

Prophecy of the Church By Trey Sullins

Thousands of years ago God had a plan. In this plan, God chose to reveal to humans certain things about the future. It is from these prophecies that some of the greatest proofs of the Bible's legitimacy come. In fact, this is the very case being made in 2 Peter 3. When God tells us what the future holds, then we can know for certain that what He says is going to come true. One of the things which God revealed is about His kingdom that would come to this earth. Let's look at some of these prophecies of the church and see their fulfillment.

Daniel 2:31-45 reveals many things about the coming of the kingdom. In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, God shown a great image with different layers made of different elements. The head of gold was Babylonian Empire. The chest and arms of silver was the Persia Empire. The belly and thighs of bronze was Grecian Empire. The Legs of Iron was Roman Empire. Finally, the feet of iron and clay was the time of division in the Roman Empire. In the time period of these final kings of the Roman Empire, God would set up His own kingdom. This kingdom of God would break apart all the other kingdom. This prophecy uncovers two very powerful things about the kingdom of God. It told man the time period in which God would set up His kingdom and it told man that power that this kingdom would have over all the other nations of the earth.

Isaiah 2:1-4 prophecies of the place and the nature of the kingdom. In this prophecy Isaiah is shown the Lord's house being established on the top of the mountains in Jerusalem. All nations would flow into it and God would judge the nations. God's kingdom is revealed to come out of Judah and more specifically Jerusalem. This is important to followers of God because it means that any religion or denomination that has its start in anywhere, but Jerusalem cannot be the true kingdom of God. The nature of this kingdom is that it will accept all nations so it would not be exclusive to one race or nation or people. The people within it would no longer learn war but would learn about God and worship Him. The nature of this kingdom is unlike any other nation on earth.

Joel 2:28-32 reveals the events that would happen in the day of this kingdom. Joel wrote that God would pour out His spirit on all flesh in those days. These men and women would perform many miracles and wonders in the world. God would show His wonders in heaven and on earth so that people might know of His power. Also, at this time whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Once more this prophecy points out Jerusalem as the city from which this deliverance will come.

At what point did all of these prophecies come true? In Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost thousands of Jews had gathered in Jerusalem. On this day a sound came from heaven and then the Holy Spirit filled the apostles with a miraculous ability to speak in numerous languages which they had not learned. The apostles went on to preach the word of God and convict the people of the sin of murdering the Son of God. Peter told these people to repent and be baptized. At the end of this about three thousand souls were added. It was on this day that the kingdom of God was established. Notice the church came in the days of the Roman empire. It permeates and has more power than all kingdoms and nations. Thus, the prophecy of Daniel was fulfilled. Acts 2 also took place in the city of Jerusalem and there were nationalities of all kinds added to the church on this day. Therefore, prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled. Lastly, God Almighty poured out the power of the

Holy Spirit on this day and from this point on we see numerous examples of the miraculous even occurring. All of these miraculous events worked to bring people to belief (Mark 16:20) and call upon the name of the Lord for salvation (Acts 22:16). The prophecy of Joel was fulfilled.

The Bible truly is an amazing book because of its many prophecies. These prophecies are proof not only of the accuracy and inspiration of the Bible, but also of the legitimacy of the church, God's kingdom on this earth. There are many more, but these three prophecies alone confirm beyond the shadow of a doubt that the kingdom has come. We must make certain that we are a part of that kingdom!