

## Why Prophecy Matters

Welcome to your future! It's ironic that while Bible prophecy gives hope and comfort to Christians, many aren't sure why. Some avoid prophecy, just hoping everything will work out in the end. We should *know* what's coming! God has told us, and it can make a huge difference in our lives.

### Prophecy Inhibitors (why some people ignore prophecy)

- “Heavenly-minded people are no earthly good!” (Titus 2.11-13)
- “If He hasn't come by now, He's not coming!” (2 Peter 3.4)
- “People need help *now* – forget the future!” (1 Thess. 4.18)

### Seven Reasons Why Prophecy Matters

- It's part of God's revelation  
(2 Timothy 2.15; 3.16-17; 2 Pet. 1.20-21; Rev. 1.3)
- It shows the reliability of Scripture  
(200-300 prophecies fulfilled in Jesus alone!)
- It encourages godly living  
(1 John 3.3; Titus 2.11-13; Heb. 11.13-16)
- It gives us hope in trials  
(2 Cor. 4.17; 1 Thess. 4.18; 5.11)
- It excites our worship of God  
(By exhibiting God's wisdom, power, and love; Isa. 46.10)
- It tells about life after death  
(Matt. 25.46; John 5.25-29; 6.40; 14.1-3; 2 Cor. 5.6-8)
- It reveals the end of history  
(Matt. 24.3-31; 25.31; Rev. 19.11-22.17)

# Are you Ready?

1. Some people love prophecy; they hang out on prophecy websites, and check the daily news for clues that the Rapture is near. Others avoid prophecy; they think since we don't know what will happen, it just gives Christians something to argue about! How do you feel about Bible prophecy? Does your attitude toward prophecy increase your love for God? Does it motivate your love for others? How?
2. Many people avoid biblical prophecy today because they think it is difficult or impossible to understand. Some prophecies are literal, while others are figurative. Obviously, a figurative prophecy (the beast with seven heads and ten horns in Revelation) requires us to look for what the figure represents, and we may not know for sure. But literal prophecies (like time periods) do not require any special interpretation. Read Revelation 17. What prophecies are figurative? Are some of them explained? What prophecies are literal? What can we know? What do we not know for sure?
3. Bible prophecies may be conditional or unconditional. A conditional prophecy may never be fulfilled. An unconditional prophecy will be fulfilled without fail. Are the following prophecies unconditional or conditional? Gen. 2.16-17; 3.15; 6.7; 12.1-3; Ex. 19.5-6; Isa. 7.14; 9.1-7; 40.31; Ezek. 38.23; 39.21-22, 29; Jonah 3.4; Mic. 5.2; Zech. 12.10; 14.18; Jn. 3.16; 16.2-3, 7; 21.18; Acts 16.31; Rom. 14.10-12; 1 Cor. 4.5; 1 Thess. 4.13-18; 5.2-3; 1 Jn. 2.28.
4. It's possible to spend too much time focusing on different prophetic views, and not care about living godly lives now. To prevent this, we should focus on the message of prophecy, not on whose view is right! Old Testament saints focused on prophecy; what effect did it have on their lives (see Heb. 11.13-16, 39-40)? What event in every Christian's future is prophesied in the New Testament? Read Rom. 14.10-12; 1 Cor. 4.5; 2 Cor. 5.10-11; 1 Jn. 2.28; 3.3. Do prophecies like this affect you? How? Why?