

2 HISTORICAL PROPHECIES

HUNDREDS OF PROPHECIES PERTAINING TO EVENTS, KINGS, CITIES, PEOPLES, AND NATIONS (ESPECIALLY THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND ISRAEL) HAVE BEEN FULFILLED.

a. FULFILLED PROPHECIES

Some remarkable examples of fulfilled historical prophecies are: [1] **King Cyrus**—The Bible named this Persian king and described his decree 160 years before the king or his kingdom ever existed (Isa. 44:28; 45:1). [2] **The Jewish people**—Seven detailed predictions about Palestine and the Jews have all been fulfilled in history (Lev. 26:31-33; Ezek. 36:33-35). [3] **The city of Tyre**—Six specific and highly improbable prophecies about the city of Tyre have all been fulfilled in history (Ezek. 26:1-26).¹⁶

Other examples include:

- **The fall of Nineveh (Isa. 10; Nah. 2:1-13)**
- **The fall of Babylon (Isa. 13:48)**
- **Israel's 400 years in Egypt (Gen. 15:13)**
- **The return of Judah (Isa. 6:11-13)**
- **Israel's fruit all over the world (Isa. 27:6)**

b. ISRAEL'S NATIONAL REBIRTH

Another historically accurate prophecy is found in Ezekiel 37:11-14. The prophet Ezekiel (between 592-570 BC) prophesied the rebirth of Israel as a nation. Prior to Ezekiel's time, the Israelites had become a divided kingdom—Israel and Judah. The people were displaced from their homeland and taken into captivity. Nevertheless, God revealed through Ezekiel that someday He would bring them back as one people, into one land, as one nation. This happened on May 14, 1948. Despite the attempts by other nations over generations to exterminate the Jews, God preserved them. It's incredible that a people group dispersed throughout the world for 2,600 years was never

absorbed by the nations around them. Yet God kept Israel and maintained their nationality. Israel was reborn in a single day, as prophesied in Isaiah 66:8.

"The Bible contains a pattern of prediction and fulfillment that can only be explained by its divine origin. No other document, sacred or secular, contains such clear prophecies of events affecting the destiny of mankind ... which points to supernatural revelation from a sovereign God who is Lord of all history."¹⁷ — Gleason L. Archer, Ph.D., J.D.

CONCLUSION

Bible prophecy is amazing because it proves the authority of the Bible—that indeed it is the living and powerful revelation to us from our loving Creator (Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16). God's Holy Spirit is the Bible's ultimate Author, who guided selected men over a period of 1,500 years to write the Scripture (2 Peter 1:21). That explains why the Bible contains complete harmony and unity, and why numerous prophecies written hundreds of years BC remarkably find their fulfillment AD. In contrast, all other books regarded as religious scripture fall hopelessly short. They contain little if any prophecy; and none dares to claim fulfillment.*

The central person of Bible prophecy is Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God. He demonstrated and declared that He was the promised Messiah spoken of by the Old Testament prophets (Heb. 10:7; Luke 24:25-32; Matt. 21:1-9). The Messiah lives today. He stretches forth His loving arms and invites us to receive the forgiveness of sins and the free gift of eternal life with Him! Are you ready to start a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?

*Although the Qurán includes prophetic images, they are reminiscent of the Bible's apocalyptic end of history because they were originally taken from the Bible (evidently as a result of Mohammed's background). Other than such biblical ideas, the Qurán contains no "significant specific predictive prophecy."¹⁸

A PRAYER TO RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST

"Dear Father God, I desire salvation based on what Jesus Christ did on the cross for me. Thank You for sending Your Son (the Messiah) to redeem us. I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. Jesus, please forgive my sins and be my personal Lord and Savior. I want to follow You and have a relationship with You now and forever. In Jesus' name, amen."

**"If you confess with your mouth
the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart
that God has raised Him [Jesus] from
the dead, you will be saved."
(Rom. 10:9)**

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REFERENCES: ¹ Walvoord, John F. *Every Prophecy of the Bible*, Cook Commun., ©1999, p. 10. ²⁻⁴ *Ibid*, p. 7. ⁵ *Ibid*, p. 21. ⁶ Lockyer, Herbert. *All the Messianic Prophecies of the Bible*, Zondervan, ©1973, p. 17, 21. ⁷ McDowell, Josh. *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, Thomas Nelson Pub. ©1999 (Chap. 8). ⁸ Stoner, Peter and Newman, Dr. Robert. *Science Speaks*, Moody Press, ©1963, 1976, p. 110-112. ⁹ McDowell, p. 193-4. ¹⁰ Anderson, Sir Robert. *The Coming Prince*, Kregel Pub., reprinted in 1957 from 10th ed., p. 128. ¹¹ Hoehner, Dr. Harold. *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*, Zondervan, ©1977, p. 127-9. ¹² Lockyer, (Chap. 8). ¹³ *Ibid*, p. 150. ¹⁴ *Ibid*, p. 185. ¹⁵ *Ibid*, p. 193. ¹⁶ Walvoord, p. 174-5. ¹⁷ Archer, Gleason L. "No Margin for Error," *Moody Magazine*, ©April 1985. ¹⁸ Trotter, R. "Prophetic Predictions Prove the Bible's Authority," Web site: www.geocities.com/worldview_3/prophecy.html.

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Prophecy

**What's So
Amazing
About BIBLE
Prophecy?**

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Fulfilled Bible Prophecy Distinguishes the Bible as a Message from God

INTRODUCTION

The Bible makes the colossal claim that it is, in its entirety, the inspired Word of God to mankind. Its central message is God's plan to redeem mankind, and it was written over a span of 1,500 years. But how do we know that it is, in fact, a message from God? The key to this question lies in Bible prophecy and its amazing fulfillment. Bible prophecy is amazing due to:

- **its extensiveness**
(1,000 predictive prophecies comprising about 1/4 of the Bible¹)
- **its fulfillment with 100% accuracy**
(500 prophecies literally fulfilled to date²)
- **its preciseness (with details and specifics)**
- **its accurate correlation with history**
- **its complete harmony throughout Scripture**
- **its consistent focus on Messiah (the Christ) and His mission to redeem the human race**

The literal fulfillment of Bible prophecy over the centuries provides conclusive evidence that the Bible is divine in origin. It shows that God, who is outside of time and all knowing, has revealed to us "history in advance" on the pages of Scripture. According to the Bible, God's Holy Spirit inspired prophets to testify of future events (1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:19-21). To date, 500 of the 1,000 prophetic predictions in the Bible have been fulfilled literally.³ Below is an overview of them.

"Unmistakably, the evidence is overwhelming that God means exactly what He says, as prophecy after prophecy has already been literally fulfilled. When history has run its course, every prophecy will be fulfilled."

—John F. Walvoord
(leading Bible prophecy scholar)

GOD'S ANNOUNCED PURPOSE FOR PROPHECY

In the Book of Isaiah, God declared the purpose of prophecy: to show He is the only true and living God. He also declared He would bring to pass all that He had spoken and planned (Isa. 42:8-9; 46:11; 48:3-5).

1 MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

HUNDREDS OF PROPHECIES PERTAINING TO THE PROMISED MESSIAH ("THE CHRIST") HAVE BEEN FULFILLED.

a. THE GENESIS 3:15 PROPHECIES

The first two major prophecies in Scripture appear in Genesis 3:15: [1] God's judgment of sin, and [2] God's plan to redeem mankind. This is the first reference to the gospel, which can be traced throughout Scripture. God said to the serpent that tempted Eve to sin in the Garden, **"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."** God was promising a Messiah, the offspring of the woman (her "Seed"). He revealed that Satan would one day bruise Christ's heel, causing Him to suffer and die. However, ultimately Christ would crush Satan's head at the cross, defeating him and the power of death (Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14; Rev. 20:2, 10). These two prophecies reveal God's eternal purpose for the Cross (Rom. 3:24-25; Acts 2:23; Rev. 13:8). Jesus Christ fulfilled God's plan of redemption by His death and His resurrection.⁵

b. THE FIRST COMING OF MESSIAH

The Old Testament (OT), written centuries before the New Testament (NT), contains 300 specific prophecies concerning the first coming of Messiah. Even the earliest prophet, Moses, prophesied about the Messiah whom God would raise up (Deut. 18:15-19; Acts 3:20-24). In the first century AD, Jesus of Nazareth came to earth "in the fullness of the time" (Gal. 4:4). He precisely fulfilled the 300 Messianic prophecies through His birth, life, death, and resurrection.⁶⁻⁷ The odds that one man could fulfill even 48 of them are 1 in 10¹⁵⁷ according to the science of probability. So coincidence is entirely ruled out.⁸⁻⁹ Some astonishing examples of fulfilled Messianic prophecies are:

- **Born of a virgin**
OT prophecy—Isaiah 7:14
NT fulfillment—Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35
- **Born in Bethlehem**
OT prophecy—Micah 5:2
NT fulfillment—Matthew 2:1-6; John 7:42
- **Historic ride into Jerusalem as King**
OT prophecy—Zechariah 9:9; Daniel 9:24-27
NT fulfillment—Mark 11:7-11; Luke 19:35-38
- **Crucifixion (substitutionary sacrifice)**
OT prophecy—Isaiah 53:5
NT fulfillment—Romans 5:6, 8; Matthew 27:26-35
- **Hands and feet pierced**
OT prophecy—Zechariah 12:10; Psalm 22:16
NT fulfillment—John 19:18; John 20:27-28
- **Resurrection from the dead**
OT prophecy—Psalm 16:10
NT fulfillment—Acts 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:4-8

c. THE DANIEL 9 PROPHECY

Daniel 9:24-27 contains a three-part Messianic prophecy, probably the most specific and startling ever recorded. More than 500 years before the event, Daniel prophesied the exact day Messiah would make His triumphal entry into Jerusalem as King. Daniel

stated that from March 5, 444 BC (the day of the decree by the Persian King Artaxerxes to Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem's wall) until the coming of "Messiah the Prince," there would be 173,880 days. (See Neh. 2:7-8; 5:14.) Precisely 173,880 days after that decree, on March 30, AD 33, Jesus Christ made His historic ride into Jerusalem hailed as Messiah (Matt. 21:1-9; John 12:12-18). This event is one of the greatest demonstrations of the validity of the claims of Christ to be the Son of God. (For an explanation of the mathematical statistics, see Dr. Harold Hoehner's refinement of Sir Robert Anderson's calculations.)¹⁰⁻¹¹

d. CRUCIFIXION PROPHECIES

The Old Testament contains 41 prophecies about the Messiah's death and crucifixion.¹² Psalm 22 describes the experience of Christ's crucifixion. The prophet David wrote it approximately 900 years before Christ came, yet it was "fulfilled in flawless detail."¹³ Isaiah 53, written by the prophet Isaiah in approximately 700 BC, contains the most theologically profound Scriptures concerning Jesus' physical torture and substitutionary death (His crucifixion to pay the penalty for the sins of the world). For example, verse five states: **"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."** These fulfilled prophecies confirm that the Messiah and His mission were in the mind of God even before creation (1 Peter 1:20; Acts 2:23; Rev. 13:8).

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES YET TO BE FULFILLED

The unfulfilled Messianic prophecies in the Bible pertain to Messiah's "second coming." Jesus Christ came to earth the first time as the Suffering Servant; He will return one day as the Conquering King. This category of prophecy includes: Christ's return for His church, the Great Tribulation, the end of the Gentile Age, the judgments, the millennium, and eternity.¹⁴ These predictions came from the OT prophets, the NT apostles, and from Christ Himself. (The NT contains 318 references to Jesus' second coming.)¹⁵