

# *An Overview of Biblical Prophecy*

## (1) Defining some terms

### *What is a true Prophet and what is true Prophecy?*

First of all, what is a prophet/prophecy? Gen.20:7 (first mention) also see ISam.9:9

**Prophet means generally “an inspired man”. Prophecy usually speaks of future events.**

*tidbit: It is estimated that ~ 25% of the Word of God was prophetic when given!*

Are all “prophets” from God? Acts 13:6-12; See IJn.4:1

**Absolutely not. Satan is the great counterfeit. We are constantly warned to beware!**

What is *one* test to authenticate the true prophet of God? Deut.18:22

**He speaks of future event(s) and it *doesn't* come to pass. Do not fear this ‘prophet’.**

What is clearly taught about true prophets and prophecy from this passage?

**A true prophet speaks from the Lord and it ALWAYS happens EXACTLY. See Mt.5:18**

What is *another* VERY important test, often ignored? Deut.13:1-5

**The prophecy does come true! *But...* the message leads away from God, false DOCTRINE**

What is to be our response in that case? vs.3-4

**First, know the truth well enough to recognize the false! Then reject it/them soundly!**

Are true prophets always men? Ex.15:20; Acts 2:17-18

**No, See Miriam; also sons, daughters, young men, old men, men and women, bond slaves.**

### *What are some purposes of Biblical Prophecy?*

What is/are the purpose(s) of *all* Scripture? IITim.3:16 (note: for the man of God...)

**It's for teaching, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness. Equipped/good work.**

So, since prophecy is Scripture, what must be true of its purpose?

**It must be good for teaching, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness! Not misc...**

Who is the central Person/purpose in all the Scriptures? Lu.24:13-35

**It's always Christ! We must seek Christ in the heart of all the Scriptures.**

What is another of the primary functions of Biblical prophecy? Deut.18:15-22

**It is to authenticate the prophet and the message as truly from God. Thus saith the Lord!**

*tidbit: For prophecies re first coming of Christ; est odds of chance? 1 chance in  $87 \times 10^{93}$ !*

What is one of the obvious stated reasons for this prophetic passage? IThess.4:13, 14-17

**To teach, correct, instruct in godly living. We have HOPE. Believers death/not despair**

What is another of the reasons for prophetic passages? Gen.18:16-21

**To instruct believers in the will/plan of God. Reveals beforehand what he is doing!**

What is another of the reasons for prophetic passages? Jn.14:1-6

**Let not your heart be troubled! It (2<sup>nd</sup> coming) provides comfort to believers!**

What is perhaps the greatest purpose of prophecy? IIPet.3:10-18; etc...

**Live a holy life! All this stuff is going to be destroyed. Be diligent to be found spotless...**