

Where Are We Headed? Part 2 (Revised)

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In Part 1 of this series I attempted to show that the events happening in our times are not merely current events. There is more to what we witness on the news as bible prophets have foretold events we see happening around us over thousands of years. I once had a conversation with the pastor of the church I was attending at the time; I asked him why he never preached on bible prophecy. His response was troubling! He said he felt that there were so many variables and opinions concerning prophecies, and that it distracted from the gospel message! He then went on to say that it caused fear and confusion, especially among young Christians, this caused by "date setting" and false comparisons to common recent or past events. My response to him was this: **"If it weren't for prophecy, Jesus is just an ordinary man, it was bible prophecy that showed us who Jesus really is!"** It is apparent to me now that my former pastor was not alone in his convictions, the following being the reasoning of him and other like-minded pastors and religious leaders. In the early 1970's, the Hal Lindsey book "The Late Great Planet Earth" sparked an obsession for information for many pertaining to bible prophecy. Within a short period the bookstores were flooded with books on prophecy and I admit that "date setting" was a common practice as it sometimes is to this day; I also admit that there was much confusion as a result. I myself, a young Christian at the time with a limited knowledge of the Bible at the time, did in some cases experience confusion, and in some cases, fear caused by misinterpretations of many bible passages used by a surge of authors hoping to take advantage of the hype and produce a "Best Seller" of their own. Therefore, I guess there is some justification as to why so many pastors shy away from talking about prophecy; but the big question is this... "Why then did God put so much prophecy in the bible, which amounts to almost 1/3 of the Bible?" Why didn't God just tell us the important stuff that was going to happen? Well... He did - through prophecy!

This is why we cannot ignore Prophecy... we would have to tear out a third of God's Word!

One day while Jesus was with His disciples, they asked him a question... **Matthew 24:3 (New King James Version)** *Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?"*

Jesus proceeded to answer them by giving them signs to look for that would indicate the end times and His (Second) coming; I posted a part of His response in Part 1 of this series. The process is simple, and here is an example most anyone can relate to... when you see the low fuel warning light come on in your car, what does it mean? You got it... You're running out of gas! Years ago when learning to fly an airplane, I was taught to do an instrument scan preferably every time I turned my head in either direction, but at the very least once every couple of minutes. The reason... if I saw the oil pressure dropping, the ammeter doing a funny dance, or any other instrument out of the green zone, it just may indicate an unplanned landing (or crash) is about to take place! I was taught to look for signs of trouble or impending problems or concerns. This is exactly what Jesus was teaching his followers; not only those with Him at the time, but also his followers far into the future (Like You and Me.) If you want to know what is about to happen according to God's plan, watch for the signs (of which there are many) spoken of throughout the Bible. Many people including Christians have been steered away from watching for the signs of the times because of some of the so-called prophecy experts that went against basic teachings of Jesus...

Mark 13:32 (Amplified Bible) *But of that day or that hour not a [single] person knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.* These purported experts thought they had it all figured out, however, the times and dates they predicted for the return of Jesus or some other prophetic event, came and went without the predicted result. This not only caused confusion and doubts among Christians, but it also caused many pastors to refrain from preaching God's word in its entirety, *something which also happens to be included in true Bible prophecy.* The signs of the times Jesus told his followers about were not new teachings He introduced at the time of their query. Jesus was referring to predictions made many years - hundreds of years

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before He came on the scene. The main reason that so many people have made so many mistakes concerning prophecy is because many did not realize that there was order to the predictions. In many cases, certain things had to happen before others could; this is sometimes referred to as, "The Domino Effect." So why are there so many people saying that we are living in the end times now? Are they once again "Date Setting?" What makes modern day prophetic signs different from the signs people claimed to have seen hundreds of years ago? The difference is the sequence of events mentioned above. There are also other factors such as the frequency and intensity of events, (more on that later.) Any student of bible prophecy will tell you that it all centers on the Jewish people and Israel. The signs that Jesus pointed out to His disciples was just the tip of the iceberg looming above the water. Some of the signs Jesus pointed out to His disciples took place relatively soon afterwards, such as the destruction of the Temple... others referred to some of the signs we are seeing today, two thousand years later! Other signs predicted in the Old Testament focus specifically on Israel, while others, such as those included in the Book of Daniel, referred to events far into the future, the details hidden from the very prophets to whom they were revealed! All of these signs, now coming together, have led us to this point in time on the prophetic clock as it is called. This "convergence" of prophecies we are currently experiencing, are themselves yet another sign of the End Times.

Israel is the Key

The Bible is unique, in that it is "self proving." The Bible puts itself in the position that it is either **All True** or it is **All a Lie**. Prophecy is one of the things that give the Bible unrivaled credibility. In ancient times anyone claiming to have a word from God was scrutinized to the extreme. If they were found to be any less than 100% accurate they were put to death! So far the prophecies we read in the Bible have been 100% accurate, although some have not yet been fulfilled. There have been some in the past, (Date Setters), claiming that Jesus had returned in 1914. However prophecy tells us that Israel would be re-gathered from being dispersed throughout the world **before** the "King Messiah" would come. (Referring to the 2nd coming of Jesus) In other words, Israel would be a nation again... This didn't occur until 1948. This reinforces the fact that Jesus did not return at that time, besides the fact that no one claimed to have seen Him appear at that date. The person making this prediction stated that he did return "In the spirit." Perhaps this was to "*cover all the bases as they say.*" In Part Three of this series we will take a deeper look at some of the prophecies concerning Israel and how they turned out; after that, we will look at the events predicted to happen in the future and why many feel they will take place **in our lifetime**. As I see prophecy unfolding before my eyes I am assured that soon I will see my Lord face to face just as He promised. You can have that assurance too... Read, "**What Happened on the Cross**" in the Study Menu on the Selah Life Web Site.