

TAPESTRY



PROMISES & PROPHECY

ADRIAN ROGERS

TAPESTRY: PROMISES & PROPHECY

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2941 Kate Bond Road • Memphis, Tennessee 38133

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Love Worth Finding Ministries
P.O. Box 38300 • Memphis, TN 38183

Design by Eternity Communications.
Printed in China.

10-digit ISBN: 0-9702099-7-5

13-digit ISBN: 978-0-9702099-7-9

We gratefully acknowledge the help of the following people in the creation of *Tapestry: Promises & Prophecy*:

Sheri Ross Saldana, General Editor
Cathy Allen, Contributing Editor
Brandi Hayes, Contributing Editor
Carol Anne Posey, Contributing Editor
Bill Skelton, Advisor

“You can praise God in an incredible way when you learn about prophecy, because **without prophecy, nothing makes sense.** This is a **world filled with random acts of violence, happenstance and all kinds of confusing and tangled things.** It is like a **woven bookmark** that, on one side, is just a **mass of tangled threads.** But when you turn it over, on the other side in **beautiful embroidery** is the message: **‘God is love.’**

And when we **look at life** from one side, it doesn’t make sense at all. But when we look at it **through the lens of prophecy,** we can see that **God has a plan.”**

—ADRIAN ROGERS

WHY “TAPESTRY”?

“The Bible is like a garment. You pull a thread here, and it wrinkles way over there. It’s all tied together.”

—ADRIAN ROGERS

The inspiration for *Tapestry* came in part from Dr. Rogers’ own words about the unity of the Bible. Add to that what he taught about the Bible being the infallible, inspired, life-giving, life-changing Word of God. What you have is a focus on the importance of taking in His Word each day and drawing from it the things we need to live victoriously, grow closer to Jesus and learn to share His love with those around us. Indeed, God’s marvelous Word must become part of the very fabric of our being if we want these things to be true in our lives.

Pastor Rogers had a unique way of helping us take hold of the Bible’s truths and incorporate them into our lives. Featured in the front of *The Adrian Rogers Legacy Bible* is his simple yet effective outline for how to assimilate the Word of God. While researching materials to include in that special publication, we were re-energized as we examined so many powerful, biblical messages collected from a lifetime of serving the Lord. But there was so much more material we wished we could include!

Tapestry is the answer to that desire. Through what will become a series of devotional journals, we hope to present a more substantial portion of Dr. Rogers’ work, from which you can glean biblical truth to enrich your life. The format for these journals will utilize Dr. Rogers’ 5-step process for examining God’s Word.

WHY 5 STEPS?

We feel this wonderfully simple process Pastor Rogers shared is an ingenious way to get the most out of your time spent in God's Word! The principles are basic and memorable, and so effective for helping God's truths to become embedded in your heart and life.

Here's the basic outline for this powerful approach to studying God's Word:

When you get ready to read the Word of God, first **pray over it**. Ask God to teach you. Say, "Dear God, open my eyes. Move my heart. Give me understanding as I read Your Word."

Then **ponder it**. When looking at a passage, ask these six questions:

1. Is there a promise to claim?
2. Is there a lesson to learn?
3. Is there a blessing to enjoy?
4. Is there a command to obey?
5. Is there a sin to avoid?
6. Is there a new thought to carry with me?

Put it in writing. Have a pen and paper ready to write down the things God is showing you. Expect God to reveal essential truth to you and be ready to record it!

When God teaches you a truth, it is vitally important that you **practice it**. Be quick to obey what you are shown and find ways to implement that truth in your daily life.

Next, **proclaim it**. God doesn't just give you knowledge for your own edification, but to share with others. The more of the Bible you give away, the more it sticks to you!



We've taken these steps and incorporated them into the devotional studies you'll find beautifully presented within this journal.

HOW TO USE TAPESTRY

Each day of study in *Tapestry: Promises & Prophecy* follows the helpful 5-step format for taking the Word of God into your life.

PRAY OVER IT

Before you begin each study, you'll be reminded to pause for a brief **prayer**

Lord, make my heart ready for Your message to me today.

"He Who has the key of David. He Who opens and no one shut

asking for God's cleansing and for the ability to receive what He wants to teach you. You can use your own words; this is just a starting point to help you consecrate this time to Him.

...*"He Who has the key of David, He Who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": "I know your works. See, **I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.**"*

REVELATION 3:7-8

ur Lord is the Keeper of the Keys, and we can rest assured that He has the key to every circumstance in our life. This doesn't mean we

PONDER IT

Next is the featured Scripture with some words in bold to emphasize portions of the

verses which will be highlighted in that particular study. As you meditate on God's Word and read Dr. Rogers' insights, keep those six "Is there a..." questions in mind to help you **ponder** what message is there for you.

PUT IT IN WRITING

Now, get ready to **put into writing** what the Holy Spirit is revealing to you, personally! The first question on the facing page will always prompt you to record what you've discovered as you've pondered the Scripture and lesson, applying the six "Is there a..." questions.

PRACTICE it

In the next space provided for writing, you'll be prompted to record ways you can incorporate the truths you've just been shown into your own life and begin to **practice** them. This is a great way to hold yourself accountable for

acting upon what God has revealed you, purposing that you will respond with obedience to the truth you've received.

PROCLAIM it

Lastly, you can contemplate ways to share the new knowledge God has given you. Anticipate how you can **proclaim** His truth to friends, co-workers, family members, loved ones—whomever God brings across your path!

We truly believe applying this simple yet powerful method to your Bible study times will make God's Word come alive in your heart and life!

Did today's study provide new thoughts about your opportunities and destiny?

What does it mean to you that Jesus holds the key to every circumstance in your life? Are there doors He has opened before you that you have yet to walk through?

ABBREVIATIONS FOR THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE USED IN TAPESTRY: PROMISES & PROPHECY

OLD TESTAMENT

Gen.	Genesis	Ecc.	Ecclesiastes
Exo.	Exodus	SOS	Song of Solomon
Lev.	Leviticus	Isa.	Isaiah
Num.	Numbers	Jer.	Jeremiah
Deu.	Deuteronomy	Lam.	Lamentations
Jos.	Joshua	Eze.	Ezekiel
Jdg.	Judges	Dan.	Daniel
Ruth	Ruth	Hos.	Hosea
1 Sam.	1 Samuel	Joel	Joel
2 Sam.	2 Samuel	Amos	Amos
1 Kng.	1 Kings	Oba.	Obadiah
2 Kng.	2 Kings	Jon.	Jonah
1 Chr.	1 Chronicles	Mic.	Micah
2 Chr.	2 Chronicles	Nah.	Nahum
Ezra	Ezra	Hab.	Habakkuk
Neh.	Nehemiah	Zep.	Zephaniah
Est.	Esther	Hag.	Haggai
Job	Job	Zec.	Zechariah
Psa.	Psalms	Mal.	Malachi
Pro.	Proverbs		

NEW TESTAMENT

Mat.	Matthew	1 Tim.	1 Timothy
Mark	Mark	2 Tim.	2 Timothy
Luke	Luke	Tts.	Titus
John	John	Phm.	Philemon
Acts	Acts	Heb.	Hebrews
Rom.	Romans	Jam.	James
1 Cor.	1 Corinthians	1 Ptr.	1 Peter
2 Cor.	2 Corinthians	2 Ptr.	2 Peter
Gal.	Galatians	1 John	1 John
Eph.	Ephesians	2 John	2 John
Php.	Philippians	3 John	3 John
Col.	Colossians	Jude	Jude
1 Ths.	1 Thessalonians	Rev.	Revelation
2 Ths.	2 Thessalonians		

WHY PROPHECY?

There are two threads that run all the way through the Bible. One is the scarlet thread of blood redemption; the other is the golden thread of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

—ADRIAN ROGERS

There were many topics upon which Pastor Rogers left a plethora of messages! Prophecy is one of them—and it is an especially pertinent topic for our day. People are looking for hope, wondering what is going on in the world, wishing they had answers to help them make sense of it all. And all of that can be found when we understand Bible prophecy.

As Pastor Rogers said, we dare not be ignorant or uninformed in these turbulent times. But we also need not be dismayed. Studying Bible prophecy helps us look at the world and current events through God's eyes. It gives us understanding and helps us focus on the blessed hope that is ours in Christ! It should also give us an increased sense of urgency to share the Gospel with those we love and with others around us who are in need of hope.

Every aspect of prophecy is not explored in this journal. Nor is this by any means a complete exegesis of the Scriptures pertaining to this topic. But each study focuses on unique and significant insights Pastor Rogers brought to light when he taught on this important subject. We trust it will be a valuable resource to help you take in God's truth about things relevant to our day and age...and for eternity!

We hope you'll use these studies to delve into the richness of God's Word. As you follow the steps provided, may you know the fulfillment of having God's truth become a part of you—and even flow out of you to bless others. We pray each time you use this journal, you'll discover that a few more beautiful strands of promise and prophecy have been inextricably woven into the tapestry of your life!

Lord, give me eyes to see and ears to hear what You have to say to me in Your Word today.

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

REVELATION 1:3

At the beginning of Revelation, a special blessing is pronounced upon those who read and heed this book of prophecy. Now, some people think prophecy is unrelated to reality and we should avoid studying it lest we fall into fanaticism or pie-in-the-sky thinking. But when we consider that fully one-fourth of the Bible is given over to prophecy, then we must conclude that this topic is definitely worthy of our study!

In fact, without prophecy nothing makes sense in a world that seems to be filled with random acts of violence and tragedy. But studying prophecy is like having a textbook with the answers in the back of it. We go to the last book of the Bible and discover that God is moving history toward an end where the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ! (Rev. 11:15) So even though what's happening around us doesn't make sense, we can praise God that we already know how history will end.

Prophecy also helps us praise God in the midst of suffering. Romans 8:18 says, "...the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." We may endure great heartache and pain in this life, yet we realize that God is not finished yet. There is more to come! (Rom. 8:22-23)

And we can rejoice in God's justice, though we see injustice abounding today. Justice is not always done on this earth. But if you're a student of prophecy, you understand that it doesn't all end here with man's judgment. God will have the last word in the judgment halls of eternity.

Studying prophecy is very profitable...because prophecy leads us to praise!

Do you see a promise to claim or a blessing to enjoy in today's passage?

Did you find any truths you can bring into your life today that will lead you to praise?

How might you share what you've learned today with others?

Lord, as I meditate on Your Word today, let Your message sink deep into my heart and change my life.

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

1 JOHN 3:2-3

Prophecy can lead us to praise—and it can also lead us to purity. We think about Christ’s Second Coming, and we may speculate about what we’re going to be like after He returns. Have you ever wondered, *What age will we be in eternity? Will we recognize one another? What kind of clothes will we wear?* There’s so much we don’t know. But we do know this: we’re going to be like Jesus.

The mark that you really believe Jesus Christ is coming and that you’re going to be made like Him is that you’re living a clean life. When Jesus returns, you don’t want Him to find filth in your life and hatred in your heart, do you? Just think—if Christ is coming at any moment, you could be face to face with Jesus in the next few seconds! Bible prophecy tells us that He’s coming, He’s coming soon, and when He comes He will make us like Him. This is our blessed hope as Christians—not something we “hope” will happen, but a steadfast promise that fills us with joyful expectation. And that should make us want to be ready for His return.

Don’t you want to be as clean and as pure as you can be while waiting for Jesus to come? Ask Him right this moment to cleanse you and help you purge out the things in your life that you wouldn’t want Him to find if He were to come today. Take this opportunity to heed His Word and turn prophecy into purity!

Did God reveal a sin for you to avoid or a new thought to carry with you from today's study?

How can you use what you've learned today to help you maintain purity in your daily life?

Is there truth here you might want to share with someone else—either for their edification or for your accountability?

Lord, make my heart ready to receive what You have to share with me today in Your precious Word.

*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the Word of God, and to **the testimony of Jesus Christ**, to all things that he saw.*

REVELATION 1:1-2

When we're thinking about prophecy and the end times, we're not looking for something to happen—we're looking for Someone to come. His name is Jesus. If you read the book of the Revelation and you don't see the triumph of the Lamb, you've missed it. It is "the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Sometimes people call the book "Revelations." It's not "Revelations," it is "Revelation," singular. And a revelation of Whom? Jesus Christ.

The word *revelation* comes from a Greek word, *apokalupsis*, which literally means "an unveiling." Picture a statue being unveiled. Let's say there is a grand event—perhaps dignitaries and a crowd have gathered at the place where the sculptor has completed his work and covered the statue with a drapery. There is much anticipation, and finally the moment comes when the statue is ceremoniously unveiled. The covering is removed with a flourish and everyone can see the finished work at last. That's exactly what is being conveyed here. Jesus' glory is going to be unveiled!

You see, when He came the first time, His glory was veiled. But Revelation shows us what Jesus is like with His glory revealed. The first time He came, He came to a crucifixion. When He comes again, He's coming to a coronation. He came the first time in shame. When He comes again, He's coming in splendor. He came the first time to a tree. When He comes again, He's coming to a throne. He came the first time as a servant. He is coming again as a sovereign. His glory is going to be revealed! And the book of the Revelation gives us a wondrous glimpse ahead to that glorious time.