

Why Has Too Much of the Messianic Movement Been Avoiding Prophecy?

CLASS HANDOUT

MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS messianicapologetics.net messianicapologetics.blog

J.K. McKee 30 October, 2021

THREE PROPHECY BOOKS ON WEBSITE

When Will the Messiah Return?

Dangers of Pre-Tribulationism

1&2 Thessalonians for the Practical Messianic

THREE PRESENTATIONS PLANNED

1. Why Has Too Much of the Messianic Movement Been Avoiding Prophecy? (today)
2. The End-Times According to Yeshua, and His Second Coming (13 Nov)
3. Realized Eschatology: The Future Breaking Into the Present (20 Nov)

Also: Today's Messianic Movement: The End-Time Move of God? (20 Nov Shabbat message)

A DEFINITION OF PROPHECY

Donald S. McKim, *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1996), 224

prophecy (Gr. *prophēteia*, Lat. *prophetia*)

Speaking on behalf of God to communicate God's will for a situation. In the New Testament it is a gift of the Spirit (Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10; 14:22). It is also used for the prediction or declaration of what will come to pass in the future.

prophet (Heb. *nabi'*, Gr. *Prophētēs*, "one who announces") One who speaks on behalf of God to God's people, most prominent the Hebrew prophets whose writings are found in the Old Testament

prophet, Christ as A description of the role of Jesus Christ as declarer of God's Word and will during his earthly existence (John 15:15). "Prophet" is also one of the classic "offices" of Christ along with "priest" and "king."

ISAIAH 46:9-13

"Remember this, and be assured; recall it to mind, you transgressors. Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned *it, surely* I will do it. Listen to Me, you stubborn-minded, who are far from righteousness. I bring near My righteousness, it is not far off; and My salvation will not delay. and I will grant salvation in Zion, *and My glory for Israel*" (NASU).

AMOS 5:18-20

"Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD, for what purpose *will* the day of the LORD *be* to you? It *will be* darkness and not light; as when a man flees from a lion and a bear meets him, or goes home, leans his hand against the wall and a snake bites him. *Will* not the day of the LORD *be* darkness instead of light, even gloom with no brightness in it?" (NASU).

b.Sanhedrin 97b

"*What is the meaning of the verse, 'But at the end it shall speak and not lie' (Hab. 2: 3)? Said R. Samuel bar Nahmani said R. Jonathan,* "[Freedman, p. 659, n. 5: Reading the verse as, 'He will blast him who calculates the end,'] **blasted be the bones of those who calculate the end [when the Messiah will come].** For they might say, "Since the end has come and he has not come, he will not come." Rather, wait for him, as it is said, "Though he tarry, wait for him"

(Hab. 2: 3). Should you say that we shall wait, but he may not wait, Scripture responds, “And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious to you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you” (Isa. 30:18). “Then, since we are waiting and he is waiting, what is holding things up? It is the attribute of justice that is holding things up. But if the attribute of justice is holding things up, why should we wait? It is so as to receive the reward for our patience, as it is written, “Blessed are all those who wait for him” (Isa. 30: 9).”

The Babylonian Talmud: A Translation and Commentary. MS Windows XP. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2005. CD-ROM.

DEUTERONOMY 18:22

“When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him” (NASU).

END-TIME RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

IAMCS Statement of Faith

Ezekiel 34:11-13; chs 36-39; Hosea 3; Amos 9:11-15; Zechariah chs 12-14; Isaiah 11; 43; 54; 60-62; 66; Romans 11:1-14

2 PETER 3:4

“Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” (NIV).

1 THESSALONIANS 5:4-11

“But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. But since we

are of *the* day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing” (NASU).

“The current trend toward speculation based on counting toes in Daniel or horns in Revelation and relating them to current events is somewhat misplaced. Whatever happens in Israel or the Middle East is, for us, beside the point. The Christian focus is always on readiness, but a readiness not based on an ‘accurate’ reading of the times but on living in faith, hope, and love.”

Gene L. Green, *Pillar New Testament Commentary: The Letters to the Thessalonians* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002), 246

2 PETER 3:11-12

“Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!” (NASU).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Can you think of any significant reasons, from the past two or three decades, where religious teachers have abused the prophetic message of Scripture?

2. Why do you think much of today’s Messianic movement, in 2021, has been quite hesitant to talk about eschatology?