

# Bible Evidence - Fulfilled Prophecy

ONE KIND OF EVIDENCE which shows the divine origin of the Bible is the existence within it of information which could not possibly have been known to an ordinary human being. For example, the Bible frequently contains predictions of events which were in the future when the Bible was written down. The existence of fulfilled prophecy of this kind is evidence that the Bible is inspired by God.

There is a considerable amount of fulfilled prophecy in the Bible. 12% of the Bible is direct prediction of future events. The prophecy is accurate and has been fulfilled in detail. The predictions span periods ranging from a few months to more than a thousand years, and cover almost every part of the world. Their accuracy is remarkable. One is forced to ask the question of where the information in them came from. There is only one possible answer to this.

## What Makes a Prophecy?

It is important to be able to tell a real prophecy from a counterfeit. Essentially a prophecy is only remarkable if it is:-

- **Precise:** It has to be possible to tell whether the prophecy is fulfilled or not. If the prophecy is vague one might never know if it is fulfilled.
- **Unlikely:** a fulfilled prophecy of an unlikely event is evidence of inspiration. A prophecy which anyone would expect to be fulfilled is a poor test.
- **Written before fulfilment:** The prediction must have been written before its fulfilment or it is not evidence.

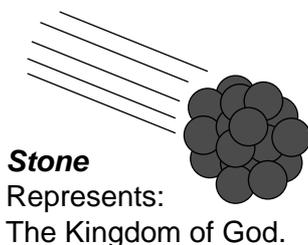
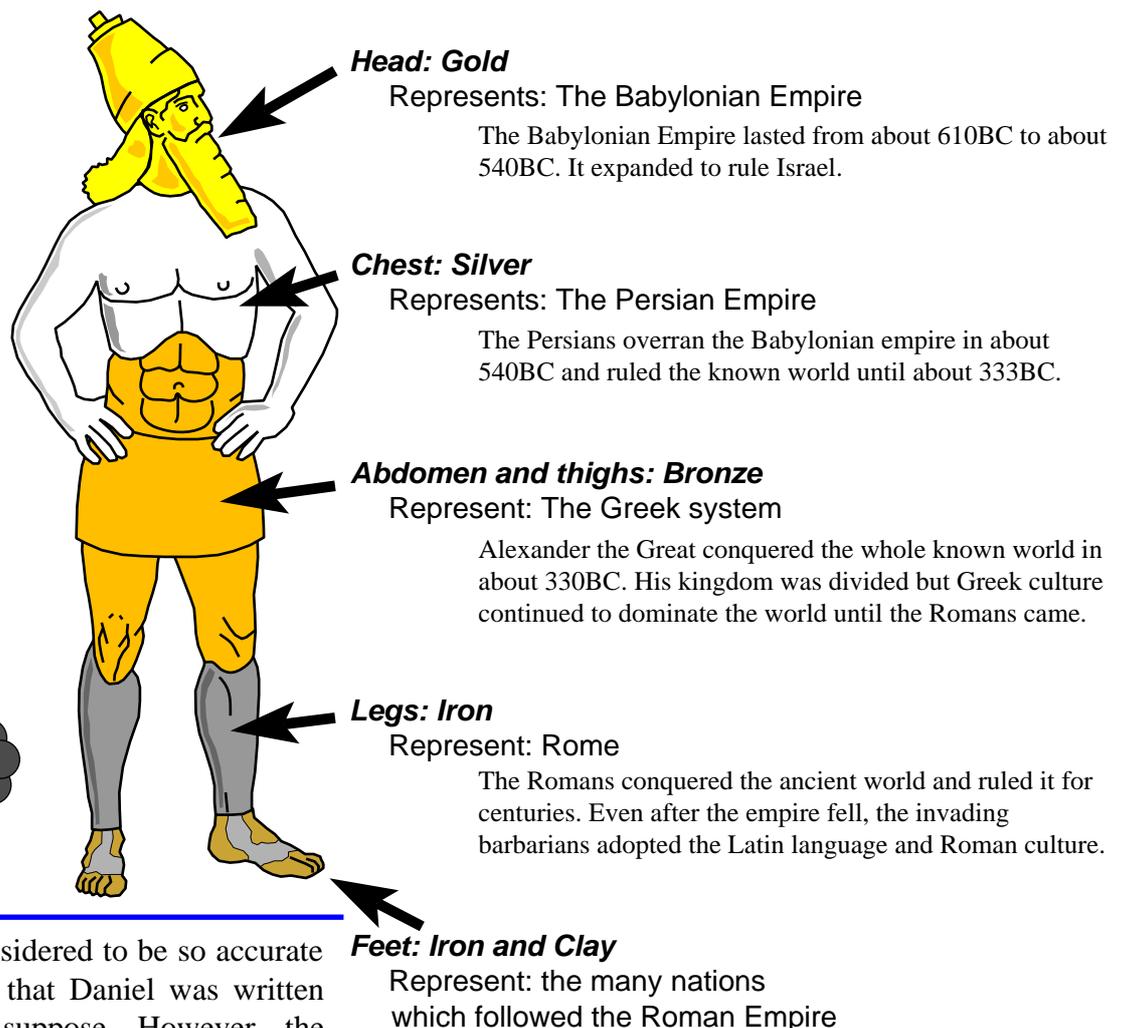
The Bible contains many prophecies which fulfil all these points. Books which claim divine origins but which do not show proper evidence of fulfilled prophecy must be suspect.

## The King's Dream and the World's Future

This prophecy took the form of a dream in which the future of the world's empires was given to Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon in about 600BC. The dream was interpreted by Daniel the prophet to give the sequence of empires which was to govern the western world from his time onwards and is recorded in Daniel 2:31-44.

In his dream the king saw a statue made of four metals and clay. The head was of Gold, the chest of silver, the abdomen and thighs of bronze and the legs of iron. The feet were made of iron and clay. The statue was destroyed when a stone hit it on the feet.

Daniel was told that the metals represented four world empires which would follow one another. After the fourth there would be no more empires which governed the entire biblical world until the day of judgement.



THIS PROPHECY is considered to be so accurate that critics have insisted that Daniel was written much later than most suppose. However, the existence of an early manuscript of Daniel among the Dead Sea Scrolls shows that the fulfilment of the prophecy is after it was written.

# Prophecies of the Nations

## Phoenicia

*For Tyre built herself a fortress And piled up silver like dust, And gold like the mire of the streets. Behold, the Lord will dispossess her And cast her wealth into the sea; And she will be consumed with fire.* (Zechariah 9:3-4)

The Phoenician cities were destroyed by various ancient kingdoms and the Phoenicians were absorbed by the Roman empire.

## The Philistines

*"I will also cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod.... And the remnant of the Philistines will perish," Says the Lord GOD. (Amos 1:8)*  
 In the mid second century BC the Philistine cities were overrun by Greeks. Later in the century they were conquered and destroyed by the Maccabees.

## Edom

*Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You will be covered with shame, And you will be cut off forever.* (Obadiah 1:10)  
 Edom was overrun by the Nabateans from the fifth to the second century BC and were absorbed by the Israelites. By 70AD they had disappeared completely.

## Egypt

*And I shall turn the fortunes of Egypt and shall make them return to the land of Pathros, to the land of their origin; and there they will be a lowly kingdom. It will be the lowest of the kingdoms; and it will never again lift itself up above the nations. And I shall make them so small that they will not rule over the nations.* (Ezekiel 29:14-15)  
 Egypt was to become an ordinary nation rather than a superpower. Egypt was conquered by the Persians, Greeks and Romans. After the Roman conquest it has never again reached the status of a major power.

## Israel

*I will destroy completely all the nations where I have scattered you, Only I will not destroy you completely.* (Jeremiah 30:11)  
 Israel has been dispersed among other nations and been persecuted for many centuries, but has never ceased to exist.

## Assyria

*"Behold, I am against you," declares the LORD of hosts. "I will burn up her chariots in smoke, a sword will devour your young lions, I will cut off your prey from the land, and no longer will the voice of your messengers be heard."* (Nahum 2:13)

The Assyrian empire fell in 612BC to the Babylonians. Nineveh was destroyed and the site was lost for many centuries.

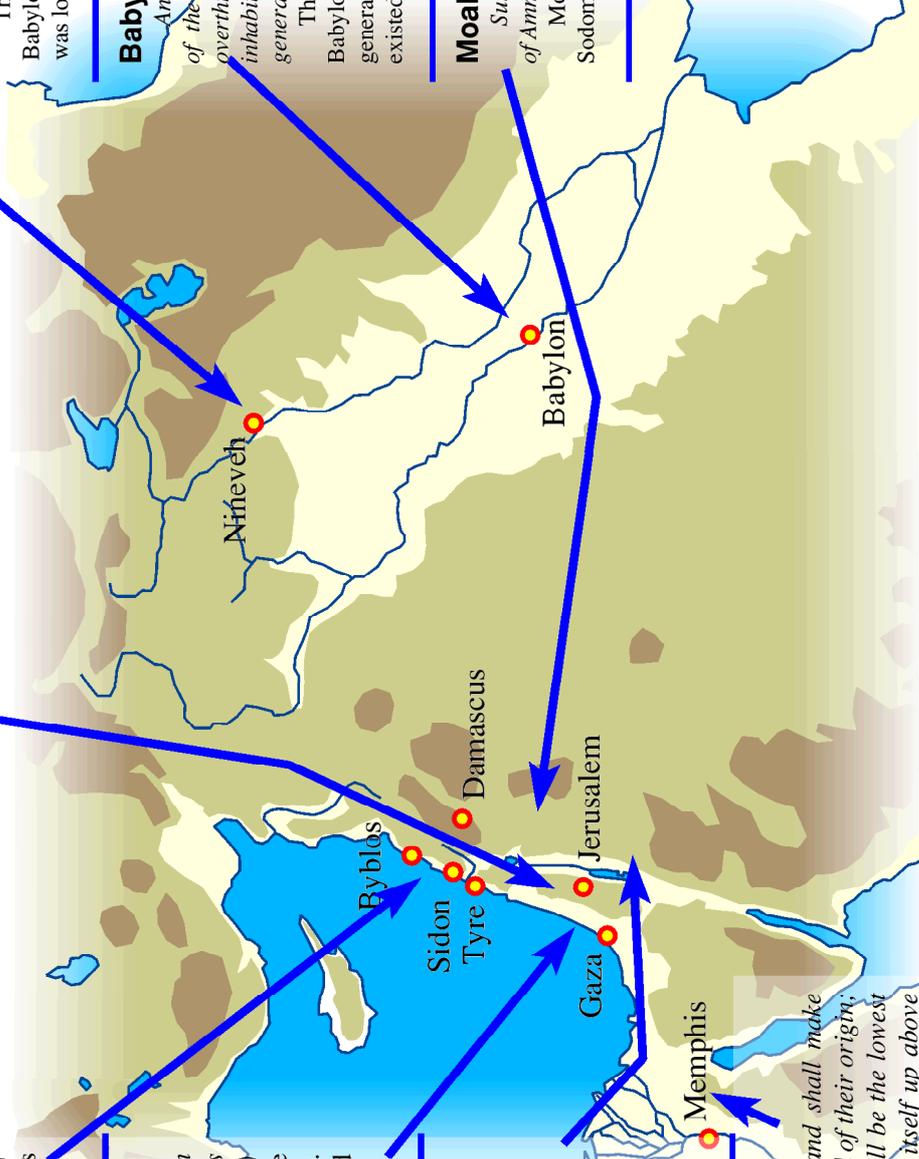
## Babylon

*And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation....* (Isaiah 13:19-20)

The Babylonian empire fell to the Persians and Babylon gradually faded away. Its site was lost for generations and some doubted that it had ever existed.

## Moab

*Surely Moab will be like Sodom, And the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah* (Zephaniah 2:9)  
 Moab has gone from history as completely as Sodom and Gomorrah.



All the nations surrounding ancient Israel had their futures predicted by the Hebrew prophets. These predictions have been completely fulfilled. There is only one way that the prophets could know the future. The Bible is inspired by God.