

LESSON 5: BIBLIOLOGY – PART 3



Fulfilled Prophecy - Introduction

One of the strongest objective evidences of Biblical inspiration is fulfilled prophecy. The Bible is unique among religious books in this respect. Some contain a few vague forecasts, but nothing comparable to the vast number of specific prophecies found in the Bible.

There are countless prophecies in the Bible that validate it as the Word of God. They were part of the public record hundreds of years before the fact. Even a casual comparison of world history to Old Testament prophecy will lead you to the undeniable conclusion that the Bible is God's Word. In the life of Jesus alone, there are over 300 specific fulfilled prophecies. Just a few would be enough to defeat the laws of chance. By any standard, the Bible can be proven reliable beyond reasonable doubt.

The Bible is very clear that predictive prophecy is a sign of God's power and glory and presents the supernatural nature of His Word. It is not only a demonstration of God's power, but also of His answer to man's prayers and needs. Since God reveals the future, something no man is capable of doing, we can know that He sees the future and sees all things even before they reach the present. We can rest assured that nothing will occur which the Father has not foreseen.

(Isaiah 46:9) Remember what I accomplished in antiquity! Truly I am God, I have no peer; I am God, and there is none like me, who announces the end from the beginning and reveals beforehand what has not yet occurred, who says, 'My plan will be realized, I will accomplish what I desire'

(2 Peter 1:19) Moreover, we possess the prophetic word as an altogether reliable thing. You do well if you pay attention to this as you would to a light shining in a murky place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

(Ephesians 1:11) In Christ we too have been claimed as God's own possession, since we were predestined according to the one purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will.

- Dusty Rhodes



"I announced events beforehand, I issued the decrees and made the predictions; suddenly I acted and they came to pass. I did this because I know how stubborn you are." (Isaiah 48:3,4)
 "You have heard; now look at all the evidence! Will you not admit that what I say is true?" (Isaiah 48:6)





Super-natural objective evidence

A prophecy describing future specific event is not a natural phenomenon. Anyone can predict what might happen in the future, and a person could get lucky at predicting the outcome of a sporting event a few times, for example. But, for someone to actually speak in detail about events that have not yet happened, about people who haven't been born yet, and then have them occur exactly as predicted; that is supernatural. The Bible's use of prophecy, the ability to tell the future in the past, can be itemized as follows.

- Only God can reveal events in detail thousands of years before they occur. (Isaiah 44:6)
- Israel as a people and nation are witnesses to the events. (Isaiah 44:8)
- God declares the end from the beginning. (Isaiah 46:9)
- The purpose of foretelling the event many years before its occurrence was to prove to the obstinate who would rather give credit to man. (Isaiah 48: 3-5)

Some examples of Super-Natural Evidence

	Description	Significance	Super-natural nature
	<p>Greatness of Abraham Genesis 12:2-3 Abraham Was promised to: * Be source for a great nation * Have a great name * All peoples on the earth to be blessed through Him.</p>	<p>Abraham was just one of many people who lived on the earth. Today over ½ the earth's 6 billion people claim a connection to Abraham including Muslims, Jews and Christians. Both Jews and Arabs claim Abraham as the source of their national identity.</p>	<p>Both Muslims, Christians and Jews claim descent and connection to Abraham. This prophecy was written well before the growth of Christianity and Islam. Abraham's name became great after Christianity spread after 100 AD and Islam after 632 AD. If 15 billion people lived since the beginning of the Human race, the odds of one man having a name of world wide distinction is 1 out of 15 billion. If the promise was recorded 3400 years before the event it is supernatural.</p>
	<p>Israel Scattered Deuteronomy 28:64 3450 years ago in the Bible Israel as a nation is told they will be dispersed throughout the world and suffer as a people for being disobedient.</p>	<p>Two times in Israel's history they were scattered as a nation, first during the Babylonian captivity (605, 598 and 587 BC) (Jeremiah 51). Second, during the time of Roman Occupation. 54 BC-638 AD</p>	<p>For a people to be scattered is a common event throughout history, as one people group takes land and settles in territory belonging to another. Israel as a nation is scattered and gathered and then scattered again. The condition of the people in their scattered condition is described in detail, yet they remain a distinct people in the land of their captivity.</p>
	<p>Israel Gathered Deuteronomy 30:3 3450 years ago Israel is promised to be gathered back into the land promised to Abraham after being scattered. The gathering of Israel as a nation from the nations is repeated throughout the scriptures Isaiah 11, Isaiah 14:1-2, Isaiah 56:8, Jeremiah 30-31, Ezekiel 36-37, Zechariah 10:6-12</p>	<p>Two times Israel has been gathered, once following the Babylonian Captivity after the Persian defeat of Babylon in 539 BC by Cyrus, the second in our day with the creation of the state of Israel as Jews from Europe, Africa, Asia, North and South America founded the state of Israel</p>	<p>The creation of the state of Israel was the result of two world wars. First the Muslim powers were defeated and only after ½ the world's Jewish population was killed in the Holocaust would the nations agree to allowing a Jewish state to exist, in May 1948 Israel came into existence, the first time a Jewish state existed in 2000 years. For a people to maintain national Identity after 1900 years and to be gathered back into their land is amazing enough. But for the event to be written about even before they were a nation is supernatural.</p>

	<p>Jerusalem Focus Of World attention Zechariah 12:3 foretells Jerusalem as the center of worldwide attention</p>	<p>We are told that Jerusalem will be a burden for the world and the object of conflict. The nations of the world will be at war with the descendants of Israel</p>	<p>Over ½ the Earth population view Jerusalem as spiritually significant. 2500 years ago when Jerusalem was just a small regional city Zechariah told about the coming day when all the nations will burden themselves with the possession of the city.</p>
	<p>Temple destroyed The destruction of the Jewish temple following the death of Jesus was foretold in Daniel 9:26 And Matthew 24:2</p>	<p>In 70 AD the Roman empire destroys the Jewish Temple. Every stone was thrown down as Roman soldiers looked for melted gold. The destruction of the temple was recorded 600 years before it happened.</p>	<p>600 years before the event we are told about the destruction following the cutting off of the Messiah. Jesus claimed to be Messiah and as a result 2 billion people, 1/3 of the earth's population are connected to the city of Jerusalem. How Daniel could know the details of the Temple's destruction as well as it being connected with the Messiah being "Cut Off" is supernatural.</p>
	<p>Jews from Ethiopia Gathered. In the second gathering Jews living in Ethiopia are foretold to be gathered to Israel. 2700 years ago in Isaiah 11:11 this gathering was written about.</p>	<p>Operation Solomon in 1980 and Exodus in 1991 rescued Jews living in Ethiopia from extermination and persecution. The Jews there have been traced back over 2000 years ago.</p>	<p>Isaiah 11:11 specifically mentions Jews From Cush (Ethiopia) as part of the gathering from the nations, 2700 years before the event</p>
	<p>Exact month & year Messiah is killed. 70 Weeks of Daniel is a very specific prophecy foretelling the rejection and cutting off of Messiah 570 years before the event. Daniel 9:24-27</p>	<p>The 70 weeks of Daniel foretells the exact time Messiah would be cut-off. Following a 483 year period (69 Weeks) after a command to rebuild the walls and streets of Jerusalem was given to Nehemiah.</p>	<p>The Christian faith is the largest faith in the world and centers on the Messiah being killed for the sins of the world. 570 before the death of Jesus, Daniel foretold the exact time of Messiah being cut-off with the Temple's destruction following his death.</p>

Objections to Supernatural objective evidence

- *People worked to fulfill the prophecy.*
 - This objection does not take into account the aspect of adverse history. For example, Jerusalem becoming the focus of world attention was a result of the spread of Christianity and Islam. Christianity grew in opposition to Jewish wishes; they did not accept Jesus as Messiah. The Roman Empire became Christian in spite of persecution of the Christians. In addition, any series of events could have changed the scope of the world prior to the spread of Christianity. Pagan Huns in the 5th Century AD could have destroyed Christian Byzantium, conflict with Islam in the 6th century; the Mongolian hordes of Genghis Khan in the 12th century are only some examples of historical events that could have prevented this prophecy fulfillment.
 - To imagine that a group of people could manipulate world events in secret also fails to account for persecution by the leading powers of the world. Kings and princes in the land they settled persecuted the Jews as a group. The Spanish inquisition, forced Jews to renounce their Jewish culture, this same pattern of persecution occurred in Germany, England, Russia and Asia. How a persecuted people could control their persecutors, to fulfill prophecy written about the people even before they were a nation would be super-natural in its own right.

- *The prophecy was changed to seem like it was fulfilled..*
 - The words recorded in prophecy are virtually the same in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament translated 250 BC. The Dead Sea scrolls dated to 100-200 BC also record the words of the prophets including Daniel, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah. Any changes to fulfill scripture would have to have been made by 250 BC well before the events themselves even occurred.

- *The prophecy is just a matter of interpretation.*
 - Most prophecies have very specific qualifiers, giving us minute details, not vague generalities.

- Israel, Jerusalem are distinct locations, not vague terms such as a “great city in the distant east”.
- They are terms which can be compared to facts. The Bible also records historical figures such as Nebuchadnezzar along with events associated with their lives. This allows us to compare the words with the facts.

Examples of Fulfilled Prophecies in the Bible

➤ Prophecies about nations of the world

- The rise and fall of nations is controlled by God - *(Daniel 4:17) This announcement is by the decree of the sentinels; this decision is by the pronouncement of the holy ones, so that those who are alive may understand that the Most High has authority over human kingdoms, and he bestows them on whomever he wishes. He establishes over them even the lowliest of human beings.'*
 - Edom - small powerful nation descended from Esau - Obadiah 1:18 - today they're gone without a trace
 - Babylon - 1st great world empire - Jeremiah 51:58
 - Assyria, Ninevah - Zephaniah 2:13 - 2nd great world empire
 - Tyre - Ezekiel 26:4-5,14 - note that the prophecy says “She will be a place where fishing nets are spread”. Today all that is left is a tiny fishing village where a great city once stood.
 - Sidon - Ezekiel 28:23 - plague wiped out this city
 - Philistia - Zephaniah 2:5 - the Philistines as a race was completely wiped out, none survive.
 - Ashkelon - Zephaniah 2:4 - also Ekron and Gaza (not the same as today's Gaza) - all destroyed
 - Samaria - Micah 1:6-7 - destroyed
 - Jericho - Joshua 6:26 - has never been rebuilt
 - Capernaum, Bethsaida, Chorazin - Matthew 11:20-23 - destroyed
 - Daniel 2, 8, 11 - visions God gave to Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, and Darius, foretold the rise and fall of future world empires of Persia, Greece, and Rome.

➤ Prophecies about Israel

- *(Genesis 12:2-3) Then I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you, and I will make your name great, so that you will exemplify divine blessing. I will bless those who bless you, but the one who treats you lightly I must curse, and all the families of the earth will bless one another by your name.*
- Those nations that have blessed Israel have been blessed (United States, England until recently)
- Those that have cursed them have been cursed (Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Rome, Spain, Nazi Germany, others)
- Through the scriptures – written mostly by Jews, and Christ, the seed of Abraham has become a blessing to all peoples of the earth.
- God promised Israel great blessing in the land if they remained faithful to Him, and He predicted great suffering if they forsook Him, and both have happened. (Deut. 28:64-66, Jeremiah 24:9, 30:11, Hosea 9:17)
- God made a covenant with Abraham including land with clearly defined boundaries (Genesis 15:18-21) This was repeated to Isaac and Jacob.
- God brought these “chosen” people to the promised land (Exodus 6:7-8, Deut. 7:6)

- God warned that if they practiced idolatry and immorality He would cast them out of the land (Deut. 28:63, 1 Kings 9:7, 2 Chronicles 7:20)
- God said Jews would be scattered among all people (Deut. 28:64, 1 Kings 9:7, Zechariah 7:14)
- God said the Jews would be a curse and a reproach (Deut. 28:37, 2 Chronicles 7:20, Jeremiah 29:18, 44:8)
- They would be persecuted and killed as no other people ever had
- God would preserve the Jews (Jeremiah 30:11, 31:35-37)
- He would bring them back into their own land in the last days (Jeremiah 30:10, 31:8-12, Ezekiel 36:24, 35-38 This has been fulfilled since 1948, 1900 years after final diaspora in 70 AD by Roman armies – never had happened to any other nation in history)
- God said that before Messiah's 2nd coming, Jerusalem would be a cup of trembling to the world. (Zechariah 12:2,3,10)

The Regathering of the Jews

Jews began returning to the Holy Land in large numbers early in the 20th century, culminating in the state of Israel in 1948. A long-dead nation and a long-dead language (Hebrew) was resurrected after almost 2000 years, a first in human history. This would seem obviously be a miracle from God, a huge fulfillment of prophecy, since there are many scripture references to a regathering of Jews back into their own land.

But many Christians deny that this is prophecy fulfilled, and deny that it is miraculous at all, despite the mountains of evidence. These are usually groups that cling to the doctrine of "Replacement Theology", which says that God rejected the Jews as His chosen people permanently, and the Church has inherited all the promises originally given to the Jews. In order to believe this doctrine, you have to "spiritualize" or allegorize hundreds of specific prophecies about Israel mentioned in the Old Testament. You either have to not consider them to be literal, or consider them all to be completely fulfilled by 70 AD when Roman destroyed Jerusalem and the temple and annihilated most of the Jewish population.

One of the ways these people explain away the existence of Israel today is to complain that they are not Christians, not believers. They say that the prophecies mention that Israel will turn back to God and recognize Jesus as their Messiah, so this incarnation of Israel couldn't be the one that the scriptures talk about.

They are right in saying that the prophecies mention that Israel will turn back to God, but, taken together, they seem to say that there will be two returns – the first one in unbelief in which God will gather the Jews, judge them and refine them and finally preserve a remnant of them. The 2nd one seems to be placed after the Messiah comes and reigns here on earth. Let's look at some of these...

(Ezekiel 20:33-38) As surely as I live, declares the sovereign LORD, with a powerful hand and an outstretched arm, and with an outpouring of rage, I will be king over you. I will bring you out from the nations, and will gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a powerful hand and an outstretched arm and with an outpouring of rage! I will bring you into the wilderness of the nations, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. Just as I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, declares the sovereign LORD. I will make you pass under the shepherd's staff, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. I will eliminate from among you the rebels and those who revolt against me. I will bring them out from the land where they have been residing, but they will not come to the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

(Ezekiel 22:18-22) "Son of man, the house of Israel has become slag to me. All of them are like bronze, tin, iron, and lead in the furnace; they are the worthless slag of silver. Therefore this is what the sovereign LORD says: 'Because all of you have become slag, look out! — I am about to gather you in the middle of Jerusalem. As silver, bronze, iron, lead, and tin are gathered in a furnace so that the fire can melt them, so I will gather you in my anger and in my rage. I will deposit you there and melt you. I will gather you and blow on you with the fire of my fury, and you will be melted in it. As silver is melted in a furnace, so you will be melted in it, and you will know that I, the LORD, have poured out my anger on you.' "

These verses seem to indicate that God will bring back Israel to the land, but they will still be rebellious and God will judge them for their rejection of Him. And, looking at the state of the Middle East these days it isn't hard to imagine that Israel has some very tough times ahead, especially as the U.S. supports them less and less. Other indications that Israel was foretold to return in unbelief:

Daniel 9:27 tells of Israel entering into a covenant with the antichrist. It seems to me that if they had trusted God by this time, they would not enter into any agreement with this man, even though he may appear to be a man of peace and be very deceiving. The way the leadership of Israel has been lately, it isn't hard to imagine them forming agreements with anyone who will guarantee them peace.

(Zechariah 13:8-9) It will happen in all the land, says the LORD, that two-thirds of the people in it will be cut off and die, but one-third will be left in it. Then I will bring the remaining third into the fire; I will refine them like silver is refined and will test them like gold is tested. They will call on my name and I will answer; I will say, 'These are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.' "

This is a strong one - there's no way you could say that this prophecy has ever been fulfilled. It seems that it is God's plan to bring the Jews back into the land, judge them for their rejection of Him, and preserve a remnant that will turn to Him in belief.

(Zechariah 12:10) I will pour out on the kingship of David and the population of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication so that they will look to me, the one they have pierced. They will lament for him as one laments for an only son, and there will be a bitter cry for him like the bitter cry for a firstborn.

From this it seems obvious that the Jews will be in the land when they turn to Jesus Christ (the one they have pierced).

Also, an important prophecy is in Ezekiel 37 – the “Valley of Dry Bones”. This is an example of an obvious allegory here. You can't miss that this is about God bringing back Israel to the land and to a belief in Him. You can see in this chapter that it is an unfolding process, that it doesn't happen all at once. Even orthodox rabbis today understand this prophecy as being fulfilled in these days.

Therefore, it is my opinion that the return of Israel to their homeland is most definitely a miracle and fulfillment of prophecy. It shows that God is still working out His plan today. What's happening in the world today is the sovereign work of a sovereign God.

Of course, this leads to a discussion of prophecies that are yet to be fulfilled about Israel, but that is a study for another time! All I will say now is...

“When you see the Christmas lights going up, you know that Thanksgiving is almost here.”

Dusty Rhodes

- **Messianic fulfilled prophecies - there are hundreds, only some examples here**
 - Lineage - Genesis 3:15, 22:18 (Abraham), 26:4 (Isaac), 28:14 (Jacob), 49:10 (Judah), 2 Samuel 7:12-16 (David)
 - Son of God - Psalm 2:6-7
 - Mighty God - Isaiah 9:6
 - Virgin birth - Isaiah 7:14
 - Birthplace - Micah 5:2
 - John the Baptist - Isaiah 40:3, Malachi 3:1
 - Teaching and healing ministry - Isaiah 61:1-2, 42:1-4
 - Triumphant entry into Jerusalem - Zechariah 9:9-10
 - Rejection - Psalm 118:22-24
 - Date of His coming - Daniel 9:24-26
 - Death - Daniel 9:24-26
 - Crucifixion - Zechariah 12:10, Psalm 22:2, Psalm 69:21, 22:6-8, 22:17,18, 34:20, 22:1, 22:14
 - Sacrificial nature of death - Isaiah 53
 - Burial - Isaiah 53:9
 - Resurrection - Psalm 16:10, 30:3,9, Hosea 6:2, Isaiah 53:10
 - Ascension to right hand of the Father - Psalm 110:1, 68:18, 16:11, 24:3-10, Proverbs 30:4
 - Many more

- **End Times Prophecies**
 - Luke 21:24 - from 70-135 AD til Jerusalem captured in 1967 - Jerusalem controlled by Gentiles - temple mount still under Gentile control
 - Ezekiel 38:1-16 - alliance of Eastern European & Muslim nations against Israel led by Russia
 - Revelation 16:12 - rise of a vast Oriental confederacy
 - Daniel 7:19-24 - development of a European union of nations comparable to the old Roman Empire
 - Matthew 24:3-8
 - World Wars 1 & 2, Korean, Vietnam, Middle Eastern wars, Cold War, numerous local wars
 - World's greatest pestilence - influenza epidemic of 1918
 - World's greatest famine - Russia & China after WW1 and communist revolutions
 - World's most calamitous earthquakes in 1920 in China and 1923 in Japan
 - The Holocaust, Great Depression, AIDS, more earthquakes, epidemics, etc.
 - Daniel 12:4 - advance in knowledge, communication, travel
 - Luke 17:26 - moral degradation
 - 2 Timothy 3:1-7 - religious people becoming the same as heathens
 - 2 Peter 3:3, 2:1 - religious apostasy - also 2 Timothy 4:4, 1 Timothy 4:1

Other prophecies in NT:

John 8:12 fulfillment:

- Greatest literature, most beautiful painting, most glorious music have been inspired by Jesus Christ
- Most of the hospitals, many of the great educational institutions, and many of the world's charitable organizations have originally been founded in His name
- Social reforms have been inspired by Him, such as the abolition of slavery
- Millions over the century have found that in following Jesus they have found the "Light of life"
- Instead of being an insane statement, it has proven to be completely true.

Matthew 24:35 fulfillment - For Two thousand years His words have not passed away. They have been heard and read and loved by more people than those of any man who has ever lived.

John 12:32 fulfillment - People from ever nation, from every walk of life, every age, have been drawn to the cross of Christ

Others -

Matthew 16:18

Acts 1:8

The Seventy Weeks of Daniel

- The Seventy weeks of Daniel is a prophecy which can be used as an example of supernatural evidence of the Bible's authenticity.
- God has a 490-year plan involving the Jewish People and Jerusalem.
- We are told Jerusalem would be rebuilt
- The Messiah would be killed 483 years after the command to rebuild Jerusalem is given.
- The rebuilt temple would be destroyed by the descendants of a future world leader
- A future world leader who is descendent of the armies who destroyed Jerusalem would make an agreement to build a Third Temple.
- The Temple would be rebuilt and sacrifices stopped after 3.5 years.

(Daniel 9:24) "Seventy weeks have been determined concerning your people and your holy city to put an end to rebellion, to bring sin to completion, to atone for iniquity, to bring in perpetual righteousness, to seal up the prophetic vision, and to anoint a most holy place.

(Daniel 9:25) So know and understand: From the issuing of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until an anointed one, a prince arrives, there will be a period of seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. It will again be built, with plaza and moat, but in distressful times.

(Daniel 9:26) Now after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one will be cut off and have nothing. As for the city and the sanctuary, the people of the coming prince will destroy them. But his end will come speedily like a flood. Until the end of the war that has been decreed there will be destruction.

(Daniel 9:27) He will confirm a covenant with many for one week. But in the middle of that week he will bring sacrifices and offerings to a halt. On the wing of abominations will come one who destroys, until the decreed end is poured out on the one who destroys."

The Prophecy takes place in 539 B.C., in the First year of Darius the Mede. Daniel is an old man, between 83 to 90 years old. As a boy he was taken captive by the Babylonians in 605 B.C.. In 586 B.C. the Babylonians destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the Temple. Jeremiah foretold a 70-year period of desolation on the city for their sin. Daniel was praying for the city to be restored since 67 years had now passed.

Gabriel the angel was sent to Daniel to answer his prayer and tell him God's time plan for his city, Jerusalem and his people. Seventy weeks are determined ($7 \times 70 = 490$) A 490 year period of time is established on "Your city" *Jerusalem* and "Your People" *the Jewish People*.

These events are to happen within these 490 years. The clock stopped at 483 years, when the Messiah was cut off. The final week of the 70 (7 years) have yet to occur, at the end of which all these goals will be completed:

- ✓ **Put an end to rebellion**
- ✓ **Bring sin to completion**
- ✓ **Atone for iniquity**
- ✓ **Bring in perpetual righteousness**
- ✓ **Seal up the prophetic vision**
- ✓ **Anoint the Most Holy.**

The Hebrew word for seven is **Shabuwa** means seven, or period of seven and could be 7 days or years. Year of Jubilee takes place on the 50th year after 7 periods of 7. Leviticus 25:8.

The Hebrew word for determined is **Charats** and means to cut, sharpen,decide, a 490 year period has been "Cut" on Jerusalem and the Jewish People.

- The 490-year period begins with the command to "**Restore**" and "**Build Jerusalem**".
- The command to rebuild the walls and streets takes place in March/April 444 B.C. (Nehemiah 2:8) Nehemiah is

given orders to build the walls of Jerusalem, and access to the King of Persia's resources.

- Gabriel tells Daniel from the command given (March/April 444 B.C.) until **Messiah the Prince** will be 7-weeks (49 years) and 62-weeks (434-years) totaling 483-years. (7 Weeks + 62 Weeks=69 Weeks)(69 x 7=483)
- From the **Command** given in March/April 444 B.C. to until **Messiah the Prince** is 483 Jewish years. Our equivalent to Daniel's calendar is 476 years and 24 days.
- The Command was given in March/April 444 B.C. 476 years and 24 days later is March 29th 33 A.D. Jesus Christ was "Cut off" by the Jewish Priesthood. (John 19:6)
- Gabriel tells Daniel after the 62 Weeks (434 years) **Messiah the Prince** is cut off. **Not for Himself**, Messiah dies for the sins of the world (Isaiah 53).
- Following his death Jerusalem and the Temple are destroyed again, after they were rebuilt, following Daniel's prayer. (in 70 A.D.) 1 million Jews of Jerusalem are killed by the armies of Titus. Surviving Jews dispersed and were scattered throughout the Roman Empire.
- Daniel foretold of the Roman destruction of Jerusalem over 600 years before the event.
- Gabriel Tells Daniel the desolations on Jerusalem and the Jewish people will continue to the end.
- The Dome of The Rock, the third most holy site in Islam, occupies the Temple-site.
- The Temple Mount is the center of world focus pitting the world of Islam and Judaism against each other.
- There is a growing movement to rebuild the Temple. The problem is 1.3 billion Muslims hold the Dome of the Rock as their sacred site.
- The 490-year clock stopped at the death of Messiah at the end of the 69th Week, as desolations were determined till the 70th week.

Super-Natural Objective Evidence

- The Exact month and Year of Messiah Death 500 years before his birth
- The Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple following the death of Christ
- The continual desolations that befell the Jewish People after the Temple
- The future problem of the Temple-Mount site
- The rebuilding of the Temple
- The need of a peace-agreement to allow the Temple to be rebuilt

Closing comments:

The Bible is chock full of prophecy, I have heard anywhere from 33% to 50% of the Bible is prophetic - personally I've never counted! Much of that prophecy has been fulfilled, but some is yet to be fulfilled in the future. We will cover unfulfilled prophecy in detail in a future study, but my point is that prophecy should not be ignored. As Peter said in a verse I quoted in the introduction, "*You do well if you pay attention to this as you would to a light shining in a murky place*". God wants us to study prophecy! It glorifies God, shows His eternal power, and gives us hope and confidence not only in the present, but in the future!

But prophecy is rarely taught in churches today! Most pastors won't teach it, because they're afraid it will be controversial and cause division in the church. Others won't teach it because they say that the prophecies are not literal, that they are only symbolic, rendering these scriptures meaningless and people wondering what parts of the Bible they can trust. This has left most Christians completely ignorant about a major portion of the Bible.

It also steals so much benefit from the Bible that God meant us to have! Prophecy is meant to give us hope, and an assurance that God is in control. No matter what is happening to us personally, no matter what is happening in the world, we can know that everything is working ultimately to fulfill God's purposes, and that those purposes are good.

If you are already a believer, I hope this study has thrilled you to see what a powerful God we serve, and that He wants us to know what His plans are. He likes to reveal things to us through His Word.

If you are not a believer yet, I hope you can see through all of these studies that there are very good reasons why so many millions of people throughout history have followed Christ, and trusted the Bible as the Word of God. I pray that you will not harden your heart against God (even after all this evidence), but open your heart to the truth that is only found in Jesus Christ. Trust Him today and the Bible will come alive for you!

Next time we will wrap up our Bibliology series by talking about Bible Interpretation (hermeneutics). We'll go over the different methods of interpretation being used today, and get into the personal level of how we should study our Bibles. The study after that we will (finally) dive into the text itself, starting with Genesis, the Fall, and the problem of evil.

In Christ,
Dusty Rhodes