

Prophecy

Revelation 22:7,12,16,20, *'Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book', 'And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be', 'I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.'* *'He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.'*

It is self-evident from scripture that the End Time will bring a deeper understanding of prophecy, Daniel 12: 9, *'And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.'* God knows when it is necessary for us to understand more, and as 1/3rd of the Bible is prophecy and most of that about the last years before Christ's return, and the Millennium, we can expect that as the time draws near, those whose minds are receptive and responsive to the scriptures, will grow in spiritual knowledge, in preparation for those dangerous years. 2 Peter 3:18, *'But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.'*

A biblical principle here clicks into place though. Only those who have proved obedient to that which God has previously brought to them, will have their minds opened to deeper understanding, John 7:17, *'If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.'* Those whose minds are closed by the idolatry of spiritual Babylon which has corrupted most of the Church of God, will not receive or recognise such revelation, Zechariah 13:2, *'And on that day," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will erase idol worship throughout the land, so that even the names of the idols will be forgotten. I will remove from the land both the false prophets and the spirit of impurity that came with them.'* New Living Translation.

We tend to think of an idol as a statue, but in fact an idol is anything or anyone who is placed between an individual and his relationship with God. Popes, Presidents and even the traditions of men which Christ spoke against, can defile a church with idolatry, so that its members will not qualify to become the Bride of Christ. Mark 7:9, *'And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition',* Titus 1:14, 16, *'Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.'* Revelation 14:4, *'These are they which were not defiled with women [false and apostate churches]; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men (bought from the men, Greek), being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.'*

God often gains our attention by something we read, see or hear, in order that we are repositioned on our journey towards His Kingdom. For example many years ago now, an old couple in their 80's, Rex and Lorna Newnham, came to the church I was pastoring after having been dis-fellowshipped by one of those churches overtaken by the dominion of men (Matthew 20:25-27) because they had

discovered that the Hebrew calendar we then used to determine the Holy Days of Leviticus 23, did not come into its present form until almost 1000 years after the death of Christ.

Of course we welcomed them, and privately I thought that, after investigation I would be able to help them recognise their error. Some months, and a pile of A4 paper 1 foot high, proved it was not they, but I who would have to repent, and return to the calendar used by Jesus Christ and the Jews of His day!

As an independent church, we were able to make the change, losing only a couple of members, but a large corporation, unlike the pattern of the New Testament churches, would not find it easy, having to consider income and possible loss of members, so that truth often falls before idolatry, and those who place man's traditions before the word of God and **the example of our Lord**.

So, I learned a good principle. Always take time to examine what may seem strange doctrine which is brought to you. Check it out and prove it right or wrong from God's word. Then act on the results, if you hope to maintain that channel by which God can correct you when required. Without that practice, a church will stagnate and fail to receive the further revelation, the deeper understanding of prophecy, which the coming dangerous end-time years require.

Since then, God has gradually revealed more and more prophecy to us, much of it directly related to the calendar used at the time of Christ, which is hardly surprising as each of the Holy Days pictures a part of the developing Plan of God which is being worked out before our eyes.

Prophecy then, will always reflect the unity of God's Plan, and deeper understanding of prophecy will never contradict scripture. You will recognise prophecy because it is not just about the future, it also comes with edification. True ministers of God who expound prophetic scripture simply relay God's message. They are watchmen for God's people's lives, leading them to know what God requires of them in order to continue within God's Plan, and the people must judge, 1 Corinthians 14:29, *'Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.'* That requires a mind and heart open to the scriptures, like the Bereans, Acts 17:10-11.

If the evidence from the scriptures they present is clear, even if it disproves what you then for the first time recognise were merely the traditions of men, and it nowhere contradicts other scripture, you know what you should do, even if, as happened to me long ago, it means stepping out from a church which originally taught the Truth.

Recently, a minister likened our calling to a journey, and the writer was wise enough to point out that we need to stay alert for announcements as we travel, for we may need to change track.

But the awesome events he mentioned, found in the Book of Revelation chapters 7-19, during which he said that "Jesus will not yet have returned," actually occur **after** Christ **has** returned for His Saints, at the 6th Seal, and the resurrection! (See our article 'Revelation 14'). Most of the Churches of God, have made the same mistake as that minister because, not keeping the true calendar Christ kept, they fail to understand **when** the firstfruit harvest actually occurs!

God has provided true prophecy to correct this error, and, if you are prepared to prove it for yourself you can be spared the worst period of tribulation this world has ever known, Matthew 24:21, *'For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor*

ever shall be.' On the other hand you can denigrate prophecy, fail to hear the announcement, and as a result, miss your glorious destiny, the Kingdom of God.

Make your choice!