

THE BIBLE'S **GREATEST PROPHECIES**



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An Amazing Fact: Meteorologists today rely on powerful satellites, supercomputers, radar systems, and billions of data points to forecast the weather. Yet even with all this technology, long-range climate predictions remain far from certain. It seems humanity can study the past and analyze the present all it wants, but knowing the future will continue to elude us.

What will happen to our world?
What nations will rise and fall?
Is history moving toward something?
Can the future even be known?

From ancient kings to modern scientists, humanity has always longed to know what lies ahead. For thousands of years, people have sought insights about the future from philosophers, mystics, astrologers, fortune-tellers, and even technology, but no human being can truly see tomorrow.

But what if there was a way to actually know the future? What if the veil that hides tomorrow could be lifted? What if someone *outside* the boundaries of time could reveal what lies ahead?

The Holy Bible claims that the future is known. It introduces us to a God who is not confined by time, a Creator who sees the end from the beginning—and He has revealed coming events through the miracle of prophecy.

A Book Unlike Any Other

Indeed, the Bible makes some astonishing claims. We're told, "I am God, and there is none like Me, **declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done**" (Isaiah 46:9, 10, emphasis added). The writer understood that this is a unique claim among religions:

Let them [pagan idols] bring forth and show us what will happen ... that we may know that you are gods. ... Indeed you are nothing (Isaiah 41:21–24).

These statements might seem bold or even arrogant, yet the Bible is jam-packed with clear and incontrovertible examples of God's prophecies coming to pass. For instance, long before they ever happened, Scripture predicted:

- The rise and fall of world superpowers
- The desolation of prosperous cities
- Most amazing of all: details about the birth, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ

These were not vague predictions that could apply to almost anything. Bible prophecy deals with real people, real kingdoms, and real historical events. History has repeatedly confirmed their remarkable fulfillments. Not one has failed!

Why Prophecy Still Matters Today

Consider another remarkable fact about the Bible: It was written by about forty different

authors over roughly fifteen hundred years. Some were kings, while others were shepherds, fishermen, prophets, priests, and prisoners. They lived on different continents and wrote in different languages. Yet together they tell one consistent story centered on one Person, Jesus Christ.

How is that possible? Because behind Scripture stands a divine Author. Jesus Himself pointed to fulfilled prophecy as evidence for faith. He told His disciples, "I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe" (John 14:29). That is one of the great purposes of prophecy—not merely to satisfy curiosity about the future, but to help us believe and trust in God.

In the pages ahead, you will discover some of the Bible's greatest prophecies. You will see how God accurately foretold the succession of empires through the prophecy of Daniel 2. You will examine remarkable predictions about the Messiah that were fulfilled in the life of Jesus. And you will discover what these prophecies reveal about the future of our world.

Part 1: Daniel 2 & The Dream That Revealed the Future

At its height, Babylon was one of the largest and most magnificent cities on Earth and the capital of a vast empire. Protected by massive walls, it boasted grand palaces, impressive temples, and other extraordinary displays of riches.

To most people in those days, including its arrogant king, Nebuchadnezzar, it seemed destined to last forever. Yet more than 2,600 years ago, God revealed that Babylon would not endure.

Nebuchadnezzar had conquered nations and accumulated enormous wealth, yet he could not escape the question that has troubled rulers throughout history: *What will happen after me? What will become of Babylon? What does the future hold?* (See Daniel 2:29.)

One night, God answered those questions through a remarkable dream given to the king.

When Nebuchadnezzar awoke, he knew he had dreamed something important, but he could not remember its details. Disturbed, he summoned the wisest men in his kingdom and demanded that they tell him both the details of his dream and its meaning.

The king's counselors were stunned. They claimed they could certainly interpret a dream if someone told them what it was, but they could not reveal a forgotten dream. They admitted, "There is not a man on earth who can tell the king's matter" (Daniel 2:10).

They were right. No astrologer, philosopher, scientist, or counselor can know the future or recover someone else's forgotten dream. The wise men of Babylon were forced to confess that the answer the king sought was beyond human ability.

The king was furious. He'd paid these men well for their supposed supernatural abilities, yet now they were admitting they could not do what he demanded. Nebuchadnezzar ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be put to death.

A God Who Reveals Secrets

When Daniel, a young Hebrew captive who served as a wise man in the Babylonian court, learned of the king's death decree, he asked the court for more time. He then gathered his friends and prayed, asking God to reveal the mysterious dream and its meaning.

That night, the Lord answered.

After receiving the dream and its interpretation, Daniel praised God, saying, "He

removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise” (Daniel 2:21). When Daniel appeared before Nebuchadnezzar, he made it clear that he deserved no credit for what had been revealed. “There is a God in heaven who reveals secrets,” he told the king (Daniel 2:28).

Then, standing before Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel described an enormous image:

1. Its head was made of gold.
2. Its chest and arms were made of silver.
3. Its belly and thighs were made of bronze.
4. Its legs were made of iron.
5. Its feet were made partly of iron and partly of clay.
6. A stone “cut without human hands” struck the image on its feet, shattering the entire statue.
7. Finally, the stone grew into a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Nebuchadnezzar immediately recognized the dream. Daniel had described it perfectly! But what did it all mean?

Next, Daniel revealed the dream’s interpretation.

The enormous image represented a succession of kingdoms that would rise and fall on the stage of world history. Beginning with Babylon and extending far beyond Daniel's own lifetime, God revealed the future of nations before it happened ...

Kingdoms of Gold and Silver

Daniel began with a message Nebuchadnezzar undoubtedly enjoyed hearing: "You are this head of gold" (Daniel 2:38). The king stood as the representative of Babylon, and the symbol was fitting. Babylon was one of the wealthiest kingdoms of the ancient world. Gold adorned its temples, palaces, and sacred treasures. Its walls were considered impregnable, and its influence stretched across vast territories.

Yet Daniel delivered a surprising message: "After you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours" (Daniel 2:39). At the time, such a prediction seemed almost impossible. Babylon stood at the height of its power, and few could imagine its downfall, especially at the hands of an "inferior" kingdom.

But God was revealing that even the greatest earthly kingdoms are temporary.

According to ancient accounts, the invaders, led by Cyrus the Great, diverted the waters of the Euphrates River, which flowed through the city. Under the cover of darkness, soldiers entered through the riverbed and captured Babylon in a single night. The seemingly invincible empire was conquered, and a new world power took its place—just as God said.

The chest and arms of silver represented the Medo-Persian Empire. Silver, though less valuable than gold, reflected Daniel's prediction that the kingdom succeeding Babylon would be "inferior" to it, while the two arms symbolized the empire's dual composition of Medes and Persians.

Kingdoms of Bronze and Iron

But the prophecy did not stop with Medo-Persia. Daniel next declared that a third kingdom, symbolized by bronze, would arise and "rule over all the earth" (Daniel 2:39). More than two centuries after Babylon's fall, Alexander the Great led the armies of Greece in a series of stunning victories over the Persians, eventually conquering the vast Medo-Persian Empire. Alexander then swept across the ancient world, establishing Greek rule from Europe to India.

Bronze was a fitting symbol for Greece. Its soldiers were known for their bronze armor, shields, and weapons. Yet, like the kingdoms before it, Greece would not last forever.

Daniel then pointed to a fourth kingdom, represented by legs of iron. “The fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron” (Daniel 2:40). History identifies this kingdom as Rome, which crushed opposition, expanded relentlessly, and established its authority across much of the known world. Its military power, engineering achievements, and legal system left an imprint on civilization that is still evident today.

It was during Rome’s supremacy that Jesus was born. Its officials governed Judea, and its soldiers carried out Christ’s crucifixion. The iron kingdom foreseen by Daniel became the dominant power of the New Testament world.

- Babylon (gold) gave way to Medo-Persia.
- Medo-Persia (silver) gave way to Greece.
- Greece (bronze) gave way to Rome (iron).

Century after century, the sequence unfolded exactly as God had revealed through Daniel. Yet the prophecy was not finished ...

The Divided Kingdom

In his dream, Nebuchadnezzar next saw feet and toes made of a mixture of iron and clay. Daniel explained the meaning: “The kingdom shall be divided” (Daniel 2:41).

Notice that Daniel did not predict a fifth world empire replacing Rome. Babylon had been followed by Medo-Persia. Medo-Persia had been followed by Greece. Greece had been followed by Rome. One would naturally expect another empire to arise—instead, Daniel declared that Rome would “be divided.”

History records exactly that development. As the Western Roman Empire weakened during the fourth and fifth centuries after Christ, various tribes invaded its territory and gradually carved it into separate kingdoms. From these divisions emerged many of the nations that would eventually become modern Europe. The unified empire disappeared, replaced by a patchwork of states, just as the mixture of iron and clay suggested.

Daniel’s prophecy goes even further. Speaking of these divided kingdoms, he declared, “They will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay” (Daniel 2:43).

For more than fifteen hundred years, some of history's most powerful rulers have attempted to do exactly what Daniel said would not happen. Through royal marriages, political alliances, treaties, and military conquests, ambitious leaders sought to reunite the fragments of the Roman Empire. Charlemagne tried. Napoleon tried. Kaiser Wilhelm tried. Hitler tried. Others have pursued the same dream in different ways. Yet Europe has never been permanently united under a single ruler or empire. Some nations are strong, others are weak, but they continue to exist side by side in a divided state.

Daniel recorded this prophecy centuries before Rome reached the height of its power. At the time, no one could have foreseen the empire's rise nor its eventual collapse, much less the political landscape that would emerge afterward. Yet the divided condition of Europe remains one of the most recognizable features of the modern world.

The vision that began in ancient Babylon has now stretched across more than twenty-five centuries of history and reaches into our own time. The kingdoms represented by the image have come and gone exactly as foretold. But the feet of iron and clay are not the final scene in the dream. Nebuchadnezzar saw something else ...

The Kingdom That Never Falls

After watching the rise and fall of earthly kingdoms, Nebuchadnezzar saw one final scene in his dream. “A stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces” (Daniel 2:34).

The impact of the stone was devastating. The iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold were all crushed together and carried away by the wind, meaning no trace of them remained. Then the stone grew into a great mountain and filled the whole earth. Daniel explained: “In the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed” (Daniel 2:44).

Unlike the kingdoms depicted in the image, this kingdom does not arise from conquest or political ambition. The stone was “cut out without hands,” indicating that its origin is divine and unlike anything men create. Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome were established by sinful mortal men. Even their strongest governments eventually pass from the scene.

But God’s kingdom enters history by divine power; its future is secure. Daniel declared that the kingdom made by the stone “shall stand forever” (Daniel 2:44). Throughout Scripture, the stone is associated with Christ. Isaiah called Him “a tried

stone, a precious cornerstone” (Isaiah 28:16). The psalmist spoke of “the stone which the builders rejected” (Psalm 118:22). Jesus applied these prophecies to Himself—and He also spoke of when He would return in power and glory to establish His eternal kingdom. Daniel’s prophecy demonstrates that God knows the future, so you can trust the Bible when it says that Jesus will come again.

Part 2: The Messiah Foretold

Daniel 2 demonstrated that God knows the future of nations. It traced the rise and fall of world empires with remarkable accuracy centuries before those events occurred. Yet the Bible contains an even more astonishing set of prophecies.

Instead of predicting the destiny of kingdoms, these prophecies describe the life of a single Man long before He was born.

Hundreds of years before Jesus entered history as a baby, Old Testament prophets foretold the family line through which the Messiah would come, where He would be born, the time of His appearance, the work He would accomplish, the manner of His death, and even His resurrection. These were not vague predictions that could fit almost anyone. Together, they formed a portrait so detailed that only one person in history could fulfill it.

The prophets first identified who the Messiah would be.

God promised that the coming Deliverer would descend from Abraham (Genesis 12:3) and ultimately come through the house of King

David (Jeremiah 23:5). The New Testament opens by tracing Jesus' genealogy and declaring Him to be "the Son of David, the Son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1), showing that He came through the very lineage Scripture had foretold.

The prophets also revealed where the Messiah would be born. More than seven hundred years before the birth of Christ, Micah declared, "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel" (Micah 5:2). At the time, Bethlehem was a small and seemingly insignificant village. Yet God identified it centuries in advance as the birthplace of the Messiah.

When Mary was pregnant with Jesus, she and Joseph were living in Nazareth, not Bethlehem. But a decree from Caesar Augustus required them to travel to their ancestral city. There, in the very town specified by prophecy, Jesus was born, right on time.

Finally, Isaiah foretold the miraculous circumstances of the Messiah's birth. More than seven hundred years before Christ came, he wrote, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). The Gospel writers record the fulfillment of this prophecy in the birth of Jesus through Mary. What

seemed impossible from a human perspective was accomplished by the power of God.

The Time of His Coming

The prophecies did more than identify the Messiah's ancestry, birthplace, and miraculous birth. They also pointed forward to the very time of His appearance.

This is one of the most remarkable feats of Bible prophecy. Imagine someone living five hundred years before Abraham accurately predicting the year of the American Revolution. Such a prediction would be astonishing. Yet that is precisely the kind of prophecy God gave concerning the Messiah.

While the Jewish people were still captives in Babylon, God revealed through Daniel a prophecy concerning "Messiah the Prince" (Daniel 9:25). Beginning with a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, the prophecy outlined a specific period of time leading to the appearance of the promised Savior.

History records that the decree to rebuild Jerusalem was issued by Artaxerxes in 457 BC. Using the Bible's prophetic principle that a symbolic day represents a literal year (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6), the sixty-nine

prophetic weeks of Daniel's prophecy extend to AD 27—the very year Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit for His public ministry.

This prophecy was written more than five centuries before those events occurred. Yet when the time arrived, Jesus appeared exactly as foretold. He stepped onto the banks of the Jordan River, was baptized by John, and began proclaiming, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand” (Mark 1:15). Christ's own words point back to Daniel's prophecy. The long-anticipated prophetic clock had reached its appointed hour.

God did not simply promise that the Messiah would come someday. He told His people when to expect Him. No human being can predict the future with that kind of precision, but the God who declares “the end from the beginning” can.

An Unexpected Messiah

By the time Jesus appeared, the Jewish people had been waiting centuries for the promised Messiah. Many longed for a mighty ruler who would overthrow the Roman Empire, restore Israel's independence, and establish a glorious earthly kingdom.

Yet the prophets had painted a remarkably different picture.

Instead of describing a military conqueror, Isaiah portrayed the Messiah as a humble Servant. “He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench” (Isaiah 42:2, 3). Rather than crushing the weak, He would treat them with gentleness and compassion. His strength would be seen not in political power, but in mercy, humility, and love.

Jesus fulfilled this prophecy throughout His ministry. He welcomed little children, touched lepers, forgave sinners, comforted the brokenhearted, and showed compassion to those society had forgotten. He later described Himself as “gentle and lowly in heart” (Matthew 11:29), just as Isaiah had foretold.

Because Jesus did not match the popular expectations of a conquering king, many failed to recognize Him. The prophets had predicted that as well. David wrote, “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone” (Psalm 118:22). That prophecy was fulfilled with heartbreaking accuracy. Though multitudes heard Christ’s teaching and witnessed His miracles, many religious leaders rejected His claims and resisted His message. As the apostle John observed, “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11). The very Savior

they had anticipated for centuries stood among them, yet many failed to recognize Him because He came to conquer sin rather than Rome.

The prophets also foretold what the Messiah would do. Isaiah declared that the Lord had anointed Him “to preach good tidings to the poor” (Isaiah 61:1). He would bring hope to the discouraged, freedom to those held captive by sin, and comfort to the brokenhearted.

Jesus fulfilled these promises wherever He traveled. He proclaimed the good news of God’s kingdom in villages and cities, ministered to rich and poor alike, healed the sick, restored sight to the blind, opened the ears of the deaf (Isaiah 29:18), cleansed lepers, and even raised the dead (Luke 7:22). These miracles were more than displays of divine power; they also revealed the compassion of the promised Messiah and confirmed that He was the One foretold by the prophets.

Even Christ’s teaching methods had been predicted centuries in advance. The psalmist wrote, “I will open my mouth in a parable” (Psalm 78:2). Jesus became known for using simple stories about seeds, shepherds, vineyards, and lost coins to communicate profound spiritual truths. Matthew specifically notes that “without a parable He did not speak to them” (Matthew 13:34), fulfilling yet another prophecy.

Yet the prophets revealed that teaching, healing, and preaching were not the Messiah's ultimate mission. His greatest work still lay ahead. The Savior had come not merely to live among humanity, but to die for it.

The Messiah's Greatest Mission

Up to this point, the prophecies have identified the Messiah. They revealed who He would be, where He would be born, when He would appear, and what kind of ministry He would have. But they also predicted His ultimate mission.

Remarkably, the Bible's first prophecy about the Messiah was given immediately after Adam and Eve sinned. As God pronounced judgment on the serpent, He also announced humanity's hope: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel" (Genesis 3:15).

From the very beginning, God promised a Deliverer. Though the serpent would wound Him, the Messiah would ultimately crush the serpent's head and defeat the power of sin and Satan. Humanity's hope has rested on the coming Savior ever since Genesis.

As the centuries passed, God not only foretold that sacrifice, but He also illustrated it. One of the clearest examples appears in the life of Abraham. When God asked Abraham to offer his beloved son Isaac on Mount Moriah, Abraham obeyed in faith, believing that God could even raise his son from the dead (Hebrews 11:17–19). But at the last moment, the Lord stopped the sacrifice and provided a ram to die in Isaac's place. That unforgettable event pointed forward to a far greater sacrifice. Unlike Isaac, Jesus would not be spared. God would give His own beloved Son to die in our place so that we might live.

Centuries later, the prophets revealed how that sacrifice would be accomplished. Isaiah described the Messiah as “a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief” (Isaiah 53:3). The promised Savior would not merely teach, heal, and perform miracles. He would suffer in the giving of His life for the sins of the world.

David foretold that the Messiah would be betrayed by a close companion. “Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me” (Psalm 41:9). Zechariah even specified the price of the betrayal: “So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver” (Zechariah 11:12).

Centuries later, Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for exactly thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14, 15).

Isaiah also foretold the Messiah's response to injustice: "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth" (Isaiah 53:7). During His trials before the Jewish leaders, Pilate, and Herod, Jesus remained silent in His own defense, astonishing those who questioned Him (Matthew 27:12–14; Luke 23:9).

Even the details of Christ's crucifixion had been foretold centuries in advance. David wrote, "They pierced My hands and My feet" (Psalm 22:16), and he predicted that soldiers would divide His garments and cast lots for His clothing (Psalm 22:18). Isaiah declared that the suffering Servant would be "numbered with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12), and Jesus was crucified between two criminals.

The same prophet also foretold that, though He would die as a condemned man, He would be buried "with the rich at His death" (Isaiah 53:9). Jesus was laid to rest in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, a wealthy disciple (Matthew 27:57, 60).

Yet the grave was not the end of the story! David declared, "You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption" (Psalm 16:10). Isaiah likewise looked beyond the cross, writing that after making His

life “an offering for sin,” the Messiah would “see His seed” and “prolong His days” (Isaiah 53:10). The prophets foretold not only His death but also His resurrection.

Jesus repeatedly told His disciples that He would be crucified and rise again on the third day (Matthew 20:18, 19). After His resurrection, hundreds of witnesses saw Him alive (1 Corinthians 15:6). They spoke with Him, ate with Him, and watched Him ascend into heaven (Acts 1:3, 9).

From the Garden of Eden to Mount Moriah, from Isaiah’s suffering Servant to the empty tomb, the Bible tells one consistent story. Across thousands of years, dozens of writers pointed to the same Savior and sacrifice. Jesus fulfilled those prophecies with remarkable precision, revealing not only that God knows the future, but also that He loves us enough to enter history to save us.

The evidence is overwhelming. Mathematician Peter W. Stoner calculated the probability of one person fulfilling just eight major Messianic prophecies by chance. His conclusion? The odds are approximately **1 in 10¹⁷**—or **1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000**.

To illustrate that number, imagine covering the entire state of Texas two feet deep with silver dollars. Mark one coin, thoroughly mix it into

the pile, then blindfold someone and ask them to find the marked coin on their very first attempt. According to Stoner, those are the same odds of one person fulfilling only eight Messianic prophecies by chance.

Yet Jesus fulfilled not merely eight prophecies, but dozens. Such precision points to far more than coincidence. It bears witness to a God who knows the future and faithfully accomplishes His purposes. And the same Scriptures that foretold Christ's first coming with astonishing accuracy also promise that He will come again ...

Part 3: The Final Prophecy

Anxiety disorders have become one of the most common mental health challenges in the world, affecting hundreds of millions of people. It's easy to understand why. Every day we hear about wars, natural disasters, economic uncertainty, political division, and moral confusion. Many people sense that something isn't right with our world, yet they have little hope that things will get better.

Indeed, Jesus said there would be a time when “men’s hearts” would fail them “from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth” (Luke 21:26). Yet He did not speak those words to leave His followers fearful; God spoke to them so they would recognize that history is moving exactly where He said it would.

All the prophecies we’ve explored have something in common: They have been fulfilled. God accurately foretold the rise and fall of world empires, and He revealed the coming of the Messiah centuries before Jesus was born. Time after time, history has confirmed what God declared beforehand.

That raises an important question. If God has faithfully fulfilled the prophecies concerning Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the first coming of Christ, what should we expect of the prophecies that have not yet been fulfilled? We should expect God to be right about them too.

Signs of the Times

God not only foretold Jesus’ first coming, but Jesus also promised that He would come again. Before returning to heaven, He described the conditions that would characterize the world before His return so that His end-time followers

would recognize the time in which they were living (Matthew 24:3).

Those signs deserve our careful attention. Like road signs along a highway, these events would remind God's people that history is moving toward the destination that He predicted from His throne.

One of those signs is increasing moral degradation. Jesus warned, "Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12). The apostle Paul likewise described the last days as a time when people would become "lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud," and "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:2, 4). It is difficult to read those words without seeing a striking picture of a society increasingly marked by self-interest, materialism, pride, and pleasure-seeking.

Jesus also spoke of wars, rumors of wars, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places (Matthew 24:6-8). These types of events remind us that this world is not moving toward a human-made utopia. Sin continues to leave its mark on every nation and every generation.

Yet Jesus also gave a sign filled with hope. "This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations,

and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14). Before Christ returns, the good news of salvation will be proclaimed throughout the earth. And today, we can see remarkable evidence that this prophecy is moving toward fulfillment through advanced media technology, such as satellites, which allow the gospel to cross hostile borders. Even amid turmoil and uncertainty, God’s work continues to move forward, and the everlasting gospel is reaching places and people that previous generations could scarcely have imagined.

These are only a few of the signs Jesus gave. Scripture describes many others. Explore them in greater depth by requesting our free *The Day of the Lord* magazine.



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These signs were not intended to produce fear in our hearts or to generate endless speculation

about when Jesus will return. Instead, the signs remind us that the fulfillment of His promise to return is getting closer: “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28).

Yes, Jesus repeatedly urged His followers to watch, to be ready, and to remain faithful (Matthew 24:42–44). However, the signs of the times are more than just a promise that the end is near; they are invitations to place our full trust in Christ’s power not only to redeem us from this bleak world but also to transform the sin-sick heart within us. As Paul wrote, “He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6). The same Lord who foretold the rise and fall of kingdoms and fulfilled every promise concerning His first coming is faithfully guiding history toward the day when He will return—and faithfully preparing a people whose lives reflect His character.

The Coming Kingdom

According to Bible prophecy, we are living very near the end of Earth’s history. The world as we know it is soon to be destroyed by the brightness of Jesus’ coming. The signs of the

times remind us that, yes, history is moving toward a climactic destination.

But the Bible does not end with wars, disasters, and moral corruption.

It ends with hope, just as Daniel experienced in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. As we saw earlier, after the image representing the kingdoms of this world had completed its course, "a stone was cut out without hands" and struck the image on its feet (Daniel 2:34). The metals were broken into pieces and carried away by the winds of time, but the stone grew into a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Daniel explained that the stone represented God's everlasting kingdom (Daniel 2:44). Unlike the nations of this world, it is not established by military power but by the Creator Himself. Every earthly empire eventually passes away, but His kingdom will stand forever.

The Bible closes with a beautiful picture of that kingdom. John saw "a new heaven and a new earth" (Revelation 21:1). He heard the promise that God "will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying" (v. 4). Sin, suffering, and death will finally come to an end, and God's people will live with Him forever.

This is where Bible prophecy has been leading all along. The God who accurately foretold the rise and fall of kingdoms and the coming of the Messiah has also promised to restore His creation. Every fulfilled prophecy gives us confidence that this promise will be fulfilled as well.

An Invitation to Be Ready

Throughout this book, we have followed the course of history from the kingdoms of Daniel 2 to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Time after time, God has shown that His Word can be trusted. Every fulfilled prophecy reminds us that He keeps His promises.

Jesus said, “I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:3). Just as God fulfilled His promises concerning Christ’s first coming, He will also fulfill His promises concerning Christ’s return.

The only question left is whether we are prepared to meet Him when He does come. That preparation is more than learning about prophecy. It begins with knowing the One to whom prophecy points. Jesus invites each of us to trust Him, receive His forgiveness, and follow Him as Lord and Savior. Those who belong to

Christ need not fear the future, because they know the One who holds the future.

If you have never accepted Christ's invitation, there is no better time than now. Open His Word. Spend time with Him in prayer. Ask Him to lead your life and prepare you for His kingdom.

The God who revealed the future to Daniel, who fulfilled every promise concerning Christ's first coming, and who continues to guide history today is inviting you into His everlasting kingdom. Bible prophecy is more than evidence that God knows the future. It is His invitation to trust Him. Will you place your trust in Him today and be ready to welcome Him when He returns?