

The Bible - part 3

Evidence that the Bible is Inspired by God:

Prophecy Fulfilled

(Notes for a PowerPoint Presentation)

By Catherine Slight and Lin Pearson

NOTE: This is the part of a series of PowerPoint teaching on *The Bible*.

You may like to know that you can download, free of charge, the other seven sections of this series, and other teaching aids, at FreeMinistryResources.org.

The red symbols [▶] are cues for changing the PowerPoint slides. The numbered triangle tells you to click forward to the next slide; the unnumbered symbol is for the next item on the same slide; the words in red describe what you should see on the slide.

Practise! Read the script; become familiar with it; adapt the language to suit your listeners. Practise running the PowerPoint with the script. If someone else is helping you, practise with them. A well-prepared presentation will help convey your message.

Pray. Without the anointing of the Holy Spirit, this will simply be an ordinary talk. Ask God to help you convey a message from his heart.

A note on copyright is included in the last slide. Naturally, you do not show that. It is for your information only.

How much ground will you cover in one session? That will depend upon the time you have available, the age and powers of concentration of your group (this material is suitable for all ages—children, teen and adults), the amount of questions and discussion you incorporate into the session, and also the number of illustrations from your experience, or that of others, that you include.

The wording of these notes is only a suggestion. You must feel free to use your own style of presentation. We pray that you will experience the drawing near and help of God as you present this series.

Terms of Use

This presentation is the work of Catherine Slight and Lin Pearson, and is copyrighted*, and may be used under the following terms.

You may use our resources unaltered for the purpose of study and teaching.

They may not in any manner be sold or used to solicit “donations” from others. Nor may they be included in anything you intend to copyright, sell, offer for a fee, or make available online.

This copyright is exercised to keep our material freely available for all. If you have any questions, or wish to do something not mentioned in these conditions, please contact Catherine and Lin at freeminres@gmail.com

COPYING

These resources are for your personal use. Please do not pass on copies to others. Instead, we would be very grateful, and it would benefit our site greatly, if you would direct people to our site at FreeMinistryResources.org, where they can download the materials for themselves. This will help the site show up better in search engines, and so enable more people to find us and have access to the free resources.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

The PowerPoint presentation which accompanies these notes may be downloaded from our website.

<https://freeministryresources.org/evidence-that-the-bible-is-inspired-by-god-fulfilled-prophecy/>

That page also has links to all the other teaching and PowerPoints in this series.

© 2018 Catherine Slight and Lin Pearson

*FreeMinistryResources.org, including all its resources by Catherine Slight and Lin Pearson, is copyrighted under the following license: Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-No Derivative Works 4.0

1. [TITLE SLIDE]

2. ► [Scroll and man with summary of the series so far - 1.Unity of authors and 2. Accuracy]

So far in this series on the Bible we have seen some reasons why we can be sure that it is inspired by God. The total unity and harmony of the authors, and the accuracy of the Bible.

► [Adds rectangle with summary of accuracy]

All the evidence points to the historical and scientific accuracy of the whole Bible, and of its later translations.

There may still be parts which, to some people, appear to be mistakes. They may also see what they think are contradictions, when one part of the Bible says one thing and another part seems to say something different.

But as our understanding of past history, and science, and ancient languages improves, we become able to explain these seeming difficulties.

A third reason for believing that the Bible is inspired by God is...

► [Added to the list - Prophecy fulfilled]

It is one thing to give an accurate record of things which happened in the past, or of things which you are witnessing as you write, but it is another thing entirely to predict the future. Many Bible writers were incredibly accurate as they predicted (or prophesied) **what would happen in the future**.

The tiny details were so accurate that only God could have revealed them to the prophets. This is another strong reason for knowing that the Bible was inspired by God.

3. ► [Old prophet and three areas of prophecy]

There are three main areas of Bible prophecy we want to look at now -

- those concerning **Jesus Christ**,
- concerning the **Jewish nation**
- concerning the **world today**.

4. ► [Prophecies concerning Jesus Christ]

In the Old Testament, many predictions were made about the coming Messiah - the special Person who would be sent by God. It was only when Jesus came that these prophecies “burst into blossom” and were fulfilled.

PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

► His birth: *Messiah would be born in Bethlehem*

► His ministry: *preaching, caring, bringing freedom*

► More ministry: *healing*

► His entry to Jerusalem: *on a young donkey - not a horse!*

► Gambling for His clothes

.....
Testimony break:

This could be an opportunity for testimony to be shared as to how Christ has helped, healed, set free, forgiven, etc. - illustrating the statement above.
.....

9. ▶ [Old prophet]

We have seen how prophecy has been fulfilled concerning **Jesus Christ**.
Now we will look at the second area ...

▶ [Prophecies concerning the Jewish nation]

10. ▶ [Israeli village]

Just as tiny details about Jesus Christ have come true, so there have been prophecies about the Jewish people.

In the Old Testament they were called the Children of Israel or The Hebrews. Today we call them Jews, or sometimes we refer to their country, Israel.

Some of the prophecies about the nation of Israel came true THOUSANDS of years after they were written.

Here are a few examples.

▶ **The people of Israel would be scattered**

(e.g. *Leviticus 26:33*)

In AD70 the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed and over the next 200 years Jews fled from their own country.

▶ **The Jews would return to their own land**

(e.g. *Jeremiah 30:3; Ezekiel 37:21*)

In 1948 Jewish people started to return to their own land. Part of Palestine was given to the Jews; they renamed it Israel and became a nation again.

11. ▶ [Israeli countryside]

▶ **The desert would be cultivated**

(e.g. *Isaiah 51:3*)

Israeli scientists and farmers have found ways of bringing water to desert places and growing crops.

▶ **The Hebrew language would be revived**

(e.g. *Zephaniah 3:9*)

For centuries, Hebrew was spoken among the Jews only in synagogue services and in prayer. Now it is the national language of Israel and is spoken daily everywhere in the country.

12. ▶ [Old prophet, list items 1 and 2]

Now we will look at the **third area of Prophecy fulfilled in the Bible**.

▶ [Added to list - Concerning the world today]

We have looked at some Bible prophecies which have already come true in the **past**. But it is amazing to think that in the **present**, in our daily news, we are hearing of the fulfilment of other Bible prophecies!

It is recorded in the Bible that Jesus himself said that certain things would happen, and when they did, it would be a sign that soon he would visibly return to earth.

[One prophecy, for example, says that when Jesus Christ returns to earth “every eye shall see him” (Revelation 1:7).

Critics have said in the past:

“That cannot be true. How can people in Australia, America or Europe see what is happening in Israel (where the Bible says Christ will return). Even if Jesus does come back to Israel, only some people, those who are on the spot, will be able to see it.”

But the fulfilment of this prophecy is not impossible! Because now, with satellite link-ups, any part of our world can almost instantly see what is going on elsewhere.]

Here are four signs the Bible speaks of:

13. ► [Prophecy fulfilled - Concerning the world today]

Earthquakes (e.g. Luke 21:11)

From 8 March 2018 to the 21 June 2018 (the time of writing) there were at least 20 earthquakes of magnitude 6 or more. These are the strength that cause a lot of damage in very populated areas.

It is estimated that major earthquakes, resulting in serious damage (magnitude 7 or greater) occur about 20 times a year.

[If you feel these details need updating, you can check recent activity, and input the magnitude you wish to see, at this site -

<https://www.emsc-csem.org/Earthquake/?filter=yes>]

14. ► [Prophecy fulfilled - Concerning the world today]

Tsunami (Luke 21:25)

“And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides.”

15. ► [Prophecy fulfilled - Concerning the world today]

Wars and rumours of war (e.g. Matthew 21:6)

[Details are constantly changing from year to year. So the following pages may help you find bang up-to-date information to help your listeners grasp the desperate state the world is in right now.

Current armed conflicts with casualties are listed here -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ongoing_armed_conflicts

And here is an interactive map

<https://www.irinnews.org/maps-and-graphics/2017/04/04/updated-mapped-world-war>]

16. ► [Prophecy fulfilled - Concerning the world today]

Abnormal weather conditions

(e.g. Genesis 8:22) *“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, will never cease.” [Implying that as the end of the world approaches, these clearly marked seasons will break down.]*

Loss of land – According to the UN, an area of fertile soil the size of Ukraine is lost every year because of drought, deforestation and climate instability.

17. ► [Prophecy fulfilled - Concerning the world today]

Famines (Matthew 24:7; Mark 13:8)

The BBC reported in 2017, “The US-based Africa Center for Strategic Studies says 19 African countries are facing crisis, emergency, or catastrophic levels of food insecurity.”

[This slide has a map showing regions of food deprivation. Orange and brown are the worst! Check for recent events to bring your presentation up to date]

18. ▶ [Prophecy fulfilled - Concerning the world today]

Disease Epidemics (*Pictures of malaria mosquito and MRSA bacteria*)

In the first two months of 2009 the World Health Organization issued Epidemic and Pandemic alerts for among other diseases - Bird flu, Polio, Yellow fever, Ebola fever and cholera.

[Up to date information is available at <http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/year/en>]

19. ▶ [Prophecy fulfilled - Concerning the world today]

Signs in the sky

Not all are as beautiful as this fire rainbow. A Headline 03 March 2009 –“Space rock gives Earth a close shave”.

▶ [On this click an asteroid flies in]

An asteroid came very close to Earth. Only 1/5 of the distance from Earth to the moon. Only twice the height of orbiting satellites.

20. ▶ [Prophecy fulfilled - Concerning the world today]

Economic collapse (Rev 18:9-16)

Here is a *description of the response to the collapse of Babylon (representing the material and financial world).*

21. ▶ [Business man on phone]

“O great ... city of power! In one hour your doom has come!”

22. ▶ [Business man in despair]

“The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no-one buys their cargoes any more... All your riches and splendour have vanished, never to be recovered.” (Rev. 18:10-15 NIV).

The cargoes that no one would buy began with **luxury goods** (gold, silver and precious stones), but soon went on to **everyday food** (olive oil, flour), then **animals** and vehicles, until people were selling themselves into **slavery** to survive..

23. ▶ [People outside financial institution]

In the UK we have seen several institutions go down and be bailed out by the government or bought out by another stronger bank: e.g. Northern Rock, Royal Bank of Scotland.

Some major retailers have also gone bust. *[Add your own relevant examples here.]*

Of course, many of the signs have already been occurring for centuries. But now it is happening with a frequency and intensity which makes us take notice, and which was predicted.

We have touched on only a few of the very many prophecies in Scripture which are being fulfilled in our time.

24. ▶ [Bible - true, reliable]

The Bible is 100% true and 100% reliable!

25 ▶ [Fade to black]

Extra notes 1: PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

	Predicted	Fulfilled
His birth:	<p>Micah 5:2</p> <p>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origin are from of old, from ancient times. ”</p>	<p>Matt. 2:1</p> <p>“Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea”</p>
His ministry	<p>Isaiah 61:1-3</p> <p>“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn”</p>	<p>Luke 4:18</p> <p>“Jesus said: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed”</p>
More ministry	<p>Isaiah 35:5,6</p> <p>“Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.”</p>	<p>Matt.9:35</p> <p>“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.”</p>
His entry to Jerusalem	<p>Zech.9:9</p> <p>“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey..”</p>	<p>John 12:12-15</p> <p>“The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the King of Israel!” Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, ‘Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.’”</p>

<p>Gambling for his clothes</p>	<p>Psalm 22:18</p> <p>"They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing."</p>	<p>John 19:23,24</p> <p>"When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. 'Let's not tear it,' they said to one another. 'Let's decide by lot who will get it.' This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, 'They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.' So this is what the soldiers did."</p>
<p>Mocked</p>	<p>Psalm 22:7,8</p> <p>"All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: 'He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.'"</p>	<p>Mark 15:31</p> <p>"In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself!"</p>
<p>Holes in hands and feet</p>	<p>Psalm 22:16</p> <p>"a pack of villains encircles me, they have pierced my hands and my feet"</p>	<p>Luke 23:33</p> <p>"When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him" <i>[Roman crucifixion involved nailing the man to a wooden stake by his hands and feet.]</i></p>
<p>Buried in rich man's grave</p>	<p>Isaiah 53:9</p> <p>"He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death "</p>	<p>Matt.27:57-60</p> <p>"As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock."</p>
<p>Come alive again</p>	<p>Psalm 16:10</p> <p>"...you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay."</p>	<p>John 20:11-16</p> <p>"Mary stood outside the tomb crying ... saw two angels in white, ...They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher)."</p>
<p><i>These are only a few of over 300 prophecies which came true about Jesus, the Messiah.</i></p>		

EXTRA NOTES 2: PROBABILITY AND PROPHECY

Peter Stoner in his book *Science Speaks* shows that the science of probability rules out coincidence as far as Jesus of Nazareth fulfilling the Messianic prophecies.

Stoner began by dealing with only eight prophecies:

1. Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; fulfilled in Matt. 2:1-7; John 7:42; Luke 2:47).
2. Messiah is to be preceded by a Messenger (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1; fulfilled in Matthew 3:1-3; 11:10; John 1:23; Luke 1:17).
3. Messiah is to enter Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9; fulfilled in Luke 35-37; Matthew 21:6-11).
4. Messiah is to be betrayed by a friend (Psalms 41:9; 55:12-14; fulfilled in Matthew 10:4; 26:49-50; John 13:21).
5. Messiah is to be sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; fulfilled in Matthew 26:15; 27:3).
6. The money for which Messiah is sold is to be thrown “to the potter” in God’s house (Zechariah 11:13; fulfilled in Matthew 27:5-7).
7. Messiah is to be silent before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7; fulfilled in Matthew 27:12).
8. Messiah is to be executed by crucifixion as a thief (Psalm 22:16; Zechariah 12:10; Isaiah 53:5,12; fulfilled in Luke 23:33; John 20:25; Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27,28).

Stoner says that by applying the modern science of probability to just these eight prophecies, “... We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10 to the power 17.”

That would be one in 100,000,000,000,000,000.

In order for us to be able to comprehend this staggering probability, Stoner illustrates it this way:

“... we take 10 to the power 17 silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep.

Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote in their own wisdom.

Now these prophecies were either given by inspiration of God or the prophets just wrote them as they thought they should be. In such a case the prophets had just one chance in 10 to the power 17 of having them come true in any man, but they all came true in Christ.

