

20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 32 (August 6-12, 2017)

The importance of prophecy in the Bible will continue to be our focus this week.

Sunday, August 6 (read Isaiah 42:8-9; reprinted from March 17, 2015)

"I am the Lord; that is my Name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you." (Isaiah 42:8-9)

He is "the Lord; that is (His) name!" **The Lord** is the Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:8), so the "former things" are already fulfilled, and He announces the "new things" that will take place in the future (v. 9). When He says, "I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols," the obvious reference concerns the hand-crafted gods/idols that many people worshipped then and even now; however, it also references **our work** which must always be done for His glory. We need to arrive at the truth that every **good** thing we have accomplished has been done through His power so that we will not try to take the glory for ourselves. He does not want anyone to make an idol out of his/her own good deeds. Many people have done good works, but they have no eternal value unless God is glorified. Since we know that His Word has already declared what will take place in the future as well as what took place in the past, let's simply trust the future into His hands.

Monday, August 7 (read Isaiah 43:8-13; reprinted from March 25, 2015)

I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no Savior. (Isaiah 43:11)

We are called to testify about His love to anyone who has not seen or heard God's plan of salvation (v. 8). The Lord issues a challenge about all the false gods of all the unbelieving nations: Did any of them foretell the future? Bring them in and let them testify (v. 9). It is time for all professing Christians to agree on one truth: Jesus **alone** offers salvation to a lost world (v. 11)! We must witness to that fact without caving in to the politically correct views of our society. We will be accused of being narrow-minded, but we are commanded to share the exclusive plan of salvation with everyone as we have opportunity. He is the same yesterday, today and forever (see Hebrews 13:8)! No one can pluck us out of His hands (v. 13; see John 10:27-29).

Tuesday, August 8 (read Zechariah 9:9)

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)

You can read the fulfillment of this prophecy in Matthew 21:1-9. Do you find it amazing that God foretells this event more than 500 years before it happens? I'm afraid that we have become a people who no longer reverence God or hold Him in awe. We have made Him into our best friend, and that is what He is, but He is so much more! He tells us the end of things before they happen. Before a word is spoken, God has already heard it! We have the privilege of watching the Bible truth unfold right before our eyes. Events that I have been preaching from prophecy over the past 40 years or so are now current events. Since God foretold the details of Palm Sunday, don't you think He will fulfill His second coming with perfect accuracy? Let's learn to trust Him completely to bring about everything He has promised.

Wednesday, August 9 (read Zechariah 11:12-13)

I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. (Zechariah 11:12)

Let's stay in the book of Zechariah to look at another amazing prophecy. Matthew 27:1-10 records the exact fulfillment of today's reading. God foretold the exact amount of money Judas would receive as well as the name of the field the chief priests would buy with the thirty silver coins that Judas returned before taking his own life (Matthew 27:5-10). The greedy, mixed up disciple said and did all the right things following his terrible betrayal of Jesus (v. 3-4), but he went to the wrong people. If he had gone to Calvary with the same speech, he would be in Heaven today, just like the thief on the cross (see Luke 23:39-43). If you have not studied prophecy, or if you are in a church that doesn't preach prophecy, I pray that you are amazed at the accuracy of God's Word, past, present and future.

Thursday, August 10 (read Isaiah 52:13-15)

See, my servant will act wisely; He will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. (Isaiah 52:13)

The prophecy of Palm Sunday in v. 13 printed above was penned 700 years before it happened. The only time Jesus was raised and lifted up was when He rode into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey. Five days later, v. 14-15 come into play. The horror of the cross really comes alive in the vivid description in v. 14. Why would God allow His Son to go through such an ordeal? It was the only way He could offer salvation to the sinful nations and open the eyes, minds and hearts of unbelievers (v. 15). Jesus laid down His life willingly and of His own accord (see John 10:17-18). Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Friday, August 11 (read Psalm 18:30-36)

You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn. (Psalm 18:36)

If you are reading this today, I am at UVA hospital having surgery on my left ankle. For the past four years, I have reminded God of this printed verse practically every day. The doctors told me I could not walk on the ankle, because the tendons had torn loose, but I claimed the promise daily until I could go no further. How did I have enough faith to do that? The answer is in v. 30, "As for God, His way is perfect; the Word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him." Even though this passage is not prophecy, the knowledge of the truth of **every** verse in the Bible enables me to stand on the heights (v. 33). Glory to His name!

Saturday, August 12 (read Isaiah 53:1-6; reprinted from February 10, 2017 with changes)

But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 gives the entire account of the life, death and resurrection of our Lord 700 years prior to the events taking place. I just want to remind you of the tremendous price Jesus paid for our **peace**! Can we afford to ignore it? The first two verses in today's reading prophesy that most who hear His story will not believe it, particularly the virgin birth (root out of dry ground). There was no halo around His head to make Him stand out in a crowd. He was "despised and rejected by men" and suffered much, because He came to earth to die for our sins. "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (v. 6). Can you read this and continue to live in willful sin? This is a question you must answer for yourself! Can you disobey Him and expect to have peace? The Scripture clearly teaches you cannot! Can you deny that the Word of God is perfectly accurate? If so, we will see more evidence to the contrary in next week's devotions.