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The Divine Marvel of Israel In Prophecy Selected Scriptures

People are always attempting to disprove the Bible, due to their unbelief, yet the strongest proof of the divine origin of the Bible is prophecy, the predicting of future things!

* There is a book entitled, “Eye to Eye”, by William Koenig about facing the consequences of dividing the land of Israel and reveals the horrific consequences of natural, national or financial disasters connected as he catalogues them to leaders and nations throughout history for attempting to divide the land of Israel into two states, including the meddling from Ex-president George H. W. Bush up to President Donald J. Trump.

* God’s word is true, reliable and eternal!

Before we look into the prophecy of Jeremiah fulfilled by Cyrus in the book of Ezra we want to understand what the Bible declares about prophecy and Israel through a three-fold lens.

- I. The nature of prophecy.
- II. The precise details of prophecy.
- III. The odds of the accuracy of prophecy.

I. The nature of prophecy.

A. Prophecy is defined as God’s divine revelation of future things.

1. Prophecy is a prediction, an “announcement, general of specific regarding the future”.
2. Prophecy is a miracle of knowledge. a declaration or representation of something future before it happens with certainty that it will happen.
3. Prophecy is beyond the power of human ability to discern or calculate in any way, shape or form.
 - * God says, “Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the **end** from the **beginning**, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’” Is. 46:9-10
4. The Bible is generally said to contain about 25% of its contents in reference to prophecy, which is not far from its actual percentage.
 - a. Of the 23,210 Old Testament verses, 6,641 are predictive material or 28 ½%.
 - b. Of the 7,914 New Testament verses, 1,711 are predictive material or 21 ½%.
 - c. Therefore for the 31,124 verses in the entire Bible, 8,352 are predictive material, or 27 % of the whole.

B. Prophecy like the entire Bible is the revelation of God.

1. Revelation is the acts of God whereby He makes Himself and truth known at special times and to specific people.
2. The Bible has general revelation.
 - a. Creation.
 - b. Conscience.
 - c. History.
 - * Rom. 1:19-21; 2:14-15
3. The Bible has special revelation.
 - a. In the Old Testament by theophanies, miracles and prophecy. Ex. 3:2-5
 - b. In the New Testament by His Son Jesus Christ. Heb. 1:1-2; Rom. 1:16-17
 - c. The fool has said in his heart, no God. Ps. 14:1
4. The Bible is the Inspired word of God.
 - a. Inspiration is the supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit upon divinely chosen men in consequence of which their writings became trustworthy and authoritative. (Bakers Dict. of Theol.)
 - b. Inspiration deals with the recording of God's truth making it infallible and inerrant, not only in things pertaining to life and practice but history, archaeology and science, unlike the theories of man.
 - c. Inspiration claims divine source and authority.
 - 1) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. 2Tim. 3:16-17
 - a) The word "theo" means is God.

- b) The word "pneusto" means breathed.
 - * Literally expired out of God!
- 2) The Scriptures are ex-pired, out of God as holy men were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2Pet. 1:19-21
 - a) They did not speak of their own impulse, not sourced in human origin.
 - b) They were carried along and enabled by the Holy Spirit.
 - c) Called "plenary verbal Inspiration".

4. The Bible is the Word of God and declares it in the Old Testament over 3800 times, like:
 - a. "Thus said the Lord".
 - b. "The word of the Lord came to me".
 - c. "The Lord said write".
 - d. "The Spirit of the Lord came upon me".
 - e. "I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say". Ex. 4:12
5. The Lord Jesus believed the Bible, the Old Testament was and is the word of God.
 - a. Jesus never doubted or implied manuscript error. (Original manuscripts)
 - b. Jesus Spoke of Noah and the judgment by the flood as real.
 - c. Jesus spoke of creation, Adam and Eve.
 - d. Jesus mentioned Cain and Abel.
 - e. Jesus referred to Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - f. Jesus quoted Moses, Isaiah, Daniel.
 - g. Jesus referred to Scripture as prophecy.

h. Jesus excepted the Old Testament as historical and literal, including prophecy and declared, “For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law, till all is fulfilled”, the smallest letter or the smallest stroke above the letter. Matt. 5:18

C. Prophecy was communicated to and through a human instrument by Divine revelation.

- 1.** The man was called a prophet “nabiy” it means a spokesman, speaker or announcer and also a seer “ra’ ah” or “chozeh”, to perceive or have visions or dreams.
 - a.** The word prophet appears 159 times in the Old Testament, 69 times in the New.
 - b.** The word “seer” appears 21 times in the Old Testament, none in the New, we will confine ourselves to the term “prophet”.
- 2.** The word prophet appears in the Old Testament for the first time as Abraham lied to Abimelech that Sara was his sister so she was taken into his harem, so God warned him, “Now therefore, restore the man’s wife; for he is a **prophet**, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.” Gen. 20:7
- 3.** The word prophet appears in the Old Testament the second time when God

commissioned Moses to go speak to Pharaoh, but he kept making excuses, “So the LORD said to Moses: “See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your **prophet**.” Ex. 7:1

- 4.** The last appearance of the word prophet in the Old Testament is to Elijah the prophet, “Behold, I will send you Elijah the **prophet** Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.” Mal. 4:5
 - a.** The prophecy is a two-fold prophecy that is common to the Old Testament.
 - 1)** Short-term it was fulfilled by John the Baptist, as he came in the power and spirit of Elijah. Lk. 1:17
 - 2)** Long-term Elijah will come as one of the two witnesses in the Tribulation period. Rev. 11
 - b.** There are many two-fold prophecies in the Scriptures.
 - 1)** The promise to David that Solomon sit on the throne, long-term the Messiah through David’s line. 2Sam. 7:12-15
 - 2)** The prophecy of First and Second Coming, short-term and long-term. Zech. 9:9-10
- 5.** The first time the word prophet appears in the New Testament is in fulfillment of the prophecy of the prophet Isaiah regarding the conception of the Messiah through a virgin, “So all this was done that it might be

fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the **prophet**, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” Is. 7:14; Matt. 1:22-23

* But it was first prophesied to Adam and Eve, the Seed of the woman. Gen. 3:15

6. The second time the word prophet appears in the New Testament is also in Matthew refers to the birth place of the Messiah, quoting Micah, “So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the **prophet**. ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’” Matt. 2:5-6; Mic. 5:2
 - a. There are many direct quotations of fulfilled Scripture and allusions to the Old Testament, some say 67-96 about the mission, ministry and Jesus being Messiah as Matthew wrote to the “Jews”.
 - b. The key phrases that appear to direct prophecies in Matthew are, “that it might be fulfilled” 14 times and “it is written” 6 times. Jesus is the highest authority, “you have heard it said, but I say to you”.
6. The last time the word “prophet” appears in the New Testament is in the Revelation, “The devil, who deceived them, was cast

into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false **prophet** are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Rev. 20:10

- a. The trinity of darkness, Satan, the false prophet and the Anti-Christ.
- b. The prophecy context is their eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire.

The nature of prophecy being divine is indisputable!

II. The precise details of prophecy.

- A. The prophetic predictions about the nation of Israel.
 1. That God would make a nation of one man Abraham. Gen. 12:1-3
 2. That God could not give the land till 430 year, so would put his people in Egypt to increase and bring the nation out with great wealth giving them the land. Gen. 15:13-14
 3. That God would deliver his nation from Egypt through Moses. Ex. 3-4
 4. That God would give the nation the land, but they would corrupt themselves. Deut. 31:29
 5. That God would judge the nation and divide the kingdom of David. 1Kings 11:29-31
 6. That God would judge the nation and put them in captivity, Assyria and Babylon. 2Kings 17:5-6; Jer. 25:12

7. That God would bring them back as a nation to the land after 70 years as Ezra declared was fulfilled. Ezra 1:1-4; Jer. 29:10
8. That the Messiah would be sent to the nation, but they would reject Him. Is. 53:3
9. That Jesus wept over Jerusalem declaring God's judgment over the nation by Titus in 70 A.D. and the next time they would see Him would be at His Second Coming, "See! Your house is left to you desolate; "for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" Matt. 23:38-39

B. The prophetic prediction about men and governments.

1. God revealed the "Time of the Gentiles" to Nebuchadnazzar. Dan. 2; 7
2. God revealed Cyrus by name 150 years before his birth to conquer Babylon to allow Israel to return to the land to build the Temple in city of Jerusalem. Is. 44:28; 2Chron. 26:22-23; Ezra 1:2
3. God revealed the starting date for the count-down for the First Coming of Messiah, March 14, 445 B.C. when Nehemiah was commissioned by Artaxerxes to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in troublesome times. Dan. 9:24-26; Neh. 2:1-8
4. God revealed the division of the kingdom of Alexander the Great to his four Generals,

Cassander took Macedonia, Lysemachus Thrace and Bythinia, Seleucus Syria, Ptolemy took Egypt. Dan. 7:6, 8:8; 11:1-15

5. The book of Revelation reveals the Anti-Christ's government from the Old Testament.
 - a. Out of the 404 verses in Revelation 278 verses are from the Old Testament.
 - b. There are 500 references or allusions to the Old Testament in Revelation.
 - c. The book of Revelation refers to the books of Genesis, Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Joel and Zehciah, etc.

C. The prophetic predictions fulfilled at the First Coming of Jesus.

- * Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies in His First Coming!
1. Born of a virgin. Is. 7:14
 2. Born in Bethlehem. Mic. 5:2
 3. The slaughter of the children in attempt to kill Jesus by Herod. Jer. 31:15
 4. Jesus was called out of Egypt. Hos. 11:1
 5. Jesus was anointed with the Spirit. Is. 11:2
 6. Jesus entry to Jerusalem. Zech. 9:9
 7. Jesus was betrayed by a friend, Judas Ischariot. Ps. 41:9; 55:12-14
 8. Jesus would be forsaken by the disciples. Zech. 13:7
 9. Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver. Zech. 11:12

10. A potters field would be bought with the money. Zech. 11:13
11. He would be spat on and scourged. Is. 50:6
12. Not a bone would be broken of Jesus. Ex. 12:46; Ps. 34:20
13. Jesus would be given gull and vinager at the cross. Ps. 69:21
14. Jesus' hands and feet would be pierced and His garment parted by lots cast. Ps. 22
15. The poverty, suffering, patience and death of Jesus on the cross is declared. Is. 53

D. The prophetic prediction of certain events.

1. The First Coming fulfilled. Matt. 1:23; 3:1-3, 16-17; Lk. 1:40-44; 2:25-38
2. The church age. Matt. 13; Eph. 1:19; 3:2, 9
3. Rapture of the church. Lk. 21:36; 1Cor. 15:49, 51-53; 1Thess. 4:16-17; Tit. 2:13
4. The Bema-Seat of Christ to reward saints. Rom. 14:10; 1Cor. 3:12-15; 2Cor. 5:10
5. The Tribulation and Great-Tribulation of seven years, the Day of the LORD. Matt. 24, Mk. 13, Lk. 21; Rev. 6-18
6. The building of the Temple in the middle of the Tribulation. Dan. 12:11; Matt. 24:15; 2Thess. 2:4
7. The Second Coming. Matt. 24:30; Lk. 21:27; Jn. 14:2-3, 28; 2Pet. 3:9; Heb. 9:28; 10:23, 25, 37; Ja. 5:8; Rev. 1:7, 19:11-21
8. The re-gathering of the Jewish remnant and the wife of God reconciles to Him. Is. 43:5-

7; Jer. 23:3-6; Ezk. 34:11-13; 39:28-29; Amos 9:15; Ezk. 34:28; 36:11-12, 24-28; 37:23-27; Zech. 12:10-14

9. The judgment of the twelve tribes of Israel by the twelve apostles. Lk. 22:30
 10. The judgment of the nations on how they treated Jews in the Tribulation. Matt. 24:32
 11. The Millennial Kingdom for Israel. Is. 11; Ezk. 24:35; Hos. 2:18; Rev. 20:1-7
 12. The binding of Satan for 1,000 years to not deceive the nations. Rev. 20:1-3
 13. The White Throne judgment for all unbeliever. Rev. 20:11-15
 14. The New heaven and earth with the heavenly Jerusalem, eternity. Rev. 21-22
- E.** The prophetic predictions can be misinterpreted by spiritualizing or using verses out of context.
1. An example is the text in Hosea about the nation of Israel, "After **two days** He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight." Hos. 6:2
 - a. Notice the prophecy has three factors, the first "after two days He will revive us."
 - b. The second, "the third day He will raise us up."
 - c. Third, "that we may live in His sight."
 2. Some people use Peter to interpret this prophecy erroneously, "But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one

day is as a **thousand years**, and a **thousand years** as one day.” 2Pet. 3:8

- a. The text in Peter is simply saying God lives in the eternal time zone.
 - b. The text it is not an interpretive formula to interpret prophecy!
 - c. Having been about 2,000 years since the First Coming and the scattering of Israel until 1948, some interpret the first factor, “two day He will revive us” to indicate the fulfillment of Israel return to the land of Israel in about 2,000 years, in May 14, 1948 instead of proper ones.
3. When in reality the context of “the two days” has to do with the two captivities, Assyrian and Babylon.
- a. Notice again the three important factors.
 - 1) “after two days He will revive us.”
 - 2) “the third day He will raise us up.”
 - 3) “that we may live in His sight.”
 - b. All three factors indicate the spiritual revived and restored remnant of Israel after their return from Petra to live in the Millennium with Jesus, after His Second Coming. Is. 16:1-4; 63:1-3; Ezk. 35-37
 - 1) The prophecy of Ezekiel is two-fold, the physical restoration to the land and the spiritual restoration to God.
 - a) The physical restoration to the land of Israel. Ezk. 36:1-15

- b) The spiritual restoration in view of the holiness of God. Ezk. 36:16-38
 - 2) The illustration of the nation of Israel to be restored to the land, the vision of the Valley of dry bones. Ezk. 37:1-8
 - 3) The regeneration of the nation of Israel is being restored to Jesus their Messiah. Ezk. 37:9-14
4. Israel will enter the Kingdom and be one with her Messiah, “Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.” Hos. 6:3
- a. Israel will receive all her promises, blessings and boundaries of the land, fulfilled at the Kingdom Age, and the Gentiles will serve the Jew.
 - b. “I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, And you shall know the LORD.” Hos. 2:20
 - c. “All your children *shall be* taught by the LORD, And great *shall be* the peace of your children.” Is. 54:13
 - d. “Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I *am* the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.” Jer. 24:7
 - e. “Many nations shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain

of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.” Mic. 4:2

The precise details of prophecy are undeniable!

III. The odds of the accuracy of prophecy.

- A.** The prophecy of Tyre. Ezk. 26:3-5, 7, 12, 14, 16 (written 590 B.C.)
- 1.** This prophecy predicts the destruction of Tyre and states seven definite things which shall take place:
 - a.** Nebuchadnezzar shall take the city of Tyre.
 - b.** Other nations are to participate in the fulfillment of the prophecy. (Fig 7)
 - c.** The city is to be made flat like the top of a rock.
 - d.** It is to become a place for spreading of nets.
 - e.** Its stones and timber are to be laid in the sea.
 - f.** Other cities are to fear greatly at the fall of Tyre.
 - g.** The old city of Tyre shall never be rebuilt.
 - 2.** Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Tyre in 586 B.C.

- a.** It took Nebuchadnezzar thirteen years to conquer the city of Tyre, 586-573 B.C.
 - b.** During the long siege the city kept getting re-supplied from the sea by her Phoenician navy.
 - c.** Throughout the thirteen years the Phoenicians had transferred everything of value from the inland city to the Island city, half mile out, when Nebuchadnezzar took the city he profited nothing for all wealth and resources had been removed, he took nothing, no spoils of war.
 - d.** Ezekiel prophesied of Nebuchadnezzar's frustrated failure of Tyre and God gave the land of Egypt to him. Ezk. 29:17-20
 - f.** Tyre remained as Nebuchadnezzar had left it for 241 years.
- 3.** Alexander the Great laid siege to Tyre in 322 B.C.
- a.** As Alexander began his great conquest against Persia, which is modern day Iran, he feared the Phoenicians might attack Greece, so he moved south to take Tyre.
 - b.** He was unable to take the city, so he captured other coastal cities and took over their fleets to attack the Island city, but his combined effort failed.
 - c.** Alexander then decided to use all the material of the city Tyre on the mainland that Nebuchadnezzar had seized to build a causeway out to the Island.

- d. The material was insufficient, so he scrapped up all the soil in and around the old city, as a flat rock, as predicted to complete the causeway. Ezk. 26:4, 12, 14
 - e. He took Tyre after seven months by a combined attack of the land forces marching in over the causeway and the fleets by water.
 - f. The cities around were so frightened by the conquest of Tyre that all opened their gates to Alexander without opposition, just as the prophecy stated. Ezk. 26:16
 - g. The city became a place for fishermen to dry their nets, exactly as the prophecy, even to the present, it is a very popular place for fishermen. Ezk. 26:14
 - h. The original city of Tyre has never been rebuilt, it is not even know where exactly it stood, that is how clean Alexander the Great scraped the entire area. Ezk. 26:14, 20, 21
 - i. There does flow a spring of water that engineers measured and found to be yield about 10,000,000 million gallons daily, that could supply a large population, but no one has ever build a city there since.
4. What are the chance of all these particulars in the prophecy of Ezekiel coming to pass. Ezk. 26
- a. Dr. Stoner in his book “Science Speaks” on page 70-80 estimated the chances of

Ezekiel having spoken this prophecy from his own knowledge and having it all come to pass is 1 in $3 \times 5 \times 500 \times 10 \times 5 \times 20$.

- b. This is 1 in 75,000,000 (million) or 1 in 7.5×10 to the 7th power.
 - c. If Ezekiel had looked at Tyre in his day and had made these seven prediction in human wisdom, these estimates mean that there would have been only one chance in 75,000,000 (million) of them all coming true.
- B.** The prophecy of Samaria. Micah 1:6 (written 750 B.C.)
1. This prophecy makes the following five predictions:
 - a. Samaria shall be destroyed.
 - b. It shall become as a heap of the field.
 - c. Vineyards are to occupy its site.
 - d. Its stones shall be poured down the sides of the bill on which it stands.
 - e. Its foundation is to be dug up.
 2. Samaria was still a prominent city 750 years later in the time of Christ and mentioned often in the New Testament. The city was finally destroyed, and became a heap of stones and ruins. Gradually the hill has been cleared; the foundation stones and other rubbish taken to the edge of the hill, and

rolled down into the valley. It is now covered with gardens and vineyards.

3. Then Dr. Stoner's students considered the following factors:
 - a. What chance had Micah of predicting the destruction of the great walled city of Samaria, which was greatly protected by its position on a hill? The estimate was set at one in four.
 - b. What was the chance that it should then lie as a heap of the field, instead of being rebuilt? Many ancient cities are still just heaps of the field, many others have been rebuilt, so the estimate was given, 1 in 5.
 - c. What chance was there that it should become a garden spot, a place for vineyards? What is the chance that the old site of Samaria should be cleared for gardens when much untilled land lay all around? Very few old cities were considered to occupy sites of sufficient agricultural value to clear away all the stones and debris in order to use the ground for gardens, so the estimate was set at 1 in 100.
 - d. What is the chance that the stones would be rolled down the side of the hill when the ground was cleared, instead of being piled in stacks on the hill, or used for other buildings? Estimate was 1 in 10.

- e. What is the chance that while clearing the ground for the gardens, the workers would be industrious enough to dig down and remove the foundation stones, as well as the surface debris? The estimate was placed at 1 in 2.
4. If Micah had considered the city of Samaria and made these five predictions regarding it in human wisdom, his chance of having them come true would be about 1 in $4 \times 5 \times 100 \times 10 \times 2$, 1 in 40,000 or 1 in 4×10^4 .
- C. Peter Stoner in his book *Science Speaks* takes just eight of the Messianic prophecies and said the possibility of their fulfillment 1 in 10 to the 17th power.
 1. To provide a viable comparison, he says it would be like covering the state of Texas with silver dollars, two feet deep, marking one of them, stirring them all up and then getting a blind man to go out and pick the one marked.
 2. Jesus fulfilled 300 prophecies at His First Coming.
 3. The chance of probability increases with each condition, one prophecy with just four would make it, 1 in 90 billion, 823, 680, 000.

The odds of accuracy of prophecy is irrefutable!

Illustration

A survey by Jerry Hadden “2000” was conducted, where 7,441 minister were asked, if they believed the word of God was inerrant and infallible in faith, history and secular matters?

- a. 95% of Episcopalians answered no.
- b. 87% of the Methodist answered no.
- c. 82% of he Presbyterians answered no.
- d. 77% of the American Lutherans answered no.
- e. 67% of the American Baptist answered no.

Conclusion

We hope you understand what the Bible declares about prophecy and Israel through this three-fold lens.

- I.** The nature of prophecy being divine is indisputable!
- II.** The precise details of prophecy are undeniable!
- III.** The odds of the accuracy of prophecy are irrefutable!