



# KINGDOMS IN TIME

*HISTORY'S GREATEST  
BIBLE PROPHECIES!*



Kingdoms in Time  
History's Greatest  
Bible Prophecies!

**PRESIDENT**  
DOUG BATCHELOR

**WRITERS**  
DOUG BATCHELOR  
CHARLES LAWSON  
WAYNE LEMAN  
ANTHONY LESTER  
CURTIS RITTENOUR

**ART DESIGN/LAYOUT**  
HALEY TRIMMER  
DANIEL HUDGENS

Find an error? Let us know at  
editor@amazingfacts.org

Copyright © 2019 by Amazing Facts International  
All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

Unless otherwise noted, Scriptures are taken from the  
New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas  
Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Amazing Facts, a nonprofit ministry, shares the  
saving truths of Jesus Christ around the world  
through literature, radio, television, the Internet,  
public evangelism, outreach training, and more.

**Amazing Facts  
International**  
P.O. Box 1058  
Roseville, CA 95678  
Phone: 916-434-3880

Visit our website at  
**amazingfacts.org**

### FREE BIBLE STUDIES

To enroll in our free 27-lesson Bible study, visit  
our homepage at amazingfacts.org and click on  
"Free Online Bible School." Or to take the free  
course by mail, send us your name, address, and  
phone number and specify that you would like to  
begin the course. (Printed lessons are in English  
and are available only in Canada, the United  
States, and their territories.)

### ONLINE BOOKSTORE

Visit **afbookstore.com** to discover all the  
great Christian resources available through  
Amazing Facts, including books, DVDs,  
and other products to help you better  
understand the Bible.

## Table of

# CONTENTS

Introduction . . . . . 4

Section 1 — Prophecies About Israel and Her People . . . . . 6

Section 2 — Prophecies About Cities and Kingdoms. . . . . 14

Section 3 — Prophecies About Jesus' Birth . . . . . 18

Section 4 — Prophecies About Jesus' Life and Ministry. . . . . 24

Section 5 — Prophecies About Jesus' Death and Resurrection . . 28

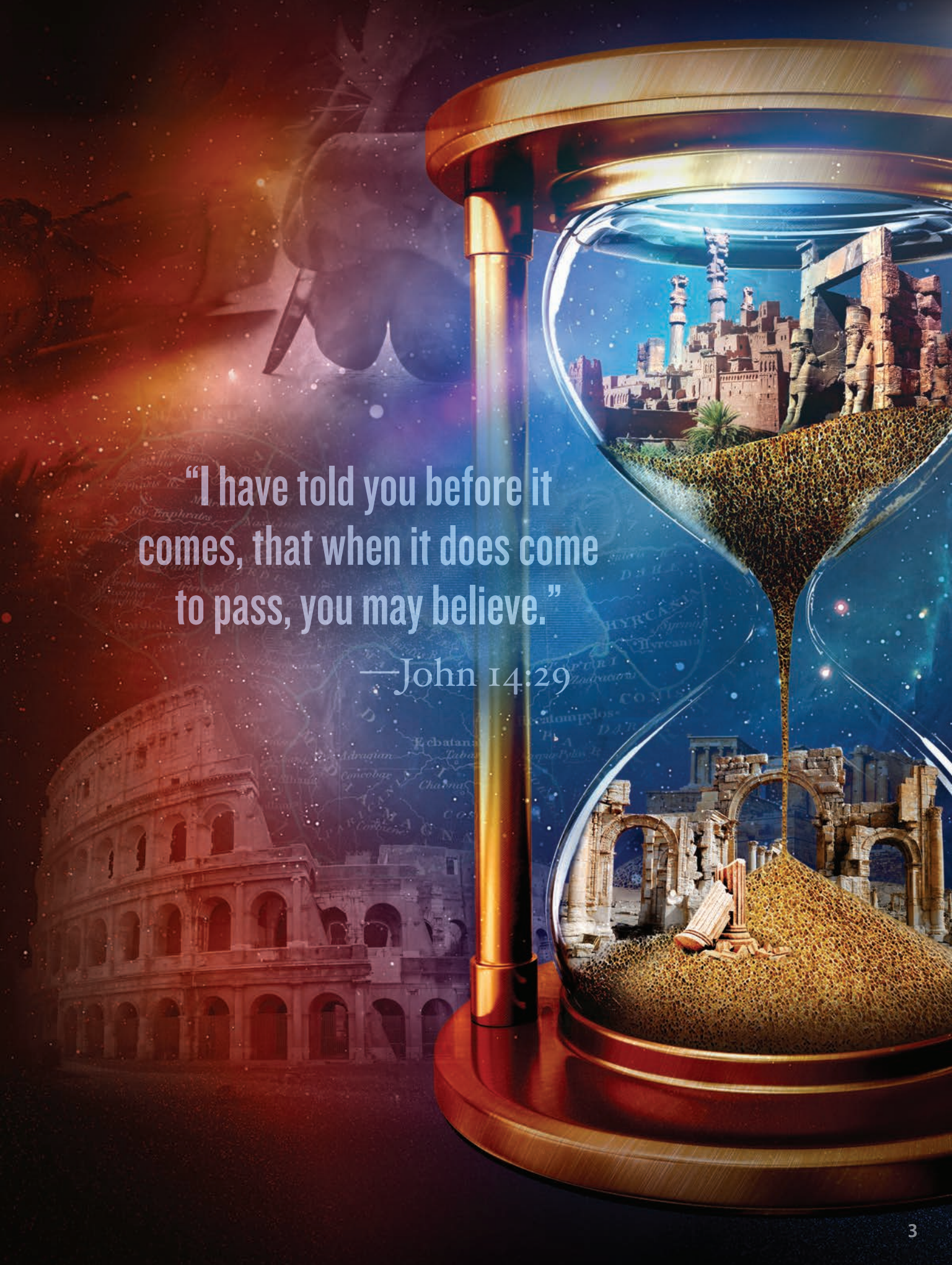
Section 6 — Prophecies About the Last Days . . . . . 34

Your Questions Answered . . . . . 39

**EXPERIENCE  
KINGDOMS IN TIME on DVD!**

Pastor Doug Batchelor hosts an exhilarating hour of Bible prophecy in this companion documentary that features historic reenactments and interviews with historians, archaeologists, and more.

Get it now at  
**AFBOOKSTORE.COM**



"I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe."

—John 14:29



2003

1159



## Time. What is it?

Ben Franklin said that time is the stuff of which life is made. All that is, all that was, and all that is to be lie within the dimension we know as time.

It is made up of three distinct parts: the past, the future, and the brief, razor-thin slice each of us experiences called the present. This present is an ever-sliding moment between two seeming eternities that reach far into the distant past and forward to a mysterious future.

As far as we know, humanity is limited to moving only forward through time—never backward.

But what if you could escape the bonds of time, stop it completely in its tracks, and even move around within time at will? What would you do? Where would you go?

Would you travel to the distant past to view the building of the pyramids, witness firsthand the birth of Christ, or maybe even prevent the assassination of Abraham Lincoln?

On the other hand, what if you could transport yourself into the future and go forward to any moment in time? Would you want to discover, in advance, the outcome of every decision you could make? Maybe you would want to spy out winners in the stock market!

Isn't this just a wild fantasy? Well, maybe not completely.

In the early twentieth century, Albert Einstein introduced to the world the theory of special relativity, which revolutionized our understanding of time and space. Einstein discovered that time can actually be

slowed down or accelerated depending on how fast you move relative to something else.

Imagine you had the power to travel to and from the future. You would be the most sought-after person in the world. Everyone would turn to you for advice on everything from their dating life to investments, and maybe even for a little inside information about future sporting events. You would be the most powerful person in the world, regarded as a divine oracle. Perhaps it is a good thing we are confined to this dimension of time!

However, what if there were a powerful being unbound by the constraints of time, one with absolute power over time and space, one who knows the future even better than you know your own past?

Impossible? Well, what if it could be proved?

It can be—through the Bible. Within its pages are more than two thousand distinct and verifiable predictions. If you learned that over 1,800 of these prophecies have already come true, would you be interested in knowing more?

Let's be clear—the Bible is not an almanac revealing who will win the next World Series or a fortune cookie announcing those elusive lotto numbers. But it does answer the really important questions about our future ... *about your future.*

And while you might already know the Bible is a book brimming with prophecy, are you aware of how accurate those predictions have turned out to be? Well, start turning these pages, because you're about to find out ...



“In Jewish history, there  
are no coincidences.”

—Elie Wiesel

# PROPHECIES ABOUT ISRAEL AND HER PEOPLE

Over the centuries, many have made bold claims about some imminent demise of the Bible, yet it continues to be a bestselling book. Why? And what makes up this enduring volume?

The Bible is really a collection of 66 books written by about forty different authors in three languages, across three continents, over a period of about 1,500 years. Its writers came from all walks of life—shepherds, kings, priests, rulers, and fishermen—and each with unique personalities. They also wrote while in many different situations. Some were in prisons, for instance, while others wrote in palaces. Some lived in caves; others were captives in foreign lands.

The Bible's content is also quite diverse, covering hundreds of important subjects, from finance to romance, war and peace, health and morality, marriage and law, and yes, prophecy.

Yet despite their expansiveness, the Bible's many parts fit perfectly together into one cohesive story—with a clear beginning, a pervading narrative and theme, and a logical ending—all surrounding a central character. If for no other reason, take this opportunity to consider the Bible's claims and understand this most influential book in world history.

And since God first chose the descendants of Abraham to be the custodians of this incredible book, let's first consider some amazing prophecies that relate to the nation of Israel.

The Jewish people have a mind-boggling history. No other nation has been so widely and frequently displaced. Surviving multiple genocide attempts, these resilient people have made one amazing comeback after another, going on to reclaim their homeland and to thrive again.

It is astounding that they have kept their unique identity even after nearly two thousand years of slavery,

persecution, and global dispersion. Through it all, the promise of prophecy found in Scripture has been their hope and the anchor that has held them together.

# 1

## The Destruction of the Temple

The Gospel of Matthew records that Jesus predicted the destruction of Jerusalem in great detail—some forty years before it took place.

One day, as Jesus was leaving the temple, He pointed to the immense, polished marble stones and columns and then stunned His disciples by saying, "Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (Matthew 24:2).

The disciples were astonished by this prediction. After all, the temple was the crown jewel of their nation and had been constructed with massive stones. One foundation stone you can still see today is forty-one feet long by fifteen-feet deep, weighing more than five hundred metric tons. That's heavier than a hundred elephants!

But Jesus' prophecy came true. According to the renowned historian Josephus, during the conquest of



Jerusalem, when Roman soldiers set fire to the temple, the extreme heat melted the abundant gold that adorned the place of worship, causing the precious metal to seep into the cracks of the foundation stones.

After the battle, the Roman soldiers toppled every stone to recover the gold, never realizing they were fulfilling Christ's prophecy.

Jesus even foretold when this would happen. Speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem, He said, "This generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place" (v. 34).

We know from Numbers 32:13 that the Bible defines a generation as forty years. Jesus made this prediction circa AD 30, and forty years later, the temple was destroyed by Rome. Today, all that's left of the original temple is an outer structure known as the Wailing Wall.

2

## The Romans Scatter the Jews

Amazingly, there is another biblical prophecy concerning the Jewish struggle with Rome that predates the time of Jesus. As early as 1400 BC, Moses wrote,

The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand, a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young. . . . They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down (Deuteronomy 28:49, 50, 52).

And indeed, the Romans swooped down upon Jerusalem and laid siege to the city. In harmony with Moses' prophecy, the Roman flags bore the images of eagles in flight, blazing in the sun.

3

## Israel Returns to the Promised Land

Did you know that the Old Testament prophet Micah also predicted the Roman invasion and destruction of Jerusalem? "Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, and the mountain of the temple like the bare hills of the forest" (Micah 3:12).

Jesus also said to His disciples, "They will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled" (Luke 21:24).

Just as these prophecies foretold, in the roughly two thousand years following the destruction of the temple,





the Jewish people were widely scattered throughout the world. Today, evidence of Jewish communities can be seen in nearly every corner of the globe.

But Jesus' prophecy went on to say that Jerusalem would be occupied by Gentiles *until* the time of the Gentiles was fulfilled, and many Old Testament prophets foretold the return of the Jews to their native land after this era. For example:

Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel" (Ezekiel 37:21, 22).



Of course, it happened. In May 1948, the Jewish state was re-established as an independent nation, and today this comparatively small country has grown into a globally recognized nuclear power that leads the world in innovation and technology.

## 4

### The Jewish Nation Taken Captive by Babylon

Let's now rewind history hundreds of years before the Roman occupation of Jerusalem—to a time long before Jesus was born and the New Testament was written.

Jeremiah chapter 25 contains an astounding prophecy regarding an earlier destruction of Jerusalem and its eventual miraculous restoration: "This whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years" (v. 11). Due to Israel's disobedience, Jerusalem and the Jewish temple would be conquered and destroyed, and the people would be carried off as captives in Babylon, remaining there for seventy years.

This happened in 607 BC when Nebuchadnezzar, heir to the throne, conquered the city. Jeremiah also stated

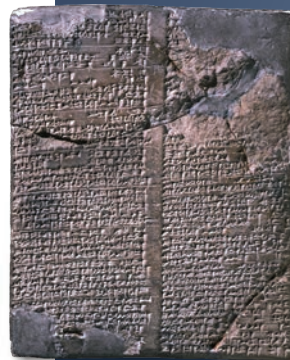


Photo: Trustees of the British Museum

### The Babylonian Chronicles

are a short historical synopsis of the reign of Babylonian kings. Speaking of King Nebuchadnezzar in his seventh year, the volume, written on clay tablets, states that he encamped against the city of Judah and, on the second day of the month of Adar, he captured the city and seized its king. This occurred on March 10, 597 BC, about eleven years after the prophet Daniel was carried off to Babylon in 607 BC.



Photo credit: Prioryman

In 1879, archeologists unearthed the Cyrus Cylinder, which details the Persian king's repatriation of conquered people like the Jews. Cyrus' specific decree for the Jews can also be found in Scripture: "All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem" (Ezra 1:2, 3).

that the Israelites would return to their land (Jeremiah 29:10–14) and rebuild. Right on schedule, after 70 years of captivity, the Persian king Cyrus conquered Babylon in 537 BC and, in the first year of his reign, issued a decree allowing the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their city and temple (Ezra 1:2–4).

The history of the Jewish nation is one of the most compelling exhibits for the reliability of the Bible. Its cycle of falling to foreign nations only to rise once more was predicted with stunning accuracy time and again. How does anyone even begin to explain such extraordinary precision without a supernatural power behind it all?

Yet amazingly, the prediction of the Jewish captivity in Babylon and their return to Israel after the Persian conquest is just the beginning of one of the most magnificent and undisputable Bible prophecies that proves the validity of its divine inspiration ...

## THE DREAM OF AN ANCIENT KING

In just ten short verses containing around 340 words, a prophecy found in the book of Daniel outlines the rise and fall of empires from the time of ancient Babylon, through to the second coming of Christ, and far beyond.

About 2,600 years ago, the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar fell asleep while contemplating the vast glory of his kingdom—including his capture and enslavement of the Hebrew people. As this grand architect of one of the world’s most powerful empires drifted into a restless sleep, he wondered what the future held for his realm.

The Bible records that God took this opportunity to reveal to him, through a vivid dream, not only the ultimate fate of his nation but also the rise and fall of world empires from his day till the end of Earth’s history.

In this amazing prophetic dream, found in the second chapter of the book of Daniel, God showed Nebuchadnezzar a colossal statue with a head of gold, a chest and arms of silver, a belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet and toes mixed partly of clay and iron.

Suddenly, a huge stone from the heavens smashed into the feet of the towering figure, pulverizing it to dust, which was then carried away by the wind. The stone then grew into a gigantic mountain.



Upon waking, Nebuchadnezzar knew this was no ordinary dream. Agitated and perplexed, the king called for his wisest counselors to explain the meaning of the dream—but these pagan priests were powerless to do so.

God would use this situation to bring to the world stage one of the Bible’s most beloved prophets, Daniel, himself a victim of the 70-year captivity.

The Lord gave Daniel not only the details of the dream but also its precise interpretation. Daniel then went before the king and humbly presented a prophecy that divulged the next two millennia of world empires, specifically those



that would intersect and influence God’s people—and, so far, all of it has transpired just as predicted.

Historians have corroborated that these prophecies point to specific empires because of their well-known characteristics. They are so accurate that skeptics are forced to say that these prophecies were not actual predictions but were written after the fact. Let’s take a closer look.

### Babylon: Head of Gold

Daniel told the king that the head of gold represented Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom, Babylon, which had ruled the world since 612 BC as one of the wealthiest and most powerful empires of antiquity—one that could aptly be described as the head of gold.

According to Herodotus, Babylon occupied an exact square on the broad plain and had a circumference of sixty miles. “While such is its size,” the historian wrote, “in magnificence there is no other city that approaches to it.”

Its walls were eighty-seven feet thick and three hundred and fifty feet high. The whole city was surrounded by a deep, broad canal or moat, and the river Euphrates ran through it.

5

### Babylon Falls

Daniel explained to Nebuchadnezzar that Babylon would eventually fall as a world power and be replaced by another kingdom, one that was represented by the chest and arms of silver in the colossal statue seen in the king’s dream.

In those days, Babylon was considered to be an impregnable metropolis that could resist a year-long siege, largely due to the Euphrates River flowing through it and its massive defensive walls. It was the richest and most powerful nation on earth, hosting the Hanging Gardens, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It seemed as if Babylon could stand forever.

All the same, Daniel told the king, “But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours” (Daniel 2:39).

History affirms that this kingdom is the Medo-Persian Empire, led by King Cyrus—who, in 539 BC, set his sights on the mighty Babylon.

When Persian forces laid siege to the city, few within its walls were concerned. Belshazzar, the regent of Babylon, was aware that the enemy was at the gates, yet he threw an opulent party in which the vessels of the Jewish sanctuary were brought out as an arrogant display. (See Daniel chapter 5.)

But in an ingenious strategic move, Cyrus ordered his soldiers to dig a large channel upstream to divert the River Euphrates into a dry lakebed. This caused the river's water level to drop under the enormous walls of the city. After that, as the clueless Babylonians celebrated late into the night, the Persian soldiers swarmed under the walls, discovered that the large double door of the inner



## #6: Cyrus Named

Did you know that the book of Isaiah named the foreign king who would liberate Israel from Babylonian captivity? About 170 years before these events occurred, Isaiah wrote,

Who says of Cyrus, "He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, 'You shall be built,' and to the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid'" (Isaiah 44:28).

## #7: Cyrus' Strategy Predicted

Moreover, the details of the Persian victory over Babylon that night were also foretold by Isaiah, who miraculously predicted:

Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—to subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut: "I will go before you and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron ... that you may know that I, the LORD, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel" (Isaiah 45:1–3).

During the reign of Medo-Persia, an empire symbolized in the dream as having arms and a chest of silver (Daniel 2:32), taxes were typically paid in silver.



gates had been left unlocked, and entered the city—overthrowing the world’s mightiest nation.

As the king’s prophetic dream foretold, the head of gold, symbolizing the Babylonian Empire, was followed by the chest and arms of silver, the Medes and Persians, who would hold regional dominance from 539 to 331 BC.

8

## Persia Falls

As noted already, Medo-Persia, represented by the arms and chest of silver, conquered the Babylonians, the head of gold. What happened next?

Daniel’s prophecy to Nebuchadnezzar goes on to foretell, “After you shall arise ... another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth” (Daniel 2:39). Scholars agree that the bronze kingdom in the statue symbolizes Greece, which came into power when Alexander the Great conquered the Medes and Persians at the battle of Arbela in 331 BC.

The notion that the Greeks would one day rule the ancient world was a bold prediction when you consider that, at the time Daniel’s prophecy was given, Greece was little more than a collection of warring tribes without any real political, economic, or military influence.

In harmony with the image in King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, bronze was the predominate metal during the supremacy of Greece. In fact, Greek soldiers were called “brazen coated” because their armor and shields were all bronze.

Greece remained in power until about 168 BC, when it was conquered by the next world empire waiting in the wings ... a power unlike any other that had come before it.

9

## Greece Falls

According to the Bible, Daniel next predicted the kingdom that would supplant Greece:

And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others (Daniel 2:40).

It’s an undisputable fact of history that the iron monarchy of Rome conquered Greece, and it enjoyed supremacy on

To be sure, there were other great empires during the period of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome, but Daniel’s prophecy is dealing specifically with the world powers that held dominion over God’s people.

According to the historian Josephus, when Alexander the Great came to conquer Jerusalem, the temple priests opened the gates and approached him. They showed Alexander from the prophecies of Daniel that he was destined to rule. He came into their temple and worshiped the Lord and treated the Jews with great respect during his reign.



the world stage for the next six hundred years. Of course, Rome was also the kingdom that dominated a vast part of the world when Jesus was born.

It's clear by now that Daniel's prophecy foretold world history with incredible accuracy. The rise and fall of these four empires—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome—are proven in the history books. But Daniel's prophecy goes even further ...

## 10 Rome Divided

What happens after Rome? With incredible detail, the prophet Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar what would follow the iron monarchy:

Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, 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 2:41–43).

When Rome began to crumble in AD 476, it was not overtaken by another individual kingdom, as the previous nations in Daniel's dream had been. Instead, several barbarian tribes invaded Rome and divided it up, just as Daniel had prophesied.

Ten of these tribes evolved into the nations of modern Europe: the Ostrogoths, Sueves, Burgundians, Franks, Lombards, Visigoths, Alemanni, Vandals, Herules, and Anglo-Saxons.

Seven of these still exist today. For example, the Anglo-Saxons became the English, the Franks became the French, the Alemanni became the Germans, and the Lombards became the Italians.

Through marriage, alliances, and treaties, many powers have vainly attempted to reunite the European continent. Leaders such as Charlemagne, Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm, Mussolini, and Hitler fought to recreate



the glory of the former Roman Empire. But haunted by the words of Daniel's prophecy—"they will not adhere to one another" (v. 43)—they all failed.

Daniel's telling of the Babylonian king's dream ended with this amazing prediction:

You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth (Daniel 2:34, 35).

Just as surely as Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece rose and fell out of human history, we can be sure that this stone will come and smash the modern empires of the world to pieces, and from the dust a new kingdom will arise. Jesus said, "When you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!" (Matthew 24:33).

What is this stone? You will soon find out! 👑



“He removes kings and  
raises up kings.”

—Daniel 2:21

# PROPHECIES ABOUT CITIES AND KINGDOMS

**Y**ou have already seen phenomenal prophetic details regarding the rise and fall of major world empires, but Bible prophecies also outline the fate of a number of other cities and kingdoms that were antagonistic neighbors to the nation of Israel.

Ever since Cain killed his brother Abel, the history of humanity has truly been a history of war and conflict. Jesus predicted that this would be the case until the end of the age: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" (Matthew 24:7).

Likewise, in the ever-changing supremacy of nations and constant strife, the Lord God has never been taken by surprise by any of it. He knows the future: "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).

Why did God foretell the rise and fall of particular kingdoms? So that as these things come to pass, we can know that He holds the future in His hands ...

11

## Babylon Remains Desolate

As you have already learned, the city-state of Babylon was heavily fortified. Her people and most of the world believed that the city was impenetrable and indestructible.

All the same, Babylon fell from power by the hand of Cyrus the Persian. However, God also predicted the following for the city-state:

Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It will never be inhabited, nor will it be settled from generation to generation (Isaiah 13:19, 20).

Has history confirmed the Bible? Time and again! When Saddam Hussein came to power in Iraq, he dreamed of rebuilding and repopulating the ancient city to thwart the biblical prophecy and discredit the nation of Israel. He claimed that Babylon's great palaces and its legendary Hanging Gardens would rise from the desert again. But his hopes and plans were vaporized during the first Gulf War in Iraq—and Babylon remains unsettled to this day, with just a handful of tourists viewing the ruins annually.



12

## Destruction of Tyre

Tyre was once the wealthy capital of the Phoenician Empire, located north of Israel. For over a millennium, beginning in 1500 BC, the Phoenicians were the undisputed naval power of the ancient world. They created and controlled a vast array of trade ports throughout the Mediterranean.

Nevertheless, in 587 BC, the prophet Ezekiel predicted that every building in the city of Tyre would be toppled by invading armies, who would then throw every stone into the sea.

“They shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for spreading nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,” says the Lord God (Ezekiel 26:4, 5).

About 250 years later, in 332 BC, Alexander the Great overthrew the city and ordered that all of the buildings be pushed into the sea to build a bridge in order to conquer its island fortress. The prophecy goes on to state that the city would be so flattened it would become a place for fishermen to spread and dry their nets, which is precisely what happened.



13

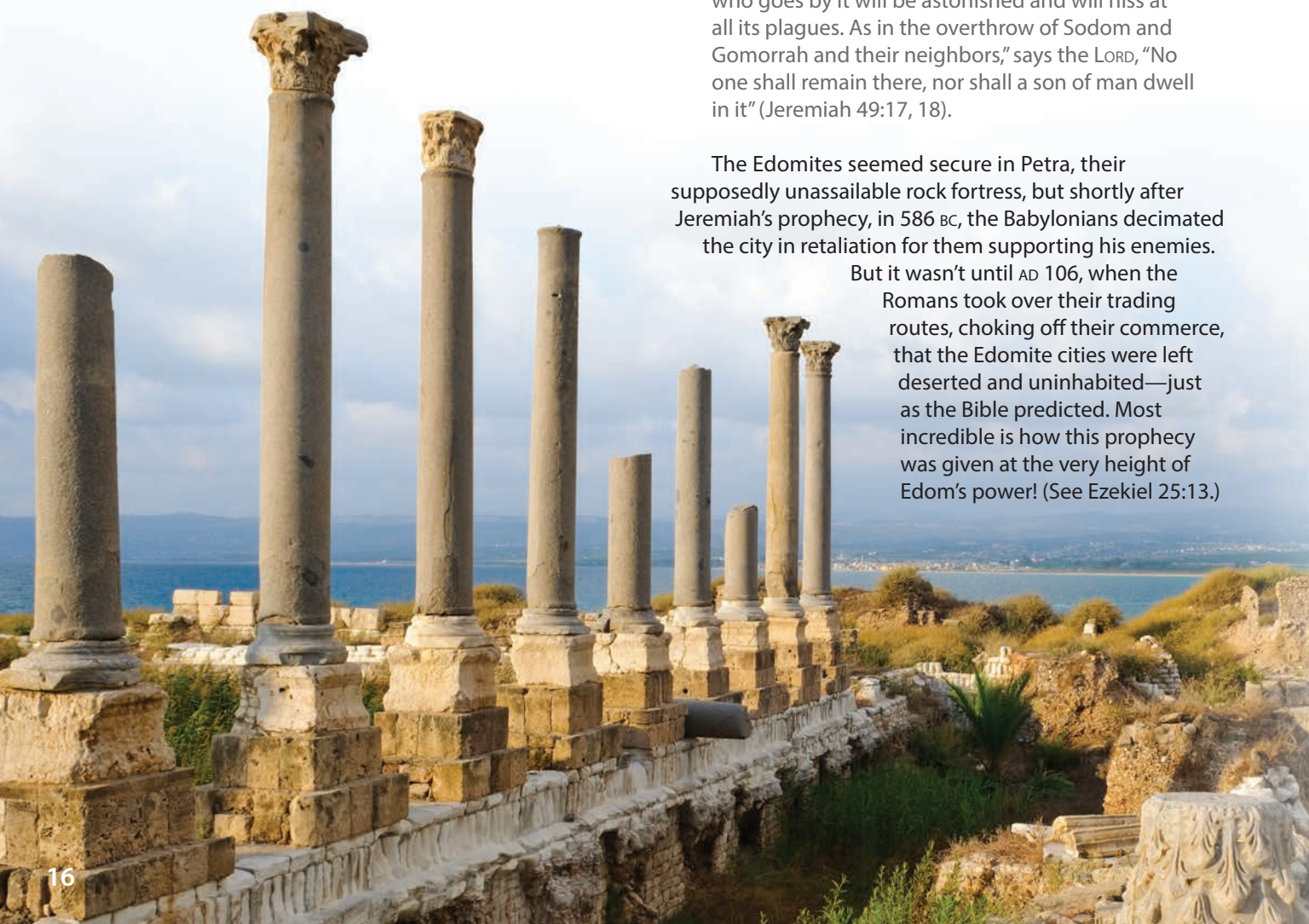
## Edom's Desolation

Southeast of Israel lay the kingdom of the Edomites, distant cousins of the Jewish people, descendants of Jacob's twin brother Esau. Because of their persistent wickedness, the prophet Jeremiah predicted:

“Edom also shall be an astonishment; everyone who goes by it will be astonished and will hiss at all its plagues. As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighbors,” says the LORD, “No one shall remain there, nor shall a son of man dwell in it” (Jeremiah 49:17, 18).

The Edomites seemed secure in Petra, their supposedly unassailable rock fortress, but shortly after Jeremiah's prophecy, in 586 BC, the Babylonians decimated the city in retaliation for them supporting his enemies.

But it wasn't until AD 106, when the Romans took over their trading routes, choking off their commerce, that the Edomite cities were left deserted and uninhabited—just as the Bible predicted. Most incredible is how this prophecy was given at the very height of Edom's power! (See Ezekiel 25:13.)







14

## Egypt Loses Commanding Position

Located to the southwest of Israel, on the banks of the world's longest river and with its great pyramids, colossal temples, and year-round agriculture, Egypt looked as though it would endure throughout history.

Yet during a highpoint of Egypt's power, the Bible boldly predicted that the nation would never again have a commanding position among the nations of the world. The prophet Ezekiel declared:

I will bring back the captives of Egypt and cause them to return to the land of Pathros, to the land of their origin, and there they shall be a lowly kingdom. It shall be the lowliest of kingdoms; it shall never again exalt itself above the nations, for I will diminish them so that they will not rule over the nations anymore (Ezekiel 29:14, 15).

The kingdom of hieroglyphics and mummies faded with Cleopatra, and time continues to be a witness for the ongoing accuracy of this prophecy.

15

## Nineveh Laid Waste

The Assyrian Empire once ruled the Middle East, covering over half-a-million square miles. Their ancient capital, Nineveh, was situated on the eastern side of the Tigris River, just opposite modern-day Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city.

You might remember that following his three-day detour by fish, the prophet Jonah was sent to call the inhabitants of Nineveh to repentance. While a revival was



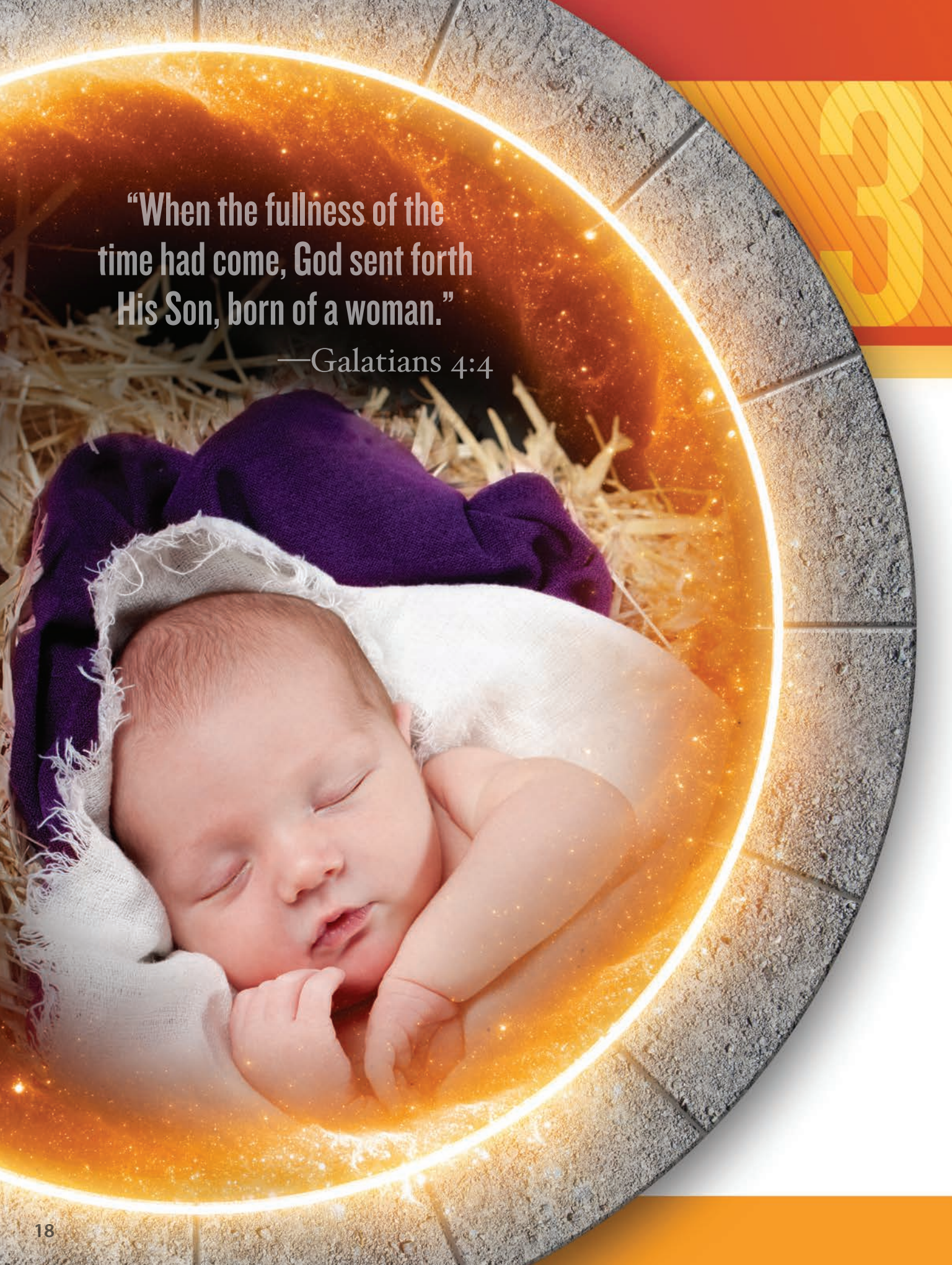
For an astonishing perspective, consider the following: The Bible prophets foretold that the major cities of Babylon, Tyre, and Nineveh would be destroyed and never rebuilt—and they were not. However, Jerusalem has been destroyed and rebuilt many times, and it endures to this day.

indeed set in motion at that time, it didn't last—and Nineveh once again fell into a state of violence and immorality that would continually torment their Jewish neighbors.

As a sign of God's judgment, in 615 BC, the prophet Nahum, in great detail, predicted the future destruction of Nineveh. Here are some of the notable details:

- Nineveh laid waste (Nahum 2:3–7)
- In part by heavy rains and flooding (Nahum 1:8)
- Commanders of the army would flee (Nahum 3:17)
- Fire would destroy the city (Nahum 3:15)
- The city would never rise again (Nahum 1:14; 3:19)

According to F. Lenormant and E. Chevallier in their renowned account *History of Assyria: Rise and Fall of Ancient World Power*, these predictions all took place in 612 BC at the hand of the Babylonians, just as the Bible foretold. 👑

A newborn baby is lying in a manger, wrapped in a white cloth with a purple blanket. The baby is sleeping peacefully. The manger is filled with straw and is set against a background of a glowing, golden light. The entire scene is framed by a circular stone archway. In the upper right corner, there is a large, glowing number '3' on a yellow and orange background.

“When the fullness of the  
time had come, God sent forth  
His Son, born of a woman.”

—Galatians 4:4

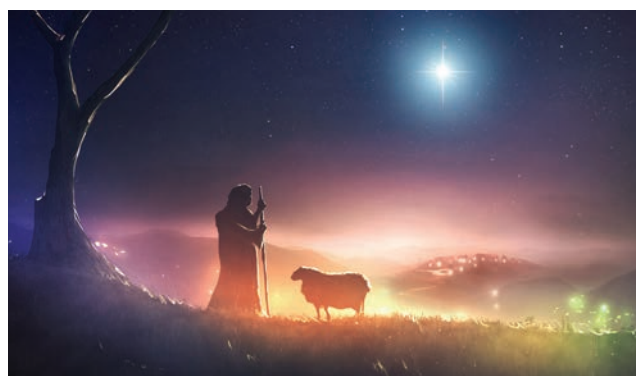
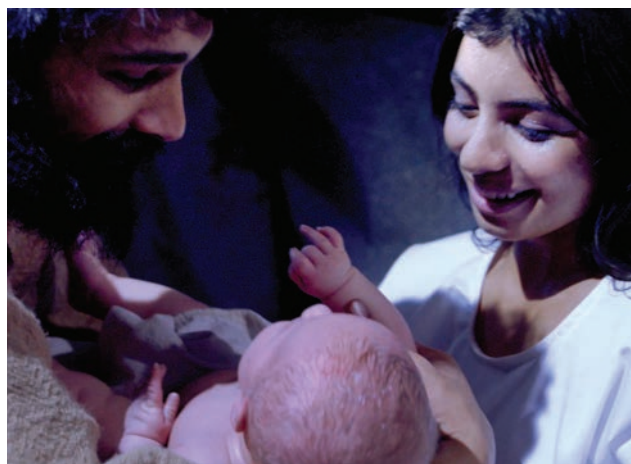
# PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS' BIRTH

**I**t is astonishing how God's Word has accurately foretold the rise and fall of so many nations and empires. But the real focus of all Bible prophecy is a person—Jesus, who is the primary subject of Scripture. The Bible is “His-story”—it begins and ends with Christ.

Incredibly, scattered throughout the Old Testament are more than three hundred prophecies foretelling the coming of Christ, some with uncanny detail. In the New Testament, we find the astonishing accounts of the fulfillment of these prophecies.

We can know with certainty from the discovery and dating of the Dead Sea Scrolls that all of the Old Testament was written before any of the New Testament ever happened.

Without a doubt, the predictions regarding the Messiah and their fulfillment provide some of the most remarkable evidence that a supernatural power is behind the Word of God. Imagine the odds of three hundred prophecies being precisely fulfilled by one individual. It could not happen by accident!



**16**

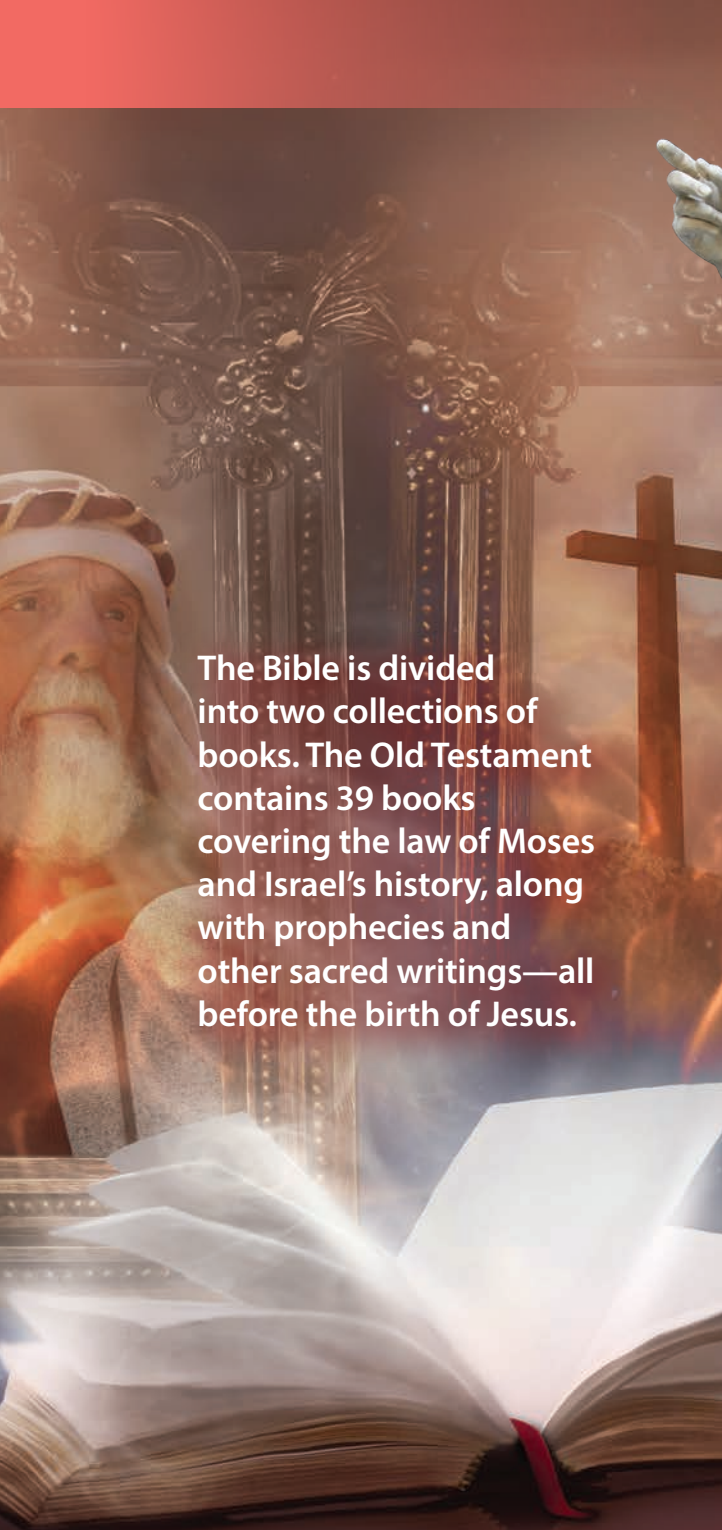
## Born in Bethlehem

The Old Testament book of Micah, written hundreds of years before Christ's birth, foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. “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, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting” (Micah 5:2).

The Bible writer Matthew documents the fulfillment of this verse in his Gospel:

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him” (Matthew 2:1, 2).

Amazingly, for this prophecy to come true, Joseph and Mary had to leave their home in Nazareth and travel seventy miles to Bethlehem—the hometown of Joseph's family. How did this happen? Caesar Augustus issued an



The Bible is divided into two collections of books. The Old Testament contains 39 books covering the law of Moses and Israel's history, along with prophecies and other sacred writings—all before the birth of Jesus.

The last 27 books make up the New Testament, covering the history of Jesus' birth, life, and teachings; the writings of the apostles; and the prophecies of Revelation.



imperial census, ordering citizens to return to their places of birth to register for a tax. History shows this census took place in or around 4 BC. God foresaw this and told His people before it happened!

17

### Date of Birth Predicted

The Bible not only predicted exactly *where* Jesus would be born but also *when*. This prophecy comes from the book of Daniel:

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks (9:25).

First, for Hebrew time prophecies, a day stood for a literal year. This principle can be found in Ezekiel 4:6. Second, history confirms that this decree to rebuild Jerusalem was issued by Artaxerxes in 457 BC. That means these "seven weeks and sixty-two weeks," a total of 69 weeks, or 483 days, would be understood to be a literal



483 years—taking us to AD 27, the year when Jesus was baptized. Subtracting Jesus' age of 30 at that time to the year of His birth, we arrive at 4 BC. (There is no year zero: AD 1 follows 1 BC). This prophecy was given while the Jews were still in captivity in Babylon; that is, it was more than five hundred years before the birth of Christ!

18

### Born of a Virgin

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah predicted that Jesus would be born of a virgin seven hundred years before it took place. "The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

The fulfillment of this prophecy is documented in the New Testament book of Luke:

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was

Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ... Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS" (1:26, 27, 30, 31).

19

### Mass Infanticide Predicted

An Old Testament prophecy foretold that the Messiah's birth would be associated with a mass-murder event. "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted for her children, because they are no more" (Jeremiah 31:15).

The Gospel of Matthew reports its precise fulfillment:

Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years





old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet (2:16, 17).

The Old Testament predictions of the Messiah were so specific and so clearly fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth that both Jesus Himself (in Luke 24:27) and Apollos (in Acts 18:28) used these prophecies to prove that He was indeed the Messiah.

20

### Sojourn in Egypt

Because of the violent attempt to take the life of the newborn Jesus, His parents were forced to flee to Egypt for safety, fulfilling a prophecy made by Hosea more than seven hundred years earlier. Notice the prophecy in Hosea 11:1 and its fulfillment:

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son" (Matthew 2:14, 15).



21

### A Son of King David

Prophecy declared that the promised Messiah would come through the family line of King David.

"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth" (Jeremiah 23:5).

Not only does Matthew begin his book by calling Jesus "the Son of David" (Matthew 1:1), but the Gospel of Luke states that Mary was "a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David" (Luke 1:27, emphasis added). 👑



# A Prophetic Family Tree

Many today are fascinated with the idea of exploring their ancestry through a DNA test, discovering from which part of the world they come. Amazingly, several prophecies foretold the specific branch of the family tree from which the Messiah would emerge.

## #22: Abraham

God said that Noah's son Shem would be the one from whom the Savior would come (Genesis 9:26). From his lineage, the prophecies state that the Savior would come through the family of Abraham: "In you [Abraham] all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3). Matthew begins his Gospel: "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, ... *the Son of Abraham*" (Matthew 1:1, emphasis added).

## #23: Isaac

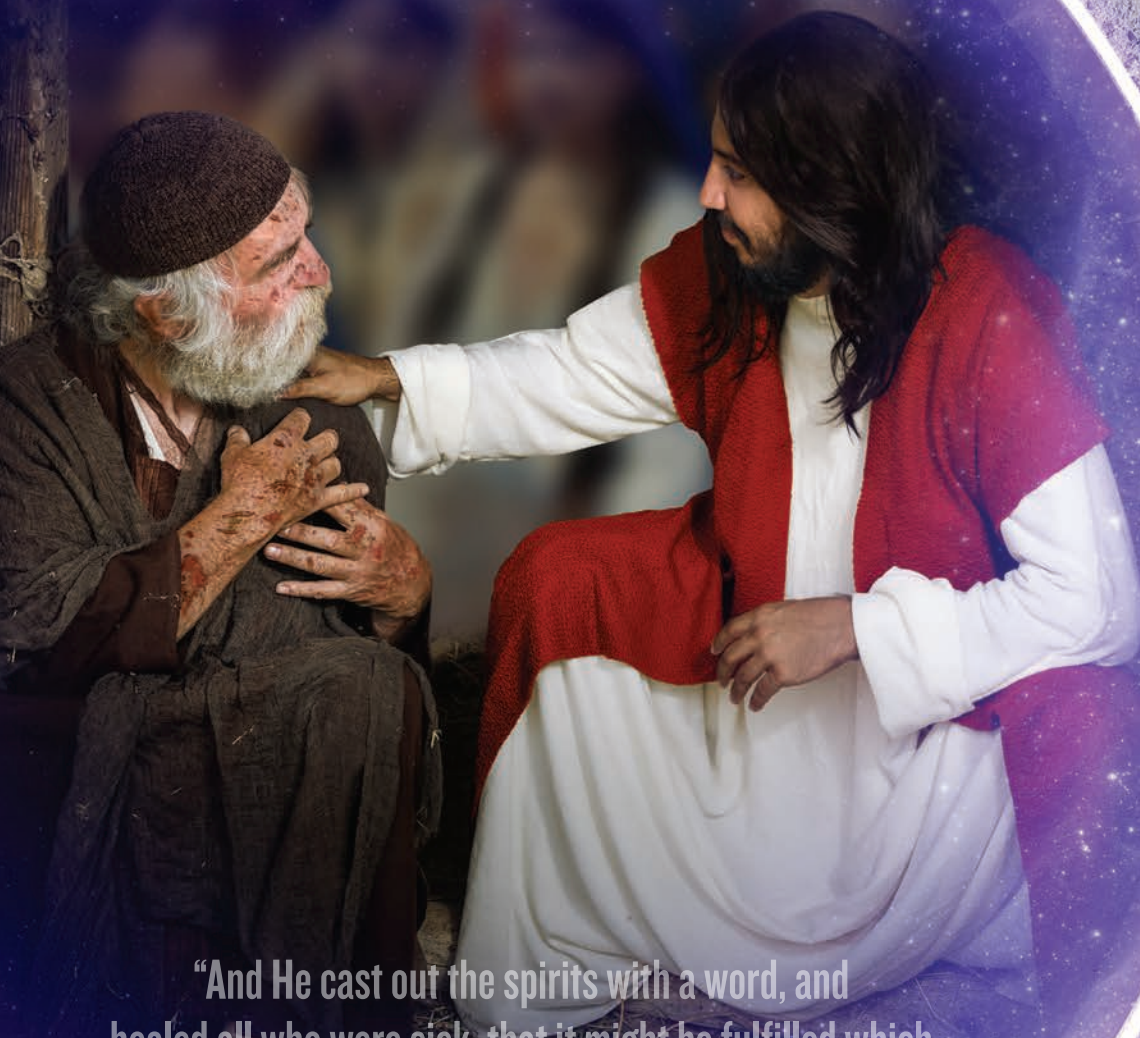
The prophecies further specify that the Promised Seed would come through Abraham's son Isaac. "For in Isaac your seed shall be called" (Genesis 21:12).

## #24: Jacob

Furthermore, Bible prophecy declared that between Isaac's two sons, the Messiah would come through the line of Jacob, even though Esau was the firstborn: "In you [Jacob] and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 28:14).

## #25: Judah

Just before his death, Jacob foretold that the Messiah would come through the tribe of his son Judah. "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people" (Genesis 49:10). Luke, an historian and physician, documents the fulfillment of this prophecy in his chronology of Jesus' family tree: "The son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, *the son of Judah*" (Luke 3:33, emphasis added).



“And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.’”

—Matthew 8:16, 17



# PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS' LIFE AND MINISTRY

**I**t is quite astonishing that even though multiple prophecies of the coming Messiah are found in the Old Testament, the vast majority of Jewish people did not recognize Him when He was on the earth.

Furthermore, religious leaders rejected Christ because they wanted a different type of savior, one who would smash their Roman enemies and set up a temporal kingdom. But a careful study of Old Testament prophecies reveals something quite different—the kind of Savior that Jesus actually would be.



26

## Rejected by His Own

The Old Testament also predicted that Jesus would be rejected by His own people, partly for His openness to the Gentiles as well as for many other reasons: “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone” (Psalm 118:22).

An example of the fulfillment of this prediction took place when the Jewish people chose a criminal over the Savior. Given the chance to release Jesus from Roman

authorities during His trial, they said, “Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas” (Luke 23:18).

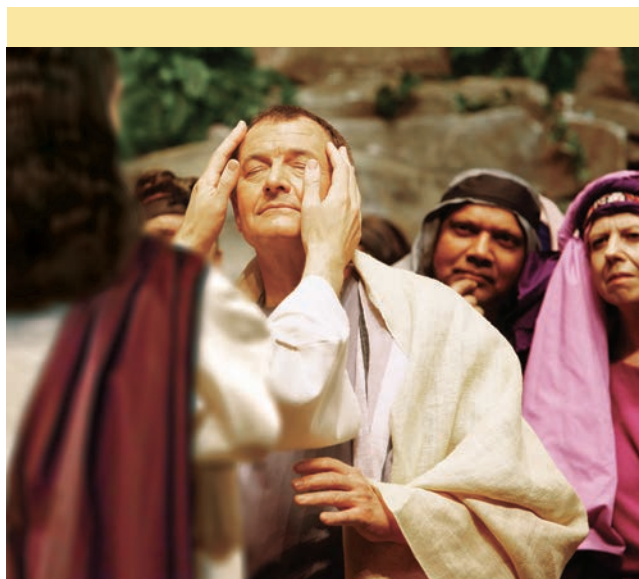
The apostle John aptly describes the rejection of Jesus by the Jewish nation: “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11).

27

## Healed the Blind and Deaf

Some of the most amazing prophecies concerning Christ are the ones found in the book of Isaiah, which precisely highlights the details of His ministry. One that addresses His work of healing says, “In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness” (Isaiah 29:18).

The New Testament records this fulfillment in several places. Luke writes how Christ told the disciples of John



the Baptist, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised" (Luke 7:22).

28

### Preached Gospel to Poor

The Old Testament also pointed to a Messiah who would show special compassion to the poor. "The LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor" (Isaiah 61:1).

In a time when the poor were often seen as afflicted by God for their sins, the New Testament affirms how Jesus took compassion on the underprivileged, just as Isaiah said He would. The ministry of Jesus and His dramatic impact on the lives of the poor can be seen by the multitudes who

followed Him wherever He went. Indeed, Christ told the disciples of John how "the poor have the gospel preached to them" (Matthew 11:5).

29

### Taught with Parables

Throughout the life of Christ, people marveled at His unique teaching style and powerful use of storytelling. His simple method of instruction was foretold a millennium earlier by Asaph, a choral leader for King David: "I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old" (Psalm 78:2).

The New Testament directly affirms this prophecy: "All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet" (Matthew 13:34, 35).



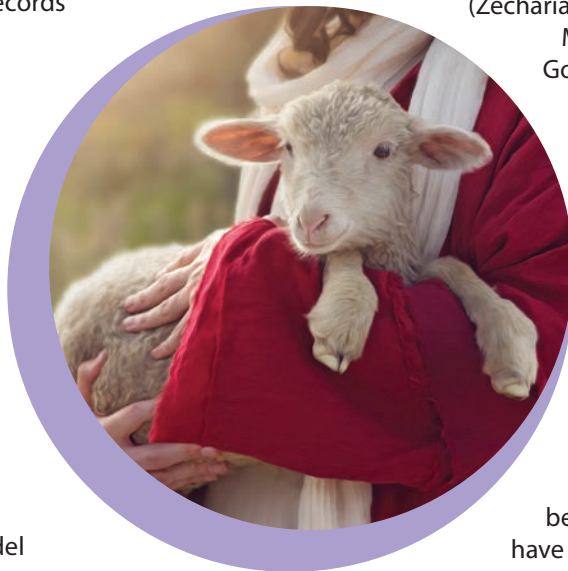


30

## A Humble Prophet

The Old Testament says that despite His divine nature, Jesus would be both humble and gentle: “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; He will bring forth justice for truth” (Isaiah 42:2, 3).

The book of Matthew records Jesus saying, “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (11:29). Jesus unveiled unbelievable power during His ministry—healing the sick, calming storms, and even raising the dead. Yet Bible writers predicted and documented that despite this great power, He would still be a meek and humble servant—a worthy role model for all people.



31

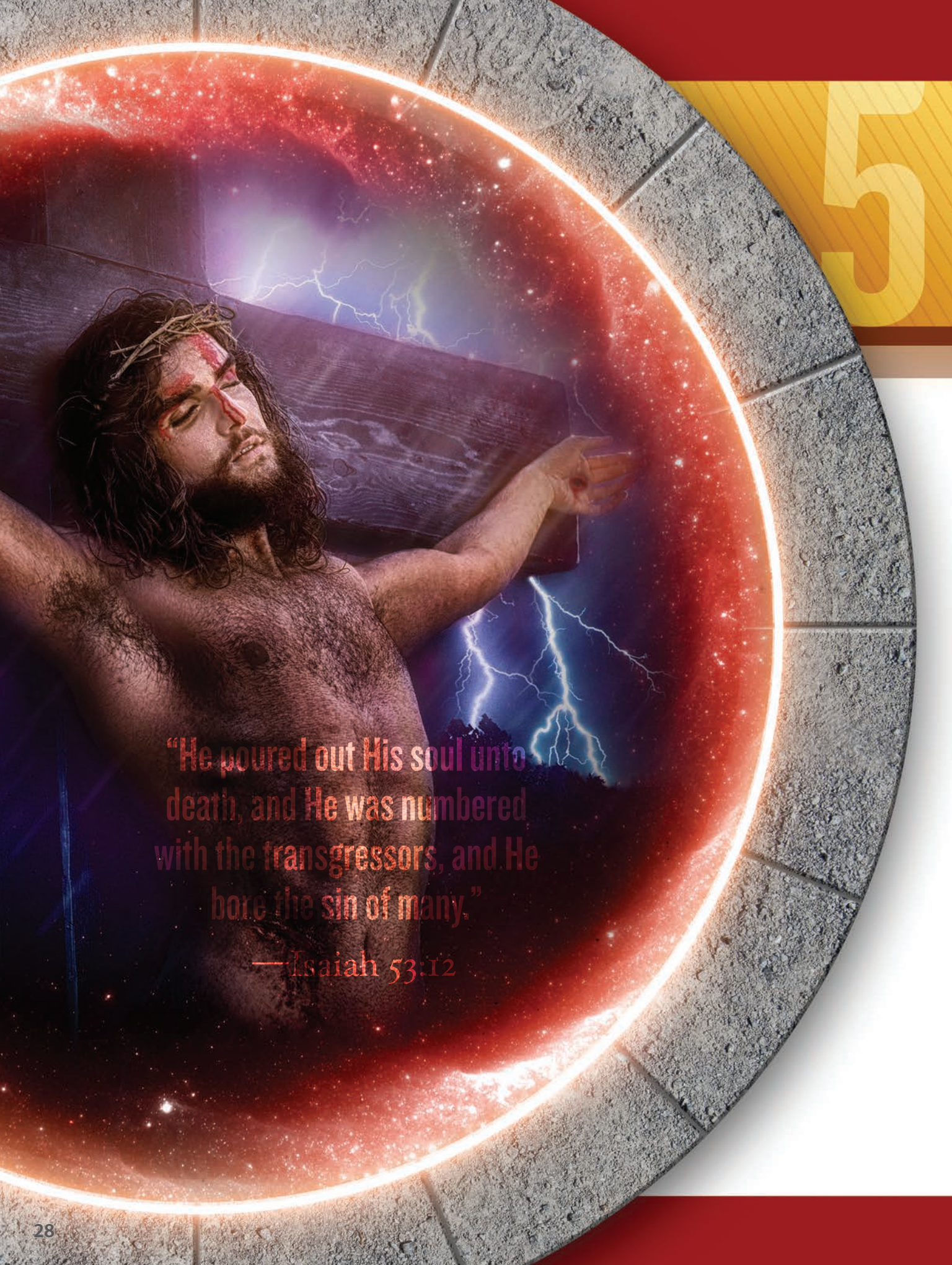
## Triumphal Entry on a Donkey

The prophet Zechariah predicted: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9).

More than five hundred years later, the Gospel of Mark recorded the following:

They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it. ... Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!” ... And Jesus went into Jerusalem (11:7, 9, 11).

This stunning event was witnessed by thousands of people just a few days before the crucifixion of Jesus, and it could have been easily disputed—yet the writer presents it as real history. 👑



**“He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many.”**

**—Isaiah 53:12**

# PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION

**T**he very first prophetic statement in the Bible reveals God's plan to save the human race from eternal ruin. When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, the Lord said, "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). Here the Scriptures foretold that God would crush the enemy, but that it would come at a high cost ...

**32**

## Betrayed by a Friend

The Old Testament predicted that the Messiah would be betrayed by a friend who would share a meal with him. Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, set out to betray Him during the Last Supper. "Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me" (Psalm 41:9; see also John 13:18).



**33**

## Betrayed for the Price of a Slave

The Old Testament even predicted the price that would be paid to betray the Messiah. "Then I said to them, 'If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.' So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver" (Zechariah 11:12).

Turning to the New Testament, we read the sad fulfillment: "Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, 'What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?' And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver" (Matthew 26:14, 15).

**34**

## Betrayal Money Buys Potter's Field

This incredibly precise prediction goes a step further. The prophet Zechariah also foretold how the blood money given to betray Jesus would be spent: "The LORD said to me, 'Throw it to the potter'—that princely price they set on



me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter" (Zechariah 11:13).

The Gospel of Matthew attests that Judas threw the blood money to the priests in the temple and that they then used it to buy a potter's field:

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in (Matthew 27:3-7).



35

## Silent at His Trial

Isaiah foretold how the Messiah would not protest against false accusations but bear them patiently. "He was oppressed and ... afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth" (Isaiah 53:7).

Here is the fulfillment found in the New Testament.

While He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly (Matthew 27:12-14).

Likewise, Herod "questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing" (Luke 23:9).

36

## Manner of Execution

A thousand years before crucifixion was even practiced,

King David foretold how the Messiah would be executed. "For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet" (Psalm 22:16). David also predicted that Jesus' executioners would gamble for His clothing. "They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots" (Psalm 22:18).





We find the fulfillment of this in Matthew's Gospel. "Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet" (Matthew 27:35).

**37**

## Killed with Criminals

It's baffling to consider that Jesus, a hero to so many in His time, would be so easily betrayed by His disciple. Even more tragic is that the people who saw Him heal and feed thousands would ultimately consider Him a common criminal—yet this is what the prophets predicted would happen. Isaiah wrote, "He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12).

And just as it was foretold, the New Testament records, "With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left" (Mark 15:27).



**38**

### No Broken Bones

Regarding the prophecies of the death of Christ, we've only seen the tip of the iceberg. A thousand years before it happened, Psalm 34 foretold that at His death, the Messiah's bones would not be broken. "He guards all his bones; not one of them is broken" (Psalm 34:20).

The Gospel of John reports that while the soldiers broke the legs of the thieves who were crucified on the

right and left of Christ, they did not break His legs. (See John 19:31–33.)

**39**

### Buried with the Rich

Jesus was crucified between two criminals, but, paradoxically, He was buried in the tomb of a rich man named Joseph of Arimathea. (See Matthew 27:57–60.) This was predicted in Isaiah 53. "And they made His grave with the wicked—but with the rich at His death" (Isaiah 53:9).

## The Messiah in Isaiah

There are many more Old Testament prophecies that foretell the death of Jesus. You can find many of these prophecies by studying Isaiah chapter 53. We know from the Dead Sea Scrolls that the book of Isaiah was written hundreds of years before Jesus was born. This one chapter will leave you speechless as it perfectly describes the mission of the Messiah and His sacrifice.



## 40

## Resurrection

The good news about Jesus' death is that the grave could not hold Him. The New Testament records that for a period of 40 days following His death, hundreds of witnesses saw, heard, and touched the Man who they had seen crucified and buried. King David foretold the resurrection of the Messiah when he wrote, "For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption" (Psalm 16:10).

Jesus affirmed this same prophecy when He told the disciples, "The Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again" (Matthew 20:18, 19). Jewish historian Josephus, in his famous journal of Jewish history, makes reference to the resurrection of Jesus and its influence on the people:

About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Messiah. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third

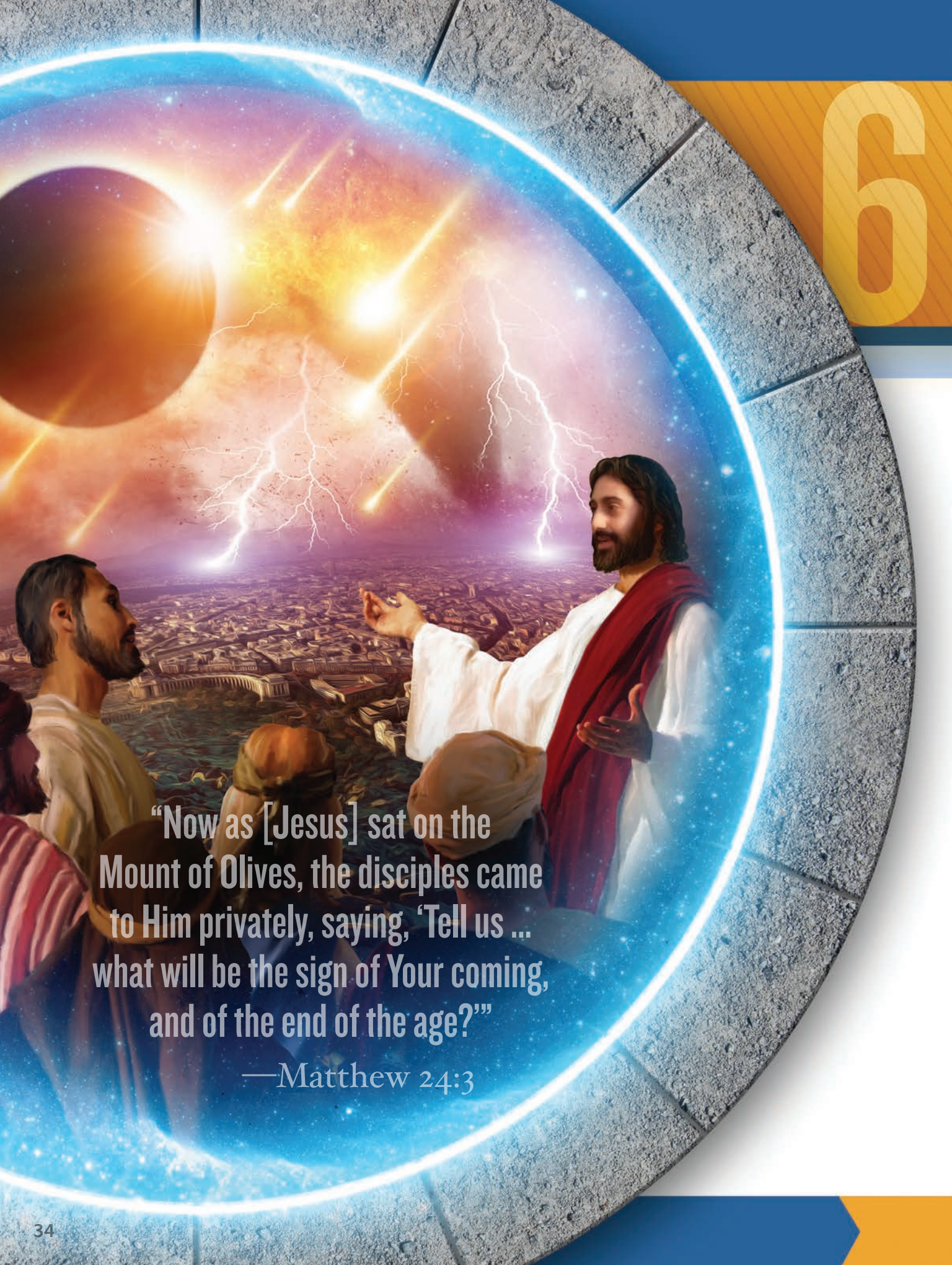
day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared (*Jewish Antiquities*, 18.3.3).



You might wonder why this magazine has spent so much time showing how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. The answer is revealed by Jesus, who said, "Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He" (John 13:19).

Do you believe? You have every reason to! 👑



A dramatic illustration of Jesus and his disciples on the Mount of Olives. Jesus, with long dark hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a red sash, stands on the right, gesturing towards a city below. The sky is filled with a large, bright sun, lightning bolts, and a comet streaking across the sky. The scene is framed by a large, circular stone archway. The background is a mix of blue, purple, and orange hues, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

“Now as [Jesus] sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us ... what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’”

—Matthew 24:3

# PROPHECIES ABOUT THE LAST DAYS

**I**t's been an extraordinary journey investigating the evidence that the Bible comes from the hand of One who is not restricted by time or space. We can know with certainty that the Bible is a supernatural communication from God.

But why is this so important? How does prophecy fulfilled in the past apply to those who are alive now? Does the Bible have anything to say about today—the chaotic times in which we live?

Just as God wanted His people in the past to know that He sees all things, He also wants you to know that He sees tomorrow perfectly. “Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them” (Isaiah 42:9). Has God declared new things for you, for the people living in the final days of history? Absolutely!

41

## Increase in Knowledge

The book of Daniel made a profound prediction for people in our time. “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase” (Daniel 12:4).

Researchers estimate that it wasn't until 1900 that human knowledge began to double approximately every century. By the end of World War II, however, knowledge was doubling about every 25 years. Today, in just one lifetime, information has exploded far beyond anything our ancestors could have imagined. On average, human knowledge is now doubling once a year!

And what about running to and fro? In 1828, a Lancaster, Ohio, school board stated that if God had intended “His creatures” to travel at the “frightful speed of 15 miles per hour, He would have foretold it through His holy prophets.” Actually, Daniel's prediction points

us in that direction. After more than about 5,500 years of travel on horseback, in just under a century since the invention of the automobile, people can now jet around the globe in just 48 hours.



42

## Wars and Rumors of Wars

Jesus predicted that at the end of time, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” (Luke 21:10). Wars have always plagued human history, but never on a global scale like we have seen in the past century. World War II alone had more casualties than any other war in the history of the world. And at least 108 million people were killed in wars during the twentieth century.

Though global wars have decreased in number, the amount of civil conflicts has sharply increased. About fifty ongoing armed conflicts are taking place at any given time. One historian calculated that over the past 3,400

years, humans have been at peace for only 268 years, or just eight percent of recorded history.

43

## The Destruction of the Earth

God created the earth with perfection and beauty. Unfortunately, humanity has increasingly exploited the resources of our planet, and the deterioration in the natural world can be clearly seen. The apostle Paul spoke of how “the whole



creation groans and labors with birth pangs” (Romans 8:22). And Revelation warns how God will “destroy those who destroy the earth” (11:18). Such destruction can happen not only through weapons of war, but also through the exploitation of natural resources at the expense of wildlife, air quality, and wilderness areas.

*National Geographic* reports, “The World Wildlife Fund for Nature’s *Living Planet Report* ... describes a catastrophic decline in animal populations the world over. ... The report found that populations of vertebrates (animals with backbones) declined by 60 percent on average.” The figure refers to a general trend of vertebrate species populations shrinking, on average, to about half the size that they were forty years ago.

The prophet Isaiah predicted, “Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, the earth will grow old like a garment” (Isaiah 51:6). The closer we come to the second coming of Christ, the more evidence we see of our world wearing out.

44

## Lawlessness Abounds

Jesus described that at the end of time, “Lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12). With even just a cursory glance at the headlines, it’s obvious that such lawlessness—contempt for God’s law—flourishes.

Consider the most dangerous cities in the United States with a population of at least 200,000. The top cities for violent crime include Detroit, St. Louis, Memphis, Baltimore, Kansas City, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Oakland, Stockton, and Indianapolis. The state of California also leads the states for the total number of murders in 2017, with 2,022 deaths. In Chicago, the murder rate nearly doubled between 2014 and 2016. (Milwaukee and Louisville saw comparable spikes.)

As contempt for God’s law increases, so do the numbers of rapes, murders, muggings, and other violent crimes. Jesus predicted that indifference to the law of God leads to cold-heartedness. The essence of following God’s law is found in self-sacrificing love for others—the opposite of violent crime.

Since the Columbine tragedy in 1999, mass shootings have increased with terrifying speed. Within a span of 35 days in 2017, two of the deadliest mass shootings in U.S. history took place. Locations stained with blood are popping up everywhere—including a





small church in rural Texas, where 26 people were shot. A gunman opened fire from a Las Vegas resort into a crowd in October 2017, killing 59 and injuring more than 500; it is the deadliest shooting in modern U.S. history.

These sobering signs should cause us to follow the apostle Paul's counsel to "examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith" (2 Corinthians 13:5).

45

## Gospel to the Whole World

Finally, let's now consider another forecast made by Jesus. Within a week of His crucifixion, Jesus predicted, "And 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).

Can you imagine the smirking response of people in Jesus' day listening to this audacious prophecy? Who did Jesus think He was? Here was a poor carpenter—born in a stable, who never even wrote a book or had any political connections—predicting that His teachings were going to circle the planet.

Yet today, even His most cynical critics would have to admit that the first part of this prophecy has been dramatically fulfilled! The teachings of Jesus did go to the whole world. Today, Christianity is the world's

largest religion, with an estimated 29 percent of the world claiming to be His followers.

But what's even more extraordinary is the second half of the prophecy. Jesus told us, with no equivocation, that after His message goes to the world, "the end will come." Notice, Jesus did not say everybody would believe, but rather that the message would go "as a witness to all the nations."

Today, hundreds of satellites circling the planet provide almost instant global communication through radio, television, and the Internet. Many ministries are using this technology now to stream the gospel to all the world.

## EVEN AT THE DOOR

If everything else God has predicted in His Word has come true, why should we doubt the last part? Yes—we can know with certainty that we are living on the borders of eternity.

Earlier in this magazine, you learned about Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great image that represented various world powers all the way to our time. You'll recall that the dream ended with a great stone tumbling from the heavens and smashing the image upon its feet, grinding it to powder. Who does this stone



represent. Who or what is this great power that knocks down the image? It is Jesus Christ, the Rock of Ages.

All of history is now moving toward a dramatic conclusion, when the Son of God will return with power and glory. The prophecy reveals that we have almost reached the end of time. There is but one question left to answer: Are you ready for the greatest event in the history of this planet—the return of Jesus Christ? Well, friend, you can be.

Jesus said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Understanding prophecy is important, but the main purpose of biblical prophecy is

redemption—to know God and to receive His love. The apostle Paul said, “Though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries ... but have not love, I am nothing” (1 Corinthians 13:2).

Would you like to have the love of God in your heart today and be ready for Christ’s return? You can, right now! Come to Him in prayer and ask Him to forgive you of your sins. He promises that He will. Then, instead of a hopeless end, you will have an endless hope.

Now is the time to make a decision for Christ. Jesus warned us, “When you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!” (Matthew 24:33). [👑](#)





# Your Questions Answered

## Q. Will the temple be rebuilt in Jerusalem before Jesus returns?

**A.** With the constant turmoil threatening the Middle East, many Bible commentators are speculating about whether the Jewish temple will be rebuilt in the years to come. For many, such an event would signal the start of the final events of Earth's history.

Most speculation for a rebuilt temple springs from a reference in 2 Thessalonians 2 dealing with the antichrist: "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (vv. 3, 4).

Many say that for the antichrist to sit in the temple, it would need to be rebuilt. Are they correct?

First Chronicles 17:11, 12, says, "When your days are fulfilled, ... I will set up your seed after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever." This prophecy was given to King David and says that his offspring would build a temple for God. However, this text is also one of the clearest examples of a dual prophecy found in Scripture—that is, a prophecy that has both a physical and spiritual fulfillment.

Solomon, the son of David, built the physical temple. But this prophecy also applies spiritually to Jesus, the "Son of David" who is to build a temple and kingdom that will last forever. In Mark 14:58, Jesus says, "I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands." Jesus was speaking of rebuilding a temple not made of stone—but of flesh. Many refused this teaching (John 2:20) and even mocked Jesus for it (Matthew 27:40).

Yet when Jesus died, the veil in the earthly temple ripped in two from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51), signifying that the temple no longer held meaning. A temple for sacrifice today would be useless, and it would not be the house of God.

The New Testament presents the idea that the temple is the body of Jesus. Ephesians 2:19–22 says, "You are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and

prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."


There is no prophecy, promise, or commandment that says the physical temple would ever be rebuilt.

## Q. Where are we in the timeline of the prophecies of Revelation?

**A.** It appears that we are living in the time described in Revelation 13 and 14. These chapters deal with two great beasts. In chapter 13, the first beast—the one that rises from the sea and has seven heads and ten horns—was wounded, but its "deadly wound was healed" (v. 3). This is a segment of time that has already passed. Then the second beast—which has two horns like a lamb and speaks like a dragon (v. 11)—comes on the scene and is ready to make an image to the first beast that was healed (v. 12). It tries to force everyone on Earth to worship the first beast.

According to Daniel 7, these beasts are nations. The second beast is the United States, which accurately fits the description and historical setting. It looks like a lamb in that it started out as a nation founded on Christian principles, but it begins to speak like a dragon.

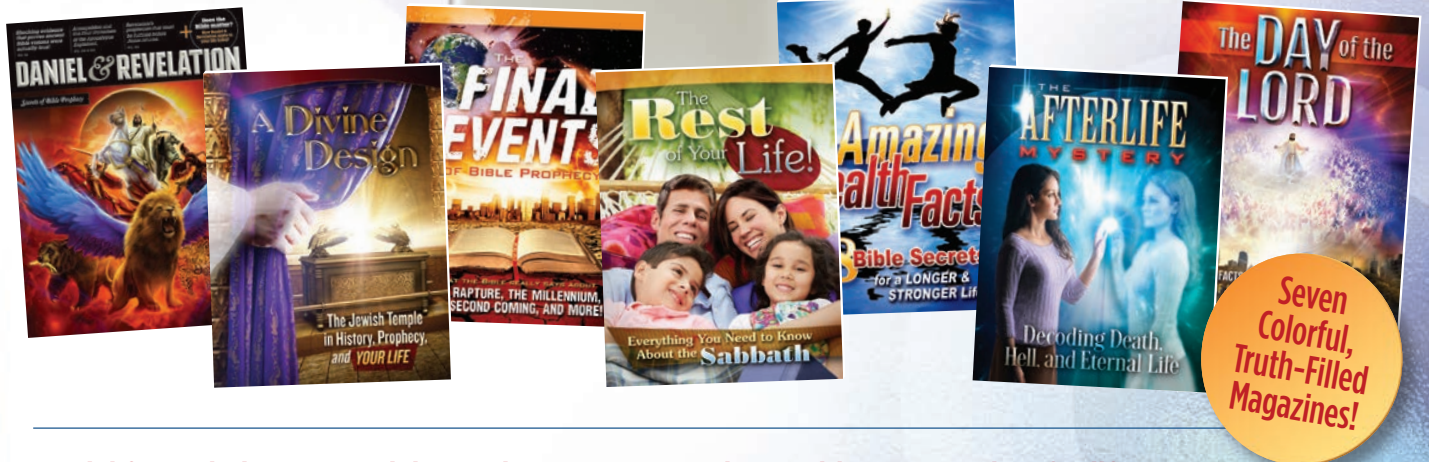
In prophecy, a lamb is a symbol of Christ and a dragon is a symbol of Satan. We are going to see America bringing the Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox churches to apostatize—to abandon their distinctive beliefs and come together to form a one-world church that undermines God's law. However, there will be a biblical remnant who will remain true to God and refuse to receive the mark of the beast, "those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12).

Prophecy reveals that we are on the verge of religious laws that will hedge in God's people and force them to make a decision for or against God's law. This conflict will spotlight the fourth commandment—the law that focuses on God as the Creator. That's why the first angel's message warns us to "worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water" (Revelation 14:7). Those who choose to keep God's law will triumph. Jesus assures us that "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 10:22). 

Did you enjoy this magazine?

Explore more Bible truth at

**afbookstore.com**



**Daniel & Revelation**

This easy-to-follow guide through the books of Daniel and Revelation features stunning, contemporary artwork and historical images and facts that uncover the deepest mysteries of prophecy in staggering clarity. A must-have study resource!

**A Divine Design**

This information-packed, beautifully designed magazine traces the history and future of God’s sanctuary, the staggering symbolism of the temple services, an attack on God’s heavenly sanctuary, and how Jesus Christ is connected to it all.

**Amazing Health Facts!**

This full-color magazine presents eight powerful biblical health lessons in a direct, captivating way—including the lifesaving benefits of a good diet, exercise, rest and the Sabbath, sunlight, water, clean air, and more. Get healthier now!

**The Afterlife Mystery**

Unravel the mysteries of death, hell, heaven, eternal life, and more! Packed with breathtaking, full-color graphics, this life-changing, easy-to-read 32-page magazine dispels the darkness of confusion with the light of God’s Word about what really happens when we die.

**The Day of the Lord**

Discover the signs and manner of Christ’s return, the truth about the rapture, and what happens after His return. Even more important, you’ll learn how to be ready for this imminent event so you can face the future with confidence!

**The Rest of Your Life!**

Loaded with vivid, full-color graphics and fascinating facts, this one-of-a-kind magazine reveals the astonishing truth about the Sabbath! See why it’s critical for you to know about God’s holy day!

**The Final Events of Bible Prophecy**

You’ll love this colorful 32-page magazine that unveils astonishing predictions about our planet’s final days as revealed in the Bible. Packed with fascinating facts and compelling Scripture, it examines seven end-time “events,” including the signs of the end, the millennium, and more!

ISBN: 978-1-58019-685-7



9 781580 196857