

Christianity's Unique Prophecies

John 14:28-29 You heard Me say to you, "I am going away, and I will come to you." If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

Destruction of Tyre: Ezekiel 26:1-2. This specific message came in the 11th year. Believed to be 586 B.C.

- Predictions in order
 - (Vs. 8) Nebuchadnezzar would attack and take the mainland.
 - (Vs. 3) God would bring many nations against Tyre.
 - (Vs. 4) Scrape her soil and make her a bare rock.
 - (Vs. 12) Their stones, timber, and soil would be cast into the waters.
 - (Vs. 5) Be a place for spreading nets.
 - (Vs. 14, 19) Never rebuilt and covered by water.
- History
 - From *Encyclopedia Britannica*:
 - " . . . For much of the 8th and 7th centuries BCE the town was subject to Assyria, and in 585–573 it successfully withstood a prolonged siege by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar II. Between 538 and 332 it was ruled by the Achaemenian kings of Persia. In this period it lost its hegemony in Phoenicia but continued to flourish. Probably the best-known episode in the history of Tyre was its resistance to the army of the Macedonian conqueror Alexander the Great, who took it after a seven-month siege in 332. He completely destroyed the mainland portion of the town and used its rubble to build an immense causeway (some 2,600 feet [800 metres] long and 600–900 feet [180–270 metres] wide) to gain access to the island section. After the town's capture, 10,000 inhabitants were put to death, and 30,000 were sold into slavery. Alexander's causeway, which was never removed, converted the island into a peninsula.
 - Tyre was subsequently under the influence of Ptolemaic Egypt and in 200 became part of the Hellenistic Seleucid kingdom. It came under Roman rule in 64 BCE and was renowned in Roman times for its

textiles and for a purple dye extracted from sea snails of the genus *Murex* (the dye was said to be worth more than its weight in gold, and purple cloth became a symbol of wealth and of royalty). By the 2nd century CE it had a sizable Christian community, and the Christian scholar Origen was buried there (c. 254). Tyre was under Muslim rule from 638 to 1124, when it fell to the Crusaders, and until the 13th century it was a principal town of the kingdom of Jerusalem. The Holy Roman emperor Frederick I Barbarossa, who died on the Third Crusade, was buried in its 12th-century cathedral. Captured and destroyed by the Muslim Mamlūks in 1291, the town never recovered its former importance.

- Excavations have uncovered remains of the Greco-Roman, Crusader, Arab, and Byzantine civilizations, but most of the remains of the Phoenician period lie beneath the present town. Areas of archaeological note include the ruins of a Crusader church, a street with a 2nd-century mosaic pavement and a double colonnade of white green-veined marble, Roman baths, the ruins of a Roman-Byzantine necropolis, and the largest Roman hippodrome ever discovered. Built in the 2nd century, the hippodrome hosted chariot races with a capacity of 20,000 spectators.
- In 1984 UNESCO designated the historic town a World Heritage site. In the late 20th century the ruins were damaged by bombardment, most notably in 1982 and 1996 during Israeli offensives in southern Lebanon. The site is threatened by urban growth, looting, and the decay of stone because of airborne pollution. In 1998 UNESCO created a special fund for the preservation and archaeological excavation of the ancient treasures of Tyre.
- The economy of the town was upset by the unrest of the late 20th century. Fishing remains a major source of income. Pop. (2003 est.) 117,100.
- Wikipedia:
 - Little of what occurred during the siege is known as ancient sources regarding the siege do not mention much or have been lost.

According to accounts by Saint Jerome in his Commentary on Ezekiel, Nebuchadnezzar II was unable to attack the city with conventional methods, such as using battering rams or siege engines, since Tyre was an island city, so he ordered his soldiers to gather rocks and build a causeway from the mainland to the walls of the island, similar to Alexander the Great's strategy in his siege 250 years later.

- After 13 years of siege, the Tyrians negotiated a surrender with the Babylonians. Nebuchadnezzar II was never able to take control of Tyre by military means, leaving the result of the siege as militarily inconclusive. The King of Tyre, Ithobaal III, either died near the end of the siege or was replaced as part of the surrender. He was succeeded by Baal II, who ruled as a vassal to Babylon.
- The historicity of the siege was supported by a cuneiform tablet discovered in 1926 by German archeologist Eckhard Unger that discussed food provisions for "the king and his soldiers for their march against Tyre." Other cuneiform tablets also confirm that Tyre came under the control of Nebuchadnezzar II at some point during his reign. Josephus briefly mentions the siege in Antiquities of the Jews (Book X).
- Tyre would attempt to rebuild, only to be knocked down, until after 1600 years, she would never be rebuilt today. It was destroyed in 1291. There's a new Tyre down the road (if you will). Fishermen still live in and dry their nets around Tyre. Its former days were no more, and its glory passed away, never to be rebuilt or found again.

Daniel's Vision: Daniel, a book written in the 6th century B.C. He speaks of future events and kingdoms in chapters 8:18-23. How is that possible?

King Cyrus. We read about him in Isaiah 44:28; 45:1. The prophet Isaiah, writing about 700 b.c., predicts Cyrus by name as the king who will say to Jerusalem that it shall be built and that the temple foundation shall be laid. At the time of Isaiah's writing, the city of Jerusalem was fully built and the entire temple was standing. Not until more than 100 years later would the city and temple be destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar in 586 b.c. After Jerusalem was taken by the Babylonians, it was conquered by the Persians in about 539 b.c. Shortly after

that, a Persian king named Cyrus gave the decree to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. This was around 160 years after the prophecy of Isaiah!
Thus Isaiah predicted that a man named Cyrus, who would not be born for about 100 years, would give the command to rebuild the temple which was still standing in Isaiah's day and would not be destroyed for more than 100 years.

Jesus' Death:

- Isaiah 52:13-53:12. Majority of Isaiah's message occurred in the late 8th century B.C.
 - The Septuagint (which includes Isaiah) was translated in the 2-3 century B.C.
 - Did you know the two most quoted O.T. books in the N.T. are from Isaiah and Psalms? Jesus quoted most from Psalms, then Deuteronomy, Isaiah, and finally, Exodus.
- Sound familiar? This passage reminds us how Jesus . . .
 - They brutally beat Him (52:14).
 - He was a nobody born in a nowhere town.
 - He was rejected by the majority and experienced sorrow and grief.
 - He was pierced for our transgressions.
 - He accepted wounds so we could be healed.
 - He didn't defend Himself during the trials.
 - He was killed among the wicked.
 - He was buried in a rich man's tomb.
 - Yet, He had done no wrong.
 - It was God's will to crush Him.
 - His soul makes an offering for guilt.
 - He would bear the iniquities of many.
 - He makes intercession.
- Psalm 22. Let's make this easy. It was included in the Septuagint. Written before Jesus was born.
 - Sound familiar?
 - Jesus quoted this on the cross.

- God wasn't going to save Jesus from the cross.
- Jesus was mocked by the onlookers.
- They pierced His hands and feet.
- They divided his garments.

So, at the end of the day, we must ask ourselves: is this all a coincidence, or is God behind it all?