
Prophecy Proves the Bible and Jesus

What are prophets?

- **FUTURE** tellers
- Divine **SPOKESMEN**
- Covenant **WATCHDOGS**

Why have future telling prophecies?

RECOGNITION not **PRE-COGNITION**

- Lots of false **MESSIAHS** needed to be **OUTED**
- **VALIDATE** the messages of Jesus
- Provide **BOLSTERING** of faith for His followers
- Ensure that **JESUS** was worshiped as the **MESSIAH**
- Reminds us this story is **TRUE**
not just **SPIRITUALLY** true
- Provides **PEACE** that God is
in **CONTROL** of the **FUTURE**
- Provides **EVIDENCE** that the Bible can be **TRUSTED**

Some examples of prophecy foretold and fulfilled:

What does prophecy tell us about the heart of God?

- God **WANTS** to be **FOUND**
- Jesus' **OBEDIENCE** to prophecy shows His **LOVE** for us
- God's **SOVEREIGNTY** gives us **PEACE**
- It **GALVANIZES** our faith to know that it's true

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Food for Thought for the week of November 24, 2019

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. One of the benefits of studying fulfilled prophecy is the confidence it gives us in God's sovereignty, the truth that He's in control and nothing happens outside of His influence and authority. What can you learn about God's sovereignty from His words to the Israelites in Isaiah 46:3-11?

Isaiah 46:3-11 New International Version (NIV)

³“Listen to me, you descendants of Jacob,
all the remnant of the people of Israel,
you whom I have upheld since your birth,
and have carried since you were born.
⁴Even to your old age and gray hairs
I am he, I am he who will sustain you.
I have made you and I will carry you;
I will sustain you and I will rescue you.
⁵“With whom will you compare me or count me equal?
To whom will you liken me that we may be compared?
⁶Some pour out gold from their bags
and weigh out silver on the scales;
they hire a goldsmith to make it into a god,
and they bow down and worship it.
⁷They lift it to their shoulders and carry it;
they set it up in its place, and there it stands.
From that spot it cannot move.
Even though someone cries out to it, it cannot answer;
it cannot save them from their troubles.
⁸“Remember this, keep it in mind,
take it to heart, you rebels.
⁹Remember the former things, those of long ago;
I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me.
¹⁰I 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.’
¹¹From the east I summon a bird of prey;
from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose.
What I have said, that I will bring about;
what I have planned, that I will do.

Can you think of any examples of how knowing about God's sovereignty has helped you in the midst of a tough season?

Trials, challenges and opposition give us opportunities to trust God's sovereignty and face things with confidence. Are there any areas in which you are struggling to see God's sovereignty?

If so, what could help you gain a clearer picture of God's knowledge and control of your circumstances?

2. During His arrest, Jesus asked His captors a rhetorical question about if He was leading an earthly rebellion. While it was true He wasn't leading an earthly rebellion, He was actively working on a spiritual rebellion that would eventually usher in the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. What do we learn about this spiritual rebellion, the kingdom that would be set up by it, and our part in both of them from the following passages?

Matthew 13:44-46 New International Version (NIV)

The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:47-50 New International Version (NIV)

The Parable of the Net

⁴⁷ "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 28:18-20 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

3. Thanksgiving week is a good time to slow our pace for a bit and thank God for all He has done for us. Read through Psalm 145 and jot down all that comes to mind that you are thankful for based on who God is and what He has done for you. Now take some time and think specifically of what you can thank God for in regard to family, friends, co-workers, opportunities and possessions.

Psalm 145 New International Version (NIV)

A psalm of praise. Of David.

¹ I will exalt you, my God the King;

I will praise your name for ever and ever.

² Every day I will praise you

and extol your name for ever and ever.

³ Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

his greatness no one can fathom.

⁴ One generation commends your works to another;

they tell of your mighty acts.

⁵ They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—

and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

⁶ They tell of the power of your awesome works—

and I will proclaim your great deeds.
⁷They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
⁸The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
⁹The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.
¹⁰All your works praise you, Lord;
your faithful people extol you.
¹¹They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
¹²so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.
The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.
¹⁴The Lord upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.
¹⁵The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.
¹⁶You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
¹⁷The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.
¹⁸The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
¹⁹He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.
²⁰The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
²¹My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.
Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever.