

# Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing  
An Email Newsletter

## Our Times - Prophecy in current events

### Police: 20 children among 26 victims of Connecticut school shooting

By Susan Candiotti and Sarah Aarthen, CNN  
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**Newtown, Connecticut (CNN)** -- Dressed in black fatigues and a military vest, a heavily armed man walked into a Connecticut elementary school Friday and opened fire, shattering the quiet of this southern New England town and leaving the nation reeling at the number of young lives lost. Within minutes, 26 people were dead at Sandy Hook Elementary School -- 20 of them children. Among the six adults killed were Dawn Hochsprung, the school's beloved principal, and school psychologist Mary Sherlach. The shooter, identified by three law enforcement officials as 20-year-old Adam Lanza, also was killed, apparently by his own hand. Separately, his mother's body was found at a Newtown residence. "Stuff like this does not happen in Newtown," a tight-knit community of about 27,000 just outside Danbury, said Renee Burn, a local teacher at another school in town. In the past 10 years, only one homicide had previously been reported.



It is evident to many Christians today, who believe in the Bible's explanation for this type of senseless evil, that somehow, the devil has gotten greater ground in our land. He seems to have greater accesses to the minds of young people to persuade them to carry out dastardly deeds such as this. Indeed, this kind of act has no credible explanation other than the reality of Satan. Many blame guns and mental illness and some even absurdly blame the supposed rise in violence on conservative movements in America such as the Tea Party.



There is something here that the normal liberal media and political establishment refuses to see that evil is real! And that there is a real supernatural entity behind this evil who is called the devil, who has purposed to bring all of mankind into darkness, confusion and destruction. The Bible gives us plenty of precedent for similar kinds of murderous activities against innocent children by demonically influenced monsters of the past. We will take a look at these.

Much of what the Bible says about the latter days gives us a clear indication that Satan will rise up with an increasingly obvious presence in the world. And while, to Bible believers, his activity will be obvious, the majority of the worldly-minded will look for politically expedient answers that will do more to advance their humanistic and secular agenda than to actually solve the problem of tragic events such as Newtown.

I have examined in previous editions of *Prophecy in Perspective* how, in America today, as well as in Europe, God's power and sovereignty is under assault. Outwardly it appears that this assault is from man, as, for instance, when Israel is attacked and threatened with total destruction, or as Christians are persecuted for their love of Jesus Christ, or the innocent are abused by godless governments. But, in actual fact, these assaults against God and His people are from the devil through the agency of man.

In 2 Corinthians 10:3-4, Paul says: "**For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.** **For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.**" Further, in Ephesians 6:12 we read of the real nature of the battle that we face against the literal spiritual entities that purpose their deliberate assaults against mankind, especially in the latter days: "**For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**" From these verses we see three obvious and undeniable realities about the demonic realms: **First**, these powers actively warfare against God, mankind, and in particular, against Christians. **Second**, these powers are highly organized. **Third**, these powers, being supernatural evil, are going to be defeated only by spiritual power through God, and not through the political, psychological or military power of man.

The Bible tells us that the unbelieving are the ones "**whose minds the god of this age has blinded**" (2 *Corinthians 4:4*). So the world in general is oblivious as to the organized nature of the demonic realms and the activities of the invisible enemy of God and mankind named Satan.

Satan has blinded millions today as to the how people are created in the image of God. Academic institutions have excluded God as a myth and schools have told new generations for decades, that man is only a highly



An ambulance waits to transport yet another Planned Parenthood patient to the hospital on December 26, 2012. This was the third medical emergency at this clinic since Thanksgiving.

evolved animal. This God rejecting blindness is itself satanically energized. The judicial schools and courts reflect this humanistic notion that man is only an animal by affirming that abortion, including partial-birth abortion, is not truly the killing of children.

America is one nation among many that has already given itself to being open to hating children through abortion. While millions are shocked at the killing of innocent children at Newtown, as well they should be, there is little shock over the holocaust of child-killing taking place every day in America, Europe, and Asia, especially China. Child killing takes place legally every day in America. Jesus warned His disciples that "**because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold**" (*Matthew 24:12*). Indeed, in America, we have grown cold in our love for children because we have grown more in love with self. Timothy wrote: "**But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 'For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholly, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, with-out self-control, brutal, despisers of good...**"

Among the most fervent defenders of abortion in America today is President Obama and his pet organization Planned Parenthood. This organization is responsible for many more deaths than the Nazi Gestapo and their concentration camps could have ever dreamed. Mr. Obama's stepping into the public eye to comment on the tragedy of the murder of these children at Newtown and yet, at the same time, his defense of the abortion of children is the height of hypocrisy!

Yet, the majority of Americans seem to be ok with this. I suspect that as long as the government meets their needs, then they will not "bite the hand that feeds them." This is America supporting leaders who are playing God by saying who shall live and who shall die.

Our attention has been taken from God and directed toward man. Many environmentalists dogmatically proclaim: "people are the problem because people are ruining the planet." This is accompanied by saying or implying, "God is the problem." These lives of children taken in such a heartless way remind us of how much we need Someone infinitely greater in our lives and in our nation to help us, to comfort us and to save us through the Son of God. God gave his only Son to die at the hands of wicked men. He did this for us to know that God is real and that His love and power are real.

The Devil seeks to take these wonderful truths from us so he can take more wonderful lives from the earth. This is why in a time of shock and loss of this magnitude, as we have witnessed in the Newtown tragedy, as well as others, we must run quickly to the Word of God and read again these words: ***"God so loved the world that He GAVE His only begotten Son..."*** The Bible tells us that the Devil is a thief. A thief is dishonest and deceptive. He is out to take something of value from you because he thinks he deserves it more than you. Jesus said in John 10:10, ***"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.."*** We must be familiar with this fact as it will help to keep us from being deceived in times like we are living in today. Jesus said to the false religious and political leaders of His day: ***"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."***



Notice that Jesus said that the devil has been a liar from the beginning. Here Jesus is referring to the garden of Eden. There, historically, and about six thousand years ago, is the first temptation by Satan of Adam and Eve, and the occurrence of their believing him and falling into a sinful state (Genesis 1:1-24). The devil has been lying ever since and bringing about death in any form that he can accomplish through deception. Today, children are being subtly robbed from their mothers and father's authority, by telling them that they are only the result of godless, evolutionary chance. This satanic lie, by default, essentially places children under the ownership of the godless state, or government who sanctions this lie. Thus they become dependent upon the state because the state is the definer of their personhood and the sovereign grantor of their value and uniqueness as a person. Thus, children, are persons only insofar as the state declares it so. Conversely, they are not persons if the state says they are not. Rejecting God and man as created in the image of God allows the state the prerogative of defining personhood as they see fit. America and much of the church seems content to allow this.

As far as applying these realities to the Newtown murders we need the Bible's perspective beginning with the Apostle Paul who warns us that ***"we are not ignorant of the devil's devices"*** (2 Corinthians 2:11). Peter warns us to ***"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour"*** (1 Peter 5:8). Let's take a quick overview of the difference in the activities between God and the devil in our day:

- The devil is a liar...God is the God of truth.
- The devil murders and steals...God offers and imparts eternal life to sinners by giving His Son.
- The devil distracts us from the Way the Truth and Life...God leads us to His Son who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.
- The devil seeks to overthrow God's rule primarily by deceiving people to do his bidding through demonic influence...but, God cannot be defeated, He is already on the throne, and He desires us to put Him on the throne of our lives through faith in His Son and to be fully surrendered to Him.

-The devil is fallen and headed toward destruction...The Lord Jesus is exalted and is steering all of history toward victory and eternity through His sovereign rule and power.

Satanically influenced child killers of Bible times are well known, but too easily forgotten in times like these. But the insights that we can glean from their horrible actions can teach us much about the spirit behind evil people today. Remember how Herod acted like he really wanted to worship Jesus while all along He was really planning to destroy Him? In Matthew 2:8 this wicked king, who was a friend to Rome, and an enemy of the Jews, and who was also of Arab descent, truly hated Christ. ***"And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."*** Herod was an antichrist and thus a murderer of the innocent. Filled with satanic hatred for Jesus Christ was what motivated him to be a child killer!

A very similar thing was done by the Pharaoh who arose in Egypt who did not know Joseph and who became a persecutor of the Jews living there. He ordered the murder of all male children that were born at that time. The king of Egypt said: ***"When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birth stools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, then she shall live"*** (Exodus 1:16). Here is the state assuming godhood and declaring who is a true person entitled to life and who are not entitled to life. It is sad to say, but it is true, that people who do not see this same attitude and activity paralleled in America today are willfully blinded by the devil himself!

It has always been the devil's motive to rob God of His glory, defeat his purpose, to take His throne and destroy His people. As far as the Newtown killings are concerned, we need to understand and assume that the devil filled this young man with demonic lies to get him to kill his mother and destroy the innocent lives of children as well as those who protected them. This influence to violently kill innocent lives came from the same supernatural evil that inspired the murderous crimes of the King of Egypt in Moses' day and King Herod at the birth of Jesus.

When Herod said, go find Him and come back and tell me where He is so I can worship Him too, it was God's supernatural revelation that informed the wise men that Herod was up to no good. We need to seek the Lord through His Word to understand what the Devil is up too in these latter days and the closing days of this age.

Whatever the means, be sure that the devil, working through deceived human agents, is seeking to destroy children as potential believers in the Son of God. But he will fail miserably especially in killing children because these little ones are promised by our Savior to have a home in heaven whenever they leave this life. ***"Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven"*** (Matthew 18:10). Concerning Jesus' reference to "their angels," in Hebrews 1:14 we see that those who are heaven bound, are the ones who have guardian angels, which the Bible calls "ministering spirits." ***"Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"*** Therefore we may conclude that all children who die (before the age of accountability) will go to heaven to be with the Lord. In Luke 18:16, Jesus says expressly that we are to regard children as rightful citizens of His kingdom when He says: ***"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God."***

Many today are offering a false and deceptive comfort in order to sell their books or to get some kind of attention. But our answers truly come only through the Word of God in the Bible. Beware who you look to for comfort in times of great loss and distress. As certainly as the devil can cause a problem, he is ready to offer his deceptive solution. He wears many disguises and awaits an opportunity. Keep your eyes on Jesus, your focus on His Word, stay faithful in prayer and you will not be led astray. Looking for the coming of the Lord will help to keep you from the subtle deceptions of the world, the flesh and the devil (Ephesians 2:1-3).

This is why we should "**be not conformed to this Age, but be transformed (daily) by the renewing of your minds, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect will of God**" (**Romans 12:2**).

Warfare praying is very important in these times. Warfare praying is when you take a stand against the devices and schemes of the devil through fervent prayer.

There is a very simple and well known warfare prayer that is given to us in the Bible which is called the Lord's prayer. In this prayer are the words "**lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil**," or, "**the evil one**" (**Matthew 6:13**). Here is the believer's plea that God will guard us from the "**schemes of the devil**" (**Ephesians 6:11**). Satan is always awaiting an opportunity to draw a person, a church, a family, a nation away from trusting in God and looking for Christ's return.

The devil despises the teaching of the second coming of Christ! He certainly does not want Christians to be wise to his real existence or how to determine and defeat his activities. Yet having a biblical perspective on His workings throughout history and how he is operating and influencing people for evil today helps us to understand the trends of our times. This knowledge should enable us to be more effective witnesses for Jesus Christ.

### **The Church Today - Doctrine and Prophecy**

As I think and pray about the coming year, I am mindful of the need to start it out right by thanking the Lord for all His blessings for the past year and to thank Him ahead of time for what He has in mind for 2013.

Uppermost upon my heart are the millions who do not yet know the love and forgiveness, nor the hope of the Lord Jesus Christ through faith in Him. How many billions are trapped in the darkness of Satanic lies and bondage to sin. Yet, I believe, many of them can be rescued from a hopeless eternity by sharing the good news of the gospel with them. It is important to pray for the Lord's guidance as to how to support organizations that truly preach the gospel from the standpoint of the whole counsel of God, including Bible prophecy. You also are responsible to personally grow in your knowledge of God's Word. I believe the beginning of this new year is a great time to commit to the Lord that you will get to know the Bible.

### **The Bible; Its Virtues, Veracity, and Victory**

I am always amazed at the depth of the Scriptures and the foresight and accuracy of its prophecies (100 %). Most of the world is blinded to its truths by Satan in these latter days (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). Amazingly, all that people have to do is to read it and they will see for themselves what an amazing book it is. They would discover how God's Word would truly light their way and give insight and perspective on situations and events in their lives. The Bible would also give direction as to how to resolve life's difficulties and issues. The Bible also gives us God's purpose for creating us (because He loves us) and what He has planned for our future.

Best of all, those who read the Word of God would find that God has made provision for the forgiveness of their sins by the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross. They would see that if they would believe on Him as their own Personal Savior Who died for them and who rose from the dead, then He would forgive all of their sins and make them into new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17).

As they begin to read God's Word, they will discover, through prayer, God's perfect direction for them to become active and dynamic witnesses for Jesus Christ as His chosen ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). This will all come to be through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-18; Acts 1:8). They will see through the Scriptures that the Holy Spirit, as God, would give them courage to separate from false, deceptive, idolatrous and often immoral religions, sects, cults and the occult. Through a daily reading of God's Word and

prayer-while desiring and seeking fellowship with other believers and actively worshipping God- they will come to know victory over fear!

Why are there such growing numbers of agnostics and atheists, as well as many who generally have little or no interest in God and His truth? Oh, there are growing numbers who are interested in spirituality in a vague and unqualified, undefined sense. But this is false and misleading

stuff that may use a smattering of the Bible to lightly "salt and pepper" what the "spiritual formation," and "spiritualist" people are selling, but it is certainly not the **"whole counsel of God"** (**Acts 20:27**). The reason for the growing resistance to seeking the "whole counsel of God" through the Bible is the spirit of this age who is Satan himself. Through His myriad of demonic lying powers, the devil has purposed to keep the light of God's truth out of people's lives and so to sink the world deep into darkness and despair.



The Bible indicates that this will be the character of the times as we approach the end of the age. Daniel predicted that in the latter times **"many shall run to and fro, and knowledge will increase"** (**Daniel 12:4**). This indicates that people will be looking for a source of insight about the future. There will be a hunger for it. I believe we are in such a time today. Therefore,

now is the time for believers to pray and seek to invite the lost of this world to know the Lord Jesus Christ. Many are wandering in the darkness of false philosophies and false religions, drugs, immorality, destructive habits, activities and life-styles. They need to read God's Word and come to know the Lord Jesus Christ by receiving Him as their personal Savior. But this begins with us as Christians. We need to be the witnesses that the Lord has called us to be. We need to pray and to seek the Lord in the way the Psalmist does in Psalm 119:124-128,

*Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy,  
And teach me Your statutes (Word).  
I am Your servant;  
Give me understanding,  
That I may know Your testimonies (Word).  
It is time for You to act, O LORD,  
For they have regarded Your law (Word) as void.  
Therefore I love Your commandments (Word)  
More than gold, yes, than fine gold!  
Therefore all Your precepts (Word) concerning all things  
I consider to be right;  
I hate every false way.*

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible and is a study on the amazing precepts and truths of the Word of God, the Bible! Fill your mind and heart with God's Word at the beginning of every day and allow God's Holy Spirit to guide you in your thoughts, actions, decisions and attitude. This New Year, commit through prayer to **"Trust in the Lord (through His Word and prayer) with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths!"** (**Proverbs 2:8-9**)

There are many ways to read through the Bible and to study it every day. Here are three suggestions:

1. Read one Bible chapter a day and you will read the entire Bible in three years and three months.

2. If you read three Bible chapters every weekday and five chapters on Sundays, you will read the entire Bible in less than a year.
3. In January and February, read Genesis through Deuteronomy. In March and April, read all of the New Testament. In May and June, read Joshua through Esther. In July and August, read Job through Song of Solomon. In September and October, reread all of the New Testament. In November and December, read Isaiah through Malachi. Thus, you will read through the entire Old Testament and twice through the New Testament in one year. (Bible Reading Helps, Holman KJV Super Giant Print Reference Edition, 1996)

### **Upward Call - How to walk in view of Prophecy**

The Christian who is joyfully and expectantly looking for the coming of the Lord to rapture the church to heaven at any moment has a higher perspective on current events. You know that there is great hope for the world only through Jesus Christ. This solution is the only answer, and it is the simplest! This is what we should be telling the world today. It will not do in these ever darkening and violent times simply to talk about the cross of Christ, His Resurrection and presence in the believer's life, but we must go on to let the world know the whole story! Jesus is coming again! Remember that the Lord could appear in the clouds at any moment! This is the promise of many passages in the New Testament, but one of the most detailed is Paul's writing to the Thessalonians to explain to them the great hope they have to look forward to in the coming of the Lord. He did not intend for believers to set a date for the Lord's coming but simply to expect His appearing in the clouds to occur at any moment. Are you ready?

**"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus."**

**For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.**

***And thus we shall always be with the Lord.  
Therefore comfort one another with these words."***

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
AS YOU SERVE AND WATCH FOR THE LORD FROM HEAVEN!!!

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*(Note: If you would like to interact with Dr. Downing concerning this newsletter, views, etc. you can "blog" with him at [prophecyinperspective.com](http://prophecyinperspective.com). If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter at no charge, please send your email address to: [sgdowning@bellsouth.net](mailto:sgdowning@bellsouth.net). Also, you can purchase his book, "Good News From a Far Country", a study in the book of Daniel [\$15]; "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Revelation's Prophecies" [\$10]; or his latest book, "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Developing a Prophetic Walk...A study in the lives and ministries of Elijah and Elisha" [\$10] by contacting him.)*