

Next Steps with the Bible

Going Deeper and Growing Stronger

Week 10: Understanding Biblical Prophecy

For my thoughts,
are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,
declares the Lord.

For as the heavens are
higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher

than your ways and
my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9

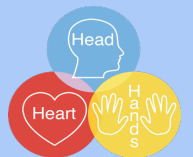


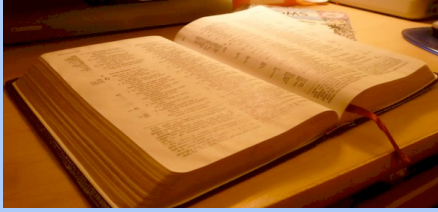


Understanding Biblical Prophecy

1. Review of Week 9: Wisdom

- Wisdom is the **skill** of applying biblical knowledge and truth to life's complexities.
- Wisdom books do not share the same form or genre but the same **purpose**.
- Wisdom teaches us **how to live** a godly and therefore a successful life in a broken world.
- Wisdom doesn't give us **guarantees** but **principles** that we apply prayerfully and skillfully.





Understanding Biblical Prophecy

1. Review of Week 9: Wisdom

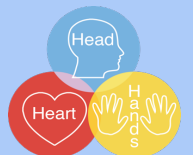
Example:

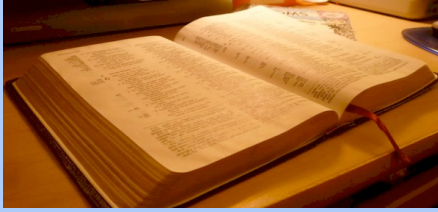
*I have been young, and now am old,
yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken
or his children begging for bread. (Ps 37:25)*

Assignment: Wisdom and Folly in Prov 3

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and lean not on your own understanding.*

(Try “flip-flopping” the negative and positive commands.)





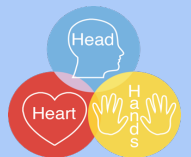
Understanding Biblical Prophecy

Conclusion: Two Kinds of Wisdom in James 3:13-17

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the **humility** that comes from wisdom.

But if you harbor bitter **envy and selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have **envy and selfish ambition**, there you find **disorder** and **every evil practice**.

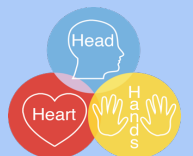
But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all **pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere**. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. (NIV)





Understanding Biblical Prophecy

- **2. What is biblical prophecy?**
 - Prophecy is not soothsaying or prognosticating.
 - Matt 24:36-44
 - Prophecy is not “history written beforehand.”
 - Prophecy is speaking in the name of the Lord as his mouthpiece about his covenant with his people (Deut 18:15-19; Acts 3:18-25).
 - Prophecy is ultimately about **Jesus**.



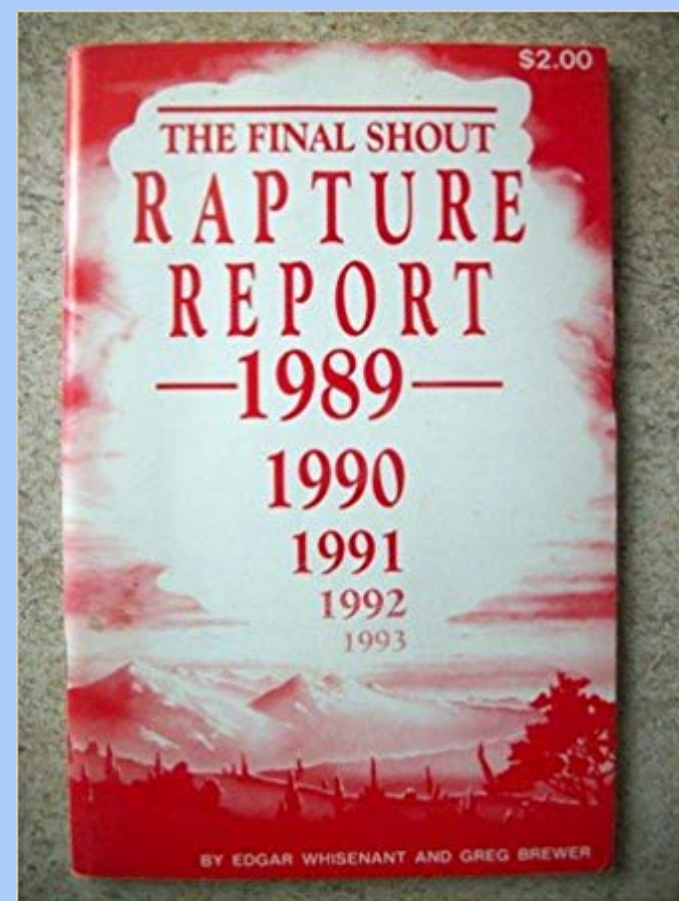
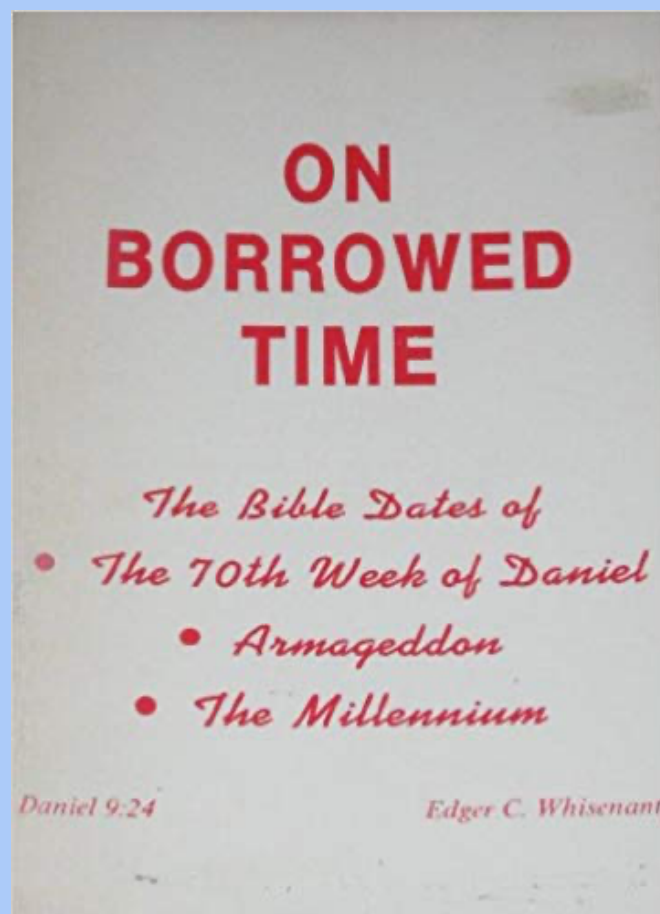
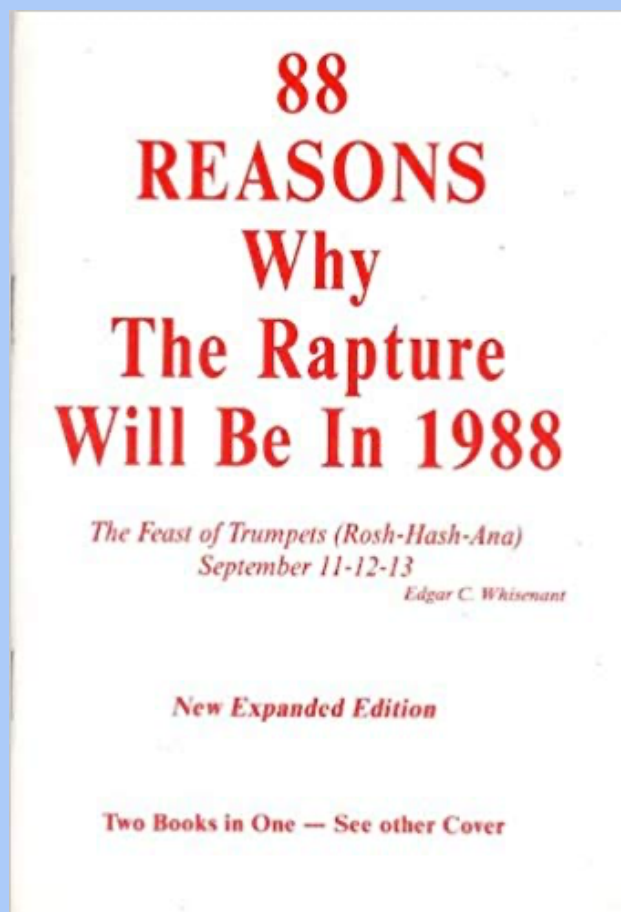
From: BrianGilm <ranierman2008@gmail.com>

Subject: UNDERGROUND TRUTH OF BIBLE PROPHECY

Message Body:

These are indeed the end times, but most are in the Falling Away. Trust God that He will lead you to the truth. The real body of Christ is outside of the Church.

We know what's going to happen, and we will send you prophecy which you can discern. To receive it, take a chance, text email or postal contact info to 541/930/4440



³⁶ But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. . . . ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. (Matt 24)



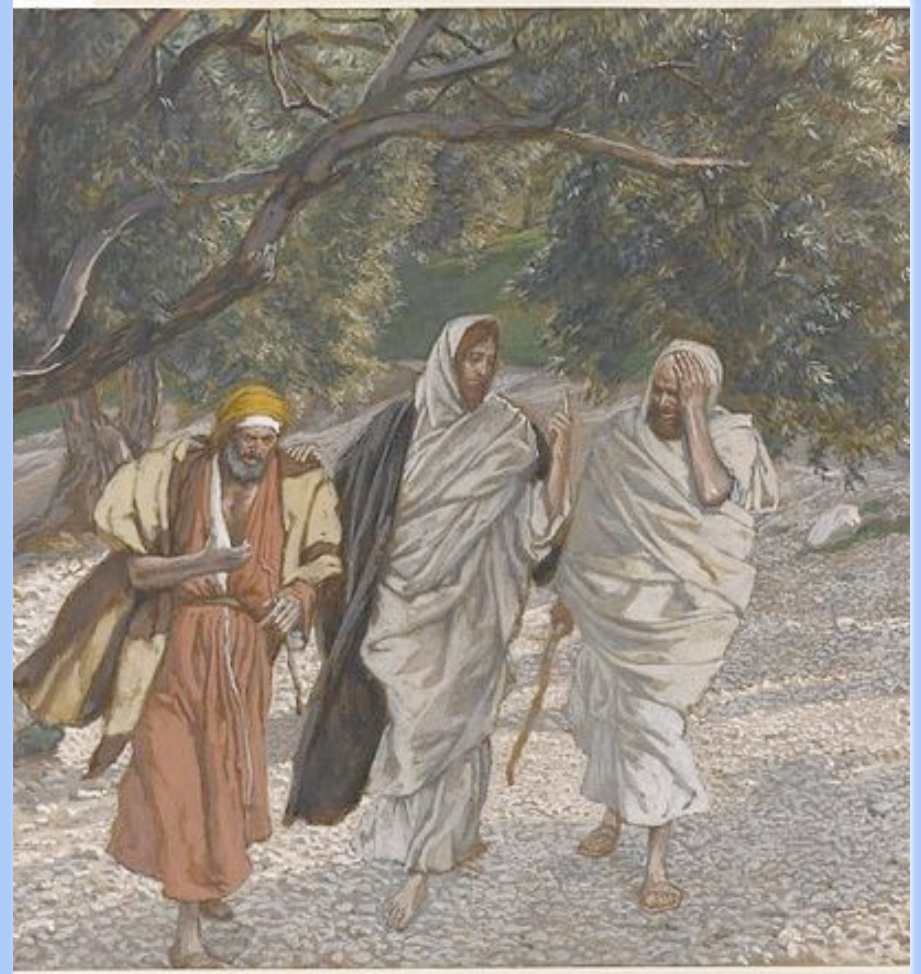
Understanding Biblical Prophecy

Luke 24

²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, **he explained to them** what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. . . . ³² They asked each other, “**Were not our hearts burning within us while he . . . opened the Scriptures to us?**” . . .

⁴⁴ He said to them, “. . . **Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me** in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵ **Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.** ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ **You are witnesses of these things.**



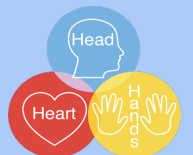
James Tissot (1836-1902)

November 13, 2019



Understanding Biblical Prophecy

- **2. What is biblical prophecy?**
 - Prophecy is **preaching** (ethics).
 - Addresses *current* issues (orthodoxy and orthopraxy)
 - “Remember Moses? What he said!”
 - Prophecy is **promising** (consequences).
 - Addresses the *future*
 - “Disobey and you will pay.” (oracles of judgment)
 - “Listen and you will be blessed.” (oracles of salvation)





Understanding the Wisdom Books

2. What is biblical prophecy?

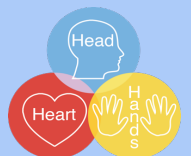
- Prophecy comes in **oracles** and **visions**
 - Isa 1:1; 6:1; Jer 1:4; 11:1; Ezek 1:1; 3:16; Hos 1:1).
- Prophecy is expressed **poetically**.

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy hill.

Let all who live in the land tremble,
for the day of the Lord is coming.

It is close at hand—
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and blackness.

Like dawn spreading across the mountains
a large and mighty army comes,
such as never was in ancient times
nor ever will be in ages to come. (Joel 2:1-2 NIV)





Understanding Biblical Prophecy

3. Where do we find prophecy in the Bible?

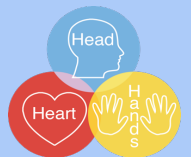
- Old Testament books about the *lives* of the prophets
 - 1-2 Samuel; 1-2 Kings; 1-2 Chronicles (e.g. Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Nathan)
- Old Testament books about the *messages* (oracles) of the prophets
 - Isaiah to Malachi
 - Anthologies or collections: “Jeremiah’s greatest hits”



Understanding Biblical Prophecy

3. Where do we find prophecy in the Bible?

- New Testament prophecy is embedded in other books
 - *Gospels*: “The Olivet Discourse:” Matthew 24-25; Mark 13; Luke 24
 - *Acts* 11:27; 13:1; 15:32; 21:10
 - *Letters*: 1 Cor 12:10, 29; 13:2, 9; 14; 1 Thes 4:15-18; 1 Tim 4:1-5; 2 Tim 3:1-9; 2 Pet 1:19-21; 3:1-13
 - The Book of *Revelation* (The Apocalypse)

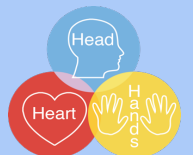




Understanding Biblical Prophecy

4. How do we interpret biblical prophecy?

- **Historical** Context: ancient situation
- **Literary** Context: flow of thought
- Determine the **limits** of the oracle/vision/passage under consideration.
- Try to understand the **poetic** language
- The issue of **near** and **far** fulfillment.
 - 1 Pet 1:10-12
- Is the OT passage mentioned in the NT?



Brief Synopsis of the Olivet Discourse

Content	Matthew	Mark	Luke
1. Setting	24:1–3	13:1–4	21:5–7
2. Beginning of birth pains	24:4–14	13:5–13	21:8–19
3. Abomination of desolation	24:15–28	13:14–23	21:20–24
4. Coming of the Son of Man	24:29–31	13:24–27	21:25–27
5. Lesson of the fig tree	24:32–41	13:28–32	21:28–33
6. Necessity of alertness	24:42–44	13:33–37	21:34–36
7. Parable of the servant	24:45–51		
8. Parable of ten virgins	25:1–13		
9. Parable of the talents	25:14–30		
10. Judgment of the nations	25:31–46		



Understanding Biblical Prophecy

6. So What? How does all this impact us?

Information

Transformation

Action

Accurate knowledge



Wise values



Missional Lifestyle

- We are richly blessed to have the Bible in our language, along with the freedom and opportunity to study and teach it.
 - **Are we faithful stewards of this blessing?**
- Jude saw his church's situation in continuity with Israel's history as the ongoing one people of God.
 - **Do we read the OT like Jude did?**
- Jude speaks frankly and clearly about dangerous teaching and its judgment.
 - **Are we following Jude's example?**

