

# Should One Study Prophecy

William J.D. Shaw Updated: July 16, 2022

## Introduction

A question that one should ask themselves is should they study prophecy ? Few of God's people study prophecy. Many say that they don't as it is too hard and leave it at that. Few pastors cover future prophecy as it is not a popular topic with their congregation and they have not studied it in enough depth to really understand it and to be able to tell others what is coming. There is one exception to this and that is the Seventh Day Adventist's, however unfortunately what they say is totally wrong since they do not follow what scripture says, they ignore what does not fit with their belief and try and fit scripture that does not support their theories or speculations. One needs to use scripture and only scripture combined with logic. Then one watches the world to see if it fits with prophecy.

Why are we given so much scripture on future prophecy ? It shows us God's will and gives us understanding of why God gave us life. It also shows God as being supreme, knowing the end from the beginning. Anywhere from 27% to 33% of scripture is prophecy or related to prophecy. That means more than every 4<sup>th</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> verse is prophetic. Currently about half of the Bible prophecy has been fulfilled. There are two major areas of prophecy, one is on Yeshua's first coming and the other is on His second coming and His fulfilling prophecy to the very end of this world.

Let us examine first what the Bible tells us of studying prophecy.

## Old Testament

There are two main sets or themes of prophecies throughout the Old Testament, one set has been fulfilled and the other set is waiting fulfilment. The set that has been fulfilled is now a lesson to us on how we are to tackle the study of prophecy. Much of past prophecy was not easy to find and put together, it required considerable study, collection, thinking and analysis. Prophecy as yet to be fulfilled is just as difficult, but now we know how to collect and study it and there is more clarity given in the New Testament scriptures.

Prophecy in the Old Testament is given to us mainly from the Major and Minor Prophets. A little is also found in Psalms and Proverbs. Often future prophecy is a call to return to the LORD before the coming Day of the LORD's wrath. The last prophet in the Old Testament was Malachi, for after his prophecy a period of roughly 400 years of quiet with no further prophecy up until the time of Yeshua. The last call to return is Mal 4:4 as follows.

[Mal 4:4](#) Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, *with* the statutes and judgments.

Before the Great and Terrible day of the LORD, man is told to remember to walk properly, to walk in the Torah (the Law), to walk in the Holy Days of God (Statutes) and to learn the righteous rulings (Judgments). These instructions were given many times throughout scriptures by the prophets, but it is fitting that the last verses by the last prophet in the Old Testament it emphasises this same directive. Return to the LORD before it is too late.

Recognize God's word is truth, so the Wrath of God will at a set time be brought down upon the entire world.

Each generation of man thinks that it is far off in the future. The irony is that we today are living in the future and the wrath of God has already started in coming down upon the world. But unless one has been studying prophecy they will not be able to recognize God's hand at work.

To understand and recognize how close we are to Yeshua's return we need to use prophecy from both the Old and New Testament. Together it completes the manner of fulfilment and how we are to prepare in order to be found acceptable. The time is extremely short.

The early Israelites knew that they were to study prophecy, they did not need to be told with a specific scripture. They knew God gave them prophecy for a reason and it was all part of His word. They studied the whole Bible for understanding and direction, the whole Bible in their time was only the Old Testament.

## New Testament

The New Testament is filled with prophecy and this prophecy is fully integrated with prophecy of the Old Testament. The focus is on what Yeshua will fulfill in the future and what is in store for man in the future. It also warns us and tells us of the choices we need to make as the end time comes. It helps us continue to grow and mature. It tells us compromise leads to a place of personal destruction.

The New Testament has scriptures that tell us to study prophecy as man today thinks to himself various aspects of the Bible are optional. The following verses are ones that are important in telling us to learn prophecy as the time is becoming shorter.

**2Pe 1:19** We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto 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:

**2Pe 1:20** Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

**2Pe 1:21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

**Rev 19:10** And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See *thou do it* not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

**Rev 1:1** The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John:

**Rev 1:2** Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

Rev 1:3 Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand.

Rev 22:6 And he said unto me, These sayings *are* faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

Rev 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed *is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.*

The time is at hand. Prophecy tells us that this current time we are in that most all people will walk as in the days of Noah. It also tells us that there will be scoffers. This is being fulfilled today.

## The Main Reason to Study Prophecy

There is only one main **reason** to study Prophecy. We are told to live by every word of God and 30% of God's words are scriptures of prophecy or related to prophecy.

Mat 4:4 But he answered and said, *It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

All scripture is given to us for instruction and for our benefit. Scriptures of prophecy are no different, they help us understand the nature of God.

2Ti 3:16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2Ti 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

There are many **benefits** of studying prophecy. They help us to understand righteousness and how we are to walk, they help us to recognize the reason for our learning and maturing as children of the LORD. They help us to understand the importance of placing **All** our trust in God and not being caught up in the way of the world. The focus of our walk is preparation for a future life with the LORD. They reinforce how short and temporary our current life is.

There is a phenomenal amount of information in prophecy that allows us to grow in a deeper understanding of righteousness and valuing what God values. Prophecy allows us to understand the entire plan of God. It gives us a glimpse of the future, what is coming and how we fit in.

Why does the Bible emphasize Judgments ? The answer is found in prophecy, as well as many other answers.

Understanding what is coming helps one to prepare mentally and to know and recognize the right choice.

The entire Bible including prophecy is all about God's people and Yeshua. Yeshua is the spirit of prophecy.

Finally, those that study prophecy are blessed, they please the Father and the Son.

## **Methodology**

In order to study prophecy one must pray in earnest to the LORD and ask Him to open the scriptures for understanding to you. Future prophecy is well hidden throughout the entire Bible, it is like a jigsaw puzzle and you must gather the pieces and fit them together. You require God's Spirit to open these puzzle pieces to you.

Your action is to pick a theme, such as who are the Saints and what happens to them in a time line. In fact this theme is the best place to start. In addition you need to continually read the Bible through at least once every year. This needs to be done continually. You must read with an open mind and accept what is shown. You need to think and use logic as God is completely logical.

You need to have a deep understanding of God's Holy Days, what they mean to man and what they mean to God. The Holy Days are prophetic; they describe man's life on this earth. The Holy Days will all be fulfilled from prophecy by the end of this current world and heavens. You will need to combine the Holy Days with other prophetic scripture from throughout the Bible to understand prophecy.

As you read and study one needs to look for correlations and repetition in fulfilment.

Studying prophecy is an exercise in collecting facts, thinking, analyzing and correlating. Recognize God's knowledge is more than mans and God's ways are higher than mans. God is not restricted by time, He knows the end from the beginning.

The Bible is God's word given to us, it is truth and it means exactly what it says over 95% of the time. All scripture is given for a reason. Because you cannot understand scripture, it does not mean you can ignore it.

All Bible scripture is completely organized and is consistent, there are not any discrepancies or conflicts. Everything one needs for gaining an understanding is there in scripture.

One way of starting is concentrate on the Prophets, Major and Minor in the Old Testament and all of the New Testament, including the book of Revelations. Most all of what one needs will be contained in these.

Use Strong's Numbers mainly from the Old Testament where possible, in order to define the meaning of words, as Hebrew definitions are far more insightful.

You need to go on a scavenger hunt, being like a detective, gathering the information without filtering it, then analyzing it all together. It must all fit or you have the wrong understanding.

Break your study into major sections, as an example one would be the Last day and the New Heavens and Earth. Another would be the Millennium etc.

Progress in made in incremental steps and with enough persistence it will all fit together if you have it correct. Yes it requires a lot of effort and time. Yes it is not easy, but it is all there for your collection and understanding.

## Today's Time

In the New Testament Yeshua and the Apostles warn us to beware of deceit. This warning occurs 17 times. The more times the same thing is repeated the more important it is. Yet the Church and those that follow Yeshua have never taken this to heart. Also Yeshua tells us the deception will become worse in the end time.

Mat 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Luk 21:8 And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am *Christ*; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.

Mat 24:23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is Christ*, or there; believe *it not*.

Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were possible*, they shall deceive the very elect.

The Apostle Paul warns us through the Holy Spirit about the latter times or end times.

1Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

So what is happening in today's time, all the mainstream news media are lying to everyone and have been for some time, but amplified in the last few years, from roughly 2018 onward. Evil is good and good is evil. They tell you the experimental gene therapy shot that they call a vaccine will protect you. They tell you that Ukraine is winning against Russia. They say Nitrogen fertilizer is bad. They say global warming and climate change are caused by man and Governments can act to correct it. On and on it goes. One no longer knows what is true in the reports from the mainstream news or either what the leaders of the country and other authorities within the country tell us.

Prophecy tells us the end times will be just like in the days of Noah, nearly everyone, including most Christians, walking oblivious to seeing how God's wrath is coming down upon the entire world.

God is in control of the weather, it is his world. In fact what is happening today with heat waves, drought, forest and grass fires in places and flooding in others, this is all the action of God at work. He is taking peace from the world with Covid and war and unrest. He is starting a world wide famine. These are the first two plagues of God coming upon the entire world as found in prophecy. If you have not been studying end time prophecy you will be totally ignorant of what is taking place in the world today and where it is headed according to God's plan.

What it comes down to in the end times, is either place your trust in the LORD or place your trust in the world. That choice of going with the world has already been made by many that call themselves Christians.

Today we are living in the days of sorrow and the start of the Tribulation is fast approaching.

How many plagues occur in the end time? Most think there are 7 if asked. No there are 10, there are 3 before the Tribulation and 7 in the Tribulation period. It is all there in scripture. The first two plagues are currently underway and are going to become much worse as time goes forward. When the third plague starts it is going to be phenomenally worse. All three will occur together right up to the start of the Tribulation.

There are two scriptures that tell you there are more than 7 end time plagues, these are Rev 15:1 and Rev 21:9. The whole story is there in scripture and it was given to man for a reason. Why is it that you do not know this ?

## Summary

Bible Prophecy was given to man to study and come to an understanding of what will take place according to God's will. Prophecy was given to us in order to understand God's entire plan for Yeshua and for man. In addition prophecy was given to man to help him continue to grow and mature as one of God's children.

The entire Bible is comprised of about 30% prophecy. This means roughly every one out of three verses is prophecy. God went to a lot of effort to give us this much information.

The prophecy of Yeshua's first coming has been fulfilled. In the past it was studied by the priests and rulers but they did not get it correct and did not recognize Yeshua as the Son of God.

The prophecy of Yeshua's second coming will soon be fulfilled, yet today few if any recognize the signs with God's will currently unfolding. Those that do recognize God's will occurring are witnesses and watchmen for the LORD.

Those that study prophecy are blessed and continue to grow in the LORD.

The LORD must be extremely disappointed in those that call themselves Christians and ignore or do not study or know prophecy that He has specifically given to us for our understanding and growth.

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