CHARTING THE END TIMES PROPHECY STUDY GUIDE
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Lesson 1

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE PROPHECY

See page 6 in *Charting the End Times*.

One of the truly unique distinctives about Christianity is that God, in His Word, says a lot about the future. In fact, 28 percent of the Bible, at the time it was written, was prophetic in nature. That is slightly more than one-fourth of the Bible! What's especially astounding is that all the prophecies that have been fulfilled so far have been fulfilled with 100 percent accuracy. No other religious text in the world can make the same claim.

God and the Future

In Isaiah 46:9-10, God states a special ability that no god in any other religion has. What does God declare about Himself in that passage?

What does God say about His counsel?
Read Proverbs 21:1. What does this verse tell us about God?

According to those Bible verses, how well does God know the future? And how much control does He have over world events?

In the Old Testament, there are more than 100 prophecies about the coming of the Messiah to the earth. Through these prophecies, we know that Jesus Christ Himself was truly the Messiah, for He fulfilled every one of the prophecies related to His first coming. What’s interesting is that in the Bible, there are five times more prophecies about Jesus’ second coming than His first coming. If we can trust what the Bible says about His first coming, we have even more reason to be confident that the teachings about the second coming really will happen! There’s no doubt God wants us to understand His plans for the future—that’s why so much of the Bible is devoted to that subject.

Is Bible Prophecy Too Difficult to Understand?

Sadly, many people today are hesitant to study Bible prophecy because they believe it’s too difficult to understand. But let’s look at what the Bible says about its own teachings:

Psalm 19:7b says, “The testimony of the LORD is sure, making _______ the simple.”

Read 2 Timothy 3:16. How much of Scripture is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction, and being thoroughly furnished?
Do you think 2 Timothy 3:16 applies to prophecy as well?

About 95 percent of the book of Revelation is Bible prophecy. What does Revelation 1:3 say will happen to the person who reads and hears the words of this book?

I (Tim) have been a student of Bible prophecy for over 50 years, and Thomas has devoted over 30 years of ministry to this topic as well. We can both say from personal experience that we've been tremendously blessed and encouraged by all the time we have spent studying Bible prophecy. Our hope is that you'll be richly blessed as you come to a greater understanding of God's plan for the future as you use this study guide!