

Bible Prophecies Fulfilled Today

by Darrel Mitchell

Isaiah 42:8-9, "I am the LORD; that is My name! I will not give My glory to another or My praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you." Isaiah 46:9-10, "Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please." Isaiah 41:21-23, "'Present your case,' says the LORD. 'Set forth your arguments,' says Jacob's King. 'Bring in your idols to tell us what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare to us the things to come, tell us what the future holds, so we may know that you are gods. Do something, whether good or bad, so that we will be dismayed and filled with fear.'"

One of the most thrilling discoveries one can make as they study the Bible is the way it unveils the future. Its knowledge of things to come is the strongest proof of its divine inspiration. The Bible is a book of prophecy, differing in many ways from all other so-called "sacred writings," however, the fundamental difference is in all other religious books there is not one word of accurate prophecy given, that is, predictions of future events, while God's Word is full of prophecies, many of which have already been meticulously fulfilled.

This ability to know what the future holds is not a human attribute. Man can reason from cause to effect, but he can never be quite sure his deductions are correct. News commentators boast of their correct forecasts, however, they never mention their erroneous guesses. Even the weathermen, aided by the latest scientific equipment . . . their modern weather balloons and satellites spinning in space . . . rarely ventures to predict more than a day or two ahead and, even then, are very often incorrect in their predictions.

In contrast, God' Word reveals the future, even more perfectly than man can remember the past. Fulfilled prophecies and attested miracles constitute twin pillars which uphold the structure of the inspiration of God's divine Word. Of all the many infallible proofs of the inspiration of the Bible, none is more overwhelming and irrefutable as fulfilled prophecies, minutely and accurately fulfilled.

Some might ask, "What value is there in the study of prophecy? Why do we need to delving into the future, or spend our time investigating portions of Scripture which do not directly concern us?" Yet, God's Word teaches that, *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (2 Timothy 3:16).

Bible Prophecy should act to the child of God as a chart, or compass, to guide him on the sea of life . . . or a lighthouse, whose beam directs him into the desired haven, enabling him to avoid the rocks which would wreck his vessel.

Old Testament prophesies are almost endless in their number and almost infinite in their details. These hundreds of prophecies, concerning men and nations, seemed so improbable, and so detailed

and definite, at the time they were given that no mortal could have ventured to forecast them. Those who utterly disbelieved these prophecies, and even struggled in frantic desperation to avoid their being fulfilled, yet every minute detail was fulfilled, exactly as God, in His Word, predicted. Certainly *2 Peter 1:21* is correct when it states, "Prophecy came not in olden times by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

PREDICTIONS WHICH DEAL WITH PLACES

God, in His Word, has pre-written the rise and fall of cities and kingdoms. Much of the Bible . . . (in fact great portions of Scripture) . . . is history written before it happened. Three-fourths of the Bible has to do with prophecy, of some nature, and its fulfillment.

Concerning Nineveh

At the height of its power and prestige of the ancient city of Nineveh, God's prophet, Nahum, wrote: "Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder . . . I am against you, declares the LORD Almighty . . . I will pelt you with filth, I will treat you with contempt and make you a spectacle. All who see you will flee from you and say, 'Nineveh is in ruins - who will mourn for her?'" (*Nahum 3:1-7*).

It is difficult for us today to imagine, but at the time Nahum spoke, it must have seemed to those who listened that these words could never come true. Nineveh was so strong, so utterly invincible. How could so mighty a city ever become "empty, and void, and waste" (*Nahum 2:10*)?

Yet, that is exactly what took place. Within fifty years after Nahum prophesied, Nineveh was overwhelmed by the Babylonians and from that moment began to fade from history.

In the seventh century A.D. a battle was fought between the Romans and the Persians on the very site where Nineveh had once stood. Describing the terrain, the historian Gibbon wrote: "Eastward of the Tigris, at the end of the bridge of Mosul, the great Nineveh had formerly been erected, the city, and even the ruins of the city, had long since disappeared, the vacant space afforded a spacious field for the operations of the two armies." - Edward Gibbon, "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." chapter 46, paragraph 24.

Concerning Babylon

When the prophet Isaiah prophesied in *Isaiah 13*, Babylon was in her glory, ruling over the whole world. Isaiah's words seemed incredible as he prophesied the complete destruction of mighty Babylon. *Isaiah 13:19-22*, "Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians' pride, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah. She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there, no shepherd will rest his flocks there. But desert creatures will lie there, jackals will fill her houses; there the owls will dwell, and there the wild goats will leap about. Hyenas will howl in her strongholds, jackals in her luxurious palaces. Her time is at hand, and her days will not be prolonged."

Proud and beautiful Babylon could not believe that such a prophecy could ever come to pass. Didn't

she rule the whole world? Wasn't she the richest and most powerful nation known to man? She was indeed, yet, in spite of all her might and seeming immortality, God's Word would be fulfilled.

Even unbelieving scholars must admit that Babylon is no more. Her crumbled ruins stand today as mute evidence of the accuracy of God's predictions. Weird animals of various description make their homes in the caves and caverns of her ruins.

God prophesied through Jeremiah and says in *Jeremiah 50:9*:

"For I will stir up and bring against Babylon an alliance of great nations from the land of the north. They will take up their positions against her" . . . [50:23] "How broken and shattered is the hammer of the whole earth! How desolate is Babylon among the nations!" [51:37] "Babylon will be a heap of ruins, a haunt of jackals, an object of horror and scorn, a place where no one lives."

This passage of Scripture was prophesied in 595 B.C., when Babylon was at her pinnacle of power, and Nebuchadnezzar, its greatest king, was virtually the ruler of the whole world. These words of Jeremiah seemed utterly ridiculous, without chance of fulfillment. Yet, they were fulfilled exactly as God had predicted!

Not immediately. Fifty years passed, Jeremiah died, as did Nebuchadnezzar and, all the time, Babylon remained apparently as strong as ever. Then, in the year 539 B.C., in one riotous night, while Belshazzar was feasting with a thousand of his lords, there appeared the finger of a man's hand writing on the palace wall. The finger wrote, *"God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. You have been weighted on the scales and found wanting. Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians" (Daniel 5:26-28).*

God had not forgotten the prediction He had led Jeremiah to make nearly sixty years before - nor the similar prophecy written by Isaiah almost two hundred years earlier. All along God had been watching Babylon, weighing her deeds with infinite precision in the balances of divine justice. Now the hour of her judgment had come. *"That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain, and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom" (Daniel 5:30-31).*

Not only did the city change rulers, but, as century succeeded century, it gradually fell into decay. Its massive walls were leveled and its proud palaces and temples destroyed. Finally, covered by the shifting sands of the desert, it became virtually a lost city, until rediscovered by archaeologists in the 1800's.

After exploring the site in 1845 and 1850 Austen Layard wrote:

"Shapeless heaps of rubbish cover for many an acre the face of the land . . . On all sides, fragments of glass, marble, pottery, and inscribed brick, are mingled with that peculiar nitrous and blanched soil, which, bred from the remains of ancient habitations, checks or destroys vegetation, and renders the site of Babylon a naked and hideous waste. Owls start from the scanty thickets, and the foul jackal skulks through the furrows." - Discoveries in the Ruins of Nineveh and Babylon (1853) chapter 21, page 484.

More recently explorers have uncovered many remarkable ruins of the famous city, each one confirming the accuracy of the divine prediction concerning its fall.

Concerning Tyre

Now consider Ezekiel's prophecy concerning Tyre, that famous city on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean, which wielded such widespread influence in ancient times. Shortly after the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, when Tyre was congratulating herself on the additional prosperity that would now flow into her own coffers. The citizens of Tyre laughed at the awful dilemma, and pitiful plight of Israel, ridiculing the prophets of God and mocking His people.

Ezekiel wrote:

"Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, O Tyre, and I will bring many nations against you, like the sea casting up its waves. They will destroy the walls of Tyre and pull down her towers; I will scrape away her rubble and make her a bare rock. Out in the sea she will become a place to spread fishnets, for I have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD. She will become plunder for the nations. I will make you a bare rock, and you will become a place to spread fishnets. You will never be rebuilt, for I the Lord have spoken, declares the Sovereign Lord" (Ezekiel 26:3-5, and 14). Ezekiel continues in verse 12: "They will plunder your wealth and loot your merchandise; they will break down your walls and demolish your fine houses and throw your stones, timber and rubble into the sea."

With all probability nobody took much notice of the prophecy at the time, except to regard it as the mutterings of a madman. How could great Tyre ever suffer such indignities?

However, not long after, Nebuchadnezzar arrived at the gates of the city. For thirteen years he besieged Tyre. So long and hard did his soldiers labor at the battering rams that "every shoulder was peeled" (As *Ezekiel 29:18* predicted, "every shoulder made raw.") Finally that portion of the city which was on the mainland was captured, through Nebuchadnezzar was robbed of the main booty, as the people of Tyre removed to their island stronghold half a mile away.

To some it must have appeared that Ezekiel's prophecy had failed. True, part of Tyre had been destroyed, but it certainly had not been made "bare as the top of a rock." More years passed. Ezekiel died. Generations of Tyrannies passed away. Then, in 332 B.C. came Alexander the Great and demanded the city's surrender. The Tyrannies refused and one of the most notable sieges of history began. Once again the island fortress proved seemingly impregnable. At last, in desperation, Alexander decided upon an unusual course. Demolishing the mainland city, he threw the debris into the water, thus constructing a mole two hundred feet wide out into the sea-grit citadel, across which his army marched to victory.

Today the remains of this mole may still be seen. Moreover, fishermen from the village of Sur, which has grown up around the ancient site, spread their nets upon the bare rocks from which the soil of Tyre was scraped by the famous Grecian conqueror nearly twenty-three centuries ago. How true is God's Word? Another Bible prophecy came to pass. And the accuracy with which its smallest details were fulfilled is remarkable indeed. How could any man, unless divinely inspired, have known that

ancient Tyre would be so completely demolished?

Concerning Egypt

Egypt has been fulfilling Bible prophecy for over three thousand years. When ancient Egypt was at her zenith of power, her grandeur defied description. History writes:

"Her extensive gateway, with two pyramids and colossal statues in front, thick groups of enormous columns, the variety of apartments, the sanctuary in the center, the beautiful ornaments which adorn every part of the walls and columns, make it absolutely impossible to imagine the scene displayed without seeing it for oneself."

Looking at the ancient ruins, one writes, "The most sublime ideas that can be formed from the most magnificent specimens of our present architecture would give a very incorrect picture of these ruins because the difference, not only in magnitude, but in form, proportion and construction, that even the pencil can convey but a faint idea of the whole. It appeared like entering a city of giants, who, after a long conflict, were all destroyed, leaving the ruins of their various temples as the only proof of their former existence."

God prophesied, *"Cush and Put, Lydia and all Arabia, Libya and the people of the covenant land will fall by the sword along with Egypt. This is what the LORD says: 'The allies of Egypt will fall and her proud strength will fail'"* (Ezekiel 30:4-6). He continues in Ezekiel 30:12, *"I will dry up the streams of the Nile and sell the land to evil men; by the hand of foreigners I will lay waste the land and everything in it. I the LORD have spoken."*

Certainly, anyone can look at Egypt of today and realize that God's prophecies have been fulfilled in that land.

Concerning Capernaum, Chorazin, Bethsaida and Tiberias

The area around the Sea of Galilee is one of the most beautiful of all the land of Israel. The Sea of Galilee stretches for some twelve miles from north to south, and six to eight miles from east to west. In the springtime its shores are dotted with very-colored wild flowers. East of the Sea of Galilee . . . (sometimes called in Scripture the lake of Gennesaret as in *Luke 5:1* and sometimes called the Sea of Tiberias as in *John 6:1*) . . . may be seen purple-hued mountains. We read in the New Testament of four ancient cities which were beautifully situated near or on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. These four cities were Capernaum, Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Tiberias. Three of these cities have perished. Only Tiberias is standing today.

After Jesus was rejected by the people of Nazareth, He went to live in the city of Capernaum on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. There He performed great and mighty works in Capernaum, Chorazin, and Bethsaida. Scripture tells us "most of His mighty works," were done in these three cities. All three of these cities were within a few miles of one another. Bethsaida, like Capernaum, was on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee, and Chorazin was within a few miles of the Sea. Bethsaida was a fisherman's city. It was the home of three of Christ's disciples, Peter, Andrew and Philip.

However, in spite of all the mighty miracles wrought in these three cities, the inhabitants would not repent. At last, in sorrow of heart because of their continued unbelief, Christ pronounced judgment upon them as recorded in *Matthew 11:20-24*:

"Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. `Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.'"

When Jesus pronounced judgment upon these cities it seemed most improbable that they would perish. They enjoyed great natural advantages. In describing the beauty of the climate and the fertility of the land, one historian writes: "There were no such trees, and no such gardens anywhere in Palestine as in the land of Gennesaret [Capernaum]. Josephus, in a pass of glowing admiration, after describing the sweetness of its waters, and the delicate temperature of its air, its palms, and vines, and oranges, and figs, and almonds, and pomegranates, and warm spring, says that the seasons seemed to complete for the honor of its possession, and Nature to have created it as a kind of emulative challenge, wherein she had gathered all the elements of her strength. `The cities,' says Josephus, `lie very thick; and the very numerous villages are so full of people, because of the fertility of the land, that the very smallest of them contains about 15,000 inhabitants.' No less than four roads communicated with the shores of the lake. Through this district passed the great caravans on their way from Egypt to Damascus."

But all these luxuriant endowments of Nature could not keep back the woes pronounced by Christ upon Capernaum, Chorazin, and Bethsaida. Judgment fell on these three cities precisely as predicted. An earthquake destroyed Capernaum about 400 A.D. And doubtless Chorazin and Bethsaida perished at the same time. As centuries rolled by, the ruins were gradually covered up. In recent years archaeologists have unearthed the ruins and they may now be seen by visitors to the Holy Land.

Ancient Bethsaida's situation on the shore of the Sea of Galilee had been so beautiful that about 700 A.D., King Albalid I of Damascus decided to build a magnificent winter palace on the site of the ruined city. For fifteen years his workmen labored erecting the palace. then King Albalid died and he great palace was never completed. As the centuries rolled by, the palace became mere ruins. Today about all that remains of its former grandeur are some foundation stones and some unfinished mosaic flooring. Archaeologists have covered up this mosaic with sand, lest it too should be carried away by vandals and thus all traces of the palace should be lost.

As for the city of Capernaum where Christ spent the greater part of His earthly ministry and performed many miracles of healing. In *Matthew 8:16* we read, "When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to Him, and He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick." However, in spite of all these mighty miracles the greater part of the people of the city remained in unbelief. Long centuries later, the ruins of Capernaum were uncovered by modern archaeologists.

Someone decided to restore the ancient synagogue from its ruins and part of the walls of the building were re-erected, and a number of the pillars were put in their place.

Then, the unexpected happened! The architect of the partly restored synagogue suddenly died - just as King Albalid had died centuries ago before his palace in Bethsaida was completed! It was reported that the native workmen at the Capernaum ruins whispered among themselves: "See, see, the ancient curse still rests upon the city of Capernaum. It cannot be rebuilt!"

The other city mentioned, Tiberias, is near the southern end the Sea of Galilee. Tiberias was built about ten years before the beginning of Christ's public ministry, by Herod Antipas, and name by Him "Tiberias," after the Emperor. Josephus found it an important place and scarcely another town in Galilee is so often mentioned by him.

Not one word of judgment was pronounced on the city of Tiberias by Christ. It has been partially destroyed several times but it has always been rebuilt. It is standing and flourishing today while the desolate ruins of the other three cities bear testimony to the righteous judgments and the eternal authenticity of the Word of God.

Those who have visited this area tell us that one cannot help but be impressed anew with the truthfulness and the supernatural inspiration of the Word of God. There are the ruins of three cities, destroyed exactly as foretold by Christ, and one city, Tiberias, upon which no word of judgment was uttered, still standing and flourishing after two thousand years.

NOT ONLY DOES GOD'S WORD PRE-WRITE HISTORY OF CITIES AND NATIONS, IT ALSO PREDICTED, AHEAD OF THE TIME-COURSE OF HISTORY, THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

As streams of humanity have cut their furrows across the pages of time, the history of these peoples was pre-written by God. Any honest historian must admit that God knew before hand the future for the descendants of Esau, the Edomites, the Egyptians, and the descendants of Ham and Jepheth. This alone should eliminate skepticism, or any doubt, in God's Word.

When Napoleon asked if any reason could be given to believe in the inspiration of the Bible, he answered with just two words, "The Jew." God's dealings with the descendants of Abraham take up much of the Bible. God foretold in His Word hundreds years before it came to pass concerning Israel's deliverance from Egypt, and her being scattered throughout the earth, and also predicted, thousands of years before it took place, her being gathered back again to her native Palestine.

Genesis 12:1-3, "The LORD had said to Abram, `Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'"

History has proven this promise to Abraham to be true. Down through the centuries, every nation that has been friendly to Israel, has survived and prospered, while every nation that has lifted its hand

against God's people has suffered defeat!

Deuteronomy 28:25, "Israel will be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth." [Verse 37], "You will become...an object of scorn and ridicule to all the nations where the LORD will drive you." [Verses 64-66] "Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other...Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot...You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life."

In my sermon, "The Miracle of the Return of the Jews," I deal with more information concerning this subject. However, here I will also show a few of the Scriptures which prophesied Israel's return to her own land:

Jeremiah 16:14-15, "The days are coming, declares the LORD, when men will no longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,' but they will say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where He had banished them.' For I will restore them to the land I gave their forefathers."

Isaiah 43:5-6, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth."

Isaiah 14:1, "The LORD will have compassion on Jacob; once again He will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. Aliens will join them and unite with the house of Jacob."

Ezekiel 37:21, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land."

The return of multiplied millions of Jews to the land of Israel, after being away from their ancient homeland for almost 2000 years, is one of the most amazing and remarkable miracles of all time. And the astonishing thing about this modern return of the Jews to their homeland is this - it was foretold in detail by God in His prophetic Word.

We all know about those mighty miracles, recorded in the book of Exodus, which the Lord wrought when He "brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt." There were the ten great plagues ending in the death of the firstborn in every Egyptian home. Then followed the crossing of the Red Sea by the children of Israel on dry land, with a wall of water on either side of them. When the children of Israel were safely over, then Moses stretched out his rod at the Lord's command and the walls of water collapsed and Pharaoh and his army were drowned.

Then, for a period of forty years, the host of the Israelites, some where between three and six million in number, were led by Moses through the wilderness. The Lord God went before them in "a pillar of

cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night." He gave them bread from heaven and brought water out of the flinty rock to satisfy their thirst. Their clothing did not wax old and their shoes did not wear out! And, marvel of marvels, we are told that among the tribes of Israel coming out of Egypt there was *"not one feeble person among them"* (Psalm 105:37).

In short, the Lord brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by a series of miracles that were the most remarkable in all the world's history. It is little wonder that for centuries afterward the people said, "The Lord lives" Who did those great and marvelous things.

But notice carefully what is predicted in *Jeremiah 16:14-15*, "The days are coming... (and they have already come after a period of twenty-five centuries) . . . "when men will no longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,' BUT THEY WILL SAY, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where He had banished them.' For I will restore them to the land I gave their forefathers."

Is God's Word true? How marvelously these prediction of the return of the Jews to their ancient homeland "from all the land whither God had driven them" is being fulfilled today to the very letter before our eyes; and before the eyes of all the world. Could anything show more conclusively the supernatural inspiration, and the divine authority of the Bible, than the precise fulfillment of these prophecies uttered more than 2,500 years ago?

NOT ONLY PLACES, AND RACES, BUT MANY PREDICTIONS IN GOD'S WORD HAS TO DO WITH INDIVIDUALS

Two hundred years before Cyrus became king of Babylon, the prophet Isaiah prophesied of him by name. One hundred and forty-five years before Cyrus' birth, Isaiah prophesied saying, *"This is what the LORD says to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut" (Isaiah 45:1).* Notice also *Isaiah 44:28*, which states, *"Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, 'Let it be rebuilt,' and of the temple, 'Let its foundations be laid.'"*

How could Isaiah know of events that would take place so exactly two hundred years before they would take place - unless God, supernaturally, revealed them to him? And, there are prophecies in God's Word concerning other men, such as Abraham, Joseph, Elijah and John the Baptist, prophecies that were fulfilled without the slightest variation from what was prophesied. Not only were there prophecies concerning good men, also there were prophecies concerning bad men - Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander the Great, Antiochus, Epiphanes, and many, many others.

However, of all the prophecies concerning individuals, none is more notable, and worthy of study, than the person of Jesus Christ. As we have studied in other studies, everything concerning Jesus' life was prophesied hundreds . . . and, in some cases, thousands . . . of years in advance to His coming to earth. The place, time, and nature of His birth, His years of ministry, the betrayal by one of His own disciples, the detailed description His crucifixion, all were prophesied in the Old Testament.

THE PERIODS OF WORLD HISTORY WERE PREDICTED IN GOD'S WORD

As we have studied before, God clearly marked out, with unbelievable accuracy, the periods which would come to pass on the earth. Daniel, especial *Chapter 2*, gives such an reliable, proven, history of the world's empires, that historians must confess Daniel had to be divinely inspired by God.

PROPHECIES CONCERNING GOD'S PUNISHMENTS

God, in His Word, promised to punish the evil world with a flood, to destroy all who would not accept His plan of safety.

Genesis 6:12-13 states, "God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, 'I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.'"

And, of course, the flood came, just as God prophesied. God promised the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in *Genesis 19:12-13; 24-25*:

"The two men [angels] said to Lot...`We are going to destroy this place [Sodom]. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that He has sent us to destroy it...Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah - from the LORD out of the heavens. Thus He overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities - and also the vegetation in the land."

God kept His word and rained fire down on those wicked cities. Jesus foretold the awful punishment that would come upon Jerusalem. *Matthew 24:1-2*, "Jesus left the temple and was walking away when His disciples came up to Him to call His attention to its buildings. 'Do you see all these things?' He asked. 'I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.'"

It is, of course, a well established fact that in 70 A.D., Titus and his armies literally fulfilled this prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. God promises to punish sinners who reject His Son, Jesus Christ.

God says in *Psalms 9:17*, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God" and in *Revelation 20:15*, God also says, "Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." In the light of all the past experiences of man and nations throughout history, how can one doubt that this will happen?

How can one tell if a religion is real or not, or also, if a book is natural or supernatural? God challenges, "'Present your case', says the LORD. 'Set forth your arguments,' says Jacob's King. 'Bring in your idols to tell us what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare to us the things to come, tell us what the future holds, so we may know that you are gods. Do something, whether good or bad, so that we will be dismayed and filled with fear.'" (*Isaiah 41:21-23*).

Can any other book, other than the Bible, look beyond the present and pierce the veil of the unknown? The answer is obvious! Only the Bible can look across the unborn years and tell what is written on pages of history yet unturned. God's fulfilled prophecies prove He is the only true God and His Son, Jesus Christ, is the only Savior for mankind.

Some of the most pungent language of the Bible is used to describe the horrors of the last days. It tells of mountains melting like blood, the hosts of heaven dissolving, because it is the day of the Lord's vengeance and the year of recompense.

Look at *2 Peter 3:10-12*, "*The day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.*" That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

A farmer was showing a preacher all the land that he owned. He pointed in every direction, to 1000's of acres, and said, "I own all of that as far as you can see in every direction!"

The preacher thought for a moment, and then asked, "How much do you own in that direction?" he said, while pointing toward the heavens. Jesus said, "*I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished*" (*Matthew 5:18*).

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