

Mountain Peaks of Bible Prophecy

There are certain events so clearly predicted in Bible prophecy that they cannot be misunderstood. In fact, these events serve as fixed reference points so as to prevent us from losing our way as we navigate the proper interpretation of prophetic passages through-out the Bible. Listed below are several essential elements of Bible prophecy that simply cannot be moved. Those who reject these fixed truths will never be able to properly interpret Bible prophecy. Sadly they may miss out on the joy of living with an inner expectation of the return of Christ, or worse they may propagate distortions of Scripture that cast the whole subject of Bible prophecy in a bad light before the world.

Study these fixed points of reference carefully and allow them to keep you on course. Whenever you discern that fellow believers are straying from these basic truths bring them back on course. No one has justification for altering the clear teaching of certain prophetic passages of God's holy word. Consequently, we must allow the Scripture to correct our thinking and we must resist the temptation to alter the central messages of God's prophetic word.

Remember also there is a special blessing attached to the study of Bible prophecy. The Holy Spirit says in the Revelation, "*Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand*" (Rev. 1:3). Indeed, the believer who shows deep reverence for the prophetic Word of God will experience a unique blessing as the message of Christ's return both comforts the heart and stirs him to a passionate pursuit of personal holiness.

The Mount Everest of Bible Prophecy — Jesus Christ emphatically declares,
“I will come again.”

This is a fixed, unmovable declaration of the Son of God (John 14:3). While no one can pinpoint the exact time of his coming and while we diligently study the Scriptures to rightly divide the prophetic Word of truth in an effort to properly order specific details of Bible prophecy, no one can deny that the Bible absolutely teaches the literal, physical return of Christ to the earth. The truth of his return is stated in both the Old and New Testaments so many times that the Doctrine of the Second Coming forms one of the central messages of Holy Scripture. In fact the 216 chapters of the New Testament contain 318 references to the Lord’s second coming!

The Remaining Himalaya Mountains of Bible Prophecy

1. The re-gathering of Israel to her homeland: Ezekiel 20:33-38; 22:17-22; 36:22-24; Isaiah 11:11-12; Ezekiel 38-39.
2. The Battle of Gog and Magog: Ezekiel 38-39.

Note: While there remains some obscurity as to the time of this battle, the purpose of the battle (Ezek. 38:23; 39:6-7) and the certainty of the battle (Ezek. 36:21-24, 36) are not in question. *It is my personal opinion that the battle of Gog and Magog is not associated with the later battle of Armageddon. This battle is definitely in the latter years (Ezek. 38:8) but is not associated with the antichrist. Rather the focus is upon a confederation of nations lead by Russia who will fall

upon the mountains of Israel as the Lord in “jealousy and in the fire of (his) wrath” (Ezek. 38:19) judges Gog and Magog in the presence of the nations of the world!

3. The 70 Weeks of Daniel: Daniel 9:24-27.

Note: While there is considerable detail to consider in a discussion of Daniel’s prophecy please take careful note of the language and tone of the message to Daniel. Seventy weeks *are determined* upon Daniel’s people—the Jews. This is another fixed reference point in Bible prophecy. There is simply no way to escape the declaration by the Lord in this prophecy that Israel will experience a total of 70 weeks of years (490 total years of history) with specific events connected to those years. Israel, from the time of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem until the death of Christ, lived sixty-nine weeks (483 years) of literally history in partial fulfillment of this prophecy. There remains one week, or one seven year period of history, that is *determined* upon Israel. The beginning of this final week of Daniel’s prophecy will be triggered by the signing of an international treaty with Israel by the antichrist (Dan. 9:27: “he”—the prince that shall come (v26)—shall confirm the covenant with many for one week, or seven years). In light of Israel’s defeat of Gog and Magog the international community will be motivated to pursue peace as never before. Israel will concede ground to the antichrist under the deception that lasting security has finally been established. Little does she know that the “time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jer. 30:7) will unfold when the antichrist betrays her trust and commits the “abomination of desolation” by desecrating the temple and declaring himself to be god (Cf. Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:3-10).

Note: Regardless of one’s view of the rapture, Daniel’s prophecy is a fixed reference point. There is a remaining seven year period of history *determined*

upon Israel. To deny this prophetic word is unthinkable! Just as the first 69 weeks of years found literal fulfillment in history, likewise the 70th week will be literally fulfilled in history.

4. His Glorious Appearing: Matt. 24:29-30; Rev. 19:11-21.

Note: Again please pay attention to the fixed reference point of Matthew 24:29 and 30 which says, “*immediately after the tribulation of those days . . . they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*”

5. Israel will be the head of the nations during the millennial reign of Christ: Isaiah 2:3-4; 11:1-9; Zech. 14:16-19.