3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
09 – Thursday – November 26, 2026

Fulfilled Prophecies

People often think of a prophet as someone who predicts the future, but this is only one aspect of a prophet's work. A prophet's work encompasses much more. Prophets lead people back to God's Word and provide counsel, warning, and encouragement.

Besides helping people know and prepare for future events, why do prophets predict the future? *See Jer. 28:9, 15-17.*

Why Do Prophets Predict the Future?

1. To Confirm That Their Message Truly Came From God

"When the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known as one whom the LORD has truly sent."—Jeremiah 28:9, NKJV

A fulfilled prediction provides evidence that a prophet was genuinely commissioned by God. Human beings cannot know the future with certainty, but God can.

"Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other… Declaring the end from the beginning."—Isaiah 46:9–10, NKJV

2. To Expose False Prophets and Protect God's People

Hananiah predicted peace and the removal of Babylon's yoke, but Jeremiah declared that God had not sent him.

"The LORD has not sent you, but you make this people trust in a lie." —Jeremiah 28:15, NKJV

When Jeremiah's prediction concerning Hananiah's death was fulfilled, it exposed Hananiah as a false prophet:

"So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month."—Jeremiah 28:17, NKJV

3. To Establish Confidence in God's Word

Fulfilled prophecy strengthens faith by demonstrating that God's word is dependable.

"And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe."—John 14:29, NKJV

Prophecy does not merely satisfy curiosity about the future. It gives us confidence that God knows the future, directs history, and will fulfill His promises.

4. To Call People to Repentance and Obedience

Jeremiah's warning gave Hananiah and the people an opportunity to recognize their rebellion and turn back to God. Prophetic predictions are often intended to awaken the conscience rather than merely announce an unavoidable fate.

"Return now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good."—Jeremiah 18:11, NKJV

In summary: Prophets predict the future not only to prepare people for coming events, but also to authenticate God's messenger, expose falsehood, strengthen confidence in God's Word, and call people to repentance before consequences arrive.

Fulfilled predictions are another way to test a prophet. The predictions of a true prophet should happen as prophesied: " 'When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him' " *(Deut. 18:22, NKJV)*. This test can be challenging to apply because some prophecies are conditional; that is, they might not come to pass as predicted by the prophet if the conditions were not met.

Deuteronomy 18:22 (NKJV) "When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that *is* the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him."

Four Reasons Jesus Gave Prophecies

1. To strengthen our faith in Him

"And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe."—John 14:29, NKJV

When Jesus' predictions are fulfilled, they confirm that He is trustworthy, knows the future, and truly is the Son of God.

2. To prepare His followers for coming events

"See, I have told you beforehand."—Matthew 24:25, NKJV

Jesus warned His disciples about persecution, deception, disasters, and His return so they would be spiritually prepared rather than surprised or discouraged.

3. To protect His people from deception

“Take heed that no one deceives you.”—Matthew 24:4, NKJV

Jesus foretold the coming of false christs and false prophets so His followers could recognize error and remain faithful to God’s Word.

4. To give hope and assurance of His return

“I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” —John 14:3, NKJV

Jesus’ prophecies assure us that suffering, sin, and death will not continue forever. History is moving toward His return, the resurrection of His people, and eternal life in God’s kingdom.

Read Jeremiah 18:7-10. What does this teach us, too, about conditional prophecy?

1. Some Prophecies Depend Upon the Human Response

“If that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.”—Jeremiah 18:8, NKJV

A prophecy of judgment may be conditional even when the condition is not explicitly stated. If people repent and turn from evil, God may withhold the announced punishment. The purpose of the warning is to produce repentance, not merely predict destruction.

2. God’s Promised Blessings Also Require Continued Faithfulness

“If it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it.”—Jeremiah 18:10, NKJV

Promises of national blessing are not unconditional guarantees regardless of behavior. If people abandon obedience and persist in evil, they may forfeit the promised blessing.

In summary: Conditional prophecy demonstrates that God responds to human choices. Repentance can change an announced outcome of judgment, while rebellion can prevent a promised blessing from being fulfilled.