



REVIEW

- 1) The **SIGNIFICANCE** of the Word of God
- 2) The **STUDY** of the Word of God
 - A) The **REQUIREMENTS**
 - B) The **RESOURCES**
 - C) The **RULES**
 - D) The **ROUTES**

The word *route* is defined as “a method of achieving something.”

- (1) How to study the Bible by **SECTION**.
 - (A) **WORD** study
 - (B) **VERSE** study
 - (C) **CHAPTER** study
- (2) How to study the Bible by **SUBJECT**.
 - (A) **CHARACTER** study
 - (B) **TOPICAL** study
 - (C) **PARABLE** study

(D) **PROVERB** study

(E) **PROPHECY** study

Prophecy is simply “God letting mankind know what He is doing – what the future holds.”

(B1) The **PROMINANCE** of prophecy

Nearly a third of the Bible.

(B2) The **PRIORITY** of prophecy

Our faith would grow very weak and unstable without prophecy.

(B3) The **PURPOSE** of prophecy

It’s not given so that we might know what will happen, but that we might know Jesus Christ Who has come and Who will come again soon.

(B4) The **PROOF** of prophecy

It testifies that God not only did what He said He would do, but that He will continue to do what He said.

(B5) The **PRIZE** of prophecy

There’s a blessing for those who **HEAR & HEED** the prophecies of Scriptures.

(B6) The **PURPOSE** of prophecy

(C1) It **PREPARES** us for Christ’s return

3 main categories:

(D1) **SALVATION**

(D2) **SANCTIFICATION**

When Christ returns, He is looking to find us faith-full, faithful, and fruitful.

(D3) **SERVICE**

We should invest our lives in things that really matter, because one day we will give an account for how we stewarded the life and resources that God gave us.

(C2) It **PROTECTS** us from error

Knowing what Jesus says about the future keeps us from falling into the trap of wrong doctrine.

(C3) It **PROVIDES** us hope

When we consider the prophecy of the Word of God, we quickly realize that everything that is happening is just leading up to one big event – Jesus’ return - and that gives us hope.

(B7) The **PRINCIPLES** for studying prophecy

(C1) The various **TYPES** of prophecy

(D1) Some types of prophecies are **IMMEDIATELY EXPLAINED**.

God says this is what’s going to happen and then either He gives us the details and explains it, or it is fulfilled right then. It’s not a general statement; it’s specific (a person, a time, an event, etc.).

(D2) Some types of prophecies are **THEOLOGICALLY EXPLAINED**

In order for us to understand this type of prophecy, we need further revelation. You might have to go hundreds of years ahead to find a theological, or God-given, explanation of that particular prophecy.

(D3) Some types of prophecies are **CONTEXTUALLY EXPLAINED**

This type of prophecy can be understood but it requires a little examination of the immediate context and other contemporary writers (Scripture). I must dig a little deeper in what I have already been given in order to understand its meaning. I may not have to jump hundreds of years ahead, but I do need to do a little research.

(D4) Some types of prophecies are **EXPERIENTIALLY EXPLAINED**.

This kind of prophecy will not be understood until we personally experience it.

LESSON PICKS UP HERE

(C2) The various **KINDS/CATEGORIES** of prophecy

2 Timothy 2:15 says, *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

A) There are **MESSIANIC** prophecies

These are numerous throughout the Scriptures and deal with the coming of the Messiah who will deliver the nation of Israel and establish His kingdom with them on this earth.

When you open your Bible, one of the things that you need to understand is that there is an Old and a New Testament. Essentially, the New Testament doesn't begin until after Christ ascends back to heaven where He sits at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Old Testament establishes the reality that God desires to have a personal, intimate relationship with mankind. Because man rejected God in the Garden of Eden and ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, this world was impacted by sin. It resulted in man being kicked out of the garden thus separating man from God. However, all throughout Scripture, God reveals Himself as a seeker and what He's after is us.

Job 7:17 says, "What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?"

Psalm 14:2 says, "The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God."

Isaiah 62:5 says, "For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee."

As you make your way through the Old Testament Scriptures, you see how God begins to put the pieces into place that would bring about His plan and bring Him the greatest glory. We can see how God deals with the nation of Israel through the works of the prophet, the priest, and the king. And yet, while there were some good of each in the Old Testament, when the Old Testament closes, it leaves us longing for a prophet, a priest, and a king from the line of King David who would fulfill and keep the Word of God to free, to deliver His people.

When you come to the New Testament, God continues His plan by sending Jesus into this world, not as God, but as a God-man (100% God while being 100% man). When you trace the work of Jesus, you will find that He has, is, and will function in all three of those offices presented in the Old Testament.

He functioned as a PROPHET

Luke 7:16 says, "And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people."

John 7:40 says, *“Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.”*

Luke 24:19 says, *“And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:”*

John 4:44 says, *“For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country.”*

A prophet’s responsibility was to declare the message of God. Jesus’ message was the Father’s love.

John 1:18 says, *“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”*

He did function and is functioning as a PRIEST

The priest in the Old Testament was chosen out from among the people and had the responsibility to offer well pleasing sacrifices to God on behalf of and to intercede for the people.

Hebrews 2:14-18 says, *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all | their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in | things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”*

Hebrews 5:1-2 says, *“For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.”*

He did (though He was rejected by Israel), does, and forever will function as KING.

It was the king’s responsibility to deliver, to rule over, and to protect the people of God. Was it God’s plan for the nation of Israel to have a man as king? YES. It was always God’s plan for Israel to have a king, but that man was supposed to be the God-man Jesus Christ, not someone else.

Deuteronomy 17:14-15 says, *“When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother.”*

As you study through the Old Testament, you will find that there wasn't a single king of Israel that lived up to demands that the law placed on a king. That's because it wasn't meant for a man other than Jesus Christ to serve in that capacity.

2 Samuel 7:12-13 says, *“And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.”*

Luke 1:30-33 says, *“And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”*

John 1:11 says, *“He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”*

John 18:36-37 says, *“Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.”*

John 19:19 says, *“And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.”*

Revelation 15:3 says, *“And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.”*

B) There are **NATIONAL** prophecies

There are prophecies in the Bible that deals with whole nations and national leaders. They're not considered individual prophecies (which we will consider next). That's because they are only identified because they are the leader of a specific nation.

Daniel 5:24-31 says, "Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written. And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old."

This is not an individual prophecy (which we will discover next) because the judgment was against a nation, the Chaldeans as a whole. Belshazzar just happened to be the current leader of that nation that God was dealing with.

While there definitely are prophecies that deal with other nations, many of the national prophecies in Scriptures concerns the nation of Israel.

Exodus 3:17-21 says, "Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt: and I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey. And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God. And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand. And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go. And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty."

Keep in mind that when this passage was given, it hadn't happened yet. God was addressing a specific nation regarding what was getting ready to happen. God's plan required the choice of a nation that would be special to Him and He chose the nation of Israel.

Deuteronomy 32:8-10 says, "When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye."

Now, there are those who teach that God has finished His work with Israel – that they are no longer His special people. But that simply isn't the case. The Bible does not teach that. God knew from the moment that He chose them that they would reject Him. God did not write off the nation of Israel because they rejected Him, if anything, He simply allowed that to further His plans, to allow Him to work all things *"together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose"* (Romans 8:28).

Be very careful with the teaching called "Replacement Theology" (also known as supersessionism). Basically, this teaches that the church replaced Israel when Israel rejected Jesus as their Messiah and the physical blessings that God promised Israel are now spiritual blessings that apply to the church. That is not true. God did not abandon the nation of Israel, He just set His work specifically with them aside for the time being (the dispensation of grace) and He will continue His work with them after the rapture of the church.

Isaiah 62:1-5 says, "For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name. Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married. For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee."

While the world will be judged during the tribulation period for rejecting Christ, Israel, during that same time period, will be prepared for the second coming of their Messiah, Jesus Christ. Jesus will then fulfill those unfulfilled Old Testament prophecies that were given to the nation of Israel as He will establish His kingdom on earth and will rule and reign for a thousand years.

Revelation 20:1-5 says, *“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.”*

C) There are **INDIVIDUAL** prophecies

These are prophecies written to or about specific individuals. While they may impact many individuals, they are intent on and intended for a specific individual. Contrary to the children’s song, not every promise in this Bible is for me. Sometimes they are for specific individuals. While God exists outside the realm of time, God is well aware of every aspect of time from eternity past to eternity future. He sees the beginning all the way to the end, and yet He is still interested and involved in my life today. Seeing these individual prophecies should give us hope and encouragement to know that when God gives us a promise, His Word, He always keeps it.

EXAMPLES

Genesis 6:17-18 says, *“And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons’ wives with thee.”*

Though this promise impacted the entire world (you wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for God keeping this promise), it was given specifically to Noah. In other words, none of us need to run down to Lowe’s anytime soon to pick up a hammer, nails, and try to find some gopher wood to build an ark.

Genesis 12:1-3 says, *“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”*

Though this promise impacted an entire nation and even the entire world, it was not given to the nation of Israel (it may have included them) or to us, it was given specifically to Abraham. In other words, none of us need to hop on a plane, fly over to the Holy land and start walking around putting stakes in the ground to claim our land.