

## Understanding God's Plan for the Ages

### 4.3.16

**Chart** by: Jeff Lane, Scott Johnson, and Kelly Robinson. "Charting the End Times" by Tim LaHaye and Thomas Ice. Harvest House Publishers. "A picture is worth a 1000 words."

### Isaiah 46:8-13

8 "Remember this, and show yourselves men; Recall to mind, O you transgressors. 9 Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,' 11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man who executes My counsel, from a far country. indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it. 12 "Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted, who are far from righteousness: 13 I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off; My salvation shall not linger. And I will place salvation in Zion, for *Israel My glory.*

The most powerful enemy of true Christianity is the allegorizing of Scripture. This began in the 5<sup>th</sup> century which ushered in the Dark ages, an 1100 year period of time during which the Bible was kept from the common people. Then in the 16th century the printing press, through God's providence, enabled the Bible to be put into the hands of the common people.

#### Note: Allegory / Allegorizing

A popular form of literature in which a story points to a hidden or symbolic parallel meaning. Certain elements, such as people, things, and happenings in the story, point to corresponding elements in another realm or level of meaning. The closer the resemblances between the two realms, the more detailed is the allegory. The best allegories are interesting, coherent stories in: their own right and through the story provide new insight into the realm they depict (e.g., *Pilgrim's Progress* and *The Narnia Chronicles*).

Allegorical interpretation, sometimes called allegorizing, is interpretation of texts that treats them as allegorical, whether or not their author intended them to be allegories. Allegorical interpretations even of true allegories can be misleading, either in incorrectly identifying the corresponding elements in the referent or in identifying corresponding elements where no correspondence was originally intended. Either allegorizing error usually detracts from the coherence of the message the author intended. Such unwarranted allegorizing was prevalent in the later church fathers and often ludicrous in gnostic circles.

### Our Lord Jesus Christ is the "spirit of prophecy"

#### Revelation 19:10

And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

#### 2 Peter 1:19

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

#### 2 Peter 1:20-21

20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

#### "Prophecy is history written in advance."

A prophet is defined as "one who speaks on behalf of another," a prophecy is the message that he conveys. Bible prophecy is God's infallible message to man, spoken or written by prophets specially chosen by God. Today, many people think prophecy deals only with predictions about the future, but that is not the case. In a broad sense, prophecy includes any aspect of God's revelation to man as recorded in the 66 books of the Bible.

28% of the Bible is prophetic. Of the 1000 Bible prophecies ½ have been fulfilled.

#### 2 Timothy 2:14-16

14 Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 16 But shun profane and idle babblings (empty chatter), for they will increase (lead) to more ungodliness.