

Why Your Eternal Future Matters Today

Series: Future Ending

Selected Scriptures

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I. Introduction

In the coming weeks we will study the events that will both precede and follow the most important event in human history: The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13

II. Why People Resist Studying Prophecy

A. The Subject Is Too **Confusing** To Understand

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" Matthew 24:3

And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. Matthew 24:4-6

"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Matthew 24:15-16

Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Matthew 24:29-30

B. No One Can Know When **Christ** Will Return

And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Daniel 12:9

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. Matthew 24:36

- Christopher Columbus (1451-1506) thought the world would end in 1656. "There are but 155 years left...at which time...the world will come to an end."
- Martin Luther (1483-1546) didn't think the world would exist past 300 years from his time.
- The psychic Edgar Cayce (1877-1945) predicted the Second Coming of Jesus Christ in 2000.
- Harold Camping falsely predicted that the Rapture - the removal of all Christians from the earth prior to the Great Tribulation - would occur on September 6, 1994; September 29, 1994, October 4, 1994, and on March

31, 1995, and he next predicted the rapture and the Judgement Day would take place on May 21, 2011 with the world coming to an end on October 21, 2011.

- At the end of 2012, the world focused on the Mayan calendar which abruptly ended with the entry of December 21, 2012.

C. “There Are Too Many Different Interpretations Of Prophecy”

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20-21

D. “Bible Prophecy Has Nothing To Do With Everyday Life”

III. Why Bible Prophecy Is Important

A. Bible Prophecy Is A Major Theme In The Bible

“The Law Of Proportion” - More than 1/4 of the Bible is predictive prophecy. In the Old Testament, there are more than 1800 references to the return of Christ. Of the 260 chapters in the New Testament, there are more than 300 references to the Lord’s return - one out of every 30 verses. 23 of the 27 New Testament books give prominence to this subject. For every prophecy in Scripture concerning the first coming of Christ, there are eight of Christ’s Second Coming.

B. An Understanding Of Prophecy Helps Us To Interpret And Apply The Bible Accurately.

*“No more shall an infant from there live but a few days,
Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days;
For the child shall die one hundred years old,
But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. Isaiah 65:20*

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:4

*For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. ’
“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ Matthew 25:35-40*

God intended the church to be more - much more than a sanctified relief agency.

C. An Understanding Of Bible Prophecy Motivates Us Toward Godly Living

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 2 Peter 3:10-12