

Principles of Prophecy

Meaning

Prophecy is a “**story**” about the future that God shares with us through the Bible. It is so important that it is usually repeated over and over in different ways!

Format of Prophecy

1. It is **event**-driven. There is something that will happen that we can observe.
2. It is built on a framework of **time**. We can tell **when** it is going to occur.
3. It always follows a defined **sequence**.
4. It often applies to the era it was given in. BUT – very often it is also an end-time “story.”
5. **Christ** is always at its center

Warning

1. If we interpret prophecy **literally** and do not recognize when a **symbolic**, end-time meaning exists, we will miss the great spiritual truths that God is trying to convey! This is what the Protestant and Catholic worlds are doing today! It is called “literalism” and is dangerous.

Examples:

- a. The word “**Jerusalem**” refers to a city in Palestine – symbolically Israel. BUT – in end-time prophecy, it means **God’s people** – even a bride.
- b. The word “**east**” in Bible history refers to the direction of the “rising sun.” BUT – in end-time prophecy, it means “**deliverance**,” because that is the direction that Jesus is going to come from soon!
- c. The word “**flood**” historically means when water overflows its boundaries. BUT – in end-time prophecy, it often refers to the **persecution** of Satan.
- d. End-time “Israel” equals all of God’s saints – Jews plus Gentiles – not the literal nation.

We **will be** studying many of these in our review of prophecy.

2. In Christ’s day the Jewish religious leaders didn’t know that He had come to planet earth!!! Why? **They had not studied prophecy correctly:** They “*shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because **thou knewest not the time** of thy visitation*” (Luke 19:44).

That is **exactly** what is happening today in much of the Christian world. Also, the focus is on events that are not part of end-time prophecy.