

# THE MYSTERY OF PROPHECY EXPLAINED

## PART 1A – LAYING THE FOUNDATION (CONT)

### **LESSON 19: Just as false prophets have always been in the professing Church, so has the spirit of Antichrist always been in the professing Church.**

- ...and this is that spirit of Antichrist whereof you have heard that it should come; and even now already it is in the world.
- Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock....For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore, watch.....
- Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.....And many false prophets shall rise and deceive many.
- Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.
- Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God. And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God, and this is that spirit of Antichrist.....

### **LESSON 20: Just as the Spirit of Christ has always been in His church, so have His true prophets.**

- Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.
- And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth....
- And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets....
- And he gave some apostles, and some prophets.....for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; till we all come in the unity of the faith....

### **LESSON 21: The prophets of God speak the Word of God alone. Nor do they add or take away from it.**

- And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Let my people go.
- And thou, child, shall be called the prophet of the Highest; for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; to give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins.
- The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet....Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet in Jerusalem, worship the Father.
- And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

**LESSON 22: The Word of God which the prophets speak comprises the truth of God which He wills the Elect know and understand. It leads to our sanctification. It increases our knowledge of Him, knowledge paramount to our salvation. Prophecy should never be dismissed as unimportant or irrelevant. Teachers and pastors who avoid it are in open sin, opposing the express command of God.**

- Search the scriptures.....
- All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
- And this is eternal life, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent....For I have given them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them.....I have given them thy word....sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.....that they might be sanctified through the truth.
- Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem, unto Messiah the Prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks....
- He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven...
- Now learn the parable of the fig tree; when his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh. So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.
- But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

- He that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.
- What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.
- Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.
- Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

**LESSON 23: Even the Gospel is prophetic. It speaks of the future resurrection of the Body. It speaks of the future Advent of Christ. It speaks of God dwelling among His people. It speaks of Heaven where there will be no more sorrow, death, tears or pain. It is to be believed by faith, as are the other prophecies. To not preach and teach prophecy is to take away from the whole counsel of God. Those who neglect to do so invite judgment.**

- And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

**LESSON 24: The prophets of God speak by the power of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, not from their flesh.**

- 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.
- All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
- But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.
- But when they shall lead you and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.
- And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

- And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer. For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

**LESSON 25: The Lord frequently uses men as His prophets who, in the eyes of the world, are ignorant and unlearned. God delights in this.**

- Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?
- And whence he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? Is not his the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence hath this man all these things? And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house. And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.
- Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel...be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.....Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.
- But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are.
- At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

**LESSON 26: The prophets serve many vital functions in the Body. They are to be our role models.**

**(1) They are chosen by God before their birth, confirmation of their calling given by others.**

- But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias, for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife, Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John....For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord...and shall be filled with the Holy Ghost even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

- For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias....
- There was a man sent from God whose name was John.
- The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah,...Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations....
- Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.
- The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, after me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

### **(2) They preach the necessity of true repentance, a requirement of salvation.**

- In those days came John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance...
- The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.
- Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

### **(3) They preach the true doctrine of God with authority.**

- Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
- And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine. For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.
- Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. And the Jews marveled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

### **(4) They frequently baptize with water, unto repentance.**

- Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan. And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.
- I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance...

**(5) They recognize the seed of the serpent, the religious hypocrites, the false prophets, the enemies of God. They boldly identify them as such.**

- But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
- Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?
- And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus...seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, who is also called Paul, filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, and said, O full of all subtlety and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?
- Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.
- When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand)....

**(6) They do not shy away from exposing sin, even at the peril of their own personal safety.**

- Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon....
- Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, observe and do: but do not ye after their works: for they say and do not.....But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for you neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.....
- For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife; for he had married her. For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.

**(7) They will be denounced to the authorities for not bowing to Baal. They will not capitulate.**

- There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.....Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar....we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

**(8) They speak coming judgment to the wicked, prideful and unrepentant.**

- And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire....he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.
- And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea. And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched.....
- Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?
- The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of. And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**(9) They know the true Jesus, bearing witness of Him and His truths.**

- And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, he that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
- Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
- And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.
- For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

**LESSON 27: Prophecy is not rightly understood by the Elect until it comes to pass.**

- And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it come to pass, ye might believe.
- These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them.
- And he said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up. Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest

thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things. Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. They said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

- And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

- And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them: for thy speech betrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out and wept bitterly.

- If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not seen sin: but now they have both seen and hated both me and my Father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law. They hated me without a cause.

- Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen. Remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words.

- And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy king cometh, sitting on an ass's colt. These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, they remembered that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.

- And we know that the Son of God is come and hath given us an understanding that we may know him that is true.

- Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven: which things the angels desire to look into.

**LESSON 28: The fullness of prophecy cannot be understood by the immature Christian.**

- I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

- Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable. And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding?

- And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the sayings which he spake unto them.
- And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds. And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian. For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.

**LESSON 29: Christians are admonished to grow in maturity. This includes studying and learning the deeper things of God.**

- Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread. Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Do ye yet not understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that they bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.
- When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child. But when I became a man, I put away childish things.
- Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.
- .....The eyes of your understanding being enlightened.....
- .....do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

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