

THE RELEVANCE OF BIBLE PROPHECY TO OUR READINESS FOR THE SECOND COMING OF OUR LORD

BIBLE PROPHECY

The Bible the only book in the world containing prophecy – none in other religious books – the work of men. Prophecy given before man created – **Gen.1v3** – outlines God's spiritual purpose – expounded in **2 Cor.6v4**. Prophets from the beginning – Adam, Abel, Enoch, Lamech, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph. Why has God given prophecy? How is it relevant to our lives in the Truth now? How should we interpret it? Are their right & wrong ways to do it? How should we respond to it?

RESPONSES TO PROPHECY

Lk.24v13-21 SAD because they had put trust in Jesus as the redeemer, failed to see Israel's real need. **v.25-33** – complete change because of a right exposition of prophecy! This is what we need today! Approximately 1/3 of Scripture is prophecy – much relevant to us. What do we do?
2 Tim.2v14 – don't strive about words – it causes *catastrophe*. **v.15** – labour to be approved of God. – by rightly dividing his Word.
v.16-17 – the words of babblers lead to ungodliness & are cancerous in the body – don't listen to them.
v.18 – a different scheme of interpretation – resurrection is past = **PRETERITE**. This subverted faith!
2 Pet.3v1-4 – there was also a **FUTURIST** view – the truth is **v.13** – & the exhortation **v.14-17**.
Wresting the prophetic Scriptures leads to destruction – whereas (**Lk.24**) right view gives joy.

THE EXAMPLE OF NOAH

Noah Gen.6v13-22, Told to build an ark NT commentary **Heb.11v7** – a never seen before judgment prophesied. He feared, obeyed God's commands & saved his house, preached to the world & thus condemned it. Jesus – **Lk.17v26-27** – the times of Noah parallel the latter days. We should take heed & respond as Noah did. What should we watch? 3 geographical areas – Israel, her neighbours near & far & Greater Europe. Going to look particularly at what has been fulfilled over the last 10/15 years.

ISRAEL IN PROPHECY TODAY

Eze.38v.12. Huge gas and oil finds have been proven, Mr. Putin wants to control energy & is looking at Israel. This has happened within the last 5 yrs. We should be so excited – another jigsaw piece has been put in place!

ISRAEL'S NEAR NEIGHBOURS

Ob. v.19-20 – remarkable geographical description of the territory within Israel's 1948 border
Joel 3v2-4 there will be peoples to the north & south west who are intensely hostile to Israel.
Is.11v14 – undoubtedly latter day – the Philistines – the Gaza Strip defeated by Judah & Ephraim together. Gaza is the ancient territory of Israel's enemies the Philistines – Israel never conquered them in Bible times. The Palestinians occupy same territory & have same antipathy towards Israel. Hamas means "violence". Lebanon – as Gaza, Southern Lebanon initially under Arab control. A mix of Moslem & Christian peoples. Israel invaded, then Hezbollah arose. Israel withdrew, Hezbollah ruled – as prophesied in Obadiah & Joel.

THE WIDER MIDDLE EAST

Eze.38v5 – Iran (Russia's ally) Shite, the Gulf States (Sheba/Dedan) Sunni, Shites religiously opposed to Israel. The 12th Imam, they really believe that their 12th Imam will appear & are preparing for him. 2005 conference "A world without Zionism", Ahmadinejad's 2009 prayer at the UN for the return of the 12th Imam. Shiites in the N **v.5** & the Sunnis in the Gulf – **v.13**, Merchants of Tarshish – Matt Davies 2014 Prophecy Day. The world map of today looks like the prophecy – is this relevant – Yes! Watch for the Day of the Lord!

GREATER EUROPE

Rev.16v13 – Dragon Beast & Flase prophet together. This has not always been the case – Cold War etc. Some expositors rubbished the idea of greater Europe coming together, 20 years ago Russia was weak. In 1999 the Beast and the Dragon were at war over the Serbian ethnic cleansing of the Kosovo Moslems. There was also religious conflict between East & West – the Russian Pope was opposed to John Paul II. But the new Russian Pope Kirill was good friends with Benedict, now Francis & Kirill are also of one mind. The Beast? 2009 the Lisbon Treaty. The nations of Europe have surrendered their sovereignty to the EU. This is the beginning of the fulfilment of Rev.17v13. An American has called the EU "A behemoth"! Herman van Rompuy the EU President doesn't want to see national symbols across Europe - only EU ones! He doesn't want Turkey in the EU because Europe is Christian & Turkey is Islamic – neither did Pope Benedict. So, where is Europe – where Scripture says it should be, speaking with one voice. It is pro-Palestinian & anti-Israel it is increasingly dependent on Russian gas. All these European events have come to pass within the last 15 years. We can see through Bible Prophecy that Israel is ready, her neighbours are ready, Europe is ready – are **we** ready for the coming of the Lord?