

PROPHECY

2 Peter 1:18-21

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. God has given us many signs. The world is looking for a king. Many in America would deny this. We believe in democracy. Yet, some even in America seem to be looking at a disturbing situation in the world realm. And they are beginning to call for a king or a president who could move the entire world into peace and prosperity.

Is there a king who can do this? Prophetic Scriptures reveal that world governments will turn their power over to such a leader. When the situation becomes too desperate. In the book of Daniel and Revelation, they talk about kings who will give their power to a certain king at a future time. Who is this coming king? Can we know about him? Yes, we do know about him. For we have a book about him - a book which tells of his coming. And the events that will accompany it. This king is the Lord Jesus Christ. *sure word of P = Messiah*

Paul says, I charge thee in the sight of God who quickeneth all things. And before Jesus Christ that thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is in this time, he shall show who is the blessed and only potentate - the king of kings and the Lord of Lords. Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting."

I Tim. 6:13-16.

Pilate asked Jesus, art thou the king of the Jews. Jesus answered him, thou sayest that I am a king - for this end was I born and for this cause came I unto the world. That I should bear witness unto the truth. John 18:37.

On the cross the Romans placed the words, Jesus of Nazareth - the King of the Jews. John 19:19. The Jews rejected him but he was their God appointed King. And Rev. 1:5 says, "Christ who is the faithful witness and the first begotten of the dead and the prince of the kings of the earth. Rev. 11:15 says, "the kingdoms of this earth are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ - and he shall reign forever and ever. Rev. 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. To this end he was born. A prince of the kings of the earth." Now all of these and many more passages prophecy about a coming king. And his coming is the world's greatest coming event. We call it the Second Coming.

Now as we think about prophecy we think about a picture that is so true. Now the person who does not believe in this, must acknowledge that he does not believe the Bible. For nothing is more clearly taught than that Christ is coming again. Hundreds of passages in the Old and the New Testament make a prediction. Now many believers disagree about the details of the event. But they cannot disagree about the one fact of the prophetic return. Many books have been written and appear on this subject. Dozens of writers have tried to give a revelation of God's moment when Christ will return. Now as you read some of these books - you receive impressions and details. Some of them are in great mass. Some of have charts. And some have pictures.

Some review the whole prophetic picture. But the task of including the whole prophetic message in one sermon or several sermons is almost overwhelming. And to present it that the people may know something about prophecy - it is a staggering task. Nevertheless, I think the Lord will bless our thoughts and message tonight. Which we might just touch on prophecy - in an elementary way, not in total. But I will make it clear that I really have no dogmatic position - I may be mistaken with some of this - but I have tried to search the Scriptures. And allowing them to say

what they do say, and to interpret them as the whole revelation.

Thus we see the glorious revelation concerning Jesus Christ, which is a very important doctrine. And certainly should not ever be neglected.

I think that a Christian should not be disturbed if he does not find all of his questions answered. Or if he reaches an area in which there is not a full discussion. Now remember, the Lord has not given full revelation of all things concerning his coming. But he has left some things to be clarified at that time. Remember also that the most important fact is that the Christian be ready. That we are to be watching and waiting as this prophetic event takes place.

We should all be watching, if he delays his coming for another 100 years or a thousand years - and we need him - we need to be living every day as if it were our last. The return of the king of kings is called in the Bible, (the blessed hope) John 3:3 - everyone that hath this hope in him purifies himself even as he is pure.

v. 19 - messiah -
Prophecies were literally fulfilled at the first coming. And we could take and go through the Bible. He was born of a virgin - Isa. 7:14. Micah 5:2 - born at Bethlehem. Jer. 30:1-15 - the slaughter of the children. Called out of Egypt. Hosea 11. Anointed with the Spirit. Isa. 11:2. He made an entry into Jerusalem. Zech. 9:9. He was betrayed by a friend. Psalm 41:9. The disciples forsook him. Zech. 13:7. Sold for 30 pieces of silver. Zech. 11:12. Spit upon. Isa. 50:6. Not a bone in his body shall be broken. Psalm 34:20. He was gall and vinegar. Psalm 69:21. His hands and feet were pierced. Psalm 22. Now (literally) these things about the first coming of Jesus Christ in prophecy were fulfilled. Now this is the glorious thing about prophecy. It was fulfilled (100%) at the first coming of Jesus Christ.

Now prophecy points to the future in which it literally says he shall come

himself. I Thess. 4:16. That he shall shout - that the dead shall hear his voice.
John 5:28 - and shall be changed and will be caught up to meet him in the air.
I Thess. 4:17. That he will receive them unto himself. John 14:3. That he will
come to the earth again - to the Mt. of Olives. Zech. 14:4. That he will come in
the (clouds) of Heaven with power and great glory. Matt. 24:30, I Peter 1:7, 4:13.
That he will stand upon the earth again. Job 19:25. That every eye shall see him
- Rev. 1:7. That he shall destroy the anti-Christ. 2 Thess. 2:8. That he will
sit upon his throne. Matt. 25:31, Rev. 5:13. That all nations will be gathered
before him and he will judge them. Matt. 25:32. That all kings and nations will
serve him. Psalm 72:11. That the kingdoms of this world shall become his kingdom.
Zech. 9:10. That the people shall gather unto him. Gen. 49:10. That every knee
shall bow to him. Isa. 45:23. That he shall build up zion and that his throne
shall be at Jerusalem. That he will rule over nations. Jer. 3:17 and Psalm 2:8-9.
That the temple will be rebuilt. Ezek. 40:48. The wilderness shall be a fruitful
field. Isa. 32:15. The desert will bloom as the rose. Isa. 35:1. And many more
- we might mention.

Now these are plain prophecies. Let us expect that he will as literally
fulfill these as he did the others at the first coming.

That is a remarkable thing about prophecy. The condition of the world today,
is such that many wonder if God has lost control. People is saying is there a
soverign God in this state of unrest. Natural calamities, famines, floods, earth
quakes, tornadoes, destruction by modern warfare, the world become a battle field
while millions perish from the bare necessities of life. And dollars are spent
to build weapons and to conqour outer space. It seems frightening. And people
are asking, what has happened to God.

Two things are necessary to think about. We must beware of judging by appearance.

Now if we do this, we are going to miss the prophecy and what God has for us. We must beware of blaming God for the sickness of our world. It is true, that on all sides men and nations have ignored the laws of God. But it does not follow that God has lost control of the world nor that God is powerless or unwilling to do something about it.

Now the fault is not in Heaven or in God, but it is in ourselves. It is in man - it is not in God who is responsible for the mess this world is in. One generation after another listens to lies and rebels against God - and surpresses the truth about God. And the truth about himself. And there is folly, wickedness and ingratitude. This has cut man loose - he is adrift away from God. And man has set up Satan as the God of this age.

Now God has both taken action and will take action. I think the powerlessness in our churches today is in part, to the theology that we have reduced God to a small size. We have presented God as too small. Many indeed have reduced him to just human proportions. I think we need to do as Luther once said, let God be God. He is absolutely soverign and the challenge is to confine him to some small degree.

Now God knows the world is in a mess. 2,000 years after he has sent his son to be the redemption of the world. There is still no peace and justice in places. But the day of reckoning and the day of judgement will surely come.

We have to but turn to prophecy and discover that God has a plan out of this. That a world ruler will soon appear. Now let me talk about this for just a moment. This has been a prediction that has been made by other people. For example, this Jean Dixon of Washington, D. C. She has made this prediction that a world ruler is soon to appear. He will unite the world in a manner that it has never been united before. He will appear in the last decades of this century. Now, of course, this is prophecy. But this is her prediction. And the same thing is found in the Bible.

While the vision of this modern prophecy and the inspiration that the Bible gave years ago, may not be speaking about the same individual. Moreover the vision of this modern prophecy may fail to be fulfilled. But the Bible will not fail.

The book the Gift of Prophecy, by Ruth Montgomery - is the story of the life and work of Jean Dixon. The experience of the coming world ruler is related in full detail. Miss Dixon speaks of it as her most significant and soul-stirring vision. She saw that there was born somewhere in the middle east in the early morning hours of (Feb. 5, 1962) a child whose life will change the world history. She saw that before the end of this century he will bring together men of all races into and all embracing faith. Now the vision revealed that this man's power would begin to be felt in the 1980's - and that is the decade following. Evidently under the leadership of the world - will move into an area without war and suffering. His power is to grow greatly until 1999. At that time the world will discover the full meaning of the vision.

Broken Mirror - A 95 yr. old man broke a mirror & he was overjoyed that he's going to have 7 years of bad luck - (Predicting future - Take you both if don't make sound Farmer & wife at fair - int. Airplane - Pilot \$10 - 10 min ride - to High - Pilot Tony - Farmer Brown yelled when they left the fair!)

Now the prophecy is of interest to the average person. Because he is concerned about the future. And in what is to take place in the year just ahead. It is a special interest to serious Bible students. Because it has a contrast somehow of the prophecy in the Bible. Multitudes of people listen to Jean Dixon when she speaks. She gains world-wide comments. She predicted the assassination of President (Kennedy). Several years prior to Mr. Kennedy's election to the nation's highest office she predicted in an interview published in a national magazine - that the president elected in 1960 would be killed while in office. As the time for the tragic occurrence approached - her impressions seemed to grow stronger. And only days before the Dallas rifle shots, she reported that she had begged a friend of the president's to urge him not to make the trip. On the morning of the president's death, sitting in a Washington restaurant, she said to have stated that this is the day it would happen. She was talking about the shooting of the president. It is no wonder that

a person having the gift of making such predictions, has a following of those who listen.

Now of course, Jean Dixon misses on some of her predictions. There are skeptics who challenge her claim of a special gift of prophecy. However, so many of them, like this concerning the president are so accurate that only the most stubborn can deny that she has some unusual power. It is interesting to note, as we consider her prediction of a world ruler born Feb. 5, 1962 - for months before that date we are told that astrologers had been saying that an earth-shaking event would occur on that day. But their predictions were based on a rare conjunction of planets.

Furthermore, in a book, The Coming One by Dr. Koch - a German Christian lecturer and writer said -- There is wide spread belief in the middle east today that a child, born in 1962 will gain world power before the end of this century. And that he is first to be revealed about 1980.

Look at the Bible. The Bible sets no dates - but many serious Bible students have found in it clear prediction of a coming world ruler. Who is called in the Bible the anti-Christ. He is to be a world figure in the last days of the present age. And to play an important role in the world events relative to the coming of Christ. As more complete Biblical picture of what he is to be - we can discover in the Bible.

Now the Bible also presents another world ruler who is yet to come the Lord Jesus Christ. He is spoken of as King of Kings, Lord of Lords. He is spoken of as the kingdoms of this world are becoming the kingdoms of our Lord. And he shall reign forever and ever. His kingdom is to be from sea to sea and no power or force will be able to withstand him.

presented in the Bible prophecy if it is the first one - the anti-Christ. There seems to be no prophecies of one who matches the Biblical description of the eternal king.

Not Depend on Occult! Sharon Tate - Baby - marked stomach Black Magic -
11 people said - Charles Manson, claimed to be Jesus + Satan at same time -
Simon possessed - girls powerless + followed him -

Since they do make such predictions, it is natural to ask - what is the source
France 1 Occult's for every 120 people
of the knowledge of these present day prophecies. They are far different from those

Zodiac Sign - What Born under -
to whom the Lord gave Biblical revelation.
M. Calif - Teach course astrology, witchcraft - Fortune by stars -
Wiggle Boards - Bishop says to witch to talk to Dead Son -

Bible prophets do not make predictions which do not come to pass. Modern prophets

often do. Yet these of our day, are right often enough that it makes it that it must
Black Magic - White Magic - Palm Reading, High School Carnival Little Palm R - No harm -
be acknowledged that they have some unusual power or gift. Where does it come from.

Boy said 30 - one day, Depression - Jump Bridge - ever said Occult in college, Satan destroying him
going said at that age -

Edgar Cayce - Re incarnation -

Consider for example, Jean Dixon whose predictions are mentioned. She is a
Man River - young boy - white - slim -
Re incarnated 20 times -
slim sitting this on out
Washington Business Woman and housewife. And through her life has appeared to possess
some psychic power. She is said to use many channels in receiving the revelation of

prophecy including visions, the crystal ball, astrology, numerology, dreams, cards,
an inner voice, mental telepathy, e.s.p., and finger touching. Through these she
receives her information and revelations. She misses - Bible does not

Jean Dialect into spirit world of new crystal ball a gypsy gave her -
This Breaks The 1st Comm. Thou shalt have no other gods before me -

Now currently others possessing such powers include riches, mystics, astrologers,
occult, and others. There is a wide spread practice in these fields today. Since at

least some of them apparently have the ability to foretell coming events, many ask
concerning the source of their gift. Is it from God or from Satan. Or is it merely
some unusual natural gift. Some are convinced that some gifts are demonic and are
a revelation of satanic activity in the world. Whatever their source these strange

powers have long been in existence. Go back to Moses - the Israelites were forbidden
to have anything to do to listening to these words. Deut. 18:9-12. When thou art
come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do
after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone
that maketh his son or daughter to pass through the fire, or that uses divination or

observer of times or an enchanting, a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits or a wizzard, or a necromancer - one who calls up spirits from the dead. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord."

Now from these words it is evident that many people in Moses day practiced this common place thing long centuries ago. Any student of ancient history knows of mythical religions of Babylon. The strange cults of Egypt. Practices of today are not too far different from some of them. And many feel that their source is the same. One is amazed when they find how wide spread the practices are today. And how many are involved in them. Because this is of momentous importance. To lovers of the word of God. When some of the modern cults deal in matters that appear to have some relation to Bible prophecy.

Now the wide spread interest today in what is happening in our nation and to the world, and the immediate future that the world seems to move from one crisis to another. Many are alarmed at what they see coming. And nations involved in revolutions, population explosions, unbelievable social changes, economic crisis and hunger, confusion, even world leaders sometimes say there is no hope for the future. Some are predicting that civilization will destroy itself. Or by the end of the century, it will collapse. It is then very natural and understandable, that people would turn to prophecy. And try to learn what is ahead. The urgent thing today perhaps is the reason why some people are reaching out with interest for the future.

Christians are interested in the coming things just as much and more so than the world's people. Not only do they have a natural concern about the world's condition, but they believe that God is running the affairs of this world and that he has revealed in his world what he wants done. And what he wants people to know. Christians may be interested in these modern day seers simply to know what they are saying. But they need to know whether or not they are prophets of wisdom. To know what is coming to pass in the world is in the hands of this book which we have written. And all that God

wants us to know what is coming to pass. It is revealed right here in prophecy - the destiny of mankind. In this book we have the purpose that the Bible looks ahead and relates to the coming of Christ. Which is the greatest event that will come in the future. And many of these coming events which are clearly revealed and as we do so, we will understand why Christians do not need these modern mystics to give us some kind of insight about the future.

One great Christian once said, "I know my future. It is written down in a book which I have in my hand." And I think every Christian can say that. As he holds his Bible in his hand.

We need to recognize that the Bible is a prophetic book. And until one understand this, he will have difficult times in comprehending God's relationship and revelation of future things.

Some one in a recent book, listed every prophecy of the Bible with the fulfillment. If that already has occurred. He revealed that there are 737 different prophecies in the Bible. Many of these relate to minor matters - others, to major and important ones. Hundreds of the prophecies have already been fulfilled. And relate to events that are now past. Hundreds of others still await fulfillment. For they relate to an event yet to come. In the case of these prophecies already fulfilled, we find that the fulfillment was perfect in every detail. The prophets were not mistaken in a single particular. There is no reason to believe that Biblical prophecies of events in the future are going to be less accurate.

The hundreds of prophecies concerning the coming of Christ, one glorious and eternal king, is spoken of in terms of return, or coming, blessed hope. Commonly called the second coming of Christ. Now in this book we study many of the particulars about his glorious coming.

The Bible is a book of revelation. And in it God has revealed the things which are yet to come to pass. This fact, is well related in the text we have taken tonight.

2 Peter 1:15, 18 - We read, moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him on the holy mount. //

Peter was speaking of the (transfiguration). In that experience, he had a preview of the glory that Jesus one day was to have. And remembering that experience he said, we are not following some fable. We are telling you what we saw with our own eyes. And in the next verse, he continues. We have also a more (sure word) of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts.

Peter is saying, as we presented the message of God unto you, we have not presented fables - but an eye witness of the glory of God. Then he adds, it is more sure of prophecy. And ye ought to give heed to it because the prophecy did not come by the will of man. But holy men of God who spake as they were moved by the word of God and ye have it.

A sure word, we have God's word. We do not need the wild guesses of Jean Dixon or of people who have been led by evil spirits. We have a revelation from God that tells us what is ahead.

Now, some one will say, wait a minute preacher, do you think that the Bible is inspired in a manner not true with other books. Yes, I believe this Bible is

unusual. Do you think that this book is greater than any other literature. Yes, I believe this book is greater than any other literature. Peter says here that the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The book is different because the book is divine.

Only God can know the future. And God has spoken this through his word.

When you and I as a Christian simply accept the Bible, we do not have to worry about the future. We know what it is going to be. God has revealed all that he wants us to know right here.

Course there are skeptics who say, do you really believe that the whole Bible is inspired. Yes, we do. He may ask, you mean that the Old Testament is real true history. Yes, it is! I know that there are those who attack and make charges about error. But here is a sure word.

Second, it is a book of prophecy. As we look at the book, we find that it is filled with prophecy. Now what do we mean by prophecy. Prophecy is foretelling or predicting what is to come. You and I cannot foretell the future.

I can't tell what is going to happen tomorrow. I know that there are people who take polls and predict what is coming. For example, elections. Now what they present may be good guess because they are based on some kind of survey that they have already made. But actually they cannot tell with certainty what is going to happen tomorrow, or next year, or five years from now.

If a man could know what is going to happen in N. C., in Va., or in the U. S. in the next 12 months, if a man had that knowledge - he could be a millionaire very quickly and simply by selling that knowledge. But God has not revealed that to us.

What is going to happen in our individual lives. Or in our nation. We cannot deal with specific things and say this is going to happen. Except the specific things that are revealed in the word of God. So the book of prophecy is here. It is one of the proofs of God's work.

Think about the prophecies who Abraham - Gen. 15 - God gave Abraham an astonishing prophecy. This is before Abraham and before he had even been promised his son. Whom the nation of Israel was to be born. But here was a prophecy that was made before it came to pass. Gen. 15:13. And he said unto Abraham, no of assurity that thy seed shall be a stranger in the land that is not theirs, and shall serve them, and they shall afflict them 400 years. And also that nation whom they shall serve will I judge. And afterwards will they come out with great substance.

This prophecy to Israel as a people was going to be cut out in the bondage in Egypt. Israel was going to serve 400 years and be delivered from that land as God brought judgement upon Egypt - the prophecy was fulfilled as it was spoken long before.

Other similiar prophecies - Gen. 17:16 - Abraham was told that he was to be the father of many nations. Gen. 16:12 - Hagar was told that her son was to be born - would be a wild man with his hand against every nation. You read the history and you will find that the prophecy was fulfilled exactly. Abraham was told that he would have a son in his old age. And it will fulfilled in Isaac - Gen. 18:10.

God spoke through Moses. Deut. 28. One of the most incredible prophecies in the Bible and speaking to the children of Israel to go into the promise land - become a nation. He had already told them that as long as they do God's will - they will be blessed. And then he said something amazing. He foretold history for 100's and

even thousands of years. This is proof of the Bible. And it shall come to pass that as the Lord rejoiced over you to do your good - you good - and to multiply you - so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you and to bring you to naught. And he goes ahead in Verses 63-67, that in the morning, thou should say - would God that it were eve. And at evening thou shall say, would God that it were morning. For the fear of thine heart without that fear, for the sight of thine eyes. Now this prophecy concerned Israel. It was made before they were in the promise land. Moses was looking ahead hundreds of years to that period. Because of their sin, they were going to be snatched off of that land and scattered to the four winds. And they were going to suffer as no other people had ever suffered.

If you are familiar with the history of the Jews, you know perfectly well that that passage was fulfilled. They did go into the land - they lived there several hundred years. Finally they were driven out of the land. First, the northern tribes and then Judah. And a part of Judah came back after 70 years exactly as it was prophecied by Jeremiah. Most of them however, never were brought back. They were scattered among the nations. Yet, they did not cease to exist. And they have not even until this day. This is the most amazing thing. Jews are found in almost every nation around the world. They have not been swallowed up of other nations. Jews in America - but they are Jews.

Now I am an American. And of course, the Jew is still a Jew. And those his father was scattered to the ends of the earth, they have been condemned to die in nation after nation. And nations have taken their property away from them. And yet they have lived on. England did that. Spain ordered every Jew to be killed in the nation. Nazi concentration camps - more than 6 million were killed by Hitler. Now yet, this is exactly as Moses prophecied. Now look at Chapter 28 - Verse 30:1-5 - where he says I will scatter. Not all of this has been fulfilled. They have not yet been converted - they have not yet fully turned to the Lord, but God has brought them back as a nation to their own land. Ezekiel said it would happen. Isaiah said it would happen. Others

have said so. Even Jesus said it would happen. But Moses said it 3000 years ago that the Jews were going to be scattered to the ends of the earth. And one day they were going to be brought back. Now if you did not believe the Bible for any thing else than this prophecy, here is proof that you need to remember.

Look at one more prophecy by Isaiah 13:19. And Babylon the great kingdom, the beauty of the Chaldees excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their homes shall be full of doleful creatures.

Now this sounds like saying, the city of Norfolk is going to be a pile of ruin. No body will dwell there. Babylon was the most glorious city in the world in that day. Yet God revealed to Isaiah, that Babylon was going to be destroyed. And that it would not be rebuilt and that no Arab would spend the night there. Wild animals would make their den there.

Now in reading about a report of a scientist who was doing research in the middle east, he told how the Arab guide made a trip out from a city not too far away to visit the ruins of the old city of Babylon. It was such a fascinating thing to dig and examine the ruins and the walls of the city and ancient civilization. When the evening came, the scientist was ready to spend the night there. Continue his work the next day. But he noticed the Arabs folding their tents. And he said - wait a minute. We are going to spend the night here. And they said - No, No. No Arab ever spends the night in this city. We can't stay here - we go back. You stay if you want to stay - we go back. And they left.

Isaiah had said, neither shall the Arabian pitch his tent there. Neither shall it

be rebuilt. Here is prophecy spoken by Isaiah while the great city was the most famous of the world. But God has said it would be destroyed and never be rebuilt. That wild animals would make their dens there. The prophecy came true - exactly as God's prophets said.

Now we could point to numerous other prophecies. Some of them, are amazing prophecies concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. Now (all) of this says one thing - this is God's word. If all the prophecies and events now past have been fulfilled exactly as the prophet said - can't you and I believe the rest of the prophecies for which fulfillment is yet in the future.

(If) everything that was said by the prophets concerning the first coming of Jesus came out exactly as they prophesied - do I need to have any question concerning the rest of those promises in the Bible.

You remember Dr. Criswell wrote a book Why I Preach The Bible Literally True. He said, why do I believe the Bible is literally true. Only in the Bible he says, will you find that truth. Where is there a god of Gods. Where is there a founder of religion such as Confuscious, Buddah or Mohammad. Or where is there any other who could with such certainty predict the future. Where is there a statesmen who can in due time foretell the condition of things in Europe, or in America - 100 years from now or even 10 years. We do not know the future. It is of God to know what tomorrow will bring. The fulfilled prophecies of the Bible speak of the omission of its author.

How true. The (Bible) predicts accurately, clearly, the things that are to happen even thousands of years away. Generations come and go and yet the word of God lives. Nations rise and fall - yet the Bible lives. Kings, dictators, presidents - come and go - but the prophecy lives on. It may be hated, despised, doubted, condemned by atheists, scoffed at, scorned at. But to know it is to love it. To love it is to

accept it, and to accept it is to have eternal life.

In a great meeting in London in 1971, a group of world scientists and leaders in other fields of knowledge - were asked the question, What will the world's condition be in the year 2000. And they said, the world will not be in existence in the year 2000.

Despair, hopelessness, men are saying what can we do. We live in a day that we ought to try and make the world better. No, we are falling apart. And we are saying is there no physician there.

We turn to our text, 2 Peter 1:21 - we have a prophecy. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. A group in New York were meeting - and Billy Graham was talking with the editor of the New York Times, the darkness-the despair - and so he stood and explained to them what he felt was the glorious answer to the needs of the people. And he finished describing the event of the return of Christ - that there would be hope for mankind. That is the most fantastic thing - you describe the coming of Christ as the hope of the world. One man said, that is the most fantastic thing I have ever heard. I've gone to church all my life, but I have never heard that. He said that's it.))