

All Things Must Be Fulfilled

Introduction:

- A. Premillennialists read Old Testament prophecy as if it is the daily newspaper.
 - “The astonishing thing to those of us who have studied the prophetic Scriptures is that we are watching the fulfillment of these prophecies in our time” (Hal Lindsey, **The Late Great Planet Earth**. 10).
- B. How are we to interpret the Old Testament prophets?
- I. Let the Scriptures interpret Old Testament prophecy. - 1 Peter 4:11; cf. Acts 2:16 (contrast: “It is conjecture on this writer’s part, but...” [Lindsey. 147].)
- II. The Old Testament prophecies of Christ and His kingdom have been fulfilled. - Luke 24:44-47; Acts 3:18-26 (contrast: quote in introduction)
 - A. They should be preached as evidence of God, the Bible and Christ, not as commentary on current political events. - Isaiah 46:8-10; John 5:39
 - B. The prophets pointed the way to Christ. - Acts 26:22-23
- III. To reject human theories about prophecy is not to reject prophecy. - 1 John 4:1 (*He [Peter] even warned that in ‘the latter times’ men posing as religious leaders would rise from within the Church and deny, even ridicule, the prophetic word [II Peter 2:1-3; 3:1-18].... If you pass this book around to many ministers you’ll find how true this prediction has become. [Ibid. 55-56] [makes denial of his book equivalent to denial of prophetic word]*)
- IV. The only men who had special insight into the prophetic word were inspired men. - Mark 16:14-15; Luke 24:44-45 (contrast: *This writer doesn’t believe that we have prophets today who are getting direct revelations from God, but we do have prophets today who are being given special insight into the prophetic word. God is opening the book of the prophets to many men. [Ibid. 78]*)
- V. The key that unlocks Old Testament prophecy is the New Testament “this is that.” - 1 Peter 1:10-12; cf. Acts 2:16 (contrast: *The key that would unlock the prophetic book would be the current events that would begin to fit into the predicted pattern. [Ibid. 170]*)
- VI. Many (although far from all) of the prophecies are symbolic and have spiritual application. - cf. Ezekiel 37:24; John 18:36 (contrast: *The real issue between the amillennial and the premillennial viewpoints is whether prophecy should be interpreted literally or allegorically. [Ibid. 165]*)

Conclusion:

- A. The prophets have been fulfilled. - Acts 3:18
- B. We should preach Jesus from the prophets, not vainly, wildly and idly speculate about current and future events. - Acts 8:30-35