

## WHY NO PROPHECY?

By Richard Oostra

The Bible is (for 25%) a book of prophecy. Yet in our churches today, we seldom hear a message relating to Bible prophecy or of the keeping of God's commandments. As a result, most Christians are unaware of what lies ahead or what the Lord requires of them in order to live the Christian life. Spiritually, we are, in a sense, floating down the river not knowing the signs of times or what lies ahead of us. Such is the condition of the church today.

*“As in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of man.....  
people will be eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the  
day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing about what would happen until  
the flood came and took them all away” (Matthew 24: 37-39).*

The Second Coming of Christ will be the most important event to come, yet in many churches today, we are filled with scoffers who say, *“Where is the coming He promised”* (II Peter 3:3)?

A lady I know had asked several pastors why they no longer preach about the return of Jesus to this earth. These are the answers she received:

“End-time doctrines are too controversial”

“Many have sensationalized this topic that is why I do not touch it.”

“I don't know where I stand on that subject.”

“I am a pan-tribulationist—it will all pan out in the end. Ha! Ha!”

“Why worry? We will be raptured anyway.”

Yet the Second Coming of Christ is predicted in each of the four gospels, in the book of Acts, and in the epistles of Paul, James, Peter, and John. Jesus' return and the end-time events are the focal points of the entire book of Revelation. We are challenged to read and come to understand Revelation above any other book in the Bible.

Still many pastors remain silent on this subject because they themselves do not embrace this hope-giving, purifying truth about Christ's return. Others think it not to be “cool” to preach on a subject that may disturb the people.

Jesus gave many predictions and signs for us to be aware of preceding the event of His coming, and who are we to ignore these? He even said, *“Watch therefore and pray  
always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass”* (Luke 21:36 KJV).

Have we come to a time of a spiritual famine because our shepherds no longer feed the flock? Are they *“No longer taking heed to declare us the whole counsel of God?”* (Acts 20:21), but are only interested in feeding themselves (Ezekiel 34:3)?

People need to be taught what the Bible tells us about the signs Jesus gave us predicting

the end times; about the Anti-Christ who will soon appear with signs and wonders seeking to deceive, if it were possible, the very elect; about the hatred toward Christianity and tribulations to come, of which Jesus said, *“Unless those days were shortened, no flesh would survive” (Matthew 24:21).*

What do we know about the signs Jesus told us to be aware of in nature, in the universe, or in the church? Do not the political happenings today relate to many yet to be fulfilled prophecies that in our pulpits are no longer mentioned? Do we not see global happenings taking place that are moving toward a world government and a unified religious system that merely will have a form of godliness (II Timothy 3:5)? Yes, many people feel that something is about to happen but

1. They are not taught nor instructed regarding end time events;
2. They know the Bible is God’s book, but they do not know what it says;
3. They know things are coming to an end, but are careless in thinking God will take care of them.

If we would study Matthew 24 (Jesus’ predictions), the book of Daniel, the revelations given us by Paul, Peter, or John on these coming events, we would receive the Spirit’s guidance to great insights into the timing and to understanding of God’s plan for the future. Just remember the Bible is God’s handbook which stands for

### **Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.**

Too many, however, only want to believe what our church teaches on the subject. Even if that teaching is not in depth, we will never look for other insights but will prefer to remain ignorant and blind.

It is interesting to note that Jesus, after He spoke about the end times in Matthew 24, He continues in Matthew 25 by giving us the parable of the Ten Virgins. Have you ever thought of relating this parable to our preparedness for the end times?

These bridesmaids were all waiting for the arrival of the bridegroom, just as believers should be living in anticipation of Christ’s return today. In case His return might be later than they had hoped for, five were well prepared. The others were not. They were not prepared for any tribulation, or as Jesus said about “enduring to the end.” This passage tells that they ran out of oil. Here, oil speaks of a spiritual readiness. They were ill-prepared or uninformed of what they may have to endure in the end times. They were not “in the know” of the signs to look for, preceding Christ’s return. They had fallen asleep, sitting in a church pew while being told that all was well, when in fact, it was not. Christ’s coming could be another 1,000 years away! They had not taken heed to Christ’s warnings of being influenced by false teachers even if they could perform signs and miracles. They had not lived in separation from the world, but had become conformed to the practices in their church and teachings of their pastors, not heeding the warnings of Jesus and the prophecies in the Bible.

*“Even so when you see these things happening, you know that the Kingdom of God is near” (Luke 21:31).*