Not too long ago, Tamela Mann wrote a song sometime heard in this church titled, *Take Me to the King*. That truly is the essence of Biblical prophecy: We are going to be taken to the King! Glory! We who follow our Lord Jesus should never forget that. The bottom line of true prophetic truth from God’s Word is that we are soon to be taken to the presence of the King, our Lord Jesus Christ.

This song opens with:

*Take me to the King*
*I don’t have much to bring*
*My heart is torn to pieces*
*It’s my offering*
*Take me to the King*

I believe the very essence of prophetic scripture is to prepare us for that glorious day when we are taken to the king, Jesus Christ. For some of us that journey may be through the death of our physical bodies:

I Corinthians 15:20-11  *For now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept* (died).  *For since by man (Adam) came death, by man also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam, all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

For other believers, the journey will be much faster. It is called the Rapture!
1 Cor. 15:50-58

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. [51] Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52] In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. [53] For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. [54] So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. [55] O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? [56] The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [58] Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

One thing is very obvious: The Scriptures definitely teach the Rapture! But before we delve into that beloved doctrine, let’s check out this: ARE THERE DANGERS IN STUDIES IN PROPHETIC SCRIPTURES? YES!

1. Have you heard of “galloping Athenianism?” It was a “disease” of the spirit possessed by many in the church in ancient Athens. By the time Paul reached them, many of the “saints” had become afflicted with it.

Many of the believers there spent their time in coming up with “new and exciting” aspects of their faith - most of which were stuff and nonsense. Acts 17:21 (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

At the risk of offending some modern Athenians in Christianity, there is NO NEW THING in the Word of God. God informs us in our scriptures about everything he wants you to know. And anyone who adds to it or takes away from it is in grave peril:
Rev. 22:19

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.

2. Ideas about misguided prophecy can lead to spiritual pride. Unfortunately there are some church people who are not willing to associate with others who have a different “take” on prophetic scripture. So Christ is not the basis of their spiritual experience, but prophecy is. This is not a good situation.

3. Which leads to yet a third danger of prophecy when Christ is not the center of their faith.

SO WHY STUDY PROPHECY?

I knew a gentleman whose church just pitched out all scripture having to do with prophecy. “It leads to division,” he claimed. Yet one-fourth of scripture - at the time of its writing - was prophetic in nature. How sad some churches just pitch them all out when the truth of the matter is this: Prophecy was divinely inspired and proves the worthiness of all the rest of the Word.

Prophecy proves to us the power and wisdom of almighty God. Prophecy reveals to us the PURPOSES of God. Nothing “just happens.” There is a reason for everything, whether or not we always see those purposes.

And prophecy can soothe our minds and hearts. What was it Jesus said to His disciples the very week of His crucifixion:
John 14:1-4

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. [2] In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. [3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. [4] And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

Newscasts today can trouble us greatly if that's all we hear. But the scriptures go past the conclusions of TV people to tell us clearly what is really going to happen tomorrow and the next day - and our hearts are not troubled any longer.

And prophetic scripture gives us a strong teaching on how we should live in this present generation:

2 Peter 3:10-13

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. [11] Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, [12] Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? [13] Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

What hope!! A new earth, filled with the righteousness of our Lord. Small wonder then He admonished us to not allow our hearts to be troubled!
Daniel 2

Babylon
605-539 BC

Medo-Persia
539-331 BC

Grecia
331-168 BC

Rome
168 BC-476 AD

Daniel 7
I cannot find any scriptures in the Word still to be fulfilled before the Rapture of the Church. Daniel chapter 2 is the key chapter to me of what God has planned. There, the image seen by King Nebuchadnezzar in his dream is the plan for the ages.

The king saw a great figure or beast. The head of it was gold as representing Babylon (which did not last a long time - a mere 66 years); the shoulders of silver representing - the Medo-Persia empire lasting a mere couple centuries; the torso of bronze, representing Greece which lasted only about 163 years before being overcome by Rome (iron) lasting for only about 600 years. Then the legs representing western and eastern Rome made of a mixture of raw materials and substantially weaker (middle ages and renaissance) and finally the feet, very weak made of clay (representing the world as it is now).

You and I are living (between the toes, so to speak) and the whole image will collapse when Christ (the rolling stone) smashes into it.

Daniel 2:31-35

_Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible._ [32] This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, [33] His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. [34] Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. [35] Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth._
The stone cut out of the mountain speaks of Christ and the Rapture. One day, without warning, Jesus will come:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

*But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.* [14] For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. [15] For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. [16] For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: [17] Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. [18] Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

**HOW BIG IS HEAVEN GOING TO BE IF EVERYONE GETS A MANSION?**

Our Lord had in mind something totally different. A “place” is a better rendition of that famous passage in John 14. In His society, houses were built with a large open center but with rooms added on. As a son married, he brought back his bride to the family home where space had been added on for him and wife. So Jesus was saying, “In my Father’s house are many dwelling places. I go to prepare such a place for you.”

**And so shall we ever be with Him.**