### Journey Through the Bible: A Year of Our Lord

Session 25: Introduction to Biblical Prophecy Remember Acts 17:11

### Assumptions & Values:

- The Bible is the Authoritative Word of God
  2 Tim. 3:16-17
- The Bible is an Integrated Message
  - 66 Books, 40 Authors, 2,000 Years (1 Message)
- Protected as a Cannon in 7 Councils
- The NT is in the OT Concealed; the OT is in the NT Revealed
  - The Whole of Scripture Centers on Christ Heb. 10:7 (Psalm 40:7)
  - Originated from Outside the Confines of Time/Space (Heb. 13:8)
  - Every Detail is There by Design (Mat. 5:17-18)
  - No Detail is Trivial (Rom. 15:4; Heb. 10:7)
  - "Whole Council of God" (Acts 20:27)

### Pagan Prophecy:

A forecast of future events, often offered in vague language or riddles. (Prediction – Fulfillment)

# Jewish (Near Eastern) Prophecy:

A Divinely inspired offering of praise or instruction that presents the truth of a situation from God's perspective, offering descriptions of future events as evidence of authentication. (Truth Described in Patterns of History)

# The Nature of Prophecy:

- Prophecy is Not an "Evokable Power"
  - Prophetic Messages are Through God's Will
- Biblical Prophecy is NOT Fortune Telling
  o Revelation of God's Nature & Will
- Not a Hidden Revelation (Laid Before All)

# Patterns in Prophetic Messages:

- Related Past Descriptions of God's Relationship with His People
- Statement of Present Circumstances/Instructions
- Future Implications or Authentication of God's Messenger
- Foreshadowing of the Messianic Kingdom

Review of Prophetic Ministry (Deut. 18:9-22):

- Prophetic Insight is the Ministry of the Holy Spirit
- Primarily Concerns the Will of God for His People
- Foretelling is Primarily for Divine Verification
- "Prophets" Represent God in an Intimate Way
- Direct Representation Requires Absolute Accountability

Review of Prophetic Ministry (2 Pet. 1:16-21):

- Prophecy is a Word from God
- Real Prophecy is as Authoritative as Scripture
- Means By Which Scripture is "God Breathed"
  - Held to the Same Standard
- Cannot Deviate or Contradict Scripture

General Prophetic Pattern of Communication:

- God Identifies Himself (Provides a Title)
- Shares a Related Part of Israel's Past/Culture
- Offers Instruction Regarding Present
- Provides a Warning or Forecast of the Future
- Foreshadowing of the Messianic Kingdom

Prophetic Writings:

- Poetic and Full of Symbolic Imagery
- Figures of Speech (Simile, Metaphor, Pun, Personification)
- Are Not Written with Linier Time in Mind (Patterns)
- Wording is Precise

### Symbolic Language:

### **Rule of Expositional Constancy:**

Prophetic Images which are Defined in Scripture Tend to Maintain That Meaning Throughout.

### Rule of 1<sup>st</sup> Mention:

To Better Understand an Image/Doctrine, Revisit & Study the Passage in Which it First Appears.

# **Examples of Prophetic Symbols:**

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Numbers	(7 – Holy/Complete)
Colors	(White – Purity)
Materials	(Silver – Blood)
Animals	(Lion – Royalty)
Rituals/Festivals	(Ancient Wedding – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming)

Looking for Prophetic Meaning (Hos. 11:1-12):

- What is the Meaning for Hosea's Immediate Audience?
- What is God's Will for that Audience?
- What Figures of Speech Does Hosea Use?
- What Does God Say to Israel's Immediate Future?
- What Does God Imply for Israel's Far Future?
- Where Do You See Christ (Either 1st or 2nd Coming)?

The Gospel According to the Old Testament:

The Seed of the Woman	Gen. 3:14-15	
The Scepter Will Not Depart from Judah	Gen. 49:10	
Heir of King David	2 Sam. 7:12-13	
Virgin Birth	Isaiah 7:14	
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	
Refugee in Egypt	Hosea 11:1	
Home in Galilee	Isaiah 9:1-6	
Ministry Preceded by a Forerunner	Mal. 3:1; Is. 40:3	
Ministerial Mandate	Isaiah 61:1-2	
Call to Repentance	Isaiah 30:15	
Preach in Parables (fall on Deaf Ears)	Ps. 78:2-4; Is. 6:9-10	
Perform Miracles	Isaiah. 35:5-6	
Visitation of the Messiah to Jerusalem	Dan. 9:24-27	
Triumphal Entry	Zech. 9:9-10	
Rejected by the Religious Authorities	Psalm 118:22	
Plot to be Murdered	Psalm 31:13	
Betrayed by One of His Own	Ps. 41:9; Zech. 11:12-13	
Trial & Torture	Is. 50; 6; 53:7; Dan 9:26	
Disciples Would Scatter	Psalm. 31:11	
Faithful Sacrifice	Isaiah 50:6-7	
Crucifixion	Psalm 22	
Execution with Criminals	Dan. 9:26	
Substitutionary Atonement	Isaiah 53:3-12	
ResurrectionPs. 16:10; 110:1; Is. 25:7-8; 53:5-12		
Deliverer of the Gentiles	Isaiah 49:6	
Christ of Both the Gospels & Revelation	Isaiah 9:6-7	
God Defeats the Nations	Psalm 110:1	
Ruler of the Earth	Daniel 7:13-14	

#### For Discussion:

- Share Reading and Journal Highlights.

Consider Along with the Bible:

- What was Your Previous Understanding of Prophecy?
- What Prophecies of the Messiah Strengthen Your Faith?