

Prophecy Through the Bible

Today we are going to finish the **PTTB books of Poetry**. Last time we met we discussed Psalm 83. As a reminder, this Psalm is either a prayer or a prophecy, or both. Dr John Walvoord, the renowned author, and teacher, and Biblical scholar at Dallas Theological Seminary does not treat this Psalm as a prophetic description of a coming war, but as a plea and prayer. I have tried to cover both sides of this issue by pointing out the uncanny similarities to what we are seeing today in the Middle East. Many of today's prophecy scholars believe this may be a prediction of a war to come and its outcome. I guess we will see as the time unfolds.

We are continuing through the Psalms with the understanding that many of these Psalms mention the recurring themes of a future Kingdom where God reigns, and the Jews are safe in their own country. In addition, several of the Psalms are thought of as "prophetic" because they are mentioned in the New Testament by Peter and others as descriptive of a future event or time.

Psalm 16:1-11 This Psalm is considered Messianic because Peter mentions verses 8-11 in Acts 2:25-28, and Paul mentions v10 in Antioch in Acts 13:35.

Acts 2

²² *"Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men,^[d] put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him: (From Psalm 16)*

"I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,

I will not be shaken.

²⁶ *Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,*

²⁷ *because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.*

²⁸ *You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.'*

²⁹ *"Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. ³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the*

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promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴ For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

*“The Lord said to my Lord:
“Sit at my right hand
³⁵ until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.””*

³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

David died and was buried. He did not resurrect then but will resurrect and experience the “Path of Life” that all of us share in eternity. However, His Holy One... (Christ), did not decay but was resurrected and now is with the Father at His right hand, the seat of power and preference.

In Acts 13 (Paul in Antioch)

³² “We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors ³³ he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

*“You are my son;
today I have become your father.’*

³⁴ God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay. As God has said,

“I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.

³⁵ So it is also stated elsewhere:

“You will not let your holy one see decay

³⁶ “Now when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. ³⁷ But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

³⁸ “Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹ Through Him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses. ⁴⁰ Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you:

⁴¹ “Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you.’

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You'll notice also references to **Psalm 2** as well as v10 from **Psalm 16** are included. Paul is very new to his calling but already the Holy Spirit is using his great knowledge of the scripture to make the points from the written OT to assure the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah who can forgive their sin and make them justified before God. In addition, Paul issues them a warning that applies to them and to us, not to let those who scoff and dismiss pull you away from believing what the Lord has so plainly laid out in front of us. Surely even when we are told what is happening and that the Lord is moving in "our days" we can scarcely believe it.

We see clearly that the resurrection of the Lord was predicted in the Psalms, and it happened both literally and grammatically. Praise God !

Several of the Psalms that are not considered Messianic were quoted by Christ on the Cross and merit special attention.

Ps 22: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

PS 31: *Into Thy hands I commit my Spirit*

Ps 69:21 *They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar in my thirst. This quote is not by Christ but representative of what happened to him at the cross.*

We will finish the Psalms with an interesting and pointed Psalm to us and all believers

Ps 78:1-8

My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

² *I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
³ things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.*

⁴ *We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.*

⁵ *He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children,*

⁶ *so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.*

⁷ *Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands. ⁸ They would not be like their ancestors—
a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God,
whose spirits were not faithful to him*

My thoughts

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Are we listening and hearing His teaching? Are we reading His Word? He spoke in parables and spoke words that would not be understood completely in the generation at that time. BUT, we are to be faithful to His Words, His decrees, and teach them to our children so they will believe also...even the ones unborn. So they would trust in Him and be loyal to God both in deed and Spirit.

How are you doing here? How am I doing here? How are our church and our leaders doing here? Some better than others to be sure, but as a whole, our generation is more Biblically illiterate and less interested in God than the previous one... *Our Children and Grandchildren even less so.* I fear for us as a people and a nation. I fear for our children and grandchildren. Even in our own church we see declining interest and willingness to attend worship, and Bible study. There are many reasons for this, but I would suggest a central reason is that they don't see it as very relevant or important to their lives. Why is this? Pray about it.

I urge you to decide and commit to be more committed yourself, and to begin to speak to those you love about the importance of knowing, loving, and following God. You know I believe our time is short, so I also encourage you to be urgent about it.

Many other Psalms speak of Jesus as King or Messiah or ruler and refer to Him as Messiah or the Anointed One of Israel, or the descendant of David. God will fulfill these promises in the Kingdom period, what we call the Millennial Kingdom when He reigns and rules from Jerusalem.

Other books of Poetry - Proverbs, Songs of Songs, and Ecclesiastes

In the Book of **Proverbs**, Solomon tells of contemporary truths of a general nature and there is no specific texts classified as Prophecy.

Song of Songs is another book where there is no specific prophecy.

Ecclesiastes – There is one prophetic passage in this book of Poetry. It is found in Ecc 12:13-14

¹³ *Now all has been heard;*

here is the conclusion of the matter:

Fear God and keep his commandments,

for this is the duty of all mankind.

¹⁴ *For God will bring every deed into judgment,*

including every hidden thing,

whether it is good or evil.

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We know this passage to be true and in Revelation 20 we see where it is fulfilled.

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

This is the **final judgment** for the wicked dead. We have already been judged by the judgment seat of Christ, where we are rewarded for our deeds done in the name of Christ with the right motives, not judged in the negative sense. All the deeds done outside of the will of God and with the right motives will be burned up.

The judgment spoken of in Rev 20 is what is called the “Great White Throne Judgment”. All the dead of the ages, no matter who they were, will have their deeds judged by Christ without the blood of the Lamb blotting them out, and they will hear all the bad things they have done in their life and since they will not be in the Book of Life (as a follower and Believer in Christ), they will be consigned to the Lake of Fire, or what we term Hell.

This is a place we do not want to be. Nor do we want our loved ones to be there.