

## **STUDY THE BIBLE 2 (STB 2)**

### **“PROPHECY: WHY YOU CAN BELIEVE THE BIBLE”**

Every religion in the world says that they are right and other religions are wrong. How do we know which one is right? Just because you were born into a certain religion does not prove that religion to be the right one, even though you may want it to be.

God challenges all other religions, that claim to be the truth, to prove that if they are from God, they would be able to predict the future. None of us can correctly predict the future on every guess. **Can you tell the future?** Do you know what will happen tomorrow or next week?

The Bible is the only book in the world that correctly predicts the future hundreds of times without making any mistakes. No other book does this. The Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim writings have **no** cases of clearly fulfilled prophecies. This proves they are **not** from God. Any man can write a book with moral teachings. Only God can write a book that always correctly tells the future, **100% of the time**, and **hundreds of years before it happens**, as the Bible does.

#### **THREE TESTS TO PROVE THAT A PROPHECY IS FROM GOD**

1. The prediction **must come true**
2. The prophecy must be given **far enough before** the predicted event, to exclude human guesswork.
3. The prophecy is to **be exact**, and must not be vague, uncertain or have several explanations.

#### **IF THE ABOVE THREE TESTS CAN BE MET, IT PROVES ...**

1. **God's existence**, as the infinitely superior mind and intelligence, behind the Bible
2. The Bible is God's **inspired** word and **without error**
3. **Jesus Christ is God** that came in the flesh, as predicted in the Old Testament
4. All other **Bible doctrines are true**.

#### **THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE**

In **712BC**, **Cyrus**, king of Persia, was **predicted by name** and **what he would do**, in that he would **build the Temple** at Jerusalem.

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*"That saith of **Cyrus**, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my (God) pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and **to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid** ...Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to **Cyrus** ... **I (God) have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me (God).**" Isaiah 45:1-4 Isaiah (44:28; 45:1,4)*

Now, **148 years later**, in **536BC**, this is what **exactly** happened, the foundation of the temple was laid.

### **ISRAEL BECOMES A MODERN NATION**

In **1406 BC**, God said he would "... **scatter you (Israel) among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen ...**" (Deuteronomy 4:27)

And again "And the LORD shall **scatter thee (Israel) among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other...**" (Deuteronomy 28:64)

In **1948 AD** Israel was made an official State in the world by the United Nations. "For I will take you from among the heathen, and **gather you (Israel) out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.**" (Ezekiel 36:24). There is a gap of **3,354 years** between the prophecy in 1406BC and 1948AD.

### **A FEW PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

<b>PROPHECY</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>	<b>TIME GAP</b>
1. Born of a virgin	Genesis 3:15 Isaiah 7:14	Romans 16:20 Matthew 1:18	<b>4,000 years ago</b> <b>760 years ago</b>
2. Tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:33	<b>1640 years ago</b>
3. House of David	Jeremiah 23:5	Matthew 1:1	<b>600 years ago</b>
4. Born at Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1	<b>730 years ago</b>
5. Visited by wise men with gifts	Isaiah 60:3,6,9	Matthew 2:7,11	<b>760 years ago</b>

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6. Would be in Egypt for a time	Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:19	<b>750 years ago</b>
7. Infants killed at his birthplace	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16	<b>600 years ago</b>
8. Preceded by a messenger	Isaiah 40:3	Matthew 3:1	<b>760 years ago</b>
9. Ministry to begin in Galilee	Isaiah 9:1	Matthew 4:23	<b>760 years ago</b>
10. Perform miracles	Isaiah 35:5,6	Acts 2:22	<b>760 years ago</b>
11. Teach parables	Psalms 78:2	Matthew 13:13	<b>990 years ago</b>
12. Heal many	Isaiah 53:4	Luke 4:18	<b>760 years ago</b>
13. His miracles not believed	Isaiah 53:1	Mark 6:3-4	<b>760 years ago</b>
14. Prays for enemies	Psalms 109:4	Luke 23:34	<b>990 years ago</b>
15. Enter Jerusalem on a donkey	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:5	<b>518 years ago</b>
15. Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15	<b>518 years ago</b>
16. Hated without a cause	Psalms 69:4	John 15:23-25	<b>990 years ago</b>
17. Died for the sins of others	Isaiah 53:4-5	Romans 4:25	<b>760 years ago</b>
18. Money thrown on Temple floor	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:5	<b>518 years ago</b>
19. Money buys potter's field	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:7	<b>518 years ago</b>
20. Forsaken by his disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Matthew 26:56	<b>518 years ago</b>
21. False witnesses accuse him	Psalms 35:11	Matthew 26:60-61	<b>990 years ago</b>
22. Silent before his accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 26:63	<b>760 years ago</b>
23. Be scourged and spat upon	Isaiah 50:6	Mark 14:65	<b>760 years ago</b>
24. Crucified between two thieves	Isaiah 53:12	Mark 15:27-28	<b>760 years ago</b>
25. Hands and feet pierced	Psalms 22:16	John 20:27	<b>990 years ago</b>

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26. His side pierced	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34	<b>518 years ago</b>
27. Given vinegar to drink	Psalms 69:21	John 19:29	<b>990 years ago</b>
28. Garments gambled for	Psalms 22:18	Matthew 27:35	<b>990 years ago</b>
29. No bones broken	Psalms 34:20	John 19:34	<b>990 years ago</b>
30. His forsaken cry	Psalms 22:1	Matthew 27:46	<b>990 years ago</b>
31. Darkness over land from noon	Amos 8:9	Matthew 27:45	<b>800 years ago</b>
32. Buried in a rich man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60	<b>760 years ago</b>
33. Raised from the dead	Psalms 16:10	Luke 24:36- 48	<b>990 years ago</b>
34. Ascend into heaven	Psalms 24:7- 10	Luke 24:50- 51	<b>990 years ago</b>
35. Gentiles believe on him	Isaiah 60:3	Romans 9:25	<b>760 years ago</b>
36. Messiah would offer himself as Prince and king to Israel	Daniel 9:25	Matthew 21:5	<b>590 years ago</b>
37. Temple & Jerusalem destroyed	Daniel 9:26	Fulfilled 70AD	<b>590 years ago</b>

**Dr Peter Stoner**, a professor of statistical probability, says that the odds of one man fulfilling all prophecies exactly as they are prophesied in the Bible, is  $10^{157}$ . Now 10 to the 50<sup>th</sup> power is written  $10^{50}$ , and is considered to be zero, as the probability of any event taking place, that is greater than  $10^{50}$  can't happen, as the total number of electrons in the known universe is only  $10^{50}$ .

Also, there are also hundreds of other prophecies in the Bible regarding other men, places, times and events. **One third of the Bible is prophecy.** Not one prediction has failed. All have been correctly fulfilled. This proves that the author of the Bible is God, not of man or men. **Only God alone knows the future.**

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From the table above, we see that the Bible has predicted hundreds of years ago, that God would send His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. It all happened as God said to the **very exact detail**. So we can thank and praise God for the Bible. It is **100% true** and it tells the future with **100% accuracy**. God cannot lie. Your friends might lie, but the Bible says God cannot lie. The scriptures say "*And now, **O Lord GOD, thou art that God, and thy words be true** ... (2 Samuel 7:28)*". In the New Testament, we have "*...hope of eternal life, **which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began***" (Titus 1:2)

The **THREE TESTS** prove the predictions **have come true**, having been given **far enough before** the predicted event, and have been **exact**. Therefore, **God exists**, the King James Bible is **inspired** and **without error**; that **Jesus Christ is God**, and all other **Bible doctrines are true**.

So what's the point for you today? Well, there are two groups of prophecies – the **past** ones that have been fulfilled and the **future** ones, **yet to be fulfilled**. As the Bible has been proven to be 100% accurate so far, then you can be absolutely 100% sure about the prophecies yet to be fulfilled. Very shortly, Jesus Christ will return for the Christians at the rapture. As the Bible says "***For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.***" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

Dear Reader, you want to be in this number. You just don't want to miss it. Why? The seven years after that, will have God pouring his wrath out upon the earth. Read about it in the Book of Revelation and indeed Matthew chapter 23-24. **THESE FORETOLD EVENTS ARE NOT FAIRY TALES**. They will be actual events that have been prophesied and **WILL BE FULFILLED TO THE LETTER**.

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