

The Prophetic Word of God by Daniel

Lesson One: Prophecy in Panorama

Introduction:

- A. Christ's prophetic words ring with relevance in our world today. Matthew 24:5-8
- B. These are the last days. The Lord is bringing to a close another stage of His redemptive plan in history. (Matthew 24:24; 24:11; 1 John 2:18)
- C. We will begin with a panoramic view of God's prophesied program of human history.
- D. Introductory matters:
 1. There is a great hunger for prophetic information.
 2. There is a great imbalance among many students of prophecy. We need to strive for balance. We need to harmonize Revelation, Daniel, Matthew 24, Luke 21, Isaiah 24-27; and Zechariah 14.
 3. There are two terrific books of prophecy in Scripture.
 - Daniel focuses primarily on the Gentiles.
 - Revelation focuses on the nation of Israel.

GOD'S OVERALL SCHEME

A. The Law

1. The first human couple violated God's command and brought death to the human race (Genesis 3 and Romans 5:12).
2. God foreknew this abuse of choice and had planned the steps to provide man's deliverance from the penalty of sin.
3. The LAW given through Moses was never intended to be a means of salvation, but a revelation of man's sinfulness.
4. Unfortunately, Israel did not faithfully obey the Mosaic Law. Consequently, the nation was divided into two kingdoms, and they were both eventually defeated by foreign armies.
5. Daniel lived and wrote during this period.
6. God restored them after seventy years and they rebelled again. This time there was silence in heaven for four hundred years.
7. Both John the Baptist and Jesus came and ministered during this time.
8. Jesus' resurrection signaled a new stage in God's plan.

B. The Church

1. None of the Old Testament saints foresaw the Church Age.
2. It was revealed to Paul (Ephesians 3:2-11).
3. The Church Age will end with the revelation of the Antichrist and the rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 2:1-12).

4. Christ has promised that the Church will never be defeated or overpowered (Matthew 16:18).

C. The Rapture

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
2. Only non-believers will be left at the rapture and that begins another step in God's prophesied program.

D. The Great Tribulation

1. The most terrifying and destructive period of sin and judgment recorded – a seven-year span.
2. The most dominant figures during this time: antichrist and the false prophet (Revelation 13).
3. God will unleash His anger in a series of devastating judgments that will culminate in the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 6-18).

E. The Second Advent

1. This will occur when the armies of the world are assembled for battle at the plain of Armageddon (Revelation 19).
2. Raptured saints will return with Christ for this battle (19:1-14).
3. Antichrist and false prophet will be thrown in a fiery pit (v.20).

F. The Millennial Kingdom

1. God will initiate a thousand-year reign of righteousness on earth (Revelation 20:6).
2. Only believers will enter this reign, but not all children born during this time will place their faith in God.
3. Satan will deceive them after the thousand years and lead them in war against Christ (20:7-9).
4. Christ will defeat them and cast them in the bottomless pit where the antichrist and false prophet are (vs. 9-10).
5. Then all the unsaved will be resurrected and judged and thrown into the "lake of fire" (vs. 11-15).

G. The New Creation (Revelation 21:1-4)

DANIEL'S SPECIFIC SCOPE

- A. He was unaware of God's full prophetic plan.
- B. Five key prophetic events.
 1. The rise of Gentile supremacy.
 2. The rebuilding of Jerusalem.
 3. The coming and death of Messiah.
 4. The Great Tribulation.
 5. The Millennial Kingdom.

Conclusion:

1. We should find comfort in the prophecies of the Bible. They make it clear that no matter how bleak the circumstances appear to be, the Lord is in control, and He will carry out His purpose in His perfect time.
2. The church is most evangelistic when it emphasizes God's prophetic Word.
3. We will learn the condition for knowing the secrets of God.
4. Daniel is a book of one moral crises after another.
5. We will learn the risks and rewards of holiness.
6. We will learn of the attempts of Satan to wean us away from our faith.