

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE -NOW-

[PART 1]

PEERING THROUGH
THE MISTS OF TIME

Reading: 2 Peter 1:19 - 21

Introduction

- One of the greatest topics and themes in the Bible is that of **'Bible prophecy.'**

1 Can We Know The Future?

- We possess a natural curiosity to know what the future holds. But can it be known?
- **Superstitious Means:** Oracle of Delphi, clairvoyants, horoscopes etc.
- **Scientific Means:** By taking what we know now and using that to **'forecast'** future events.
- **Bible Prophecy:** Based on what God has written in His Word.
- Estimated 25% of all Bible verses make predictions of the future.
- Further estimated 80% of them have already been fulfilled.

2 What Exactly Is Bible Prophecy?

- God who knows the future revealing a fragment of that knowledge to someone who writes it down.
- It could be about a person, an event, a city, a people or about the end of this age.
- The fulfilment might occur in their lifetime or beyond their lifetime.
- Take the case of Abraham re: the future birth of a child and he being the father of a great nation.

- One was fulfilled in his lifetime and the other wasn't.
- A prophecy is the future foretold and a prophecy fulfilled becomes history. [Isaiah 46:10]
- Nothing as powerful as a prophecy whose time has come to be fulfilled.

3 God Is Omniscient

- Consider [1 John 3:20].
- Our God knows everything including the future.
- Beware of '**Open Theism**' that says God does not know the future and indeed can be surprised by what happens.
- Hundreds of prophecies prove that God does know the future and at times He reveals aspects of that future to His servants.

4 A Light That Shines In A Dark Place

- So much of the Bible is prophecy so it is wrong to dismiss prophecy. [2 Timothy 3:16].
- In our dark world of uncertainty and fear Bible prophecy is a lamp in our hand to inspire us with hope.
- The ungodly do not have such a hope re: the future. [Luke 21:26.
- Accordingly we would 'do well to give heed' to the study of prophecy.

5 The Proto Evangelium

- Consider [Genesis 3:15].
- This is the first gospel promise but also the first Bible prophecy.
- Into the darkness of '**the Fall**' God shone the lamp of prophecy.
- To our first parents God gave them a glorious promise.
- Notice the '**double bruising**.'
- Satan would bruise the heel of '**the Seed of the woman**.' Fulfilled at Calvary.
- The Seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent. This is yet future. [Revelation 20:10].
- What an amazing hope!

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