

The Temptation To Interpret

(all scriptures quoted are NASB)

The Lord once taught me a lesson many years ago. It was a lesson of interpretation that I believe many prophets have yet to learn. Sometimes it seems that I have yet to learn it properly, as God has to remind me about this from time to time. The following is a dream that God gave me:

This dream was given to me during the 1970's. I cannot remember the year of this dream, but I believe it was in the late 1970's or early 1980's. It occurred during the summer.



“The Clock”

I was in the air over Wainwright, my home town, and I could see the downtown area. Several things, however, were different. I could see the clock [the clock is a two storey high epitaph with a clock at the top on all four sides and a plaque containing the names of the soldiers that died in both world wars from the Wainwright area], the streets, the sidewalks, but only two buildings. All the other buildings were gone with only vacant lots in their place. The two buildings were the Bank of Montreal, at the corner of the clock, and a small old garage located at a back alley about half a block southeast from the bank.

When I awoke, the presence of the Lord was very strong and I knew this was from the Lord. But as I sought the Lord for a meaning, He was completely silent. This seeking the Lord with no response went on for many days, and into weeks.

Eventually I just let the subject die with a question about whether downtown buildings would all be removed except for two? From time to time over the years, I would think of this again, and question the Lord, but still there was no answer.

It was many years later (about 10 or 15), when God brought this back to my mind, and this time asked me what I thought about it. I had no answer. What I then realized was that those two buildings had both been demolished, but the others were still there.

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The Lord then said that the reason I could only see the two buildings was that He was highlighting these to show me that they would be removed.

What He said next was most important! He said that the reason He did it this way was to teach me that no prophecy could be interpreted by a man, but only by God!! I then recalled the scripture:

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. 2 Peter 1:20-21 (NASB)

This was a lesson that was most important. Any prophecy, whether in the Bible or through man today, cannot be interpreted without direction from God. It is so easy to read into, or think we know, what some prophecy means. But we do not always know! We just think we do!

There was another aspect of this that came to mind. It was all of those prophecies in the Old Testament that deal with the Lord's first coming. They have been fulfilled. But if you went to them and read them, without first knowing how they came to pass, would you be able to interpret them accurately? Not likely!

The prophecies were given to us both as a sign and an idea of what God was to do. It gave us some of the facts for what was to come. But it did not state when and how these things would come to pass, or all the details involved. That was not important! You are suppose to live by faith daily, and not by an interpretation of prophecy!

For we live by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

If God was to let us run wild with every interpretation that we come up with we would stop listening to Him altogether. And, indeed, that's what tends to happen with so many people. It is sad to see this. Prophecy is to give some knowledge of what is to come without taking our concentration off of the Lord!

If God gave us complete details in the prophecies, we would no longer need the daily direction of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We would then be in total control, and God would be pushed aside. It is what our flesh would demand. It always fights against the Spirit of God in our lives. And when we allow it to take control we have put our King, the Lord Jesus Christ, in second place.

For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. Galatians 5:17

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So we see prophecy is meant to give some idea of what is to come, but not to lay out complete details. And for good reason! We are to live by faith with the Holy Spirit's daily direction, not by pieces of prophecies which we interpret (hopefully accurately!) with our own thinking.

If we got into that type of error, we would no longer need God's direction, and we would go out and do as we think. God has arranged it so that it is by faith, and not by our sight or thinking!

This is exactly what got Adam and Eve into trouble in the Garden of Eden. They rationalized with their minds what God meant with "do not eat" when the serpent tempted them. They figured that they knew more than God. It was a test of faith which they failed.

I hope we do not fail the daily tests of faith that God places in our lives. It is by passing these tests that we grow spiritually. Remember that it is by faith in God's direction, and not by fact of our thinking, that we should live our daily lives.

Articles, books, prophecies, and other materials are available from the web site, The Prophetic Word: www.telusplanet.net/public/tsgibson/propheticword.html

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