

Prophetic Perspective On Today's World

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I. Importance Of Prophecy

- A. 2 Peter 1:16, 19–21
 - 1. The prophetic word takes precedence over eyewitness testimony
 - 2. The prophetic word is the only source of light in a dark world
 - a. “Morning star”: the confidence that Christ will return in glory
- B. Matthew 24:1–3 (with parallels in Mark 13 and Luke 21)
 - 1. Man's works will perish
 - 2. This age is coming to an *appointed end*
- C. The world will end in destruction (Rom. 9:27–28)
 - 1. “For the Lord will carry out His sentence on earth with speed and finality” (NIV)
 - 2. “Destruction . . . a determined end” (Is. 10:21–23)

II. Events Leading Up To The End

- A. Matthew 24:4–13
 - 1. The greatest threat is *deception*
 - a. *Pride* is the door to deception
 - b. *Humility* is the only safe place
 - 2. Birth pangs: Nation against nation; famines, pestilences and earthquakes
 - a. The kingdom of God is to be born out of these birth pangs
 - b. Birth pangs increase in intensity as birth nears
 - 3. Continuation of birth pangs (v. 9–13)
- B. What will be *the sign*? (v. 14)
 - 1. The gospel will be preached to all nations
 - 2. Compare Rom. 11:25–26: “until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in”
- C. The great tribulation (Matt. 24:15–22)
- D. The climax (Matt. 24:29–31)
 - 1. Signs in the heavens
 - 2. Christ's return

III. Our Response

- A. Recognize and rejoice
 - 1. Luke 21:28
 - 2. Change from fearful to happy
- B. Complete our task
 - 1. Matthew 24:14
 - 2. Number 1 priority: Proclaim the gospel
- C. Work and walk while we have light (John 9:4, 12:35)

IV. Two Pictures From Revelation

- A. The six seals opened:
 - 1. White horse: Victory
 - 2. Red horse: Bloodshed and civil war
 - 3. Black horse: Scales, which pictures scarcity and rationing
 - 4. Pale horse: One-quarter of earth killed

5. Martyrs
6. Cosmic disturbances
- B.** The white horse goes first (Rev. 6:1–8)—the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- C.** Jesus with a sickle (Rev. 14:14–20)
 1. First, the harvest of mercy
 2. Then, the harvest of judgment

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