



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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THE ABSENCE OF PROPHECY

The post-canon Church Age is the only era in the entire dispensations in which no biblical prophecy will be fulfilled. The only prophetic events concerning the Church Age are its beginning, which was prophesied by Christ (John 14:16-17, 16:7-15, Acts 1:5), and its termination at the resurrection or Rapture (1 Corinthians 15:51-55, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The only prophecies fulfilled in the pre-canon Church Age deal not with the Church but with Israel.

The Bible is the mind of Christ and not a complete historical book of the future. The relatively few events it describes are selected to reveal Christ not the future events. Many prophetic events have been fulfilled in the past just as others will be in the future.

The Church Age stands between two periods rich in prophecy. Numerous OT prophecies were fulfilled during the Hypostatic Union and more prophecies concerning Christ and Israel will be fulfilled during the Great Tribulation, but the Church Age is a period of prophetic silence. No events of this dispensation are found in prophecy, except for its termination.

The prophetic events following the Rapture concern the Tribulation. None of the geopolitical alignment events need to exist prior to the rapture of the Church. World conditions might seem parallel to biblical descriptions of the Tribulation; this does not indicate that the Rapture is near.

Throughout the Church Age the doctrine of the imminence of the Rapture holds true (James 5:8, Revelation 22:7, 12, 20). The Rapture of the Church is the next prophetic event, but the time is not announced. Rapture was possible in the time of Apostle Paul, tomorrow or a thousand years from now. Baseless speculation has no place in biblical doctrines.

Advancing believers are growing in love for Christ and developing eager anticipation for His appearance (1 Corinthians 1:4-8, Titus 2:13), but such enthusiasm must be tempered by patience (James 5:7-8) and redirected toward fulfilling God's purpose in this present dispensation.

Unfulfilled prophecies and promises concerning Israel still belong to Israel and God will keep his promises to the Jews. However, the fulfillment of those divine prophecies will not be seen until the Church departs and the Tribulation begins. The issues for the Church Age are not to fix our attention to certain prophetic events but to focus on Bible doctrines. Christ directs our focus on more important matter – the Word of God. He directs us to concentrate on the tremendous mystery doctrines.

The Church possesses the completed canon of the Scripture given to sustain spiritual growth, which glorifies Christ. The Church has access to the same divine assets and resources that totally sustained the humanity of Christ. The Church was created with the capacity to have the mind of Christ (epignosis) in the souls. God excluded prophetic events from post-canon Church Age to emphasize the dynamics of Bible doctrine in the soul. Believers should learn the whole realm of Bible doctrine rather than specialize in prophecy.

We need to study prophecy but such eschatological studies should never distract us from the most vital priority. The impact and influence of the church Age believers is invisible and generally indirect. Believers create the trends of history –anonymously. The absence of prophecy emphasizes the individual believer’s potential impact. Knowledge of eschatology helps us to interpret events and historical trends as they occur in his own generation, but the absence of prophecy stress his need to grow up spiritually until he can think with biblical perspective.