

Prophecy is Pattern

A brief testimony of myself may help understand my drive to study the Bible particularly Prophecy, But I see prophecy almost on every page.

My career was primarily Communications Electronics and I feel God gave me the ability to see how things work since fixing comm gear requires to troubleshoot problems. So now I love to figure out how God is showing us his plan but its kind of a mystery. I'm convinced that Daniel In Dan 12:1-4 speaking to an event still in the future but vs 4 is the key. To and Fro= going back and forth thru the Bible putting things together. Knowledge shell increase=as we get closer and closer to these events spoken of in Daniel, Ezekiel and Revelations plus many other passages that what we see in the world will make what we read in the Bible make more sense.

I want to first quote someone I learned a lot from as to this way to look at the Bible as a primarily Jewish Writing. We in the western mind have a tendency to look at the Bible thru a western lens. But since our Savior was Born into a Jewish family and society, I think we need to consider how they see things. So here is a quote from an article by Dr Chuck Missler. Which during my early years of deep study of the Bible I would listen to his commentaries as I drove for work. With my background in communication Technology, He teaches from a background in Engineering, Computers and Communication technology I really can understand and relate to. I really like his approach to study, and this was a quote he said based on how Rabbi's thought of during the first century.

Excerpts from: Midrash Hermeneutics

Pattern, not Just Prediction: by Chuck Missler • May 1, 2001

The interpretation of Scripture is called hermeneutics. Our approach to hermeneutics will always be influenced by our worldview, our own culture, and the presuppositions we bring to the task.

The interpretations understood by Jewish rabbis like Jesus and Paul in the first century were largely based on something called Midrash. The basic principles of Midrash were listed in the original seven points, called midoth, of Rabbi Hillel.1 Hillel is regarded as the greatest of the Hebrew sages of the Second Temple period

and was the grandfather of Rabbi Gamaliel, the tutor of Paul Acts 22:3, who defended the rights of Jewish believers in the book of Acts Acts 5:34-39

Pattern, Not Just Prediction

The western mind views prophecy merely as prediction and fulfillment. The Jewish mind saw prophecy as a pattern being recapitulated, where a pattern of events illuminates a thematic replay in the future. The "western" (Gentile) misunderstandings are crucial in understanding the errors of **dominionism,3 restorationism, 4 and preterism,5** which continue to confuse current eschatology (the study of "last things").

3. The view that it is the Church's duty and destiny to take over the world as a preparatory step to the Second Coming.

4, The view that the Church has "replaced" Israel in God's program of redemption (Cf. Revelation 2:9; 3:9).

5. The view that the prophecies of Matthew 24 and Revelation were already fulfilled in the past.

Among the illuminating warnings are the attribution by Matthew 2:15 of the return of Joseph, Mary and the infant Jesus from Egypt to the quote from Hosea 11:1. There is no rational way to view the Hosea passage as Messianic in the traditional sense. The academic overemphasis on context seems to break down when viewed too narrowly. The answer is pattern, not just prediction. Matthew's allusion to Jeremiah regarding Herod's murder of the babies in Bethlehem is another example. Matthew 2:17-18; Jeremiah 31:15, Gen 35:19 (Rachel buried in Bethlaham)

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Romans 15:4

A Caveat

A serious caveat regarding the Midrashic hermeneutic stems from the misunderstanding and misuse of it by liberal theological writers. The Midrash never uses typology or allegory as a basis for doctrine, only as an illustration of it.

Paul's Midrash on Sarah and Hagar in Galatians 4:22-26 and the Epistle to the Hebrews as a commentary on Leviticus are two examples. (During my Leviticus study its true Hebrews was a great companion book)

Thus, Enoch, who was translated before the flood, was "pre-flood" in his eschatology, not post-flood or mid-flood! But we don't base our views on this illustration alone.

It really is a grand adventure, isn't it?(end Quote)

So I want to look at a few today that I feel confirms not only the fact that the Bible is a complete package. But has to be written by the same author. Yes over 40 men penned the 66 books of the Bible but with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. John stated this well in John 1:1-3, 14

So the classic passages we use for the rapture are 1 Thess 4:13-18, Rev 4:1-2, John 14:1-4 and 1 Corth 15:51-53

Now I've heard some in prophecy circles who want to see a different timing like mid trib and post trib. Or they will not believe in a rapture at all because it's a new invention by a Pastor named Darby of the 18th century. Well, I like to say that the mystery of the rapture and Tribulation was hinted at in the old testament at least 4 times I know of. I want to discuss just 2 today.

Noah and the Flood gen 6:9-18 and proceeds to explain other details. So here is the pattern, We have Noah who will be protected from deluge by God thru the storm on the Ark, And this is a pattern of the Jewish Nation who will be protected thru the tribulation by God lets see. Rev 7:1-5 and proceeds to list all 12 tribes, Plus from matt 24:15-16 which we see how they are protected in Rev 12:14-17

And you might add what about the 144,000 well we see Jesus with them all (not one missing) in Rev 14:1

So Back to our pattern with Noah. We see also when it was time God closed the Door and sealed Noah and his family in the Arc Gen 7:13-16. Well now your thinking what about the Church and we need to turn to the recorded first rapture of the bible before the flood was another man who walked with God Enoch who was taken Gen 5:22-24, Heb 11:5

Now for a second pattern which I particularly like Daniel 3:1-2 (which should have included Daniel), 7-12, 20-27, so we see there the 3 Jewish boys represent those protected during the tribulation and the mystery of this one is where is Daniel?? Well there you see that he representing the Church was not there. Now he wasn't translated but like I said it's a pattern.

So there are others which are similar. Like when Lot had to be out of the city before it was destroyed, Moses was buried somewhere it says by God. How interesting we see Him on the Mount of transfiguration.

So I hope that may help see how patterns are used all thru the Bible and can be like a treasure hunt to find. I'm going to start a new series on Wednesdays to speak to prophecy and we can have fun discovering these patterns together.