

# Prophecy Through the Bible - Poetry

---

## Prophecy in the books of Poetry

There are 5 books of the OT that are considered “poetry”. You might be surprised at some of them, but they are the books of **Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes**. As you might expect, the book of Psalms is the richest source of many of the most comforting ideas and songs in scripture. These songs cover many of the situations David found himself in during his lifetime, but also some deeply shared introspections and future prophecies for Israel and God’s people.

Let’s start out with the book of Job...

As John Walvoord says in “Every Prophecy of the Bible”, Job presents some very unusual problems for prophetic interpretation because much of the prophetic side of the book of Job is recorded speeches from Job’s “friends”...Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. This by itself is not the problem, but the Lord says in Job 42:7

## Epilogue

***<sup>7</sup> After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.”***

Remember: A prophet of the Lord ALWAYS speaks the truth from the Lord. But the Lord did not condemn the friends. He instead instructed them on a sacrifice and Job prayed for them and God accepted Job’s prayer. Also interesting is that the prophecies of these friends were, in fact, true...but not readily adaptable to Job’s situation.

This is where Prophecy teachers and interpreters have the razor edge. When we apply Bible truths where they are not intended, we risk not speaking the truth from God. This is why I believe many teachers, and preachers avoid the subject altogether...but God did not intend us to be ignorant on the subjects He included in His Word.

So what do we do? I think several things help us through the choppy waters.

1. God’s Word is Truth, in the literal sense. When we take it from the literal, in context meaning and apply it to other times and contexts, we must not be dogmatic but general in understanding. Many books and authors take obscure passages and apply them to today with startling clarity and specificity. The book “The Harbinger” by Jonathan Cahn is a good example to discuss. While this book is entertaining and thought provoking book, it attempts to compare the 9/11 disaster to the destruction of the Kingdom of Israel. In particular he uses Isa 9:10 as his proof text to make the comparison. While entertaining and insightful, the link between Isa 9:10 and the 9/11 event and modern America is an assertion, not a linkable fact.
2. The Holy Spirit will give us understanding of what we need to know at the present time in passages we read. We need to be careful not to go beyond this level of understanding. There are many teachers and

## Prophecy Through the Bible - Poetry

---

Pastors who can be dogmatic on pretty fuzzy thoughts. We call this “reading into the scripture” or “eisegesis”. They can also be dogmatic on pretty clear thoughts in ways that are not intended by God. We call this later way of thinking Apostasy. We see them trying to move whole denominations away from accepted Biblical truth to understanding from their own minds. The replacement theology movement and the dominion movement are two examples of both Apostasy and Eisegesis.

3. All of this can be summed up in a key thought. We should study, examine, and pray about the scripture we read for understanding by the Holy Spirit. We should not get ahead of our blockers, to use a football analogy. We should be behind the Word, and Spirit, and let them lead the way in our interpretation.

So with that in mind let’s look at some of the prophetic scripture in Job.

### Job 11:12-20

*But the witless can no more become wise  
than a wild donkey’s colt can be born human.*

<sup>13</sup> “Yet if you devote your heart to him and stretch out your hands to him,  
<sup>14</sup> if you put away the sin that is in your hand and allow no evil to dwell in your tent,  
<sup>15</sup> then, free of fault, you will lift up your face; you will stand firm and without fear.  
<sup>16</sup> You will surely forget your trouble, recalling it only as waters gone by.  
<sup>17</sup> Life will be brighter than noonday, and darkness will become like morning.  
<sup>18</sup> You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety.  
<sup>19</sup> You will lie down, with no one to make you afraid, and many will court your favor.  
<sup>20</sup> But the eyes of the wicked will fail, and escape will elude them;  
their hope will become a dying gasp.”

This is a comforting passage to all of us. Even in our condition, the Lord will give us the strength to stand firm without fear, and live in the brightness of hope ***if we become devoted to Him, stop our sinning, and keep away those things which are evil from our household and families.***

This is a general prophetic statement not just for Job but for all of us. The problem comes when we take it as a judgment of Job specifically and try to apply it.

### Job 19:25-27

Job himself uttered one of the great prophecies of the OT when he said

*I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.  
<sup>26</sup> And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;  
<sup>27</sup> I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another.  
How my heart yearns within me!*

## Prophecy Through the Bible - Poetry

---

What joy this gives us. We also know that our Redeemer lives, and when time has played out and history has been recorded, even if we die ahead of time...we will see God in our own body prepared for the time, with our own eyes. *Does your heart yearn for this day?*

**Look behind you and praise Him, look around you and serve Him, and look up and yearn for Him**

Maranantha! Come Lord Jesus !!

### **Job 23:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> *But he knows the way that I take;  
when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.*

<sup>11</sup> *My feet have closely followed his steps;  
I have kept to his way without turning aside.*

This is also a wonderful prophetic comfort to us from Job himself. Even with all his troubles, what he calls “testing” he is confident that God is in control and will preserve Him as gold.

Some of us (or people we know) are presently in the refiner’s fire of God. As the refiner’s fire forces the dross to the top of a melted pot of gold or silver, it refines or purifies it...we are sometimes tested by God in this way. We must *always remember God is not trying to destroy us but purify us, and on the other side of the fire, we will emerge as refined gold.*

*Many great songs of the church are examples of this: Through it all; God on the Mountain; God is our Refuge and Strength, and God Will make a Way are examples.*

***Q: Are we following His steps, and keeping to His Way and not turning aside? Let’s not be like the children of Israel on the Exodus and by our own actions be forced to stay in the wilderness 40 years longer than required.***

### **Job 36:8-12**

*He tells them what they have done— that they have sinned arrogantly.*

<sup>10</sup> *He makes them listen to correction and commands them to repent of their evil.*

<sup>11</sup> *If they obey and serve him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment.*

<sup>12</sup> *But if they do not listen, they will perish by the sword and die without knowledge.*

Another comforting but sobering thought...God will tell us when we are missing the mark. We know that He does this by His Word, His Spirit, through dreams and visions, and by other people’s counsel to us. If we are faithful to repent and change our ways...He will bless us with prosperity and contentment. But if we do not, He will leave us in our sin to perish without understanding. This statement by Elihu is the overall justice of God, and since Elihu was not in the condemnation of Job 42:7 it affirms the truth of it.

## Prophecy Through the Bible - Poetry

---

I read a sign on a church billboard that read “*The best sign of a repentant heart is changed behavior*”. This is so true. In a day when talk is cheap, the true sign of change is change itself.

This concludes the key prophecy in the book of Job. Now we take on the prophecy in the book of Psalms.

### Prophecy in the book of Psalms

Throughout the book of Psalms, we see the recorded worship, prayers, and experiences of the psalmists. Their faith in God shows through and anticipates the prophetic future. A key element of the prophecy in the Psalms is the

- Expectation of God’s people in the future care and faithfulness of God (Ps 1:13)
- Reward of Righteousness and Judgment on the wicked (Ps 1:47 and also Rev 20:11-15)
- Expectation of the coming Messiah and Hope of His reign in future Kingdom (Ps 2)
- Confirmation of Abrahamic covenant (Ps 105:8-11) and the Davidic covenant (Ps 89:11-37)

#### *Read both Psalm 1 & 2*

A very worthwhile devotional study is a systematic reading and study of the Psalms. They will deepen your faith, encourage you in the rough spots of life, and strengthen your resolve to be obedient to God. In addition they will give you joy and thankfulness in life applied to you own personal situation

**Ps 12:7** *For the director of music. A Psalm of David.*

*I want to read this entire psalm because it is right where we live today*

<sup>1</sup> *Help, LORD, for no one is faithful anymore;  
those who are loyal have vanished from the human race.*

<sup>2</sup> *Everyone lies to their neighbor;  
they flatter with their lips  
but harbor deception in their hearts.*

<sup>3</sup> *May the LORD silence all flattering lips  
and every boastful tongue—*

<sup>4</sup> *those who say,  
“By our tongues we will prevail;  
our own lips will defend us—who is lord over us?”*

<sup>5</sup> *“Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan,  
I will now arise,” says the LORD.*

*“I will protect them from those who malign them.”*

<sup>6</sup> *And the words of the LORD are flawless,*

## Prophecy Through the Bible - Poetry

---

*like silver purified in a crucible,  
like gold refined seven times.*

***<sup>7</sup>You, LORD, will keep the needy safe  
and will protect us forever from the wicked,  
<sup>8</sup>who freely strut about  
when what is vile is honored by the human race.***

>> End of lesson 11

### **Ps 27:1-14 Psalm of David**

***<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation—  
whom shall I fear?***

***The LORD is the stronghold of my life—  
of whom shall I be afraid?***

***<sup>2</sup>When the wicked advance against me  
to devour me,***

***it is my enemies and my foes  
who will stumble and fall.***

***<sup>3</sup>Though an army besiege me,  
my heart will not fear;  
though war break out against me,  
even then I will be confident.***

***<sup>4</sup>One thing I ask from the LORD,  
this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD  
and to seek him in his temple.***

***<sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble  
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;  
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent  
and set me high upon a rock.***

***<sup>6</sup>Then my head will be exalted  
above the enemies who surround me;  
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.***

## Prophecy Through the Bible - Poetry

---

- <sup>7</sup> *Hear my voice when I call, LORD;  
be merciful to me and answer me.*
- <sup>8</sup> *My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"  
Your face, LORD, I will seek.*
- <sup>9</sup> *Do not hide your face from me,  
do not turn your servant away in anger;  
you have been my helper.  
Do not reject me or forsake me,  
God my Savior.*
- <sup>10</sup> *Though my father and mother forsake me,  
the LORD will receive me.*
- <sup>11</sup> *Teach me your way, LORD;  
lead me in a straight path  
because of my oppressors.*
- <sup>12</sup> *Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,  
for false witnesses rise up against me,  
spouting malicious accusations.*
- <sup>13</sup> *I remain confident of this:  
I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living.*
- <sup>14</sup> *Wait for the LORD;  
be strong and take heart  
and wait for the LORD.*

This is a song of praise, prayer, and confidence, not only for the present time for David, but also of the future. As we reviewed in 1Kings 2:10-11, these petitions and confidence in the Lord were fulfilled. As it was for David, it can be for us as well. These are not only deeply prophetic prayers about God and his ongoing faithfulness to His people, but also confidence in His desire to strengthen and keep us whatever the problem that comes into our lives. False witnesses, abandonment, attacks of enemies, war, all forms of evil may come but the Lord returns to us mercy, joy, singing, protection, and courage of Heart.

**Psalm 23** is a familiar Psalm that is used often for funerals but really speaks to the living. It is a Psalm of comfort and encouragement. David was a shepherd boy and this work taught him many lessons in life and about God. God is called his Shepherd, and like David the shepherd, He protects and guides His sheep, even through the darkest of times, places, and situations.

### **Ps 28:1-9 a Psalm of David**

- <sup>1</sup> *To you, LORD, I call; you are my Rock, do not turn a deaf ear to me.  
For if you remain silent, I will be like those who go down to the pit.*
- <sup>2</sup> *Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place.*

## Prophecy Through the Bible - Poetry

---

<sup>3</sup> *Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil,  
who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts.*

<sup>4</sup> *Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work; repay them for what their hands have done  
and bring back on them what they deserve.*

<sup>5</sup> *Because they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD and what his hands have done,  
he will tear them down and never build them up again.*

<sup>6</sup> *Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy.*

<sup>7</sup> *The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.  
My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.*

<sup>8</sup> *The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.*

<sup>9</sup> *Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.*

David was not only a shepherd to his flock, but later the people of God. God was David's shepherd and God cared for David as a good shepherd cares for his sheep. This was fulfilled in David's lifetime. So many of the Psalms have the recurring themes of protection, guidance, shepherding, comfort and joy... We could spend months going through all them and their prophetic implications then and now. You can read all of them in the Walvoord book I referenced early in the sessions, but I want to hit some of the highpoints as it relates to prophetic information for our generation.

### **Psalm 83 a song. A Psalm of Asaph.**

This Psalm is used extensively in prophetic writing about the end times. Some say this was fulfilled in Israel's history already, but others believe this is an end-times view of a war that occurs between Israel and its close-in neighbors. Let's take a look at it.

<sup>1</sup> *O God, do not remain silent;  
do not turn a deaf ear,  
do not stand aloof, O God.*

<sup>2</sup> *See how your enemies growl,  
how your foes rear their heads.*

<sup>3</sup> *With cunning they conspire against your people;  
they plot against those you cherish.*

<sup>4</sup> *"Come," they say, "let us destroy them as a nation,  
so that Israel's name is remembered no more."*

<sup>5</sup> *With one mind they plot together;  
they form an alliance against you—*

<sup>6</sup> *the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites,  
of Moab and the Hagrites,*

<sup>7</sup> *Byblos, Ammon and Amalek,*

## Prophecy Through the Bible - Poetry

---

*Philistia, with the people of Tyre.*

<sup>8</sup> *Even Assyria has joined them  
to reinforce Lot's descendants.<sup>[b]</sup>*

<sup>9</sup> *Do to them as you did to Midian,  
as you did to Sisera and Jabin at the river Kishon,*

<sup>10</sup> *who perished at Endor  
and became like dung on the ground.*

<sup>11</sup> *Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb,  
all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,*

<sup>12</sup> *who said, "Let us take possession  
of the pasturelands of God."*

<sup>13</sup> *Make them like tumbleweed, my God,  
like chaff before the wind.*

<sup>14</sup> *As fire consumes the forest  
or a flame sets the mountains ablaze,*

<sup>15</sup> *so pursue them with your tempest  
and terrify them with your storm.*

<sup>16</sup> *Cover their faces with shame, LORD,  
so that they will seek your name.*

<sup>17</sup> *May they ever be ashamed and dismayed;  
may they perish in disgrace.*

<sup>18</sup> *Let them know that you, whose name is the LORD—  
that you alone are the Most High over all the earth.*

First, let's identify the context and countries mentioned.

**Vv1-7** All the countries argue and grumble and conspire against Israel. They want to erase Israel from the land and make them remembered no more. They form alliances and say, "Come let us destroy them as a nation and make Israel's name remembered no more". This certainly sounds like the current situation with Israel, and even the whole period since Israel became a modern nation in 1948. Conspiracies, terror, killings, gaining sympathy in the world, actual wars...threatening to wipe them off the face of the earth...attempts to blot out the history of the Jews in the land of Israel are all part of the ever increasing pressure faced by Israel today.

Even so, Israel is prospering...both the land and the people. They are transforming the desert into fertile farm fields, become centers for Technology and medical advances, and experts in reclaiming and using water. Their military is first rate, and their leadership is committed to the future of Israel as the place for God's (Jewish) people.

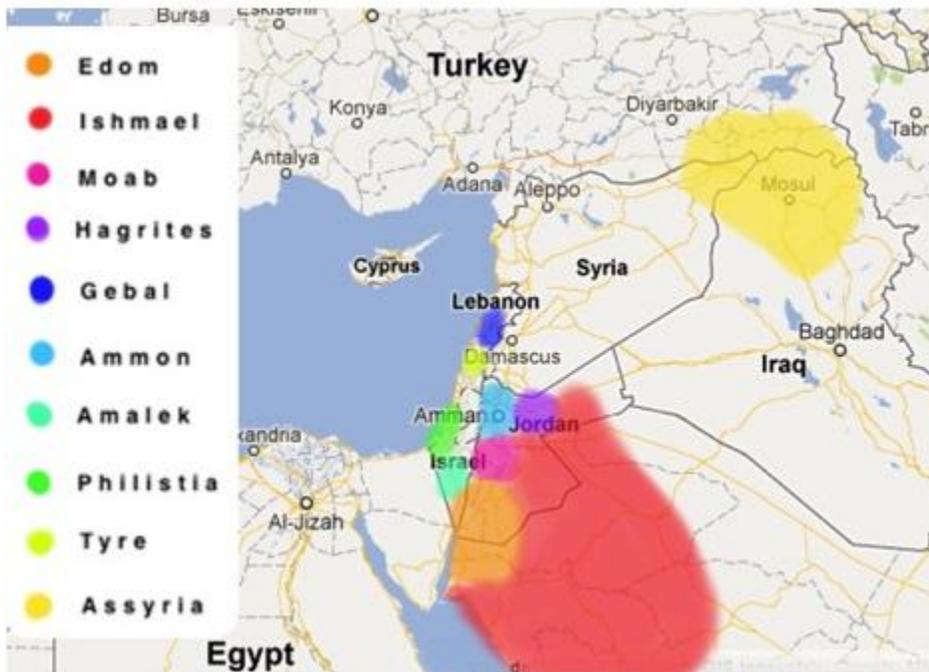
So the situation fits the time.

## Prophecy Through the Bible - Poetry

---

Who are the people groups mentioned?

**Psalm 83 Coalition:**



There are many theories of who these countries are. Some include Egypt (Hagrites) but a careful reading of the scripture shows the Hagrites not to be Egypt but in modern Jordan. Because of the Egyptian handmaid Hagar, this is the reason for the erroneous assumption.

**1 Chr 5:10** <sup>10</sup> *During Saul's reign they waged war against the Hagrites, who were defeated at their hands; they occupied the dwellings of the Hagrites throughout the entire region east of Gilead.*

*So what does all this mean? It means that IF this Psalm is a prophecy of a future war, it appears to be Israel against Gaza, Lebanon, some elements of Jordan, part of Syria, part of Saudi Arabia and what appears to be the territory of Syria, and Iraq occupied by ISIS today.*

*Absent are Syria and Egypt although parts of Syria are included. Most modern scholars think that if there is a war, it is one that Israel wins with its armed forces, as opposed to the Gog-Magog Ezekiel war.*

*Walvoord does not have this listed as a prophecy, which means he assumed it was a prayer and not a prophetic view of a later war. It is an open Q for me.*