

# Topics 1&2 - Why Study Prophetic Scripture? (Eschatology) & Foundations for Understanding Prophetic Scripture

Eleven reasons to study and know prophetic scripture:

1. God does \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God has control over \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Reminds us God is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Reminds us God is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Motivates us to \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Guides us to establish proper \_\_\_\_\_ and incentives us to \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Lights our way in this increasingly \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Gives us \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Motives us to read and know the \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Establishes the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

Three major eschatological frameworks and two specific results of following the wrong frameworks:

Amillennialism – The thousand-year reign of Christ mentioned in Revelation 20:1-6 is symbolic of the current church age, rather than a literal future thousand-year reign. The period described in Revelation 20 began at Christ's resurrection and will continue until His Second Coming. Amillennialism holds that while Christ's reign during the millennium is spiritual in nature, at the end of the church age Christ will return in final judgment and establish a permanent physical reign. Also taught by amillennialism is that the binding of Satan in Revelation 20:1-3 has already occurred, and means that "he might not deceive the nations any longer" (Revelation 20:3) by preventing the spread of the gospel.

Postmillennialism – Holds the millennium is an era (not necessarily a literal thousand years) during which Christ will reign over the earth, not from a literal and earthly throne, but through the gradual increase of the Gospel and its power to change lives. After this gradual Christianization of the world, Christ will return and immediately usher the church into their eternal state after judging the wicked. This is called postmillennialism because, by its view, Christ will return after the millennium.

Premillennialism – The Second coming will occur before a literal thousand-year reign of Christ from Jerusalem upon the earth. In the early church, premillennialism was called *chiliasm*, from the Greek term meaning "thousand", a word used six times in Revelation 20:2-7. This view is most often contrasted with Postmillennialism which sees Christ's return *after* a golden "millennial age" where Christ rules spiritually from his throne in heaven, and Amillennialism which sees the millennium as a figurative reference to the current church age.

Replacement theology – The Christian Church has superseded or replaced Israel as the people of God. Adherents of "replacement theology" believe that God is finished with Israel, that the Jewish nation is rejected forever by God, and that God has no future purpose or plan for Israel. Adherents of 'replacement theology' believe all of the OT covenant promises and blessings promised to Israel are now given to the Church; they make no statement about the OT curses God pronounced on a disobedient Israel.

Specific results of following the wrong frameworks:  
– Almost all prophecy was fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.  
There was a coming of Christ at that time, but not THE coming of Christ.

**How do we know what is the correct understanding?**

God gave prophecy to us in a way that it can be \_\_\_\_\_.

We will use the \_\_\_\_\_ grammatical-historical hermeneutic.

We also must also be aware of when \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ language is used.

We need the \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit to rightly understand Scripture.

We need to use \_\_\_\_\_ to verify teaching of the prophetic scriptures.

We gain confidence also in the literal hermeneutic from how prophecy has been fulfilled in the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Scripture References:

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

1 Samuel 23:4-13

Isaiah 46:9-11

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 13-17

2 Peter 1:19-21

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Revelation 1:1-3

Revelation 20:1-7

Deuteronomy 29:29

Acts 17:10-11

Genesis 3:15

John 13:27

Psalm 69:9

John 2:14-17

Isaiah 61:1-2a

Luke 4:16-21

Micah 5:2

Luke 2:1-7

Hosea 11:1

Matthew 2:15

Zechariah 9:9

Matthew 21:1-11