

1 – THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING BIBLICAL PROPHECY

I. A Growing Ignorance

A. The Past: An Abundance of Teaching

- Our thinking concerning the prevalence of teaching about prophecy is based on the past.
- Books, conferences and sermon series were very prevalent in the past.
- In the past, a portion of the teaching was marked by sensational claims.
- Sensational interpretations took precedent over what the scripture actually communicated.
- Every few years saw the emergence of a teacher who made a prediction about the timing of the Lord's return.

B. The Past: The Impact on the Church

- North American believers appeared to “burn out” with an overemphasis on prophecy.
- Failed predictions discredited prophecy and ultimately Christianity.

C. The Present: The Deficiency of Teaching

- While we tend to operate with an eye to the past, there is a deficiency of understanding today.
- Aside from Christ's return, believers have no understanding concerning the end-time events.

D. The Present: The Impact on the Church

- With no understanding concerning prophecy, believers are open to false and sensational claims about the end.
- There s a tendency to downplay the eternal destinies of mankind.
- There is a rise in antisemitism among believers.
- Evangelism of the lost becomes less o a priority for believers.

II. Our Approach to This Study

A. A Examination of the Scripture

- We want to move our focus from interpretations to seeing what the scriptures presents.
- We will start with an introduction concerning a basic understanding of Biblical prophecy.

The Prophecy Series: Introduction

- We will look at the following books:

- Daniel
- Zachariah
- The Teachings of Jesus
- The Epistles
- Revelation

B. The Issue of Israel

- There has to be a recognition that how you view Israel will affect your understanding of prophecy.