

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 7

THE Final WORD



PROPHECIES OF THE BIBLE

Scripture Texts: Deuteronomy 18:22; Isaiah 34:16; 1 Peter 1:10-12

The Prophets did not understand all they spoke. They looked for the fulfillment of the prophecy but never lived to see it fulfilled. But they believed it would come to pass. They wondered what it was and when it would come. This was puzzling because they had the prediction only. The things they prophesied in their time are being fulfilled in this Gospel dispensation through Jesus.

Prophecy is not true, does not come to pass because it is written in the Bible, but it is in the Bible because it is true and will come to pass. Every prophecy of the Bible has so far been fulfilled. This is one of the strongest proofs of the truth of the Bible. No prophecy shall lack its fulfillment. We find fulfilled prophecies all through the New Testament.

MEMORY VERSE: *Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.—Isaiah 42:9*

DAILY READINGS:

Mon.—**Deuteronomy 18:15-22** The true Prophet promised.

Tue.—**Isaiah 46:5-13** The end from the beginning.

Wed.—**Ezekiel 12:21-28** God's Word shall be done.

Thu.—**Daniel 2:24-30** God revealeth secrets.

Fri.—**Psalms 119:65-80** Praising God for keeping His Word.

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9 God tells of events ahead.

True Prophecies Come to Pass

Deuteronomy 18:22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord—claims to speak for the Lord, to tell what God has told him. There were false prophets then as well as now. How can one tell the false from the true? **If the thing follow not**—if his saying does not come true, does not **come to pass**—then **the Lord hath not spoken** it. The prophet has **spoken it presumptuously**—without authority, without Word from God. **Thou shalt not be afraid of him**, shall not believe or observe his words. Implied here is the fact that prophecies which the Lord HAS spoken do **come to pass**, do occur just as spoken. No one is really a prophet unless God has spoken the message to him. We have a good example of this is **2 Samuel 18:19-31**.

Jeremiah prophesied the captivity and death of Zedekiah, king of Judah (**Jeremiah 34:1-7**). The people accused him of disloyalty and put him in jail (**Jeremiah 37:11-15, 28**). But this (and other things) happened just as Jeremiah prophesied (**Jeremiah 52:1-12**). He spoke what God had spoken to him.

No Word of God Shall Fail

Isaiah 34:16 Seek ye out of the book of the Lord and read. Read the promises, warnings, and predictions. **No one of these shall fail**. This is God's pledge. For every promise, there must be its matching fulfillment. Why? Because God's **mouth it hath commanded**. His Word cannot fail. **His spirit it hath gathered them**—the Spirit of God has gathered the Words, the people, and events together to bring the fulfillment. No Word of the Bible has ever been found false. God said He would bring all His Words to pass (**Ezekiel 12:28**).

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Old Testament Prophecies of New Testament Salvation

1 Peter 1:10-12 The prophets have enquired and searched diligently. They did not understand the meaning when they prophesied of the grace to come, so they enquired and searched for it. They wondered what it was and what manner of time it would come. The Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify—the Holy Spirit in their hearts made known these things. He testified beforehand—predicted—the sufferings of Christ, and the glory . . . For example, Isaiah wrote seven hundred years before Christ was born that He was despised . . . rejected . . . a man of sorrows . . . wounded . . . bruised . . . oppressed . . . afflicted . . . brought as a lamb to the slaughter . . . and was cut off out of the land of the living. All this for our iniquities. Then, in contrast, is the glory, that he shall see his seed . . . prolong his days . . . the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand . . . he shall be satisfied and divide the spoil with the strong (Isaiah 53). Puzzling, certainly, to one who has the prediction only. God answered their inquiries by revealing that they did minister the things . . . not unto themselves—the prophecies were not to be fulfilled in their time—but unto us in the next, this Gospel dispensation. The things they prophesied have come to pass and are reported by Spirit-led preachers of the gospel. They tell of Christ's substitutionary death, His Resurrection, and of those saved and Spirit-filled by His power. The prophecies of the old dispensation of Law are fulfilled in the new dispensation of grace. The angels are shut out from these blessings of salvation. They can only desire to look into them. They are precious to the angels, but only those who repent and believe can partake of it. Seek it, receive it, keep it, and tell of it.

Fulfilled Prophecies Prove the Bible

Some Old Testament prophecies and the fulfillment in Christ's earthly life are:

	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:20-23
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
Healings	Isaiah 53:4-5	Matthew 8:16-17
Riding into Jerusalem	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:4-5
Betrayed for silver	Zechariah 11:12-13	Matthew 26:14-16; Matthew 27:3-10
Garments divided	Psalms 22:18	John 19:23-24
Numbered with transgressors	Isaiah 53:12	Mark 15:27-28
Railed upon	Psalms 22:7-8	Matthew 27:39-44
Made intercession	Isaiah 53:12	Luke 23:34

We can trust His promise to come again—John 14:3; Acts 1:10-11. These prophecies were given from seven hundred to a thousand years before Christ was born. That they could come true by chance is an absolute impossibility. No one man could by chance fulfill all these prophecies and more. Some of them no one not divine could ever fulfill. There is but one answer—the prophecies are from God, the Book is God's Book.

JUST A THOUGHT

There have always been unbelievers in God and His Word, but none have ever brought forth any proof.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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