

Book of Zechariah - Introduction

by Kevin E. Hughes

What is a Prophet and Prophecy in the Bible ?

Prophets > are certain **persons of Israel** chosen, set apart, appointed, and sent by **the Lord** to speak for **Him** and to reveal to **His People** current and future events. (Acts 3:25, Jer 1:5-10, Amos 3:7)

Prophecy > is **the Lord** speaking and making **His Word** known, either in a vision, a dream, mouth to mouth, an angel, or openly to be heard by certain chosen **men**, at certain times. (Num 12:6-8, 2 Pet 1:21)

All Prophecy, What the Prophets Declare, Must be Fulfilled

God will accomplish it, **God** will surely do it, **God** will bring it to pass, just as **God** intended so it has happened, just as **He** planned it so it will stand, (Isa 46:10-11, Isa 14:24)
Scripture says, **God** "cannot lie" and that **He** will not change **His** mind (Num 23:19, Titus 1:2).
What **He** has promised, **He** will do. What **He** has spoken, **He** will make it good, (Num 23:19).

Isa 55:10-11

11 So will **My word** be which goes forth from **My mouth**; **It will not** return to **Me** empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Matthew 1:22 Prophecy by Angel to Joseph

21 "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."
22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by **the Lord** through **the prophet**:

We Must: "Believe in all that the Prophets have Spoken !"

Luke 24:25-27

25 And **He** said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that **the prophets** have spoken!
26 "Was it not necessary for the **Christ** to suffer these things and to enter into **His** glory?"
27 Then beginning with **Moses** and with **all the prophets**,
He explained to **them** the things concerning **Himself** in **all the Scriptures**. (in Old Testament)

Q: Should we "believe in all that the prophets have spoken" or Not? **A:**

What the Prophet says, is Not of Man, but of God

- **God** puts **His words** in the prophet's mouth and they speak them, Jer 1:9, Isa 51:16
- "no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will", 2 Pet 1:20-21
- Prophecy is made by "men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God", 2 Pet 1:20-21, Acts 4:25
- Prophecy is "just as the Holy Spirit says", Heb 3:7
- "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet", Acts 28:25
- "Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets", Amos 3:7

Prophets are appointed Watchmen

Watchmen receive messages from **God** and are intermediaries to convey **God's** messages to the people.
Watchmen (prophets) are sent and appointed by **God** to guard and warn the people.

Ezekiel 33:7

7 "Now as for you, son of man (Ezekiel), I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel;
so you will hear a message from My mouth and give them warning from Me. (also Ezek 3:17)

The OT Prophets spoke of: **Jesus' First Coming** > in **Gentleness**

(in **gentleness**, with **salvation**, to **bless all nations**, to be **pierced for our transgression**, to be **resurrected**)

1. **The Messiah** would be the **seed/offspring** of a **woman** (1st Coming) and would crush the head of **Satan** (2nd Coming) (**Gen 3:15, Lk 1:31, Rev 20:1-4, 7-10**).
2. **Messiah** would come from the **seed/offspring** of **Abraham** and would bless all the nations on earth (**Gen 12:3, Matt 1:1**). (1st Coming)
3. **Messiah** would be a “**prophet like Moses**” to whom **God** said **we must listen** (**Deut 18:15, Matt 21:11**).
4. **Messiah** would be **born in Bethlehem** of **Judah** (**Micah 5:2**). (1st Coming)
5. **Messiah** would be **born of a virgin** (**Isa 7:14**). (1st Coming)
6. **Messiah** would **ride into Jerusalem** on a **donkey**, **righteous and having salvation**, **coming with gentleness** (**Zech 9:9-10, Matt 21:1-11**). (1st Coming)
7. **Messiah** would be **pierced for our transgression** and **crushed for our iniquities** (**Isa 53:5, Acts 8:32-33, John 19:34, 37**). (1st Coming)
8. **Messiah** would **die among the wicked** ones but be **buried with the rich** (**Isa 53:9, Matt 27:57-60**).
9. **Messiah** would be **resurrected** from the grave, for **God** would not allow **His Holy One** to suffer decay (**Psalm 16:10, John 28:6-7**). (1st Coming)

The OT Prophets spoke of: **the LORD Jesus' Second Coming** > in **Wrath**

[“the day of **the LORD**”, “the great day of **the Lord**”, and “the day of **the Lord's wrath**”]

(A day of: **Lord's wrath**, **trouble**, **distress**, **destruction**, **desolation**, **darkness**, **gloom**, **clouds**, **darkness**, **battle**, **blood pouring**, **fire**, **Lord** will make end of inhabitants of **the earth**, **Lord** fights **all the nations**.)

1. **Zephaniah 1:14–18**

14 Near is **the great day of the Lord**, Near and coming very quickly;
Listen, **the day of the Lord!** In it the **warrior** cries out bitterly.

15 A day of **wrath** is that day, A day of **trouble** and **distress**, A day of **destruction** and **desolation**,
A day of **darkness** and **gloom**, A day of **clouds** and thick **darkness**,

16 A day of **trumpet** and **battle cry** Against the fortified cities And the high corner towers.

17 **I will** bring **distress** on **men** So that **they** will walk like the blind, (Reason) **Because they** have
sinned against **the Lord**; And **their blood** will be **poured out** like dust And **their flesh** like dung.

18 Neither **their** silver nor **their** gold Will be able to deliver **them** On **the day of the Lord's wrath**;
And **all the earth** will be **devoured** In the **fire** of **His** jealousy, For **He** will make a **complete end**,
Indeed a **terrifying one**, of **all the inhabitants of the earth**.

2. **Joel 1:15**

15 Alas for **the day** ! For **the day of the LORD** is near,
And it will come as **destruction** from **the Almighty**. (Also **Joel 1:16-20**)

3. **Joel 2:1–3**

1 Blow a **trumpet** in **Zion**, And sound an **alarm** on **My** holy mountain!

Let **all the inhabitants** of the land **tremble**, For **the day of the LORD** is coming; Surely **it** is near,

2 A day of **darkness** and **gloom**, A day of **clouds** and thick **darkness**.

As the dawn is spread over the mountains, So there is a great and mighty **people**;

There has never been anything like it, Nor will there be again after it (also **Matt 24:21**)

To the years of many generations.

3 A **fire** consumes before **them** And behind **them** a **flame** burns.

The land is like the garden of Eden before **them** But a **desolate** wilderness behind **them**,

And nothing at all escapes **them**. **Joel 2:1–3**

4. **Zechariah 14:1–3** (Also **Zech 12:8**)

1 Behold, **a day is coming** for **the Lord**.....2 For **I will** gather **all the nations** against **Jerusalem**
to **battle**, and **the city** will be **captured**, the houses **plundered**, the women **ravished**
and half of **the city** **exiled**, but the rest of **the people** will not be cut off from **the city**.

3 Then **the Lord** will go forth and **fight** against **those nations**, as when **He** fights on a **day of battle**.

Q: When did **God** tell Man of **His First Coming** and **His Second Coming** ? **A:**

The OT Prophets spoke of the LORD Jesus Coming > to Reign as King over all the earth
Jesus shall reign and prosper as King over all the earth and execute judgment and righteousness.

1. **Jeremiah 23:5-6**

5 "Behold, **the days are coming** says **the LORD**, "That **I will raise** to **David** a **Branch of righteousness**; a **King** shall **reign** and **prosper**, and **execute judgment** and **righteousness in the earth**.

6 In **His** days **Judah** will be **saved**, and **Israel** will **dwell safely**; now this is **His name** by which **He** will be called: **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

Q: When is **the Lord King** on **Earth** and **Judah** will be **saved**, and **Israel** will **dwell safely**? **A:**

2. **Zechariah 14:9-11**

9 And **the LORD** will be **king** over **all the earth**; in that day **the LORD** will be **the only one**, and **His** name **the only one**. 10 **All the land** will be **changed** into a **plain** from Geba to Rimmon south of **Jerusalem**; but **Jerusalem** will **rise** and remain on **its site**

11 **People** will live in **it**, and there will **no longer be a curse**, for **Jerusalem** will **dwell in security**.

Q: When will **All the land** will be **changed** into a plain and **Jerusalem** will **rise** and remain on **its site**? **A:**

3. **Jer 31:31-33**

31 "Behold, **the days are coming**, says **the LORD**, when **I will** make a **new covenant** with **the house of Israel** and with **the house of Judah**-- 32 "**not** according to **the covenant** that **I** made with **their fathers** in the day that **I** took **them** by the hand to lead **them** out of the land of **Egypt**,

My covenant (Mosaic) which **they** broke, though **I** was a husband to **them**, says **the LORD**.

33 "But this is **the covenant** that **I will** make with **the house of Israel** **after those days**, says **the LORD**: **I will** put **My law** in **their** minds, and **write it** (**law**) on **their** hearts; and **I will** be **their God**, and **they shall** be **My people**, (Also, Ezek 11:19-20, 36:24-28, Zech 12:10, Jer 32:37-41)

Q: Who will **the Lord** Make the **New Covenant** with, in **the days are coming**? **A:**

Prophets spoke of: When the LORD Jesus is Reigning as King over all the earth

- **The LORD Jesus' Government** and **Worship**, in **Jerusalem**, Isa 2:3-5
- World-wide **peace**, blessed with **righteousness** and **justice**, Isa 9:6-7, 11:4-5, 42:3-4, Isa 2:4
- The **government** will rest on **His** shoulders, Isa 9:6
- **His name** will be called **Wonderful Counselor**, **Mighty God**, **Eternal Father**, **Prince of Peace**, Isa 9:6
- **No end** to the increase of **His government** or (increase) of **peace**, Isa 9:7
- **The LORD Jesus** on the **throne** of **David** and over **his kingdom**, to establish **it** and to uphold **it** (**David's Kingdom**) with **justice** and **righteousness**, From **then on** and **forevermore**, Isa 9:7

Prophets spoke of: Judah and Jerusalem, in the last days, when Jesus is Reigning

- Concerning **Judah** and **Jerusalem**, In the last days, Isa 2:1
- the **mountain** of **the house** of **the Lord** and **the house** of **the God** of **Jacob**, Isa 2:2 will be the chief of the **mountains**, raised, and **all nations** will stream to **it**, Isa 2:2
- **Many peoples** will go up to the **mountain**, that **He** may teach **us** concerning **His ways**. For **the law** will go forth from **Zion** and **the word of the Lord** from **Jerusalem**, Isa 2:3
- **The Lord** will **judge** between the nations, And will **render decisions** for many peoples; Isa 2:4
- **The nation of Israel** will be the **prime nation** in the world, Isa 49:22-23, Isa 60:1-60:18, Isa 62:7
- **The glory** of **the Lord** will be over **Mount Zion** and **Jerusalem**, like a canopy, Isa 4:5, Isa 40:5
- "**the earth** will be full of the knowledge of **the Lord**, Isa 11:9

Prophets spoke of: “**times of refreshing**” and “**the period of restoration of all things**”

Acts 3:17-21 Peter speaking to unbelieving **Men** of **Israel**

17 “And now, **brethren**, I (Peter) know that **you** acted in ignorance, just as **your rulers** did also.

18 “But the **things** which **God** **announced beforehand** by the mouth of **all the prophets**, that **His Christ** would suffer, **He** has thus **fulfilled**. (1st Coming)

19 “Therefore **repent** and **return**, so that **your sins** may be wiped away, in order that **times of refreshing** may come from **the presence of the Lord** (2nd Coming);

20 and that **He** may send **Jesus, the Christ** (2nd Coming) appointed for **you**,

21 **whom** heaven must receive **until** **the period of restoration of all things** (2nd Coming)

about which (2nd Coming) **God** spoke by the mouth of His **holy prophets** from ancient time. **Acts 3:17–21**

Q: Who told men of **the period of restoration of all things** ? **A:** See **Acts 3:21**

Q: When was it told men of **the period of restoration of all things** ? **A:** See **Acts 3:21**

Q: Is **the Lord** going to **Destroy** the **Earth** OR **Restore** the **Earth**, when **He** comes again ? **A:**

Land of Israel and the Earth Restored and Time of Peace

- The **land of Israel** will no longer be a place of **desolation**, **Isa 62:3-5**
- “**the fruit of the earth**” will be the pride of **Israel**, **Isa 4:2**
- “**Waters will break forth in the wilderness**,” and the deserts will become **pools of water**, **Isa 35:6b-7**
- Until **the Spirit** is poured out upon **us** from on high, **Isa 32:15**
- And the **wilderness** becomes a **fertile field**, And the **fertile field** is considered as a **forest**, **Isa 32:15**
- Then **justice** will dwell in the wilderness And **righteousness** will abide in the **fertile field**, **Isa 32:16**
- And the work of **righteousness** will be **peace**, **Isa 32:17**
- And the service of **righteousness**, **quietness** and **confidence** forever, **Isa 32:17**
- Then **my people** will live in a **peaceful habitation**, **Isa 32:18**
- And in **secure dwellings** and in **undisturbed resting places**; **Isa 32:18**

Q: When is this **Time of Restoration** and **Peace** of **Land of Israel and the Earth** ? **A:**

People in the Land > will have offspring, be born, will die, and will live long lives

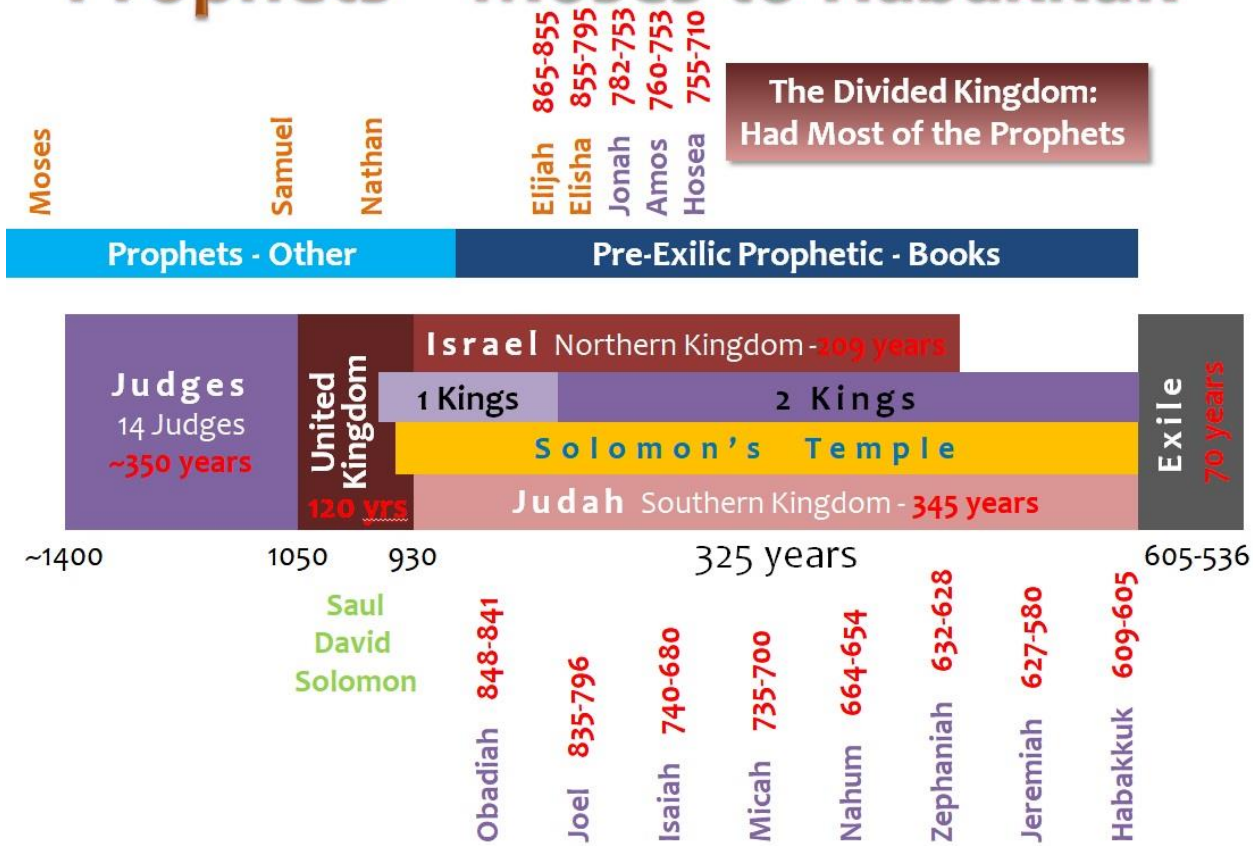
- **People** (in mortal bodies) will have **offspring in the flesh**, **Isa 65:23**
- **People** (in mortal bodies) will have **lifespans**, to “the lifetime of a tree”, **Isa 65:22**
- **People** (in mortal bodies) will **die**, **Isa 65:20**
- “No longer will there be in **it** (the **land**) an **infant** who lives but a few days, Or an **old man** who does not live out **his** days; For **the youth** will die at **the age of one hundred** And the one who does not reach **the age of one hundred** Will be thought accursed”. **Isa 65:20**
- **No People** homeless or hungry, **Isa 65:21-22**
- **No** sickness, or **blind** or **deaf** or **lame** or **dumb**, **Isa 33:24, 35:5-6**
- All **People’s labor** will be redeemed, it will be productive, **Isa 65:23**
- **They** will build **houses** and inhabit **them**; **Isa 65:21**
- **They** will also plant **vineyards** and eat **their** fruit, **Isa 65:21**

Q: When is this **Time** when **people** have long **lifespans**, as long as a Tree, but still Die ? **A:**

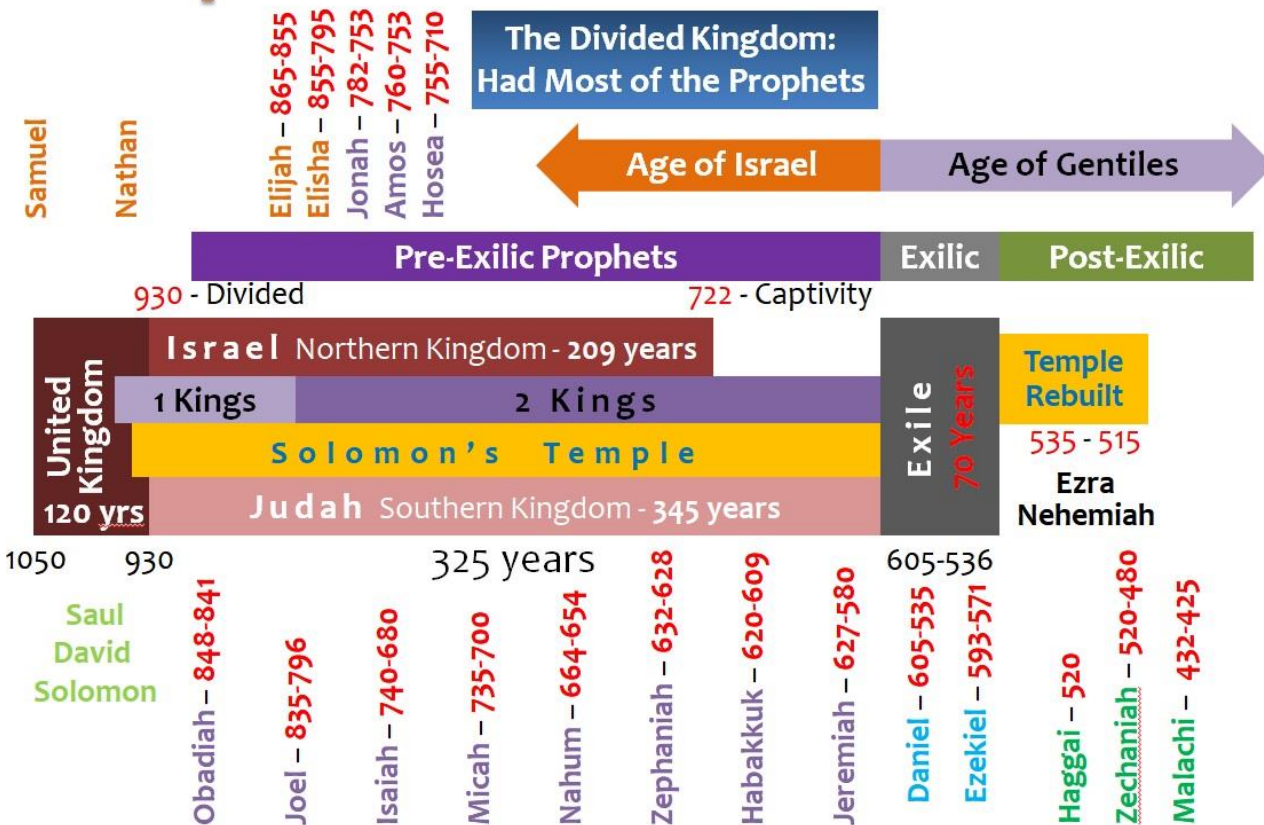
Animals Restored and at Peace

- **Animal kingdom** will be **restored** and **at peace** with **each other** and with **Man**, **Isa 11:6-9, 65:25**
- “The **wolf** and the **lamb** will graze together, and the **lion** will eat straw like the **ox**; **Isa 65:25**
- and dust will be the **serpent’s** food, **Isa 65:25**
- **They** (animals) will do **no evil or harm** in all **My holy mountain**,” says **the Lord**, **Isa 65:25**
- **They** (animals) will **graze and eat together** as vegetarians.

Prophets – Moses to Habakkuk



Prophets – Obadiah to Malachi



OT History - After Exile to Herod the Great

- I. **Israel's** Return from **70 year Exile**, now under **Persian Rule**, **536BC**
 - A. Exiles Return, by Decree of **Cyrus**, under **Zerubbabel**, **536BC**
 - 1. Rebuild and establish the **Altar, Sacrifices, and Temple**
 - B. Prophet **Haggai**, **520BC**
 - C. Prophet **Zechariah**, **520BC** to **480BC**
 - D. Story of **Esther**, during **Ahasuerus** (Xerxes), **482BC-473BC**
 - E. Exiles Return, by Decree of **Artaxerxes**, for Spiritual Renewal, under **Ezra**, **458BC**
 - F. Exiles Return, to repair **Jerusalem's Walls and City**, under **Nehemiah**, **444BC**
 - G. Prophet **Malachi**, **450BC** to **400BC**
 - H. Approx. **400 years** of Silence Begins, **400BC**
 - I. **Medo-Persian Empire**, **539 BC** to **331 BC**, Dan 2:39, Dan 7:5
 - J. **Alexander the Great's Empire**, in Asia and Egypt, **336 BC** to **168 BC**, Dan 2:39, Dan 7:6
 - 1. **Seleucid Greek Empire**, in Babylon and Asia, **312 BC** to **63 BC**
 - 2. **Ptolemaic Greek Empire**, in Egypt during the Hellenistic period, **305BC** to **30 BC**
 - K. **Roman Empire** Begins, in **168 BC**, Dan 2:40, Dan 7:7
 - 1. **Seleucid Greek**, Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) persecutes **Jews**, **175BC** to **164BC**
 - L. The **Maccabees Jewish** rebel warriors who took control of **Judea**, part of the **Seleucid Empire**, **They** founded the **Hasmonean Dynasty**, which ruled from **167BC** to **37BC**, being a fully independent kingdom from about **110BC** to **63 BC**.
 - M. The installation of **Herod the Great** as King in **37BC** made **Judea** a **Roman client state** and marked the end of the **Hasmonean dynasty**.

After Exile - Gentile Kingdoms

NO Kingdom of Israel

Age of the Gentiles, **Luke 21:24**

586 BC to **Second Coming of Christ**



Daniel's - Gentile Kingdoms

1st Babylonian Empire
605 - 539 BC

Daniel 7:4



2nd Medo-Persian Empire
539 - 531 BC

Daniel 7:5



3rd Grecian Empire
531 - 168 BC

Daniel 7:6



4th United Roman Empire
168 BC - 476 AD

Daniel 7:7



King Nebuchadnezzar
Head Fine Gold,
Dan 2:37-38
Rule Over All the Earth

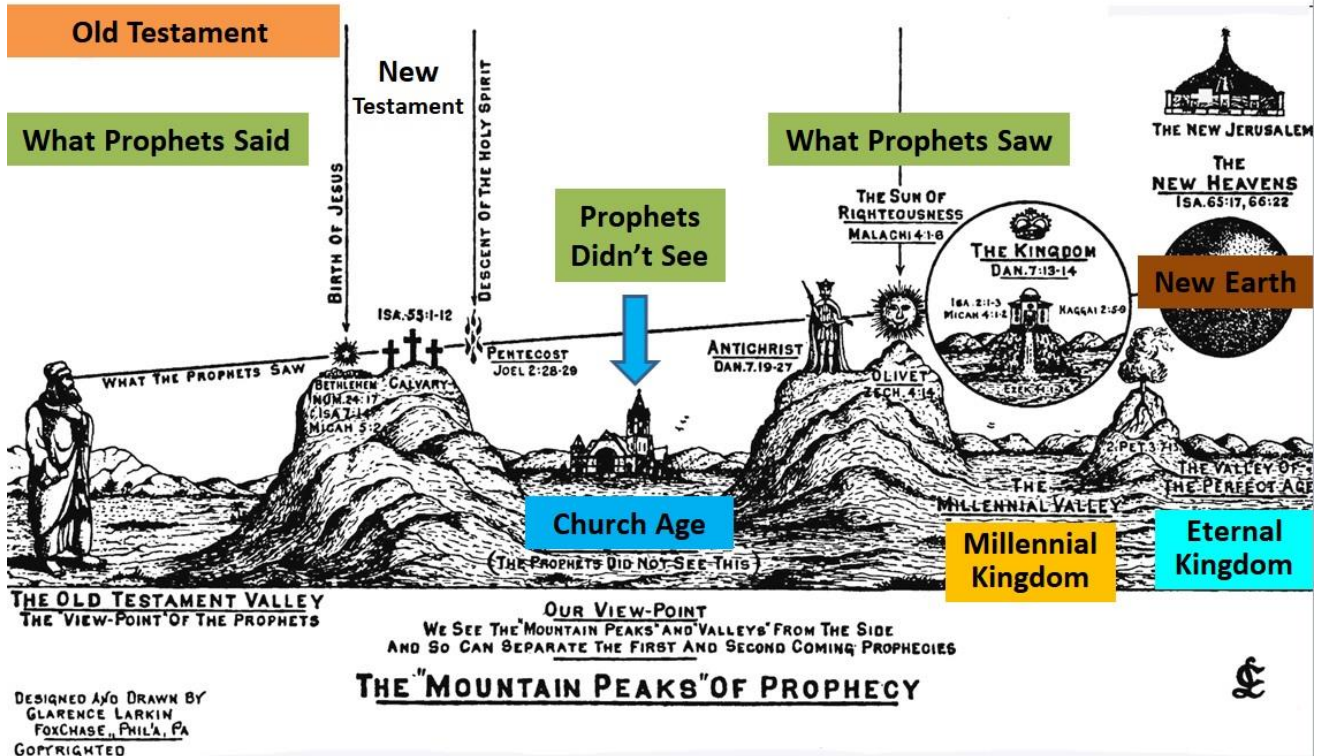
2nd Kingdom
Breast - Arms Silver,
Dan 2:37-38

3rd Kingdom - Rule Earth
Belly - Thighs Bronze,
Dan 2:39

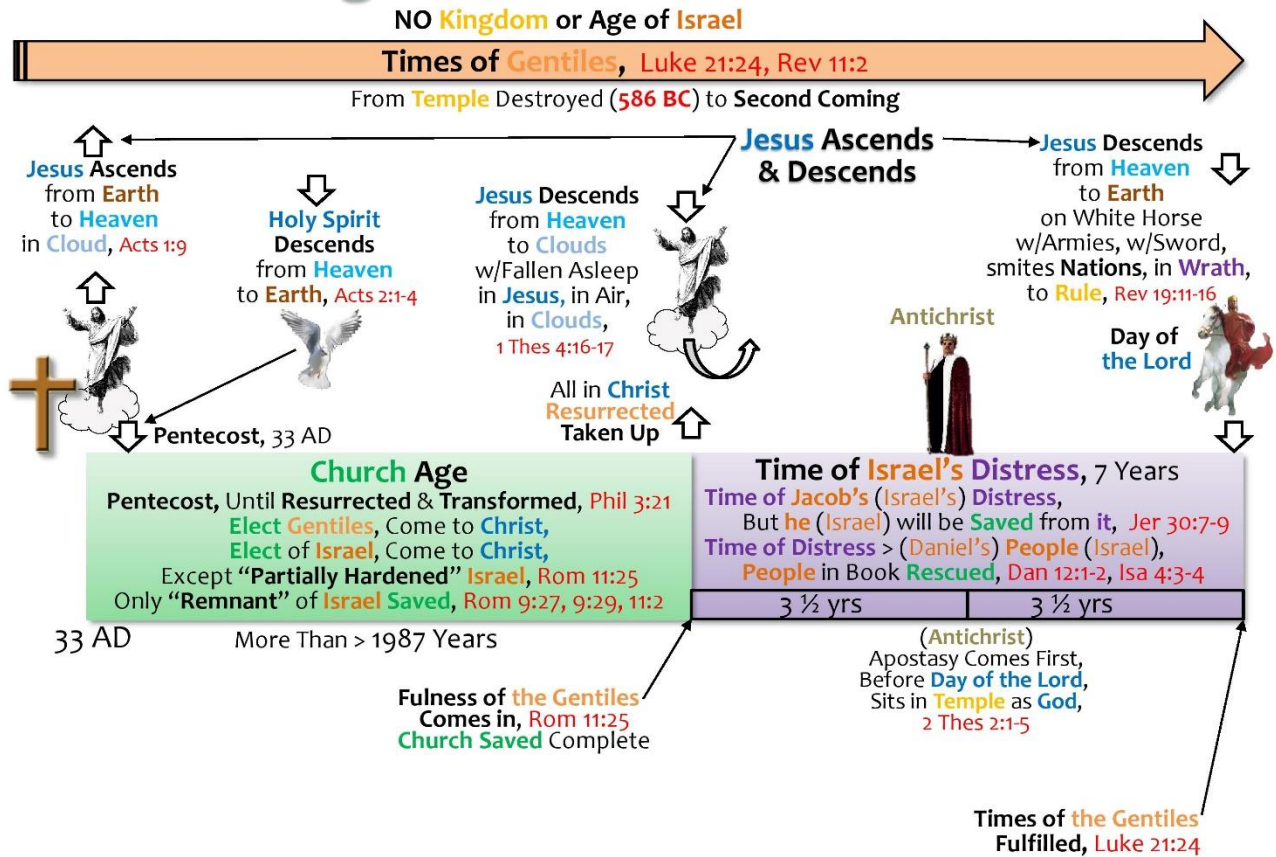
4th Kingdom
Legs of Iron,
Dan 2:35, 40
Kingdoms Crushed

Feet of Iron - Clay,
Crushed by Stone,
Dan 2:34

What the Prophets Saw



Church Age – Time of Israel's Distress



Time of Israel's Distress – Kingdom Age

