

1st Week we looked at the survival of the Jews and how they were chased across Europe.

Last Week we looked at the Jews return to the land and the re-establishment of the state of Israel in 1948.

We also started to look at the escalating persecution that will drive more to return.

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

1. Prepare the saints for what is coming upon on the earth
2. Warn, convince, and lead unbelievers to repentance and salvation
3. To Glorify God

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

1. Prepares the saints for what is coming upon on the earth
 - a. Protects us from deception and a false path
 - b. Increases our faith in the power of God
 - c. Keeps us sober and awake to wait upon, and serve God
 - d. Protects us from being fearful and discouraged
 - e. Encourages us about the goodness and providence of God
 - f. Stirs us up for good works
 - g. To bless believers

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

1. Prepares the saints

a. Protects us from deception and a false path

Luke 21:7 So they asked Him, saying, "Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?"

8 And He said: "**Take heed that you not be deceived.** For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them.

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

1. Prepares the saints

a. Protects us from deception and a false path

2Thessalonians 2:3 **Let no one deceive you by any means;** for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

1. Prepares the saints

b. Increases our faith in the power of God

Prophecy proves that God's plan will come to fruition.

John 13:18 "I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; **but that the Scripture may be fulfilled**, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.'

19 "Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He.

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

1. Prepares the saints

c. Keeps us sober and awake to wait upon and serve God

Luke 12:37 "Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will **find watching**. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.

38 "And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

39 "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

1. Prepares the saints

d. Protects us from being fearful and discouraged

2Thessalonians 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, **2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled**, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

1. Prepares the saints

e. Encourages us about the goodness and providence of God

Isaiah 44:6 "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.

7 And **who can proclaim as I do?** Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them.

8 **Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time,** and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.'"

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

1. Prepares the saints

f. Stirs us up for good works

2Ti 3:13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

1. Prepares the saints

f. Stirs us up for good works - (continued)

Ezekiel 3:18 "When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

19 "Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

The fact that everyone needs salvation is a prophetic revelation from God and it comes with a responsibility for all believers to share the gospel.

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

1. Prepares the saints

f. Stirs us up for good works - (continued)

Amos 3:6 If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it?

7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, **Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.**

8 A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken! **Who can but prophesy?**

When you share the gospel you are prophesying!

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

1. Prepares the saints

g. To bless the believers

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

3 **Blessed is he who reads** and those who hear the words of **this prophecy,** and keep those things which are written in it; **for the time is near.**

The Apostle John believed in the soon return of the Lord Jesus.

In this late hour should we believe any differently?

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

2. Warn, convince, and convert unbelievers

We looked at several ways that the Saints are impacted by prophecy, but unbelievers are impacted as well.

John 12:46 "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

47 "And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him-- **the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.**

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

2. Warn, convince, and convert unbelievers

Prophecy is an amazing apologetic

The prophecies of the first coming of Christ were fulfilled. They stand as evidence that the Bible can be trusted. Prophecies of His second coming work the same way, except we get to witness these events in our time, often with our own eyes.

The nations of the world seem moved as though by a hidden hand into exactly the right positions on a global chess board. What an amazing thing to see it happening before our eyes! It builds faith and draws our attention God-ward.

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

2. Warn, convince, and convert unbelievers

Prophecy is the best evangelistic tool today

The future fascinates us all, because we're all headed that direction. The Bible says a great deal about the future, so people are likely to listen when you talk about prophecy. Evidence that Jesus is coming soon forces listeners to recognize the veracity of the Bible and gives them a glimpse of the enormity of Christ's claims.

If bible prophecy is being fulfilled in our day, it means that the rest of the Bible is also true. Jesus really is God the Son and really did die in our place so that our sins can be forgiven. The truth of Bible prophecy leaves no room for the wannabe messiahs of this world. It quickly becomes obvious that there is salvation in no other name.

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

2. Warn, convince, and convert unbelievers

Cyrus was confronted with fulfilled Prophecy and followed God's lead

Isaiah 45:1 "Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To **Cyrus**, whose right hand I have held-To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut: 2 'I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron.

3 I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel. 4 For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; **I have named you**, though you have not known Me. 5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me,

Cyrus of Persia conquered Babylon more than 140 years after Hosea wrote these words, naming the conqueror and describing how his soldiers would enter into the city. What effect would reading this have had on Cyrus?

The Purposes of Biblical Prophecy

3. To Glorify God

Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare;
Before they spring forth I tell you of them."

10 Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise from the ends of the earth,
You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, You coastlands and you
inhabitants of them!

11 Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, The villages that Kedar
inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, Let them shout from the top of the
mountains.

12 **Let them give glory to the LORD,** And declare His praise in the coastlands.