

2. Understanding the matters of the addressee, the spokesperson and the occasion, etc. Tightly tied to contextual study.
3. Understanding historically the problem(s) being considered and how the historical connexion helps. This, too, is more properly part of context but I like to give it a separate heading so as not to miss it. We will illustrate it in the passage of Isaiah 7.
4. Discerning specific prediction (prophecy) and general principles.
5. Discerning fulfillment and application.

I will try to take an illustration for both 4 and 5 from Isaiah 6. This latter point is extremely important in getting the right prophetic message to the right spiritual place.

D. Some further accounts interpreted in the Bible by the Bible itself that will help us as guidelines:

1. Daniel 9
2. Matthew 8

E. Working to understand two passages with this background material

1. Isaiah 11
2. Acts 20:28

F. Conclusion:

The understanding of prophecy in its general sense and intended application is often not so difficult as we make it sound. At the same time, care is needed and we must avoid quick solutions and answers that are "too easy." The concepts stressed in 1 Corinthians 2 will help us considerably if we apply them and allow the Spirit to use them.

IV. PROPHECIES OF THE END TIMES

Isaiah 24, Matthew 24, 2 Thess 2.

Almost everyone is interested in the "end times" but for a variety of reasons. The concept of an "end" of everything is very large in the Bible and plays a surprising part in the messages of books such as Hebrews and second Peter. Our class will probably not straighten out all the curves on this pathway but hopefully we can put into perspective a few of the things the Bible teaches on the subject.