

Crossroads' Sermon Series
"Tough Times Call for Truth You Can Trust"

Week 2: Top Three Proofs That Christianity Is True

(from last week: # 4 proof: Eyewitness agreement)

PROOF # 3: PROPHETIC ACCURACY

--How to know a prophet is really from God? They are **100%** accurate.

Deuteronomy 18:22 – “If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has NOT spoken.”

--Dr Hugh Ross, physicist & astronomer (www.reasons.org)

“Unique among all books ever written, the Bible accurately foretells specific events in detail many years, sometimes centuries, BEFORE they occur. Approximately **2500 prophecies appear** in the pages of the Bible, **about 2000 of which already have been fulfilled to the letter** – no errors. The remaining 500 or so reach into the future and may be seen unfolding as the days go by. Since the probability for any one of these prophecies having been fulfilled by chance averages less than one in ten (figured very conservatively) and since the prophecies are for the most part independent of one another, the odds for all these prophecies having been fulfilled by chance without error is less than one in 10 to the 2000th power (that is 1 with 2000 zeros written after it.)”

Examples of Bible prophecies that are already fulfilled:

1. In 700 B.C. the prophet Micah named the tiny village of Bethlehem as the birthplace of Israel's Messiah (Micah 5:2).

Probability of chance fulfillment = 1 in 10 to the 5th power

2. The prophet Moses foretold (with some additions by Jeremiah and Jesus) that the ancient Jewish nation would be conquered twice and that the people would be carried off as slaves each time, first by the Babylonians (for a period of 70 years), and then by a fourth world kingdom (which we know as Rome). The second conqueror, Moses said, would take the Jews captive to Egypt in ships, selling them or giving them away as slaves to all parts of the world. BOTH of these predictions were fulfilled to the letter, the first in 607 B.C. and the second in 70 A.D. God's spokesmen said, further, that the Jews would remain scattered throughout the entire world for many generations, but without becoming assimilated by the peoples of the other nations, and that the Jews would one day return to the land of Palestine to re-establish for a second time their nation. (Deuteronomy 29-30:4e; Isaiah 11:11-13; Jeremiah 25:11; Hosea 3:4-5; Luke 21:23-24)

This prophetic statement covers 3500 years of history to its complete fulfillment in 1948 when Israel became a nation again.

Probability of chance fulfillment = 1 in 10 to the 20th power.

PROOF # 2: WORDS OF JESUS WORK.

John 7:38 - ³⁸ **Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.**

Matt 7:24 - ²⁴ **Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.**

Example of Jesus words that work:

Luke 6:38 - ³⁸ **Give, and it will be given to you.** A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Matt 5:43-45 - Jesus said, ⁴⁶ **If you only love those who love you, what reward will you get?"**

PROOF # 1: LIVES THAT LIVE FOR JESUS ARE NEW FOREVER

2 Corinthians 5:17 - ¹⁷ **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"**

- **examples of changed lives...**
- **From hating to loving Jesus....Paul said in Acts 26:** ⁹ "I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the saints in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. In my obsession against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them. **But then Paul became a true follower of Jesus....**

The power of Jesus' solitary life to change so many others into the best....

Sermon application:

- 1. Have you allowed Jesus to change your life?**
- 2. As you listen to Keith and the music team, stay a few moments and ask the Lord Jesus to change something in your life that needs to be changed for the best.**
- 3. You can receive prayer for yourself or someone you love. Prayer team will be at front of church after service.**