

“WOULD YOU BELIEVE”

God Will Do What He Says He Will Do

“An economist knows tomorrow why things he predicted yesterday didn’t happen today,” said Evan Esar. Kehlog Albran writes, “I have seen the future, and it is very much like the present, only longer.” Churchill said, “I always avoid prophesying before because it is better to prophesy after the event.”

PROPHET OR NON-PROPHET?

Today as our scene opens, God’s prophet Balaam speaks to Moab’s King Balak. Earlier God had spoken to Balaam through his own ass. Yea, his donkey. **Let’s read Numbers 23:16-20 (p. 118, NIV).**

A third of the Bible addresses the future. Of its 2,500 prophecies, 500 are yet to be fulfilled (Joshua 23:14-15; Psalm 89:34-37). God’s seers had to bat 1000 or die (Deuteronomy 18:20-22).

The Bible’s #1 prophetic theme: **ALL creation will bow to Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords** (Philippians 2:10-11). For now, the Bible is what God, who never lies, wants us to know (Acts 17:11; Romans 11:29; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Titus 1:1-3). **Let’s read Genesis 2:4-7, 15-18; 3:1-24 (p. 2).**

“IF YOU PREDICT, YOU MUST EVICT”

God designed man and woman to {a} make love and {b} have babies forever. (“Is there a second to the motion?”) God’s first prophecy: “Enjoy fruit from any tree in the Garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eat it and die.” Satan’s sequence: disguise, divide, doubt, denial. The First Couple’s sin opened the gate for evil, violence, natural disasters and death (Romans 5:19). But God made a path to restore man by sending His Son Jesus to (1) cure our sin dilemma and (2) eliminate Satan (Revelation 20:7-10). God’s first promise was His Son.*

DISCUSS: Why did all-powerful God allow sin on earth?

ALTAR-CATION

4,000 years ago Abram was thriving in today’s Turkey, trusting God to do what He said He’d do (Romans 4:21). As He did then, God declares us right with Him by putting our

faith in Him, not by trying to earn His acceptance (Roman 3:21-24, 4:13, 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9).

Let's read Genesis 12:1-3, 15:6,18-16:4, 17:1-8, 21:1-5, 22:1-18).

God promised Abe that his barren wife Sarah would bear a son. As Plan B, she talked Abe into sleeping with her maid Hagar, producing Ishmael. Later Sarah, 90, birthed Isaac when proud Papa was 100.

When God ordered Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, the lad carried kindling to his altar just as Jesus later carried His own cross. Abe and Ike were spared when God provided a substitute, as He would subsequently do for you and me with Jesus our Savior (Isaiah 51:2).

“WHAT’S THE BUZZ?”

300 prophecies cover Jesus’ birth, ministry, death and resurrection. Let’s read Isaiah 53:1-12 (p. 552) and Micah 5:2 (p. 694).

On their Day of Atonement Jews annually offered blood sacrifices to cover their sins *temporarily* (Leviticus 16; Romans 3:25-26). Let’s read Hebrews 10:1-4, 11-14 (p. 893). Only a *perfect* sacrifice (Jesus) would *forever* pardon ALL sin (Psalm 103:8-14; Matthew 1:20-25).

Centuries earlier, God’s prophets said Jesus would be betrayed for the cost of a slave, soldiers would gamble for His clothes, He’d get vinegar to drink, nails would pierce His hands and feet, spears puncture His side, yet no bones would break, and in three days He’d rise, defeating sin and death for us (**Zechariah 11:12-13; Matthew 27:3-10; Psalm 22:18, 34:20, 41:9, 69:21; John 19:16-24, 28-37)**! **Let’s read Luke 24:44-49 (p. 788).**

DISCUSS: What does it mean to you to see these ancient prophecies come true with total accuracy in every detail?

France’s King Louis XIV asked philosopher Blaise Pascal to prove the supernatural. Pascal’s reply: “The Jews, your Majesty, the Jews.” Three Jewish prophetic themes will usher in the “last days.”

1. The *aliyah* (Hebrew for “returning to Israel”)

God said the Jews would be invaded and enslaved (by Assyria 722 B.C., Babylon 586 B.C.). 3,500 years ago Moses foresaw they’d scatter for generations and return near “the end of the age.” After 1948 millions have come from Russia, Europe, Ethiopia, India et al.

“As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them’ ... I will restore them to the land I gave their ancestors” (Jeremiah 16:14-15).

His Deal speaker Steve Lightle, in *Exodus II: Let My People Go* and *Operation Exodus II*, says God told him to leave his Seattle business, with no money, just faith, to help Jews in the USSR move to Israel. God did what He said, providing millions in unsolicited funds to relocate 150,00 Jews out of “the land of the north!”

On May 14, 1948 the U.N. needed only three minutes to award statehood to Israel -- 2,000 years after Isaiah asked rhetorically, *“Can a nation be born in a moment?”* (Isaiah 66:8). **Let’s read Jeremiah 30:1-3 (p. 590).**

2. Groundswell builds to rebuild the Jerusalem temple

Solomon built the first one in 950 B.C. on Mt. Moriah where Abraham took Isaac. Babylon wasted it three centuries later. Rome leveled the “Second Temple” in 70 A.D., leaving the Wailing Wall. Plans are afoot to build temple #3 and resume animal sacrifices.

3. A yearning for Messiah

Let’s read Isaiah 60:1-22 (p. 557), Romans 10:1-21 (p. 843), 11:25-36 and Hosea 3:4-5 (p. 672).

Muslims await their Mahdi who with Jesus (they call Him “Messiah”) will slay Dajjal (anti-Christ). Orthodox Jews expect war just before the arrival of *Mashiach* who’ll make Jerusalem the world’s capital. He’ll be from David’s line **but not a God-man like Jesus.**

In God’s prophetic calendar at any moment Christ could return to take (rapture) His believers to be with Him (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

“The Great Tribulation” begins when the head (later the self-professed anti-Christ) of a 10-nation confederacy signs a peace agreement to protect Israel for seven years. Apocalyptic chaos erupts; billions are slaughtered; *en masse* Jews embrace Jesus who defeats Satan at Armageddon. 1,000 years of peace ensue with Christ enthroned in Jerusalem. Finally, the “Great White Throne” when Satan is tossed into “the lake of fire” forever with all who waited too late or took a pass on God’s pardon.

DISCUSS: How important is it to know what the Bible says about “the end times,” and what should we do with this information?

PARTING WORDS

History proves that God will do what He says He will do.

God promised to never forsake those who trust Him, to be with them forever, never holding their sins against them!!!

the Bible's final promise is from Jesus Himself*: "For sure I'm coming soon." Are you ready?

His Deal

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