

DO ALL RELIGIONS HAVE EQUAL EVIDENCES?

Deut 18:15-22

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Common to hear people brush off subject of faith in God by asserting that all religions (Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, and Christianity) have same kind of evidences, none superior and distinguishable from others.
- B. True that people express faith in their various religions with equal fervor, conviction, and zeal, but it is not true that they all have equal reasons for doing so.
- C. Don't have time to go over all different divine indicators of biblical inspiration, but will go over enough to show the widespread separation of point-advantage the Bible has over ALL other religious books.
- D. One form of evidence separated true from false all through centuries: the nature and strength of fulfilled prophecy.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE CRITERIA OF TRUE PROPHECY.

- A. Event must be beyond the power of man to foresee.
- B. Show that prediction was written before the event.
- C. Prediction must be applicable to the event.
- D. Language not to be ambiguous, must be unmistakable. Nostradamus is ambiguous, Book of Mormon fails, Koran makes no attempt at unambiguous prophecies.
- E. Prediction must have clear and demonstrable fulfillment.

II. BIBLE INVITES SUCH CRITERIA BE USED AGAINST IT

- A. Koran and Book of Mormon do not invite examination.
- B. When criteria used other books fall and Bible shines.
- C. Fulfilled prophecy shows God has spoken Deut 18:20-22
- D. God's test Isa 41:21-23; 44:6-8 - Compare Book of Mormon, Koran, etc.
- E. Prophetic word made more sure 2Pet 1:19-21
- F. Need only one case of fulfilled prophecy to demonstrate a "supernatural act". Skeptic must show unfulfilled prophecy when time has come for fulfillment

III. SOME PROPHECIES AND THEIR FULFILLMENT

- A. Prophecy of Jews rejecting their own Messiah
 1. One would expect full acceptance of Messiah by Jews, but rejection is written in their book before Jesus came Isa 52:13 - 53:6. Compare Jhn 1:10-12 and Psa 69:7-9
 2. Had O. T. been penned by human desire, wisdom, and will, surely they would have removed this from their book they call divine.

3. Would not have made themselves look so bad in their history of disobedience to their God.
4. Can't conceive of them casting themselves in such an unfavorable light?
5. Surely would not have accepted Isaiah's predictions as inspired

B. Prophecy of Messiah accepted by Gentiles Gen 12:3; 22:18; Isa 2:2; 11:10,12; 42:1-9; 60:1-3

1. Consider also Hag 2:7; Mal 1:11
2. Jews were heavily prejudiced against gentiles, and would never have written these passages on own.
3. Jesus' disciples had difficulty accepting Gentiles
4. Peter spoke of things on Pentecost (Acts 2:39) he did not fully understand until years later Acts 10

C. Prophecy of messianic age to begin in Jerusalem

1. Remember, Jerusalem where Jewish leaders had their greatest control over public opinion.
2. Here Jesus would be crucified. Could religion of Jesus survive even one day in such a hostile environment?
3. Consider these prophecies: Isa 2:1-4; Zech 13:1; 14:8; Zech 1:16; Joel 2:32

Conclusion:

- A. Time does not permit discussing over seventy messianic prophecies and chances of one fulfilling all
- B. We would also add the prophecies that are in the form of types and shadows of the Messiah.
- C. We would add the prophecies about cities and world powers like Tyre, Nineveh, Babylon, Jerusalem, Greece, and Rome
- D. The many prophecies that turned on the Jews alone are enough to show us that this is no ordinary book devised purely by human wisdom.
- E. The Bible is the most important message and story there is on earth. In seeking the true and living God, you will find Him behind every word of prophecy. 1Thess 5:21
- F. Only the Bible can stand against this kind of test. It is so important that you read, study, honestly consider the Bible.
- G. The hundreds of types, shadows, and prophecies of the Bible set it apart from all other so-called revelations. If the Bible fails here, then go on to other books in your search for the Creator, but, if the Bible passes this test, you need look no further. You will find God in the face of Jesus Christ as you see Him outlined and revealed in Bible. Jhn 14:9

(from sermon by Terry W. Benton, Revised by JLH)