

YOU NEED TO KNOW

BECOMING A DISCIPLE THROUGH THE DOCTRINES OF GOD
KNOWING WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND WHY YOU BELIEVE IT

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

ALL ABOUT THE FUTURE THINGS – PART 1

knowing what you believe and why you believe it

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Bible, Gospel, Discipleship, Revelation, Maturity

Introduction to the Doctrine of Eschatology (future)

Can we trust What the Bible says about future things ?

The Bible is unarguably the most incredible book known to man. It is the best-selling, most quoted, first mass-published, most circulated, most translated, most influential book in the history of mankind with no close second in sight.

you are holding in your hands a proven (1) single-source origin, (2) multi-cultural, (3) multi-continent, (4) multi-era communiqué that claims (5) that it is not of this physical world and (6) invites everyone to know what it is saying.

I find that a bit funny seeing how we live in an age that is obsessed with UFO's, alien abduction and life existing on other planets – **enter God !!!**

John 18:36a

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is **not of this world.**

... and that He had come from another world called "Heaven".

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AND THIS IS KNOWN AS THE DOCTRINE OF ESCHATOLOGY

1.) Why is it important for us to know the future ?

The most obvious answer to that question is that,

It' s where you and I are going to spend forever !

More than any other book known to man, the Bible speaks about the *future and gives us necessary details about what it will be like.*

We have a strange fascination with the future. Every December,

just before each New Year, Grocery Store checkout counters and bookstores are filled with the latest predictions for the New Year ahead – why bother? We have deep fascination to want to know

When God began to speak to man, He did so by **often** proving Himself by **foretelling** the **future**.

the Bible is unique from all other books secular or religious - because it is the only book that can boast "Fulfilled Prophecy"

- (1) it' s not only the first book to reveal mankind' s future,
- (2) it' s the only book to have stood the test of time and critic.
- (3) other religions have taken existing Bible prophecies and copied / altered it.
- (4) the Bible has been, is and will be perfectly accurate as time goes on.

27% of your Bible is about the future. One quarter of the Scriptures are devoted to God telling you about what' s going to happen in your future.

Your future is happening now and every day from now – out to the end of your life here, and into your life in eternity.

Is the Doctrine of Eschato (Last) logy (Words) a Biblical Issue?

(more people today deny this Biblical doctrine than at any other time in the church – sighting that it simply doesn't matter – yet God gave it to us for a purpose)

So why does it matter?

Because (1) it **Proves** the existence of God. (2) Because it **Validates** the Claims of the Bible. (3) Because it **Encourages** the Believer about the future.

Eschatology is the Only Biblical Doctrine That is a Science,
Meaning that it demands a forensic approach to examine it.

Isaiah 42:9

Behold, the former things have come to pass,
And new things I declare; Before they spring forth **I tell you of them."**

Isaiah 45:21

Declare what is to be, present it — let them take counsel together. **Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the LORD?**

Isaiah 46:9-10

For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, :10 **Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done...**

John 14:29

"And now I have told you **before it comes**, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.

The Critics Will Protest

- *Isn' t the Bible a book of myths and fables?*
- *Hasn' t the Bible been tampered with throughout the ages?*
- *Isn' t the Koran or the book of Mormon or other religious books valid?*
- *Could the Bible be a man-made deception?*

Thoughtful critics will make the claim that the Christian
(only and always) use the Bible to prove the Bible is true.

That claim is both true and false. The Bible makes a statement. The Bible makes claims – those claims and statements can be evaluated from the outside. God invites the critic to test His statements and claims against observable reality.

But **the number one proof** that God is the author of the Bible,
and that the Bible can be trusted **is fulfilled prophecy.**

The Bible has proven itself to be so exact and so specific that its critics have sometimes argued that the events recorded in the **Bible had to be written down after the events** had taken place because they were **just too accurate.** I love that kind of argument because it proves again just **how thought-provoking and soul-searching the Bible really is.**

And so I' m thankful that the God of the Bible is not threatened by our questions or our inquiry regarding the authenticity of the Bible.

Isaiah 1:18

“Come now, and let us **reason** together,” Says the LORD,

This is what the Bible claims about itself.

2 Peter 1:20-21

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy **never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**

This is what the Bible claims about itself.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is **given by inspiration** of God,

This is what the Bible claims about itself.

1 Peter 3:15 NIV

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give AN ANSWER to everyone who asks you - to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,**

Now – this study really matters because it will unveil to you “How you approach the Bible” and what or whom “Has influenced your understanding of it.”

Throughout the ages people have asked the question of the Christian - -

“how do you know your belief-system is the right one?”

That is an excellent and honest question that should be asked of all religions and of all faith-groups

The answer is; Predictive Prophecies or Eschatology

Example - - Concerning the Messiah.

The First recorded Prophecy from the Bible is

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity (The Lord speaking) between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (delivered)

2 Samuel 7:12-13

"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up **your seed after you**, who will **come from your body**, and I will establish **his kingdom**. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of **his kingdom forever**."

Micah 5:2

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

Psalms 2:2

The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed. (Heb. Messiah)

Psalms 22:16-18 NLT

My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on me. They have pierced my hands and feet. 17 I can count all my bones. My enemies stare at me and gloat. 18 They divide my garments among themselves and throw dice for my clothing.

Predictive Prophecy

And I'd like to offer this testimony before the court of your opinion. That the understanding and witness of those who knew Jesus personally, - they had this to say about Jesus when they were questioned.

Consider for a moment, the origin of those prophecies. They originate from outside our natural scope of knowledge. They say of themselves that they have been infused, delivered into our natural existence.

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1a.) Because God says it's important

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for **lack of knowledge**. (neglect)

1 Thessalonians 4:13

But I do not want you to be **ignorant**, (a willful rejection of knowledge or information) – a non-engagement attitude

Revelation 3:7,10

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia... :10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will **keep you from the hour of trial** which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

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1b.) Because the Bible is the only book

This is a huge claim I admit. But it has been proven beyond any shadow of doubt.

2 Peter 1:16

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were **eyewitnesses** of His majesty.

Luke 1:1-4

Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, **2** just as those who from the beginning were **eyewitnesses** and ministers of the word delivered them to us, **3** it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, **4** that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.

Theologian Dr. Norman Geisler Points Out;

"The historically textual evidence is greater for both the Old and New Testaments than any other ancient document known to man."

Biblical Scholar Ron Rhodes Adds; *There are more than 24,000 partial and complete manuscript copies of the New Testament alone. No other book, collection of books or writings come close to having such reliability.*

Revelation 19:10c

For the testimony of **Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtNcbu5oHQU>

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1c.) Because the Believer is supposed to know

I know that sounds a bit arrogant -

"But if we're Biblical, we will always be right."

2 Peter 3:3

knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, **4** and saying,

"Where is the promise of His coming?"

Luke 12:45-46b

But if that servant says in his heart, "My master is delaying his coming," and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, **46** the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware,

>>>> The **Cross**, The **Christ**, The **Call** <<<<

————— *End of Study* —————

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