

Daniel: Let's Talk about Prophecy

Lessons we can learn from fulfilled prophecy

- 1) Some OT prophecy was indirect rather than direct.
 - a. "Out of Egypt" Hosea 11:1 → Matthew 2:14-15?!?!?!?
- 2) Prophecy may be figuratively revealed, but expect it to be literally fulfilled.
 - a. The Savior as bronze serpent (Num 21:19 → John 3:14).
 - b. The Savior as Passover lamb (Exodus 12 → John 1:29)
- 3) OT prophecy has nearly always been fulfilled in an unexpected way (1 Peter 1:10-12).
 - a. Messiah's unexpected demise (Isaiah 53 → Matthew 26:55).
- 4) Some prophecy has multiple fulfillments
- 5) God reveals prophecy partially and progressively (1 Cor 13:9-12).
 - a. Seed of the Woman will crush the serpent's head (Gen 3:15).
 - b. Seed of Abraham will bless all the nations of the earth (Gen 17).
 - c. Seed of David will rule an eternal kingdom (2 Sam 7:12).
- 6) Prophecy is particularly profitable to those who can see its fulfillment (1 Peter 1:12)
- 7) Prophecy was seldom fulfilled during the lifetimes of those who heard it.
- 8) All prophecy is pertinent to the present (2 Tim 3:16-17).

Problems of prophetic study

- 1) Curiosity about the future is insignificant compared to conforming to Christ's image.
- 2) Beware of "straining gnats and swallowing camels" (Matt 23:24).
- 3) Watch out for inappropriate application (2 Peter 1:20-21).
 - a. "Since Jesus is returning, we'll sit around and do nothing" (2 Thes 3:6ff).
 - b. "Since the world will get worse and worse, I don't need to stop injustice when I see it."

Prophecy in light of its purpose

- 1) Prophecy is evidence for the inspiration, inerrancy, and authority of God's Word (Matt 12:38-40). Prophecy builds our faith and inspires us to believe in inspiration.
- 2) Prophecy should produce hope in the hearer, which should become purity & perseverance (Titus 2:11-14).
- 3) Prophecy reveals the goal of human history. It tells us where God is going; are we going to get with His program?
- 4) Prophecy should create a sense of urgency (2 Peter 3:1ff).