

An Attempt To Listen To God

Introductory Notes On
Prophecy

By

Rowan Jennings

Introduction

When most people think of prophecy they immediately think of the “Revelation” which is perfectly natural. However, it must be understood that Revelation is not a complete comprehensive book on prophecy. There are a number of major matters not mentioned, such as:

- a) Specific mention of the rapture (1 Thess. 4:15-17)
- b) The Judgment seat (Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:12-15; 4:5)
- c) The presentations of the saints (Eph. 5:27; Col. 1:22, 28)
- d) Or the judgment of the Living nations (Matt. 25:31-46)

There are two specific goals in Revelation:

- a) The unveiling of the administrative glories that reside exclusively in Christ (Rev. 1:12- 20:11)
- b) The “things which must shortly come to pass” (Rev. 1:1)

Distinct Rules For Biblical Interpretation

A doctrine is always wrong if:

- a) It does not promote holiness of life. (2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Jn. 2:20)
- b) It promotes preoccupation with the world (1 Jn. 2:16-17)
- c) It nullifies or degrades the Person and work of our Lord. (Lk. 1:35; Rev. 5:9)

The Understanding That There Are Two Kings Seeking To Clarify Or Confuse People Relative To Prophecy:

We are in a world where there are two great opposing kingdoms, the “power” kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of God. The following sets out some of the distinctions between them. Note that where there are no names or references is because there is no reference to them in the scriptures.

The Kingdom of God	References	The Kingdom of Satan	References
God is King	Psa. 95:3	Satan is King	Rev. 9:11
Principalities	Eph. 3:10	Principalities	Eph. 6:12; Col. 2:15
Powers	Eph. 3:10 Col. 1:6; 1 Pet. 3:22	Powers	Eph. 6:12; Col. 2:15
Dominions	Col. 1:16		
Dominions	Col.1:16		
Thrones	Col. 1:16		
Authorities	1 Pet. 3:22		
Cherubim	Gen. 3:23		
Archangels	1 Thess. 4:16		
Angels	Gen. 28:12		
Seraphim	Isa. 6:2		
Living Creatures (Beasts)	Rev. 4:7		

a) These two kingdoms are direct opposites because their Kings are total opposites.

God		Satan
Light	1 Jn. 1:5	Darkness
Order	1 Cor. 14:33	Confusion
Holy	Isa. 6:3	Unholy
Magnifies Christ	Phil. 2:9	Dishonors Christ
Truth	Deut. 32:4	Error
Seeks men's good	Psa. 73:1	Seeks mens destruction
Abundant life	Jn. 17:3	Second death
Omnipresent	Psa. 139:7-9	Localized
Omnipotent	2 Chron. 20:6	Defeated
Selfless	Rom. 8:32	Selfish

b) Due to these diametrically Kings both seeking to give prophetic teachings, great care must be given that saints do not fall into the traps of over zealous emotionalism. I have heard of a coming cashless society, yet no prophetic teacher has been able to show where the Bible teaches such a thing. For years it was taught that the ten kingdoms was being developed by the E.E.C., yet such is not the case. Even today, according to the Mayan calendar there is to be an economic deflation and possibly the world to end. Such are not the teachings of the scriptures, and on this we must make a major observation. There are often major errors presented due to the failure to keep to that which the scriptures say and what we infer, and ignoring passages which do not fit into our interpretation. For instance:

- i) It is generally taught that the rapture is in view in Rev. 4:1, but the question is: "Do the scriptures actually say that this is the rapture, or have we put our interpretation on that passage to make it teach the rapture?"
- ii) Again, it is generally taught that John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day and that was a Sunday, however, do the scriptures say that was a Sunday, or do we make it a Sunday morning since we call Sunday the Lord's Day?
- iii) The two on the road to Emmaus knew the scriptures which told of the Lord's death, but this did not fit into their interpretation of His coming to set up His kingdom so they drew the inference that Christ would not have been the Messiah.
- iv) When Eve had her first child she called him Cain meaning: "I have gotten a man from the Lord". She was right in believing what God had said, but wrong in what she inferred from His words of God, and wrong in the timing.

c) It must be clear that the scriptures are never wrong but our assumptions can and at times are. When the Lord said to Peter concerning John: "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?" (Jn. 21:23), the disciples took it that the Lord said John would not die. It was an assumption which was wrong. When applied to us, we are aware that Paul wrote of something happening "in a moment". Without looking it up, "what was going to happen in a moment?" Will it be:

- i) Us translated to Heaven?
- ii) People raised from the dead?
- iii) Bodies changed?
- iv) All three?
- v) The answer is found in 1 Cor. 15:52

- d) We must be very careful to distinguish between what we read in the scriptures and what we infer from the scriptures.
- e) On the other hand, there is Satan who seeks to destroy peoples confidence in true prophecy by the practices of, astrology, palm reading or numerology, horoscopes, and false prophets. As well there have been men such as Joseph Smith who predicted the coming of the Lord in 1891. Harold Camping predicted the Lord would come on 21st May 2011. The fact is we do not know when the Lord will come, either to the air or earth, and any prophecy declaring such and such a date is without Biblical foundation. The scriptures and the words of the Lord stand true: “Of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of Heaven, but my Father only (Matt. 24:36). In Mark there is the added expression: “neither the Son” (Mk. 13:32).

Prophecy Can Be Complicated

Prophecy gets complicated, and we are inclined to give up when things get like that, unless the complicated thing is to our advantage. For instance, great Aunt Mary had died and left something about me in her will. In a moment the complication does not matter for great is my eagerness to learn what she has left me! However, if I had not been in it, I would give up after a few minutes. So with prophecy. When we learn what is in it for us, about us, then the complication will only serve to excite our anticipation. There is none more interested in prophetic truths than divine Persons, and if I am in tune with them, it will be highly interesting to me, not as a matter of intellectual data, but with the excitement of a child at a birthday party waiting to see Christ being glorified.

Prophetic Teaching Must:

- a) Develop a deeper appreciation of the wonder of Christ for there is none who has ever done a greater work. (Rev. 1:1; 5:5-13)
- b) Result in greater Glory to God, for it is more than the unveiling of the activities of God. It is showing the unfolding of those purposes which he has decreed despite every revolt of Satan and the arrogance of foolish man. (Psa. 2:2, 6; 138:4; Rev. 19:19-21)
- c) Promote worship and praise. (Dan. 2:19)
- d) Promote holiness of life. (2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Jn. 2:29; 3:2-3)
- e) Promote separation from the world, not by the externals, but by the Holy Spirit living the life of Christ within. (Col. 2:20)
- f) Cause one to live in the reality of:
 - i) The imminent coming of the Lord. (Jn. 14:2-3)
 - ii) The Lord’s coming in manifested glory. (2 Thess. 1:7-10)
 - iii) Living in view of millennial glory and our places of administration. (Rom. 8:19)

Summarized:

All references for the following acrostics are in “Prophetic Outlines and Schematics” to follow:

- 1) No. 01
 - 1) Church Age
 - 2) Coming of the Lord to the air
 - 3) Confederation of the kingdoms and the rise of the man of sin.
 - 4) Covenant being confirmed
 - 5) Chastening of Israel by God
 - 6) Coming of the Lord to the earth
 - 7) Combat between the Lord and the nations
 - 8) Cleansing of the earth
 - 9) Communion between God and man restored.

- 10) Consuming of earth's rebels by fire
- 11) Condemnation at the Great white Throne
- 12) Conclusion and the eternal state

2) No.2.

- 1) Resurrection
- 2) Rapture
- 3) Review
- 4) Rise and rule of the Beast
- 5) Retribution
- 6) Return of Christ
- 7) Reigning of Christ
- 8) Removal of all that offends
- 9) Renewal

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

Rowan Jennings, Abbotsford, British Columbia