

Thy Word is a Lamp unto my Feet Lesson 3 2Q 2007

Bible Prophecy Fulfilled

Read memory text – thought?

Does it please God for the wicked to be lost?

For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live! Ezekiel 18:32

How do we reconcile the idea that God will do whatever He pleases, with the idea He is not pleased with anyone dying and the doctrine that God will execute the wicked in the end – or the wicked will die in the end?

Simple – God does not use His power to kill them. He does do what pleases Him, He doesn't kill them, yet they die by their own choice and this displeases God, but they don't die at His hand.

What about prophecy – what is its purpose? Is there more than one purpose?

Is there a purpose in prophecy to tell us about future events so we won't be surprised? Is there a purpose in establishing our confidence in God when certain events happen as we see He knew ahead of time it would happen? Other purposes? To set times and dates?

Read second paragraph – thoughts – examples of God's ability to know the future- flood, prophecies of Daniel, Judas

God did not ordain that sin should exist, but foresaw its existence, and made provision to meet the terrible emergency. DA 22

The work of Christ on earth was hastening to a close. Before Him, in vivid outline, lay the scenes whither His feet were tending. Even before He took humanity upon Him, He saw the whole length of the path He must travel in order to save that which was lost. Every pang that rent His heart, every insult that was heaped upon His head, every privation that He was called to endure, was open to His view before He laid aside His crown and royal robe, and stepped down from the throne, to clothe His divinity with humanity. The path from the manger to Calvary was all before His eyes. He knew the anguish that would come upon Him. He knew it all, and yet He said, "Lo, I come: in the volume of the Book it is written of Me, I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Ps. 40:7, 8. {DA 410.1}

The purpose and plan of grace existed from all eternity. Before the foundation of the world it was according to the determinate counsel of God that man should be created and endowed with power to do the divine will. The fall of man, with all its consequences, was not hidden from the Omnipotent. Redemption was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall of Adam, but an eternal purpose, suffered to be wrought out for the blessing not only of this atom of a world, but for the good of all the worlds that God had created. {ST, December 15, 1914 par. 3}

Before Him who rules in the heavens, the mysteries of the past and the future are alike outspread; and God sees, beyond the woe and darkness and ruin that sin has wrought, the outworking of His purpose of love and blessing. Though clouds and darkness are round about Him, yet righteousness and judgment are the foundation of His throne. {ST, December 15, 1914 par. 4}

Why is it important to recognize God knows the future? What implications are there for realizing God knew sin would enter the universe?

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph – thoughts? Who would God like to have the gift of prophecy? If prophecy is seeing things the way God sees them, sees His purposes, His methods and the future outspread – who do you think God would like to know this? And who would God like to have speaking and representing Him?

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." Revelation 7:1-3

Who are the servants spoken of here? Could this be people with the gift of prophecy?

But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets." Revelation 10:7

When is the 7th angel about to sound his trumpet? Is it at the same time as the sealing of God's people right before the coming of Christ? And who are the servants? The prophets? And who are sealed? The servants? Are the 144,000 who get sealed also blessed with seeing things as God sees them with prophetic vision?

Well what is the mystery of God that will be accomplished at this time?

the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Col 1:26,27

What is the mystery? Christ in you – which means what? Recreation of Christlike character, unity with God, oneness in mind with God – would this include our understanding of the GC and what God is doing?

For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares. Romans 2:13-16

What is taking place here? The hearts and minds of certain people have the law/character of God restored within – when does this take place? In the time of the judgment which is when? Now – when people are preparing to meet God!

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. 1 John 3:2,3

What is this verse saying? That when Christ appears we will have already been changed to be like Him in character, heart and mind.

And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment–to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. Ephesians 1:9,10

What is the mystery? To bring us all into unity? Atonement! The day of atonement which is the time of judgment which is the time of recreation of Christlike character – and back to our Revelation text – this is the mystery that is to be accomplished as He seals His servants. The question is will those servants also be prophets?

Thoughts?

Second paragraph “Jesus’ warning...” How can someone be a false prophet? They can knowingly and willfully lie and mislead, they can be duped and think they are on God’s side when they are not, they can be inspired by the false spirit, they can make a human mistake? Are prophets infallible?

Can a prophet receive a vision and not know what it means? Did Daniel know what his visions meant? Can a prophet, after having a vision, interpret the vision without God’s insight and thus the vision be from God but the interpretation be their honest best understanding at the time?

Is everything written by someone with the gift of prophecy a direct revelation from the Lord?

Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for you to remain as you are. Are you married? Do not seek a divorce. Are you unmarried? Do not look for a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this. 1 Corinthians 7:25-28

What about EGW? Is everything she wrote directly revealed to her by God or is some of it her own wisdom? Is she infallible? What does this mean for us when we read the Bible or the writings of any human?

MONDAY

Read Bible passage at the top – thoughts?

What does it mean to believe his prophets? Does it mean we are supposed to believe because a prophet said it, or that we should think about what the prophet has said and desire to understand the truth of it and apply it to our lives?

What about the story of the young and old prophet? 1 Kings 13:11-25

Does it make a difference to do something you are told to do because you are told to do it versus to understand what the person who told you is trying to accomplish and intelligently cooperate with them to help them?

What is the consistent message through all scripture given by the prophets? The truth about God Himself and our sickly state in need of His healing!

And how does God bring us to healing, i.e. salvation? John 8:32 – revealing truth in ways we understand, Isaiah 1:18 – by reasoning with us to get us to understand the truth and Romans 14:5, Ephesians 4:15 by presenting truth in love and leaving us free.

Read bottom paragraph – thoughts? What about the idea today that the US will take away individual liberties? Have you ever shared that with someone who thought you were daft?

WEDNESDAY

The Messiah in prophecy – are there Bible prophecy that predicted the coming of Jesus – name some?

Why did the Jews miss it the way they did?

What kind of god were they looking for? Might, power to inflict punishment on the Romans and use force to set the Jews free- what kind of god are Christians looking for to come back? One who will use might and power to inflict punishment on the wicked and use force to set us free?

Any dangers here?

What is the mark of the beast system noted for? Coercion, no one can buy or sell save him who has the mark of the beast – but God's government is the government of freedom, truth and love – no coercive elements in God's government!

Read bottom pink section – thoughts?

Do you hear salvation by faith and salvation by trust the same or differently?

THURSDAY

When you think of the second coming what prophecies come to mind?
Discuss the list on the bottom of Thursday's lesson – any missing?

As it was in the day's of Sodom – and how was it? Ezekiel 16:49 and as it was in the days of Noah and how was it? Violence all the time.

And what else?

Have we taken the gospel to the world as a witness to all nations – what is the gospel? The Good News about what? What did the war in heaven start over? What will be the message to lighten the world for Christ's coming? The truth about His character of love!

FRIDAY

Questions 2 and 3 read and discuss.