

Jesus the Prophet

Jeane Dixon was an American psychic and popular horoscope writer during the 60s and 70s. Her horoscopes were printed in most of America's newspapers across the country while she also made an occasional prediction about future world events as well. She claimed that her ability to predict things was a gift from God. Perhaps her most famous prediction was made in 1956 when she stated that the winner of the 1960 presidential election would be a Democrat and that he would be assassinated or die in office – though not necessarily in his first term. John F. Kennedy the Democrat won the election and was assassinated in November, 1963.

However, we know that Dixon was not a true prophet of God because she had far more 'misses' than 'hits' when it came to her predictions. She also predicted that World War III would begin during the year 1958. She said the Russians would be the first to land on the moon. She also predicted a new world order to take shape around the year 2000 in which wars would cease.

What is sometimes overshadowed when one discusses the person of Jesus Christ is the fact that He functioned as a true prophet of extraordinary weight. We rightly focus upon Christ in His redemptive work and His being the Son of God but Scripture also reminds us to pay attention to His prophetic office. When it comes to the predictions of Jesus, He does not miss.

Jesus predicted the establishment of the Christian church and a worldwide extension of the gospel at a time when He was known only in the tiny country of Israel [Matt. 16:18 / Mark 13:10]. He predicted that Peter would deny knowing Him 3 times [Mark 14:30], and that Judas would betray Him [Mark 14:18]. He also predicted the destruction of the temple and the city of Jerusalem that occurred in 70 A.D. It is clear that Jesus had a habit of speaking on future events with pinpoint accuracy.

One prediction that Jesus placed in the distant future was that of His own return. In fact, all nine authors of the New Testament books speak of the 2nd Coming of Christ as an event for which the church should be expecting.

The Apostle John wrote: 'And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.' [I John 2:28]

The writer to the Hebrews expressed it this way: 'So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.' [Heb. 9:28]

Of course, Scripture does not give us these predictions to encourage careless date setting. No one knows the day or the hour [Mark 13:32]. The point is simply that we are called to live in a state of readiness. There is coming a day of the Lord when God will bring about a close to this age as we know it and refashion things according to His glorious kingdom program.