

The Pattern of Prophecy in relation to the Great Acts of God in History

C R E A T I O N	Great Acts of God ← →	FLOOD		EXODUS	RETURN from EXILE	MESSIAH'S 1 st ADVENT	MESSIAH'S 2 nd ADVENT	R E C R E A T I O N N E W E A R T H
	Time Period(s) →	Methu- selah's lifetime*	120 years	430, 400 years** 1875/1845 BC —1445 BC	70 years, 605-536 BC (see 3BC pp. 96-98).	70 weeks of years = 490 years; 457 BC—AD 34	2300 years 457 BC [–456] to 1844	
	Predicting prophet →	Enoch* Jude 14 Genesis 5:21-27; 7:6	Noah Gen 6:3	Abraham Exod 12:40-41, Gal 3:17 (430) Gen 15:13, Acts 7:6 (400)	Jeremiah Jeremiah 25:11-12 2 Chron 36:19-23	Daniel Daniel 9:24-27; Ezra 7:1, 8, 9, 25-26; Luke 3:1; 4:21; Mark 1:14-15	Daniel Dan 7:9-14; 8:14; 9:24- 27, etc.; Lev 23; Hebrews 8 & 9.	
	Fulfilling prophet →	Noah Genesis 6:3, 7, 8, 17; 7:4		Moses	Daniel 9:2; Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah	John the Baptist Jesus Christ Peter, Stephen Matt 11:7-11; Luke 24:19 Acts 2; 6:8—8:1, 4, 5, 26-27	William E. Foy*** Ellen G. White**** Joel 2:28-29; Eph 4:11- 13; Rev 12:17; 14:12; 19:10; 22:9; 1:9-10; John 16:13-14	
	Elements of Delay →	7 days, 40 days Gen 7:4, 10-12		40 years in wilderness Numbers 14:34	Returned on time, but full rebuilding took much longer. Dan 9:25; Ezra 7:25-26; Neh 6:15	3 ½ year intervals between Jesus' anointing, crucifixion, and Gospel to Gentiles at end of 70 th week. Dan 9:24-27	The Cosmic War won't be over until it's won. Matthew 24:14, 36; Mark 4:26-29	
	Movement →	Those saved in Ark		Nation of Israel	Israel restored	Christian Church	Adventist movement	

***Prophets** sometimes made prophecies of their children's names (see Isaiah 8;1-4; Hosea 1:6-9). Enoch named his son Methuselah, which may mean, "When he dies, it will be sent" (Leslie Hardinge, quoting Alfred Jones, appendix to *Cruden's Complete Concordance*). Thus his life was a continual prophecy of the Flood.

Methuselah's age at the birth of Lamech: 187 (Genesis 5:25)

Lamech's age at the birth of Noah 182 (Genesis 5:28)

Noah's age at the beginning of the Flood 600 (Genesis 7:6)

Total 969 = Methuselah's age at death (Gen 5:27). So Methuselah died in the year of the Flood.

****The Exodus** began on the very day the 430 years terminated (Exodus 12:40-41). The 430 years evidently began when Abraham was 75 (Gen 12:4). The 400 years began 30 years later when Abraham was 105, Isaac was 5, and Ishmael began to "persecute" Isaac (Gal 4:29; Gen 21:9-11). See 1BC p. 314 on Genesis 15:13.

*****William E. Foy** was a Free Black Adventist who received 4 visions (1842-1844), similar in content to the post-Disappointment visions of Ellen White.

******Ellen G. White** (1827-1915) received her first vision in December 1844, when she and most of the Millerite Adventists had given up their faith that the 2300-year prophecy had ended October 22, 1844. Her first vision confirmed that God had been leading them, but that there was still a message to carry to the world.

(1) **Prophecy** is the prophets' message *from* Jesus; (2) **Witness** is testimony *about* Jesus. (3) **Obedience** is choosing to practice the testimony *from* Jesus. Examples of "testimony of Jesus" as **prophecy**: Rev 19:10; 22:9; 1:2, 5, 9-10; 11:3, 6-7.

In John 15:26-27 the witness is the Holy Spirit (the "Spirit of truth"), and the witness He bears is both *from* Christ (the Spirit "whom I shall send,") and *about* Christ ("He will testify of Me"). In John 16:13-14 the "Spirit of truth" does not "speak on His own authority," but gives the message from Jesus. As "Spirit of truth" = the Holy Spirit as the source of truth (John 15: 26-27; 16:13-14), so "Spirit of prophecy" is the Holy Spirit as the Source of prophecy (cf. 1 Peter 1:11). Thus the "testimony of Jesus" comes *from* Jesus through the Spirit to the human prophet or apostle, but the public testimony borne is a witness *about* Jesus.

"Testimony of Jesus" as **Obedience**: Rev 19:10; 22:9 ("fellow-servant," "keep the words [= testimony] of this book"), (compare 1:9; 12:17; 14:12; John 15:21).

"Testimony of Jesus" as **Witness**: Rev 6:9, 11; 11:3, 6-7; 12:11 (cf. 1:5).

Therefore, the movement just before the Second Coming will have the prophetic testimony *from* Jesus, obey that message from Jesus, and bear witness about Jesus. The combination is the secret of spiritual power (Rev 12:11): "They overcame [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony." When we accept and practice the testimony *from* Jesus, and devote our lives to bearing testimony *about* Jesus and His faithfulness, the joy of partnering with Him to save others lifts us into His presence where there is love, joy, and no defeat.

VI. Gift of Prophecy in the Second Advent Movement. In the early 1800s men arose independently in different countries, teaching that sometime in the 1840s-1860s the time prophecy of Dan 8:14 would be fulfilled. (457 BC [-456] + 2300 years = AD 1844). The largest of these movements was in North America, where Bible students of different denominations agreed that the 2300 years of Dan 8:14 would end on Day of Atonement, Oct. 22, 1844.

They saw correctly that the prophecy pointed in a general way to preparation for the Second Coming, but they did not realize the 2300 years pointed to the beginning of the process, not the end of the process. When Jesus did not come, they thought their time calculations had been mistaken or even that the prophecy had failed. Their disappointment tested how they really felt about the coming of Christ. Many were relieved, glad He had not come. Others grieved for weeks.

In December 1844, a 17-year-old girl, Ellen G. Harmon (later White) received a vision showing (1) the prophecy had not failed; (2) God had been leading despite their partial understanding; (3) they still had a work to do before the second Advent. Over the next 70 years she received some 2000 such visions and wrote more than 50 books based on them. Through her visions God guided and still guides the Adventist movement.

Conclusion: (1) This is a movement of prophecy. (2) Its message calls people in all churches or no church, to prepare for the second coming of Christ. (3) By choosing to yield ourselves to God's purpose, we become immersed in His eternal purposes, which cannot fail. Rev 12:11.

Why I am a Seventh-day Adventist

Jerry Moon, February 2006

Purpose: Not to tell *how* I became Adventist, but *why* I did and am.

Important reasons: Sabbath, health, financial promises (Mal 3:10), much more. Decisive reasons: (1) A message based on the whole Bible. (2) A God who places supreme value on love, trust, and freedom (non-immortality of the wicked). (4) A movement of prophecy that shows me that I am a part of God's eternal purpose. This gives my life *meaning*, because God's purpose has ultimate importance, and *security* because God's purpose cannot fail.

I. Seven Great Acts of God. In Scripture, beyond the *thousands* of events and the *hundreds* of individual stories, are seven mountain peaks that tower over the biblical landscape, the seven great landmarks of salvation history: Creation, Flood, Exodus, Return from Exile, Messiah's First Advent, Second Advent, and Re-Creation. In surveying the whole grand sweep of biblical history, we get down to the bedrock of Scripture.

II. The Pattern of Prophecy. Between the bookends of Creation and Re-Creation are 5 major events, each predicted in advance by time prophecies. Each of these involves: (1) Predicted Event, (2) Time Period, (3) Predicting Prophet, (4) Fulfilling Prophet, (5) Delay, and (6) a believing Movement. (See chart.)

III. Second Advent Movement. Daniel 8:9-12 sketches the career of the medieval church—usurping the place of Christ, casting down truth, and persecuting God's people—and asks, "How long" will this continue? The reply is given that after 2300 days/years, God's sanctuary will be vindicated/restored/cleansed. At the end of this time period, God would raise up a movement to restore all the truth that was lost in the great apostasy and to bring God's people back from spiritual Babylon. If the Pattern of Prophecy is consistent, there's something shocking here: how can there be a fulfilling prophet for a prophecy that reaches far beyond the end of the New Testament?

IV. There will be last-day prophets, both true (Joel 2:28-29; Eph 4:11-15) and false (Matt 24:4, 5, 11), and must be tested (1 Thess 5:19-21).

1. True prophets receive supernatural revelations from God, Numbers 12:6.
2. Their predictions come true, Jeremiah 28:9. (On conditional prophecy, see Jeremiah 18:7-10, 1 Sam 2:30-31; Jonah 3:10; 2 Chron 34:28; 35:21.)
3. They agree with Scripture, Isaiah 8:20; 2 Tim 3:16-17.
4. They are known by their fruits, Matt 7:15-20.
5. They teach the full divinity and true humanity of Jesus Christ, 1 John 4:1-3.

V. The "Testimony of Jesus." Rev 12:17: "And the dragon was enraged with the woman and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 12:17). Dragon = Satan, Rev 12:7-10. Woman = God's people, Gen 3:15.

"Rest of her offspring" ("remnant") = remainder; all through the Bible the faithful "survivors" who stay true to God when everybody else worships idols.

"Keep commandments of God" = all Ten of them. To "have the testimony of Jesus" has 3 overlapping meanings in Revelation. (*Continued on back page.*)