

100% Accuracy of Prophecy!

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The truthfulness of the Bible is verified by the fulfillment of its prophecies. Prophecy is something said *today* that predicts something in the *future*. Anyone can prophesy anything, but *accuracy* is the issue. Dozens of magazines at checkout counters give evidence that predicting the future is a popular topic.

The Bible gives hundreds of very detailed prophecies, and many have already come true! There are prophecies about people, nations, floods, earthquakes; the Messiah's return, and the Tribulation. The Old Testament has over 60 prophecies and 300 references of a Messiah that verifies His identity. Scripture says that the Messiah would be of the house of David; be born of a virgin in the small town of Bethlehem; and will be from the tribe of Judah. All *that* has come true of only one Person. This Messiah would arrive while the Temple was still standing in Jerusalem, and since the Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. (Anno Domini, Latin for "in the year of the Lord"), the Messiah had to come before that happened.

The Old Testament predicts that the Messiah would perform miracles, enter Jerusalem on a burro, and be betrayed by a friend. Also, He would be sold for 30 pieces of silver; pierced in His hands and feet; be crucified on a cross; and rise from the dead three days later. They are very *detailed prophecies* and have all come true concerning the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is like someone today predicting this will happen to someone in 3000 AD!

The *accuracy* of prophecy would indicate the *truthfulness* of the prediction. Deuteronomy 18:21 "You may say to yourselves, 'How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?' 22 If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken."

We often try to figure out the prophecy so we would *know* the future, but like all of Scripture, it is primarily meant to be *believed in heart* and *accepted as true*. Therefore, the *purpose* of prophecy is *not* to figure out ahead of time exactly what is going to happen, but to help us recognize events when they *do happen*—which will increase our *faith* in God and encourage us to keep *trusting* in Him!

Jesus told His followers of things that would happen in the future—He prophesied of His crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, giving of the Holy Spirit, how believers would be treated by unbelievers, and of His return to earth at some time in the future. After telling of these events, He explained the *reason* for the prophecy and *why* He was telling them.

Isaiah 48:5 "I have even from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it thee: lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them." John 13:19 "Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he."

Jesus did not prophesy these things so that they would know exactly *how* things were going to happen, but that when these things *did* happen, it would strengthen their *faith* in Him; it would increase their *trust* on God; and it would assure them of the *accuracy of the prophecy*.

Concerning the *first* Advent of Christ, the Jews were expecting a Messiah, and they had read of the prophecies that predicted this. It was foretold that

Elijah would proclaim His coming Malachi 4:5 "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD." Then Matthew 3:3 "For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Scripture says Matthew 2:14 that Joseph "Took the young child and his mother by night and departed into Egypt: 15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene."

The Jews understood how it would all come about, and they were waiting for the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the Messiah. Jesus was born in a stable; grew up in a lowly setting; and then began to gather disciples to help Him proclaim God's Truth. They then *realized* that He was the *Messiah* who had been predicted—as the prophecies about Him were fulfilled.

The humble fishermen He called to assist Him had put their faith in Him, but the Scribes and Pharisees were *not* willing to put faith in Him and did *not* think He was the Messiah. This was probably because Jesus had not arrived as they expected, so they did not see it as fulfilling prophecy. They were not willing to accept His words Luke 4:21 "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."

After the resurrection, Jesus reproved His disciples for not believing the things that were prophesied of Him and which *had already* been fulfilled. Luke 24:25 "He said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken."

Believing the Scriptures as they are written and recognizing their fulfillment has strengthened

the faith of many over the years—and it has made new believers in Jesus. The apostles in their preaching used prophecies that *were* fulfilled in Jesus as an effective tool in converting the Jews.

Acts 2:22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—²³ “Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ “whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”

All of that was predicted and all had been fulfilled, so the apostles used the prophecy to *confirm* and *validate* the accuracy of their message. Those who heard what they said had the *opportunity* and the *responsibility* to accept the Gospel presented—then make the decision to put their faith in the Lord Jesus.

The apostles continued: Acts 2:32 “This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. ³³ Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.” The gift of the Holy Spirit would be given to anyone who was willing to *believe* and *act* on those words.

They continued Acts 2:36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? ³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

It was an important *prophecy* that had been fulfilled in Jesus—a prophecy they had rejected and so they crucified their Messiah. The apostles’ words brought spiritual conviction, so they asked what they could do to *right* that very serious *wrong!* They were to *repent*, be *baptized*, accept God’s forgiveness by faith, and *receive* the gift of the Spirit for the conversion of heart they needed.

After Samuel had anointed Saul as king 1 Samuel 10, he told him what would happen on his way home—not that there was any advantage to knowing beforehand, but when he saw that these things happened just as they were prophesied, it assured Saul that his calling was from God.

No one can predict when Jesus will return, but we are told to *Watch*; to *be ready*; to *be alert*; and to *keep our lamps of faith burning* because we do not know the time of His sudden return—for all who are truly *believing* in Him and are *trusting* on God for all life issues.

Knowing of the *accuracy of prophecy*, we are compelled to give heed to the *warnings* of Jesus since He gave the warnings for our spiritual well-being. Matthew 24:42 “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³ “But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Jesus gave *multiple* warnings so the *truth* of the prophecies would be assured, and they would know of the importance to always be *ready* by always *trusting* Him. Jesus said—Mark 13:34 “It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.”

We are commanded to *watch* and *keep* our faith in Him. ³⁵ “Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in

*the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—*³⁶ “Lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. ³⁷ “And what I say to you, I say to all: *Watch!*”

We are not to think *what* time of the day it could be as it will be when it would seem most unlikely. A thief works under cover of darkness and when you would *not* expect such to happen. Revelation 16:15 “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.”

The first Advent of Christ was prophesied by Micah about 700 years *before* Jesus was born. The crucifixion was described in the Psalms 1,000 years *before* He walked on earth, and the prophecy included minute details—Psalm 22:7 “All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: ⁸ He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.” Every detail was fulfilled 100%. ¹⁸ “They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.”

Many Bible prophecies have already been fulfilled—giving evidence that the prophecies of events yet *future*, will *also* be fulfilled in the same way. The *Accuracy of Prophecy* is very assuring that God is in control of every detail of our life. Hebrews 10:37 “For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.” We have been *warned*—we now have to *watch* to be *ready!*



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