'Robert is sitting in quiet contemplative prayer. Robert says, "God, can I ask You a question?" "Sure", says God. "God, what is a million years to You?" "A million years to Me is only a second", God replies. Robert pauses and thinks about this for a moment. Then he asks, "God, what is a million dollars worth to You?" God replies, "A million dollars to Me is as a penny". Robert responds, "God, could I have a penny, please?" And God replies, "Sure! ... Just a second".'

Prophesying the Eternity of the Beginning and the End

For sure, time doesn't move the same way for God as it does for us. Because God created time itself. Time, as scientists now know, is just one of the dimensions of creation in which we live. It's possible God created the time dimension solely for our benefit. It's also possible that He created time a long "time" before He created this universe and us. We don't know yet. But, for Him, since He created everything that exists, even the many multiple dimensions of space and time and multiverses, He lives and has always existed outside of everything that we can now and will ever conceive of. So, in actuality, that fictional, hypothetical conversation between Robert and the Lord is utterly meaningless. It verges on being sinful, since the implication is that the man wants the money for money's sake, and not because He loves God. Yet, while God is "outside" of everything He has created, He is also "inside" of it to maintain it, to keep it from ceasing to exist! For ultimately, there is nothing but God. But for our sakes, and for the sake of all that He has made, He has made us a creation in which can live and comprehend enough to appreciate. Which, when you think of it, makes it all the more amazing and next-toinconceivable that He would condescend to lower Himself to take on our humanity, enter this universe, this world, this time dimension, and be conceived in a woman's womb, be born, grow up, and truly live as one of us and one with us—Emmanuel. This is such an astounding miracle from our perspective, that most people never really make any meaningful attempt to think it through.

But God the Creator, His Word, His Spirit, have always been, always are, and always will be. There was never a beginning in which God wasn't there. There will never be an end to anything in which He is still there. As our Lord Jesus announced to Apostle John in Revelation 22:13, the ending chapter of the Holy Bible, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End". Or, He exists from A to Z; actually before A and after Z, but there is nothing before A and nothing after Z, yet He's both before and after everything. So, for God, the beginning of all things lasts forever. The ending of all things also lasts forever. Because He is outside of it all. That separateness is a key "component" of what it means that He is holy. He is separate. Uncontaminated by the sin that exists in the multiverse of His creation. While He is perfect, and made everything perfectly when He made it, some of the creatures He put into it rebelled against Him, including us, and sin was born, forever sullying and polluting this creation. Which is why He came down to this earth as Lord Jesus, as one of us, to pay the only acceptable and legal penalty for our rebellion, which is death. In His dying, the natural, universal law of all creation, God's law, was satisfied; thereby, we who accept His sacrifice on our behalf, turn over our lives to Him, from which they came and to Whom they have always belonged, we're now "scot free" from the law of sin and death! And we will begin living eternally sinlessly in this multiverse, our Creator's creation.

With just that brief illustration of the creation in which we live and move and have our being, which truly ultimately is God Himself, how easy is it for our Creator to communicate His plans to us in understandable ways? More pertinently is why would He even bother? I mean, we're just minuscule, microscopic amoeba, trillions of which could be squashed if the Lord took one step in His creation. Why the whole earth could be obliterated, indeed the entire universe, extinguished if He had the thought. Why does He care? The answer is because He does care! And how amazing is that? How unworthy we are of His care. Not only as a species, but each single, individual, one of us has purposely and deliberatively sinned against Him, many times. But His love is so vast, yes, He loves even me! He loves even you! Unbelievable as it may seem. He loves even you and you and you. He cares deeply what we each are going through, and if we simply humble ourselves and allow Him to lead us through this life, we will know His joy, and knowing *His* joy means that we will be filled with joy ourselves. For He made us to be in forever fellowship with Himself. Which is why He put us in families, and defined our relationship to Him as one of Father and son, Father and daughter, Father and beloved, spoiled, doted on, children!

With God being so far above us, even higher than the multiverse is huger than us, His plans for us, conjured up before time itself was created, are so marvelous and exquisitely beautiful that He can't help but want to share them with us. And so He has spoken to us via people who wait on Him to receive His messages. Even while Lord Jesus physically walked this planet, like a walking signboard, God physically strolling about the very earth His Word had spoken into being, Holy Spirit spoke to many people, directly and through angels, informing them of bits and pieces of His marvelous designs for the future, to the point of leading Simeon and Anna to see with their own eyes the Christ Child, newborn Savior of the World, Anointed Messiah of God.

Hundreds of years prior, Holy Spirit God revealed to the prophet Daniel sweeping visions of the future, even with *timelines* of when things would come to pass. God was telling him, and us, what would transpire, what we would have to go through, and the blessed, precious direct "interventions" of God at pivotal points of history. As Apostle Paul mentions in I Corinthians 13:9, "we prophesy in part", no one prophet is given the whole picture, as no one person is "an island unto themselves". We need each other, as God designed us to live together in perfect harmony. Daniel was given massive visions of hundreds and thousands of years of future history. From his point of view in the sixth century B.C. Babylonian and Persian Empires, how could he understand and interpret what he was seeing? It was so beyond his frame of reference he states he was "terrified" in 7:15. But even he was not given everything that he needed to know then. For in chapter 9 he records that he had read from Jeremiah's prophecies regarding the length of time of Jerusalem's desolation, that it was to be 70 years. He calculated the 70 years would soon be over, and so he prayed the great prayer of confession and supplication that we just read. With his prayer over, an angel comes calling!

The archangel Gabriel was dispatched by God to reveal to Daniel even more about the far, distant future, even things regarding the days we're living in now. But in verses 25-26, Gabriel foretells a Messiah, an "Anointed One", which is what "Messiah" in Hebrew, and "Christ" in Greek means. This is speaking of Lord Jesus. In broad strokes, Daniel is told of Christ's advent. How "coincidental" that the same angel, Gabriel, announces to Daniel about Christ Jesus' advent, who also appears to Mary to tell her about Christ Jesus being born out of her own womb! Gabriel may well be specially assigned to relay messages to us about the Savior of the World, the Messiah. From just these final verses of Daniel 9, he describes the very end times in which we're living today. Verse 27 has not yet happened, but once it does, the final seven years of this era will commence. At which point true Christians, those devoted, heart and soul, to Lord Jesus, will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, as He comes to take His church, His bride out of the earth, so we can avoid the awful wrath of God upon the rebellious earth.

We stand today on the first day of a new year, 2023. And the modern-day global prophets in the Apostolic Council of Prophetic Elders, have reported what Holy Spirit revealed to them to expect this year. For those interested in reading the significant words they received in prayer, there are a few copies on the welcome desk. In short, 2023 is "The Year of Bountiful Blessings and Turmoil". If we needed to fasten our seat belts for the last few years, the roller coaster ride is only to get faster and rougher, but with blessings for the faithful. The key then, is to be one who's faithful. His thoughts and ways are far and above, way above, our ways and thoughts. So, how much time do you spend with the Lord every day in His word, in prayer, in silent prayer, meaning, you're listening to Holy Spirit and not talking? Are you living in sin that you've not confessed and repented of? Are you clear of all sin you're aware of, and if Christ Jesus came this second, would you be ready, knowing you've given everything and done everything you could in this life to serve Him and bring Him glory? That's it! He loves you so much! All you've got to do is truly love Him back!

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