

December 11, 2022

# The View

*“Sirs, we wish to see Jesus.” – John 12:21*

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## Welcome Visitors

Our goal at the Folsom church of Christ is to do everything according to God’s word, including respecting its silence.

We are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church; we have no earthly “headquarters.”

The five elders oversee this church and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily for the benefit of our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don’t understand something, please do not hesitate to ask the preacher or one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God’s word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

**Please fill out a visitor’s card and put it in the collection plate when is passed.  
We do not solicit donations from visitors. See page 4 for more information.**

## Schedule

### The Lord’s Day

#### 9:30 AM Bible Classes

*Auditorium: “Timothy & Titus”*

*Room 15/16: Relationships: Love (agape)*

**Room 12: Young Adult Class: “Be ready to give an answer” (I Peter 3:15)**

#### 10:30 AM: Assembly

**Preaching Today: David Posey**

Sermon: “Love Your Bible: Truth vs. Lies”

**Livestream at 10:30 <https://tinyurl.com/5f2cbm3y>**

**Bible Class @ 5 PM – Praying the Psalms (Auditorium)**

**High School Class @ 5 PM @ David & Christie Posey’s home**

**Middle school class: monthly** (contact David Sanderson ([david.r.sanderson@intel.com](mailto:david.r.sanderson@intel.com))

or Seth Reagan ([sethreagan@gmail.com](mailto:sethreagan@gmail.com))

There are several on-going Bible classes in the homes of members. Check with David Posey or one of the other elders if you would like to join one of those classes.

### Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

#### Bible classes for all ages

*Auditorium: Letters to Timothy & Titus*

*Room 15/16: Relationships: Love*

**Room 12: Young Adults Class: “Be ready to give an answer” (I Peter 3:15)**

# THE POWER OF PROPHECY

BY DAVID POSEY

If we are convinced that every word in the Bible is true, inspired by God (II Timothy 3:16-17), then everything else falls into place. For example, if we view the Bible as 100% accurate, then we don't need to store up 100 arguments against macro evolution — one will do: “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*” (Genesis 1:1). When we add Romans 1:19-20 to the mix, then we are not even *capable* of believing that everything that we see with our own eyes is a result of chance. Listen:

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

But is the Bible really God's truth revealed to us? Fulfilled predictive prophecy is, arguably, the most powerful proof that the Bible comes from the Creator. One text that proves this point is II Peter 1:16-21:

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Peter was an eyewitness, a friend, confidante and disciple of Jesus. He saw some awe-inspiring things — miracles, signs and wonders. He walked on the sea with Jesus, he sat with the raised-from-the-dead Lazarus and witnessed the risen Jesus in the flesh. In the text above, he recalls a wonderful event he, with James and John, experienced on the mountain when Jesus was transfigured before his eyes (Matthew 17:1-8). He was so impressed that he wanted to stay there as long as they possibly could. But when the words came from heaven, “*this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.*” the disciples to fall on their faces, terrified.

In II Peter 1, Peter says “we were eyewitnesses of his majesty” (v. 16) and then refers to prophecy in v. 19. There are several translations of this verse in various versions of the Bible. The original Greek reads like this: “*we have more sure the prophetic word.*” The ESV says “*and we have the prophetic word more surely confirmed.*” An earlier edition of the ESV translated this, “*And we have something*

*more sure, the prophetic word,* to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.” Unfortunately, they changed that wording in later editions but there are some current versions that capture that same idea. Here an attempt to paraphrase it, the way I see it: “we witnessed the majesty of Jesus with our own eyes and we can tell you about that experience; but we have something much better — *fulfilled prophecy.*”

Whether that is the best translation or not, we can say that fulfilled prophecies proves at least three things: (1) the Bible is divine, inspired by God; (2) the Bible is true and reliable and (3) Jesus is who the Bible says he is: the Christ, the Messiah, predicted long ago.

There were many prophecies made about Jesus hundreds of years in advance of His birth. One scholar counted over 300 (see page 3 for some examples). Both Jesus and the apostles taught that these prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth. In Psalm 22 alone, one can reasonably find at least *nine* clear references to the crucifixion. But think about this:

“*One real case of fulfilled prophecy would establish a supernatural act... one unequivocal miracle, one indubitable fulfilled prophecy would show the fallacy of naturalism, for the causal web of the universe would be ruptured at that point through which the supernatural is intruded. Therefore, radical doubt must be certain it has silenced the testimony of all prophecies, whereas the Christian asserts that rather than resting the case on one prophecy, we have dozens at our beck and call.*”

—Bernard Ramm, *Protestant Christian Evidences*, p. 86

Skeptics have tried to debunk this evidence. They claim that Jesus either purposely fulfilled prophecy or that prophecies were fulfilled “*coincidentally.*” Yet many of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled were things he had no control over (for example, where he was born; see Micah 5:2).

There are fulfilled prophecies that are not about Jesus. One of the most illustrative is the prophecy about the Persian king Cyrus. Cyrus was the king who defeated Babylon and allowed the Jews to go back to their homeland after 70 years of Babylonian captivity. Cyrus is mentioned 19 times in the Old Testament. A notable prophecy about Cyrus occurs in the book of Isaiah which dates from 150 years *before* Cyrus was born. Cyrus is mentioned by name (see Isaiah 44:28-45:1, 4-7).

This is not uncommon; there are many other fulfilled prophecies that cannot be written off as “*coincidence.*” These prophecies are proof positive that the Bible is divine, the Holy Spirit driven word of God (see II Peter 1:21).

“...fulfilled prophecies prove at least three things: (1) the Bible is divine, inspired by God; (2) the Bible is true and reliable and (3) Jesus is who the Bible says he is: the Christ, the Messiah, predicted long ago.”

# THE POWER OF PROPHECY II

## Criteria for determining whether a prophecy is authentic.

1. The event must be beyond the power of man to foresee.
  - Not hope, mathematical calculation, forecast, guess or conjecture.
2. Must be demonstrated that prediction was written before the event.
3. The prediction must be applicable to the event.
4. The language of the prediction must be unambiguous and unmistakable.
5. The prediction must have a clear and demonstrable fulfillment.

*This is why no other religion even attempts to validate itself by appeal to prophecy or miracle.*

– H. W. Everest, *The Divine Demonstration*, p. 260

## A few of the most significant fulfilled prophecies about Jesus:

- a. The Messiah. was to be born of a woman (Gen. 3:15; cf. Gal. 4:4).
- b. He would be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14; cf. Mt. 1:21ff.).
- c. He would be of the seed of Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3 and 22:18; cf. Mt. 1:1 and Gal. 3:16).
- d. He would be of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10; cf. Lk. 3:23, 33; Heb. 7:14).
- e. He would be of the House of David (II Sam. 7:12f.; cf. Mt. 1:1).
- f. His birthplace would be Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2; cf. Mt. 2:1; Lk 2:4-7).
  - *Bethlehem was a town of little significance, even left off many maps at that time.*
- g. He would be anointed by the Holy Spirit (Isa. 11:2; cf. Mt. 3:16, 17).
- h. He would be announced by a messenger of the Lord (Isa. 40:3; Mal. 3:1; cf. Mt. 3:1, 2).
- i. He would have a ministry of miracles (Isa. 35:5, 6; cf. Mt. 9:35).
- j. He would cleanse the temple (Mal. 3:1; cf. Mt. 21:12).
- k. He would be rejected by his Jewish people (Psa. 118:22; cf. I Pet. 2:7).
- l. He would die a humiliating death (Psa. 22 and Isa. 53; cf. Mt. 27) involving:
  - (1) rejection by his own people (Isa. 53:3; cf. Jn. 1:10, 11; 7:5, 48).
  - (2) silence before his accusers (Isa. 53:7; cf. Mt. 27:12-19).
  - (3) being mocked (Psa. 22:7, 8; cf. Mt. 27:31).
  - (4) piercing his hands and feet (Psa. 22:16; cf. Lk. 23:33).
  - (5) being crucified with thieves (Isa. 53: 12; cf. Mt. 27:38).
  - (6) praying for his persecutors (Isa. 53:12; cf. Lk 23:34).
  - (7) piercing of his side (Zech. 12:10; cf. Jn. 19:34).
  - (8) buried in a rich man's tomb (Isa. 53:9; cf. Mt. 27:57-60)
  - (9) casting lots for his garments (Psa. 22:18; cf. Jn. 19:23, 24).
- m. He would rise from the dead (Psa. 2:7; 16:10; cf. Acts 2:31 & Mk. 16:6).
- n. He would ascend into heaven (Psa. 68:18; cf. Acts 1:9f.).
- o. He would sit at the right hand of God (Psa. 110:1; cf. Heb. 1:3).

## There are many other prophecies in Old Testament that were fulfilled in life and times of Jesus.

Examples: teaching in parables (Psa. 78:2 and Mt. 13:34); slaughter of babies by Herod (Jer. 31:15; cf. Mt. 2:16); betrayal (Psa. 41:9; cf. Mt. 10:4); being sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12; cf. Mt. 26:15); being beaten (Isa. 50:6; cf. Mt. 26:67); suffering thirst on the cross (Psa. 69:21; cf. Jn. 19: 28), etc.

**These old testament predictions about Christ were made 100s of years in advance.**