



Pine View
Baptist Church
Augusta, GA

Wednesday Night Service

"Questions About Prophecy – Part I"

1. *Why should I study prophecy?*

Perhaps the most obvious reason to study prophecy is because there are prophecies in the Bible. Much of the Bible is prophetic. Some of the things written have been fulfilled and some of the things have not been fulfilled.

The Old Testament prophets predicted Jesus coming which has been fulfilled but there are prophecies about his second coming that have not been fulfilled. Also, Old Testament prophets predicted the coming judgement by Babylon against Israel that have been fulfilled. We should study prophecy to see the things that God has done. It will tell you how God will fulfill prophecies in the future. We see that God is faithful to what He says he will do. There are prophecies where Jesus will come like a thief in the night and how God will judge the world with fire. (Read: II Peter 3:10) These are things that will happen in the future.

2. *How has prophecy been abused?*

Some people have fallen into the trap of always seeking new truth or trying to find something new in the Bible. Some have used prophecy to make money. There are those who make false prediction of Jesus coming. Some people have made the mistake of trying to identify personalities who they feel could be the anti-Christ. Their false predictions have led people astray and caused division in the church.

The first verse in the book of Revelation gives the focus of all prophecy. (Read: Rev. 1:1) It says here "It is the Revelation of Jesus Christ." This is a good guide to keeping all prophecy properly focused.

(Key) No one else owns this revelation. It uniquely belongs to Jesus, not to angels or other human beings.

3. *What are the signs before the rapture?*

There are no signs that tell us exactly when the rapture will come. (Read: Matt. 24: 36) The only one that knows when the rapture will take place is God. We know that it is near but how close, no one knows. There are certain signs that give indication of how close we are to the rapture.

1. The seven epistles (Rev. 2-3) seem to reflect 7 periods of time between the Lord's first coming and his second coming. Most scholars say we are living in the times described by the last seven churches described in these verses.
2. The Lord indicated that before the end, Israel would return to the land in unbelief and set up a nation. (Read: Eze 37:11-14) The "Lifeless bones" in the verse refer to Israel. One day, God will bring their dead bones to life. He will bring them up out of their graves. One day Israel will be regenerated.

To put this in perspective, Israel was established in 1948 and during the Six day war in 1967. Jerusalem and the older parts of the homeland were connected and became part of the nation. Today, Israel does not believe that Jesus is the Messiah. Like dead bones, they are in unbelief. But there is coming a time in the future when Israel will be regenerated. The Bible says "All Israel will be saved." (Read: Rom 11:26)

3. Many scholars believe that during the tribulation, the world will have one leader, one government, and one money system or what is known as a one-world banking system. During this time there will be a one-world religion headed up by the anti-Christ. We will talk more about these things in the coming sessions.

4. There also seems to be other ecological, atmospheric and societal signs that point to Jesus return. (Read: Matt. 24:6-7 and II Tim. 4:2-4) There will be false prophets like Jim Jones and David Koresh. (Read: Matt. 24:11)