

PROPHECY #1: INTRO. TO REVELATION

THE BIBLE & THE ABILITY TO FORETELL THE FUTURE

INTRO.

The ability to accurately foretell the future without error is something that transcends human limitations.

- Divine revelation is required to know and foretell the future.
- The office of prophet is one of the amazing phenomena of the OT. These voices accurately foretold the 1st coming of LJC. **Alfred Edersheim** found 456 OT verses referring to the Messiah or His times. Conservatively at least 300 prophecies in His earthly ministry.
- **By one count, about 27 percent of the Bible is predictive** (Payne, J.B., *The Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy*, Baker Pub. Group, 1980 (P. 675). That means more than one in four verses is prophetic. J. B. Payne lists 1,817 prophecies in the Bible.
- At least **½ of all biblical predictions have already been fulfilled** precisely as God had declared.
- At one time **Christian Victory Publishing Company** offered a generous reward to anyone who could identify someone who fulfilled just half of the predictions concerning the Messiah, as listed in ***Messiah in Both Testaments* by Fred Meldau**. No one was able to collect the reward.
- **PETER STONER**, in the book **Science Speaks**, gave a mathematical analysis based on principles of probability in reference to 8 prophecies: The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. He would be preceded by a messenger. He was to enter Jerusalem on a donkey. He would be betrayed by a friend and his hands and feet pierced. His betrayer would be given 30 pieces of silver. The betrayal money would be thrown into the house of God and used to buy a potter's field. He would be silent before his accusers. His hands and feet would be pierced and he would die accounted among criminals.
 - The chance that any man might have fulfilled all 8 prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th power. i.e., 1 in 17 zeroes after the one. Now take 10¹⁷ silver dollars & lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state 2 feet deep. Mark one of the silver dollars & stir them thoroughly over the whole state. Blindfold a man & tell him he can travel as far as he wants, but he must pick

up the mark silver dollar. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these 8 prophecies & having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them according to their own wisdom.

- Stoner then considers a group of 48 prophecies: The chance that any one man fulfilled all 48 prophecies would be 1 in 10¹⁵⁷.
- **Acts 15:18** – *Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.* The divine predictions should be studied thoroughly & carefully, yet the prophetic scriptures are more neglected than any other portion of Scripture.

1. THE GREATEST THEME OF THE BIBLE IS THE CENTRAL THEME OF PROPHECY.

- **Revelation 19:10** – *For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*
- The whole program of God moves toward the exaltation & glory of Christ.
- **Revelation 1:1-3.** The last book of the Bible is given to Jesus Christ to be shown to His servants.
- **The Book of Revelation is the revelation of Jesus Christ.**
Everything after Revelation 3 is future (**1:19**)

2. THE BEGINNING OF THE REVELATION OF JESUS BEGAN IN GENESIS.

PROPHETIC ROAD TO THE 1ST COMING

- Gen. 3:15 – Human race, born of a virgin, the genealogies trace the seed
- Abraham
- Isaac (not Ishmael)
- Jacob (not Esau)
- Judah (only one 12 tribes)
- David
- Isa. 7:14 – Virgin birth
- Micah 5:2 – Bethlehem

PROPHETIC ROAD TO THE 2ND COMING

- **Psalm 2** – rejected, becomes a conquering King
- **Zech. 14:4** – Christ will return to earth in clouds of Heaven
- **2nd coming** = Outstanding theme of the OT & NT. 44 major predictions
 - Christ returns in the clouds of heave w/ power & great glory
 - Christ takes the throne of David & reigns forever
 - Christ comes to a world in rebellion against Jehovah & His Messiah
 - At His coming, judgment will fall upon Israel, nations, & Satan & Antichrist
 - When Christ comes nature will be released from the curse
 - Christ's coming results in Israel's repentance & salvation
 - Christ will establish His kingdom

CHRIST'S TWO COMINGS OFTEN ARE PROPHESED TOGETHER

- **Isaiah 61:1-3** – selected by Christ at synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4:18-21). *Today this scripture is fulfilled in your ears* (Luke 4:21) – refers to 1st coming.
- **Malachi 3:1** – v.1 = 1st coming. Vs. 2-3 = 2nd coming
- **Luke 1:30-33** – 1st & second coming combined

CONTRASTS BETWEEN THE 1ST & 2ND COMINGS OF CHRIST

- He came to die for our sins / He will come to reign
- Meek & lowly / Power & great glory
- Rejected of men / Will rule over men
- Provided salvation to Jews & Gentiles / Will judge Jews & Gentiles
- He resisted & judged Satan / He will bind Satan & conquer the forces of evil
I Cor. 15:25-28

We will be looking at:

- The 2nd coming of Christ: 2 aspects
- The world-wide Tribulation & wars preceding, i.e. destruction of Russia
- The Antichrist
- The 1,000-year reign of Christ
- The final judgments
- Heaven & Hell

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- The restoration of Israel