

THE PROPHETIC WORD MADE MORE SURE

(II Peter 1:15-21)

- Introduction:
1. For the one who is willing to spend time in studying God's word, the blessing of assurance can be possessed.
 2. Biblical faith in God is not a "*leap in the dark*", but a rational belief based upon evidence that demands a verdict in favor of God and the Bible.
 3. Of course, the Bible makes claims for itself regarding its own inspiration (II Timothy 3:16-17; I Peter 1:20-21).
 - a. However, such claims are made by many books.
 4. However, the Bible differs from these other books due to the fact that its internal evidences substantiate its own claims of inspiration.
 5. Let us examine a few prophecies that make the word "*more sure*" for us living today.

I. The City Of Tyre

- A. (Ezekiel 26:1:21).
- B. Concerning the destruction of Tyre, there are several significant events that were prophesied would transpire.
 1. Made bare like a rock (26:4).
 2. Be a place for the spreading of nets (26:5,14).
 3. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon would destroy it (26:7).
 4. Its stones and timbers would be cast into the sea (26:12).
- C. In 586 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to the city for 13 years, finally succeeding in 573 B.C.
 1. In this siege, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city located on the mainland, but was unable to overcome the fortified section of the city located on an island just off the shore.
- D. However, 241 years later, in 332 B.C., Alexander the Great laid siege to the fortified island.
 1. To reach the island from the mainland, Alexander the Great had his armies to build a causeway.
 2. What was used for the causeway? The rubble from the old city.
- E. To this day, fishermen still dry their nets on the old city of Tyre.

II. King Cyrus

- A. (Isaiah 44:25).
- B. This prophecy must have puzzled Israel for over 200 years. For when it was stated, Jerusalem and the temple were both standing.
- C. However, after the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C., this prophecy started making sense.
 1. After the destruction of Jerusalem, the Jews were carried off into Babylon

- for a 70 year period of captivity.
- 2. But before the 70 years were up, Babylon was conquered by Persia.
- 3. You can imagine the excitement of the Jews when they learned that the name of the Persian king was "Cyrus."
- 4. And sure enough, Cyrus made a decree that allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple and their city (Ezra 1:1).

III. The Rise And Fall Of Nations

- A. (Daniel 8:1-27).
 - B. Daniel had a vision in which he saw several things:
 - 1. A ram with two horns.
 - 2. One horn was larger than the other.
 - 3. This ram was powerful so that no one could stop him.
 - 4. Then a goat with a horn between its eyes confronted the ram and broke his two horns and overcame the ram.
 - 5. But when the goat grew strong, the large horn was broken off.
 - 6. In its place four new horns came forth.
 - 7. Out of one of the four horns came a little horn who exalted himself and caused the daily sacrifices to cease.
 - C. What all of this means can be discerned from the explanation the angel gave Daniel (8:15-17) or by history itself.
 - 1. The ram represented the Medo-Persian empire.
 - 2. The goat represented the Grecian empire that conquered the Medo-Persian empire under the leadership of Alexander the Great.
 - 3. The horn on the goat represented Alexander the Great who died at the young age of 33.
 - 4. After Alexander the Great's death, four of his successors battled for control; Lysimachus, Cassander, Seleucus I, Ptolemy I.
 - 5. From one of these leaders (Seleucus I), arose a man by the name of Antiochus Epiphanes who desecrated the temple in Jerusalem in December 168 B.C.
 - D. This detailed prophecy spanned nearly 400 years and was fulfilled in minute detail.
- Conclusion:
- 1. In addition to these prophecies, there are over 300 detailed prophecies about the life and death of Jesus.
 - 2. (Isaiah 46:9-10) "I am God and there is none like me; declaring the end from the beginning."
 - 3. Be assured that when God speaks, what He says will come to pass.
 - 4. (II Corinthians 5:10) "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."