

Saint Mary's Newsletter: July

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: John Heaton 021 702871



SERVICES FOR JULY

Sunday 3rd:

10am Holy Communion Service

Readings: Trish S

Intercessions: Trish S

Refreshments: The Smithson's

Sunday 10th:

10am Holy Communion Service

Readings: Melanie H

Intercessions: Melanie H

Refreshments: Melanie H

Sunday 17th:

10am Holy Communion Service

Readings: Karen B

Intercessions: Karen B

Refreshments: Karen B

Sunday 24th:

10am Holy Communion Service

Readings: Rosalie T

Intercessions:

Refreshments: Rosalie T

Sunday 31st:

10am Holy Communion Service

Readings: Sally-Ann R

Intercessions: Sally-Ann R

Refreshments: Café Lunch



Parish Café Lunch! After the service 31st July



The lovely coffee we drink at morning tea is Fair Trade Coffee - to bring a brighter future and positive change to coffee growers!



Barnabas Fund Our Parish donates directly to Barnabas Fund that assists persecuted Christians around the world. Please keep them in your prayers



Prophecy

Prophecy accounts for a major portion of the entire canon of Scripture. Numerous books in the Old Testament contain prophecy—some include short statements about the future, and others feature entire prophetic visions. In the New Testament, almost every book contains some prophecy, with Revelation being wholly devoted to a prophetic vision.

By one count, about 27 percent of the Bible is predictive (Payne, J. B., *The Encyclopaedia of Biblical Prophecy*, Baker Pub. Group, 1980, p. 675). This means that, when written, over one fourth of the Bible—more than one in four verses—was prophetic. Professor and theologian J. Barton Payne lists 1,817 prophecies in the Bible (ibid., p. 674). The consistent relation of prophecy in the Bible is staggering; on top of that is the amazing accuracy of those detailed prophecies.

At least one half of all biblical predictions have already been fulfilled precisely as God had declared. Because of God's faithfulness in fulfilling these prophecies, we can be assured that He will fulfil the rest of the prophecies in Scripture without fault (see [Numbers 23:19](#)).

Prophecy in the Bible can be divided into two broad groups: fulfilled and not yet fulfilled. Some examples from these generalized groups include the following:

Fulfilled Prophecies: • The first coming of Christ (e.g., [Deuteronomy 18:15–19](#); [Numbers 24:17](#); [Daniel 9:25–26](#); [Micah 5:2](#)). • Jesus as the Saviour of mankind (e.g., [Genesis 3:15](#); [Isaiah 53:4–5](#)). • Prophecies regarding individual people, such as the doom of Jezebel ([2 Kings 9:10](#)). • Prophecies regarding Israel, such as in the case of Israel's exile to Babylon ([2 Kings 20:18](#); [Jeremiah 34:3](#)). • The destruction of the temple, which occurred in AD 70 ([Matthew 24:1–2](#)). • Daniel's prophecies about the rise and fall of many kingdoms ([Daniel 7:2–6](#), [16](#)).

Prophecies Still to Be Fulfilled: • The second coming of Christ ([Zechariah 14:3–4](#); [Matthew 24:44](#); [Acts 1:10–11](#); [Revelation 1:7](#)). • The tribulation ([Daniel 9:27](#); [Matthew 24:15–22](#)). • The resurrections of the saved and the unsaved ([Daniel 12:1–3](#); [1 Corinthians 15:20–23](#); [Revelation 20:11–15](#)). • The millennial reign of Christ ([Psalm 72:7–11](#); [Zechariah 2:10–11](#); [Revelation 20:4](#)). • The restoration of Israel ([Jeremiah 31:31–37](#); [Romans 11:26–27](#)). • The new heavens and new earth ([Isaiah 65:17](#); [2 Peter 3:13](#); [Revelation 21:1](#)).

Some prophecies have a double fulfilment, one nearer to the time of the prophet and one further in the future. We see this in [Isaiah 7:14](#), for example. The birth of a child served as a sign for King Ahaz, but the prophecy also pointed forward to the virgin birth of Jesus ([Matthew 1:22–23](#)). Some interpret Jesus' explanation of the signs of the end times as having been fulfilled in some sense in AD 70 yet also signalling a future, more complete fulfilment during the end times tribulation.

Other prophecies have been fulfilled partially and are awaiting complete fulfilment. An example of this is found in Jesus' quotation of [Isaiah 61:1–2](#), in which He declares the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy. In the synagogue, Jesus read from the scroll: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" ([Luke 4:18–19](#)). He then proclaimed Himself as the fulfilment of that prophecy. But He had stopped reading in the middle of [Isaiah 61:2](#). The reason is simple: the first part of that verse was fulfilled by Christ in His first advent, but the second half, concerning "the day of vengeance of our God," was not. The Day of the Lord is still to be fulfilled in the future.

The amount of prophecy in the Bible is one of the things that make it unique among religious books. There is absolutely no emphasis on predictive prophecy in the Qu'ran or the Hindu Vedas, for example. In contrast, the Bible repeatedly points to fulfilled prophecy as direct proof that it is God who speaks (see [Deuteronomy 18:22](#); [1 Kings 22:28](#); [Jeremiah 28:9](#)).

Given God's omniscience, it should come as no surprise that the Bible contains so many clear predictions or that those predictions are literally fulfilled: "I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done" ([Isaiah 46:9–10](#), [ESV](#)).

Parish Bank Account:

02 0410 0103053 00 Thanks for your weekly A/P contributions to keep our Parish running!

A Scripture for you:

1 Corinthians 13:2 *And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*

This Month in Christian History:

1549: Spanish Jesuit's, led by Francis Xavier, land in Kagoshima, becoming the first Christian missionaries to Japan. The next ninety years came to be known as "the Christian century of Japan". They assimilated their Christian art, dress and churches into the Japanese style. Many missionaries were martyred.

