

Howards Corner

Prophecy

Introduction to Prophecy

Many may not know why we have prophecy in the bible, but God has a reason. It is there as a witness of God's promises and as a confirmation of the fulfillment, so we are sure that His word is true. By these prophecies God has told us what would happen before it happens so we can be assured that is by God's hand. We therefore have no excuse that we did not know. They are also there for our comfort and assurance that we can build our life around it for our entire life. Our assurance of our resurrection and eternal life have been foretold and we can base our life knowing it will take place by God's word.

Many consider the first prophecy to be the in Genesis 3:15 and I agree that is the first obvious prophecy but for me I see God's first communication to man a little earlier when He said He created the world in 6 days and rested on the seventh day. God is talking to us in pictures and signs and shadows, and the number 6 is relevant in the bible throughout His word. The number six is defined as the days of man and the seventh is the day of rest.

If we consider this as God's picture of the whole of man's time on the earth, we will reason that God may have told us from the very beginning how much time He has given man to do our works and He has declared that after that there will be a rest which is the seventh day. God has often used days as years and such. In this case because we have seen history move forward and much time has passed my conclusion is that as Peter said, "One day is as a thousand years to the Lord".

If you follow my logic, then you might ask what year is it on the Jewish calendar? It is as far as I can determine the year is 5782. This date is based on the current Jewish calendar, but I have heard that some are saying that there may be a two-hundred-year error. I do not know if that is true or not, but I do know the times are troubling and as I have written before there are "birth pangs" evident in today's world and they are getting more frequent and more severe. I will cover a lot of these in my writings. The 6000th year is soon coming as we know the end time signs are on the

news every day. Israel is back in their land and much of the word of God is being ignored and much evil is coming about in our society.

We of course are told to not predict the day of the Lord's return because He can return at any time, and we are always to be ready. This however is said of the Lord's return for the Church which is His bride. He will come for the true Church which are those who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. These then are those that are the body of Christ who have received Christ alone for their salvation and have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit and have been marked for resurrection and promised eternal life. This return for His Church is the next major event to happen and will happen before the "great and terrible day of the Lord". The Church is not meant for the wrath and the great and terrible day of the Lord is the tribulation period and if you are in Christ, you will not see the tribulation time for, they are for another reason. I will explain these things in detail in my prophecy writings.

So, if the 6 days are man's time, then what is the seventh day of rest? So, we are told that as the sixth day is finished there will be a time of rest for another thousand years. The bible tells us that there will be a thousand-year millennial reign of Christ on this earth at His second coming. The gentile nations will be destroyed and then the government of this earth is from Jerusalem, and it will be Christ's rule on this earth and the end of the "**age of the gentiles**". There are many signs of the second coming of Christ for it will be a terrible time for the people of the earth. We will know when this happens because there will be 7 years of judgement on the earth prior to Christ return to reign on earth. We that are in Christ will not see these judgements.

Now we should note that we have been looking at those that are in Christ receiving rest but what about Israel who today have not received Christ as their Messiah. The offer of salvation by faith in Christ Jesus is available to all individual Jews but it is not yet available for the Nation of Israel because they are still under the Old Covenant and must fulfill the terms of that covenant as a Nation, they have not met those terms. For they made a covenant with God as a Nation and are required to fulfill the terms as a Nation.

God however gave them a way out of the covenant. You might call it an escape clause. That clause is that if the Nation, as a whole, repents and receives Jesus as

Messiah then they will receive the kingdom of God on earth which is the millennial reign of Christ Jesus. Jesus cannot return until this happens for, they rejected Him at His first coming and will not see Him again until as a Nation say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord". The modern-day Israel has not received Jesus as Messiah and it will be necessary for that to happen for the Lords second coming. This is one of the reasons for the tribulation period. The Nation will be under such tribulation and distress and two third will not make it but one third will finally repent and be forgiven and accept Jesus as messiah. This is described in Zechariah about Chapter 10 thru the end of the book. When this happens, Jesus is free to return and set up His kingdom and restore Israel again. This is then the second return of Jesus and the judgement of the world and of Satan. Israel will then see the "Golden Age" God has promised in the Old Testament.

This millennial reign will bring total rest for the earth from the sins of man and there will be no more wars for these thousand years. This is for us that are in Christ the time of rest we look forward to and already have been given a foretaste by our trust in Christ which is our rest today.

After these thousand years there will be another battle by Satan, but it will be ended quickly and as Revelation tells us there will be a new Heaven and a new Earth. The old will pass away and everything will be new.

So, this is just an introduction, and I will write more detail on bible prophecy and if you are hungry to know I will share what the Lord has taught me thus far in His word which is the "**whole bible**". I have written several lessons on howardscorner.org and invite you to read. There is never a charge for the word of God.

May the prophecy for you be to always abide in Christ and receive your reward.

Howard