

## Christian Doctrine

### The End Times (Part 1)

#### The Old Testament and Prophecy

#### *Key Prophetic Themes in the Old Testament*

The Old Testament is full of prophecy. These prophecies, made to God's people (Israel), lay the foundation of what we can expect to unfold over the course of human history. There are several key themes that run through the Old Testament which set the stage for being able to properly understand further prophecy given in the New Testament:

- **A Land Promise Made to the Nation of Israel**
  - God made a covenant with Abraham, which included several promises (Gen. 12:2-3), one of which was the promise to give Israel their own land (Gen. 13:14-16).
  - The land promised to Abraham and his descendants would be their eternal possession (15:18; 17:5-8).
- **A Coming King and Kingdom for the Nation of Israel**
  - In Israel, a kingdom and throne would be established forever (II Sam. 7:10-13, 16).
  - A coming King would reign over all the earth in truth and righteousness during a time of peace and prosperity (Is. 16:5; 32:16-18; Jer. 23:5-6).
- **Israel Will Have a Time of Rebellion and Correction**
  - A prophetic warning reveals that the Israelites would grow rebellious, be scattered, and face difficult days in which God would correct them (Ezek. 22:15-16).
  - In the latter days they would again seek the Lord, be forgiven and regathered, and dwell again in their land once and for all (Deut. 4:27-31; Is. 11:11-12; Amos 9:8-15).
- **People of All Nations Will Worship the Coming King**
  - When the coming King reigns on the earth, people from all nations will seek Him (Micah 4:1-7; Is. 60:1-3).
  - Gentiles will go to Him and join with the Israelites in worshipping Him (Zech. 8:22-23; 14:16).

With these themes in mind, we can better understand the mindset of the Israelites near the end of the Old Testament and leading up to the time of Christ. At that time, rebellion and judgment within the nation was already being realized, but the promises of God brought hope and anticipation.

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