

PROPHECY-God Left the Map of the Future (41-48)



Hour-11

ISAIAH (740-680BC): God's Expectations of His People & God's Future Plans for His People

I. Our Mighty God Chastening His People 1-39

- A. God, Sin, Culture & Consecration (1-6)
- B. The Messiah Promised (7-12)
- C. The Nations Judged (13-23)
- D. The Tribulation Foretold (24-27)
- E. The Woes against Judah (28-35)
- F. God's Powerful Hand Shown to Hezekiah (36-39)

II. Our Merciful God Comforting His People 40-66

- A. God Promises Restoration (40-48)
- B. God Offers Salvation through the Messiah (49-57)
- C. God Describes the Millennium (58-66)

KEY CHAPTERS

- 1. The Throne of God 6**
- 2. The Messiah: His Incarnation 7, 9**
- 3. The Doom of Babylon & Lucifer 13-14**
- 4. The Tribulation 24-27**
- 5. Greatest Prophecy: Letter to Cyrus 45**
- 6. The Messiah: His Atonement 53**
- 7. Second Coming (63) & Millennium (65-66)**

Prophecy is God's Unique Distinctive:

Isaiah 41:21-22

1. Prophecy is God's Unique Distinctive: Isaiah 41:21-22 (NKJV) "Present your case," says the LORD. "Bring forth your strong reasons," says the King of Jacob. 22 "Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; Let them show the former things, what they were, That we may consider them, And know the latter end of them; Or declare to us things to come.

Prophecy: God's Signature Across His Word

Rev. 1:3

Prophecy:

God's Signature Across His Word

Life is hard, the world is sometimes bleak, and we often need help to go on against the flow of the world and seek God. May I give you the single most encouraging aspect of my spiritual life?

Each day I get so recharged and renewed by God's Word that I can go out and face another day. How? By spending time with the God who has left me a daily reminder of Who He is and what He is doing—so that I can see and test and have my faith renewed!

God's Word is the absolutely trustworthy record of God's voice. As we read in Rev. 1:3:

Rev 1:3 "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near."

This authenticating, verifying, faith building record God has left for us I call the Signature of God in the Book we call the Bible, God's Word—the Holy Scriptures.

Have you studied the signature of God lately? For ten years I wrote my dissertation for Dallas Seminary on the Prophetic signature God left across the pages of His Word.

That study was made into a year long, personal, devotional book of 365 daily studies taking believers on a faith-building journey through every word of the book of Revelation and outward to every other book in the Bible.

The bottom line of a study of the prophetic signature of God leads us into what God offers—Living Hope for the End of Days: Walking Each Day with THE GOD You Can Know and Trust.

This morning I'd like to share with you just a few pages from my book, Living Hope .

The Creator and Redeemer, the Lord God Almighty who is the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe tells us that there is something He is very focused upon.

The Bible you hold in your hands this is like none other book—because God says, "I am watching over my Word—to perform it" (Jeremiah 1:12). That declaration made by the Lord Himself is what I like to call the Signature of God.

What is the simplest and yet most profound evidence the Bible offers concerning God's reality? It is prophecy fulfilled--the irrefutable verification reserved to the

Scriptures alone.

The Map of the Future God Left in His Word

Revelation 1-22

God wrote down an inspired record of the history of the world: from the time when John was sitting on Patmos in AD 95, right up to the very end of days. That is what you are holding in your hands this morning.

The online world mourned for a few moments in March of 2012, the passing of another icon from the former, pre-cyber world of the past. After 244 years of publication, the Encyclopedia Britannica will no longer be printed on paper. Thus ended the longest published record of civilization's knowledge.

The byline of that monumental compendium of knowledge, are these words: facts matter.

Facts matter even more to God. Today, the facts about what God has said, describing the future of every person in the world, are crucial. The facts that God has given to us are quite clear. The ability to precisely tell the future is part of God's uniquely Divine identity. First we know that:

Prophecy is a Demonstration of God's Glory

Isaiah 42:8-9

2. Prophecy is a demonstration of God's Glory: Isaiah 42:8-9 (NKJV) I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.⁹ Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

Prophecy is the Acid Test of Deity

Isaiah 44:6-7

3. Prophecy is the Acid Test of Deity: Isaiah 44:6-7 (NKJV) “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.7 And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them.

Prophecy is a Verifiable Proof of God's Power

Isaiah 45:21

4. Prophecy is a Verifiable Proof of God's Power: Isaiah 45:21 (NKJV) Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.

Prophecy is History Written in Advance

Isaiah 46:10

5. Prophecy is History Written in Advance: Isaiah 46:10 (NKJV) Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'

Prophecy is to Confirm that God can be Trusted

Isaiah 48:3-5

6. Prophecy is to Confirm that God can be Trusted: Isaiah 48:3-5 (NKJV) “I have declared the former things from the beginning; They went forth from My mouth, and I caused them to hear it. Suddenly I did them, and they came to pass. 4 Because I knew that you were obstinate, And your neck was an iron sinew, And your brow bronze, 5 Even from the beginning I have declared it to you; Before it came to pass I proclaimed it to you, Lest you should say, ‘My idol has done them, And my carved image and my molded image Have commanded them.’

One of the Most Astounding Biblical Prophecies

Isaiah 45

Now, for a moment, move back to Isaiah 45:1. This is what I call perhaps the single most remarkable prophecy in the Bible.

One of the Most Astounding Biblical Prophecies

A person is named in v. 1 as Cyrus. Cyrus is an identifiable person in history, mentioned also in II Chronicles 36, Ezra 1-4, and Daniel 1-10. Cyrus ruled Persia from 559-530BC. Nothing amazing so far, except when you turn back and look when Isaiah wrote this chapter.

For the biblical facts, look at Isaiah 6. When did Isaiah start writing? “The year that King Uzziah died”. When was that? 739BC. That date happens to be exactly 200 years BEFORE Cyrus was the King, that Ezra & Daniel are writing about.

Now, to help that event sink in, let me give you a modern equivalent. Russia recently elected a man named Vladimir Putin to be the next President of Russia. On March 4, 2012 Putin won the presidential elections of Russia. That is just a fact of history.

But, for a well know and recognized servant of God to have publically predicted that momentous event in writing, 200 years ago, would be astounding.

There are three very well known and godly men who lived 200 years ago. Most of us in this place have heard of one or more of them. They are pioneer missionary to India William Carey, American missionary Adoniram Judson, and famed orphanage founder and man of faith George Muller of Bristol, England. So, all three of those servants of God were alive 200 years ago.

What you are reading in Isaiah 45 about Cyrus being in power would be the historic equivalent of one of those three missionaries writing and publishing, and distributing the world over, that a man by the name of Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin would become the President of Russia, in the future.

Only God would know such a thing. Only God could know who will rule on Earth and when. Only God's Word has historic facts prophetically revealed hundreds and even thousands of years before they happen.

In God's Word we hold history written in advance, which is called Biblical Prophecy.

The Book of Revelation is the single greatest tool to understand the future because it is the only book that clearly spells out each step from today to the end. Each of the stages of God's plans is found in another part of the Bible, but only Revelation features them all in one place, and explained in detail.

**Isaiah was written between:
740 BC — 680 BC**

**(6:1)
Death
Uzziah**

**(37:38)
Assassination
Senacherib**

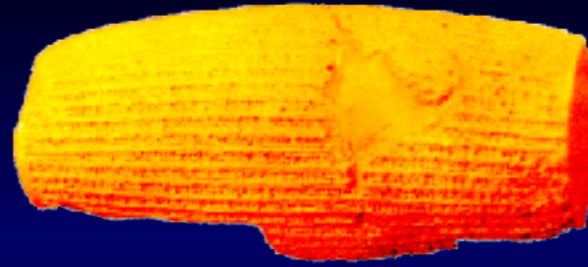
The Seven Great Empires of the Ancient World

1. The Egyptian Empire (1450 BC)
2. The Hittite Empire (1340 - 1200 BC)
3. The Assyrian Empire (745 - 612 BC)
4. The Babylonian Empire (612 - 539 BC)
5. The Medo-Persian Empire (539 – 330 BC)
6. The Greek Empire (330 – 146 BC)
7. The Roman Empire (146 BC – approx 476 AD)

How Was Babylon Conquered?

- October 12, 539 BC, Cyrus' general captured Babylon without a battle.
- The Persians diverted the River Euphrates into a canal upriver so that the water level dropped "to the height of the middle of a man's thigh," which thus rendered the flood defenses useless and enabled the invaders to march through the riverbed to enter by night. **Herodotus**

What is The Stele of Cyrus?



"...without any battle, he entered the town, sparing any calamity; ... I returned to sacred cities on the other side of the Tigris, the sanctuaries of which have been ruins for a long time... and established for them permanent sanctuaries. I also gathered all their former inhabitants and returned to them their habitations."

British Museum in London.

What is One of the GREATEST Prophecies?

When Cyrus made his grand entrance Daniel presented him with an ancient scroll of Isaiah 45, which contained a personal letter *addressing him by name*. (Josephus, *Antiquities*, XI, 1, 2) Isaiah had died 150 years before Cyrus was born! This is one of the GREATEST prophecies in the Bible is Isaiah 45!

What Did God Say in His Letter to Cyrus?

*That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers:
That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all
my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be
built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.*

Isaiah 44:27, 28

*Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right
hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I
will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two
leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;*

Isaiah 45:1

Dry up thy rivers: the key to conquest of Babylon.

Herodotus describes how the Persians diverted the River Euphrates into a canal upriver so that the water level dropped “to the height of the middle of a man’s thigh,” which thus rendered the flood defenses useless and enabled the invaders to march through the river bed to enter by night. (Herodotus 1.191.)

My Shepherd: unlike previous conquerors, Cyrus would prove favorable to the Jews

His Anointed: a *Gentile* king!?

Subdue nations: 46 nations (among which were the: Medes, Babylonians, Lydians, Carians, Caunians, Lysians, Bactrians, Sacae, Parthians, Hyracanians, Chorasians, Sogdians, Arians of Heiat, Zerangians, Arachosians, Satagyrians, Gandarians, et al.

Loose the loins of kings: Dan 5:6!

When Isaiah wrote this Jerusalem had not yet been destroyed. Yet, here he notes that even the foundation will be rebuilt (implying at the time of writing that it will be destroyed).

What Was Cyrus' Response?

- Cyrus was duly impressed.
- He freed the captives and even gave them incentives to return to their homeland and rebuild their temple.

Listen to the Proclamation of Cyrus

Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia,

“The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem.”

Ezra 1:2, 3

The focus is the Temple, not the city.

That will be the burden of Nehemiah later...

43:25 I, even I...not remember your sins. This verse is probably the high point of grace in the Old Testament. In spite of Israel's utter unworthiness, the Lord in His grace has devised a way that He can forgive their sins and grant righteousness, without compromising His holiness. This He would accomplish through the work of His Servant (53:6). In spite of her failures, Israel will always be God's chosen people.

**The High
Point
of Grace
in the OT
is:
Isaiah
43:25**

8:24 If you do not believe, Jesus emphasized that the fatal, unforgivable, and eternal sin is failure to believe in Him as Messiah and Son of God. In truth, all other sins can be forgiven if this one is repented of. I am He. "He" is not part of the original statement. Jesus' words were not constructed normally but were influenced by Old Testament Hebrew usage. It is an absolute usage meaning "I AM" and has immense theological significance. The reference may be to both Exodus 3:14 where the Lord declared His name as "I AM" and to Isaiah 40-55 where the phrase "I am" occurs repeatedly (especially 43:10,13,25; 46:4; 48:12). In this, Jesus referred to Himself as the God Yehweh—the Lord) of the Old Testament and directly claimed full Deity for Himself, prompting the Jews' question of v. 25.

Jesus the Great I AM

John 8:24 echoes Isaiah
43:10,13,25; 46:4; 48:12

Chapter 46: The Power of God vs. Idols

Chapter 46

The Power of God vs. Idols

2] “Captivity” - free to make choices yet we will become enslaved to these choices. We will become captive to our own appetites. You will also become like the gods you worship. Make sure that you worship Jesus!

3] Jacob used verses Israel.

“Carried from the womb” can be speaking of the 12 tribes of Israel or the nation as if it had been born in Egypt. Israel is often spoken of as God’s firstborn.

6] Idol fabrication described in contrast to God. “To whom will ye liken me...” (v.5).

7] Idol, man-made yet man looks to it to get him out of trouble. Today, we’ve invented a more insulting idol to worship: nothingness, randomness, chance!

10] “Declaring the end from the beginning...” God authenticates these assertions by pointing out that He is outside time all together. Time is not linear, it is a physical property relative to mass, acceleration and gravity. (See also Beyond Time and Space, Beyond Perception, and Creator Beyond Time and Space briefing packages; Gerald Schroeder, Genesis and the Big Bang, Bantam Books, New York, 1990.)

God is outside time and therefore, can declare the end from the beginning!

13] “My righteousness” - God’s not ours!

Chapter 47: Judgment upon Babylon

Chapter 47

Judgment upon Babylon

Babylon, more than the local, also the pride of the Chaldeans.

3] Idioms seem strange without Rev 17, 18 which describes Babylon as the harlot.

5] “Lady of kingdoms” - Rev 18:7, note plural kingdoms (Cf. Isa 13:19). 9] Mystery Babylon read: Rev 17, 18, Isa 13, 14, Jer 50, 51, and Isa 47.

Seventieth Week of Daniel, The Day of the Lord detailed: Rev 6 thru 19. Rev 17, 18 details the judgment of Mystery Babylon. Rev 18:4 echoes letter to Thyratira. Rev 18:7 describes her boast that she is not a widow contrasted with Isa 47:8. Babylonian religious system started in Gen 11 at the tower of Babel and can be tracked throughout history and into our society. Mystery Babylon appears to be more than the religious system. In Revelation she brags, “I am no widow” and in Isa 47:8 she claims not to know the loss of children. Could this be a post-rapture brag? (For further study see Mystery of Babylon and The Kingdom of Blood Briefing Packages and the Revelation Commentary series.)

Rev 18 describes three groups of people that bemoan her judgment: kings, merchants and shipcaptains. She must be a world trade center. She is the harlot which rides the beast and it consumes her!

Chapter 48: Remember God's Promises

Chapter 48

Remember God's Promises

1] Note here the use of Jacob and the note that they are "called by the name of Israel."

4] "Iron sinew" - that's stiff-necked!

9] For His name's sake

12] "Iamthefirst,Ialsoamthelast." Cf. Isa 41:4; 44:6; Rev 1:17; 22:13.

14] Concept of Babylon is linked to the Chaldeans, not an allegorical reference.

16] Who is speaking? See v. 12, "Alpha and Omega," Jesus Christ. "I have not spoken of in secret" matches Jesus' words in John 20:18.

Three people involved in v. 16: First is the speaker, Jesus. Second, "the Lord God." Third, "and his Spirit." Old Testament evidence for the Trinity.

The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed. The Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed!

22] Phrase echoed later in Isa 57:21.

**God Gives the BEST
Explanation of the Trinity
in Isaiah 48:16 plus—**

Isaiah 43:10; 44:6-8; Zechariah 12:1-10.

