

THE RISK OF KNOWING PROPHECY

Intro. Is it risky? Quick aff. ans. bec (1) it splits churches. So does atonement. Ref. not over this. Nor Free Ch in Scot. Nor Amer Bapt. Nor Ind Pres groups. (2) Too many quacks. Be an expert. Don't quit using money bec know counterfeit around. (3) Too difficult. But Jn 3:16 harder than Rev 6. HS promise. Peanust hard. So with tongue in cheek and a bit of homiletical sarcasm, I agree it is risky but for other reasons.

I. To study Prophecy is to have to study the Bible. God thinks it is impt. $\frac{1}{2}$ prop when written. Whole books-Dan, Zech, 1 Thess. Rev. +many psotions. If you study prop./you will know Bible, and that's risky.

II. To study prophecy is to ~~not~~ have to authenticate the Bible or to conclude it is true.

Being a prophet is risky. Can't stay in business if have too many failures. In OT tests, Deut 13, 18. If false (bec didn't come to pass or not in accord with previously-given truth), then stoned. But if comes to pass, then can stay in business and bel other things. look at 1 area of prop, things concn 1st coming of JC predicted by several prophets anywhere from 400-1600 yrs before He came, and some things predicted by Him. Time-Dan 9. Place, Mic 5. Manner, Isa 7. Lineage-2 Sam 7. Forerunner, Mal 3. Concn His ministry these things were predicted-location, Isa 9; power, Isa 11; saving and healing character, Isa 53-61; miracles, Isa 35 inclusion of Gentiles, Isa 42; rejection, Isa 53. Concn death at least 14 details predicted in OT mostly in Psa and Isa. In Matt 16:21 and 20:19 where, by whom, how predicted by X Himself.

Could all this have happened by chance? I've mentioned about 30 predictions concn X. How would chance operate? Coin 2x have 4 possibilities. 2heads is $\frac{1}{4}$. Or of 4 people flipping, 1 gets 2 heads. 3 is $\frac{1}{8}$. 4 is $\frac{1}{16}$ etc. To get run of 10 in a row without error requires more than 1000 people. 20 more than a million. 30 more than a billion. $\frac{1}{2}$ pop. of earth. 40 is 1 in trillion Trillion people is pop of 250 earths. 70 uninterrupted run is pop of earth on each of 200 billion stars of milk way. More than 300 prop of X. Only God could do this and authenticates all of His Word to us. No other book has scope of prophecies or 100% record of fulfillmt. Risky bec proves objectively truth of Bible.

if don't want to
III. Risky to study prophecy bec will help you
understand current events. Popular things today is
to be searching, seeking but never knowing.
Can know what will happen to Egypt, Ezek 30, Dan 11,
Isa 19. Russia part in the program, Ezek 38-9.
Western Europe's part. Can know that our translatn
is near as we see things shaping up.

don't
IV. Risky to study prop if want to know future.
Not thinking of future on earth but in heaven.
All of us have faced sorrow and death. Without
prophecy what would you do in front of an open
grave? Imagine reading or hearing 1 Thess 4 for
1st time when up to that time all the advanced
Roman and Greek culture and civil could offer
about death were terms like these: bitter, ruinous,
relentless, the eternal chamber of those who have
withered; among the living hope endures, but hopeless
are the dead. All the misunderstandings corrected
at judgmt, 1 Cor 4:5.

V. Risky to know prophecy if don't want to upset
status quo of present existence.
Knowledge of future always affects present.
Coming of a baby, taking a trip, doing the wash.
To ignore the effect know of future has on present
is like covering clock at a game and blindly plunging
on without strategy, without change, without know.
Not so for the bel. Can know and should affect life,
1 Jn 3:3. Purify is illustrated in Nazarite vow of Numb 6.
Separation in best sense of word. Not a club making
the last day more imp. Every day. Today. Today ready
to meet Lord. Today in the midst of plans and activities
that are geared to the shortness of the time. Today
holy living. Today day of salvation.

Concl. Dont/expose self to prop if don't want to
know Bible, authenticate Bible, understand what's
going on today, see into the future, if don't want
to change your present life. It's risky, but it's
also one of the greatest blessings God has for anyone.