

Problems with Prophecy

Commentary for April 1, 2009 — Issues of Prophetic Study

“Prediction is very difficult, especially of the future.” This statement was said by Nobel Prize Physicist Niels Bohr. This statement is true for physicists, forecasters, financial market analysts — and Bible students. It is a statement that may seem trite and obvious but this is how God has the situation at the present time. We cannot know the future unless God reveals it to us.

Even then, proper understanding of God’s revelation of the future is problematic. This is how He has chosen for it to be at present. This month’s article by Dr. Ernest L. Martin is titled “When Prophecies ‘Fail.’” Read first the “Newsletter for April 2009” for additional information about prophecy and the future.

The trends of the time do give us ideas of what the future may hold without reference to God, as long as present conditions remain.¹ Geopolitical trends have a momentum of their own, and governments and bureaucracies have their own slow working processes regardless of who is in power within a nation or state. Nevertheless, great changes are coming as Jesus said:

“For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect’s sake, whom he has chosen, he has shortened the days.”

• *Mark 13:19–20*

Jesus is referring to changes that threaten planetary death, changes on a cosmic scale. Only God will be able to save mankind from extermination. Yet for us at the present time, seemingly **“... all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation”** (2 Peter 3:4).

The Gift We Have Been Given

As believers in Christ’s resurrection and in His written Word we have the privilege to actually look into the mysteries of God. In fact, we are the keepers of those mysteries:

“And you are Christ’s; and Christ is God’s. Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers [deputies] of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries [the secrets] of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

• *1 Corinthians 3:23–4:2*

Do you and I have proper respect for that tremendous responsibility? In everyday life we want to know all types of secrets in the world, yet we have the repository of the greatest secrets of all creation quickly and easily available to us, simply by picking up a single volume containing the Word of God — the Holy Scriptures. Within it are:

- The secret purpose of the eons in creation (Ephesians 3:9–11),
- The secret of the Kingdom of the Heavens (Matthew 13:11) which is the Kingdom of God (Mark 4:11; Luke 8:10) to come to earth in the future,
- The secret of the Messiah (the Christ, Ephesians 3:3–7),

1. For an enlightening and frightening understanding of the present and the immediate future regarding technology, see the non-ASK short free video [“Education and the Future of Technology.”](#) Retrieved April 1, 2009.

- Even the realization of the secret of God the Father and Christ (their relationship, Colossians 2: 2), **“In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”** (Colossians 2: 3).

As Moses said to the Israelites:

“The secret things belong unto YHWH our Elohim: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever [until the eon], that we may do all the words of this law.”

• *Deuteronomy 29:29*

Daniel says, in context to the Gentile King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon:

“But there is a God in heaven that reveals secrets, and makes known to the king Nebuchadnezzar [and to us today] what shall be in the latter days.”

• *Daniel 2:28*

God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar through Daniel about events of “the latter days.” Those days are still future to us. We know the long-term answers and our long-term futures, individual and collective, yet we feel a need to know what will happen next in our immediate future and the future of the world. I share the same need to know such things.

God has revealed the end from the beginning to us. The prophecies are available to us. The most important secrets are revealed and available for our study. The times are still in the Father’s jurisdiction (Acts 1: 7). We need to understand the prophecies better and in greater detail so that we will be ready when God opens the prophecies to us more fully. This will occur as we get closer to the events. We should seek to determine the sequence of prophesied events, a checklist, constantly cross-checked with Scriptures for subjects such as:

- Christ’s return
- The rise and fall of physical Babylon
- The rise and fall of Mystery Babylon
- The rise of the Beast, the Antichrist
- The work of the Two Witnesses
- The building and destruction of the next Temple in Jerusalem
- The rise of Damascus to God’s favor
- The rise to power of the 10 kings
- The restoration of Egypt to power and wealth
- The conflicts between the kings of the south and the kings of the north
- The creation of a Palestinian state along the coast of present-day Israel
- The peace and prosperity between Israel and her neighbors
- The decline of the churches
- Acceptance of Christ in Jerusalem
- A new Diaspora of the Jews/Israelites
- The restoration of the Jews/Israelites back to the land by Iran

There are others. Each of these have their own sequence of events. Many of these have links to other event sequences. Enjoy and learn from Dr. Martin’s article “When Prophecy ‘Fails’.”

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