

Future Events

The background of the image is a vibrant blue sky filled with fluffy white clouds. In the center, a bright sun or light source creates a lens flare effect with rays of light extending outwards. A series of white, glowing steps or a staircase leads upwards from the bottom center towards the bright light, symbolizing a path to the future.

Teaching (not preaching)

Questions and comments required

Multiple Teachers

Mark, Dave Landis, Brad Wright. . .

Topical (Future Events)

One Scripture or many Scriptures

Fellowship

Encourage one another

Three Introductory Sessions

1. Why describe future events? (Mark)
2. Premillennialism vs. Amillennialism (Mark)
(Huge difference in which events are future)
3. Has the Church succeeded Israel? (Dave)
(Logical consequence of amillennialism)

Why Does the Bible Describe Future Events?



J. Barton Payne's Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy:

1,239 prophecies in the Old Testament

578 prophecies in the New Testament

1,817 total

8,352 verses describe prophecy

31,102 total verses in the Bible

Over ¼ of the Bible is Prophecy!

Why Does the Bible Describe Future Events?



Purposes of Prophecy

1. Severe judgment is coming: repent.

Rosh Hashanah
Yom Kippur
Contemplation
& Repentance



God decided 40 days until Nineveh is destroyed (REPENT)

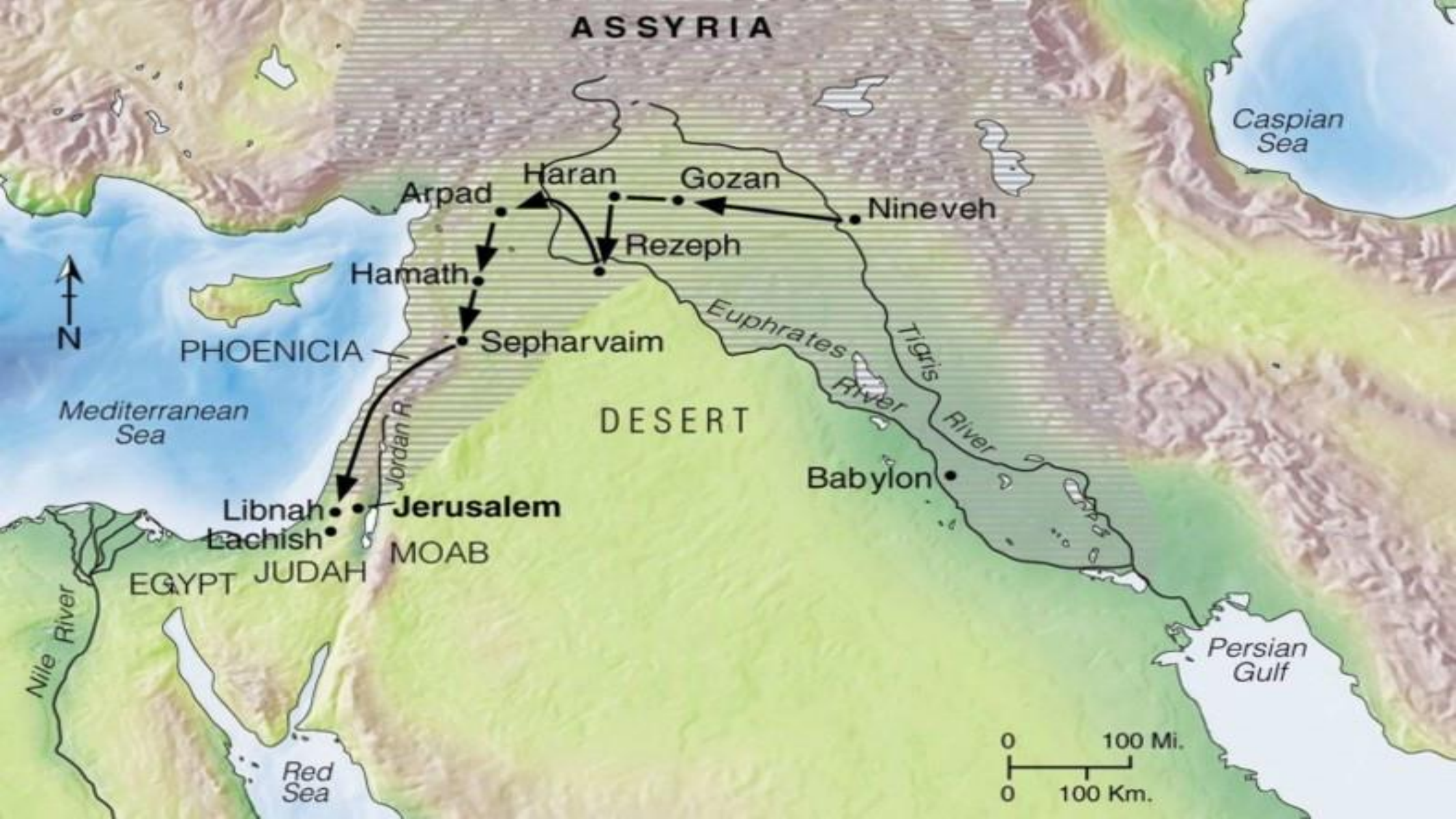
Jonah 1:1 (NET)

The Lord's message came to Jonah son of Amittai, "Go immediately to Nineveh, that large capital city, and announce judgment against its people because their wickedness has come to my attention." . . .

Walls and gates of the ancient city of Nineveh, now Mosul (Al Mawsil), the third capitol of Assyria. Jane Sweeney / Getty Images







ASSYRIA

Caspian Sea

Arpad Haran Gozan Nineveh

Rezep

Hamath



PHOENICIA

Mediterranean Sea

DESERT

Euphrates River Tigris River

Babylon

Jordan R.

Libnah Jerusalem

Lachish

MOAB

EGYPT JUDAH

Persian Gulf

Red Sea

Nile River

0 100 Mi.
0 100 Km.



Turkey

Syria

Iraq

Lebanon

Jordan

Israel

Aleppo
حلب

Damascus
دمشق

Baghdad
بغداد

Jerusalem
القدس

Mosul
الموصل

Kirkuk
كركوك

Najaf
نجف اشرف

Mersin

Adana

Gaziantep

Sanliurfa

Diyarbakir

Batman

Mardin

Siirt

Van

Tabriz
تبريز

Konya

Aksaray

Malatya

Afyonkarahisar

Denizli

Antalya

Side Belediyesi

Cyprus

Paphos
Πάφος

Alexandria
الإسكندرية

Port Said
بور سعيد

Cairo
القاهرة

6th of October City
مدينة السادس
من أكتوبر

Eilat

محمية الطبيق

Al Khanafah
Wildlife

Sakaka
سكاكا

Arar
عرعر

Rafha
رفحاء

“Assyrians created an enormous empire. They mastered the art of war. Unfortunately for their enemies, the Assyrians mastered also torture techniques. And they bragged about it!”

“The Assyrians depicted the torture in great detail on the walls of the imperial palaces. They created tablets containing every single punishment the Assyrian army carried out. They cut off the limbs, gouged out the eyes, and then left those poor victims to roam around. Those poor people serve as a living reminder of the Assyrians’ cruelty.”



“The Assyrians were proud of the mass executions. They loved to impale their victims on large stakes. Such sights instilled terror and fear into the rest of the population. For the Assyrian kings, it was a showcase of their power.”

“The stake was driven into the body under the ribs. . . The victim’s weight caused the spikes to protrude deeper and deeper into the body. The slow death was terrifying!”

<https://medium.com/lessons-from-history/assyrians-torture-60fabb7a9642>



Jonah tried to flee to Tarshish (Spain? England?) and God sent a violent storm. When the sailors learned he was the cause of the storm he was thrown overboard and a giant fish swallowed him. After Jonah repented the fish vomited him on dry ground.

Jonah 3:1-10, 4:1-2, 11 (NET)

The Lord's message came to Jonah a second time, "Go immediately to Nineveh, that large city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah went immediately to Nineveh, in keeping with the Lord's message. Now Nineveh was an enormous city—it required three days to walk through it! Jonah began to enter the city by going one day's walk, announcing, "At the end of forty days, Nineveh will be overthrown!"

The people of Nineveh believed in God, and they declared a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his royal robe, put on sackcloth, and sat on ashes. He issued a proclamation and said, “In Nineveh, by the decree of the king and his nobles: No human or animal, cattle or sheep, is to taste anything; they must not eat and they must not drink water. Every person and animal must put on sackcloth and must cry earnestly to God, and everyone must turn from their evil way of living and from the violence that they do. Who knows? Perhaps God might be willing to change his mind and relent and turn from his fierce anger so that we might not die.”

When God saw their actions—that they turned from their evil way of living.—God relented concerning the judgment he had threatened them with and did not destroy them.

This displeased Jonah terribly and he became very angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “Oh, Lord, this is just what I thought would happen when I was in my own country. This is what I tried to prevent by attempting to escape to Tarshish, because I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in mercy, and one who relents concerning threatened judgment.

[God’s response:] “Should I not be more concerned about Nineveh, this enormous city? There are more than 120,000 people in it who do not know right from wrong, as well as many animals.”

Purposes of Prophecy

1. Severe judgment is coming: repent.
2. Warn those upon whom judgment is coming.
3. Difficult times are coming for God's people:

Be ready

Do not fall away

Have peace

Have confidence because God has conquered

Live godly lives without spot or blemish

Wait for God's promises

Jesus' Explanation John 15:26 – 16:4, 33 (NET)

When the Advocate comes (future event), whom I will send you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me, and you also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. “I have told you all these things so that you will not fall away. They will put you out of the synagogue, yet a time is coming when the one who kills you will think he is offering service to God. They will do these things because they have not known the Father or me. But I have told you these things so that when their time comes, you will remember that I told you about them. . . . I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble and suffering, but take courage—I have conquered the world.”

Peter's Explanation 2 Peter 3:1-14 (NET)

Dear friends, this is already the second letter I have written you, in which I am trying to stir up your pure mind by way of reminder: I want you to recall both the predictions foretold by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles. Above all, understand this: In the last days blatant scoffers will come, being propelled by their own evil urges and saying, "Where is his promised return? For ever since our ancestors died, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation." For they deliberately suppress this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water. Through these things the world existing at that time was destroyed when it was deluged with water.

But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, by being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. Now, dear friends, do not let this one thing escape your notice, that a single day is like a thousand years with the Lord and a thousand years are like a single day. The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some regard slowness, but is being patient toward you, because he does not wish for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief; when it comes, the heavens will disappear with a horrific noise, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze, and the earth and every deed done on it will be laid bare.

Since all these things are to melt away in this manner, what sort of people must you be, conducting your lives in holiness and godliness, while waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God? Because of this day, the heavens will be burned up and dissolve, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze! But, according to his promise, we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness truly resides. Therefore, dear friends, since you are waiting for these things, strive to be found at peace, without spot or blemish, when you come into his presence.

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Another Question (if time)

Can we change/modify God's prophecies?

Nineveh repented and changed the timing of their judgment.

Jonah 760 BC

Babylonians destroyed Nineveh in 612 BC

148 years after Jonah (not 40 days)

722 BC Assyrians capture Samaria, Israel

701 BC Assyrians lay siege to Jerusalem

Can we change/modify God's prophecies?

Since all these things are to melt away in this manner, what sort of people must you be, conducting your lives in holiness and godliness, while waiting for and **hastening** the coming of the day of God? Because of this day, the heavens will be burned up and dissolve, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze! But, according to his promise, we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness truly resides. Therefore, dear friends, since you are waiting for these things, strive to be found at peace, without spot or blemish, when you come into his presence.

Can we change/modify God's prophecies?

Peter seems to indicate that the way we conduct ourselves may hasten (or postpone) the coming of the day of God.

Ezekiel 33:1-5 (NET) The Lord's message came to me: "Son of man, speak to your people, and say to them, 'Suppose I bring a sword against the land, and the people of the land take one man from their borders and make him their watchman. He sees the sword coming against the land, blows the trumpet, and warns the people, but there is one who hears the sound of the trumpet yet does not heed the warning. Then the sword comes and sweeps him away. He will be responsible for his own death. He heard the sound of the trumpet but did not heed the warning, so he is responsible for himself. If he had heeded the warning, he would have saved his life. But suppose the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people. Then the sword comes and takes one of their lives. He is swept away for his iniquity, but I will hold the watchman accountable for that person's death.'

Can we change/modify God's prophecies?

Ezekiel bore a responsibility to warn people so that they knew judgment was coming.

Also – Prayer changes things.

Lord, help us pray for the right things.