

# Prophecy Course Outline

Instructor: D. McDonald

Objectives and overview:

This course will explore prophetic themes in the Bible, with a focus on events in the books of Daniel and Revelation with other relevant scriptures, the importance of a relationship with God, the plan of salvation, and the story of the Sabbath. Students will be motivated to allow God to transform their characters to reflect the character of God and to embrace the Sabbath more fully as they see how the Sabbath enhances our relationship with God. They will understand why and how Satan tried to prevent us from experiencing these beautiful opportunities. Students will also be motivated to adhere to Biblical teachings about Christ as they see how Satan, as in the past, will attempt to destroy the Sabbath in the future. Students will be encouraged to trust in God to guide, provide, and protect them now and in the future.

Daniel 2 and 7; Revelation 7, 12-22; and the Three Angels' Messages will be the center of our focus in 2022-2023. We will also explore Spirit of Prophecy and the last chapters of The Great Controversy.

This course includes interesting stories which occurred in the New and Old World that impacted the Christian world and are fulfillments of Bible prophecy. After establishing a foundational knowledge of the historical events of prophecy, students will study what God has revealed about the future, and how these events will affect the people of God. It is our prayer that faith will be deepened as we contemplate how God wants to save us, to provide for us, and to deliver us.

Duration:

The course will be conducted for one hour each Friday at 12 p.m. EST (1 p.m. CST), except during summer vacation and holidays.

Format:

The style of each class is interactive, with primarily oral interactive assessments and reviews, using the Bible, illustrative slides, history, short videos, and discussions. We will use online methods of communication such as Zoom and Google Classroom. Attendance via Zoom is required.

Content:

## I. DANIEL AND REVELATION STUDY

- Daniel 2 – Brief Review – Nebuchadnezzar's Dream.
  - Review the story of the major world empires, followed by God's kingdom.
- Daniel 7 – Notice the reiteration of the story of the major world empires and other parallels between Daniel 2 and Daniel 7.
  - Review the importance and joys of having a relationship with God, how He desires to write His law of love on our hearts, and how the Sabbath is central to a delightful relationship with God.
    - Importance and joys of having a relationship with God is underscored.
    - God's love is the basis for the 10 commandments:
    - First six commandments show love to God; last four commandments show love to each other.
    - Sabbath – consideration of how it enhances our relationship with God
      - Bible and Spirit of Prophecy promises of blessings resulting from Sabbath observance.
    - God is our Source of love, which is the basis for the 10 commandments
      - Love to God and each other
      - Sabbath – a wonderful relationship opportunity for blessings of
        - Sanctification, light, health, strength (Isaiah 58, spirit of prophecy promises)
        - Sabbath observance in many countries, including British Isles and Africa
      - Satan's efforts to take away:
        - Blessings of the Sabbath
        - Efforts to change the commandments ("think to change times and law").
- World Empires Story – Overview of Daniel 2, 7, 8, and 11-12, with a focus on Daniel 7
  - Parallels between the chapters will be explored.
  - Students will understand that the same World Empire story is being retold with more details (build and expand), symbolized by metals, then beasts, then a ram and goat, etc.
- Parallel Comparison – Revelation 7, 12-14 and Daniel 7 connections will be researched and compared (i.e., same ten-horned beast).
  - Sabbath
    - Sabbath is a sign, seal, and mark
    - History of the Sabbath
      - Sabbath observance in the first century (book of Acts; historians)
      - Sabbath observance in each subsequent century in countries around the world
      - Video – Who Changed the Sabbath? (segments)
    - Sunday – a mark of Rome's authority
      - Constantine's Sunday law of 321
      - History of elevation of Sunday, suppression of Sabbath



- Future issues of Sabbath vs. Sunday
  - God's counsel on how to prepare. \*
  - God's promises to care for His people. \*
  - God's final deliverance. \*
    - \* Great Controversy and Spirit of Prophecy books will also be referenced.
- Symbols
    - Beasts, horns, winds, etc.
    - Time periods:
      - Times and prophetic day = literal year (Ezekiel 4:6; Number 14:34; Luke 13; Daniel and Revelation)
      - 1260 days - calculation and events
      - Lunar calendar described in flood account (Genesis 7-8)
  - Story Time! Major dates, major events:
    - What happened historically in 476? 538? 1798?
    - Stories with details will be analyzed for prophetic relevance:
      - End of Caesars, fall of Roman empire, imperial rule replaced by ecclesiastical rule.
      - 10 tribes became self-ruling countries; three tribes were plucked.
      - Romulus Augustus deposed by Odoacer; Justinian and his letter; Vigilius vs. Silvarius (two popes) vying for power; Berthier, Napoleon and his code of laws separating church and state; etc.
- Revelation – Chapters 11 to 22 will be referenced heavily throughout the course as we study the book of Daniel, especially:
    - Revelation 12
      - Symbols: dragon, beast, woman (God's pure church, Waldensians, etc.), man child, etc. – explanations and stories.
    - Revelation 13
      - Symbols: ten-horned beast seen also by Daniel; mark of beast (review who beast is, future Sunday legislation); etc.



## II. THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES

- Revelation 14
  - The messages of the three angels will be explored after an understanding of Daniel 2, Daniel 7, and Revelation 12 - 13 is established.
  - God's counsel to and care for the faithful will be emphasized.
- Three Angels' Messages for Kids Curriculum will be used (relevant portions).
- Students will use journals to record their thoughts during our exploration of the three angels' messages.



## III. Other prophecies and related Spirit of Prophecy explanations will be incorporated and explored as time permits:

- Great Controversy (last chapters); Last Day Events; Country Living
- Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21)
- Psalms, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zechariah, Malachi, etc.
- Focus will be on God's promises to save, provide, and deliver His faithful people.