

CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES: HISTORICAL ACCURACY OF THE MAJOR PROPHETS

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TEXT: [Dan 4:32](#), ". . . the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will."

INTRODUCTION:

1. That God rules in the kingdoms of men has been said and proven by men--just as the fact was repeatedly evidenced through prophecy and its fulfillment!
2. In this study, a cursory glance shall be taken at a history of the nations of prophecy and at the prophecies of the Major Prophets pertaining to the nations presented (a full list of the prophecies and their fulfillments is impractical and impossible in the scope of this study [any not appreciating this fact could consider what it would take to study in any depth even a solitary passage like [Jer 25:15-33](#)]).
3. Such a study can be nothing if it is not edifying; therefore, let all consider the evidence for the authenticity of God and His Word in this study of the *Historical Accuracy of the Major Prophets*.

I. A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY RELATIVE TO THE HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATIONS OF PROPHECY (THE DATES OF THE MAJOR PROPHETS ARE IN ITALICS).

3118	Egypt's dynasty I begins with Menes' reign; Upper and Lower Egypt united
c2000	Assyria ruled by Pazur-Ashur I
c1900	Babylon's dynasty I begins
1445	Israel's Mosaical age begins with the giving of the law at Mt. Sinai
1405	Israel enters Canaan under Joshua and begins occupying land (with resistance)
c1184	Agamemnon's Greeks destroy Priam's Troy
c1070-1025	Judgeship of Samuel ends age of the judges and opens the door for the monarchy
971-931	Solomon is the last of the kings of a united Israel
970-936	Hiram the Great reigns in Tyre as an ally of Samuel and supplier of temple supplies
931-913	Solomon's son, Rehoboam, reigns in Judah in his fathers' stead
931-910	Jeroboam, who had been banished by Solomon to Egypt, given kingship of Israel
853	Assyria and Israel (among others) meet in battle at Qarqar, a.k.a. Karkar
760	Jonah prophesied in Nineveh putting off Assyria's doom

753	Romulus and Remus found the city of Rome
751-671	Nubians take control of Egypt
740-698	<i>Career of Isaiah as prophet</i>
729	Assyrians gain rule of Babylon
724	Assyria besieges Samaria
721	Assyria takes Samaria deports many of her inhabitants and repopulates the land with other conquered peoples
721-711	Merodach-Baladan II of Babylon resists Assyria
716-687	Hezekiah's reign in Judah is highlighted by Sennacherib's overnight loss of 185,000
689	Babylon is razed by Assyria
680	Esarhaddon, who would carry Manasseh into captivity comes to the Assyrian throne
675	Egypt is attacked by Assyria
671-664	Assyrians rule Egypt
663	Assyria destroys Egypt's Thebes
626-584	<i>Career of Jeremiah as prophet</i>
614	Cyaxeres the Mede takes Asshur
612	Chaldean-Babylonians (Nabopolassar), Medes (Cyaxeres), & Scythians (Arbaces) take Nineveh
609	Egypt defeats Judah's Josiah at Megiddo in route to aiding Assyria against Babylon
609	Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar defeats Assyria and Egypt at Carchemish
606	Babylon overcomes Judah carries away Judah's seed royal
606-536	<i>Career of Daniel as prophet</i>
597	Babylon carries away Judah's skilled artisans
593-571	<i>Career of Ezekiel as prophet</i>
586	Babylon destroys Judah's Jerusalem and temple and carries away all but the poorest
575	Etruscans rule a growing Rome, keeping her in check
574	Babylon conquers Tyre, causing the Tyrians to relocate to an island position
547	Cyrus defeats Lydia's Croesus as Persian power expands
536	Persia conquers Babylon and Cyrus issues an allowance to return from captivity
535	Temple reconstruction begins under Zerubbabel
525-404	Persians increase rule to include Egypt
513	Scythians Defeat Persia causing Persia's focus to turn westward toward Europe
513-512	Persia defeats Thrace and Macedonia
c510-509	Romans overthrow the Etruscans and set up a republican government

499	Ionian Greeks revolt against Persia
490	Persia responds to Greek threat by fighting the Greeks at Marathon, and loses
485-465	Xerxes I, a.k.a. Ahasuerus, begins to reign in Persia
483	Xerxes' queen, Vashti, is deposed; a long search begins for her replacement--Esther
480	Having crossed the Hellespont, the victorious Xerxes is humbled at Thermopylae
480	Greece effectively ends Persia's hopes of controlling Greece at Salamis
338	Philip, a Macedonian, unites all Greece in the Battle of Chaeronea
336-323	Alexander the Great reigns in the stead of his assassinated father
334-332	Alexander crosses the Hellespont and defeats Darius III, Tyre, Gaza, and Egypt
331	Alexander finally defeats Darius III on the plain of Arbella at Gaugamela
323	Having reached India, Alexander dies in Babylon; his kingdom is divided seven ways
323-285	Ptolemy I Soter rules over a Hellenized Egypt
312-280	Seleucus I Nicator rules over a Hellenized Syria and parts eastward
301	The Battle of Ipsus consolidates Alexander's kingdom to four heads
202	Rome's Africanus defeats Carthage's Hannibal who moves to aid a despot (Syria?)
190	Rome defeats Syria's Antiochus III Magnus at the Battle of Magnesia
167	Syria's Antiochus IV Epiphanes orders all Palestine to offer swine to Zeus
167-166	Mattathias refuses to obey "Epimanes" ushering a period of rebellion; he soon dies
166-165	Antiochus IV Epiphanes fails to defeat Parthia in battle
163	Syria kills Eleazer Avaran, a son of Mattathias, in battle at Beth-Zechariah
160	Judas Maccabeus, the Hammer, successor of Mattathias, dies after brilliant victories
146	Rome destroys Carthage cementing her own position as ruler of the Mediterranean
142	Jonathan Apphus, another son of Mattathias, imprisoned by Syria
142-134	Simon Thassi, another son of Mattathias, reigns as High Priest
107	John Hyrcanus, a grand-son of Mattathias, destroys Gerizim's

	Samaritan temple
70	Pompey gains power as Roman consul with Marcus Licinius Crassus
60-54	Julius Caesar joins Pompey and Crassus in the First Triumvirate
37-4	Herod the Great is appointed king of Judaea; he lives and dies in infamy
27-AD 14	Octavian, a.k.a. Augustus, becomes first imperator of Rome, now an empire
AD 29	The Church, the kingdom of God, is established in the fulness of time
AD 68-69	Galba, Otho, and Vitellius, three minor Caesars, come and go quickly and violently
AD 69-79	Vespasian, besieger of Jerusalem and benefactor of Josephus, is appointed Caesar
AD 70	Titus, son of Vespasian, destroys the Jewish temple in Jerusalem
AD 73	The siege of Masada is completed ending the Jewish revolt

II. PROPHECIES PERTAINING TO THE NATIONS.

A. Assyria.

1. Would overrun Syria and Samaria ([Isa 8:4-10](#); [Isa 10:5-6](#))--724 B.C.
2. Would capture Egypt ([Isa 20:2-6](#))--671-664 B.C.
3. Would periodically threaten Judah ([Isa 7:17-25](#); note God's role in [Isa 7:18-20](#)); ultimately would fail at Jerusalem's doorstep ([Isa 37:21-35](#))--681 B.C..
4. Would exceed her Divine mandate ([Isa 10:7](#)).
5. Would ally with Egypt ([Isa 19:23-25](#); note God's role in [Isa 19:25](#))--609 B.C.
6. Would not go unpunished for her arrogance in thinking it was she and not God who was victorious ([Isa 10:12-19](#); [Isa 14:25-27](#); [Isa 30:31](#); [Isa 31:8-9](#))--609 B.C.

B. Egypt (Dynastic and Ptolemaic).

1. Would be defeated by Assyria ([Isa 20:2-6](#))--675 B.C.
2. Would ally with Assyria ([2Ki 23:29](#) [keep in mind that against can mean alongside; c.f., [Jer 46:2](#)]; c.f., [Isa 19:23](#) [most commentators apply this to the period of and after Alexander, but it fits pre-neo-Babylonian power as well])--609 B.C..
3. Would be defeated by Babylon ([Jer 43:8-13](#))--609 B.C.
4. Would share political intrigue and in-fighting with Seleucid Syria ([Dan 11:5-20](#)) since both were of a common political origin ([Dan 8:8](#), [Dan 8:22](#); [Dan 11:4](#))--from 312 B.C.
5. Would ally with Rome ([Dan 11:29-30](#))--167 B.C.

C. Greece.

1. Would rapidly supplant Medo-Persia as a world power ([Dan 2:32](#), [Dan 2:39](#); [Dan 7:6](#); c.f., [Dan 10:20](#))--334-331 B.C.
 2. Led by a great king ([Dan 11:3](#); [Dan 8:21](#)), Greece would be aggressive ([Dan 8:5](#))--334-323 B.C.
 - a. Josephus, *Antiquities*, XI.viii. 5.
 3. Would be divided four ways when in her strength, but would not retain that strength afterward ([Dan 8:8](#), [Dan 8:22](#); [Dan 11:4](#); c.f., [Dan 7:6](#))--323, 301 B.C.
 - a. [1Ma 1:7-9](#), "So Alexander reigned twelve years, and then died. And his servants bare rule every one in his place. And after his death they all put crowns upon themselves; so did their sons after them many years: and evils were multiplied in the earth."
- D. Israel, also called Ephraim or Samaria, and Judah.
1. Israel would be attacked by Syria and Philistia due to her haughtiness ([Isa 9:8-21](#); c.f., [Isa 28:1-8](#)).
 2. Israel would be spoiled by Assyria ([Isa 8:4-7](#))--721 B.C.
 3. Israel would be cut off (ultimately) within sixty-five years of Isaiah's prophecy ([Isa 7:8](#)).
 4. Judah would ultimately be destroyed ([Jer 9:25-26](#)) by Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar ([Jer 25:1-11](#)), also called Nebuchadrezzar, and--more significantly--God's servant, undergoing three carryings away until "seventy years are accomplished" ([Jer 25:12](#))--606, 597, 586, 536 B.C.
 5. Both Israel and Judah would be restored together ([Jer 3:18-24](#); [Eze 37:16-22](#); [Dan 9:1-2](#); [Jer 42:11-12](#))--536 B.C.
- E. Maccabean and Hasmonean Judaea.
1. Would have some ally with Seleucid Syria ([Dan 11:30-31](#)), but others stand bravely and strongly against her ([Dan 11:32-34](#))--from 175 B.C.
 - a. [1Ma 2:1~1Ma 16:24](#).
 2. Though some would fall, would be stronger for the persecution ([Dan 11:35](#))--167-c130 B.C.
 - a. As Tertullian said, "The blood of martyrs is the seed" (e.g., [2Ma 7:1-42](#)).
- F. Medo-Persia, also called Media, Persia, or Elam.
1. Would supplant Babylon as a world power ([Dan 2:32](#), [Dan 2:39](#); [Dan 7:5](#))--536 B.C.
 2. Would rise as two kingdoms ([Dan 7:5](#)).
 - a. Cyaxeres the Mede with Nabopolassar the Chaldean and Arbaces the Scythian over Nineveh--612 B.C.
 - b. Cyrus the Persian--539 B.C.
 3. Would conquer three important kingdoms in its rise to power

([Dan_7:5](#)).

- a. Babylon--536 B.C.
- b. Lydia--Early 500's B.C.
- c. Egypt--520's B.C.

4. Cyrus (named around two-hundred years before he fulfills the prophecies concerning himself [[Isa_44:28](#); [Isa_45:1-4](#)]) would conquer Babylon and issue an edict freeing God's people from captivity and hastening the rebuilding of the temple ([Isa_41:2-3](#); [Isa_45:13](#); [Isa_46:11](#); [Isa_48:14-15](#); c.f. [Ezr_1:1-2](#))--536 B.C.

- a. Josephus, *Antiquities*, XI. i. 1,2.

5. Would ultimately be destroyed ([Eze_32:24-25](#))--331 B.C.

G. Neo-Babylonia, also called Babylon or Chaldea.

1. Would have great dominion, even over God's people ([Jer_28:14](#); [Jer_32:28](#); [Jer_34:2-3](#))--from 625 B.C.
2. Would destroy Tyre ([Eze_29:17-18](#))--late 600's B.C.
3. Would captivate Judah (Josephus, *Antiquities*, X. vi. 2; vii.2), but only for seventy years ([Jer_25:1-12](#); c.f., [Jer_42:11-12](#); [Dan_9:1](#))--606-536 B.C.

- a. Josephus, *Antiquities*, XI. i. 1,2.

4. Would destroy Egypt ([Eze_29:19-20](#); [Jer_46:13-26](#))--late 600's, early 500's B.C.
5. Would be conquered by Media ([Isa_13:17](#); [Isa_21:1-10](#))--539-536 B.C.

6. Would be humbled though had a swift rise ([Dan_7:4](#))

H. Phoenicia (especially Tyre).

1. Would be destroyed by Babylon ([Eze_29:17-18](#); c.f., [Jer_25:22](#); [Eze_28:21-23](#); [Eze_32:30](#))--late 600's B.C.
2. Would be wholly destroyed "in the sea," Tyre becoming a place for the "spreading of nets" ([Eze_26:3-5](#), [Eze_26:12](#), [Eze_26:14](#); [Eze_27:32](#); [Eze_28:7-8](#), [Eze_28:18](#); c.f., [Zec_9:2-4](#))--323 B.C.

I. Rome.

1. Would supplant Greece as the strongest of the aforementioned empires--but with inherent weakness ([Dan_2:33](#), [Dan_2:40-43](#); [Dan_7:7](#), [Dan_7:23-24](#))--mid 1st century B.C.
2. Would witness the birth of the church ([Dan_2:44-45](#); [Dan_7:14](#); c.f., [Dan_9:24](#) [70 weeks=490 years=49 {7x7 ([Dan_9:25](#))} to rebuild under Nehemiah+434 {62x7} to the Messiah+3 1/2 until He would be cut off+3 1/2 until the non-Jewish Samaritans would have the kingdom extended to them])--A.D. 29.
3. Would have a king different from the rest who replaced, as it were, three ([Dan_7:8](#), [Dan_7:24](#))--A.D.68-69.

4. Would destroy Jerusalem ([Dan_9:26](#); c.f., [Mat_24:4-35](#))--A.D. 70.
 - a. These things would not occur until God was ready!
 - b. Tacitus, *Histories*, V. 9-10; Josephus, *Wars*, VI. x. 1;
Tacitus, *Histories*, V. 13; Josephus, *Wars*, VII. i. 1.
- J. Syria (including Seleucid).
1. Would be defeated by Assyria ([Isa_8:4](#))--late 700's B.C.
 2. Would share political intrigue and in-fighting with Ptolemaic Egypt ([Dan_11:5-20](#)) since both were of a common political origin ([Dan_8:8](#), [Dan_8:22](#); [Dan_11:4](#))--from 312 B.C.
 3. Would wear out the Jews during campaigns against Ptolemaic Egypt ([Dan_11:13-14](#))--from early 200's B.C.
 4. Would be defeated by Rome in "the isles" (of Asia Minor at Magnesia by Scipio Asiaticus) and face more political intrigue ([Dan_11:18-20](#))--190 B.C.
 5. Would see a vile ([1Ma_1:10](#); [1Ma_1:37](#), [1Ma_1:44-50](#)) person arise out of small beginnings ([1Ma_1:10](#)) and out of proper succession in the position of his father who would fight against the south and the east and Judaea ([Dan_8:9](#), [Dan_8:23](#); [Dan_11:21-28](#))--from 175 B.C.
 6. Would be granted some power by God ([Dan_8:24](#)).
 7. Would fail to take a Rome-supported Ptolemaic Egypt; but would find allies in Judaea ([Dan_11:29-30](#)).
 - a. [1Ma_1:11-15](#).
 8. Would turn his attention to Jerusalem and effectively force Hellenism on the Jews ([Dan_11:30-36](#))--167 B.C.
 9. In replacing Judaism with Hellenism ([Dan_8:10-12](#)) and committing the abomination of desolation ([Dan_8:13](#); [Dan_11:31](#)), would rightly be said to be ruled by a "Madman."
 10. Would see her king die a natural, but horrible death ([Dan_8:25](#))--163 B.C.

CONCLUSION:

1. The church's preparation is pictured through the prophecies of the Major Prophets.
 1. "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. " ([Dan_2:44](#)).
 2. "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed" ([Dan_7:13-14](#)).

3. "And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" ([Isa_2:2-3](#)).
4. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law," ([Gal_4:4](#)).
2. Indeed, God does rule in the kingdoms of men ([Dan_4:32](#)) to the end that His Will be done ([Dan_4:34-35](#); [Psa_103:19-21](#))!