

What You Need to Know About Biblical Prophecy

Intro - Week 1

Pastor Marty

What is Prophecy?

1. The Proclamation of the **WILL** of God, both present and future.

The Importance of Prophecy

2. God used **PROPHETS** in the Old and New Testament.
3. Prophecy comes only from **GOD**, not people. (2 Pet 1:21; Isa 46:9-11)
4. **1/3** of the Bible's 66 Books were authored by Prophets in the OT.
5. **4** of the NT Books are primarily prophetic
 - Revelation
 - Jude
 - 1 Thessalonians
 - 2 Thessalonians
6. **27%** of the Bible includes Prophecy.

The Nature of Prophecy

7. OT & NT **PROPHETS** spoke for God in 2 Ways:
 - **FORTH-Telling**: Proclaiming the known Word and Will of God to His People, urging them to turn from their sin, and warning them what would happen if they did not repent.
 - **FORE-Telling**: Looking to the future regarding:
 - o The Human Race
 - o The Nation of Israel
 - o Future Events in General
 - o The Coming of Christ
8. The Most Important Prophecies point to the **COMING** of Christ:
 - **120** were fulfilled with His First Coming.
 - The odds of the fulfillment was **1** out 84 with 251 zeroes.
 - **300** Prophecies concern Christ's Second Coming.

Why study Unfulfilled Prophecy?

9. God says it is **USEFUL**. (2 Tim 3:16-17)
10. It gives us **HOPE**. (Rom 15:4)
11. It promotes **HOLY** Living. (2 Pet 3:11-12)
12. It compels us to **SHARE** the Gospel. (1 Cor 15:52)
13. It brings **BLESSING**. (Rev 1:3)
14. God wants us to recognize the **SIGNS** of our Times. (Matt 16:1-3)

Is it okay for Christians to hold different Convictions about Prophecy?

We hold to the **FACTS**:

15. Christ will **RETURN** for his own.
16. **NO ONE** knows when Christ will return, only God
17. He will **JUDGE** the world.

18. There will be a time of great **TROUBLE** on the earth at the end of the ages.
19. The final conflict will be **WON** by Christ.
20. Satan, his angels, and those who are without Christ will be cast into the **LAKE OF FIRE** forever.
21. Jesus will take his children to live on the **NEW EARTH** with him forever.

However, the facts only take us so far. There is not enough prophetic information to let us say with absolute confidence that we may know exactly what's going to happen or when in the future in exact minute detail.

Beyond the facts, there must be assumptions and speculations made, which lead to different understandings.

The Problem:

When Christians' convictions about prophecy become a point of conflict between believers...

22. We are **MISSING** the whole point of biblical prophecy.
23. We are **MISSING** an opportunity to influence the world.

There are enough spiritually mature, well-educated and intelligent people on many different sides of the prophetic issues, and this helps us see that we ought to treat responsible positions on prophecy with respect.

We should never allow ourselves to degenerate into an attitude that wants to win a biblical argument at the expense of Christian character.

- Max Anders

We must also not let our pursuit, curiosity, and speculation of end-time prophecy consume us to the point of supplanting our pursuit of Christ Himself.

We will examine not only the "Why" we study Prophecy, but also...

24. **HOW** to study and understand Prophecy
25. **WHO** are the key characters
26. **WHAT** are the Key Events and Terminology
27. **WHEN** the Events might take place.
28. **WHERE** will everything take place.