

Mark 13:1-37 Am I a Student of Biblical Prophecy?

[Text of Mark 13:3-4](#) The Disciples were ready to be students of Prophecy!

1. We need to take a lesson from the disciples — be students of the word and prophecy.
2. 70 years ago there was an increase in the church at large of interest in prophecy:
 1. “In this generation there has been much discussion on the relation of the coming of Christ to the predicted time of tribulation which will overtake the world. More questions are being asked today than ever before concerning the return of the Lord. The second coming has always been prominent in fundamentalist literature, but the surprising revival of interest on the part of the modern liberal and the neo-orthodox writers is something new.” John F. Walvoord — The Rapture Question - a comprehensive biblical study on the translation of the church -1952
3. Where is that interest today?
4. On the other hand: Be wary of YouTube
 1. Studying Prophecy shouldn't make us weird or afraid.
 2. Paul states that the prophetic word, in the Bible, exists for our instruction and benefit ([2Timothy 3:16 - 17](#)).

[christianprophecy.org](#) [David Raegan - Lamb and Lion Ministries.](#)

Reasons for Study

- 1) **The Quantity** — One-fourth to one-third of the Bible is prophetic in nature. In the Old Testament, this includes the Psalms, the Major and Minor Prophets, and many passages in the historical books. In the New Testament, entire books like 1 & 2 Thessalonians and Revelation are devoted to prophecy, as are major passages like Matthew 24 and 1 Peter 3. To ignore Bible prophecy is to ignore a significant portion of God's Word.
- 2) **The Uniqueness** — No other book in the world contains fulfilled prophecies. This includes the sayings of Buddha and Confucius, the Koran, the Hindu Vedras, and the Book of Mormon. And it certainly includes the ridiculous nonsensical quatrains of Nostradamus.
- 3) **Validator of Scripture** — Fulfilled prophecy is one of the best evidences I know of that the Bible is the inspired Word of God.
- 4) **Validator of Jesus** — The prophetic scriptures validate Jesus as who He said He was — namely, God in the flesh. The Bible contains more than 300 prophecies about the First Coming of Jesus, but some of these are repetitive. There are actually 109 separate and distinct prophecies concerning the First Coming, and all of them were literally fulfilled.³ Every aspect of the life of Jesus was prophesied — the place of His birth, the nature of His birth, the quality of His ministry, the purpose of His life, and the agony of His death.
- 5) **Revealer of the Future** — Prophecy serves to tell us some things that God wants us to know about the future ([Deuteronomy 29:29](#) and [Amos 3:7](#)). God does not want us to know everything about the future, but there are some things we must know if we are to have a dynamic hope. (Jesus is coming back! Peter says prophecy is like a lamp that shines in a dark place! ([2Ptr.1:19](#)))
- 6) **Tool of Evangelism** — Prophecy can be used as a very effective tool of evangelism

7) **Tool of Moral Teaching** — People often overlook the fact that the Hebrew prophets were forthtellers as well as foretellers. In fact, the prophets spent most of their time using God's Word to spotlight societal problems. They called their listeners to repentance, true worship, social justice, and personal holiness.

8) **Generator of Spiritual Growth** — Prophetic knowledge encourages patient waiting ([James 5:7-8](#)); provokes earnest watching ([Matthew 24:36,42](#)); inspires dedicated work ([2 Timothy 4:7-8](#)); and enhances our hope ([Titus 2:11-14](#)). The result is holy living. Paul exhorts us to “*behave properly as in the day,*” because the time is at hand when the Lord will return ([Romans 13:12-13](#)). Likewise, Peter calls us to gird up our minds and be sober and holy as we look forward to the revelation of Jesus ([1 Peter 1:13-15](#)).

9) **Understanding of Current Events** — The Bible contains detailed prophecies about the end times we are living in, and there is just no way to fully understand much of what is happening today apart from those prophecies. Three characteristics of our day and time immediately come to mind: the intensifying decay of society, the growing apostasy in the Church, and the escalating crisis in the Middle East. All three of these situations are prophesied in detail in the Bible.

10) Signifier of the Season — One of the most exciting reasons for studying Bible prophecy is that it provides very definite signs that we are to watch for which will signify the season of the Lord's return. It is true that we cannot know the date, but the Bible makes it clear that we can know the season if we are aware of the signs that we are to look for. The Apostle Paul made this point in [1 Thessalonians 5:1-6](#) when he wrote:

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night... But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all ones of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

1. [Revelation 19:10](#) **The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.** Some might say that studying prophecy takes your eyes off Jesus — opposite should be true —> Point of prophecy reveals Jesus. You know your studying prophecy right when your eyes are ON JESUS
 1. For the believer Prophecy **deals in hope**
 2. From the beginning the church believed that the coming of the Lord was imminent (Jesus could return at anytime)
 1. Paul - [Romans 13:12-14](#); Peter - [1 Peter 4:7-11](#); John - [1 John 3:2-3](#)
 3. [Mark 13:1-37](#)

9. v.3 sets Scene: on Mt. of Olives overlooking Temple and Jerusalem facing west at sunset

10. v.4 the disciples questions

1. Asked a double question —
 1. First about the time (“When will these things be”)
 2. Second about the visible indication signalling the fulfillment. (“What will be the sign”)
11. “And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?”
 3. sign when these things will be fulfilled.
 1. “fulfilled” = “accomplished” that’s a verb — the noun form is in Matthews record:
 2. [Matthew 24:3](#) **“Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”**
 3. *will be fulfilled / to be accomplished = the end of the age*
12. The Disciples are aware of the coming Kingdom and pay close attention there are 163 verses recording this conversation and Jesus teaching. in [Matthew 24:1-25:46](#), [Mark 13:1-37](#), and [Luke 21:5-36](#).
13. text of [Mark 13:5-37](#)