

# The Pathfinder

#314.20

## Prophecies Shall Fail



"...Whether prophecies, they shall fail..." **1 Cor. 13:8**.

Many people are in quite a stir these days. Calamities have been streaming through the nations that have left more than a few unsettled. There have been earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, global cooling, then global warming, and now just climate change. There have been political upheavals, mass shootings, terrorism, corruption everywhere, economic woes, and immorality running rampant in all walks of life.

With such woes not only sweeping over the nation, the entire world have been suffering these calamities, and the worse it gets the more it fuels religious and political agendas. Prophecies and predictions are fed to the fearful that gives results the preachers, politicians, and globalists are looking for — money, fame, power, control over the people and nation, and worldwide dominion.

Are we part of those who are fearful due to what we hear from those word crafters — religious teachers, politicians, the "news" media, etc.? Are we fearful of what this year might bring? If so, it did not come from God, but from the spirit of this world that controls people out of fear. After fear has taken root, lying promises are given. Whether it is the religious leaders and teachers or whether of politics and the news; control over the people is very often made when they promise to provide protection from the enemies they have created in their minds.

For instance, one political party will demonize the other. They paint a picture of total gloom and doom for the nation if their opponents gain power, stay in power, or have their way. The demonizers claim to have the answers to the nation's ills and will bring heaven on earth when they rule, but they never do. They could certainly make things better; but they are a major cause of the problems. The only heaven on earth we see is that of their own as it was gained by graft, corruption, and quid pro quo.

At times, God sets *kings/presidents*, and *Congress*, self-serving Ahabs as leaders of our nation, and other times He raises up those like Cyrus who are for the people rather than themselves. And then there are times when He hears the cry, or demand, of the people who ignorantly demand a king like the other nations. In so doing, He gives them their *Saul*, the *king* who breaks their backs with extreme taxes. Of course, there is probably not a dime's worth of difference between the Ahabs and Sauls except Saul didn't have a wife like Jezebel. We will let you discern who the past few presidents were like, as well the one we presently have. And yes, he is our legitimate president. To say otherwise is to say that God is illegitimate (rf. Romans 13:1).

It is not a mystery that those in the forefront of religion are guilty of the same political heads, for man is man and will do according to carnal lusts of his heart. Surely, not all are guilty; but it is not uncommon to see Ahabs and Sauls in religious ranks as well; for Adam will be adam! But praise God for those like Cyrus.

Some of the most propagated of all enemies are the ones men have created, and which are clearly after their own hearts and image. One of the most known enemy is their devil that supposedly has a dreadful kingdom called hell. Some churches are not so adamant about the vehemence of this fabricated place and do not teach that it is a physical place of *eternal* torment, so maybe we could call it *heck* rather than *hell*; for we all know that in the English cultures and language, *hell* is a much worse word to use in the common vernacular than *heck*; such as, if someone says, "What the *heck*" or "*heck* no," no one thinks a thing about it. Therefore, *heck* is not such a bad word, so a place of punishment that is not quite so severe as *hell*, don't you think, should be called *heck* rather than *hell*? Rather than the fabled prince of *hell* who supposedly has horns and wields a *pitchfork*, the prince of *heck* would have no horns and would tote around a big *spoon* rather than a *pitchfork*. It only seems right, don't you think? For when such a supposed horrid place is cleaned up and made to be not so bad, spoons are not nearly as harmful as forks when it comes to inflicting pain. Sounds silly, doesn't it? And it is, but not nearly as silly as man's religious notions about the God of love and His plan for most His creation being tormented forever. They are so ridiculous that it has become not only ludicrously silly, but pitifully sad with extremely notions of cruelty...

Even so, what about today's predictions for this year, especially in the latter part of it? Some feel that Matthew 24 can be used to foretell the time and events of the last days that are supposed to bring an end to the world or the age. However, if we pay close attention we can see that Jesus was talking about the *destruction of the Temple* and *the end of the world*, that is, the *end of their world*, the *end of that particular age*; for those were two of the specific questions that were asked of Him.

Some take the question about the end of the *world* as the destruction of this planet; but with *world* being the Greek word, *aion*, it becomes very apparent that it was the *age* wherein they all lived at that time. And those who heard His words were witnesses of that very end, the end of that age, even as He said they would be. Therefore, all that He foretold came to pass and now resides in the annals of history, not the prophetic future. We have covered this before; yet it seems needful to be said again.

When that season began to draw near, the apostle Peter prepared the believers for it by including in his letter: "...**the end of all things is at hand**" **1 Peter 4:7**, and in his second letter, he said that *the Lord would be coming as a thief in the night, and this coming would cause the heavens to be set on fire and pass away, and the elements to melt with fervent heat, the earth as well and the works therein would be burned up* **2 Peter 3:10-12**.

**At hand** implies *fairly near*, or *close by* in any language, not a couple of thousand years or so in the future. Therefore, we can conclude that His words were fulfilled while most of that generation was living. They saw Israel's heaven, their kingdom, judged by God who is a consuming fire. The Jew's authority and place in the empire went up in smoke. It passed away along with all the *\*elements* of their government, their religion, their economy, and their way of life. *\*elements*: Grk. *stoichelion*: something *orderly* in arrangement.

We can draw out spiritual truths from verses like these and others; but herein we need to know that Peter was speaking very plainly. He was warning the people of an approaching danger. He was not alluding to something that would take place thousands of years hence and required deep revelation to grasp. He was speaking plain enough for children to understand.

Very often scriptures have hidden messages that speak of spiritual matters that will go unnoticed by most. When Peter said that **the end is at hand**, I believe he meant exactly what he said. Since he was first addressing that generation, he truly meant that **the end of everything of that age was at hand. It was near. It would be coming to an end soon. It was close by. The hour was swiftly approaching. The end was on their doorsteps, and there would be no time to pack or call Allied Van Lines once the signs began to appear**, and appear, they did resulted in the fall of an empire!

Jesus said that when they saw the sign of the son of man in the clouds of the heavens: "...let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes." **Matthew 24:16-18.**

Various beliefs have contributed to the misunderstanding of what was meant by this term, "***the end.***" One of the most popular beliefs has been that the world (all the nations and even the earth) will *eventually* be destroyed two thousand years or so from the time of the prophecy.

The Mayan calendar was brought into play in 2009 to bolster support of the theory, and all those prophecies failed. One factor for this belief is the idea that the "***world***" (*aion* sometimes *cosmos*) is the same as the planet called "***Earth.***" This, however, has presented some problems; for instance, the ***earth*** was not destroyed shortly after Jesus spoke those words, and the earth has yet to be destroyed. Furthermore, it will not be destroyed. Therefore, by misunderstanding the scriptures and historical events that swept past them, it was assumed that everything was yet future. It was either that, or Peter simply missed it.

Frankly, quite a number of scholars, both of the world and of the church, have said that the apostle misunderstood what Jesus had taught, and he did not have a clear picture of God's plan for the ages. Consequently, the truth concerning *the end* is seldom told, the error continues on as fact, and the false scenarios of *Jesus coming soon* and *the heavens and earth being destroyed by fire* are never fulfilled. Since, most of those setting dates, and how it will be, know that neither Jesus nor any of His apostles could have been wrong, they keep going back to recalculate again, and again what they declared.

As long as I can remember we have heard that "***Jesus is coming soon!***" And to date, He has never come in the *clouds* as it has been taught. So many people have repeatedly said that He would be coming ***soon***; but Jesus never came ***soon!*** That proclamation has been going throughout the world for a long time, for hundreds of years, and ***the soon coming Jesus*** has not kept one of their appointments. He skipped them all; but their proclamations continue to resound all over the world, and no doubt, with as much fervor and excitement as the first time they were declared.

Surely, the majority mean well; but well-meaning people who are void of the truth do not produce fruit. Even so, once a belief takes root it can become a tradition, and traditions can be harder to break free from than the famed Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary. With scriptures so plain that a child would not err therein, it is amazing to see the number is ever increasing who believe that Jesus is coming soon, and He certainly may. We don't discount this; but it will not be in the manner they imagine. And from what we have witnessed over the past fifty years, even when facts are clearly contrary to the theories, they will surely continue applying *\*Maier's Law* which states: "***If facts do not conform to theory, they must be disposed of. It is the fact that must conform.***" \*American Psychologist Maier, N. R. F. (1960) <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/1961-01449-001>

At times Jesus used analogies and parables when talking about things that would be divinely taking place, and they were never understood by carnal minds regardless of how religious they might have been. However, there were times when He spoke very plainly; such as, "And he said, **Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables...** that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand." ***Luke 8:10.***

This, however, did not stop people from failing to see what He was saying; for cherubim were, and still are, sewn in the fabric of their carnal minds. Without a true vision, dates would then be set for *the coming of the Lord* and *the end of the world*, and always according to their veiled imaginations, with every one of them failing, of course.

How strange, Jesus just won't keep a date. Fortunately, He is not bound by their presumptions and vain

expectations. What is amazing, it matters not to these prognosticators that *when their prophecies fail*, it's back to the drawing boards to grind out new charts and dates. Such reminds us of today's political taskmasters posing as servants to the people. A deluge of lies are pouring from their mouths that are quickly exposed for what they are; yet they are void of shame and repentance, as they proudly continue spewing their lies of hatred while their subjects cheer them on and never cease from believing the lies nor losing the desire to hear more. Brethren, religious and political indoctrination is very real and profoundly effective.

Please know, man's propaganda machines are not the best sources from which to draw in order to unravel the mysteries of God or political agendas. Houses built upon such foundations will eventually fail by the hand of God, reaping what they have sown, and the sands of time.

If you should delve into eschatology, you will find that the teaching, "*Jesus is coming soon*," has been universally going on since the early days of the church. There were seasons in which certain church factions did not continue majoring on the subject. However, it would not be long before someone would pick it up again. After so many past failures you would think the idea would have been discarded altogether; but at best, they would only set it on a shelf for a time, or bury it in shallow archives only to be dug up and propagated again, and again. There has always been someone who would come along and perform their theological CPR and revive it by breathing their own soulish life into the carcass. Even when their predictions failed, which was every time, they kept on preaching, professing, predicting, and prophesying new dates. The same thing would be repeated time and again. Over and over the same people said the same thing with nothing changing but the dates, and people kept on believing them.

For instance, there were pastors all over the country in 1988 who were predicting that Jesus would be coming in the mid part of September of that year to rapture the church. That which ushered in this false belief was the book, "*Eighty-Eight Reasons Why The Rapture Will Be in Eighty-Eight*" by the late Edgar Whisenant.

Having been a NASA engineer and Bible student, he had the mathematical credentials for calculating dates, times, and seasons, so it is little wonder that rapture believing people trusted in his prediction that it would occur in September of 1988. Whisenant was so sure of it that he sent 300,000 copies of his *88 Reasons* book, free of charge, to ministers across the nation, and 4.5 million copies were sold. He was quoted as saying, "Only if the Bible is in error am I then wrong; and I say that to every preacher in town"; and, "If there were a king in this country and I could gamble with my life, I would stake my life on Rosh-Hashana 88."

Whisenant's predictions were taken very seriously by more than a few. We know of people who gave away or sold everything they owned. Some maxed out their credit cards on the niceties of the world, and bought new Cadillacs, over-charged on their credit cards, believing they would be raptured and wouldn't be stuck with their mountains of debt. Such just doesn't ring true to the Spirit of Christ; but neither do their predictions of the *rapture*.

Even so, as the day approached, the Trinity Broadcast Network (TBN), changed from their usual programming in order to provide special instructions on preparing for the rapture. When the rapture predication failed, Whisenant followed up with books predicting various dates in 1989, 1993, and 1994. Even in the face of failure upon failure, he continued to issue various rapture predictions. His last was for 1997.

When prophecies fail, it is not uncommon for people's livelihoods and some lives to fail with them. Their faith will often fail as well, which is a good thing, and if they do not come to their senses of what is spiritual truth, they are destined to fall for the next sensational prophecy that comes along.

Here are a few samples of other books predicting **the return of Jesus** and **the end of the world**: "*Watch and Be Ready! 1992 Millions Disappear*" (D. A. Miller); *1994?* (Harold Camping—he also predicted the same for *May 21, 2011* and again for *October 21, 2011*); and "*I Predict 2000*," (Lester Sumrall).

This website <https://renew.com/general53/endt.htm> has an extensive list, close to 70, of date setters of the "rapture" and "the end of the world." A Roman priest in 500 AD was one of the first, and each prediction has, of course, failed! One of those failures was the 1000 AD prediction:

"1000, this year goes down as one of the most heightened periods of hysteria over the return of Christ. All members of society seemed affected by the prediction that Jesus was coming back at the start of the new millennium. None of the events required by the Bible were transpiring at that time; the magic of the number 1000 was the sole reason for the expectation. During concluding months of 999 AD, everyone was on his best behavior; worldly goods were sold and given to the poor; swarms of pilgrims headed east to meet the Lord at Jerusalem; buildings went unrepaired; crops were left unplanted; and criminals were set free from jails. When the year 999 AD turned into 1000 AD, nothing happened."

Moreover, as long as such predictions are based on rapturously flying away into the sky, no matter what date it might be, **they will fail**. Now, that is my prediction, which has been for decades, and I have yet to be proven wrong!

Some have said that Jesus appeared to them in person and told them that they would not die before he came again to rapture them away; but to the dismay of those who believed them, all that I know of are presently laying dead in their graves, and Jesus did not come as "*He told them*." Apparently they believed a lie; they had a dream that was influenced by their beliefs, or they were visited by a lying spirit posing as an angel of light. Or do you think Jesus might have gotten it wrong? Never!

Bar none, each and every one of the date-setters have been wrong. The whole team has struck out in every game they have played with a batting average of zero. Every last one of them missed the ball of truth! Not one has been right. They all struck out! Period! You would think that after a lifetime of failure upon failure, and failure following fast on the heels of another failure that they and their followers would have learned better by now. But the indoctrinating spirit of any kind, but especially of religion, is an awesome influencing power. It is a hard *adversary* to battle and overcome; for it blinds people to the obvious by making a lie to appear as truth. With its smooth rhetoric, it easily escorts those of carnal thinking to believe that black is white, good to be evil and evil good.

It is as if that they have no desire to resist or overcome such an enemy, yet we understand that it plays upon their emotions like a drug. It make them feel good for a little while, but always letting them down. It is not long before they are again in dire need of another fix lest they languish and die and left with no hope for anything.

Sadly, there is no reason to believe things will change for them, at least not until truth comes from on high like blazing lightning and resounding thunder that shatters every false image. It is then that we will see as it was with Israel: "...They brake down the image of Baal, and brake down the house of Baal, and made it a **\*draught house** unto this day" **2 Kings 10:27**. The Amplified Bible says, "...[forever unclean] a **privy to this day**." **\*an outhouse**.

I mention this verse for this reason — for us to see the real worthlessness of doctrines, even though they are weighted with a lot of hype, they distract from the truth. They merit no more than being receptacles for human waste. Perhaps we can now understand why it grates so grievous against our spirit when people make statements like: "*Jesus is coming soon! The rapture will be any day now!*" "*Are you ready?*" And, "*The end of the world is at hand!*" Words like these are nothing more than religious waste, at best, the material for building *outhouses*. They are wasted thoughts, useless beliefs that will never be fulfilled.

On occasion people had asked when do I think Jesus is coming. I generally would say, "He has already come. He came to me in 1971. But He came before that at Pentecost to the 120, and He has continued to come to millions ever since. The common response was, "Oh, yeah, I know that; but when

do you think He is really coming? When is He coming back to earth?" I would respond with, "He has come back to earth in me and hopefully in you; however, if you are asking when will He be manifested in His many-membered body wherein every eye will see Him, I do not know; but I would like for it to be soon." A confused stare...

### **In Like Manner**

The coming of the Lord in 70 A.D. was entirely different than His coming at Pentecost. His coming in Matthew 24 was fulfilled in 70 A.D., while that which Jesus told the twelve in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of John was fulfilled at Pentecost. That coming has been flowing since that wonderful day, a day that so many have failed to see as one of His comings. It is a mystery that the words of the two men in white apparel have been so routinely misunderstood, even though it is plainly stated how He would come again after He ascended:

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and **a cloud received him** out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you **into heaven**, shall so come **in like manner** as ye have seen him go **into heaven**" **Acts 1:9-11.**

We question why Bible scholars that are proficient in the Greek language have not noticed the meaning of this term, ***in like manner***. Terry Crisp has done the ground work that the university professors, seminary teachers, and others of that esteemed echelon have failed to do:

"The main obstacle many have had with this approach presents itself in the words spoken in Acts 1:11. 'Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye here gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come ***in like manner*** as ye have seen Him go into heaven.' To those who are inclined to reading the scriptures with natural understanding, this disallows for any variance in the way we see Christ's appearing. But when we read that Jesus would return ***in like manner*** as He was seen going away, we find it necessary to ask the question, what is meant by '*in like manner*'? Does it mean in the exact manner? Or does it mean in a similar manner? There is a big difference, you know. We would draw your attention to the fact that this phrase '*in like manner*' comes from the Greek word *tropos*, and is also used by Jesus in Matthew 23:37... 'O Jerusalem...how often I would have gathered thy children together, ***even as (tropos) a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings....***'

"No one in their right mind would assume that Jesus wanted everyone in Jerusalem to actually come under His outstretched arms, in exactly the same way that chicks seek refuge under a mother hen. That would be ridiculous. We understand that He was speaking figuratively here. In similar fashion, we could say that during His incarnation, Jesus came *in like manner* as the spotless lamb that was sacrificed at the Feast of Passover. It was similar to, but not an exact duplication of the prototype.

"After His crucifixion, we could say that He was in the heart of the earth three days and three nights *in like manner* as Jonah's experience in the belly of the whale (Matthew 12:40). We could also say that He carried out His duties behind the veil *in like manner* as the Great High Priest, not in an earthly tabernacle, as did the priests who came before Him, but into heaven itself, in order to make atonement for our sins (Hebrews 9:11-12, 24). Many examples like this could be mentioned, but this should adequately demonstrate the fact that ***in like manner*** does not necessarily mean ***in exact manner***.

"...We could point out that in every instance where the coming of the Lord is mentioned in Scripture, and see it is not possible that they could all refer to the same event. The fact of the matter

is, there are many different comings of the Lord, and six different Greek words which are used in the New Testament to describe those comings or appearances. A careful study of the original text will prove that this is so. Among these references to His return, some of them are applicable to a future event or events. Some of them have present-day applications, describing ways in which the Lord routinely comes *to*, *with*, and *in* His people. And some even refer to comings which have already occurred, such as His coming on the Day of Pentecost, and His coming in judgment to Jerusalem in 70 A.D."

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly **there came a sound from heaven** as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" **Acts 2:1-4**.

*A cloud received Him out of their sight.* Did this not happen in *like manner* ten days later? *In like manner, but not exactly the same way, a cloud of 120 received Him.* And is it not the same today? *A cloud of people in like manner received Him out of sight from those of the world.* We, the cloud that resides in the heavens, have received Him, and He is not in sight of those of the world, and it is the same with those of whom we have been speaking. Are they not *gazing stedfastly toward heaven*, looking into the heavens, into the sky, for His coming?

But the clouds of the sky are not where He is found nor from where He comes. We do not think Jesus was seen as flaming tongues of fire falling from the cumulonimbus clouds on the day of Pentecost and for every eye to see the baptism of the 120 by His Spirit. But He did, however, descend, was manifested from the heavens of the Spirit and suddenly appeared as cloven tongues of fire, and His cloud of 120 witnesses received Him.

Remember? The two men in white apparel said: "This **same Jesus**, which is taken up from you into heaven, **shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**" **Acts 1:11**.

They **did not say**: *This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in **the exact same manner** as ye have seen him go into heaven, but in *like manner*.*

Again, *in what manner was Jesus taken?* Was it not by *a cloud* and *into heaven*? And was it not *in like manner* that *a cloud* of 120 witnesses received Him *from heaven* when Pentecost had fully come? **He went up and came again in like manner. It was HEAVEN** that He was taken into, not the sky, and **it was HEAVEN** from where He came *in like manner* and filled the 120. A small cloud first received Him, then 3,000, later on it was 5,000, and finally the receiving cloud grew so that it could not be numbered, of which we are members.

Even though the two men said *this same Jesus shall come in like manner, it is not easy for some to equate the ascended Jesus as the same as the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.* Nevertheless, the two are the same, and Paul confirmed it: "**Now the Lord is that Spirit...**" **2 Corinthians 3:17**. Moreover, let us not forget that Jesus said: "**I will come again**, and receive you unto myself; that **where I am**, there ye may be also....He dwelleth with you, and **shall be IN you. I will** not leave you comfortless: **I will** come to you" **John 14:3, 17-18**, and He came as promised to those He was talking to, as well as the others when Pentecost had fully come.

Jesus was speaking of something entirely different in **John 14**, "**I will come to you**," than in **Matthew 24**, "**the end of all things**" and "**the end of the world.**" He was letting them know that after leaving, **He would return and become one with them**; but *the end of all things being at hand, and the end of the world* had to do with *the end of Jerusalem, the Temple, their Kingdom, and end of life as they knew it.* In **John 14**, Jesus spoke of coming to His own in **the power of holiness**; but in **Matthew 24** He spoke of coming in **fiery judgment**.

Scholars have viewed certain scriptures as presenting irreconcilable problems. Such as, "...The end of all things **is at hand** 1 Peter 4:7," "...The Lord **is at hand** Philippians 4:5;" "...the coming of the Lord **draweth nigh... the judge standeth at the door**" James 5:8,9, etc. They assume that these verses speak of the final judgment of mankind, for which there has been no evidence; yet each one of those citations indicate it would take place during that generation's day.

These verses have been a challenge for ages, with some saying that the apostles were wrong, while others illogically reason that after they penned those prophetic words there was a break in time, a 2000 year fracture. Now they say that the ***natural coming of Jesus in the clouds is really at hand, He is finally near, He is now truly at the door.***

Frankly, there is no justification to be found anywhere in the scriptures that God takes a prophecy and chops it up into segments of time; however, this is the only way some can make the scriptures fit their ***end-time*** beliefs and predictions. This has been an ongoing problem, and it will continue being a problem for them; for all the ***prophecies will fail***, and the flow of events will never correspond to the misinterpreted scriptures that speak of our Lord's true coming.

The problem dissolves, however, when we understand that the time factor of His coming in ***Matthew 24*** was for that generation and not ours. It was not for a generation 2000 or so years later. When the time-line of ***"this"*** generation is understood, mountains of eschatological illusions crumble, and men's paper castles go up in smoke as they are set ablaze by the flaming word of truth. Every man's works will surely be tested by fire, and that which is not of God will be burned.

Perhaps you can smell the smoke...

Elwin R. Roach

<https://www.godfire.net/Elwin/314-Prophecies-Shall-Fail.htm>

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