

Graterford Prison
4 June 93

FULFILLED PROPHECY TESTED: PAIRED CITIES

Introduction

Good test to show that Bible really does make clear predictions that come true
Like tests used in trying out a new medicine; use a control group which is paired with test group, but gets fake pills

The Cities:

Memphis & Thebes: capitals of ancient Egypt
Tyre & Sidon: seaports of ancient Phoenicia (Lebanon)
Ashkelon & Ekron: two of the Philistine cities
Babylon & Nineveh: capitals of ancient empires

The Prophecies Fulfilled:

Memphis/Thebes:

Prophecies (Ezk 30:13-16)
Memphis to have its idols destroyed
Thebes to have its masses of people cut off

Fulfillment:
Memphis site became quarry for building Cairo by Muslims who hated idols
Thebes reduced from large capital city to a few small villages

No good if names switched, as both have few people, but many idols found at Thebes

Tyre/Sidon:

Prophecies:
Tyre (Ezk 26:1-14) to have its rubble thrown into sea, its site scraped clean, becoming a place for spreading fishnets, never to be rebuilt
Sidon (Ezk 28:20-23) to face war and disaster, but nothing said about being abandoned

Fulfillment:
Tyre's mainland city destroyed about 600 BC by Nebuchadnezzar, but most people escaped to island offshore; almost 300 yrs later, Alexander besieged island, used rubble from old city to build road out to island; mainland site used for spreading nets today, never rebuilt.

Sidon has often been besieged and conquered, but survives today as one of major ports of Lebanon

Again, no good if names switched, but perfect fit as is

Ashkelon/Ekron:

Prophecies (Zeph 2:4-7):

Ashkelon was to be reduced to ruins, but later inhabited by a remnant of the Jews
Ekron was to be uprooted

Fulfillment:

Both inhabited until Crusades, when both destroyed, and harbor of Ashkelon filled w/ stones
Since 1948, Jews rebuilt Ashkelon and cleared harbor, but location of Ekron still uncertain

Babylon/Nineveh:

Prophecies:

Babylon to be deserted, without Arabs or shepherds, to be a home for wild animals (Isa 13:19-22), its stone not to be used as bldg stone again (Jer 51:26)

Nineveh (Zeph 2:13-15) to be destroyed and left desolate, but to become a place for grazing sheep

Fulfillment:

Babylon has become deserted over the centuries, partly by conquest, partly by shift in river, leaving site without water; Arabs avoid site as haunted, soil too poor for grazing even sheep; natives use site for clay bricks, but burn stone to make lime instead of as bldg stone.

Nineveh was destroyed suddenly and location forgotten for centuries; name of largest mound Quyunyiq means "many sheep"; long abandoned, tho recently suburbs of Mosul have grown out to reach site

Conclusions

Striking fulfillment of numerous details about these cities

Not just the sort of thing that one could say about any city

In fact, if you trade names among the paired cities, the fulfillments would not have come true!

This shows us that the God of the Bible really does control history

And He controls your history too!