

September 28, 2025

CFBC... "The Perfect Ending" (Matthew 24-25)

# "BIBLICAL PROPHECY"

## Matthew 24:1-3

Are we poised on the edge of eternity? Judging from. . .

- **the bloody conflicts in Ukraine and other parts of the world**
- **the antisemitism that threatens the existence of the Jewish people**
- **a fragmented global economy**
- **widespread unrest in the major cities of the world**
- **political violence**
- **a major increase in sheer lawlessness**

One would have to assume that we're sitting on a ticking time bomb. If only we could know what the future holds.

People often turn to psychics. They read horoscopes, or pay good money to palm readers,

all in an effort to learn about the future. These people are glad to take one's hard-earned money so they can tell them what they want to hear. **It's amazing to me that we never hear about these self-proclaimed experts winning the lottery.** Trust me. What they are doing is demonic. If you want to know what's going to happen in the future, there's only one option. Turn to the Lord and His Word.

**Biblical prophecy reveals the future, and it explains what the positive or negative results of future events will be.**

It's very precise, and it is always dependable and worthy of our complete trust. What God prophesies always occurs.

- **It shapes our lives.**
- **It guides us in serving our Lord.**
- **It is a source of strength for us.**
- **It provides a roadmap to the future.**

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To ignore biblical prophecy causes us to miss one of the greatest gifts of God. The question needs to be asked and answered— "Why should we spend time on this subject?"

- **25% of the Bible is predictive prophecy**
- **300+ references to Jesus' return in the N.T.**
- **For every Bible prophecy about Jesus' first coming there are 8 on His second coming**

It's vitally important that we pay close attention to the prophetic portions of the Bible. The prominence of the theme demands it. Maybe you're wondering why I'm going to preach and teach biblical prophecy when you need help with your marriage, your finances, your career, your parenting, your decisions, etc. I want to give you 5 solid reasons for preaching this series.

### **1. Biblical prophecy fills us with hope.**

Think of the believers. . .

- **who are facing cancer**

- **who are grieving over the loss of a loved one**
- **who are sinking in financial quicksand**
- **who are battling depression.**

People who are hurting need the benefit of specific prophecies and promises that instill genuine hope in their hearts and souls. (**John 14:1-3**)

## **2. Biblical prophecy gives us perspective.**

It gives us the ability to properly assess what's happening in the world around us, why it's happening, and how it will all turn out in the end:

**Titus 2:11–14...** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **12** instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, **13** looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, **14** who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a

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people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

### 3. Biblical prophecy purifies us.

Over and over in the N.T. we are told to eagerly wait for our Lord to come again (**Philippians 3:20**). If you were to truly adopt this approach, it would have a powerful impact on what you say and what you do.

**1 John 3:2–3**... Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. **3** And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

This motivates us to live in a way that's pleasing to Jesus.

### 4. Biblical prophecy equips us.

Prophetic truth opens doors for effective evangelism. Unbelievers, by and large, recognize

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that the world is decaying at a rapid pace. There is fear in their eyes and uncertainty in their hearts. That's why Peter wrote these powerful words. . .

**1 Peter 3:15**... but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

## **5. Biblical prophecy prepares us for the last days.**

Prophecy protects us from deception and it shows us how to live so Christ will be honored and glorified!

**2 Peter 3:3–4**... Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, **4** and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

**1Thess. 5:4–8**... But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake

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you like a thief; **5** for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; **6** so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. **7** For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. **8** But since we are of *the* day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

This new series is entitled, **"PERFECT ENDING."** For the next several weeks, we are going to focus our attention on **the words of Jesus** which are located in Matthew 24–25. This section of the New Testament is commonly known as **the Olivet Discourse**. The theme is the second coming of Christ at the end of this present age to establish His millennial kingdom on earth. Open your Bible to Matthew 24 and let's jump right into the words of our Lord. . .

**Matthew 24:1... Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. 2 And**

He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down." **3** As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

It was Wednesday of Jesus's final week. On Friday He would be crucified and on Sunday He would be resurrected from the dead. He has gone to the temple for the last time. He was preparing the disciples for His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead and His ascension to glory. These men were awed by the beauty of the temple. What Jesus revealed to them must have left them in utter shock.

Now on the Mount of Olives, Jesus began to teach His disciples about world events that would ultimately lead to His return. The Jewish nation revolted against Rome in 66 A.D. and in 70 A.D. Jesus' words were literally fulfilled when the



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Roman commander Titus Vespasian led his army to destroy the city and the entire temple complex. Some scholars have suggested that over 1 million Jews died as a result. Remaining Jews were disbursed across the world and the Jewish nation ceased to exist for roughly 2000 years (until 1948).

The Olivet Discourse itself was prompted by the disciples' questions in verse 3. Look at these questions.

**The answer Jesus gave is the longest answer given to any question asked in the New Testament. The truths embedded in it are absolutely essential for understanding His return and the amazing events associated with it. (MacArthur)**

The Jewish context for our Lord's answer is crucial. For many centuries they had been subdued by one foreign kingdom after another.

- **The northern ten tribes had been conquered by Assyria in 722 BC**
- **The southern two tribes fell to Babylon in 586 BC.**
- **The Medo-Persians, the Greeks, and finally the Romans ruled over the Jewish people.**

Despite all of this, the Jewish people knew that God had promised that the Lord's Anointed One (the Messiah) would come and establish the rule and reign of David again on earth—a reign of peace, prosperity, and safety that would never end. Their great longing was to see the day when God restored the kingdom as He had prophesied.<sup>1</sup>

**Isaiah 9:6-7**... For a child will be born to us,  
a son will be given to us; And the  
government will rest on His shoulders;  
And His name will be called Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father,  
Prince of Peace. **7** There will be no end to

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<sup>1</sup> John F. MacArthur Jr., [Matthew](#), vol. 4, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1985–1989), 3.

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the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore.

**Micah 5:2...** "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

**The Jews therefore had great hope for the future.** When John the Baptist appeared on the scene, the people's interest intensified. Then Jesus preached with amazing authority and healed every sort of disease. Many Jews were convinced that He was indeed the Messiah. Then, when He rode into Jerusalem on the colt, the crowds openly acclaimed Him as the Messiah, the long-awaited Son of David.

**Matthew 21:9...** The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were

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shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David;  
BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE  
LORD; Hosanna in the highest!”

However, the Jewish people had no concept of the Messiah coming twice—the first time **to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the world’s sin** and the second **to judge the world and to establish His millennial kingdom on earth**. The Lord’s predictions that He must suffer, die, and be resurrected had simply not registered with His disciples.<sup>2</sup> The New Testament clearly presents the concept of two ages...

**Ephesians 1:20–21**...which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, **21** far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named,

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<sup>2</sup> John F. MacArthur Jr., [Matthew](#), vol. 4, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1985–1989), 7.

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not only in this age but also in the one to come.

In the passage we are going to focus on in this series, **the Lord Jesus prophetically described what would occur between His first coming and His second coming.** He revealed the future so His followers could anticipate what was coming in the future and leverage that knowledge for the glory of God in their personal lives and their spiritual lives.

## CONCLUSION

Here's the truth I want you to grasp...

**JESUS REVEALS THE FUTURE SO  
YOU CAN LIVE WITH CONFIDENCE.**

We are closer to Jesus' return than any other generation. Let me close by asking you three questions...

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**First, are you saved?**

**Second, are you living the way He wants you to live?**

**Third, are you connected to a Bible-believing church?**

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