

Why Study End Times Prophecy?

Many Christians today don't feel the need to study what the Bible teaches about the end times since they know that, in the end, God wins. Yet, contrary to this popular view, there are many reasons to know the details. Here are 10.

1. **They're part of God's Word.** It's been estimated that up to a third of the Bible is prophecy. Over 300 detailed prophecies were fulfilled at Christ's first coming. Many more await fulfillment at His second coming. If we're truly students of God's Word, then we'll be students of the prophecies. As the apostle Paul told his young protégée Timothy: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).
2. **They prove that the Bible is God's Word.** Only God could know minute details of what would happen to individuals, cities and nations thousands of years in advance. When people see the end-times prophecies being fulfilled, they'll have solid reason to put their faith in the God of the Bible. Jesus spoke of the apologetic value of prophecy when He said, "Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe" (John 14:29).
3. **Jesus gave us signs of His second coming and commanded us to watch for their fulfillments.** (Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21)
4. **God promises a special blessing for those who study the end times:** "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near" (Revelation 1:3, see also 22:7).
5. **They prepare us for what's coming.** Contrary to some teachings, the prophecies reveal that Christians will have to go through a time of terrible persecution orchestrated by the Antichrist (Matthew 24:21-22, Mark 13:19-20, Revelation 6:9-11, 7:14, 13:7-10 and 15, 14:12-13). Knowledge of this will help us prepare mentally and spiritually.
6. **They help protect us against spiritual deception.** The Bible warns that false prophets will precede the coming of the Antichrist, and many professing Christians will follow them. End-times prophecies show us what to watch out for. (Matthew 24:24-26, Mark 13:21-22, 2 Thessalonians 2:3, Revelation 13:11-18)
7. **They increase our worship of God.** Christians who see prophecies fulfilled before their eyes will marvel at His sovereignty over the nations and the power of His unseen hand.
8. **They give us strategy for ministry.** Like the men of Issachar who understood the times and drew up their battle plans accordingly, Christians who have insight into the end times will have knowledge for spiritual battle (1 Chronicles 12:32).
9. **They give comfort, encouragement and hope.** When the time of tribulation comes, those who see the prophecies will know they only have to endure for a limited time.
10. **They stir us to evangelism, good works and holy living.** Reflecting on the end times helps to free us from a careless, temporal perspective (Titus 2:11-13). Those who are alive during their fulfillment will have an increased urgency to share the gospel while there is still time.