

Prophecy

A Survey Of Prophecy - Matthew 24

Readings

Matthew 24:8-31

Introduction

One of the evidences that the scriptures are the word of God is their prophetic preciseness.

For instance:

- a) Daniel 11 is possibly the longest most intense prophetic section of the scriptures. In it there are approximately 70 prophetic statements dealing with marriages, a political alliance (Dan. 11:6), and conflicts (Dan. 11:7-13).
- b) When the Lord was here He gave prophetic statements concerning how He would be put to death (Matt. 26:2), how long He would be in the tomb (Matt. 12:40), and His resurrection (Matt. 20:19).
 - i) In every case, every prophetic pronouncement was perfectly fulfilled.
 - ii) This is our assurance that the prophecies He made which have yet to be fulfilled, will be fulfilled.

A survey of prophetic events:

- a) The following is an overview of the prophetic world from where we are now until the eternal state:
 - i) Church Age (Eph. 3:10)
 - ii) Coming of the Lord to the air (1 Thess. 4:16)
 - iii) Confederation of the nations and the rise of the man of sin (Dan. 2:40-43; 2 Thess. 2:3-8)
 - iv) Covenant confirmed (Dan. 9:27)
 - v) Chastening of Israel by God (Jer. 30:6)
 - vi) Coming of the Lord to the earth (2 Thess. 1:10; 2:8-12; Zech. 14:4; Rev. 19:11-16)
 - vii) Combat between the Lord and the nations (Zech. 14:3; Rev. 19:17-21)
 - viii) Consuming of earth's rebels by fire (Rev. 20:8-9)
 - ix) Condemnation at the Great White Throne (Rev. 20:11-15)
 - x) Conclusion and the eternal state (Rev. 21:1)

Matthew 24:3

The Lord had spoken about the fall of the temple (Matt. 24:2), and hearing of this the disciples asked three questions which the Lord answered.

- a) When shall these things be? Matthew, due to his focus, does not deal with it. It is dealt with in Luke 21.
- b) What shall be the sign of thy coming? This Matthew tells us in verses 27-31. Note the word "sign", verse 30.
- c) *What shall be the sign . . . and of the end of the world?* The clause is better and more accurately, "the end of the age", for the end of the world will not be ushered in by His return.
 - i) Before the end of the age and His coming again the Lord gives three "time indicators"; the "beginning of sorrows (v. 8); the end of the age (v. 14); and the days after the tribulation (v. 29).
 1. The beginning of sorrows is characterized by the features of vv. 5-7. It is important to understand that if we believe in the rapture being pre-tribulation, then none of these are being fulfilled today. However, they are the harbingers of things to come.
 - ii) The foremost sign of the beginning of the end of the age is not wars, etc., but something that is mentioned four times, "the danger of deception".
 1. By false Christ's, "Take heed that no man deceive you" (v. 4)
 2. "Many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (v. 5)
 3. "And many false prophets shall rise" (v. 11) (Note the difference and development. In verse 5, "many shall come in my name"; in verse 11, "many false prophets shall rise"; because of them, "iniquity shall abound"; and the result of that is, "the love of many shall wax cold" (v. 12). Then in verse 24, false prophets and false Christ's shall arise and show great signs and wonders.

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4. We see this in bud form today with people who have itching ears (2 Tim. 4:3), being satisfied with teachers who lull them into apathy and the congregations or followers number thousands. Some of the blasphemous teachings are:
 - (a) There are nine gods
 - (b) Men can become god
 - (c) The Lord was born again in Hell
 - (d) Adam was an exact duplicate of God
 - (e) Jesus became a demonic being when he was crucified
 - (f) God is a woman
 - (g) Homosexuality is not a sin
 - (h) The denial of the deity of the Lord
 - (i) The denial of the trinity
 - (j) Man is good without God
 - (k) The absolution of sins
 - (l) Good works and religious ritual will get one into Heaven
 - (m) God will never send anyone to hell

When will the events of Matthew 24 take place?

After the rapture the Beast, also called the “man of sin”, arises and after him the false prophet. The beast will arise as a brilliant statesman who, like Hitler, will arise to the foremost governmental position (Rev. 13:2) without warfare (Dan. 11:21, 24). The government he rules over will be a confederation of 10 kingdoms, and ultimately affecting the entire world.

That which will be the environment for his rise is:

- a) The political situation of wars and rumors of war, he will present peace (Jer. 6:14; 8:11)
- b) The geographical world of earthquakes, he will push for equality of the necessary goods for those affected, and where there is famine He will also push for better medications for diseases and pestilences.
- c) Daniel informs us that he will be a king, a sly, proud, arrogant individual, who will be empowered by the devil (Dan. 8:23-25).
- d) He will make a political covenant with Israel called the covenant of death and Hell (Isa. 28:15, 18), and while he does not break it, he does cause the worship of God to stop (Dan. 9:27) by demanding that all worship his image and take his mark, 666 (Rev. 13:18).

When the false prophet joins with him then there will be times of dreadful perfection.

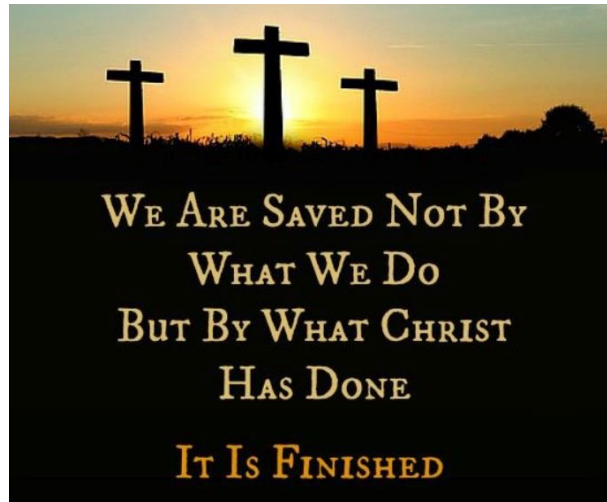
- a) Due to demonic doctrines, any who stand for the truth will be killed and hated (Matt. 24:9).
- b) No matter how hard he tries, the gospel of the kingdom will be preached universally and thousands will get saved (Matt. 24:14; Rev. 7:13-17).

The Major Questions

We begin with the question of the disciples, “When shall these things be?” They will begin immediately after the Lord comes for the church.

- a) When is the Lord going to come for His church? There is not a single prophecy to be fulfilled before the Lord comes. In other words, He could come at any time.
- b) There are folk here today who will never get saved and live to see these things happening.
- c) This is why it is wise to take the offer of salvation:
 - i) To repent of your sins, turn from depending on your works, to the finished work of Christ.
 - ii) Accept without any further procrastinating the free gift of salvation.
 - iii) In the words of the parable, “Be ye also ready” (Matt. 24:44).

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May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13

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