

Getting the GOLD

out of the Word of God

MESSAGE 5 – USING THE TELESCOPE OF PROPHECY TO VIEW “THE THINGS NOT SEEN AS YET”



Many, while interested in the subject, are not sure whether they can know for certain what the Bible teaches concerning things to come. People saved for years admit to this uncertainty. Some are not sure about what they can take literally and what to take mystically out of prophetic passages.

(1) CONSIDER THOSE PROPHECIES ALREADY FULFILLED AS EXAMPLES FROM WHICH TO LEARN

- 1) Matt. 2:6 / Mic. 5:2. Note the differences in the two readings. Look for anything added or omitted.
- 2) The Lord can amplify in the NT what He has said before in the OT without nullifying in any way the former portion (from the OT)
- 3) The prophecy had a literal fulfilment. Place names are to be taken as references to the distinct geographical locations. Bethlehem is shown to be in the land of Judah (comp Egypt, Hos. 11:1 with Matt. 2:15) Consider Jer. 31:38-40; Zec. 2:10, 12 (Jerusalem). Joel 3:12-18, Zech. 14:4.

(2) THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PRIMARY FULFILMENT (A) AND THE FINAL FULFILMENT (B)

- 1) (A) Matt. 24:1-3 with verses (B) v 29-31
- 2) Act 2:16-21 (A) The days of Joel and Acts 4:25-27 with (B) Joel 2:28-32; Ps 2:1-3

Note “Those days” – a dispensation still continuing. A phenomenal upheaval in heaven and earth. This has not yet occurred and is not to be explained away. These signs in the heavens mark the termination of the whole period and introduce the Day of the Lord. The scope of the verses stretches out to apocalyptic events.

*Ps. 2:2-26 There is to be a final gathering of the nations. Rev. 16:16 is given at a time subsequent to the speech of Acts 2:17. Thus, Matt. 24 had a primary fulfilment in AD70 but the ultimate has yet to come. A cataclysm occurring in the heavens will usher in the Day of the Lord... tying in what Acts 2:19,20 says.

The time of the end is principally in view in Matt. 24:3.

(3) THE END TIME CONDITIONS ARE CLEARLY STATED IN SCRIPTURE

- i. There is a blessing in this study. It is therefore not to be avoided. Rev. 1:3 Compare 2 Peter 1:19
- ii. Prophecy is not given in Scripture so that we cannot know what it says. John 14:29, John 16:4 Compare 1 Thess. 5:1. We should know!

CONSIDER THESE EVENTS:

(A) Before the return of the Lord

- a. Israel as a nation back in her own land before the end Ezk 37:1, 11, 21-23; 36:24,25
- b. The formation of the ten kingdoms in the “Roman” earth. Rev 17:12-14
- c. The appearing of the final antichrist. 1 Jn :18; 2 Thess. 2:8,9
- d. The development of apostasy through the earth preceding and also concurrent with a, b, c. 2 Thess. 2:3; Matt 24:12; Luke 18:8
- e. The propagation of the lie, 2 Thess. 2:11,12; 1 Jn 2:22 compare Rev. 20:3

(B) At the time of the Lord’ return

- a. Antichrist to enter the land of Israel. Dan 11:41
- b. The great tribulation will follow this action. Dan 12:1

- c. The nations of the earth will assemble against Israel. Zech 14:1-4; Rev 16:16
 - d. Signs occur in the heavens, earth and sea. Matt 24:30,31
 - e. The Lord comes in the fullness of power and glory. Matth. 24:30,31
 - f. The saints rise in glory to be like Christ. 1 Thess. 4:13-17
 - g. The antichrist destroyed, not by preaching but by judgement. The fury of the Lord being shown against him. 2 Thess. 2:8; Rev. 19:19,20
 - h. The elect of Israel saved. Zech. 12:10
- (C) In the time following the return of Christ**
- a. The Lord Jesus Christ will reign 1,000 years on this earth. Rev 20:6 (Rev. 11:15)
 - b. Satan will be bound and incarcerated. Rev. 20:3
 - c. The saints are judged at the beginning of this time. Rev. 20:4; Rev. 11:18
 - d. Changes take place in the earth and the land of Israel. E.g. the Mt of Olives to cleave apart. Zec. 14:4,8,9; Ezk. 47:10. The Dead Sea is radically changed. Israel becomes a “new” land like the paradise of God. Ezk. 36:33-38. The Jews to embrace the Lord and serve Him. Zech. 9:1; Jer. 31:1,33,34. Jerusalem becomes the centre of worship. Is. 2:1-5. The nations abolish war and study of it. There are far too many Scriptures here, for these things to be ignored.
 - e. Longevity is restored. Is 65:20
 - f. The revolt at the end of the 1,000 years followed by THE JUDGEMENT OF THE GREAT WHITE THRONE. Rev. 20:7-15.
 - g. The new heaven and new earth, sometimes called the eternal state. Rev. 21:1.