

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY, EVIDENCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR



Scripture is comprised of many different literary forms. Some are poetic, others historical narrative, still others are directives to various groups or individuals throughout time. Different portions of scripture contain instructions to different Hebrew people who inhabited different lands, languages and cultures, but shared the same El and the same heritage. Every literary style used in the Bible contains some element of prophecy. A prediction might be made by a character in a narrative, it may be foreshadowed in a ritual, testified to by a law, or poetically sung in temple songs (psalms) of praise and worship.

This is undoubtedly a major reason why the bible has fascinated and even obsessed scholars, priests, peasants, and kings like. Today there are thousands of groups, many whose doctrine and ideas directly oppose one another, claiming the Bible as their authority.

Many skeptics use this very fact to justify their unbelief. If there are so many interpretations, then there must not be a single correct interpretation. The documents, it is reasoned, must be so unclear and contradictory that anyone could make the Bible appear to say whatever they wanted it to.

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, Yisrael shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, Yisrael shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Rev. 22:18-19

Such criticism is not without some merit. In fact, it is perfectly true many have used the Bible to justify slavery, mass suicide, and even genocide. But does this neces-

sarily mean that there is not a single objectively correct reading? There are several other possibilities. Although many have used the scripture to justify the atrocities, they were merely waving the book, not adhering to its teachings. A brief survey will reveal no commandment in the Bible to attack Jerusalem, kill Moslems, enslave Black people, kill Aztecs with smallpox, or vote Republican. ("Then said Yahshua unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath...." John 18:11).

An in-depth study will reveal an even more intriguing fact. Many of the notorious religious murderers of history were actually serving Yisrael. They were serving in the sense that they were fulfilling prophecies that "evil men and seducers would wax worse and worse"(2 Timothy 3:13)

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of YHWH spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.(2 Peter 1:20-21)

There was actually some merit to the medieval concept of the divine right of kings. This is because Yisrael has ordained the powers that are in place on the earth. This does not mean the individuals whom Yisrael has put in authority are not accountable. Israel's punishment for disobedience was to be uprooted and exiled from their homeland and the heathen were given this time period largely as a punishment and a strap to Israel.

The Bible has another quality. It speaks so authoritatively that honest people, whether pagans or atheists, must admit that it hammers home some timeless points. The words have the ability to judge the hearts of humans unaffected by the greatest displays of pretense. The penetrating parables, the law, and the admonitions of the



Apostles reveal man's true heart" piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow" (Hebrew 4:12). So why study it?

This drama involves us all. Whether or not we want to participate, we are already participating. Terrorists don't just strike the Orthodox. The world we live in today has been shaped by religion more than any other single element. No, you can not get away that easily.

We are all involved. The question then, is whether you are participating honorably or whether you are participating dishonorably. Is the role that you're playing, is it to listen to the Adonai Yisrael and obey His truth, or are you playing the role of fodder (2 Thess. 2:12)? The standard is the same for everyone, without respect of persons (Romans 2). So, you're involved in some way, because of the influence that the Bible has had on the world. Now it is simply a matter of discovering your role in the Greatest Love Story Ever Told.

It is better to realize that those who do not obey Yisrael are His enemies. This means that they will attack you if you try to convert them. It is sweet to know that the Messiah will reign forever in righteousness. It is bitter to know humanity is so wicked and perverse that Justice itself demands retribution. YHWH will repay every man for his deeds whether they are good or evil.

The Sanctioned Body of The Culture Center of NCCI, 3711 N. Decatur Rd. Ste. 104, Decatur, GA. 30032 www.thesbocc.com

Elder Priest Esaias Ben Yahudah Yisrael 404-849-8979 Sabbath Day Service: 7th Day (Sat.) 1:00 P.M.