

BIBLE PROPHECY

2 Peter 1:20 No prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Introduction

The Bible contains many prophecies. Many have been fulfilled, others describe the future. Prophecies encourage us to trust God and watch for the signs of his kingdom.

Key Points

- The Bible is God's word to us and helps us to understand his will and his plans.
- Many prophecies have been fulfilled and can be confirmed by history and archaeology.
- Daniel's prophecies described world empires leading up to God's kingdom.
- The Old Testament contains many prophecies of Jesus which are confirmed in both New Testament and other historical writings.
- Prophecies show us that God is faithful and does what he has promised.
- Prophecies gives us encouragement to trust in God and to look forward to a wonderful future.



Discussion

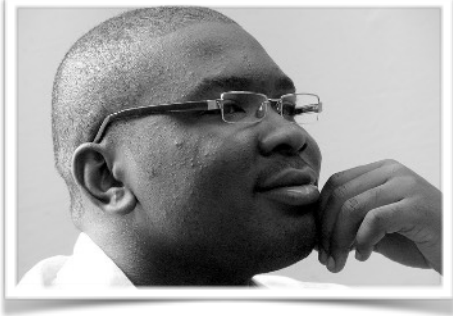
Many people are worried about the future. They are looking for hope, but do not know where to find it.

The Bible gives us hope because it has predicted many events that have now happened and it predicts many events that have not yet happened. We call this prophecy.

The prophet Daniel described the world empires that would arise after his time (about 530 BC) and history has shown that the Persian, Greek and Roman empires were just like the images that he described.

Daniel also prophesied that God's kingdom would eventually crush all those human kingdoms to dust and would become an everlasting kingdom. This prophecy has not yet been fulfilled but the Bible assures us that all God's promises will come true.





What do you think?

- Can we prove that some of the Bible's prophecies have come true?
- Why do people have different interpretations of prophecy?
- How should we understand difficult prophecies like the Revelation?
- What do 1 Corinthians 13:2, 1 Thessalonians 4:18 and 5:11, and 2 Peter 1:19-21 tell us about prophecy?

Further Reading

- Daniel 2 - Who are the kings mentioned? When does God's Kingdom commence?
- Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23 - How do we know that an Old Testament verse is a prophecy?
- Isaiah 53 - What does this chapter tell us about God's kingdom?
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - What is Paul trying to teach in these verses?
- Revelation 21:1-4 - What is the New Jerusalem and what does it mean to us?

Six hundred years before Jesus of Nazareth was born, many prophets wrote about him; where he would be born, what he would do and what would happen to him. Historians, archeologists and the New Testament confirm that Jesus came, lived, died and was resurrected exactly as the prophecies had predicted.

Some prophecies are very difficult to understand. Jesus and the New Testament writers explain to us that some things were hidden and only revealed by God to chosen people at different times and in different ways.

We are given hope that God's wonderful prophecies of his kingdom will come true because all his promises in the past have come true. The kingdom prophecies include the promise of the resurrection of the dead (John 5:28) and the promise that all pain and sorrow will be removed from the world (Revelation 21:1-5).

Christians are told to encourage each other with the words of prophecy (1 Thessalonians 4:18). We are promised a blessing when we do our best to understand God's promises (Revelation 1:3).

You can have God's promises too! How?

1. Pray to God for help and read his word the Bible.
2. Tell God that you are sorry for the things you have done wrong.
3. Accept Jesus as your saviour and be baptised to show that you will dedicate your life to follow him.
4. Read the Bible, discover that problems are temporary and be at peace because a wonderful future is coming!

