

Bible Prophecy

God's revelation of His divine program for the future

Bible Prophecy is the revelation of God's infallible message to mankind. It generally concerns the future. It may concern the past. It almost always concerns the present.

Concerning future events, one has said "Prophecy is history written in advance", where "History" really is His story! God decides what will happen, plans when those things will happen and then brings it to pass.

God's exact knowledge of future events tells us about His omniscience - He knows all things (past, present and future).

But what is even more amazing is God's omnipotence - He sovereignly makes all history happen according to His plans and purposes for mankind. That is, God controls all things. "After the counsel of His own will" (Ephesians 1:11).

God spoke about Himself to Isaiah:

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure: calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth My counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it." Isaiah 46: 9-11.

Throughout the course of history God has revealed to mankind a great number of things in advance. There are over 1,500 prophecies in the Bible. Many of these have already been fulfilled. Many are yet to be fulfilled. When they are all put together, they provide believers with a complete picture of God's program for all ages.

DID YOU KNOW?

Isaiah (761-5) foretold of Cyrus' birth, nearly 150 years before he was born, including his role in the history of Israel and the defeat of the nations before him!

Seeing the many prophecies which were spoken centuries before they came to pass, it goes without saying that any prophecy yet to take place will certainly come to pass!

Prophecies already fulfilled

Consider the following three prophecies which have already been fulfilled.

A Worldwide Flood

In Genesis 6, God forewarned Noah of a flood which He would use to judge the whole earth. God had warned of pending judgement because the populated earth was full of wickedness, evil imaginations, corruption and violence. Such conditions were universal. Consequently God told Noah to build an ark, using specific materials and according to certain dimensions which God would use to save Noah, his family, and a selection of animals from the world at that time. As God had foretold, He destroyed all the inhabitants on the earth with a global flood. Noah and his family were saved from wrath because of their faithful desire to follow God.



Babylonian and Assyrian Invasion

In Leviticus 26, God instructed the Israelites to give the land one year of "sabbatical rest" every seven years. Otherwise, the land would become desolate. For over 480 years, the nation of Israel refused to give the land rest during sabbatical periods.

Consequently, God told the nation of Israel through the prophet Jeremiah that they would endure seventy years' captivity in Babylon (one year for every seven they ignored).

He also told Honea of future days when the Israelites would be rejected by God. God's people refused to listen to the prophets, the voice of God, and as a result, they were taken captive either by the Assyrians or the Babylonians.

Just as God said, the ten northern tribes were taken captive by the Assyrians and, to this day, there is no recorded return of these tribes to the land of Israel. The two southern tribes were invaded by the Babylonians and taken to Babylon for seventy years. Only the sick, the elderly and the lame were left in Jerusalem.

However, through Isaiah, He promised them release under the hand of Cyrus, which was fulfilled in the overthrow of the Babylonian empire by the Medes and Persians.

Rise and fall of Gentile kingdoms as foretold by Daniel

In Daniel 2, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream (around 606 BC) about a colossal man with a head of fine gold, a chest and arms of silver, a belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron and feet of part iron and part clay. No one could interpret the dream. Through the prophet Daniel, God revealed the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream as being four specific kingdoms.

Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was the first, followed the Babylonian empire, succeeded by the Medo-Persian empire, which was overthrown by the Grecian and in turn the Roman empires. All of these kingdoms rose and fell exactly as foretold by God through Daniel.



Gold - Head
This section represented the empire of Babylon, of which Nebuchadnezzar was king.

Silver - Chest & Arms
This section signified the empire of the Medes and Persians, which conquered and supplanted Babylon.

Bronze - Belly & Thighs
This section represented the Greco-Macedonian empire of Alexander the Great, which overcame Persia.

Iron - Legs
The two legs of iron represented the Roman empire. After Alexander's death, his Hellenistic empire continued in a divided form until its divisions were taken over by Rome. The two legs apparently signified the east-west division that characterised the late Roman empire.

Iron & Clay - Feet & Toes
Extending from the legs are feet and toes of iron mixed with clay - a brittle and unstable mixture because it would not bind well. These represent the final phase of the Roman empire, which will be made of ten kings, some strong and some weak.

Prophecy Reference	Prediction	Fulfillment
Daniel 11:2	Three kings shall stand up	Darius, Artaxerxes and Ahasuerus
Daniel 11:3	A great king shall stand up	Alexander the Great
Daniel 11:4	The great kingdom defeated and divided into four parts	After Alexander's death, his empire was divided among his four generals
Daniel 11:5	The strongest would be the southern king	Ptolemy took the southern kingdom
Daniel 11:6	The king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement	Bernice married a son of the king of the north
Daniel 11:6	She shall not retain the power of the arm	Bernice was set aside and lost all influence
Daniel 11:7	One of her same roots would stand up and take revenge	Her brother rose up and took revenge

The following prophecy and fulfillment timelines show how the prophecies of Daniel 11 came to pass - exactly as foretold.

Prophecies concerning Jesus Christ

Anyone can make a prediction or forecast what might happen next, but having that prediction fulfilled exactly is another thing altogether.

Of the 1,500 or so prophecies in the Bible, many have been fulfilled and will be fulfilled in a single Person - Jesus Christ the Messiah. In fact, over 300 prophecies about the coming Messiah were given during the Old Testament period (1000 BC - 400 BC) and at least 110 prophecies have already been fulfilled in His birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension.

So, what is the likelihood of these prophecies coming true? One has calculated that the probability of just one of these prophecies coming true is one chance in 300,000.

A Christian mathematician once said that for all 110 specific prophecies coming true in a single person, the chance would be 1 in 1 x 10¹⁰. That's a number with 157 zeros!

Of all the prophecies concerning Jesus Christ, each distinct prophecy may be categorised into one of four groups:

Those that deal with His first coming (lineage, birth, life, death)	Those that deal with His second coming to earth (still future)
Those that reveal God's plan of redemption through Jesus Christ	Those that combine His first and second comings

Prophecies that deal with Jesus Christ's first coming (lineage, birth, life, death, resurrection & ascension) which have already been fulfilled

PROPHECY	Genesis 22:18 To be the descendant of Abraham	Psalm 35:11 He would be falsely accused, false witnesses would speak against Him	Hosea 11:1 He move to Egypt and return to Israel	Isaiah 7:14 To be born of a virgin	Jeremiah 31:15 to escape the massacre of children by Herod
	1450 BC	1100-1000 BC	785-710 BC	740-680 BC	620-490 BC
FULFILMENT	Luke 3:34 Descended from Abraham	Matthew 26:59-61 The chief priests found false witnesses who would speak against Him	Matthew 2:13-15 Jesus taken to Egypt to escape Herod's massacre. Returned after His death	Matthew 1:23-25 An angel said His name would be Immanuel	Matthew 2:16-18 Massacre of innocent children by Herod. Jesus escaped

Daniel's 70 [7+ 62 +1] week prophecy



Plan of the Ages

