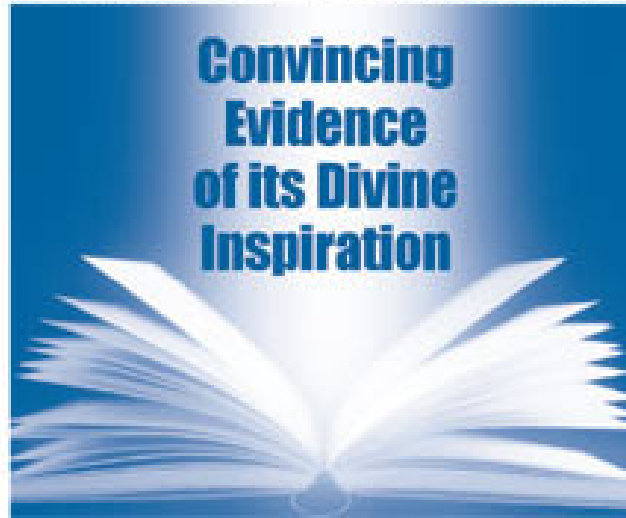


The Bible



One of the ways that God demonstrates the validity of the Bible is by accurately foretelling the future with great detail.

Matthew 5:18 (Jesus Christ speaking) "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, **one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.**"

Here are a few examples for you to consider:

- **Zechariah**, the Biblical prophet, was shown that in the end, Jerusalem would be "...a burdensome stone (a dilemma) for all people", and that all nations would gather against Jerusalem to battle. (Zechariah 12:3)
- It was revealed to **Ezekiel** in 540 B.C. that "in the latter days" Israel would be gathered from all the nations from which they had been scattered and brought back to the land of Israel. (Ezekiel 11:17) In 70 A.D. Israel was taken captive by the Romans, ultimately scattered across the entire globe, and gathered again by UN mandate on May 14, 1948, 2,540 years after the original prophecy.
- **Daniel** was shown the precise time of Jesus Christ's entry into Jerusalem and subsequent crucifixion, 483 years ahead to the day. (Daniel 9:20-27)
- **Other prophets** were shown much information about the Messiah to come, family lineage, where He would be born, where He would preach, and many details concerning His death and resurrection.
- Such facts were repeatedly taught by **Jesus, Paul, Matthew, Peter, Apollos**, and others as a demonstration of the integrity and validity of the Scriptures.

Prophecies Concerning Jesus Christ

Let us look more closely into the prophecies about the promised Messiah's fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

When the gospel of Jesus Christ was new to the world, believers like Paul would venture into foreign lands to bring a message to change people's minds that were cemented into their set of beliefs and values. What was able to catch their attention and convert them to followers of Christ in city after city amongst so much opposition?

See below what is recorded about Paul:

Acts 17:1 "Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days **reasoned with them out of the scriptures,**

3 Opening and alleging [explaining], **that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.**

4 And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few."

And again about the preacher Apollos:

Acts 18:24 "And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace.

28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, **showing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ."**

And Peter writes:

2 Peter 1:19 "We have also a more sure [reaffirmed] word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star [Jesus Christ] arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Here are just a few of the more than 200 Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah fulfilled in the New Testament.

You are encouraged to look these up in your Bible. Many reference editions of the Bible cover these prophecies in detail.

Prophecies of the Messiah	Predicted		Fulfilled	
	Date	Old Testament	Date	New Testament
Descendent of Abraham	2069 BC	Genesis 18:18	1 BC	Matthew 1:1
Descendent of Isaac	2028 BC	Genesis 17:19	1 BC	Matthew 1:2
Descendent of Jacob	1408 BC	Numbers 24:17	1 BC	Matthew 1:2
Descendent of Judah	1860 BC	Genesis 49:10	1 BC	Luke 3:34
Descendent of David	734 BC	Isaiah 9:7	1 BC	Matthew 1:1
City of birth - Bethlehem	725 BC	Micah 5:2	1 BC	Matthew 2:6
Where He would minister - Galilee	734 BC	Isaiah 9:1	29 AD	Matthew 4:12
Rejected by the Jews	683 BC	Isaiah 53:3	32 AD	John 1:11
Enter Jerusalem as a king, riding a colt	480 BC	Zechariah 9:9	32 AD	Matthew 21:5
Year, month, and day He would enter then be killed	483 BC	Daniel 9:25	32 AD	Matthew 21:5
Method of execution: crucifixion	980 BC	Psalms 22:16	32 AD	John 20:27
Sold for 30 pieces of silver	480 BC	Zechariah 11:12	32 AD	Matthew 26:15
Cast lots for His clothing	980 BC	Psalms 22:18	32 AD	Mark 15:24
Buried in rich mans tomb	683 BC	Isaiah 53:9	32 AD	Matthew 27:57

What Jesus Himself taught to His disciples after the resurrection:

Luke 24:25 "Then he said unto them, 'O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?'

27 **And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."**

Luke 24:44 "And he said unto them, 'These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, **which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.'**

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46 And said unto them, '**Thus it is written**, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third

day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things.' "

What is the Conclusion?

Have these facts caught your interest, as they did the audiences of Paul, Apollos, Peter, and Jesus Himself? The next step for you is to experience the life that is contained in the Word of God. Jesus said in John 6:63, "...the words that I speak to you, they are spirit, and they are life." We challenge you to read the New Testament and experience this life first hand. As God brings His life to your spirit, through the vehicle of His written Word, the Bible, you will experience the gifts of revelation, faith, and relationship with Jesus Christ that have changed people's lives all over the world for the past 2000 years.

A good place for you to begin reading is the Gospel of John. We are confident that if you search with an open and honest heart, you, too, will experience the new life (new birth) that comes through knowing Jesus Christ. Here is a final scripture for you to consider:

John 1:12 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."