

Isaiah 52:15 - Romans 15:21 The gospel to the gentiles.
Jeremiah 31:31ff - Hebrews 8:8ff The nature of the new covenant.
Joel 2:28-32 - Acts 2:17-21 Circumstances of the last days.

Many other prophecies may be found in your Old Testament. I've culled the list to fit in this bulletin.

Is there good reason to believe that the Bible inspired word of God? There sure is! An honest evaluation of the scriptures will quickly lead one to the conclusion that the Bible is more than just a book. The Bible is the revelation of God's word to mankind.

NEWSWORTHY NOTES:

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EVIDENCES FOR FAITH

PROPHECY DECLARES
by Bob Pulliam

Many people in the world believe in God, or at least that there is a higher power. For some the difficulty comes in believing that the Bible is actually His revelation to mankind. They are oftentimes turned off by the electronic, commercialized religion they see in the West, and conclude that the Bible is the author of such. If the Bible spawns such vile exploitation, they want no part of it.

I can sympathize with their disgust at what they see. The usual electronic evangelism today is little more than an exploitation of the poor. But it is important that they realize that the Bible is not the author of such. A careful examination of the Bible will reveal a pure standard of ethics that condemns the greed of electronic religion. At the same time, a careful examination of the Bible will also reveal that it's origin is God.

The Bible's Detail...

Do the names in Genesis ten sound too goofy to be true? I usually suggest that one who thinks so look in the newspaper to see what goofy really sounds like. Modern "goofy" names are getting more common, however, and people take them for granted. But I will always be able to point to ancient Sumerian and Akkadian documents, to show that names like these were in existence in those days. In fact, names of people, nations, rivers, mountains, all correspond to details found in ancient

secular histories. Locations, movements and strategies of armies, and migrations of people match up detail for detail. The details of the Bible are trustworthy in every area where history's detail crosses it's pages.

One very interesting area of confirmation is found in the ancient Hittite nation. In the nineteenth century, the skeptic commonly pointed to the Hittite in the Bible as a myth. No record of Hittites had ever been discovered, and thus the Bible was in error on that point. When the Hittite nation was discovered, it made no believers among the skeptics; but it did shut their mouths on this point. In 1906, thousands of texts were found in an ancient capital of the Hittites. Today, you can get a degree in Hittite civilization from the University of Pennsylvania.

Consider the mortar mentioned in the account of the tower of Babel. Older Bible versions use the word "slime", rather than asphalt. The reason is that scholars in that day did not believe there to be enough bitumen in Mesopotamia to build a tower. Today, the extensive oil fields of Iraq stand as a testimony to the truth of the Bible. Large tar (bitumen) pits have been found in the area of the ruins of Babylon, and many ziggurats (towers) have been found with tar used as mortar.

Daniel 5:30 & 31 cites Belshazzar as being the last ruler in Babylon at the time of the Median conquest. Scholars, however, "knew" this to be incorrect. History clearly specified Nabonidus as the last king of Babylon. After years of ridiculing the Bible's record on this matter, archaeology vindicated the Scriptures. Belshazzar was serving as prince regent in his father's place (Nabonidus was away tinkering with insanity according to some reports). This would explain the promise of Belshazzar in Daniel 5:16, that he would make Daniel the third ruler in the kingdom. If Belshazzar was first, then Daniel would be second. But we know that Belshazzar was second to his father, Nabonidus, who was first. The next highest position for Belshazzar to offer would be third ruler.

These simple little details have been acclaimed as errors in the Bible, in the past. Now they are just some of the little details we take for granted. When you add these up, and many others, the answer points to an accurate, reliable Bible.

Prophecies of Old...

When I think of prophecies in the Old Testament that validate the Bible as God's word, I first think of Daniel, chapter two. This prophecy (Dan 2:36-45) foretold the kingdom which God would set up in the days of the Roman empire. The book of Daniel (along with the remainder of the Old Testament), must be dated before 250 B.C. This leaves the reader wondering how a prophecy from such an early time could pin-point the

empire during which Jesus would establish the kingdom we read about in the New Testament (Mk 9:1; Col 1:13).

The same question could be asked about hundreds of prophecies about the birth, life, death, and kingdom of the Messiah. Here are some of the memorable prophecies at which we can marvel:

Events Surrounding the Birth of Jesus...

Isaiah 7:14 - Matthew 1:23 The virgin birth of Jesus.

Micah 5:2 - Matthew 2:6 The birthplace of Jesus.

Hosea 11:1 - Matthew 2:15 The Messiah would be called out of Egypt.

Events Surrounding the Ministry of Jesus...

Malachi 3:1 - Luke 1:76 The mission of John.

Malachi 4:6 - Luke 1:17 The mission of John.

Isaiah 35:5 - Matthew 11:5 The signs of the Messiah.

Isaiah 42:1ff - Matthew 12:18ff The Servant chosen of God.

Events Surrounding the Death and Resurrection of Jesus...

Psalms 2:6f - Acts 13:33 The begotten Son.

Psalms 22:7 - Matthew 27:39 People wag their heads.

Psalms 22:7f - Matthew 27:41ff People ridicule Him.

Psalms 22:16 - Luke 23:33 Hands and feet pierced.

Psalms 22:17 - Luke 23:35 People astonished.

Psalms 34:20 - John 19:33 & 36 Bones not broken.

Isaiah 53:1 - John 12:38 The unbelief of the leaders.

Isaiah 53:5 - Matthew 27:12ff Wounded and bruised.

Isaiah 53:7 - Matthew 27:12ff Silent before accusers.

Isaiah 53:9 - Matthew 27:57ff Buried in a rich man's tomb.

Isaiah 53:12 - Mark 15:27f Crucified with thieves.

Zechariah 11:12 - Matthew 26:14f Sold for 30 pieces of silver.

Zechariah 11:13 - Matthew 27:3ff Money cast to the potter.

Zechariah 12:10 - John 19:34 & 37 Side was pierced.

Zechariah 13:7 - Matthew 26:31 The disciples scattered.

Prophecies Concerning Jesus and the Kingdom...

Genesis 22:18 - Acts 3:25 Salvation in the seed of Abraham.

Deuteronomy 18:18 - Acts 3:22 A prophet like unto Moses.

Psalms 40:6ff - Hebrews 10:5ff The Messiah as a sacrifice.

Psalms 45:ff - Hebrews 1:8f The throne of the Messiah.

Psalms 110:1 - Hebrews 1:13 "Sit at My right hand..."

Psalms 118:22 - Acts 4:11 The stone rejected by the builders.

Isaiah 28:16 - Romans 9:33 The stone of stumbling.