

## **The Language of Prophecy (Part 1)**

We do want to welcome you to this 'HIS VOICE THROUGH THE WEB'. It is once again 'LIGHT IN THE EVENING TIME.' Be blessed with it and remember, PASS IT ON TO OTHERS that it might be made plain upon the tables (of their hearts) so that as they read, they too might run with it. Other writings have been posted on the Kingdomlife Website, so we encourage you to visit that website [www.kingdomlife.com](http://www.kingdomlife.com) and be blessed. Pray for Brother Bill Gorton also as the Spirit of God uses him to direct the affairs of that website.

We give thanks to the Lord for giving us such opportunity to bring to His people matters that pertain to His divine plans for His church and the whole of the human race. In this meditation, we shall be examining some signs and symbols used in the book of Revelation. We will be dealing with only five signs and symbols. As mentioned in the last meeting, this is "LANGUAGE OF PROPHECY - (Part 1)".

Our examination is intended to serve as an additional aid to understanding the meditation in the latter part of the book of Revelation.

In the message "Come Up Hither", we are assisted to come to a heavenly position to see things which must shortly be, things which must come to pass hereafter. And, we see two contrasting pictures/imageries that show what will be the outcome of those who follow the Lamb in faithfulness, and of those who will not allow the word of God to influence their lifestyles. Revelation 1:1

"The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John."

In the third verse, we are told that a blessing is placed upon those who read this book and those who hear the words of the prophecy of this book. There is no mystery about it. I invite you into this exciting search of the scriptures to discover to yourself, in all clarity, what God is speaking to His people today. Note that the

words are sent principally to the Lord's people, and we must all hear it, in Jesus' name.

We shall be examining five symbols, the first is the 'STAR', the second is the 'SUN', the third is the 'MOON', (these three shall be taken together). Then, the fourth of these five symbols is the 'SEA'; and the fifth is the symbol of the 'BEAST'.

Recall that Joseph, the eleventh son of Jacob, had certain dreams, which he told to his parents and his brothers. We will just take the second of these dreams. In Genesis 37, it was recorded that Joseph had this dream in which he saw the 'SUN', the 'MOON' and the eleven 'STARS' bowing down to him. We know that the brothers had an interpretation; the parents also knew the meaning of his dream. It is quite interesting that when we come to Revelation 12, we meet these three symbols again: a woman clothed with the 'SUN', standing upon the 'MOON', and having a crown of twelve 'STARS' upon her head.

Now, what was the interpretation given to the dreams that Joseph had?

We are told that the father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream that thou has dreamed? Shall I and thy mother, and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? Will you indeed rule over us?" So, in that dream, the 'SUN' stood for the person of Jacob, the 'MOON' stood for the person of Joseph's mother, while the eleven 'STARS' stood for the eleven brothers.

Now, in Genesis 1, we are told that God made two great lights: the 'SUN' as the greater light and the 'MOON' as the lesser light. The greater light (the sun) was to rule the day, and the lesser light (the moon) was to rule the night. They were to divide between light and darkness. When we consider this in the light of the interpretation which Jacob gave to Joseph's dream, we come to the understanding that the 'SUN' stands for the father in his capacity to give light, and separate between light and darkness. The 'MOON', from what we know naturally, receives light from the 'SUN' and reflects it. In the seventeenth verse, we are told, ".and He made the 'STARS' also.". And we know that the 'STARS' also shine light.

Summing up what we have discovered in the first reference to

Genesis

37and Genesis 1, we may say that the 'SUN' represent the Father figure in His capacity to give Light (Life). The 'MOON' represents the Mother figure, in her capacity to receive Life (Light) and to reflect (birth) the same. The 'STARS' represent the capacity to emit light particularly in the night season.

In Numbers 24:17, Balaam, in his open vision says, ".I shall see him, but not now: there shall come a 'STAR' out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab." And,

Bible scholars agree that the 'STAR' referred to is Jesus. In Revelation 22:16, we know that Jesus Christ is called the bright and morning 'STAR'. In II Peter 1:19, He is referred to as the Day 'STAR'. Again in Revelation 2:28, we are told that one of the rewards of the overcomer is that he would be given the morning 'STAR'. So, it is clear to us that the 'STAR' refers to ruling functions, governmental and highly developed spiritual graces.

Jesus

in His message to the seven churches was seen holding the seven 'STARS' in His right hand, and He said, ".the seven 'STARS' represents the angels of the seven churches.". We touched on that in the message "Come Up Hither". We noted that the angels are those who exercise spiritual leadership in the midst of the various churches.

Please turn with me to Psalm 19, a chapter we will be referring to again in another connection. Here we find that the figure of the 'SUN' and that of the Bridegroom are associated. We are told that the words of life create an environment for the Son of God to tabernacle Himself. He is said to be as a Bridegroom coming out of His chambers. In Revelation 12, we see a woman clothed with the 'SUN'. And it is clear from other scriptures that the woman is the church: the bride of Christ. We know that the 'SUN' is Jesus; the quickening Spirit, in His capacity as Life-giver, imparting life into the woman, who receives seed of Him and give birth to a life over which death has no power. This is said by way of introduction. We will deal with it more fully when treating Revelation 12.

Now, in Isaiah 60, we see two contrasting verses. The first says ".the 'SUN' shall no longer be thy light by day; neither for

brightness shall the 'MOON' give light unto thee." (verse 19). In the first reference, the natural sources of light: the 'SUN' and the 'MOON' are being referred to. But, in the second part of the verse which says, ".but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.", the spiritual equivalence of these two great lights are referred to. Christ, the living word is the 'SUN', the scriptures in its capacity to reflect the light of Jesus Christ, is the 'MOON'. We call the 'SUN' the Logos, using terms that are familiar to us, and the 'MOON' Rhema. In the picture that we see in Revelation 12, the woman was standing on the good of God's word, the covenant that Jesus sealed with His blood. In fact, Galatians 4 tells us that the new covenant can be regarded as a woman. And the figure of the 'MOON' represents the scriptures; the old and the new covenants in their capacity to reflect the person, power and purpose of the Son of God.

Let us pursue the matter of the 'STARS' a little bit further. What would the eleven 'STARS' mean? You remember that the twelve sons of Jacob were called Patriarchs. That is, they were the beginning of the twelve tribes of Israel. They were the twelve patriarchs around which the nation of Israel was built. So, the twelve 'STARS' in Revelation 12 would stand for the twelve apostles, those men who by their ministries, together with the Lord Jesus, constituted the nursing fathers of the New Testament church. We are, of course, just gathering this information to help us in a future date.

Two other things need mentioning in relation to 'STARS' in prophetic symbolism. The first is that in Revelation 9:1, 8:10-11, we read of a 'STAR' falling down from heaven. What will a fallen 'STAR' represent? Remember that the church is seen as seated with Christ in the heavenly places. Those within the church who have attained to the estate of the five-fold ministry can be said to be 'STARS' in the heavens of God. The church in the time of preparation of God's heaven. Although each believer is positionally a 'STAR' in that

heaven, ordained to shine forth the light of God to the dark world, those in the church that stand in the place of spiritual ministries are, strictly speaking, referred to as 'STARS' in prophetic scriptures. Remember Revelation 1, Christ was shown holding the seven 'STARS' in His right hand.

The fallen 'STAR' then will represent someone who has been brought by grace to the estate of ministry in the church, and who by reason of unfaithfulness has lost contact with God, and has begun to live like an ordinary man. In Revelation 8:11, we are told that the fallen 'STAR' is called wormwood. Wormwood, we are told, stands for bitterness. Hence, it is said that the waters were made bitter by the wormwood. A ministry that is supposed to bring life to the Lord's people brought bitterness. And just as the bitter water will bring death, so will the influence of the fallen ministry bring death to those who are exercised under it.

Furthermore, let us consider the imagery of a wandering 'STAR' as revealed in Jude 1:13. What would a wandering 'STAR' mean? By analogy, we know that as there are wandering 'STARS', there are also fixed 'STARS'. In Revelation 12, we are shown a dragon also in the heavens, the very sphere of the daily living and operations of the church. And we are told that this dragon cast down a third part of the 'STARS' of heaven. That is a great fraction when viewed from the standpoint of the fact that there are millions of Spirit-filled believers in the earth. So, a wandering 'STAR' would mean one who has lost his spiritual distinctiveness. Even though he is still able to emit light, now and then, nevertheless, he is out of course, having lost his spiritual and moral bearing.

In Jude 1:13, we are told such ones are reserved for judgement. Again, in that chapter, we are shown that moral failures sourced the wandering of those 'STARS' from their God pre-determined course. But in Daniel 12:3, we are told that ".those that turned away to righteousness shall shine as the 'STARS' forever and ever.". When through the word of God and the Spirit of God, a servant of God can bring the ministration of life to the Lord's people, he is

fulfilling  
his ministry. But when the ministry no longer stands in the  
interest  
of God, then such a one is a wandering 'STAR'.

We have looked at the symbol of the 'SUN', the 'MOON' and the  
'STARS'  
in a positive sense. We should note, however, that these symbols  
can  
also be used negatively. For example, in Psalms 121:6, it is said,  
".the 'SUN' shall not smite thee by day nor the 'MOON' by night.". It is clear from the context that these heavenly bodies can also be used to represent the powers of darkness. In particular, the 'MOON',  
being something that rules in the night (and we know that  
associated  
with the night is darkness and its unfruitful works) is sometimes  
used to picture the powers of darkness. The 'STARS', in this  
connection, will represent men and women that exercise themselves  
in  
wickedness, the rulers of the darkness of this world.

By the time we examine the symbol of 'HEAVENS', this will become  
very  
clear. Just the same way we have 'STARS' in the heavens of God,  
there are also evil 'STARS' in the heavenly places that rule this  
present world.

We want to move straight to the picture of the 'SEA'. Now in  
scriptures, for example, in Revelation 17, we find the mention of a  
mass of water. There we are shown a woman, an harlot, sitting upon  
many waters. And, in verse 15, the Spirit of God gave the  
interpretation, saying that the waters upon which the woman sitteth  
represents multitudes of people, tongues and tribes. So, a mass of  
water will stand for a great number of people. This figure is  
familiar to everyone of us. For example, a great crowd in a public  
function, standing or sitting side by side may be described as a  
'SEA' of heads. So, the word 'SEA' will represent a multitude of  
people. Specifically, it pictures the nations as they are  
presently  
constituted in their various national boundaries.

But, there is yet another element that we need to bring in relation  
to that figure to assist us to get a full understanding. In  
Revelation 21:1, we are told John saw a new heaven and a new earth,  
for the former heaven and the former earth were taken away, and

there

was no more 'SEA'. Here, we find another usage for the word 'SEA', closely linked to the first. The 'SEA' in this passage is used to describe the present social order and the restlessness of this present world.

This restlessness and rebellion in man usually find expression in civil unrest, commotion, and wars as men and women rise up against governments that no longer cater for their welfare. Isaiah 57:20 says the unregenerate, the unsaved, the wicked, is like a raging 'SEA' when it cannot rest. Again in Luke 21:25, we are told that at the time of the end, there shall be upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity; the 'SEA' and the waves roaring.

Daniel 7 teach that it is from such unrest, commotion and wars (strengthened by the workings of spirit forces upon the sinful nature of mankind) that political kingdom emerges. Verse 2 says, ".I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of the 'HEAVEN' strove upon the great 'SEA'. And four great beasts came up from the 'SEA'.". So, the world (outside of the church) in their unregenerate, restless and rebellious condition can be symbolised by the word 'SEA'. Here, the emphasis is on the ability of the 'SEA' to rage, that unsettled, unruly nature that is easily stirred up at any slight provocation. Now, in Revelation 21:1, we are shown that in the age to come, when Christ's kingdom shall have been established upon the earth, that condition will no longer be found amongst men.

May God grant it, in Jesus' name.

Now, we go to the next image/sign that we are picking, that is the 'BEAST'. Let us go to Daniel 7:2. There, we are told that the four winds of the 'HEAVEN' strove upon the great 'SEA', that is, there was an activity from the spiritual realm influencing things on a world-wide scale. And the Bible says, out of the 'SEA' arose four great 'BEASTS'. In verse 17, we are told that these four 'BEASTS' represent four kings. But in verse 23, the four beasts are said to represent four kingdoms. So, the figure of the 'BEAST' represents

a kingdom. In addition, it represents prominent persons within that kingdom. This is important.

To say a 'BEAST' is coming out of the 'SEA' is not to suggest that a wild, unusual creature, a big massive animal, is coming up out of the 'SEA', as some would have us believe. But that is a prophetic way of saying that there is something of a government, of a kingdom, of an empire, that shall emerge out of the nations of the world. Later, we will look again at this in a very clear way. The 'BEAST' symbolises a kingdom; the kingdom could be political when it is shown to be coming out of the 'SEA'. It could also be a religious kingdom (when the 'BEAST' is pictured as coming out, not from the 'SEA', but from the 'EARTH'). When we take the symbols of the 'EARTH', the 'HEAVEN', and some others, this will become very clear.

There is yet another element that need be examined in relation to the 'BEAST'. For those who are used to foul words, when in common language, someone says, "you are a goat", the reference is that there is a known attitude (behaviour) of the goat, which the person has just manifested. It may refer to his being stubborn or being stupid. So, in seeing one main element in the figure of the beast, we know that there are certain fully developed characteristics, which the Lord is speaking about.

There is a little pamphlet that many of us are quite familiar with.

It is called "The heart of a man". There, in the figure of the heart of a sinner is seen at least eight beasts, each beast representing a particular character trait that is contrary to God's word. For example, you will find the picture of a dog. The reference is to lose morals, cheap virtues, persons who cannot keep their bodies in sanctification.

Thus, when the picture of a single 'BEAST' is used to symbolise an individual, it means there is a dominant character trait in the person, which is known of that 'BEAST'. For example, Alexander the king over the ancient empire of Greece, reputed in history to be a great one, was represented in Daniel 7 under the symbol of a leopard

(verse 6). This was because of the swiftness with which he rose up and led the Grecian Empire into great heights. This swiftness, among

other traits, is what was represented in the leopard. While the leopard is known to be ferocious, the lion is known to be full of strength with devouring powers. So these figures are used in scriptures to assist in conveying the word of God in a graphic manner

to those who have ears to hear.

Taking a look at Matthew 7:15, for example, it is evident that the Lord Jesus Christ was talking about certain persons that may occupy prominent positions in our society, some of which will be found in the church. Talking about the false prophet, he says, such a one is

a ravening wolf, he comes to you in sheep clothing but inwardly, he is a ravening wolf. Then He went further to say, ".by their fruits,

ye shall know them.". That is, by the character they display, you shall know them. For, ".out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth

speaketh.". If inwardly they are ravening wolves, then, what things

fill the inside comes out through the mouth.

If we take the picture of the 'BEAST' coming out of the 'EARTH' (Revelation 13:11-18) for example, we are told it is shaped like a lamb, having two horns like a lamb, but, when it speaks, it speaks like a dragon. So, the outward expression of a man's life is needed

to be able to identify what he is made up of, that is his inward disposition.

The church of the Old Testament had its own periods of spiritual declension, when persons occupying positions of authority were other

than God expected of them. In Ezekiel 22:25-29, we are told that the

princes of Israel, the priests, the judges and the prophets of Israel

were ravaging beasts. They did not spare the flock. It is this same persons that were supposed to feed the people that were skinning them, and God calls them ravaging wolves. Many of such symbols are used in the book of Revelation. When we come to contrasting between the two women, the two lambs, the two harvests, the two cities, the heaven and the earth, you will find these pictures we have just examined enabling us have a clear understanding.

We will suggest you go through your scriptures, checking references that have these five symbols in them, and see the way they are used.

The way a symbol is used in a given context tells us how we should understand it. That is, by reading a passage, you will understand how God intends for us to understand the symbols used. Again, we will also have you add the figure of the 'HEAVENS' and the 'EARTH' in

your examination. When in Micah 6 the prophet says, ".Hear ye O mountains, the Lord's controversy, and ye strong foundations of the 'EARTH'.", was he speaking to the rivers, mountains, trees, land and

the like which are found on the 'EARTH'? When Moses said, ".Hear O 'HEAVENS', give ear O 'EARTH'.", was he addressing the constellation of stars and the planetary bodies?

Brethren, in understanding we ought to be men. When God's word is clear, there will be no excuse for us to turn our back to God's call unto repentance. It is in allowing His word to rule over us that we are able to enter into that perfection and glorification He has reserved for us.

We bless the Lord for His tremendous help towards these meetings by the power of His Holy Spirit. In our next meeting, we shall be going into "THE LANGUAGE OF PROPHECY - (Part 2)" We do covet your prayers as always. We encourage 'YOU' to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might as you stay blessed in Him.