LIFE NOTES Series: By the Book

April 07, 2023 (Good Friday) "Is the Bible Reliable?" (Part 3)

Romans 15:4 "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope." (NIV)

5. _____ Evidence: The Bible is prophetically accurate.

2 Samuel 23:2; **2 Peter 1:21**; **Deuteronomy 18:18-22**

A. Prophecies about _____ (in modern Lebanon)

Ezekiel made a startling prediction about the city state of Tyre:

- Many nations would come against Tyre (Eze 26:2)
- Nebuchadnezzar would destroy the city (Ez 26:4)
- The city would be scraped bare (Ez 26:4)
- Fishing nets would be spread over the site (Ez 26:12)
- The stones of the city would be thrown into the sea (Ez 26:12)
- The city would never be rebuilt (Ez 26:14)

Fulfilment:

- King Nebuchadnezzar II -- 585-573 BC
- Alexander the Great – seven-month siege in 332.

B. Prophecies about the _____ People

Daniel's (around 530 BC) accurately predicts:

- Over 600 years of world history
- The rise to power of the Medes, Persians, Greece and Rome (Dan 7 & 8)
- Division of Greece into four kingdoms occurred in 323 B.C. (Dan 8:21-22)
- A detailed history of the political intrigues, wars and treaties occurring between 530 and 160 B.C.
- The time in which Jesus would live (Dan 9:25)
- Jesus' death (Dan 9:26)
- The destruction of Jerusalem that occurred in A.D. 70 (Dan 9:26)
- The desecration of the temple by Antiochus IV Epiphanes that occurred in 168 B.C. (Dan 11:31).

C. Prophecies about _____.

- Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4-7)
- Sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:13; Matthew 26:15)
- Silver used to buy a potter's field (Zechariah 11:13; Matthew 27:6)
- Silent when accused (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-14)
- Condemned with criminals (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:32-33)
- Raging thirst when dying (Psalm 22:15; John 19:28)
- Crucified (Psalm 22:16; John 19:18)
- Pierced after death (Isaiah 53:5; Luke 23:46)
- Buried by a rich man (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60)
- Suffering not the end (Isaiah 53:11; Luke 24:1-8)

Luke 24:25-27

6. _____ Evidence: Historians of antiquity mention Jesus and the controversy surrounding His life and death.

A. _____ – Roman historian (AD 56-120)

"Therefore, to squelch the rumor, Nero created scapegoats and subjected to the most refined tortures those whom the common people called "Christians," hated for their abominable crimes. Their name comes from Christ, who, during the reign of Tiberius, had been executed by the procurator Pontius Pilate. Suppressed for the moment, the deadly superstition broke out again, not only in Judea, the land which originated this evil, but also in the city of Rome, where all sorts of horrendous and shameful practices from every part of the world converge and are fervently cultivated."

B. _____ – Jewish Historian (AD 37-100)

"… a bold man in his temper, and very insolent; he was also of the sect of the Sadducees, who are very rigid in judging offenders, above all the rest of the Jews, as we have already observed; when, therefore, Ananus was of this disposition, he thought he had now a proper opportunity [to exercise his authority]. Festus was now dead, and Albinus was but upon the road; so he assembled the Sanhedrin of judges, an brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose names was James, and some others … he delivered them to be stoned." (Josephus, Antiquities 20:200t)

Accepted Text: "At this time there appeared Jesus, a wise man. For he was a doer of startling deeds, a teacher of people who receive the truth with pleasure. And he gained a following both among many Jews and among many of Greek origin. And when Pilate, because of an accusation made by the leading men among us, condemned him to the cross, those who had loved him previously did not cease to do so. And up until this very day the tribe of Christians (named after him) has not died out." (Josephus—Antiquities 18:63)

C. Others: Suetonius; Pliny the Younger; Lucian of Samosata; Thallus; Celsus; Mara bar Serapion.

Reference: ***Evidence that Demands a Verdict (updated)***, Josh & Sean McDowell.

COMMUNION: Isaiah 52:13-53:12—Prophecy of God's Suffering Servant who Would Save His People

Acts 10:43 "He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in Him will have their sins forgiven through His name." (NLT)

BOTTOM LINE

2 Peter 1:19 "We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." (NIV)