

# 02/25/24 Message

---

Part of The End  
February 24, 2024

## Message: Looking Ahead

### Series: The End

This series is focused on prophecy, the last days, end times, and beyond. Many people are confused by prophecy and are fearful of the unknown. Truth is, God gives us knowledge of the future. He foretells it throughout His living word known as the Bible. Be part of this series and learn more about what lies ahead!

## KNOWING THE UNKNOWN

- We know about the end times and beyond through PROPHECY

### ***2Peter 1:21 (CSB)***

...no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

*In the world of Bible prophecy, there is no shortage of sensationalism. From doomsday preachers to quirky “prophecy nerds” propagating conspiracy theories about Antichrist and clandestine secret societies to bestselling books on the subject, prophecy is in the air. It seems there is more confusion than clarity. A multitude of voices teach a wide array of beliefs, theories, and interpretations, it can rapidly turn Biblical truth into static noise. It’s not the way God intended it.*

—Jeff Kinley and Todd Hampson

- Prophecy is not fortune telling (read Leviticus 20:6)

### ***Isaiah 7:14 (NLT)***

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).

About 700 years later...

**Luke 2:7 (NLT)**

...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son...

Other prophecies in Scripture (just a few):

- Isaiah 53:5
- Fulfilled in Luke 22:63
- Isaiah 53:8
- Fulfilled in Luke 22:24,32
- Isaiah 53:9
- Fulfilled in Matthew 27:57,60

Prophecy makes up about 1/3 of the entire Bible (28%).

- 1 out of every 30 verses in the NT contain prophecy
- 8,000 total prophetic verses
- 23 of the 27 NT books mention the second coming
- For every time the 1st is mentioned, the 2nd coming is mentioned eight times
- 333 prophecies about Jesus, 109 fulfilled at His 1st coming
- Leaves 224 prophecies yet to be fulfilled
- 16 OT books are named after prophets.
- Revelation is not only the last book of the Bible, it's 95% prophecy

## **We Fear the Unknown**

*I worry, you worry, we all worry. Do you carry worry with you? If you let worry fester and don't deal with it, it leads to anxiety. Anxiety is nothing more than a constant state of worry. There's a difference between being worried about something and being anxious over it. If anxiety isn't dealt with, it becomes depression because we feel there's nothing, we can do about what we're worried about. And if depression isn't dealt with, it becomes despair. Nothing good happens when you're there.*

—Pastor Perry Noble

*We just can't handle not knowing what we don't know!*

—Pastor Chad

- All previous prophecies were literally fulfilled

- All future prophecies will literally be fulfilled.

## **Spiritual Gift of Prophecy vs Office of Prophet**

There is a difference in the spiritual office of Prophet and a spiritual gift of prophecy. The spiritual gift of prophecy (Ephesians 4) is to edify the body of Christ... to teach, build up, and strengthen the church. That's it. Not to condemn, criticize, or convict. It's a spiritual gift given by the Holy Spirit to edify the church.

But the spiritual office of Prophet is different. Prophets were hand-picked by God the Father and Biblical prophecy gives us:

- Biblical prophecy gives us CLARITY

### ***2 Thessalonians 2:1 (NLT)***

Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him.

- Biblical prophecy gives us CONFIDENCE

### ***2 Thessalonians 2:2-3 (NLT)***

2 Don't be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don't believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us.

3 Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction.

- Biblical prophecy gives us FAITH

### ***Revelation 4:9-11 (NLT)***

9 Whenever the living beings give glory and honor and thanks to the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever),

10 the twenty-four elders fall down and worship the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever). And they lay their crowns before the throne and say,

11 "You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created

what you pleased.”

- Biblical prophecy gives us HOPE

### ***Titus 2:11-13 (NLT)***

11 For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.

12 And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,

13 while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.

### ***1 Thessalonians 4:13 (NLT)***

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope.

- Biblical prophecy gives us LOVE for JESUS

### ***Revelation 19:9-10 (NLT)***

9 And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” And he added, “These are true words that come from God.”

10 Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said, “No, don’t worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers and sisters who testify about their faith in Jesus. Worship only God. For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus.”

*Prophecy is the backbone of the Bible. Every key person, theme, and line of theology connect directly to Bible prophecy. Fulfilled prophecy is the built-in verification system that proves the Bible is indeed the Word of God. God often points to prophecy as proof of His Word and His character. Fulfilled prophecy separates the Bible from any other religious work. You can’t study the pages of Scripture without bumping into prophecy.*

*—Jeff Kinley and Todd Hampson*

## **Prophetical Questions**

- Will Jesus return to earth?

***Matthew 16:27 (NLT)***

For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds.

***Matthew 24:30-31 (NLT)***

30b And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

***Revelation 19:11-16 (NLT)***

11 Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war.

12 His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself.

13 He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God.

14 The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses.

15 From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress.

16 On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

(There are over 300 references to this event in the NT.)

A few more reasons why Jesus will return physically:

- The two angels at Jesus' ascension promised in Acts 1:11 He will return the same way He left.
- Paul told us in 2 Thessalonians 1:7 Jesus will return with His mighty angels.
- He will return and everyone will see Him Revelation 1:7

- How do we know Bible prophecy is real?

OT prophecies Jesus fulfilled - the Bible said:

- He would be born to a virgin
- His physical place of birth was named
- He would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey
- He would be beaten and abused
- He would be betrayed with money
- His hands and feet would be pierced
- He would die with criminals
- His bones would not be broken
- He was buried in a grave given by a rich man
- He would be physically raised from the dead

The odds of one person fulfilling just 8 of these prophecies are 1 in a 1,000,000,000,000,000 or 1 in a quadrillion!

- Are prophecies being fulfilled today?

(Just a few)

The Bible predicted the Jewish people would return to Israel from all over the world (Isaiah 43:5-6; Jeremiah 16:14-15; Ezekiel 36:22-24). Over the past 120+ years, more than 3.5 million Jewish people have changed their citizenship and immigrated to Israel from all over the world.

The Bible tells us (1 Timothy 4:1) that in the end times folks will turn away from the true faith, follow deceptive spirits and demonic teachings. Jesus even gives a long explanation of things that will happen to signal His return and the end of the world (Matthew 24)... hear of wars and threats of wars; famines and earthquakes; Christians will be hated; many will turn away from Jesus; people will betray and hate each other; false prophets will arise and deceive people; sin will be rampant everywhere; and so much more! Tell me that doesn't sound like this world we live in.

- How do we live if Jesus could return any day?

*This question blows my mind because any point past the moment Jesus ascended to heaven, people have lived in what could be called the last days. None of us are guaranteed another breath... another minute... another hour... another day. Yet, we live and make choices like we*

*will live forever! Yeah, Jesus could come back any moment... but reality is, even if He doesn't, you could leave this world any moment. The question of the hour is simple: If you closed your eyes on this side of heaven for the last time, are you ready for what comes next?*

*—Pastor Chad*

What comes next? In an instant, the blink of an eye, a moment of time, your spirit leaves your body, and one of two things happens. You're either in the presence of Jesus, or you're not!

If you're not, the Bible says:

***Romans 6:23 (NLT)***

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

If you've never believed in Jesus enough to trust Him... and you've never trusted Him enough to follow Him, then you have no real relationship with God. The wages of sin is death... separation from God and heaven forever... physical death and eternal punishment. Dying this side of heaven without that relationship – your destination is hell.

But here's the great news. God loves you so much He offers you another choice. There is a real God in heaven who loved you so much He created you... He loved you so much, He sent His Son to die on a cross for you, paying the price for your sin... in your place... paid in full.

***Romans 10:9-10 (NLT)***

9 If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.

***Proverbs 15:24***

The path of life leads upward for the wise; they leave the grave behind.

The Living Bible puts it this way –

The road of the Godly leads upward, leaving hell behind.

So back to the question... How do we live if Jesus could return any day? Let God be #1 in your life! Live like your saved! Time for a reality

check, it could be your last opportunity!