

THE MYSTERY OF PROPHECY EXPLAINED IN SIMPLE TERMS

FOR THE SERIOUS STUDENT OF THE WORD

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PART FOUR - THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MARTYRED PROPHETS AND SAINTS IN THE REVELATION

LESSON 68: Identifying those killed by the Beast is crucial to deciphering the Revelation and prophecy.

A. Jesus as Martyr killed by Satan and his people foreshadows the martyrdom of His Body, the Church.

- Jesus is seen as the slain Lamb of God when He receives the mysterious book in Revelation 4.

(1) Jesus as the slain Lamb signifies His martyrdom and sacrifice for the Elect. *I lay down my life for the sheep.*

(2) His unjust execution by the Jews (who claimed to be God's people), by the authority of the Romans, portends the unjust execution of His Elect by future Romans who will claim to be God's people; i.e., *Roman Catholics. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you; I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus; The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits; And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.*

(3) The mysterious book held by Christ is that which Daniel was told to *close up and seal till the end of time*. It is the history of the world through the 2nd Advent of Christ, especially addressing momentous events affecting God's Church. Jesus, as Prophet, Priest and King, opens its contents one seal at a time, unfolding future history to the Apostle John, and through John to His Church.

- The Lord wills we understand the Revelation. This is why He opens the seals. The seals do not remain closed. He opens to reveal. 'To reveal' is to *draw back the veil*. Jesus has drawn back the veil in two ways:

(1) He has shown His prophet and New Testament Church through the ages future history, both near and far. *Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets; Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.*

(2) He has drawn back the veil which covers the face of the Bride of Christ that we might know the identity of His Elect, and by inference the identity of the deceitful Antichrist and

his bride. To know Christ is to know Antichrist. To know Christ's Church is to know Antichrist's church. They are opposites and contrary to each other. We are commanded to have no fellowship with Mystery Babylon and her Antichrist, Rev. 18:4. Knowledge and understanding of the Revelation insures no such spiritual fornication will take place.

B. The martyrs under the altar, Rev. 6:9-11, foretell ongoing persecution and martyrdom of Christians throughout history.

- Their deaths were the result of their unswerving biblical faith in Christ, *sola Scriptura*.....I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God.
- Their deaths were the result of their testimony which they refused to renounce, *sola fide*and for the testimony which they held.
- Rather than pray the forgiveness of those who put them to death, the martyrs are heard crying out for the vengeance of God upon the heads of those who killed them.
- These martyrs are proven to be true Christians - NOT HERETICS - by the act of giving every one of them white robes, *sola gratia*. The imputation of the righteousness of Christ, *putting on Christ*, is that which is portrayed in symbol.
- These martyrs were killed by the rider on the pale horse as well as his beasts from the earth, (his false prophets).
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** These martyrs are told that more of their brethren must be killed as they were. Then and only then would judgment fall on their murderers. This judgment is seen in Rev. 18. Thus, Christian martyrdom continues from Rev. 6 through Rev. 17. The great tribulation is of an extended duration. The world is not converted to Christ, but instead kills Christians. Reconstructionist/Preterists are misguided.

C. Heavenly saints are seen wearing white robes, sealed in their foreheads by God, and who 'came out of great tribulation.' Rev. 7 reveals the ultimate deliverance from persecution and murders of innocent Christian martyrs.

- We know they are Christians because they are called the servants of God, (verse 3), they wear white robes, and hold palms indicating ultimate victory over the Beast and his Mark.
- We know these Christians are not limited to converted 'Jewish' Christians because in Rev. 1:20 we are given the interpretation of the mysteries. All the OT symbols are to be given NT meanings. Thus, the tribes of Israel are understood to represent God's chosen or His Elect, comprising both Jew and Gentile, His Bride, selected out of all peoples, worldwide. This is proven by verse 9. There is neither Jew nor Greek. All are one in Christ Jesus, (Galatians 3:28). There is only one Body, one Bride, and one Church of Christ, (Ephesians 2; 4-5).
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** The church of Antichrist imitates the sealing of the forehead by giving her Mark of the Beast on the forehead. However, the teaching of Rev. 7:1-8 negates the practice of a literal mark given by priests because it is given by God sovereignly and invisibly, to whom He

wills, when He wills, and why He wills. God's mark protects His people from the Beast's mark. All whom God marks are ultimately saved.

- Verse 9 indicates those who were sealed: a great multitude **out of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues.**
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** This refutes the Futurist interpretation of this prophecy being limited to the literal nation of Israel.
- **SECOND IMPORTANT NOTE:** We are told the number is so great that *no man could number* the multitude. Thus, the sealing of the 144,000 is not a one time event, but ongoing throughout the Church age, proving Futurists and Preterists wrong. That number must be much greater than the 200 million seen in Rev. 16. John was able to hear that number. Thus, the great tribulation is of great duration, not 3 1/2 years as Futurists and Preterists pretend.
- **THIRD IMPORTANT NOTE:** The Greek term 'ek' translated '**out of**' denotes that there are those whom God does not seal for reasons known only to Himself. Those whom God does not seal will perish. The sealing by God is the grace of God. The number 144,000 is a small number, (compared to the total size of the nation of Israel depicted in the Exodus, for example). Thus, we are told that it is but a remnant through the ages whom God will save.
- **FOURTH IMPORTANT NOTE:** The twelve tribes sealed out of all nations are directly linked by number to the bride of Christ, described as the twelve gates of holy Jerusalem, (Rev. 20:9-12). The number 144,000, which has both 12 and 12,000 as root numbers, is also directly linked to the measurement of New Jerusalem, which, we are told, is 12,000 furlongs cubed, (Rev. 20:16). Thus, we are to understand that just as God has predetermined the exact size and dimensions of His holy city, He has, in like manner, predetermined who and how many people will comprise His Body, His eternal Bride. When that number is fulfilled, the construction of His holy city will be completed. The Bride of Christ is not complete until after the loosing of Satan, followed by the second resurrection and judgment.

- Like the martyrs seen in Rev. 6, those coming out of great tribulation are proved to be saints by their wearing white robes washed in His blood, (verse 14), i.e., signifying the imputation of the righteousness of Christ, the Lamb, our Martyr, and *His* sacrifice on our behalf.

- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Those whose robes were washed in the blood of Christ are those who were sealed by God on their foreheads. Just as the seal of God cannot fail to save those who are marked, neither can Christ's blood fail to save those for whom He died. Those sealed by God and those for whom Christ gave His life are the same; a remnant chosen out of the total number of mankind. The errant doctrine of the universality of Christ's atonement coupled with God's saving grace is refuted in Revelation 7.

- These martyrs' lives on earth are filled with hunger, thirst, heat, and tears. The concept of a carefree life of wealth, with the pursuit of Christian 'blessings' in a Christianized world as taught today is unknown to them.

- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Their hunger and thirst is both literal and spiritual, referring primarily to those blessed ones who hunger and thirst after righteousness. The so-called stewards in the Church neglected to give them their portion of meat in due season. Jesus declares, *Woe unto you that are full*, as well as, *Woe unto you that laugh now!*

*** A Note on the 'little book' eaten by John in Rev. 10.**

- Like Ezekiel the prophet before him, John is given a prophecy to 'eat' or rather 'understand,' (Gen. 3:22; Ezek. 3). Once eaten or understood, he is then commanded to prophesy *again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues and kings.*

- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** This Scripture cannot be limited to John alone, since he was in captivity and very old. Yes, his words are with us today, yet they need messengers, called 'angels,' to send them worldwide throughout history that the people might hear and understand them. Thus, once again we see the biblical principle of 'the one representing the many.' John represents the office of the prophet who will give this prophetic message to God's people throughout time.
- **SECOND IMPORTANT NOTE:** The prophecy given John is that of God's judgment against the Antichrist and his church, which we will prove below.
- John, as prophet, is now given the ability to discern the true nature of the temple of God, i.e., the true Church and Bride of Christ, Rev. 11. The prophetic Word is his measuring rod. He also measures the altar, which pertains to Christ's sacrifice, its nature and extent. God's people understand it is the finished, perfect, once for all sacrifice for His Elect. Those who worship within the temple worship God in Spirit and truth. They know the doctrine of God. John is commanded not to measure, count or include those outside the bounds of the true Church, (verse 2). These false Christians can be identified by their will and efficacy to *tread under foot the holy city*, (i.e., persecute the true Church of God, and undermine its foundation of holy Scripture), for 42 months.

D. The Two Martyred Witnesses, Rev. 11.

- The two witnesses are prophets of God, given much Holy Spirit wisdom and fortitude, signified by the abundant source of oil to keep their candles (read: witness) lit and burning bright. They have 'eaten' the same prophecy as did John before them. They are the ones who have been commissioned *to prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings*. The duration of their ministry is the same length as the duration of the Church of God undergoing persecution: 42 months; each month comprising 30 days.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** God's prophets and people undergo tribulation for speaking God's judgment upon the enemy. So-called Christians who do not align themselves with God's prophets will not experience tribulation or persecution. Escaping tribulation, which is the doctrine of the secret "Rapture", is proof of non-regeneration, lacking the seal – the Holy Spirit - of God.
- The number 'two' represents the minimum number of God's witnesses needed to testify to the truth of a matter, (Matt. 18:16-20; Deut. 17:6). Those witnessing against the Antichrist and his members are relatively few in number, though they cause much anxiety and hostility in their enemies.
- Sackcloth represents lamentation and woe. God is not pleased with the stiff necked and disobedient. His wrath and judgment are made known by those bearing His prophetic message.
- The origin of the authority and ability with which the prophets give this unwelcome message is of God, not man, (verse 3).
- These two prophets are seen as candlesticks, or churches, (see Rev. 1:20), and as olive trees, whose anointing, by His Spirit, will never diminish or be eradicated in the fight against the Antichrist. Once again, we see the biblical teaching of 'one representing many.'
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Futurism, with its false teaching claiming the removal of the Holy Spirit and the Church, is soundly refuted in this passage.
- Fire is seen coming out of the mouths of these prophets. They possess tongues of fire described in Acts 2:3, signifying their being filled with the oil of the Holy Ghost. They have been

given a mouth by Jesus speaking wisdom which their enemies cannot gainsay, (Luke 21:15). With the flame of true discernment and judgment, they consume their enemies, and 'kill' them, spiritually speaking. (Cf. I Kings 18:38; II Kings 1:12; Ps. 18:8; Is. 6:6-7.)

- These men and women of God are in constant danger. Their enemies would hurt them if the opportunity arose.
- These prophets of God have been given the spirit of Elijah and Moses, (verse 6). Prior to these witnesses the prophet, John the Baptist, also came in the spirit of Elijah, (Matt. 17:12). Like John the Baptist, who was the voice crying out in the wilderness of apostate Israel, pointing out the Christ to the Elect, these two witnesses cry out in the wilderness of apostate Christendom, pointing out the Antichrist to the Elect. Christ's Church needs help in identifying the mystery of iniquity, *for if it were possible, even the Elect would be deceived*. Like Moses, who went before Pharaoh to demand he let God's chosen go, these witnesses go before the Antichrist and his false church calling God's people to *come out of her*, (Rev. 18:4).
- No prophet can be killed by the Beast from the bottomless pit, (i.e., the Antichrist), until it is their time, (verse 7). That time is determined by the Lord, not the Antichrist.
- We know these were God's true prophets because they ascended up to Heaven, they did not go down to Hell, the bottomless pit, the home of the Beast, (verse 12).
- At the last and seventh trump the dead in Christ are judged. The prophets receive first place in rewards, (verses 15 & 18).
- An identifying characteristic of the Antichrist is one which does not allow for the burying of the heretical prophets, (verse 8).
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** The murderer is not a Christian. He is the Beast, the Antichrist, whose body of members also kill. The victims, the prophets killed by the Antichrist, are not heretics or pagans. They are true Christians. They are received into Heaven and are given great rewards.
- **SECOND IMPORTANT NOTE:** The testimony of the prophets is to be believed. It is Holy Ghost breathed, the prophets exercising an office and delivering a message commanded by the authority of God, who cannot lie.

E. The persecuted wilderness remnant, Rev. 12.

- Once again, we are given information concerning those with whom Satan is wroth, whom Satan is determined to exterminate. They are the members of the Body of Christ, His Bride, the Woman, the Church, who have the victory over their unjust accuser *by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death*, (verse 11). Their wilderness flight is for the purpose of escaping the clutches of the dragon. Hiding in concealment is their key to survival during the period called *time, times and half a time*.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** This is the same time period given in Daniel 7:25. Therefore, the two events are identical, both caused by Satan, with the end result being the martyrdom of the saints.
- This wilderness Christian remnant are in fierce battle against the devil. We know they are not heretics because rather than break the commandments of God, they keep them, (verse 17).

They love the Lord, (John 14:15). The Man of Sin, the Antichrist, is infamous for breaking the commandments of God. He hates the Lord, as do his people.

- The Holy Spirit makes a special point of emphasizing that this remnant of true Christians have the testimony of Jesus.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** We are told in Rev. 19:10 that *the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*. Thus, this remnant has the spirit of prophecy, whose origin is of God.
- **SECOND IMPORTANT NOTE:** Because their testimony comes from God, it is to be believed, for God cannot lie.

F. Tribulation saints martyred by the Beast from the sea, Rev. 13:1-10.

- The Beast from the sea, the Antichrist, hates the saints and wars with them. He is of his father the devil, who is also called the dragon. Because of this Beast's great reputation, power and influence, the world views the saints as insane in their attempt to *make war* with such an one as he, *Who is able to make war with him?* The weapons of the saints' warfare are not carnal but spiritual: the fire and sword of the Word of God, unlike the weapons of the Beast, (verse 10). This warfare is 'polemical', which is derived from the original Greek term we translate as 'make war.'

G. Tribulation saints martyred by the beast from the earth, Rev. 13:11 ff.

- The true saints of God refuse the Mark of the Beast. They refuse image worship; seeking death over compromise and spiritual fornication.
- The true saints understood the nature of the Mark and the identity of the Beast who gave it. They are not fooled by the false prophets' signs and lying wonders.
- These are the same saints who hide in the wilderness from the dragon because of their testimony against the Beast and his false prophets. They are not willing to be easily taken into captivity.
- Their testimony is to be believed because it is the testimony of Jesus, the spirit of prophecy. Prophecy has its origin from God, who cannot lie.

H. Tribulation saints depicted in Revelation, chapters 7:4, 12 - 13, are seen in Heaven. None are lost, Rev. 14:1-5.

- These 144,000 are all intact. God promises to preserve His Elect. His Word is proven to be faithful and true, (John 10:28-29; 17:12).
- These 144,000 are called virgins, (verse 4), because they are members of the Bride of Christ, children birthed by the woman of Rev. 12.
- The seal on their foreheads is that of Father God, not Holy Father the Pope, (verse 1).
- Their testimony is 100% true and to be believed, for *in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God*, (verse 5).

I. Angel-Prophets are martyred for their testimony against the Antichrist, Rev. 14:6-13.

- The angels are messengers from God. They are not literal angels, rather they are of the same spirit as the prophets depicted in Rev. 11.
- They are seen in the midst of heaven because their message originates from the throne of God, and also because their message is sent out worldwide via books, tracts, satellite, radio and the WWW.
- They preach the true Gospel of salvation by the grace of God alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, according to Scripture alone, and to the everlasting glory of God alone.
- They preach the fall of Mystery Babylon because they know her identity as well as the truth of her certain destruction. Mystery Babylon is no mystery to them.
- They warn against taking the Mark of the Beast, or worshipping the Beast and his images. These prophets know the identity of the Beast, his name, and his Mark. How could they effectively warn against that which was a mystery to them?
- These prophets are not 7th-day Adventists:
 - (1) There are no Adventist martyrs.
 - (2) Adventists do not understand or believe the true Gospel being Arminian, teaching salvation through faith + works.
 - (3) Adventist teaching on the Mark of the Beast and beast from the earth is false.
 - (4) The Adventist religion is not of God.
 - (5) Ellen G. White is in Hell awaiting the second death.
- Rather than debate the fine points of theology with the Beast and his people, the angel-prophets declare the eternal judgment of God on this wicked church, a righteous judgment which will not delay nor turn back, (verses 9-11).
- The torment of God's punishment is described as eternal, not temporal, (verse 11).
- The Holy Spirit identifies these angel-prophets as saints who keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus, (verse 12).
- These saints are declared blessed, as martyrdom is their calling, (verse 13).
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** These saints are killed by the Beast and his people for their testimony, as were the two prophets of Rev. 11.
- **IMPORTANT SECOND NOTE:** The testimony of these saints is to be believed. God declares them faithful and blessed. Liars are neither faithful nor blessed.

J. Tribulation saints are seen in Heaven once more, Rev. 15:2.

- The Holy Spirit keeps reinforcing the truth that God's people who go through great tribulation are ultimately delivered. Through suffering and martyrdom there is victory over the Beast, his image, his Mark, and the number of his name.
- Victory did not come about by their ignorance as to the identity of the Beast, or his Mark, or image.

K. Mystery Babylon is guilty of spilling the blood of the saints and killing true Christians, Rev. 17:6.

- Those whom this false church torture and kill are declared by the Holy Spirit to be the true people of God. They are not heretics. God says so, and He cannot lie.
- Those so-called 'Christians' who fellowship with the whore, having friendly fornications with her, prove themselves to be traitors of Christ and his beloved martyrs. They are doomed to be damned.
- God promises to avenge the deaths of his apostles and prophets which were at the hands of this Mother of all harlots, (Rev. 18:20). His promise will be fulfilled for the sake of the apostles and prophets.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** The Holy Spirit has imputed to this false church the guilt for shedding the blood of all the prophets and saints slain from the time after Christ's first Advent unto the time of Christ's second Advent.
- **IMPORTANT SECOND NOTE:** Those in Heaven cheer the destruction of Mystery Babylon. The identity of this false church is no mystery to those who fought the whore on earth, nor is it a mystery to those same saints in Heaven.

L. The first resurrection depicts only those Christians who had stood against the Beast and his false church, Rev. 20:4.

- Beheaded martyrs are seen in the vision. This signifies the office of prophet, John the Baptist being their forerunner, (Mark 6: 14-16). His spirit lived on in them.
- Those who partake of the first resurrection also include those who were not martyred, but had received the testimony of the prophets, standing with them in the war against the Antichrist, Matt.10:41, *He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward.*
- These saints are called *blessed and holy*. These are the same saints described previously:
 - (1) *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.*
 - (2) *Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.*

(3) *Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*

(4) *Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.*

(5) *Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.*

(6) *Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

(7) *....and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.*

(8) *Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.*

(9) *And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.*

- The second resurrection is not called *blessed and holy*. This has chilling implications.

LESSON 69: The testimony of the prophets, saints and martyrs against the Beast and his church is to be believed and embraced as God's truth. Their testimony has the endorsement of Holy Writ. Their testimony has the witness of the Holy Spirit. Their testimony has the corroborating testimony of Christians through the ages.

LESSON 70: God has declared throughout His infallible prophetic Word His supreme love for the prophets, saints and martyrs who fight against the Beast and his whore.

LESSON 71: To receive their testimony is to receive Christ and His Father, (Matt. 10:40-41). To receive Christ is to be in agreement and with Christ.

LESSON 72: To reject the God-breathed testimony of these prophets, saints and martyrs is to reject those beloved of God. It is to reject Christ and His Father, (Luke 10:16). To reject Christ is to

be against Christ, (Matt. 12:30). To be against Christ is to be anti-Christ.

LESSON 73: The Beast, his false prophets and church all reject the testimony of God's true prophets, saints and martyrs. They hate them, imprison them, torture them and kill them. The Beast, his false prophets and church are all Antichrist.

LESSON 74: Those professing Christians who reject the testimony of God's true prophets, saints and martyrs agree with the Antichrist. To agree with the Antichrist is to be against Jesus Christ. To be against Jesus Christ is to hate Jesus Christ.

LESSON 75: Therefore, those professing Christians who agree with the Antichrist are not our brothers and sisters in Christ. They hate us, Christ's prophets and Christ. They are members of the Body of Antichrist.

LESSON 76: If we can determine the testimony of God's true prophets, saints and martyrs against the Antichrist, we would have a measuring rod by which we can determine the members of the true Church. The members of the true Church will receive and believe their testimony because it comes from the Spirit of Christ. The members of Antichrist's church are of the spirit of Antichrist and will strenuously oppose the Spirit of Christ, the truth and Christ's witnesses.

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