

# The Continuous-Historic Interpretation of Prophecy

Following is a summary of how **Daniel** and **Revelation** are a continuously unfolding prophecy. This prophetic model is consistent with the rest of Scripture. **Genesis** outlines in advance Israel multiplying as a nation. **The prophets** reveal the impending Assyrian and Babylonian invasions and the destiny of Israel, Judah and surrounding nations. **Daniel** outlines events in detail from the Babylonian captivity to the first century and beyond. The **Gospels** prophesy events up to AD70 and the Jewish dispersion. The **Epistles** then outline the gradual falling away from the truth in first century ecclesias. **Revelation** continues the story, beginning at the end of the first century and continuing on through the 1900 years following the letters to the 7 ecclesias.

## DANIEL'S PROPHECY

The grand theme of **Daniel** is the Kingdom of God versus the Kingdom of Men. **Daniel 2** and **7** are like brackets to this section originally written in Chaldean (**Dan 2:4 - 7:28**). **Daniel 2** is man's perspective. **Daniel 7** is from God's. God's view of the world is that godless men are really beasts. What better way to contrast **the 2 opposite views** of the kingdom of men?



**Psalm 49:12** "man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish." (also **Eccl 3:19**). The following chart shows that these are **progressive, continuous, and sequential**.

Daniel 2	Daniel 7
<b>v38</b> Thou art this head of gold.	<b>v3</b> The <b>FIRST</b> was like a lion
<b>v39</b> <b>AFTER THEE</b> ... <b>another kingdom</b>	<b>v5</b> Behold <b>another beast</b> , a <b>SECOND</b> , like to a bear
<b>v39</b> and <b>another THIRD kingdom</b> of brass	<b>v6</b> <b>AFTER THIS</b> I beheld, and lo <b>another</b> , like a leopard
<b>v40</b> And the <b>FOURTH KINGDOM</b> shall be <b>STRONG</b> as <b>IRON</b> : forasmuch as <b>IRON</b> breaketh in <b>pieces</b> and subdueth all things: and as <b>IRON</b> that breaketh all these, shall it <b>break in pieces</b> ... <b>DESTROYED BY CHRIST: 2:34,44</b>	<b>v7</b> <b>AFTER THIS</b> a <b>FOURTH</b> beast... <b>STRONG</b> exceedingly; and it had great <b>IRON</b> teeth: it devoured and <b>broke in pieces</b> ...and it had ten horns <b>v23</b> The <b>FOURTH</b> beast shall be the <b>FOURTH KINGDOM</b> ... and shall tread it down, and <b>break it in pieces</b> . <b>DESTROYED BY CHRIST: 7:9-11</b>

**Daniel 7** is very helpful in explaining what is outlined only briefly in **Daniel 2**. It reveals there is **no fifth beast**. The fourth beast is destroyed at Christ's coming (**7:9-11**). This confirms that there are only 4 kingdoms in the image dream. The legs, feet and toes are all a part of the fourth kingdom of Rome. The **clay** represents the numerous hordes that invaded the Roman Empire in the AD400's, who were eventually absorbed into that fourth kingdom. This is exactly what transpired historically. It is Rome that continues until Christ returns in judgment.

The 10 horns in **Dan 7:24** represent nations arising "out of" the fractured Roman Empire. This is exactly what transpired historically. It is Rome that continues until Christ returns in judgment. They are **European** nations, a **further development** of the fourth empire, as are the image toes.



Then, a "little horn" (**7:8**) arises "after" the 10 horns and "among them". This is the Papal Holy Roman Empire which arose in Western Europe in AD800. This is logical because **Daniel** outlines God's purpose with both **(1) Believers** and **(2) Israel**. **Daniel 7** focuses on the **true believers** and their persecution in Western Europe. **Daniel 8** emphasises the influence Rome has on **the Jews** and the eastern part of the empire around Israel.

**Daniel 8** reveals the transfer of power from the second to the third empires. This is described using new symbols of a goat and a ram. Following the pattern of **Daniel 2** and **7** we would expect **Daniel 8** to then detail events in the fourth empire (Rome). That's exactly what we do find. Rome is described as a "little horn" arising out of one portion of the Greek empire. Details are then given about the destruction of the Jewish state and city of Jerusalem in AD70 and also the casting down of the truth to the ground: **Dan 8:9-12**. Further details are then given in **8:23-25** using the language of **Deut 28:47-50** to describe Rome in its conquests. Consistent with **Daniel 2** and **7**, the Roman Empire is destroyed by Christ (the "Prince of Princes") at the end. Extra details are expounded as we progress.

**Daniel 11** follows a similar structure. Medo-Persia and Greece are specifically mentioned in **Daniel 11:2** followed by an extremely detailed prophecy from **11:5-30** about the northern and southern portions of the Greek kingdom. Following the earlier pattern we would expect **Daniel 11** to progress into the Roman Empire and its final destruction at Christ's return. That's exactly what we do read in **11:36-45**. Similar language to **Daniel 8** is used, about the pride and arrogance of Rome and its subsequent change of religion to Roman Catholicism in 312 AD. This same language is used in **2 Thess 2:4** to describe the Papacy arising out of corrupt first century Christianity. Consistent with **Daniel**, Paul has this system being **destroyed by Christ** at his second coming: **2 Thess 1:8; 2:8**.

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Whilst many OT prophecies are not presented chronologically, **Daniel 2,7,8,11** are important exceptions. In **Daniel 2,7** there is a progression of empires and these are specifically numbered "first", "second", "third", "fourth". The seals, trumpets and vials follow the **same sequential pattern**. They are **specifically numbered** the same way as in Daniel. The first chapters of Revelation exhort **Gentile ecclesias** in the **Roman Empire**. In **Rev 1:12,20** we are given a model of interpretation, with OT symbols used to describe Gentile believers, the "Israel of God". This sets the scene. The Jewish commonwealth ended in AD70 so attention now moves to the **times of the Gentiles**.

The next 2000 years was their opportunity to respond to the gospel Paul preached in **Europe**. **Revelation 4-22** explains and expounds the symbols mentioned only briefly in **Rev 1-3**. The book outlines the history of the truth through the dark ages of Gentile times where believers were persecuted by the Roman Catholic Church. This is consistent with prophecies in the Epistles (eg. **Acts 20:29-31; 2 Thess 2:1-12; 1 Tim 4:1-3**). **Revelation** warns believers to **keep separate** from this powerful and deceptive "Christian" Church: **12:17; 13:10; 14: 9-10; 18:4**.

A closer look at the detail of **Revelation** shows a chronological progression. In the first seal, the white horse is presented with a conqueror: **Rev 6**. White is symbolic of righteousness (**19:18**) and the subsequent effect is righteousness as the truth is preached and there is a time of peace. But the "second" seal is different. There is a red horse and "power was given ...to **take peace from the earth**." There is an obvious sequential progression of events from the first to the second seals. They are opposites, and as such cannot be speaking of the same period of time. After the Seal and Trumpet judgments are concluded we read in **Rev 15:1** that there are "seven **last** plagues, for in them is filled up the wrath of God". As they are the **last** plagues, there must have been a number of earlier ones.

Most convincingly, the **first seal** commences shortly after Revelation was given (**1:1**) and the **sixth vial** ends with Christ's coming and Armageddon (**16:15-16**). The only logical way to read these events is a **progressive, chronological progression** from the first seal through to the sixth vial. The seventh vial contains judgments after Armageddon (**16:17-21**), which are explained further in **Rev 17-19**. Interspersed between the seals, trumpets and vials are various kingdom visions with direct contrasts to the events through those prophecies. Kingdom visions do not prevent the seals, trumpets and vials occurring chronologically. These visions are given for encouragement to believers that God's purpose remains firm and unshakeable.

Interestingly, **Rev 11,12,13** may seem at first reading to be out of chronological order. In fact they are not. These chapters provide further explanations of what is happening in the Roman Empire at the time and how this affects believers. **Rev 11:1-14** is identified as occurring during the second woe (sixth trumpet) because these events are not connected with contemporary events in the eastern portion of the empire (**9:13-21**). The events of **Rev 11:15-19** bring us to Armageddon, but the book now pauses (in **Rev 12-14**) to explain some of the new symbols used in **Rev 11**.

As expected, the final chapters of **Revelation** fit in exactly with **Daniel**. Daniel's ten horned beast reappears on the world stage after a period of darkness, with the Roman harlot in control. There are many clear links between **Rev 17** and **2 Thess 2** describing the Papacy with phenomenal power over nations in the latter days. These are our days! How blessed we are to see these events! "Blessed is he that **readeth** and they that **hear** the words of this prophecy, and **keep** those things which are written therein, for the time is at hand." (**1:3**)

**Acknowledgments:** Articles by G Pearce, P Billington, T Benson and C Parry.