

END-TIMES PROPHECY SERIES: FIRST THINGS FIRST...

2 PETER 1:12-21

2 PETER 1:12-21 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been **established in the truth** which is present with you. (13) I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to **stir you up by way of reminder**, (14) knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our **LORD** Jesus Christ has made clear to me. (15) And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to **call these things to mind**. (16) For we **did not** follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you **the power and coming** of our **LORD** Jesus Christ, but we were **eyewitnesses of His majesty**. (17) For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"-- (18) and we ourselves **HEARD** this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the **holy mountain**. (19) So we have the **prophetic word** made more sure, to which you do well to **pay attention** as to a lamp shining in a dark place, **until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts**. (20) But know this first of all, that **no PROPHECY of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation**, (21) for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

1. What is **PROPHECY** ?

In most cases, prophetic utterances by God's prophets... were to warn God's people regarding certain behaviors and practices that were not good for His people, specifically sinful actions that would bring dire consequences. So, a general, generic prediction in Genesis 2, regarding any human eating of the "tree of knowledge of good and evil" in the "day" anyone did that, that person, or those person's would die - or the "death process" would begin. That is a general prediction based upon a law or principle that God put into place. So, when Adam and Eve violated God's law, there were consequences, just as God predicted there would be. **Similarly**... if a human being jumps off a

2000 ft cliff without any parachute, bungy cord, or any other kind of aide to stop his/her fall... that person will be splattered at the bottom of the cliff. I can, and you can make that prediction based upon the law of gravity. That is a “no brainer” “prophecy”. But what we are talking about today is a bit more serious, and relates to God, to His Laws in the Bible, and to the future of mankind... those who are His followers and those who reject Him, etc. We then are entering into something more than just “natural predictions about normal consequences of every-day kinds of things”. So most Bible Scholars believe that **PROPHECY** comes in **two flavors**... and seem to overlap a bit...:

- a. the **Telling-Forth**... of God’s Word... God speaking directly through a person or vessel to the world or to His covenant people...
- b. the **Fore-Telling**... of things to come... by God... who knows all things, past - present - and future... (specific predictions)

Words in the Old Testament and in the New Testament for Prophecy
 prophecy (נְבוּאָה - nebuah) = to speak or write a predictive statement
 prophet (נָבִיא - nabiyy) = a seer or prophet that speaks forth
 predictions... or predictive statements

these all come from the Hebrew word → *nābā'* (נָבָא) to **prophecy**,
 to speak by inspiration, to predict

(it roots → to flow, **boil up** or over; bubble or pour forth words, to gush) → implications → just like water boiling over and gushing over the boiling pot... cannot be stopped... but will overflow the pot as long as the heat is on under the pot... so it is with the prophet prophesying his prophecy... it comes from God... and bubbles up and gushes forth in proclamation. **IT MUST BE SPOKEN !!!**

New Testament... prophētēs (*pro* (before) & *phemi* (telling or proclaiming)) ... **telling of things before they happen**. Prophecy, Prophet, Prophesying... all relate... based on their Greek Construct... **forces** the meaning to be “telling of ‘things’ before they happen”. It may have the meaning of “telling forth” ... and to **WARN** about things to come, as well. But the core meaning is **predicting the future**.

Jesus said that following to His Disciples...

JOHN 14:29 "Now I have told you **before** it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe."

ISAIAH 42:8-10 (8) "I AM YAHWEH, that is **My NAME**; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images. (9) Behold, the former things have come to pass, **NOW I declare NEW things; BEFORE they spring forth I proclaim them to you.** (10) Sing to YAHWEH a **New Song**, sing His praise from the end of the earth! ... "

2. WE NEED TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION - AND BE CAREFUL?

Why ? (2 **PETER 1:16-19**)

→ **The WORD of GOD...** it is **prophetic in Nature...** and Peter and his fellow apostles were eyewitnesses (and ear-witnesses) on the **MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION...** they **witnessed** with their **Physical Senses...** the transformation of Christ... saw Moses and Elijah... and **heard** God the Father tell them to pay attention to Jesus, etc... Peter was staking his very life on the truthfulness of Scripture... **IT PROVES THE VERACITY** of God's Holy Word, the Bible.

(Mount of Transfiguration → Matt. 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-10; Luke 9:28-36)

1 JOHN 1:1-4 The One who was from the beginning, the One whom **we have heard**, the One whom **we have seen** with our *own eyes*, the One **whom we have looked at and touched with our hands**, concerning the **WORD OF LIFE** -- (2) and **that LIFE** was manifested, and **we have seen** and testify and proclaim to you **the ETERNAL LIFE, WHO** was with the Father and was **manifested to us** -- (3) the One whom **we have seen and heard** we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. (4) These things we write, so that our **joy** may be made **complete**.

END-TIMES PROPHECY → APOSTLES QUESTIONED JESUS in

ACTS 1:4-8 (4) Gathering them together, **Jesus** commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; (5) for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (6) So when **they** had come together, **they were asking**

Him, saying, “**LORD**, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” (7) He said to them, “It is **not for you to know times or epochs** which the Father **has fixed by His own authority**; (8) but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

→ **don't get stuck** on the **INTRIGUE** of Prophecy...
FOCUS on the **GREAT COMMISSION**

3. So What is THE AIM ? (Why does God Give this kind of “thing”?)
(2 Peter 1:12-19 ; 1 Timothy 1:5; 1 John 1:1-4)

1 TIMOTHY 1:5 But the **GOAL** of our instruction is **LOVE** from a **PURE HEART** and a **GOOD CONSCIENCE** and a **SINCERE FAITH**.

1 JOHN 1:1-4 The One who was from the beginning, the One whom **we have heard**, the One whom **we have seen** with our *own* eyes, the One **whom we have looked at and touched with our hands**, concerning the **WORD OF LIFE** -- (2) and **that LIFE** was manifested, and **we have seen** and testify and proclaim to you **the ETERNAL LIFE, WHO** was with the Father and was **manifested to us** -- (3) the One whom **we have seen and heard** we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. (4) These things we write, so that our **joy** may be made **complete**.

2 PETER 1:19 So we have the **prophetic word** made **MORE SURE**, to which you do well to **PAY ATTENTION** as to a **LAMP SHINING** in a dark place, **until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts**.

THE FOCUS, THRUST, AND AIM... IS TO CAUSE JESUS CHRIST TO BECOME MORE AND MORE MAGNIFIED AND IMPORTANT IN OUR LIVES... PERSONALLY...

a. TO **FALL IN LOVE** WITH **JESUS CHRIST MORE**

b. IT **BOLSTERS** OUR FAITH... PROVIDES → **PROOFS AND EVIDENCE THAT THE BIBLE IS TRUE** → **COVER TO COVER...**

→ TO FURTHER THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL