

# BIBLICAL PROPHECY

**Wilbur M. Smith, D.D.**

Copyright 2002  
All rights reserved



Santa Fe Springs, California

## THE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPHECY

### HOMEWORK:

<b>REVIEW:</b>	Lecture #1 The Meaning and Significance of Prophecy	
<b>READ:</b>	Gen. 20:7	Eph. 4:9-13
	Matt. 2:17 and Jere. 31:15	Acts 7:52
	Matt. 3:3 and Isa. 40:3-5	Rom. 1:2
	Luke 4:26, 27 and II Kings 5:14	Luke 24:44
	Acts 2:25-31 and Psa. 16:8-10	Rom. 16:26
	Matt. 11:7-11	Isa. 65:1-7
	Matt. 14:3-5	Jere. 2:1 to 3:11
	Luke 7:16	Isa. Chapters 56, 57, 58, 59
	Acts 13:1	Jere. Chapter 42, 43, 44
<b>ANSWER:</b>	Examination Questions	
<b>SCORING:</b>	Advise students of grade points taking into consideration listening to cassette and reading assignment.	

### OUTLINE: Prophecy in the Bible

It is inevitable that when a nation, or a great empire, or the whole world is undergoing convulsions and facing a great crisis accompanied by fear for what is coming that men should ask themselves what the future holds. That is the reason why in the last forty years we have had many books by scientists, economists, statesmen and philosophers attempting to foretell what lies ahead than at any other time in human history there is only one great Book among all the religions of the world that makes any attempt to predict the future in all its ramifications. That Book is the Bible, which not only contains thousand of words of prophecy, but also stands alone as the only book divinely inspired. It is indeed a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our pathway.

### I. INTRODUCTION

### II. THE BIBLICAL MEANING OF A PROPHET

- A. A prophet is a man through whom God speaks to men
- B. The distinction between prophet, priest and king
- C. The Bible references to Jesus Christ as a Prophet
- D. Scripture calls certain men by the name of prophet
- E. A prophet may be a forthteller or foreteller or both
- F. Certain prophets wrote certain books of the Old Testament
  1. The Law, the Writings and the Prophets
  2. Distinction between predictive prophecy and non-predictive prophecy
  3. Part of the books of Jeremiah and Isaiah interpret the past
  4. Ethical instructions are to be found in the prophets
  5. The prophets also wrote much that was future or predictive
    - a. Immediate predictions: e.g. Jesus' prophecy about Simon Peter's denial
    - b. Continuous fulfillment prophecies: e.g. the parables of Matthew 13

- c. Far-off prophecies

### III. PORTION OF THE BIBLE DEVOTED TO PREDICTIVE PROPHECY

- A. Genesis to Nehemiah: 14,500 words devoted to this subject
- B. Psalms: 3,300 words
- C. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel: 83,850 words
- D. The Minor Prophets: 14,000 words
- E. The Synoptic Gospels: 12,682 words
- F. John, Acts and Paul's Epistles: 7,276 words
- G. The remainder of the New Testament: 13,148 words
- H. Total of the Bible: 159,000 words

### IV. SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED IN FOLLOWING LESSONS

- A. The fourteen major themes of Biblical predictive prophecy
- B. Messianic prophecy in the Old Testament
- C. Hebraic prophecy
- D. The Book of Daniel
- E. The prophetic ministry of Jesus
- F. The Olivet Discourse
- G. Paul on the Resurrection
- H. The Anti-christ
- I. The Book of Revelation.

### AGENDA:

### INTRODUCTION

The aim of this course is to sort out and consider several aspects of Biblical Prophecy and to show the uniqueness of the Bible as the only book in literature in which prophecy makes up such a vast amount of its text.

Our ten weeks course will cover:

- The meaning and significance of prophecy in the Bible
- Major themes of Biblical predictive prophecy
- Hebraic prophecy – The fourfold cycle of Israel's history
- Messianic prophecy in the Old Testament
- Prophecies of the Book of Daniel
- The prophetic ministry of Christ
- The Olivet discourse
- St. Paul's chapter on the resurrection
- Anti-Christ; his work and doom
- The Book of the Revelation

**FOR GROUP DISCUSSION:**

1. Ask for the three kinds of people in the Old Testament connected with God's revelation to man and man's approach to God.
  - 1) Priest – (Ask name of one who filled this role) He begins with men and takes their sacrifices and approaches God in their behalf
  - 2) King – (Ask for an example)
  - 3) Prophet – (Ask for both writing and non-writing examples). Who comes from the presence of God and speaks to men according to what God has revealed to him and commanded him to speak.
2. Discuss the definition of the word "Prophet" "A man through whom God speaks to men." (Wilbur Smith)
3. Ask for the three headings under which prophecies could be divided.
  - 1) Giving divine meaning to past events  
Examples: Isa. 65:1-7, Jere. 2:1 - 3:11
  - 2) Exhortations or ethical instructions regarding current events  
Examples: Isa. Chapters 56-59, Jere. Chapter 42-44
  - 3) Predictive prophecy – the future
4. Ask for the four groups into which Dr. Smith divides predictive prophecy
  - 1) Immediate predictions  
Example: Jesus telling Peter he would deny Jesus before the cock would crow 3 times. Matt. 26:31 - 35 and verses 69-75
  - 2) Continuous fulfillment  
Example: Sowing of the wheat and tares, Matt. 13
  - 3) Conditional Prophecies  
"If, then, but, then" prophecy – I Kings 9:4-7
  - 4) Far off prophecies  
70 years captivity – Jere. 25:11  
To return from captivity – 30:2-5  
Resurrection and coming of Christ – I Thess. 4
5. Pose the question. Do prophets exist and minister today? If so, what is their role? Is it improper to use this term in reference to Christian leaders today?

**REVIEW AND GRADE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS:****EXAMINATION QUESTIONS:**

1. What three kinds of people were there in the Old Testament connected with God's revelation to man and man's approach to God?

**ANSWER:** Priest – king – prophet

2. Define the meaning of the name “prophet.”

**ANSWER:** A man through whom God speaks to men

3. Give three headings under which Dr. Smith stated that prophecies could be divided.

**ANSWER:** a. Give meaning to past events  
b. Exhort or give ethical instructions to current events  
c. Predictive prophecy

4. Divide predictive prophecy into four groups.

**ANSWER:** a. Immediate predictions  
b. Continuous fulfillment  
c. Conditional prophecies  
d. Far off prophecies

5. Approximately how many words of prophecy are there in both the Old Testament and New Testament?

**ANSWER:** 159,000 words

6. Which Old Testament book contains approximately the same number of prophetic words as the Book of the Revelations? How many?

**ANSWER:** Jeremiah – 11,900 – Revelation 11,600

7. Tell some of the value or benefit to us today of so much prophecy contained in Scripture?

**(Student’s Answer)**

**ASSIGN POINTS FOR SCORING:**

\_\_\_\_\_points for each examination answer  
\_\_\_\_\_points for completion of reading assignment  
\_\_\_\_\_points for each report or question you may have given

**GIVE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:**

Give assignment to students as part of their homework. See Lesson #2.

**PREVIEW NEXT LESSON:**

Read aloud from the outline the headings of the 14 major areas of prophecy.