

INSPIRED PROPHECY

PART 4 IN A SERIES ON HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

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

~ 2 Peter 1:20

1. Introduction

- a. Inspiration ~ God's words in writing; God used men to write what he intended.
- b. Inspired (written) prophecies and their fulfillment is primary proof of divine inspiration
- c. Prophecy not required for inspiration, but without the miraculous we would not know
- d. The Bible constructed over ~1500yrs, ~40 different writers, with a scope covering all history
- e. Prophets wrote this book and acknowledged the God given canon – 1 Cor 14:37

2. Defining Prophecy

- a. Prophecy came before; a foretelling, not a prediction – Acts 21:10
- b. Declaring the end from the beginning – Isa 41:22-23, 42:9, 46:9-10
- c. As it is from God, it must be accurate (no mulligans) – Deu 18:20-22
- d. Estimated 2500 prophecies ~ hundreds about Jesus ~ est. 500 yet future
- e. The odds of their happening by chance are beyond acceptable probability

3. Prophecies of Nations, Cities, Rise & Fall of Powers (scope)

- a. The kingly tribe of Judah - Gen 49:9-10
- b. The nation of Israel: land, seed, blessing – Gen 12:1-3 and Josh 21:43-45
- c. The rebuilding of Jericho centuries prior – Josh 6:26 and 1 Kings 16:33-34
- d. The destruction of Babylon, Tyre, Samaria, Edom, Egypt, etc.
- e. Daniel's prophecy of the great world empires: Persia, Greece, Rome – Dan 2:32-33
- f. Daniel's prophecies of Alexander the Great (but dead) – Dan 8:21, Dan 11:2-3
- g. God revisiting his people after 70 years of captivity – Jer 29:10; Dan 9:2
- h. Cyrus is named before his birth - Isa 44:28, 5:1 vs Ezra 1:1-7

4. Prophecies of Christ – Messianic prophecies

- a. Above all prophecies this category demands explanation.
- b. Where he was born – Micah 5:2 & Matt 2:1; When he was born – Dan 9:25
- c. A prophetic messenger precedes him – Isa 40:3 and Matt 3:1-2
- d. His betrayal, the price, and the Judas – Zech 11:12-13 & Matt 27:3-10
- e. David prophesied of Judas – Ps 41:9, Ps 55:12-14, John 13:18-26
- f. His death by crucifixion prophesied in 5th c. BC – Ps 22:12-18, 34:20, Ze 12:10, Jn 19:23-24
- g. His burial –Isa 53:9 & Mt 27:57-60; resurrection –Ps 16:10 & Jn 2:19-20-ascension Ps 110:1

5. Prophetic Types (the hindsight prophecy)

- a. This prophecy directly concerns inspiration (writing), b/c it is not known what will happen
- b. The only way to know the prophetic foreshadow is when it is identified later.
- c. Identified as figures, shadows, "as___ so___" - Co 2:17, Mt 23:40, Ac 7:51, He 11:19, Ga 4:24
- d. The prophetic evidence of God's intervention in history abounds.
- e. Prophecy is proof of divine intervention – inspired prophecy is proof of divine inspiration.