



# Prophecy in Perspective

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An Email Newsletter

**Our Times** - *Prophecy in current events*

## The Great Disruption

Christians who believe in the Bible need to constantly update their understanding of God and of what God is doing and going to do in the world. This is one reason why the study of Bible Prophecy is so important for our times. Bible Prophecy gives us light in this present dark world when events are growing more confusing and even disturbing every day. Peter tells us the purpose of Prophecy, its accuracy, and how it is to be interpreted in his first letter:

***And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21)***

Peter tells us that the prophetic word is "**confirmed.**" Thus it is authoritative! Prophecy is also a "**light that shines in a dark place.**" What is more dark than the dark world of rebellion we live in now? Prophecy helps us to know that the future is under God's control and that He is unfolding a plan that He wants us to be aware of so we can understand the times we live in today. Prophecy is to give us insight into our present lives and times in order to be better witnesses for Jesus Christ. Jesus is the "Light of the world," and Prophecy is the light of God's revelation as to the circumstances surrounding the coming of the Lord Jesus. And Bible Prophecy is to be interpreted not by "private" or personal preference, but by the context of the Word of God, through the Holy Spirit. Thus Prophecy is to be taken as God has given it to us by "**holy men of God,**" who "**spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**" Therefore, Prophecy is to be taken seriously for our spiritual well being. We are to view Prophecy as being accurate and as being understandable for the good of the Church and for nations as well as individual Christians.

So, we should understand today that God plans a "Great Disruption" which will consist of harsh and deliberate judgment upon the earth. In many ways this judgment has already begun, but the main body of judgment will technically commence after the rapture and during the Great Tribulation period. In this time of judgment, God will certainly disrupt the great plans of man, even though man will, through the Antichrist, rise to his highest level of organized rebellion against God. Peter speaks of the characteristics of this Great Disruption when he writes:

***Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers***

***will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." (2Peter 3:1-4)***

This passage answers the question: What will be the mindset of the latter days? Peter calls the people of that day, "**scoffers.**" This is descriptive of people today. They are mocking at the idea that God is going to bring judgment on the earth. There are at least four characteristics of this scoffing attitude that we are seeing today: **First** is, unbelief. This is a hard heartedness against God and His Word. **Second** is, immorality. There are new rules being made today about what relationships should be. But God's Word has not changed. Yet, man's intention is to commit all possible forms of immorality, to laugh at the concept of sin and judgment, so as to scoff at God and His Son. **Third** is, mockery of God, of biblical truth, of Prophecy. Even Christian teachers are falling into the worldly trap of mocking the teaching of the coming of Jesus Christ. **Fourth** is, belief in the steady state of the world and cosmos. This is the idea that there was no global flood in Noah's time, and thus no judgment then, nor now, nor ever!

It is a clear indication of living in the latter days that biblical ignorance results in a loss of moral standards. We see moral compromise among so-called Christians today and a desperate lack of courage. Sin will deplete strength, has a horrible effect on the health of the physical body, and on the spiritual well-being of families and nations. Sin brings the promised consequence of God's judgment. Peter writes that this judgment has already begun with the Church.

***For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1 Peter 4:17)***

Today there is a great lack of moral courage among Christians, churches and ministries because of a fear of man. God has already begun to judge the house of God, the church, in order to awaken believers to the need to repent of a fear of man and of their love of the world. (1 John 2:15-17) This fear depletes the Christian of courage as well as discernment. It seems we are growing more afraid to lead people to make a decision to trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior. This put us in the world's mindset that mockingly asks: "Where is the promise of His coming?" Things just continue and we are not to expect anything different, so let's not make a fuss about sin. Could it be that we have grown ashamed of Christ? Many have even adopted unscriptural theologies that support not inviting people to believe in Jesus Christ or to believe in and look for the promised return of Christ. Many even state that Jesus died only for a limited few, but this passage in 2 Peter 3 is clear that God is patiently waiting for the masses to come to faith in Jesus Christ and get saved. Peter said:

***But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:8-9)***

So, Jesus' atonement was not limited, but unlimited, so that anyone can choose to believe on Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and receive eternal life. Therefore, God has lovingly waited over two thousand years (just over two days to Him!) calling the world to come to Jesus Christ by faith.

So another question which this passage in 2 Peter 3 brings us to ask: What must we do about the coming judgment which is prophesied here? The answers are described in the following verses: **First**, Be Holy! (3:11); **Second**, Be Watchful! (3:12); **Third**, Be Expectant! (3:13); **Forth**, Be Diligent! (3:14-16); and **Fifth**, Beware! That is, "**beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked.**" How do we keep from falling from our own steadfastness, and being misled by the error of the

wicked? Peter gives the answer in the next verse: **"but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."** These two things always go together for the Christian every day as we serve Jesus Christ and watch for His return: We need to grow in the **"grace and knowledge"** of Christ. In these latter days, knowing that judgment is coming on the world, we should courageously witness for Jesus Christ and seek the Lord for the moral courage to stand for His truth.

A Great Disruption is going to come upon the earth. I believe it is already beginning to show itself. God is getting ready to shake the heavens and the earth with judgment. (Isaiah 13:13; Luke 21:6) Jesus said: **"But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matthew 24:37).** Are you inviting the Lord to "disrupt" your life to be used by Him as a dynamic witness for Christ in this late hour? Now is the time as blood bought believers in Jesus Christ to make Him known, with courage! We should seek God with all our hearts to enable us to live morally righteous lives before Him and man. That God would grant grace to give us hearts profoundly resolved that there is not much time left! The world is growing "gloriously dark!" So

**"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)**



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*(Note: If you would like to interact with Dr. Downing concerning this newsletter, views, etc. you can "blog" with him at [prophecyinperspective.com](http://prophecyinperspective.com). If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter at no charge, please send your name and email address to: [sgdowning@bellsouth.net](mailto:sgdowning@bellsouth.net). Also, you can purchase his book, "Good News From a Far Country", a study in the book of Daniel [\$15]; "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Revelation's Prophecies" [\$10]; or his latest book, "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Developing a Prophetic Walk...A study in the lives and ministries of Elijah and Elisha" [\$10] by contacting him. **Dr. Downing's NEW book, "God's Unfolding Purpose and Unfailing Power" is now available! [\$10].***