

Understanding End Times Prophecy

Key Scriptures

Revelation 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.

Revelation 20:1-8

Amos 9:13-15 ¹³ "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it. ¹⁴ I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. ¹⁵ I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them," Says the LORD your God.

Key Point:

God didn't give us statements about the future just to freak us out. He wants us to be informed, encouraged, and motivated as we live for Him.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever made a prediction where you were surprised when it happened or didn't happen?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Kyle spoke about the difference between interpreting a prophetic passage literally and allegorically. Read Rev 20:1-8, and Amos 9:13-15. What differences in meaning you would have when you interpret them literally versus giving them a spiritual/allegorical meaning?
- Kyle emphasized the prophecies and promises about God dispersing Israel from their land, and then bringing them back. How important do you think this is in the grand scheme of things?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Why do you think there is a tendency to interpret prophecy to fit our current events and culture? What are the dangers of doing this?
- Below are some helpful tips in interpreting prophecy. Feel free to read and discuss the passages.

Many prophecies will tell you what some of the symbols used represent. (John 2:19-21; Gen 41:28-32; Dan 2:36; 2:45b; 7:16).

Many prophecies will explain their symbols. (Rev1:12-16, 20 4).

Look for "Time Words" that will fix the events relative to others or otherwise limit them. (Genesis 41:28-32; Joel 2:28 & 3:1; Daniel 2:44)

Speculation isn't always bad, but it is never certain. Deut 29:29; Ecclesiastes 3:11

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Ask God to encourage and instruct you through the things He says will happen in the future.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Revelation 1:3 promises a blessing for all who read it and apply the truths in the book. If you have not read Revelation, this would be a great time to begin.