

Predictive Prophecy

The presence of prophecy and its fulfillment is a powerful proof of the inspiration of the Bible. Peter tells how prophets predicted the future. "For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spoke from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21)."

One scholar has written that the Old Testament contains 333 prophecies dealing with the coming of Christ. Not only did God's spokesmen tell about the Messiah, but they also made predictions about events that were to take place in the various nations. Isaiah accurately predicted the fate of Babylon (Isa. 13). Ezekiel gave an account of the destruction of Tyre (Ez. 26). There are many other cases, but these show that men of old possessed this power of God.

It is common for someone to predict when the world will end or when some other event connected to the Bible will occur. Christ said in Mt 24:25-26: "Behold, I have told you beforehand. If therefore they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the wilderness; go not forth: Behold, he is in the inner chambers; believe (it) not." God gives a standard by which we can judge all predictions of the future: "When a prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which Jehovah has not spoken (Deut. 18:22)."

The New Testament makes very plain that no one knows when the end of the world will come except the Father. In Matt 24:36, the Lord said, "But of that day and hour knows no one, not even the angels of heaven, neither the Son, but the Father only." The day of the Lord will bring with it the complete destruction of the world and all that is in it. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up (2 Peter 3:10)."

The Bible foretells the end of prophecy. In 1 Cor.13, the apostle Paul said, "But whether *there be* prophecies, they shall be done away; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall be done away (1 Cor 13:8)". This will all happen when that which is perfect is come: "But when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away (1 Cor. 13:10)." That which is perfect is the "perfect law, the law of liberty" revealed through the inspired writers of the New Testament. See James 1:25.

No man today can predict the future by prophecy from God.