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THE PREDICTION ABOUT TYRE

One of the strongest evidences of the divine authorship of the Bible is the fulfillment of prophecy. Many human beings have tried to predict the future. Sometimes such a prediction has been expressed in such a way that one could claim that it had been fulfilled, no matter what actually happened.

No great religion not based on the Bible has dared to rest its claim to be true on its ability to predict the distant future, but the Bible contains many predictions. Some have been fulfilled in remarkable ways that no mere human could have anticipated. Even a few clear instances should be convincing proof of divine inspiration. Two of the most remarkable are the prediction about Tyre in Phoenicia and the one about Memphis in Egypt. Each of these predicts a situation that did not exist until a century or more after the prediction was made. Each of them is paralleled by a different prediction about a related city. In each case the prediction was not fulfilled until one or more centuries had passed, and was fulfilled in such a way that no human being could possibly have guessed what would happen.

The prediction about Tyre is very interesting. Tyre and Sidon were great commercial cities at the dawn of history and continued to be of great importance for many centuries. Both were located on the Mediterranean coast a few miles north of the land of Israel.

There is a remarkable statement about Tyre in Ezekiel 26:12ff. It reads: "and they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water ... And I will make thee like the top of a rock; thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon, thou shalt be built no more." What a strange prediction! Most ancient cities were captured and sacked at some time in the course of the centuries. A great many were later rebuilt. But how would it ever happen that people