



Bible prophecy

Bible prophecy is where the Bible tells us what will happen in the future *before it happens*. God foretold many events which have come to pass already; other prophecies speak of a future time.

The purpose of prophecy

There are two main reasons for having prophecies in the Bible:

- 1 Fulfilled prophecies teach us of a wise and powerful God who can predict the future. When we see that God is powerful enough to prophesy accurately, we can have faith in the message of the Bible.
- 2 Prophecies that have not yet been fulfilled give us a hope for the future. Since God has accurately predicted events in the past, we can have confidence in his prophecies for the future. This gives us hope of better things to come.

Examples of fulfilled Bible prophecies

For thousands of years, the Jews did not have a land of their own. Often they tried to mix with people of the nations in which they lived—with no success. They are still known as Jews. Now we see the Jews in their own land of Israel. This was predicted in the Bible in about 600 BC.

For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you back into your own land. (Ezekiel 36:24)

This prophecy was fulfilled when the Jews returned to Israel, forming their own nation again in 1948.

The Babylonian empire was large and important. It was based in the city of Babylon, which was located in what is now southern Iraq. Babylon was overthrown in 539 BC. There are many Jews around these days but

no Babylonians. God predicted this while Babylon was thriving.

*A sword against the Babylonians!
... It will never again be inhabited
or lived in from generation to generation.
(Jeremiah 50:35,39)*

After it was overthrown, Babylon slowly decayed and it has never been lived in again. From the late 1970s, Saddam Hussein tried to rebuild Babylon as a tourist centre. He never succeeded.

A prophecy yet to be fulfilled

The Bible prophesies that Jesus will return to the earth to set up God's kingdom here. After Jesus died, he rose to life again and then went to be with God in heaven. As he went to heaven, an angel said:

*This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.
(Acts 1:11)*

Because Bible prophecies in the past have been shown to be reliable, we can have confidence that this prophecy will also be fulfilled. You can expect to see Jesus back on earth again soon!

The Bible — for you

Bible prophecy shows that the Bible is inspired by God. Believe what it says and you can have hope for the future. Start reading your Bible today.

This leaflet has been produced by the *Dandenong Bible Education Centre*. Check out our website at www.dandenongbec.org.au. If you would like a free booklet on this subject, or information about the beliefs and activities of the Christadelphians, write to us at ask@dandenongbec.org.au or to PO Box 2076, Dandenong East VIC 3175. Bible quotations in this leaflet are taken from the New International Version.