

Jesus in Prophecy



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Campaign:

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Introduction:

Welcome, dear friends, to this enlightening campaign of "Jesus in Prophecy." This study digs into the complex tapestry of divine revelation woven through the pages of Scripture.



Throughout this series, we will unravel the sacred dialogue between God and humanity, tracing the prophetic threads that beautifully converge in the person of Jesus Christ. Prophecy, transcending mere foretelling of events, becomes a radiant beacon, illuminating the path of our faith.

Our exploration will encompass a spectrum of prophecies, from Messianic revelations to historical insights, navigating the nuanced landscapes of divine foresight. Some prophecies lie concealed beneath layers of metaphor and symbolism, while others boldly proclaim their significance. Together, they form a symphony of

revelation that resonates with the majestic harmony of God's eternal plan.

This study not only beckons us to comprehend the fulfillment of predictions but also extends an invitation to encounter the living God through the profound lens of prophecy. As we embark on this collective endeavor, may our hearts be stirred, our spirits awakened, and our faith fortified. Join us in this sacred expedition, exploring the profound themes and promises that echo through the ages, leading us closer to the One who faithfully fulfills every promise—Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Redeemer.

Study Overview:

1. **Prophecy Defined:** A deep dive into the meaning and essence of prophecy.
2. **Types of Prophecies:** An exploration of the diverse prophecies mentioned in the Bible.
3. **Concealed and Revealed Prophecies:** Unraveling the mystery behind prophecies, both hidden and overt.
4. **The Main Takeaway from Prophecies:** Extracting the overarching messages embedded in divine foresight.

5. **Prophecy Underscores the Promises of God:** Examining the role of prophecy in affirming God's promises.

Questions & Answers Section:

Throughout our journey, we'll have a dedicated Question and Answer section, encouraging an open dialogue to dive deeper into the truths of God's will. Your inquiries are not only welcome but integral to our search of the scriptures (Acts 17:11, John 5:39).

Now, let's explore what the Bible says about prophecy and its impact on our lives. Consider these key scriptures:

- Romans 15:4: Prophecy designed to instruct us.
- 2 Peter 1:20,21: Prophecy emanates from a divine source.
- Hebrews 1:1: Prophecy serves as God's medium of communication.
- Matthew 22:29: Lack of knowledge of prophecy leads people astray.

In essence, prophecy is an oral, divine message mediated through an individual, directed at a person or people group, intended to elicit a

specific response. Terms such as foretell, predict, prediction, prophecies, prophesying, prophets, and prophecy commonly describe this divine means of communication (Ellis, Gretchen).

Looking back to Israel's history, God spoke to the nation after the exodus from Egypt. He proved his existence to them among other things; however, the people requested Moses to be their intermediary due to the perceived loudness of God's voice out of the fire. They feared for their lives, alleging that no one had survived this experience. God agreed, promising to raise up a prophet from among the people similar to Moses. While subsequent prophets embodied the spirit of Moses, God looked forward to someone special, Jesus Christ (Deut 4:11-13; 5:23-33; 18:15-22).

Divergent opinions have arisen regarding the identity of this prophet across various religious groups. However, Christianity explicitly declares that the prophet is Jesus, as affirmed by Peter in the book of Acts. The apostle unraveled the historical thread of scripture to prove the reality of God's prediction in his son (Acts 3:22-26, John

6:14; 7:40). It was one of the prophetic threads weaved into the various types of prophecy.

Types of Prophecies in scripture:

A. Biblical prophecy are categorized as Prediction and admonition.

First, predictions revolved around the foretelling of events or declaring God's intended actions against nations. This type of prophecy, as explained by Gretchen Ellis, is well-known in books such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. Second, admonition, according to Ellis, takes the shape of warnings, focusing on two pivotal aspects: divine messages of accusation and impending judgment due to the hearer's disobedience and religious messages of comfort and exhortation, signaling that divine salvation is within reach (Isa. 40:1-12) (Ellis).

Ellis, in his broad study on prophecy, underlines the multifaceted nature of biblical prophecy. In certain instances, the Bible conveys these prophecies through symbols or signs. An illustrative case is King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of an image composed of various elements.

Initially perplexed by the dream's meaning, the king sought insight from Daniel, a wise man from the captives of Judah. Daniel, a Hebrew, interpreted the dream, disclosing God's prediction regarding the fall of Babylon and the prevailing empires (Daniel 2:1-45).

Similarly, the prophetic tradition employs symbolic actions to convey messages. For example, when God predicted the division of the United Kingdom of Israel, the prophet Ahijah used a new garment to symbolize this event. Cutting the garment into twelve pieces, he instructed Jeroboam to take ten pieces, representing the Northern kingdom of Israel. The remaining two pieces symbolized Judah to the South, comprising two tribes (1 Kings 11:29-39). In this way, the prophet informed Jeroboam of God's intent.

Another vital aspect of biblical prophecy is its connection to its time's socio-political and religious milieu. Prophets served as voices that addressed the immediate conditions of the people, calling them back to the ways of God when they deviated from His covenant on all

levels (Jeremiah 6:16, Leviticus 26:14). However, in doing so, the prophets also alluded to events with extended meaning, reaching into the future. This concept, double fulfillment, is a recurring theme in biblical prophecy (Ellis). Noteworthy examples include the prophetic stories in 2 Samuel 7:12-13 and Isaiah 7:14.

Hence, understanding biblical prophecy's diverse forms and applications enhances our appreciation of the intricate ways God communicates His divine will and plan for humanity. From warnings to symbolic actions and the consideration of immediate and future implications, biblical prophecy unfolds as a profound and multi-layered disclosure.

Unveiling the Mystery: Concealed and Revealed Prophecy in the Bible

Prophecy in the Bible is a fascinating and intricate tapestry woven throughout the Old and New Testaments. One of the intriguing aspects of biblical prophecy is the distinction between concealed and revealed prophecies. In this lesson, we will explore the concept of concealed

prophecy in the Old Testament and its unveiling in the New Testament, as exemplified by Jesus' words in Luke 24:44-47 and Peter's affirmation in 2 Peter 1:15-21.

I. Concealed Prophecy in the Old Testament:

A. Types and Symbols:

1. The Old Testament contains types and symbols that conceal deeper meanings and future events.
2. Examples include the sacrificial system, the Tabernacle, and characters like Joseph and David, who served as types of Jesus Christ.
3. These concealed prophecies often required spiritual insight and understanding to discern their ultimate fulfillment. The Hebrew writer described the institutions of the past as shadows of the good things related to Jesus (Heb 7-10). Ultimately, he showed that Jesus is the mediator of a better covenant, fulfilling the essence of those types embodied in the Old Testament.

B. Unfulfilled Predictions:

1. Many Old Testament prophecies pointed to the era of Jesus in the New T., creating a sense of anticipation among the people of God. Some

looked for future bliss as the Jews commonly expressed.

2. These prophecies often pointed to a future Messiah, a savior who would bring ultimate redemption and fulfill God's promises. Most Jews felt comfort in the fact that the Messiah was coming to change their current condition. That was the idea they took from the prophets' message concerning God's restoration plan (Isa 54:1-17). Even the Samaritans expressed similar hope in the Messiah, coming from the woman who spoke with Jesus at well (John 4:25-42).

C. Jesus' Confirmation in Luke 24:44-47:

1. After His resurrection, Jesus addressed the disbelief of his disciples by affirming that prophecy has found meaning in his resurrection. The disciples were slow to believe the recent events of the cross (Luke 24:24—27).

Nevertheless, Jesus assured them that all things that the Law of Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets spoke of him must find meaning in him, referencing his death, burial, and resurrection.

2. This underscores the idea that the Old Testament contained concealed prophecies awaiting revelation in the person of Christ. In a

parallel passage in Matthew, Jesus refuted opponents' claims by stating he did not come to destroy the law or the prophets but to fulfill them (Matt 5:17). He grasped the devastating consequences of ignoring the prophetic text, illustrating the purpose of his mission.

3. Therefore, understanding the concealed prophecies enhances our appreciation of the unity and coherence of the entire biblical narrative.

II. Revealed Prophecy in the New Testament:

A. Fulfillment in Christ:

1. The New Testament serves as the key to unlocking the concealed prophecies of the Old Testament.

2. Jesus, fulfilling these prophecies, brings clarity and understanding to the once-hidden meanings. No scripture makes that point clearer than Matt 22:29. When Jesus answered the question about the resurrection from the dead, diving into the Old Testament, he refuted his opponents, showing the error of their theology for lack of knowledge of Scripture. They mocked the

resurrection but Jesus confirmed it with the message of the Old Testament (Matt 22:30-32).

B. Apostolic Validation in 2 Peter 1:15-21:

1. Peter, in his second letter, affirms the reliability of the prophecies and the significance of the revelation received by the apostles. Peter referred to the experience they had on the mount with Jesus (Matt 17:1-5). They witnessed the divine's presence and his revelation of his son, which the entire Scripture ratified. In a visionary state, Peter saw two critical representatives of the Old T. bearing witness to that truth (Matt 16:17).
2. Furthermore, the apostles' testimony becomes a crucial aspect of unveiling the concealed prophecies, providing authoritative validation to the fulfillment of Christ (Acts 4:10-12, Psalm 118:22).

B. Understanding the Will of God:

1. The revealed prophecies in the New Testament illuminate the will of God in Christ, showcasing His redemptive plan and the establishment of His kingdom (Acts. 2:1-47, Rev. 11:15). The apostle

Paul connected the dots between the concealed prediction concerning the seed (Jesus) and the reality it became in Christ (2 Sam 7:12,13).

Several scriptures illustrate that point (Rom 1:104; Rev 5:1-9, 2 Tim. 2:8, Acts 13:13-48).

2. Hence, this revelation empowers believers to live by God's purpose and align their lives with the unfolding story of redemption (Col 1:14).

III. Application and Conclusion:

A. Application to Our Lives:

1. Recognizing concealed and revealed prophecies deepens our understanding of God's redemptive plan.

2. It inspires a sense of awe and gratitude for the intricate design of Scripture and the fulfillment found in Christ. In Revelation, John records the words of Jesus expressing a benediction on those who hear, read and understand the prophecy of Jesus (Rev. 1-3).

B. Conclusion:

1. Therefore, the interplay between concealed and revealed prophecy highlights the divine wisdom and unity embedded in the pages of the Bible.

2. As we study the Scriptures, may we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to uncover the concealed prophecies and rejoice in the revealed fulfillment in Jesus Christ (John 16:7-14).

Prophecy and the nature of God

A. Trusting in the Nature of God

When carefully examined, Biblical prophecies serve as revelations that depict the unwavering nature of God. They portray a God who is faithful to His word, steadfast in His character, caring, and focused on the well-being of humanity (1John 1:9).

1. Faithfulness to His Word:

The consistency of God's promises throughout prophecies underscores His unwavering commitment to truth. Despite the complexities of human history and the unpredictability of events, God's word, as revealed through Prophecy, remains a reliable and unchanging guide. Paul affirmed that by saying, *"All scripture is inspired by God,"* meaning revealed by God (2 Tim 3:16,16, Psalm 119:105, 89, 1 Peter 1:22-25). Peter also confirmed that *no prophecy of the scripture is of private interpretation* (2 Pet 1:20). What does that say to us? First, we can trust

God's scripture on the grounds of His faithful nature. More so, Prophecy demonstrates God's steadfast nature; he cannot lie! (Titus 1:2, Heb. 6:17,18). Hence, whatever he promised he will do for us, assuring our hearts in trying times (John 17:17).

2. Caring Amid Human Limitations:

Prophecies delve into the intricacies of the human experience, acknowledging our limitations, challenges, and dire situations in a world fraught with difficulties. God, portrayed in Prophecy, is not distant but intimately involved, understanding the depth of human struggles and offering guidance through His divine insights (Psalm 34:18, 145:18, Isa. 55:6, Acts 17:27, Isa. 50:8).

3. Trust in a Challenging World:

Prophecy becomes a beacon of hope in a world of uncertainties and trials. It is a constant reminder that, despite the challenges, people can trust God (Jer 17:5-9, Psalm 20:7). His omniscient perspective allows Him to foresee difficulties and provide assurance that the world's tumult does not thwart His divine plan. Isaiah assured his people that God's promises would not return

void, just as the raindrops do not return to the sky before watering and impacting the earth positively (Isa. 55:10-11).

4. Assurance in God's Promises:

So, Prophecy reinforces the reliability of God's promises. It assures humanity that God's declarations are not mere words but enduring commitments. As these prophecies unfold, they reveal the faithfulness of God to fulfill what He has foretold, instilling confidence in the hearts of those who trust in His word. The scripture has said that “all of his promises are yes and amen!” (2Cor 1:20), signaling that there is no room for doubt in the ability of God to bring about his will. He can do beyond what one asks or thinks (Eph 3:20).

5. Confidence in God's Problem-Solving Procedure:

Through Prophecy, God showcases His intricate problem-solving plan. Even in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges, the unfolding of events, according to Prophecy, demonstrates that God has a meticulously planned and executed approach to resolving problems, bringing about His intended outcomes. In Genesis, God first announced his scheme to

tackle the sin problem that Adam brought into the world. Through sin, Adam corrupted the human race, condemning everyone to death (Rom 3:23; 5:12-18, 6:23). As widespread as it seemed, God had the precise design, the death of his only begotten son, to atone for human sins (Rom 4:23-25, 1John 2:2, Eph 5:2). On the cross, Jesus exclaimed in compliance with God's will, these words "it is fulfilled," weaving the prophetic threads into a successful outcome for the world (John 19:31-34; Gal 4:4,5, John 1:29).

6. Dependence on God's Provision and Power:

Finally, Prophecy elucidates God's provision and power. It is a testament to His ability to supply all the required elements to fulfill His plans. From the minor details to grand events, Prophecy affirms that God's power is unparalleled, and His provision is sufficient to accomplish what He has initiated (2 Cor 12:9-10).

In essence, the study of Prophecy is not just an exploration of future events; it is a profound revelation of the character of God and His unwavering commitment to humanity. It beckons individuals to trust in God—His promises, plans, problem-solving strategy, provision, and power—

amidst the uncertainties of life, because it offers a foundation of unwavering faith in the God who holds the future in His hands (Matt 19:26, Rom 4:21, Jer 32:17; 31:37, Gen 18:14, Ezekiel 14:14).

Prophecy Establishes the promises of God.

God spoke several promises that revolves around Jesus in the Old Testament:

1. **The Seed of the Woman (Genesis 3:15):**
 - Promise: God foretold that the woman's seed would bruise the serpent's head.
 - Significance: This points to the coming of Jesus, born of a virgin, who would ultimately defeat sin and death (1John 3:8-10; Rom 16:25).
2. **The Covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:3; 22:18):**
 - Promise: In Abraham, all nations would be blessed.
 - Significance: Jesus, a descendant of Abraham, brings salvation to people of all nations (Gal. 3:8-29)
3. **The Lineage of David (2 Samuel 7:12-13):**

- Promise: God promised David an eternal kingdom through his descendants.
- Significance: Jesus, as the Son of David, fulfills this promise by establishing an everlasting kingdom (1Sam 16:1, Luke 1:30-34, John 7:39-40).

4. The Virgin Birth (Isaiah 7:14):

- Promise: A virgin would conceive and bear a son, Immanuel.
- Significance: Fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, emphasizing His divine nature and unique role in salvation (Matt 1L21-23, Isa. 9:6-7).

5. The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53):

- Promise: The Messiah would suffer for the sins of the people.
- Significance: Jesus fulfills this prophecy, becoming the sacrificial Lamb for humanity's redemption (Acts 8:31-38).

6. The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34):

- Promise: God would make a new covenant, writing His law on the hearts of His people.

- Significance: Jesus inaugurates this new covenant through His sacrifice, providing forgiveness and a transformed relationship with God (Heb 8:1-10:12).

7. The Star of Jacob (Numbers 24:17):

- Promise: A star would come out of Jacob.
- Significance: Jesus, the Bright Morning Star, fulfills this prophecy, guiding believers to salvation and eternal life (Rev. 22:16).

8. The Righteous Branch (Jeremiah 23:5-6):

- Promise: A righteous branch from David's line would reign as King.
- Significance: Jesus, as the righteous King, establishes justice and righteousness in His kingdom (Rev. 19:16).

9. The Piercing of the Messiah (Zechariah 12:10):

- Promise: The people would look at the one they pierced and mourn.
- Significance: Fulfilled in Jesus' crucifixion, demonstrating God's

sacrificial love and providing atonement for sin (John 19:37)

10. The Resurrection (Psalm 16:10):

- Promise: God's Holy One would not see decay but experience resurrection.
- Significance: Jesus' resurrection validates His identity as the promised Messiah and gives hope for eternal life to believers (Acts. 2:25-29).

Impact on Christians Today:

1. **Assurance of Salvation:** These promises assure Christians of the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan through Jesus, providing confidence in salvation (1 Pet. 1:9-11, Acts 13:22-40)
2. **Hope in Times of Trouble:** The promises reveal God's faithfulness in difficult times, offering hope and comfort to believers facing challenges (Heb. 13:5).
3. **Understanding God's Character:** The promises showcase God's sovereignty, faithfulness, and love, fostering a deeper understanding of His character.
4. **Motivation for Holiness:** Realizing these promises motivates Christians to live holily and align with God's will, knowing the

significance of Jesus' work (1Pet 1:15-20, 2Cor 6:14-7:1).

5. **Global Community of Believers:** The promises, extending to all nations, emphasize the inclusive nature of God's plan, fostering unity among diverse believers (Mark 16:15-16, Acts 4:24-31).
6. **Transformation Through the New Covenant:** The new covenant's promise of transformed hearts encourages Christians to pursue spiritual growth and intimacy with God (2Cor 5:17, 1John 1:5-10).
7. **Guidance in Life:** The promises provide a roadmap for understanding God's unfolding plan, guiding Christians in their journey of faith and decision-making (Acts 13:40, Heb 3:7,8; 2:1-4)
8. **Eternal Perspective:** Fulfilled promises point to the reality of eternity, shaping Christians' perspective on temporal challenges in light of the promised everlasting kingdom (Heb. 4:11, Rom 6:23)
9. **Confidence in Prayer:** Understanding God's faithfulness in fulfilling promises enhances believers' confidence in approaching God in prayer (1John 3:23-24, James 5:15-17).

10. **Witness to the World:** Christians, armed with the knowledge of fulfilled promises, become powerful witnesses to the world, testifying to the reality of God's redemptive work through Jesus (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 5:32).

In essence, the Old Testament promises about Jesus are not relics of the past but living truths that resonate in our present. They provide:

- A solid basis for our faith (Rom 10:17)
- Offering assurance and guidance (Heb. 11:1,6).
- A transformative understanding of God's character (Heb. 4:12).

As believers, we find a source of hope, a motivation for holiness, and a body of believers united by a shared interest in redemption through these promises (Eph 4:4-5).

In our current lives, they impact us by assuring our salvation, providing comfort in difficulties, and inspiring confidence in prayer (John 3:14-17, 1 Thes. 4:18, 1 John 3:23,24). These promises reveal a God who is faithful, loving, and intimately involved in our lives, inviting us into a

life-changing relationship through the New Covenant (Eph 2:4,5, 2:11-21).

Ultimately, these promises find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection validate the trustworthiness of God's word (John 16:7-14, Rom 1:1-4). As recipients of these promises, we experience their benefits and witness the world, testifying to the reality of a God who keeps His word and offers enduring hope (Heb 10:22-23). In the pledges fulfilled through Jesus, we discover a profound and timeless truth that speaks to the core of our humanity and shapes our eternal perspective.

Ref:

Ellis, Gretchen. "[Prophecy.](#)" Ed. John D. Barry et al. *The Lexham BibleDictionary* 2016: n. pag. Print.

Question

1. **Definition Exploration:**

- *Question:* How would you articulate the definition of prophecy as presented in our lesson? Provide critical elements that distinguish prophecy beyond the mere foretelling of events.

2. **Types of Prophecies:**

- *Question:* Delve into the various types of prophecies mentioned in the Bible, as discussed in our lesson. Can you give examples of Messianic and historical prophecies and explain their significance?

3. **Concealed and Revealed Prophecies:**

- *Question:* In exploring concealed and revealed prophecies, why is it important to distinguish between them? Can you provide examples of each type of prophecy and discuss how they contribute to the overarching narrative of divine revelation?

4. **Implications for Faith:**

- *Question:* Reflecting on the lesson's emphasis on encountering the living God through prophecy, how do you believe a deeper understanding of prophecy can impact one's faith? Share specific insights or personal reflections.

5. **Scriptural Insight:**

- *Question:* Drawing from the scriptures highlighted in the lesson (Romans 15:4, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Hebrews 1:1, Matthew 22:29), explain the role of prophecy in each passage. How do these verses collectively contribute to our comprehension of the significance of prophecy in the biblical narrative?

Share Your thoughts