

# EZEKIEL

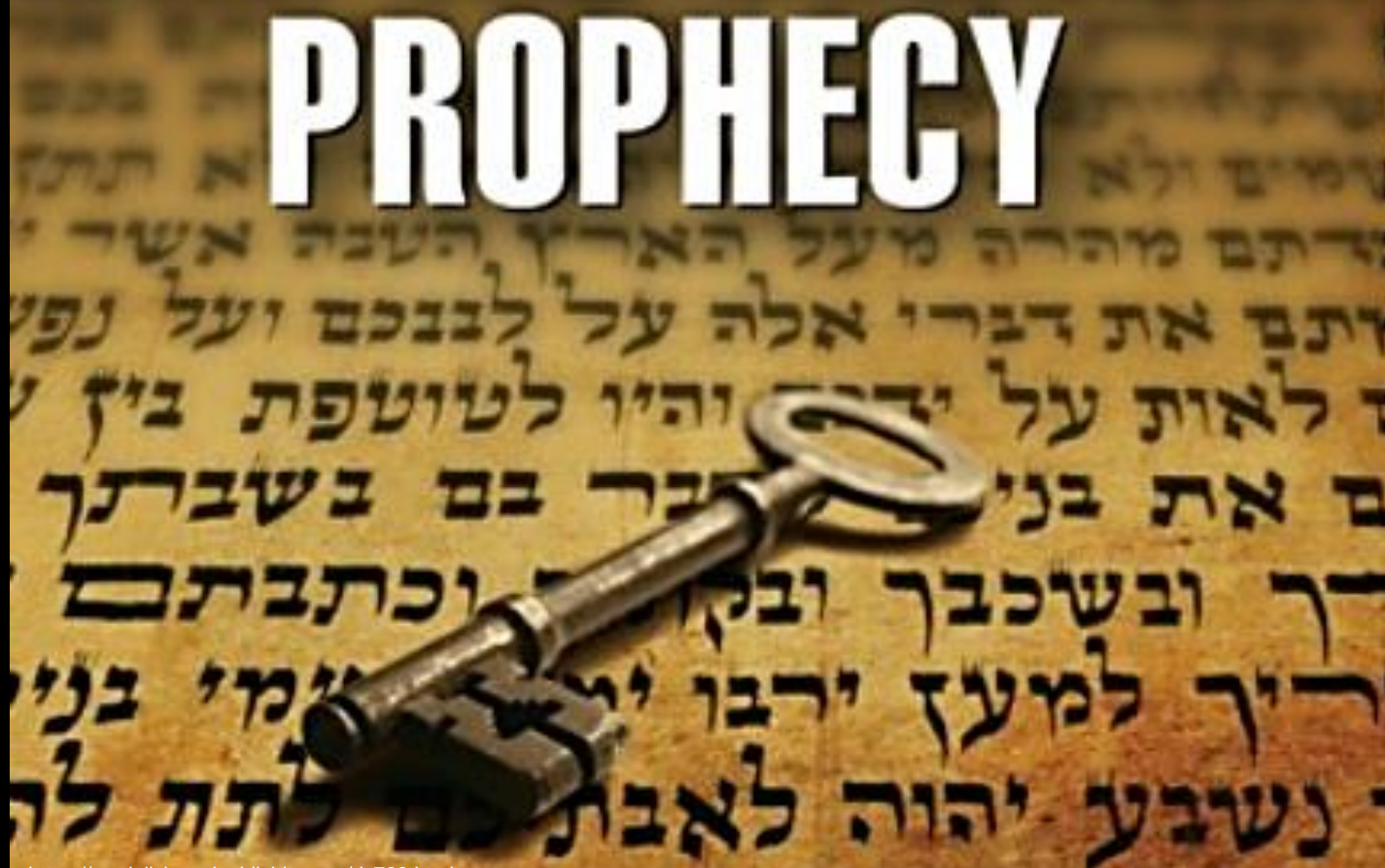


First Baptist Church, Regina

Fall 2019

Presenter: Kelvin Friebel

# UNLOCKING OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY



# *Reading Old Testament Prophecy*

## **1) Don't Read the OT Prophets**

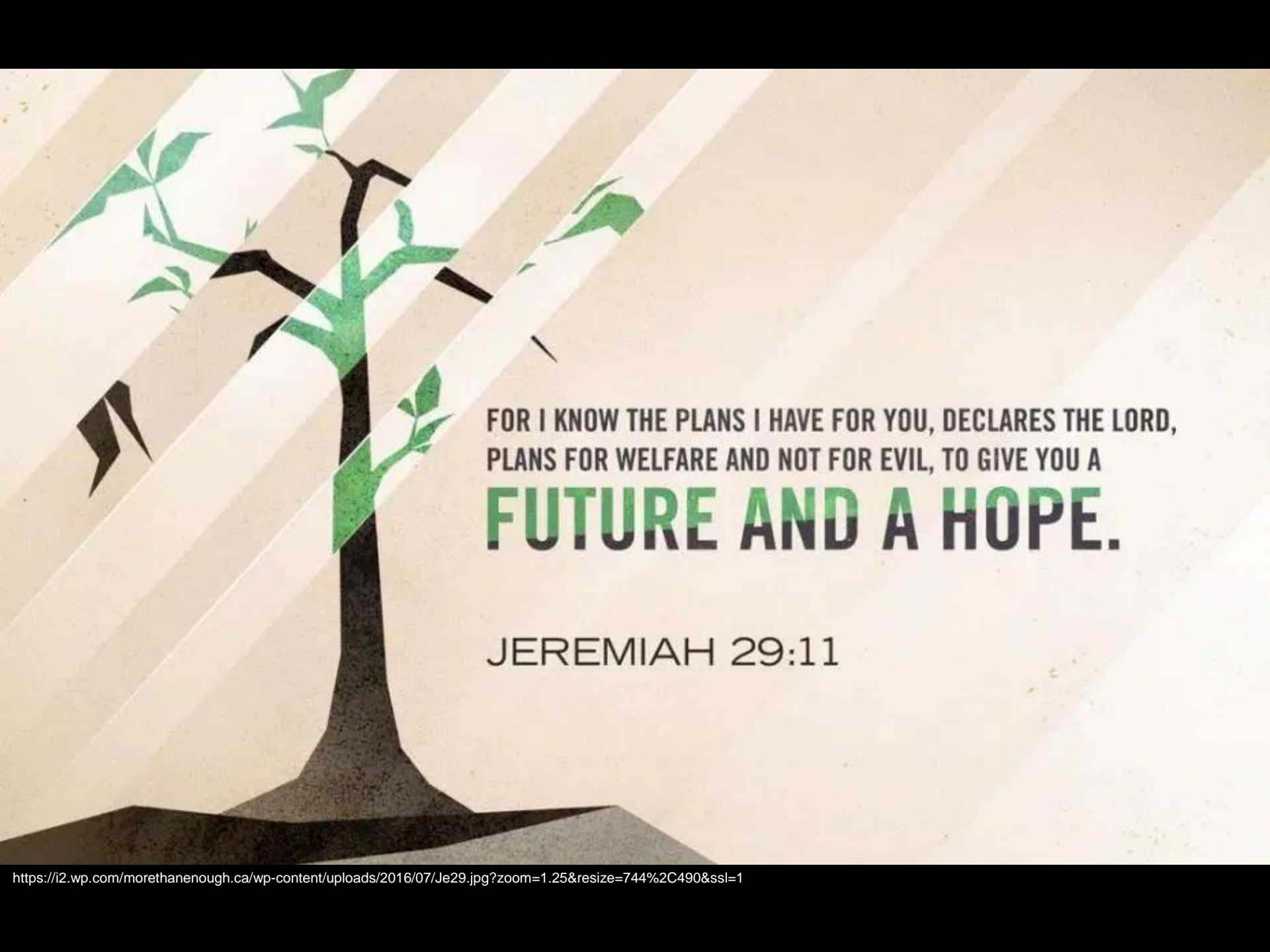


▶ Too hard, difficult, complicated to understand

▶ It's part of the Old Testament, & as a New Testament Christian, it's not necessary to read it







FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD,  
PLANS FOR WELFARE AND NOT FOR EVIL, TO GIVE YOU A  
**FUTURE AND A HOPE.**

JEREMIAH 29:11

10 “For thus says the LORD, ‘When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR **YOU** DECLARES THE LORD,  
PLANS FOR WELFARE AND NOT FOR EVIL, TO GIVE **YOU** A

**FUTURE AND A HOPE.**

**plural**

JEREMIAH 29:11

12 Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me,  
and I will listen to you.

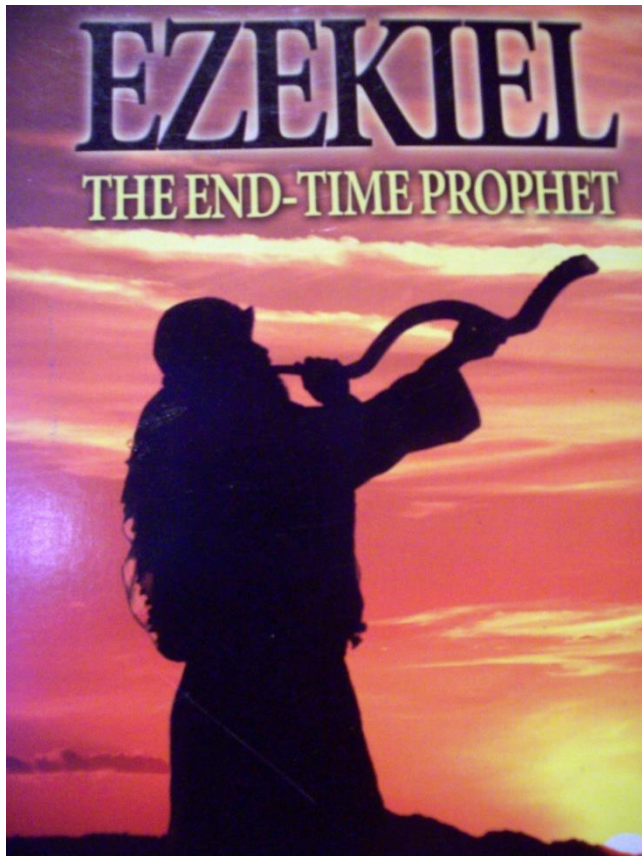
13 You will seek Me and find Me  
when you search for Me with all your heart.

14 I will be found by you,’ declares the LORD,  
‘and I will restore your fortunes  
and will gather you from all the nations  
and from all the places where I have driven you,’  
declares the LORD,

‘and I will bring you back to the place  
from where I sent you into exile.’

# *Reading Old Testament Prophecy*

## **3) Reading it as End-Times Prophecy**



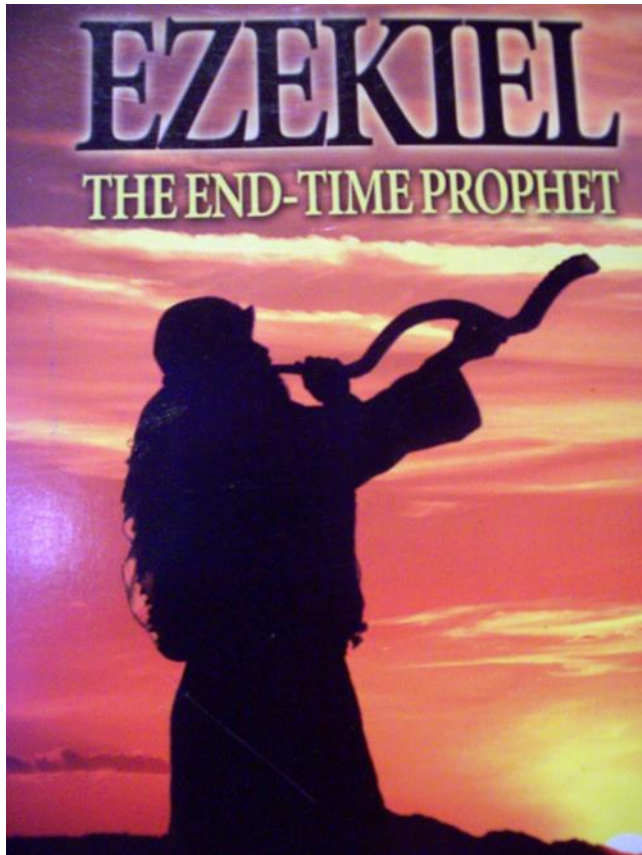
<https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/91V05sNXf6L.jpg>

► ***How does it help us understand what will literally happen at the “End of Times”, in relationship to the events of the Second Coming of Christ?***



# Reading Old Testament Prophecy

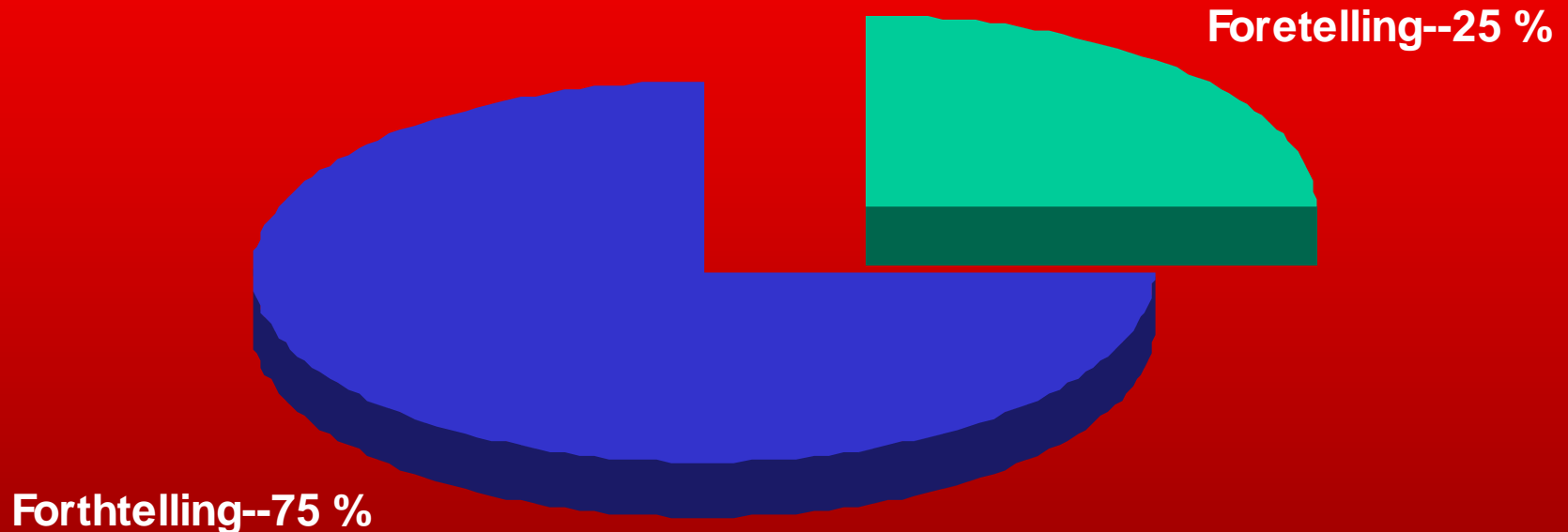
## 3) Reading it as End-Times Prophecy



- **Event –focused**
  - ◆ *what will happen?*

- **Chronology-focused**
  - ◆ *when, in the sequence of “End-Times” events, will this happen?*

**Only about 25 % of OT  
Prophecy deals with  
the prediction of future events**



**75 % of OT Prophecy deals with  
the (then) current situation and  
condition of the people**

**\*Note:** Prediction of “future events” means

*“future” from the time the prophecy was given*

\* A lot of “predictions” were fulfilled fairly immediately after being given

Events occurring  
before NT – 17 %

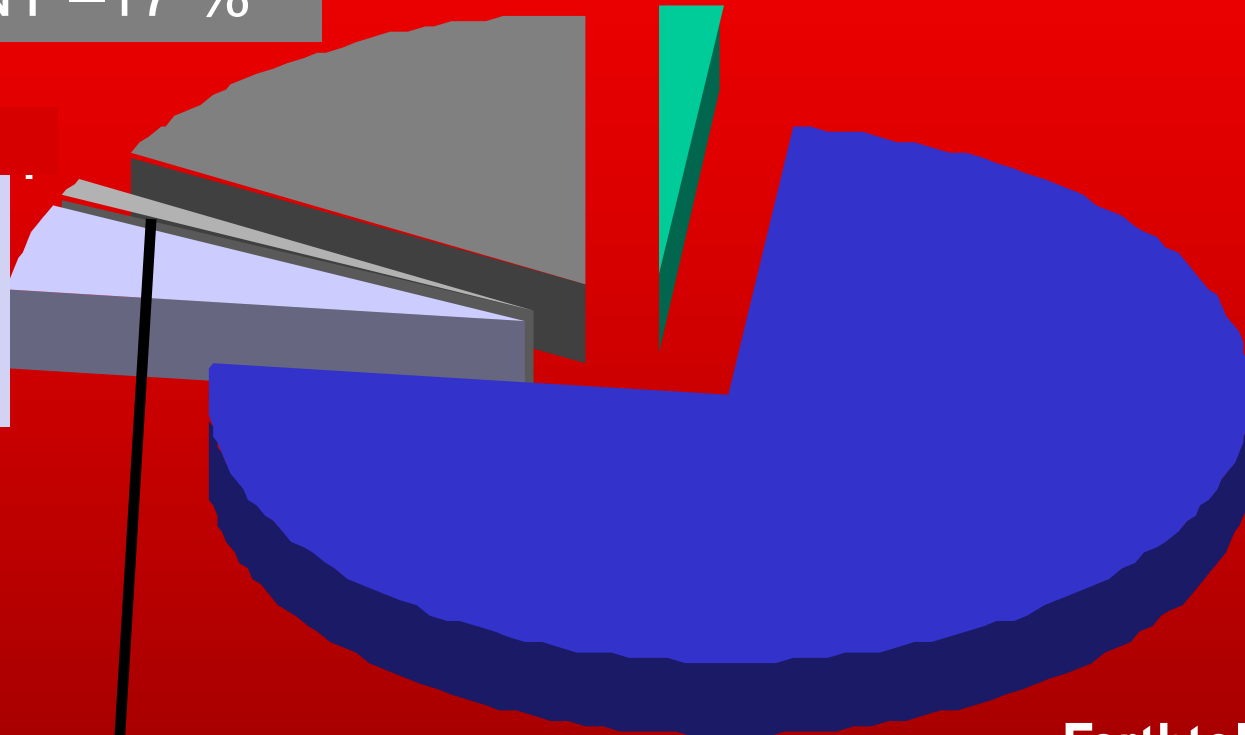
Messiah – 2 %

New  
Covenant –  
5 %

“End Times”  
Events – 1 %

Forthtelling-- 75 %

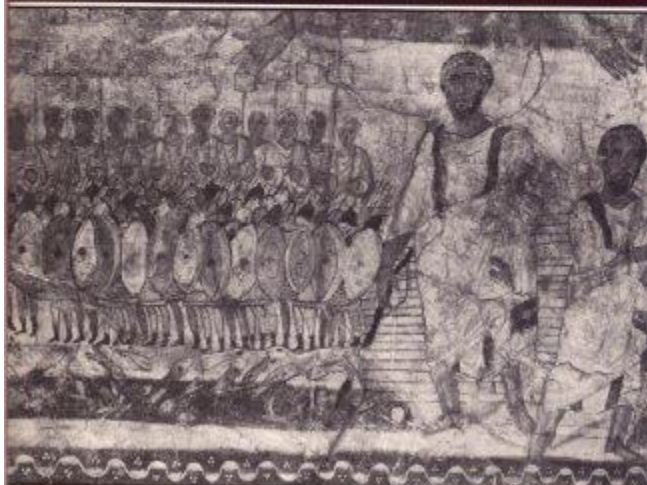
Statistics from Fee & Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*, p. 150.



# *Reading Old Testament Prophecy*

## ***4) Reading it as Past History***

The History  
of Ancient  
Israel



- ▶ ***How does it help us re-construct the ancient history of Israel?***
- ▶ ***What does it tell us about the past events that occurred and when & where they occurred?***

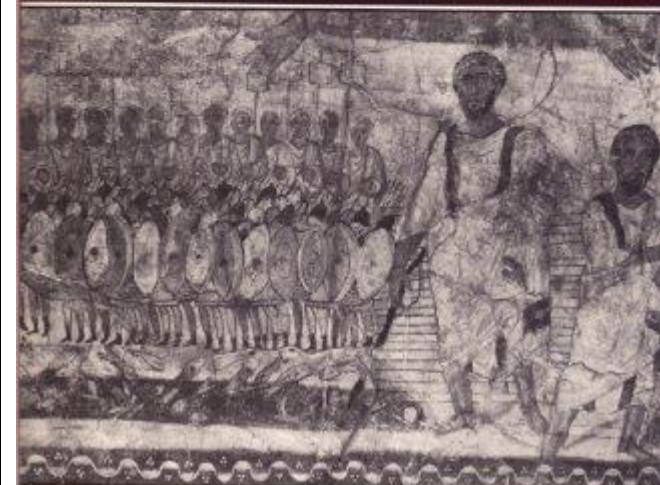
# Reading Old Testament Prophecy

## 4) Reading it as Past History

- **Event –focused**
  - ◆ *what happened?*

The History  
of Ancient  
Israel

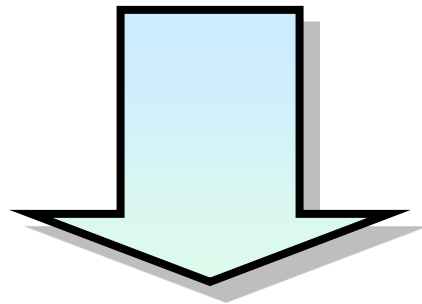
- **Chronology-focused**
  - ◆ *when*  
*was the prophecy given?*
    - ◆ *if predictions, when,*  
*in the past,*  
*were they fulfilled?*



# Reading Old Testament Prophecy

## 5) Reading it Theologically

- ▶ What does the passage tell us about *who God is* & *how he works* with his people & in the world?



- ◆ How does the way in which God worked back then inform us of *how God is working today*?

## ***5) Reading it Theologically***

- The Meaning of the Passage is based on what it Meant in its Original Historical Context
  - Primarily, Theology-focused, rather than Event- or Chronology-focused
    - Seeks to find Consistency or Recurring Patterns in God's Working, rather than Unique, Singular Events

# *Reading Old Testament Prophecy*

## **5) Reading it Theologically**

OT Prophecy remains  
the “living, active Word of God”  
as we understand who God is  
& how he works with people  
and as we see how the “Theology”  
that is expressed in the original Prophecy  
applies to,  
is relevant to,  
& explains how  
God is working in our contemporary situation