

## God and the Future

*The Lord knows the future.* He tells Saul that Saul will meet a man carrying three young goats and another man carrying three loaves of bread. Then, the Lord says that Saul will meet a procession of prophets. And, it happened just as God said (1 Samuel 10:3-5).

Likewise, Jesus told Peter and John that they will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water, and that they are to follow that man to a house, where they are to ask the owner about a place to celebrate the Passover. And, it happened just as Jesus said (Luke 22:10).

*So too, God reveals the future.* In speaking about the future of Israel, the Lord says, “[S]hall a nation be born at once?” And, this is exactly what happened, when Israel declared its independence on May 14, 1948, after more than 2,500 years, dating back to the Babylonian invasion and Jerusalem’s destruction in 586 B.C.

Jesus also revealed the future when He foretold the time and manner of His own death, being by crucifixion, which would occur within two days (Matthew 26:1-2).

*Furthermore, God can change the future.* That is why it is so important for us to pray! In Isaiah 38:1-8, God tells Hezekiah to put his house in order as he is going to die, but after Hezekiah prays, the Lord adds fifteen years to his life. Likewise, God sends Jonah to Nineveh to announce that it will be destroyed after 40 days, but when Nineveh repents, God postpones the judgment of Nineveh (Jonah 3:4, 10).

*God also warns about the future.* No one in Scripture speaks more about hell than Jesus. Specifically, He repeatedly warns of a place where there is crying and the gnashing of teeth (six times), which is an expression of rage. In the story of Lazarus and the rich man, Jesus says that to avoid hell in the future, one should listen to “Moses and the Prophets” now (Luke 16:29).

As Christians, our prayers focus on the future; hence, we pray, “Thy kingdom come.” We are looking forward, not backward. We ask the Lord, in prayer, to intervene according to His love and power and change people, situations, circumstances, etc., because the future truly is in His hands!