

WHY WE BELIEVE: The Bible Ezekiel 29:8–20; Daniel 2:44-45

Evidence of Fulfilled Prophecy

Introduction:

1. “With the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day”
 2. God created time and space and knows the end from the beginning
 3. Did you know 27% of Bible was predictive prophecy at the time it was written?
 4. Fulfilled Prophecy is one of the most amazing evidences the Bible is word of God
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I. THE EVIDENCE OF FULFILLED PROPHECY

A. THE PROPHECY OF JUDGEMENT ON EGYPT

1. **At one time Egypt was the superpower nation of the world**
 - a) God used Egypt to protect the family of Abraham from a Famine and allow the children of Israel to grow into a mighty nation.
2. **But while Egypt was an epicenter of power in the world...
it was also an epicenter of pagan idol worship in the world.**
 - a) Imagine the arrogance it would take for Pharaoh to claim he is a god...
 - b) And force tens of thousands of slaves to spend a lifetime building a massive pyramid for his burial, and massive monuments for his vain glory.
3. **Egypt opposed God, was obsessed with Idolatry and persecuted Israel
So God pronounced Judgement on Egypt (Ezekiel 29:8–20)**

Notice the Details of this prophecy:

 - a) the land of Egypt shall become desolate and waste (v.9)
 - b) a lowly kingdom. (v.14)
 - c) The lowliest of kingdoms (v.15)
 - d) it shall never again exalt itself above the nations, (v.15)
 - e) they will not rule over the nations anymore. (v.15)
 - f) Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon would attack and plunder Egypt (v.19)
 - g) Egypt would be allowed to return, but would only be a shadow of it's former glory
4. **[IMAGE] PYRAMIDS UNDER THE SANDS OF TIME Satellite Archeology**
 - a) Question: How do you loose a pyramid? How do you loose 17 pyramids?
 - b) 17 previously lost pyramids have been located under sands in Egypt
 - c) But not just Lost Pyramids—Ancient cities lost under the sands of time like Tanis
5. **God humbled the great nation of Egypt -**
 - a) Today it is a 3rd world country, with a third-world economy.
 - b) We are still finding ruins of it's once vast civilization.
 - c) But all of it's worldly vain glory is gone — buried by the sands of time...
and all of the grand claims of divinity — has crumbled to dust.
 - d) Nobody cares anymore—except to marvel at it's destiny in ruins...
Brought About by the Judgement of God.

B. THE PROPHECY AGAINST THE CITY OF TYRE

1. The city of Tyre was on the Mediterranean coast NW of Jerusalem.

- a) It was a sea port that was known for trading good from all over the ancient world
- b) King David and King Solomon traded with the King of Tyre for all kinds of goods
- c) Tyre became very rich because of it's central location in the Mediterranean world with it's access to all the famous sea ports of the ancient world.
- d) Tyre became rich from the slave trade— even selling Israelite captives as slaves

2. In time Tyre became Arrogant, Idolatrous and Immoral (Ezekiel 28:16–18)

- a) The Prophecy Against the city of Tyre is one of the most unusual in the Bible
- b) A Prophecy from God given to Ezekiel around 570 b.c. (Ezekiel 26:1-5; 7-14; 19-21)

3. PREDICTIONS:

- Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon will destroy the mainland city and villages (26:8)
- Nebuchadnezzar will build a siege mound against the city (26:8)
- Many Nations will be against Tyre (26:3)
- The city would be bare rock; flat like the top of a rock (26:4)
- Debris of the city will be thrown into the water (26:12)
- Even the stones, the timbers and soil would be cast into the water (26:12)
- Scraped down to bare rock where Fishermen will spread out their nets (26:14)
- It will Never be Rebuilt (26:14)

4. FULFILLMENT PHASE 1: Nebuchadnezzar (586 b.c.)¹

- a) Almost 20 years after Ezekiel gave this prophecy—
This seaport city came under siege by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.
- b) During this 13 year land siege, the people of Tyre built a second city—
a smaller one on an island a half-mile off the coast.
- c) The Phoenicians were a seafaring people and they used their ships to relocate to
the island where they were safe from the army of Babylon.
- d) Nebuchadnezzar did destroy the mainland city of Tyre and it's walls...
but all the inhabitation were gone.
- e) Which leaves several parts of the prophecy from Ezekiel incomplete:
Why cast the debris of the city into the sea?
Why scrape the city down to bare rock?
Remember v.3? Many Nations will be against Tyre...

5. FULFILLMENT PHASE 2: Alexander the Great (322 b.c.)

- a) Babylon was eventually taken over by the Medo-Persian Empire, and eventually
Alexander the Great began conquering as his army went East
- b) Alexander the Great sent a request to the city of Tyre and they refused...
Thinking they were protected on their island that was 1/2 mile offshore.
- c) So Alexander the Great ordered his army to take all the building materials from the
original mainland city to build a causeway the way to the island.
- d) They used the stones, the timbers and the materials to build a causeway...

¹ A.O Schnabel, Has God Spoken? p.85. Also: Evidence that Demand a Verdict, Josh McDowell, p.285

- e) And when it was not enough he ordered them to take ALL the dirt down to bedrock
- f) They scraped the mainland city of Tyre down to bare rock—to create a land-bridge!
- g) Then He Marched His Army Over the Land-bridge and defeated the Phoenicians and destroyed their newest city of Tyre, ending his 7 month siege!

6. THE EVIDENCE IS VISIBLE TODAY... [image]

- a) The original location of the mainland city is like the top of a rock
- b) For centuries the fishermen have used this site to spread out their nets.
- c) It has never been rebuilt.
- d) You can see the land-bridge causeway to this day!

C. THE DAY ALEXANDER THE GREAT READ ABOUT HIMSELF IN BIBLE

1. After Alexander the Great defeated the coastal city of Tyre, he turned East to deal with Jerusalem...

- a) While Alexander's army was besieging Tyre, He had requested aid and supplies from Jerusalem—But the request was denied because the Jews were under the rule of Alexander's enemy – the Persian King Darius.
- b) Alexander was angry and moved his army against the city.
- c) The Jewish historian Josephus recorded that the High Priest in Jerusalem knew of the inevitable danger that was looming over the city So the High Priest prayed to God for mercy and protection for Jerusalem.
- d) Josephus records that the HP had a dream with an answer from God how to entreat the Macedonian King Alexander.
- e) He and the other priests in Jerusalem dressed in their white priestly robes and formed a procession that went out of the city to a location to meet the King.

2. Alexander then did something unexpected: He left his delegation and alone went forward to meet the delegation of priests from Jerusalem.

- a) When he was asked by His generals why he welcomed this group—Alexander told him that he had seen these men in white robes in a dream the night before.
- b) Josephus records that Alexander then accompanied the priests back to Jerusalem to offer sacrifice and he was shown a passage from the book of Daniel.

“According to the testimony of Josephus, an attack against Jerusalem by Alexander the Great in 332 b.c. was diverted by a citation from the Book of Daniel. Alexander was enraged that the Jews had refused to send him aid when he was besieging Tyre. He was determined to destroy their capital. A priestly procession met the Macedonian as he was approaching Jerusalem. The high priest showed Alexander “wherein Daniel declared that one of the Greeks should destroy the empire of the Persians.” Alexander saw himself reflected in the prophecy. Instead of attacking Jerusalem, he went to the Temple and provided sacrifices to be offered in his behalf.” (J.E. Smith, *The Major Prophets*)²

3. Alexander read about himself in the book of Daniel

- a) He was assured by the priests & scribes that he would defeat Darius and conquer the Persian empire!
- b) Which is exact what happened—just as the Bible prophesied!

² Smith, J. E. (1992). *The Major Prophets* (Daniel). Joplin, MO: College Press.

D. THE PROPHECY OF GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM

1. King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a statue...

- a) It was such a disturbing dream he ordered all the psychics and astrologers to interpret the dream and give it's true interpretation.
- b) But Nebuchadnezzar was shrewd, so he didn't tell them what the dream was.
- c) They were supposed to be the psychics and astrologers right?! He ordered that they tell him the dream and it's interpretation or they would all be killed.
- d) Daniel heard all the commotion and asked what was going on and was told... so he prayed about it and God answered his prayer! **(Daniel 2:16–23)**

2. The Dream was about a Statue that had a prophetic meaning (2:24–45)

- a) The Statue Represented the Next 4 World-Wide Empires:
 - (1) • **HEAD OF GOLD: Babylonian Empire.**
 - (2) • **CHEST & ARMS OF SILVER: Medo–Persian Empire.**
 - (3) • **BELLY & THIGHS OF BRONZE: Greek Empire.**
 - (4) • **LEGS OF IRON & FEET OF CLAY: Roman Empire.**
- b) Daniel 2:44 in the days of those kings, God would set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed... THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

3. Daniel receives a prophetic vision of Jesus receiving it! (Daniel 7:11–14)

- a) This is the Kingdom of God that Jesus preached was at hand.
- b) When Pilate asked Jesus are you a King—
Jesus said yes but my Kingdom is not of this world.

4. Alexander the Great was a pagan ruler—but when he arrived at Jerusalem he was greeted by a procession of Priests...

5. But when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem—he was not greeted by a procession of priests—Jesus was condemned by a delegation of priests put on trial and condemned by the High Priest. He was crucified for the sins of the whole world.

6. But this was all part of God's plan (Colossians 1:12–14)

CONCLUSION:³

- 1. Jesus is now King of kings and ruler of the kingdoms of this earth**
- 2. His kingdom is the eternal kingdom that will never be destroyed.**
- 3. (Revelation 1:5-6)**

³ For more information see: Josh McDowell, 'Evidence that Demands a Verdict', (1972)