



Prophecy in Perspective

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An email newsletter

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We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto you do well that you take heed, as to a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: (2 Peter 1:19 AKJV)

The Bible tells us that we have a "more sure word of prophecy." Bible prophecy shows us that God is real and that Jesus is the Messiah, God, and the one and only Savior of the world. We know this because, only God can fully know the events of the future. There is no other religious book on earth that has hundreds of prophecies that have been literally fulfilled and hundreds more that await fulfillment. Bible prophecy verifies for us that the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, is real and is personal. Over thousands of years of the Bible's writing, prophecy has been authoritatively pronounced, inerrantly written and perfectly preserved down to us today, because God loves us and wants us to know that He is indeed in charge of the universe, the earth, and our personal lives. God has revealed Himself to us through creation, and even more, through the Word of God, the Bible. God has not left sinful man to himself, but has spoken through the Scripture, through the prophets of the Scriptures, and finally, through the final Prophet, Priest and King, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Let's look at some reasons why prophecy is important for us to study and to believe.

FIRST, what is the aim of prophecy? One aim of prophecy is to know God's plan. God's wonderful plan for the world, through Jesus Christ, is to save the lost by faith in Jesus as God's only Son. He was sent as the virgin born Savior, lived a sinless life, performed many miracles and declared many prophecies of the future as well as fulfilled hundreds of Old Testament prophecies about Himself. Jesus willingly died on the cross for our sins, and bodily rose from the dead. He has ascended to heaven and, according to His promise, will come back again. God wants us to know His wonderful plan for the forgiveness of our sins through faith in Jesus Christ, His Son. God has shown us the "more sure word of prophecy" to prepare us for eternity with Him and to prepare the world for His coming through our daily testimony.

Another aim of prophecy is to bring us to serve God with a clear purpose. God desires us to bring the lost to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The Lord's desire in living His life in and through us is for us to make Him known to a world that is growing more chaotic each day. We are called and empowered as Christians to authoritatively make known the clear claims of Jesus Christ. Bible prophecy concerning the first and second coming of Christ will verify to those who have ears to hear, that Jesus is humanity's only hope.

SECOND, what is the applicability of prophecy? One way prophecy is applicable is that it puts present suffering in the perspective of future glory. We see hope in our suffering through seeing the suffering of Jesus Christ for our salvation, and then His glorious resurrection! Jesus Christ gives meaning to all trials and afflictions in this life and promises glories to follow in His presence for ever.

Another way prophecy is applicable to us is that, prophecy reveals truth about the future that is designed to encourage us today in our faith. As Christians, we are called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be dynamic and convincing witnesses of the realities of God and His purposes for us now and for the future. There is no

other dependable source of information for the world than the prophetic oracles of the Bible. By knowing God's prophetic truths of the future, we can be encouraged to take heart in our own times of trial. We live in a world with millions of people who are bewildered by the growing confusion of changing morality and theological deception. In terms of our prophetic outlook, our courage and faithful stand for truth in challenging times will speak convincingly to a watching world. The truths of God's Word will seem true to them, because they will see how they are proved by our own lives. Peter writes: ***It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- things into which angels long to look (1 Peter 1:12, NASB).***

THIRD, what is the assurance of prophecy? There are five important assurances of prophecy:

1. Bible prophecy assures us that God has the present and future under His control. God's control in our present and eternal future is assured through His eternal foreknowledge and loving purpose in Jesus Christ. You may be confident that since God knows all the future, He has your life and concerns before Him every day. ***Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world (Acts 15:8).***

2. Bible prophecy assures us that God's Word is more confirmed than the word of man. We live in a day of many false and deceptive predictions. There is a growing tendency to depend on man's ideas over biblical truth. But there is only One who can accurately predict the future: The God of the Bible! You and I can trust the truth and precision of the Bible's predictions. ***We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto you do well that you take heed, as to a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: (2 Peter 1:19 AKJV).***

3. Bible prophecy assures us that however dark the times, the biblical prophecy will light the way. As Christians, we can be confident that God's Word will light the way even though the days seem to be growing more dark. ***...as to a light that shines in a dark place...(2 Peter 1:19).***

4. Bible prophecy assures us that each truth is rooted in the whole counsel of God. This is a safeguard against those who would teach the Scriptures out of the context of the whole Bible. The teachings of cults, such as the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, and others, will often employ the deceptive technique of presenting prophecy out of context of other Scriptures to push their own false views. They depend on people's ignorance of the Bible to advance their own dangerous doctrines. Prophecy should always be understood in the context of the whole Bible. ***Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation (2 Peter 1:20).***

5. Bible prophecy assures us that only the Triune God of the Bible, and not man, can perfectly predict the future. Only the true God of the Bible can see the entire future as present. God sees and knows the future in the most minute detail and He has planned His works accordingly. This is what separates the Bible from the erroneous writing of false cults and religions. The god they promote cannot tell the future. Knowing this should make us more dependent upon the Bible for our insights about the future and so also of what is going on in the world today. ***For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).***

Current News of Note:

Ancient Jewish Town Connected With Abraham And Jesus Discovered In Israel

The prophet Elijah also took refuge here. Israeli archaeologists have uncovered the remains of a Second Temple period Jewish settlement in the city of Beersheba. The site is dated from the 1st century AD until the Bar-Kokhba Revolt against the Roman Empire in 135 AD. It is located along the southern border of the ancient kingdom of Judah. (Rapture Ready News, April 5, 2019)

MORONI WEEPS: Mormon Church Reverses Controversial LBGTQP Anti-Baptism Policy and Begins To Make Room For Gays And Transgenders

As we have long told you, the end times church of the unsaved will proudly (pun intended) feature the LGBTQ+P for pedophile movement in its ranks, as we are already seeing with the Methodists, Presbyterians, Roman Catholics, the Emergent Church, and now the Latter-Day Saints. What a mongrel mess the end times are bringing us, time to get on board Flight #777 on Titus 213 Airlines. (Rapture Ready News, April 5, 2019)

Mormon Church: Now Okay to Baptize Kids of LGBT Parents, Gay Marriage No Longer Apostasy

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Mormon church, announced today that the children of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) parents can now be baptized in the church. In addition, the church said it no longer considers same-sex marriage "apostasy." (Rapture Ready News, April 5, 2019)

Moral Decline: Satanic Symbols are Now Appearing at Government Buildings All Across America

Despite its strong Christian origins, the United States of America is rapidly descending into total amorality and godlessness, with statues openly honoring Satan now appearing on government property all across the country. (Rapture Ready News, April 5, 2019)

Israel's Zehut Feiglin Says He Wants to Build the Third Temple Right Away

The head of the far-right quasi-libertarian Zehut party said Wednesday that he wants to rebuild the Jewish Temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem immediately. "I don't want to build a (Third) Temple in one or two years, I want to build it now," Moshe Feiglin said at a Maariv/Jerusalem Post conference in Tel Aviv, referring to the site that currently houses the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque and where both Jewish Temples stood in the past. (Rapture Ready News, April 5, 2019)

Babylon Literally to Be Rebuilt (Revelation 17-18)

It would be strange for "Babylon" to refer to the literal Babylon all through the Bible and then for the meaning to suddenly change in the Book of Revelation. Henry Morris supports this literal understanding of Babylon. "It must be stressed again that Revelation means 'unveiling,' not 'veiling.' In the absence of any statement in the context to the contrary, therefore, we much assume that the term Babylon applies to the real city of Babylon, although it also may extend far beyond that to the whole system centered at Babylon as well." (Mark Hitchcock, The Amazing Claims of Bible Prophecy, p. 191).

Trip to Israel

Karen and I just returned from our exciting trip to Israel! We learned many wonderful things about that amazing land and people. The places that we went to see: the Sea of Galilee, Caesarea Philippi, Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, the Dead Sea, the Jordan River, and so many other sites were an incredible blessing. They were also an affirmation of the Bible! To be at the actual places that are mentioned in the Bible really encourages us that we can be sure that the Bible is true, and that God is personal and faithful. And God hears and answers prayer! We could plainly see that God intends for His people, the Jews, to live in Israel and to establish that nation to be a blessing to the whole world.

We will look at the order of events in prophecy in the next edition of ***Prophecy in Perspective***.

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