



Things To Come: Week 2

The Purpose of Prophecy

Audio & Notes at:

<http://www.htchurch.com/things-to-come>

Video at:

<http://www.youtube.com/htchurchvideo>

What is the purpose of prophecy in my life?

1. To get glory from us as we see His power.

7 “ Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.” 8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 Then he said to me, “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” (Revelation 22:7-9 NKJV)

What is an Apocalypse, anyway?

2. To point us to the truth of the Word.

- Examples of fulfilled prophecy cause people to perceive the truth of the Bible
- Prophecies concerning Alexander the Great and the kingdoms which followed his

3. To point us to the truth of Christ.

25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. (Luke 24:25-27 NKJV)

Philip in Acts 8: 30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opened not His mouth. 33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth." 34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. (Acts 8:30-35)

Apollos: "...powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus." (Acts 18:28, ESV)

4. Prophecy keeps us in the truth of Christ.

23 Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand. 26 So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (Matt. 24:23-27, NKJV)

1. We should not believe anyone who says that Christ has arrived.
2. Jesus is letting you know that there will be false Christs.
 - a. What about Islam's viewpoint?
3. Jesus is letting you know that there will be false prophets.
4. False Christs and false prophets will have the ability to do signs and wonders. T
5. Jesus will not secretly arrive on the Earth.
6. Jesus wants you to know that His coming will be sudden and unmistakable.
7. Finally, Jesus wants you to know that the person who is returning is the Son of Man. In other words, it is the same Jesus of the Gospels.
 - a. "**This same Jesus** will return in a similar manner as you have seen Him go up." (See Acts 1:11)

The Early Church was saved by the warning of Jesus:

20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the

midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. 22 For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. 24 And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (Luke 21:20-24)

5. To keep us pure.

Beloved, now we are the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that has this hope in him purifies himself, even as he is pure. (1 John 3:2-3)

6. To keep us in His service.

Jesus said, "...the night is coming, when no man can work." (John 9:4)

7. To keep us in His encouragement.

24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching... 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 "For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry..." (Hebrews 10:24-25, 36-37)

8. To make us wise.

9. To enable us to minister spiritual truth to others.

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever. (Daniel 12:3 NKJV)

2nd Peter 3:3-4 says that "...scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?"

10. To keep us in a place of expectant joy.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God... 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. (Romans 8:18-19, 22-25)

It's almost time for your Extreme Makeover, Resurrection Edition!

Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have there entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him. (1 Cor. 2:9)
