

Two Types of Prophecy

Prophecy is fairly easy to interpret when you remember that prophecy involves *both* forthtelling and foretelling.

Forthtelling: Prophecy as forthtelling is primarily exhorting the people. It's calling the people to repentance from their disobedience or from their doubting, oftentimes in order that they might be delivered. Thus, the prophet's message is often one of doom or deliverance. Forthtelling is also giving the people God's blessing in light of their obedience. Most prophecy falls into the category of forthtelling.

Forthtelling always has a *present aspect*. It relates to the people in their present circumstances.

Foretelling: Prophecy as *foretelling* is essentially predictive. The prophet announces the future as part of his message of doom or deliverance. However, such foretelling is rooted in the present situation of the people. Furthermore, it always comes out of the forthtelling exhortation. *Not all prophecy is foretelling.*

Foretelling always has a *future aspect*. It relates to something that will happen in the future as a result of the present situation of the people.

(Doing Bible Interpretation!: Making the Bible Come Alive for Yourself and for Your People by Larry W. Caldwell, Sioux Falls, SD: Lazy Oaks Press, Kindle, 2016, Page 121 of 186)