Bible Inspiration—Fulfilled Prophecy

Intro: One of the many ways one can determine the inspiration of the Scriptures is by looking at what it says might come. God anticipated this very problem in the long-ago, so He had Moses write Deuteronomy 18:21 “21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?” God then gives the answer but it also answers how we can have knowledge that the Bible is inspired; Deuteronomy 18:22 “22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.” Thus, let us consider a few prophesies in the Scriptures and their fulfillment.

I. Prophecies Concerning Individuals

A. Abraham:
1. Gen. 12:2-3, 7 “2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. 4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. 6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. 7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.”
2. Four great promises:
   a. A promised nation—Israel
   b. A great name—father of the faithful.
   c. All nations of the earth would be blessed—Jesus.
   d. A promised land—Canaan.

B. Ishmael
1. Gen. 16:10-12 “10 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. 11 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. 12 And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man’s hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.”
2. Four promises:
   a. Multiply descendants—Arabs
   b. Wild man
   c. Against every nation, and every man against him.
   d. Dwell in the presence of his brethren.

C. David’s son to build the temple:
1. 2 Sam. 7:12-13 “12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.”
2. While there might be an immediate fulfillment in Solomon, the ultimate fulfillment is seen in Christ.

D. King Josiah:
1. The Lord calls him by name and tells the work he will do; 1 Kin. 13:2 “2 And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child
shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men’s bones shall be burnt upon thee.”

2. We observe its fulfillment over 300 years later; 2 Kin. 23:15-16 “Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove. And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.”

II. Prophecies Concerning Christ:

A. 322 Direct prophecies concerning Christ in the Old Testament, spelled out in minute detail.

B. The chances of one person fulfilling all these prophecies would be:

1. Joseph P. Free stated the odds of one person fulfilling all of these were 1 over 84 with 97 zero’s following.

2. Dr. Emile Borel, one of the world’s experts on mathematical probability, formulated a basic law of probability. This law states that the occurrence of any event where the chances are beyond one in one followed by 50 zeros is an event which we can state with certainty will never happen, no matter how much time is allotted and no matter how many conceivable opportunities could exist for the event to take place (Emile Borel, chapters one and three.)

3. Yet, Jesus fulfilled them all: How?

   a. By chance? Impossible
   b. Because there is a Supreme Being who knew what would happen and wrote about it aforetime.

C. Peter W. Stoner: Science Speaks

1. Considering the following eight prophecies about Jesus (pages 101-105).

   a. Mic. 5:2 “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

   b. Mal. 3:1 “Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.”

   c. Zec. 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”

   d. Zec. 13:6 “And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.”

   e. Zec. 11:12 “And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.”

   f. Zec. 11:13 “And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.”

   g. Isa. 53:7 “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”
h. Psa. 22:16 "16 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet."

2. "This is the answer to the question: One man in how many men has fulfilled these eight prophecies? But we are really concerned with the answer to the question: What is the chance that any man might have lived from the day of these prophecies down to the present time and have fulfilled all of the eight prophecies?... we find that the chance of any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th power. Let us try to visualize this chance.... Suppose that we take 10 to the 17th power silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all 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” (p. 106-107).

III. PROPHECIES CONCERNING NATIONS.

A. Of the Jews.

1. Their fall; 2 Kin. 21:12-15 "12 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle. 13 And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down. 14 And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies; 15 Because they have done that which was evil in my sight, and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day."

2. For Judah (the southern kingdom), they would spend 70 years in captivity.
   a. Jer. 27:14 "14 Therefore hearken not unto the words of the prophets that speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you."
   b. Jer. 29:9-10 "9 For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD. 10 For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place."
   c. They first went into captivity in 606 BC and they were released and allowed to return in 536 BC.

3. Cyrus the great would release them:
   a. Isa. 44:21-45:4 "21 Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me. 22 I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee. 23 Sing, O ye heavens; for the LORD hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel. 24 Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things: that stretcheth forth the heavens alone: that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself, 25 That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish; 26 That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof: 27 That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers: 28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy
foundation shall be laid. 45:1 Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; \(^2\) I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: \(^3\) And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel. \(^4\) For Jacob my servant’s sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.”

b. Isaiah wrote about 740 to 700 BC.

c. Thus, Isaiah wrote his prophecy over 150 years before Cyrus released Israel to return.

B. **Destruction of Nineveh.**

1. Prophesied in Zephaniah and Nahum
2. It would be destroyed while the leaders were drunk.
3. It would be destroyed by fire, water, and the enemies.
4. It would become a wilderness.
5. Flocks and herds would not lie there.
6. History:
   a. Captured by the Medes and Persians.
   b. Floods and fires assisting them.
   c. Diodorus, the ancient historian, tells how its rulers and defenders were too drunken to cope with the enemy.
   d. The city is now a dry wilderness.

C. **Destruction of Babylon**

1. Prophesied in Isaiah 13-14 and Jeremiah 50.
   a. It would be overthrown by the Medes and others from the north.
   b. It would never be inhabited.
   c. An Arabian would not pitch his tent there.
   d. Shepherds would not stay there.
   e. Wild beast would dwell there.
2. Babylon:
   a. Founded 2234 BC.
   b. Walls 15 miles square, 350 feet high and 87 feet thick.
   c. 100 gates and towers.
   d. Hanging gardens and splendid palaces.
   e. Built in the fertile valley of the Euphrates.
3. It now lies in ruins, the valley is not fertile, the Arab and shepherd do not live there.

D. **Destruction of Tyre.**

1. The first destruction is prophesied in Isaiah 23 and Ezekiel 26.
   a. Taken and destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar (took him 13 years to accomplish it.)
   b. Its inhabitants were to pass to other lands (Africa, Spain, and Islands).
   c. Finding no rest, they returned and rebuilt the city according to prophecy.
2. Its second destruction is prophesied in Ezekiel 27 and Zechariah 9.
   a. Ruins of first city cast into the sea (this is how Alexander built a causeway to get to the second city).
b. Destroyed by fire and sword.
c. The inhabitants would be sold into slavery.
d. It would finally become a place where fishermen spread their nets.

E. Four world kingdoms (empires) of Daniel 2 and 7.
1. Lion—Babylon—Gold
2. Bear—Medo-Persian—Silver (they were rich in it).
4. No description—Rome—Iron

Conclusion: The prophesies of the Bible are not vague type of prophesies that can be given varied interpretation and made to fit events that happened. The Bible gives specific details that are fulfilled in the exact way it states. The only way to account for such is that the Bible writers were writing by inspiration of God.

Works Cited:
Free, Joseph P. *Archaeology and Bible History*.