**DANIEL’S PROPHETIC TERMS**

**When you are dealing with prophetic scriptures, it is essential to recognize the use of symbolism, metaphors, figures, etc. One of the rules of prophecy which we offered is this use of symbolism. This means, therefore, that many terms, expressions and graphic illustrations will be used to convey the prophetic vision being dealt with. This is certainly true of Daniel’s prophecy, where there are expressions and terms which are not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible. There are also terms used to illustrate a point which is found elsewhere, particularly the book of Revelation. Because of these things, we felt that it would be helpful to prepare a listing of some of these prophetic expressions, along with their definition, to be a guide to their application. That is what this lesson is about.**

**They are as follows.**

**1. HOST OF HEAVEN. Make a distinction here between the expression, “host of heaven” and simply “host”. At the very mentioning of the term “host of heaven”, orthodox theology for some unknown reason, automatically thinks of “angels”, “cherubs”, “angelic choirs”, and other celestial beings purporting to dwell in a city in the sky, or in that brighter world above. Don’t try to find scripture supporting that concept because there are none. A good place to start identifying this term is at the creation, Gen. 2:1. There the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. This refers to the actual created elements of the sky, such as the sun, moon and stars. As you pursue this thought in the Bible, the next use of the term, “host of heaven”, is Det. 4:19. Here it specifically describes the sun, moon and stars, and is an injunction against worshipping them. Then look up: Det. 17:3; II Kgs. 21:3 & 5; II Kgs. 23: 45; II Chron. 33:3-5; Zeph. 1:5 and Acts 7:42. Without exception, this host of heaven is a reference to the idolatrous worship of the sun, moon and stars. From the earliest of times, man has worshipped the creation rather than the creator. Israel was guilty of this also. The Babylonians, Persians, Grecians, and especially the Romans worshipped numerous gods, beginning with the sun, moon and stars. Their list of gods is both numerous and would be laughable if it were not so pitiful.**

**Dan. 8:10, we are told that the little horn waxed great to the host of heaven. Then it says it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground. This “host of heaven” refers to the idolatrous worship of the sun, moon and stars. It also refers to the elevation of the little horn to a high and lofty position and thereby cast down some of the “host” that was elevated before him.**

**2. HOST.**

**Dan. 8:10,ll,12, and 13. A host means: any army; a large company; a power; or, as in Dan. 8, it refers to the same “host of heaven”, the sun, moon, and stars. More specifically it refers to a “host” of gods, whether in the sky or on the earth.**

**3. PRINCE OF THE HOST.**

**Highest level of idol gods. In Roman times, this could refer to the “greatest of the gods”; the emperor; or to the “Pontifex Maximus”. Since the one use of this (Dan. 8:11) refers to the little horn magnifying himself “even to the prince of the host”, and by identifying Justinian as the little horn, it suggests the elevation of Justinian both as emperor of Rome as well as his elevation to a status commensurate to the “Holy See” of Rome.**

**4. STARS CAST DOWN.**

**The casting down of pagan gods; paganism; and/or rulers over dominions conquered by the little horn.**

**5. DAILY SACRIFICE TAKEN AWAY.**

**The elimination of pagan worship; pagan gods; pagan temples; pagan priests; and all of the regular sacrifices associated with them which were carried on regularly in the entire Roman Empire. There was not a month in the entire year in which there was not a great festival to the gods, often lasting for many days. The complete outlawing of anything relating to pagan worship was universally accomplished by Justinian under the issuance of the “Justinian Code” of laws. In fact, Theodosius, in about 380 AD, had made a serious effort at the elimination of paganism during his reign. However the enforcement of it was not universal until the time of Justinian. In addition to the outlawing of paganism, Justinian also passed laws making the “Christian” religion (now thoroughly pagan within its practice) the religion of the empire, with all other religious liberties of any kind completely banned with severe penalties.**

**6. HIS SANCTUARY CAST DOWN.**

**Essentially the same as #5 above, that is, the elimination of the culture, observance, legality and “sanctuary” for paganism. Sanctuary does not have to refer to a “religious building”. The United States is thought of as a “sanctuary” for politically oppressed people from all over the world who come here seeking liberty under our laws and ways of life. The Roman world was a sanctuary for religion of any kind until laws were passed changing that status. It was a place (sanctuary) for gods of any kind or imagination which were worshipped in whatever way people chose. This “sanctuary” was cast down; i.e., all pagan temples throughout the empire were either destroyed or converted to churches, hospitals and such like.**

**THE DAILY SACRIFICE.**

**This does not refer to the Jewish system of animal sacrifices, carried on daily within the temple, for several reasons, including: (a) this daily sacrifice is said to be cast down by the little horn which we have identified as Justinian; (b) the time frame associated with the daily sacrifice will not reconcile with the Jewish sacrificial system; (c) the surrounding text and context relating to the daily sacrifice does not relate to the Jewish system; (d) and the absence of anything in history relating it to the Jewish system.**

**This daily sacrifice is mentioned in Daniel 8:11,12, 13; 11:31, and 12:11. I propose that this daily sacrifice refers to the regular, universal, proliferation and saturation of an innumerable list of gods, along with the idolatrous, abominable practices associated with them, that made up a major portion of the daily life of every citizen of the empire. Not only was it an individual practice and devotion, the official, public life of Rome itself was oriented towards this daily practice of the worship of gods; i.e., the “host of heaven”. If this is not the meaning of the “daily sacrifice”, then there is no history or answer as to what or when anyone ever took away the daily sacrifice, and the prophecy is either not fulfilled or meaningless.**

**8. CAST DOWN SOME OF THE HOST AND STARS TO THE GROUND.**

**This refers to the “stars”, constellations in the political heavens and not to the stars at night in the sky. It could have more than one application. Justinian cast down three kings of the barbarians in his restoration of the western empire. Also, it could refer to the casting down of the “stars”, gods, host of heaven of the sun, moon and stars of paganism, which Justinian also accomplished.**

**9. ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION.**

**This is not the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel concerning his own people as recorded in Dan. 9:27. This is the abomination of desolation set up by the laws of Justinian, vesting all religion in the then “orthodox religion”, namely, the Roman Catholic church, under the authority of the “Holy See”, or papal dominion. It includes the laws, practices, tyranny, persecution and the total denial of the open word of God to every man, all of which were authorized in the Code of Justinian.**

**On the one hand, Justanian’s code of laws, absolutely forbade any form of pagan practice or other freedom of religious activity outside the “orthodox church”, which alone was the state religion. On the other hand it aided, facilitated, endorsed and protected a kind of Christianized paganism. There were many evidences of this “evolving” of a Christianity that was influenced by and saturated with the former pagan ways, worship and devotions. Edward Gibbon, in his book on “The Decline And Fall Of The Roman Empire”, P.69, Vol. 2, states that: “The sublime and simple theology of primitive Christians was gradually corrupted, and the Monarchy of heaven, already clouded with metaphysical subtleties, was degraded by the introduction of a popular mythology which tended to restore the reign of polytheism”.**

**In addition, Gibbon presents a compelling portrait of the transfer of the countless gods of former pagan worship, into the lives, homes and churches of the Christians by the fourth century and thereafter, in the form of the worship of martyred saints. By the time of Justinian, the church was filled with relics, worship of saints, pagan doctrines, mythology, superstitions, festivals, drunkenness, an order of priests, all under the control of the “Holy See” of Rome, the supreme pontiff, which in and of itself was also a transplant from former pagan hierarchy. And the word of God was suppressed, rejected, outlawed from the common man, and buried beneath the rubble of dark-age tyranny and abominations. One of the express laws of Justinian was the prohibition against any form of public communication, study or promulgation of any teaching of the Bible, other than through the “reigning religion” and its hierarchy of accepted priests. This was an abominable corruption that actually began brewing after the age of the apostles and accelerated until the time of Justinian, who made it the law of the empire. This “abomination of desolation” is spoken of in Dan. 8:13; 11:31; and 12:11. It began with the marriage of the empire and the church under Justinian in 529 AD, and lasted until the overthrow of the yoke of the “Holy Roman Empire” at the end of the 18th century. More about this ending when we get to Revelation.**

**11. HORNS.**

**Horns used in Daniel (and Revelation) when described as a part of a “beast”, represent smaller divisions of a civil power, or a specific ruler of a civil power. An example of this is Dan. 8:20-21. The ram with two horns represents the two elements of the Persian Empire, and the goat with the one notable horn represents the first king of the Grecian Empire, Alexander the Great.**

**12. BEASTS.**

**Beasts are used as a symbol of a civil power or empire. An example of this is the lion, bear, leopard, etc., which represent great empires.**

**13. “TIME OF THE END”.**

**End time, or last time. As used in Daniel, a dispensational segment of time allotted to the process of a vision and its historical time frame. Additionally, it relates to the last dispensation of divine purposes or the church age. Thus the “end time” or “last time” refers to the age of the church.**

**14. CLEANSING OF THE SANCTUARY.**

**This expression is found once in Dan. 8:14, and must, therefore, relate to the elements and context of the vision being described there. It would be easy to define this as some point when the “church” (sanctuary) was cleansed (or changed and reformed). And to be sure, this could be a distinct element of this cleansing. For example, if the country today was cleansed of its sinful, materialistic, relativistic and immoral condition, the church would certainly have to lead the way within its own ranks. In this one instance where this expression, “cleansing of the sanctuary”, is found, it is stated as some process that will occur at the end of the 2300 days. The 2300 days is the time allotted to the vision of “the daily sacrifice and the transgression of desolation”. These two conditions we have previously defined as representing: (1) the polytheistic, pagan, idolatrous, morally corrupt religion of the empire; and, (2) the spiritually, morally, doctrinally unbiblical religious system known as the Holy Roman Empire.**

**Therefore the cleansing of the sanctuary is an event that purges the world and the church of the power, control, tyranny and influence of both of these conditions. That event occurred at the end of the 18th century, when the Holy Roman Empire was overthrown and a new day of spiritual freedom in the gospel came about. This new day came about by the preaching of the word of God and a pure faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This does not mean that sin, corruption and idolatry were completely eliminated from all society. It means that its yoke has been broken which held people in religious bondage for centuries; freedom breaks out; salvation by faith in the pure word of God is restored and the tyranny of the dark ages is past.**

**15. PROPHETIC TIME.**

**a. Dan. 7:25. Time, times and dividing of times. This translates into: 1 yr.; 2yrs.; and ½ yr., of prophetic time. This is the same time frame as 1260 days or 42 months. In this verse it begins in 529 and ends in 1789. More about this when we get to Revelation.**

**b. Dan. 12:7. This is the same time frame as above.**

**c. Dan. 9:24. 70 Weeks = 490 prophetic years. They begin in 457 BC, and end at 33 AD.**

**d. Dan. 8:13. 2300 days = 2300 years. This time frame runs from a time in the Persian Empire (511 B.C.) to the end of the Holy Roman Empire. It covers the time of the dominance of the “daily sacrifice” and the “abomination of desolation”.**

**e. Dan. 12:11. 1290 days = 1290 years, beginning when the daily sacrifice was taken away in 529, thus extending until 1819.**

**f. Dan. 12:12. 1335 days = 1335 years, beginning in 529.**

**An important point to remember about any of the time elements mentioned in prophecy is that it must be confined to the functions of the prophecy or vision to which it is assigned. It cannot be arbitrarily removed from the specific text, context or activity of which it is a part. It is also important to remember that when you are setting a specific time or date, such as “529”, that great events don’t just automatically begin at “8:00 O’clock” one morning. There will be overlapping events that precede and maybe also follow the date given. But the date given should have a definite significance in order to qualify as a meaningful bench-mark for the event it applies to.**