

The End Times

1. Bible Prophecy

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What does the Bible say about Prophecy?

- **2 Peter 1:19-21**

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

- Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

What does the Bible say about Prophecy?

- **Psalms 119:105**
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.



Prophecy in the Bible

- **Isaiah 46:9-10**

Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please

Where do we find prophecy in the Bible?

- From the beginning (Genesis) to the end (Revelation)
- In the Old Testament God spoke to His people through prophets
- He revealed what He was doing and called the nation to repentance
- Isaiah to Malachi are prophetic messages to His people



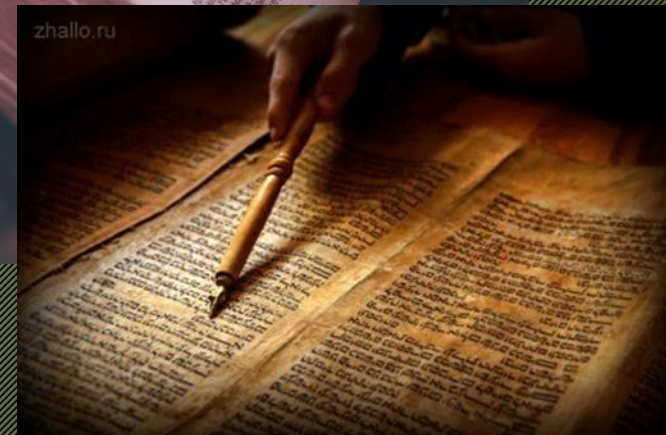
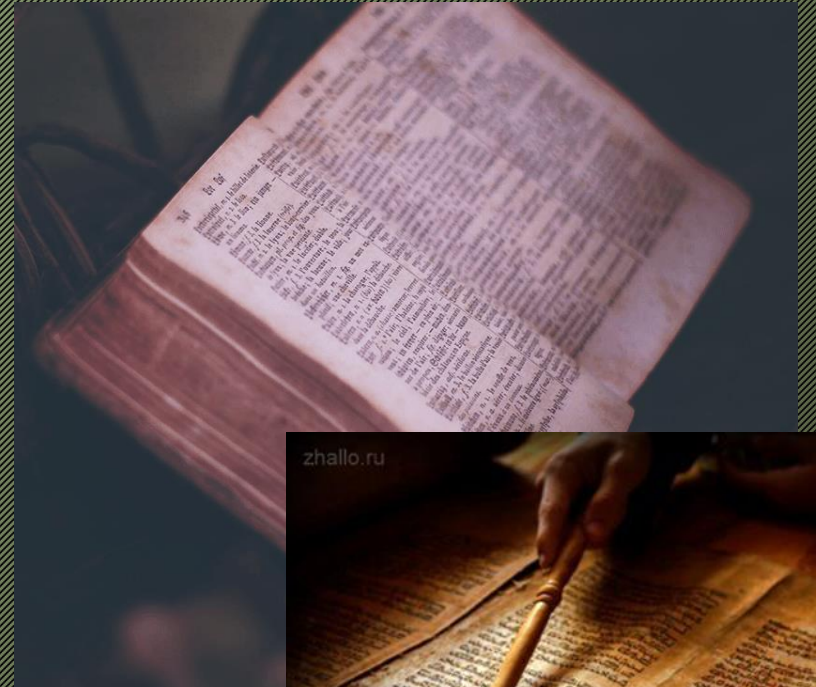
What was the purpose of Bible prophecy?

- Old Testament prophets spoke about situations the people were facing
- They used God's revelation of the future to bring them to holy living
- Prophetic messages focused on
 - The Day of the Lord
 - The remnant which will be saved
 - The coming King and His Kingdom



How accurate is Bible prophecy?

- Some of the prophecies have already been fulfilled
- We can be sure that the remaining prophecies will also be fulfilled
- God has given us a sure word of prophecy which reveals the future, so we may live holy lives and share in the blessings He has prepared for us



Is there prophecy in the New Testament?

- The focus is on the Second Coming of Jesus and the events that follow
- Major prophetic passages:
 - Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21
 - 1 Corinthians 15
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
 - 2 Peter 3
 - The book of Revelation



Keys to understanding Bible prophecy

- Double Meanings

- The prophetic message about the present sometimes also contains a message about the future

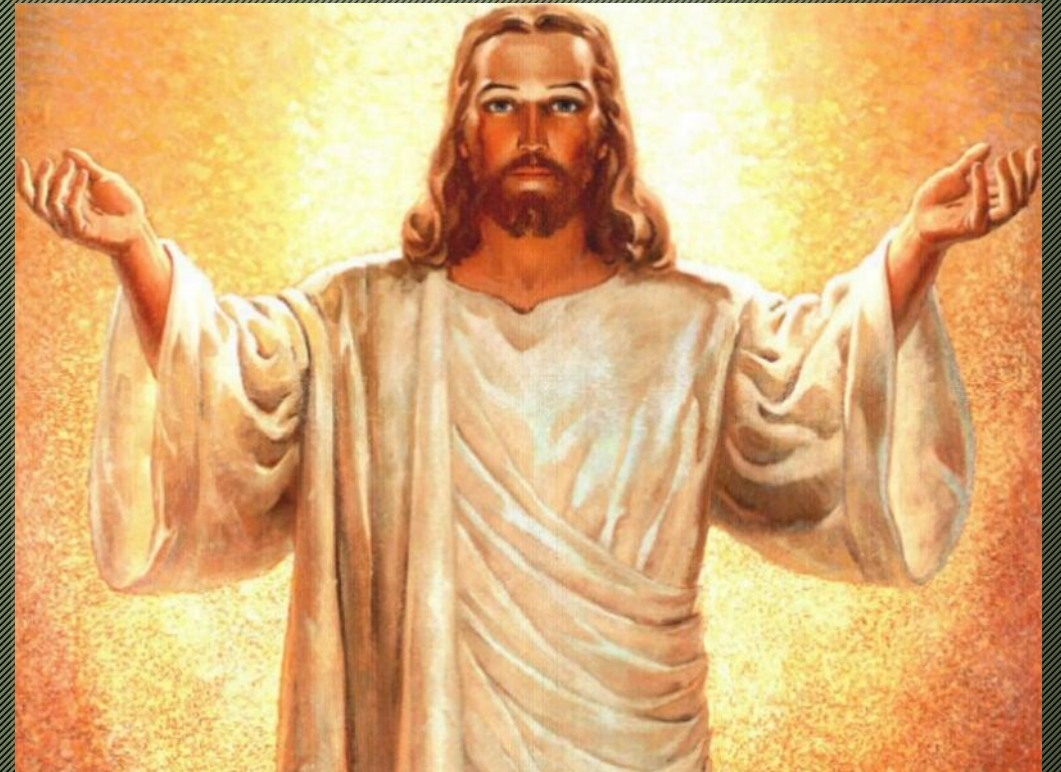
- **Isaiah 7:14**

- Speaks about the woman the prophet would marry who would bear a child
- This would be a sign about events to occur at that time
- In v.13 it is clear that the prophecy is for the whole house of David
- Matthew in the New Testament applies this prophecy to the birth of Jesus.



Keys to understanding Bible prophecy

- Progressive Development
 - Prophecy is developed progressively throughout the Bible
 - A clear view is formed when we view the various scriptures together
 - In relation to Jesus:
 - Genesis 3:15, Deuteronomy 18:15, Psalm 2:6-9 Isaiah 9:6-7
 - Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2 and Zechariah 9:9

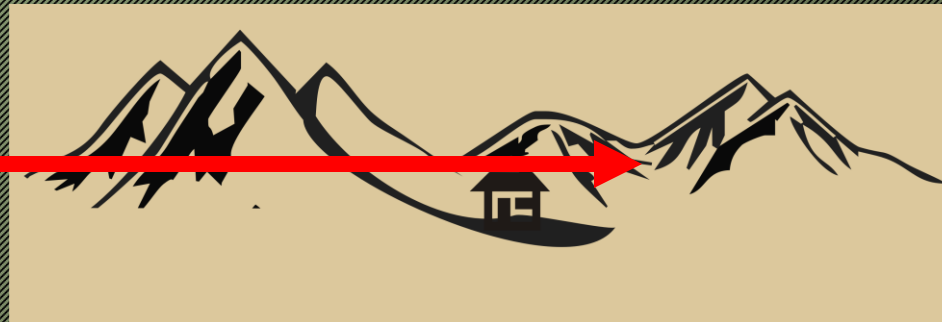


Keys to understanding Bible prophecy



- Time Gaps

- From their vantage point, the prophets could not clearly see the intervening time gaps
- They would include events separated by centuries in one sentence



Keys to understanding Bible prophecy

Revelation 9:17-19

The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.



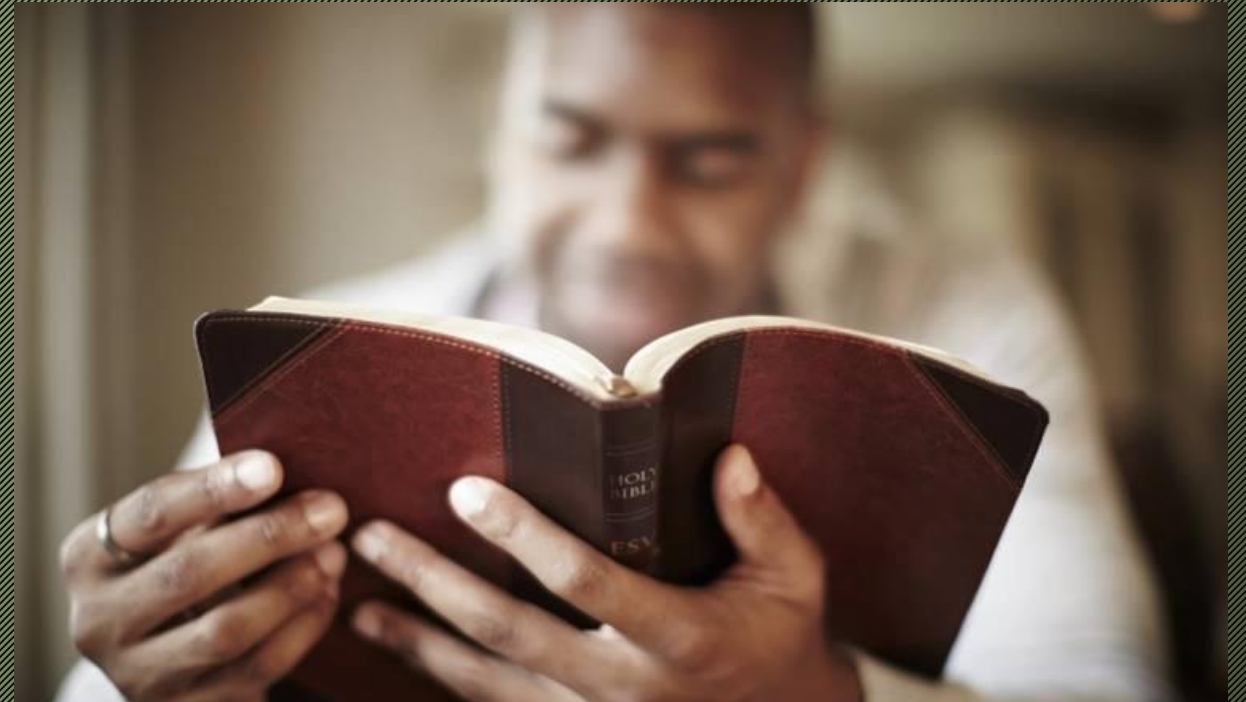
Keys to understanding Bible prophecy

- Symbolic Language
 - A prophet seeing the events of the distant future had to find words in his vocabulary to describe them
 - How would a prophet seeing a modern army tank describe it when he had words only to describe a chariot?
 - He resorted to symbolic language
 - This veiled the future view from those to whom it did not relate (Matthew 13:10,11)

The purpose of prophecy

- **Romans 15:4**

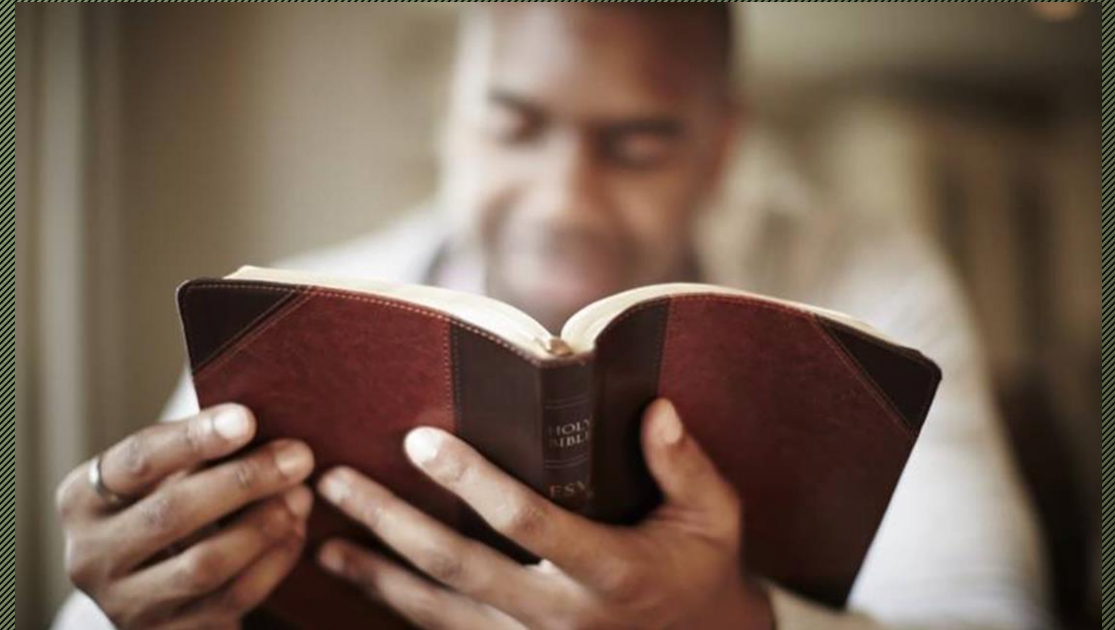
For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.



The purpose of prophecy

- **Ephesians 1:18-19**

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength ...



What do the scriptures say about the End Times?

- There are many views of End-Time Bible prophecy, which could lead to confusion. This is specifically so in relation to the Book of Revelation.
- There are scholars who hold these views based on their understanding of Scripture.
- We will discuss these views in the course of our study.

Views of Revelation and prophecy

The Preterist view

Preterism is the view that the biblical prophecies concerning the “end times” have already been fulfilled—in the past.

The Historicist view

Historicism looks at the whole of Bible prophecy as a sweeping overview of church history, from Pentecost to the end times.

Views of Revelation and prophecy (ctd)

The Idealist view

In the Idealist interpretation, the symbols in Revelation are not normally thought to refer to specific individuals and historic events but to typical individuals and events.

The Futurist view

Futurists view the prophecies after Revelation 3 as still awaiting a future, literal fulfillment.

Millennial views

Pre-Millennianism

Premillennialists teach that Christ will return to earth to inaugurate the millennial kingdom visibly on earth

Post-Millennianism

Postmillennialists hold that at some point the world will become predominantly Christian, recognizing Jesus as Lord ushering in a golden age of human existence.

A-Millennianism

The amillennial position teaches that there is no literal 1,000-year kingdom. The kingdom of God exists right now as Christ reigns as king in the hearts of His people, the church.

Rapture Views

- **Pre-Tribulation Rapture**

- Pretribulationism teaches that the Rapture occurs before the Tribulation starts. The Rapture and Christ's Second Coming (to set up His kingdom) are separated by at least seven years. According to this view, the church does not experience any of the Tribulation.

- **Mid-tribulation Rapture**

- According to this view, the church goes through the first half of the tribulation but is spared the worst of the tribulation in the last three and a half years.

Rapture Views (continued)

- **Post Tribulation Rapture**

- Post tribulationism teaches that the Rapture occurs at the end, or near the end, of the Tribulation. At that time, the church will meet Christ in the air and then return to earth for the commencement of Christ's Kingdom on earth. According to this view, the church goes through the entire seven-year Tribulation.

- **Pre-Wrath Rapture**

- The pre-wrath rapture theory says that the rapture occurs before the “great day of . . . wrath”.

12 Lessons on the End Times

- **Bible Prophecy**
 - Unique genre
- **The Last Days**
- **Prophecy relating to Gentile Empires**
 - Daniel 2, 7, 8
- **Prophecy relating to the Jews**
 - Daniel 9
- **Prophecy relating to the Church**
- **The Church of the Last Days**
 - Revelation 2, 3
- **In the Father's House**
 - Rapture, Rapture views
 - Events in heaven: Bema, Marriage Supper of Lamb

- **Events on the Earth**
 - Tribulation views
 - Matthew 24
 - Satanic Trinity
- **Judgment on the earth**
 - Seals, Trumpets and Bowls
- **The Millennial Reign of Christ**
 - Second Coming
 - Armageddon
- **The Final Judgment**
- **A New Heavens and New Earth**