## GOD'S WORD

# The Scriptures were given to us for many reasons.

- To tell us God will never forsake us or leave us.
- To give us comforting words to heal our hearts.
- To give us words that encourage us when struggling with disappointments.
- To let us know that we are loved and accepted as God's children.
- To give us security in times of danger.
- To teach us to "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." (<u>1 Peter 5:7</u>)

Satan knows this and constantly works to destroy our faith in God's Word

<u>2 Corinthians 4:1-4</u> - Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, 2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Ephesians 6:12-13 - For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

THERE ARE POWERFUL EVIDENCES GIVEN TO US SO WE MAY KNOW THAT THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD AND CAN BELIEVE IT

Matthew 4:4 (NASB)

4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD."

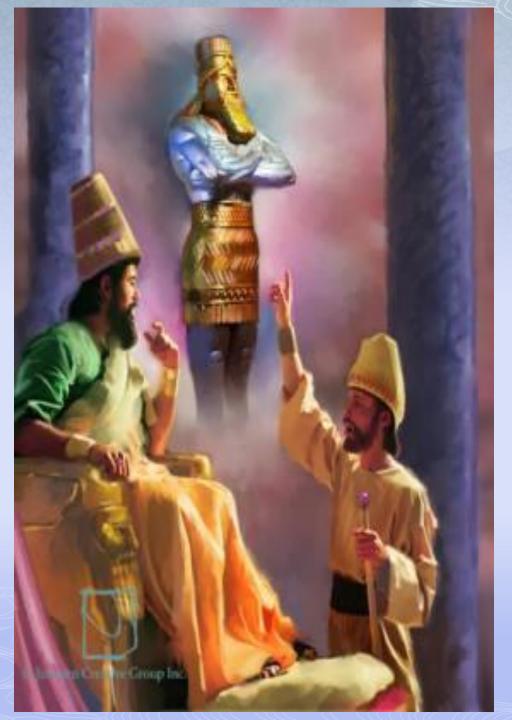
## PROPHECY

- The definition of a prophet is someone who tells God's will (forthtells)and someone who tells the future (foretells) to the people as divine inspiration leads.
- Can you name some people who are said to be modern day "prophets"?

HAROLD CAMPING – THE WORLD WILL END IN 2011-THE DOOMSDAY PROPHET

# The proof of a true prophet of God?

Deuteronomy 18:20-22 - 20'But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.' 21 "You may say in your heart, 'How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' 22 " When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.



#### Daniel's Vision of Five Kingdoms Dan 2:31-45

#### Messionic Prophecy of the First Coming of Christ

Gold	Babylon	605-539
Silver	Persia	539-333
Bronze	Greece	333-49
Iron, Clay	Rome	49 BC- 33 AD
Bedrock	"upon this bedrock I w <b>Church</b> "Jesus the rejected co	33 AD
"In the days of these kings God will		

"In the days of these kings God will set up His Kingdom (the church)"

Dan 2:44; Isa 2:1-4; Joel 2:28; Acts 2:1-4 Mk 1:15; 9:1; Col 1:13; Heb 12:28; Rev 1:6-9

#### www.bible.ca

## THE BIBLE IS UNIQUE

Webster- defines unique as "one and only. Sole. Different from all others; having no like or equal."

### SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGY BEFORE WE LOOK AT SOME PROPHECIES

William F. Albright, one of the greatest archaeologists to ever live, said about the excessive skepticism shown toward the Bible by important historical schools of the eighteenth and nineteenth century "Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a course of history."

- Nelson Glueck the renowned Jewish archaeologist wrote *"It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference."* Henry M. Morris says this *"It must be"*
  - extremely significant that, in view of the great mass of corroborative evidence regarding the Biblical history of these periods, there exists today not one unquestionable find of archaeology that proves the Bible to be in error at any point."

The Bible speaks of **Belshazzar** as the king of Babylon that was killed by the Persians. (Daniel <u>5:30</u>)



- The only archaeological evidence suggested Nabonidus was the last king of Babylon.
- Critics of the Bible were quick to jump on this difference. They claimed the Bible was historically inaccurate.
- Later discoveries solved the problem.
- Belshazzar was the son of Nabonidus. These two men ruled together. Nabonidus lived in Arabia, and Belshazzar had been entrusted with the Babylonian Kingdom.
- Belshazzar was the king of Babylonia

## King Sargon- In Isaiah 20 King Sargon of Assyria was mentioned.

- For many years critics of the Bible pointed to this as an error because there was no archaeological evidence that this king existed.
- In 1842 the ruins of the Great Palace of Sargon were found.
- Carvings on the wall described the siege and capture of Samaria...the story found in Isaiah 20



## **Hittite Nation**

- The Bible tells us of the Hittite Nation. But there was no historical record outside (extra Biblical)the Bible of the existence of such a nation or people.
- The Bible contains many references with the word Hittite appearing some 46 times in the King James Version. We read about them in <u>Genesis 23:3, 4</u>, after the death of Abraham's wife, Sarah: *"Then Abraham rose from beside his dead wife and spoke to the Hittites.... Sell me some property for a burial site here so I can bury my dead"* (NIV).

And later, when Israel was about to occupy Canaan, the Promised Land, after fleeing Egypt, the nations who were there are mentioned as the *"Hittite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite"* (Deuteronomy 20:17).

## **Hittite Nation**

- Critics of the Bible used this as "proof" that the Bible was historically inaccurate because there was no archaeological or historical evidence of a Hittite Nation.
- But, more evidence was found!
- The Hittites were discovered and shown to be one of the most powerful nations of the time.



These stones became the very first artefacts that attracted modern day researchers to the existence of a Hittite civilization and language.









### **Discovery of Boghazkoy**



### HATTUSA CAPTIAL OF THE HITITE NATION

In Hattusa an enormous library of ancient clay tablets was discovered written in an unknown language









### THE MYSTERY OF THIS UNKNOWN LANGUAGE?



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**Karatepe Bilingual Inscription** - When scholars excavated Karatepe in 1947, they discovered the first-known bilingual inscription in Luwian Hieroglyphic and Phoenician



The Bible NEVER

### misses!!!

BABYLON DIDN'T EXIST NINEVAH DIDN'T EXIST HITTITES DIDN'T EXIST PHILISTINES DIDN'T EXIST MOAB DIDN'T EXIST AMMON DIDN'T EXIST MEMPHIS AND THEBES (EGYPT) PETRA AND EDOM ONE CHARGE AFTER ANOTHER AND THE BIBLE **NEVER MISSES!!!** 

### **GOD'S PROPHETIC WORD**

- How do we know that a prophesy was made before the event occurred?
- Most of the prophesies we study were made a long time ago.
- The events they predicted occurred or were fulfilled a thousand or more years ago.
- Many have made the charge that the Bible prophesies were written after the events occurred

- The date the book of Isaiah was written is solidly established. (783 BC to 704 BC)
- Other ancient manuscripts quote Isaiah.
- If a manuscript quoted Isaiah in 680 BC obviously Isaiah was written at or before that time. It's hard to quote something that isn't in existence.
- All the prophets, save for Joel and Obadiah, furnish us with information about the time they wrote.
- All the prophets were translated into Greek around 300 BC in the Septuagint

- Historical references to current events establish the date.
- Internal evidence. Language evolves. Words are constantly created.
- Every year the New dictionary lists new words.
  Meanings of words change constantly.
  - Computers
  - Megabit
  - Gigabit
  - Terabit
  - Cell phone
- Words uses of its time, or coins a word, a new nation, etc. Dates it. Rhodesia.
- The meaning of a word dates it.

- Note that when a prophet of God prophesies ... he mentions specific people, specific places, specific nations,
- Prophets name which nation, which city, or which King will attack and which one will fall.
- When the Lord quotes a prophet or a prophesy, or when one of the NT writers quotes a prophet or a prophesy, that obviously authenticates that prophesy.
  (Adam and Eve, Noah, Moses, Abraham)

- Isaiah predicted what Cyrus would do 160 years before he was born.
- The city of Tyre. (prophesy took 2600 years to fulfill)
- The city of Sidon would not be destroyed, but Tyre would be destroyed.
- The Babylon and the Babylonian nation 1 in 5 Billions chances to come true.
- We can look in greater detail at:
  - Ninevah Capital city of Assyria
  - Moab and Ammon
  - Memphis and Thebes (Egypt)
  - Petra and Edom
  - Gaza Ashkelon and the Philistine nation
  - There are many, many more to examine.
- Let's look at Samaria in greater detail.



# SAMARIA

- Hosea 13:16 Samaria will be held guilty, For she has rebelled against her God. They will fall by the sword, Their little ones will be dashed in pieces, And their pregnant women will be ripped open. NASU
- Micah 1:6 For I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the open country, Planting places for a vineyard. I will pour her stones down into the valley And will lay bare her foundations. NASU

#### THE PROPHECIES AGAINST SAMARIA

- 1. Samaria would fall violently
- 2. Samaria would become "as a heap in the field"
- 3. Vineyards would be planted there.
- 4. Samaria's stones will be poured down into the valley
- 5. The foundation stones shall be discovered

## THE HISTORY OF SAMARIA

- Samaria has a relatively brief and stormy history.
- Capitol of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
- The formation of the Northern Kingdom and the creation of Samaria as capital represents the turning away of the Hebrews from Yahweh.

International Bible Encyclopedia – Sargon took Samaria in 722 B.C.

- Not only did Samaria fall by the sword to Sargon in 722 but to Alexander in 331 B.C. and John Hyrcanus in 120 B.C.
- All conquerors caused great damage and brought much death to the city.

- After the city was destroyed by the Assyrians in 722/721 B.C.E., the name referred to the land around the city. The Assyrian destruction of Samaria, the city, was not total.
- The city was rebuilt and during the Babylonian and Persian periods seems to have been an administrative center having responsibility for and control over Judea.
- The city was rebuilt again by the Greeks but was destroyed by the Maccabean ruler John Hyrcanus in 108/107 B.C.E. Herod the Great rebuilt the city ca. 30 B.C.E. naming it Sebaste in honor of Caesar Augustus (the Greek word Sebastos was equivalent to the Latin Augustus).

John Urguhart's <u>The Wonders of Prophecy</u> records what Henry Maundrell's reaction was to Samaria in 1697. "Sebaste is the ancient Samaria, the imperial city of the ten tribes after their revolt from the house of David. This great city is now wholly converted into gardens, and all the tokens that remain to testify that there has ever been such a place, are only on the north side, a large square piazza encompassed with pillars, and on the east some poor remains of a great church."

Urguhart continues with another more recent account. "As it was then found, it has since remained, 'The whole hill of Sebastieh,' says Robinson, 'consists of fertile soil; it is now cultivated to the tip, and has upon it many olive and fig trees. The ground has been ploughed for centuries; and hence it is now in vain to look for the foundations and stones of the ancient city."

### Van de Velde calls Samaria

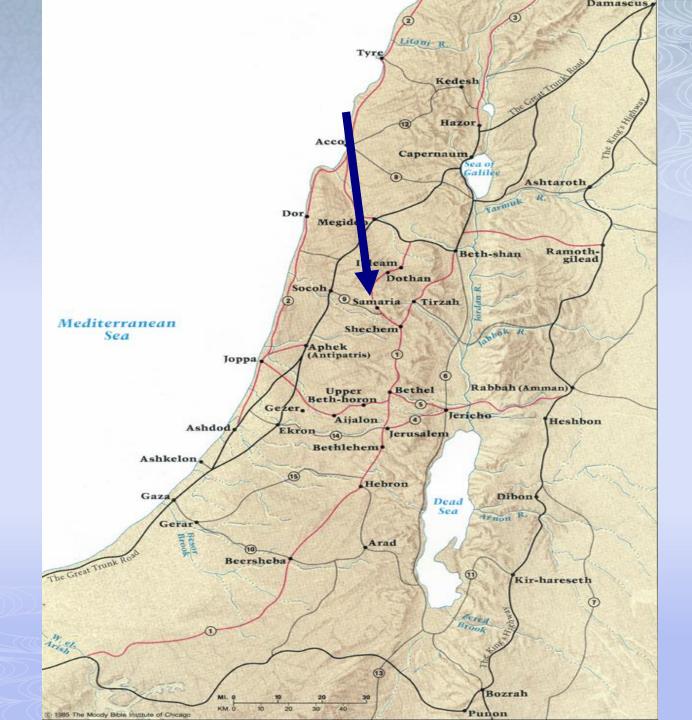
- "...a pitiable hamlet, consisting of a few squalid houses, inhabited by a band of plunderers... the shafts of a few pillars only remain standing to indicate the sites of the colonnades....
- Samaria, a huge heap of stones! Her foundations discovered, her streets ploughed up, and covered with corn fields and olive gardens."

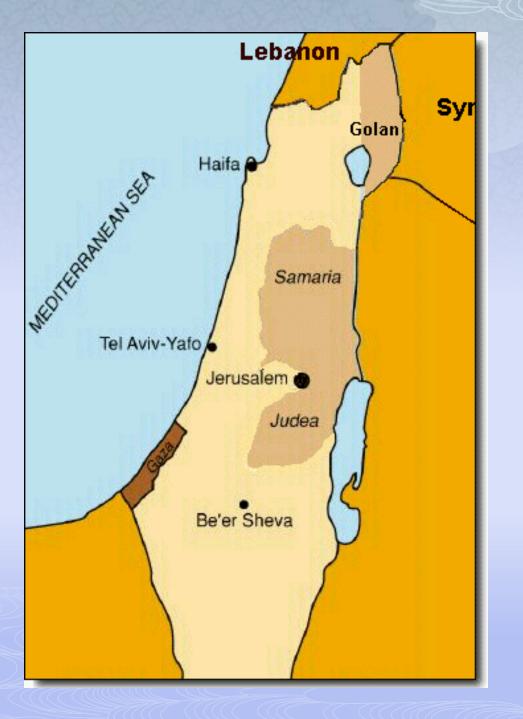
Samaria has been destroyed, but her rubbish has been thrown down into the valley; her foundation stones, those grayish ancient quadrangular stones of the time of Omri and Ahab, are discovered, and lie scattered about on the slop of the hill"

Floyd Hamilton gives this description "Today the top of the hill where Samaria stood is a cultivated field with the foundations of the columns marking the place where the palaces and mansions stood. At the foot of the hill, in the valley, lie the foundation stones of the city..."

### John Urquhart continues...

"The stones of the great city" have been taken up by the cultivators and piled together or thrown down the hill-sides, that its site might be turned into fields and vineyards"





AFTER THE **CITY WAS** DESTROYED **IT BECAME** THE NAME FOR THE **AREA!** SAMARIA-

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN.





















- 1. Samaria would fall violently
- 2. Samaria would become "as a heap in the field"
- 3. Vineyards would be planted there.
- 4. Samaria's stones will be poured down into the valley
- 5. The foundation stones shall be discovered

Peter Stoner (<u>Science Speaks</u>) on the odds of these prophecies being fulfilled

- "If Micah had considered the city of Samaria and made these five predictions regarding it in human wisdom, his chance of having them come true would thus be about 1 in 4. (chance of predicting the destruction)
- X5 chance of lying as a heap in the field rather than being rebuilt
- X100 chance of stones being rolled down the hill
- X2 chance of foundation stones being discovered and removed."
- 1 in 40,000 or 1 in 4 x 10<sup>4</sup>

**GAZA AND ASHKELON** (The fate of the Philistines)

 According to the Bible, the Philistines ruled the city-states (the "Philistine Pentapolis") of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron and Gath (Also Eglon and Gerar)



<u>Amos 1:8</u> (775 - 750 BC) 8 "I will also cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, And him who holds the scepter, from Ashkelon; I will even unleash My power upon Ekron, And the remnant of the Philistines will perish," Says the Lord God. NASU

> Jeremiah 47:5 (626 - 586 BC) 5 Baldness has come upon Gaza, Ashkelon is cut off With the remnant of their valley. How long will you cut yourself? NKJV

Zephaniah 2:4 -7 (640 - 621 BC) 4 For Gaza shall be forsaken, And Ashkelon desolate; They shall drive out Ashdod at noonday, And Ekron shall be uprooted. 5 Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast, The nation of the Cherethites! The word of the Lord is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines: "I will destroy you; So there shall be no inhabitant."

6 The seacoast shall be pastures, With shelters for shepherds and folds for flocks. 7 The coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; They shall feed their flocks there; In the houses of Ashkelon they shall lie down at evening. For the Lord their God will intervene for them, And return their captives. NKIV

- 1 The Philistines will not continue (Amos 1:8)
- 2- <u>Baldness</u> shall come upon Gaza (Jeremiah 47:5)
- 3- Desolation shall come on Ashkelon (Zephaniah 2:4)
- 4- Shepherds and sheep will dwell in the area around Ashkelon (Zephaniah 2:6)
- 5- Remnant of the house of Judah will reinhabit Ashkelon (Zephaniah 2:7)

#### George Davis comments:

And not only was Ashkelon destroyed but the entire nation of the Philistines was "cut off" precisely as predicted by the prophet Ezekiel 2,500 years ago. The Philistines have been destroyed so completely that there is not a single Philistine living anywhere in the world today. (Prediction #1)

#### Davis on the present condition of Ashkelon:

Following the establishment of the State of Israel the Jews recognized the splendid location of the old city of Ashkelon on the seacoast of their nation. They decided to make it a beautiful city of Israel's new State. The Jerusalem Post says the new city of Ashkelon has been "designed on the lines of a Garden city"

Davis adds that today "after long centuries of mighty Ashkelon lying waste and desolate, it is now being transformed into a garden city. The coast of the Mediterranean is indeed for 'the house of Judah' and 'in the house of Ashkelon shall lie down in the evening' (Prediction #5)













## More from Davis

Ashkelon was destroyed exactly as foretold. The Philistines were "cut off" from the face of the earth till not one Philistine remains in all the world. (Prediction #1) And lastly, long desolate Ashkelon (Prediction #3) has been revived from its ruins of centuries, and is becoming a Garden city.

## CONCERNING GAZA



III = Cities of the Philistine Pentapolis

Peter Stoner writes

A city of Gaza still exists, so for a long time, the prophecy with respect to Gaza was thought to be in error. Finally a careful study was made of the location of Gaza, as described in the Bible, and it was found that the new city of Gaza was in the wrong location. A search was made for the old city and it was found buried under the sand dunes. It had indeed become bald. What better description would you give of a city buried under sand dunes than to say that it had become bald? (Prediction #2)

John Urquhart expands on Gaza's total disappearance.

"It is so forsake that there is not a single hut resting on this site. It is so bald that neither pillar nor standing stone marks the place where the city stood, nor is there a single blade of grass on which the weary eye can rest."

## Sands, not lights, cover Gaza archaeology sites



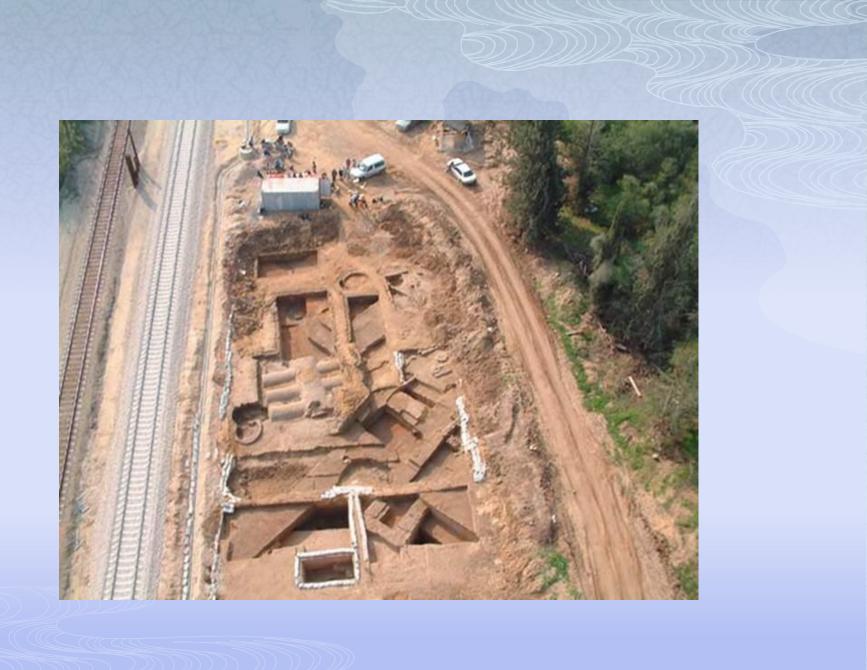












## **PETRA AND EDOM**

- In all, six prophets heap condemnation upon this nation Edom: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Amos, and Obadiah.
- Their prophecies on Edom", writes George Smith, "number so great, they are so exuberant in language, so various, grand, and minute, that many pages might be filled reciting them, and many more employed in showing their exact and complete fulfillment."

- Edom will become a desolation (Isaiah 34:13)
- It will never be populated again (Jeremiah 49:18)
- It will be conquered by heathen (Ezekiel 25:14)
- It will be conquered by Israel (Ezekiel 25:14)
- It shall have a bloody history (Ezekiel 35:5-6; Isaiah 34: 6-7)
- Edom will be made desolate as far as the city of Teman (Ezekiel 25:13)
- Wild animals will inhabit the area (Isaiah 34:13-15)
- Trade will cease (Isaiah 34:10; Ezekiel 35:7)
- Spectators will be astonished (Jeremiah 49:17)

History of Edom after these prophecies

 The fall of Assyria marked the approximate period of completion of the prophecies against Edom. What follows is the history after the prophecies were completed

"The Nabeans are probably 'the children of the east' mentioned in Ezekiel 25:4. Some time during the sixth Century B.C. the Nabeans succeeded in expelling Edom from their rock fortresses and taking the city of Petra."
 (Prediction #3)

- Edom will become a desolation (Isaiah 34:13)
- It will never be populated again (Jeremiah 49:18)
- It will be conquered by heathen nations (Ezekiel 25:14)
- It will be conquered by Israel (Ezekiel 25:14)
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- Discussing the fulfillment of Prediction #4, Bernard Ramm explains the Jewish conquest of Petra and Edom:
- "That the Jews conquered them (Edomites) is recorded in 1 Maccabees 5:3 and Josephus' Antiquities (XII, 18,1) They were attacked successively by John Hyrcanus and Simon of Gerasa. Therefore, the prediction that the Jews too would conquer them has been fulfilled."
- Around the time of the birth of Jesus, Petra was prosperous. Citing Strabo, who lived about that time, George Davis explains, "Petra was also a city of great prosperity. Strabo tells that it was the terminus of one of the great commercial routes of Asia. It was the market of the Arabians for their spice and frankincense."



Unger's Bible Dictionary, concerning Edom during the Romans times, records:

The Edomites were now incorporated with the Jewish nation, and the whole province was often termed by Greek and Roman writes Idumaea. Immediately before the siege of Jerusalem by Titus, 20,000 Idumaeans were admitted to the Holy City, which they filled with robbery and bloodshed. From this time, the Edomites, as a separate people, disappear from the pages of history

When the Jews needed help the most, during the Roman siege (AD 70) was when the Edomites hurt the worst.
 "After the massacre of the Jews," writes David Higgins, "the Idumeans returned home. But with the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70 the children of Esau disappear as a separate people from the stage of recorded history (Prediction #5)

Davis adds:

"Petra, the capital of the land of Edom, was one of the wonders of the ancient world. it was built out of a mountain of rock. Many of its buildings were hewn out of the solid rock. Petra presents a stupendous sight with its rock hewn buildings, carved out of the very mountainside itself, of beautiful rose-red stone. it was practically impregnable from the assault of enemies. There was just one long narrow canyon-like entrance, where a small force of soldiers could protect the city from being taken by a large army."

- What does it look like today?
- "The fulfillment of these prophecies is equally complete, and as minutely exact as the preceding. Captain Mangles, who visited these ruins, says that when surveying the scenery of Petra, "the screaming of the eagles, hawks, and owls, who were soaring over our heads in cosiderable numbers, seeming annoyed at anyone approaching their lonely habitation, added much to the singularity of the scene"
- It was also declared, "It shall be a habitation for serpents".
- Dr. Shaw represented the land of Edom, and the desert of which it now forms a part, "as abounding with a variety of lizards and vipers, which are very numerous and troublesome" So plentiful, as observed by Mr. Cory, "are the scorpions in Petra, that, though it was cold and snowy, we found them under the stones, sometimes two under one stone."

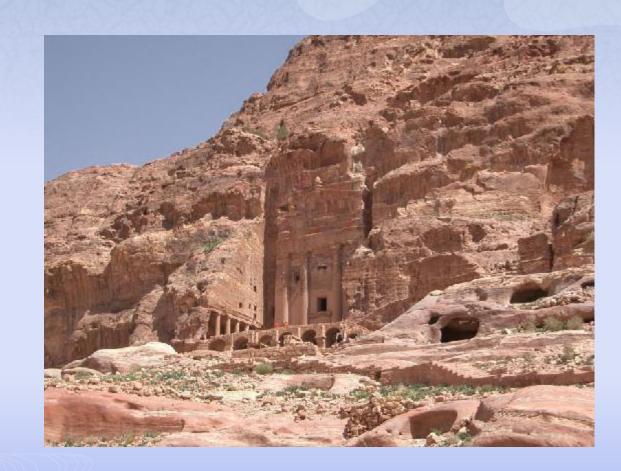
- "Both lions and leopards are often seen in Petra, and on the hills immediately beyond it, but that they never descend into the plain beneath."

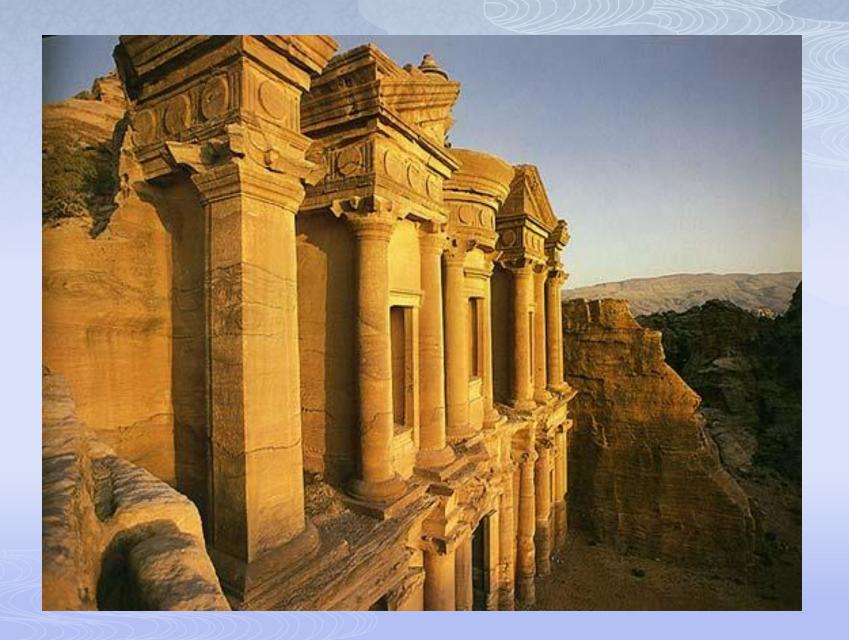
- "a rough hairy goat" wild goats, in large herds infest it. (Prediction #1, #2, #7, #9)
- It was predicted in Ezekiel 25:14 that Israel would be used by God to take vengeance on Edom. Considering the fact that Israel was then in the Babylonian captivity, such a prophecy probably seemed ludicrous. Yet, some four centuries later the prediction finds its fulfillment in Judas Maccabeus and John Hyrcanus. Thousand of Edomites were slain and the nation was forced to submit to Jewish circumcision, and for all practical purposes they became Jews.

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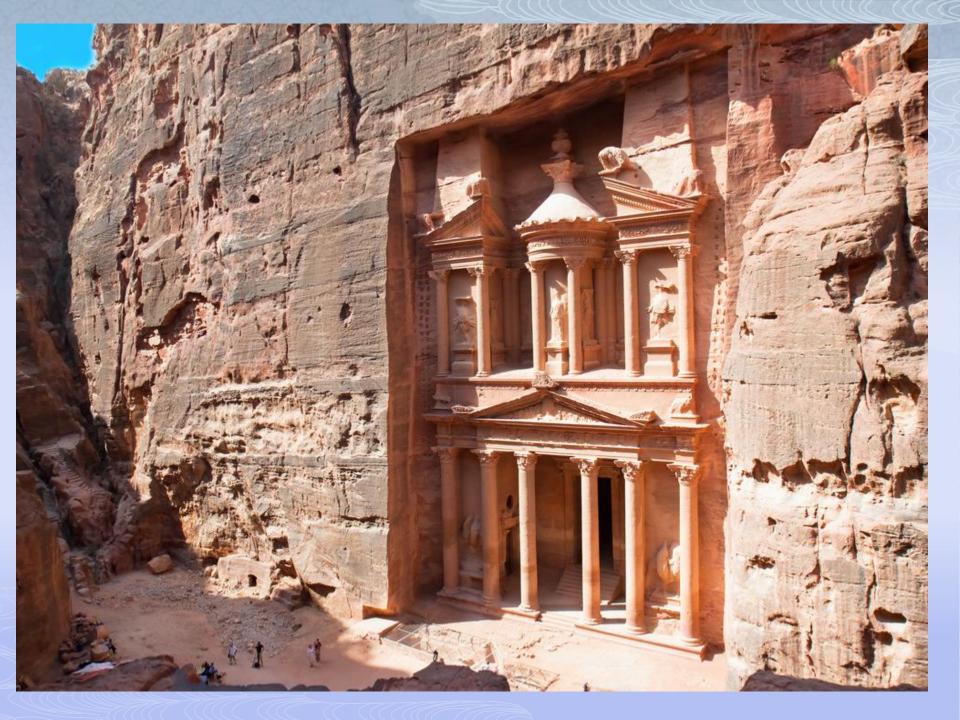


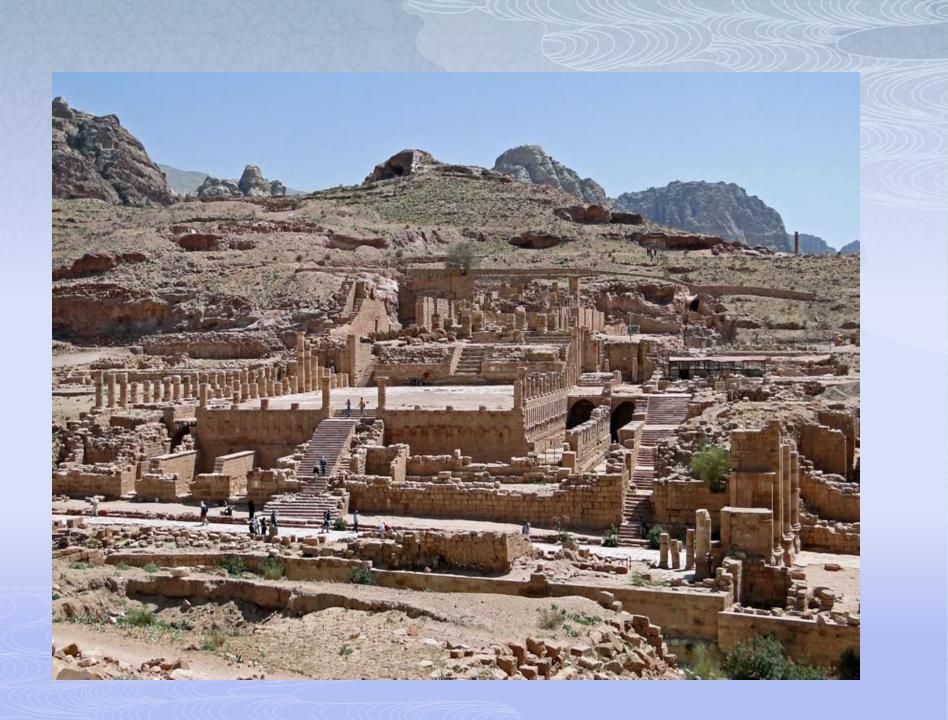


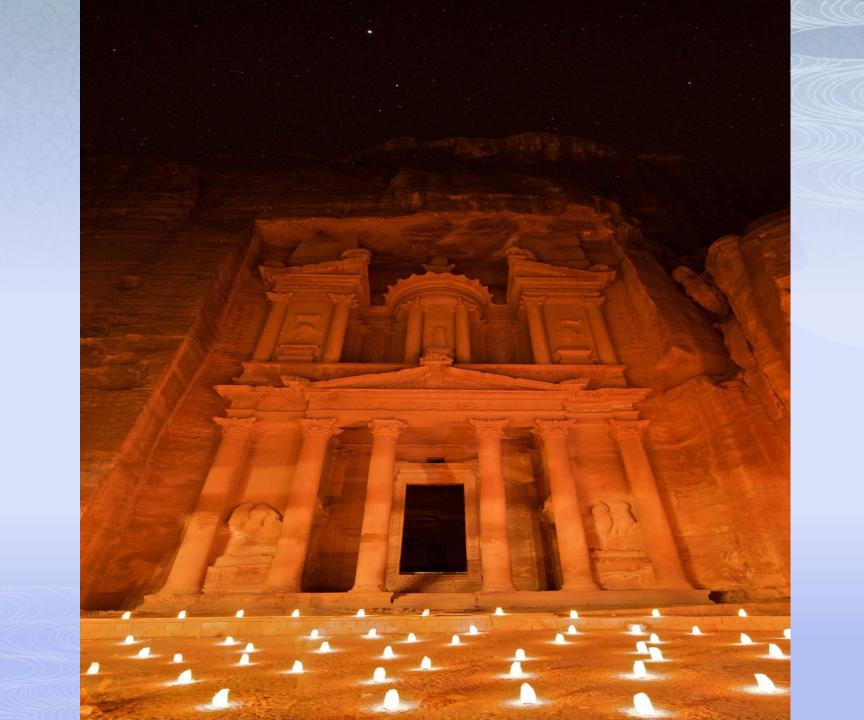














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J. Barton Payne's Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy lists 1,239 prophecies in the Old Testament and 578 prophecies in the New Testament, for a total of 1,817. These encompass 8,352 verses.

This should give us plenty of ammunition to reply to Satan's attacks telling us God's Word can't be trusted.

Do you need the Lord's help today?