

WORKSHOP ON FULFILLED PROPHECY

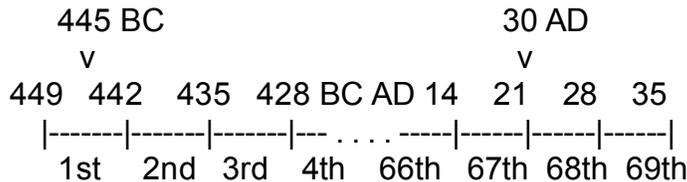
INTRODUCTION

Many think Xy superstitious, blind faith; while atheism, humanism, etc. are reasonable, firmly grounded in evidence; but opposite is the case
Look at one line of evidence for Xy: fulfilled prophecy

TIME OF MESSIAH: Daniel 9:25-26

Dan 9:25 (NIV) "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. 26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

Starting point 445 BC: 20 year of Artaxerxes 1 (Neh 2)
Unit of measurement: sabbatical cycle: 7 yrs beg in Oct
Standard Jewish counting method: include start & end units
After (7 +) 62 weeks = AD 28-35



ISRAEL'S FUTURE: Hosea 3:4-5

Hose 3:4 (NIV) For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol.5 Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.

Six unusual sociological features characterizing Israel for almost 2000 yrs
King/prince: no king since 587 BC or AD 44; no prince from AD 70 to 1948
Sacrifice/sacred pillar: no sacrifice since 70; app no pillar since c 500 BC
Ephod/teraphim: no priesthood since 70, no teraphim since c 500 BC

TWIN CITIES: Various passages

Good test to show that Bible really does make clear predictions that come true
Like tests used in trying out a new medicine; use a control group which is
paired with test group, but gets fake pills

The cities.

Memphis & Thebes: capitals of ancient Egypt
Tyre & Sidon: seaports of ancient Phoenicia (Lebanon)
Ashkelon & Ekron: two of the Philistine cities
Babylon & Nineveh: capitals of ancient empires

The prophecies fulfilled.

Memphis/Thebes:

Prophecies (Ezk 30:13-16)
Memphis to have its idols destroyed
Thebes to have its masses of people cut off

Fulfillment:
Memphis site became quarry for building Cairo
by Muslims who hated idols
Thebes reduced from large capital city to a
few small villages

No good if names switched, as Memphis now suburb of Cairo,
and many idols found at Thebes

Tyre/Sidon:

Prophecies:
Tyre (Ezk 26:1-14) to have its rubble thrown into sea, its site scraped
clean, becoming a place for spreading fishnets, never to be rebuilt
Sidon (Ezk 28:20-23) to face war and disaster, but nothing said about
being abandoned

Fulfillment:
Tyre's mainland city destroyed about 600 BC by Nebuchadnezzar, but
most people escaped to island offshore; almost 300 yrs later,
Alexander besieged island, used rubble from old city to build road
out to island; mainland site used for spreading nets today, never
rebuilt
Sidon has often been besieged and conquered, but survives today as
one of major ports of Lebanon

Again, no good if names switched, but perfect fit as is

Ashkelon/Ekron:

Prophecies (Zeph 2:4-7):

Ashkelon was to be reduced to ruins, but later inhabited by a remnant of the Jews

Ekron was to be uprooted

Fulfillment:

Both inhabited until Crusades, when both destroyed, and harbor of Ashkelon filled w/ stones

Since 1948, Jews rebuilt Ashkelon and cleared harbor, but location of Ekron still uncertain

Babylon/Nineveh:

Prophecies:

Babylon to be deserted, without Arabs or shepherd, to be a home for wild animals (Isa 13:19-22), its stone not to be used as bldg stone again (Jer 51:26)

Nineveh (Zeph 2:13-15) to be destroyed and left desolate, but to become a place for grazing sheep

Fulfillment:

Babylon has become deserted over the centuries, partly by conquest, partly by shift in river, leaving site without water; Arabs avoid site as haunted, soil too poor for grazing even sheep; native use site for clay bricks, but burn stone to make lime instead of building stone

Nineveh was destroyed suddenly and location forgotten for centuries; name of largest mound Quyunyiq means "many sheep"; long abandoned, tho recently suburbs of Mosul have grown out to reach site

Conclusions re/ cities.

Striking fulfillment of numerous details about these cities

Not just the sort of thing that one could say about any city

In fact, if you trade names among the paired cities, the fulfillments would not have come true!

This shows us that the God of the Bible really does control history

And He controls your history too!

LIGHT TO THE GENTILES: Isaiah 42:6; 49:6

*Isa 42:6 (NIV) "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,*

*Isa 49:6 (NIV) he says:
"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant
to restore the tribes of Jacob
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."*

The "suffering servant" to be a light to the Gentiles, though despised by his own nation

What other Messianic claimant has started a world religion?

CONCLUSIONS

Need to pay serious attention to this evidence

It shows us that God exists, and that he is the God of the Bible.

Gospel:

- 2 Great commandments
- We are separated from God
- What are we living for?
- Jesus paid it all
- Turn back to God
- Share in His work

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