

The Last Shofar! is available through the publisher, Xulon Press, Amazon and Barnes & Noble

Slide Presentation ***The Last Shofar!***

- ❖ Based on the 9 chapters of the book
- ❖ To be used as a companion study with the book; book page numbers are referenced on each slide
- ❖ Suitable for classroom or informal small group studies
- ❖ Discussion questions are included at the end of each presentation

Feedback is always welcomed

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The Last Shofar! may be ordered
at the Website above

For Your Information . . .

The following slide presentation is *incomplete* and *inadequate* to *fully* understand the content of the book, ***The Last Shofar!***



The slides are only a *summary* of the ***nine chapters*** of the book and do not include the **Introduction, Epilogue, three Appendices, and Glossary**. All provide background and build “*the case.*”

Therefore, the book is a ***necessary resource*** when viewing the slide presentation, and is ***essential*** to enhance understanding and discussion. It is highly recommended that a copy of the book be obtained for study and reference.

The Last Shofar!

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(Chapter and Page Numbers are Referenced to the Book)

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Prophecy ~ A Misunderstood Message

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention . . . knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:19-21)

Confused About Prophecy?

What we are faced with . . .

- ❖ Unfamiliar symbolic language
- ❖ Unpronounceable names
- ❖ Strange *out-of-this-world* visions

Two things that get in the way of understanding prophecy . . .

- ❖ Reading into prophetic Scripture what isn't there—*eisegesis*.
- ❖ Not understanding the *near/far (now/not yet)* nature of some prophecies.

Why Studying Prophecy is Important:

- ❖ Prophecy provides clarity to present events and answers for future uncertainties.
- ❖ Prophecy is the “road map” to help us respond biblically to the present and to understand the future.

Within biblical prophecy, we see the presence of God demonstrating His power in judgment and expressing hope and renewal for His people. The study of prophecy gives confident and quiet assurance in the faithfulness and mercy of God and provides peace to the child of God in the midst of life’s troubled waters (Isaiah 43:2).

Understanding the Nature of Prophecy

Prophecy is a type of literature that appears throughout the Bible:

- ❖ Sometimes concentrated within specific text., i.e., the book of **Revelation**
- ❖ Many times embedded within prose or poetry, i.e., the **Psalms**

Not all prophecy is the same either in nature or purpose:

- ❖ Many Old Testament prophecies are limited to the immediate crisis or event, calling God's people to repent and return to their covenantal relationship with Him.
- ❖ A smaller number of prophecies are **predictive**, focusing on future judgment, deliverance and restoration.

Understanding the Nature of Prophecy

The Last Shofar! deals with *predictive* prophecy:

Within that genre, *apocalyptic prophecy* is a sub-type, expressing future events in graphic and often horrific terms, liberally using symbols and metaphors.



Understanding the Nature of Prophecy

Apocalyptic Literature . . .

- ❖ **Informs the reader of predicted large-scale spread of evil**
- ❖ **The certainty of God's wrath and judgment**
- ❖ **The need for endurance**
- ❖ **The need to be ready for what is to come**
- ❖ **The final hope we, as believers, have in Christ**

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Understanding the Purpose of Prophecy

The purpose of predictive prophecy is to:

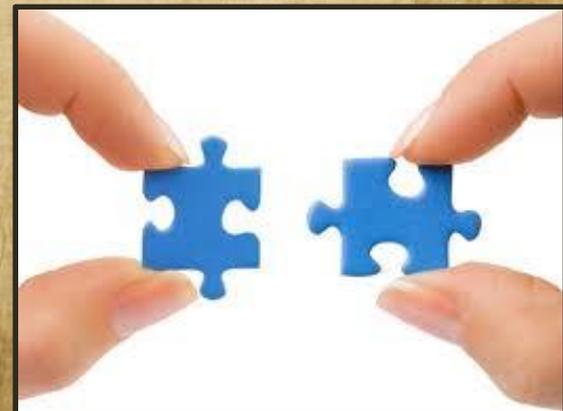
- ❖ Inform the reader of what God plans for the future, particularly at the end of the age.
- ❖ Affect present behavior toward greater holiness and godliness, in light of future events, i.e., *be ready!* (*Mark 13:32-36; 2 Peter 3:11–13*)
- ❖ Teach us to persevere in faith when trials and persecution come.
- ❖ Warn against spiritual deception and false teachers.

How to Interpret Prophecy



The task of sound biblical interpretation of prophetic Scripture is to assemble ***all*** the *puzzle pieces* (references) into a coherent understanding of specific events or topics.

All the pieces must align and be in agreement with one another based on the practice of good interpretation—*hermeneutics*.



How to Interpret Prophecy



There are certain tools or principles that must be used when interpreting prophetic statements in order to arrive at a conclusion that is consistently coherent and trustworthy.

In summary, these tools include:

- ❖ Accept the meaning of Scripture in its most normal, natural and customary sense
- ❖ Understand the text in context—what comes before and after
- ❖ Compare Scripture with Scripture—search out all relevant occurrences

How to Interpret Prophecy

Interpretation Tools (Cont.)

- ❖ Harmonize all seeming contradictions
- ❖ Seek to understand the *life-setting* of the intended (first) reader
- ❖ Watch for near/far applications of the prophetic text
- ❖ Handle carefully symbols and metaphors
- ❖ Be aware of *hyperbole* as a literary device to exaggerate to make a point
- ❖ Be attentive to apocalyptic imagery—accurately interpreting this imagery is the most difficult task in hermeneutics.

How to Interpret Prophecy

Concluding Thoughts . . .

Good hermeneutics requires mental discipline, time and prayer. The Bible student must take extreme care to avoid **eisegesis**—reading into the meaning of the text something that isn't there. Guard yourself from inserting your own assumptions. Objectively determining what the text means is called **exegesis**, reading **out of** rather than reading **into** its meaning.

The text of The Last Shofar! provides source material to gain greater understanding to these hermeneutic principles.

***The sum of your word is truth, and every one of
your righteous rules endures forever.***

(Psalm 119:160 ESV)

Let's Talk About It

1. Explain the difference between *eisegesis* and *exegesis* and how each affects your interpretation of prophecy.
2. Discuss the *near/far* nature of prophecy and give an example of how this works. Why is this concept important to understand?
3. What *new* insights have you gained about how to understand prophecy? How does this affect your understanding of the end-times events?

In the next set of slides based on Chapter 3
of *The Last Shofar!*

You Will See . . .

**What can happen when the tools for interpreting
prophetic statements are not carefully applied and . . .**

Everyone Has It “Right”



