

25 Purposes of Predictive Prophecy

- A. What do they tell us about the character of God?
- B. What lessons are we to learn from how God has fulfilled predictions in the past?

1. It shows that only God knows the future.
2. It assures us that God cares deeply for His children and has already planned what is ahead for us.
3. It shows that God hated sin and punished it.
4. He is wise. Wise parents warn their kids ahead of time, too, don't they?
5. He knows what buttons to push to get the right response. God show how different people respond in different ways to the works of God.
6. He knows which adversaries would harden their hearts and which saints would become more obedient.
7. Prophecy shows us that it isn't necessary for man to know precisely what lies ahead in order to trust God.
8. It is one way to remind people to thank Him.
9. It is another way to prod His children to get excited about what is just around the corner. On tip-toe expectancy.
10. By telling us some things yet to come, we learn to live by faith, like running blindfolded.
11. It demonstrates His long term faithfulness to all obedient believers.
12. It also rubs the unbelievers' faces in the mud of their own sinful decisions. "I told you so!"
13. It's proof positive that sin doesn't pay. It costs.
14. In the early days it drew the Jewish nation together because they realized that God was able to keep some of the wild promises He had predicted. Not everybody got this special treatment.
15. Jews also learned that when they did not trust Him, God withheld the blessings He had predicted sometimes for 40 years! They learned that God was pretty serious about this obedience stuff.
16. Predictions built Jews' confidence, their trust, and their faith in all sorts of things.
17. They learned they couldn't count on idols [*who never made any promises*].
18. Predictions were specific enough so that Jews learned they couldn't make excuses for themselves for not following the details or obeying their own way.
19. It also demonstrates that Satan had no strength over obedient believers.
20. It creates a comfort zone that God always knows best.
21. It creates an anticipation for lessons they might have in the future.
22. Teaches us to watch out for false teachers who might be very persuasive.
23. We learn that sometimes bad things do happen to good people - with God's permission.
24. We all need to count the cost of not trusting that God's way is the best way.
25. Many had to learn to endure to the end to get the blessings. Sometimes it's tough, but Jesus' load is lightweight compared to Satan's load.

The Bible is the only religious book that makes such specific predictions all the way through.