

An introduction to

Partial and multiple fulfilments of prophecy

Some reasons for prophecy

1. Marvel at the purposes & planning of God.
2. Confidence to believe scripture is inspired & inerrant.
3. Encourages us when we appreciate God has chosen to reveal it to us – *particularly during difficult times*.
4. Promotes faithfulness, purity & worship in believers.

Importance of correct interpretation

1. Misinterpretation of prophecy dishonours God & has resulted in sects & denominations.
2. Failure to understand prophecy correctly can result in terrible consequences & suffering. [*e.g. Jews failure to comprehend that the Messiah would come at two different times.*]
3. Presence of gaps of time between fulfilments of prophecy has important ramifications for interpreting scripture [*e.g. Daniel's 70 weeks; gap between Genesis 1:1 & 2 etc.*]

Partial fulfillments

- Lord Jesus reading *Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth.*
- *Daniel's 70 week prophecy concerning Israel.*

Lord Jesus reading in synagogue

The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Luke 4:18-19

Isaiah's prophecy

The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,

and the day of vengeance of our God;

Isaiah 61:1-2

Daniel's Seventy Weeks Prophecy

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks:

Daniel 9:24-25

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AD 33 Lord Jesus riding into Jerusalem on an ass.

Daniel 9:24-25

Daniel 9:26-27

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and

the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Daniel 9:26-27 (fulfilments)

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AD 33 crucifixion

AD 70 Destruction
Jerusalem by Titus

Future
"Man of sin"
2 Thessalonians 2:3-8
&
"Beast"
Revelation 13:1-10

Double fulfillments

- Pouring out of the spirit (Joel 2 fulfilled at Pentecost & future “day of the Lord)
- Solomon’s kingdom typical of Christ’s kingdom (1 Chron. 17:11-14)
- Assyrian invasion & subsequent overthrow (Isaiah 17)
- Virgin birth of the Messiah (Isaiah 7:14 & Matt 1:22-23) ????????

Pentecost fulfilling Joel's prophecy

But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Acts 2:16-21 quoting Joel 2:28-32

Solomon's typical fulfilment of Christ's kingdom

And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go *to be* with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build me an house, and I will establish his throne for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took *it* from *him* that was before thee: But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore.

1 Chron. 17:11-14

Complete fulfilment in the future when Christ reigns – partial (typical) fulfilment during Solomon's reign.

Prophecy fulfilled completely initially but is typical of something greater to come

Woe to the multitude of many people, *which* make a noise like the noise of the seas; and to the rushing of nations, *that* make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters! The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but *God* shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

Isaiah 17:12-13

Prophecies fulfilled in the Assyrian invasion in Hezekiah's time, culminating in the destruction of the Assyrian host (v. 14).

Yet this fulfilment is also typical of the host which invades the land at the time of Christ's return, and is destroyed.

Isaiah's prophecy - birth of the Messiah

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:13

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, ²³ **Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel**, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Matt. 1:22-23

Some would suggest a first fulfilment in the days of Ahaz.

Multiple fulfillments

- Rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed (Psalm 2:1-3).
- Israel conquered for disobeying Lord's commands (Deut. 28)
- Cannibalism (Lev. 26:29)

Rulers taking counsel together

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the **rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed**, saying,

Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

Psalms 2:1-3

- *his birth (Mt. 2)*
- *his crucifixion (Acts 4:25-28),*
- *will occur at his Second Coming (Rev. 17:12-14)*
- *at the end of the Millennium (20:7-10).*

Israel serving enemies (Deut. 28:45-50)

Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; **because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:**

And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever.

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all *things*;

Israel serving enemies (Deut. 28:45-50)

Therefore shalt **thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee**, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all *things*: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

The LORD shall bring **a nation against thee** from far, from the end of the earth, *as swift* as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

Assyria
(Hos. 8:9)

Babylon
(2 Kings Ch.24)

Medes/Persia
(Esther1:1)

Rome
(Luke 2:1)

+ others

Cannibalism (Lev. 26:29)

And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat. (Lev. 26:29)

- *Famine in Samaria (2 Kgs. 6:26-31)*
- *Fall of Jerusalem by Babylon (Lam. 4:10)*
- *AD 70 during siege by Titus (according to Josephus)*

Our responses as prophecy fulfilled

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