

## Bible Prophecies Fulfilled

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You are here: [The Journey](#) >> [Bible Prophecies Fulfilled](#) >> [Printer-Friendly Version](#)

### Bible Prophecies Fulfilled

I started a notebook and looked for "Bible prophecies fulfilled" in history...

#### *The Decree of Cyrus*

In about 700 BC, Isaiah names Cyrus as the king who will allow the Israelites to return to Jerusalem and rebuild its Temple. <sup>1</sup> At the time of this prophecy, there was no king named Cyrus and the Temple in Jerusalem was totally built and in full operation.

In 586 BC, more than 100 years later, the Babylonian King "Nebuchadnezzar" sacked Jerusalem and destroyed the temple. The Jews living in Jerusalem were either killed or taken captive to Babylon. <sup>2</sup> In about 539 BC, the Babylonian Empire was conquered by the Persians. Shortly thereafter, a Persian king named Cyrus issued a formal decree that the Jews could return to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple. <sup>3</sup> This decree is confirmed by secular archaeology in the form of a stone cylinder that details many events of Cyrus' reign, including the decree to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>

Remarkably, Isaiah predicted that a man named Cyrus, who would not be born for about a hundred years, would give a decree to rebuild a city and a temple, which were still standing and fully active at the time!

I had to check more of these out...! Are there more Bible prophecies fulfilled in history...?

#### *The City of Tyre*

In 586 BC (confirmed by secular sources as the 11th year of the reign of King Zedekiah of Judah), "Ezekiel" predicts the fall of mainland Tyre to the Babylonian armies of Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>5</sup> The text further describes the siege against the island fortress of Tyre (a half mile off the coast of mainland Tyre) hundreds of years later. Ezekiel's prophecy describes how the future invaders would tear down the ruins of mainland Tyre and throw them into the sea. They would "scrape her dust from her and leave her as the top of a rock". <sup>6</sup> "They will lay your stones, your timber, and your soil in the midst of the water." "I will make you like the top of a rock; you shall be a place for spreading nets." <sup>7</sup>

Secular history records that Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to the great mainland city of Tyre about a year after Ezekiel's prophecy. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* says: "After a 13-year siege (585-573 BC) by Nebuchadnezzar II, Tyre made terms and acknowledged Babylonian suzerainty." <sup>8</sup> When Nebuchadnezzar broke through the city gates, he found it nearly empty. Most of the people had moved by ship to an island about a half mile off the coast and fortified a city there. The mainland city was destroyed in 573 BC (Ezekiel's first prediction), but the city of Tyre on the island remained a powerful city for several hundred years.

Secular history next records that "Alexander the Great" laid siege to the island fortress of Tyre in 332 BC. His army destroyed the remains of mainland Tyre and threw them into the Mediterranean Sea. As Alexander's army constructed a causeway to the island, they scraped even the dust from the mainland city, leaving only bare rock. Historian Phillip Myers in his history textbook, *General History for Colleges and High Schools*, writes, "Alexander the Great reduced Tyre to ruins in 332 BC. Tyre recovered in a measure from this blow, but never regained the place she had previously held in the world. The larger part of the site of the once great city is now as bare as the top of a rock -- a place where the fishermen that still frequent the spot spread their nets to dry." <sup>9</sup>

Wow, this was dramatic stuff - I had no idea...

## The City of Samaria

The prophets Hosea (748 - 690 BC) and Micah (738 - 690 BC) each predicted the destruction of Samaria, the capital city of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Not only did these prophets predict violence and destruction, but they declared that this great city would become "as a heap in the field," with its stones poured down into the valley, and vineyards planted in place of its great walls, with even the foundations being removed.<sup>10</sup>

History tells us that Sargon took Samaria by the sword in 722 BC. Later, Alexander took the city violently in 331 BC, as did Hyrcanus in 120 BC. What's remarkable is not the violent demise of Samaria and its people, but rather, some of the historic specifics of what then happened to that once great city.

Reactions upon visiting the ancient spot have been recorded for centuries. In 1697, Henry Maundrell declared: "This great city is now wholly converted into gardens, and all the tokens that remain to testify that there has ever been such a place, are only on the north side..." Floyd Hamilton continues: "To-day the top of the hill where Samaria stood is a cultivated field with the foundations of the columns marking the place where the palaces and mansions stood. At the foot of the hill, in the valley, lie the foundation stones of the city..."<sup>11</sup> Finally, from Van de Velde:

*Her foundations discovered, her streets ploughed up, and covered with corn fields and olive gardens... Samaria has been destroyed, but her rubbish has been thrown down into the valley; her foundation stones, those grayish ancient quadrangular stones of the time of Omri and Ahab, are discovered, and lie scattered about on the slope of the hill.*<sup>12</sup>

I read prophecy after prophecy...

I read them closely and let them sink in...

I took notes and collected excerpts and articles...

I was fascinated with the probabilities of these Bible prophecies being fulfilled...

## Read More Now!

<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 44:28; 54:1.

<sup>2</sup> McDowell, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, vol. 2, 346.

<sup>3</sup> 2 Chronicles 36:22-23.

<sup>4</sup> McDowell, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, vol. 2, 347.

<sup>5</sup> Ezekiel 26.

<sup>6</sup> Ezekiel 26:4.

<sup>7</sup> Ezekiel 26:12, 14.

<sup>8</sup> 43/xxii 452.

<sup>9</sup> Phillip Myers, *General History for Colleges and High Schools*, Boston, Ginn & Co., 2003, 55.

<sup>10</sup> Hosea 13:16 and Micah 1:6.

<sup>11</sup> McDowell, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, vol. 1, 282.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 283.