

Predictive Prophecy

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; ... 1 Peter 3:15

Predictive prophecy – prophecies made about something that will happen in the future.

Another very powerful type of historical evidence for the truth of the Bible and of Christianity is fulfilled Biblical prophecy (prophecy that has happened). It is considered historical evidence because God tells us history before it happens.

It also proves the existence of God because the writers of the Bible were able to “somehow” accurately predict future events over and over again. Other religions claim to have prophecy, but how accurate is it really? The Bible hasn't made a mistake so God was obviously the driving force and obviously exists.

I. God – God through prophecy...

A. proves His very existence, exposes false gods and religions.

- i. Isaiah 41:22-23 – Says let others “prove” that they are gods by predicting the future.
- ii. Isaiah 42:8-9 – Says that only He is able to give prophecies.
- iii. Isaiah 48:3-5 – Says that He is the one who reveals the future and no one else.

B. shows His control over history and His plan for mankind.

- i. Isaiah 46:9-10 – Says that He will do as He desires.
- ii. Isaiah 45:21-22 – God has a plan for mankind.
 - a) How we can be saved.
 - b) What will happen in the end – earth's judgment.
 - c) We should believe Him.

II. The Bible – Fulfilled prophecy shows us ...

A. the Bible is unique among all other religious books.

- i. The books of the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Hindus, and others can't prove what the Bible proves.

B. the Bible's divine inspiration and its authority.

- i. 2 Peter 1:19-21 - “no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation”
- ii. Where did the Bible come from? God wrote it through men by the Holy Spirit.

III. Jesus Christ – Predictive prophecy was ...

A. used by God to point to Jesus' coming (300+ prophecies).

- i. Revelation 19:10

B. used by Jesus to identify Himself while he was on the earth.

- i. Matt 5:17
- ii. Luke 4:17-21
- iii. Luke 24:44

- C. used by the apostles to point back to how Jesus had fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about being the Messiah – to identify and prove who he was.
 - i. Acts 3:18 Acts 10:43 Acts 13:29 Acts 17:2-3 Acts 26:22-23

IV. Prophecy in other religions, cults, astrology, and the occult.

- A. Satan tries to imitate and use prophecy to deceive people. Satan doesn't know the future, but he has been around long enough to be able to guess well and make a good show.
- B. Many claim to be able to predict the future, but as their prophecies are tested, we see big differences in their accuracy.
 - i. Many religions and cults have had prophecies ... but miss the mark.
 - a) Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Children of God, Bahais, and Mohamed
 - ii. Others get some right every now and then ... not totally clear.
 - a) Jean Dixon, Fortune tellers
 - iii. The Biblical test to know if a prophet is for real. (Deuteronomy 18:18-22)
 - a) A true prophet of God must be correct 100% of the time.
 - b) You shall not be afraid of false prophets.

V. Historical Prophecies of the of the Bible

- A. There are some prophecies that are not completed yet and are not understandable.
 - i. Sometimes when God's prophets were giving prophecies, they didn't know what God meant by that.
 - ii. Example: the reunification of Israel before 1948.

B. Cyrus

- i. In approximately 700 B.C. Isaiah prophesied that a man named Cyrus would command the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. (Isaiah 44:28, 54:1)
- ii. In 586 B.C. King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed both city and temple.
- iii. In 539 B.C. Jerusalem was conquered by the Persians whose king was named Cyrus.
- iv. Ezra 1:1-7 and 2 Chronicles 36:22-23

C. Fulfilled prophecies about nations

- i. Egypt - Ezekiel 29:15
- ii. Edom - Obadiah 18
- iii. Philistines - Zephaniah 2:5
- iv. Babylon - Jeremiah 51:57
- v. Assyria - Zephaniah 2:13

D. Fulfilled Prophecies about Israel

- i. That the nation of Israel would be scattered over the earth.
 - a) Jeremiah 24:9, Hosea 9:17, Zechariah 10:9, Luke 21:20-24
- ii. That Israel would be gathered from all the nations and come back to its own land – Zionism
 - a) Ezekiel 37:25, Isaiah 11:11-12, Hosea 3:4-5, Jeremiah 16:14-15