

Introduction

Many Prophecies

Because there are many prophecies in the Bible concerning a variety of events and conditions, it is difficult for many Christians to know which prophecies deal with the rapture. Today God is taking these prophecies which deal with the events that will happen prior to and at the time of the rapture and He is placing them on the postage stamps of Israel. The purpose of this book is to show through these stamps of Israel the fulfillment of God's Word today.

The postage stamps are really a miracle within themselves. The different designers of the stamps during these years since 1948 do not realize

that they are showing the fulfillment of God's Word, thus preparing people for the coming of Jesus Christ. A good example is a stamp that was designed by Wind-Struski on September 16, 1951. This stamp has the picture of the star of David with two doves going out from the star, carrying letters in their mouths. For the purpose of the picture, the designer stated that this stamp was a symbolic design. Notice the symbols that are on the stamp. The star in the center of the stamp is the star of David, which is symbolic of the Nation of Israel. The doves are always symbolic of the Holy Spirit. On the stamp the doves are going out from the star with letters in their mouths, illustrating how the Holy Spirit is proclaiming the prophecies of the Bible on the postage stamps from the nation of Israel.



We must remember that the Jews as a nation are blind and cannot see what God is doing, nor will they be able to see what God is doing until after the rapture of the Christians (Romans 11:25). There is still a veil over their minds in understanding what is happening. This is explained in 2 Corinthians 3:12-16:

“12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech;
13 and not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:
14 but their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; which veil is done away in Christ.
15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.
16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.”

To be able to understand the full spiritual meaning of these stamps, you must be a child of God by faith in Jesus Christ.

Embarrassed Disciples

As we look back down through history, it is hard for us to realize that the disciples were not present at the tomb when Jesus Christ was raised. You can imagine the embarrassment that the disciples felt by not being present at this great event, the resurrection of Jesus. What an event to miss!

For years the Old Testament prophets spoke about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In fact, one of the preachers of the Old Testament had a personal experience which was a picture of these events. Jesus referred to this preacher named Jonah and compared Jonah's experiences to His crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.

On April 21, 1963, the Israelis published three postage stamps, illustrating this experience in the life of Jonah. The first stamp has a picture of sailors in a ship on a stormy sea, and quoted in Hebrew and French on the stamp's tab is

Jonah 1:4 "But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken."

This stamp illustrates how Jonah was trying to run from the Lord and got into trouble.

The second stamp has a picture of Jonah in the whale, with the city of Nineveh in the background, and quoted in Hebrew and French on the stamp is

Jonah 1:17 "Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."



Inscription:

Designer: Jean David

Day of Issue: August 21, 1963

Motif: The theme of the stamps is based on the book of the prophet Jonah, Chapters 1 & 4

Inscription on Tabs:
"and there was a mighty tempest in the sea" Jonah 1:4

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This stamp illustrates the part of Jonah's life when he was cast out of the ship into the sea and swallowed by the whale, illustrating the death and burial of Christ.

The third stamp has a picture of Jonah under a gourd, with the sun shining on his head, and quoted in Hebrew and French on the stamp is

Jonah 4:8 “And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.”

This stamp illustrated that Jonah came out of the whale and went in and preached to the city of Nineveh, illustrating the resurrection of Christ.



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“and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah”
Jonah 4:8

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Then 890 years later, as recorded in Matthew 12:39-40, Jesus interprets these events in the life of Jonah with these words:

“But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

These stamps remind us that the only way a person can be saved is through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. They are showing us that before Christ was crucified the disciples were taught that He would die, be buried and raised again the third day.

Jesus was placed in the tomb and soldiers sealed it with a stone and placed guards over it. His disciples should have been there on the third day, ready to witness this marvelous event, His resurrection, but they were not there! These disciples had the opportunity to see an event that multitudes of people down through the years have desired to see, but they missed it. In Luke 24:13-35, we find two of the disciples walking back to the village of Emmaus, sad and discouraged, when they could have been excited and thrilled. Not only did they miss seeing the resurrection of Christ, but they could hardly believe what they had heard. Even while in this condition, the resurrected Christ drew near to them, walking and talking with them. They still didn’t recognize him until after He had explained the prophecies of the Old Testament concerning His death, burial, and resurrection.

We are approaching another great event in the history of mankind, which is for Jesus to return in the air. Think about this for a few moments. Have you ever heard of anyone returning after being gone for almost two thousand years? Before we ever had spaceships, Jesus left the earth and went up into space without the aid of any artificially powered ships or space suits. Even today, in this modern age of space technology, it would be quite a spectacular event that one who was crucified almost two thousand years ago would be coming back to the earth from space without a space suit or a spaceship.

I Thessalonians 4:16-17 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

Take a close look at what will happen at this event of the return of Jesus:

1. “The Lord himself shall descend from heaven.” The same Jesus, who was crucified, buried, and raised on the third day, will be coming back not a substitute or anyone else, but the same person the disciples saw and followed.

2. “With a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God.” This event will not go unnoticed to the believers. There will be those who will hear the shout of victory, who will hear the voice of the archangel, Michael, and who will respond to the call of the trumpet of God.

3. “The dead in Christ shall rise first.” Some of those who will respond to this event will be those who died, having put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Their bodies will be raised first to receive their souls and spirits, which Jesus will bring back with Him at this time.

I Thessalonians 4:14 “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”
All throughout the world graves will open, but not all of the graves will open, only those of the redeemed. What an event this will be!

4. “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up.” After the dead in Christ are raised from the graves all over the world, those who are alive and have trusted Jesus suddenly disappear.

I Corinthians 15:51-52 “Behold I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

As quickly as you can bat an eye, people will disappear out of cars, homes, planes, factories, schools, businesses, fields, and all over the world. Jesus tells of it this way: Luke 17:34-36

“I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.”

5. “Caught up together with them in the clouds.” First of all, the graves of those who died in Christ are opened, and their bodies are raised to make their way to the clouds. Then those who are alive and have put their faith in Christ are changed, and they start up through the air toward the clouds. Both of these groups will meet in the clouds and be together. What an event!

6. “To meet the Lord in the air.” After those who died in Christ have been raised and those who are alive have been raptured and meet together in the clouds, then all of them will go to meet the Lord in the air. There they shall see Jesus face-to-face, the same Jesus who walked on the earth about two thousand years ago. What an event!

This great event of the rapture of the Christians will not happen without warning. God has provided many signs to let us know of the nearness of this event, so that we might not be

caught asleep.

The sad thing today is that as the disciples did not see and understand about the resurrection of Christ, many people do not see and understand the events leading to the rapture of the Christians. I imagine the disciples were quite embarrassed by not being present at the event of the resurrection of Jesus, even though they saw Him later, before His ascension into heaven. Will Christians today be embarrassed because they were asleep spiritually or in the wrong place at the time of the rapture? Many of these prophecies are on the postage stamps of Israel. Just as God provided prophecies and signs showing the disciples the nearness of the resurrection, He has also provided prophecies and signs to let the Christians of today know of the nearness of this event, the rapture. Do not be embarrassed!