

IS THE BIBLE TRULY GOD’S WORD? #5

John Edwards

EVIDENCE TO SUSTAIN SUCH A CLAIM: FULFILLED PROPHECY

There is no stronger proof of the inspiration and truthfulness of the Bible than prophecy and its fulfillment. From Genesis to Revelation, the Scriptures contain hundreds of distinct prophecies.

PROPHECIES CONCERNING INDIVIDUALS AND NATIONS.

When Abraham did not even have a son, God revealed details about the future of his descendants (Gen. 15:13-16). Abraham did not live to see these things come to pass, but you and I can look back and see that it happened just as God said (Acts 13:17; Ex. 1:11-13; 12:12, 36, 40).

PROPHECIES CONCERNING CHRIST.

Hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, prophets spoke with explicit detail about the Messiah to come. These prophecies all find their fulfillment in Jesus. Jesus was born of a virgin (Is. 7:14; Mt. 1:18-23), in Bethlehem of Judah (Micah 5:2; Mt. 2:1), was of the tribe of Judaea (Gen. 49:8-10; Mt. 1:1-3), came to Jerusalem riding on a donkey (Zech. 9:9; Mt. 21:1-10), was

despised and rejected (Is. 53:2-3; Lk. 17:25), was buried with the rich (Is. 53:9; Mt. 27:57-60), and was raised from the dead (Ps. 16:8-11; Lk. 24:6-8).

In light of the overwhelming evidence, we believe the Bible to be what it claims to be — the inspired, infallible word of God.

SINCE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

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There are things true of the Bible that are not true of any other book:

IT IS RIGHT. *“For the word of the Lord is right...”* (Ps. 33:4).

IT WILL NOT FAIL. *“There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken...”* (Josh. 21:45).

IT IS UNALTERABLE. *“My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips”* (Ps. 89:34).

IT IS FOREVER SETTLED. *“For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven”* (Ps. 119:89).

IT IS LIGHT *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”* (Ps. 119:105).

IT IS VERY PURE. *“Thy word is very pure...”* (Ps. 119:140).

IT IS EVERLASTING. *“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever”* (Is. 40:8).

IT WILL JUDGE US. *“...the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day”* (Jn. 12:48).

IT IS TRUTH AND SANCTIFIES. *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth”* (Jn. 17:17).

IT IS LIVING AND POWERFUL. *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword...”* (Heb. 4:12).

IT IS ABLE TO SAVE. *“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls”* (Jas. 1:21).

We ought to:

RESPECT IT. *“Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded”* (Prov. 13:13).

DESIRE IT. *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow*

thereby” (1 Pet. 2:2).

READ IT. Joshua “...read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings...” (Josh. 8:34). Have you read the whole Bible?

SEEK TO HEAR IT. Be like Sergius Paulus “...who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God” (Acts 13:7).

DO IT. “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (Jas. 1:22).

HIDE IT IN OUR HEART. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Ps. 119:11).

TRUST IN IT. “...for I trust in thy word” (Ps. 119:42).

PUT OUR HOPE IN IT. “...I hope in your word” (Ps. 119:81).

LOVE IT. “Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold” (Ps. 119:127).

REJOICE AT IT. “I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth

great spoil” (Ps. 119:162).

SPEAK IT. We ought to speak it faithfully (Jer. 23:28) and fearlessly (Phil. 1:14).

ASK, “WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?” “...what saith the scripture?...” (Rom. 4:3; Gal. 4:30). Find out what the Bible says, and let it be the final authority on every issue!

WHY DID THE SPIRIT FALL ON CORNELIUS?

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NOT TO SAVE HIM. Peter “...shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved” (Acts 11:14).

NOT TO GIVE HIM FAITH. Peter said, “Men and brethren, ye know that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe” (Acts 15:7).

NOT TO PURIFY HIS HEART. God “...put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by

faith” (Acts 15:9).

NOT TO CONVERT HIM. “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul...” (Ps. 19:7).

NOT TO SANCTIFY HIM. “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (Jn. 17:17).

NOT TO GIVE HIM REMISSION OF SINS. “To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins” (Acts 10:43).

NOT TO EFFECT THE NEW BIRTH. “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 Pet. 1:23).

TO CONVINCe PETER AND THE JEWS THAT THE GENTILES WERE TO RECEIVE THE GOSPEL AND SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST. “When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life” (Acts 11:18).

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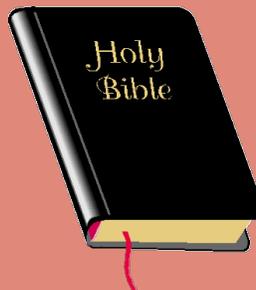
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