

Lesson 6

Christians and the Future: Prophecy

I. The Importance of Studying Prophecy

- A. God specifically promised blessing to those who study this area of Biblical revelation (Revelation 1:3).
- B. The amount of space given to predictive prophecy in Scripture (1/4 of the Bible) indicates the importance of the subject.
 - 1. 333 distinct prophecies were literally and exactly fulfilled during the first coming of Christ (the chances that this would have happened by accident have been computed as one in 87,000 plus 90 zeros).
 - 2. For every verse speaking of Jesus' first coming, there are eight which speak of His second coming.
- C. The Scriptures represent God's future program as a source of several things.
 - 1. Comfort to the sorrowing Christian (I Thessalonians 4:13-14 – the Rapture; John 14:1-4).
 - 2. Strength to the lazy, unfruitful Christian (II Corinthians 4:14-18).
 - 3. Rebuke to the lazy, unfruitful Christian (II Corinthians 5:9,10).
 - 4. Correction to the Christian who places too much value on this life (II Peter 3:10-12).
 - 5. Cleansing for the Christian who harbors unconfessed sin (I John 3:2-4).

II. Major Events in Prophecy

- A. For the saved at death – Heaven with Christ
 - 1. The Rapture (the church in Heaven for seven years; see I Thessalonians 4:14-18; John 14:1-4).
 - 2. The Judgment Seat for believers in Heaven (I Corinthians 3:9-15; II Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10).
 - 3. The Marriage of the Lamb to the church in Heaven (Revelation 19:7-10).
 - 4. The Second Coming of Christ to the earth with the church (Jude 14; Revelation 19:11-16).
 - 5. 1,000 year reign with Christ on the Earth (the Millennium) (Revelation 20:1-6).
 - 6. New Heavens and a new Earth (Revelation 21-22; II Peter 3:10-12).
- B. For the unsaved at death – Hell (Luke 16:19-31)
 - 1. The Tribulation Period (7 years of divine wrath on Earth)
 - a. Rise of the Anti-Christ (II Thessalonians 2:1-12; Revelation 6:1,2) During the first 3 ½ years there will be peace for Israel (Daniel 9:27).
 - b. Satan is cast out of Heaven in the middle of the Tribulation Period (Revelation 12:7-12)
 - c. Battle of Gog and Magog in the middle of the Tribulation (Ezekiel 38,39)
 - d. Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 14:14-20; 19:17-19)
 - 2. Great White Throne of Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)
 - 3. Lake of Fire – eternal torment (Revelation 20:15)