

“THE PROPHECY”

Matthew 24:1-3

Introduction

- I. The **Setting** of the Prophecy – Matthew 24:1, Luke 2:29-30, 49, Haggai 2:7, 9, Matthew 23:37-39, Mark, 13:1, Deuteronomy 18:21-22, Revelation 1:17-19, Matthew 24:25, Mark 13,23, Isaiah 46:9-11

- II. The **Subject** of the Prophecy – Matthew 24:2-3
 - A. The Profound **Prediction** – Matthew 24:2, Matthew 23:38, Luke 19:41-44
 - B. The Precise **Performance** – Matthew 24:3

- III. The **Secret** to the Prophecy – Matthew 24:8, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

- IV. The **Scope** of the Prophecy

- V. The **Significance** of the Prophecy
 - A. Jesus Wants to **Teach Us** About the Future
 - B. Jesus Wants to **Transform Us** for the Future – John 16:1,4
 - C. Jesus Wants Us to **Trust Him** with the Future – Psalm 31:14-15

Conclusion

Romans 5:8-10, Romans 8:32, John 10:10

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Getting Started

1. Preparing for an upcoming event is important. What future event is coming that you are in the process of preparing for? What long-term event? **This could be a vacation or trip in the future. Or maybe a wedding or graduation. It could also be something more serious, like a planned surgery or medical procedure.**

2. When you think about the future, what thoughts come to mind? What hopes? What fears? **Many times, thinking about the future brings up opposite feelings. For example, parents who are attending the wedding of one of their children will be simultaneously happy and sad about the event.**

Going Deeper

1. Pastor Jeremiah said, "We hear so many voices. So many arguments. So many speculations" regarding the world's end. Explain a non-biblical theory you have heard. **We are simply looking for any relevant non-biblical theory. It could be scientific, or something they have read or heard recently.**

2. Read Matthew 24:3. Jesus made many prophecies about himself, the world, and the future. Describe one that you know of in which what Jesus promised has already happened. **Examples: The destruction of the Jewish temple in 70 AD, His death on the cross and resurrection, etc.**
3. We heard, “Unless we have a firm grasp on what the Bible teaches about the future...we cannot properly handle the strains of everyday life.” Describe an everyday challenge in your life that would be lessened if you know the outcome ahead of time. **An example could be parenting your children or working a few extra hours on a project at work. If we knew our hard work would pay off, would we have a different feeling or be more motivated to finish strong?**
4. Read John 16:1. In what way does knowing the sure outcome of something help you live better in the here and now? When you are clear about what is coming, how does this settle your thoughts and emotions and allow you to focus on what is at hand? **If we know the sure outcome of a situation, stress and worry are alleviated and we are able to handle the pressures and difficult times we will go through.**

5. Read Psalm 31:14-15. Think about those parts of your life that are unclear at the moment. How does this motivate you to hold tightly to the Lord God Himself and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ? See also Romans 5:8-10, 32 and John 10:10. Just as Holy Spirit was with the disciples and early church fathers, He is with us as we navigate this life.

Applying the Message

1. Trust is important when thinking about the future. How strong is your trust in Jesus today? On a scale from 1-10 (1=low; 10=high), how trusting do you feel regarding Jesus and your future? This helps set a “base line” for the next question. It also helps words/names like trust, future, and Jesus feel more tangible as each person becomes more sensitive to what the Holy Spirit may be nudging them to do.

2. In what way can you bring your trust factor up? What might you need to do about this? Examples: share your need with a friend; pray for more faith or trust; change a habit or behavior to be more in line with Jesus and His will for your life.