

WHY IS PROPHECY IMPORTANT?

Isaiah 48:5-6, John 14:29

By Raymond White

The Bible is full of prophecy, everyone knows that, even non-believers know that. But the real question is, why? What's so important about prophecy? Is prophecy just a nice skill to have in case you want to beat the stock market? Or does it actually mean something?

The point of prophecy is that since humans cannot tell the future and since the Bible *does* tell the future, it means that the bible's prophets got their information from some knowledge source far beyond anything we can understand. And that knowledge source we call God, for the lack of any better word. God is a willful, living being who knows the future. The point of prophecy is to convince us that God really exists.

How that can be so — that the bible tells the future, that God knows the future — we have no clue. But it is so. And the bible authors understood, as well as we, that the prophetic character of the bible sets it apart from all other knowledge. And since it is unique in its prophetic knowledge then it must also be unique in its authority. Why? Because the God who knows the future has the right to tell us how to live our lives so that we can best capitalize on that future.

Here then is what the bible prophets had to say about prophecy.

Isaiah 41:23 Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods...:26 Who hath declared from the beginning, that we may know? And beforetime, that we may say, He is righteous?

Knowing the future is something that only the true God can do. That is his peculiar hallmark. Who can tell the future? Only God, and no one else.

Isaiah 42:9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

Isaiah 48:5 I have even from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it thee: lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them. :6 Thou hast heard, see all this; and will not ye declare it? I have shewed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them.

God makes it clear that the purpose of fulfilled prophecy is to point us to God as the cause of history, that it is not our idols or ourselves or our computers who cause things to happen, it is God that causes things to happen.

Ezekiel 33:33 And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.

God is not about just letting us in on the future, he is letting us in on the fact that only he knows it, and controls it. This is a really super powerful God.

***Daniel 2:27** Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; **:28** But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.*

Who knows the future? Who knows the king's dream? Not the wise men, astrologers, etc. But only God.

***Amos 3:7** Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.*

This seems a stretch. God has done a lot that he really hasn't let us in on. But his point is well made.

***Amos 8:11** Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: **:12** And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and from to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.*

High ingratitude causes us to not value really important things, like for instance prophecy. Like all other good things, you don't miss it 'till it's gone.

***John 14:29** And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.*

That's the point of prophecy. No one knows the future except God. So when a prophet, or in this case Christ, tells the future and that future happens, you know he is from God.