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2010

# What You Need to Know About Prophecy

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#### Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold L., "What You Need to Know About Prophecy" (2010). What You Need to Know About.... Paper 72. http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/will\_know/72

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# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PROPHECY

No, I'm not referring to silly attempts "proving" that Bill Clinton, George Bush, or, you know who, is the Antichrist, or even more bizarre, demonstrating from an ancient pagan calendar that the world will end on Dec. 21, 2012! Actually, there are at least six excellent reasons for an in- depth study of prophecy.

FIRST, because nearly one-third of the Bible is prophetical in nature.

SECOND, because this study will comfort and reassure us.

"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4:16-18).

## **THIRD**, it will promote holy living.

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace" (2 Peter 3:10-14).

### **FOURTH**, because God desires to reveal the future to us.

- "For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7).
- "The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant" (Psa. 25:14).
- "But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries ..." (Dan. 2:28).
- "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children" (Matt. 11:25).
- "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God ..." (Luke 8:10).
- "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place ..." (Rev. 1:1).

**FIFTH,** because Jesus Himself is both the subject and spirit of prophecy.

- "Then he said to them, These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled" (Luke 24:44).
- "To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name" (Acts 10:43).
- "Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Rev. 19:10).

**SIXTH,** because more prophecy will be revealed as we approach the last days.

• "I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?" He said, Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand" (Dan. 12:8-10).

More about this topic next Monday, along with a personal invitation.

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