

# Do You Have A "One Day Nearer" Mindset ? Part 1

Saturday, Dec 01, 2023 08:00 AM CT • 54:00

**Host: David Wheaton** 00:08

Do You Have A "One Day Nearer" Mindset? That is the topic we'll discuss today right here on The Christian Worldview Radio Program where the mission is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. I'm David Wheaton, the host. We are able to reach believers and non believers with that mission through the radio station, website or podcast platform in which you are listening today because of the support of listeners like you. Thank you for your support. You can connect with us by visiting our website, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org), calling our toll free number 1-888-646-2233 or by writing to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331. A quick reminder before we get to the preview for today's topic, The Christian Worldview annual print letter that comes out once a year, at the end of the year, will be mailing in mid December. This contains a letter and full resource catalog. If you'd like to receive our annual print letter, go to our website to sign up or give us a call.

I recently watched a program on Fox News Channel that featured some of the sharpest conservative minds, including Thomas Sowell, Victor Davis Hanson, and Mark Levin. They were discussing the crumbling state of affairs in America and abroad with regard to overwhelming illegal immigration across our border, a takeover of the government school system by a Marxist worldview, crushing economic policies and inflation, political corruption, widespread anti Israel sentiment, and several more issues. They detailed the problems accurately, but I was left wondering what these intelligent men believe is going to happen in the future. Do they think that with a different president that we'll pull out of this death spiral? Do they think that America is too big to fail and that the pendulum will swing back the conservative way at some point? But most importantly, do they know and believe what God has prophesied in the Bible about the future? Only the born again Christian who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and accurately interpret Scripture is able to understand what is coming.

While God has chosen to not reveal every detail and the precise timing of future events, He has put enough in scripture that we should know what's coming, most especially, the return of Jesus Christ to defeat his enemies and reign. With each passing sunset, we are "one day nearer" to the return of Christ. And that is the best news. Why would the believer want to struggle on in this fallen world with sin, conflict, persecution, disease, and ultimately death when we can live for eternity in perfection in the presence of Christ?

Steve Miller is our guest this weekend and next. He has studied biblical prophecy for decades and is the author of *Foreshadows: 12 Mega Clues Jesus' Return is Nearer than Ever* and the 365 day devotional book that we will be discussing today titled, *One Day Nearer: Daily Devotions in Anticipation of Jesus' Glorious Return*. *One Day Nearer* is our new featured resource available for a donation of any amount. We'll tell you how you can get a copy today. This week in part one, Steve

will explain the purposes of Bible prophecy, the three major views (i.e. premillennialism, amillennialism, and post millennialism), and whether the idea of a "rapture" of church-age believers is a recent invention. Steve is a humble and godly man who knows the Bible well, and you will find him reasonable, I think, as he explains the premillennial view that he believes the Bible teaches, while being charitable toward other views. You will notice that Steve's voice sounds different and that's because he has been deaf from almost birth. My questions to him were transcribed on a screen in front of him with his wife Becky sitting beside him helping him by using sign language.

Steve, thank you for coming back on The Christian Worldview Radio Program. Early in your book, *One Day Nearer* on page seven, you talk about the purpose of prophecy, and that the purpose of prophecy isn't primarily just about knowing the future, but it's about growing in our love for Christ and His return. Here's what you write in the opening of this devotional.

"With every rising and setting of the sun, we draw one day nearer to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Every believer should look forward to His triumphant coming with eagerness because of what it means to this world and to all who love the Lord. On that day, all the imperfect kingdoms of mankind will be swept aside and replaced by His perfect kingdom. At long last, the government will rightfully be on the shoulders of the one who created and owns this universe, and He will rule over all with perfect wisdom and righteousness and love. As the King of kings and Lord of lords, He will bring about a global kingdom that is heaven on earth. For the first time since Adam and Eve fell into sin, true peace will exist because He is the Prince of Peace.

No longer will satan be the "ruler of this world" (John 12:31). No longer will evil and its effects plague us. Scripture tells us that during Christ's earthly kingdom, "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord" (Habakkuk 2:14). People will know "gladness and joy, sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:10). Even all the animals will know harmony at last-the lamb will lie down with the lion (Isaiah 11:6). With Christ on his throne in Jerusalem, we will experience our first taste of life as God meant for it to be. Our existence will no longer be defined by struggles with sin, trials, pain and mortality. Instead, it will be defined by light, love, and the joy of serving alongside the Lord as He rules. Life under Christ's reign will be far greater and more fulfilling than we anticipate."

This is an interesting beginning to the book, Steve, because sometimes we can think of the end times, eschatology, prophecy about what's going to happen in the future, but you say straight off that prophecy is really about how to grow in our love for Christ, which is what the Ephesians church had lost by the way in Revelation, which Christ reprimanded them for. So how does prophecy do that? How should we approach prophecy that way, with that motivation to grow in our love for Christ?

**Guest: Steve Miller 07:23**

That was one of my desires in writing, *One Day Nearer*. My desire was that this book would help highlight the fact that Christ is at the center of so much Bible prophecy, and that that is intentional.

God wants us to grow closer to Christ. And by giving us bible prophecy, and by so much of it focusing on Christ, it enables us to learn more about Christ and draw closer to Him. One of the best ways to grow in our love for Christ is to get to know him better. One of the best ways to get to know him better is to read God's Word. An amazing amount of information about Christ is found in the context of Bible prophecy. There are hundreds of prophecies about Him. Prophecies about His first coming, why He came, how much He loved us. The purpose for coming was to save us. Then prophecies about the Second Coming, which is to return, to set things right, to bring us home with Him so that we might live together in His kingdom and we would co-reign together in the millennial kingdom, and that we would live with Him for eternity. This is how much He loves us. All of this is conveyed in Bible prophecy, and because Christ is the main theme of Bible prophecy, the more we study prophecy, the more we grow closer to Him.

**Host: David Wheaton 08:40**

Now Steve, when you talk about one day nearer to the return of Christ, are you referring to the rapture of the church, church age believers? Are you talking about the return of Christ as in at the end of the tribulation period, which we'll get more into that timeline in a bit, but which one are you referring to?

**Guest: Steve Miller 08:57**

Primarily, I do have the rapture in mind. Ultimately, all of God's schedule, His timeline for the future, is set in stone. There will be the rapture, there will be the tribulation, there will be the return of Christ. At the rapture we're taken up to heaven, and we will dwell with Christ in heaven, while the Tribulation is unfolding here on the earth. Then when the Tribulation ends, we will return with Christ from heaven and come to earth with Him. So there is two different phases. There's the rapture, the first phase where we go to heaven. The Second Coming is where we return with Him. So because all of that is set in stone, we could say that we're one day nearer to both events in time, but primarily I do have the rapture in mind.

That's because Scripture calls us to live in anticipation of Christ's return. In Philippians 3:20 when it talks about us being citizens of heaven, it says that we are citizens of heaven who wait for a savior who's coming from there. In Titus 2:13, the apostle Paul encouraged us to be watching for the blessed hope. Even Christ himself said, watch and be ready. So yes, primarily for the rapture, looking forward to that moment when our beloved Lord returns and takes us home to be with Him.

**Host: David Wheaton 10:11**

We're going to get to that event, the rapture, and some of the different views on the end times coming up on the program. Our guest today is Steve Miller, the author of a devotional we are featuring called, One Day Nearer: Daily Devotions in Anticipation of Jesus' Glorious Return. You can get this for a donation of any amount from The Christian Worldview. We'll tell you how you can do that today.

Now I'm sure there's one or two people listening to the program today saying, Well, Christians are always talking about the return of Christ. Yet it's been 2000 years since He left this earth. There's always been this message of imminency that Christ could return at any time. So how would you answer that person? Why is there this imminent message of the return of Christ when it's been 2000 years? How do we live knowing that what believers in earlier ages believed, that Christ was coming back soon, it didn't happen actually in their lifetimes?

**Guest: Steve Miller 11:11**

Well, there are a couple of different points of clarity that can be really helpful here. The idea of imminency, all it means is that the rapture could happen at any time. We could be taken to heaven anytime. To say that something is imminent, doesn't necessarily mean that it is soon. It's not necessarily saying that it's hanging right there. It simply means that it could happen anytime. We get a clearer sense for it when we compare the rapture and the second coming. If we look at Scripture, we notice that there are no prophecies that have to be fulfilled before the rapture happens. There are no requirements. It doesn't say this has to happen first, this has to happen next, and then the rapture will occur.

By contrast, with the second coming, we do see a long list of things that have to happen before Christ's return. Part of that long list is found in Revelation Chapters 4 through 18, which walks us all the way through the tribulation. All those events in the tribulation have to happen before Christ's return. The closer we get to the end of the tribulation, the more imminent Christ's return will become and the fewer prophecies that will have to be fulfilled in order for Christ to return. But with the rapture, there are no prophecies that are required to be fulfilled. That's why we can say it's imminent. That's why we can say it could happen anytime.

What's helpful is to look at 1 Thessalonians 4:13, where the apostle Paul talked to the Thessalonians about the rapture. The reason he wrote to them about it was because some of the Thessalonians were concerned that their brothers and sisters in Christ who had died would miss the rapture. That's a clue to us that Paul apparently had taught some that the rapture was imminent, it could happen anytime. So as brothers and sisters of course started dying, they started thinking, My goodness, they're going to miss the rapture, it could happen any time. Paul writes to them and says, No. In fact, what will happen at the rapture is that the dead in Christ will rise first, and then we who are alive and remain will be taken up. So he offered this encouragement to the Thessalonians who were expecting the rapture to happen in their lifetime. God wants all of us to live with an expectation, with a sense of readiness that helps us to realize we don't know how much time we have left to be sharing the gospel with others, and that sense of imminency helps to motivate us to live pure lives for Christ, to live holy for Him and to always be ready.

**Host: David Wheaton 13:39**

That is God's intent for biblical prophecy, that we eagerly anticipate and look for the return of Christ. Our guest today is Steve Miller. He is the author of, *One Day Nearer: Daily Devotions in Anticipation of Jesus' Glorious Return*. This is a softcover book, 384 pages, \$19.99 retail. For a limited time, you

can order this devotional for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. You can order at our website, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) or give us a call toll free at 1-888-646-2233 or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331. We have much more coming up on, Do You Have A One Day Nearer Mindset? with Steve Miller. You are listening to The Christian Worldview Radio Program. I'm David Wheaton.

### **Featured Resource: The War on Men** 14:32

We've largely lost the honor and the nobility and the glory of biblical manhood. And so many young men are not trained to be a leader, a protector and a provider in a Christ like way. That then, creates the actual end product of young men who don't know how to be a man. So we've largely lost the script for what being a biblical man is.

That was Owen Strachan, author of the excellent book, *The War on Men*. This is a book for the entire family to read, understand, and then pursue what biblical manhood is. *The War on Men* is hardcover, 256 pages and retails for \$29.99. For a limited time, you can get a copy for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. To order, go to [The ChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) or call toll free 1-888-646-2233 or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

### **Featured Children's Resources** 15:25

Scripture commands that children ought to be brought up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Offering Biblically sound resources for children is one of our top ministry priorities. At our store at the [ChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org), you will find carefully selected children's Bibles and books along with video and audio resources. Check out the Bible Infographics for Kids books, Little Pilgrims Progress, and the popular Adam Raccoon set. Theo is a 15 episode video series addressing key doctrines of the faith that is a must see for children and adults.

Satan and the world are bent on capturing the heart and mind of your child. Instead, get sound resources that will train them up in the way they should go. Browse and order at [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) or give us a call for recommendations at 1-888-646-2233. That's 1-888-646-2233 or [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org).

### **Host: David Wheaton** 16:39

Welcome back to The Christian Worldview. I'm David Wheaton. Be sure to visit our website, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) where you can subscribe to our free weekly email and annual print letter, order resources for adults and children and support the ministry.

We are discussing biblical prophecy today. Our guest is Steve Miller, author of the book, *One Day Nearer*. One of the things I like about this devotional, Steve, is that there's almost little series of devotionals. I'll just give you an example. I'm going to read this next that early on in the devotional you say, The purposes of Bible prophecy, and you have about six or seven of them. And I'll list them and I'm going to talk about one of them.

You say "the purposes are to give hope, to give us eternal purpose, to motivate us to purity, to spur us to share the gospel, to confirm that God is God." So let me just give an example here on page 11. The first purpose you give Bible prophecy is to give hope or you write, imagine the Bible with no prophecies in it. Suppose God had decided not to tell us anything about the Second Coming, His ultimate victory over evil in our future home in heaven and eternity. If God had left prophecies out of His Word, we would have no idea of what the future holds. Instead, all we would know is that the world we live in is descending deeper and deeper into darkness, evil, and hopelessness with no knowledge of what is to come. Life would be bleak, we would have nothing to look forward to. We would go from day to day filled with dread and uncertainty, but because God chose to provide us with glimpses of the glorious future that awaits us, we can live with hope. This is a major reason God filled the Bible with so many prophecies about what is to come, to give us hope.

You also say somewhere else in the book, Steve that I think you said up to a quarter of the Bible is actually biblical prophecy, so God wants us not only to know what's going to happen in the future, but to live in light of what is going to happen in the future. As I read about this first purpose of biblical prophecy, to give hope, why are there only glimpses, even though there's so much about it in Scripture? But there's, "glimpses of the glorious future" as you write about there. Can you conjecture, I should say why God didn't provide precise clarity, details, timing, because I think it leads some people to respond "well, there's just no way to understand it. There's too many prophetic things, it's too shrouded. There's so many differing views. I just don't want to go down that road." Why do you think that is?

**Guest: Steve Miller 19:27**

A big reason, and I would say this is specific to the rapture, that we aren't given more details like the time when the rapture will happen, is because we know how people will react to that. They would say, "Well, I don't have to wait until that time before I get myself right with God." That would give us a wrong motive for getting right with God. God doesn't want us to have wrong motives for how we view Bible prophecy or what's going to happen in the future. So there are things that God purposely left vague, or didn't give us information on for some reason or other. Specifically with the rapture, it is because He didn't want people having a wrong motive for getting right with Him and waiting until the last minute. However, at the same time, when Christ taught about the end times, He did talk about what it would be like, as we approach the last days. He did reveal information in Matthew chapter 25, that talks about the last days will be like the days of Noah.

He gives some explanation as to what those days will look like. So as we look at that we can say, Well, Christ helps us to know the general season of his return. He helps us to know just enough to be anticipating, but He doesn't give us enough information that people can go forward with the wrong motive and abuse His grace and wait till the last minute for the rapture to happen. As far as other prophecies of the Bible, He has intents and purposes for what He does reveal to us and what He's chosen not to reveal to us. But what He has chosen to reveal to us, and there's a lot, is that He let us know that we have an amazing future ahead, that God will correct all the wrongs of this world, He will make things right, that evil will someday be banished, that Satan will someday be banished and

someday, every tear will be wiped from our eyes. We have a wonderful future and a wonderful inheritance awaiting us in heaven, a wonderful future in which we will live with Christ for eternity. There's such a wealth of information about the inheritance we have awaiting us. Again, there are some details we don't know, but we can trust God that He has revealed the right information for us, so that we can have our eyes set on the future with hope.

**Host: David Wheaton 21:42**

That's exactly right. God has revealed just what we need to know for our good and His glory and how He's going to reveal things in the future. We can trust Him. He didn't leave anything out. He's not trying to leave us in the dark. But just as there are mysteries that are revealed throughout Scripture, even the mystery of the church, that the Old Testament time really didn't have clarity on, it was revealed in God's time, which is the perfect time.

Steve Miller is our guest today here on The Christian Worldview, the author of this excellent devotional One Day Nearer: Daily Devotions in Anticipation of Jesus' Glorious Return. This would be a really good book to get. We're offering it for donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview, not in lieu of your Bible reading in the coming year, but in addition. Read a page a day. This will help you focus and have a mindset of looking for the return of Christ.

Steve, I obviously am not visiting or attending all kinds of evangelical churches all the time because we go to our own church, but what is your sense? I know you travel and speak and you hear about things going on within the evangelical church today. Do most evangelical churches preach on these prophetic parts of Scripture? And if not, why not?

**Guest: Steve Miller 23:02**

I do have the opportunity to travel. I have the opportunity to attend prophecy conferences. And an amazing number of the people who attend these conferences are hungry for teaching on Bible prophecy because they can't get it in their churches. I can't give a percentage on how many churches that might involve, but it's pretty widespread. Even I myself growing up went to several churches where a Bible prophecy simply was not taught. It wasn't until I was in college that I attended a church where prophecy was taught. That Pastor happened to be convinced that preaching God's word expositively, meaning book by book, verse by verse, was an important way of teaching scripture and helping people to know the Scripture as well, which is true.

So yes, there are a lot of churches that are reluctant to teach Bible prophecy. There are a couple of reasons for that. The perception is that prophecy is difficult to understand. Or they look around and they see all the controversy, or the sensationalism that surrounds Bible prophecy and they say, Well, I don't want to do anything that's going to generate controversy in my church, or I don't want to do anything that smacks of sensationalism. So they hold Bible prophecy at arm's length.

My encouragement to them would be, we can't do that because prophecy is a part of God's Word. If we love God, we're going to teach every part of His word. Some scriptures to have in mind when we



talk about this are, for example, in 1Thessalonians 4, when the Apostle Paul talks about the rapture. He wrote, *we do not want you to be uninformed about this brothers*. So there's a sense in which we can say if we don't talk about prophecy, if we don't talk about the rapture, then we're keeping Christians uninformed. In Revelation 1:3 we are told that, *Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy*. Prophecy and meant to bless us, so if we don't teach prophecy, then we're holding blessing back from Christians. Then in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, we're told that, *All scripture is profitable for training and righteousness; that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work*. That includes Bible prophecy. He doesn't say, except Bible prophecy. So if we hold that prophecy, we're keeping people from being complete, and being equipped for every good work. And most important of all, Jesus Himself taught Bible prophecy. If He taught it, then surely we should be teaching it also.

**Host: David Wheaton 25:29**

Absolutely! That's really well answered. Steve Miller is with us today on the Christian Worldview. We don't just leave out parts of the Bible that we don't think are going to be palatable to those who are hearing it, or we don't like or can't understand. God put the whole Bible together for us to dig into it, understand, and it should be preached and prophecy being part of that.

Let's move on to some of the irrefutable prophecies that have already been made and fulfilled. You say on page 15 of your devotional, *One Day Nearer*, and you always start each one with a passage of Scripture, this one from Isaiah 46: 9-10. You say, *I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done*.

You write on this particular page, "Up to this point in time, every one of God's declarations about the future--in the form of Bible prophecies-- has come to pass with precision. This helps us to realize that prophecies are not merely guesses or predictions; rather, they reveal exactly what God will do. Prophecy is history written in advance." That was a really powerful line. It's like you're reading future history when you read biblical prophecy. Now, in Second Peter 3, you're well aware of this passage, Peter writes, *Knowing this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts and saying, "Where is the promise of His Christ coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation. For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the Word of God, the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like 1000 years, and 1000 years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance*.

You write about prophecy being history written in advance. In 2 Peter, Peter writes about those who mock and say everything's just continued as it always has, nothing's going to change. If you had to



try to convince or persuade someone, Steve, of saying, well look at these three fulfilled Bible prophecies, these are just irrefutable. What would you say those are? And why is their response to Bible prophecy, even fulfilled Bible prophecies? For believers it's an increased faith. But for non believers, it somehow results in a mocking doubt to Bible prophecy.

**Guest: Steve Miller 28:55**

You quoted the Second Peter 3:9 where it talks about how God is patient, not wanting people to perish. That ties back to what we were talking earlier about imminency, about the rapture being imminent, about it being able to happen anytime. You asked the question, Well, why has God waited 2000 years? Well, we find the answer to that in Second Peter 3:9. God is patient, not wanting people to perish. He is still filling up the kingdom with people. He wants more people who will occupy heaven. That is why God is waiting. As far as prophecy itself, yes, they are a powerful indicator of God's sovereignty and they are a powerful indicator that God truly does know the future. If I were to point to three prophecies, and this is tough, because there's so many amazing prophecies in Scripture, but I guess among them could be

1.) That Jesus would be born of a virgin. That was a prophecy given in Isaiah 7:14 and was fulfilled in Matthew 1:23. The reason that's so amazing that for a baby to be born of a virgin, it is impossible. It can't happen. So for this to happen, would really stand out as something that only God can do. Then another prophecy would be that

2.) Jesus' hands and feet would be pierced at the cross. We find that prophecy in Psalm 22:14-16. Now, Psalm 22 was written 1000 years before the crucifixion, and was also written before anyone came up with the idea of punishing people through the crucifixion. So before the crucifixion even existed, we see a description of the crucifixion in Psalm 22 where Christ's hands and feet would be pierced. We see the fulfillment of that in Luke chapter 24, when Jesus is on the cross.

3.) Another one that's really amazing is the fact that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. There's three amazing things about this prophecy. One is God gave this prophecy 500 years before Christ was born. He gave that information with such precision that yes, Christ would be born in Bethlehem. What makes this prophecy more amazing is that there were actually two Bethlehem's in Israel at the time. So Micah 5:2, where this prophecy is found, God gets specific. He says it is Bethlehem Ephrathah, where Christ would be born. We see that fulfilled in Matthew 2:6. The third thing that makes this prophecy so amazing is that Joseph and Mary did not live in Bethlehem at the time of Christ's birth. Instead, a Roman ruler had to require a census where people would move and go to the place of their birth in order to fulfill the requirements of the census.

This required Joseph and Mary to travel and go to Bethlehem at the very time that Jesus would be born. So in multiple ways, this prophecy about Christ being born in Bethlehem is just absolutely amazing that God could have such precision so far in advance. Then, over the next 500 years, orchestrate all those events, all those people, all those places, so that these things really happened exactly as He said they would happen. As far as people scoffing and mocking prophecy, well, a lot of

it comes down to what perspective people have of the God of the Bible. If you have a wrong perspective of God, if you have a wrong perspective of Scripture, if you see God as just another mythological figure, if you see the Bible as just another mythological book, then yes, your tendency will be to refuse the possibility that God is supernatural. To refuse the possibility that scripture could have been written with such great precision in advance.

There are people who just flat out deny. They say, Well, it couldn't have been written in advance, it had to have been written after the fact. This is very common with the book of Daniel. The book of Daniel's prophecies are so specific, so precise, there are many scholars who say, No, that couldn't be possible. So it depends on what our perspective of God is. But for those of us who believe scripture, and we believe God, we find Him to be trustworthy for us. These prophecies and their fulfillment are incredible evidence that God really is supernatural, that God really does know the future, and that He really is sovereign over history. And all of that helps to bolster our faith.

**Host: David Wheaton 33:08**

Amen to that! Fulfilled prophecy is the greatest, right at the top of the list as bolstering our faith that God is trustworthy and true, and we can base our life on His word. What took place in the past has been fulfilled. The things that are to be fulfilled in the future will be fulfilled. You can just count on it. Steve Miller is our guest today. We're talking about his brand new devotional, One Day Nearer: Daily Devotions in Anticipation of Jesus' Glorious Return.

It's our new featured resource here on The Christian Worldview. It's soft cover, 384 pages and retails for \$19.99. For a limited time, you can order it for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. To order go to our website, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org), give us a call toll free 1-888-646-2233 or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331. There's much more coming up on biblical prophecy with Steve Miller. You are listening to The Christian Worldview Radio Program. I'm David Wheaton.

**Featured Resource: Knowing the Spirit by Costi Hinn 34:14**

When Jesus is laying out the Holy Spirit's job description in John 16, and He says, "it's to your advantage that I go," think about that for just a second. Jesus, the Christ, tells His disciples, it's actually advantageous that I go. They are thinking, What? We don't want you to go. Who could be better for us? What does He then explain?

That was pastor Costi Hinn who was raised in and then saved from the distortions of the Holy Spirit that are so prevalent today. Costi's new book, *Knowing the Spirit: Who He Is, What He Does, and How He Can Transform Your Christian Life*, graciously clarifies truth from error and is available for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. To order this 261 page, softcover book that retails for \$19.99, go to [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) or call toll free 1-888-646-2233, or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

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### **Host: David Wheaton** 36:22

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Steve, you have a very interesting page in the book on a complete panorama of Bible prophecy. I'm going to tick off the eight points.

1. Christ will come to save the lost. As soon as Adam and Eve sinned, God promised that someday, a Savior would come who would bruise Satan's head. Satan won in Eden, but he would be defeated by Christ's death and resurrection, which makes our salvation possible.
2. The Church will spread the gospel. Christ entrusted the disciples to proclaim the gospel and take it far and wide. The church will grow, yet also face persecution.
3. Israel will be reborn. [We saw that take place in 1948]. This was necessary because Israel is the stage in which the end times will play out.
4. The church will be taken up in the rapture. Jesus promised that someday, He will come to take His own to be with Him in the Father's house (John 14:1-3).
5. During the tribulation, God will bring judgment upon the world.
6. Christ will come again to establish His kingdom. When Christ returns, He will destroy His enemies and set up his millennial kingdom, in which we will live peacefully.
7. Christ will defeat Satan one last time before eternity. After 1000 years, Satan will rebel one last time. Christ will crush Satan, cast him into the lake of fire, and judge all unbeliever's.

8. God will bring forth the new heavens and the new earth. This will usher in eternity, and we will dwell with God forever in perfect, peaceful bliss. I wanted to read that whole thing because I think it's helpful for all of us to have an overview, to know the meta narrative of what is taking place. This story, God's story, His story that we're living in, and how things are going to play out.

Now that complete panorama that I just read from your book, Steve, is what's called a pre millennial eschatology view of the end times, so you can understand the Bible to teach what you wrote in those eight points with regards to the future. But there are really two, and there's many more, but two other major eschatological viewpoints and that's amillennialism and post millennialism. Maybe you could briefly talk about some of the differences between premillennialism. Then amillennialism and post millennialism, and how do they read the same scripture and arrive at different conclusions with regard to the end times? .

**Guest: Steve Miller 40:18**

Yes. So those are the three major views the three different approaches that people have to eschatology. The main difference, the biggest difference is this. The premillennial view, which is the view taught in One Day Nearer, in which I believe the view that is best supported in Scripture. The crucial points to remember for the pre millennial view are the rapture, the tribulation, Christ's return, the literal physical kingdom here on earth, where Christ rules from Israel, from Jerusalem on the throne of David, and then eternity. The amillennial view, amillennial literally means no millennium. What they're saying is that there is no literal future physical kingdom that will come here on earth. What the amillennial view is saying is that the millennial kingdom, which is Christ's rule, is symbolic, and that we are living in it now. They say that Christ rules through the saints here on Earth, between the first and second comings. Then they say that after Christ returns, we will go directly into eternity. So they don't see a time in which we as saints leave here on Earth and then Christ's return and then there's a kingdom. Afterward, they say that that kingdom is here on earth now and that Christ rules through us.

Then the post millennial view has a similar presentation. It sees the kingdom as happening now. Post millennials believe that what will happen is that the church will continue to grow, the world will become more Christian, the world will become better and it will eventually reach a point at which we will usher in the second coming and we set things up for Christ to reign, and that He will return at the end of this symbolic millennium that we're in now. And again, we'll go directly into eternity.

So the premillennial view is saying Christ will return then set up His kingdom, the amillennial and post millennial views are saying, no, the millennium is right now, we're in it, it is symbolic, there is no literal kingdom, where Christ will literally reign from his throne in Jerusalem. Instead, we're just going to go directly into eternity. So those are the three views, two of them very similar. I would say the major thing that gets lost with the other two views is this.

The pre millennial view is saying Christ will return and set up His kingdom in Jerusalem. If we look at the prophecies of the Old Testament carefully, God laid out the boundaries, the borders of Israel. He

said, this is how big Israel will be. This is the land I'm giving to Israel. Well, if we look at those borders, we'll notice that those borders were never fulfilled. Scripture also promised, God promised to David that someday a descendent of his would rule on his throne in a literal kingdom. The pre millennial view allows for that. The pre millennial view allows for Christ to come back to the Mount of Olives, set up Israel. At last, those boundaries that God determined to give to Israel, at last will be fulfilled and David will have a descendant, who is Christ, rule on his throne in a literal kingdom in Jerusalem.

All of that is allowed to be fulfilled, whereas the amillennial view or the post millennial view are saying, no, that's not going to happen there isn't going to be a nation of Israel someday with the new boundaries, and there isn't going to be a literal kingdom, a physical kingdom, to which Christ rules. In saying that, what we're doing is any prophecy that has to do with Israel in the future, is just wiped away, it is disregarded, which is very sad, because scripture makes it clear that God does have future plans for Israel. The only way that those plans can be fulfilled, is for there to be a literal, physical kingdom here on earth, in which Christ reigns.

**Host: David Wheaton 44:20**

That was well answered. Thank you for clarifying that the differences between premillennialism, amillennialism and post millennialism. As we think about those, there are ramifications for what position you land on, what position you understand the Bible to preach. We at The Christian Worldview, definitely take the pre millennial position for sure as well. But what are some of the ramifications? You just mentioned one on your view of Israel.

- You're going to look at Israel and think this is not significant anymore for the Jewish people.
- You're not going to think there's going to be any rapture of the church.
- You're going to believe there's not going to be a literal tribulation period as it describes in Revelation, or at least the way it's described.

It seems like there are real ramifications on how you would think and live. Now, I say that knowing that there are many amillennialists and post millennialists. Not that they're unsaved. They believe the gospel, but what are some of the results or ramifications besides the view of Israel, which you just mentioned, that's a very important one, of holding to a non pre millennial viewpoint and not amillennial or post millennial viewpoint? What do you do with the charge that you constantly hear, Steve, that premillennialism, the idea of the rapture, this is something that's a relatively recent view. The Reformers didn't believe in this. They were amillennialists. This was a recent invention by John Darby, who was a man, I believe in the 1800s. And even the Scofield Study Bible, that this pre millennial viewpoint was something that wasn't believed historically in Christianity.

**Guest: Steve Miller 46:05**

Yes, there are ramifications for the view that we hold to. I just mentioned one of the ramifications of having a wrong view of Israel, and basically sweeping under the rug, everything that God says in the Old Testament and in Revelation 20, about how Christ will rule from a literal throne, and that we will

rule with Him. We're sweeping that away. I will say another consequence, is that we undermine God's promises about the future. We short sell him on what He has said will happen. When you say that prophecy will be fulfilled symbolically, basically what you do is you say, Well, this isn't really going to happen the way it says it will.

The other danger of interpreting Bible prophecy symbolically is it opens it up for pretty much any interpretation you want. There is no real guideline we can use for saying, Well, if this is symbolic, if this is just figurative, how should we understand it? Scripture makes the most sense when we approach it, and let it speak for itself in its plain language. When we let prophecy speak for itself in its plain language, that's when it makes the most sense.

A couple other consequences that occur from this, with a pre millennial view, we as Christians have a sense of urgency, we have a sense of expectation, we have a sense that time is running out, that there's going to come a day where it's too late to share the gospel, to bring people to Christ. The expectation that Christ could call us home anytime, it's something that encourages us to purify our lives, to be ready in anticipation. We don't want to be caught at the wrong moment with sin in our lives when Christ calls us home.

So the sense of imminency, the sense of urgency that are offered in pre millennialism is something that we have, whereas within amillennial or post millennial view, there just isn't quite that same sense of urgency. There's a sense of which time is open ended. There isn't a real sense of, Christ has to return when this happens, Christ has to return to punish evil. With the post millennial view the whole idea of the world gradually getting better and better and then entering into a golden age, which will usher in the kingdom, that gives us a false confidence where we say, "well, things are getting better, so it's not that urgent for me to be sharing the gospel." That's something that we lose. And then also, we lose the sense of just how amazing Bible prophecy is. When we make it symbolic or figurative, we undermine the power and the truth of what prophecy is saying.

**Host: David Wheaton** 49:04

It's true what you say, Steve. I've heard post millennialists talk about things in terms of a war on a 500 year plan, and that does take away the urgency, but even more than urgency, it really is about what does scripture say if we accurately interpret it? Which view does that lead to? But answer the charge that premillennialism was invented somewhat recently by John Darby and others.

**Guest: Steve Miller** 49:32

Yes, there are people who think that pre millennialism, they believe that the rapture is a recent teaching, and a lot of people point to John Darby who started his teachings in the early 1830's, and from there onward, rapture teaching developed. But if we go back in history, if we look back at what people have written through the ages, we can find writings from every period of church history that reveals people who believed in the rapture, they believed in pre- tribulation, or they believed in imminency.



It's always been taught and it's not a new development. I'll just give a few examples. The early church fathers, Clement of Rome and Ignatius of Antioch, both of them taught imminency. We have to keep in mind that imminency is connected only to a pre millennial rapture view and is not connected to the other two views. Then there were books called the Epistle of Barnabas and The Shepherd of Herman. Both of those taught imminency. This means they taught a pre trib rapture, that comes from the days of the early church fathers. In the mid-evil era, there's a 14th century text called, The History of Brother Das Zeno, and in that text, it talks about a translation or a rapture.

In the Reformation era, while the Reformers themselves by and large did not teach a rapture or pre millennialism, there were Anabaptists who did teach about imminency. One of the reasons that the reformers didn't teach about the rapture or imminency, we have to keep in mind that many of the Reformers came out of the Catholic Church, which itself is amillennial. So the good that the Reformers did for us, was that they helped to get the doctrines of salvation and the gospel straightened out. But in their major focus on that, they weren't focusing on the more peripheral thing like Bible prophecy at that time. Then we have *?garbled audio?* an American Puritan in the late 1600s, who wrote about being "caught up in the year before the tribulation" and John Gill, who was a British minister in the 1700s, he wrote in his commentaries about the Rapture. So all of those are just examples of people who wrote about the rapture or imminency before John Darby. One book I would recommend for anybody who wants to research this a little deeper, is a book called, Can We Still Believe in the Rapture? by Ed Hindson, and Mark Hitchcock. They provide an excellent overview of the historical teaching of the rapture through the ages.

**Host: David Wheaton 51:59**

I hope you join us next week for part two on biblical prophecy with Steve Miller. In the meantime, you can order his book, One Day Nearer, for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. Get in contact with us the usual ways. Our contact information is given immediately following today's program. Be sure to sign up for our annual print letter, which is going out in mid December. Let's close with Paul's exhortation to Titus in Titus chapter 2 where he tells him to look for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus. If you are not looking for him, if you are not born again, please go to our website and click on the page, "What must I do to be saved?" Or give us a call. You certainly don't want to be left behind when Christ returns. Thank you for joining us today.

Until next time, Think biblically, live accordingly, and stand firm! The mission of The Christian Worldview is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. We hope today's broadcast encouraged you toward that end. To hear a replay of today's program, order a transcript or find out, "What must I do to be saved?" Go to [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) or call toll free 1-888-646-2233. The Christian Worldview is a listener supported nonprofit radio ministry furnished by the Overcomer Foundation. To make a donation, become a Christian Worldview Partner, order resources, subscribe to our free newsletter or contact us, visit [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org), call 1-888-646-2233, or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331. That's Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331. Thanks for listening to The Christian Worldview.