

Prophecy – Part 1

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I. Introduction.

II. As a foundation for the fact that God has a plan and has had one through the ages, we need to recognize the sovereignty of God.

- A. God is a God of law and order. (Isaiah 14:24, 27)
- B. God is sovereign as far as nations are concerned. (Acts 17:26; Job 12:24)
- C. God is all powerful. (Daniel 4:35; Psalm 115:3; Jeremiah 32:17)
- D. God is sovereign in the individual lives of those who choose to obey him. (Job 23:13-14; Genesis 50:20; Psalm 139:16)
- E. God is sovereign in history. (Ephesians 1:9-10)

III. Prophecy or probability.

A. Either God rigged it up and it is running according to his plan or everything is running according to chance.

B. Prophecy meant foretelling the future in the Old Testament, and all of it had to come true to prove a prophet. (Numbers 23:19)

C. Old Testament prophecies that have come true.

1. The time of Christ's birth. (Daniel 9:25)
2. Jesus' birthplace. (Micah 5:2)
3. The manner of Jesus' birth. (Isaiah 14:7)
4. Jesus' ancestry. (2 Samuel 7:12-14)
5. Jesus' forerunner. (Malachi 3:1)
6. Jesus' death. (Isaiah)

D. There are over three hundred prophecies that were fulfilled.

E. According to the law of probability, the chance of these prophecies being fulfilled randomly is nearly nothing.

IV. God is calling out a people for his name for an eternal possession for his glory. This is God's eternal purpose.

V. Major dispensations of time.

- A. The age of innocence from Creation to the Fall.
- B. The age of conscience from the Fall to the Flood.
- C. The age of human government from the Flood to the confusion of languages.
- D. The age of promise from the call of Abraham to the exodus of the Jews from Egypt.
- E. The age of law from the time the Jews came out of Egypt to Christ.
- F. The age of grace from the advent of Christ to the Rapture of the church.
- G. The age of kingdom age which will be characterized by the gathering of the Jews and the set up of an eternal government, the release of Satan and then the institution of the eternal state.
(2 Peter 3:9)

VI. The dispensations have a pattern of responsibility, failure and then judgment.

VII. Lessons from the dispensations.

A. Innocence.

- 1. Satan always mixes the truth with a lie.
- 2. Humanity has been infected by sin. (Romans 5:12)

B. Conscience. (Genesis 6:5)

- 1. Conscience is not a reliable guide.

VIII. Questions.

Application questions:

1. How does prophecy establish the sovereignty of God?

2. What is the sovereignty of God? What implications does it have for our lives?

3. Explain dispensationalism.
