**“Is Prophecy Real? Does it Reveal the Imminent Return of Jesus Christ?”**

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*Script/Research notes for youtube video “Is Prophecy Real, Is Christ’s Return Imminent.”*

There are a few prophetic matters in Christian Scripture that make these questions very serious indeed. For example, were one to interpret Daniel’s[[1]](#footnote-1) prophecies to have a future meaning, one would note that for the first time ever the *too*-and-*fro* movement of people, and the global increase in knowledge foretold, truly is global. Further, the increase truly has been an information explosion because of the World Wide Web. These facts can be observed in interesting and unsuspecting places.

In recent years thousands of people interested in science and the cosmos, but without the benefit or structure of academia, has led to a resurgence in Flat Earth Theory. The premises come from:

1. an amalgam of random information intake
2. a distrust of institutions like academia
3. observations and beliefs stemming from general societal and political corruption.
4. random legitimate discoveries and advances in thinking and facts
5. no formality or uniformly accepted nomenclature

These facts cause the subject to only be understood on a spectrum, and not by a universal theory like many other subjects, including heliocentrism.[[2]](#footnote-2) Flat Earth Theory seems to produce the same denominationalism found in Protestant Christianity, devoted adherence to a specific text, great concern for the accuracy of writings and practices, yet disregarding accompanying historical information and traditions.

The Spectrum of Flat Earth beliefs range from the conspiratorial, to other subsets seemingly emerging a Christian Doctrine on the issue. There are hard science camps testing and observing – maybe for the first time since Galileo’s discoveries were accepted in the Western World - and an almost inconclusive range of ideas all stemming from increase in knowledge, access and retention, but without order or reason.

Another phenomenon called the Mandela Effect reveal the idea that the Christian prophecy of global increase in knowledge and too and fro movement are in fact occurring. The emergence of this seemingly solely digital movement, in academic terms may be covered in the scientific theory of “false memory.”

The Mandela Effect, so named for the seemingly large number of people who adhere to a lived memory of seeing Nelson Mandela’s[[3]](#footnote-3) obituary and funeral on the news in the mid 1980’s, only to find him later alive, once again in mainstream press, and eventually passing away legitimately. The Mandela Effect goes deeper and seems to focus on movie lines and retail product advertisements that are expressed in our society in slightly different terms than they originally appeared. For example, “Luke…I am Your Father,” is a common memory for Star Wars fans. Yet, a close examination of the film will reveal the line to be, “No… I am your father.”[[4]](#footnote-4)

These two phenomena reveal the increase in knowledge brought about by the digital global age. Further they seem to be perfect examples to capture the tone of Daniel’s passage that somehow the increase and knowledge will be aimless. Every subject is seeing new ideas, and criticisms of old academic ideas. This regularly occurring general dynamic seems amplified in our time. Of particular interest are the developments in learning about the cosmos and metaphysics, and the swing back toward the idea of an intelligent designer over the theory of evolution.[[5]](#footnote-5) At a minimum Supernaturalism as a better descriptor than Naturalism for the entire universe is back on tongues after almost a century of silence. At minimum since the 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial[[6]](#footnote-6) and its subsequent impact.

This increase in knowledge seems to be a largely autodidactic, or at least, disjointed phenomenon without the structures and nomenclature so important to understanding a subject by commonly accepted academic standards. This unstructured learning has had an interesting and largely positive impact on the spread of Christianity, mostly in the form of a return to the idea of a mono-theistic God, and general return to supernaturalism. Individuals opting out of organized Christian worship, but claiming a belief in God, and having at least authentic minimal practices in his or her life is expanding too.

It is compelling too, that Jesus Christ’s main argument regarding himself was the veracity of the Old Testament prophecies leading to him. (Road to Emmaus passage- “believe the words of Moses, for he wrote of me.”; Matthew 24.) The esteemed Calvinist *‘reformed’* Theologian Dr. James White often notes that *“Jesus Christ carried a very high view of scripture,”* both for the duration of his earthly ministry and beyond.

The Apostle Peter’s first sermon after Christ’s ascension, recorded in the book of Acts, emphasized fulfilled prophecy. This is noteworthy given that after a God Man rose from the dead, ate with him, stood and breathed living in his very presence, and called him brother, Peter chose prophecy as the deal sealer. This truth is even more compelling when considering the fulfillment of a prophecy said to reveal the stage for events leading to the Second Coming of Christ, such as the increase in knowledge and too and fro movement in a truly global community.   
   
Currently, Orthodox Universal Christian prophecy is interpreted to have dual meaning. The event that the prophet wrote about happened in or after their lifetime, but their prophecy is also intended to convey a message about something that will happen in the future. Sometimes the Prophet is acting as the voice of God. In other terms, it is God’s words coming from prophet.  A reader notices first person language, ‘I,’ ‘Me.’ Sometimes the prophet speaks of or for God in third person masculine language, ‘Him,’ ‘He,’ ‘God.’

An example showing this dual-meaning interpretation is well presented in the book of the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 10. In Chapter 10 Isaiah is speaking to the tribe of Judah about judgment that God will level upon them via the Assyrians.  
   
One could notice that the text also reads as if it is describing events of the current world and the results of actions by current world governments, social movements, and individuals. Of course, whether or not current events are truly being described is a subjective part of the Christian practice that varies from denomination to denomination and individual to individual.  
  
Whoa to those who decree unrighteous decrees  
Who write misfortune  
Which they have prescribed  
To rob the needy of justice  
And to take what is right from the poor of my people  
That widows may be their prey  
and that they may rob the fatherless  
  
What will you do in the Day of punishment, and in the desolation that will come from a far  
To whom will you flee for help?  
  
And where will you leave your glory?  
  
Without me they shall bow down among the prisoners?  
And they shall fall among the slain  
  
For all that… his anger is not turned away.  
But, his hand is stretched out still  
  
Theologians and historians certainly agree generally that this prophecy proved true via Assyrian military aggression and the occupation of Israel.[[7]](#footnote-7)

On the main topic, well-written prophecy can be held up in any generation and read like it is describing current events. One might consider the work of Sir John Glubb, *“The Fate of Empires,”*[[8]](#footnote-8)when considering this point. This thirty-some-page essay more than adequately provides a generalization for the life-cycle of a human civilization. If these facts about how prophecies are interpreted are accurate, and Glubb’s life cycle of civilizations are accurate, that means the books of some prophets, and more importantly the prophetic genre of writing, can be, and often is factual. If the events happen, they are factual and true.  Next, if prophecies about certain events impact how a society views its culture, it becomes objective truth.  
  
On the subject of things yet to come, the proverbial end of the world, Armageddon, and the Great Tribulation, one could conclude that humanity somewhere in the world is always in the end times, and consequently somewhere there are always new beginnings.

Conveniently I am allowed this opinion without being a heretic because all Christian doctrine about Eschatology – except the Doctrine of the Second Coming - are considered Adiaphora.[[9]](#footnote-9)

*All these facts considered; the Second Coming of Jesus Christ may very well be imminent.* It is noteworthy that in the doctrines of Christian Eschatology, the only doctrine that seems truly universal; regardless of denomination, geography, or flavor of Christianity, is the doctrine that a Second Coming will happen. I concede this view has not been universal for the entire two-thousand-year history of the Church. While there may be individuals today who ascribe to being full preterists,[[10]](#footnote-10) there do not seem to be individual congregations or denominations that hold a view without any future prophecy about Jesus Christ, and his love-love relationship with humanity in the physical world.

1. Daniel 12:4 “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the books until the time of the end, many shall run too and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Theory of Round Earth [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The popular apartheid South African Leader, and world figure. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The Saturday Night Live Actor Chris Farley’s movie, “Tommy Boy,” a Fairley Brother’s Film, has a scene with him speaking like Darth Vader and saying, “Luke… I am your father.” [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. This admittedly may not be taking place in academia [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. See “Scopes Monkey Trial” by James C. Foster at [www.mtsu.edu](http://www.mtsu.edu) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Here the term Israel is understood to mean some combination of the 12/13 tribes at a point in ancient history, and the land historically known as Palestine. Israel is loosely used as a term for both people and geography, for theological purposes, when describing events in the levant. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. John Bagot Glubb, Sir “The Fate of Empires and Search for Survival,” Edinburgh: Blackwood, 1978 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Secondary doctrines not essential for salvation. (Maybe this means also a non-excludable offense regarding congregational Christian practice?) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. All prophecies in the Christian Bible have been fulfilled. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)