

A More Sure Word of Prophecy

Introduction to the Prophet Isaiah

++++++

~ Those of you who are going through the entire Word of God with our Spiritual Safari will want to pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment, then turn to the prophecy of Isaiah, and read the entire first chapter now. This is the beginning of an altogether new, entirely different landscape our safari is entering with this report – and we will continue in the prophetic section of Scripture throughout the remainder of the Old Testament. The Spirit of God began revealing prophecy as far back as the Pentateuch, the historic books, in the Gospel records, and in the poetic books. As we begin the official canons of eschatology, we'll discover law, history, the Gospel, and even poetry! Prophecy was given to us by God Himself to round out our understanding of the Lord Jesus Christ. Quite candidly, there is no other reason for God giving us prophecy other than to further reveal the first and second advent of His Son to this earth. No other reason whatsoever.

Scriptural prophecy was given by men who were raised-up by God Himself during times of declension, apostasy, and anarchy in the nation Israel. There is an artificial division made by modern theologians who categorize the prophets as “*major*” and “*minor*” prophets – so designated by the length of their writings; but they are *ALL* major prophets with a major message about Christ. Frankly, some of the so-called “*minor*” prophets have a message that is more powerful and potent than an atomic bomb. Naturally, a proper, correct and complete understanding of the prophets is critical to a right understanding of the Word of God. This ridiculous, false, imitation and forgery of theology that passes for prophecy today, particularly around this forum on which I teach, is outright shameful – not to mention wholly ignorant – and almost always blasphemous. Honestly, because I always am honest with you dear readers, I *NEVER – NEVER – NEVER* – not even sometimes – see prophecy handled responsibly today; and that includes in our churches. Not even close, as a matter of fact; and this is one reason prophecy is in such disrepute in the church.

++++++

Although the predictive element looms large in the prophetic section of the Bible, the prophets were not fortune-tellers. They didn't tell the children of Israel that they would all get new chariots and huge sums of silver or gold, and that they would all be physically healed and live happily ever after. They didn't tell the nation that everything would be alright and that great days were ahead. No, friends, these were men who told of impending doom — and of the destruction of Jerusalem — and they rebuked sin — and told the nation they were all going into captivity. They pleaded with a pious and proud people living in luxury to humble themselves and return to God. That made them men who were hated, reviled — and totally and completely ignored by the community — and by the prophets of Baal. They were utterly unpopular. Actually, the prophets were wholly despised men in Jewish society raised up Personally by God in a decadent day when both priest and king were no longer worthy channels through whom the expressions of God might flow.

These men not only spoke of events in the far-off future, but also spoke of local events in the immediate future. They had to speak in this manner in order to qualify for the office of prophet under God, according to the Mosaic Law. If the local event did not transpire just as the prophet predicted, he was labeled a false prophet — and summarily stoned to death. So, you may be sure that the message of the false prophet is not in the library of the inspired canons of Scripture. The prophetic books are filled with events that are local and fulfilled. A sharp distinction needs to be drawn between the *unfulfilled* portion of prophecy and that which is yet to be fulfilled. Of course, when these prophecies were given, they were *ALL* unfulfilled; but today, much has been *fulfilled*.

Deuteronomy 18:8*but the prophet, who shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously; thou shalt not hearken unto him ~*

One of the greatest evidences that these were speaking the words of God is revealed in the hundreds of prophecies that have been fulfilled literally. Man cannot guess the future, friends. Even the meteorologists today have difficulty prognosticating twenty-four hours in advance; even with the advantage of all manner of scientific, mechanical devices assisting them. No modern weather forecaster could have been an accepted prophet in Israel. If a prophet missed just *ONE* prophecy, then that would have been his last; because the people would have stoned him. Most people think these ancient people were gullible and naïve in the day in which we are studying. It's easy to dismiss them and proclaim a high level of intelligence and sophistication on our part in the modern age – but, actually, it's exactly the other way around.

The law of compound probability forbids man from foretelling the future. Each uncertain element added decreases the chance of accuracy by fifty percent, compounded with each calculus. So, when we consider the three hundred or so prophecies that have been literally fulfilled, it presents a genuine appeal to the honest mind and sincere seeker of truth. Mathematically, we're talking about a fraction that is one over ninety-three and *ONE HUNDRED* zeros. Let's just say there isn't a ghost of a chance of being right; unless the Spirit of God revealed this. Fulfilled prophecy is one of the infallible proofs of the plenary and verbal inspiration of Scripture.

The prophets were extremely nationalistic. They were mostly revivalists and patriots who spoke on behalf of God to the hearts and conscience of the nation. Fire and tears were mingled in the prophetic message; and they each saw the "*Day of the Lord*" — and the glory to follow. All of them looked through the immediate darkness to the dawn of a new day in the future. In the black night of pervasive sinfulness, on a national level, they saw the light of a coming Savior and Sovereign; they saw the millennial kingdom coming in all its fullness. Their message must be interpreted properly before an appreciation of the "*kingdom*" in the New Testament can be attained in our thinking. The correct perspective of the "*kingdom*" must be gained through the eye of eschatology. Even so, the prophets were not supermen — they were normal men of like passions, just as we are; but having spoken for God, their message constitutes Holy Writ ~

1 Peter 1:10 ...of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you, searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ who was in them did signify, when he testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that would follow ~

2 Peter 1:19 ...we have also a more sure word of prophecy, unto which ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not at any time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit ~

~ "Sweet is the harp of prophecy; too sweet to be wronged by a mere mortal touch" ~

++++++

++++++