

Prophecy Through the Bible - History

We finished session 9 where Solomon comes into the picture

In 2 Samuel 12:24-25 David is promised a son who would sit on his throne and build the temple in Jerusalem. This prophecy was fulfilled in **1 Kings 2:12** and **1 Kings 6:37**

1 Kings 2:12

¹² So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his rule was firmly established.

1 Kings 6:37

³⁷ The foundation of the temple of the LORD was laid in the fourth year, in the month of Ziv.

The King at this time was Solomon and Solomon was told in a dream by God, to ask what he willed for his kingdom. Solomon asked God for wisdom to govern Israel. In reply God not only granted him the wisdom, but He also gave him honor and riches.

1 Kings 3:5-15

Solomon Asks for Wisdom

3 Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh King of Egypt and married his daughter. He brought her to the City of David until he finished building his palace and the temple of the LORD, and the wall around Jerusalem. ² The people, however, were still sacrificing at the high places, because a temple had not yet been built for the Name of the LORD. ³ Solomon showed his love for the LORD by walking according to the instructions given him by his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ *At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."*

⁶ Solomon answered, *"You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.*

⁷ *"Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸ Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹ So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"*

¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹ So God said to him, *"Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for*

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discernment in administering justice, ¹² *I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.* ¹³ *Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.* ¹⁴ ***And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.*** ¹⁵ *Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream.*

He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

So God granted Solomon's wish for Wisdom, plus gave him riches and honor...and he also gave him another promise, but **this one had conditions of obedience.**

I Kings 9:1-9

The LORD Appears to Solomon

9 When Solomon had finished building the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do, ² **the LORD appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon.** ³ **The LORD said to him:**

"I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

⁴ *"As for you, if you walk before me faithfully with integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, ⁵ I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.'*

⁶ ***"But if you or your descendants turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, ⁷ then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. ⁸ This temple will become a heap of rubble. All who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?' ⁹ People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD their God, who brought their ancestors out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—that is why the LORD brought all this disaster on them.'"***

God has added an additional conditional promise to Solomon. If he and his descendates are faithful to Him, then they will always have the throne of David as theirs to rule. But if they do not, God will cut them off from the land and will reject the temple constructed for Him.

Solomon will have wisdom, riches and honor as an unconditional promise, but long life and his Solomon's heirs ruling the throne are conditional.

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1 Kings 11:11-39 God confronts Solomon about his departure from the LORD and predicted the Kingdom would be taken away from his descendants, but not in Solomon's lifetime.

This was all fulfilled literally in 2 Chron 36:14-21. The throne of David would survive, but Solomon's descendants would not sit on it.

Solomon did have sons that sat on the throne briefly but their affronts to God steadily got worse and worse and God took the throne away.

Prophets

Remember, the sign of a prophet of God is simple...He/She only prophesy's **what God has given them to say and it always comes true.** Now an interesting scene that God provides the people and rulers of Israel to prove He is sovereign and His Prophets speak the truth.

1 Kings 13:1-3 Jeroboam was King of Israel (Solomon's son)

The Man of God From Judah

13 By the word of the LORD a man of God came from Judah to Bethel, as Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make an offering. ² By the word of the LORD he cried out against the altar: *"Altar, altar! This is what the LORD says: 'A son named Josiah will be born to the house of David. On you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who make offerings here, and human bones will be burned on you.'"* ³ *That same day the man of God gave a sign: "This is the sign the LORD has declared: The altar will be split apart and the ashes on it will be poured out."*

⁴ When King Jeroboam heard what the man of God cried out against the altar at Bethel, he stretched out his hand from the altar and said, "Seize him!" But *the hand he stretched out toward the man shriveled up, so that he could not pull it back.* ⁵ *Also, the altar was split apart and its ashes poured out according to the sign given by the man of God by the word of the LORD.*

⁶ Then the king said to the man of God, "Intercede with the LORD your God and pray for me that my hand may be restored." So the man of God interceded with the LORD, and the king's hand was restored and became as it was before.

⁷ The king said to the man of God, "Come home with me for a meal, and I will give you a gift."

⁸ But the man of God answered the king, "Even if you were to give me half your possessions, I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water here." ⁹ *For I was commanded by the word of the LORD: 'You must not eat bread or drink water or return by the way you came.'* ¹⁰ *So he took another road and did not return by the way he had come to Bethel.*

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¹¹ Now there was a certain old prophet living in Bethel, whose sons came and told him all that the man of God had done there that day. They also told their father what he had said to the king. ¹² Their father asked them, "Which way did he go?" And his sons showed him which road the man of God from Judah had taken. ¹³ So he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." And when they had saddled the donkey for him, he mounted it ¹⁴ and rode after the man of God. He found him sitting under an oak tree and asked, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?"

"I am," he replied.

¹⁵ So the prophet said to him, "Come home with me and eat."

¹⁶ The man of God said, "I cannot turn back and go with you, nor can I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. ¹⁷ I have been told by the word of the LORD: 'You must not eat bread or drink water there or return by the way you came.'"

¹⁸ The old prophet answered, ***"I too am a prophet, as you are. And an angel said to me by the word of the LORD: 'Bring him back with you to your house so that he may eat bread and drink water.'" (But he was lying to him.)*** ¹⁹ So the man of God returned with him and ate and drank in his house.

²⁰ While they were sitting at the table, the word of the LORD came to the old prophet who had brought him back. ²¹ He cried out to the man of God who had come from Judah, "This is what the LORD says: 'You have defied the word of the LORD and have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you. ²² You came back and ate bread and drank water in the place where he told you not to eat or drink. Therefore your body will not be buried in the tomb of your ancestors.'"

²³ When the man of God had finished eating and drinking, the prophet who had brought him back saddled his donkey for him. ²⁴ As he went on his way, a lion met him on the road and killed him, and his body was left lying on the road, with both the donkey and the lion standing beside it. ²⁵ Some people who passed by saw the body lying there, with the lion standing beside the body, and they went and reported it in the city where the old prophet lived.

²⁶ When the prophet who had brought him back from his journey heard of it, he said, "It is the man of God who defied the word of the LORD. The LORD has given him over to the lion, which has mauled him and killed him, as the word of the LORD had warned him."

²⁷ The prophet said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me," and they did so. ²⁸ Then he went out and found the body lying on the road, with the donkey and the lion standing beside it. The lion had neither eaten the body nor mauled the donkey. ²⁹ So the prophet picked up the body of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back to his own city to mourn for him and bury him. ³⁰ Then he laid the body in his own tomb, and they mourned over him and said, "Alas, my brother!"

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³¹ After burying him, he said to his sons, “When I die, bury me in the grave where the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones. ³² For the message he declared by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel and against all the shrines on the high places in the towns of Samaria will certainly come true.”

³³ *Even after this, Jeroboam did not change his evil ways, but once more appointed priests for the high places from all sorts of people. Anyone who wanted to become a priest he consecrated for the high places.*

³⁴ *This was the sin of the house of Jeroboam that led to its downfall and to its destruction from the face of the earth.*

This is an interesting story and one where there are a few lessons for each of us. The Prophet of God from Judah prophesied what God has told him, to the altar, The King was listening and reacted negatively to the naming of a new King from David, not Solomon. But God’s word came true and the prophet was true.

Later another man came to the prophet claiming to have another word from the Lord for the first prophet to disobey God’s command to him. He assumed the old prophet was telling the truth and went with him, but as the story goes, a Lion killed him, but not the donkey and did not eat or maul the first prophet.

This reminds me of the admonition from Paul to the Galatians in Gal Ch 1 – ***No Other Gospel***

⁶ *I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ **But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse!** ⁹ As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse!*

Each of us should be following the word of the Lord. When we get direction from Him or the Holy Spirit about something to do or say, we should never go against what the Bible teaches. The Holy Spirit will never guide you differently than the Word of God. Test all things by the Word of God.

This prophet shows the danger of being a prophet called by God. They are held to a different standard of obedience and just a quick look at the prophet’s lives in the Bible is enlightening. He had the direct Word of the Lord delivered to him and he understood the directions, but he let another pull him away from obedience and he was no longer useful as a prophet.

Many other prophecies were revealed and accomplished quickly. It is clear that these prophecies were fulfilled literally and grammatically.

In 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles there are prophecies related to the death of King Ahaziah for consulting Baal, those related to Elijah (2 Kings 2:1-14) and Elisha (2 Kings 3:15-27).

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The closing of 2 Kings records the judgment of Israel at the hands of the Egyptians, and then the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar. This culminated in the dispersion of the Jews into Babylon and Assyria, and Egypt and was studied by us in the books of Daniel, and Ezekiel. I will not go over them again here.

Prophecy of Elijah -2 Chronicles 21:12-20 against the King of Israel Jehoram as to his death and family destruction because of wickedness. This was fulfilled in vv16-20.

Prophecy of Zechariah- 2 Chronicles 24:20-22 against the King named Joash. Zechariah predicted that the Lord had forsaken Joash because he had not obeyed the Lord's command. For his trouble, Zechariah was stoned to death, which Christ referred to in Matt 23:35 in His lament over Jerusalem. However, the Lord had forsaken Joash and when he (Zechariah) lay dying he said *"May the LORD see this and call you to account."*

Joash was wounded in battle with the Syrians and lay in his bed, when men came to kill him for killing Zechariah.

The last two of the History books contain little prophecy.

Ezra 3:11 ¹¹ *With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD:*

*"He is good;
his love toward Israel endures forever."*

And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid

Nehemiah 2:19-20 and 6:15-16

Nehemiah 2:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ But when Sanballat the **Horonite** and Tobiah the **Ammonite** ^[a] official, and Geshem the **Arab** heard *it*, they mocked us and despised us and said, "What is this thing you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?"

²⁰ So I answered them and said to them, *"The God of heaven will give us success; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no portion, right or memorial in Jerusalem."*

**Horonites – Samaritan people who are Jews left after Captivity who intermarried with local tribesmen.
Could be part of the Palestinian people group**

Ammonites – descendants of Lot through his daughter – lived near Amman Jordan

Arabs – descendants of Ishmael from Arabian area

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Nehemiah 6:15-16

*¹⁵ So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶ When all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations surrounding us saw it, they lost their confidence; for they recognized that this work had been accomplished **with the help of our God.***

This is another indication that the local, non Jew and Arab have no portion, right, or memorial in Jerusalem. This is a big deal in our news today with the UN declaring that the Jews are in defiance of international law for not giving the Palestinians their own country with East Jerusalem as its capitol. Of course if one does not believe the Bible as the living, authoritative absolute truth of God, then none of the Biblical covenants matter at all. Folks, this is where we are now as a country, and a world. All are lining up against the Jewish nation and against it's people. Extermination of the Jews is OK, and genocide of Christians in the Middle East is bad but we can't do anything about it...so it seems.

Next time we will start the section of this study called "Prophecy in the Books of Poetry"