

## Prophecy

To fully understand prophecy correctly one must know where to put the prophecies time wise. In order to do that one must understand the seven ages (or dispensations) of mankind. Also one must understand that almost all prophecies are dual, one event pointing to the greater like event. Of course every bible student understands that much is in symbols but many are not, and one needs to know the difference. The way to do this is to allow the bible to interpret itself. It is also very helpful to use a Strong's Concordance to get the original meaning of the Hebrew and Greek words used in the Bible.

The seven ages in condensed order:

1: is from creation to the flood. 2: from the flood to Christ 3: from Christ to his return to earth 4: the thousand year reign 5: Satan's release, the resurrection of the whole house of Israel and their turning away from God, and their punishment. 6: Israel's rescue by God, their renewal and the building of Christ's temple and his return to dwell in it. 7. All things are made new, new heaven and new earth. New city of Jerusalem comes down from heaven to earth. Much of the confusion in understanding prophecy is not recognizing that there is more written referring to the time period after Eze. 37 than in our age (which is age 3) or in the thousand year 4th age. However the book of Revelation chapters 1-18 is mostly about the third age leading up to the next ages.

It also helps to study the appearances of Christ to this earth. 1: was at birth 2: to destroy the wicked and claim the resurrected saints 3: after the thousand year reign, to destroy the wicked nations (Gog and Maygog) and rescue the nations of Israel from their captivity. 4: Cleansing of Israel, giving them his holy spirit. Israel builds his temple and he comes to dwell among them. 5: When he comes as the Lamb in the new city of Jerusalem. Each of these subjects require a separate study with the pertinent scriptures. The names of nations mentioned may or may not be recognized. Most named nations mentioned in prophecy will be the same as those we recognize since they are those nations that sprang from Gentile families that survived, during the thousand years while Satan was imprisoned. They continue to carry the same names that we know of today. Some nations can be identified by location. It is important to know that there are twelve tribes of Israel, (they are listed in Gen. 49:1-28). You will find that the tribe of Judah (Jews) is not as many think, the whole of Israel. The Jews of today are called "Israel" simply because the other nations of Israel are of the "Lost tribes" and have lost their identities. In Bible prophecies the Jewish family and their citizens are called "the house of Judah" and the rest are called "the house of Israel". God knows who they are and He does identify them as separate houses, or nations.

We will start with the prophet Amos.

1 The words of Amos, who was among the herdmen of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

\*Amos was a Jew, seeing future times, in vision, during the reign of Uzziah and Jeroboam. The events pertain to many nations including the whole house of Israel. Not all of the verses quoted are included leaving the reader to use their bible to fill in the rest. Obadiah speaks of the same time period that Amos does, where in verses 1:17-18 the house of Esau (Arab nations) will be totally wiped out never to exist again. So this time period cannot refer to past history since these nations do still exist today.

2 And he said, The LORD will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and .....

\*Christ roars from Jerusalem his judgment upon the nations that have devastated Israel in their time of captivity by their enemies. Eze. 38:4-6, 15-16 As we do this study you will find that this

period of time is not in our age, nor is it in the millennium but this time period is after the resurrection of the whole house of Israel (Ez.37) when Satan has been released from prison to lead these nations against Israel who will follow Satan instead of God.

3 ...I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have threshed Gilead with threshing instruments of iron:

4 But I will send a fire into the house of Hazael, which shall devour the palaces of Benhadad.

5 Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from the plain of Aven, and him that holdeth the sceptre from the house of Eden: and the people of Syria shall go into captivity unto Kir.

6 Gaza, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they carried away captive the whole captivity, to deliver them up to dom:

7 I will send a fire on the wall of Gaza,

8 And I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, I will turn mine hand against Ekron: and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish, 10 I will send a fire on the wall of Tyrus,

11 Edom, he did pursue his brother with the sword,

12 I will send a fire upon Teman,

13 Ammon, they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead,

14 I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah,

2-1 Moab, he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime:

2 I will send a fire upon Moab, and Moab shall die

4 Judah, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked:

5 But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem.

6 Israel, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes; \*God is going to punish both Judah and Israel as well as all these other nations. He goes on to explain why both Judah and Israel have angered him and what will be their punishments.

Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying,

3:2 You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

4:2 The Lord GOD hath sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that he will take you away with hooks, and your posterity with fishhooks.

6 And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

7 And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered.

8 So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

9 I have smitten you with blasting and mildew: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured them: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

10 I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up unto your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

5:1 Hear ye this word which I take up against you, even a lamentation, O house of Israel.

2 The virgin of Israel is fallen; she shall no more rise: she is forsaken upon her land; there is none to raise her up.

3 For thus saith the Lord GOD; The city that went out by a thousand shall leave an hundred, and that which went forth by an hundred shall leave ten, to the house of Israel.

4 For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live:

6 Seek the LORD, and ye shall live; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Bethel.

\* Notice that the house of Joseph, not a tribe of Judah (Jews) is now in Bethel. This prophecy cannot be during this age.

5:13 Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time.

14 Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

18 Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light.

19 As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.

20 Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.

22 Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.

\* Both Judah and the house of Israel are referred to as offering animals. This is not during this age (as of yet). There is no mention in Revelation about the house of Israel (during this time of grace) offering animal sacrifices.

However we find after the resurrection of the house of Israel in Ezekiel where in the last eight chapters God does instruct Israel in the right way to offer animal sacrifices to him along with a renewal of his laws.

6:1 Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!

\*Samaria has become chief of nations and have no sympathy for the descendants of Joseph, (Israel).

6 That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.

7 Therefore now shall they go captive with the first that go captive, and the banquet of them that stretched themselves shall be removed.

6:8 The Lord GOD hath sworn by himself, saith the LORD the God of hosts, I abhor the excellency of Jacob, and hate his palaces: therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein.

8:3 And the songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord GOD: there shall be many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast them forth with silence. {shall be howlings: Heb. shall howl} {with...: Heb. be silent}

\* This is a prophecy of the future when there is a "temple".

9 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:

9:11 In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: {close: Heb. hedge, or, wall}

12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this. {which...: Heb. upon whom my name is called}

13 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. {soweth: Heb. draweth forth} {sweet: or, new}

14 And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.

15 And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.

\* This prophecy has to be after Gog and Magog has attacked and taken over the land of Israel as described in Ezek: 38:1-16, 39:23-29

Zac.10:6-12

6 And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the LORD their God, and will hear them.

7 And they of Ephraim (son of Joseph) shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see it, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD.

8 I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: and they shall increase as they have increased.

9 And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again.

10 I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and place shall not be found for them.

11 And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall dry up: and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart away.

12 And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD.

\* We see from the scriptures that we have read of a period of time when Israel will be punished for her sins because she has turned away from God. God in turn is angry at the nations that have been cruel to Israel and to each other. He punishes them, even totally destroying some. We see that Israel will be scattered and enslaved by many nations. Once more we find Egypt and Assyria powerful enough to enslave Israel. Once more we see God's hand in rescuing Israel and bringing them back to the Promised Land, through a great river. This is an example of the duality of prophecy.

We have taken a short tour into prophecies found in God's word. Some people tend to think prophecy is not really necessary for salvation, but anything God gives us is necessary and very valuable to our salvation.

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.

Re 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Re 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Jesus concerning prophecy:

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 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.

I might add that prophecy is like a box of a puzzle picture. When you first open the box you do not see the picture. You first must find the pieces that will make the border of the puzzle. Then you can put the pieces that fit onto that border. You will have to spend much time studying the peaces so that they fit in the right places. It is much the same with studying prophecy. You have to do a lot of studying and fitting the right scriptures in the right places. Without help from our Creator this is virtually impossible. I am blessed that after 40 years of study and ten years of writing down what God shows me I have found a few pieces that fit. It gives me great pleasure to share the picture with you.

Rhoda Foust edited 2013