

Biblical answers about Bible prophecy

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A Word and Spirit Church

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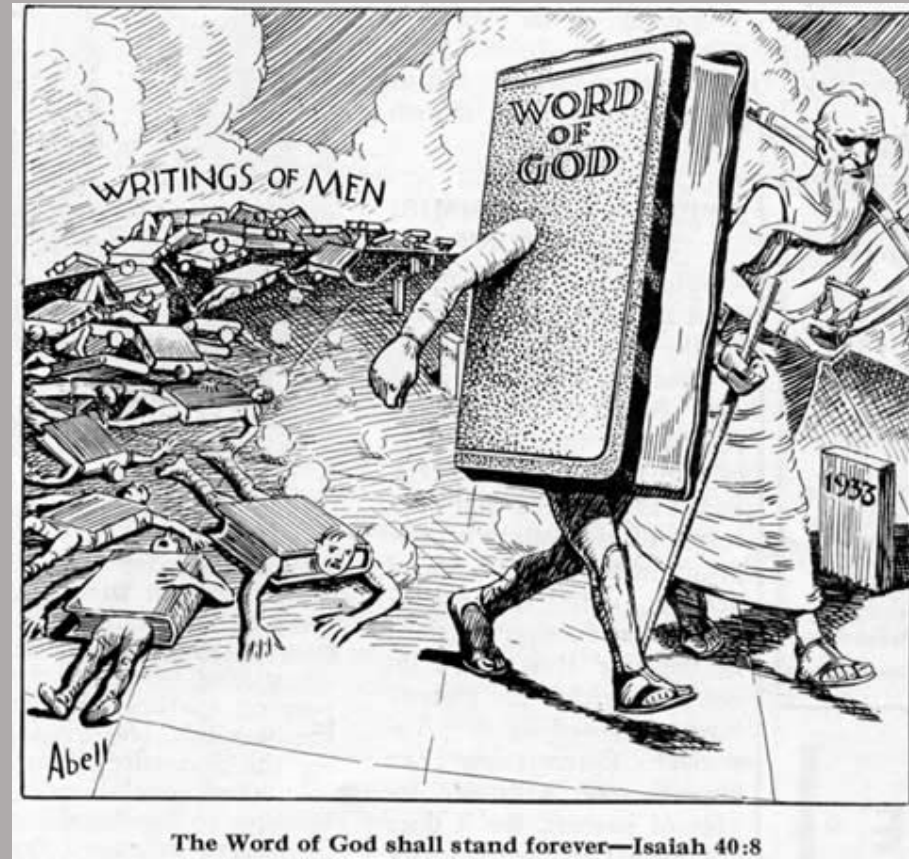
What is Bible prophecy?

The written prophecies in the Bible – these have a historical and predictive sense to them, being sure and originating from God’s foreknowledge.

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed ... For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” (2 Peter 1:19a, 20)

Why is Bible prophecy a proof of the Bible's divine origin?

“Remember the former things of old:
for I am God, and there is none else; I
am God, and there is none like me,
Declaring the end from the beginning,
and from ancient times the things that
are not yet done, saying, My counsel
shall stand, and I will do all my
pleasure” (Isaiah 46:9, 10; see also Isaiah 45:21)



How accurate is Bible prophecy?

The written prophecies in the Bible are very accurate because God is “the God of truth” (see Isaiah 65:16). Examples of fulfilled prophecy (amongst hundreds) include:

- The destruction of cities, such as Tyre and Babylon.
- The first coming of Jesus Christ fulfilling Old Testament prophecy.
- The Roman conquest of Jerusalem and Christians fleeing the wrath in 70 AD.
- Daniel’s prediction of the rise of nations, interpreting Nebuchadnezzar’s statue.
- Israel’s regathering from the nations to form a nation again.
- Islam’s defeat of Constantinople in 1453 AD.

The first coming of Jesus Christ

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given ...” (Isaiah 9:6a)

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” (Micah 5:2)

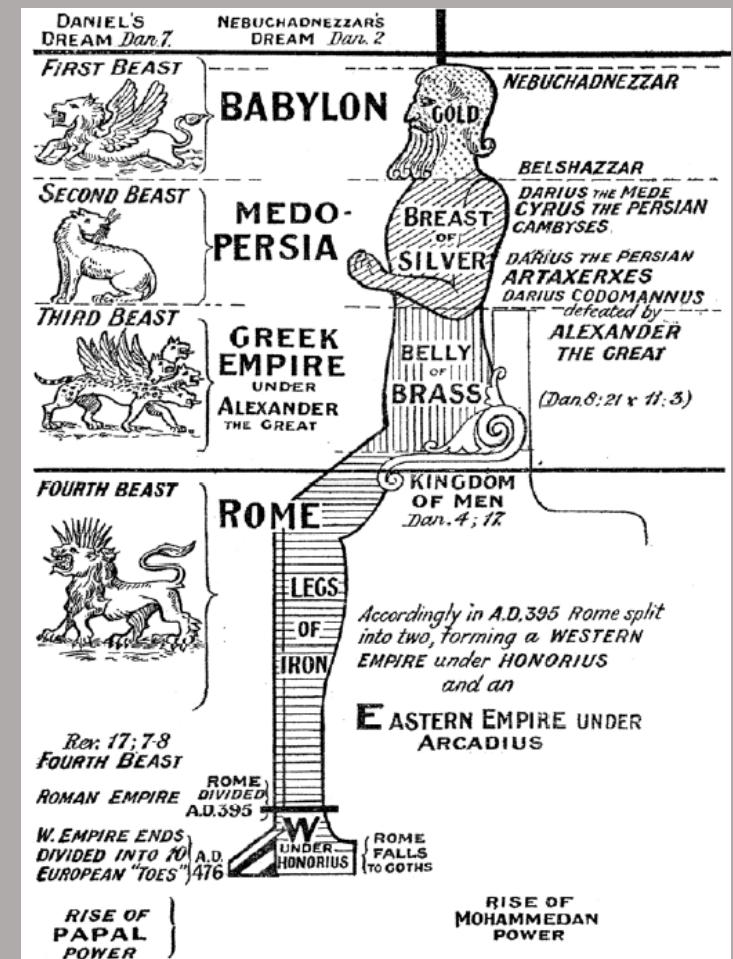


The first coming of Jesus Christ

Bible Prophecy	Old Testament	New Testament
He was to come from a special birth	Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
He would be born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
His ministry described	Psalms 147:3,6	Luke 4:18
His time was predicted from a 490 year timeline	Daniel 9:24-27	Mark 1:15; Galatians 4:4
He would die for His people	Isaiah 53:8	Romans 5:8
He would be crucified	Psalms 22:16	Matthew 27:35
He was given vinegar to drink	Psalms 69:21	Matthew 27:34
His bones would not be broken	Psalms 22:17	John 19:32,33

Daniel's prediction of the rise of nations

“Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.” (Daniel 2:31-33)



Reference: J. S. Fox & J. J. Hall

The Roman conquest of Jerusalem

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee ... Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.” (Matthew 23:37,38; see also Daniel 9:26b)

“And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.” (Luke 21:20)



Paul's prophecy about the Church

“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. ... And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.” (Acts 20:29,30,32)



Are there prophecies yet to be fulfilled?

There are many Bible prophecies yet to be fulfilled. These include:

- The second coming of Jesus Christ.
- The resurrection of the just.
- The conversion of Israel.
- The end of this present world.
- The defeat of Gog, the Eastern Antichrist.
- The defeat of the final Roman Antichrist.
- The Church restitution and worldwide evangelistic harvest.



The fulness of the Gentiles

The destruction of Gog in Israel's history

God is magnified as the Deliverer

The vail taken away from Israel's heart

Israel as a nation converted to Christ

Prophetic events pointed to in the Bible

The conversion of Israel to Christ

“And I will set my glory among the heathen,
and all the heathen shall see my judgment
that I have executed, and my hand that I
have laid upon them. So the house of Israel
shall know that I am the LORD their God
from that day and forward.” (Ezekiel 39:21,22)

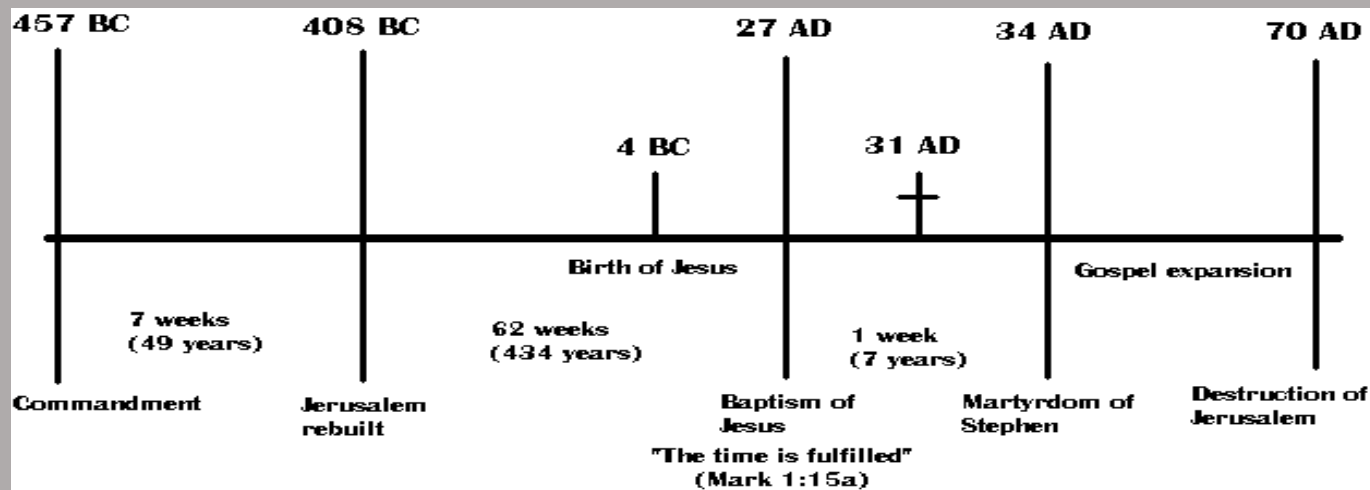
“And so all Israel shall be saved ...” (Romans
11:26a)



What is the day-year principle?

In Bible prophecy one day can symbolically equal one year. One example is: “**Seventy weeks**”^{*} are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city ...” (Daniel 9:24)

^{*} $70 \times 7 = 490$ years, starting 457 BC and ending 34 AD (see also “Multiple Fulfillments of Bible Prophecy”)



What are prophetic symbols?

Such symbols represent something to signify important things in specific prophecies. For example, the following:

SYMBOL IN SCRIPTURE	PROPHETICAL PASSAGE USING THE SYMBOL
The troubled sea = the wicked	A beast (kingdom) rising out of the wicked nations
“But the wicked are like the troubled sea , when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.” (Isaiah 57:20)	“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea , having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.” (Revelation 13:1)

What is multiple fulfilment of Bible prophecy?

This is when **more than one prophetic interpretation** can be validly seen from a passage of Scripture. Examples include:

- The Elijah prophecy of Malachi
- The seven Churches of Revelation
- The seven Seals of Revelation
- The antichrist prophecy of 1 John 2:18

What is the multiple fulfilment of the Elijah prophecy?

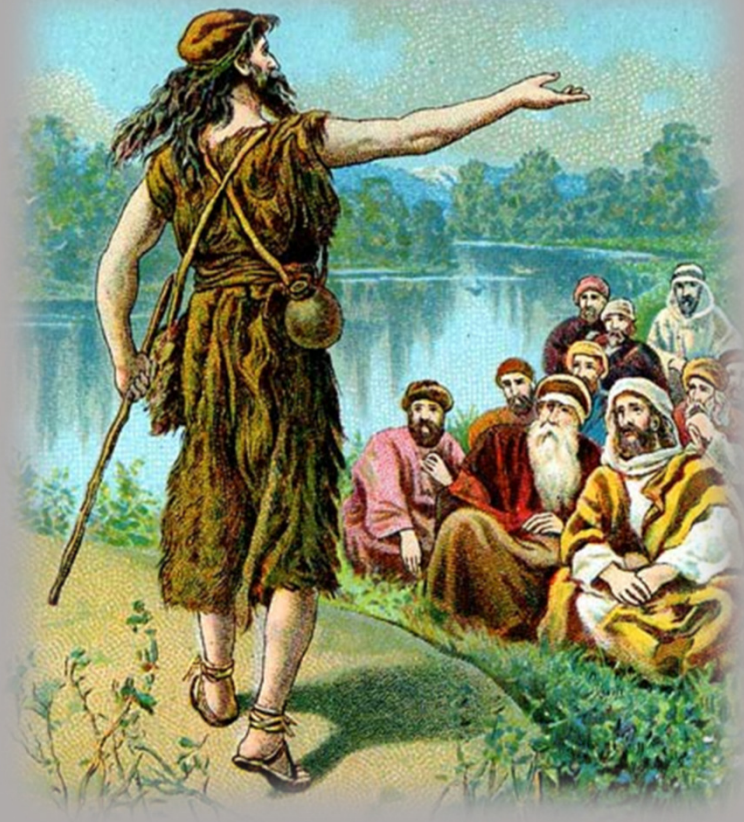
“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” (Malachi 4:5,6)



What is the multiple fulfilment of the Elijah prophecy?

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Elias truly shall first come**, and restore all things.

But I say unto you, That **Elias is come already**, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that **he spake unto them of John the Baptist.**” (Matthew 17:11-13)



What are the major schools of prophetic interpretation?

The Church historically has accepted the following:

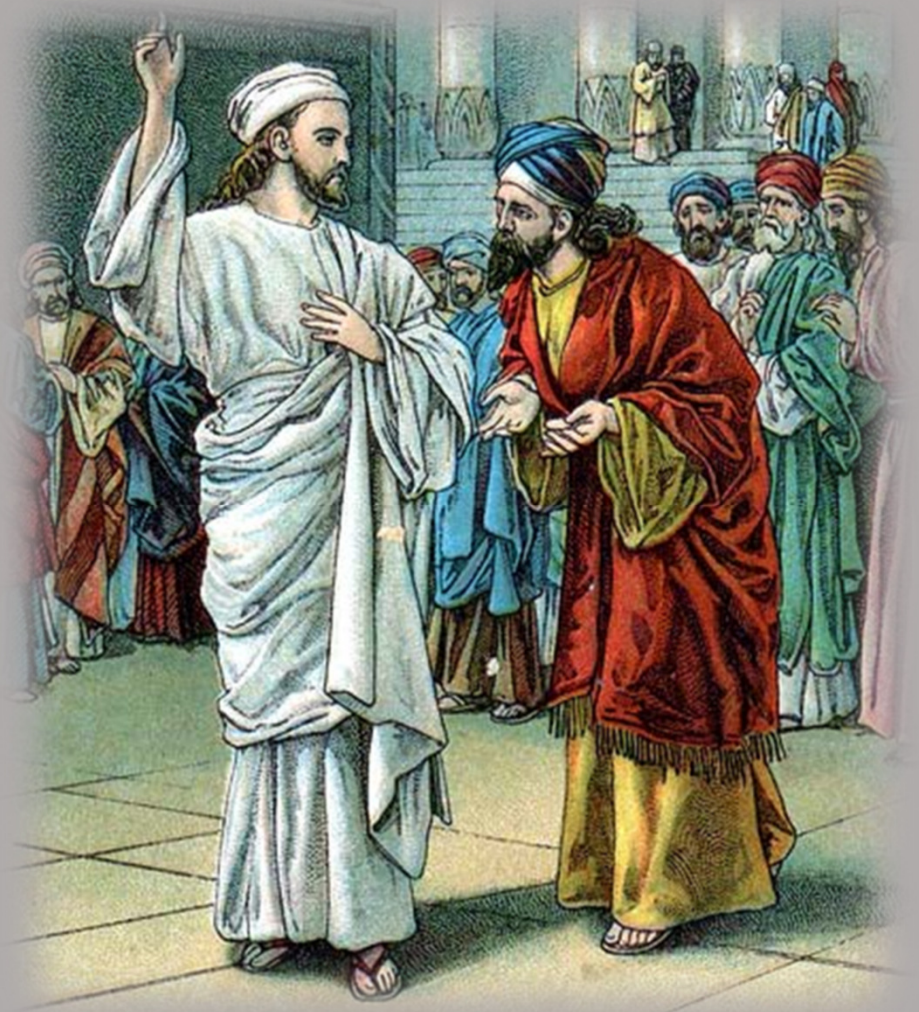
- Historicism* — being fulfilled throughout history.
- Futurism — to be fulfilled in the future.
- Preterism — already fulfilled within the first centuries of the New Testament Church.
- Idealism — fulfilled spiritually or in general. The believing version is ‘Symbolic Word’.

* “the Historicist interpretation of Bible prophecy is the main form to which others are matched or fitted” (M. Verschuur & C. Savage, *Multiple Fulfilments of Bible Prophecy*, p. xxxi.)

Are these schools correct?

They are all correct in certain aspects when taken from a correct Biblical viewpoint (**multiple fulfilment**).

“Then opened he [Jesus] their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures”. (Luke 24:45)



Is Historicism correct?

“The **Historicist*** view of Bible prophecy is **strongly anti-Catholic**. This has grated against the climate of increasing ‘toleration’ and general, nonaggressive, lukewarm Christianity during the reign of Queen Elizabeth the Second. The tolerance of Roman Catholicism was directly proportional to its agenda to make the Papacy seem ‘lamb-like’.” (M.

Verschuur & C. Savige, *Multiple Fulfilments of Bible Prophecy*, p. 41.)

* **Historicism was the predominant view of the Protestant Reformers. In the present Infidel period, the devil has sought to set aside this view.**

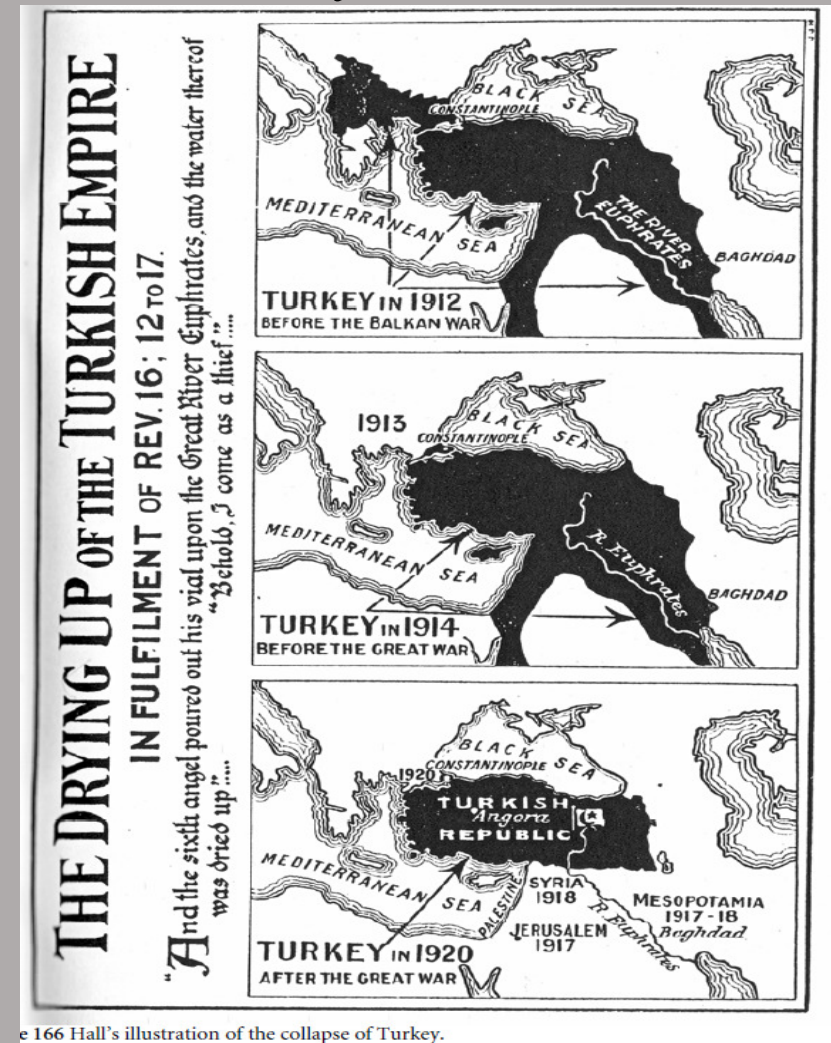
What examples of accurate Historicism are there?

“The first five vials do dissolve and by degrees ruin the Pope’s power in the west. Then the sixth vial breaks the power of the Turk in the east — so making way for the Jews”. (Thomas Goodwin, *An Exposition of the Revelation*, page 209, 1654)

“And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon **the great river Euphrates**; and **the water thereof was dried up**, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.” (Revelation 16:12)

The power of the Turks destroyed

“The Turks were languishing in the 19th century, having suffered a series of defeats and setbacks, but the critical point was when the British and Commonwealth forces, under General Allenby, were able to break into Palestine in 1917, and so the Turkish resistance collapsed.” (M. Vershuur & C. Savige, *Multiple Fulfilments of Bible Prophecy*, p. 736.)



e 166 Hall's illustration of the collapse of Turkey.

OBSERVERS
IDENTIFY
THE PAPACY
AS THE
ANTICHRIST
ACCORDING
TO THE
SCRIPTURE

I am Jesus Christ
himself, hidden
under the veil
of the flesh.
Rev. X

DANIEL
8:20-26

II THESS 2
1-12

REV.
XVII

REV.
XVIII

"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."
(Revelation 13:18).

VICARIVS FILII DEI
= 666 in Roman numerals.

"There is the Antichrist."

WYCLIFFE

TYNDALE

KNOW

LUTHER

CALVIN

SIR ISAAC
NEWTON

ALEX
HISLOP D.D.

DR KEITH

ALBERT
BARNER

MATTHEW
HENRY

A. J.
GORDON D.D.

A. J. WHELEHAN

ALEXANDER
ROBERTSON D.D.

C. H.
SPURGEON

E. B.
ELLIOTT

H. G. GUNN

PROF. BURNS
CAMBRIDGE

H. G. GUNN

PROF. BURNS
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Designed by ALBERT CLOSE Drawn by D. NEWMIN

Example of Futurism – the opening of the seals

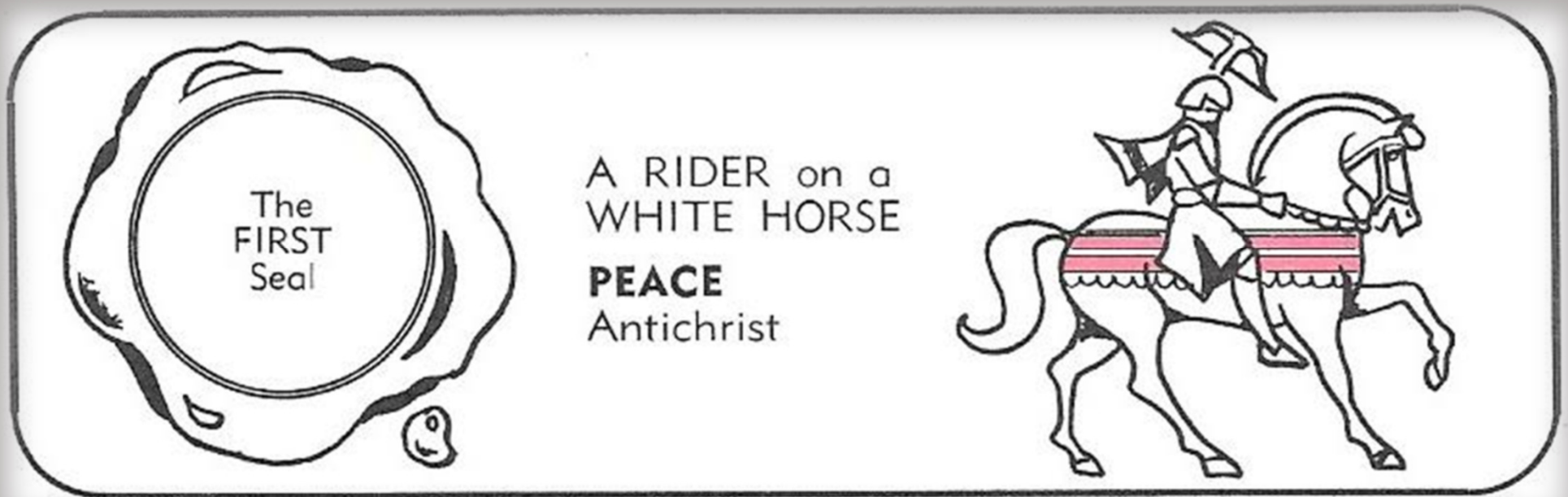
“... a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.”

(Revelation 5:1b)

“The Futurist view of the seals covers the time of the final Roman Antichrist and his defeat at the hand of the Lamb. ... The final Roman Antichrist has a religious and political component contained within the European region. The end of his reign signifies the end of the Western Roman lineage of antichrist, which has manifested as Cæsars, Popes and as a future religious, charismatic leader of a European confederacy of nations.” (M. Verschuur & C. Savige, *Multiple Fulfilments of Bible Prophecy*, p. 524.)

What is the Futurist interpretation of the first seal?

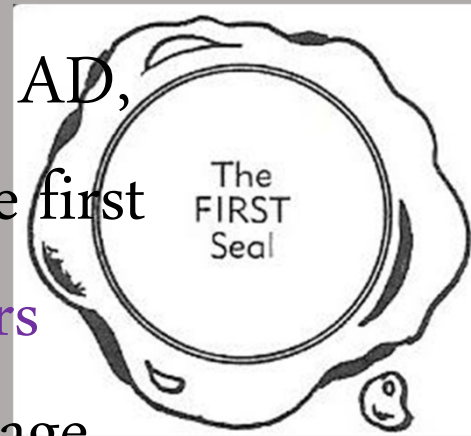
“And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.” (Revelation 6:2)



What is an example of Preterism?

“The Preterist view shows the application of the seven seals as dealing with the judgment of God upon Israel after the death of Christ and culminating with the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD, after which Israel ceased to be a nation for a time. ... [The first seal] is symbolic of the rise of false prophets and the errors among the Jews, and the continuing rejection of the message of Christ. This then led to their insurrection against Rome.”

(M. Verschuur & C. Savage, Multiple Fulfilments of Bible Prophecy, p. 501.)



What is the Symbolic Word view?

This is relating to the conflict of the Word and Spirit versus Infidelity and the world.

“The Symbolic Word view of prophetic interpretation looks at how the Word of God has progressed in history to finally play a mighty role in the end time harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God. The specificity of this view points to the King James Bible as the final end time Bible to be used by the Church in its purified state at the last.” (M. Verschuur & C. Savige,

Multiple Fulfilments of Bible Prophecy, p. 65.)

What is an example of the Symbolic Word view?

“And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.” (Revelation 6:2)

“The white horse and its rider has the appearance of purity but this is a counterfeit and a deception. The white horse represents the rise of Higher Criticism and Liberal Theology. ... Great deception has entered into the Church concerning the form of the words of God.” (M. Verschuur & C.

Savidge, *Multiple Fulfilments of Bible Prophecy*, pp. 531-532.)

References

Found under www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au/sermons

Ps. Craig Savige, *The victorious Church – parts 1-5*

Ps. Craig Savige, *Bible prophecy about the Gospel of Christ*

Matthew Verschuur, *The coming restoration*

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M. Verschuur & C. Savige, *Multiple Fulfilments of Bible Prophecy*, 2014

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