

# FINDING OUR PLACE IN THE PROPHECIES

Houses of Light Church • September 15, 2024 • Mariano Sennewald/Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Thes. 5:19-20

***"Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies"***

## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. We thank God for the Passion for Jesus event; we saw how God confirmed what He has been speaking to us through the study of Ephesians and affirmed our DNA as a church. I encourage you to watch these teachings because they are words for our church and almost all of them were bilingual.
- B. As human beings, especially those of us who are saturated with information, we tend to listen to teachings and even prophecies and without realizing it, they get lost in the accumulation of things we hear and this is why I personally wanted to review this topic with you because I believe that it will bring you clarity and purpose for your lives personally and for us as a church..

## II. WE NEED TO FIND OUR PLACE IN THE PROPHECIES

- A. It is not about fitting God into our little stories, but about finding ourselves in His great story. A biblical prophecy is not just information about the future, but it is an invitation to collaborate with what God wants to do. We need to see the Bible as the most certain prophetic word that is being fulfilled in our time.  
***2 Pet. 1:19 "And we have the prophetic word [Scriptures] more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts"***
- B. In the text from Thessalonians that we read at the beginning of this teaching, Paul tells these believers ***"do not despise prophecies."*** At the beginning of the chapter he is not speaking to them about personal prophecies but about the time of Christ's return to earth which is not something to be taken lightly or despised.  
***1 Tes. 5:1-2 "Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."***
- C. **WE MUST NOT ONLY KNOW THE PROPHECIES, BUT SEE OURSELVES THERE!** When we value the prophecies and decide to collaborate with their fulfillment, this ignites our spirit. Satan's strategy in the end times is to weaken the prophetic, because it quenches the Spirit.

## III. 3 PURPOSES OF THE SURER PROPHETIC WORD

- 1. **BIBLE PROPHECIES DEFINE OUR IDENTITY:** The Bible is the prophetic book that God wrote before you were born to tell you who you are. WE ARE WHAT THE FATHER SAYS WE ARE. You are not your mistakes, you are not your sins. He who saw your end from the beginning defines you. When we despise the prophecies our identity is weakened but when we honor them our understanding opens. We are that generation that the Bible spoke of that would see the King return. What if your children are going to be among those who will see the return of the Lord to earth? How are you living and how are you preparing them?

- A. WE HAVE TO STUDY THE PROPHECIES UNTIL WE FIND OURSELVES IN THEM. We do not study the prophecies to win eschatological arguments, but to understand what our part is in God's global plan.

Rev. 1:3 "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near."

- a) JESUS FOUND HIMSELF IN THE PROPHECIES. Jesus is the greatest example of not despising prophecies. Again and again He did things saying that it was so that *"what was written about Him would be fulfilled."* The expression *"as it is written"* appears more than 30 times in the New Testament.

Lk. 24:44-47 "Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

- b) JOHN THE BAPTIST FOUND HIMSELF IN THE PROPHECIES:

Jn. 1:23 "He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said"

- c) THE EARLY CHURCH FOUND ITSELF IN THE PROPHECIES:

Acts. 2:15-17 "For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: 17 "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;"

2. PROPHECIES DEFINE AND ACTIVATE OUR PURPOSE: The clarity of destiny determines the effectiveness of the fulfillment process. Only those who know where they come from and where they are going can be accurate today. God shares His plans with us so that we can prepare ourselves from now on. He could do it alone, but He wants to do it with us.

- B. Hebrews 11 speaks of the heroes of faith and something we see in them was that they were certain of what was to come.

- a) NOAH BUILT AN ARK BECAUSE OF A PROPHECY THAT GOD GAVE HIM

Heb. 11:7 "By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith."

(1) The prophecies of Scripture lead us to build communities, structures, and designs that are key to what is coming. We are in the days of Noah!

- b) ABRAHAM BROUGHT HIS FAMILY TO CANAAN BECAUSE OF A PROPHECY. Prophecies should affect your decisions about where you settle.

Heb. 11:9-10 *"By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God."*

- c) **JOSEPH RECONCILED WITH HIS FAMILY THROUGH A PROPHECY** Joseph's greatest virtue was not his dreams or even persevering in adversity BUT FORGIVING HIS BROTHERS

Gén. 50:20-21 *"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup> So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them"*

- (1) Joseph understood that it was not about a personal ministry, but a generational purpose linked to God's eternal plan. Prophecies define your character and make you a minister of reconciliation to form healthy relationships with a view to fulfilling God's plan.

- C. **DANIEL ENTERED A CRUCIAL FAST FOR THE NATION BECAUSE OF A PROPHECY. PROPHECIES BOOSTED YOUR INTIMACY.**

Dn. 9:2-3 *"...I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. <sup>3</sup> Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes."*

Jer. 29:10: *"For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place."*

- d) Daniel's fast unleashes an eschatological purpose that affects the following centuries. It all began when he found himself in a prophecy.

- D. **PROPHECIES CONNECT US WITH GOD'S PLAN:** There is no greater tragedy than succeeding in something that takes us away from God's plan. Daniel saw that in the end times Satan's strategy will be to flatter us in areas that lead us to lose our faith, to end up opposing God's plan.

Dan. 11:32 *"He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action."*

3. **PROPHECIES DEEPEN OUR INTIMACY AND WORSHIP** Prophecies are not to fill your mind with information about the end of time, but to fill your heart with desire for Christ and hunger for His voice. If the written Word does not lead you to the Living Word, the purpose of the Word is not fulfilled. If your eschatological understanding does not leave you on the ground worshipping Jesus Christ, you do not have eschatological understanding.

Ap. 19:10 *"Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"*

- A. We do not bow down to revelation, but to the One who is REVEALED. This generation is not to worship angels [messengers], but to the One who is worthy. When God is about to do something new (prophecy) He commands us to SING. Prophetic worship precedes His movements. Our prayers do affect the rhythm of what happens..

Is. 42:9-10a "Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them." 10 Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the end of the earth,..."

- B. In Revelation we see the fusion between God's movements in the end times and heavenly worship. Cuando el Cordero toma el libro, en el cielo cantan DIGNO

Rev. 5:9 "And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation".

- a) The greatest expression of intimacy of the mature Church of the end times that found its place in the prophecies is: COME LORD JESUS!

Ap. 22:17 y 20 "The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come..." 20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

#### IV. EXAMPLES OF SOME PROPHECIES THAT ARE BEING FULFILLED AT THIS TIME

- A. Global evangelization is a prophecy: *"This gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all nations"* (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 14:6).
- B. The house of prayer day and night is a prophecy: *"My house will be called the House of Prayer"* (Mark 11:17). *"I will rebuild the tabernacle of David that fell down"* (Amos 9:11; Acts 15:16) *"and I will execute justice on those who cry out day and night before my coming"* (Lk 18:7-8)..
- C. The awakening of the new generation is a prophecy: *"Before the great and terrible day of the Lord our children will prophesy. Our young people will see visions."* (Joel 2:28)

#### V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think you have found your place in any biblical prophecy? Describe which one.
2. In which prophecies do you see our Houses of Light church and how does it activate you in your purpose in this community?

#### THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Discipleship School and Affirming Your Steps begins tomorrow, Monday, September 16. First and Second Level: There will be classes in Spanish and English separately. Third Level will be bilingual classes. Please register online or at the table outside.