

Reliable, Part 4

A Sure Word of Prophecy

Pastor Steve Berger November 1, 2015

Today

We continue our sermon Road Map: 1) Manuscripts; 2) Archaeology and history; 3) Prophecy; 4) Statistics

Astounding reliability of Bible prophecy

*Bible skeptics are those who have **never studied the scriptures' undeniable supernatural source**, or they have an **intentional agenda to discredit it***

Foundation for Bible prophecy

- **2 Peter 1:16-21**

- For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were **eyewitnesses** of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so **we have the prophetic word confirmed**, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that **no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**

*Up to this point...Peter has been talking about some weighty, eternal, glorious matters. Now Peter is giving us a **supernatural, sure and solid reason** for us **living the life we've been called to live... Prophecy confirmed, A Sure Word of Prophecy!***

- a) being a follower of Jesus **isn't about cunningly devised fables!**
- b) **he was eyewitness** to some amazing things, voice from heaven- "this is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." He saw and heard Moses and Elijah!
- c) **more important** than his own **eyewitness testimony** is the **irrefutably sure, rock-solid prophetic word that has been confirmed and come to pass.**
- d) **you should heed this-** know it and pay attention to it, trust its reliability.
- e) **prophecy shines as light in dark place-** brings clarity, shows the way in a dark spiritual world filled with doubt and skepticism... "see I have told you beforehand."
- f) **prophecy isn't man-made-** it can't be, it's beyond our ability, it's from another dimension, from above and beyond anything we can fabricate.
- g) it comes as a result of **holy men of God speaking as the Holy Spirit moves on them** and gives them **futuristic information** from the very Presence of Eternal God!

God's role in prophecy

- **Isaiah 46:9-10**

- 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.'

**God declares the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things that are not yet done.
He's from beyond our time and space,
yet intimately involved in our world,
proves that through prophecy!**

Prophecies about Jesus

*The ancient prophets spoke of the One who would come and **save** the world from their sins, be their **Deliverer** by dying in their place and paying the price for mankind's salvation. He would be none other than **God Himself** clothed in human flesh. He was the focus and fulfillment of the entire Old Testament.*

*As Christians we absolutely know that that Person was, is and always will be Jesus who is the Christ... but **how sure can we be?** Is there a **sure word of prophecy** about Him to **solidify our position and faith?***

- a) over **300 prophecies** regarding His **first coming** to earth.
- b) what are the odds of one man fulfilling 300 prophecies that were written over 2000 years by dozens of people, in varying locations, from different walks of life?
- c) to put it plainly... It is statistically impossible for Jesus NOT to be the Christ, the long awaited Messiah of whom the prophets spoke!
- d) to give you an idea of one man fulfilling **just 8** prophecies... not the 300 He did

Micah 5:2 born in Bethlehem
Zechariah 9:9 enter on donkey
Zechariah 11:12 betrayed 30 pieces silver
Zechariah 11:13 money purchases Potter's Field
Zechariah 13:6 shows wounds
Isaiah 53:7 doesn't speak in defense
Isaiah 53:9 dies with wicked, buried with rich
Psalm 22:16 hands and feet pierced- 700 years before crucifixion was used!

In his book *Science Speaks*,¹ Peter Stoner, (*Professor Emeritus of Science at Westmont College*), estimates that based on the math, stats and probability, one man fulfilling these **8 prophecies is 10 to the 17th power...48 prophecies 10 to 15th power...imagine 300?!?!?!?**

To try and visualize 10 to the 17th power — cover the entire state of Texas, 266k sq. miles, 2- feet deep in silver dollars, mark one of them and place it among the rest. Blindfold a man, tell him to find the specially marked silver dollar. The odds of him doing so are 10 to the 17th power! Absolutely impossible!

¹ Peter Winebrenner Stoner, *Science Speaks, Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1958)

**The chance of one man fulfilling just these 8 prophecies
and NOT being the long awaited Messiah
is statistically impossible —
it is as likely as the blindfolded man finding the silver dollar.**

“Any man who rejects Christ as the Son of God is rejecting a fact, proved perhaps more absolutely than any other fact in the world.”²

Palm Sunday’s amazing prophecy

- a) Sir Robert Anderson, head of Scotland Yard, who wrote “The Coming Prince” in 1894.³
- b) in Daniel 9, Daniel is seeking God about the future of the Jewish people and Jerusalem. He understands from reading the prophecies of Jeremiah that Israel’s 70 year Babylonian captivity is about over and he’s curious about the future... so he’s seeking God...about 539BC, about 3-4 years left in 70 year Babylonian Captivity.
- c) in the middle of his prayer the angel Gabriel shows up and moves on Daniel with an **unbelievably precise, sure word of prophecy.**
- d) **Daniel 9:24-25**
"Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

Let’s unpack this amazing prophecy...

- a) 70 “weeks” are determined for Jews and Jerusalem.
- b) the word “weeks” can be “weeks of days, weeks, months or years” for Jews.
- c) “week” is period of 7 of any of these.
- d) Daniel’s weeks are weeks of years — God is saying there are 70 periods of 7 years where He is going to be doing some amazing things in regards to the Jews...

With that general backdrop, now the very specific prophecy is mentioned...

- a) **Daniel 9:25**
"Know therefore and understand,that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times."
- b) know and understand this prophecy — this is light in darkness, God speaking!
- c) from command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem **UNTIL** Messiah the prince comes...
very specific prophecy about when the Messiah would be recognized and worshipped on the world stage.

² ibid

³ Sir Robert Anderson, *The Coming Prince*, (many publishers, 1894)

d) 7 weeks and 62 weeks (or 69 weeks), 69 periods of 7 years from the time the command went out to rebuild and restore Jerusalem.

e) $69 \times 7 = 483$ years \times 360 day ancient calendar is **173,880** days from **command** to restore and rebuild Jerusalem **UNTIL** Messiah comes.

f) Nehemiah received that **command** about **100 years later** from King Artaxerxes on **March 14th, 445 BC**.

g) do math... **March 14th, 445 bc** + **173,880 days** is **April 6th, 32 AD**... so what happened that day?

Jesus, the long awaited Messiah of the world entered Jerusalem on a donkey and for the first time ever He allowed Himself to be publicly recognized and worshipped as the fulfillment of the prophesied Messiah!

They had tried to take Him prior to that day and make Him King but He refused.

a) **John 6:15**

Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

b) **John 7:30**

Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

The importance of this specific day is clearly shown in Luke 19 — sure word!!!

a) **Luke 19:37-38**

Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: "**BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!**" Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

b) **Psalm 118:26**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! (*prophetic Messianic Psalm*)

c) **Luke 19:39-40**

And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." But He answered and said to them, "**I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.**"

d) Pharisees recognize what's being said... **Jesus states importance of the day, something so amazing that if people didn't praise, stones would.**

e) **Luke 19:41-42**

Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "**If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.**"

f) Jesus emphasizes importance of "**this your day**" and the peace it was to bring them.

g) but because of their rejection it would be hidden...

Obstinate, on-going rejection of God's prophetic truth causes spiritual blindness!

h) **Luke 19:43-44**

For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.

i) **38 years later** Titus Vespasian with the 5th, 10th and 12th regiments destroyed Jerusalem as **Jesus prophesied**. 1 million slaughtered, ½ million died from famine and pestilence that resulted. Jews scattered, homeless, nationless!

j) **69 of 70 fulfilled, 1 seven-year period left... The Great Tribulation!**

Prophecies are not over — there is more — 600 years before destruction

a) **Ezekiel 36:24,34-36**

For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.' Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it." (600bc)

b) **He did... May 14th, 1948**, nearly **2000 years after destruction, 2600 years after prophecy**, in the last days. As Ezekiel prophesied, Israel again became a nation... **NOT desolate, wasted and ruined — now Garden, fortified, inhabited...** we have indeed been given a **sure word of prophecy** and we would do well to heed it, it shines like a light in dark times.

c) reading Bible prophecy today is like reading the headlines in the newspapers — the world stage is being set every day for the time the Bible says more about than any other time in history.

Now is not the time to doubt, be skeptical or discredit the validity, authority or reliability of the sacred, life-giving, prophetic scriptures!

Ezekiel 38:1-6

Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, "Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you.

Gog, Magog, Rosh, Meshech, Tubal, Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer, Togarmah- **God's 10 most wanted** = covers areas of current Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, central Asia to China, Iran, Sudan, Northern Africa — what is in common — Islam — which one day, in the last days, will gather against Israel for an incredible war... now... later... for sure... **a sure word of prophecy!**

House of Prayer

Click on "House of Prayer" on www.gracechapel.net to fill out a prayer request.

We pray for requests for one month, and at our weekly prayer meetings.

Please come join our House of Prayer, Tuesday, November 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.