

9. Judgment and glory of God

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There were some seriously bad predictions made by people in the past. Here are a few:

Time Magazine predicted about 'on-line shopping' in 1968 like this, "Remote shopping, while entirely feasible, will flop." In 2013, Amazon.com alone posted \$75 billion in revenue. No wonder, Time Magazine is barely making ends meet each year.

Robert Metcalfe, inventor of Ethernet, predicted the future of the internet in InfoWorld magazine, December 1995, "I predict the internet will soon go spectacularly supernova and in 1996 catastrophically collapse."

Former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, in 2007, said this, "There is no chance that the iPhone is going to get any significant market share. No chance." Apple was laughing all the way to bank.

Humans, in general, make poor predictions, because they cannot know the future definitely. But every prophecy in the Bible has come true and will come true. Then Bible skeptics have to make a challenge, "Maybe Jesus was not the Messiah, but just accidentally or even deliberately set out to fulfill his own prophecies."

This is a walk-in-the-park question for any serious Bible student. As Jesus encountered the Pharisees and religious leaders with questions on questions, I have questions to ask those Bible skeptics:

- Do you know anyone who was able to predict to be born in any particular time, in a particular family and in a particular location and was able to fulfill them? No!
- Do you know anyone who had managed to get arrested, tortured and crucified on a cross, then rose again from the dead according to the Bible prophecy? No!
- Do you know anyone who was smart and capable enough to beat the odds of fulfilling the prophecies of Jesus? Please allow me to explain.

Peter Stoner, a mathematician, and Professor Emeritus of Science at Westmont College, in his book "Science Speaks" calculated the odds of a single man fulfilling just eight of over 300 some prophecies from the OT that Jesus fulfilled as the mathematical improbability of 1 in ten to the seventeenth power. That is a HUGE number. That's a one with seventeen zeros after it – 100,000,000,000,000,000. We call it "one hundred quadrillion."

Let me tell you what kind of odd this is. You mark a red circle on a silver dollar and toss it into a tank that is the size of the state of Texas which is filled with silver dollars up to 2 feet deep. Then you stir them thoroughly until that marked silver dollar is somewhere tucked away. You have one chance to stick your hand in the tank and bring up that marked silver dollar. That is the odd of 1 in one hundred quadrillion.

By the way, please don't tell President Obama and the liberal Senate that there is such a number "quadrillion". They might try to spend that much money just to prove that they can.

In chapters 32 through 35, we will encounter the prophecies for God's judgment against ungodly people and the nations, as well as the glorious one thousand years of Jesus reign on earth.

A. GOD'S REIGN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Isaiah 32:1-8 Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, And princes will rule with justice. 2 A man will be as a hiding place from the wind, And a cover from the tempest, As rivers of water in a dry place, As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. 3 The eyes of those who see will not be dim, And the ears of those who hear will listen. 4 Also the heart of the rash will understand knowledge, And the tongue of the stammerers will be ready to speak plainly. 5 The foolish person will no longer be called generous, Nor the miser said to be bountiful; 6 For the foolish person will speak foolishness, And his heart will work iniquity: To practice ungodliness, To utter error against the Lord, To keep the hungry unsatisfied, And he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail. 7 Also the schemes of the schemer are evil; He devises wicked plans To destroy the poor with lying words, Even when the needy speaks justice. 8 But a generous man devises generous things, And by generosity he shall stand.

Although king Hezekiah of Judah certainly fulfilled this prophecy that a king would reign in righteousness, but prophet Isaiah was prophesying the time when the King of all kings will reign on this earth after the Great Tribulation.

Isaiah was warned at his call that he would see men shutting their eyes and ears to the truth he proclaimed, but when the Messianic kingdom comes, this spiritual insensitivity will be no more.

If leaders are blind, their people often share this blindness. A nation gets the leaders it deserves. Before we complain about the unethical, immoral and ungodly leaders of this country, look at the people of the U.S.A. The vast majority of people don't want to do what the Lord teaches in the Bible. They don't mind being unethical, immoral and ungodly themselves. But in the Messianic kingdom, immorality and wicked acts will be judged by the Lord, not by other unethical, immoral and ungodly judges. He will reign with His righteousness and holiness.

B. GOD'S TIMING

Isaiah 33:10 "Now I will rise," says the Lord; "Now I will be exalted, Now I will lift Myself up.

The prophecy in chapter 33 is against Assyria which invaded Judah all the way to just the outside of Jerusalem. We will learn more about it in chapter 36, but here is a quick synopsis. In unbelief, king Hezekiah had tried to "buy off" the Assyrians according to 2 Kings 18. But Sennacherib, king of Assyria was such a low life liar and he double crossed Hezekiah and decided to invade Judah anyway.

The Assyrian king had destroyed others, so he should be destroyed. The worst of all, the Assyrians thought that the God of Judah was no different than any other local gods. Wrong! Nobody mocks God and gets away with it.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

One time I told my grandson Micah that when he wakes up from his nap, he would have a surprise present. That was a huge mistake of my part. He didn't want to go take a nap. He wanted his surprise right away. In many times, we act that way to the Lord. We love to hear from the Lord that He will grant our prayer request. But He doesn't tell us when He is going to answer our prayer.

How often the Lord makes us wait! Instead of patiently waiting upon the Lord, we get ourselves in trouble by concocting our own strategy to help ourselves. Trust me on

this: "Heaven helps those who help themselves" is NOT from the Bible. Rather God helps those who trust in Him.

The sooner we realize that we cannot put our God in our timeline, the better we are in trusting Him, depending on His awesome sovereignty and omniscience. While we see one frame of our lives at a time, our God sees the whole thing at once and makes the things in the way He wants, because He knows the best. Thus, in the midst of a confused and troubled world today, the dedicated believer is able to say, "Our times are in Your hand" with all the confidence and find peace in God's will.

C. GOD'S JUDGMENT AGAINST ALL NATIONS

Isaiah 34:1-2 Come near, you nations, to hear; And heed, you people! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, The world and all things that come forth from it. 2 For the indignation of the Lord is against all nations, And His fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to the slaughter.

Isaiah 34:5-8 "For My sword shall be bathed in heaven; Indeed it shall come down on Edom, And on the people of My curse, for judgment. 6 The sword of the Lord is filled with blood, It is made overflowing with fatness, With the blood of lambs and goats, With the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the Lord has a sacrifice in Bozrah, And a great slaughter in the land of Edom. 7 The wild oxen shall come down with them, And the young bulls with the mighty bulls; Their land shall be soaked with blood, And their dust saturated with fatness." 8 For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, The year of recompense for the cause of Zion.

The descriptions we see in chapter 34 go along with chapter 19 of the Book of Revelation which talks about the battle of Armageddon in Megiddo Valley of Israel. Almost at the end of the Great Tribulation, the nations around the world will get together against Israel and God.

As you can see in this photo of Megiddo, there is a good size open plain between Mount Carmel and Mount Gilboa, but we can find much bigger open areas in America. Napoleon Bonaparte unknowingly prophesied that the Megiddo Valley is the perfect battlefield for all the world's armies. It was not about the size of the openness, rather it was about the location. You know what they say, "Location, location, location!"

After the seven years of God's wrath on earth, as you know from the Scriptures of the Book of Revelation, the world population will be no longer 7 billion people. It will be far less than 2 billions and the majority of the infrastructure of the world will be destroyed by His wrath, natural catastrophic disasters, and wars. I will be surprised that if they will even have weapons like now. Albert Einstein said, "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."

Currently, it seems that it is the 'IN' thing for the people around the world, especially the Hollywood celebrities and European nations to hate Israel which merely tries to defend its people and country against the rain of rockets that was fired by Hamas. The Lord will pour out His final judgment upon the ungodly people and nations that are against Him and Israel which is known as 'the Second Coming of Christ'.

But the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night as it says in 2 Peter 3. Why is God waiting? Because He is extremely patient toward us, not willing that any

should perish but that all should come to repentance. How much longer God will wait? Nobody knows. So it is extremely important for lost sinners to repent and trust the Savior Jesus Christ today, not later.

Isaiah 34:16 "Search from the book of the Lord, and read: Not one of these shall fail; Not one shall lack her mate. For My mouth has commanded it, and His Spirit has gathered them.

Do you want to know what is going to happen in the future? Do you want to know the meaning of your life? Do you want to "Find yourself" which is the most lame excuse for someone who is in the mid-life crisis? Read the Word of God. You will find the answers.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

D. THE FUTURE GLORY OF ISRAEL

Isaiah 35:1-10 The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; 2 It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, The excellency of our God. 3 Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you." 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. 7 The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes. 8 A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, Nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, 10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

As we noticed, the earth will be in complete chaotic situation from God's judgment, wars, and the ravage from natural disasters for seven years. How is the Lord going to allow His people to live there? He won't. He will make all things new.

Revelation 21:5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

Chapter 35 of Isaiah gives us a glimpse of the scene in future Israel. No more sickness, no more death, no more barren desert. Wilderness will be transformed to a gigantic Garden of Eden.

E. APPLICATIONS

1) The sooner we realize that we cannot put our God in our timeline, the better we are in trusting Him, depending on His awesome sovereignty and omniscience.

2) The Lord will keep every promise mentioned in this Book, the Bible. Believe it.