

# RESPECTING, USING AND OBEYING PROPHECY

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**RESPECTING PROPHECY**

# 1 THESSALONIANS 5:20-22

- <sup>20</sup> **Do not treat prophecies with contempt**
- <sup>21</sup> but test them all;
- hold on to what is good,
- <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil.

# PAY ATTENTION TO PROPHECY

- **2 Peter 1:19**
- So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to **pay attention** as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until **the day** dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

# READ AND HEED PROPHECY

- **Rev 1:3**
- Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who heed what is written in it, for the time is near.

**USING PROPHECY**

# USING PROPHECY....1 CORINTHIANS 14:3

- But he who prophesies speaks
  - *edification* and
  - *exhortation* and
  - *comfort*
- to men.

# USING PROPHECY...TO EDIFY

<b>Term</b>	<b>Opposite</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Edify	Tear down, destroy, wreck	Build up, repair, reinforce

# USING PROPHECY.... TO EDIFY

Term	What to tell people
Edify	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="545 634 1926 822">1. Your faith in Bible's reliability will be enhanced</li><li data-bbox="545 862 1768 1058">2. Your trust in God to Keep His promises will strengthen</li><li data-bbox="545 1090 1574 1165">3. You'll Know God Better!</li></ol>

# USING PROPHECY...TO EXHORT

<b>Term</b>	<b>Opposite</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Exhort	Ignore, tolerate	Expose, Purify, remedy

# EXHORT

- **Hebrews 10:24-25**
- And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but **exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**

# USING PROPHECY...TO EXHORT

Term	What to tell people
Exhort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Your sins will be exposed.</i></li><li>• <i>Your lack of confidence will be evident.</i></li><li>• <i>Your lack of longing for his coming will be noticed.</i></li></ul>

# USING PROPHECY...TO COMFORT

Term	Opposite	Meaning
Comfort	Aggravate, inflame	Ease the pain, heal

# USE PROPHECY TO ENCOURAGE

- 1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18
- <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> ***Therefore encourage one another with these words.***

# USING PROPHECY...TO COMFORT

Term	What to tell people
Comfort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Your suffering and pain will end.</i></li><li>• <i>Wrongs will be made right.</i></li><li>• <i>We get to see Jesus!</i></li></ul>

**OBEYING PROPHECY**

# WAKE UP & ARMOR UP

- Romans 13:11-12
- And *do* this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us **cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.**

# PAY ATTENTION, WATCH AND PRAY

- Mark 13:33-37
- Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. ...
- Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.
- And what I say to you, **I say to all: Watch!**”

# WATCH AND PRAY

- Luke 21:36
- <sup>36</sup> *Watch* therefore, and pray always **that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass**, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

# WATCHFUL IN PRAYER

- 1 Peter 4:7
- But **the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.**

# STAY ALERT

- Luke 21
- <sup>34</sup> “**Be on guard**, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; <sup>35</sup> for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. <sup>36</sup> But **keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.**”

# WATCH OR HE COMES UPON YOU AS A THEIF

- **Revelation 3:3**
- Remember therefore how you have received and **heard;**  
**hold fast and repent.**
- **Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.**
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# WAIT EAGERLY

- *Eagerly*

- **Romans 8:23**
- And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, **even** we ourselves groan within ourselves, *waiting eagerly* for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

# WAIT PATIENTLY

- James 5:7-8
- *Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.* The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. *You too be patient*; strengthen your hearts, *for the coming of the Lord is near.*

# HOW DO WE WAIT EAGERLY AND PATIENTLY?

- We need to avoid two extremes:
  - Being so EAGER, we're impatient
  - Being so patient, we're no longer eager



# WHILE YOU WAIT, OCCUPY

- **Luke 19**
- <sup>11</sup> **because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.** <sup>12</sup> Therefore He said: “A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. <sup>13</sup> So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, ‘**Occupy till I come.**’

# How Do We Occupy?

- Read your Bible
- Pray more often
- Share your faith
- Get married and have children
- Save for your retirement
- Buy a home and put down roots
- Enjoy your children and your family
- Do godly things.
- Advance God's kingdom!



# CLOSING: JEREMIAH 29

- <sup>4</sup> “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon, <sup>5</sup> ‘Build houses and live *in them*; and plant gardens and eat their produce. <sup>6</sup> Take wives and become the fathers of sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; and multiply there and do not decrease. <sup>7</sup> Seek the [c]welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf; for in its [d]welfare you will have [l]welfare.’ ...
- <sup>10</sup> “For thus says the LORD, ‘When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will restore your [i]fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.’