

Prophecy Class 1

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My purpose over the next several weeks is to help each of us, myself included, to better understand **Reality**.

Reality is so much more than... this! ...so much more!!

Reality encompasses all of time and eternity...

All of the physical realm as well as the entire spiritual realm..

The visible and invisible, the revealed and yet to be revealed.

Without understanding God's plans and purposes through what He has revealed to us... and WHY He has revealed so much to us, we will never understand Him, His ultimate plan and especially His great His love for us.

He has proven His existence beyond any doubt...

1. **Creation**... man, birds,... this world with atmosphere and perfect temp, the simplest bacteria

the known **laws of physics**...motion/energy/mass

2. **prophecy proves God is Who He says He is**

If God true... they are accountable to Him for their sin.

2Tim 3:16 All Scripture is given...

GOD'S WORD is His revealed will to man.

He honors and reveres His Word

HE will accomplish all His Word and all His will.

2Tim 2:15 STUDY to show thyself, to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, ***rightly dividing the word of truth***

His Word must to be ***divided properly*** to be rightly understood

We understand God's Word by His Word, rightly divided and by using the wisdom and understanding God gives us...common sense

There are different. applications/audiences.....

OT b/aMoses/ NT a/ Gospels/ TRIB/ MILL/ ETERNITYpast/future

BASICS for understanding God's Word.

1. 4 main recipients of Scripture...

OT saints, NT saints pent-Rapture, Trib saints, unsaved man

2. Word is literal unless clearly redefined.

3. All Scripture points to JC 1,2,3 Luke 24:25ff John 5:39-40

its not about us, its **all** about Him, the Lord Jesus Christ

4. Primary: Purpose of God His glory

5. Audience glorified before: angels/men

Isa 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times *things* that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,

Isa 14:24 The LORD of hosts has sworn, saying, "Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, And as I have purposed, so it shall stand:

Purpose of God **is the glory of God**

Isa 49:3 "And He said to me, 'You *are* My servant, O Israel, In whom I will be glorified.'

Purpose of prophecy: **the Glory of God**

Purpose of man: "

Purpose of sin/the fall/ salvation and redemption "

Rapture/Trib/2nd coming/mill/eternity "

Purpose of Lucifer/Satan/demons.... purpose of Evil "

Unless we understand this one foundational fact... we can never even begin to understand anything of reality

Have you ever thought that God had this great plan, but it got all screwed up by Lucifer and Man's sin... and God has been running around in circles for 6000 years desperately trying to make it all fit back together? Have you? Are you sure? not even a little bit?

Isa 45:7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things. I make light and create darkness. I make blessings and create disasters. I, the LORD, do all these things.

Proverbs 16:33 - *"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD."*

1 Kings 22:23 - *"Now therefore, behold, the LORD has put a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets..."*

Job 2:3 - *"...you [Satan] incited Me [God] against him [Job] to ruin him without cause."*

Job 42:11 - *"...they consoled and comforted him for all the adversities that the LORD had brought on him..."*

Proverbs 16:4 - *"The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil."*

Amos 3:6 - *"...If a calamity occurs in a city has not the LORD done it?"*

Ephesians 1:11 - *"God works all things after the counsel of His will."*

With God, there is **No plan B... no picking up the pieces**

God has been in all of it... working out His perfect plan from beginning to end and beyond...

Rom 8:28 God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him who are the called...according to His purpose...

The converse is also true... God causes things to work together... not for good to those who hate God... who are not the called... according to His purpose...

We're going to see some things in His Word that are hard to accept because they go against our human understanding... against the way we would do things if we were God...

Rom 11...³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding “For who has known the mind of the LORD?

Or who has become His counselor?

“Or who has first given to Him
And it shall be repaid to him?”

For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things,
to whom *be* glory forever

Isa 55 8-9 “For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

If God's Word doesn't line up with the way you think... get over it... deal with it... believe God and His Word

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

John 14:29 And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.

God verifies His Word... long term and short term
God says what He means and means what He says
He gives prophecy that we would believe.

The main audience for prophecy is... US

Peter tells us... **1 Pet 1:10-12** ¹⁰ Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you, ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven... things which angels desire to look into.

1st Prophecy in Bible: Gen 2:17

Eat... you shall die... God means what He says!!

Adam pinnacle of creation... king of world... perfect

Spiritual aspect to all of creation... The serpent could speak!!

Serpent Subtle God was personally in creation... walking with Adam... Physical/Spiritual combo both

The spiritual was life eternal... Zoë... the life of God

moment of sin... spiritual died, corruption began in all

1st Chronological prophecy..... Eph 1:4ff

He chose us BEFORE the foundation of the world

AND Rev 13:8 Jesus Christ slain from the foundation of the world.

Over 12 weeks we will look at many areas of prophecy, but especially as we see it being fulfilled today all around us....

We'll see many incredible times of prophetic fulfillment which prove beyond any doubt the reality and trustworthiness of God.

We will begin to understand just how near the ***Rapture, the Tribulation*** and ***Return of Jesus Christ*** really are.

Most importantly, we can know with certainty...

He means, and will do, ALL that he says...

Psalm 84:11 no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly

Psalm 34:10 those who seek the Lord shall not want for any good thing.

Psalm 84:11 For the Lord He is a shield and He gives grace and glory to His children.

There are approx. 2500 prophecies in the Bible... and around 2000 have already been fulfilled perfectly...

Nothing else has even a shadow of real truth and reliability. Not the Koran, not the Vedas, not Jean ridiculous Dixon, not Nostradamus, not the Mormon prophet... no one and nothing in all time and eternity... only God Almighty, Creator and sustainer of all that is... the One who knows all things past, present and for all eternity to come.

His Word is the only proof we need.

Let's look at just a few examples of fulfilled Prophecy...

In **Deut. 18:21**, God gives His requirement for a true prophet of God... 100% accuracy... anything less... anything less... means death to that false prophet.

The odds of any one of God's prophecies coming to pass by chance is anywhere from 10 to 100 to 1000 to 1. The chances of all 2000 of them coming to pass is less than 1 in 10 with 1000 zeros after it

Now go get the right ONE grain of sand. impossible!!

That's why God says, "The fool..." they will not see.

Some of these prophecies we will look at in more depth in later classes...

in 605 bc after many warnings, the Jews were taken captive from Jerusalem to Babylon...Jeremiah said it would be 70 years.

at end of 70 years, God told Daniel that a king would issue a decree to allow them to go back to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and from that day would be exactly 483 years until Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and that He would be crucified shortly thereafter. Then that there would be a long span of time culminating in a final 7 years which we know of as the Tribulation.

Suffice to say here, it was fulfilled exactly to the day and we know that the final 7 years is right at the doorstep... just waiting for the Rapture so it can begin.

In about 700 bc, the prophet Micah named Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

In the fifth century B.C. the Zechariah declared that the Messiah would be betrayed for the price of a slave—thirty pieces of silver, and that this money would be used to buy a potters field (Zechariah 11:12-13).

Some 400 years before crucifixion was thought of, both David and the Zechariah described the Messiah's in perfect terms of crucifixion. And they said that none of His bones would be broken, even though they always broke the legs of the condemned... (Psalm 22 and 34:20; Zechariah 12:10).

Which brings us to **one of the most important prophecies in all of God's Word**... most of the prophets, culminating in Jesus and John, predicted that after Israel was scattered to the four winds into almost every nation on earth for nearly 2000 years, against all possibility, that finally, in what God calls the last days... us... now... that they would once again be gathered into their own land and become a fully functioning nation again, leading up to the Rapture, the Tribulation, the Battle of Armageddon and finally the physical return of Jesus Christ to Jerusalem from where He will rule the Earth for 1000 years during which time He would completely fulfill every single promise He had ever made to Israel.

That return began in the latter part of the 19th Century, culminating in 1945 to 1948 when they declared their renewed independent Statehood, and it continues to this day as God

makes it harder and harder for the Jews throughout the entire world so that they will all finally return in the very near future.

Another prophecy we will study in depth is from Ezekiel 36-39... God tells us that Russia will lead a coalition of Muslim nations down through Syria and onto the mountains of Israel... through the Golan Heights where they will be utterly destroyed by God in a day.

You don't have to be a Bible scholar to recognize... that is being set up as we speak. Russia is already into Syria as are fighters from almost every Muslim nation around the world.

Jacob prophesied over his son Asher that Oil would be eventually discovered in Israel... vast quantities... who do you think will be most hurt by Israel now becoming a net oil and gas exporter to Europe... Russia! who is the current major supplier to Europe from where Russia gains its desperately needed hard currency.

Everything fits together in a vast intricate puzzle all of which only God sees... but it is all happening NOW all around us... the very next event in God's Plan for the ages is one day very very soon that the Lord Jesus Christ comes in the clouds to take us up to Himself in the Rapture and take us back to Heaven to that place that He went away to prepare for us... remember? ... I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go I will return again and receive you unto Myself that where I am, you may be also...

The other most important reason for prophecy... that as we recognize God's faithfulness in all that He has already done... we can have full faith and assurance that all that He has promised to us, He will fulfill completely... and we can know that He was telling the truth when He told us that He loves us with an everlasting love... that He chose us and called us and will keep and preserve us until He returns for us at any moment now.

Most Bible refs from NKJV