Commentary, Daniel*, vol. 18 (Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), p. 315.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.inquisitr.com/1321037/pope-francis-decrees-that-christian-salvation-is-only-through-the-roman-catholic-church/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/11/26/pope-francis-has-a-few-thoughts-about-the-global-economy-we-added-these-13-charts/>

5. Pope Benedict had also anticipated clearly an end-time role the Church could have in his encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (“Charity in Truth”), published on July 7, 2009.<sup>7</sup>

This echoes what the late Malachi Martin said in *Keys of this Blood* (1990):

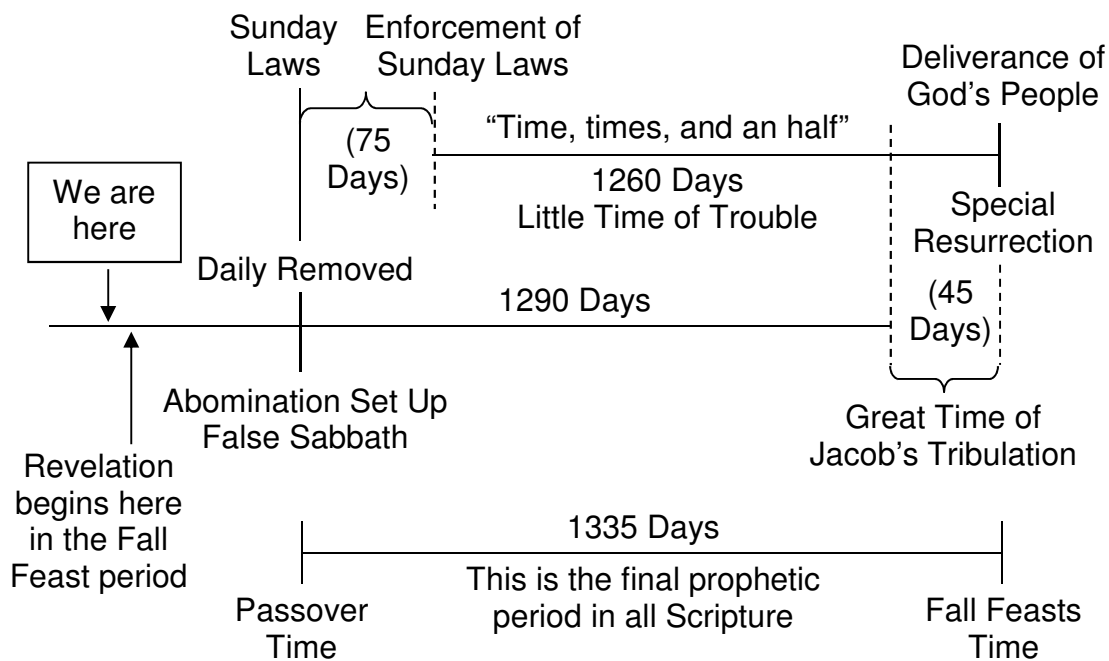
“What captures the unwavering attention of the secular leaders of the world in this remarkable network of the Roman Catholic Church is precisely the fact that it places at the personal disposal of the Pope a supranational, supracontinental, supra-trade-bloc structure that is so built and oriented that if tomorrow or next week, by a sudden miracle, a one-world government were established, the Church would not have to undergo any essential structural change in order to retain its dominant position and to further its global aims.”

6. Pope Francis is also vigorously moving forward to be the head of a one-world religion.<sup>8</sup>

Jesus not only tied Daniel’s narrative to the end of time – the generation that would see His return – He introduced timing prophecies directly related to that Olivet discourse!

Daniel 12:11 has a word-for-word identity with the “abomination of desolation” within the Greek Septuagint with Mark 13:14.<sup>9</sup>

These are Daniel’s timing issues:



Notes: 1. When the word “day(s)” (*yom* – H) is used with a number (ordinal or cardinal), it always refers to a literal 24-hour period!

<sup>7</sup> Pope Benedict, *Caritas in Veritate*, pp. 142-143.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.infowars.com/pope-francis-and-the-emerging-one-world-religion/>

<sup>9</sup> Gerhard, Hasel; *Symposium on Daniel*, Biblical Research institute, General Conference of The Seventh-day Adventist Church.

2. The beautiful beatitude related to the 1335 days (12:12) can apply only to an individual within his lifetime, and therefore cannot be 1335 years!

## **The Revelation Focus**

Note how it begins:

*“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must **shortly come to pass**; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John”* (Revelation 1:1).

Intriguingly, the intro to Revelation has vital orientation data before launching into the prophecies/messages.

1. Authority of its information: God the Father is the “Source” (Revelation 1:1). Christ is then the agent for its transmission.
  - a. Christ had said that all things had been handed over to Him by “my Father.” (Matthew 28:18; cf. John 3:5, 5:27, 13:23, 17:2).
  - b. He makes known everything He hears from the Father (John 15:15; cf. 1:18, 8:28, 12:49-50, etc.).
2. Time: It must shortly come to pass (Revelation 1:1).
  - a. This relates to Daniel 2:28-29, 44-45 as to what must come to pass in those days.
  - b. Daniel’s prophecies are seen coming to a final fulfillment throughout the book.<sup>10,11</sup>
  - c. The imminent end of history is a constant theme in the Book of Revelation.<sup>12</sup>

The word shortly/soon is *tachei* (G) and means “**without delay.**”

- Not immediate – but **within the context of the message in the book!** Key!
- **Thus** – when Jesus says, “I come quickly,” it’s the same word (2:16; 3:11; 11:14; 22:7, 12, 20). It means “within the fulfillment of the prophecies noted” – there will be no delay.

## **Timing Explained Further**

*“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: **for the time is at hand**”* (Revelation 1:3).

This is the second time John notes that what’s in this book is about to occur. Now it can be seen as a warning.

- In Revelation the word “near” appears twice – and each time with the word *kairos* (“time”).

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<sup>10</sup> Osborne, Grant R.; *Revelation* (Baker Book House; Grand Rapids, MI; 2002), p. 54.

<sup>11</sup> Thomas, Robert L.; *Revelation 8–22 – An Exegetical Commentary* (Moody Press, Chicago, 1995), p. 54.

<sup>12</sup> Osborne, *op. cit.*

- The other place is Revelation 22:10. Thus:

<u>“Near”</u>	[The book is framed within the	<u>“Near”</u>
Beginning of book	imminent coming of Jesus]	End of book

With that observation, one would assume that within the context of the book, God is giving us clues of how to understand that end “time.”

- It also informs us of how to live in relationship to the end of time (cf. Romans 13:12, Hebrews 10:25, James 5:8, I Peter 4:7).
- Study the book – keep/obey/follow what is written in it (Revelation 22:7)! This echoes what Christ had previously said:

*“Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it”* (Luke 11:28).

Knowing and obeying the contents prepares for the end of time – a “time” to “be ready.”

“Get ready, get ready, get ready, lest ye be weighed in the balance and found wanting.”<sup>13</sup>  
Why? Time is almost finished.

***What then is so near contextually, in chapter 1?***

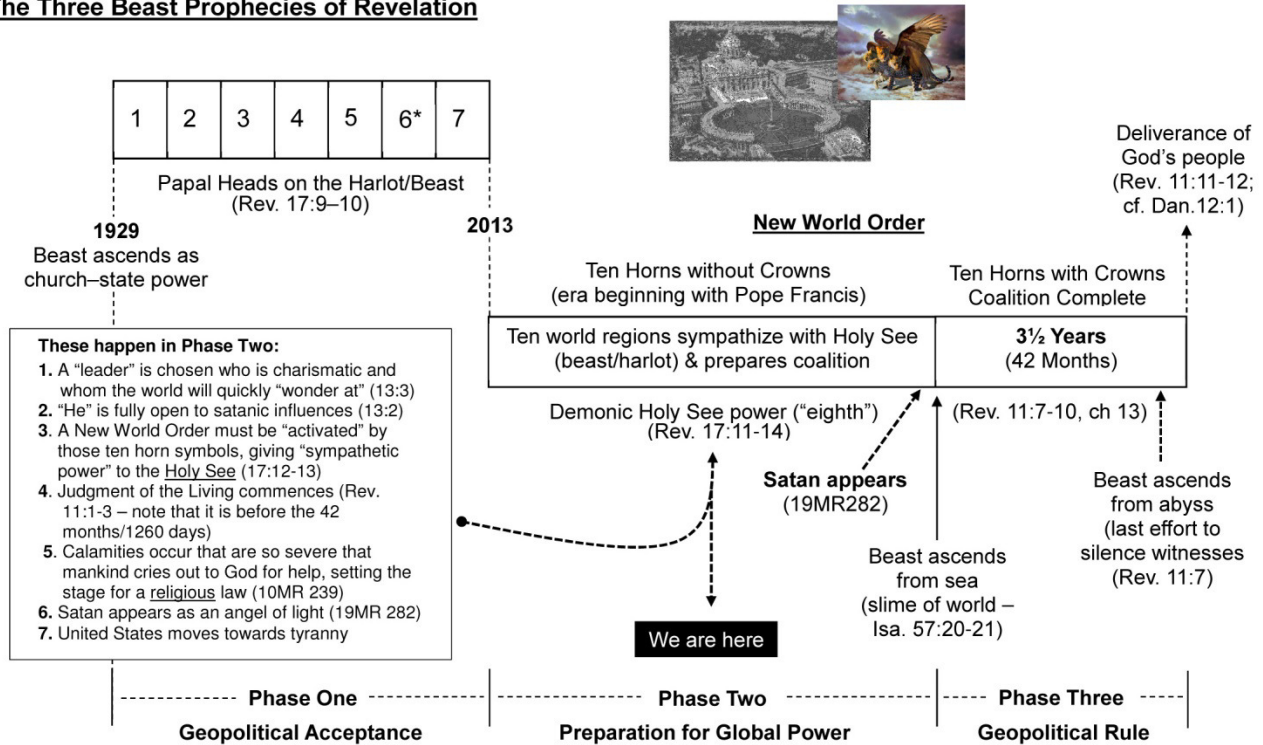
*“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen”* (Revelation 1:7).

Are Revelation’s prophecies unfolding? The following is a graph of the three antichrist/beast prophecies in Revelation.

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<sup>13</sup> White, Ellen G.; *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 5, p. 253 (1851) and vol. 8, pp. 222-223 (1850).

## The Three Beast Prophecies of Revelation



- \* – 1976 Cardinal Wojtyla (later, Pope John Paul II) announced that the New World Order was about to begin (Barbêlôn, vol. 1, p. 154)  
 – 1978 Pope John Paul II inaugurated  
 – 1978 began the last generation (Luke 2:28, 32; cf. Matt. 24:8) (Matt. 24, Mark 13, Luke 21) – calamity trend  
 – 1978 onset of "spiritual formation" movement – began great apostasy of Christianity  
 – 1978 Leadership of the United States quickly identified with new pope  
 – 1978 when signs of Matthew 24:7, Luke 21:10-11 became statistically significant  
 – 1979 Billy Graham promoted pope as world leader

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Phase One is history. We are in Phase Two, where world powers are merging into a coalition with Rome. It is real and being driven by major leaders around the globe.<sup>14</sup> (*Study Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, p. 382.) Satan as an angel of light is soon to emerge as earth's "Savior." This is why Christ warned repeatedly about false Messiahs in Matthew 24.

Of major interest is how the Fall Feasts are introduced in Revelation 1–8:1. This is not only given as a preface to John's whole book – but – it represents a warning of what is in store in the remainder of Revelation! Note:

- The message to the seven churches is a sermon outline by Jesus Himself on how to **personally** get ready (Revelation 2–3), a final "trumpet" warning – "Days of Awe."
- The messages of Revelation 10 are counsel on how to get ready to be **God's witnesses – that "little book" must be understood.**
- The three angels' messages are an outline of what will shortly be conveyed to planet earth in its final **evangelical outreach!** That "judgment hour" ties to Revelation 11:1.

The papacy is currently on a fast track to win the confidence of world leaders. Small examples:

<sup>14</sup> Fowler, Franklin S.; *The Last Geopolitical "Order"* (Christian Heritage Foundation, Lucerne Valley, CA).



1. Many reports are hitting the press that Obama and Pope Francis are working closely together<sup>15</sup> (e.g., Francis was instrumental in the U.S. and Cuba's new relationship).
2. A major drive by Rome to speak against capitalism and urge the centralization of world finances into a single bank is moving forward.<sup>16</sup> This is a prerequisite to Daniel 11:43.
3. The Pope will address the U.S. Congress, United Nations and the Protestant Alliance this fall, while leading out in the World Meeting on the Family in Philadelphia (intriguingly, during the Fall Feasts). Their last "Family" meeting emphasized Sunday rest.
4. Francis is urging Obama to keep the United States–Mexico border open.<sup>17</sup>

The terrifying moves of ISIS are part of developing region 7 of ten divisions of the New World Order. Their anti-Christian terror reflects the King of the South pushing against the King of the North (Daniel 11:40-41) (over 300,000 martyred so far).<sup>18</sup>

We could fill pages of current events as to how prophecy is being fulfilled related to the papacy, world geopolitical order, Islam, the United States (growing tyranny) and the economy.

Shortly, at a fall Feast of Trumpets, dramatic events will transition for God's people – a countdown will then begin for the 144,000.

1. For those functioning as though there is a delay, begin looking at Biblical details.
2. For those expecting the end any day now, look at the great prophetic periods, which cover four years, leading up to the deliverance of God's people. That will be a very solemn time.
3. For those perceiving "life," "events," as usual, a painful surprise lies just ahead.

In January of this year, during Pope Francis' return flight from his dramatic visit to the Philippines, he held a news conference, telling reporters to read a 1907 book, *Lord of the World* (Robert H. Bensen), to understand what is **now** occurring.

- An antichrist will arise – totally hard-hearted and totally kind (Pope Francis?).
- Then a world leader will arise whom the world is fascinated by, yet knows very little about (President Obama?).
- Then a pope in Rome forms a new world religion – a religion based on humanism (Revelation 17:12-13) (social doctrine Francis trained in?).
- Marxism will become the ideology of a World Order.
- That pope goes to the Holy Land to lead the world and bring peace (Daniel 11:45a?).
- Then the world will turn against Rome – the pope (Daniel 11:45b, cf. Revelation 17:14).
- The world passes away.

Can you see what Bensen and Francis have conveyed? This is an urgent perspective.

Eternity is not too far away.

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<sup>15</sup> Washington Times, December 30, 2014.

<sup>16</sup> Reuters, January 11, 2015.

<sup>17</sup> UPI, January 2, 2015.

<sup>18</sup> World Net Daily, February, 2015.

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