

# Prophecy

Why it is Important

Amo 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but **he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.**

Eze 24:14 I the LORD have spoken it: **it shall come to pass**, and I will do it; **I will not go back**, neither will I spare, **neither will I repent**; according to thy ways, and according to thy doings, shall they judge thee, saith the Lord GOD.

Num 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

**Cambridge Dictionary:** A statement about what will happen in the future, especially one based on spiritual insight or belief **rather than existing facts**; or the ability to foresee events **divinely**.

# Layman Definition

## **Past or Present**

To speak of the future  
To draft a blueprint  
To commit to something  
To desire an outcome

## **Future**

Confirms what was spoken  
Materialization of the plan  
Keep the commitment  
Fulfill the desire

# Characteristics of God

Eternal

Immutable (unchanging)

Omnipotent (all powerful)

Omniscient (all knowing)

Omnipresent (everywhere)

Wise

Holy

Love

Merciful (gracious)

Just (righteous)

Faithful

Good

# Prophecy

## Mankind

Limited knowledge

Limited understanding

Limited wisdom

Limited power

Unable to control the future,  
extreme limitations on  
predicting it

## God

Knows all things

Understands all things

Perfect application

Full authority

Doesn't predict, the future  
conforms to his word

Shares/Includes us in his plan

# Prophecy

**How we understand it**

What will happen in the future

A **subset of knowledge** that we **cannot fully understand** or **practically apply** but can influence our choices today.

**How we should understand it**

A **central characteristic** of God

The **foundation** of our faith and the **structure** on which we base our character and actions.

# Is Prophecy Truly Foundational?

## **Prophecy is not as important**

- Overemphasis on Prophecy Can Cause Division and Neglect Core Gospel Priorities
- Jesus Emphasized Ethics Over Predictive Signs
- Primary Biblical Purpose of Prophecy Is Moral Calling, Not Future Prediction

## **Is that a true statement?**

- What is the true cause of division? What are the core gospel priorities?
- What is the gospel?
- What is the basis for our moral response?

# Is Prophecy the Cause of Division?

Jas 4:1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?  
Is it not this, that **your passions** are at war within you?

Jas 4:6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes **the proud** but gives grace to the humble.”

# What are the Core Gospel Priorities?

## **Love God**

Requires knowing him and his commandments

Matt 22:37-40; John 14:21

## **Love your Neighbour**

Requires preaching God's word and applying it to our interactions

1 John 5:2-3; Rom 13:8-10

# The Gospel

Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Act 28:31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

# The Gospel

## **Name of Jesus**

Who, What, When, Where, Why,  
How

Lineage, Location, Nature,  
Character, Actions, Purpose,  
Suffering, Glory

The means by which God would  
accomplish his eternal purpose.  
God's will fully revealed.

## **Kingdom of God**

Who, What, When, Where, Why,  
How

Citizenship, Government,  
Religion, Laws, Structure,  
Character, Purpose, Location,  
Glory

The outcome of God's work  
upon the whole earth.

# Prophecy – God Has Spoken

## Prophecy

Gen 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

## Fulfillment

Immediate

Fulfilled – The Name of Jesus Christ

# Prophecy – God Has Spoken

## Prophecy

Isa 2:4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

## Fulfillment

Future – Kingdom of God

# The Gospel is Prophecy

Gal 3:8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel **beforehand** to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”

Rom 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham **believed** God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

# Prophecy Fulfilled

A manifestation of the character of God

Joh 1:14 And **the Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

# Faith is grounded in prophecy

Heb 11:1 Now **faith** is the assurance of things **hoped** for, the conviction of things **not seen**.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must **believe** that **he exists** and that **he rewards** those who seek him.

# Practical Outcome of Faith in Prophecy

Heb 11:13-16 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

# A Future Hope

Heb 11:39-40 And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

# Practical Application

Num 30:2 If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; **he shall not break his word**, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.

# Practical Application

"Keep every promise you make and only make promises you can keep." — Anthony Hitt

"Integrity is keeping a commitment even after circumstances have changed." — David Jeremiah

"Your word is your bond." — Traditional proverb

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep." — Robert Frost

"Promises are the uniquely human way of ordering the future."  
— Hannah Arendt

# Practical Application

"Trust takes years to build, seconds to break, and forever to repair."  
— Unknown

"Trust lost over a broken promise is a scar that never heals."  
— Unknown

# Without Prophecy

There is only the present

The future is unknown

The future is undetermined

There is no commitment

There is no hope

There is no confidence

There is no expressed purpose

There is no divine knowledge

Love is only for the moment

Forgiveness isn't eternal

There is no evidence

There is no Christ

There is no Kingdom

There is no faith

# Prophecy – Why it is important

It is a revelation into God's knowledge, understanding, wisdom, love, mercy, desire and power.

We were made in his image. We have been called to become like him. We must **fashion our character to express his eternal characteristics**, so that when we are refined as gold and silver, the traits in which we have embraced will remain.

The outcome of **understanding and believing** what God has stated he will accomplish must result in a **love for him** and **for one another**, as we are all part of his stated purpose.

# Why Prophecy is Important

## About God

A **foundational characteristic** of God

## Applies to us

The **foundation** of our faith and the **structure** on which we base our character and actions.