

Priorities in Prophecy

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Introduction:

What Priority is Prophecy?

How important is bible prophecy?

Is understanding bible prophecy salvational? Do you need to understand prophecy to have salvation?

Are some prophecies more important than others?

Specific Purpose of this Message Today:

I am beginning a new online Bible Study series this coming Wednesday night on the Book of Revelation... but before I begin it, I want us to have the proper perspective on Bible Prophecy. Today we will look into God's word to find the balance on Prophecy... and to establish what I am going to call "prophetic priorities".

Need?

What is your perspective on prophecy?

First - What is prophecy?

Google AI Overview:

Prophecy is the foretelling or prediction of what is to come, often communicated by a person inspired by a supernatural entity, such as a god. It can refer to a divinely inspired utterance, the function of a prophet, or a specific prediction about the future. While it often involves future events, it can also include revelations about present or past hidden things, or a message revealing a deity's will.

A prophecy is a message or prediction believed to be of divine origin, often containing information about future events, divine will, or hidden truths. The person who delivers the prophecy is known as a prophet.

Features of Prophecy:

Divine origin: Prophecies are typically communicated to a person by a supernatural entity through visions, dreams, or direct interaction. [FROM GOD]

Foreknowledge: While it is often understood as the foretelling of future events, prophecy can also reveal past events that have been forgotten or hidden present mysteries that cannot be known through natural reason alone. [PROVING GOD IS GOD]

*Isaiah 46:9-13 NLT - 9 Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me. 10 **Only I can tell you the future before it even happens.** Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish. 11 I will call a swift bird of prey from the east--a leader from a distant land to come and do my bidding. I have said what I would do, and I will do it. 12 "Listen to me, you stubborn*

people who are so far from doing right. 13 For I am ready to set things right, not in the distant future, but right now! I am ready to save Jerusalem and show my glory to Israel.

Purpose: The function of a prophecy can vary, from announcing divine laws and warnings to providing encouragement and guidance. [MULTIPLE PURPOSES]

Manifestation: The prophet is tasked with manifesting the divinely infused knowledge, either through words or signs, for the benefit of others [THE BIBLE IS THE MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S PROPHECIES... AND PURPOSES FOR MANKIND.]

*2 Timothy 3:16 KJV - 16 **All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God**, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

*AMP: **All Scripture is God-breathed** [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage];*

*Hebrews 6:17-20 KJV - 17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed [it] by an oath: 18 That by two immutable things, **in which [it was] impossible for God to lie**, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: 19 Which [hope] we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, [even] Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

So we see we have many prophecies that have been fulfilled. Scriptures about the coming of the Son of God and our Messiah.

FIRST PROPHETIC PRIORITY: PROOF GOD EXISTS

From "Does God Exist" booklet by Herbert W Armstrong

(<https://www.hwalibrary.com/cgi-bin/get/hwa.cgi?action=getbklet&InfoID=1572090374>)

This sixth proof of the existence of an Almighty God is perhaps the most astounding of all. About one full third of your Bible is prophecy; and while most of that one third pertains to our present day, there are many, many prophecies which have already been fulfilled, and which are presently BEING fulfilled.

God sent His prophets thousands of years ago to such major cities as Babylon, Ekron, Ashdod, Ashkelon and Sidon. These prophets — simple human beings who had been commissioned with a message — foretold the events which were to befall each of these ancient cities.

And without fail, in every single instance, exactly at the time prescribed, all these things HAPPENED!

The very fact that God is able to foretell the future, and bring it to pass, is a great proof of His existence!

Old Testament Prophecies

Of a coming Messiah - Jesus.

Of the coming millennial reign of Christ on Earth

Fulfillment of prophecies revealed to Joseph regarding Egypt, Daniel to Babylon

Warnings of consequences for national sin.

SECOND PROPHETIC PRIORITY:

GOD'S PLAN FOR MANKIND'S SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

Genesis 3:15 NKJV - 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Isaiah 7:14 NKJV - 14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Galatians 4:4-7 NKJV - 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Luke 2:7-11 NKJV - 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 42-47, 50-54 NKJV - 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, [and] has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

21 For since by man [came] death, by Man also [came] the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those [who are] Christ's at His coming.

...

42 So also [is] the resurrection of the dead. [The body] is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam [became] a life-giving spirit.

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

47 The first man [was] of the earth, [made] of dust; the second Man [is] the Lord from heaven. ...

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

THIRD PROPHETIC PRIORITY: OUR HOPE IN THE RETURN OF JESUS

Google AI: **An encouraging word:** The promise of his return is presented as an encouragement to his followers throughout history, offering hope that they will ultimately be with him.

John 14:1-3 NKJV - 1 **"Let not your heart be troubled;** you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again** and receive you to Myself; that where I am, [there] you may be also.

Hebrews 9:24-28 NKJV - 24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, [which are] copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another-- 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. **To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.**

Revelation 5:9-10 NKJV - 9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, **10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."**

FOURTH PROPHETIC PRIORITY: REVELATION AND DETAILS OF WHAT IS STILL AHEAD

Matthew 24:3, 32-33 NKJV - 3 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?"

... 32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer [is] near. 33 "So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near--at the doors!

Revelation 1:1-3 NKJV - 1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, **which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place.** And He sent and signified [it] by His angel to His servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. 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.

Revelation 22:6-7, 10-11 NKJV - 6 Then he said to me, "These words [are] faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets **sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.** 7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed [is] he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." ... 10 And he said to me, **"Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.** 11 "He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

Prophecies of Jesus

That he would return to set up the Kingdom of God on this earth

That we can have eternal life

Warnings of tribulation and end time turmoil and the Day of God's wrath

FIFTH PROPHETIC PRIORITY:

TO WARN OTHERS OF WHAT IS COMING (FOR DISOBEDIENCE)

Ezekiel 3:17-21 NKJV -

17 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me:

18 "When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked [man] shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

19 "Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

20 "Again, when a righteous [man] turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand.

21 "Nevertheless if you warn the righteous [man] that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul."

Ezekiel 33:1-11 NKJV -

1 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

2 "Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: 'When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman,

3 'when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people,

4 'then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his [own] head.

5 'He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life.

6 'But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes [any] person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.'

7 "So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me.

8 "When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked [man], you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked [man] shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

9 "Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

10 "Therefore you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel: 'Thus you say, "If our transgressions and our sins [lie] upon us, and we pine away in them, how can we then live?"'

11 "Say to them: '[As] I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

SIXTH PROPHETIC PRIORITY:

LOVE & OBEDIENCE MORE IMPORTANT THAN PROPHECY

Love is more important than prophecy. Ie knowing prophetic details does not = salvation.

In other words, Prophecy is NOT the Priority

The prophets and patriarchs did not know the details of prophecy.

Daniel 12:4, 8-10 NKJV - 4 "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." ... 8 Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what [shall be] the end of these [things]?" 9 And he said, "Go [your way], Daniel, for the words [are] closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 "Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

1 Corinthians 13:2 YLT - 2 and if I have prophecy, and know all the secrets, and all the knowledge, and if I have all the faith, so as to remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing;

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 NKJV -

8 Love never fails. But whether [there are] prophecies, they will fail; whether [there are] tongues, they will cease; whether [there is] knowledge, it will vanish away.

9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these [is] love.

Do NOT put Prophecy before love of God, and keeping His commandments.. And showing love to all mankind.

Matthew 6:33-34 NLT - 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

34 **"So don't worry about tomorrow**, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

What is our priority? Knowing the details of prophecy can puff us up..

1 Corinthians 8:1-3 NLT - 1 Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that "we all have knowledge" about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church. 2 Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn't really know very much. 3 But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes. (Footnote: Some manuscripts read *the person who loves has full knowledge*.)

Luke 21:34-36 KJV - 34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and [so] that day come upon you unawares. 35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Why would this be the case? Is it because they look at world events, thinking they understand prophecy so well that they have more time?

Matthew 24:48-51 KJV - 48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, **My lord delayeth his coming**; 49 And shall begin to smite [his] fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; 50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for [him], and in an hour that he is not aware of, 51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint [him] his portion with the **hypocrites**: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NLT - 9 Don't you realize that those who do wrong [ie the unrighteous] will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, 10 or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people--none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. 11 Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Matthew 23:3, 13, 15, 23, 25, 27-29 NLT - 3 So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don't follow their example. For they don't practice what they teach. ...

13 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you shut the door of the Kingdom of Heaven in people's faces. You won't go in yourselves, and you don't let others enter either. ...

15 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you turn that person into twice the child of hell you yourselves are! ...

23 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, **but you ignore the more important aspects of the law--justice, mercy, and faith.** You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things. ...

25 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy--full of greed and self-indulgence! ...

27 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs--beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity.

28 **Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.**

29 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you build tombs for the prophets your ancestors killed, and you decorate the monuments of the godly people your ancestors destroyed.

Matthew 7:21-23 NLT - 21 "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' 23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

Outward versus inward reality: The term "hypocrite" refers to someone who presents a false outward appearance of righteousness while their inner life is not aligned with their claims. The teaching emphasizes that God judges the heart, and a life of unrepentant sin is the opposite of what is required to inherit the kingdom.

Exclusivity of the kingdom: The concept of "inheriting the kingdom" is not available to those who continue to live in deliberate, unrepentant sin, regardless of their religious affiliation or claims of faith. True believers are described as being those who have been washed clean internally by God.. AND [DD] obey and keep God's commandments. Ie are striving to live a righteous life.

Baptism is the outward sign of making the change ie repenting of our sins, accepting that Jesus Christ paid the price for our sins and now being committed to living as He and God the Father want us to live.

SEVENTH PROPHETIC PRIORITY: BE MOTIVATED BY PROPHECY TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE!

Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, **that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass**, and to stand before the Son of man.

You are accounted worthy by living a Godly life.

Conclusion:

Now you can examine yourself and determine if your prophetic priorities are accurate and correct. After examining your prophetic priorities you can then proceed in your study with greater understanding of the prophecies that remain.