

## Prophecy: A View through the Lenses of Faith- Pt 1

### What is Prophecy?

- When I was a kid reading palms and fortune telling was very popular, in fact 1-800 psychics had regular commercials running throughout the day/night encouraging people to call in order to know what is going to happen in their future. Afterward it didn't stop their palm readers, tarot cards and fortune telling became so acceptable that advertisements started popping up all over the city in your neighborhood, downtown, uptown, Georgetown, signs were everywhere advertizing in their windows to come inside and get a glimpse of what's in store for you.
- It got so bad that in the supermarket isles you had magazines talking about a French astrologer named "**Nostradamus**" who lived in the **16<sup>th</sup>** century who made many predictions of future events some of which apparently came true like the great fire of London, the rise of Napoleon, and Adolf Hitler, as well as the invention of the Atomic bomb. Closer to our time was a woman named "**Jean Dixon**", so popular at predicting the future that **4** yrs before president Kennedy was assassinated she spoke of it, the communist takeover in China she predicted it, so does that mean we should listen to these so called Psychics, fortune tellers, (**Absolutely not!**).
- As many as they got right they also got wrong, Nostradamus regularly predicted the end of the world in his time and beyond, said Turkey would conquer the Balkans, the invasion of Rome by Albania, none of these things happened, and Jean Dixon said Nixon would defeat Kennedy in the **1960** election he didn't, and China would be admitted to the United Nations in **1959**, didn't happen. Why is this important? Because scripture says a true Prophet, one who is hearing from the Lord will never predict anything that doesn't come true exactly how they said it would > **Deut 18:22**- if that happens your not to believe anything they say, as they are a false prophet.
- **70-80%** may be good in sports, medicine, investments, or people staying in a relationship, but it's unacceptable when it comes to speaking for God. So because of this background anytime people hear the word "**Prophecy**" they can't help but think of prediction, and probably have negative thoughts because of all the phonies that have come in the past with their false claims. So when the bible speaks of prophecy its important to know exactly what it means.
- In scripture foretelling the future is just a small part of the meaning of "**Prophecy**", the English word for "**Prophet**" comes from a Greek word composed of two parts which literally means to "**forthtell**". Meaning of the many messages he tells some of which will speak of future events but all of it will speaking and explaining things that have or are happening now that also line up with what will happen in the future. So there's "**foretelling**" (the future) but also "**forth-telling**" (present-past), which will line up with what is going to happen in the future, they go hand-hand.

- Here's an Example: **Math 24:1-2, Lk 21:5-6**, everyone who was Jewish was so proud of the Temple in Jerusalem, they thought it was a sign from God of how much He loved and preferred them above all of mankind. But Jesus through a wrench into that thinking by predicted that the Jewish temple would be destroyed and not one stone would stand upon another. Now to the Jewish listener two things would have immediately stood out about this statement. >
- **1<sup>st</sup> it was impossible- Jn 2:18-19-** tell us it took them **46yrs** to build it, they had gold laid between the stones, a single stone of its foundation was **41 ft. Long, 15 ft. deep, and weighted 500 metric tons** equivalent to over a million pounds or 100 Elephants, translation it was immovable, so how could one man destroy it. **2<sup>nd</sup> it was blasphemous- Math 26:59-61-** at the trial of Jesus initially they couldn't find any witnesses to collaborate their claims Jesus needed to die, until some came and accused him of threatening to tear down their beloved temple.
- This was the Jewel of Jerusalem, the pride of the nation, the symbol of who they are, this structure was seen to be worth more than anyone's life, so to speak against it was a slap in the face of all Jews and it would put your life in jeopardy. Jesus made this statement in **30 A.D.**, exactly **40yrs** later in **70 A.D.** the Roman general Titus marched into Jerusalem and took the city and burned down the temple taking all the gold inside of it and between it, meaning they tore it down brick by brick, and afterward melted the gold into coins that read "**Judea Capta**" which means Judea conquered or Jerusalem conquered, why is this so important?
- Jesus said **Math 24:34** this would happen in a generation; and **Num 32:13** tell us that a generation is **40yrs** as that's how long the children of Israel spent in the wilderness until that generation died off. It goes deeper than this, in **Deut 28:49-52-** God through Moses predicts a nation coming as swift as an Eagle flies, a language you won't understand, this is what's called a near and afar prophecy, the near, its Babylon, the afar its Rome with an Eagle as its emblem.
- How do you know? **Jer 29:4, 10-11** says Babylon is coming to conquer you and you will be in slavery for **70yrs**, afterward you will be set free and come back and rebuild the temple which was destroyed. This happened in **607 B.C.** in **537 B.C.** Cyrus the King of Persia conquered Babylon and in his first year he decreed that the Jews could go back to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple. This is what is amazing, after conquering Babylon history says the prophet Daniel was still alive and showed Cyrus **Is 44:28-** written **150yrs** before it happened by Isaiah the prophet, and once he saw that he obeyed it. Daniel wrote during King Nebuchadnezzar **Dan 2:21**
- Man's life is made up of time > **past- present-future**, prophecy consist of all three, **1<sup>st</sup>** spoken in the **past**, **2<sup>nd</sup>** looks forward to being fulfilled in the **future**, **3<sup>rd</sup>** then it happens in the **present**. God unlike us is not beholden to time, He knows the **future** as well as we know our **past**, and it's proven by the bible which has **1,800** prophecies that have already been fulfilled. This from one book made up of **66** books, written in three languages, Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, by **40** different authors, spanning about **1,500yrs**, and through it all > **Heb 13:8-** yesterday-today-forever.