

Thus significant predictions have been fulfilled about each city, but these are not things that could be truthfully said about any ancient city. In fact, if you were to trade the two names in each pair, the prophecies would not have been fulfilled. Thus we have an objective test that these fulfillments are not just the imagination of Bible believers.

The prophet Hosea writing centuries before the time of Jesus predicted six sociological features that would characterize the Jewish people for a long period of time: (1) that they would lack their own kings of the line of David, and (2) they would not have even their own rulers; (3) that they would no longer offer sacrifices (4) nor would they use sacred pillars; (5) that they would have no high priest (6) nor would they worship idols (Hos 3:4-5). Each of these features has characterized the Jewish people from shortly after the time of Jesus until recently.

Other predictions made by the prophets of ancient Israel point to Jesus as the expected Messiah. We will say more about this in Lecture 5 tomorrow night.

CHANGED LIVES AND CHANGED SOCIETIES:

Where the Biblical teaching – regarding who God is and what he expects of us – has been accepted, and where the principles of behavior taught by the Bible have been put in practice, individuals have experienced a transformation in which life has become especially meaningful and useful. They have often been able to handle even great tragedy without resorting to various forms of escapism such as alcohol, drugs, or suicide. People trapped in destructive lifestyles have been able to escape. Give the Ironside episode: [former drunkard, former prostitute – two transformed persons vs 40 of each]. Where large numbers of people have done this, the whole society has been transformed into a place where a balance of freedom and restraint has produced substantial prosperity and opportunity for all levels of society. Mention the 10-40 window.

CONCLUSIONS

We have sketched only a little of the evidence which indicates that the Bible really is God's message for humanity. We offer you an opportunity to try it out for yourself.

Don't just take someone's word for what the Bible says, read it for yourself.