



HIGHER GROUND
CALVARY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

Class Two:

Prophecy and Bible Codes

I am going to try to cover two topics tonight

These topics deal with Evidence of God

1. Prophecy; and
2. Bible Codes

The question that is asked over and over again is: "Why the Bible?"

Why do we trust the Bible?

How is the Bible different?

How do we know the Bible is written by God?

If the Bible is written by man it is no different than any other book written by man

It might be nice

It might contain good advice

But there would be no reason to lift this book up above any other book on your bookshelf

So I am going to try to prove to you in this class that the Bible is NOT like any other book in the world

That would include the Book of Mormon, the Koran; or any other book claiming to be written by God

You can make any claim you want regarding any book ever printed

The important thing is: "Can you back up this claim and prove what you are saying is true?"

I believe that in this case we can

I was going to begin this Old Testament Survey with the theme of Bible Codes

[There is more than one Bible Code]

A Bible Code is where God disguises information or hides information in the plain text of Scripture

Now in and of itself, the presence of coded information only proves that whoever wrote this was a genius

Coded information, in and of itself, does not prove that God exists

However, the information that is coded can

So rather than Bible Codes, let me begin with "Prophecy"

In this case, prophecy tells us information about the future

Here there is information encoded in the Bible that no man or woman could know

We cannot extrapolate with what we have to make these predictions

In our modular on Apologetics and proof that there is a God, we did an entire class on prophecy and how it proves the existence of God and that God is in control of events in our world

In this class, I am going to give you an abbreviated summary

In Isaiah 46:9 – 11 God makes this claim through His prophet: “Remember the former things of old, for 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.”

“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, and I will do it.”

Let me give you a different insight into prophecy
It is not that God is making a calculated guess at what is going to happen in the future
It is not even that God knows the future

Here in Isaiah God tells you how He is able to send prophecy after prophecy time and time again, hundreds and even thousands of years before the event takes place; and He is correct down to the last detail every time.
He is correct 100% of the time!

Let's start with just this prophecy

In Jeremiah 25:11 – 12:

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

“And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation,’ says the Lord, ‘for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.’”

God had predicted the Fall of Jerusalem
He had made this prediction through Isaiah under the reign of King Hezekiah
Hezekiah reigned from 716 BC to 687 BC
Jerusalem fell to Babylon in 586 BC

So even at the earliest, this prediction was 100 years before the event took place

Keep in mind that when this prophecy was given, Babylon was not a world power.

It was not a kingdom.

It was just a city.

But there is more...

Isaiah made the prophecy of Jerusalem falling to Babylon

Jeremiah set the length of time that the Jews would be in Captivity to Babylon

And Isaiah added some more details of the Jews coming home

Isaiah 44:27:

“Who says to the deep, “Be dry,” and I will dry up your rivers.”

Babylon was defeated because the River Euphrates – which ran through the city – was diverted and the invaders walked in the dry riverbed under the wall and took the city

This may not seem all that impressive until you plug in the very next verse. Isaiah 44:28: “Who 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 died during the reign of Manasseh
Manasseh reigned from 687 BC to 642 BC
Jerusalem fell in 586 BC
Add 70 years until they are released, this would be 516 BC

We are talking a minimum of 126 years before Babylon fell and the Jews were released to return home
Notice that Isaiah named the Persian King who would defeat Babylon and send the Jews home by name: Cyrus

Isaiah mentioned him by name
126 years before this happen
Isaiah probably named Cyrus 100
years before he was born
He identified that he would come
from the east
Persia is east of Babylon

The image on the banner of Cyrus
was a ravenous bird
And legends say that Cyrus had
been left to die as a baby by his
father and was raised by a
shepherd
God called Cyrus His “shepherd.”

Ezekiel made a prophecy in 590
BC concerning the city of Tyre
Briefly, it would be attacked by
Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC
It would fall
It would be attacked by others
Eventually the debris of Tyre
would be cast into the sea

Ezekiel added that the dirt would be scraped off and also thrown into the sea

Four years later Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Tyre

It took 13 years to take the city

Unfortunately, Nebuchadnezzar could not plunder the city

During the 13 months, the inhabitants of Tyre moved everything to an island ½ mile off shore

Tyre stayed there for 241 years

In 322 BC Alexander attacked Tyre

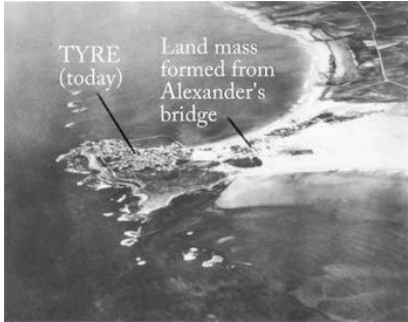
He could not take the city

So he took the debris of the original city and threw it into the sea

He scraped all the dirt off the ground of the original city and threw it into the sea

He built a causeway out to the island and took the city

Each of the prophecies given by Ezekiel came true for Tyre



These are just two prophecies
But they are detailed prophecies
There is nothing vague about them
God gave very specific information about both of these events to His prophets
The prophecies came true

How is this possible?
God told us through Isaiah that He would tell us "the end from the beginning"
And then He would make it happen exactly the way He described it
He would control the events

Each prophecy that has come true came true because God declared the event

And then He controlled each aspect of the event so that it was fulfilled and every detail took place exactly as God said

Let me close this discussion of prophecy that these are just two prophecies

God's prophets made hundreds of prophecies

All those that have come true came true exactly the way God described them

There were over 300 prophecies recorded in the Old Testament concerning the coming of the Messiah, where He would be born, His lineage, what He would do, how He would die; and that He would come back from the grave

Psalm 22 gives a detailed account of the Crucifixion:

1. It identified the words of Jesus on the cross
2. His joints would be dislocated
3. His hands and feet pierced
4. They would gamble for His clothing

This prophecy was 1,000 years before Rome became a world power

It was a thousand years before crucifixion was used as a method of execution

David got all the details correct

God reveals information to His prophets that no one could figure out on their own

They predict events that were so far in the future in many cases that there was no hint as to how this event would unfold

God then took control of events to make the event unfold exactly as He said it would

This proves that God does exist

This proves that God is in control

Some of these prophecies were recorded in code thousands of years before they happened

The first Bible Code I am going to discuss is Paleo-Hebrew

Hebrew is currently written in what is called the Modern Hebrew alphabet

This came into use during the Babylonian Captivity

Prior to the Babylonian Captivity the Paleo-Hebrew alphabet was used

Paleo-Hebrew is a pictograph system

Each letter represented a sound and depicted an image, concept or theme

For example:
Aleph currently looks like this:

א

In Paleo- Hebrew Aleph looked like this:



Notice that it looks like the head of an ox

That is exactly the image it is designed to represent

The ox is power

It is the head

So it is authority

Combine it with the Paleo-Hebrew letter Bet:



Paleo-Hebrew Bet is designed to look like a tent

It represents the home

Add Aleph and Bet and you get



This is Ab in Hebrew, but if we complete the word by repeating aleph and bet we get

Abba

This is the Hebrew word for "Father" or the head [authority] of the home

The first word of the Torah is B'resheet

Transliteration : Bereshiyt
Translation: In the beginning ...



Shay (Gift)

Aleph (first letter of the Hebrew Alphabet)

Tav (last letter of the Hebrew Alphabet)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but would have everlasting life." (John3:16)

"I am the Alpha (Aleph) and the Omega (Tav), the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." (Revelation 22;13)

But notice something...
 We have Bet which is home
 There is the Resh [R] and this
 creates the Hebrew word "Bar"
 which means "son"
 There is the Aleph in the middle of
 the word
 Aleph represents authority and
 can stand for God

What does Paleo-Hebrew tell us?



B'reshet could literally represent
 the message:
 "God's Son [will] be destroyed [by]
 His hands/arms [attached to] a
 cross."

If you were to read Genesis 1:1 in the Hebrew, there is a small word after “Elohem” (God)

It is only two letters in Hebrew, but the Rabbis claim it cannot be translated

It is the Aleph and the Tav

The First and the Last [letters]

Jesus claimed that He was the first and last letter of the Alphabet

Genesis 1:1 can be translated:

“In the beginning God אה (Jesus) created the heavens and the earth.”

The Aleph in Paleo-Hebrew is the ox head

The sign of power

It can represent God

Tav is the mark on a contract – a promise

In Paleo-Hebrew it is represented by a cross

In Paleo-Hebrew, it is God on the cross:



There is another code where the literal meaning of a word or name combines to form another message

Consider Genesis Chapter 5, the lineage of Adam to Noah

Adam = man Seth = appointed
Enosh = mortal Cainan = sorrow
Mahalaleel = the Blessed God
Jared = shall come down
Enoch = teaching
Methuselah = his death shall bring
Lamech = the despairing
Noah = comfort/rest

Put them all together and add a few small words to make the message flow:

“Man [is] appointed mortal sorrow [but] the Blessed God shall come down teaching [that] His death shall bring the despairing comfort/rest.”

The third kind of Bible Code gained popularity in the 1980's
It is called Equi-Distance Letter Sequencing [ELS]

You pull up every other letter, or every third letter or every fourth letter, etc

There are passages where pulling up each letter using the same distance between letters creates words

Genesis Chapter 38 is the account of Judah's daughter-in-law Tamar

Her husband died without giving her children

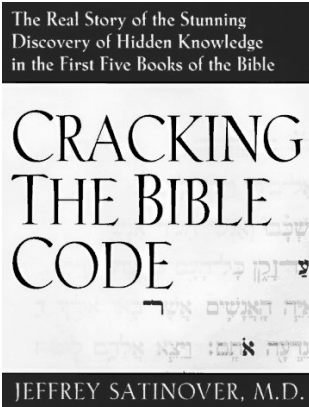
When Judah did not provide his next son for her, she disguised herself as a prostitute and slept with him

She became pregnant and bore twins which were part of David's ancestry and this would also be part of Jesus' ancestry

Encoded in this chapter using Equi-Distance Letter Sequencing are the words: Chanukah, Macabee, Temple, oil and the date of the rebellion led by the Macabees*

This was all thousands of years before it happened

(*See Cracking the Bible Code)



The most powerful example of this is Isaiah Chapter 53

Encoded in this chapter is the phrase: "Yeshua [Jesus] is my name"

Listed in code in this chapter are the names of all those at the cross or involved with the Crucifixion

This chapter was written hundreds of years before Jesus was born
Now this was not done to predict the future

The Law of Moses forbids fortune telling

It was done to prove God wrote the Bible

Now I am not taking credit for this research

Chuck Missler identified all of this in his study on Isaiah 53

You go to the original Hebrew – which did not have vowels in the words

You would start at a specific letter and move forward or backward using the same number of letters to the next letter in the word
Let me show you some examples of how the Equi-Distance Letter Sequencing works

Annas the High Priest who presided over the trial of Jesus
Begin in Isaiah 53:3
Begin with the sixth word in that verse
Begin with the 5th letter
Count backwards using a 45-letter sequence

“Let Him be crucified”
Begin in Isaiah 53:8
Begin with the sixth word
Begin with the second letter
Use the sequence of every 15th letter

That's how it is done

Here are some of the words and names

Yeshua [Hebrew name for Jesus]

Nazarene Messiah

Passover Galilee

Herod Caesar

Caiaphas The Disciples

Mary [encoded 3 times because there were 3 Marys at the cross]

Peter Matthew John

Andrew Philip Thomas

James [encoded 2x because there were 2 James at the cross]

Simon Thaddaeus Mathias

This should be enough to convince you that someone knew about the Crucifixion of Jesus

They knew who was going to be involved in this Crucifixion

They also knew who would be missing

Judas was not listed

The reason I needed to build this foundation before beginning the overview of the Old Testament is that I needed people to recognize that this is not just a book
This is a message from God
He is revealing Himself to us

This is why this book is important
And this is why we need to take the time and effort to study it
Next week: the Creation

QUESTIONS

