

What You Need to Know About Biblical Prophecy

The Big Picture – Week 2

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What is Prophecy?

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

The “Big Picture”

2. God can see all history – Past, Present, Future **SIMULTANEOUSLY**.
3. The **PRESENT** is that part of the parade in front of the grandstand where we are sitting.
4. The **FUTURE** is that part of the parade still to come.
5. The **FUTURE**, therefore, is no more of a mystery to God than the past.
6. God's “Parade of History” includes “**FIVE** Floats.”

#1 - Creation

7. God created **EVERYTHING** in the universe outside of Himself.
8. God created **HUMANITY** to exist on a level above anything else.
9. God created everything out of **NOTHING** (ex nihilo).
10. God created for His **GLORY**. (Isa 43:6-7)
11. **CREATING** is a part of God's nature and character.
12. God's **LOVE** is so overflowing & abundant that He wanted to create people whom He could love and would choose to love Him in return.

#2 - Covenant

13. A covenant is a binding agreement between two individuals, and God has initiated a series of **COVENANTS** with humanity.
14. The same love that motivated God to create in the first place now motivates Him to **REDEEM** us.
15. After the fall, God offered us a **COVENANT** that would bring about a partial restoration of His intention for us here on earth and a complete and full restoration of His intention for us in eternity.
16. God promises to forgive and to redeem us if we will simply turn to Him in **FAITH** and ask Him to.

#3 - Christ

17. Christ was the **FULFILLMENT** of God's OT Covenant promises for a Messiah to come to redeem humanity.
18. The picture of exactly who this **MESSIAH** would be, when He would come, and what He would do was not clear to Old Testament saints.
19. **SOME** OT prophecies indicated that He would come as a lowly servant and that He would be humble and would suffer terribly.
20. **OTHER** prophecies indicated that the Messiah would come as a reigning King in great power and glory.

21. It was difficult for OT saints & religious leaders to understand how to put the **TWO** pictures of the Messiah together.
22. As the "parade of history" has unfolded, we now have a fuller understanding – that the Messiah would come **TWICE**.

Principle for interpreting many prophecies & fulfillments in Scriptures:

23. Many prophecies are fulfilled **PARTIALLY** in the now, the short-run, and then fully in the long-run.

#4 – The Church

24. The message of grace through faith in Christ is now **TRANSFERRED** to the Church, as it functions as the "Body of Christ."

Each Member of the Body:

25. Is given the **HOLY SPIRIT** as a seal that guarantees his inheritance until the final day of redemption (Eph 4:30)
26. Is given a spiritual **GIFT** to use in the body of Christ, so it's ministry is effective (1 Cor 12; Rom 12)
27. Is **COMMISSIONED** by Christ to participate in the evangelism of the world, making disciples to build the church (Matt 28:19-20)
28. Is given the responsibility to worship the Lord, to observe baptism & the Lord's Supper, maintaining a **READY** spirit until Jesus comes again in the fulfillment of God's covenant promises.

#5 - Consummation

29. The **COMPLETION** of God's Redemptive Plan!
30. When we see all of history as one parade passing by the grandstand, we can better envision that the future is merely the will of God **ALREADY** determined, but which has yet to occur.
31. Properly seen, prophecy is just the **CULMINATION** of the plan which God established before creation.
32. When the original plan was destroyed through the Fall, God instituted His recovery plan of **REDEMPTION** in 4 remaining stages...
33. The Consummation is an **ALREADY** accomplished fact in the mind of God, a "float" that has already been created, but which has yet to "pass the grandstand."
34. We don't know **WHEN** the consummation of history will occur.
35. It should spur our **EVANGELISTIC** efforts.
36. We should live like citizens of **HEAVEN**, while we are citizens of Earth.
37. We should know that the suffering of this world will be swallowed up into the **GLORY** of the age to come.

