

“BIBLE PROPHECY” OR PROPHECY?



Vision by Jessica Eli

For goodness sake, don't get them confused.

“*Bible Prophecy*” is when every current event is connected directly to a passage in Daniel, Zechariah, or Revelation. For instance, the Anti-Christ has been identified by Bible prophets as Hitler, Putin, Bill Gates, and countless others. The “Two Witnesses” of Revelation, Chapter 11, is another favorite topic of speculation in the world of Bible prophecy.

Prophets and “Bible Prophets”

Prophets are people who give us a living word from God that rings true.

Rarely are their words sensational.

They simply convict us, and enable us to face reality, when we've been walking around in a spiritual daze.

Sometimes they deliver a powerful message of hope.

Sometimes they give us a glimpse of the future.

These prophets never speculate.

They cling to the cross with fear and trembling even while they speak with boldness.



Cross of Hope

“*Bible Prophecy*”, on the other hand, distracts us from the work of the Kingdom and leads us into speculation. And speculation often degenerates into conspiracy theories and worse. Bible prophecy appeals to those who are obsessed with figuring out what lies ahead and who the villains are.



Checking in with Jesus

Jesus tells us all we need to know about the End, in Matthew, Chapters 24-25, Mark 13, and Luke 21.

His essential message in these passages is:

1. "Take heed that you are not led astray."

Don't get side-tracked by a false prophet.

2. "Stay awake."

"Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks." (Luke 12:35-36)

3. There will be an accounting.

"For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away." (Matthew 25:14-15)

At the Master's return, each of us will give an account. If we focus on these three things, we will be ready for whatever God has in store for us. When the Anti-Christ makes his appearance as the Man of Sin, those who are walking in the light will recognize him instantly. They won't need a "Bible Prophet" to explain it. When the "sign of the Son of Man" appears in the heavens, the whole world will know what it means, without any help from an "expert".

Indeed, our Lord expects us to "interpret the present time".

But this does not mean speculating about what's going to happen next week.

"Interpreting the present time" means getting our house in order in the face of those gathering clouds.

We observe those clouds of Judgment and hasten to make things right with our brother.

As Jesus makes clear in the passage below....



People of the Cross

He also said to the multitudes, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky; but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out till you have paid the very last copper."

Luke 12:54-59

Dear Coming Lord, perfect, beautiful Jesus, open our ears, our hearts and our minds to the living words, the teachings, the prophecies that draw us to you, that keep us clinging to your cross. Disclose to our ears, our hearts, and our minds any teachings, beliefs, or conspiracies that distract us from the works of your Kingdom, or even worse, causes divisions that reek of the accuser. Keep us from being sidetracked and misled by any twisted speculations. May we remain awake and accountable. May we act to make things right with our brothers and sisters and with you before it's too late. Amen

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All art courtesy of Jessica Eli at jessicaeli.com



THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

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