

# What You Need to Know About Biblical Prophecy

The Confusion – Week 3  
Pastor Marty

## 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.

- (1) **Creation**: God created the world in perfect harmony, but it was contaminated by Sin.
- (2) **Covenant**: God initiated a plan of redemption.
- (3) **Christ**: Ushered in the New Covenant.
- (4) **Church**: Christ transferred His message of redemption to the Church to take to the World.
- (5) **Consummation**: God will complete His Redemptive Plan through Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.

## Rules of Interpreting Prophetic Scripture:

### #1 Make sure your “preunderstandings” line up with Scripture.

- All interpreters have at least some theological & denominational prejudices.

### #2 Pay close attention to the Context.

- Every Word in the Bible is part of a sentence.
- Every Sentence in the Bible is part of a paragraph.
- Every Paragraph in the Bible is part of a book.
- Every Book in the Bible is a part of the Whole of Scripture.
- Individual verses out of context should not be used.
- “Scripture interprets Scripture.”

### #3 Interpret in view of the Literary Form.

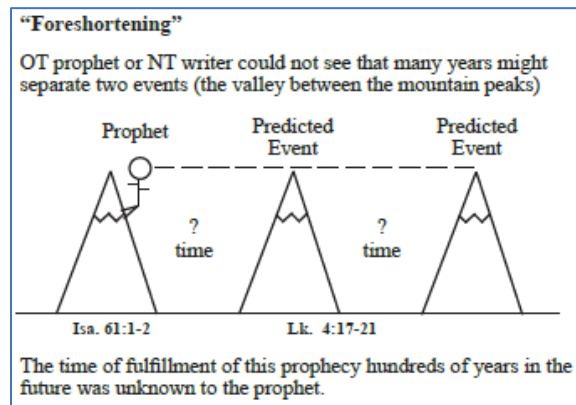
- Historical books (Acts)
- Dramatic epics (Job)
- Poetry (Psalms)
- Wise Sayings (Proverbs)
- Apocalyptic Books (Daniel & Revelation)
- Apocalypse means to “uncover” or “reveal.” In the Bible, God gives Divine Perspective.

### #4 Understand the historical and cultural background.

- Jewish marriage rites
- Burial rites
- Family practices
- Farm practices
- Business practices
- Monetary system

### #5 Be mindful of the Law of Double Reference.

- A single passage of prophetic Scripture may refer to **two** events separated by a significant time period.
- Both prophesied events blend into **one** picture, masking the intervening time period.
- Some prophecies are “**Near** Application” and “**Far** Fulfillment.”



### #6: Remember that Jesus is at the Center of all Prophecies.

THE CHRISTOCENTRIC NATURE OF BIBLE PROPHECY	
Jesus is building a place for us to live in heaven: the New Jerusalem.	John 14:1-3; Revelation 21
Jesus will come for us at the rapture.	1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
Jesus will preside over the judgment of Christians in heaven.	2 Corinthians 5:10
Jesus will inflict judgments upon the people on earth during the tribulation period.	Revelation 6
Jesus will come again at the second coming.	Revelation 19:11-21
Jesus will judge the nations.	Matthew 25:31-46
Jesus will reign during His millennial kingdom.	Revelation 20:2-5
Jesus will preside over the judgment of the wicked dead.	Revelation 20:11-15

### #7: Always seek the Plain Sense

*“Take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning, unless the facts of the immediate context... indicate clearly otherwise.” -David Cooper*

*“Unless the text indicates clearly that it should be taken symbolically, the passage should be understood literally.” – Arnold Fruchtenbaum*

### #8: Determine if it is to be translated Literally or as an Allegory.

- AD 190: Alexandria Egypt: Allegorical **School** of Interpretation
- AD 400: **Augustine**
- Augustine’s **allegorical** view of Prophecy influenced both Catholics & Protestants.

### How We can avoid Prophetic Imbalances

1. Avoid Prophetic **Agnosticism**.
2. Avoid Prophetic **Sensationalism**.
3. Avoid **Newspaper** Exegesis.
4. Avoid Setting **Dates** for Prophetic Events.
5. Avoid **Division** with Other Christians.