WP-08 HISTORY

Fulfilled Prophecy

STATEMENT

The Bible makes specific predictions about future events, many recorded in manuscripts that physically predate their fulfillment. No other religious text has a comparable record.

Read time **3 min** Sources & resources **5** Series **History**

01 ABSTRACT

J. Barton Payne's Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy catalogs 1,817 individual predictions in Scripture. Some are general; many are specific enough to test. The strongest cases are those where we can show the text existed before the event. This paper separates those from predictions whose dating or interpretation is debated, so a skeptical reader can weigh each on its own merits.

02 EVIDENCE

OBSERVATION	DATA & SOURCE	CONFIDENCE
Messianic prophecy predates Jesus	Isaiah 53 describes a servant who suffers, is "pierced," dies with the wicked and is buried with the rich. The complete Isaiah scroll from the Dead Sea dates to about 125 BC, more than 150 years before the crucifixion. Micah 5:2 names Bethlehem as the ruler's birthplace.	HIGH
Tyre (Ezekiel 26)	In 586 BC Ezekiel predicted that Tyre's stones, timber and soil would be thrown into the sea and that it would become a place to spread fishing nets. In 332 BC Alexander the Great scraped the ruins of mainland Tyre into the sea to build a causeway to the island city. The causeway remains today.	MODERATE
Babylonian exile (Jeremiah 25)	Jeremiah predicted 70 years of Babylonian domination before the exile was complete.	MODERATE
Medo-Persia and Greece (Daniel 8)	Daniel 8 names Media-Persia and Greece (8:20–21) and describes a Greek ruler overthrowing Persia, then his kingdom splitting into four, which matches Alexander and his four successors.	MODERATE
Cyrus named (Isaiah 44:28–45:1)	Isaiah names Cyrus as the ruler who would rebuild Jerusalem, about 150 years before Cyrus was born.	MODERATE
Israel restored as a nation	Isaiah 66:8 asks whether a nation can be born in a single day; Ezekiel 37 describes Israel regathered after long dispersion. Israel was re-established in 1948 after nearly 1,900 years. Some researchers calculate the 1948 date from Ezekiel 4; that calculation is debated.	INTERPRETIVE
Hebrew revived	Zephaniah 3:9 and Jeremiah 31:23 are read by some as predicting the return of Hebrew, which was revived as a spoken language in the late 19th and 20th centuries, a unique event in history. Wikipedia: Revival of Hebrew ↗	INTERPRETIVE

High = directly measured or widely accepted across worldviews. **Moderate** = well-supported, with recognized scholarly debate. **Interpretive** = consistent with the text, but depends on how the passage is read.

03 OBJECTIONS CONSIDERED

OBJECTION

The prophecies were written after the events.

RESPONSE

For Isaiah 53, the Dead Sea Scrolls settle the dating: the text physically predates the fulfillment. Critical scholars date Daniel to about 165 BC and later Isaiah to the exile; even on those dates, Daniel's predictions about Rome and Isaiah's about the Messiah remain future to the writers.

OBJECTION

Jesus deliberately fulfilled prophecies.

RESPONSE

Some, perhaps. But no one controls his birthplace, the manner of his execution, or burial in a rich man's tomb.

OBJECTION

Tyre was rebuilt, so Ezekiel was wrong.

RESPONSE

The prophecy describes several stages and "many nations" coming against Tyre. The island city was rebuilt, but the ancient mainland city was scraped bare, and fishermen do dry nets on the site.

04 CONCLUSION

Even after setting aside the debated cases, a core of predictions remains with documented dates before the events they describe. Accurate prediction across centuries is difficult to explain without a source outside time.

> *"Only I can tell you the future before it even happens." Isaiah 46:10*

05 FURTHER RESOURCES

VIDEO **The Prophecy of Tyre** WVBS
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYjNCQKfMJ4

VIDEO **Arguments For and From Fulfilled Biblical Prophecies** Peter S. Williams
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMwBlRL7w_Y

VIDEO **Old Testament: “Give me one piece of evidence.”** Josh McDowell
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8DcdgUbVN8&list=PLB9B212FAE4985850&index=5

VIDEO **The BEST FACTS: Foretells the Future** GCA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HHYSPTMvZs&list=PL59Qh4Scw7PebBz1Q-ixu5G7RPxCLWMt1&index=7

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