

The Bible Is True

Part 1 of 2



Check Out the Evidence!

Introduction

Dear Friends: In today's world of ✦false information and ✦cruel deception, the Bible remains the **GREAT BEACON OF TRUTH** to:

- Explain ✦our origin, ✦the fall into sin, and ✦God's promise to save us (OT)!
- Show us ✦who Jesus is, ✦what He did, and ✦why He is the way to heaven (NT)!

Since many in today's world are skeptical about the Bible, this sermon and part 2 next week will give you amazing evidence to help you understand that *the Bible is completely true and reliable!*

1: Prophecy in General

Can anyone really predict the future?

1. **Some Prediction Basics:** Guessing and prophesying (*accurately predicting future events*) are much different: guessing can be right; prophesying is always right!
 - a. The LORD told us how to identify a false prophet:
“...when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does **not** come to pass... that is a word that the LORD has **not** spoken...” (Deut. 18:22 ESV).

b. How prophecy works: God said: “I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning...” (Isaiah 46:9-10 ESV). God knows the future; then He moved men to write down what would happen: “...men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21 ESV).

2. **Many Have Tried and Failed:**

- a. Joseph Smith (*founder of the Mormons*) predicted in 1832 that the New Jerusalem would be built in... the state of Missouri..., but the Mormons were driven out... in **1833**.¹
- b. William Miller (*founder of the Adventist movement*) predicted that Christ would return in **1843**...²
- c. Charles Russell (*founder of Jehovah’s Witnesses*) predicted that the world would end in **1914**.
- d. Hal Lindsey (*author*) predicted... the end of the world in **1988**.

e. Harold Camping (*radio station owner*) predicted the end of the world in **2011**.³

3. **Only God Has Succeeded**: Dr. Kennedy summarized Biblical prophecies: They “deal with almost every nation and scores of cities with which Israel had some dealings. It cannot be said that these prophecies were written after the events for many of the events took place hundreds or even thousands of years after the prophecy was made. Nor can it be said that they are vague..., because they are highly specific in their details. Nor can it be said that they were lucky guesses because there are over 2,000 of them which have infallibly come to pass. Nor can it be said that these were things which were likely to take place because they were indeed extremely unlikely events.”⁴

4. **Two Examples:**

a. The flood: God said to Noah: “I will bring a flood of waters

¹ <http://carm.org/false-prophecies-of-joseph-smith>

² b, c, d: *The Lutheran Study Bible* (CPH, 2009), 307.

³ <http://www.bible.ca/pre-date-setters.htm>

⁴ *Evangelism Explosion*, 89.

upon the earth..." (Gen. 6:17 ESV). Then it happened: "Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died.... Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark" (Gen. 7:22-23 ESV).

- b. Cannibalism: God said through Moses: "...you shall eat... the flesh of your sons and daughters..." (Deut. 28:53 ESV). Then it happened: "The hands of compassionate women have boiled their own children; they became their food..." (Lam. 4:10 ESV).

Who knows the future? Only God!

2: Prophecy about Jesus

Some examples of prophecy and fulfillment:

1. Jesus – will be born in Bethlehem:

- a. Prophecy: ^{ESV} **Micah 5:2** "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, ...from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel..."

- b. Fulfillment: ^{ESV} **Matthew 2:1** "...Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea..."

2. Jesus – will do miracles:

- a. Prophecy: ^{ESV} **Isaiah 35:5-6** "...the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer..."
- b. Fulfillment: ^{ESV} **Matthew 11:4-5** "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk... and the deaf hear..."

3. Jesus – will be nailed to a cross:

- a. Prophecy: ^{ESV} **Psalms 22:16** "...they have pierced my hands and feet..."
- b. Fulfillment: ^{ESV} **John 19:18** "There they crucified [*pierced*] him..."

4. Jesus – will pray for Sinners:

- a. Prophecy: ^{ESV} **Is. 53:12** "...he... makes intercession for the transgressors."
- b. Fulfillment: ^{ESV} **Luke 23:34** "...Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'"

5. **Jesus – will be mocked:**

- a. Prophecy: ^{ESV} **Psalm 22:7** “All who see me mock me...”
- b. Fulfillment: ^{ESV} **Matthew 27:41** “...the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him...”

6. **Jesus – will suffer for others:**

- a. Prophecy: ^{ESV} **Isaiah 53:5** “...he was wounded for our transgressions... crushed for our iniquities...”
- b. Fulfillment: ^{NAU} **1 Peter 2:24** “...He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross...”

7. **Jesus – will be forsaken by God:**

- a. Prophecy: ^{ESV} **Ps. 22:1** “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
- b. Fulfillment: ^{ESV} **Matthew 27:46** “...Jesus cried out... “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

8. **Jesus – will be raised to life:**

- a. Prophecy: ^{ESV} **Ps. 16:10** “...you will not abandon my soul to Sheol...”
- b. Fulfillment: ^{ESV} **Luke 24:6** “He is not here, but has risen...”

The *Unlikelihood* of Fulfillment: “A mathematician... had his graduate students calculate... the odds... of any one person fulfilling just eight... prophecies. They found the chance was 1 in 100 quadrillion [100 followed by 15 zeros]!”⁵ **Jesus fulfilled not just 8, but over 300 prophecies!**

The Fulfilled Prophecy Confirms the Bible!

Next Week: The Bible Is True – Part 2 of 2

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, thank You for making it known to us that the Bible is Your word of truth, love, prophecy, and salvation! Help us to keep growing in ➡ understanding it, ➡ believing it, ➡ living it, and ➡ sharing it!