

C. What Does it Mean?

Before we discuss the actual content of prophecy it is important to see what it means on a broad scope...why it is given in the first place...and what is intended to be done with it. My intention is not to hang you up with a lot of details but in truth, what prophecy means is almost more important than what it says. We will want to keep the two ideas together but what is actually said takes on greater importance when one understands what the whole idea of prophecy means.

(It seems in the progress of typing I have failed to list the chief Scriptures for this study...a more careful person would go back and redo page 1...but I, having already read them, just list them now at this point: Amos 3:1-8, Zechariah 1:1-7, 1 Corinthians 14:26-33)-

1. Prophecy means that God has a great care for the people He has created!

a. A concern for welfare

b. A concern for fellowship

c. A concern for truth.

All together, powerful witnesses to God's care.

This portrait is seen in better form if we stop and contrast or compare the revelation in the Bible with the mythological ideas of antiquity and the pagan ideas of God still found in our cultures today.

-We are to receive His care thankfully and "allow" that the care of God should be meaningful in our lives.

2. Prophecy means that God has spoken

a. There is a general revelation...it is not adequate for the needed points of particular redemption but is adequate for the comprehending of the grace and intention of God. Psalm 19 discusses it and, when viewed in retrospect, we are amazed at how much it shows us of a loving Creator.

b. He has more particularly spoken in the Scriptures but the spokespeople raised up for that purpose

--2 Timothy 3

--1 Peter 1

c. He has spoken clearly to the discerning mind

--His word is understandable, consistent, broad in scope, and relevant...

--but it is not His intention that we should know everything therefore His Word leads us to Himself and not to an encyclopaedia of events.

-We are to take His Word and reflect in our lives what He has said. God has charged us with responsibility to His word and we are to live it out accordingly.

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