

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 prophesy 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. PROPHESIES 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 prophesies 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](#))!