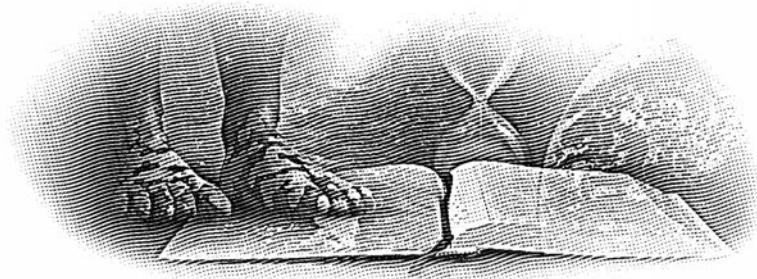


# The Bible and Special Messages About the Future



## SABBATH—JUNE 6

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON:** Daniel 2:27–45; Numbers 14:34; Daniel 7:1–25; Daniel 8:14; 1 Corinthians 10:1–13.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “One of the holy angels said to me, ‘It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the temple will be made holy again’ ” (Daniel 8:14, NIV).

**BIBLE PROPHECIES** are special messages about what will happen in the future. These prophecies are very important to us as Seventh-day Adventists. They show who we are and the work that God gave us to do. Prophecy also is proof that the Bible is true. As Jesus says, “ ‘I have told you this now, before it happens. Then when it happens, you will believe’ ” (John 14:29, ERV; read also John 13:19). We must ask: How do we know when a prophecy has come true?

We will use the historicist view to help us to understand prophecy and when it comes true. The historicist view helps us see that prophecy shows us history before it happens. It shows that prophecy starts in the past and continues until God sets up His everlasting kingdom. Both Daniel and John use the historicist view to help them to understand prophecy.

This week, we will study how we can use the historicist view to understand prophecy. “History shows us how prophecy has come true. History shows us how God led the important work for religious changes. History helps us to understand how what is happening on this earth will lead to the final fight in the worldwide war between God and Satan.”—Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 8, page 307, adapted.



**Prophecy shows us history before it happens.**

## HISTORY AND SPECIAL MESSAGES ABOUT TIME (Daniel 2:27–45)

Seventh-day Adventists use the historicist view to understand Bible prophecy, or special messages about time. As we saw yesterday, the historicist view shows that prophecy starts in the past and continues until God sets up His everlasting kingdom. The historicist view also shows us that many of the most important prophecies in the Bible show us human history, from the beginning of time to the end. These prophecies show us that the past, present, and the future are all connected.

**Read about King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel 2:27–45. What parts of the dream show us that the kingdoms on the earth come up one at a time? How does the dream also show us that each kingdom starts right away as soon as the other kingdom ends, with no time break in between them? How does the Bible show us how to understand end-time prophecy?**

Do you see that Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom is shown as the head of gold? With this word picture, Daniel tells us that Babylon is the 1st kingdom (Daniel 2:38). Then Daniel says, “Another kingdom will come after you, but it will not be as great [powerful] as your kingdom. Next, a third kingdom will rule over [control] the earth—that is the bronze [brass] part’ ” (Daniel 2:39, ERV). Then a 4th kingdom will come (Daniel 2:40). So, the Bible shows us that these kingdoms come one after the other without any breaks in time. The statue itself shows us this information. Each of the kingdoms is shown by a different part of the body. All the body parts are connected from the head down to the toes. This shows that the kingdoms are connected, just the same as time and history are connected.

In Daniel 7 and 8, we do not see a statue. We see different animals. But the same message is taught in chapters 2, 7, and 8. The Bible shows us four kingdoms on the earth (three in Daniel 8). These kingdoms start in Old Testament times. Then they continue from that time to the present and into the future when Jesus starts His everlasting kingdom on earth.

So, the statue in Daniel 2 and the dreams in Daniel 7 and Daniel 8 give us an important foundation. They help us to understand how to explain Bible prophecy.

**Read John 14:29. What does Jesus say that helps us to understand the reason that God gives us prophecy?**



**Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom is shown as the head of gold (Daniel 2:38).**

**THE YEAR-DAY RULE (Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6)**

One of the most important tools we have for understanding prophecy, or special messages about time, is the year-day rule. Many Bible thinkers have used this rule for hundreds of years to understand the prophecies in the books of Daniel and Revelation. We get the year-day rule from several important Bible verses. Plus, the prophecies also help us to see when we need to use this rule.

**Read Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6. How does God help us to understand the year-day rule in these verses and how it works?**

In these verses, we see very clearly the idea of the year-day rule. But how do we know when to use it and when not to? Why do we use the year-day rule with the prophecies in Daniel 7:25; Daniel 8:14; Revelation 11:2, 3; Revelation 12:6, 14; and Revelation 13:5?

Three other things in the Bible support our using the year-day rule to explain these prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. These three things are (1) word pictures, or symbols; (2) long periods of time that last for hundreds and hundreds of years; and (3) special words that are used in a way that we would not normally mean them.

(1) The animals and horns in these prophecies are symbols. They show us kingdoms. So, the animals and horns are not real. They help us to see that the times in these prophecies also are symbols. They are not real.

(2) Many of the kingdoms shown in the time prophecies cover hundreds and hundreds of years. This can be true only if the time prophecies are symbols. So, we must use the year-day rule to understand time in these prophecies. Then the time in the prophecies fits with the things that happen in the prophecies. This agreement cannot happen if the time prophecies mean only real days, months, or years.

(3) Some words in the prophecies have special meanings that they do not normally have. These words are often strange. They show us the special time periods in the prophecies. The special words help us see that the time in the prophecies is not real but a symbol. Here is an example from Daniel 8:14, ICB: the “2,300 evenings and mornings.” This is not a normal way to talk about time. So, this special wording shows us that the time in these prophecies are symbols.



**The animals and the horns are not real. They show us kingdoms. They help us see that the years in the time prophecies also are symbols.**

### WHO IS THE LITTLE HORN? (Daniel 7:1–25)

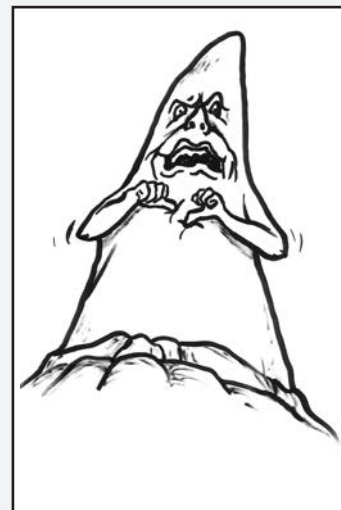
For many hundreds of years, Protestant thinkers taught that the little horn in Daniel 7 and Daniel 8 was the Roman Catholic Church. Why did they believe that?

**Read about the little horn in Daniel 7:1–25 and Daniel 8:1–13. What do we learn about the little horn in these verses? How can we be sure about who it really is?**

There are seven things we learn about the little horn in Daniel 7 and Daniel 8. (1) The little horn is a word picture for a kingdom. (2) The little horn harms people (Daniel 7:21, 25; Daniel 8:10, 24). (3) The little horn brags about itself. It tries to steal God’s power (Daniel 7:8, 20, 25; Daniel 8:10, 11, 25). (4) It makes special attacks against God’s people (Daniel 7:25; Daniel 8:24). (5) The little horn works for a long time (Daniel 7:25; read also Daniel 8:13, 14). (6) It works until the end of time (Daniel 7:25, 26; Daniel 8:17, 19). (7) The little horn is destroyed by God (Daniel 7:11, 26; Daniel 8:25).

History shows us that the 1st kingdom in the book of Daniel is Babylon (Daniel 2:38). The 2nd kingdom is Media-Persia (Daniel 8:20). The 3rd kingdom is Greece (Daniel 8:21). History is very clear about the kingdom that comes next: Rome. In Daniel 2, the iron is a word picture, or symbol, of Rome. The iron shows that Rome **continues** into the feet of iron mixed with clay. This shows us that Rome continues until the end of time. The little horn of Daniel 7 comes from the 4th animal, or kingdom, and continues to be **part** of this 4th animal.

What power came out of the kingdom of Rome and continues to have power on the earth for at least 1,260 years (read Daniel 7:25)? Only one power fits history and this prophecy: the Roman Catholic Church. The Roman Catholic Church came into power among ten tribes, or family groups, in Europe. The Roman Catholic Church destroyed three of these tribes (Daniel 7:24). This new power was “different from the kings who ruled [had power] before him” (Daniel 7:24, ERV). It says things “‘against God Most High’ ” (Daniel 7:25, ERV). This power “‘set itself up to be as great [important] as the commander of the LORD’s army’ ” (Daniel 8:11, NIV). It did this by removing Jesus’ work and replacing it with the pope, who attacked God’s people.



**The little horn brags about itself.**



## GOD'S WORK AS OUR JUDGE IN HEAVEN'S TEMPLE (Daniel 8:14)



**In 1844, Jesus entered into the Most Holy Room of heaven's temple to start His work of cleaning it from all our sins.**

Before the 1800s, Christians did not really understand the 2,300 days and the Investigative Judgment. The investigative judgment is the time when God will judge His people. It happens after 1798 and before the Second Coming.

**Read Daniel 7:9–14 and Daniel 8:14, 26. What do these verses tell us about what happens in heaven?**

The Roman Catholic Church attacks God's people during the Dark Ages. This time period ends in 1798 when Napoleon's General Berthier takes the pope prisoner (Revelation 13:3). After that, Daniel 7 and Daniel 8 show us that God starts His work in heaven as our Judge. As we just saw, this work is named the Investigative Judgment. In a dream about the future, Daniel saw God doing this work: the "Court was ready to begin" (Daniel 7:10, ERV). Then Daniel saw "someone who looked like [the same as] a human being. He was coming with clouds in the sky. He came near God, who has been alive forever" (Daniel 7:13, ICB). Again, this final judgment happens after 1798 and before the Second Coming of Jesus.

The judgment in Daniel 7 closely is connected to God's work of making heaven's temple clean from sin, as we read in Daniel 8:14. Daniel 7 and Daniel 8 are talking about the same thing. Another name for God's cleaning work in heaven's temple is the Day of Atonement. Daniel 8:14 shows us that the Day of Atonement starts after the 2,300 evening-mornings, or days. The year-day rule helps us to understand that these days equal 2,300 real years. They start in 457 B.C. and end in 1844.

Daniel 9:24 shows us the start date for the 2,300 years. This verse tells us that the 70 weeks (490 years) is "chatak," or "cut off," from the 2,300 days. The 70 weeks (490 years) can be cut off from the 2,300 days only if they both are part of the same prophecy, or special message about time. The next verse, Daniel 9:25, tells us when the 70 weeks (490 years) and the 2,300 days start. They " 'will begin when an order is given to rebuild Jerusalem and make it like new again' " (Daniel 9:25, NIV). The order to rebuild Jerusalem is given during "the seventh year that Artaxerxes was king" (Ezra 7:7, NIV), or 457 B.C. When we add 2,300 years to 457 B.C., we come to 1844. This is the time when Jesus entered into the Most Holy Room of heaven's temple to start His work of cleaning it from all our sins.

**A SPECIAL BIBLE RULE (1 Corinthians 10:1–13)**

The symbols, or word pictures, that we see in Daniel and Revelation have only one meaning. But sometimes a symbol in the Bible will have more than one meaning. That is, the persons or happenings of the Old Testament show us real things in history first. But then they also show us a bigger truth that will happen in the future. This double meaning is named typology. Jesus Himself uses typology to help explain the Bible. So do the New Testament writers. We even see Old Testament writers using typology to help explain the Bible. In typology, a symbol has two parts: (1) the type and (2) the antitype. The type is a real person, place, or thing. The antitype is the special meaning that this person, place, or thing will have in the future.

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:1–13. What is Paul talking about in these verses? What is Paul warning the Corinthian church about? What lesson is there in these verses for us today?**

Paul shows us that everything that happened to the Israelites in the desert is a symbol of our own experience as Christians. Paul shows us the reason that God told Moses to write what happened to Israel. It was so that we could learn from their mistakes as we live in the end times.

**Read the verses below. Write down each type, or symbol. Then write what the antitype of each symbol is. That is, write down the symbol’s future meaning.**

**Matthew 12:40** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 19:36** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 3:14, 15** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 5:14** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 1:29** \_\_\_\_\_

In each example, Jesus and the New Testament writers use types and antitypes to help explain prophecy, or special messages about the future. In this way, these men show us a deeper meaning for each symbol that is bigger than what really happened in the past.



In typology, a symbol has two parts: (1) the type and (2) the antitype. The type is the real person, place, or thing. The antitype is the special meaning that this person, place, or thing will have in the future. Jonah in the whale for three days is a type or symbol, or antitype, of Jesus in the tomb for three days (Matthew 12:40).

**ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** Read Clifford Goldstein, *1844 Made Simple* (Boise, ID: Pacific Press, 1988) to learn more about the 2,300 day prophecy, or special message about time.

**Study this chart below:**

<b>Daniel 7</b>	<b>Daniel 8</b>
Babylon (lion)	_____
Media-Persia (bear)	Media-Persia (male sheep)
Greece (leopard)	Greece (he-goat)
Kingdom of Rome (4th animal)	Kingdom of Rome (horn moves across the earth)
Roman Catholic Church (Little Horn)	Roman Catholic Church (horn moves up, in the direction of heaven)
God's work as Judge	God cleans heaven's temple

This chart shows us an important idea. God's work as Judge, in Daniel 7, is the same thing as God's work of cleaning heaven's temple in Daniel 8:14. God's work as Judge in heaven leads to His everlasting kingdom at the end of human history. So, we have powerful proof from the Bible for why Daniel 8:14 is so important and what it means.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- ① Read Daniel 2. In this chapter, we see one kingdom come after another. God gives us the historicist view to explain Bible prophecy. As we learned, the historicist view shows us that prophecy starts in the past and continues until God sets up His everlasting kingdom. These prophecies show us that the past, present, and the future are all connected. Sadly, very few Christians outside of Adventists believe in the historicist teaching anymore. Why does that make our end-time message even more special?
- ② How well do you understand the 2,300-day prophecy in Daniel 8:14? If you do not understand it, why not take the time to learn it now and share it with your class?
- ③ Read Daniel 7:18, 21, 22, 25, 27. Do you see what happens to God's people in these verses? What does the little horn do to them? What does the Lord do for His people? What is the good news for God's people in the judgment, or God's work as their Judge? What does the judgment give God's people?



**God's work as Judge in heaven leads to His everlasting kingdom at the end of human history.**