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THE BIBLE

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork." (Psalm 19:1) By looking at the universe, the Earth, and all the living creatures and how wonderfully they are made shows us that there must be a Creator. (Romans 1:20) How can we know more about this Creator? To answer these questions we must go to the Bible.



Some people think the Bible is nothing more than stories that different men have thought about God. Yet over 3,000 times the Bible says that it is the *Word of God*.

Our Bible is a most unusual book. It is a collection of 66 books which were written over 1600 years by more than 40 writers from all walks of life. God guided and inspired these writers. (II Timothy 3:16) The Bible is special because God led (inspired) men to write it. God inspired it and its writers so that

it would be without error. The Bible is really God's Word.

How can we know that the Bible is true?

Many people have said the Bible contains many mistakes and contradictions, but all these ideas have been shown to be false. Archaeology (the study of ancient things), biology (the study of life), geology (the study of rocks and minerals), and astronomy (the study of stars) show again and again that what the Bible says about past events is true.

One of the most amazing proofs for the truth of the Bible is prophecy (telling about the future.) Special people in the Bible called prophets told about events hundreds of years before they happened. Many fortune tellers (psychics) say they can tell the future, but one study showed they were wrong 98% to 100% of the time.¹ Although a few physics sometimes can guess what happened in the past, they fail miserably when guessing the future. But the prophets used the actual words God gave them, and they never made a mistake. No other book has this kind of record!

¹ Armageddon, Appointment With Destiny, Grant R. Jeffrey, Bantam Books, 1988, pg. 15.

Many prophecies were written about the coming of Jesus. *Figure 1* on the other side of this page shows only 11 of these prophecies. It has been worked out mathematically, to show that the chances for all 11 of those prophecies to have come true by accident alone is *one* chance in 10,000,000,000,000,000,000. That is one chance in 1 billion times 10 billion that the prophets could have just guessed these prophecies and had them all come true.² In other words, it is clearly impossible that any of these prophecies could have "just happened."



Only God knows the future.

Prophets alone could not have guessed what would happen to cities and nations and individual people, hundreds and hundreds of years before it did. These prophecies had to have been inspired by God. Since the Bible correctly tells about the future, we can trust it as God's word and know that what the Bible teaches is true.

There is not another book in all the world like our Bible. It is the only one of its kind. By reading the Bible we can come to know our Creator. The Bible is the inspired written record of God making himself known to people. But most important of all God made himself known in Jesus.



We should read the Bible, because it tells us the truth. God knows what is best for us, so we should do what God's Word

says. The Bible is His Word of truth and love to us!

² Ibid, pg. 17-21.

Figure 1.

PROPHECIES ABOUT THE MESSIAH (JESUS)

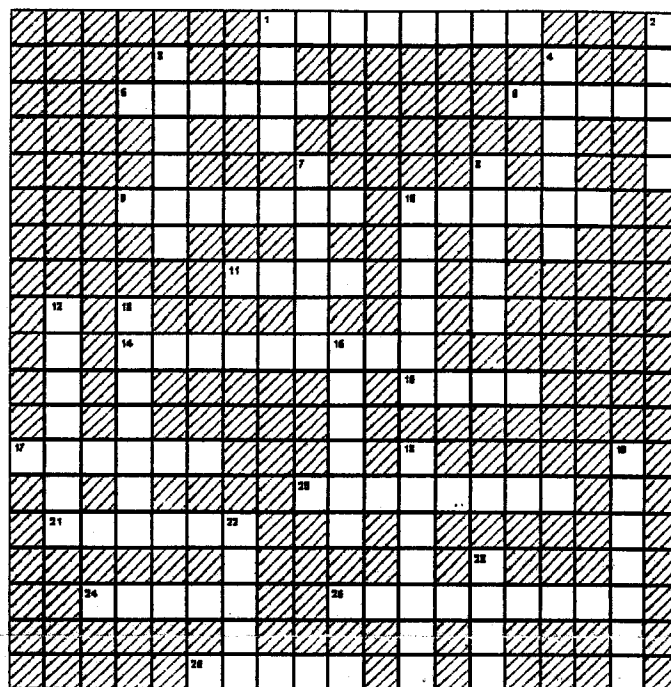
(Where prophecy is made ◊ Where it came true)

- Be born in Bethlehem (*Micah 5:2* ◊ *Matthew 2:1*)
- Have a messenger come before him (*Isaiah 40:3* ◊ *Matthew 3:1-2*)
- Enter Jerusalem on a colt (*Zechariah 9:9* ◊ *Luke 19:35-37*)
- Betrayed by a friend (*Psalms 41:9* ◊ *Matthew 26:47-50*)
- Have hands and feet pierced (*Psalms 22:16* ◊ *Luke 23:33*)
- Be wounded and whipped by his enemies (*Isaiah 53:5* ◊ *Matthew 27:26*)
- Be sold for 30 pieces of silver (*Zechariah 11:12* ◊ *Matthew 26:15*)
- Be beaten and spit upon (*Isaiah 50:6* ◊ *Matthew 26:27*)
- Have his betrayal money thrown in the Temple and given for a potters field (*Zechariah 11:13* ◊ *Matthew 27:5-7*)
- Be silent before his accusers (*Isaiah 53:7* ◊ *Matthew 27:12-14*)
- Be crucified with thieves (*Isaiah 53:12* ◊ *Matthew 27:38*)

PROPHETS

Prophets are messengers of God. In the Old Testament, God would give them a message in a dream or vision. When God gave a prophet a message, the prophet was to tell the prophecy to the people. If the prophecy was good, the prophet was treated like a hero. When the bad prophecies came true, the prophet was often hated. Prophets lives were often in danger.

Some prophets were prophets all their life. Others were used by God only once. Although most prophets were men, there were a few women.



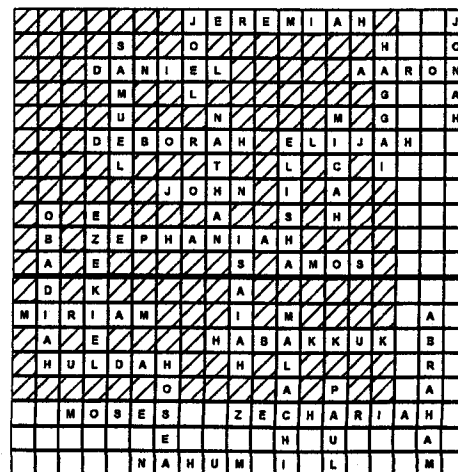
Get out your Bible to solve the crossword puzzle. Find the prophets found in each verse.

ACROSS

- 1. 2 Chronicles 36:12
- 2. Matthew 24:15
- 3. Exodus 7:2
- 4. Judges 4:4
- 5. 1 Kings 18:22
- 6. Matthew 3:1
- 7. Jeremiah 29:25
- 8. Amos 8:2
- 9. Numbers 12:15
- 10. Habakkuk 1:1
- 11. 2 Chronicles 34:22
- 12. Exodus 2:10
- 13. 2 Chronicles 24:20
- 14. Nahum 1:1

DOWN

- 1. Acts 2:16
- 2. 2 Kings 14:25
- 3. Acts 3:24
- 4. Ezra 5:1
- 5. 2 Samuel 7:2
- 6. Judges 17:1
- 7. 2 Kings 2:22
- 8. 1 Kings 18:3
- 9. Ezekiel 1:3



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