

The Key to Prophecy

Revelation 19:10

Introduction

While prophecy spans centuries of human history and is found in both the Old and New Testament, all prophecy leads to the Person and Work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our sermon text makes this clear; *"For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."* (*Revelation 19:10b*) In this Scripture the Apostle John had missed the point and began to worship the messenger instead of the Messiah. The angel rebukes him by explaining that the glory and honor is only afforded to Jesus who is the focus of all prophecy.

Jesus' relation to the prophetic word can be described in four points. Jesus is first and foremost the center piece of prophecy. God's prophetic program can be described as His unveiling of what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will do in order to make Christ the head of all things and reconcile creation to the Creator. (*Ephesians 1:10, Romans 8:29*)

Jesus is also the cause of prophecy because God's prophetic program began as a response to Satan's rebellion and the chaos it caused thereafter. Upon the casting out of Satan (*Ezekiel 28:12-19*), and the sin of mankind, God established His prophetic will that pointed to Christ, (*Genesis 3:15*) as the reconciliation between God and man. Therefore every prophetic word that came to the people of God was henceforth attached to the Work of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the content of prophecy, in that, the Old and New Testament reveal Jesus as the subject of all prophecy. Jesus demonstrates this as He walks with the travelers on the road to Emmaus after His resurrection, *"Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures."* (*Luke 24:27*)

Finally Jesus is the glorious culmination of prophecy! God's prophetic program will draw to a close when all things in heaven and on earth are made subject under the feet of Jesus. The reign of Jesus Christ, at the right hand of the Father, ushers in our blessed eternal state. (*1 Corinthians 15:20-28*)

Getting Started

1. What is your reaction to hearing that the work of Jesus Christ was always present in God's plan through Moses, the Judges, and the Kings of Israel? Had you thought of this before? Does this challenge how you read the Old Testament?

Let's Get Personal

1. It is clear that Jesus Christ is the center piece of prophecy and Scripture, in the same way Jesus should be the center of our lives. In what ways are you making Jesus central in your life?
2. In what ways is He not the center of your life?
3. There are times in the life of the believer when we understand God's prophetic word of victory, yet we do not feel it in our everyday lives. Reflect on how the Israelites may have dealt with what appeared to be a setback of God's plan in their finite view. (For instance their time as slaves in Egypt, the fall of the temple, or even the crucifixion of Christ.) What can we learn from the Israelites' response to set backs in the face of coming victory?
4. If Jesus was, is and will always be the center of God's plan, what should be our response to Jesus Christ? How does the centrality of Christ affect your belief?

Take the Next Step

1. The assurance of Christ's victory is made even more firm with an understanding that He is part of God's prophetic plan from the beginning. With this assurance we can gain peace in Jesus Christ as we will be with Him in the end. How can you apply this peace? What may be blocking you from experiencing this peace in your life right now?
2. Want to dig deeper? Look at Philippians 2:11, Romans 14:11, Matthew 17:1-6, Isaiah 14:12-14.

Renew Your Mind

"Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God." (Rev. 19:10a)