

Bible Doctrine Prophecy

This study will give an overview of prophecy. We will then study the doctrine of eschatology. Eschatology has to do with prophecy, but specifically end time prophecy and judgments. It is important with this doctrine, as in the others, that we rightly divide the Word in order to avoid error.

I. Prophetic Principles

A. The Method of Interpretation- the literal, grammatical rule

Why the literal method?

1. The literal meaning is the normal way to interpret any language.
2. Any symbol, allegory, or figure of speech bases its true meaning on the literal meaning of words.
3. Prophecy is interpreted literally. The literal method does not rule out symbols, figures of speech, or allegories. If the nature of the context is one of these the literal method demands interpreting it as such.
4. The literal method is a check on the imagination of man.
5. Prophecy is viewed historically.
6. Prophecy is viewed grammatically-word meanings, tenses.

NOTE: The long view of prophecy understands that prophecy had a contemporary meaning and a distant meaning. The prophet had to be accurate in prophecy, Dt. 18:22. Some prophecies allowed for change and repentance, Jonah, Jer. 18:7-10.

B. Ministry of the Prophets

1. In the OT, a preacher of repentance and a forth teller of future events.
2. NT, a preacher, predictor, or forth teller, specifically of God and his promises.

C. Message of the Prophets

1. The ethical message- REPENT! Condemnation of specific sin and elevation of the holy character of God, Ids. 40:22-23.
2. The eschatological message- Imminent judgment, character of the first advent, the Day of the Lord, conditions of the Messianic Kingdom, comfort to the faithful.

II Prophetic Events

A. Millennial Views

1. Post millennialism(wrong)- This one of the most popular views of today, that basically states

Christians will take over the world, the world condition will continue to improve, and the church will usher in the kingdom. After 1,000 years of Christians improving and preparing the kingdom Christ will return. This view contradicts Jesus' teaching in Mt. 24, Mk. 13, Rom. 1-2, 2Tim. 3.

2. Amillennialism (wrong)- This view basically states that all prophecy is to be interpreted figuratively, spiritually or symbolically. In this system, there is no millennium. The Church Age will be concluded by Christ's return and a general resurrection.

3. Premillennialism (correct)- The Church Age will end with the rapture and the resurrection of believers, followed by the seven year tribulation. At the end of the tribulation Christ will return and establish his 1,000 year reign.

B. Rapture Views

1. Partial rapture-(wrong)- This view states that only overcoming Christians will be raptured. Christians who are carnal will be left to go through the Tribulation. This view makes it necessary to have works to be taken in the rapture. This view is almost like the idea of purgatory. Christ's blood is the only way to be taken in the rapture, not our works. See- 1Co. 15:51

2. Midtribulation rapture(wrong)- This view says that the rapture occurs in the middle of the tribulation, just after the resurrection of the two witnesses. The key problem here is that the two witnesses are not symbols for the church. This view also states that there is no judgement prior to Rev. 11. Many who set dates hold this view.

3. Pre-wrath rapture(wrong)-This view places the rapture at the end of the tribulation. Those who hold this view have confused the Church and Israel. They also confuse the Day of the Lord(a time of terrible and unparalleled judgement) with the Rapture(the Blessed Hope). They also place the rapture in the OT, but according to the NT the rapture is a mystery. The OT prophet knew nothing of the rapture. Those who hold this view believe they can pin point the exact time of the rapture.

4. Post-trib rapture(wrong)- The rapture and the 2nd coming are the same. The problem is that in the rapture believers meet the Lord in the air(1Th. 4:17 "to meet"). Jesus does not touch the earth until seven years later (Rev. 19:14 "armies which were in heaven followed him").

Pre-trib rapture(correct)-The rapture is imminent. The Bride of Christ will be removed before judgement 1Th. 5:4-10, 1Th 4:17, 1Th. 1:10, 2Th. 2:3-12

III. Prophetic Judgements

1. Judgement seat of Christ- Ro. 14:10-12, 2Co. 5:8-11/1Co3:13-15- This

judgement is for the works of believers. It is a matter of loss or gain of rewards not salvation.

2. Judgement of the Gentiles- Mt. 25:31-46 these are the ones who will be alive at the end of the tribulation. Judgement based on spiritual condition proved through their works.

3. Judgement of Israel- Ez. 20:34-38 Those who still reject the Lord will be removed, and the remnant will be a blessing to the world.

4. Judgement at the Great White Throne- Rev. 20:11-15 The judgement and condemnation of the lost dead. They will be judged according to their works, and be cast into the lake of fire.

A successful study of prophecy demands rightly dividing the word. Some key areas are:

1. Do not confuse the church with Israel. The church is a NT mystery and does not appear in the OT- do not try to put it there.
2. Do not confuse the 2nd coming of Christ with the rapture. Again the rapture does not appear in the OT, it is a mystery. In the rapture Jesus does not actually return to earth proper- just the clouds.
3. Learn the whole context of all scripture. It is a whole, not just 66 separate books!

Last Days Time Line

Heaven



Judgement Seat of Christ / Marriage and Supper of the Lamb

Christ in the clouds



Church Age



Tribulation 3 1/2 yrs.

Great Tribulation 3 1/2 yrs.

2 witnesses, 144,000

Sealed, Re. 7:1-8 / 11:1-13

Seals

Mid Point Events

Seals

1. Re. 6:2

1. 2 witnesses killed

2. Anti-Christ breaks peace

treaty with Israel,

desecrates Temple

3. Spiritual Babylon falls

- 2. Re. 6:3-4
- 3. Re. 6:5-6
- 4. Re. 6:7-8
- 5. Re. 6:9-11
- 6. Re. 6:12-17
- 7. Re. 8:1-4

Trumpets

- 1. Re. 8:7
- 2. Re. 8:9
- 3. Re. 8:10-11
- 4. Re. 8:12-13
- 5. Re. 9:1-12
- 6. Re. 9:13-21
- 7. Re. 11:14-19

Plagues

- 1. Re. 16:2
- 2. Re. 16:3
- 3. Re. 16:4-7
- 4. Re. 16:8-9
- 5. Re. 16:10-11
- 6. Re. 16:12-16
- 7. Re. 16:17-21

Tribulation

Events



Anti-Christ at Peace

Anti-Christ at War

Last Days Time Line

