

## THE DEFINITION OF PROPHECY

When we speak of prophecy some people believe this to mean the Book of Revelation. This is true but not the whole story. Prophecy as a Biblical teaching is scattered throughout the Holy Scripture. The Book of Revelation therefore records the culmination of God's Judgements on the unbelieving humanity and among other things. It is known that about one third of the entire bible, is comprised of the teaching of Prophecy.

The word "Prophecy" is a noun and is predictive. Prophecy is "Foretelling" of the future. There is no new Biblical Prophecy. All that God wants us to know about the future, He had already stated in His Holy Book, the Bible. Prophecy is God speaking through His select prophets and others. God accomplished this through the medium of (a) Revelation (b) Inspiration and (c) Illumination.

There is another word Prophecy which is a verb or an action word. Although both words sound almost the same, the meaning is different. In the first instance Prophecy means to foretell what will take place in the future. Prophecy mean to Forthtell. This is what preaching and teaching the word of God is all about. Forthtelling is interpreting Gods' words and share it with the people.

## WHY SHOULD WE GIVE ATTENTION TO BIBLICAL PROPHECY?

Is the teaching and studying of Biblical Prophecy practical? To answer this question, let us consider that all the New Testament writers testify to the fact that living with the anticipation of the Lord's return will motivate holy living. What then could be more practical than that

(Romans 13: 12- 14). We give attention to this teaching because it is very important all of God's people.

1. As we have mentioned earlier, up to one third of the Bible talks about the teaching of this Biblical truth.
2. The teaching of prophecy is very unique in that it talks about the past, the present and the future.
3. Prophecy gives authentication to the trustworthiness of all of God words (Jeremiah 25: 11- 12, Isaiah 13: 17- 20, Luke 21: 6.
4. Prophecy authenticated the life and ministry of our Lord here on earth. The prophet Isaiah spoke about Christ ministry and death many centuries before they actually took place (Isaiah 53).
5. Biblical prophecy reveals the future to God 's people. Because God wants to know what is ahead, He lifts the veil so we could through His precious words Amos 3:7, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1: 19.
6. Prophecy is a great tool for teaching morality (Hosea 6: 6), Amos 5: 21-24, Micah 6: 8, Isaiah 58:3- 9).
7. It enhanced spiritual growth (Matthew 24: 36- 42, James 5: 7- 8, Titus 2: 11- 14, Romans 13: 12- 13)
8. The teaching of prophecy encourages the believers live a life of watchfulness for the second coming of Christ (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5: 1 – 6).
9. The teaching of Biblical prophecy helps us all how to understand current events (Matthew 24: 37- 39, Zachariah 12: 2-3), 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4: 1).