

# EXPLORATION: BIBLE

## TRUTH CLAIM #4 ONLY THE TRUE GOD CAN FORETELL THE FUTURE

By Chip Thompson

Throughout history, “religion” has caused great confusion. Each world religion claims to worship the true god/gods. But the Bible says the God of Israel is only true God. So how can we know the truth? We have been given a simple test to answer this question.

In Isaiah 41:22-24 Israel’s God says, “Tell us, you idol/god, what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare to us the things to come, tell us what the future holds, so we may know that you are gods.”



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**This idol was worshipped as a god in ancient times.**

Then God says, “I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning and from ancient times, what is still to come” (Isaiah 46:9-10).

The test is simple—only the true God can accurately foretell the future.

In Isaiah 44:24-28, we find a prophecy that foretells the future. It says, “I am the LORD, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself... Who confirms the word of His servant... Who says to the cities of Judah, ‘You shall be built,’ ... Who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be built,’ And to the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’”

This prophecy tells us the cities of Israel will be rebuilt and specifically states that God’s temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt. When Isaiah wrote this, however, Judah had not yet been conquered, the cities had not yet been destroyed, and the temple of



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**This is an ancient image of Cyrus the Great, King of Persia.**

God in Jerusalem was still standing. It was over 100 years later that Judah fell to the Babylonians and went into captivity.

What makes this prophecy even more incredible is the fact that God named the man who would one day allow Israel to return from their captivity. God called King Cyrus by name long before he was even born.

Isaiah wrote his prophecy in the late 8th Century (prior to 701 B.C.), and King Cyrus ruled Persia in the 6th Century (in the 550s B.C.). This prophecy was written more than 150 years before Cyrus ruled Persia.



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**This is the “Cyrus Cylinder.” It contains the decree of Cyrus, which allowed the Israelites to return from their captivity and rebuild the temple of their God in Jerusalem. This decree is found in the Book of Ezra (see Ezra 1:1-7, 4:3-5, 5:17, 6:1-5).**

Everything God does has purpose. Isaiah’s prophecy was God’s way of revealing his future plan to King Cyrus.

“This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him... I will go before you... I will break down gates of bronze... I will give you hidden treasures... so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name. For the sake... of Israel my chosen, I summon you by name... I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting all people may know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other” (Isaiah 45:1-6).

Ultimately, God inspired Isaiah to write this incredible prophecy so that all the people of the world, including you and me, could know for certain that the God of Israel is the God who can accurately foretell the future. The God of the Bible is the only true God.

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