CHRISTIAN LIVING SERIES LESSON 6: CHRISTIANS & 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 <u>first</u> 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 ¹/₂ 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)

