



HIGHER GROUND
CALVARY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

APOLOGETICS

Class 4

The Case for God

Let me give you a prediction...

On December 12th, four years from now...

If you go to this specific address at 2:00 in the afternoon...

A Caucasian man who is in his seventies will come out the front door...

He will be wearing a blue long sleeve shirt, with the sleeves rolled up

He will be wearing black dress slacks

He will not be wearing glasses

He will be clean shaven

He will be partly bald

He will open the front door with his left hand
In his right hand he will be carrying a book
The book will be "*The Poems of Robert Frost*"

If we would calculate the odds of my getting this prediction right, it would be one out of several millions
That would be impressive, right?

So on December 12th four years from now you go to this address to test my prediction
You are there at 2:00
The man I described exits the house dressed exactly as I predicted
He is even carrying the right book

But on closer inspection you make a discovery...

I am that man.

I did not predict the future

How did I know the future?

And I *caused* the future to happen exactly as I described it

You will cry, "Foul!"

But you would be wrong.

I did exactly what God does when He gives us a prophecy...

Isaiah 46:9 – 10:

"Remember the former things of old:
for I am God, and there is none else; I
am God, and there is none like me,
Declaring the end from the beginning,
and from ancient times the things that
are not yet done, saying, My counsel
shall stand, and I will do all my
pleasure..."

Q: How can God know the future?

A: God is not part of our
Space/Time Continuum

He is outside of time and can see
past, present and future all at
once

But it is not that God just knows
the future

He is not guessing at the future

He is not predicting the future

God causes the prophecy to come
true

He leaves nothing to chance

Isaiah 46:11:

“Calling a ravenous bird from the
east, the man who executes my
counsel from a far country: yea, I
have spoken it, I will also bring it
to pass; I have purposed it, I will
also do it.”

So it is not just that God knows the future
God controls the future
This is how God can maintain a standard of being right 100% of the time

Deuteronomy 18:20:
“But the prophet, who shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die...

Deuteronomy 18:21 – 22:
“And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?’
When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing follows not, nor comes to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken, but the prophet has spoken it presumptuously: you shall not be afraid of him.”

A Prophet of God will be correct
100% of the time

If someone gives even one
prophecy that does not come
true; then that prophet is no
longer of God

That prophet would be stoned

God declared that He does exist

He declared this through His
prophet Isaiah

He declared it through other
Prophets

He declared it through Jesus
Christ

He made it clear that He was God

And there were no other gods

There is no one like Him

As proof to His declarations He offers prophecy:

“I will show you the end from the beginning”

“I will declare things that have not yet been”

“I will bring it to pass”

We will spend one night discussing Jesus as the Messiah

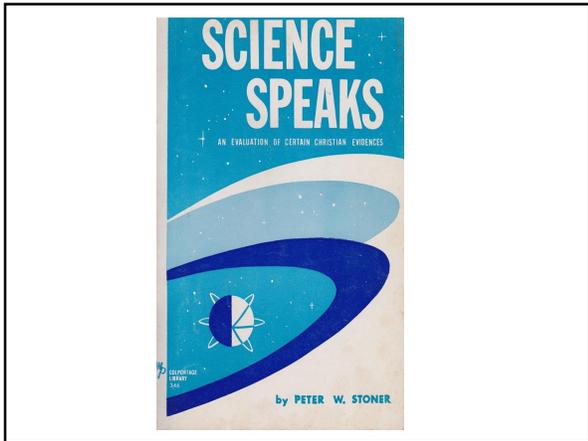
There are over three hundred prophecies concerning Jesus' coming as the Suffering Servant

There are also hundreds of similitudes describing the Messiah and His work

But we will focus on those when we discuss Jesus and who He is

Tonight we are going to discuss how prophecy proves God exists and is involved

And we will be looking at other major prophecies unrelated to Jesus



I first read this book in 1976
It opened my eyes to several
truths concerning
Creation – the Nebula Theory
Cavemen
Prophecy

It was written by Peter Stoner
It was published by Moody Press
It was first published in 1958
It is currently out of print
And copies run about \$138 - \$140
for used copies
Be sure to buy two or three

Stoner did an entire section just on prophecy and how prophecy can prove the Bible true
And prove the existence of God

Stoner uses the Laws of Probability as the basis for his discussion concerning prophecy and prophetic fulfillment
What are the odds of something happening by itself, with no outside influence?

Example:
Suppose 1 man in 10 is bald [M]
Suppose 1 man in 100 has lost a finger [N]
Then the odds of 1 man being bald & losing one finger is one in 1,000
[M X N = Law of Probability]
[10 X 100 = 1,000]

Ezekiel 26:3 – 5 [Written 590 BC]:
“Therefore thus says the Lord God;
‘Behold, I am against you, O Tyre,
and will cause many nations to
come up against you, as the sea
causes his waves to come up...

‘...And they shall destroy the walls
of Tyre, and break down her towers:
I will also scrape her dust from her,
and make her like the top of a
rock.’”

Ezekiel 26:7:
“For thus says the Lord God;
‘Behold, I will bring upon Tyre
Nebuchadnezzar, king of
Babylon, a king of kings, from the
north, with horses, and with
chariots, and with horsemen, and
companies, and much people.’”

Ezekiel 26:12:

“And they shall make a spoil of your riches, and make a prey of your merchandise: and they shall break down your walls, and destroy your pleasant houses: and they shall lay your stones and your timber and your dust in the midst of the water.”

Ezekiel 26:16:

“And I will make you like the top of a rock: you shall be a place to spread nets upon; you shall be built no more: for I the Lord have spoken it,” says the Lord God.”

What did God tell Tyre He was going to do?

1. Nebuchadnezzar would take the city of Tyre
2. Other nations would also take the city of Tyre
3. The walls and houses would be broken down
4. The dirt would be scraped off

- 5. The walls, timber and dirt would be cast into the sea
- 6. The place would be like a rock for spreading nets
- 7. It would never be built again

So what was the fate of the city of Tyre?
In 586 BC [four years later]
Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to the city

The siege lasted for thirteen years
When Nebuchadnezzar took the city in 573 BC he discovered they had moved everything of value to an island 1/2 mile off the coast

Nebuchadnezzar took the city, but did not gain anything for his efforts

He returned to Babylon – Part 1 of the Prophecy was fulfilled

The city continued as Nebuchadnezzar had left it for 241 years

In 322 BC Alexander the Great came to Tyre, but was unable to take the city

He captured other coastal cities and seized their fleets

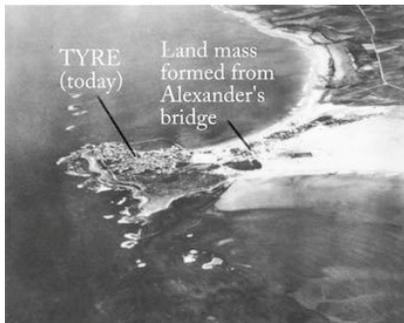
This was still not enough to take the city

Alexander took the walls, timbers, houses and dirt of the original city and dumped them into the sea

He used this to build a causeway from the coast out to the island where Tyre stood

The original site of Tyre was like a top of a rock
It is used by fishermen to dry their nets
The city of Tyre was never rebuilt again

Each of the prophecies given by Ezekiel came true for Tyre



Ezekiel 26:16:

“Then all the princes of the sea shall come down from their thrones, and lay away their robes, and put off their broidered garments: they shall clothe themselves with trembling; they shall sit upon the ground, and shall tremble at every moment, and be astonished at you.”

When the other cities saw what Alexander did, they surrendered, opened their gates and were in great fear because of what Alexander did to conquer Tyre

What are the odds?
Nebuchadnezzar taking Tyre – 1 in 3
The complete destruction of Tyre – 1 in 5
Tyre would become like a rock – 1 in 500
Become a place for nets 1 in 10
Other cities respond in fear 1 in 5
Tyre never built again 1 in 20

What are the odds:
[3 X 5 X 500 X 10 X 10 X 5 X 20]
1 IN 75,000,000
 7.5×10^7

Similar prophecies were made:

Samaria [Micah 1:6]:
odds 1 in 40,000

Gaza and Ashkelon [Zephaniah
2:4, 6 and Jeremiah 47:5]:
1 in 12,500

Jericho [Joshua 6:26]:
1 in 200,000

Ezekiel 44:1 – 2 [Written 574 BC]:

“Then He brought me back the
way of the gate of the outward
sanctuary which looks toward the
east; and it was shut...”

...Then said the Lord unto me;
‘This gate shall be shut, it shall
not be opened, and no man shall
enter in by it; because the Lord,
the God of Israel, has entered in
by it, therefore it shall be shut.’”

When did God enter in through this gate?

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday

He rode through it on a donkey to declare Himself to be the Messiah [32 AD]

In 1543 AD Sultan Suleiman restored the walls of Jerusalem and ordered the gate to be sealed





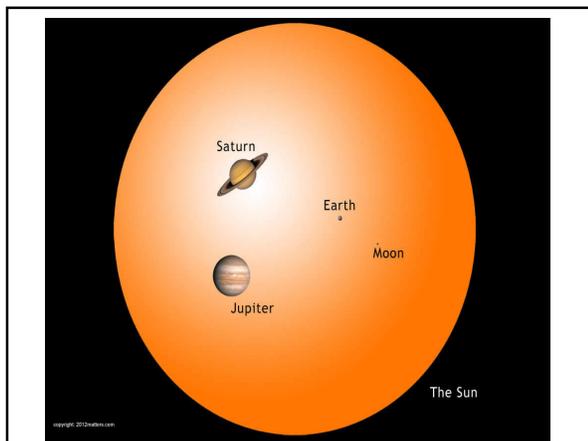
Still using silver dollars as each odd, he started with the earth:



The earth was not big enough to visualize how many odds we are talking about.

So he used the sun as a comparison

How much bigger is the sun than the earth?



You can see how the odds push this to the absurd level

This could not have happened – EVER

But remember Isaiah 46:11:

“...I will bring it to pass...”

When we add this information to the calculation the odds drop to a 1 in 1 chance

God is the outside influence

God is proving that He is there by causing all of these things to pass

Isaiah and Jeremiah both gave prophecies concerning the fall of Jerusalem, the Captivity in Babylon, and the eventual return of the Jews to Jerusalem

Jeremiah declared that the Jews would be in Babylon for seventy years

Jeremiah 25:11:

“And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.”

Jeremiah 29:10:

“For thus says the Lord, ‘That after seventy years are accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.’”

Isaiah 45:1 gives the name of the king who would free the Jews:

“Thus says the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;”

Isaiah described how Cyrus would take the city of Babylon

Isaiah 44:27:

“That says unto the deep, ‘Be dry,’ and I will dry up their rivers”

Cyrus diverted the Euphrates River that ran through the city and entered under the walls of the city to take it

The gates were opened by his men and could not be shut

He gave additional information about Cyrus. Isaiah 44:28:

“That says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be built;’ and to the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’””

Isaiah 46:11:

“Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man who executes my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.”

Legends tell us Cyrus was left to die in a field as a baby

But a shepherd found him and raised him as a shepherd

His banner depicted a ravenous bird

He is the one who sent the Jews home and authorized the rebuilding of the Temple

Daniel 2:1:

“And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep [fled] from him.”

Daniel 2:29:

“As for you, O king, your thoughts came into your mind upon your bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and He who reveals secrets made known to you what shall come to pass.”

Daniel 2:31 – 33:

“You, O king, saw, and beheld a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before you; and the form thereof was terrible...

...This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,
His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.”

God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar
an image of the current and future
empires of the world

Babylon was gold

Medes/Persia was silver

Greece was brass

Rome was iron



Daniel 2:34:

“You [watched] until a stone was
cut out without hands, which
struck the image upon his feet
that were of iron and clay, and
broke them to pieces.”



Daniel 2:35:
“Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.”

Daniel 2:36:
“This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.”

Daniel 2:37:

“You, O king, are a king of kings:
for the God of heaven has given
you a kingdom, power, and
strength, and glory.”

Daniel 2:39:

“And after you shall arise another
kingdom inferior to you, and
another third kingdom of brass,
which shall bear rule over all the
earth.”

Daniel 2:40:

“And the fourth kingdom shall be
strong as iron: forasmuch as iron
breaks in pieces and subdues all
things: and as iron that breaks all
these, shall it break in pieces and
bruise.”

Daniel 2:41:

“And whereas you saw the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with miry clay...

Daniel 2:41:

“...And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.”

Daniel 2:44:

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”

Daniel 2:45:

“Forasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God has made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.”

There will be fourth empires that shall rule the world

Each empire will be less great than the one before it

After the fourth empires, God will send Jesus [the Rock] and He will defeat all the empires of the world and set up His kingdom forever

God threw down the gauntlet:

“I exist”

“I am in charge”

“I know the future”

“I will make things happen exactly how I say they will”

“No one else can do this”

God offered His proof
He has shown us the end from the beginning
He was the one who caused all of these things to happen
There is no way – given the odds – that any of this could have happened on its own without outside interference

God has revealed other prophecies concerning other topics
We will look at these when we discuss Jesus and the Plan of Salvation

Given the mathematical odds of any of these happening on their own without outside interference we must conclude that there is an outside influence involved
That would be God

We also have to conclude that
what He says about Himself and
His Word is also true
God has revealed Himself
God has outlined His coming
judgment
He will hold us accountable
Whether we believe it or not

This is how Christianity can be
proven to be true
Let us go back to our definition of
Forensic Faith...

Then there is Forensic Faith: This
is when we believe in something
because of the evidence.

FORENSIC FAITH:

“We hold a forensic belief when we believe something because it is the most reasonable inference from evidence even though we may still have some unanswered questions.”

(J. Warner Wallace,
Forensic Faith page 60)

QUESTIONS