

## B. FULFILLED PROPHECY

- Prophecy is not particularly mysterious. God simply tells people what He is going to do and then He does it.
- In principle it is no more complicated than our using turn signals on our car, except that God has perfect control of history but we don't have perfect control of circumstances.

### 1. Scriptural Warrant

Is there Scriptural warrant to believe that fulfilled prophecy is a line of evidence for the truth of Christianity?

#### a. The Nature of Prophecy:

Provision of the prophet: Deut 18:9-22

note reason for provision & test for true prophet

God controls history:

Prov 19:21; 16:33,9,1 - contrast humans w/ God

Isa 43:12-13 - challenge to idols (other religions)

God produces the fulfillments: Isa 44:24-28

God makes other "prophets" fail, confirms his prophets

#### b. The Evidential Value of Prophecy:

In general: Isa 41:21-24; 44:6-8

God, as if in a debate or trial, challenges the idols to tell the future, intervene in history, or even explain the significance of past events.

Messianic:

Used by Jesus: Luke 24:25-27,44

Explains how things his followers thought had disqualified him from being Messiah actually prove his Messiahship on basis of OT prophecy

By apostles:

Acts 2:22-31 - Peter at Pentecost

9:22 - Paul at Damascus

13:23,27-29 - Paul at Pisidian Antioch

17:2-3 Paul at Thessalonica

18:2-8 - Paul at Corinth

-Paul customarily argues with the Jews using OT Messianic prophecy.

### 2. Lines of Argumentation:

- (1) **Detailed prophecy far in advance** of fulfillment implies control of future by ultimate author of Scripture.
- (2) **Predictions about Messiah** not only demonstrate God's control of history, but Messiah is himself the focus and turning point of history.