

material, which could easily be floated down the river on barges. Three centuries later another Mohammedan group, the Fatimite Caliphs made a new conquest of Egypt and decided to replace Fostat by building a different city, a few miles further north. Eventually this new city, Cairo, would become the largest city in Africa, and again it was easy to float excellent stone materials downriver, at first from the ruins of Fostat and then from what still remained of ancient Memphis. Eventually nothing remained of this great city of the Pharaohs except the few fragments already mentioned.

No mere human being could have guessed the great difference in the fate of the two great Egyptian capital cities. God enabled His prophet to reveal facts that no human being could have guessed.

God has given us a few such amazing proofs of His power to enable his prophets to reveal truths about the future. His purpose is not to satisfy curiosity but to convince us that the Bible is an absolutely dependable source of truth. We should let its teachings guide every aspect of our lives.

We must not let our excitement about the fascinating bits of dependable knowledge about the future that the prophets have given cause us to misinterpret the purpose of prophecy. Information about future events is a rather small part of the message of the prophets. Prophecy is not primarily "foretelling", but "forthtelling".