

Why Is It Important To Study Prophecy?

Prophecy is a major and important part of the Bible, and ***therefore it is important to study it***. Prophecy is not reserved just for Bible scholars, or Bible teachers, but it was written for everyone's benefit. The book of Revelation, which is mostly all prophecy states in Rev. 1:3, "*Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*" Rev. 22:7, "*Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.*" Therefore, we will also ***be blessed*** if we study prophecy. It would also be correct to say that the more we study prophecy, the more we will be blessed. God is Love, He Loves us so much, and He wants us to know certain things about the future. Therefore, one of the ways He shows His Love to us, is through prophecy.

Prophecy means prediction (Strong's conc. # 4394, the Greek word is propheteia). The Spirit of God is the author of prophecy. God wants us to know and have knowledge of certain future events, He has told us in advance through His Word. We would be wise to study and see what He wants us to know. He doesn't merely want us to have extra knowledge so we can boast and say we know something someone else doesn't know. Instead, God knows prophecy will be for our good; it is therefore important to study it. Because God is the author of prophecy, and we need to be very careful not to give a different meaning or interpretation than what the Word says.

2 Pet. 1:19-21, "*We have also a more sure word of prophecy: whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is on any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*" The prophetic Word "*a more sure word,*" means that you can rely on it; it is guaranteed to happen. The Bible is clear, and non-ambiguous in what it says regarding prophecy. ***It says what it says, and it means what it means;*** no one should give their meaning or interpretation, even if they are a so-called scholar or prophet. There are some prophecies that are more difficult to understand than others- such as in Daniel and Revelation. However, they often become clear when other related prophecies are studied. Prophecies that seem to contradict each other are often because one's interpretation is causing a conflict, and they are not studied in context, and with other related scriptures. Prophecies in the Bible can be categorized in various ways. However, the important thing is not to get hung up on how prophecies can be categorized, but to focus on what the prophecies say. There are all sorts of prophecies concerning Jesus in the Old Testament; those could also be categorized. Those Messianic prophecies are foretelling how we would know the Messiah when He came; ***only Jesus the Messiah fulfilled these prophecies!*** For example, the Messiah would be born

in Bethlehem, born of a virgin, not accepted by His brethren, be crucified, but not a bone would be broken, would rise on the 3rd day, etc.

It is not coincidence, or a trivial fact that Jesus fulfilled these prophecies. Instead, this is a ***staggering and monumental fact of incredible importance!*** For someone to fulfill so many and diverse prophecies that were written hundreds of years in advance, is hard to imagine, especially by statisticians. Basically, this could not happen by chance or random occurrence. Furthermore, that one of the prophecies' was that a single person who would fulfill ***all*** these prophecies and would rise from the dead is completely incomprehensible. Obviously, ***only God*** could be the author of these prophecies, and only God could raise ***His only begotten Son Jesus Christ from the dead!***

These prophecies are literal. Obviously, the Lord wanted all the generations to know how to recognize the Messiah, and God made it clear. Unfortunately, many (perhaps most) of the religious leaders, scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees failed to recognize the Messiah- Jesus. Evidently, their pride, their education, their theology kept them from accepting Jesus, who was the fulfillment of the prophecies.

Prophecy is another way that proves that not only is there a God, but that the Bible was definitely inspired by God, and accurately recorded by the Lord's scribes, and prophets. There are hundreds of prophecies recorded in the Bible, and never has a single one of these been found to be untrue! When someone says the Bible is not God's Word, and that it is merely a good book, that it has symbolic stories, has some nice principles to live by, but has various interpretations; they have no solid evidence of any kind to back up their opinion. Instead, they have never made a reasonable attempt to study the validity of the Bible, and the perfect accuracy of hundreds of prophecies, and thousands of historical facts! Only a supernatural being could have been the source of these prophecies. No other so-called holy book can come a close second place to the Holy Bible.

One of the most important historical events to have ever happened is the Resurrection. The Resurrection is one of the most documented events of all history! The Resurrection is not just important because Jesus was resurrected (though that is the basis of all Christianity), but also because it was foretold hundreds of years in advance! Of course, ***only Jesus*** fulfilled these prophecies, *Acts 4:12*, "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*" Jesus said, *Jn. 14:6*. "*Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*" Jesus was not a human prophet, Jesus was and is God. *1 Jn. 5:20* "*And we know that the Son of God is*

come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”

What is also incredibly important, is that there are many prophecies concerning the Second Coming of Jesus at the Last Days, Latter Days, or End Times. The Lord has made many of these prophecies very clear, and no one should give their own interpretation, a theological or Seminary view that is contrary to what the prophecies clearly state. The Lord doesn't want us to be confused or deceived. Some of these prophecies describe clearly what events are *to occur before The Rapture*.

Although the Bible doesn't mention the particular word “rapture,” it does describe in great detail characteristics that can only be attributed to The Rapture. This is explained in the following chapter. The Lord states these events in 1 Cor. 15:51-54, 1 Thes. 4:16-17. We are also warned about being deceived regarding the End Times and The Rapture (2 Thes. 2:1-3; and Matt. 24:3-4). Another reason why it is important to study prophecy, is so that we will know how to prepare, to be ready in advance of what is going to happen in the end times, and to avoid being deceived. The Lord doesn't want us to be caught off guard or be deceived.

Just as the prophecies regarding the First Coming of Jesus were to prepare those who would be living when Jesus came, the prophecies of the End Times are to prepare those who will be alive when Jesus returns at His Second Coming. However, some won't be prepared, and some will be deceived; the Bible states there will also be a Falling Away, or Apostasy. All this is clearly revealed in prophecies (e.g. Matt 24, 2 Thes. 2, etc.).