

What You Need to Know About Biblical Prophecy

The Finale – Week 7

Pastor Marty

Importance of Prophecy

1. Prophecy is the Proclamation of the **Will** of God, both present and future.
2. God used **Prophets** in the OT and NT, as 1/3 of the Bible's 66 books are authored by them.
3. **4** of the NT Books are primarily prophetic.
- Revelation - Jude - 1 Thessalonians - 2 Thessalonians
5. **27%** of the Bible includes Prophecy.
6. The Most Important Prophecies point to the Coming of Christ.
120 concerning the first coming **300** concerning the second
7. Prophecy comes only from **God**... not People. (2 Pet 1:21)

The Difficulty of Prophecy

8. There are some theological and denominational **prejudices** that one must acknowledge.
9. As God gave the prophecies to the writer, the writer may not have **understood** that the prophecies had a "near application" and a "far fulfillment."
10. Likewise, the prophet may not have understood that the prophecy given to him may refer to two events **separated** by a significant time-period.
11. *Double Reference*: Both prophesied events blend into **one** picture, masking the intervening time-period.
12. Because of the apocalyptic nature of prophecy, it is difficult to determine whether to interpret the Scripture **literally** or allegorically.
 - *"Unless the text indicates clearly that it should be taken symbolically, the passage should be understood literally."*
 - *Jesus' consistent literal interpretation of Old Testament Scripture- including prophetic OT Scripture – is one of the most convincing pieces of evidence for a literal approach to Scripture.*

Absolute Facts about Prophecy

13. **No one** knows when Christ will return, only God, the Father.
14. Sin will increase ushering in a time of great **trouble** on the earth.
15. Christ will **return** victoriously.
16. He will **judge** the World.
17. Satan, his angels, and those who are without Christ will be cast into the **Lake of Fire** forever.
18. God will create a New Heaven and a **New Earth**, and Jesus will take his children to live there with them forever.

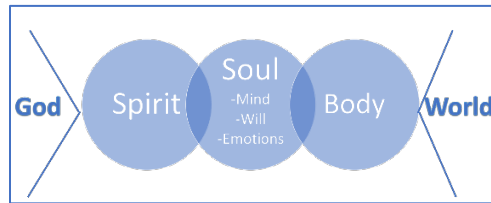
The Big Picture

19. God can see all history – Past, Present, Future **Simultaneously**.
20. The **future**, therefore, is no more of a mystery to God than the past.
21. Prophecy is just the **culmination** of the plan which God established before creation.

The Spiritual Battle

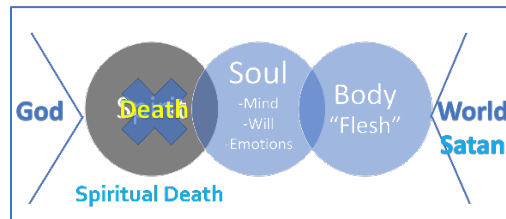
22. God created man as **Spirit**, Soul, and Body, in relationship with Him.

- The **Spirit** relates to God, the body relates to the world, and the soul is influenced by them both.

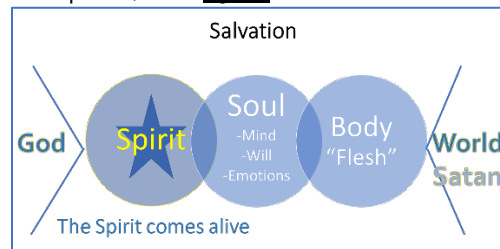


23. Satan is a fallen **Cherub**, who wants to be worshipped and steal God's glory. He is the "Father of Lies" and "Prince of the Power of the Air." (Ez 28; Jn 8:44; Eph 2:2)

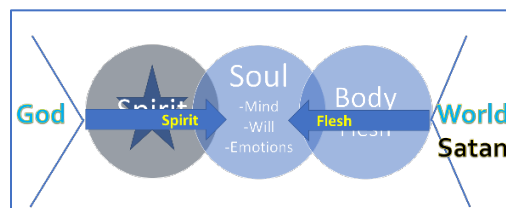
24. When sin entered the world, spiritual and physical **death** resulted.



25. Because of God's Redemptive plan, the **Spirit** comes alive at the point of Salvation.



26. While the lost have no choice but to follow the "Flesh," the Christian now has a choice between following the "**Spirit**" or the "Flesh."



27. Satan now wants to make Christians **ineffective**, to increase the level of lostness.

28. Satan also wants to increase **chaos** and unrest, so the world will be desperate and want to unify under the Antichrist.

The Antichrist and the Tribulation

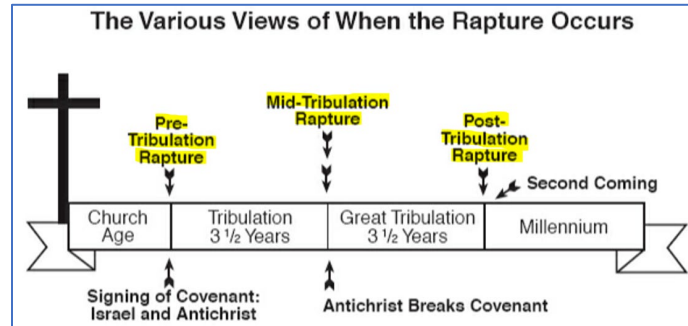
29. A Peace **Treaty** will be ushered in by the Antichrist at the beginning of the Tribulation. (Dan 9:27)

30. The Antichrist is given authority over **every** tribe, people, language & nation. (Rev 13:7)

31. At 3 ½ years into the Tribulation, the Antichrist will bring the "**abomination** of desolation" to the Temple, ushering in the "Great Tribulation." (Dan 9:26-27; Matt 24:15)

32. Jesus said there would be greater **anguish** than at any time since the world began. (Mat 24:21-22)

33. The OT prophets said much about the **Tribulation**, while Revelation has 13 chapters describing it in detail.
34. There is **more** Scripture related to the Tribulation than any subject except Salvation & the 2nd Coming.
35. The main point of controversy about the Tribulation is whether the church will go through this period of distress, or will be **raptured** before it begins.



36. Scriptures that support **Pre-Tribulation Rapture**:
- The Lord promised to deliver us. (Rev 3:10)
 - It preserves imminency. (Matt 24:42)
 - The Church is to be delivered "from the wrath to come." (1 Thess 1:10)
 - Christians are not appointed to wrath. (1 Thess 5:9)
 - The Church is absent in Revelation 4-18.

The Glorious Appearing of Jesus and the Victorious Battle of Armageddon

37. Jesus said, "For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the west, so it will be when the Son of Man **comes**." (Matt 24:27)
38. At the end of the Tribulation, the demonic spirits will gather the rulers of the world to battle against the **Lord**. (Rev 16:14)
39. Jesus and His armies appear on **white horses**, as Jesus strikes down the nations with a sharp sword from His mouth. (Rev 19:14-15)
40. The **Antichrist** and the False Prophet are captured and thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev 19:20)

Satan in the Millennium 1,000 year period

41. An angel from Heaven seized **Satan**, bound him in chains and cast him in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years. (Rev 20:2)
42. The 1,000 year reign of Christ on Earth is a **pre-cursor** to the splendor of His reign on the New Earth, where death and sin will be completely annihilated.

PHYSICAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST'S MILLENNIAL KINGDOM	
People will live in a blessed and enhanced environment.	Isaiah 35:1-2
There will be plenty of rain and hence plenty of food for animals.	Isaiah 30:23-24
All animals will live in harmony with each other and with humans, their predatory and carnivorous natures having been removed.	Isaiah 11:6-7
Longevity among human beings will be greatly increased.	Isaiah 65:20
Physical infirmities and illnesses will be removed.	Isaiah 29:18
Prosperity will prevail, resulting in joy and gladness.	Jeremiah 31:12-14

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST'S MILLENNIAL KINGDOM	
Everyone on earth will know the Lord.	Isaiah 11:9
Satan, now bound in the bottomless pit, will not be around to harass people.	Revelation 20:1-3
The Holy Spirit will be present with all believers.	Ezekiel 36:27; 37:14
The Holy Spirit will be "poured out on us from heaven."	Isaiah 32:15
Righteousness will prevail around the world.	Isaiah 46:13; 51:5; 60:21
Obedience to the Lord will prevail.	Psalms 22:27; Jeremiah 31:33
Holiness will prevail.	Isaiah 35:8-10; Joel 3:17
Faithfulness will prevail.	Psalms 85:10-11; Zechariah 8:3
The world's residents will unify in their worship of the Messiah.	Malachi 1:11; Zephaniah 3:9; Zechariah 8:23
God's presence will be made manifest.	Ezekiel 37:27-28; Zechariah 2:10-13

43. After the 1,000 years, Satan will be let out of prison, then gathers an army, but is defeated by **fire** from Heaven. (Rev 20:7-9)

44. Then the devil is thrown into the **lake** of burning fire. (Rev 20:10)

The Final Judgment

45. Jesus will be seated on a "great white **throne**," judging according to deeds, then will cast death and the grave into the lake of fire, in addition to those whose names were not found in the Book of Life. (Rev 20:11-15)

The New Jerusalem

46. Jesus will climax history by creating a New Heaven and a New **Earth**. (Rev 21:1)

47. Jesus will make His **home** on Earth with His people. (Rev 21:3)

48. Jesus will then announce that "It is **finished!**" (Rev 21:6)

Jesus then announces, "Yes, I am coming **soon!**"