

How Revelant Is Prophecy to Salvation

What Relevance Is Prophecy to My Salvation?

When one realizes that the book of Revelation is written to Gentiles he may ask questions like these below, and we should be able to answer them.

What relevance is studying Revelation to my salvation if it is written to Gentiles, if I am an Israelite? Isn't it a waste of time?

This is a good question since almost the entire book is to Gentile churches in Asia, and since you may consider yourself an Israelite. Answer: When people use prophecies to mislead you, you will know that they know very little about the Bible, only if you know the difference, if you have studied for yourself. If you haven't studied, how would you know the difference?

What are the chances I will be alive when these prophecies are fulfilled?

Answer: To be honest, I doubt that anyone living now will be alive when all of Revelation is fulfilled. If you understand God's plan you will know not to believe false prophets when they tell you that Jesus might come at any time, in our life time.

Yes, I do believe Jesus Christ gave John the messages he wrote for the end time Gentile churches. I also believe everyone can benefit from studying them, to Israel as well as Gentiles. Both Paul and John were Israelites who Christ used to write difficult letters to these Gentile churches, even though they may have known things revealed to them would not be fulfilled during their lifetime. The least we can do is value their writings enough to study so as to understand why they were preserved for us, in this age.

Heb 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; Heb 2:10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Here are some reasons I study prophecies and Revelation.

1. My personal conviction is that the more we know about God and his plan the closer we become to him and our future King Jesus.
2. The more we know about his plan the less deceived we become when Satan's ministers use prophecies incorrectly to influence us to follow them.
Jer 29:8 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.
Jer 29:9 For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.
3. If God hadn't intended for us to study all of his word why has he encouraged us to study all scripture? Do you think God wants us to only be concerned for "our" salvation and not his plan? Do we not pray for understanding of his plan (which leads to Salvation)? Should we decide there are certain parts of his word that we need not study because they seem less important to our way of life?
2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

4. When we read about the flaws in the Gentile churches of Revelation we can profit from not falling into the same trap Satan will set for them.
5. We can learn from the good churches of Revelation and follow their examples.
6. If we value the prophecies that God has preserved for us, does it not make sense that he will be more apt to value our prayers?
7. Prophecy shows us the problems sin brings upon great nations and on us.
8. As most know, more than half of the Bible is Prophecies. If we, as Israelites, or Gentiles, study prophecies to their fulfillment we see that their very end leads to Salvation for all ages. The most exciting of all Prophecies is found in the last two chapters of Revelation.

2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Pertaining to Israel Jesus says:

Mt 13:14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

Mt 13:17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

Mt 13:35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Jas 5:10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

1Pe 1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

2Pe 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

2Pe 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

2Pe 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

2Pe 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Re 22:6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

Re 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Re 22:10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

Re 19:10 ,,,,,, worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Re 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

Re 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

God puts great value on the prophecy of Revelation, and he expects us to do the same. How then can we justify not studying these scriptures because we question their being relevant to our salvation?

Another good question: If the book of Revelation is to Gentile churches where does that leave Israelites that may, or may not, be blinded? In other words “has God nothing planned for Israelites during this age?” If not what benefit is it to me to study it?

Answer: The benefit is that you get to know mysteries that ancient prophets searched to discover in a past age, (and couldn't find) about answers to God's overall plan for Salvation for all of mankind, (not just to Israel) even to future resurrections and judgments for all of mankind, both Israelite and Gentile. Plus it enhances your relationship with God and his son.

Anyone who is a believer and dedicates his life to God's way of life, whether Gentile or Israelite, will either be in the first resurrection or the next resurrection, of the whole house of Israel, depending on their judgment. God is no respecter of persons. He does say that the majority of Israelites are blinded, during this age, but are blinded by their own choice and their rebellion. Later Paul says not all Israel are blinded, some will be saved, even during this age, and that all will be saved eventually (in the end, in another age).

God used several Prophets in the Old Testament to write about what will happen to both Israelite and many Gentiles nations, during future ages, which cultivates in the last three chapters of Revelation. Does that mean, because we are not living in their age, we should ignore those parts of the Bible that doesn't include us? How can we accurately decide which prophecies to ignore if we don't study them? Did not Paul say all scripture is profitable for our salvation? God wants us to know he has a plan for all of mankind. When he told prophets to write things, even they didn't understand, they didn't question why. He chose not to tell us everything because he knows we are not able to understand yet. The least we can do is be glad, and eager, to learn all about what he has shared with us even if it may not be pertinent to us in our present life time. We need to realize this is not the only life we look forward to.

Knowing prophecy may be useful in the next life. God wants us to know about it, or he wouldn't have preserved it for us to study. Ezekiel was given blueprints of how to build a temple, to be built in an age that has yet to be fulfilled. He was told to remember it well so that he could give it to Israel (when the right time comes).Eze.

40:4-5. Then Ezekiel was shown visions of what all of this would look like and how to write it down so we can read it. Why? Maybe we will be there helping to build it?

Why is he telling Ezekiel all about what happens in the fifth and sixth ages? Where in scripture does God give us permission to pick and choose which of His words we can discard?

This last part is from another unknown writer who supports what I wrote.

The Bible as Inspired Truth

Christ said: It is written Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. (Mat. 4:4; Lk. 4:4). The Bible is known as Scripture (Dan. 10:21), and is directed towards the salvation of mankind and the manifestation of the power of God (Ex. 9:16; Rom. 9:17). The means of salvation is Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:11) who was foretold by Scripture from Moses and the prophets (Lk. 24:27), prophecy being Scripture (Mat. 26:56; Rom. 1:2). All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work (2Tim. 3:16).

The Scriptures at the time of Christ and the apostles were the Old Testament (Mat. 21:42; Mk. 12:10; Acts 17:2). The Old Testament is the Scripture referred to as God breathed or inspired in 2 Timothy 3:16. The New Testament is additional to the Old Testament. It does not replace the Old Testament. The Old Testament was written in earlier days for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope (Rom. 15:4). Error proceeds from a poor knowledge of those Scriptures (Mat. 22:29; Mk. 12:24). The Bereans (or Bereans KJV) examined the Scriptures daily, proving whether what was said was in fact correct. This was measured as being noble (Acts 17:11). The whole picture of the Bible is taken from all parts of the Scripture, precept upon precept, line upon line (Isa. 28:10). The Scriptures show that Jesus was the Messiah or Christ (Acts 18:28). It is Christ, by means of the Holy Spirit, who opens the mind of all the elect beginning with the apostles, so that the Scriptures can be understood (Lk. 24:45). The Scriptures of the Old Testament must be fulfilled (Mat. 26:54,56; Mk. 12:10, 14:49) and cannot be broken (Jn. 10:35).