

Book Edit Excerpt with Style Guide Excerpt

Some of these events are somewhat brutal, but this is the real story and how it happened. I would also like to say that some of these real life instances are not politically correct, and I have thought in great detail whether to omit some of the things that were said or done, but I have come to the conclusion that it is better to tell the truth than to sugar coat it. I hope the redeeming quality that you find in this book is that no matter where or how you grow up, who you run into, or what circumstances or challenges you face, God is able to do more than you can imagine. It may not be the way you or I think he should do it, but learning to trust Him is the key for a peaceful life.

I have learned that life is not fair, let the little things get in the way of who I am, what I do, or why I do them. I believe things on this earth are here by design, and each and every thing has a purpose. My hope is that each of us will realize that purpose, and pursue it with passion. I am still in that process of knowing what that means for my own life, even though I am in my fifth decade, and I have definitely not got it all figured out either. While I don't think I will ever have a complete picture of His design for my life, I know part of His design is for me to share with you my story.

Comment [S1]: AU: This is kind of confusing. How what happened? Perhaps be specific about what you mean by "it".

Comment [S2]: AU: After reading this story, I'm not sure you need this disclaimer because what you write doesn't come across as being politically incorrect, simply because you have not spelled out the N-word. If you were to actually spell it out, then I would keep this disclaimer; otherwise, I don't think you need it. But it's your choice, and it doesn't interrupt the narrative.

Comment [S3]: AU: Revision Okay?

Comment [S4]: AU: By it do you mean God's actions? If so, consider starting the sentence with "God may not take care of things the way you think he should, but..."

Comment [S5]: AU: Your narrative needs to stay in first-person throughout. When you reflect back on your story, then advice may be appropriate.

Comment [S6]: AU: To say "would be" suggest you haven't quite made up your mind that you actually have this hope yet.

Comment [S7]: AU: Consider deleting this because in this section you are talking about your story after the fact, and your story is about transformation. In your childhood you felt stupid, but to say this now makes it seem that raising your self-esteem was not part of the transformation.

Comment [S8]: AU: Consider this revision. You don't have to use my words. I just wrote it to give an example for how to conclude this introduction by bringing it back around to the general purpose you have for telling your story.

Style Sheet Excerpt

Style Sheet for Book Edit - Memoir: *Time to Stand by Bruce Cupp*

Copyeditor: Sheri Rose, Owner/Independent Contractor – Precision Copyediting, LLC

334-425-0708

<http://www.precisioncopyeditingllc.com>

References: Chicago Manual of Style; Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed.

Comment Balloons: The abbreviation AU: is used to preface all comments. It stands for Author and is a way to indicate the comment is specifically addressed to the author and not the publisher, proofreader, researcher or anyone else involved in the project.

BEFORE YOU READ:

Understand that it is a copyeditor's job to do no harm. As such, it always seems more harmful than good when first viewing comments and suggestions because the amount makes it seem like the story is bad. The comments and suggestions made here in no way suggest you do not have a good story to tell; however, to communicate it in a way the reader can best understand means making some adjustments.

This is your work. These are my suggestions. Ultimately it is you who decides which suggestions you want to take and which changes you want to keep. Just know that your story is moving, and it is worth telling.

I have given many suggestions and written many comments, but these are the five main things needing revision. When you begin your revisions, start with the language and grammar first. Then take on the structure.

1. Excessive use of clichés and idioms
2. Chronological ordering of events in these sections mostly. More details in the document comments:
 - i. School Starts
 - ii. My Spiritual Journey
 - iii. Back at Home
 - iv. The Game I Will Never Forget
3. Run-on sentences
4. Naming of characters – Too many pronouns used to identify characters, and this makes it unclear who is doing what, and how many are doing whatever they are doing.
5. Shifting points of view

General Observations on Genre and Structural Inconsistencies

1. Your book primarily reads like a short memoir written by the adult who experienced childhood events that shaped his life today, so I edited it with this in mind.
2. It is told mostly from the point of view of an adult, with some inconsistencies in voice. This is explained in more detailed comments within the manuscript and later in this style sheet.
3. Memoirs are stories written in chronological order. You have three to four sections and the narrative that jump in and out time sequence. More details are in the document comments.
4. You mix points of view. Stick with first person throughout. If you want to use second person, leave it for the reflection section. It fits there. To go back and forth between points of view interrupts the narrative.
5. The reflection needs revision and to be reworked. Try grouping the information you have by topic and writing reflections that connect to topics.

BOOK EDIT EXERPT #2

Introduction

John and Daniel Saw a Succession of Eight kings

The Fourth King of the Succession of Eight kings

The First Three Kings of Daniel Chapter 7

The First King of Grecia

The Sixth King and the Sixth Seal Event

The Seventh and Eighth Kings

The Eighth King Gets Satan's Power, Seat, and Authority

The Two Witnesses and the Seven Last Plagues

Comment [S9]: AU: Consider a larger font for visual separation of the parts or chapters listed below.

Comment [S10]: AU: Is this the list that follows a set of sections or parts to the book or are they chapter titles? If they are chapter titles, they need to be designated as such and given a page number where the chapter begins.

Comment [S11]: AU: Is this chapter 7 in the book of Daniel or an accidental placement of chapter number? Consider revising.

Introduction

The Prophetic Playbook Story has been created to share empowering insights about the book of Revelation, the book of Daniel, and the prophetic events happening in our day all in general order.

Understanding the prophetic events is really important because you'll get the big picture view and this will immediately help you begin to prayerfully formulate what you can and should be doing to minimize the negative challenges coming our way. Take notes about the impressions you get as you read along.

Another reason why understanding the prophetic events is important is because a society that loves and serves Heavenly Father and understands the prophetic events of our day is the key society to the golden opportunity that we as Christians have right now. You see, a society that

Comment [S12]: AU: Consider a page break between the Table of Contents and the Introduction narrative.

Comment [S13]: AU: Be sure to italicize titles of books.

Comment [S14]: Consider deleting the word really throughout. It's an unnecessary qualifies, and the following word "important" implies it, so using the word "really" makes it seem redundant and wordy.

Comment [S15]: AU: Consider revising for redundancy.

"The big picture" is a view.

Comment [S16]: AU: Consider revising for consistent point of view. You start out the paragraph with second person, then switch to first person plural. It's best to choose one point of view and keep it consistent throughout.

Comment [S17]: AU: Consider revising for wordiness. Consider deleting "Another reason why understandind..." and starting instead with "The prophetic events are also important because...".

Also consider breaking this sentence into two separate sentences for clarity.

loves God and understands the prophetic events can better encourage like-minded people to become candidates. We can support those candidates and they can become politicians. Like-minded politicians will support liberty and freedom and will take the brakes off our economy which means more jobs and a better day to day life.

Comment [S18]: AU: Consider revising. These two sentences are redundant. Perhaps eliminate the second sentence, or blend it into the first.

You may be wondering if we can have a better day-to-day life considering the prophetic events to come. The short answer is likely “no” if your better day-to-day life is gauged by how big your house is or how much money you make. The answer is “yes” if you gauge it by being part of an awesome community.

Christians, as you are about to discover, due to the prophetic events that are presently upon us as well as those that will soon be, we need a good economy NOW to make essential preparations for the times ahead. The worst of the worldwide events in the near future is the Sixth Seal Event. See for yourself.

THE SIXTH SEAL EVENT

One of the major reasons we need to act now to make the most of the opportunity that is currently before us has to do with the prophetic Sixth Seal Event. Have you heard about this impending life changing event? If you are like 99% of the Christians I have talked to, chances are you either have not heard of the Sixth Seal Event or you may have heard of it but are not able to remember the details.

The prophetic Sixth Seal Event will be the worst catastrophic event since the flood of Noah’s time; however, billions of people will likely survive. What’s really important to understand is that you are learning about it now which places you in a better position to prepare yourself and others as well. As Christians, we need to tell everyone we possibly can about the Sixth Seal Event. Instead of 99% of adult Christians not knowing about the Sixth Seal Event, let’s have a goal of making sure that over 80% of all the adults in all the world know about it within the next few years. Doesn’t that sound like the right thing to do?

Comment [S19]: AU: Consider revising to “entire world”.

The Sixth Seal Event will be so horrific that all of humanity will be seeking underground shelter. However, before we read about everyone seeking shelter, let’s first read what John saw as Christ opened the sixth seal, an event in our near future. We read about the Sixth Seal Event in Revelation, chapter 6, verses 12 - 17:

Comment [S20]: AU: Consider deleting to resolve redundancy. You have mentioned several times this even is in our near future.

Comment [S21]: Consider this revision:
“in Revelation 6: 12-17”.
Perhaps indicate from which version of the Bible you are quoting the following text, or provide parenthetical citations in with the quotes.

6:12: “And I beheld when he [Christ] had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;”

Clearly, John saw that there would be a great earthquake and the light of the sun would be darkened. The question is: What caused the earthquake? The answer seems to be in the next verse where John indicates that he saw multiple bright objects impacting the earth.

6:13: “And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.”

When I was about 5 years old, we had an enormous fig tree in our front yard. There were hundreds of figs on that old tree. This imagery from John helps us to know that he is seeing hundreds if not thousands of bright objects impacting the earth. So, the next question is: How bad will this event be? The answer is in the very next verse:

Comment [S22]: AU: Consider revising. This first person point of view is an interesting reference, but then in the next sentence, the POV abruptly changes to first person plural. There needs to more of a transition between the two POVs.

6:14: “And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.”

Comment [S23]: AU: Check the source here for subject-verb agreement.

Imagine the earth reeling and the mountains and islands moving out of their places and the volcanoes erupting and the massive waves going way beyond their bounds. There will be hundreds or maybe even thousands of bright objects traveling perhaps at thousands of miles per hour crushing through our atmosphere with deafening sound barrier BOOMS! The objects will impact the earth with so much devastating force that every mountain and island will be moved out of their places. Just imagine the waves of the seas and the waves of the ocean that will go far beyond their bounds and the violent eruptions of volcanoes which will cause a thick darkness to obscure the light of the sun. What are we going to do for protection? John saw what all humanity is going to do for protection, and he told us in the very next verse:

Comment [S24]: AU: Consider two sentences here. You could start the second one with an action verb to strengthen the intensity of these occurrences. The pattern would be something like this:
“_(Action Verb)_ the volcanoes erupting...”

Comment [S25]: AU: Consider revising to avoid redundancy. This was stated in the first sentence. Perhaps rewording it.

6:15: “And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;”

All of mankind will be in underground shelters while wondering if their location will survive the impacts, earthquakes, sonic booms, volcanic eruptions, ash, and waves heaving themselves far beyond their bounds and the other unforgiving elements in utter chaos.

Comment [S26]: AU: In the last paragraph you used the phrase “way beyond their bounds”. Consider revising for redundancy.

Comment [S27]: AU: Consider deleting. It reads as extraneous or out of place. The sentence logically ends after “beyond their bounds”.

The Sixth Seal Event happens years before the Christ returns in power and glory; however, many people are going to be saying they need to hide from the wrath of Christ. John wrote what he heard the people saying as they hid themselves in the dens and the rocks of the mountains:

Comment [S28]: AU: Revision OK? The other word order made it seem like the Sixth Seal Event is what is returning in power and glory.

6:16: “And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:”

Comment [S29]: AU: Check source for punctuation and capitalization.

6:17: “For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”

With all the powerful telescopes and smart scientists around the world, it would not surprise me if some scientists already have scientific proof that this event is going to happen and when! It wouldn't surprise me if the president of the United States already knows that this event was going to happen and when! It wouldn't surprise me if some of the elite people already know this event is coming and when it will happen! Here's what we as Christians know... If they don't have scientific proof yet, they soon will... We soon will too!

Comment [S30]: AU: Consider deleting to alleviate redundancy.

Could this be why NASA and the European Space Agency are planning an October 2020 launch to practice shooting an Asteroid? In an article entitled “We're Planning to Shoot an Asteroid to See What Happens”, we read “...with all the asteroids that are out there — some with orbits that, in the future, could give Earth a very bad day — we have begun planning for an audacious mission to take a shot at an asteroid before an asteroid takes a shot at us.” What do they really know?

Comment [S31]: AU: Consider specifying what they are planning to launch.

Comment [S32]: AU: Consider providing a footnote reference to the publication where this article can be found, or write the name of the publication here.

Fortunately for Christians, we don't need scientific proof to believe this event is coming. God revealed it, the prophetic John wrote it, and we are living in the times that it will happen! It's that simple.

We are greatly blessed to know that this event is coming. We can learn about the prophetic events and encourage others to learn about them, too. We can use the prophetic events' insight to help our society, government, and economy. We begin preparations for the Sixth Seal Event now while the economy is still as good as it is. Can you imagine what is going to happen to the economies around the world when the rest of the people around the world learn of scientific proof that this event is going to happen?

Comment [S33]: AU: Consider revising. The prophetic events don't have insight; we get insight from them. Perhaps something like this:

“We gain insights from the prophetic events to...”

Do you think there is a chance that the time will come when the government checks could stop coming to those on Welfare and Social Security and other government programs?

Comment [S34]: AU: From here on is another topic as related to the coming events. There needs to be a transition between the last paragraph and this section a Segway better connecting the relationship between the two ideas.

Consider a new heading.

If we as a society keep going in the direction we are going, if our government keeps going in the direction it is going, do you think there is a chance that our economy could go into a depression

or melt-down? Do you think there would be high unemployment? Do you think that there could be shortages in food, fuel, electricity and other disruptions? That will not be the best time or circumstance to begin preparations.

However, here in the U.S., we have a high percentage of Christians. We have somewhat fair elections. We also have a Constitution built for liberty and freedom. We can learn about the prophetic events. We can encourage like-minded qualified people to become candidates. We can support those like-minded candidates and help them get elected. Those politicians can take the brakes off of our economy so we have more jobs, more money, and lower national debt. We can, as a nation, also prepare a resilient economy to survive the time when all the other country's economies begin to significantly struggle. We do not have to go down with them!

Comment [S35]: AU: Consider deleting this word. There is really no however or alternate comparison. It's more like a thank goodness that here in the U.S. and so on.

Comment [S36]: AU: Consider revising. Some like this, perhaps?

"We can encourage like-minded qualified people to become political candidates and help them get elected."

Is it starting to make sense why this is our golden opportunity, our awesome moment in time? The prophetic events have been organized in general order. Where we are in the order of events has been identified. In fact, a poster with 210 prophetic points in general order has been assembled. That's 210 prophetic points leading up to the return of Christ in power and glory. Christ returns around the 193rd to 210th prophetic points time period. Out of the 210 prophetic points leading up to the return of Christ in power and glory, which one do you think we are on right now? I'll share with you which prophetic point we are on right now as we go through the story. First, I have to let you know...

The process for a better society, economy, and government simply begins with what you are doing now... reading this book and then sharing the Sixth Seal Event news with others while encouraging them to read this, too.

There are websites that reference an interesting survey which indicates that out of all the Christians in the U.S. that could register to vote, only about half (50%) have registered to vote. Out of the 50% who have registered to vote, only half (50%) of them actually do vote. That means that out of all the Christians who could register to vote only about 25% have registered to vote and do vote... Only 25%! Wow! Pretty sad! And here is the bad news... The 25% that do vote... They seem to vote just about 50/50 against each other! Christians are just about canceling out each other's vote! Do you see room for improvement? Absolutely! We could win just about any election we want to!

Comment [S37]: AU: Consider revising for wordiness.

Comment [S38]: AU: Consider revising. This seems redundant, but I'm not sure. It's unclear if this is another level of voter separation or another restatement of what you just said.

As you read through the prophetic events in general order, let's see if we can find the like-minded common ground ideas that we would like to see the candidates and politicians have, too. As you can see there is a lot at stake here. So, let's get started and learn the general order of the prophetic events!

John and Daniel Saw a Succession of Eight kings

“Christ will return in power and glory.” Lowell said with a smile and a voice of confidence to Landon and Sarah as they sat outside in comfortable lawn chairs in the backyard of their home. It was one of those fall afternoons with a cool gentle breeze. Two big trees provided perfect shade over the patio with a fire pit around where they sat.

Landon was 6’2”, slender and well built. He barely fit the lawn chair he was sitting in. His short blonde hair was still wet from his swim in the pool. He snapped back quickly with a friendly yet stern tone and said, “You’ve been telling me that for years! And you know I don’t believe in Christ. Am I some special project you are determined to convert?”

Lowell had instigated the conversation about Christ. A few days earlier Lowell had asked if he could meet with them and a few of their other friends. He wanted to present a quick overview of the prophetic events of our day in general order leading up to the return of Christ in power and glory. As you might imagine, Landon was the least enthusiastic about the lecture to come; however, Sarah liked to know what others thought about the signs of the times and loved to hangout with her friends.

Even though Landon and Lowell didn’t see eye to eye about Jesus, they were very good friends and Lowell had caught Landon at a good moment. Sarah’s insistence that they hear what Lowell had to say made it a done deal. However, when the moment had arrived for Lowell to talk about prophetic events, Landon slipped back into his grouchy mood of wanting nothing to do with “Christ” talk.

Sarah finished filling seven cups with fresh squeezed lemonade with lemons from their trees. It was a special treat her friends always looked forward to. Sarah was 5’9” and had beautiful olive skin with a slender body. She leaned over towards Landon and gave him a kiss on the cheek while pushing back her long black hair. “You used to believe in Christ,” she said tenderly. Landon looked intensely into Sarah’s blue eyes “Don’t go there Sarah. You haven’t been to church for years my angel.”

Just then Austin and Lacey walked through the sliding glass door to the patio. Austin was a gentleman and opened the door for his lovely wife, Lacey. Lacey was 5’4” and Asian-American. Her black hair glistened in the sunlight. At 6’2”, Austin was slightly heavysset, but he wore it well. He smiled and waved to all of his friends.

Comment [S39]: AU: Consider saying “Landon here as it makes it confuses

Comment [S40]: Au: Consider saying “him”.

Comment [S41]: AU: According to Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition, hangout is one word. MS word shows otherwise. The rule is to go with Merriam Webster’s.

Comment [S42]: AU: Because this is the section with dialogue, to avoid confusion, consider hyphenating instead. It works because it then becomes the adjective phrase that describes the kind of talk Landon doesn’t like.

Like so: Christ-talk

“Sarah, it sounds like you need to come to church this Sunday.” Austin said with a grin.

“What’s the sermon this Sunday, pastor?” Sarah asked Austin.

Austin looked around the beautiful backyard, which included two orange trees, a lemon tree, and a grapefruit tree. The bright colored flowers along the edge of the short green turf grass captivated his attention. “Faith in Christ,” Austin replied.

“Nope! Got it! I’m good.” Sarah said politely.

Landon looked at Lacey and said, “Lacey, I don’t know how you put up with all of Pastor’s Jesus stuff.”

Comment [S43]: AU: Capitalized because it’s used as a name.

Lacey gave Landon a silly look and she mussed his wet hair. Lacey and Austin greeted the others with quick hugs and then they sat down in lawn chairs. Immediately, they reached for their cold glass of fresh lemonade. Before taking a sip Lacey commented. “Aren’t we a unique set of friends?”

“Yes we are,” Sarah said as she gently laced her fingers through Lacey’s hands for a moment. Two more people made their way to the backyard, and Lowell noted, “and we are even more unique now that Jose and Maria are here.”

Jose and Maria (who looked like she could have a baby any moment) came into the backyard and were warmly welcomed by everyone.

Comment [S44]: AU: This needs revision. It is written as though both Jose and Maria are pregnant, or that Jose and Maria are one entity.

Maria waddled over to the group with one hand steadying her belly; her petite bloated body showing obvious discomfort. Her black long hair was swaying and blowing in the gentle cool breeze. Her beautiful big Spanish brown eyes showed the discomfort she was feeling. Her light-brown colored skin radiated in the sunlight as she walked over to the others in the cool shade.

Jose walked to the side of Maria. His 5’9”, 190 pound - muscle ripped body was a sharp contrast to his wife’s bloated condition. Jose’s dark brown eyes and dark Spanish skin contrasted warmly to his wife’s. They looked like a perfectly matched couple even with Maria’s pregnant condition.

As Maria situated herself in a lawn chair, Lacey came over and gently rubbed Maria’s huge pregnant belly and said, “Maria, when are you ever going to have this baby? Elijah right?”

“Yes, Elijah. I don’t know what he is waiting for. I’m a week over due. They are going to induce me tomorrow. I am so done with being this huge and uncomfortable.” Maria looks around and then asks, “Sarah, where are your kids?”

Sarah quickly responded with, “Oh, they are at Grandma’s. We are picking them up after our little visit here.”

Lowell took the cue. “And because of everyone’s busy schedule we better get started.”

“Go ahead! Torture me! I still won’t believe!” Landon said, closing his mind for what was to come.

Lowell shook at Landon and smiled. “Thank you Landon and Sarah for allowing us to meet here at your beautiful home, and to answer your earlier question, Landon, you know everyone here, but you love Jesus. One day we hope you will, too. In the mean time, we have a future to prepare for and those of us who are Christians need to look ahead. And although you do not believe in Christ yet, you have great abilities to help your family and others in the days ahead so thanks for hanging out with us while we talk about the prophetic events of our day.”

Comment [S45]: AU: Check word choice here.

Comment [S46]: AU: This is confusing. Who loves Jesus? So far, Landon doesn’t want anything to do with Jesus.

Landon politely nodded and then Lacey spoke up. “By the way, I watched your videos online about the book of Daniel and the book of Revelation. It was very informative. I’ve been trying to get the busy pastor here to take a look, too.”

Austin chimed in. “I’ve been busy. I’ll get to it.”

“Being busy is one of the reasons I’ve asked you to meet today,” Lowell said and smiled again. “I wanted to share with you why this is our golden opportunity, our awesome opportunity moment that we as Christians have been waiting for.”

Comment [S47]: AU: Consider revising for redundancy or rephrase to “opportune moment”.

“What moment is that?” Sarah asks.

“The moment we can be better united in working with Christ to make greater things happen in our own lives. This works for a better society, economy, and government so we can get through the challenges coming our way,” Lowell responded.

“I like it already.” Austin replied and nodded.

“Just what we need!” Sarah said.

Maria looked at her belly and said, “I’ve been so concerned about my children’s futures. Things are so bad compared to when I was a child.”

Lowell used the remote to turn on the large 70” screen TV in the backyard. “I hope this quick overview will help you to see there is a bright future for all Christians and encourage you to learn about the prophetic events of our day. This is a great time to bring little ones into the world. Let’s get started and you’ll soon see why.”

Comment [S48]: AU: Make sure to switch your keyboard to enter straight quotes here; otherwise, it looks like an incorrectly punctuated quote.

Landon rolled his eyes. “Lowell, there is no way everyone is going to become a Christian and get along with others like buddy-buddies. It’s not going to happen!”

“Your 100% right Landon,” Lowell said as he loaded up slides to play on the TV. “Not everyone is going to believe in Christ anytime soon and not everyone is going to want to be friendly. I also think that people like you are going to be friendlier to be around than some of the Christians. I think we would all agree the more good people we can surround ourselves with, the better, and that is one of the main things I hope this information helps with. Helping people to become grounded in becoming the best, kindest, most helpful people they can be for the challenging times ahead.”

Jose raised his cup of lemonade like he was making a toast. “Bro., glad you said that. I was wondering if you were trying to start a Christians against everyone else crusade. You’re cool Bro.; I get it. It’s those for peace protecting us against those who aren’t.”

Lowell clicked to the first slide. “You got it Jose. We want peace, and a good society, economy, and government.”

Comment [S49]: AU: Consider word choice.

Lowell then stood up and walked closer to the TV and turned facing everyone. “O.K. We begin!” Lowell pointed to the TV. “A significant breakthrough was the understanding that John recorded in the book of Revelation. He saw a succession of eight kings leading up to the return of Christ in power and glory. So, if we are anywhere close to the return of Christ in power and glory, then one of these eight kings is ruling today.”

“In the commentaries I’ve read, those kings were supposed to have begun their rule long ago,” Austin said curiously.

“Yeah, I know,” Lowell said. “That misinformation has caused a lot of bad speculation. Many people have stopped going to church or even believing in Christ because of bad information like that.”

Landon tilted his head to the right as he asked sarcastically, “Are you talking about me and my wife?”

“And probably hundreds of millions like you,” Lowell said while changing to the next slide. “Let’s read what John wrote about these eight kings. This is from Revelation 17, verses 10 and 11.”

“And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. ”

Jose squinted his eyes and questioned Lowell, “Hey man, how do you know these kings lead up to Christ’s return?”

“Fair question Jose. The best quick answer is found in Revelation 19:20 which says:”

“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”

Lowell continued, “That happens when Christ returns in power and glory.”

“O.K. Bro,; just checkin’,” Joel said with a nod.

Lowell changed the slide and said, “Another breakthrough came in understanding that the prophet Daniel also saw a succession of many kings leading up to the return of Christ in power and glory and also wars and conflicts.”

Lowell watched everyone’s faces in anticipation of the surprise they would have in the next slide. “Within the group of many kings that Daniel saw, there is a succession of eight kings.” He changed the slide.

Comment [S50]: AU: Consider revising for consistency.

“Revelation 17: 10-11”

Comment [S51]: AU: This addition needs also to be a straight apostrophe. My keyboard is not set up right not to inset them.

Jose made the connection. “Woe! Bro.! You mean to tell me that both John and Daniel saw the same eight kings? Are you serious?!”

Everyone was looking at each other, eyes open wide. Their faces held the expression of surprise as they seemingly asked each other, “Are you seeing what I’m seeing?!”

“Yep!” Lowell said smiling. “They saw the same eight kings leading up to the return of Christ in power and glory.”

Mary shrugged her shoulders “That sends chills up my spine!”

“Were John and Daniel alive at the same time?” Sarah asked.

Lowell shook his head and said, “No, Daniel recorded his information about 600 years before John had his vision.”

Comment [S52]: AU: Consider this revision. If Lowell is shaking his head and saying “no”, then it is implied he’s shaking it in the “no” side-to-side movement.

“Wow!” Sarah responded. “Two prophets seeing the same eight kings. That must have been an important message.”

Lowell continued, “You’re right. It was an important message and Daniel gave us the most details about the first seven kings. The book of Revelation gave us key information mostly about the sixth king and the eighth king.”

Lacey raised her hand. “So, the eighth king is evil?”

“Yes!” Lowell replied. “The eighth king gets the power, seat, and authority of Satan, and goes to fight against Christ.”

Austin leaned forward. “Let me guess. You think he’s Obama right?” Everyone chuckled, and then Austin cut Lowell off from answering. “Almost every week I hear someone from my congregation tell me Obama is the anti-Christ. It drives me crazy! I can’t get involved in politics! I’d lose half my congregation and half my paycheck! You know what I mean.”

“Well, Good news! Obama is not the eighth king,” Lowell assured Austin and the others.

Maria looked at Lowell with a little scowl on her face. “You’re not going to pick on my Pope Francis are you?”

“Nope Maria, He’s not one of the eight kings either,” Lowell replied.

Sarah looked confused. “Then who is the eighth king?”

Lowell smiled. “We have not discovered who the eighth king is yet.”

Maria sounded confused. “I thought...,” then her face lit up. “Ooohhh! Austin jumped the gun when he was wondering if Obama was the anti-Christ.”

“Yep. Austin got us a little off track there,” Lowell said.

“Sorry folks,” Austin admits. “O.K., Lowell, tell us which of the eight kings is ruling today?”

Lowell looked at everyone. “Take a guess. I’ve already told you it’s not the eighth king so you only have seven to choose from. Which one of the seven do you think is ruling today?”

“Number seven!” Maria guessed.

“Six,” Jose shouted.

Austin spoke up. “I’ll go with number six, too.”

“I have no idea,” Sarah said in a soft voice.

Lowell looked at Sarah. “Oh, just take a guess.”

“None!” Landon said with a rebellious tone.

Sarah swayed hesitantly back and forth to the left and right. “Oh, what the heck. I’ll pick number four.”

Lowell looked at the last person holding out. “Lacey?”

“I’ll say number five,” Lacey said with a little confidence in her voice.

Lowell took a couple of steps forward and in a soft voice replied: “Imagine if the vast majority of Christians knew without a doubt what the correct answer was. Wouldn’t that be awesome?”

Everyone but Landon nodded their heads, “Yes.”

Marie broke the moment of silence. “Don’t be teasing a pregnant women now Lowell. You come clean with us right now! Which king is ruling today?”

Everyone smiled at Maria and then looked at Lowell and waited for his response. It didn’t take long.

Lowell pointed his finger at Sarah and proclaimed, “You’re right Sarah! We are on the fourth king! We almost have four down with four to go!”

“That’s it?!” Austin said in disappointment. “Man, I thought Christ would be comin’ back real soon. Here I’ve been preachin’ like He’s a-comin’ back in the next few years. Man, I’ve got some serious egg on my face!”

“I’m surprised we aren’t on the eighth king,” Jose said with a disappointed tone.

“Man, are you sure Lowell?” Austin said as he was tried to wrap his head around the news.

“Yes, Austin, I am sure,” Lowell said with an absolute voice and then continued, “and you may have egg on your face right now, but you are going to look awesome when you preach the truth and time proves you right.”

“I’ve been preaching wrong!” Austin said with a greater sense of disappointment.

“It’s really not your fault.” Lowell replied. “For about two thousand years people have been getting it wrong. There have been hundreds of commentaries on the book of Revelation and Daniel and yet, they haven’t yet hit the mark or brought us to a general consensus regarding where we are in relation to prophetic events. They haven’t convinced us which one of the eight kings is ruling now.”

Comment [S53]: AU: You could use a comma or a period here. It depends on the emphasis. If you it as one string of thought in a more casual friendly way, the comma works well. If you want to emphasize the importance of the character’s confidence in convincing his audience, a period for separation into two sentences works better.

Comment [S54]: AU: This is a different font style. Is this what you intended?