

Prophetic Text #3 - Micah 5:2

This prediction is made approximately 700 years before Christ was born. How did a farmer, who lived in a city 25 miles from Jerusalem (*Moresheth* - Micah 1:1), have the ability to look into the future and from all the cities of the world predict that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem? This is not a generic prediction. This is very specific. How is this possible? There is only one answer to this. The Bible is the inspired Word of God. The Bible is a book completely inspired by God.

Prophetic Text #4 - Daniel 8:21; 11:2-4

The book of Daniel was written by Daniel at the time of the Babylonian captivity through the time of the Mede-Persian captivity. The actual time of Daniel's prophecy was written between the years of 605 B.C. to 550 B.C..

In the book of Daniel, he makes some amazing predictions about many things. Obviously one of the predictions he makes concerns Greece, because he specifically names Greece and predicts that Greece will actually come and conquer the Medio/Persian world. Now this prediction is made somewhere around 550 B.C.. The prediction is that Greece will take over the world and its leader will die and his power will be parceled out to four different individuals who are not in his immediate family (Dan. 11:2-4).

Greece would not become this power for another 200-plus years. Alexander the Great was the great leader of Greece and he defeated the Persian army in about 330 B.C.. He ended up dying at age 33 in the peak of his power. Alexander had two sons, both of whom were murdered. So he had no heirs. So when he died, his kingdom was divided among four generals (Selucus, Ptolemy, Lysimachus and Cassander).

Now here is the question. How could Daniel possibly predict this would happen some 200-plus years before it did happen? This prediction is so precise that it has baffled liberal scholars. In fact, some have said this must have been written by another Daniel, who lived after the events some 400 years later. One huge problem with that argument is that the book of Daniel and this prediction shows up in the Septuagint Greek translation, which was written about 250 B.C.. There is only one logical answer. The Bible is what it claims to be, the inspired Word of God.

Prophetic Text #5 - Ezekiel 26

Here is one of the most remarkable prophecies in the Bible. Ezekiel was one of three writing prophets who ministered to the Jewish people during the Babylonian captivity (Daniel, Jeremiah).

Ezekiel actually dates when he made this prophecy—the spring of 587-586 B.C.. (Ez. 26:1). Ezekiel had been in captivity for 11 years when this prophecy occurred, when Jerusalem had fallen (26:2). The city of Tyre was gloating over the fall of Jerusalem.

Tyre was a non-Jewish city. It was the most powerful and successful city-state on the Mediterranean coast. This was equivalent to New York City on the Atlantic coast. The people of Tyre were happy to learn Jerusalem had been taken by Babylon.

So Ezekiel made 15 specific predictions of what would happen to Tyre. These are very specific predictions aimed at a specific city:

Prediction #1 - God would direct many nations to come against the city of Tyre. 26:3
They would come in waves, one right after the other.

Prediction #2 - God would cause those nations to destroy the walls of the city; break down the towers and scrape her from existence so she would be nothing but a bare rock. 26:4

Prediction #3 - God would cause Tyre to become a place over which fishermen would spread their nets in the midst of the sea. 26:5a

Prediction #4 - God would permit Tyre to become spoils for other nations. 26:5b

Prediction #5 - God would permit her daughters on the mainland to be killed with a sword. 26:6

Prediction #6 - God would specifically use Nebuchadnezzar to begin the process of persecuting and destroying the people of Tyre. 26:7-8
He would conquer with horses, chariots, cavalry and a large army. He would destroy people and design attack weapons.

Prediction #7 - God would cause the city to be totally destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and be trampled to the ground. 26:9-11
Both people and buildings would be destroyed.

Prediction #8 - God would cause all of their riches and merchandise to become spoil. 26:12a

Prediction #9 - God would cause stones and timber of the destroyed city to be thrown into the sea. 26:12b

Prediction #10 - God would cause all of the music to stop. 26:13

Prediction #11 - God would make Tyre a bare rock never to be rebuilt. 26:14

Prediction #12 - God will cause all nations to mourn and tremble over what He did to Tyre.
26:15-18

Prediction #13 - God will make Tyre an uninhabitable city covered with ocean water. 26:19

Prediction #14 - God will send the arrogant people to the burning pit. 26:20

Prediction #15 - God will see to it that Tyre will never be found as a city or rebuilt. 26:21

Keep in mind that all of these predictions came from God because Tyre mocked Israel. At the time Ezekiel made these predictions, Tyre was the most impressive and successful city in the world. It was a powerful, world-class city. The most powerful city on the Mediterranean coast.

Now keep in mind that Ezekiel is making these predictions in 587 B.C.. The story of what happened to Tyre, in view of these predictions, is one of the most amazing fulfillments of prophecy in the history of the world. Dr. C. I. Scofield said, “The fate predicted for Tyre is unique and has been remarkably fulfilled” (*Scofield Reference Bible*, NASV, p. 1138).

Prophetic Fulfillment of Tyre Prediction #1

In 585 B.C., approximately 2-3 years after the prediction was made by Ezekiel, Nebuchadnezzar began a 13 year assault on Tyre. He broke down the gates of Tyre, only to find the majority of people gone. The people, sensing trouble in part due to Ezekiel's prediction had relocated and moved to an island in the Mediterranean, about a half-mile from shore. They reconstructed a new city on the island which would stand for many more years.

Nebuchadnezzar's attack of Tyre started a couple of years after Ezekiel made his prediction, but it was not until 573 B.C. that he completely destroyed the mainland city. There is an ancient Babylonian tablet that does indicate that Nebuchadnezzar himself did have a presence in Tyre during its siege (Moshe Greenberg, *Ezekiel 21-37*, p. 532).

Nebuchadnezzar literally fulfilled exactly what Ezekiel predicted in **Ezekiel 26:7-11**.

Prophetic Fulfillment of Tyre Prediction #2

In 332 B.C., approximately 241 years later, Alexander the Great decided to conquer the new reconstructed city of Tyre that was located on the island. His logistical problem was that the new Tyre was a mighty "Alcatraz-like fortress" located out in the Sea. It had huge walls surrounding the island. Alexander was a brilliant military strategist, who decided to scrape all of the ruins of old Tyre into the Sea and use the ruins as a means of constructing a bridge of about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile out to the new Tyre.

In the process of constructing this bridge, Alexander literally scraped the old Tyre bare and the stones and the timbers and the debris were thrown into the water just as specifically predicted in **Ez. 26:12**. Alexander ended up conquering the already ravaged new city of Tyre.

Eight thousand defenders were executed and 30,000 men, women and children were taken into slavery.

Dr. J. Vernon McGee said he walked on the isthmus Alexander made from the mainland and the ruins were being excavated. He said, "you cannot look at the ruins of Tyre and say the Word of God is guesswork."

Prophetic Fulfillment of Tyre Prediction #3

In 314 B.C., approximately 260 years later, Antigonus, one of the successors of Alexander the Great, continued his military efforts to control Eastern provinces. He launched another successful military attack against the already ravaged new city of Tyre. When Jesus was here, He visited the region where Tyre was located (Matt. 15:21).

Prophetic Fulfillment of Tyre Prediction #4

In 690 A.D., approximately 1,000 years after Ezekiel's prediction, the island of Tyre was taken over by Muslim Arabs, under the direction of Saladin. It remained in their control until it was conquered by the Mamelukes in A.D. 1291.

According to Ezekiel 26:3-5, God said He would cause "many nations" to attack Tyre in waves. This literally had come true. Wave after wave has hit this part of the world in a destructive way. During the days of the Apostles, Tyre was a small coastal place to unload cargo ships (Acts 21:3).

Prophetic Fulfillment of Tyre Prediction #5

Today, the island once known as Tyre, is nothing more than a bare rock sitting in the Mediterranean Sea. It is primarily used by fishermen as a place to dry their fishing nets, which is exactly the prediction Ezekiel made in Ezekiel 26:5.

Dr. H. A. Ironside said, "So literally has this prophecy been fulfilled that even at this very day the rocky island on which Tyre once stood is not in exact the same condition as foretold here. It is still a place for the spreading of nets of fishermen..." (*Ezekiel*, p. 176).

Prophetic Fulfillment of Tyre Prediction #6

The old city of Tyre has never been found nor rebuilt. Even Lebanon has not tried to rebuild it. This is precisely what was predicted in Ezekiel 26:14, 21.

Tyre today is named Sur and there are about 5,000 people who live in the area. The remains of ancient Sidon (Tyre's sister city) have been discovered and a flourishing city stands on the old site, but "the remains of ancient Tyre" have never been found and much of it is in the sea "under Alexander's causeway" (C. I. Scofield, *Ibid.*, p. 1138).

Every one of Ezekiel's prophecies came true literally just as he predicted. As A. C. Gaebelein said, "History confirms all that is written here" (*Ezekiel*, p. 171).