

Chains of Prophecy

Fundamental Principle #7

Chains of Prophecy

That the word's history from specified dates in the past, the rise and fall of empires, and chronological succession of events down to the setting up of God's everlasting kingdom, are outlined in numerous great chains of prophecy; and that these prophecies are now all fulfilled except the closing scenes.

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It would not be necessary to enter into a lengthy argument to convince the candid that we are living in the last days. By comparing the sure word of prophecy with history and the signs of the times, we see clearly that we are occupying the *last link in those great chains of prophecy which were to reach to the end*; that the leading signs which were to be the precursors of Christ's second coming, and which were to bring us to the last generation,

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have been fulfilled, and that the present signs of the times show conclusively that the great drama of this world's history is about to wind up, and that the Lord is near even at the doors. (See works on the Prophecy of Daniel and on the Signs of the Times, published at the Review Office, Battle Creek, Mich.) (**D.T. Bourdeau**, *Sanctification or Holy Living*, p. 13)

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In no portion of the word of God is this more apparent than in the books of Daniel and the Revelation; and we may well congratulate ourselves on this, for no other parts of that word deal so largely in prophecies that pertain to the closing scenes of this world's history. No other books contain so many **chains of prophecy reaching down to the end**. In no other books is the grand procession of events that leads us through to the termination of probationary time, and ushers us into the realities of the eternal state, so fully and minutely set forth.

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No other books embrace so completely, as it were in one grand sweep, all the truths that concern the last generation of the inhabitants of the earth, and set forth so comprehensively all the aspects of the times, physical, moral, and political, in which the triumphs of earthly woe and wickedness shall end, and the eternal reign of righteousness begin. We take pleasure in calling attention especially to these features of the books of Daniel and the Revelation, which seem heretofore to have been too generally overlooked or misinterpreted. (**Uriah Smith**, *Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 5)

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After commenting on Daniel 2:30:

That the word's history from specified dates in the past, the rise and fall of empires, and chronological succession of events down to the setting up of God's everlasting kingdom, are outlined in **numerous great chains of prophecy**; and that these prophecies are now all fulfilled except the closing scenes. (J. H. Waggoner, *From Eden to Eden*, p. 74)

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Closely connected with the **great prophetic outlines or chains of prophecy**, we find many explicit statements of the determination of the Lord concerning the people and nations of the earth. (J. H. Waggoner, *Refutation of the Doctrine Called The Age to Come*, p. 23)

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... the book of Revelation consists of several lines or chains of prophecy, reaching to the same point, to wit, the coming of Christ, by considering the relation of the various links of the chains to that event we may easily discover the parallels in each. The vision of the sounding of the trumpets reaches to the coming of Christ. Chap. 11:15-19. Chap. 14 reaches to the same time and embraces the same events revealed in chap. 11:15-18. (J. H. Waggoner, *Refutation of the Doctrine Called The Age to Come*, p. 161)

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James White

The book of Daniel contains **chains of prophecy** which reach down to the end of earthly kingdoms, and the Judgment. **Chapters 11 and 12 are one chain**, reaching down to the time when Michael shall stand up, the time of trouble such as never was, and the resurrection of many. Chap. 12:1,2.

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In verse 6, one says to "the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?" The end of the wonders is the close of these **scenes connected with the Judgment**. In the next verse the answer is given by the man clothed in linen, with a most solemn oath, with both hands raised to heaven

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But says Daniel: “I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?” Verse 8. The prophet here makes earnest inquiries relative to the scenes connected with the second advent. Read the angel’s reply: “Go thy way, Daniel; for the words are closed up and sealed **till the time of the end.**” Verse 9. The prophecy of Daniel, which points distinctly to the period of the second advent, was closed up, and sealed, till the time of the end. (James White, *Bible Adventism*, p. 73)

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It is characteristic of the different chains of prophecy, that each succeeding one introduces particulars not furnished in any previously given. The seventh of Daniel, after covering the general field symbolized by the image of chapter ii, instructs us more particularly concerning the development of the little horn, or man of sin.

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In the eighth chapter we are again conducted over a portion of the world's great highway, **with additional particulars concerning** the mighty kingdoms that stand as waymarks along our journey. (James White, *Life Incidents*, p. 47)

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While the book of Daniel has to do with four universal monarchies, Babylon, Persia, Grecia, and Rome, and its **several chains of prophecy** bring us, with wonderful definiteness, to the day of God, the second coming of Christ, and the last judgment, the book of Revelation pertains to the fourth, **Rome, and its several lines of prophecy bring us down, with equal minuteness, to the same point**, and open before us the naked glare of eternal scenes. (James White, *Signs of the Times* {booklet},

p. 24)

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The great object of the book of Revelation seems to be to show the christian traveler his whereabouts on the highway of time. This is faithfully done by the many chains of prophecy in that book, which span the period of the fourth universal empire. Thus we have line upon line, line upon line, that the highway may be definitely marked, each link in these prophetic chains answering as a way-mark. (Uriah Smith, *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, December 11, 1856)

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J. N. Loughborough

Now admitting that the book given by the Father to the Son was the book of the future, and that those events contained in that book were kept secret till the book was opened, the next question would be, Where and when began the breaking off of those seals? You will probably answer, Where John had the vision, recorded in chap.vi. But if that was the case, the events of the first seal were still closed up after they commenced to have their fulfillment.

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The events of the first seal are applied by most commentators as having their commencement with the commencement of the gospel church, when that church went forth in power, their mission being attended by “signs, divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost,” and they, as represented by the rider on the white horse, “went forth conquering and to conquer.”

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But what happened at the time of the giving of this vision that should prevail with the Father, to then and there open the book? That which prevailed with the Father and gave power to open the book, was that the lion of the tribe of Juda (Christ) appeared in the midst of the four beasts, and four and twenty elders, as a lamb slain. We will admit that John had a view of the opening of the first seal as well as the others.

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The events of that seal were then transpiring and were among “the things that are,” which we understand John was commanded to write. I understand that John’s mind was carried back to the commencement of this chain of events, as **his mind was carried back in other chains of prophecy**; for the purpose of shedding light on the prophecy, and to give the commencement of those events. It does not necessarily follow, because John had a vision of the opening of those seals, that none of them were opened till he had had a view of their opening.

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Daniel had a view in chap.7, of the lion with the other three beasts coming up out the sea. But we do not conclude from the fact that Daniel had a view of the coming up of the lion, that Babylon did not rise till Daniel had that vision; but we understand that his attention was carried back to the rise of that kingdom, in order that the student of prophecy may have the whole chain before his mind.

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So we understand in the testimony concerning the seven seals, John's attention was carried back to the first link in the chain of consecutive events in order that the chain may be complete. (J. N. Loughborough, *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, March 19, 1857)

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Uriah Smith

From the considerations thus far offered it is evident that this government [USA] in both of its leading principles, Republicanism and Protestantism, is false to its profession. It is a lamb only in appearance. How wonderfully has this nation thus far answered to the symbol; and what feelings should it create in our bosoms, as point after point we trace it out, and perceive the wonderful harmony.

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Thus another link is added to **the great chains of prophecy** that are leading us down to the end; another great way-mark is set up to show us our position in the world's history; another great evidence that we are right in our calculations of the approaching consummation, and that our hopes and anticipations of a glorious and immediate deliverance of all the faithful, are well founded.












(Uriah Smith, *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, March 26, 1857)

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Behold, we have **numerous chains of prophecy** locating the second advent, all terminating within a few years of the present time. See Dan. ii, vii, viii, ix, xi, xii; Matt. xxiv; 2 Thess. ii; Rev. xii, xiii, etc. (D. M. Canright, *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, April 26, 1864)

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Revelation comes and goes as quickly and as surely as the rest. **Where are we in these great chains of prophecy?**—Down in the close of chapters thirteen and fourteen, just between verses thirteen and fourteen of chapter six. (I. H. Evans, *G.C.B.* October 1901, p. 579)












DANIEL 2		DANIEL 7	DANIEL 8
GOLD	BABYLON	 LION	NONE
SILVER	MEDO-PERSIA	 BEAR	 RAM WITH TWO HORNS
BRASS	GREECE	 LEOPARD	 HE GOAT
IRON	ROME	 FIERCE BEAST	 LITTLE HORN FROM FOUR HORNS
IRON AND CLAY	DIVIDED KINGDOMS 1260 YEARS	 TEN HORNS LITTLE HORN	 LITTLE HORN WAXED GREAT
STONE CUT OUT WITHOUT MAN'S HANDS	INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT	 JUDGMENT SCENE	 CLEANSING OF HEAVENLY SANCTUARY
STONE FILLS WHOLE EARTH	CHRIST'S KINGDOM	KINGDOM GIVEN TO SAINTS	EXECUTIVE JUDGMENT

Some Points Summarized

- Chains of Prophecy link history from specific points to the judgment and the coming of Christ.
- The biblical chains of prophecy help us to know we are in the end of times.
- Daniel and Revelation contain many chains of prophecy but we also see chains in Matthew 24 and 2 Thessalonians 2

Some Points Summarized

- Each succeeding chain of prophecy introduces particulars not furnished in any previously given.
- The chains of prophecy in Revelation begin with the fourth kingdom of the chains of Daniel (Rome in both pagan and papal phases).
- Sometimes these chains reveal events in the past.

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Chain of Prophecy

Daniel 2

- The beginning is with the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar: Daniel 2:31–37
- The Ending is Daniel 2:44, 45 Christ's Kingdom being set up

Chain of Prophecy

Daniel 7

- The beginning is with the kingdom of Babylon: Daniel 7:4
- The Ending is Daniel 7:9–14; 26, 27 The saints take the kingdom

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Daniel 8, 9

- The beginning is with the kingdom of Media Persia. Daniel 8:3; 20
- The Ending is Daniel 8:13, 14, 17, 19 The Judgment

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Daniel 11, 12

- The beginning is with the kingdom of Xerxes, son of Darius Hystaspes. Daniel 11:2
- The Ending is Daniel 12:1, 8–10 Michael Standing up and the end.

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Rev. 2, 3: The Churches

- The beginning is with the church of Ephesus: Revelation 2:1
- The Ending is Laodicea Revelation 3:14

The names of the churches are symbolic of the Christian church in different periods of the Christian era; the number of the churches—seven—indicates completeness and is symbolic of the fact that the messages extend to the end of time, and are enforced today; while the figures used are symbolic of the state of God's professed people,—the wheat developing among the tares; truth standing on its own eternal basis in contrast with error.—
Manuscript 81, 1900, 17, 18. (“Solomon's Reign,” 1900.) (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, p. 372)

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Rev. 5, 6: The Seals

- The beginning is with the Apostolic Church Revelation 6:1, 2
- The Ending is Revelation 6:14–17; 8:1

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Rev. 8–11: The Trumpets

- The beginning is in Revelation 8:7 – The invasion of Rome Empire by the Visigoths
- The Ending is Revelation 10:7–11; 11:15

AD 393			476 528	1449 1453	1840	THE END
FIRST TRUMPET	SECOND TRUMPET	THIRD TRUMPET	FOURTH TRUMPET	FIFTH TRUMPET	SIXTH TRUMPET	SEVENTH TRUMPET
—	—	—	—	FIRST WOE	SECOND WOE	THIRD WOE
Invasion from the north by the GOTHIS	Naval Attack on Italy by the VANDALS	Western Empire invaded by the HUNS	Last emperor dethroned by the HERULI	Conquests of the SARACENS	Conquests of the TURKS	Nations angry God's wrath impending. Mystery of God finished.
ALARIC	GENSERIC	ATTILA	ODOACER	MOHAMMED AND OTHMAN	FOUR SULTANIES	Nations preparing for Armageddon.
DOWNFALL OF WESTERN ROME				DOWNFALL OF EASTERN ROME (Constantinople) (Ottoman power)		DOWNFALL OF THE WORLD

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

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Revelation 12:

The Great Controversy

- The beginning is in Revelation 12:1, 2 –
The Incarnation
- The Ending is Revelation 12:16, 17

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Revelation 13–14

The Mark of the Beast Crisis

- The beginning is in Revelation 13:1–5 –
The Papacy arises from the fallen
kingdoms of Daniel
- The Ending is Revelation 14:17–20