

INTRODUCTION TO SEARCHING INTO PROPHECY

There are four main approaches to biblical prophecy that have been developed by interpreters over the centuries. These are:

1. Futurism
2. Preterism
3. Historicism
4. Idealism

The fourth view - the **Idealist view** – is a 19th century liberal view. It teaches that the prophecies of the book of Revelation do not concern any specific historical or future events. Rather, they are only poetry and symbolisms teaching us that good will eventually triumph over evil. This misses the point that the Revelation is written as prophecy and in the apocalyptic genre in language that is clear and with symbolisms and themes that will have history and significance. So these studies will not need to say any more about the Idealist view. Rather, these studies take *the Futurist approach* as being the biblical one and so present the **grammatical-historical method** of interpretation.

The studies will examine each of the above mentioned approaches and demonstrate that Preterism and Historicism in their various forms as approaches to prophecy cannot be sustained by a study of the Scriptures. This includes the associated teachings of Amillennialism and Post-millennialism. There are however, two main versions of Futurism — Classical and Dispensational, yet Dispensationalism also cannot be sustained by a study of the Scriptures as will be demonstrated in the studies. Because of using the natural grammatical-historical approach the following details are also shown to be **incorrect views**:

- The ‘day for a year’ view as a general principle in interpreting the timing of prophecies.
- The 70th ‘seven’ in Daniel as being completed in the 1st century.
- Antichrist as being a system.
- That a renewed Roman empire has any part in prophecy.
- The Pre-tribulation Rapture theory.
- That a date can be set for Christ’s return or that it might occur at any moment.
- That wars, famines, pestilence and earthquakes are the sign for Christ’s return.

Along with these factors the studies present the view that the prophetic books, and in particular those of Daniel and Revelation, are to be read in a literal (but not literalistic) way; yet noting that there may be symbolism where prophecy is presented in **visions**, dreams, parables or metaphors. And yet the interpretation of this symbolism, which is often made within the passage of prophecy, is literal. Additionally, there is no symbolism in **directly stated prophecy** e.g. the sun, moon and stars being darkened will be a literal event.

This set of studies is a **work-in-progress** presented to show that the Holy Scriptures demonstrate the following scenario and understanding of prophecy:

- The fulfilment of much of prophecy is yet future.
- The future Great Tribulation will last a literal 3½ years — approximately.
- The Great Tribulation will be triggered by the wicked work of a final Antichrist figure.
- The final Antichrist will lead a powerful Middle-Eastern coalition of nations.
- This empire will destroy the ‘Babylon the Great’ religious system.
- It will establish a new single religious system based in a literal rebuilt city of Babylon.
- Antichrist with many nations will attack and control literal Jerusalem.
- Antichrist will desecrate a rebuilt Jewish temple.

- Jesus will return before the Millennium begins, but after the Great Tribulation.
- The first resurrection/rapture will occur after the Great Tribulation.
- This first resurrection includes all the faithful ones of all time.
- A remnant of literal Israel will repent at the time of Jesus' return and so survive.
- A remnant of repenting Gentile nations will survive through into the Millennium.
- At Jesus' return he will defeat Antichrist and recover Jerusalem.
- The living wicked, including Antichrist and his false prophet, will then be destroyed.
- Jesus will set up the Kingdom with literal Jerusalem as the capital city.
- Satan and the demons will be incarcerated for 1,000 years.
- The Millennium will be a literal 1,000 year period as the initial stage of God's Kingdom.
- Jesus as King of the world works with the Christian immortal rulers in the Kingdom.
- The remnant of mortal nations will form the basis for later subjects in the Kingdom.
- Such mortal subjects will enjoy very long, prosperous and peaceful lives.
- Earth's population will grow from the remnant of Israel and the Gentile survivors.
- The second resurrection occurs after the end of the Millennium.
- The Great White Throne judgment results in destruction of the resurrected wicked.
- A future will be granted to resurrected ones who have their names in 'the book of life.'

Whenever I have updated a Study the new point is identified by a vertical line set to the right of the new section.

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