

BIBLE PROPHECY

COUNTING THE DAYS

UNDENIABLE SIGNS OF THE LAST DAYS

RAY COMFORT



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 BRIDGE
LOGOS

Newberry, FL 32669

Counting the Days: Undeniable Signs of the Last Days

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INTRODUCTION

THOSE WHO KNOW their Bible know that we are seeing many biblical prophecies unfolding before our eyes, and as I've watched these "signs of the times" come to pass, I have been reminded about the way the apostle Paul shared the gospel:

So when they had appointed him a day, many came to [Paul] at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, *persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets*, from morning till evening. (Acts 28:23)

When he spoke about Jesus, he *persuaded* unbelievers "from both the Law of Moses and the prophets." The Law of Moses brings the knowledge of sin (showing us our danger), and the prophets give credibility to the Scriptures. In other words, if the Bible is able to predict the future, it is evidence that it was written by the hand of our omniscient Creator. Those who penned its pages did so under the inspiration of Almighty God.

This is because only *He* knows the end from the beginning. And if the Bible *is* the Word of God, its

promise of everlasting life is both sure and steadfast. It's an anchor for the human soul. We can have a living hope in our death.

If you want to spark some disagreement, tell someone what you believe the Scriptures say about a certain prophetic event. It is because of this potential to cause division that I have looked only at mainstream prophetic interpretations. My hope in doing this is that you will feel comfortable passing this book on to those who don't believe because they don't have this knowledge.

CHAPTER ONE

HOW TO KNOW THE FUTURE



GEORGE ORWELL WROTE, “If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face—for ever.”

Such were the pessimistic words of one of the characters in his famous novel *1984*, where he predicted the future.

Published in 1949, the bestselling book centers on the consequences of totalitarianism, mass surveillance, and repressive regimentation of all persons and behaviors within society. But *1984* came and went. It’s now history. Though Orwell’s character was bold in his predictions, with the continued international tensions after the Second World War it wasn’t too difficult to predict that the human face would continue to be stomped upon. Predicting that tomorrow’s news will be bad isn’t exactly newsworthy.

There are a number of ways human beings can know the future. We know that if we throw a rock in the air, it will certainly come down. Eventually. We know that if we jump into the ocean, we will get wet, and if we leap off a high cliff, we will die. If we don't eat, hunger waits around the corner. And as long as there are nations, there will be wars. Each of those futures is merely consequential.



There are also weather forecasters, political pundits, and financial experts who use data to attempt to predict the future, but they are often wrong. That's predictable.

There is another way we can "know the future." It's to have knowledge of something that has already happened. When Sue and I want to watch our favorite rugby team, we always check the final score first before we watch the recorded game on video. While not knowing the outcome is part of the excitement for most, knowing how it ends means that we don't stress when the other side scores. And stress is not good at our age. When the opponent scores a goal and the crowd exchanges high-fives, we smile because we know the outcome. There's no stress.

In reality, if human beings could see even one minute into the future, we could make billions by

sitting at a high-roller table in Las Vegas because we would know where to put our chips. But we don't.

However, there is one light among the future's darkness. The Bible is filled with prophecy; in fact, more than one-fourth of its pages contain predictive prophecy, all of which has come true in the smallest detail. From its opening chapters, God Himself tells us what will happen:

“And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

From this promise to avenge humanity's fall into sin and death, to the book of Revelation—where it speaks of great plagues that would cover the whole earth (see Revelation 16)—there are thousands of prophecies. In these and the many others between them, God is the one giving the prophecy, speaking through prophets. Again, only He knows the future.

Before we look at these amazing predictions, I want us to do something very important. I would like to expand our view of God. A man can look at a small portion of the Grand Canyon and boast that he has *seen* the Grand Canyon. But in reality, he's seen only a small part. Most of us have a *measured* belief in God, but because we are human beings, our understanding is very limited. It's small. We see a

mere speck—and somehow we think we have seen it all, when God is nothing like we imagine Him to be.

To try to dash these erroneous images, we will take a moment to look at a tiny speck of the Creator's creation: you.

There are at least two things in life that I know my brain can't handle. The first is when two people begin talking to me at once. I don't think I'm alone in that. The other is when numbers get too big for me to comprehend. I tend to switch off at a certain point.

Take, for example, the thought that scientists estimate your body contains about 70 trillion cells. That's a big number, but I can handle it. It tells me that there are a *lot* of cells in the human body.

Then, according to an estimate made by engineers at Washington University, there are around 100 trillion atoms in a typical human cell.¹ That's a big number, but I can handle that also.

This is where I become overwhelmed. If there are (approximately) 70 trillion cells that make up your body, and each cell contains 100 trillion atoms, that means your body is composed of 70 trillion times 100 trillion atoms. Therefore, to create you, God made and correctly put together, in their precise placements, an estimated 7,000,000,000,000,000,000 atoms.

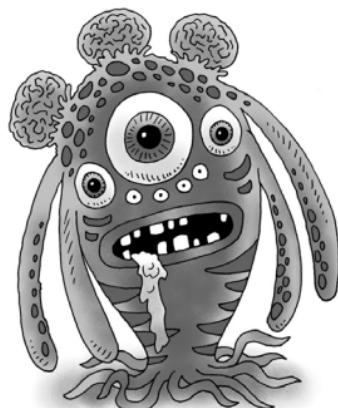
It's not the size of the *number* that confounds me. It's my ability to comprehend what that number represents. I feel like a flea trying to comprehend the

size of the universe while sitting on a dog's wagging tail. It's beyond my giddy flea-brain.

Here now is my point. God used atoms as building blocks to create you. He began this at your conception, and as time passed and you grew in size, He preprogrammed your genes to automatically add atoms at the right time and in the right places, until you reach physical maturity. *And*, because He is omniscient, He is intimately familiar with *every* single atom in your body, *and* in the bodies of every human being ever born, as well as every atom in everything in the entire universe—because He created every one of them.

But there's more. Have you ever noticed that God seems to have used a similar blueprint for the creation of many living creatures? Whether it's pigs, dogs, horses, cats, cows, or fish, He has made them all with a skeletal frame, one brain, one mouth, two eyes, and one heart to pump red blood around the body. He made human beings uniquely in His image, but much of creation seems to have been given these common characteristics.

I say "seems" because there is one amazing animal that sounds like it's a weird space alien, concocted by crazed minds in a cheaply produced Hollywood movie. This creature has an incredi-



ble *nine* brains, *three* pumping hearts, *eight* arms, no bones at all in its entire body, and *blue* blood.

The octopus (of which there are around 300 species) blows any preconceptions we may have about God out of the water. His creative ability knows no bounds. With Him, *nothing* is impossible.

Divine Identity

We are soon going to look at some of the Bible's prophecies, many of which were spoken directly by Jesus. I would therefore like to establish His credentials (according to the Bible) to give credibility to His amazing words.

The intellectual giddiness doesn't stop with the magnitude of God's creative ability. It becomes more intense as we consider the miracle of what is commonly referred to as the "incarnation."

Two thousand years ago, the Creator used trillions of atoms to make one unique human body for Himself. He was born on earth as Jesus of Nazareth. When He came into the world, He said:

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,
but a body You have prepared for Me." (Hebrews 10:5)

Then He filled that human body with Himself:

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,

Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory. (1 Timothy 3:16)

God became a very special Man—Jesus Christ. Then the Scriptures tell us that every single atom in every human body, and the universe, was actually made by this Jesus:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...* And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1–3,14)

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. *All things were created through Him and for Him.* And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (Colossians 1:15–17)

Then add to this mind-blowing thought that He became human flesh for the purpose of suffering and dying on the cross, so that we could be free from death. It is then that even the intellectually astute give up trying to comprehend our Creator and instead bow the knee in humble worship.

If you can't do that just yet, my hope is that the subject of prophecy will get you there, as we begin to look at what the Bible tells us about the past and the future.