



**Sermon Series:** The Coming Savior part 2

**Sermon Title:** Importance of Prophecy

**Date:** December 12, 2021

**Big Idea:** What God says, God does

**Isaiah 46: 9-10b**

The Bible is a book that tells what is going to happen in the future and what Jesus' second coming will look like – and we call that prophecy. Over ¼ of the Bible is prophecy – pre-written history. Over 75% of Biblical prophecy has been fulfilled, and about 25% still needs to happen.

Today, we will look at three influences that fulfilled biblical prophecy has

### **Fulfilled Prophecy Validates The Bible As God's Word**

Fulfilled prophecy is one of the best pieces of evidence that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. It contains hundreds of prophecies about cities, nations, empires, and individuals that were given thousands of years ago and have already been fulfilled.

In Genesis 17, God made a promise to Abraham that he would become the father of many nations and God would make an everlasting covenant with Abraham's descendants giving them everlasting possession of the land of Israel. And on May 14, 1948, after being dispersed around the world for almost 2000 years, the nation of Israel was reborn as prophesied in **Isaiah 66:8**.

In 690 B.C. God revealed to Daniel that there would be four world powers that would rise and He specified who they would be, and they came into existence and were removed just as God revealed to Daniel.

In **Isaiah 44-45**, Isaiah prophesied that a king named Cyrus would allow Jerusalem and the previously destroyed temple to be rebuilt by anyone who wished to return to Jerusalem and do this work.

Ezekiel, chapter 26 – 28 prophecies God's judgment against Tyre. This prophecy against Tyre is very specific, laying out how mainland Tyre will

be destroyed through a series of nations coming against the city – not all at once but one after another like waves hitting the shore. And between Nebuchadnezzar and Alexander the Great Tyre was destroyed just as prophesied.

Dr. Hugh Ross, an astrophysicist, calculates that the odds for all 1,817 prophecies in the Bible prophecies being fulfilled by chance, without error, is less than one in 10 to the power of 2,000 (that is 1 in 2,000 zeros written after it)!

### **Bible Prophecy Affirms Jesus As Messiah**

One reason that Old Testament prophecy is so important to Christians is that over 300 predictions, like brushstrokes of a painting, work together to form the picture of who Messiah is. Jesus revealed this to his disciples. **Luke 24:25-27**

The Messiah is to be from the line of King David (**Isaiah 11:1 & Jeremiah 23:5-6**). **Micah 5:2** we know Messiah was to be born into the tribe of Judah in the region of Ephrathah, in the town of Bethlehem. **Isaiah 7:14** says He was to be born from a virgin. When Jesus was born, King Herod tried to have him killed but didn't know where he was so tragically he had all the boys in the region two years and under killed fulfilling **Jeremiah 31:15**.

He was betrayed for thirty pieces of silver, and that money was used to buy a burial ground for Jerusalem's poor foreigners - **Zechariah 11:12-13**.

400 years before crucifixion was invented, King David and the prophet Zechariah described the Messiah's death in words that perfectly illustrate crucifixion.

### **Fulfilled Prophecy Imparts Confidence for the Future**

There are many more prophecies that will be fulfilled when Jesus comes again. And how do we know He will come again? Because He told us he would. All of the prophecies in the past were literally fulfilled just as they were given, and therefore we can have the confidence that all of the prophecies that have yet to be fulfilled will be exactly as they are given. We know Jesus will fulfill future prophecy because we know his past track record.

In the New Testament, Jesus' second coming is mentioned more than any other topic besides salvation - and we are told to wait and watch for it **Titus 2:12-13**

The main point of prophecy is to provide hope and a warning in a world where hope is needed and a warning is necessary. Jesus is coming back a second time, and it's going to be a much different appearing than his first advent.

Luke 4:16-21 gives us the account of what Jesus did at the beginning of His earthly ministry. Jesus read part of Isaiah 61, but he stopped reading halfway through the verse because that first part spoke of His mission at his first coming, but there was more that pertained to His second coming.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- Why is it that some people can look at fulfilled prophecy and still deny Jesus as Messiah?
- What benefits come from God revealing the future to us?
- Why would God scatter prophecies about Jesus throughout the Old Testament rather than have them all in one book?
- Does fulfilled biblical prophecy have any impact on you accepting the Bible as God's word?
- Are you nervous or excited about the return of Jesus? Explain
- Do you believe Jesus will return in your lifetime? Explain