

Who, What, Where

Commentary for January 1, 2018 — ... Are Important in Bible Prophecy

The people, the events, and where the events will happen are vitally important to a proper understanding of Bible prophecy. This is the subject of the first article for 2018, a transcribed tape of Dr. Ernest Martin's that I titled, "Geography, a Prime Prophetic Truth." As always I recommend you read first the "[January 2018 Newsletter](#)" that contains additional background information on prophetic geography.

The article deals with three elements of six that every researcher, reporter, problem solver, or investigator should try to explain factually. As the Wikipedia article "[Five Ws](#)" informs us:

"The Five Ws (sometimes referred to as Five Ws and How, 5W1H, or Six Ws) are questions whose answers are considered basic in information gathering or problem solving. ... They constitute a formula for getting the complete story on a subject. According to the principle of the Five Ws, a report can only be considered complete if it answers these questions starting with an interrogative word:

WHO was involved?
WHAT happened?
WHERE did it take place?
WHEN did it take place?
WHY did that happen?

Some authors add a sixth question, 'HOW,' to the list:"

Of course, in biblical prophecy the concern is not so much "how" because God is the cause. He often chooses to use supernatural beings and methods to bring about events. So God is the reason, the "how," of prophetic events.

God chooses who and where prophetic events happen. These two elements are the focus of Dr. Martin's article. Who in this case usually refers to human agents who are the subjects or objects of events that happen to other people. Where in prophecy usually has to do with geography, because that is where the people interact with other men and God.

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, ... seeing he gives to all life, and breath, and all things;

And has made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, 'For we are also his offspring.'"

• Acts 17:24–28

I have referenced this passage by the apostle Paul at Mars Hill in Athens many times in the

past. Note all the information about God Paul tells us in this Acts 17 passage:

1. God is the creator (verse 24) making **“the world and all things therein.”**
2. **“He is [also] Lord of heavens and earth.”** In other words, He sustains His creation.
3. He is the source of **“all life, and breath, and all things.”** This statement is all-inclusive.
4. He has made those of all nations **“of one blood.”** All people are from one man.
5. All men are **“to dwell on all the face of the earth,”** not inside the earth or above it, although they can visit for periods of time.
6. God determines how long nations live: **“the times before appointed”** (and where they live on earth).
7. God determines **“the bounds”** where nations have **“their habitation”** (and how long). The creation, disintegration, ebb and flow of borders are determined by God.
8. Why does God do this? **“That they should seek the Lord ... might feel after him, and find him.”** Someday God will allow everyone to find Him. For most, not in this lifetime.
9. He is **“not far from every one of us.”**
10. Now **“we live, and move, and have our being”** in Him.
11. All eventually will become full children of God. We were created in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26–27, 5:3). **“We are also his offspring.”**

This information from Paul to Athenian Gentiles is directly relevant to this month's prophetic article. God determines the nature of humanity, the children of Adam and Eve, where they live, and how long the populations live there. As the time of the end approaches with Christ's return, we will see God returning more of His chosen nation to the land of Israel.

Other peoples will go where God wants them to be in the Middle East, but they are imprecisely identified in Scripture. The lands, the territories, the geographic areas of various peoples mentioned in end time prophecies are the focus of God. The people living in those lands will fulfill the prophecies. Perhaps Paul used the thoughts of Moses in his statement to the Athenians:

“Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you.

When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. But YHWH's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.”

**• Deuteronomy 32:7–9
Evangelical Standard Version, 2016**

The land promised to Abraham is larger than most people realize. Dr. Martin shows that the Promised Land will benefit all of Abraham's children. God's blessings were for all Abraham's descendants. Some limit those blessings to Israel alone. Israel is indeed God's chosen nation, from Abraham, through Isaac, and Jacob, to Jacob's descendants on down. Yet the other descendants of Abraham will be blessed as well.

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