

## Why Prophecy Matters

*Revelation 22:18-19*

### Introduction

For many, prophecy is a term that represents the unknown. The topic has a sense of mystery surrounding it, as it takes time to delve into the details of the future. So why study prophecy?

The first response can be found in our sermon text, Revelation 22:18-19. We find in John's Revelation that Prophecy is so important that the book closes with a word from the Lord himself, warning people not to add or take away from this biblical prophecy. In fact, He threatens consequences if this were to happen: "if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book." If prophecy is so important to the Lord God Almighty according to this verse, it would naturally follow that the believer should take heed and understand it.

Studying prophecy also shows us that God's Word can be trusted because it authenticates God's Word. One of the proofs that the Bible is true is that what it predicts actually happens. As we study prophecy and discover these predictions and truths, we can gain confidence in the reliability and authority of Scripture. This should lead the believer to a greater willingness to yield to the authority of Scripture because God's Word has been validated over time.

Prophecy validates God's character and empowers His standard. It shows that He indeed tells the truth and that He knows everything, even those things that have yet to happen. Knowing more about prophecy can help believers live up to the standard that God sets forth in His Word. We can know in advance the effects of our decisions and adjust how we live as a result.

Lastly, prophecy prompts the believer to worship God. When we understand the future that prophecy gives, then we can praise God for who He is and what He says. We can also praise God for what will be. Prophecy adds not only to our knowledge of the future, but it also gives us a greater understanding of its benefits. The study of Biblical prophecy can validate our faith and provide comfort, encouragement, and hope for the future.

### Getting Started

1. As we begin our fall study together, take a moment to share your "high" and your "low" over the summer.

### Let's Get Personal

1. What comes to mind when you think of the term prophecy? Does it have good or bad connotations? Have you studied prophecy before? Why or why not?
2. As we delve into the study of Biblical prophecy, what do you want to know about the most? What are the prophetic issues that are important to you?
3. What prophecies are you already aware of and how does that knowledge effect your decisions now?
4. Do you ever find yourself struggling with whether or not God's Word can be fully trusted? If so, what impact did today's sermon have for you?

### Take the Next Step

1. If the Bible is true, then the next step in logical reasoning is that we should know what it says and act accordingly. On a scale of one to ten, how would you rate your current knowledge of the Bible overall? What about your knowledge of Biblical prophecy? What will you do this week to start or continue building on your knowledge of God's written Word?
2. Will you commit to consistent Sunday morning and small group attendance so that you get as much as you can out of the series and small group discussion?
3. Want to dig deeper? Look at 2 Peter 1:20-21, Isaiah 46:8-11, 2 Peter 3:10-11, 1 John 3:3, 1Thess 4:13-18, and/or Revelation 11:17.

### Renew Your Mind

*"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief..." 2 Peter 3:10*