

## Introduction to Prophecy

### Summary

- Prophecy means to foretell future events
- At times God has chosen to reveal some details of future events
- The study of end times prophecy is called *eschatology*

### Interpreting Prophecy

- There is little question as to what was revealed to the prophets, only what the prophecies mean.
- Interpreting through Allegory
  - Treats the literal text as a vehicle for a spiritual secondary meaning
  - Basically treats the Bible like it is Aesop's Fables
  - Ignores every principle of Bible interpretation and give the interpreter unguarded liberty to give any meaning to any scripture.
- Literal Interpretation
  - Interprets the text by allowing each word and phrase the same basic meaning it would have in everyday language with attention paid to history, grammar, and context.
  - Allows for recognition of figures of speech, types, etc. that are rooted in the literal interpretation of the text.
  - When New Testament authors point out fulfilled Old Testament prophecy they interpret the it literally.

### J. Dwight Pentecost's Rules for Interpreting Prophecy from *Things to Come*

- Interpret literally
- Interpret according to the harmony of prophecy
- Observe the time relationships - "Mountain Peaks of Prophecy"
  - "It is important to observe that the prophet may view widely separated events as continuous, or future things as either past or present"
- Interpret prophecy Christologically
  - It is all about Him!
- Interpret historically
- Interpret grammatically
- Interpret according to the law of double reference
  - Some prophecies can have more than one fulfillment, or fulfillment in multiple events.
- Interpret consistently

## **Chapter 7 continued...**

### **“The Four Beasts”**

#### **Summary**

- Daniel has a prophetic vision about a series of world powers
- Revisits and expands upon the themes of Chapter 2

#### **Outline**

- I. Explaining the Vision
  - A. Daniel asks for help - vs. 15-16
  - B. Explaining the four beasts - vs. 17-18
  - C. Explaining the fourth beast - vs. 19-27
- II. Conclusion - vs. 28

#### **The Fourth Beast - ROME - vs. 7-8**

- Pictured as unknown “monster” = terrible, fearsome, unlike anything seen before
- Corresponds to the iron legs of chapter 2
- The other kingdoms conquered, Rome crushed
- Not only pictures the Roman Empire of old, but the Empire of the Last Days
  - “ten horns” = ten kings - Revelation 13:1
  - “little horn” - the Antichrist (not the same as the little horn in chapter 8)
    - See II Thessalonians 2:3-4 and Revelation 13:3-6
    - vs. 21 - makes war against the saints - Revelation 13:7
    - vs. 24 - defeats three of the ten kings
    - vs. 25 - “speak great words against the most High” - Revelation 13:5-6
    - vs. 25 - time, times, dividing of times = last 3 1/2 years of Tribulation
    - vs. 26 - defeated - Revelation 19:11-21

#### **The Fifth Kingdom - THE KINGDOM OF GOD - vs. 9-14**

- Ancient of Days = GOD THE FATHER (compare to vs. 9 to vs. 13)
- fire - pictures glory and judgment - Psalm 97:2-3
- vs. 10 - this setting of judgment is God’s judgment during the Tribulation, and not the Great White Throne. Compare to Revelation 5:11-14.
- vs. 11-12 are about the Tribulation - Revelation 19:20
- vs. 13 - the Second Coming - see Mark 14:61-62
- vs. 14, 22, 27 - the Millennial Kingdom and after