

THE MYSTERY OF PROPHECY EXPLAINED IN SIMPLE TERMS FOR THE SERIOUS STUDENT OF THE WORD

by Rand Winburn

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PART 1: LAYING THE FOUNDATION

LESSON 1: Prophecy is a mystery.

- And he spake many things unto them in parables....And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.
- For the mystery of iniquity doth already work.
- The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in their right hand and the seven golden candlesticks.
- But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.
- And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.
- I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.
- But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end.

LESSON 2: It's meaning is hidden to most, otherwise it would not be a mystery.

- And the disciples came and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.
- And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.
-Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.
- If any man have any ear, let him hear.
- For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book.

LESSON 3: Understanding prophecy requires supernatural wisdom.

- Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast. For it is the number of a man; and his number is 666.
- And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sitteth....And the woman which thou sawest is that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth.
- When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth let him understand)...
- John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.
- And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.
- The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter...And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

LESSON 4: The Elect will understand prophecy. The Wicked will not.

-none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.
- And the disciples came and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.
- Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.
- For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.
- The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.
- But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the world unto our glory; which none of the princes of the world knew...
- Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth; men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith...But thou hast fully known my doctrine....
- And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.
-And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

- The said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come. Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? Because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come.
- They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.

LESSON 5: This wisdom comes from God, who is the revealer of mysteries.

He accomplishes this through His prophets who teach others, who in turn, have been taught by past prophets, who in turn, have been taught by the Apostles, who in turn, have been taught by Jesus personally, or personally by the holy angels. All who gain wisdom have been taught by the Teacher, the Holy Spirit, through the Scriptures.

- Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever: for wisdom and might are his.....He revealeth the deep and secret things....I thank thee and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee....I will shew unto the king the interpretation.
- I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near to one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.
- We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed...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 God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
- And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
- And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters.....And the angel said unto me, wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carrieth her...
- And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow-servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.
- Behold, I have told you before.
- Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth. For he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come.

- But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit. For the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.
- How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery...which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto the holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.
- And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.
- And we know that the Son of God is come and hath given us an understanding that we may know him that is true.
- Wisdom is justified of her children.
- Remember ye not, that, when I was with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work.
- Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith....

LESSON 6: The Elect will hear and believe the testimony of the prophets.

- I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.
- But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
- And he saith unto them, Follow me and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets and followed him.
- It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard and hath learned of the Father cometh unto me.
- And this is eternal life, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent....For I have given them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them.....
-many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.
- And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come.
- Every one who is of the truth heareth my voice.
- He that is of God heareth God's words....
- We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us.

LESSON 7: God's prophets are to be believed because they speak the truth of God....Truth which God wills us to know. Blessed are they who hear, believe and preach these truths.

- And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which shortly must be done. Behold, I come quickly, blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. And I John saw these things and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. The sayeth he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

- Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

- There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

- We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us: he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

LESSON 8: Receiving the words of God's prophets is a hard thing, requiring much grace, and given special reward when believed.

- He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life....so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me....These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of his disciples, when they heard this, said, This is a hard saying, Who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?....And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him.

- There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings.

- And then shall many be offended...

- But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them....

- Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; and he saw it and was glad.

- He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward...

- And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation, even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles,

speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

- Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein; for the time is at hand.

LESSON 9: The prophetic Word is often of a disturbing nature.

- As for me Daniel, my cogitations troubled me, and my countenance changed in me; but I kept the matter in my heart.
- And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.
- And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues and kings.
- Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division.

LESSON 10: The Wicked will not and cannot believe the prophets of God.

- But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.
- Therefore I speak to them in parables because they seeing see not, and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see and shall not perceive. For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at anytime they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and should understand with their heart, and should be converted and I should heal them.
- But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch, and the cock crew.
- He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
- But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.
- He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

LESSON 11: The Wicked will believe the false prophets and honor them.

- Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you! For so did their fathers to the false prophets.
- I receive not honor from men.

- I come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.
- But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways.....
- If ye were of the world, the world would love his own....
- If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

LESSON 12: The testimony of the false prophets will contradict and oppose the testimony of Christ and His prophets.

- Then Peter took him and began, and began to rebuke him, saying, be it far from thee, Lord. This shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan. For thou art an offense unto me, for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.
- Again, the devil taketh him up unto an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them, and saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then Jesus saith unto, Get thee hence, Satan. For it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.
- This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance. That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Saviour. Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming?
- Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God. And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God, and this is that spirit of Antichrist.....
- To the law and the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

LESSON 13: The Wicked will change the words and meaning of the prophecies of God. God views this a sin unto death, unless repentance is forthcoming.

- For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book. If any man shall add unto these things, God 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, God 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.

- Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying I am, and the time draweth near. Go ye not, therefore, after them.
- Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

LESSON 14: The Wicked will actively seek reasons to falsely accuse God's prophets of heresy worthy of death.

- And the chief priests accused him of many things.
- And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.
- And he wrote a letter after this manner...This man was taken of the Jews, and should have been killed of them: then came I with an army, and rescued him, having understood that he was a Roman. And when I would have known the cause wherewith they accused him, I brought him forth into their council: Whom I believed to be accused of questions of their law, but to have nothing laid to his charge worthy of death or of bonds.
- Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest. For if I be an offender, or have committed anything worthy of death, I refuse not to die. But if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them.
-I sat on the judgment seat, and commanded the man to be brought forth. Against whom when the accusers stood up, they brought none accusation of such things as I supposed: But had certain questions against him of their own superstitions, and of one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive.
- And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the Sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him.
- Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.
- At that time Jesus went out on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungered, and he began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.
- Then led they Jesus from Caiaphus into the hall of judgment....Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? They answered and said unto him, he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee. Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death: That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die. Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews? Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me? Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?.....he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

- Woe unto you, lawyers! For ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that ye were entering in ye hindered. And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge him vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things: Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him.
- And the scribes and the Pharisees brought unto him a women taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, they say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse.
- This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves...false accusers....having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.
- But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

LESSON 15: The Wicked will desire to pronounce unjust sentence against the falsely accused prophets through illegal trial.

- Now the chief priests and elders and all the council sought false witness against Jesus to put him to death, but found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses.....Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy: what further need have we of witnesses? Behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.
- And when they had been there many days, Festus declared Paul's cause unto the king, saying, There is a certain man left in bonds by Felix: About whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, desiring to have judgment against him. To whom I answered, It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have license to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him.

LESSON 16: The Wicked will slander the prophets of God to discredit their witness.

- Blessed are ye when men revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.
- And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying himself that he is Christ a King.....And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, said unto them, ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people; and behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him: an lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.
- The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill you?

- Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?
- And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the Son of David? But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.
- For John came neither eating or drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners.

LESSON 17: The Wicked will forbid God's prophets to prophesy. Satan does not will the people to hear God's prophetic Word.

- And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? And who gave thee this authority?
- O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often I would have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!
- But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

LESSON 18: The Wicked will persecute and kill God's prophets to stop their witness.

- Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him....
- Wherefore behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men and scribes, and some of them ye shall kill and crucify, and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city.
- Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am. And ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes and saith, What need we any further witnesses? Ye have heard the blasphemy. What think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death. And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophesy. And the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.
- Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.
- And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake, but he that shall endureth to the end shall be saved. But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye to another.....

- If the world hate you ye know that it hated me before it hated you.
- They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.
- Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you.
- Jerusalem, Jerusalem which killest the prophets and stonest them which are sent unto thee...
- Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.
- Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? How he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets.....
- And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.
- And Herod said, John have I beheaded....
- For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple and went about to kill me.
- Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye when men revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

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