



Why Study Bible Prophecy?

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*"Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."
(Revelation 22:7)*

Note: Scripture used in this Bible Study unless otherwise indicated is from the New King James Version.

1. A related and even more fundamental question: Why study the Bible?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2. What is the key reason given by 2 Timothy 3:16 why we should study Bible Prophecy?

3. How can a book that was written so long ago be relevant for today?

Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

The Authority of the Prophetic Word

Reference: 2 Peter 1:16-21

16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

4. Verses 16-18: What event in the life of Jesus do these verses refer to?

5. Verse 16: What did the apostle Peter say the story about Jesus was not?

6. Verse 19: What is Peter speaking of that is "confirmed" or "made more sure"?

7. Why is the Word of God better than seeing and hearing?

8. How then should we regard the Word of God?

9. Why is there such consistency between the Old and New Testaments?

10. Verse 19: How long should you heed the Bible?

11. Does this verse mean that we do not need to study the Bible after we're saved?

12. Verse 20: What does it mean the Bible is not of any private interpretation?

13. Verse 21: From where and where not did the apostle Peter say the Bible came?

14. Verse 21: Why were these men called "holy"? Were they called holy because they were super saints?

15. Verses 16-18: How did Peter know the story was true about Jesus on the mount of transfiguration?

16. Verses 19-21: What source did Peter indicate was superior to his experience?

17. How can the Bible be “more sure” than an experience like witnessing the transfiguration of Jesus?

Some other reasons to study prophecy...

14. Isaiah 46:9-10 - What is the only reliable source for knowing about the future?

Isaiah 46:9-10 - Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 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,'

15. What other major religions have prophecy in their writings?

16. How accurate are new age prophets?

17. How is it cults, New Agers, and psychics can sometimes get it right?

18. What percentage of the Bible prophecies about the first coming of Christ were literally fulfilled?

19. How would you counter skeptics who say, "Jesus could have read the prophecies & fulfilled them on purpose"?

20. 2 Timothy 4:8 - What reason did Paul give for why we should study Bible prophecy?

2 Tim 4:8 - Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

21. Revelation 1:3 - What is the three-fold promise we are given concerning Bible prophecy in this verse?

Rev 1:3 - Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

22. What does it mean to hear God's Word?

23. What does it mean that the time is near?

24. Revelation 19:10 - What reason did the angel give John for the importance of prophecy?

Revelation 19:10 - And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Why Most Churches Avoid Studying Prophecy

25. Malachi 4:1 - What example of an excuse not to study prophecy might this verse represent?

Malachi 4:1 - "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch."

26. How should you view the “scary” prophecies about the Lord's second coming?

27. Matthew 7:15-16 - What excuse not to study prophecy might this verse provide?

Matthew 7:15-16 - "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?"

28. Are false prophets a valid concern?

29. How are people duped by cults and date-setters?

30. What characteristics distinguishes cults?

31. Matthew 24:36 - What excuse not to study prophecy might this verse provide?

Matthew 24:36 - "of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

32. If we can not know when Christ will return, why bother to study Bible prophecy?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 - "concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you... But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all

sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober."

33. What Day is Hebrews 10:25 talking about?

Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more **as you see the Day approaching.**

34. 2 Peter 3:3-6 - What reason did Peter give for why people would not study prophecy?

2 Peter 3:3-6 - "Scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?' For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation. For this they **willfully forget**: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water."

35. Why do people scoff at the Lord's return?

36. How do professing Christians rationalize their personal rebellion?

37. What is the term which describes the collective personal rebellion of the professing church that occurs in the time prior to the Lord's return?

38. Every generation of Christians have thought Christ would return during their life and He did not, so why should this generation be any different?

2 Peter 3:7-8 - But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

39. Why does it say a thousand years is as one day, why doesn't it say a hundred-thousand or a million years is as one day?

40. What if mankind has only walked this earth for about 6,000 years?

41. How long has it been since Christ first came?

42. Can we know how long has it been between the Creation and the first coming of Christ?

43. How does knowing that it has only been a couple thousand years between some pretty significant events in history give you a sense that Christ could return at any moment?

44. Why is belief in a relatively young earth an important doctrine?

45. Does God work in patterns?

1 Cor 10:11 - Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition

46. Is it true that history repeats itself? Why?

Eccl 1:9 - That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.

47. How might you see the six days of creation and God resting on the seventh as a type of history itself?

Too Complex

48. Is Bible prophecy too complex for common people to study?
49. What makes Bible prophecy more complex than some other spiritual topics?
50. What are the three different views people take regarding Bible prophecy?
51. How do people regard the Bible who take an amillennial or post millennial view of Bible Prophecy?
52. What is the problem with “spiritualizing” everything the Bible says?
53. What is the basic problem with the mid- or post-tribulation rapture?

Too Controversial

54. Should we avoid subjects that are divisive?
55. What are doctrines that we should be dogmatic about?
Matt 10:34-36 – “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'”
56. Is believing that Christ will return necessary for salvation?
57. Is believing that the rapture will occur before the tribulation a matter of salvation?
58. How does studying Bible prophecy help us today?
Colossians 3:1-2 - If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.