

Chapter Ten Workbook: Revealed vs. Hidden 3- Prophecy

Scripture Memory:

II Peter 1:20

20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,

Scripture Review:

Revelation 22:18 & 19

II Timothy 3:16

II Peter 1:21

Deuteronomy 29:29

Isaiah 55: 8 & 9

Hebrews 4:12

I Thessalonians 4:2

Psalm 19: 7 & 8

Hebrews 9:15

Luke 1:1 – 4

Deuteronomy 29:29

Matthew 13:10 & 11

Revealed vs. Hidden

3

A Closer Look At The Teaching Of Prophecy

Introduction: Finite man encounters the infinite Mind of God.

- A. Things Hidden – Deuteronomy 29:29**
- B. Things We Can But Should Not Know – II Peter 1:6**
- C. Things Higher – Isaiah 55:8 & 9**

If two classes were offered during the Sunday School hour at church –

- 1.) Revelation, Prophecy and the Second Coming of Christ As Fulfilled In Our Lifetime
- 2.) 2.) How To Share Christ With Others Through Scripture Memory And Evangelism In Your Own Neighborhood;

which would be better attended? _____

Of the two areas, which one is specifically mentioned by God that we cannot fully understand?

To what degree do our actions affect prophecy?

To what degree do our actions affect evangelism?

To what degree are we held accountable to God for the fulfillment of prophecy?

To what degree are we held accountable to God for personal evangelism?

Yet, even in light of this reality, which class would be better attended, prophecy or evangelism?

Why is it that we would rather know about something that we cannot effect, we are not held accountable for the performance of and in fact are told that we cannot fully understand, than something we can effect, we are held accountable for and we can understand?

What does the following passage tell us specifically about Christ's return?

(MAR 13:32) *"But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."*

Yet, even in light of this, Christian bookstores are full of books which purport to aid the Christian in understanding the "day or hour".

Why do Christian book stores carry these books?

Why do Christians buy them?

Which do you think sell better...
(Circle One)

- A. Doctrinal books on salvation?
- B. Books on how to lead others to Christ?
- C. Fictional accounts of the “day and hour” of the return of Christ?

Why do you think pretend books on a subject which God has said we cannot know sell better than factual books on doctrine or discipleship which God has specifically commanded us to master?

I. Prophetic – is it explained or not explained

A. Prophecy

1. What is God’s command to us concerning prophecy...
 - a. *2PE 1:19 And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.*
 - b. *REV 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.*

2. What are our limitations?
 - a. *2PE 1:20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,*

1.) Contrast with I John 2:27

- b. What insight does the following passage give us in the difficulty of interpreting and teaching prophetic passages that are not explained by the Word of God?

5. Example
 - a. Read Revelation 12:1 – 6; Without reading any further, answer the following questions...
 - 1.) Who is the woman?
 - 2.) Who is the dragon?
 - 3.) What are the stars?
 - 4.) What is the tail of the dragon?
 - b. Now read Revelation 12:7 – 12 - From this passage, again answer the above questions.
 - 1.) Who is the woman?
 - 2.) Who is the dragon?
 - 3.) What are the stars?
 - 4.) What is the tail of the dragon?
6. What is the difference in the confidence of your answers?
7. What caution should these two examples create in our teaching?

B. In teaching Prophecy

1. According to the following passages, what are our divine limitations?
2PE 1:20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,
MAT 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.
2PE 1:6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness;
2. When looking for the divine meaning of prophecy
 - a. Say what God says
 - 1.) Look for temporal immediate applications
 - 2.) Look for long term prophetic truth
 - 3.) Look for those principles which transcend fulfillment
 - b. Do not say what God does not say

- 1.) If the temporal application is not revealed, do not create one
 - 2.) If the long term prophetic truth is not revealed, do not create one
 - 3.) Carefully differentiate between those principles which are truly and clearly revealed and any devotional thoughts which you might like to share.
3. Recognize that the benefits of the Word of God are not limited to our full understanding. How is this possible?
- a. 2PE 1:6 *and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness;*
 - 1.) Do not desire to know that which God has withheld
 - 2.) Recognize that if we are not satisfied with the revelation of the Holy Spirit, if we continue to seek, there are other “spirits” which will be glad to teach us.
 - 3.) Give an example of this or a situation which could conceivably occur.

 - b. 1TI 4:6 *In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.*
 - 1.) God’s Word is spiritual food, whether we recognize it or not.
 - 2.) Whether it be Revelation, Leviticus or the Minor Prophets, reading the Word of God has spiritual value by it’s very nature.
 - 3.) It is not our understanding that gives it worth but the fact that it is God’s holy Word.
 - 4.) Why is it difficult for us to accept this truth?

 - c. REV 1:3 *Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.*
 - 1.) Do not throw the baby out with the bath water. Give an example:

 - 2.) On the one hand, do not go where you are forbidden Give an example:

 - 3.) On the other do not, out of fear or vanity, fail to read and appreciate prophetic revelation. Give an example:

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Revealed vs. Hidden Truth - Prophecy

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Peter 1:9

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 1:3

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Peter 1:20

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Revealed vs. Hidden Truth - Prophecy

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Peter 1:10 - 12

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 24:36

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Jeremiah 31:15 / Matthew 4:12 - 16

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?