

## Tough Questions – What is Prophetic Reverb?

Hey, Tim Perry here, pastor of Spiritual Discovery at Christ Community Church coming at you with Week 38 of Tough Questions.

We're going to look at the issue of prophecy and whether or not prophecy can be fulfilled multiple times. We touched on this a number of weeks ago when we looked at the Book of Isaiah, and the same theme comes up in the Book of Daniel. Now we're finishing up the Book of Daniel this week. Let me read you a prophecy from Daniel and then talk about how Jesus picks up on this very same prophecy from Daniel and gives it a renewed fulfillment in his day.

Well, if you look at September 21<sup>st</sup> out of your Bible it says this – page 1229 down at the bottom:

***“The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”***

Daniel was talking about an event coming in the future. Jesus uses Daniel's prophecy and gives it new meaning in his day.

So what I want to do this week is I want to look at how Jesus uses this prophecy that Daniel is talking about first and then back up and look at how it was fulfilled in Daniel's day as well. Because if we look at how prophecy is fulfilled multiple times in the Bible, it may lend credibility to scripture and how it is that God's plan bears multiple fulfillments in our experiences.

Here's a passage that connects Jesus and Daniel. It's a part of Jesus' famous Olivet discourse where he's talking about the end times:

He says to the disciples: ***“When you see standing in the holy place (the temple) the abomination that causes desolation (that same phrase) spoken of through the prophet Daniel...let the reader understand...then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”*** (Jesus is saying some really bad stuff is just around the corner – he's warning the disciples about it.)

Within three or four years of Jesus uttering those words to the disciples – an emperor named Caligula who succeeded Tiberius rolls into Jerusalem in AD 39. He sets up an image of himself in the temple and expects people to bow down and worship it. The Caesars thought that they were gods for the people. So this fits the description of Jesus warning everyone that there's an abomination coming that's going to be set up right here in the temple.

Fast forward another three decades and a Roman military commander by the name of Titus comes into Jerusalem in 67-70 AD. He's brought in to quell the riots that zealots are creating there. The zealots have broken into the temple, they have killed priests and shed their blood even in the temple so he's sent there to bring an end to the whole predicament for the Roman Empire. So he ends the Jewish-Roman war, he destroys Jerusalem and levels the temple. So here's the fulfillment of the other piece of what Jesus said – the abomination that causes desolation. So now when you look at the temple mound, there's nothing left there. It's absolute desolate. So Jesus has taken this as a fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy way back in his day. So that's how we find fulfillment of Matthew 24:15-16 as you look forward from Jesus' day.

But before we wrap up the video, I want to go back and catch one last piece of prophetic fulfillment. It gives us this idea of how prophecy can reverberate through history. Back in Daniel's day and age within proximity of his ministry – there was a fulfillment of that prophecy that he talked about. Let's take a real look at that again. Go back to Daniel with me real quick.

Daniel's ministry spanned the years from 605 BC down to 536 BC. If we look in the more immediate future of his ministry – and I mean by that 400 years – long before the time of Christ – we see an expression or a fulfillment of his prophecy in the Seleucid Emperor of Alexander the Great named Antiochus Epiphanes IV. Antiochus Epiphanes rolls into Jerusalem, he assassinates the High Priest right in the temple precincts, he sacrifices pigs on the altar and he worships Zeus right in the temple. So here's a very clear fulfillment of the abomination that Daniel is prophesying about in his day. But that doesn't stop Jesus from picking up on that very same prophecy and saying – hey, this is going to be fulfilled again in the future exactly liked it was fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes – other rulers are going to come along and they're going to violate this temple even though it's been rebuilt and we're going to experience a reverberation of prophetic utterance from God to His people.

So let me give this multiple fulfillment a name. When scripture continues to repeat itself, I'm going to call that "prophetic reverb" and we looked at a case of prophetic reverb with Daniel and Jesus both prophets of God, if you will, giving reassurance to God's people that God's plan is still on the march – that God is moving his promises through history. In Daniel's day – we saw that there was prophecy fulfilled in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC – that exactly what Daniel said took place. In his day and age, the exiles needed reassurance that God was indeed going to watch over them – that he was going to protect his people – that he was going to pull God's people back together and bring the Messiah.

The reverberation of God's prophetic word then – touches off another avalanche later in history when Jesus picks up on the very same words that Daniel uses. They're walking by the temple and they look at the temple and Jesus says: "Guys, this temple is going to be destroyed." And prophecy does that because God's plans don't change, and God's people are going to face repeated challenges from the

world around them. God's plans and promises will withstand repeated human opposition, and God needs to speak in to that to assure us that His will is going to be worked out.

In Jesus' day – same thing – the disciples needed reassurance in the face of persecution that they were experiencing that their mission would be able to be fulfilled. Prophecy continues to reverberate even today. As we read Jesus' prophecy that he gave to the disciples – he went ahead and added to it more things for us even today to look for. Not everything that Jesus predicted in Matthew 24 has come true yet. Some of those things were fulfilled – some of those things have yet to be fulfilled. We have to trust a God who gives us prophetic reverb – gives us his promises again and again to reassure us that, yea, his plans are going to come true.

Well this has been Tim Perry, Pastor of Spiritual Discovery. If anything that I have said today has triggered a question that you might have, I would love for you to hit on that comment link down there and leave me your thoughts.

We'll be talking to you next week. Thanks for watching.