

TOPIC: Reliability of Bible Prophecy

We're going to shift gears just a bit and talk about the reliability of the Bible. Because you may not have realized the TRUTH about the written Word of God. Knowing the truth will help you come to terms with the reasons why you can trust the Bible during these dark days! So, let's dive in.

Unique among all books ever written, the Bible was authored by 40 different individuals over a 1,500-year period. It contains 2 major sections, 66 books, with 1,189 chapters and 31,173 verses. Despite the timespan and various authors, there is a unity—a cohesiveness—that reveals these authors were inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible accurately foretells specific events—in great detail—many years, sometimes centuries, before they occur. Approximately 27% of the Bible contains prophetic writing at the time it was written. Of all the verses in the Bible 8,352 are prophetic or spoke to future events. All Biblical predictions about the future in these thousands of verses can be grouped into 737 different predictions, 522 predictions have already happened to the letter, JUST LIKE God's Word said they would. That leaves about 2,040 verses with 215 specific predictions from God about the end of the world that are in process of being fulfilled even as I speak to you today! So, the Bible contains many specific events that would signal the end of days for life on planet earth as it has been for the past several thousand years. There is incredible specificity in these prophecies, so much so that it becomes a mathematical impossibility to grasp the probability—far more staggering to contemplate than all other religious systems combined!

How? How can the track record of fulfilled Bible prophecy be so complete? Well first, let's ask: what is the purpose of Bible Prophecy? **It's to authenticate that GOD is GOD.** No other religion or religious book outside of the Judeo/Christian faith risks touching anything prophetic, nor has the established, verified, and proven track record that the Bible does. They ALL fail to hold the same perfect standard as the Bible. The Bible has been scrutinized by more skeptics and unbelievers than any other religious writing—and has withstood these attacks—every time! In fact, many atheists have come to faith in Jesus Christ after trying to disprove the Bible! The historical evidence and truth in the Bible are overwhelming. As you have already seen, this evidence is continuing today. The things foretold in the Bible are coming true at an accelerated pace right now.

So, let's read from Isaiah 46 about how God establishes His authority!

⁹ **"...For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is no one like Me,
¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times things which have not been done,
Saying, 'My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';**

Then, in verse 11, He continues:

**Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass.
I have planned it, surely I will do it.**

So, let's take these remarkable disclosures from the Lord one step further. Let's ask the daring question: "why does the LORD tell us what will happen in the future?" To answer that question, let's look at 2nd Peter 3:1-9: "This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ² that **you should remember the words spoken beforehand** by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles. ³ Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." ⁵ For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, ⁶ through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. ⁷ But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. ⁸ But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. ⁹ **The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to**

come to repentance." Do you believe that isn't a requirement of faith...to repent? Jesus Himself says it is. We read in Matthew 4:17b "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Setting aside the realization that YOU might have been one of the mockers following after your own lusts prior to the rapture, did you catch that? The Lord is **PATIENT** towards you, not wishing for **YOU to perish but to come to repentance and true faith in Jesus Christ**. So, the point of Bible Prophecy is to establish **WHO is the TRUE GOD** (capital G) of this world. The enemy hates God, so he has set forth many false religions that distract, misdirect, and mischaracterizes the truth of the Bible. These include Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Atheism, Humanism, New Age, and more...but especially the "one-world religion" loosely based on universal salvation for anyone that is "good or does good works." Perhaps this new religion will be headed by a reconfiguration of the Roman Catholic Church or something similar. I mention this because we see a drifting of most Church doctrine towards ecumenicalism, pantheism, and universalism...where there are many paths and many understandings of God. Truth is what you believe it to be, nothing more. Some reason that Biblical truth is just one version of truth, but there are many truths found in other religious thinking that are just as valid...just as true. **These views are categorically opposed to the Biblical Worldview.**

Many false apostles, false Churches, and false religious systems are already here and although they all appear to be different, one shocking truth unites them all: they try to usurp, impersonate, and deflect the TRUTH of God's Word. The acid test for identifying a prophet of God is recorded by Moses in Deuteronomy 18:21-22. According to this Bible passage (and others), God's prophets, as distinct from Satan's spokesmen, are 100 percent accurate in their predictions. There is no room for error! Even one error means that they are not a prophet of God. It disqualifies them immediately.

Let's walk through several examples of Bible prophecies that were predicted and then came TRUE:

(1) Some time before 500 BC, the prophet Daniel proclaimed that Israel's long-awaited Messiah would begin his public ministry 483 years after the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (Daniel 9:25-26). He further predicted that the Messiah would be "cut off," killed, and that this event would take place prior to a second destruction of Jerusalem. Abundant documentation shows that these prophecies were perfectly fulfilled in the life (and crucifixion) of Jesus Christ. The decree regarding the restoration of Jerusalem was issued by Persia's King Artaxerxes to the Hebrew priest Ezra in 458 BC, 483 years after the ministry of Jesus Christ began in Galilee.

(2) In approximately 700 BC, the prophet Micah named the tiny village of Bethlehem as the birthplace of Israel's Messiah (Micah 5:2). The fulfillment of this prophecy in the birth of Christ is one of the most widely known and widely celebrated facts in history.

(3) In the fifth century BC, a prophet named Zechariah declared that the Messiah would be betrayed for the price of a slave—thirty pieces of silver, according to Jewish law—and also that this money would be used to buy a burial ground for Jerusalem's poor foreigners (Zechariah 11:12-13). Bible writers record thirty pieces of silver as the sum paid to Judas Iscariot for betraying Jesus, and they indicate that the money went to purchase a "potter's field," used—just as predicted—for the burial of the poor (Matthew 27:3-10).

(4) Some 400 years before crucifixion was even invented, both Israel's King David and the prophet Zechariah described the Messiah's death in words that perfectly depict that mode of execution. Do you understand what that means? They could not have known such details about the Roman method of execution Jesus would endure for us. Further, they said that the body would be pierced and that none of the bones would be broken, contrary to customary procedure in cases of crucifixion (Psalm 22 and 34:20; Zechariah 12:10). Again, historians and New Testament writers confirm the fulfillment: Jesus of Nazareth died on a Roman cross, and his extraordinarily quick death eliminated the need for the usual breaking of bones. A spear was thrust into his side to verify that he was, indeed, dead.

(5) The prophet Isaiah foretold that a conqueror named Cyrus would destroy seemingly impregnable Babylon and subdue Egypt along with most of the rest of the known world. This same man, said Isaiah, would decide to let the Jewish exiles in his territory go free without any payment of ransom (Isaiah 44:28; 45:1; and 45:13). Isaiah made this prophecy 150 years before Cyrus was born, 180 years before Cyrus performed any of these well documented historical feats (and he did, eventually, perform them all), and 80 years before the Jews were even taken into exile to begin with.

(6) Jahaziel prophesied that King Jehoshaphat and a tiny band of men would defeat an enormous, well-equipped, well-trained army without even having to fight. Just as predicted, the King and his troops stood looking on as their foes were supernaturally destroyed to the last man (2 Chronicles 20).

(7) The very rapture event you have recently witnessed is now a **FULFILLED PROPHETIC EVENT**. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 we read: "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of [the] archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the **dead in Christ will rise first**.¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words." Speaking about our transformation, it says in 1 Corinthians 15:50-52 "Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. It is worth noting that those of you that were left behind on the earth may not have heard this trumpet call...it is very likely that only those that were raptured heard it. So, don't be confused if you did not hear a trumpet call.

You've now seen that those who had previously died in Christ were resurrected out of their graves; you've seen those that are born again instantaneously rescued from this Earth in an event called the Rapture; and depending on how far you find yourself in the months or years since the signing of a peace covenant between the Antichrist and Israel, you will also begin seeing for yourself the terrible seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments that will plainly reveal the WRATH OF GOD AGAINST AN UNBELIEVING WORLD!

So, who can afford to ignore what the Bible says will happen? It's perfect track record stands for all time as a witness to YOU! Listen, friend, you cannot get distracted by the world system and its ways. You will see that all of the prophesied events unfolding in the books of Daniel, Ezekiel, and especially Revelation are true. You can't just pretend these coming events aren't real, nor miss out on the immeasurable blessings offered to anyone (and everyone) who submits to the Lordship Jesus Christ.

Would a reasonable person take lightly God's warning of judgment for those who reject what they know to be true about Jesus Christ and the Bible? God's reality is the actual **TRUE REALITY**, not what you (or anyone else) conjures up in your own head. Never reject God's claim on your life! It is foolishness to pretend "another reality". That is a self-delusion leading to everlasting separation from the ONE that Created you; the very ONE that offered you REDEMPTION. Don't turn your back on the Lord but see your profound need for forgiveness and call out to Him right now. Don't be like the Church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:17 that had deluded themselves into stating "...I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing..." but Jesus gives them a wake-up call when He says in reply: "...and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked..." Wow.

Given that the Bible proves so reliable a document, there is every reason to expect that the remaining 500 prophecies, those slated for the "time of the end," also will be fulfilled to the last letter. You, Brothers and Sisters, have already witnessed an acceleration of Bible prophecy being fulfilled RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES! It will go very fast now. You will see event after event come to pass, just as the Bible said it would. This should comfort and greatly encourage you! To help you understand the timeline of events you will see, there is a "Bible Prophecy Timeline" PDF document authored by Charlie Campbell in this Rapture Kit resource that will help you get these events straight.

With the perfect track record of Bible Prophecy proven, we will now go to our next teaching **WHAT WILL HAPPEN** because it will show you some impending Bible Prophecies that have either already been fulfilled to the letter since the rapture or that are about to be fulfilled in the days, months, and years ahead. I pray you will listen very closely. Let's move on together.