

**TODD HAMPSON and JEFF KINLEY**

**THE PROPHECY PROS'**

**ILLUSTRATED  
GUIDE** to Tough Questions  
About the

**END  
TIMES**



**HARVEST PROPHECY**  
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## **Prophecy Pros' Illustrated Guide to Tough Questions About the End Times**

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## CHAPTER 1

# THE BASICS OF BIBLE PROPHECY

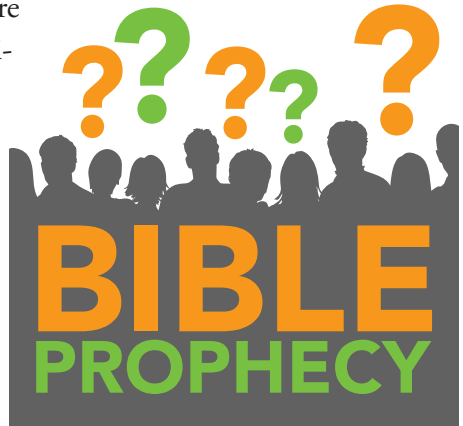
### #1 What Is Bible Prophecy?

In the world of Bible prophecy, there is no shortage of sensationalism. From doomsday preachers to quirky “prophecy nerds” propagating conspiracy theories about Antichrist and clandestine secret societies to bestselling books on the subject, prophecy is in the air.

Even so, at times it seems there’s more confusion than clarity. With a multitude of voices teaching a wide array of beliefs, theories, and interpretations, it can rapidly turn biblical truth into static noise. But this is not the way God intended it.

Though certain prophecies do require deeper study than others, on the whole, prophecy itself can be relatively easy to grasp...*if* you know what you’re doing.

Bible prophecy is simply God’s plan revealed ahead of time. Like a movie trailer, it’s a sneak preview of things to come. But unlike a fictional movie, prophecy tells us what’s *actually* going to happen. That’s why some have referred to it as history written in advance.



In the Old Testament, prophets were given truth about the nation Israel and the future Messiah—His birth, ministry, death, and resurrection. In the New Testament, John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul, Peter, and John made prophecies that addressed, from their perspectives, events that would take place in both the near and far future.

In the last book in the Bible, we encounter an entire catalog of prophecies that have yet to be fulfilled. In fact, Revelation is 95 percent prophecy (Revelation 1:19). And only God can accurately foretell the future—not psychics, soothsayers, or even Satan himself.

The prophet Daniel echoed this truth: “There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days” (Daniel 2:28). However, God doesn’t merely *know* what’s going to take place. He actually *causes* these things to occur.<sup>1</sup> In Scripture, God revealed His future plans to His prophets in nearly every book of the Bible. He did this through dreams, visions, appearances, and direct communication. Today, we have the completed revelation of God recorded in Scripture, which contains about 1,000 prophecies total. Of these, around 500 remain unfulfilled. So, more prophetic realities are coming. Clearly, our God is a God of prophecy!

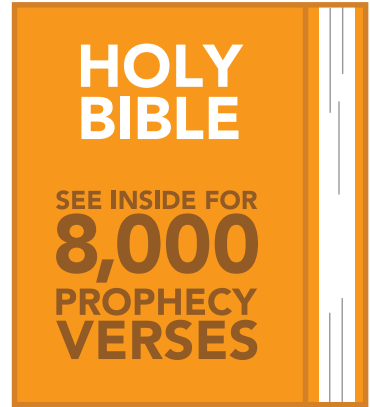
## #2 Why Should I Care About Bible Prophecy?

So, why is prophecy is such a big deal? Why does God want us to know what He is going to do in the future? And how does this knowledge affect our lives right now. Here are seven compelling reasons why Bible prophecy is so important.

*First*, prophecy is in the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17). This may sound a bit obvious, but if God chose to include something in Scripture, then it must be there to teach us something about God, His plan for history, humanity, and for His children.

*Second*, prophecy makes up about 28 percent of the entire Bible. Remove prophecy from the Bible and you have essentially gutted a significant portion of Scripture's supernatural character. Consider:

- One out of every 30 verses in the New Testament contains prophecy.
- There are 8,000 total prophetic verses.
- Twenty-three out of 27 New Testament books mention the second coming of Jesus.
- For every time that the first coming of Jesus is mentioned, the second coming is mentioned *eight times*.
- The first prophecy concerning Christ is found in Genesis 3:15.
- There are 333 prophecies concerning Christ. Only 109 were fulfilled at His first coming. That leaves 224 prophecies yet to be fulfilled.



*Third*, according to Jesus, every word and letter of Scripture will eventually be fulfilled (Matthew 5:17-18). Every Old Testament prophecy about the Messiah was fulfilled—literally and exactly as Scripture predicted. Given this perfect track record, it stands to reason that every future prophecy will also be fulfilled in the same way. The Bible is batting 1.000 percent. It has never once gotten it wrong, but rather each prophecy so far has been fulfilled down to the most minute detail.<sup>2</sup>

*Fourth*, the last book of the Bible is 95 percent prophecy. God could have concluded His written revelation to man any way He wanted, and yet He chose to do so by giving us a heads-up on future history. Last words are lasting words. So, God must want us to know something about the future because His final word to us is *all about the future!*

**ALL PREVIOUS  
PROPHECIES**  
**WERE LITERALLY FULFILLED**

**SO**

**ALL FUTURE  
PROPHECIES**  
**WILL BE LITERALLY FULFILLED**

*Fifth*, prophecy is a big deal because God doesn't want His children to be uninformed regarding the end times (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5). But why? Because ignorance regarding prophecy can give rise to fear, anxiety, and uncertainty. It also makes us vulnerable to misleading information, false teachers, errant beliefs, sensationalism, speculation, conspiracy theories, and baseless predictions. Thankfully, our fears regarding the future can be conquered by reading God's prophetic word and trusting Him to accomplish it.

*Sixth*, prophecy is important because of the times we live in. At no time since Jesus walked the earth is end-times prophecy more likely to be fulfilled than it is right now. There is every indication to suggest that we are living in the last days. And since Revelation's realities could be just around the corner, the relevance of Bible prophecy has never been more real and relevant to Christians.

*Finally*, prophecy matters because of what it does for you and me. Bible prophecy gives us:

- Clarity (2 Thessalonians 2:1-5). Prophecy cuts through the fog, clears up the confusion, and enlightens us concerning what lies ahead.
- Confidence (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3). Once you can clearly see what's ahead, you can proceed with confidence and assurance.



You don't have to be timid about your beliefs concerning the rapture, the tribulation, the Antichrist, or Jesus' second coming. Prophecy imparts insight and wisdom, making you strong in your beliefs.

- Faith (Revelation 4). The *strength* of our faith is directly proportional to the *object* of our faith. If God is on His throne, guiding history toward its appointed end, then we can rest in knowing that not only does He hold the future, but us as well. Studying prophecy never breeds fear. It only builds faith.
- Hope (Titus 2:11-15; 1 Thessalonians 4:13). In Scripture, hope isn't a wish, but rather a *confident expectation*. Jesus' return for His bride is called the "blessed hope" (Titus 2:13). This hope fills us with expectation.<sup>3</sup> And that hope will not disappoint (Romans 5:3-5).
- Love for Jesus (Revelation 19:10). That's right. When you study Bible prophecy, it leads you straight to Jesus. That's because the ultimate point of prophecy is the Lord Jesus Christ. The more you study prophecy, the more you will be drawn into a closer and more intimate relationship with your Savior!

So, now you can see, God's prophetic plan for the future greatly impacts your life. That's why Bible prophecy is an essential part of our spiritual diet.

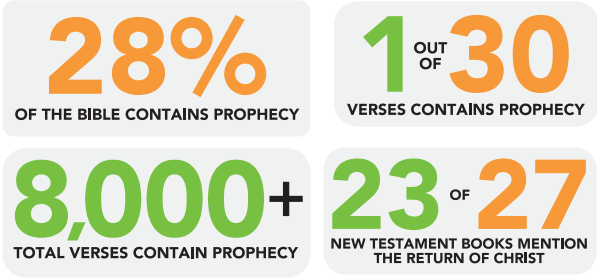
### #3 Where in the Bible Do We Find Prophecy?

Of the 31,124 verses in the Bible, at least 8,352 of those contain prophecy (roughly 27 percent). Of those 8,352 prophetic verses, 6,312 have already been fulfilled. This leaves 2,040 verses that are modern-day and future end-time prophecies.<sup>4</sup> The first prophecy of the Bible is found in Genesis 2:17, and the last prophecy is found in Revelation 22:20. In between those two



verses, prophecy is found throughout the Bible—occurring in single verses and in large continuous portions.

# PROPHECY STATISTICS



Certain books—particularly the 16 books named after Old Testament prophets and the book of Revelation in the New Testament—are primarily focused on prophecy. For example, 8 of the 12 chapters of Daniel are prophetic in nature, and 18 of the 21 chapters in Revelation concern future prophecies about the tribulation period, the millennial kingdom, and the eternal state. A small number of books in the Bible—such as Esther and the Song of Solomon—do not contain any specific overt prophecies, but they contain prophetic types and figures linked to various prophetic themes and details.

Without question, the primary theme of prophecy is the coming of the Messiah. Genesis 3:15 prophesied that the seed of the woman (the virgin-born Savior) would one day crush the head of the serpent. From that verse to the end of Revelation, the key prophetic themes are primarily connected to the first and second advents of Jesus. There are over 300 prophecies about the first coming of Christ, and for every prophecy about the first coming of Christ, there are eight related to His second coming. In the Old Testament there are over 1,800 references to the return of Jesus. One out

of every 30 verses in the New Testament is about the return of Christ. Of the 27 New Testament books, 23 give prominence to the second coming.

Prophecy is the backbone of the Bible. Every key person, theme, and line of theology connect directly to Bible prophecy. Fulfilled prophecy is the built-in verification system that proves the Bible is indeed the Word of God. God often points to prophecy as proof of His Word and His character. Fulfilled prophecy separates the Bible from any other religious work. One cannot study the pages of Scripture without bumping into prophecy.

## **#4** Are There Any Compelling Examples of Fulfilled Bible Prophecy?

Yes! The prophecies of the Bible are not vague or minor. The Bible is full of clear, compelling, detailed predictions of future events. Here are a few examples.

### **Messianic Prophecies**

There are 109 separate and distinct prophecies (or over 300 if you include prophecies that are repeated in some form) about the Messiah that were fulfilled at Jesus' first coming. Specific details regarding the timing, conditions, lineage, and city of his birth, the nature of his life and ministry, and the specifics of his death, burial, and resurrection were all foretold long ago in the Old Testament Scriptures. Daniel chapter 9 foretold the exact timeframe for the first coming of Christ (to the day), and Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22 clearly depicted the crucifixion hundreds of years before the birth of Christ or the existence of the Roman Empire.

### **Prophecies About Major World Empires**

In chapter 2 of the book of Daniel—written in the sixth century BC—the prophet, a Babylonian captive, interprets a vision of a statue for King Nebuchadnezzar, who had the dream. The statue in the dream had a head

GOLD

SILVER

BRONZE

IRON

IRON &amp; CLAY



of gold, a chest and arms of silver, a belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet and toes of iron mixed with clay.

Daniel explained that the first kingdom was Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, the Babylonian kingdom—which would be followed by three other world kingdoms before it broke apart. This is exactly what happened.

From Daniel's time to our day, history records a succession of four increasingly larger empires symbolized by the metal that each was known for—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome—and then a switch in format

where the fourth empire eventually breaks down into an unstable mix (iron and clay) of nation-states with some strong and some weak. The final state of the empires will consist of ten toes, which represent ten powerful rulers during the tribulation period.

## Prophecies About Israel and the Jewish People

Many prophecy experts call the rebirth of Israel in 1948 the super-sign. They refer to it this way mainly for two reasons. First, all other end-time signs hinge on this one sign. No other sign of the end could occur until Israel became a nation again. Second, experts call it the super-sign because of the sheer magnitude of this sign coming to pass. It is statistically impossible to predict this sign with all of its details and necessary preconditions, and have it fulfilled as it has in our modern era.

Jeremiah 16:14-15 reads, “Days are coming. . . when it will no longer be said, ‘As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ but, ‘As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.’ For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers.”

God proclaimed that when the dispersed Jewish people would return to their original homeland, this should be seen as a bigger miracle than the parting of the Red Sea! The dispersion of the Jewish people in AD 70, their mistreatment and preservation while scattered around the world, the desolation of the land of Israel during their absence, the return of the Jewish people to the very same land, the rebirth of Israel as a literal nation again, the ensuing attacks from border enemies, the growing financial and military strength of modern Israel, the global obsession with the tiny nation of Israel, and the exact geopolitical configuration of the Middle East right now were all foretold in great detail through various prophecies that are thousands of years old.

## #5 How Do We Know Jesus Is Literally Returning to Earth?

The message of Christ's return has been on the lips of Jesus' bride for some 2,000 years. But how can we be sure His second coming will be an actual, *physical* appearance? Here are ten reasons to support such a belief:

1. Jesus' birth and existence were literal. This is attested to by religious as well as secular historians.<sup>5</sup> To allege otherwise is to make a baseless and ignorant claim.
2. Jesus' resurrection was literal, involving a physical body. When Christ rose from the dead, He possessed a physical body, though in a glorified state (1 Corinthians 15:44).<sup>6</sup>
3. Jesus promised to physically return at the end of the age (Matthew 16:27; 24:30-44; Luke 21:34-36; Revelation 19:11-16). There are over 300 references to this event in the New Testament.
4. The two angels at Jesus' ascension promised He would

physically return to the same spot (Acts 1:9-11). A physical ascension means a physical return.

5. Paul prophesied Jesus would be “*revealed* from heaven with His mighty angels” (2 Thessalonians 1:7).<sup>7</sup> Clearly literal, not symbolic, language.
6. His return will be *visible*, and “every eye will see Him” (Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:27-30; 26:64).
7. Specific geographical locations are associated with His coming: Armageddon (Revelation 16:16), the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:3-4; Acts 1:9-11), and Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:1-3; 14:2; Revelation 16:17-21).
8. Actual global armies will assemble to do battle at Armageddon against the coming Christ (Revelation 19:19-21). Jesus and His armies ride white horses (Revelation 19:11,14).
9. The second coming of Jesus ushers in a literal thousand-year millennial kingdom (Revelation 19–20).
10. Jesus’ literal return is based on a literal approach to all Scripture, including Revelation. The early church held to this interpretation and expected any day to see Jesus return for them.<sup>8</sup>

**All previous prophecies were literally fulfilled, meaning all future ones will also be literally fulfilled.**

The second coming of Jesus Christ is the climax of Revelation’s prophetic narrative. And by all indications, the Bible prophesies a literal, future, physical return of our Lord.

## #6 How Can Bible Prophecy Help Convince Skeptics and Unbelievers?

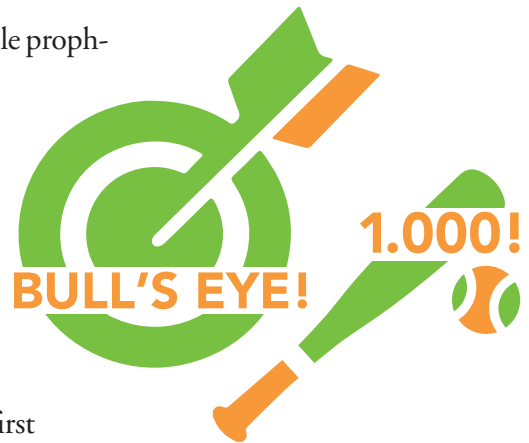
When it comes to Scripture's credibility, nothing is more compelling and convincing than fulfilled prophecy. Keep in mind, every Christian is an apologist, not just pastors and "professionals" (Jude 3; 1 Peter 3:15). Even so, none of us has the ability to convince an unwilling skeptic or a closed-minded unbeliever. But thankfully, God delights in using His Word through people like us to lead others to salvation (2 Corinthians 5:11).

Here are four reasons why Bible prophecy can be a powerful apologetic.

*First*, the Bible is batting a thousand when it comes to fulfilled prophecy. It has never missed or been off in the slightest manner, but rather always comes true exactly as God predicted. Every prophecy concerning the Messiah's first coming was fulfilled, literally and precisely, as recorded in the Old Testament. If just *one* of those prophecies had turned out to be false or unfulfilled, we would have reason to question the Bible's authenticity. Therefore, since previous prophecies came true, we can expect all subsequent prophecies to do the same.

*Second*, fulfilled prophecy is strong evidence of the Bible's divine authorship, for only God can predict the future hundreds and thousands of years before it occurs.<sup>9</sup> Here are some of the over 100 prophecies Jesus fulfilled at His first coming:

- He would be born to a virgin.<sup>10</sup>
- His physical place of birth was named.<sup>11</sup>



- He would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey.<sup>12</sup>
- He would be beaten and abused.<sup>13</sup>
- He would be betrayed with money.<sup>14</sup>
- His hands and feet would be pierced.<sup>15</sup>
- He would die with criminals.<sup>16</sup>
- His bones would not be broken.<sup>17</sup>
- Though killed with wicked men, His grave would be associated with a rich man.<sup>18</sup>
- He would be physically raised from the dead.<sup>19</sup>

The odds of one person fulfilling *just eight* of those prophecies is 1 in 1,000,000,000,000,000! Or one in one *quadrillion*.<sup>20</sup>

*Third*, since the Bible is accurate regarding all these fulfilled prophecies, it stands to reason that it can be trusted in other areas as well: science, history, morality, marriage and family, sexuality, relationships, and how to live (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:2-4).

*Fourth*, we are currently witnessing many of Revelation's future prophecies in their embryonic and developmental forms. These are so blatantly obvious that they rise far above the category of mere coincidence.

Because of the Bible's impeccable track record, Jesus' second coming, along with the hundreds of other end-times prophecies as of yet unfulfilled, are *preauthenticated* and *guaranteed* to occur, with 100 percent certainty.

Of course, facts alone are not sufficient to change a person's mind and to convince them to trust Christ. God's miraculous power through the Holy Spirit must also draw people to Jesus, convicting them of their sin and of their need for a Savior (John 6:44,65; 16:7-11).

Scripture says in the last days many will scoff at Bible prophecy (2 Peter 3:3-9). But this only highlights all the more our need for prophecy apologetics.

## #7 What Is Our Stewardship of Prophecy?

Have you ever been in a dark room, and then gradually brightened the lights, giving your eyes time to adjust to it? If so, then you understand a bit of how God revealed the Bible to His people. Beginning with basic truths, He incrementally added to His revelation over the course of some 1,500 years. Theologians call this progressive revelation, meaning God's truth came to us not all at once but in installments.



Bible prophecy was also given this way. Each prophet received only a portion of what was to be revealed and fulfilled later on. Adam and Eve did not know what Moses knew. And Moses did not know what Isaiah knew. And Isaiah did not know what John the Baptist knew. John the Baptist did not know what Paul knew. And Paul did not know everything that John would know from Jesus' revelation to him.

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God required a specific level of obedience corresponding to the revelation that had been given thus far. The basis of salvation and forgiveness of sin has always been the same from Adam until now—the shed blood of a substitutionary sacrifice, symbolized and foreshadowed through bulls and goats in the Old Testament, and ultimately made by Jesus Christ. However, the content of believers' faith differed and progressed from age to age, depending upon the extent of God's revelation. Some theologians refer to these ages as dispensations or



stewardships. In each era of stewardship, believers were required to live up to the light of revelation that had been given to them.

This principle of stewardship also applies when it comes to Bible prophecy. The prophet Micah knew the name of Messiah's birthplace (Micah 5:2), but he did not know about Antichrist's future kingdom (Daniel 2

and 7). Paul wrote of the blessed hope of the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) but was not given revelation to write about the seal, bowl, and trumpet judgments (Revelation 6–19).<sup>21</sup>

Of course, now that the Bible has been written and God's revelation is complete, we have the privilege of seeing all Scripture's

prophecies. We have all the pieces of the puzzle on the table, and proper Bible study methods along with the guidance and illumination of the Holy Spirit allow us to understand Scripture's message. And because of that completed revelation, ours is the most accountable generation since the beginning of creation. Being obedient to what God has given us through prophecy is more important now in these last days than ever before.

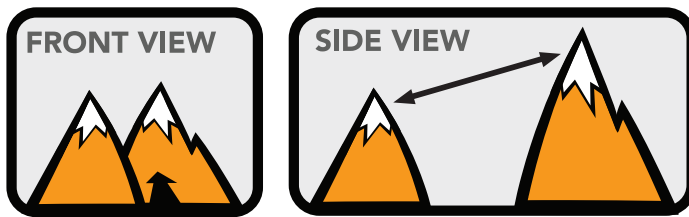


## #8 Who Were the Prophets?

There was (roughly) a 300-year period in Israel's ancient history when several prophets were sent to call the Jewish people to turn back to the Lord. They recorded the prophecies in books bearing their names. The books of the prophets are broken down into two categories—the major prophets and the minor prophets. This doesn't mean some were more important than others, but that the major prophets wrote larger books than the minor prophets.

The prophets recorded prophecies about their day as well as many prophecies about the end times. This is known as the mountain peaks of Bible prophecy. As the prophets foretold the future, they would often shift back and forth between immediate events and end-time events. They didn't always know how much time was in between the mountain peaks. They just recorded what they were told and many times didn't know what their prophecies were all about. For example, on more than one occasion Daniel stated his confusion about some prophecies and was told that some prophecies were rolled up and sealed until the time of the end (Daniel 12:4,8-9).

## THE MOUNTAIN PEAKS OF BIBLE PROPHECY



By the time of the prophets, the country had split into two with Israel being the north and Judah to the south. Some prophets were in Israel and some in Judah. Others, such as Daniel, were in captivity away from their country. The major prophets were Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. The minor prophets were Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

In addition to these well-known figures, there were many other prophets in the Bible, such as Elijah and Elisha. Peter and Paul were prophets in the sense that they foretold future events. So was Jude. The most famous prophet of the New Testament is John. He was Jesus' closest disciple and he wrote the book of Revelation—the most prophetic (and final) book of the New Testament.

## #9 Are Any Prophecies Being Fulfilled in Our Day?

The rebirth of Israel in 1948 was definitely a fulfillment of prophecy (Isaiah 66:8) and began to set the stage for all of the remaining end-time prophecies to be fulfilled. Other prophecies related to Israel and the Jewish people are being fulfilled in our day. For example, the Bible predicted that the Jewish people would return to Israel from all over the world (Isaiah 43:5-6; Jeremiah 16:14-15; Ezekiel 36:22-24). Over the past 120+ years, more than 3.5 million Jewish people have changed their citizenship and immigrated to Israel from all over the world. This prophecy continues to be fulfilled as tens of thousands of Jewish people each year return to their ancient homeland.

Scripture also predicted that Israel's land would be a wasteland for a long period but would become fruitful once her people returned (Ezekiel 36:33-36; 38:8), that Israel would become a wealthy and prosperous nation (Jeremiah 31:23; Ezekiel 38:10-13), that she would once again be in control of Jerusalem (Zechariah 8:4-8; Luke 21:24), that she would have great military strength (Zechariah 12:6), and that the nations of the world would be obsessed with Israel and her borders (Zechariah 12:2-3). All of these prophecies have been—and continue to be—fulfilled in our day. They are necessary for all the future prophecies related to the millennial kingdom to be fulfilled.

We are also witnessing the predicted apostasy of the church (1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Revelation 3:14-22), the prophesied increase in travel and knowledge (Daniel 12:4), the lawlessness Jesus spoke of (Matthew 24:12), and all of the end-time characteristics Paul spoke of in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, where we read,

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited lovers of



pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these.

In addition to those specific prophecies being fulfilled in modern times, there are also several prophetic end-time conditions related to the church and Gentile (non-Jewish) nations that are very clearly forming in our day.

It has been said that the closer we get to the future tribulation period, the more its shadows will be cast on the church age. Prophecy doesn't happen in a vacuum, and as we approach the end of the church age, we should expect to see conditions trending in a specific way—and we do.



## #10 How Should Christians Live if Jesus Might Return Any Day Now?

The reality of the rapture is a positive gamechanger for our lives in many ways. But this is where we may encounter some tension as well. For if Jesus really could come back today, should we still be going about our lives like we always do? Or should we instead focus only on the “spiritual stuff”?

Waiting for Christ to return does not mean we should sell all our possessions, climb the nearest mountain, and meditate until He comes. Every New Testament believer knew Jesus could return at any time to rescue His bride. And yet, there is every indication they continued on with their daily

lives. Jesus, Paul, John, and Peter all urge us to be faithful to the Lord, penetrate the darkness, and live a convincing life apologetic.

With that in mind, here are four principles that will help us toward this goal.

### **Perspective: This World Is Not My Home**

Though we remain here on the earth right now, our citizenship is actually in heaven (Philippians 3:20). Our home is with Him. Remaining here means we live for Christ and to die is great gain (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21). It's a win-win proposition.

Our time here on the earth is temporary, but that doesn't mean it's unimportant. The way we presently live will impact our future rewards in heaven (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10). We maintain both an earthly and an eternal perspective. Our future influences our present. This perspective gives us hope and encouragement.

### **Penetration: I Must Shine Christ's Light in a Dark World**

It's no secret that we're living in evil days (Ephesians 5:16). Jesus' generation was no different, which is why He told His disciples to be a light for Him (Matthew 5:14-16).

If Jesus wanted His bride to be in heaven right now, that's exactly where she would be. You may live an extended lifetime here, or you could be called home tomorrow. But no matter how long our lives, we must shine His light for the duration.

This involves being obedient and faithful to God in the daily, ordinary tasks He has called us to. Jesus doesn't ask us to abandon life's daily duties in order to be preoccupied with His return. So, whether He comes on this day or ten years from now, we persevere till the end.

### **Preparation: I Need to Make Myself Ready to Meet the Lord**

John wrote, "We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed

on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:2-3). A bride’s greatest desire is to be ready and prepared for her wedding day and her husband. Christ’s promised return does the same thing for us. It puts purpose and passion into our daily lives, motivating and preparing us to meet Him (2 Peter 3:11-13).



### **Priorities: God Must Remain #1 in My Life**

Jesus declared that our love for Him must far outweigh all other earthly relationships, even the love of our own lives (Luke 14:25-35). Loving the world and the things in it causes us to slide into spiritual mediocrity and lukewarmness (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Revelation 3:14-16). But when God is our number one priority, those other priorities take care of themselves (Psalm 37:4; Matthew 6:33). We are free to love Him, live our lives to the fullest, and simultaneously long for our Savior’s return!