

History:
586 B.C
The rich and famous city of the seafaring Phoenicians came under siege by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. After 13 years of land siege, the Phoenicians built a second and smaller city on an island a half mile out in the Mediterranean Sea. Using their ships, they removed themselves from the threat of the Babylonian Empire. The ruins of the original city seem to contradict Ezekiel's prophecy.
322 B.C.
Alexander the Great conquered the coastal cities to acquire their navies and then sent them against the new city of Tyre in constant waves. Growing impatient with this, he had his army build a causeway the width of two chariots from the shore of the old city to the

island of the new city. He ordered that all building material from the original city be collected and placed in the sea to make this causeway. When the quantity of stone and timber proved insufficient, he ordered the ground to be scraped down to the bedrock to provide fill dirt. When the causeway was completed, he marched his army over the causeway and over the walls of the new city to defeat the Phoenicians and destroy their city.
Today
The city the prophets spoke against for God is now a large bare rock. For centuries, the site has been used by fishermen to spread and mend their nets. Other than historical records, there is no evidence that one of the world's richest cities ever existed. It can-

not be found again. A nation state strong enough to withstand the siege of mighty Babylon was brought down through a series of specific events that had been foretold by writers of the Bible, proof that the Bible is exactly what it claims to be—God's word.

Conclusion
The Bible is what it claims to be, and this is proven by its unity, historicity, pre-scientific knowledge, and fulfilled prophecy. Furthermore, Jesus was who He said He was. His resurrection proves it (Romans1:4). There are, of course, other things to be said, but these are enough for the moment. Surely you know what all this means, don't you? ~

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Volume 4 Issue 24

June 28, 2009

The Bible and Fulfilled Prophecy



Site of the ancient city of Samaria as it looks today (foreground). Note the vineyard.

would have no ability to manipulate where he would be born (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1-6). This prophecy was made at least 700 years before the birth of Jesus. In addition, there are many prophecies about Jesus that were fulfilled by His enemies, who would not knowingly fulfill a single verse of Scripture about Him:

Sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12; Mt. 26:14-15).

The money to be cast to the potter (Zech. 11:13; Mt. 27:3-10).

He was wounded and bruised (Isa. 53:5; Mt. 27:12-14).

His hands and feet were pierced (Ps. 22:16; Lk 23:33; Jn. 20:25,27).

He was crucified with thieves (Isa. 53:12; Mk. 15:27,28).

The people were to shake their heads at the crucified one (Ps. 22:7; Mt. 27:39).

The people were to ridicule Him (Ps. 22:7; Mt. 27:41,43).

His garments to be parted and lots cast (Ps. 22:18; Jn. 19:24).

His bones would not be broken (Ps. 34:20; Jn. 19:33,36).

His side would be pierced (Zech. 12:10; Jn. 19:34,37).

Only a Divine mind could have conceived such a character

(This continues excerpts from an article by Allan Turner in which he examines the proofs that the Bible must be from God because of its pre-knowledge of scientific facts only recently discovered by the field of science. In this installment, he turns to fulfilled prophecy as another powerful proof of the divine origin of the Bible.)

Fulfilled prophecy is another powerful proof that the Bible is what it claims to be. Many years before historical events occurred, the Bible was giving rather detailed accounts of these distant events. In the space that follows, we will

examine some of these.

Prophecies About Christ

Henry Liddon is credited with the statement that there are 332 prophecies fulfilled in Christ. The mathematical probability that all of these could be fulfilled in one person by sheer chance alone has been calculated to be the number 84 followed by 123 zeros. Some have suggested that Jesus knew of the prophecies and simply went about the task of fulfilling them. The nonsense of such thinking is absolutely overwhelming when one considers the fact that a "mere-man Jesus"

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Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible Class for all ages ___ 9:00 AM
Morning Worship Service ___ 10:00 AM
Evening Worship Service ___ 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class for all ages ___ 7:00 PM

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through the centuries, recorded these things about Him; and only a Divine person could have fulfilled the predictions. This must lead one to the conclusion that Jesus is the Christ of God and that the Bible is a special Divine revelation.

The City Of Samaria

Bible Writers:
750 B.C.

Micah 1:6: "Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the field, places for planting a vineyard; I will pour down her stones into the valley, and I will uncover her foundations" (NKJV).

FACT: Prophetic events concerning the city of Samaria summarized:

Its ruins would become as a "heap of ruins in the field." Places within the city would be cleared of ruins and debris would be gathered into piles, similar to the "heaps" created in the clearing of farm land.

In clearing the site, the building stones would be pushed off the terraces into the valley below. Even the foundations of buildings and road beds would be dug up in an effort to clear land for planting. Eventually, Samaria would be planted in vineyards.

History:
880 B.C.

The city was built as the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel. King Omri built it on isolated Mt. Sameron, which is completely surrounded by an almost circular valley. Mt. Sameron was terraced around from the valley floor to about the 400 ft. elevation for building sites.

27 B.C.

Herod the Great beautified the city, including the construction of palaces and temples.

1265 A.D.

Muslims defeated the Crusaders defending the city and totally destroyed it so that it has never been rebuilt. Arabs living in the vicinity cleared much of the ruins to covert the ancient city's site to agricultural purposes. In clearing the land, they dug up building foundations and roadways, either piling the rubble in heaps, or dumping it down to the lower terraces and eventually to the valley floor.

Today

Now grape vines and olive trees can be seen growing in many clearings. Usually, ancient cities were built upon the ruins of their predecessor. After being rebuilt 8 times, God did what He said He would do—He stopped the rebuilding and converted the land back to agriculture.

The City Of Babylon

Bible Writers:
700 B.C.

Isaiah 13:19-22: "And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It will never be inhabited, nor will it be settled from generation to generation; nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there. But wild beasts of the desert will lie there, and their houses will be full of owls; ostriches will dwell there, and wild goats will caper there. The hyenas will howl in their citadels, and jackals in their pleasant palaces. Her time is near to come, and her days will not be prolonged" (NKJV).

600 B.C.

Jeremiah 50:12-13: "Your mother shall be deeply ashamed; she who bore you shall be ashamed. Behold, the least of the nations

shall be a wilderness, a dry land and a desert. Because of the wrath of the LORD, she shall not be inhabited, but she shall be wholly desolate. Everyone who goes by Babylon shall be horrified and hiss at all her plagues" (NKJV).

Jeremiah 51:25-26: "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, who destroys all the earth," says the LORD. "And I will stretch out My hand against you, roll you down from the rocks, and make you a burnt mountain. They shall not take from you a stone for a corner nor a stone for a foundation, but you shall be desolate forever," says the LORD" (NKJV).

Jeremiah 51:36-37, 42: "Therefore thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will plead your case and take vengeance for you. I will dry up her sea and make her springs dry. Babylon shall become a heap, a dwelling place for jackals, an astonishment and a hissing, without an inhabitant...The sea has come up over Babylon; she is covered with the multitude of its waves. Her cities are a desolation, a dry land and a wilderness, a land where no one dwells, through which no son of man passes'" (NKJV).

FACT: Prophecy concerning Babylon summarized:

The city would become ruins and be perpetually uninhabited. The Arab would not make his camp there nor graze sheep there, and the caravans would not pass through it.

Wild beasts would live in the palaces and houses.

Its protective moat, a man-made sea extending the Euphrates River from the walls up to a distance of 64 miles, would become dry; yet pools of water would cover portions of the city within

the walls.

Her stones would not be taken for other buildings, but she would become heaps, the walls broken down, and the ziggurat burned, and the famous "Hanging Gardens" on the man-made mountain of stone, known as one of the seven wonders of the world, would be destroyed.

Babylon would remain a perpetual desolation and astonishment.

Her exceedingly fertile valley would become a dry, parched wilderness and desert.

History:

100 A.D.

Due to several previous centuries' lack of rain, the Euphrates River became saline. This riverborne salt eventually destroyed the fertility of the land around the city and the city eventually dwindled in population.

412 A.D.

The elaborate network of canals built to assure great productivity and to control flooding of the Euphrates River had become filled-in due to lack of maintenance, thus causing the whole area to become swampy.

460 A.D.

Theodore writes that by this time there were no longer any Assyrians or Chaldeans living there, only a few Jews.

1000 A.D.

The Euphrates River changed its course from the canal passing through the center of the city to a new route many miles to the east, thus causing the man-made sea to dry up.

1250 A.D.

Benjamin of Tudela visited the site and found nothing but utter desolation. Because of infestation by scorpions and serpents, the palace proved to be inaccessible.

Today

Babylon is desolate except for

wild animals that can be seen living among the ruins. As the walls of the buildings deteriorated, the mortar caused the soil to be tainted with nitrous compounds that poisoned the soil. Due to the soil's deterioration and local superstition, the Arabs will not camp nor graze flocks near this ancient city. For over 4000 years it was on a major trade route, but no longer.

Babylon was acclaimed to be the oldest and most beautiful city the world had ever known. It now lies stripped of its life and beauty. Other than normal erosion and weathering, the city exists today with its bridges, buildings, and walls as it did 2000 years ago. Its walls, which once stood 300 feet high and 80-120 feet thick, were made out of brick and are weathered down completely in places. The stones of the famous ziggurat still show signs of having been burned with intensive heat. The building materials of the city were not removed and used again as is customary.

Over the centuries, the rising water table in the plain has rendered much of the remains of earlier centuries inaccessible by causing one quarter of the city to be under pools of water and swamps.

The Iraqis boast that they are going to rebuild the 14 square miles of this once great city, but don't hold your breath. Alexander the Great attempted to rebuild the city and died there. Having become completely desolate, it remains as a monument of God's working in the affairs of men. If God caused the strongest nation in ancient times to become desolate, He can do the same to any nation that grows in sin and for-

gets God.

The City Of Tyre

Bible Writers:
550 B.C.

Ezekiel 26:3-5: "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and will cause many nations to come up against you, as the sea causes its waves to come up. And they shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for spreading nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,' says the Lord GOD; 'it shall become plunder for the nations'" (NKJV).

Ezekiel 26:12: "They will plunder your riches and pillage your merchandise; they will break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses; they will lay your stones, your timber, and your soil in the midst of the water...I will make you like the top of a rock; you shall be a place for spreading nets, and you shall never be rebuilt, for I the LORD have spoken,' says the Lord GOD...I will make you a terror, and you shall be no more; though you are sought for, you will never be found again,' says the Lord GOD" (NKJV).

FACT: Prophecy summarized:

Many nations, as waves of the sea, would come against Tyre. The walls and buildings would be torn down and cast into the water. All stone, timber, and even the soil down to bedrock, would be covered by the sea.

The site would be made a bare rock and used as a place for the spreading and repair of fishing nets.

The city would cease to exist or be found.