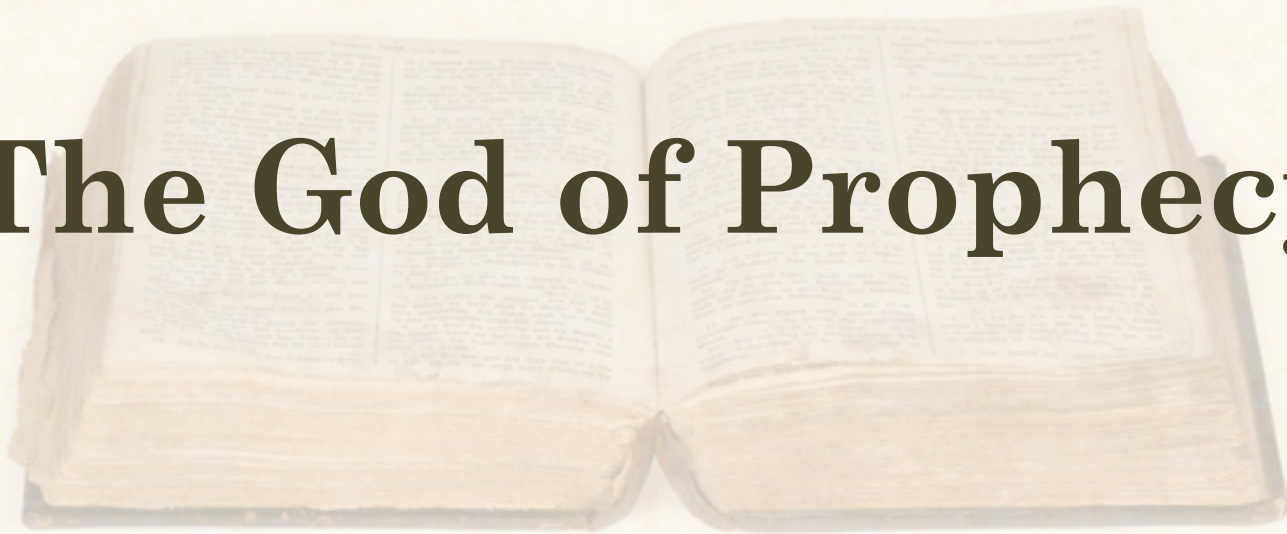


The God of Prophecy



GOD is a God of Prophecy

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, **Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done,** saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”

(Isaiah 46:9-10)

Prophecy Proves God is Who He Says He is

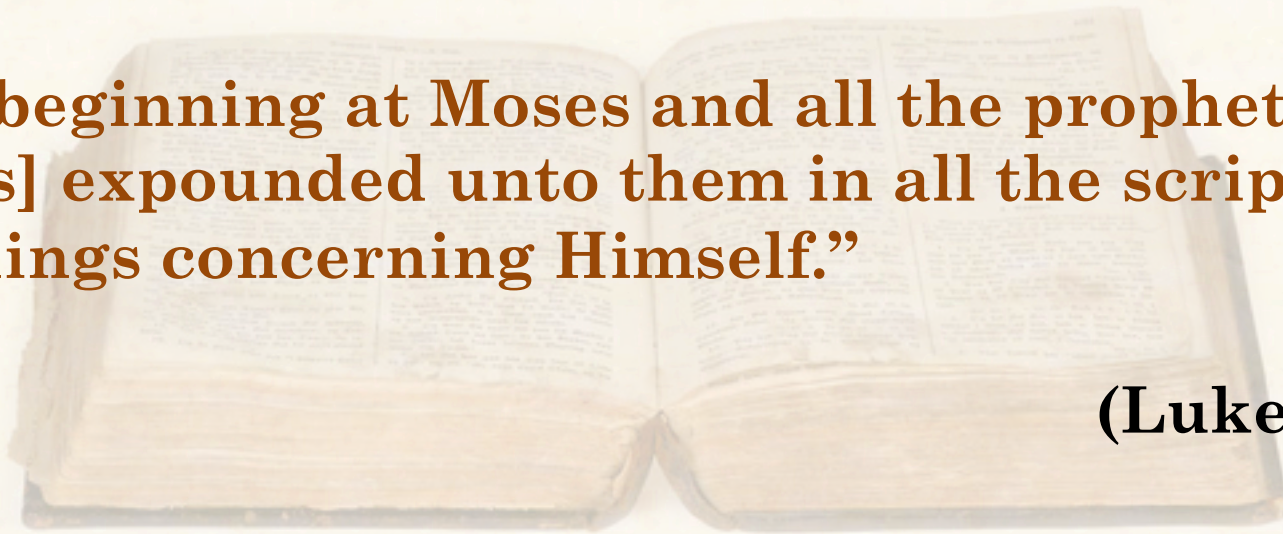
“Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob. Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come. **Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods . . .**”

(Isaiah 41:21-23)

The Lord Used Prophecy to Encourage Believers

“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, [Jesus] expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

(Luke 24:27)



Paul Used Prophecy to Evangelize Unbelievers

“And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.”

(Acts 17:2-3)

Fulfilled Prophecy

There are more than 300 prophecies in the O.T. concerning the 1st Coming of Christ. These were all fulfilled in exact detail.

- 1) The Place of His Birth
- 2) The Manner of His Birth
- 3) The Characteristics of His Ministry
- 4) The Manner of His Death
- 5) **The Very Day of His Arrival**

Prophecies Concerning Christ: The Place of His Birth

“But thou, **Bethlehem** Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

(Micah 5:2)

“Now when Jesus was born in **Bethlehem** of Judaea in the days of Herod the king...”

(Matthew 2:1)

Prophecies Concerning Christ: The Manner of His Birth

“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign;
Behold, a **virgin** shall conceive, and bear a son, and
shall call his name Immanuel.”

(Isaiah 7:14)

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise:
When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph,
before they came together, she was found with
child of the Holy Ghost.”

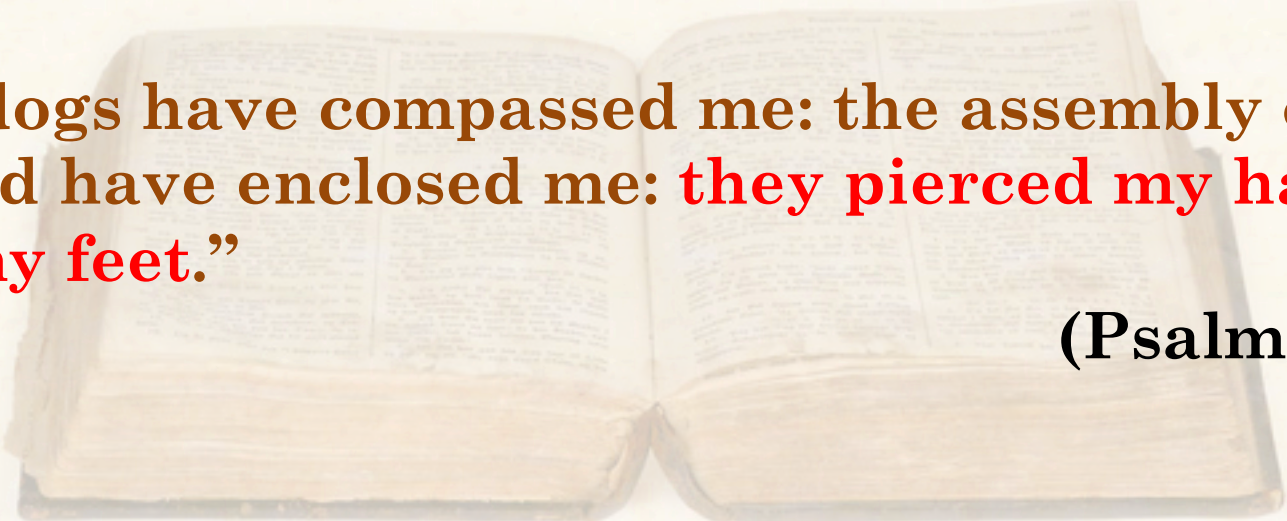
(Matthew 1:18)

Prophecies Concerning Christ: The Characteristics of His Ministry

“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. **And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, **This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”**

(Luke 4:16-21)

Prophecies Concerning Christ: The Manner of His Death



“For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: **they pierced my hands and my feet.**”

(Psalm 22:16)

“And they **crucified** him...”

(Matthew 27:35)

Prophecies Concerning Christ: The Very Day of His Arrival

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the **Messiah** the Prince shall be **seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks**: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.”

(Daniel 9:25)

Daniel's 69 Weeks

The calculation:

7 weeks + 62 weeks = 69 weeks

69 weeks x 7 years/week = 483 years

483 years x 360 days/year = **173,880 days**

When do these 173,880 days begin?

The Decree of Artaxerxes

“And it came to pass **in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king . . .** I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers’ sepulchres, that I may build it . . . And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.”

(Nehemiah 2:1-8)

Starting Date for Daniel's 69 Weeks

The 1st day of Nisan, in the 20th year of the reign of Artaxerxes (King of Persia) was:

March 14, 445 BC

Artaxerxes, Old Persian ARTAKHSHATHRA, name of Achaemenid kings, grouped below chronologically and indicated by the symbol ●.

● Artaxerxes I (d. 425 BC, Susa, Elam [now in Iran]), Achaemenid king of Persia (reigned 465–425 BC).

He was surnamed in Greek Macrocheir ("Longhand") and in Latin Longimanus. A younger son of Xerxes I and Amestris, he was raised to the throne by the commander of the guard, Artabanus, who had murdered Xerxes. A few months later, Artaxerxes slew Artabanus in a hand-to-hand fight. His reign, though generally peaceful, was disturbed by several insurrections, the first of which was the revolt of his brother the satrap of Bactria. More dangerous was the rebellion of Egypt under Inaros, who received assistance from the Athenians. Achaemenid rule in Egypt was restored by Megabyzus, satrap of Syria, after a prolonged struggle (460–454). In 448 fighting between the Achaemenids and the Athenians ended, and in the Samian and Peloponnesian wars Artaxerxes remained neutral; toward the Jews he pursued a tolerant policy. His building inscriptions at Persepolis record the completion of the throne hall of his father. The tomb of Artaxerxes is at Naqsh-e Rostam.

Endpoint of Daniel's 69 Weeks

$173,880 \text{ days} \div 365 \text{ days/year} = 476 \text{ years (+140 days)}$

$\text{March 14, 445 BC} + 476 \text{ years} = \text{March 14, 32 AD}$
(Remember, no year "0")

But 476 years includes 116 "leap" years, which have an "extra" day; $140 - 116 = 24 \text{ days}$

March 14, 32 AD + 24 days:

April 6, 32 AD

The Prophesied Day of Messiah's Arrival

April 6, 32 AD

In 32 AD, Passover occurred on Thursday, April 10; this Passover was the crucifixion of Christ. April 6 was the Sunday before Passover . . .

Palm Sunday

Tiberius, in full TIBERIUS CAESAR AUGUSTUS, or TIBERIUS JULIUS CAESAR AUGUSTUS, original name TIBERIUS CLAUDIUS NERO (b. Nov. 16, 42 BC—d. March 16, AD 37, Capreae [Capri], near Naples), second Roman emperor (AD 14–37), adopted son of Augustus, whose imperial institutions and imperial boundaries he sought to preserve. In his last years he be-



Tiberius as a young man, marble bust found in Egypt in 1896; in the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen
By courtesy of the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen

John the Baptist began his public ministry by baptizing Christ in the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar (Luke 3:1), which was 29 AD. Jesus was crucified three years later in 32 AD!

Jesus Expected Israel to Know the Day of His Arrival

“And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least **in this thy day**, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; **because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.**”

(Luke 19:41-44)

Conclusion

How do we know the Bible is true? The Bible is self-authenticating; prophecy demonstrates it is of Divine origin.

GOD is a God of Prophecy. He declares that **fulfilled prophecy** clearly distinguishes Him from all other (false) gods. It “proves” He is the One True God, and that the Bible is His Word.