

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Volume: 852 March 28, 2022

Theme: Prophecy

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When Will the End of the World Come?

Bill Brinkworth

Since the time of Jesus’ disciples (Mat. 24:3), many have wondered, “When is the end of the world coming?” Many have given dates for the end or dates for biblically predicted end-time events such as the rapture, last judgment, the Battle of Armageddon, and even the future of humanity. All foretold dates have been wrong!

One internet site, Wikipedia.com, has recorded more than 158 predicted days for end-time events that never occurred. Many of the prediction dates came from fairly well-known people such as Martin Luther (“not later than 1600”), Christopher Columbus (1658), John Wesley (1836), Jeanne Dixon (2/4/62), Jim Jones (1967), Charles Manson (1969), and Nostradamus (7/1999). Some “religious” have also given their predictions, including Catholic popes (1/1/1000, 1284, 1901), Herbert W. Armstrong (1936, 1943), Hal Lindsey (1980’s), Jehovah’s Witnesses (1908, 1914, 1916, 1941, 1971, 1975, 1984), Seventh-day Adventists (1999), and Sun Myung Moon (2000). Since 1977, someone has put a date for an end-time event for almost every year.

There are also many predicted dates for the future. Jean Dixon (a psychic) also claims something will happen between 2020 and 2037. Nostradamus again predicted another date of 3797.

When the projected dates were given, I imagine some were concerned. Many may have been alarmed and tried to prepare for what they thought would be a cataclysmic event by stockpiling and hoarding supplies, as some are doing today.

Although all the past predicted dates were wrong, some overlook the only source that has never been wrong about predicting events. This source has foretold many historic past events, and most of its prophecies have come true. Some predicted events were warned about 1,000 years before the event occurred, but they were still valid prophecies.

This authority told about the coming of God’s Son and what He would do on Earth. All those prophecies about Jesus came true. This source also gives many predictions about future events. This reliable source is God’s Word, the Bible. If it was correct about hundreds of past prophecies, we can also trust its accuracy about future events that have not occurred yet.

However, the King James Bible, as accurate as it has been in the past, does not give dates for end-time events. God's Word has indicated that it is not for man to know when He will begin the last-days events. He even states that the angels do not know the day and hour, nor does His only Son, Jesus.

*“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”
Matthew 24:36*

If the heavenly host and Jesus do not know when such events will occur, we can be assured that a common, sinful man will not know either. Certainly, those who believe contrary to what the Bible commands will not be told the details of God's plan, including psychics, unbiblical religions, astrologists, and even preachers. Why anyone would think that a Holy God would whisper end dates to human-sacrificing, false god worshipping Mayans is even more ludicrous.

Many sense that the “end” is getting closer. Cataclysmic events may occur. This year may be a challenging year financially and physically for many. We, as a people, have been snubbing our noses at God for a long time. Why would He not begin to exercise His promised events soon?

However, the last day's events will begin when God says it is time, and they will be according to the way His Word records them. God's Word says the rapture of God's people will happen first, followed by the seven-year tribulation, 1,000-year reign of Christ, and other judgments on the Earth's inhabitants. After they have occurred, this world will be “passed away” (Revelation 21:1), and a new Earth will replace the old.

If people would read and believe their Bible more than what the television or some newspaper writer says, they would realize that most predictions are not even close to what will happen. Read and believe God's Word first. Do not even consider those that set days on God's plans.

“No leaps of faith are needed to jump from God's Word into tomorrow.” — Author Unknown

Pre-written History

Author Unknown

In all ages, God has pre-announced certain things He proposed to do. These announcements are termed prophecies. Prophecy is history pre-written. It is as credible as any Word that God has spoken.

The Bible is filled with prophecies. Almost all the 66 books contain some prophecy. Nearly one-fourth of the Bible was predictive when it was written.

It is most reasonable to conclude, since every Bible prediction concerning the past has been fulfilled in the minutest detail, we may expect all the remaining prophecies to be just as literally fulfilled.

“If psychics can know the future, why don't they win the lottery every time?”

Prophecies about Christ

The Bible prophesied:

- That Jesus would be of David's family: II Sam. 7:12-16, Psa. 89:3-4, Isa. 9:6-7.
- That He would be born of a virgin: Isa. 7:14.
- That He would sojourn in Egypt: Hos. 11:1.
- That His coming would occasion the massacre of Bethlehem's children: Jer. 31:15.
- That His mission would include Gentiles: Isa. 4:1-4.
- That His ministry would be one of healing: Isa. 53:4.
- That He would teach by parables: Isa. 6:9-10.
- That He would be disbelieved and rejected: Psa. 69:4, Psa. 118:22, Isa. 6:10.
- That He would make a triumphal entry into Jerusalem: Zech. 9:9.
- That He would be betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver: Zech. 11:12-13, Psa. 41:9.
- That He would be given vinegar and gall: Psa. 69:21.
- That no bone would be broken in His body: Psa. 34:20.
- That He would rise from the dead: Psa. 16:10-11, Luke 24:46.

What Is Prophecy?

Dr. J. Hamilton

Fulfilled and unfulfilled, the prophecies are mountains and valleys; mountains, from whose gilded summits you may look on future vistas through the fog. They are strands of sunshine in the vapor flood where glorious things are revealed, while from the echoing sides of ravings still dark and misty come up the heavy footfall or terrific cries of sorrows not occurred as yet.

“Our cares we can cast on Thee, for Thou carest for us. How can we be troubled about the future road since it belongs to Thee? How can we be troubled where it leads since it finally leads us to Thee?” — John Henry Neuman

Interpretation of Prophecy

Horsley

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.” II Peter 1:20

The apostle's negative maxim, "... that no prophecy ... is of any private interpretation," has within it two affirmative rules of exposition; that every single text of prophecy is to be considered as a part of an entire system and to be interpreted in that sense which may best connect it with the whole, and that the sense of prophecy, in general, is to be sought in the events which have taken place.

“I never think of the future. It comes soon enough.” — Albert Einstein