

SERIES: 2012? HOW MUCH LONGER?

Prophecy: What Does It Matter?

1. Prophecy: What's all the fuss about 2012?
2. Prophecy: Does it really matter? (10 Reasons)
 - 1) Taught in scripture
 - 2) Brings special blessing
 - 3) Reveals Jesus

Revelation 19:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ ...For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus.”

- 4) Gives perspective on life

2 Peter 3:3-4 (NIV)

³ First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

⁴ They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

2 Peter 3:8-9 (NIV)

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

- 5) Connects the Bible
- 6) Convicts and converts
- 7) Protects from heresy

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 (NIV)

¹ Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers,

² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.

³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

- 8) Explains current events

Matthew 16:1-3 (NIV)

¹ The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven.

² He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,'

³ and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

Matthew 24:32-33 (NIV)

³² "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.

³³ Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.

- 9) Reveals God's control

Isaiah 42:9 (NLT)

⁹ Everything I prophesied has come true, and now I will prophesy again. I will tell you the future before it happens.”

Isaiah 46:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.

Daniel 2:21 (NLT)

²¹ He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars.

10) Validates Christianity

Isaiah 44:6-8 (NKJV)

⁶ "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.

⁸ Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared *it*? You *are* My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed *there is* no other Rock; I know not *one*.' "

3. Prophecy: What are the benefits? (6 Benefits)

1) Brings converting persuasion

1 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God...

2) Develops caring passion

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV)

²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

3) Creates cleansing purity

1 John 3:2-3 (NIV)

² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

³ Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

2 Peter 3:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives

4) Produces calming perspective

John 14:1-3 (NIV)

¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.

² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

5) Gives comforting peace

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)

¹³ Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

¹⁵ According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words.

6) Provides consistent power

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

4. Prophecy: What should we do?

1 Peter 4:7-10 (NIV)

⁷ The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.

⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

- Pray: Keep your head clear
- Love: Keep your heart warm
- Give: Keep your home open
- Serve: Keep your hands busy