

## Prophecy: A View through the Lenses of Faith- Pt 2

### Why is Prophecy necessary?

- Last week we talked about what is prophecy by first establishing what it is not, it's not some mystical fortune telling that is used to tell the future randomly that you see in a grocery store with an eye catching caption "**World to end in 2025**" according to Nostradamus or some secret Egyptian hieroglyphics'. Instead the word "**Prophecy**" is made of a compound word that literally means to "**forttell**" meaning although prophecy does consist of speaking of future events its primary use is to bring the past into the present, in order to line up with the future.
- So when we read the Bible and it speaks of something yet to happen, it's not saying this as just some fact to prepare for, or get rich off of like a lottery ticket. It has a bigger meaning in mind, so by speaking something in the past, that happens in the present, it will prepare us for the future, which ultimately will glorify God and illuminate truth to all who put their trust in Him.
- **Example:** the very **first prophecy** we see in the **bible of Christ's coming** is found in **Gen 3:15**- where God speaks in the Garden of judgment of Adam, Eve and the Serpent for their disobedience of eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Initially when God questioned Adam about what happened he confessed his sin but blamed it on both **Eve** (the woman) and **God** (who you gave me) so yes I did it because of what you gave me.
- God then asked Eve what she had done, and likewise Eve following Adam's lead blame shifts and puts it all on the serpent, God speaks to the serpent first as an individual telling him he will no longer walk but crawl on his belly and then speaking prophetically to the Devil who used him says the woman will bring forth a child and those who follow you and those who follow Him will be at odds, you will "**bruise His heel**" deliver a blow that seemingly hurts Him but it won't be a death blow, He in turn in response will "**bruise your head**" deliver a blow that you'll never recover from, this of course is speaking of the cross, and afterward the resurrection.
- This is the first mention of Jesus coming to this earth, spoken will in the past, later were given more facts about when He'll come in Daniel, where He's born in Micah, and what He came to do in **Isaiah 53**, this was spoken of in the **past**, brought into the **present**, to prepare us for the **future**, for God knows our future better than we know our own past, and He speaks it as if it's already happened, because to God time is not a hindrance, it's all the same to Him > **Heb 13:8**- Jesus is the same today, as He was yesterday, and in the future, He never changes thankfully.
- Let's get into our main text this morning "**why is Prophecy necessary**"? I believe the more we understand biblical prophecy the more we see the urgency of the day, and the more we'll see the need to live a Godly life for Christ, telling as many people as we can that He is indeed coming back, as it gives us purpose as to why we restrain-discipline the flesh, without it why bother!

- **Dan 2:1-11** Nebuchadnezzar has a disturbing dream and calls for his wisemen and astrologers to interpret the dream and give him the reasoning behind it. The tricky part is he won't tell them the dream they have to figure out what he dreamt and then give him the interpretation, they answer no King or ruler has ever asked such a thing, it's impossible unless the gods who don't dwell in flesh intervene, they are wrong on both accounts, as Jesus will do this very thing in the future, and will make known the dream to His servant in the present and astound them all.
- **Dan 2:13, 17-23**- Daniel gives praise to God knowing it is His will that this entire strange thing is happening and for the believers it's to cause them to be more dependent upon God and for the unbeliever it shows them why God is real and they need to submit to Him. **Dan 2:25-30**- he witnesses once again to Nebuchadnezzar, and shows him "**why Prophecy is necessary**". He begins by describing a large image that represents **4** gentile Kingdoms and the **1<sup>st</sup> a Head of Gold Babylon- 636 B.C to 539 B.C.** Daniel called Babylon "**a Gold cup in the Lord's Hand**". It was known for its opulence as it had **8** golden gates surround the city all named after a false deity.
- It had double walls the outer **22ft** thick, the inner wall **12** ft thick, no army on earth could get through or around it as it was thought to be impenetrable. It also had the Euphrates River flow through it and had the hanging gardens one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. **Dan 5:24-26** the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar throws a party and brings him the cups that they taken from the temple in Jerusalem when they conquered them and out of nowhere a hand appears writing "Mene- God has numbered your days and they are finished, Tekel- you have been weighed and you're a lightweight, Peres- your Kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes-Persians, he was so drunk he applauded and rewarded Daniel for the interpretation.
- That same night the Medes- Persians dug **500** ft deep into the river and diverted the waters drying up a path that allowed them to go underneath the city where someone left the river gate unlocked thinking no would ever be able to come down here as it overflowed with water. So they come into the city without ever firing a shot or destroying it in battle and conquered it, the amazing thing is when Cyrus the King entered he was shown by Daniel the prophet Is 44:24-28- this was written 150yrs before Cyrus actually did this.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Chest and arm of silver Medes-Persians 539 B.C. 331 B.C.**- although these subsequent Kingdoms lasted longer than Babylon none matched the influence and opulence of Babylon who was the epitome of a monarchy ruled and reigned by one King. Because Babylon had so much gold it made silver obsolete, but as time goes on the Gold began to become sparse and silver ruled the day in this kingdom and so the massive image changes in value and strength.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Kingdom Belly and Thighs of Bronze Greece 331 B.C. 168 B.C.**- when Daniel prophesied this **2:39** about Greece they were nothing more than some warring tribes completely inferior who fought against each other so for them to band together and accomplish this was seen as impossible until Alexander the Great who defeated Persia at the battle of Arabela in **331 B.C.**

- What's amazing is afterward instead of traveling to Persia's strongholds Alexander went to the coasts to conquer a city seen as impossible to get to "**Tyre**" no one understood why he did this but **Ezek 26:3-4** said a nation comprised of many nations would come against Tyre and destroy it, and that is exactly what Greece was made of these warring tribes had banded together to become one mighty army. To get to it Alexander took the rocks and boulders of the ruined cities he conquered along the way and threw it into the Mediterranean sea and it created a sandbar and natural causeway for his army to cross and get to the island and conquer it.
- This allowed Alexander to control the Coasts, and the Phoenicians who were fishermen and expert seamen, as well as use them to build up his navy and control the seas allowing him to get to anywhere to wage war and conquer nations. **4<sup>th</sup> Legs and feet of Iron Rome 168 B.C. A.D.476** Iron was the cheapest metal of the ancient world but because of Rome and war became the most valuable because it was the strongest, Rome was ruthless and crushed all armies that came against it, history tells us it was not destroyed from without but from within.
- Similarly to Sodom and Gormorrah > **Ezek 16:49**- wasn't the homosexuality but the complacency that comes from being comfortable, Idle, and uncaring, this led to the other sins and ultimately its destruction, sadly were seeing the same thing in our country. The destruction of the image by a Stone- which of course speaks of Jesus Christ, now this is a near and far prophecy, near as it happened in **A.D. 33**, but also in **Ezek 38-39** and **Rev 20:8** the nations being deceived by Satan will rise up and have the audacity to attempt to fight our Lord and fire will come down from heaven and devour them thus ending the rebellion, why is these prophecies necessary.
- Two reason > **1<sup>st</sup>** it shows that God has a plan and its immutable, meaning it's not going to change, **Eph 2:2** says the world is on a course and we can't stop it. **2<sup>nd</sup>** it should encourage us to live for Christ, for if He was gracious enough to let us know what His plan is then we should be humble enough to follow His plan which will lead to our blessing and to Him being glorified.